All of the bigotry and nonsense Trump has said and done before and during the election

Last updated 11/7/16

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Indefensible racist remarks he has made in the past that he continues to pretend did not happen
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Donald Trump’s vehement questioning regarding President Obama’s place of birth has provoked charges of racism, with a number of public figures from Whoopi Goldberg to Jesse Jackson accusing the real estate magnate of employing crude and unfair stereotypes. The chorus has grown so intense that Trump this week felt compelled to declare otherwise, telling TMZ.com: “I am the last person that such a thing should be said about.”

But for Trump, allegations of racism amount to recurring themes in his larger-than-life career. Two weeks ago, when he was asked during a radio interview about whether or not he is supported by African-Americans, he sparked another firestorm when he blurted: “I have a great relationship with the blacks. I’ve always had a great relationship with the blacks.” Trump’s comments were “highly offensive,” Walter Fields, former head of NAACP New Jersey, told Capital New York.

But Trump has been called out several times for racial insensitivity by former co-workers and civil rights activists. In 1991, Trump was accused of making racial slurs against black people in a book written by John R. O’Donnell, former president of Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino, called “Trumped!” O’Donnell wrote that Trump once said, in reference to a black accountant at Trump Plaza, “laziness is a trait in blacks.” He also told O’Donnell: “Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.”

Trump called O’Donnell a disgruntled employee but he didn’t deny allegations made in the book during an interview with Playboy magazine in 1999:

“Nobody has had worse things written about them than me,” Trump says. “And here I am. The stuff O’Donnell wrote about me is probably true. The guy’s a fucking loser. A fucking loser. I brought the guy in to work for me; it turns out he didn’t know that much about what he was doing. I think I met the guy two or three times total. And this guy goes off and writes a book about me, like he knows me!”

After the rape of a white female jogger in Central Park in 1989, Trump aroused controversy in New York’s black community when he took out full-page newspaper ads calling for the death penalty for the African-American teenage suspects — who were all later exonerated. One of the defendant’s lawyers, Colin Moore, compared Trump’s stance to the racist attitudes expressed in the 1930s during the infamous “Scottsboro Boys” case. Trump tried to mend relations by visiting a black woman who had been raped and thrown off the roof of a building in the hospital, promising to pay her medical expenses, according to several news reports.

Later that year, Trump caught flack for his comments attacking affirmative action on NBC’s two-hour special “The Race,” telling host Bryant Gumbel: “If I was starting off today, I would love to be a well-educated black because I really do believe they have the actual advantage today.” That remark was derided by Orlando Sentinel columnist David D. Porter, who opined: “Too bad Trump can’t get his wish. Then he’d see that being educated, black and over 21 isn’t the key to the Trump Tower. You see there’s still that little ugly problem of racism.”

Yet the most damaging episode in the saga of Trump’s fractured relationship with the black community came in 1973, when his family’s real-estate company, Trump Management Corporation, was sued by the Justice Department for alleged racial discrimination. At the time, Trump was the company’s president. Just last month, at Trump’s Comedy Central roast, Snoop Dogg referenced the case by joking about Trump’s potential 2012 run for the White House: “Why not? It wouldn’t be the first time he pushed a black family out of their home.”

The case alleged that the Trump Management Corporation had discriminated against blacks who wished to rent apartments in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. The government charged the corporation with quoting different rental terms and conditions to blacks and whites and lying to blacks that apartments were not available, according to reports of the lawsuit.

- April 29, 2011


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Repeats Birther lie that Obama did not release a statement for Christmas in 2011 (he released several), makes racist remark in same breath for taking issue with statement about Kwanzaa
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“What a convenient mistake: @BarackObama issued a statement for Kwanza but failed to issue one for Christmas.”
Sexist remark against Arianna Huffington

"@ariannahuff is unattractive both inside and out. I fully understand why her former husband left her for a man- he made a good decision."

-A August 28, 2012

More racist comments about Obama by calling him the "Welfare & Food Stamp President"

"Obama our Welfare & Food Stamp President, is praising himself for expanding welfare http://politi.co/SBbM1i  He doesn't believe in work."

-November 2, 2012

Calls for violent rebellion after President Obama wins reelection

Shortly after President Barack Obama was announced the winner of the 2012 election, Donald Trump had what some might call a melodramatic freak out on Twitter. He condemned America's democratic process, said the Electoral College should get out of town and called for a revolution.

But Trump is still OK with the concept of freedom of speech and told the Twitterverse just how he felt.

He lost the popular vote by a lot and won the election. We should have a revolution in this country!


The phoney electoral college made a laughing stock out of our nation. The loser one!


We can't let this happen. We should march on Washington and stop this travesty. Our nation is totally divided!


Lets fight like hell and stop this great and disgusting injustice! The world is laughing at us.


More votes equals a loss...revolution!
This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!

Our country is now in serious and unprecedented trouble...like never before.

The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy.

Don't worry all hope isn't lost though, Trump still has faith in the Republican controlled House of Representatives to carry the country, but of course only if it's on Trump's own terms. But no word yet if the House of Reps even know who the fanatic guy on Twitter is.

Hopefully the House of Representatives can hold our country together for four more years...stay strong and never give up!

House of Representatives shouldn't give anything to Obama unless he terminates Obamacare.

Do you think Trump is going to pack up and head to Canada now?

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Claims sexual assault is inevitable in a gender-mixed military, ignores why there have only been 238 convictions in an organization that likes controversies to go away quietly to not tarnish its image

"26,000 unreported sexual assaults in the military-only 238 convictions. What did these geniuses expect when they put men & women together?"

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Insecure about his intelligence, insults the intelligence of those who disagree with him

"Sorry losers and haters, but my I.Q. is one of the highest -and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure, it's not your fault"
Repeats Bill O'Reilly's racist remarks that minorities are violent criminals

This morning, Trump added to his portfolio of race-based insults, citing figures provided by Fox News Channel anchor Bill O'Reilly as proof that "the overwhelming amount of violent crime in our major cities is committed by blacks and Hispanics."

"We must stop being so politically correct," he tweeted. "Must tell it like it is."  

His first tweet on the subject said this: "According to Bill O'Reilly, 80% of all the shootings in New York City are blacks-if you add Hispanics, that figure goes to 98%. 1% white."


Uses slave labor to build a golf course in UAE, wonders why he can't do the same in New York

This May, I researched labor issues in the United Arab Emirates. I interviewed construction workers building museums on Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island. In the richest city in the world, the workers we spoke to were little more than indentured servants. For between $150 and $300 a month, they worked 13 hours a day, six days a week. Their bosses kept their passports. They landed in the UAE owing more than a year's salary to recruiters back home. They could be deported for striking.

In Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, they had families dependent on their wages. However brutal it was, the Gulf dream was their one shot out of poverty. They could not fuck this up.

The UAE is not uniquely guilty. Migrants throughout the world, in the US as well as the UAE, do the worst work and suffer the worst state violence. While my research focused on Abu Dhabi, poor conditions are typical throughout the Gulf. Thousands of workers could die building the World Cup stadia in Qatar. Figurative blood stains the gleaming steel of Earth's tallest building, Dubai's Burj Khalifa.

The day before Trump's press conference, A source interviewed workers building the luxury villas bearing Trump's name. They told him they made less than $200 a month.

"Who are you here for?" one of the publicists asks me.

"VICE."

The publicist asks how I know about the event. I say I heard about it from a friend.

"Behave yourself," he smiles. "Don't embarrass them."

On stage, Trump praises his Dubai. He is effusive—and sincere. Trump is one sort of Westerner who loves the UAE. They find here a throwback to colonialism's heyday. No matter how much you've shat the bed at home, here your whiteness will get you a job, money, servants from the Global South. Help is so affordable when migrant workers make $200 a month. In police states, there is little crime.

"The world has so many problems and so many failures, and you come here and it's so beautiful," Trump says. "Why can't we have that in New York?"

Trump does not mention that, like Dubai, New York is morphing into the no-place of multi-national capitalism. He does not mention that this is partially his fault.

The floor opens to questions.
I stand up.

“Mr. Trump,” I ask, “the workers who build your villas make less than $200 a month. Are you satisfied?”

Trump says nothing.

“That's not an appropriate question,” the publicist barks.

-June 2, 2014

http://www.vice.com/read/i-confronted-donald-trump-in-dubai

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Gets upset after Michael Sam kisses his boyfriend, says America is going to hell because of political correctness, implies Tim Tebow, a straight Christian, has it harder than a gay man because of Tebow’s religiosity

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Conservative billionaire Donald Trump said on Monday that he had been shocked to see Michael Sam’s reaction when he was chosen in the NFL draft because kissing his gay boyfriend in public had been “pretty out there.”

During his weekly Fox & Friends morning segment, Fox News host Steve Doocy asked Trump if there was a “double standard” in the NFL that allowed Tim Tebow to be mocked for openly Christian displays, but praised “Michael Sam for being gay.”

“Well, I guess there must be,” Trump agreed. “Because, Tim Tebow, he went through hell. They went after him like crazy.”

Video of Sam kissing his boyfriend after he was picked in the draft over the weekend evoked strong reactions both for and against the player.

Miami Dolphins management quickly fined safety Don Jones after he tweeted that Sam’s kiss was “horrible.”

Fox News host Elisabeth Hasselbeck wondered if fining Jones was a “reasonable reaction to his reaction.”

Trump called it a “pretty tough reaction,” and said that America was “going to hell” because of political correctness.

“People are afraid to talked, afraid to express their own thoughts. And you know, that’s their view,” Trump noted. “I’ve heard many people who thought the display after he was chosen was inappropriate. And whether or not it was, I don’t know.”

“But it was certainly out there a little bit... I hope he does so well, but I thought when he, you know, when he was really going at it — I haven’t seen anything like that in a while. He was really going at it.”

-May 12, 2014

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Opposes net neutrality because he thinks it’s an Obama conspiracy to target conservative media

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“Obama’s attack on the internet is another top down power grab. Net neutrality is the Fairness Doctrine. Will target conservative media.”

-November 12, 2014

https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/532608358508167168?lang=en
Reminds everyone the real reason why he doesn’t like Obama is because he is black

“Sadly, because president Obama has done such a poor job as president, you won't see another black president for generations!”

-November 25, 2014

https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/537157586316165120

Makes racist remark against Obama, uses racist dog whistle word to refer to protestors in Baltimore

“Our great African American President hasn't exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore!”

-April 27, 2015

https://twitter.com/reallDonaldTrump/status/592910662424223744

Believes wealth is a qualification for running for president—by that logic, Bernie Madoff should be running

In his own words, Donald Trump is “really rich.”

The now-Republican presidential candidate demonstrated this when he released a financial snapshot of his net worth on Tuesday, declaring a net worth of nearly $9 billion.

He released the financial summary as he declared his White House candidacy at a rally in New York.

The summary pegs his total assets at $9.24 billion, and his net worth at $8.74 billion.

Unlike other presidential candidates pitching a populist message and trying to make themselves relatable to middle-class voters, Trump boasted of his net worth during his announcement.

“I’m really rich,” he said, in his trademark brash style.

-June 16, 2015

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/06/16/im-really-rich-trump-declares-b-net-worth.html

Racist comments about Mexicans

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending the best,” he said during the announcement. “They’re not sending you, they’re sending people that have lots of problems and they’re bringing those problems. They’re bringing drugs, they’re bringing crime. They’re rapists and some, I assume, are good people, but I speak to border guards and they’re telling us what we’re getting.”

- June 16, 2015

Makes racist remark about Obama again, makes racist remark about African Americans overall, again
On the same day that a New Hampshire poll put Donald Trump second in the race to be the Republican Party’s nominee for president in 2016, the New York mogul said that African-American youths had “no spirit” and blamed Barack Obama for dividing the country.

Mr Trump was talking at the annual dinner of the Maryland GOP on 23 June, which state officials said would draw in over $100,000 for the party in the Northeastern state.

Talking with reporters, he spoke briefly about race relations in the country following the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina last week and after President Obama discussed the matter with Marc Maron, with the country's first black president using the “N-word”.

Mr Trump said that African-American youth had reached “a point where they’ve just about never done more poorly, there's no spirit, there’s killings on an hourly basis virtually in places like Baltimore and Chicago and many other places.

“There’s no spirit. I thought that President Obama would be a great cheerleader for the country. And he’s really become very divisive.”

-June 24, 2015

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/donald-trump-says-african-american-youths-have-no-spirit-10342030.html

Thinks building a very expensive wall will solve illegal border crossing issues, apparently is unaware most unauthorized overstays arrived in the US legally, usually by airplane

Donald Trump said he would force the people of Mexico to build his vowed border wall to keep immigrants out of the United States, warning that if his order was not fulfilled, he would do something “severe.”

When asked how he might force the country to build this wall, Trump said in an interview that aired on CNN’s “State of the Union” Sunday, “you force them because we give them a fortune. Mexico makes a fortune because of us. A wall is a tiny little peanut compared to that. I would do something very severe unless they contributed or gave us the money to build the wall.”

The 2016 presidential candidate added: “I’d build it. I’d build it very nicely. I’m very good at building things.”

-June 28, 2015

http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/donald-trump-i-would-force-mexico-build-border-wall

Refuses to back down on racist remarks against Mexicans, double-downs on calling Mexican immigrants rapists, ignores 52% of sexual assault offenders are white

“Well if you look at the statistics of people coming, you look at the statistics on rape, on crime, on everything coming in illegally into this country it's mind-boggling!” he told Lemon, in a clip previewed on CNN's “Situation Room.”

"If you go to Fusion, you will see a story: About 80% of the women coming in, you know who owns Fusion? Univision! Go to Fusion and pick up the stories on rape. It's unbelievable when you look at what's going on. So all I'm doing is telling the truth," Trump said.

Lemon replied that the press stories are about women being raped, but not about criminals coming across the border.

“Well, somebody's doing the raping, Don! I mean somebody's doing it! Who's doing the raping? Who's doing the raping?” he asked.

July 2, 2015

“Accidentally” uses image of Nazi soldiers (not Wehrmacht—the reenactors are wearing actual Waffen-SS uniforms) inlaid on one of his first campaign images—only problem is the image was from iStock, where other similar images showed the Germany Military Iron Cross, reenactor wearing German WW2 uniform and holding an MP40, and the keywords under the photo include “German Culture” and Fascism," making this very deliberate

On Tuesday, Donald Trump (or, should we say, Donald Trump's Twitter account), tweeted one more plug for the GOP presidential candidate's campaign.

#MakeAmericaGreatAgain, the hashtag read. Then came an image of the American flag, the stars resplendently laid over a portrait of Trump gazing sternly at something, the stripes over motifs of American triumphalism: cash money, the White House, and soldiers.

An all-caps caption declared: "We need real leadership. We need results. Let's put the U.S. back into business!"

Except, there was a problem. As Twitter users quickly pointed out, the soldiers in the bottom-right of the image were not American. They weren't even from an Allied military. They were German World War II soldiers.

Trump's original tweet was swiftly deleted and the Trump campaign eventually pinned the error on an intern.

July 14, 2015


https://twitter.com/MotherJones/status/621043655151853568/photo/1

http://www.istockphoto.com/photo/marching-soldiers-gm90710202-1899529

Insulting POWs

Appearing on Saturday at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, the real estate mogul took his running feud with Arizona Sen. John McCain to a new level. "He's not a war hero," said Trump. "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

– July 18, 2015


Tries to pander to African Americans, makes up fictitious statement that he has good relationship with black community despite having received nothing but criticism for the last 25+ years

"And, you know, I have a great relationship with African Americans, as you possibly have heard. I just have great respect for them and you know they like me. I like them."

–July 23, 2015


Probably raped his ex-wife; his attorney proclaims it's impossible to rape your spouse
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump may have raped his ex-wife Ivana Trump, according to a 1993 biography of the real estate mogul uncovered by The Daily Beast. Trump’s attorney on Monday denied the allegation, claiming “you cannot rape your spouse.”

“You’re talking about the front-runner for the GOP, presidential candidate, as well as private individual, who never raped anybody,” Michael Cohen, the Trump Organization’s special counsel, told The Daily Beast. “And, of course, understand that by the very definition, you can’t rape your spouse.”

The biography, Lost Tycoon: The Many Lives of Donald J. Trump, by Harry Hurt III, details a 1989 incident in which Trump reportedly confronted his then-wife Ivana, pulling out clumps of her hair and sexually assaulting her. She characterized the incident as rape during the couple’s divorce proceedings in the early 1990s and said she felt “violated,” according to legal documents cited by The Daily Beast.

Hurt’s book includes a “Notice to Reader” pasted on the flyleaf — a statement by Ivana Trump saying she didn’t mean it when she testified Trump had raped her. “I do not want the press or media to misconstrue any of the facts,” she wrote. The couple divorced in 1992.

-July 27, 2015

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-rape_us_55b6df6ce4b0074ba5a60418

So uncomfortable with the way a woman’s body works he couldn’t handle a woman requesting a break from a deposition to pump breast milk

Donald Trump had an "absolute meltdown" when a lawyer requested a break from a 2011 deposition to pump breast milk.

"He got up, his face got red, he shook his finger at me and he screamed, 'You're disgusting, you're disgusting,' and he ran out of there," attorney Elizabeth Beck told CNN's Alisyn Camerota on Wednesday morning.

The incident was described in a letter from Jared Beck, Elizabeth's co-counsel and husband, obtained by CNN and first reported Tuesday by the New York Times.

Trump's attorney Allen Garten, who was present for the deposition, does not dispute that Trump called Beck "disgusting."

-July 29, 2015


Sextist remarks on Megyn Kelly

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Friday night that Fox News Channel anchor Megyn Kelly “had blood coming out of her eyes” when she aggressively questioned him during Thursday’s presidential debate. “She gets out and she starts asking me all sorts of ridiculous questions,” Trump said in a CNN interview. “You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever. In my opinion, she was off base.”

- August 7, 2015


Sextist remarks in general of women who criticize him

Trump largely dismissed Kelly’s question at the debate, but on Friday he went directly after her. Before dawn, he had retweeted a post calling Kelly a “bimbo.” The post was later deleted, but on Friday evening Trump called Kelly a “lightweight.”
Trump has a long history of lobbing insults at those he feels have treated him unfairly, and advises those who buy his books to do the same.

“For many years I’ve said that if someone screws you, screw them back,” he wrote in “Trump: How to Get Rich.” “When somebody hurts you, just go after them as viciously and as violently as you can.”

When doing so, he has repeatedly targeted women and their physical appearance.

“Rosie O’Donnell’s disgusting, I mean both inside and out. You take a look at her, she’s a slob. She talks like a truck driver,” he said in 2006 during an interview with “Entertainment Tonight.” “I’d look her right in that fat, ugly face of hers, I’d say, ‘Rosie, you’re fired’ from her television show, “The View.”

In tweets sent last year, Trump called Huffington Post editor Arianna Huffington “a dog who wrongfully comments on me” and said she is “ugly both inside and out!”

In 2012, Trump wrote on Twitter of singer Bette Midler: “But whenever she sees me, she kisses my ass. She’s disgusting.”

During the debate, Kelly also referenced a boardroom scene from Trump’s NBC’s reality show, “Celebrity Apprentice,” in which Trump was told by one contestant that a female teammate had gotten down on her knees to beg.

“That must be a pretty picture, you dropping to your knees,” Trump said in response.

In the book, Trump declared that, “All the women on ‘The Apprentice’ flirted with me — consciously or unconsciously. That’s to be expected.”

And he had this to say about women’s victories on the show: “It’s certainly not groundbreaking news that the early victories by the women on ‘The Apprentice’ were, to a very large extent, dependent on their sex appeal.”

On some occasions Trump appears to have recognized he’s gone too far. In April, he retweeted, then deleted, a tweet that read, “If Hillary Clinton can’t satisfy her husband what makes her think she can satisfy America?”

-August 7, 2015


His immigration reforms make the anti-immigration policies of the 1920s look timid in comparison and would cost over $1.6 trillion dollars

The flashiest part of Donald Trump’s immigration plan might be the proposed erection of a wall along the US-Mexico border.

But it would likely be far from the most expensive part of a plan that could run a tab in the hundreds of billions.

Though his platform doesn’t explicitly lay out what he’d propose to do with immigrants not authorized to live in the United States, Trump suggested in an interview with “Meet the Press” host Chuck Todd that he would move to deport all of the approximately 11 million immigrants living in the country without proper authorization.

“We will work with them,” he said when asked by Todd if he was going to “break up families.”

“They have to go. Chuck, we either have a country or we don’t have a country.”

But that wouldn’t come cheap. National Journal’s Lauren Fox laid out the math on Trump’s plan Tuesday.

One report, released in 2010 by the left-leaning Center for American Progress, estimated that it would cost $200 billion to “to enforce a federal dragnet that would snare” immigrants unauthorized to live in the United States.
However, that calculation used figures from 2008, which estimated the number of unauthorized immigrants living in the United States at 10.8 million. A more recent estimate, from the non-partisan Pew Research Center, pegs the number at 11.3 million, about half of whom came from Mexico.

Another recent estimate calculated that the cost of deportation would be disastrous for the US economy. According to the right-leaning American Action Forum, it would take between $400 billion and $600 billion to deport 11 million people without proper documentation over 20 years.

That estimate doesn't take into account the cost of enforcement to prevent return, which could reach upward of $300 billion. Such mass deportation would take 6.4% of US workers out of the country, according to the AAF report. With them would depart approximately $1.6 trillion in wages, spending, and other economic activity, more than the GDP of Texas. The agricultural industry would be disproportionately affected by the move — half of the US' farm workers in the past 15 years have been undocumented.

-August 18, 2015


All the glaring sexist remarks Trump has made over the years, including insisting all women are gold diggers, that they have to be pretty to work as journalists, objectifying women, and has made countless misogynist remarks as if he is a man from the 1910s who scoffs at the idea that women should be allowed to vote

"I would never buy Ivana any decent jewels or pictures. Why give her negotiable assets?" Trump is quoted as saying of his then-wife in a 1990 Vanity Fair piece.

In his 2006 book Trump 101: The Way to Success, Trump wrote: "Beauty and elegance, whether in a woman, a building, or a work of art, is not just superficial or something pretty to see."

"It's certainly not groundbreaking news that the early victories by the women on 'The Apprentice' were, to a very large extent, dependent on their sex appeal." — How To Get Rich, 2004

"You know, it doesn't really matter what [the media] write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of ass." — from an interview with Esquire, 1991

"I mean, we could say politically correct that look doesn't matter, but the look obviously matters," Trump said to a female reporter in a clip featured on "Last Week Tonight." "Like you wouldn't have your job if you weren't beautiful."

"The most difficult aspect of the prenuptial agreement is informing your future wife (or husband): I love you very much, but just in case things don't work out, this is what you will get in the divorce. There are basically three types of women and reactions. One is the good woman who very much loves her future husband, solely for himself, but refuses to sign the agreement on principle. I fully understand this, but the man should take a pass anyway and find someone else. The other is the calculating woman who refuses to sign the prenuptial agreement because she is expecting to take advantage of the poor, unsuspecting sucker she's got in her grasp. There is also the woman who will openly and quickly sign a prenuptial agreement in order to make a quick hit and take the money given to her." —Trump: The Art of the Comeback, 1997

"Women have one of the great acts of all time. The smart ones act very feminine and needy, but inside they are real killers. The person who came up with the expression 'the weaker sex' was either very naive or had to be kidding. I have seen women manipulate men with just a twitch of their eye — or perhaps another body part." — Trump: The Art of the Comeback, 1997

"My favorite part [of 'Pulp Fiction'] is when Sam has his gun out in the diner and he tells the guy to tell his girlfriend to shut up. Tell that bitch to be cool. Say: 'Bitch be cool.' I love those lines." — TrumpNation: The Art of Being The Donald, 2005

New York Times columnist Gail Collins recalled: “During one down period, I referred to him in print as a ‘financially embattled thousandaire’ and he sent me a copy of the column with my picture circled and ‘The Face of a Dog!’ written over it."

“Love him or hate him, Donald Trump is a man who is certain about what he wants and sets out to get it, no holds barred,” Trump said about himself one time. “Women find his power almost as much of a turn-on as his money.”

-August 19, 2015
Wants to change the Constitution by ending a clause in 14th Amendment that grants citizenship to anybody born in the US

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's call to end birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants has refueled the immigration debate and split the GOP field and legal experts who question whether such a change is possible.

Trump’s plan goes after the 14th amendment, which grants citizenship to essentially anybody born in the United States. But he is particularly focused on stopping pregnant women from illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border for the purpose of having a child or an “anchor baby,” which reduces the likelihood of the parents being deported.

Trump announced his plan Sunday, calling the amendment the country’s “biggest magnet for illegal immigration.” And he continues to suggest that his lawyers think the amendment might not withstand a court challenge.

“I was right,” Trump, the billionaire businessman and top GOP candidate, said Friday night at a rally in Alabama. “You can do something, quickly.”

However, other candidates and legal experts are split on the issue.

“Trump thinks ‘our country is going to hell.’ Well, there is likely little more than a chance in hell that we are going to amend the Constitution,” Jessica Levinson, a law professor at Loyola University of Los Angeles, said Wednesday. “Amending the Constitution is one of the most serious things that lawmakers can do. Therefore the path to doing it is rightfully arduous. I would put the chances … as beyond a longshot.”

Claims the Bible is his favorite book, can't quote a single verse, gets called out for his previous cynical remarks on religion and dodges

Donald Trump regularly tells crowds that his memoir is only his second favorite book.

His first? The Bible.

"As much as I love 'The Art of the Deal,' it's not even close," he said Friday. "We take the Bible all the way."

But when asked Wednesday on Bloomberg's "With All Due Respect" to share his favorite verses, Trump, a Presbyterian, was not as direct.

"I wouldn't want to get into it. Because to me, that's very personal," he said. "The Bible means a lot to me, but I don't want to get into specifics."

Trump, who once referred to communion as "my little wine and my little cracker," was asked if he prefers the New or Old Testaments.

"Probably equal. I think it's just incredible," he said.
When the anchor throws to Carly Fiorina for her reaction to Trump's momentum, Trump's expression sours in schoolboy disgust as the camera bores in on Fiorina. 'Look at that face!' he cries. 'Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?!'

- September 10, 2015


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Has repeatedly made comments about his daughter that suggest an interest in incest dating back to 2003, when she was 22 and he was 57, also suggesting pedophilic tendencies

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With all the hullabaloo surrounding Donald Trump's attack on Carly Fiorina in the newest edition of Rolling Stone, it's gone largely unnoticed that in the very next paragraph, Trump makes an über-creepy sex joke about his daughter Ivanka Trump.

"At 69, he can still carry on like the teen who was yanked out of prep school and delivered to Col. Dobias, the take-no-shit instructor at the military academy. After I met Ivanka and praised her to her father, he said, 'Yeah, she's really something, and what a beauty, that one. If I weren't happily married and, ya know, her father…'"

But as Rolling Stone's Paul Solotaroff points out, this isn't even the first time Donald Trump has made that joke...In 2006...Trump was asked how he would feel if Ivanka posed for Playboy. “It would be really disappointing — not really — but it would depend on what’s inside the magazine. I don’t think Ivanka would do that, although she does have a very nice figure. I’ve said if Ivanka weren’t my daughter, perhaps I’d be dating her.”

Earlier in 2003 on The Howard Stern Show, Donald Trump was also bragging about his daughter’s hot body: “You know who’s one of the great beauties of the world, according to everybody? And I helped create her. Ivanka. My daughter, Ivanka. She’s 6 feet tall, she’s got the best body. She made a lot money as a model—a tremendous amount.”

-September 10, 2015

http://www.mediaite.com/online/donald-trump-wont-stop-joking-about-banging-his-daughter/

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Scammed people out of an education by calling a confidence scheme disguised as a self-help seminar as “Trump University”

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They hoped to get rich off real estate, and who would be a better mentor than one of the richest men in the world? So they enrolled in Donald Trump’s university to learn the tricks of the trade, some of them maxing out their credit cards to pay tens of thousands of dollars for insider knowledge they believed could make them wealthy.

With Trump rising in the polls as the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination, his brief foray into education is an episode — and a business failure — that remains far more obscure than other chapters of the celebrity billionaire’s career.

Never licensed as a school, Trump University was in reality a series of real estate workshops in hotel ballrooms around the country, not unlike many other for-profit self-help or motivational seminars. Though short-lived, it remains a thorn in Trump’s side nearly five years after its operations ceased: In three pending lawsuits, including one in which the New York attorney general is seeking $40 million in restitution, former students allege that the enterprise bilked them out of their money with misleading advertisements.

Instead of a fast route to easy money, these Trump University students say they found generic seminars led by salesmen who pressured them to invest more cash in additional courses. The students say they didn’t learn Trump’s secrets and never received the one-on-one guidance they expected.

It’s a chapter of Trump’s past that shows how he sometimes defies the usual laws of campaign physics. Such allegations of multimillion-dollar fraud might sink other candidates, but in Trump’s case, even some of the students who felt duped said they haven’t given up on him: They like Trump. They admire him. They might even vote for him.

"He says what he means, not like politicians, not like Obama," said Louie Liu of Hurst, Tex. Liu, a motel owner, said in a sworn affidavit that he paid $1,495 for a three-day seminar, then felt lured into paying $24,995 for more classes, an online training program and a three-day in-person mentorship. A few days later, he called to ask for a refund, but his request was rejected. Trump University, he concluded, was a "scam."
Believes vaccines cause autism, insults people with autism by referring it to as an epidemic

Billionaire businessman Donald Trump on Wednesday doubled down on his controversial stance that vaccinations are linked to what he described as an autism "epidemic."

"I've seen it," he said at the second main-stage GOP debate on CNN Wednesday night.

"You take this little beautiful baby, and you pump — it looks just like it's meant for a horse," he said of vaccines.

"We've had so many instances ... a child went to have the vaccine, got very, very sick, and now is autistic."

The GOP front-runner said he still supported certain vaccines, but in smaller doses over a longer period of time. Under current procedures, he said it's dangerous for the public.

"Autism has become an epidemic, he said. "It has gotten totally out of control."

Tries to dodge that he is an Obama birther, reaffirms his racist belief that Obama is a Muslim by not correcting supporter who called the president as much

Real-estate tycoon Donald Trump refused to answer multiple questions about President Barack Obama's birth certificate on Sunday.

"I just don't want to discuss it," the Republican presidential front-runner said on "Meet the Press."

He listed some topics he would prefer talking about and called the birth-certificate question "a long, complex subject that I just don't like talking about, and I won't talk about it."

Host Chuck Todd pressed Trump a second time on the issue, but the businessman dodged again, insisting he wanted to talk about things like the economy.

"I just don't discuss it," Trump said. "And really it hasn't been brought up for a long time."

The exchange follows Trump's latest campaign-trail controversy: At a Thursday town-hall event, he sparked criticism from his rivals, the White House, and parts of the media by declining to correct a supporter who called Obama a Muslim foreigner.

His campaign initially said he didn't fully hear the supporter, but Trump argued Saturday that he shouldn't be "morally obligated" to defend Obama.

He repeated that argument during his “Meet the Press” interview.
“So this man got up, and he felt very strongly — whoever he was — he felt very, very strongly and very powerfully about something,” Trump recalled. “And whether we all agree with it or not, it wasn’t my obligation to defend [Obama].”

-September 20, 2015


https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/232572505238433794

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Denies global warming, makes xenophobic remark by claiming it is fabricated by the Chinese

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has rendered his opinion on climate change, and it is characteristically off-kilter.

“Unless somebody can prove something to me, I believe there’s weather. I believe there’s change,” Trump told radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt on Monday.

In a confusing exchange with Hewitt, Trump rattled off several non sequiturs on global temperatures. Trump says that “people in the 1920s thought the Earth was cooling, now it’s global warming,” implying that all subsequent climate science is nonsense.

As David Roberts at Vox points out, scientists never actually believed that the Earth was cooling. Trump appears to be repeating talking points from climate change deniers, who often rely on a 1970s article in Newsweek for their research on “global cooling.” The author of that article has made it clear that the Earth is, in fact, warming and that climate deniers should stop using his article as evidence that it’s not.

In the Hewitt interview, Trump goes on to complain about the government attempting to solve a problem that he doesn’t think “in any major fashion exists.” And he keeps talking:

“And actually, we’ve had times where the weather wasn’t working out, so they changed it to extreme weather, and they have all different names, you know, so that it fits the bill. But the problem we have, and if you look at our energy costs, and all of the things that we’re doing to solve a problem that I don’t think in any major fashion exists. I mean, Obama thinks it’s the number one problem of the world today. And I think it’s very low on the list. So I am not a believer, and I will, unless somebody can prove something to me, I believe there’s weather. I believe there’s change, and I believe it goes up and it goes down, and it changes depending on years and centuries, but I am not a believer, and we have much bigger problems.”

This is not the first time Trump has denied climate change; he has also attempted to use cold weather to disprove climate change in the past, and argued that global warming was “created by and for the Chinese”:

The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.
— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) November 6, 2012

-September 22, 2015

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-global-warming_us_5601d04fe4b08820d91aa753

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Claims he will tax the rich, yet his tax plan will provide cuts to the rich, businesses, and corporations; wants to get rid of the estate tax completely; his plan to tax foreign profits would not offset his cuts to corporations, who would still pay less under Trump’s tax plan

Donald Trump’s tax plan, released Monday, does not live up to the populist language he has offered on taxes all summer.

When talking about taxes in this campaign, Donald Trump has often sounded like a different kind of Republican. He says he will take on “the hedge fund guys” and their carried interest loophole. He thinks it’s “outrageous” how little tax some multimillionaires pay. But his plan calls for major tax cuts not just for the middle class but also for the richest Americans — even the hedge fund managers. And despite his campaign’s assurances that the plan is “fiscally responsible,” it would grow budget deficits by trillions of dollars over a decade.
You could call Mr. Trump’s plan a higher-energy version of the tax plan Jeb Bush announced earlier this month: similar in structure, but with lower rates and wider tax brackets, meaning individual taxpayers would pay even less than under Mr. Bush, and the government would lose even more tax revenue.

Currently, the top income tax rate for regular income is 39.6 percent. Mr. Trump would cut that rate to 25 percent, the lowest level since 1931. He’d cut maximum rates on capital gains and dividends to 20 percent from 23.8 percent. He’d cut the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, and also offer a special tax rate of 15 percent to business owners — less than half what they may pay under today’s rules. He’d abolish the estate tax entirely.

Mr. Trump says he’d pay for those tax rate reductions by “reducing or eliminating most deductions and loopholes available to the very rich.” But in truth, rich people already pay tax on most of their income, so there’s less revenue available from cutting rich people’s tax breaks than Mr. Trump and many voters believe.

In 2013, taxpayers earning between $500,000 and $10 million deducted or exempted an average of 12 percent of their income from tax; for those earning more than $10 million, the figure was 16 percent. If those deductions were abolished entirely (and Mr. Trump proposes only to reduce them), that would not come close to paying for a cut in the top tax rate from 39.6 percent to 25 percent, which is a relative reduction of 37 percent.

Mr. Trump has also proposed taxing investment returns related to life insurance that currently don’t appear on tax returns at all. This would raise more revenue than you might expect, perhaps $20 billion a year at Mr. Trump’s proposed tax rates, but still wouldn’t be enough to offset the high-end rate cuts.

Even the hedge fund managers Mr. Trump has railed against on the stump would get a tax cut under his plan. The usual fee structure for a hedge fund is called “2-and-20”: a flat management fee (often 2 percent) on all assets, plus a performance fee (often 20 percent) on profits above a set threshold. Currently, the management fee is taxed at ordinary rates up to 39.6 percent, while the performance fee enjoys a preferential rate of 23.8 percent. Under Mr. Trump’s plan, all this income would be taxed at a maximum of 25 percent. The performance fee would be subject to a small tax increase, but that effect would be dwarfed by the large tax cut on ordinary management fees.

In addition to offering huge tax cuts to the rich and to business owners (including me!), Mr. Trump would offer huge tax cuts for the middle and upper-middle class. Married couples would pay no tax on their first $50,000 of income and just 10 percent on the next $50,000. A married couple with no children earning $100,000 and taking the standard deduction would pay $11,437 in income tax under today’s rules; under Mr. Trump’s plan, they would pay just $5,000, a tax cut of 56 percent. Many people with low-to-moderate incomes would see their income tax bills reduced to zero, increasing the share of the population that pays no income tax at all.

He’d also offer huge tax breaks to corporations, which would pay 15 percent, down from a current rate of 35 percent. Corporate tax is the main place where his plan departs from Republican orthodoxy, but in a fairly arcane way. Mr. Trump would tax the worldwide income of American corporations at the time it is earned. Currently, American companies may delay tax on foreign profits until they return those profits to the United States. Many Republicans (including Jeb Bush) would move in the other direction and forgo tax on foreign income altogether, arguing that worldwide taxation makes it harder for American companies to compete abroad.

By demanding immediate tax on foreign profits, Mr. Trump’s plan would disfavor American companies that locate their businesses abroad, which is consistent with his broader theme of pushing companies to return factories and jobs to the United States. However, because he would cut the corporate income tax rate so steeply, the effects of immediate worldwide corporate taxation would be limited: Companies get a credit for tax paid to other countries, so Mr. Trump’s tax would apply only on foreign profits that were not subject to tax by a foreign country at a rate of at least 15 percent. This would mostly affect income earned in tax havens, as most major countries have corporate income tax rates of more than 15 percent.

In other words, Mr. Trump’s worldwide tax plan would have no effect on Ford’s choice to make cars in Mexico, so long as they’re paying at least 15 percent in tax to Mexico on their Mexican activities.

September 28, 2015

Donald Trump said Saturday that had teachers been armed at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, the deadly shooting there this week would not have been as tragic.

Trump has previously cited mental health issues, not guns, as the biggest cause of shootings in the U.S. But his comments on Saturday are his most extensive and emotionally charged about firearms since he launched his campaign in June, as he spoke about his personal gun ownership and elicited his biggest applause of the afternoon in discussing gun rights.

"By the way, it was a gun-free zone," he said at a campaign event in Franklin, Tennessee. "Let me tell you, if you had a couple teachers with guns in that room, you would have been a hell of a lot better off."

Trump went on to say he has a license to carry a gun in New York, and if someone attacks him, he will respond.

"In fact, I have a license to carry in New York, can you believe that? Nobody knows that," he said.

"Can you imagine? Somebody says, 'There's Trump, he's easy pickings.' What'd you'd say?" Trump said, mimicking holding a gun with his hand.

Trump came out as a strong gun-rights supporter in a position paper he released last month.

"The Second Amendment to our Constitution is clear. The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed upon. Period," he said.

Trump then recommended expanding the right to carry.

"The right of self-defense doesn't stop at the end of your driveway. That's why I have a concealed carry permit and why tens of millions of Americans do too. That permit should be valid in all 50 states," he wrote.

But the day after Thursday's massacre, Trump said if he became president, he doesn't expect to halt all mass shootings because there will always be people that society can't stop.

"You're going to have these things happen and it's a horrible thing to behold, horrible," Trump said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"It's not politically correct to say that, but you're going to have difficulty and that will be for the next million years, there's going to be difficulty and people are going to slip through the cracks," Trump added. "What are you going to do, institutionalize everybody?"

Those comments echo ones he made shortly after two journalists were shot to death on live television in August, when he said he was in favor of addressing mental health issues to prevent future tragedies.

"This isn't a gun problem, this is a mental problem," Trump told CNN's Chris Cuomo on "New Day." "It's not a question of the laws, it's really the people."

-October 4, 2015

http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/03/politics/donald-trump-oregon-shooting-armed-teachers/
But wait, aren't conservatives supposed to be opposed to government attacks on private property? Not according to Trump. "Eminent domain, when it comes to jobs, roads, the public good, I think it's a wonderful thing, I'll be honest with you. And remember, you're not taking property.... I don't think it was explained to most conservatives."

My colleague Matt Welch has already detailed the many fallacies embedded in Trump's shameful endorsement of eminent domain abuse. But since Trump seems to think that conservatives will benefit from a thorough explanation of the issue, I wanted to offer one more piece of relevant information: In 1994 Trump sought to personally profit from eminent domain abuse by using government power to kick an elderly widow out of her Atlantic City home.

This despicable event was made possible by a shadowy state agency known as the Casino Reinvestment Development Corporation (CRDC), which sought to take the home of a woman named Vera Coking, who lived just off of Atlantic City's famous beachfront boardwalk, and replace it with a new limousine parking lot for the nearby Trump Plaza hotel and casino.

Thanks to the expert legal help of the Institute for Justice, whose lawyers represented Coking, the CRDC's desire to wield eminent domain on Trump's behalf was laughed out of court. "What has occurred here is analogous to giving Trump a blank check with respect to future development on the property for casino hotel purposes," declared the Superior Court of New Jersey in a sharp ruling against Trump and the CRDC. Vera Coking stayed in her home.

Donald Trump thinks the issue of eminent domains has not been properly "explained to most conservatives." Perhaps Trump might explain why the Constitution should be read to permit the government to kick elderly widows out their homes for the direct benefit of people like him.

-October 7, 2015

https://reason.com/blog/2015/10/07/donald-trumps-shameful-eminent-domain-ab

================================================================================
Child-like insecurity over the size of his hands
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For the last 25 years, Donald Trump has been sending pictures of his hands to Graydon Carter to prove his fingers are properly proportioned, the Vanity Fair editor has revealed.

The bizarre, decades-long feud between the journalist and the billionaire presidential candidate began when Carter wrote an essay for Spy magazine calling Trump a "short-fingered vulgarian," Carter wrote in this month’s editor’s letter.

"The most recent offering arrived earlier this year, before his decision to go after the Republican presidential nomination," Carter said in the piece titled "Why Donald Trump Will Always Be a 'Short-Fingered Vulgarian.'" *

"Like the other packages, this one included a circled hand and the words, also written in gold Sharpie: 'See, not so short!' I sent the picture back by return mail with a note attached, saying, 'Actually, quite short.'"

The editor’s piece is the latest in the finger-feud though, and after all these years, Carter writes that Trump’s "fingers still look abnormally stubby."

Trump defended his phalanges to Page Six in 2011.

"My fingers are long and beautiful, as, it has been well documented, are various other parts of my body," he said.

-October 26, 2015


================================================================================
Wants to deport all illegal immigrants, despite the fact that it would cost hundreds of billions of dollars
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US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wants to deport every illegal immigrant from the United States. The other Republican
candidates say it can't be done - one called it a "silly argument".

And the majority of US Republican voters disagree with Mr Trump: according to a 2015 survey by the Pew Research Center, 56% believe undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay if they meet certain criteria.

-November 11, 2015


=================================================================================================
Is firmly in the “pull yourselves up by your bootstraps” camp as he says he would not raise minimum wage, makes up fictitious argument as to why it’s not possible
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Donald Trump defended his comment during the debate that increased American wages would hurt U.S. competition in a global market on Thursday, adding that he had not even realized he had caused a stir with his remarks.

"Let me just explain. That was on minimum wage and it was how we’re going to compete with other countries," Trump told “Fox and Friends" in a telephone interview. "They were talking about increasing the minimum wage. And whether it's taxes or minimum wages, if they're too high, we're not going to be able to compete with other countries."

During the debate, Trump also said that he would not raise the minimum wage.

"But, taxes too high, wages too high, we’re not going to be able to compete against the world. I hate to say it, but we have to leave it the way it is," he told debate moderator Neil Cavuto when asked if he would raise wages. “People have to go out, they have to work really hard and have to get into that upper stratum. But we cannot do this if we are going to compete with the rest of the world. We just can't do it."

-November 12, 2015


=================================================================================================
Is an unabashed warmonger, proclaims he would destroy all refinery manufacturing infrastructure in Syria and Iraq and then take over the oil operations to send back to the US
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"ISIS is making a tremendous amount of money because they have certain oil camps, right? They have certain area of oil that they took away—some in Syria, some in Iraq—I would bomb the shit out of them. I would just bomb those suckers and, that's right, I'd blow up the pipes, I'd blow up the refineries, I'd blow up every single inch, there would be nothing left and you know what—you'll get Exxon to come in there and in two months—you ever seen these guys, how good they are, the great oil companies? They'll rebuild that sucker brand new and it'll be beautiful and I'd ring it and I'd take the oil."

-November 12, 2015


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Racist remarks about Ben Carson’s upbringing
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Trump first compared the two conditions on CNN and repeated them to a 1,500-person crowd at Iowa Central Community College: "I said that if you're a child molester, a sick puppy, a child molester, there's no cure for that - there's only one cure and we don't want to talk about that cure, that's the ultimate cure. No there's two, there's death and the other thing. But if you're a child molester, there's no cure, they can't stop you. Pathological, there's no cure."

- November 13, 2015
Repeats fictitious claim that he saw thousands of Muslims celebrating on 9/11, instead repeats what has been a conspiracy theory since 9/11 that was attributed to Israelis at first and has now changed from Israelis into scary Muslims to fit his rhetoric.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: You raised some eyebrows yesterday with comments you made at your latest rally. I want to show them, relating to 9/11.

VIDEO CLIP OF DONALD TRUMP, IN WHICH HE SAYS: “Hey, I watched when the World Trade Center came tumbling down. And I watched in Jersey City, New Jersey, where thousands and thousands of people were cheering as that building was coming down. Thousands of people were cheering.”

STEPHANOPOULOS: “You know, the police say that didn’t happen and all those rumors have been on the Internet for some time. So did you misspeak yesterday?”

TRUMP: “It did happen. I saw it.”

STEPHANOPOULOS: “You saw that...”

TRUMP: It was on television. I saw it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: “…with your own eyes?”

TRUMP: “George, it did happen.”

STEPHANOPOULOS: “Police say it didn’t happen.”

TRUMP: “There were people that were cheering on the other side of New Jersey, where you have large Arab populations. They were cheering as the World Trade Center came down. I know it might be not politically correct for you to talk about it, but there were people cheering as that building came down — as those buildings came down. And that tells you something. It was well covered at the time, George. Now, I know they don’t like to talk about it, but it was well covered at the time. There were people over in New Jersey that were watching it, a heavy Arab population, that were cheering as the buildings came down. Not good.”

STEPHANOPOULOS: “As I said, the police have said it didn’t happen.”

- November 22, 2015


http://www.snopes.com/rumors/israel.asp


Encourages his supporters to be violent with BLM protesters

Donald Trump suggested Sunday the half-dozen white attendees at his campaign rally on Saturday may have reacted appropriately when they shoved, tackled, punched and kicked a black protester who disrupted his speech.

“Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing,” Trump said Sunday morning on Fox News, less than 24 hours after his campaign said it “does not condone” the physical altercation.
Trump was not asked by the Fox News hosts about the comments made by his campaign.

The protester, 31-year-old Black Lives Matter activist Mercutio Southall, said the attendees who attacked him also called him and two fellow protesters "monkeys" and the N-word. He told CNN he was "swarmed" by attendees at the Trump event after he and the others began chanting "Dump the Trump" and "Black Lives Matter" during the Republican front-runner's speech to several thousand supporters.

-November 23, 2015


================================================================================

Posts actual falsified white supremacist propaganda data to his Twitter account regarding African American violence after BLM interrupt his rally

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A day after a black activist was kicked and punched by voters at a Donald Trump rally in Alabama, Trump tweeted an image packed with racially loaded and incorrect murder statistics.

The image shows a masked, dark-skinned man with a handgun and a set of points, ostensibly about deaths in 2015:

"Blacks killed by whites -- 2%"

"Blacks killed by police -- 1%"

"Whites killed by police -- 3%"

"Whites killed by whites -- 16%"

"Whites killed by blacks -- 81%"

"Blacks killed by blacks -- 97%"

The image cites the "Crime Statistics Bureau - San Francisco"

None of the numbers are supported by official sources. The figures on black-on-white homicides and white-on-white homicides are wildly inaccurate. And, as several news organizations quickly noted, the "Crime Statistics Bureau" doesn't exist. We looked for that agency as well and the closest we found in San Francisco were a number of crime scene clean-up services.

-November 23, 2015


https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/668520614697820160

================================================================================

Makes up civil war battle to make his golf club seem more important, questions historians who tell him he's wrong, makes up fictitious anonymous historians who said he was right, backpedals even further by saying the made-up historians didn't talk to him but his people when he is asked their names

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Between the 14th hole and the 15th tee of one of the club's two courses, Mr. Trump installed a flagpole on a stone pedestal overlooking the Potomac, to which he affixed a plaque purportedly designating "The River of Blood."

"Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot," the inscription reads. "The casualties were so great that the
water would turn red and thus became known as ‘The River of Blood.’

The inscription, beneath his family crest and above Mr. Trump’s full name, concludes: “It is my great honor to have preserved this important section of the Potomac River!”

Like many of Mr. Trump’s claims, the inscription was evidently not fact-checked.

“No. Uh-uh. No way. Nothing like that ever happened there,” said Richard Gillespie, the executive director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, a historical preservation and education group devoted to an 1,800-square-mile section of the Northern Virginia Piedmont, including the Lowes Island site.

“The only thing that was remotely close to that,” Mr. Gillespie said, was 11 miles up the river at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff in 1861, a rout of Union forces in which several hundred were killed. “The River of Blood?” he added. “Nope, not there.”

Mr. Gillespie’s contradiction of the plaque’s account was seconded by Alana Blumenthal, the curator of the Loudoun Museum in nearby Leesburg. (A third local expert, who said he had written to Mr. Trump’s company about the inscription’s falsehoods and offered to provide historically valid replacement text, insisted on anonymity because he did not want to cross the Trump Organization by disclosing a private exchange.)

In a phone interview, Mr. Trump called himself a “a big history fan” but deflected, played down and then simply disputed the local historians’ assertions of historical fact.

“That was a prime site for river crossings,” Mr. Trump said. “So, if people are crossing the river, and you happen to be in a civil war, I would say that people were shot — a lot of them.”

The club does indeed lie a stone’s throw from Rowser’s Ford, where, as an official historical marker notes, Gen. J. E. B. Stuart led 5,000 Confederate troops including cavalry across the Potomac en route to the Battle of Gettysburg.

But no one died in that crossing, historians said, or in any other notable Civil War engagement on the spot.

“How would they know that?” Mr. Trump asked when told that local historians had called his plaque a fiction. “Were they there?”

Mr. Trump repeatedly said that “numerous historians” had told him that the golf club site was known as the River of Blood. But he said he did not remember their names.

Then he said the historians had spoken not to him but to “my people.” But he refused to identify any underlings who might still possess the historians’ names.

“Write your story the way you want to write it,” Mr. Trump said finally, when pressed unsuccessfully for anything that could corroborate his claim. “You don’t have to talk to anybody. It doesn’t make any difference. But many people were shot. It makes sense.”

In its small way, the plaque bears out Mr. Trump’s reputation for being preoccupied with grandeur, superlatives and his own name, but less so with verifiable facts, even when his audience is relatively small.

- November 24, 2015


================================================================================

Calls for database to monitor and register Muslims in the US

It all started on Thursday, Nov. 19, when a Yahoo News reporter asked Trump about his position on increased surveillance of American Muslims.

“France declared this state of emergency where they closed the borders and they established some degree of warrantless searches. I know how you feel about the borders, but do you think there is some kind of state of emergency here, and do we need warrantless searches of
Muslims?" the reporter asked.

"We’re going to have to do certain things that were frankly unthinkable a year ago," Trump said.

The Yahoo reporter then asked Trump, "Do you think we might need to register Muslims in some type of database, or note their religion on their ID?"

Trump responded, "We’re going to have to look at a lot of things very closely. We’re going to have to look at the mosques. We’re going to have to look very, very carefully."

Here, Trump didn’t reject the idea of a Muslim registry, but he also didn’t give an affirmative "yes" that he wanted to create such a database.

The next day, an MSNBC reporter asked Trump, "Should there be a database or system that tracks Muslims in this country?"

"There should be a lot of systems," Trump responded. "Beyond databases. I mean, we should have a lot of systems."

Trump then digressed to talk about a wall along the southern border, before the reporter interjected, "But that’s something your White House would like to implement."

"I would certainly implement that. Absolutely," Trump said.

Here, we’re not clear if Trump is talking about implementing a wall or implementing a database.

But a few seconds later, when asked how he would register people into a database, Trump said, "It would just be good management."

Finally, the reporter asked if Muslims would legally have to be part of the database.

"They have to be — they have to be," Trump said. "Let me just tell you: The key is people can come to the country, but they have to come legally."

The same day, an NBC reporter also repeatedly asked Trump what the difference is between a registry for Muslims and the registry for Jews under Nazi Germany, to which Trump only replied, "You tell me."

Later that day, Trump wrote on Twitter, "I didn't suggest a database -- a reporter did. We must defeat Islamic terrorism & have surveillance, including a watch list, to protect America."

While that is accurate, Trump also did not dismiss the idea of a database.

After Trump’s tweet, Fox News asked him about his position on a Muslim registry.

"Let's hear it directly from you," said host Kimberly Guilfoyle. "Would President Donald Trump support a full Muslim database?"

"Basically the suggestion was made and (it's) certainly something we should start thinking about," Trump said, repeating that the reporter presented the idea. "But what I want is a watch list. I want surveillance programs. Obviously, there are a lot of problems. ... But, certainly, I would want to have a database for the refugees, for the Syrian refugees that are coming in because nobody knows where they're coming from."

– November 24, 2015


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Mocks disabled reporter
Donald Trump denies mocking a New York Times reporter’s disability during a campaign speech Tuesday night, saying he’s never seen the reporter before and has no knowledge of his physical appearance.

The Republican presidential candidate outraged The Times after waving his arms in an awkward manner at a rally in South Carolina while talking about a comment made by reporter Serge Kovaleski, who has arthrogryposis, a congenital condition affecting joint movement.

– November 27, 2015


Wants to ban all Muslims from entering the US indefinitely

In a statement released today, Republican candidate Donald Trump called for a “total and complete shutdown” of Muslims entering the United States until “our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.”

"Mr. Trump stated, Without looking at the various polling data, it is obvious to anybody the hatred is beyond comprehension. Where this hatred comes from and why we will have to determine. Until we are able to determine and understand this problem and the dangerous threat it poses, our country cannot be the victims of horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life," the statement read.

– December 7, 2015


Neo-Nazi that runs large internet forum for Neo-Nazis says he has to expand server space because the popularity of Trump has driven up traffic to his website

Don Black has come a long way from leading the Ku Klux Klan. As the Grand Wizard, or national leader, of the group in 1978, he's credited with growing the movement.

He says that now that work is largely being done by GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump.

Black quit the KKK in 1987, after a stint in prison for trying to invade the island of Dominica. He's also cut his ties with America's Nazi party, of which he was a member in the 70s. He no longer calls himself a white supremacist, although his definition of a supremacist is “someone who believes in exploiting and enslaving other people.”

Instead, he considers himself white nationalist. He believes that whites are their own nation, and should have their own country. Ideally, that country would span “sea to shining sea,” but he recognizes the impossibilities of that idea, and resigns himself to taking whatever land he can get.

Black now runs Stormfront, an internet forum that he says gets one million unique visitors per month. Its community is filled with white nationalists, white supremacists, and Neo-Nazis — not that Black thinks that's a bad thing. Adolf Hitler, he said, is unfairly assessed by historians.

"Hitler, of course, has been demonized because he lost,” Black told INSIDER, a Confederate flag hanging behind him. “There are a lot of things he said about Hitler that simply weren't true.”

Trump's presidential campaign is helping Stormfront grow. Trump is a daily topic of discussion on the site, and ever since he announced his candidacy in June — infamously categorizing Mexican immigrants as criminals, drug smugglers, and rapists — Black has seen a steady uptick in growth.
"We are getting new servers and expanding, and upgrading software in the next month," Black said. "We're getting there, we're seeing it."

-December 14, 2015


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Wants to commit war crimes, claims not wanting to commit war crimes is political correctness

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Donald Trump says the United States should kill the family members of terrorists, and not to do so is just being “politically correct.”

“The other thing with the terrorists is you have to take out their families, when you get these terrorists, you have to take out their families,” Trump said on Fox and Friends on Dec. 2, 2015. "They care about their lives, don't kid yourself. When they say they don't care about their lives, you have to take out their families."

-December 17, 2015


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Advocates for an automatic death penalty for anyone who kills a cop in the United States

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It was an otherwise unremarkable event when Donald Trump received the endorsement of the New England Police Benevolent Association, a union of police and correctional officers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, on December 10. As he addressed the crowd in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Trump restated his support for police officers and for the death penalty for those who kill them. Then he articulated a new proposal to demonstrate that support.

“One of the first things I’d do in terms of executive order if I win would be to sign a strong, strong statement that will go out to the country, out to the world, that anybody caught killing a policeman, policewoman, police officer, anybody killing a police officer: death penalty. It’s gonna happen. OK? We can’t let this go.”

-December 18, 2016


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Jokes about killing reporters

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The Republican front-runner -- who frequently lambasts the media as “scum” or “horrible” -- reassured reporters at rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Monday that he had no desire to execute the press who cover him.

"I hate some of these people, I hate 'em," Trump told the crowd. "I would never kill them. I would never do that."

Then he decided to reconsider.

"Uh, let’s see, uh?" he said aloud, his voice rising. "No, I would never do that."

Trump's comments on journalists came after he spoke about Russian President Vladimir Putin, who lavished Trump with praise last week.

-December 21, 2015

Sexist remarks about Hillary Clinton

Donald Trump attacked Hillary Clinton in vulgar terms Monday night, saying that her bathroom break during the last Democratic debate was just too "disgusting" to talk about and then stating she "got schlonged" by Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential race.

"Even a race to Obama, she was gonna beat Obama. I don't know who would be worse, I don't know, how could it be worse? But she was going to beat -- she was favored to win -- and she got schlonged, she lost, I mean she lost," Trump said, using a vulgar Yiddish word for a man's penis.

Earlier, Trump started to criticize Clinton for not returning to the ABC News debate stage on Saturday night in time, but then said he didn't want to talk more about it because it was "disgusting."

"I know where she went, it's disgusting, I don't want to talk about it," Trump said. "No, it's too disgusting. Don't say it, it's disgusting, let's not talk, we want to be very, very straight up."

– December 22, 2015


Sexist remarks about Hillary Clinton

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Sunday accused Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton of "playing the woman's card" — continuing a war of words between the two campaigns that heated up when Trump said Clinton got "schlonged" in the 2008 Democratic primary.

"She's playing that woman's card left and right, and women are more upset about it than anybody else, including most men," Trump said on Fox News.

– December 27, 2015


Decided to cut medical coverage for terminally-ill 18-month-old child of his nephew because he was contesting the will of Trump's father

The article contained some interesting stuff about the young Donald Trump. And, buried toward the end, it also referred to an incident that says something about the adult Trump, what sort of a person he is, and what kind of President he might be. In 2000, during a family dispute about the details of his father’s will, Trump, who was by then fabulously wealthy in his own right, cut off benefits from the family health plan that were paying for the medical care of his nephew’s seriously ill young son.

The Times story didn’t go into much detail about the fight within the Trump family, but it was a bitter one. Heidi Evans, a reporter for the Daily News, who later won a Pulitzer Prize as an editorial writer, covered the story at the time, and she got the goods. This is how one of Evans's articles, which the Daily News published on December 19, 2000, began:

Even when it comes to a sick baby in his family, Donald Trump is all business. The megabuilder and his siblings Robert and Maryanne terminated their nephew’s family medical coverage a week after he challenged the will of their father, Fred Trump. “This was so shocking, so disappointing and so vindictive,” said niece Lisa Trump, whose son, William, was born 18 months ago at Mount Sinai Medical Center with a rare neurological disorder that produces violent seizures, brain damage and medical bills topping $300,000.

According to Evans’s account, the baby, William Trump—whose father, Fred Trump III, is Freddy’s son—had been diagnosed with “infantile spasms, a rare disorder that can lead to cerebral palsy or autism and a lifetime of care.” (The Times article notes that William did develop cerebral palsy.) This chronic illness required round-the-clock nursing care and frequent visits to medical specialists and emergency rooms. Twice in the first eight months of his life, William stopped breathing. At that stage, fortunately for the baby and his family, he was being covered under a medical plan paid for by a Trump family company.
The situation changed in March, 2000, after Fred III and his wife, Lisa, filed suit in Queen’s Surrogate Court, claiming that Fred, Sr., who died in June, 1999, had been suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and that his will had been “procured by fraud and undue influence” on the part of Donald, his brother Robert, a New York businessman, and his sister Maryanne, a federal judge in Newark, New Jersey. The will had divided most of their father’s estate, which was worth somewhere between a hundred million and three hundred million dollars, between the families of his surviving children, leaving considerably less to Freddy’s descendants than to other siblings’ children.

Trump and his siblings insisted that the will accurately reflected their father’s wishes. After the challenge, it didn’t take them long to retaliate. On March 30th, Fred III received a certified letter telling him that the medical benefits provided to his family by the Trump organization would end on May 1st. The letter prompted Fred III to return to court, this time in Nassau County, where a judge ordered the Trumps to restore the health coverage until the dispute was resolved. “I will stick to my guns,” Fred III told Evans. “I just think it was wrong. These are not warm and fuzzy people. They never even came to see William in the hospital. Our family puts the ‘fun’ in dysfunctional.” Fred III’s sister, Mary, told Evans, “William is my father’s grandson. He is as much a part of that family as anybody else. He desperately needs extra care.”

Trump, for his part, was unapologetic about his actions. “Why should we give him medical coverage?” he told Evans. When she asked him if he thought he might come across as cold-hearted, given the baby’s medical condition, he said, “I can’t help that. It’s cold when someone sues my father. Had he come to see me, things could very possibly have been much different for them.”

January 4, 2016


Vows to slash funding for the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency

Republican front-runner Donald Trump said Monday he would slash funding for the Department of Education and Environmental Protection Agency if he is elected president.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal and New Hampshire’s WMUR at a local diner here, the businessman said he would do “tremendous cutting” of the federal government. Education policy, he said, should be returned to the states, and he said he would end the Common Core education standards, which conservatives view as federal overreach.

“Education should be local and locally managed,” said Mr. Trump, who also attacked the administration’s environmental policies. “The Environmental Protection Agency is the laughingstock of the world.”

Mr. Trump’s focus on domestic budgetary issues is a new plank in his presidential policy proposals. It is also one likely to appeal in New Hampshire, where voters have long rewarded candidates who promise fiscal restraint and to reduce federal government spending.

Mr. Trump also has been under pressure to specify how he would reduce government spending since releasing a tax plan late last year. Independent analysis of that proposal, which would reduce tax rates for some and remove many from the tax rolls completely, concluded it would balloon the federal deficit.

January 11, 2016


Says cops are most mistreated people in America, claims police should have more “power”

Donald Trump took a moment’s pause from demonizing Muslims on Thursday in order to praise U.S. law enforcement officers.

“Police are the most mistreated people in this country,” Trump told the GOP debate audience.

Trump had been speaking about radical Islam and homegrown terror while defending his controversial proposals to ban all Muslim immigrants from the U.S. and ramp up surveillance efforts on Muslim citizens. When he brought up the December terror attack in San Bernardino, Trump suggested that people who’d noticed suspicious packages coming to the suspects’ home should have tipped off the police.

“We need vigilance,” said Trump. “We need security.”
Police reform has become a widely discussed issue in the past year and a half, following nationwide protests over a number of controversial fatal shootings by officers and other civilian deaths in custody, many of them involving unarmed black boys and men. Trump spoke about this movement in August, when he acknowledged that “horrible mistakes are made” but suggested that activists were perhaps asking for too much.

“At the same time, we have to give power back to the police, because crime is rampant,” Trump said then.

In reality, crime rates have been falling for decades, a trend that continued apace in 2015.

-January 14, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-police_us_569869d1e4b0b4eb759df9b8

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Not-so-subtly telling the world that he probably is a white nationalist

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This Friday, Trump’s official Twitter feed retweeted this Tweet that takes a jab at GOP rival Jeb Bush. It shows a photoshopped image of Bush in front of the Trump Towers, holding up a “Vote for Trump” sign.

Seems innocuous enough. Until you see the account it’s retweeted from: @WhiteGenocideTM.

The account promotes a pro-Adolf Hitler documentary “The Greatest Story Never Told.”

But that’s not even the worst of it. A @WhiteGenocideTM photoshop creation shows Trump in a Nazi uniform flipping on the gas switch on a gas chamber housing... Jewish candidate Bernie Sanders.

-January 23, 2016

http://forward.com/opinion/331449/that-time-donald-trump-retweeted-nazis/

https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/690562515500032000

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Accidentally reveals how uneducated he thinks his supporters are by boasting that he could shoot some random person in the street and he wouldn’t lose support

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Donald Trump boasted Saturday that support for his presidential campaign would not decline even if he shot someone in the middle of a crowded street.

“I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn’t lose voters,” Trump said at a campaign rally here.

-January 24, 2016


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Thinks torture works, wants to bring back waterboarding and worse, wants to violate human rights charter

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Donald Trump said Wednesday that he supports waterboarding and similar interrogation techniques because “torture works” in the questioning of terrorists.

Proponents of waterboarding are careful not to label the technique as torture, which is forbidden by various international laws and treaties. President Obama’s administration discontinued the use of waterboarding because it deemed the technique to be torture. During a campaign...
event at the Sun City retirement community, Trump emphasized his intention to reinstate waterboarding and techniques that are "so much worse" and "much stronger."

"Don't tell me it doesn't work -- torture works," Trump said. "Okay, folks? Torture -- you know, half these guys [say]: 'Torture doesn't work.' Believe me, it works. Okay?"

Trump has long called for the return of waterboarding, and he has seemed to embrace the idea of torture in the past without using the term himself. During a Feb. 7 interview on ABC's "This Week," host George Stephanopoulos asked Trump whether he "would authorize torture." Trump responded: "I would absolutely authorize something beyond waterboarding."

Trump said that he would "immediately" resume waterboarding and other techniques that are "much worse" because the United States is facing a barbaric enemy.

-February 17, 2016


Is against gay marriage, says that he would fight to overturn Supreme Court rulings on gay marriage, claims it’s a state issue, supports the First Amendment Defense Act which would make it legal to discriminate against LGBTQ

Donald Trump has been a consistent opponent of marriage equality. While he once said he supported protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination in the workplace by adding sexual orientation to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, more recently he expressed support for the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) which would expose LGBT people to more discrimination.

Marriage: Trump has been a consistent opponent of marriage equality. He said that he opposed it because he was a "traditional" guy, choosing to support domestic partnership benefits instead. Trump later reversed himself and said he also opposed civil unions. Despite a brief flirtation with "evolving" in 2013, Trump has consistently maintained his opposition to marriage equality, sometimes by citing polling and making an analogy to his dislike of long golf putters. After the Supreme Court ruling, Trump said the court had made its decision and, although he disagreed with the ruling, he did not support a constitutional amendment that would allow states to re-ban marriage equality. He later said he would appoint Supreme Court judges who would be committed to overturning the ruling.

Discrimination: Trump has a mixed record. He’s said that federal law should protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. He said the Civil Rights Act of 1964 should be amended to include sexual orientation, and he said there should be "no discrimination against gays." He also disagreed with Kentucky clerk Kim Davis, who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, then later said he never opposed her. But he has expressed support for the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) which would lead to more Kim Davis like discrimination.

Harmful Rhetoric: Trump said that Pat Buchanan’s anti-LGBT rhetoric was disgusting, and he said that LGBT groups were glad he was hosting the Miss Universe pageant in Russia to challenge the status quo. But he launched ad hominem attacks on Ariana Huffington and Bette Midler, and he defended a CEO who resigned after opposing Proposition 8 and an NFL player who criticized Michael Sam.

-February 25, 2016

http://www.hrc.org/2016RepublicanFacts/donald-trump

Used illegal immigrant labor to build Trump Tower, violated union pension violations during the build as he did not pay many workers

When Marco Rubio attacked Donald Trump on the debate stage this week for using undocumented Polish workers to build Trump Tower, the developer shrugged it off.

"He brings up something from 30 years ago," Trump shot back. "It worked out very well. Everybody was happy."

But a look into the history of the Trump Tower, the crown jewel of the real-estate mogul’s empire, reveals the beginnings of the 68-story building were, in fact, rooted in the back-breaking labor of 150-odd Polish immigrants — most working illegally, some without full pay.

"It's constructed on the blood, sweat and tears of the Polish Brigade, as they were known in the industry," said attorney Wendy Sloan, who sued Trump and his contractor for union pension violations on the project.
In an interview with NBC News earlier in the campaign about the Polish workers, Trump blamed the problems on a "bad contractor" and said he had been "exonerated" by the courts.

"I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "I wouldn't do anything different."

-February 26, 2016

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/donald-says-controversy-over-his-tower-was-trumped-n397821

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Donald Trump said on Friday he plans to change libel laws in the United States so that he can have an easier time suing news organizations.

"One of the things I'm going to do if I win, and I hope we do and we're certainly leading. I'm going to open up our libel laws so when they write purposely negative and horrible and false articles, we can sue them and win lots of money. We're going to open up those libel laws. So when The New York Times writes a hit piece which is a total disgrace or when The Washington Post, which is there for other reasons, writes a hit piece, we can sue them and win money instead of having no chance of winning because they're totally protected," Trump said.

Under current law, largely determined at the state instead of federal level, public persons, such as politicians, can win a suit against a media organization only if the person can prove that the publication published information with actual malice, knowing it to be wholly incorrect, as well as in cases of reckless disregard. The case that set this precedent — New York Times Co. v. Sullivan — was decided by the Supreme Court in 1964.

"You see, with me, they're not protected, because I'm not like other people but I'm not taking money. I'm not taking their money," Trump said on Friday. "We're going to open up libel laws, and we're going to have people sue you like you've never got sued before."

-February 26, 2016

http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2016/02/donald-trump-libel-laws-219866

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On 23 February 2016, photographs showing two people dressed in Ku Klux Klan robes and holding signs in support of Donald Trump outside Cimarron High School during the Nevada Republican caucus started circulating on the internet.

While the above-displayed photographs are real — several news outlets have confirmed that two people wearing KKK robes were briefly present at a Nevada caucus polling place — the identities of the hooded figures, their political affiliations, and the motivation behind their wardrobe choices are still unknown. On its face, the images show two Ku Klux Klan members showing their support for Donald Trump.

While there are several photos of these alleged Klan members circulating around the internet, they gave no definitive ideas of either the individuals' motivations (were they serious or satirical?) or their backgrounds. Regardless, several people used the photos as proof that not only were these alleged Klansmen black, but that they were members of the Black Lives Matter movement.

However, there was no validity to the theories that the two people dressed in Klan outfits were black or (by extension) members of Black Lives Matter. We spoke to Capt. Ken Young of the Clark County Public Schools Police Department on 25 February 2016. He confirmed to us that the two individuals were white males, and that they left the school as soon as police arrived and told them that they had to go.

-February 24, 2016
Retweets famous quote from Italian fascist Benito Mussolini who was allied with Hitler in World War 2, does not denounce it later

Donald Trump retweeted a quote from Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini on Sunday.

The Republican frontrunner shared the saying made famous by the founder of the fascist movement with his 6.4 million followers. "@ilduce2016: ‘It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep.’ - @realDonaldTrump #MakeAmericaGreatAgain,” the tweet said.

Trump said on Sunday that he wasn’t aware the quote came from Mussolini. “It’s a very good quote,” he said on NBC’s Meet the Press, adding that he didn’t want to be associated with the dictator. “I didn’t know who said it, but what difference does it make if it was Mussolini or somebody else? It’s a very good quote.”

-Had a reporter slammed to the ground for trying to cover developing news at his rally

A Secret Service agent slammed down Time magazine photographer Christopher Morris at a Donald Trump rally Monday in Radford, Virginia, after the journalist tried to cover a protest.

Morris told CNN’s Jim Acosta that he stepped about 18 inches outside the press pen before a guy “grabbed me by the neck and started choking me and slammed me to the ground.”

Independent Journal reporter Joe Perticone wrote that the altercation began when an unidentified agent tried preventing Morris from covering protesters. Morris reportedly responded “Fuck you” to the agent’s command.

In addition to barring and ejecting journalists from rallies, Trump’s campaign has threatened reporters with blacklisting if they leave the designated press area, or pen, to cover newsworthy events happening off stage, such as protests.

-The Secret Service has enforced the campaign’s press restrictions, although the agency’s role is to protect the candidate, not limit media access.

-Has black college students ejected out of his rally in Georgia for no reason at all other than that they were black

Dozens of black college students in Georgia said they were asked to leave a Donald Trump rally on their campus Monday for standing silently on gymnasia bleachers before the business magnate began speaking.

Valdosta State University students said Secret Service agents were told by Trump to remove them, according to Jennifer Jacobs, a Des Moines Register reporter who was at the event.

Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback told HuffPost the agency does not escort protestors or disruptors out of events. He said the students were asked to leave by local law enforcement and privately hired event staff members.
"I think we got kicked out because we’re a group of black people," a tearful student said in a video posted by USA Today. "I guess ... they’re afraid we’re going to say something or do something. But we just really wanted to watch the rally. To get kicked out because we’re a group of black people ... shows you how racist our own school is."

-February 29, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/black-students-trump-rally-georgia_us_56d501c2e4b0871f60ec98ba

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Dances around not wanting to disavow former KKK leader David Duke as he knows it will hurt him with his base, then proclaims he knows nothing about David Duke despite having run-ins with him for the past 25 years

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A few days before Donald Trump dominated Super Tuesday, the Republican frontrunner was being rebuked left and right for declining to denounce former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke.

The controversy began Feb. 24, when Duke said that he supports Trump's candidacy and told listeners of his radio program to "get active" for Trump. Two days later, Trump disavowed Duke in a news conference.

But Trump, who claims to have the "world's greatest memory," seemed to have forgotten this by Feb. 28. When CNN’s Jake Tapper asked him about Duke, Trump claimed ignorance four times:

"Well, just so you understand, I don't know anything about David Duke. okay? I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists. So, I don't know.

"I don't know, did he endorse me or what's going on, because, you know, I know nothing about David Duke. I know nothing about white supremacists. And so you're asking me a question that I'm supposed to be talking about people that I know nothing about. ...

"I don't know any -- honestly, I don't know David Duke. I don't believe I have ever met him. I'm pretty sure I didn't meet him. And I just don't know anything about him."

Later that day, Trump tweeted a video of his earlier disavowal of Duke, and blamed his failure to do it again on CNN on "a very bad earpiece."

As fellow fact-checkers at the Washington Post and Factcheck.org have pointed out, Trump knew enough about Duke to denounce him several times over the past two decades.

Trump, as we previously noted and as he acknowledged himself, renounced Duke just two days before he told Tapper he knew nothing about the white nationalist.

When a reporter asked about Duke’s support on Feb. 26 (without identifying Duke as a former Klansman), Trump said, "I didn't even know he endorsed me. David Duke endorsed me? Okay, all right, I disavow, okay?"

And a few months ago, in August 2015, Trump "repudiated" an earlier expression of support from Duke in a Bloomberg interview:

John Heilemann: "We've heard this week that David Duke — former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan — has come out and said he's in support of your candidacy. So my first question is why do people like that like Donald Trump? And second, how do you feel about the David Duke quasi-endorsement?"

Trump: "I don’t know the answer to the first. Who knows why? But I don’t need his endorsement. I certainly wouldn’t want his endorsement. I don’t need anybody’s endorsement. I’m not looking for..."

Heilemann: "Would you repudiate David Duke?"

Trump: "Sure, I would do that if it made you feel better. I would certainly repudiate. I don’t know anything about him. Somebody told me yesterday, whoever he is, he did endorse me. And actually I don’t think it was an endorsement. He said I was absolutely the best of all the candidates. But I wouldn’t want him ..."
Fifteen years ago, when Trump was flirting with a White House bid as a Reform Party candidate, he named Duke as a cause of concern at least three times.

In 2000, former wrestler and then-Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura broke with the Reform Party because he didn't want to be associated with the Reform Party's presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, whom Duke supported.

"Buchanan is an anti-abortion extremist and an unrealistic isolationist," Ventura told the New York Daily News on Feb. 12, 2000. "The latest I hear is that he's now getting support from David Duke. I can't be a part of that and I won't be part of that."

Before he called it quits, Ventura said he consulted with Trump. After Ventura left the party, Trump also named Duke as one of the Reform's "biggest problems" on NBC's Today Show.


He announced that day that he wouldn't seek the nomination of the Reform Party, naming Duke as one of his reasons.

"Now I understand that David Duke has decided to join the Reform Party to support the candidacy of Pat Buchanan," Trump wrote in a statement. "So the Reform Party now includes a Klansman, Mr. Duke, a Neo-Nazi, Mr. Buchanan, and a Communist, Ms. Fulani. This is not company I wish to keep."

A few days later, Trump himself quit the party and repeated his earlier statement.


Even earlier, Trump appeared on CNN on Nov. 19, 1991, and discussed Duke's defeat in the Louisiana governor's race and his possibly running against then-President George H.W. Bush. (Duke declared his candidacy as a Republican about a month after Trump's interview.)

Larry King: "Did the David Duke thing bother you? Fifty-five percent of the whites in Louisiana voted for him. Four hundred New Yorkers contributed."

Trump: "I hate seeing what it represents, but I guess it just shows there's a lot of hostility in this country. There's a tremendous amount of hostility in the United States."

King: "Anger?"

Trump: "It's anger. I mean, that's an anger vote. People are angry about what's happened. People are angry about the jobs. If you look at Louisiana, they're really in deep trouble. When you talk about the East Coast — it's not the East Coast. It's the East Coast, the middle coast, the West Coast."

King: "If he runs and Pat Buchanan runs, might you see a really divided vote?"

Trump: "Well, I think if they run, or even if David Duke — I mean, George (H.W.) Bush was very, very strong against David Duke. I think if he had it to do again, he might not have gotten involved in that campaign because I think David Duke now, if he runs, takes away almost exclusively Bush votes and then a guy like (Mario) Cuomo runs. I think Cuomo can win the election."

King: "But Bush morally had to come out against him."

Trump: "I think Bush had to come out against him. I think Bush — if David Duke runs, David Duke is going to get a lot of votes. Whether that be good or bad, David Duke is going to get a lot of votes."

Our ruling

Trump said, "I don't know anything about David Duke."
Trump seems to have forgotten that he knew enough about Duke to denounce him twice this election cycle. In 2000, he knew enough to criticize Duke’s racism. And in 1991, he knew enough to say he hated what votes for Duke represented.

-March 2, 2016


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Wants to increase prison sentences, wants to imprison undocumented immigrants, wants police to “get tougher” while subtly mentioning the racist overtones when pointing at Chicago and Baltimore, thinks lethal injection is “too comfortable” for execution

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Based on his sweeping Super Tuesday victories, Donald Trump is one giant leap closer to becoming the GOP’s presidential nominee. But the candidate has yet to detail policy platforms for a wide range of topics, including criminal justice.

Last August, the Washington Post’s Radley Balko compiled a comprehensive roundup of candidates’ criminal justice reform proposals and wrote that Trump’s campaign website made no mention of the issue space at all. Fast forward to today, and little has changed.

The only two discussions of criminal justice reform on Trump’s site are framed in relation to Second Amendment rights and his tough stance on immigration.

Trump wants to expand programs similar to Project Exile — which sends violent felons who use guns in Richmond, Virginia to prison for five years without the chance of parole — in other parts of the country. He plans to “empower law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves” because “[law] enforcement is great, they do a tremendous job, but they can’t be everywhere all of the time."

He also favors the mass incarceration of undocumented immigrants. His website proposes automatic prison time — instead of “catch and release” — for undocumented immigrants who are caught crossing the border, as well as the strict enforcement of criminal penalties against people who overstay their visas. And he wants ICE officials to partner with local law enforcement to raid violent street gangs, find “illegal aliens in gangs,” and imprison and deport them.

Trump has not explicitly addressed the issues that bipartisan criminal justice advocates are vocal about, including sentencing reform, juvenile justice, solitary confinement, the death penalty, and expanding rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism.

Nonetheless, based on his recent — and past — comments about policing and the corrections system, here’s what criminal justice could conceivably look like under President Trump:

Long before the start of his campaign, Trump was a fierce advocate for “tough on crime” policing. Although the crime rate has dropped significantly for decades, Trump has pledged to give officers more leeway to “regain control of this crime wave and killing wave.”

Last August, Trump told the hosts of MSNBC’s Morning Joe, “In terms of our cities and in terms of our violent offenses, we have to get a lot tougher. Because if you look at what’s going on with Baltimore and with places like Chicago…I know the chief of police. These are fantastic people. They have to be allowed to do their job.”

On Meet the Press, he acknowledged the “massive crisis” of unarmed black people being shot by cops, saying “horrible mistakes are made.” But he also wants to increase the “strength and power” of law enforcement. During a GOP debate in January, Trump concluded that “police are the most mistreated people in this country.”

Trump has blamed blacks and Hispanics for “the overwhelming amount of violent crime.”

Sentencing reform, including the reduction of mandatory minimums for nonviolent offenses, has been a hallmark of bipartisan legislation, however there is no indication that Trump will carry that torch.

In his 2000 book, The America We Deserve, Trump actually slammed sentence reduction and explained that judges allow criminals back into society too often.

“Criminals are often returned to society because of forgiving judges. This has to stop. We need to hold judges more accountable, and the best way to make that happen is to elect them,” he wrote. “The next time you hear someone saying there are too many people in prison, ask them how many thugs they’re willing to relocate to their neighborhood. The answer: None.”
In November, when asked if he’s rethought his position, Trump simply answered “No.”

“I’m tough on crime,” he told MSNBC. “I’m a believer in being tougher on crime — I really am...You look at what’s going on in the inner cities right now, it’s unbelievable. [You] go to places like Chicago — and it’s all in one little section — but boy it’s like the Wild West.”

Besides his comment about not throwing a kid in jail for marijuana, Trump’s most vocal stance on juvenile justice has been in the context of the Central Park 5.

The group of five teenagers were wrongfully convicted of raping and beating a white female jogger at a time when the superpredator myth about dangerous black juveniles was gaining steam. While the group had nothing to do with the actual crime, they were tricked into making false confessions and sentenced to decades behind bars.

At the time, Trump penned an op-ed calling for the teenagers to be put to death.

“I want to hate these muggers and murderers,” he wrote. “They should be forced to suffer and, when they kill, they should be executed for their crimes.”

When New York admitted that grave mistakes were made and agreed to a $40 million settlement in 2014, Trump penned another opinion piece slamming the “disgraceful” decision.

“Settling doesn’t mean innocence, but it indicates incompetence on several levels,” he wrote. “Speak to the detectives on the case and try listening to the facts. These young men do not exactly have the pasts of angels.”

Under Trump’s leadership, people will still be sentenced to die for capital offenses. In the America We Deserve, Trump had a lot to say about “criminals who prey on innocent people,” whom he also compared to Hitler:

“Would it have been civilized to put Hitler in prison? No—it would have been an affront to civilization. The same is true of criminals who prey on innocent people. They have declared war on civilization. I don’t care if the victim is a CEO or a floor sweeper. A life is a life, and if you criminally take an innocent life you’d better be prepared to forfeit your own. My only complaint is that lethal injection is too comfortable a way to go.”

While support for capital punishment has plummeted in recent years, Trump is still a staunch proponent of it. Back in December, he announced that anyone who kills a police officer will be sentenced to die. His statement earned an endorsement from the New England Police Benevolent Association, an officer union that boasts 5,000 members.

-March 2, 2016

http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2016/03/02/3755065/trump-criminal-justice/

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So insecure about the size of his penis, he had to tell the country at a televised debate about it

Donald Trump assured American voters Thursday night that despite what Marco Rubio had suggested, there was “no problem” with the size of his hands -- or anything else.

"Look at those hands, are they small hands?" the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination said, raising them for viewers to see. "And, he referred to my hands -- 'if they're small, something else must be small.' I guarantee you there's no problem. I guarantee."

-March 4, 2016

http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/03/politics/donald-trump-small-hands-marco-rubio/

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Claims he will increase tariffs to get American companies to produce things in America, yet outsources most of his projects and products

http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/03/politics/donald-trump-small-hands-marco-rubio/
Trump castigates American companies like Apple, Ford, Carrier and Kraft that use their brands to sell goods in the U.S., but produce them in other countries. Indeed, he appears to be so outraged by the practice that he proposes a 15 percent tax on companies for outsourcing jobs and a 20 percent tax for importing goods. More recently, he has spoken of a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports.

Perhaps an even clearer indication of his outrage over outsourcing is that although he loves Oreo's, when Nabisco recently moved a plant to Mexico, he swore never to eat one again. Yet despite these deep convictions, when it comes to his own businesses, Trump doesn’t exactly walk the walk.

To see what he actually does, visit his website. Not the campaign website, which puts forward his trade policy proposals to get really tough with China, but Trump.com, the elegant website of the Trump Corporation, which reveals his actual trade practices.

It is immediately clear that many of Trump’s businesses are based not on risking his money and directly creating employment in the United States, but in licensing his brand to help others sell their properties and products. As is now well known, the Trump brand has been used to sell casinos, condominiums, hotels and golf courses at home and abroad, as well as steaks, vodka and a “university” education. Some of these projects have been successful. Others have gone less smoothly, with reports of disappointing sales, bankruptcies, angry customers, broken promises, lawsuits, disputes over fees, hiring illegals and immigrants. Yet Trump has an explanation: He’s a normal businessman making deals, and there are always a few that don’t quite work out. But for exploring whether he puts his moniker where his mouth is when it comes to trade, it’s the branch of the business labeled merchandise that merits closer attention.

So click on the “merchandise” tab to find out where the glittering array of products endorsed by Donald Trump are actually manufactured. With very rare exceptions — a few men’s suits — they are not made in the USA.

-March 8, 2016

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/making-sense/column-trumps-outrage-over-outsourcing-doesnt-apply-to-his-own-merchandise/

Encourages his supporters to be violent, tells them he will pay for their legal fees

Racial slurs, nasty rhetoric and violence at Trump rallies have become commonplace against protesters, bystanders, and reporters. Assaults are committed not only by rowdy Trump fans, but by the staff he employs to keep the events safe. But rather than denounce these incidents, Trump is making them part of his brand, and uses them to rev up crowds.

“There may be somebody with tomatoes in the audience,” Trump warned people at a rally in Iowa last month. “If you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously. Okay? Just knock the hell — I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees.”

Trump has even threatened to personally get in on the action. “I’d like to punch him in the face, I’ll say ya,” he said of a protester on Feb. 22.

Threats against reporters have become so pervasive at Trump rallies that many of those who cover the Republican front-runner seem to have a personal story. As Katy Tur, the Trump embed for NBC News, described in a Tweet, “Trump trashes press. Crowd jeers. Guy by press ’pen’ looks at us & screams “you’re a bitch!” Other gentleman gives cameras the double bird.”

Things spilled over this week, when Breitbart News reporter Michelle Fields said she was pulled down by Trump’s campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, while attempting to ask the candidate the question. Trump’s campaign denied the incident, going so far as to personally attack Fields because she had reported an assault before. Fields had bruise marks on her arm, and a Washington Post reporter wrote about witnessing the incident.

On Wednesday, meanwhile, a 78-year-old white male audience member at a Trump rally in North Carolina was videotaped sucker-punching a black protester being escorted from the event by police. The man, John McGraw, was later charged with assault and battery. But it was the protester who ended up in handcuffs at the rally.

While that punch and the Lewandowski incident sparked criticism of Trump on Thursday, violence has been an undercurrent — if not an outright characteristic — of Trump rallies for months.

At an October event at the Richmond International Raceway in Virginia, a Republican attendee described seeing an, “irate gentlemen in the crowd spit in another gentleman’s face.” That same month, a student protester was violently dragged out of a Miami rally by his shirt collar. A month later, video showed a gang of men kicking and punching a Black Lives Matter protesters at a rally in Birmingham, Alabama, a city historically known for a strong Ku Klux Klan presence.

When asked about the Alabama incident, Trump blamed the victim. “Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely
In December, multiple incidents of violence were reported at a Trump rally in Raleigh, North Carolina. The New York Times described a man “peppering accusations of fascism with profanity,” who was “forcefully shoved into a metal barrier by a Trump supporter.” A female protester claimed a woman in the crowd punched her after a verbal confrontation.

The next month, a Sikh protester was physically pushed out of a Trump rally in Iowa, while fans yelled, “Trump! Trump! Trump!” The protester described it later as “a fascist rally in a school gym.” Last week, yet another video emerged of grown men at an event in Kentucky forcibly shoving a young black woman.

As long as Trump continues to encourage this violence, it’s not going to stop. The fan charged with assault for sucker-punching a black protester on Wednesday has reportedly expressed no regrets.

“The next time we see him, we might have to kill him,” he said.

-March 10, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-violence_us_56e1f16fe4b0b25c91815913

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Trump supporters yell “Go to Auschwitz” to protesters and then perform Nazi salute, Trump never denounces them

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A Donald Trump supporter shouted, “Go to Auschwitz!” at a rally for the leading Republican candidate in Kansas City, Missouri, on Saturday.

In a video recorded by a Dutch reporter, the man appears to give a Nazi salute as he yells, “Go to Auschwitz! Go to fucking Auschwitz!”

Another Trump supporter also appears to give the “Heil Hitler” salute as she exits the stadium where the Republican candidate held his rally.

-March 13, 2016


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Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, who has long shied away from naming any foreign policy advisors, suggested Wednesday that he was his own top consultant on the issue. “I’m speaking with myself, number one, because I have a very good brain, and I’ve said a lot of things,” Trump said during a telephone interview on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”

Trump pointed to his 2000 book, where he made a reference to Osama bin Laden before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. “I know what I’m doing, and I listen to a lot of people, I talk to a lot of people, and at the appropriate time I’ll tell you who the people are,” Trump said. “But I speak to a lot of people, but my primary consultant is myself, and I have a good instinct for this stuff,” he added.

- March 16, 2016


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Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Tuesday said Islam is the main source of global terrorism, in the aftermath of attacks in
Brussels that left at least 34 dead and more than 100 wounded.

"Frankly, we're having problems with the Muslims," he told Fox Business Network’s Maria Bartiromo. “These attacks are not done by Swedish people. That I can tell you. We have to be smart. We have to look at the mosques and study what’s going on. There is a sick problem going on.” Trump said the incident shows why the U.S. should be wary of Middle Easterners.

“I would be extremely careful about people from the Middle East coming into our country,” he said on “CBS This Morning.” “We should be vigilant at our borders.” When pressed for specifics, Trump said he would want "good documentation" from travelers.

Trump said on “CBS This Morning" that Brussels used to be one of the most "beautiful and safest" cities in the world. "Now it's a horror show. There's no assimilation."

Trump said his main focus is on better immigration surveillance, not a total shutdown. "I didn't say shut it down," he said. "I said you have to be very careful. We have to be very, very strong and vigilant at the borders. We have to be tough. We have people who are coming into our country who are undocumented. We have no idea who they are or where they come from. They could be ISIS-related."

– March 22, 2016


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Threatens Ted Cruz about his wife

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Donald Trump escalated his feud with Ted Cruz on Twitter Tuesday — but this time he also involved the Texas senator’s wife, who hit back on Wednesday at an impromptu press conference.

The real estate mogul tweeted that the Texas senator should “be careful” or he would “spill the beans on your wife” Heidi Cruz.

"Lyin’ Ted Cruz just used a picture of Melania from a G.Q. shoot in his ad. Be careful, Lyin’ Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!," he tweeted Tuesday evening, just minutes before polls closed in Arizona. Trump tweeted and deleted a similar version of the Tweet about 10 minutes earlier.

-March 24, 2016


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Trump supporter arrested after police find explosive device in his home after he threatened to kill all Muslims at a Muslim center, Trump still has not denounced him

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William Celli, a 55-year-old man from California, will spend 90 days in jail after being caught in possession of an explosive device and threatening to kill Muslims. Celli took a plea deal that places him on probation for a further three years and bans him from operating an active Facebook profile.

Celli was arrested on Dec. 20, 2015 after yelling “I’m going to kill you all” outside the Islamic Society of West Contra Costa County in Richmond, California. Police later found and detonated an explosive device at Celli’s residence after receiving tips that he was constructing homemade explosives.

Celli had taken to social media in the past to express his admiration of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump. “Donald trumps on again I’m happy leaders okay but this guys a great point man I’ll follow this MAN to the end of the world,” Celli wrote on Facebook in October.

-March 26, 2016

http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2016/03/26/3763714/california-man-90-days-2/
Trump will not fire campaign manager who committed battery against a reporter, says video doesn’t show him touching her when video evidence clearly shows him touching her, blames the victim

Trump at the town hall also addressed the simple battery charge that has been brought against his campaign manager, standing by the aide and mocking the reporter who brought the complaint, saying she had changed her story about the incident.

Trump said he would not fire the aide, Corey Lewandowski and disputed the woman’s initial account of the incident earlier this month in which she said she almost fell to the ground.

“She's not a baby. In her own words, ‘I was jolted backwards’ ... She wasn't ‘yanked down,” Trump said, referring to a statement made by the reporter Michelle Fields, who worked at the time for Breitbart News, which he said was not reflected in scenes shown on a security tape that has since emerged.

Addressing the incident involving Fields, Trump alleged that she was in fact pushing Trump as he tried to leave a press conference and was brandishing a pen, which he said could have alarmed Secret Service agents protecting him.

He said that Lewandowski had been "unjustly accused."

"It would be so easy for me to terminate this man, ruin his life, ruin his family ... and say you are fired. I have fired many people, especially on ‘The Apprentice,” Trump told moderator Anderson Cooper. "The problem is everybody dumps people when there is a sign of political incorrectness.”

-March 30, 2016


Trump supporter pepper sprays a 15-year-old girl point-blank in the face after she was groped by another Trump supporter, shout "n****r lover" as she attempts to walk away, Trump still has not denounced the incident

Police in Janesville, Wisconsin, are searching for two Donald Trump rally attendees who pepper sprayed and sexually assaulted a 15-year-old anti-Trump protester outside the Republican presidential frontrunner’s rally on Tuesday. Video of the incident shows other apparent Trump supporters shouting “bitch” and “nigger lover” to the teenager as she attempts to walk away with pepper spray in her eyes.

"Damn, Donald, back at it again with the white supremacy,” read 15-year-old Alex Drake’s topical protest sign, according to video that captured the incident. As another protester raised a sign that read, “Black Lives Matter,” the crowd of mostly older white Trump supporters began chanting “All lives matter,” attempting to drown out the Janesville teenager.

-March 30, 2016

http://www.salon.com/2016/03/30/trump_supporters_first_pepper_spray_then_yell_nr_lover_to_15_year_old_protester_in_paul_ryans_hometown/

Trump says women who have abortions should be punished, later retracts statement after he realizes he can’t walk away unscathed from the statement

Donald Trump sparked outrage across the ideological spectrum Wednesday with a call to punish women who obtain abortions if the procedure is banned.

Later, however, Trump clarified his position, saying in a campaign statement that, if abortion is banned, “the doctor or any other person performing this illegal act upon a woman would be held legally responsible, not the woman. The woman is a victim in this case as is the life in her womb.”

The controversy began during a taping of a town hall set to air on MSNBC.

In the the interview, host Chris Matthews pressed Trump on his abortion views.
“I am pro-life, yes,” Trump said after a back-and-forth with Matthews.

Trump continued: “Well, you go back to a position like they had where people would perhaps go to illegal places but you have to ban it.”

Matthews then asked Trump, the Republican front-runner, whether a punishment should accompany any outlawing of abortion in the U.S.

“The answer is that there has to be some form of punishment,” Trump said.

“For the woman?” Matthews asked.

“Yeah,” said Trump, who clarified that any punishment would have to be determined.

-March 30, 2016


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Trump says Geneva Conventions a problem, wants to make changes so US soldiers can commit war crimes
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Donald Trump believes American troops are afraid to fight for fear of violating the Geneva Conventions, he said Wednesday.

“The problem is we have the Geneva Conventions, all sorts of rules and regulations, so the soldiers are afraid to fight,” Trump said at an afternoon town hall during remarks on torture.

“We can’t waterboard, but they can chop off heads,” Trump said, referring to the United States and the Islamic State, respectively. “I think we’ve got to make some changes, some adjustments.”

-March 30, 2016


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Trump slowly begins to realize he’s a moron, apologizes for going after Ted Cruz’s wife on Twitter, realizes he can’t win women if he keeps attacking them
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Donald Trump is calling his decision to tweet that photo of Heidi Cruz a “mistake," an admission that follows several high-profile “misspeak” statements this week on women and abortion.

“Yeah, it was a mistake. If I had to do it again, I wouldn’t have sent it,” Trump said on the picture that showed Republican opponent Ted Cruz’s wife in an unflattering light next to his own wife, Melania Trump, in an interview with New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd published online Saturday.

Trump appears to acknowledge in the interview that his support among women — Republican women in particular — has taken a nosedive in recent months.

His latest walkback comes at the end of the week in which he at one point said women should receive “some form of punishment” when abortion is made illegal, and then flipped the switch on Friday when he said abortion laws “are set” and “I think we have to leave it that way.”

Dowd asked the presidential contender how he can win a general election “with 73 percent of women in this country turned off by him,” to which he responds: “It was 68 percent, actually.”
Trump unironically says he wants to be treated fair, ignores that he has yet to treat anyone else with fairness (since the Bible is his “favorite” book: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”)

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump is again declining to commit to supporting the GOP nominee or rule out running as a third-party candidate if he loses the nomination, declaring he wants to be treated fairly by the party establishment.

“I will be looking at who the nominee is, and I think people will be very happy with my decision,” Trump said on “Fox News Sunday.”

“I want to run as a Republican,” Trump said, adding, “It’s not a question of win or lose, it’s a question of treatment. I want to be treated fair.”

During a televised town hall last week, the New York real estate mogul said he would no longer adhere to a loyalty pledge he signed promising to support the party’s eventual nominee. Trump’s remaining Republican rivals, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, have also eschewed the pledge.

Trump flip-flops again on his comment to punish women who have abortions, says he did not give the wrong answer

Donald Trump gave a “great answer” last week when he said women could be punished for having abortions, he said on Monday evening.

Trump and his campaign last week walked back his comments during an MSNBC town hall, in which he told host Chris Matthews he backed an abortion ban and suggested women who have abortions be punished if the procedure were outlawed. Conservatives were outraged, and within hours, his campaign sent out two statements clarifying that he would punish only abortion providers — not women.

“That was a hypothetical question. That was not a wrong answer,” Trump told Fox News host Sean Hannity during his show Monday night in Wisconsin. “There were other people that wrote me letters by the hundreds saying that was a great answer to that question the way it was raised.”

Trump maintained that he is “pro-life,” remarking that “I come with the three exceptions” — for rape, incest and life of the mother.

“You know, I’m pro-life, OK, with the exceptions, but I am pro-life,” he said. “I did the show because it’s not a high-rated show. He’s always been — I mean, he has never treated me very badly. And I didn’t think it was a big thing to do the show, and as a hypothetical question you give a hypothetical answer, and I didn’t see the big, big, huge deal.”

Trump tells woman that he’ll win women’s votes because he’s the only one who will protect them from terrorists, sidesteps how horribly sexist he is, complains that the media brings his sexism to light too frequently

Donald Trump on Tuesday touted his strength as a reason women are supporting his candidacy, insisting that female voters are backing the New York businessman because he can protect them from the Islamic State and more.

Trump, appearing on “Fox & Friends,” walked through a diner in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, taking questions from patrons. “How are you gonna
change and get the support of more women, like myself?" one woman asked.

“You know, I have so many women that really want to have protection from the standpoint — and they like me for that reason,” Trump said before suggesting he gets bad press regarding women.

“But there is nobody that respects women more than me, and I notice a lot of women are saying that...” he said, trailing off into another point. “And I don’t get a fair press with the women. I have to say, the press treats me horribly with almost every aspect of life.”

The Republican front-runner said that on Monday night, “so many women” told him they support him because he can protect them. “They were saying, ‘We like Donald Trump because we feel he’s going to be the strongest for the country in terms of protection, in terms of the border, in terms of ISIS, in terms of other countries,’ and I win by such a margin,” he said. “So that’s protecting women, but it’s also protecting everybody.”

- April 5, 2016


Trump upset that CIA director says they would not torture people even if ordered to by new president

Donald Trump is none too pleased with CIA Director John Brennan’s recent vow that the United States government would not waterboard even if a future president demanded it.

“Well I think his comments are ridiculous,” Trump said in a telephone interview Monday with “Fox & Friends.” “I mean, they chop off heads and they drown people in cages with 50 in cage in big steel, heavy cages, drop ‘em right into the water, drown people and we can’t waterboard and we can’t do anything.”

Trump went on to suggest that the reason the U.S. cannot defeat the Islamic State is because it cannot operate in a “strong” enough manner.

“We’re playing on different fields, and we have a huge problem with ISIS, which we can’t beat. And the reason we can’t beat them is because we can’t use strong tactics, whether it’s this or other thing,” he continued. “So I think his comments are ridiculous. Can you imagine these ISIS people sitting around, eating and talking about this country won’t allow waterboarding and they just chopped off 50 heads?”

-April 11, 2016


Trump agrees with O’Reilly’s racist statements about African Americans, says they don’t have “spirit”

Bill O’Reilly interrupted Donald Trump’s claims about how he would create jobs for African-Americans on Monday night to make a louder point: That many of them are “ill-educated and have tattoos on their foreheads.”

Grilling the Republican front-runner on Fox News’ the O’Reilly Factor, the conservative talk show host asked Trump how he would win over minorities like African Americans.

“I’m telling you, it’s an economic message,” Trump said. “If you look at President Obama, he’s been a president for almost 8 years, it will be 8 years, you have with black youth, with African American youth, you have a 59 percent unemployment.”

“But how are you going to get jobs for them?” O’Reilly interjected. “Many of them are ill-educated and have tattoos on their foreheads, and I hate to be generalized about it, but it’s true. If you look at all the educational statistics, how are you going to get jobs for people who aren’t qualified for jobs?”

“We’re going to bring jobs back,” Trump responded. “We’re going to have Apple computers made in this country, not just...”
O'Reilly pushed back: “But you have to have skills to make Apple computers.”

“It’s more challenging for a poor child in Harlem without parental guidance in a school that’s falling apart than it is for some white kid out in Garden City,” he continued. “You say you can bring jobs back, but if the kid isn’t qualified to do the job and can’t do the work – I mean – you’ve got to get into the infrastructure of the African-American community.”

“Well it is true. It’s about education, but it’s also about spirit,” Trump said. “A lot of people don’t have spirit. Not only African-Americans, but we don’t have spirit in our country.”

-April 12, 2016


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Donald Trump's favorite Bible verse is Old Testament “eye for an eye”

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Donald Trump’s favorite Bible verse involves an “eye for an eye,” he said Thursday.

WHAM 1180 AM radio host Bob Lonsberry asked the Republican front-runner if he had a favorite verse or story from the Bible that’s impacted his thinking or character.

“Well, I think many. I mean, you know, when we get into the Bible, I think many. So many,” he responded. “And some people—look, an eye for an eye, you can almost say that. That’s not a particularly nice thing. But you know, if you look at what’s happening to our country, I mean, when you see what’s going on with our country, how people are taking advantage of us, and how they scoff at us and laugh at us.”

“And they laugh at our face, and they’re taking our jobs, they’re taking our money, they’re taking the health of our country,” he continued. “And we have to be firm and have to be very strong. And we can learn a lot from the Bible, that I can tell you.”

Trump appears to be referring to a passage from Exodus 21-24, which lays out the Old Testament rules governing personal behavior.

“If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows,” the passage reads, in the King James translation. “But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”

Another passage, Leviticus 24:19-21, reads, “And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbour; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him; breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again. And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death.”

Biblical scholars generally interpret “eye for eye,” which was derived from the ancient Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, as a restriction on retaliation for personal injuries — in other words, only an eye for an eye.

But in Matthew (5:38-42) in the New Testament, Jesus repudiates even that notion. “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”

If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

-April 14, 2016


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Trump still using slave labor to build a golf course in Dubai

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Hidden camera footage obtained by HBO's VICE show migrant workers building the Trump International Golf Club in Dubai living in squalor. In a clip from the episode set to air this Friday, correspondent Ben Anderson follows a bus full of workers as they depart the golf site and drive two hours into the desert to retreat to their grimy, overstuffed living quarters including a bathroom “that doesn't look fit for human beings.” One worker complains that Pakistan was better than being in Dubai but he cannot go home because his employers took his passport. The project has Trump's licensed brand name attached to it but is not being built directly by Trump's company.

-April 18, 2016


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Trump campaign eager to sweep Lewandowski’s battery against reporter under the rug; reporter says she’s had to move apartments due to threats, Republicans of Florida have swept the charges against Lewandowski under the rug so it won’t hurt Trump’s campaign

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Going to the police did drum up what Fields had been seeking: Surveillance video proving that something happened and an official authority, the Jupiter Police, determining that yes, Lewandowski did touch her. After the video was released, the Trump campaign’s story changed. No longer was Fields delusional. Instead, she was now depicted as either having exaggerated the incident or of having presented a bodily threat to Trump sufficient to justify Lewandowski’s reaction.

The latter argument was what ultimately got Lewandowski out of the case. The Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office declined to pursue the charges, saying that while it was clear Lewandowski pulled Fields away, that no Secret Service agents reacted to her presence, and that a legal process could have been avoided had Lewandowski apologized; Lewandowski ultimately was subject to “a reasonable hypothesis of innocence” because he may have been acting to protect the candidate.

But beyond the outcome of the state’s case, which Fields called “disappointing,” Fields said the case was handled “unprofessionally” by the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office.

Washington Post reporter Ben Terris, who was heard on audio recordings with Fields immediately after the incident with Lewandowski, and who wrote his own account of the situation, was never interviewed by the state attorney’s office. Fields said. She also objected to the state attorney’s office using only the affidavit of a retired FBI agent provided by Lewandowski’s legal team to help it determine how the Secret Service protects candidates. (Fields said she was told the state attorney tried to reach out to the Secret Service but was unsuccessful.)

Fields also pointed out that though the assistant county state attorney, Adrienne Ellis, investigated the case, her boss, Palm Beach County State Attorney David Aronberg and his wife, Lynn, have socialized with Trump, and that as a result he should have recused himself entirely.

Lynn Aronberg runs a public relations firm, the website of which prominently displays several photos of her with Trump and Trump’s wife, Melania, (and several other celebrities and politicians). Aronberg addressed his relationship with Trump at a news conference last week, saying he’d been at events with Trump but there were “800 other people” there as well, and that he also has connections to other candidates, such as Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Aronberg himself is a registered Democrat.

“I don’t know if it had anything to do with the decision not to prosecute the case, but I do think it’s a little strange, he sort of downplays it as if there isn’t that big of a connection, but they are at Mar-a-Lago so often. And it appears as though they are part of Palm Beach society,” Fields said. “This is a guy who’s going to run for office I’m sure, they want to cultivate those relationships, and Mar-a-Lago is definitely part of Palm Beach society. I imagine if I was in his position, I’d feel a little ostracized if I prosecuted Donald Trumps’ campaign manager.”

The Palm Beach State Attorney’s Office directed questions about Aronberg’s relationship with Trump to Lynn Aronberg, who denied having any business relationship with the Trumps.

“Donald Trump, his family and companies have never been clients of mine. I have a number of pictures, with clients and non-clients on my website,” Aronberg said in a statement.

The attorney’s office did not comment on Fields’ other complaints. A Trump spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment, though the campaign has said previously that “the matter is now concluded.”

Fields said she’s still weighing whether she’ll pursue a defamation case against Lewandowski and Trump; her finances and the potential emotional fallout are factors. Though Lewandowski’s attorney has publicly warned her against doing so under threat of information about her past coming out, Fields said she has “nothing to hide.”

“There’s no question I’ve suffered damages,” Fields said. “I imagine there will be some interesting things that come out ... from the Trump campaign about how they handle this.”
April 20, 2016


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Trump says putting Harriet Tubman on $20 is “political correctness,” says she should go on the no-longer-printed $2
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Donald Trump thinks anti-slavery icon Harriet Tubman is “fantastic” -- but he says the move to have her replace seventh president Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill is “pure political correctness.”

“Well, Andrew Jackson had a great history, and I think it’s very rough when you take somebody off the bill,” Trump said during a town hall on the “Today” show on NBC Thursday morning. “I think Harriet Tubman is fantastic, but I would love to leave Andrew Jackson or see if we can maybe come up with another denomination.”

Trump suggested -- as Ben Carson also has -- that Tubman be put on the $2 bill, which is no longer printed.

The business mogul heaped praise on Jackson, whose presence on the $20 bill was criticized due to his history as a slave-owner and his dismal record on Native American and racial issues, epitomized by the Jackson administration's infamous "Trail of Tears" policy that forcibly relocated the Cherokee people to devastating effect.

April 21, 2016


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Backtracks on transgender rights by going full states’ rights nutjob
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Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Thursday said which bathrooms transgender people use is a matter best decided by the states, less than 24 hours after indicating that transgender people should be free to use the facilities of their choice.

“I love North Carolina, and they have a law, and it’s a law that, you know, unfortunately is causing them some problems,” Mr. Trump said on Fox News’ “Hannity.” “And I fully understand that they want to go through, but they are losing business, and they are having people come out against.”

“I think that local communities and states should make the decision,” he said. “And I feel very strongly about that. The federal government should not be involved.”

Mr. Trump earlier in the day came out against a North Carolina law that prohibits people from using the public facilities of the opposite sex, saying the governor should have left the law “the way it is.”

April 22, 2016


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Makes sexist remark against Hillary Clinton, says she’s playing the “woman’s card”
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While celebrating sweeping victories in five primaries Tuesday night, Donald Trump mocked the qualifications of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and suggested she was playing “the women’s card” to her advantage in the presidential race.

“Frankly, if Hillary Clinton were a man, I don't think she'd get 5 percent of the vote. The only thing she’s got going is the women's card,” Trump said during a news conference at Trump Tower. “And the beautiful thing is, women don't like her.”
Trump doubled down on his comments Wednesday during a series of morning television interviews, dismissing critics who called the remarks sexist and instead criticizing Clinton’s tone.

“It’s not sexist. It’s true. It’s just a very, very true statement. If she were a man, she’d get 5 percent. She’s a bad candidate. She’s a flawed candidate,” Trump said on ABC’s “Good Morning America” on Wednesday morning. “She’s not going to do very well in the election, and I look forward to showing that.

“I haven’t quite recovered, it’s early in the morning, from her shouting that message,” he said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” “And I know a lot of people would say you can’t say that about a woman because, of course, a woman doesn’t shout, but the way she shouted that message was not — ooh.”

“I guess I’ll have to get used to a lot of that over the next four or five months,” he added, also saying that he expects to do well with female voters.

_April 27, 2016_


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**Defends rapist boxer Mike Tyson, Trump blames his victim in hopes that Tyson keeps making him money at his casinos**

After boxer Mike Tyson was sentenced to six years for raping an 18-year-old beauty queen, Donald Trump responded by arguing on national television that Tyson had been “railroaded,” noting that she had gone to Tyson’s hotel room on her own.

“You have a young woman that was in his hotel room late in the evening at her own will,” Trump told NBC News in 1992, in a clip dug up by Buzzfeed. “You have a young woman seen dancing for the beauty contest—dancing with a big smile on her face, looked happy as can be.”

“It’s my opinion that to a large extent, Mike Tyson was railroaded in this case,” Trump said.

Purely by coincidence, Trump’s advocacy for Tyson came at a time when he stood to make a huge profit if he was released. As Mother Jones noted in December, “Tyson’s bouts had been highly lucrative for Trump’s casinos, which paid millions to host the fights but reaped millions more in revenues from the surge in gambling that resulted during these highly anticipated events.”

_April 28, 2016_

[Link](http://www.mediaite.com/online/donald-trump-blamed-mike-tysons-rape-victim-she-went-to-hotel-room-on-her-own-will/)

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**Compares the US trade deficit with China to rape**

Donald Trump on Sunday compared the U.S.’s trade deficit with China, which he regularly laments and vows to tackle as president, to rape.

“We can't continue to allow China to rape our country, and that's what they're doing,” Trump said during his second rally Sunday in Fort Wayne, Indiana, referring to China's high number of exports relative to the U.S.

Sunday marks the first time in this campaign that Trump has used the term "rape" to refer to what he views as China’s dominance in trade with the U.S.

_May 2, 2016_

[Link](http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/01/politics/Donald-trump-china-rape/)

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Endorsed by leader of the KKK—Trump has not disavowed the endorsement

Former KKK leader David Duke isn’t the only high-profile white nationalist who has declared himself to be on team Trump.

In an interview with Richmond, Virginia, NBC affiliate WWBT, a man identified only as the “imperial wizard for the Rebel Brigade of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan” weighed in on the 2016 presidential election and declared his support for Republican candidate Donald Trump.

“I think Donald Trump would be best for the job,” he told anchor Chris Thomas. “The reason a lot of a lot of Klan members like Donald Trump is because a lot of what he believes, we believe in.”

-May 3, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/virginia-imperial-wizard-kkk-donald-trump_us_5728e38be4b016f37893bbce

http://www.snopes.com/2016/05/02/klan-leader-endorses-trump/

Spreading propaganda by repeating a conspiracy theory run in the National Inquirer that Cruz’s father is connected to the assassination of President Kennedy

Republican front-runner Donald Trump today refused to apologize for citing an unsubstantiated report that Ted Cruz’s father was photographed with the assassin of former President John F. Kennedy, saying no one has ruled it out.

Trump originally brought up the allegation Tuesday morning. “I mean, what was he doing with Lee Harvey Oswald shortly before the death, before the shooting?” Trump asked. “It’s horrible.”

But Trump, who now faces an easy path to the Republican nomination, defended his comments.

“All I did was refer to it. I’m just referring to an article that appeared. It has nothing to do with me,” he said. “The National Enquirer gave you John Edwards. It gave you O.J. Simpson. It gave you many, many things. I mean, you can’t knock the National Enquirer. It’s brought many things to light.”

-May 4, 2016


Laughably tries to connect with Hispanics after repeatedly insulting them by doing a bit of PR on Cinco de Mayo, completely backfires and makes him look even more out of touch than he already is

Cinco de Mayo is apparently not Donald Trump’s holiday.

The presidential candidate, who has been harshly criticized for his anti-immigrant rhetoric and derogatory statements about Mexicans and Mexico, posted a photo to his Twitter showing him enjoying a taco bowl at his New York office. The post is captioned, “Happy #CincoDeMayo! The best taco bowls are made in Trump Tower Grill. I love Hispanics!”

-May 5, 2016

http://www.refinery29.com/2016/05/110110/donald-trump-tweet-taco-bowl-cinco-de-mayo

Half the money he raised for veterans ($3m) after he didn’t show up to a debate is unaccounted for; wanted street vendors who are veterans to stop selling things in front of his building even though they are legally allowed to

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Earlier this year, Trump skipped the seventh Republican presidential debate over disagreements with the host network, Fox News. Instead, he held a fundraiser to raise money for military veterans.

A report in March said Trump had donated less than half of the $6 million he raised during the late January fundraiser. About $3 million was given to 24 charities the presumptive nominee chose, according to the report.

The statement released Sunday says this is “part of a long pattern of the real Donald J. Trump, who for over a decade tried to get disabled veterans, legally operating as street vendors, thrown off of Fifth Avenue in New York City.”

“He said that these Americans, who were simply trying to earn a living in the country they gave so much to defend, were ‘clogging and seriously downgrading the area.’”

-May 8, 2016


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Racist remark against Elizabeth Warren, calls her ‘Pocahontas’ and ‘Indian’

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is not reining in his attacks against Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

When New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd asked Trump if “he had been chided by any Republicans” for his Twitter war with the Democratic senator, the presumptive nominee said, “You mean Pocahontas?”

Trump earlier this week fired off insults on Twitter, calling the senator “Goofy Elizabeth Warren.”

In March, Trump attacked Warren for saying she was part Native American while a professor at Harvard.

“You mean the Indian?” Trump said then when asked about Warren.

-May 15, 2016


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Sexist remarks against Elizabeth Warren, says she ‘yells too much’ like Hillary Clinton

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) must be getting under Donald Trump’s skin: The presumptive GOP presidential nominee added “big mouth” to his list of favorite nicknames for the progressive darling at a press conference Thursday.

“She’s a woman that's been very ineffective, other than she’s got a big mouth,” Trump said of Warren, who has been criticizing him heavily lately.

Trump also called Warren “Pocahontas”— a nickname he’s used before, reviving a 2012 controversy over her claims that she had Cherokee heritage. While Warren could not prove that she has Native American ancestry, there is also no evidence that she benefited professionally from the claim. But Trump insinuated Thursday that she used it to get where she is now.

Every time Trump attempts to defend himself against the senator, something sexist or offensive tumbles out of his mouth. He tweeted earlier this month that he hopes Hillary Clinton chooses “goofy Elizabeth Warren” as his running mate, and then attacked them both for “shouting” — a common criticism men have of female politicians.

“She gets nothing done, nothing passed,” he said Wednesday. “She’s got a big mouth, and that’s about it. But they use her because Hillary’s trying to be very presidential. She’s stopping with the shouting, OK?”
Donald Trump has said that pregnancy is “wonderful” - unless you’re an employer.

In an October 2004 interview with NBC’s Dateline, Trump said pregnancy is “a wonderful thing for the woman, it’s a wonderful thing for the husband, it’s certainly an inconvenience for a business. And whether people want to say that or not, the fact is it is an inconvenience for a person that is running a business.”

Despite describing herself as a “straight shooter,” Kepcher told Dateline that waiting to tell her boss about her pregnancy was not a moment that exemplified that description. “Maybe in my mind he might think this would perhaps be a setback or ‘maybe I’m going to have to bring somebody in to replace her throughout her pregnancy or when she takes maternity leave,’” Kepcher said in the 2004 interview. “If I tell him at six months,” she thought, “it will be over in three months.”

Kepcher took three weeks off after giving birth and then came back part time after that, a decision she told Dateline she was “comfortable” with — and one Trump says he didn’t think was because she felt pressured by him. When asked then if he thought she felt pressure to come back so quickly, Trump said he didn’t think so but was because “she loves her job.” When asked if her fast return may have been based in a worry that she’d be replaced, Trump responded “no” before adding that “it’s an interesting premise” and “maybe she should feel that way a little bit. But the fact is that would not have happened.”

Donald Trump pledged to cancel the Paris climate agreement, endorsed drilling off the Atlantic coast and said he would allow the Keystone XL pipeline to be built in return for “a big piece of the profits” for the American people.

He did not directly address manmade climate change, which he has in the past called a hoax invented by the Chinese, but he took veiled shots at those who are concerned about global warming.

In addition to his pledge to pull out of the Paris climate deal, Trump promised to only work with “environmentalists whose only agenda is protecting nature” and to “focus on real environmental challenges, not the phony ones”.

He contrasted this approach with that of Hillary Clinton, whose plan to combat climate change he called “a poverty expansion agenda”. Trump also attacked renewable energy sources, claiming that solar energy was too expensive and attacking wind turbines for “killing eagles”.

On Thursday, Trump also made a unique argument about the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would pump shale oil from Canada into the US.

Republicans have long supported the pipeline, which was opposed by environmentalists and cancelled by the Obama administration. In exchange for his approval of the pipeline, Trump said, the US would need a “significant piece” of its profits.
Dionisio Garza III was an army veteran who had completed several tours fighting the war on terror in Afghanistan. But he won't be remembered as a “terrorist” or any sort of religious extremist. Instead, he’ll be remembered as a broken hero who sacrificed his life for his country.

We’ve all seen it before.

As a Muslim, it would be easy to whine that only the Islamic Diaspora gets pegged with the “terrorist” label. In Western media, that remains a simple fact, however.

The 2009 Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan was also an army veteran, but because of his religious affiliation, post-traumatic stress disorder was ignored in the handling of his case.

The recent San Bernardino terrorists also did not receive the media’s “excuse” for their actions by being mentally ill or psychotic, which they clearly were.

Is the case of the deranged shooter in Houston any different?

According to reports, Garza’s rant-like Twitter account “insulted London mayor Sadiq Khan, praised Donald Trump and questioned the strength of the dollar.” He had lost touch with reality, and was likely ill. Most serial killers are, regardless of their faith.

Garza told his family he was going to visit friends in Texas, but then went off the radar on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning, he allegedly fired 212 rounds at a tire shop, killing one and injuring six innocent bystanders, including two police officers, ABC reported.

A member of SWAT shot and killed Garza at the crime scene. Garza left behind a backpack full of bullets and his birth certificate. He clearly held intentions for a major shootout.

According to the New York Daily News, over the past few days, his family has been saying that he was “broken” from serving in the military. Undoubtedly, he was a broken man.

Garza’s family also said that he may have had PTSD, but was undiagnosed. Even though we don’t know why he was discharged from the military, it is a moot point now. He wasn’t receiving any psychiatric care after his tours in Afghanistan, although he certainly should have been.

The horrific actions of a non-Muslim murderer typically get dismissed in the media as the result of a mental illness—in this case, PTSD. Imagine if Garza were Muslim—Trump would be holding press conferences about the importance of establishing his terrorist watch groups.

The story of the Memorial Day weekend killer is already on the back pages of major news outlets, if it was ever mentioned in the first place.

As the dust from Sunday’s shooting settles, the tricky question remains: Will Garza be remembered as a hero who fought terrorism in Afghanistan or as a terrorist himself?

Inevitably, the answer is likely the former. Because Garza’s name is not Arabic, his faith isn’t even brought up as a question. Nor should it ever be. Muslims or any other religious group are not monolithic.

-June 2, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carbonatedtv/not-a-terrorist-houston-s_b_10248578.html

Presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump on Friday pointed out a black audience member at a rally, drawing attention for his awkward phrasing.
“Look at my African-American over here,” Trump said to the audience member during a rally in Redding, Calif.

“Are you the greatest? You know what I’m talking about?”

-June 3, 2016


Says judge in his court case over defrauding people over Trump U. is biased because he thinks he’s Mexican—judge is born and raised from Indiana

Donald Trump is intensifying his attacks on the federal judge presiding over fraud lawsuits against Trump University. On Friday the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, dismissing criticism from legal experts on the right and left, pressed his case against U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, saying the Indiana-born judge is biased against him because “he’s a Mexican. We’re building a wall between here and Mexico.”

Trump made the remarks, and others like it, repeatedly, in interviews with CNN and The Wall Street Journal, referring to Judge Curiel variously as "of Mexican heritage" or just "Mexican." But the message was always the same, that the judge had what Trump called "a conflict" because of his ethnicity.

At a rally in San Diego last week, Trump characterized the judge as "a hater of Donald Trump, a hater. He's a hater." And "they ought to look into Judge Curiel."

In public, Trump has called repeatedly for the judge to recuse himself, but his lawyers in fact have not made any such request.

That is undoubtedly because court precedents are unanimous in holding that race, ethnicity, gender, religion and sexual orientation are not themselves grounds for disqualifying a judge. If they were, legal ethicists observe, the legal system would fall into chaos because no judge would be free from taint. The five Supreme Court justices who are Catholic could not rule on a case in which the Catholic church participated, but neither could the other justices who are not Catholic.

Moreover, while Trump is free to say anything he wants about the judge, the lawyers in the case are bound by the professional rules of conduct and could be sanctioned for making such charges about Curiel without actual evidence of bias.

-June 3, 2016

http://www.npr.org/2016/06/04/480714972/trump-presses-case-that-mexican-judge-curiel-is-biased-against-him

Deflects journalist’s inquiries about whether his statement about judge is racist or not 23 times—ultimately concedes that he does not consider his racist statement racist

There's persistent ... and then there's Jake Tapper.

The CNN anchor posed the following question to Donald Trump on Friday:

Let me ask you about comments you made about the judge in the Trump University case. You said that you thought it was a conflict of interest that he was the judge because he is of Mexican heritage, even though he is from Indiana. Hillary Clinton said that that is a racist attack on a federal judge.

Actually, Tapper didn’t quite get to form a question. Trump interjected to talk about Clinton’s emails. So Tapper tried to steer the conversation back to whether Trump’s complaint about U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel was racist. Trump deflected again. Tapper tried again. And again.

In all, Tapper made an astounding 23 follow-up attempts.
Tapper’s relentlessness ultimately paid off. He finally got a straight answer out of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

TAPPER: If you are saying he cannot do his job because of his race, is that not the definition of racism?

TRUMP: No, I don't think so at all.

-June 3, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/06/03/jake-tapper-asked-donald-trump-if-his-judge-attack-was-racist-then-followed-up-up-23-times/

Amid being called out for being a racist, he retweets an image of a black family claiming that they support him; image is taken from a top result of a Google search of “black family”

Not long after Trump's retweet appeared online, other users questioned the assertion that the black people in the photograph were indeed supporters of his campaign. In under half an hour, fellow Twitterers pointed out that the image in the retweet had originated with a news article unrelated to Trump or the presidential election:

Seriously shameful: Trump's retweeted photo of “supporters” was lifted from @WCPO https://t.co/xXH8RZS8WT https://t.co/Vun9QDp9NZ — Mark Czerniec (@MarkCzerniec) June 4, 2016

BuzzFeed reported that the image was among the first results returned in a Google search for “black family,” and that the photograph was captured at the Midwest Black Family Reunion of August 2015. They identified the people pictured in the photograph as the Perry family (and friends), and quoted Eddie Perry’s comments on the Trump controversy:

[A] friend texted [Eddie] a screenshot of Trump’s tweet. "When I saw it, I immediately knew it was political propaganda," he said.

“Why use it without asking for someone’s permission?” he asked. “Why use our image without asking?”

The other people in the picture are friends of the family, Perry said ... Eddie Perry said the picture of his family that Trump shared was “misleading” and “taken out of context.”

“I’m not saying there aren’t black families who endorse Trump,” he said, “however, this black family didn’t endorse anyone.”

-June 6, 2016


Fear-mongering about how America is broke (it isn’t) and how crime is on the rise (it isn’t)

After big primaries in California and New Jersey on June 7, Donald Trump -- the presumptive Republican presidential nominee -- painted a picture of a nation in crisis.

“Hard to imagine what's happened to our country,” Trump said. “America is being taken apart piece by piece ... just rapidly auctioned off to the highest bidder. We're broke. We're broke. (Our debt is) $19 trillion, going quickly to $21 trillion. Our infrastructure is a disaster. Our schools are failing. Crime is rising. People are scared. The last thing we need is Hillary Clinton in the White House or an extension of the Obama disaster.”

Critics will take issue with some of those assertions, such as the idea that the United States is "broke" -- something we’ve rated False previously.
But the line from Trump’s remarks that leapt out at us was this one: “Crime is rising.” Our previous research has shown that’s not so.

Finally, we asked two criminologists to make sure we weren’t missing something. As it happens, James Alan Fox, the interim director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, was watching Trump’s speech and noticed the comment as well.

“He is incorrect,” Fox said. “There are some spikes in homicide and shootings in certain cities, yet other cities continue to experience low rates. As a nation, we are far better off than anytime for the past several decades. Crime rates are low, and there is no consistent and reliable indication that things are getting worse.”

“Mr. Trump is wrong if he is talking about overall crime and even violent crime,” agreed University of Maryland criminologist Raymond Paternoster. Any possible upward swing in the past year or so wouldn’t show up in the data currently available, he said.

June 9, 2016


For all his claims about how hard workers should be treated well, he has a history of mistreating, underpaying (or never paying), and suing people who work for him; his companies regularly violate the Fair Labor Standards Act; Trump says “that’s the way it should be”

Donald Trump has a pattern of not paying or underpaying bills to everyone from waiters to painters and carpenters to a banking firm -- and was even facing foreclosure at the Trump National Doral Miami golf club, according to exhaustive new reports.

According to an investigation by USA Today published Thursday and a similar investigation by The Wall Street Journal published later in the day on Thursday, Trump’s companies are facing hundreds of claims that Trump has stiffed people he contracted with for decades.

Both reports analyzed court records and interviewed the people behind the claims, and found that the average working American that Trump has geared his campaign toward are some of the same people his business hasn’t paid.

USA Today cited numerous examples, including a case as recent as last month in which a Miami-Dade County Circuit Court judge ordered Trump’s company to pay a paint supply company more than $30,000 by the end of this month or face foreclosure of the Trump National Doral Miami golf club. According to The Miami Herald, The Paint Spot claimed Trump has owed them the money since 2014.

In another case, the Philadelphia cabinet business of Edward Friel Jr. was never paid more than $83,000 for work completed in 1984, the weight of which Friel’s son said started the fall of the company.

USA Today analyzed at least 60 lawsuits and more than 200 mechanic’s liens for the report, also finding 24 citations since 2005 of Trump’s companies for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act “for failing to pay overtime or minimum wage.”

The court records showed not only a pattern of not paying, but also of Trump companies tying up small businesses and individuals in lengthy legal dealings until they either settle, give up or sometimes go out of business altogether.

In response to the report, Trump told USA Today in an interview that he only stiffs or shorts bills if the work is unsatisfactory.

“Let’s say that they do a job that’s not good, or a job that they didn’t finish, or a job that was way late. I’ll deduct from their contract, absolutely,” Trump said. “That’s what the country should be doing.”

June 11, 2016

http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/10/politics/donald-trump-unpaid-bills-reports/

Politicized the Orlando gay club shooting to raise more fear-mongering, calls again for a ban on all Muslim immigration

What has happened in Orlando is just the beginning. Our leadership is weak and ineffective. I called it and asked for the ban. Must be tough
Donald Trump seemed to repeatedly accuse President Obama on Monday of identifying with radicalized Muslims who have carried out terrorist attacks in the United States and being complicit in the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando over the weekend, the worst the country has ever seen.

"Look, we're led by a man that either is not tough, not smart, or he's got something else in mind," Trump said in a lengthy interview on Fox News early Monday morning. "And the something else in mind — you know, people can't believe it. People cannot, they cannot believe that President Obama is acting the way he acts and can't even mention the words 'radical Islamic terrorism.' There's something going on. It's inconceivable. There's something going on."

In that same interview, Trump was asked to explain why he called for Obama to resign in light of the shooting and he answered, in part: "He doesn't get it or he gets it better than anybody understands — it's one or the other, and either one is unacceptable."

For months, Trump has slyly suggested that the president is not Christian and has questioned his compassion toward Muslims. Years ago, Trump was a major force in calls for the president to release his birth certificate and prove that he was born in the United States. On the campaign trail, Trump has repeatedly stated as fact conspiracy theories about the president, his rivals and Muslims, often refusing to back down from his assertions even when they are proven to be false.

During an appearance on the "Today" show later Monday morning, Savannah Guthrie pushed Trump to explain what he meant in the earlier interview.

"Well there are a lot of people that think maybe he doesn't want to get it," Trump said. "A lot of people think maybe he doesn't want to know about it. I happen to think that he just doesn't know what he's doing, but there are many people that think maybe he doesn't want to get it. He doesn't want to see what's really happening. And that could be."

Guthrie asked Trump why that would be, and the presumptive Republican presidential nominee responded: "Because Savannah, Savannah, why isn't he addressing the issue? He's not addressing the issue. He's not calling it what it is. This is radical Islamic terrorism. This isn't fighting Germany; this isn't fighting Japan, where they wear uniforms."

The Washington Post joins the ban list of other news organizations not allowed at Trump campaign events after he decides he doesn't like what they report—so much for all that free speech he goes on about

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced Monday he was revoking press credentials for The Washington Post, upset with the major newspaper’s coverage of his campaign.

The action from the Trump campaign is the latest in a string of moves Trump's campaign has made to ban reporters and news outlets that, in the mind of the billionaire businessman, have not treated him fairly.

According to another Facebook post, the final straw seems to have been a story that the Post originally headlined "Donald Trump suggests President Obama was involved with Orlando shooting." The current headline now reads, "Donald Trump seems to connect President Obama to Orlando shooting."

"We changed the headline shortly after it posted to more properly reflect what Trump said. We did so on our own; the Trump campaign never contacted us about it," Post Vice President for Communications Kristine Coratti Kelly told NPR.
In the story, the Post quoted a Fox News interview from Monday morning in which Trump said that Obama “either is not tough, not smart, or he's got something else in mind” in his refusal to mention the words "radical Islamic terrorism" following the mass shooting at an Orlando gay nightclub that killed 49 people early Sunday morning.

This headline, however, is not the first Post item that has gotten under Trump's skin. Reporter David Farenthold pressed Trump for details about donations he promised to make to veterans groups after a January fundraiser. And only after that reporting did Trump donate the $1 million he had promised and already said he had donated. Trump held a press conference to reveal that he had donated the money and called Farenthold a “nasty guy.”

Trump has also alleged that Post owner Jeff Bezos was using the newspaper to protect Amazon, which he also owns, from higher taxes. He offered no evidence for that claim. In a statement explaining why he banned the Post, one of the most influential newspapers in the country, Trump's campaign repeated that accusation.

"We no longer feel compelled to work with a publication which has put its need for 'clicks' above journalistic integrity," the Republican's campaign said in a statement. "They have no journalistic integrity and write falsely about Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump does not mind a bad story, but it has to be honest."

In his own statement, Post Executive Editor Martin Baron said the newspaper was "proud of our coverage" and wouldn't relent in questioning Trump:

"Donald Trump's decision to revoke The Washington Post's press credentials is nothing less than a repudiation of the role of a free and independent press. When coverage doesn't correspond to what the candidate wants it to be, then a news organization is banished. The Post will continue to cover Donald Trump as it has all along — honorably, honestly, accurately, energetically, and unflinchingly."

The Post is not the first news organization denied credentials to cover Trump's campaign events. The Huffington Post, Politico, Buzzfeed, the Daily Beast, the Des Moines Register, the New Hampshire Union Leader, Univision and others have also been blocked from covering events.

"Donald Trump misunderstands — or, more likely, simply opposes — the role a free press plays in a democratic society," Thomas Burr, the National Press Club president, said after that contentious press conference. "Reporters are supposed to hold public figures accountable. Any American political candidate who attacks the press for doing its job is campaigning in the wrong country. In the United States, under our Constitution, a free press is a check on politicians of all parties. If we are to demand that other countries respect the tradition of a free press we must also practice that here at home."

-June 13, 2016


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Fails at inclusivity as he uses Orlando shooting as an obvious political ploy; refers to the LGBTQ community as “the gays”

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Soon-to-be GOP nominee Donald Trump has been pitching himself as an ally of the gay community in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting.

But if Twitter users are any evidence, it looks like he's got a whole lot of work to do on that front.

At a rally in Atlanta on Wednesday, Trump said to "ask the gays" whether he was LGBT-friendly.

“Ask the gays what they think and what they do in not only Saudi Arabia, but many of these countries, and then you tell me who’s your friend: Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton?” Trump said.

-June 16, 2016


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Calls for racial profiling

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Donald Trump said Sunday that in the wake of the mass shooting in Orlando, it's time for the United States to start looking at racial profiling as a preventative tactic.

"Well I think profiling is something that we're going to have to start thinking about as a country," the presumptive GOP nominee said in a phone interview with CBS' “Face the Nation. "Other countries do it, you look at Israel and you look at others, they do it and they do it successfully. And I hate the concept of profiling but we have to start using common sense and we have to use our heads."

"It's not the worst thing to do," he added.

-June 19, 2016


Pledged to allow tax-exempt organizations to get involved in politics, wants to violate the First Amendment to force department store workers to say "Merry Christmas," promises that he'll appoint anti-abortion judges to the Supreme Court

Donald Trump spoke to hundreds of conservative Christian leaders on Tuesday at a closed-door meeting, where he pledged to allow tax-exempt organizations to get involved in politics and to make department-store workers say, "Merry Christmas."

Listen to Trump telling these evangelical pastors and Christian media personalities that he'll appoint antiabortion judges to the Supreme Court and more.

-June 22, 2016


Praises Saddam Hussein, says he did a good job of killing terrorists, once again idolizing authoritarian dictators

To the surprise of some observers, Donald Trump has recently given a few campaign-trail shout-outs to Saddam Hussein -- a man the United States twice went to war with.

Most recently -- though not for the first time -- Trump gave the late Iraqi dictator some credit at a campaign rally in Raleigh, N.C., on July 5, 2016.

"Saddam Hussein was a bad guy. Right?" Trump said. "He was a bad guy. Really bad guy. But you know what, he did well? He killed terrorists. He did that so good they didn't read (them) the rights. They didn't talk. ... Today, Iraq is Harvard for terrorism. You want to be a terrorist? You go to Iraq. It's like Harvard. OK? So sad."

This prompted bipartisan criticism, including from Hillary Clinton's campaign. But Trump proceeded to double down on his statement.

Trump largely repeated his message at a rally in Cincinnati on July 6, and said in an interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer the same day, "That's not praising Saddam Hussein. I would say maybe it's the opposite. But when it comes to terrorism, I said he did a good job because he killed terrorists."

Complicating any analysis of Trump's assertion is the fact that, as we have previously noted, there is no single definition of terrorism. Hussein may have considered some of his domestic opponents terrorists, but not everyone else would agree.

Indeed, Hussein could be a ruthless foe of those who threatened his monopoly on power, and many of these would be considered Islamists in opposition to Hussein's historically secular regime. Yet he was not averse to leveraging Islamic terrorists to advance his own ends beyond Iraq's borders.

"Saddam rarely used the term ‘terrorists.' " said Joseph Sassoon, an associate professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and author of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party: Inside an Authoritarian Regime. ‘One side can see certain people as freedom fighters while others perceive them as terrorists. A case in point: Palestinian suicide bombers. Israel and the U.S. saw them as terrorists while Saddam'
regime gave each suicide bomber's family a large gift of about $50,000."

So one weakness with Trump's claim is that many of the "terrorists" Hussein killed weren't necessarily killed for their "terrorism," and many would not have been considered "terrorists" by anyone beyond Hussein's own circle.

Hussein actively sponsored terrorism, as well. Indeed, Iraq was on the official U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism between 1979 and 1982, and then again between 1990 and 2004, when Hussein ruled the country.

"He did kill some terrorists, but he supported others, such as Abu Nidal and the MEK cultists from Iran," said John Limbert, a former high-ranking State Department official who now teaches international relations at the U.S. Naval Academy.

In the conservative magazine the Weekly Standard, editor Stephen F. Hayes offered a lengthy recap of Hussein's terrorist connections in a piece titled, "Trump Is Clueless on Saddam and Terror."

"Saddam Hussein opposed terrorists who opposed him," Hayes wrote. "He supported and funded virtually all others—including jihadists who targeted the United States, its interests, and allies."

According to Hayes’ account, Hussein supported the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood in the early 1980s; aided the escape and offered refuge to Abdul Rahman Yasin, a conspirator in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center; and supported a suicide-bomber plot to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush during a visit to Kuwait.

Hayes, like Bergen, cites the 2008 Institute for Defense Analyses study, but he focused on a broader definition of terrorist activities, rather than just the 9/11 link. Hayes wrote that the report concluded, "Evidence shows that Saddam's use of terrorist tactics and his support for terrorist groups remained strong up until the collapse of the regime."

How Hussein handled "terrorists" represents a small part of his legacy. Focusing on how Hussein handled terrorists overlooks a much bigger issue -- his massive violations of Iraqis' human rights.

On the eve of the Iraq War in 2003, the New York Times reported that "accounts collected by Western human rights groups from Iraqi émigrés and defectors have suggested that the number of those who have 'disappeared' into the hands of the secret police, never to be heard from again, could be 200,000." And that doesn't include an even larger number believed to have been killed during the Iran-Iraq War and the Persian Gulf War.

"He didn't just kill terrorists," Limbert said. "He gassed and otherwise murdered Kurds, Shia, and anyone else he didn't like."

Hussein's model of handling isn't a viable option for the United States. Put simply, the United States is a democratic nation with a constitution, not an authoritarian dictatorship. Indeed, some have criticized the Obama administration for a lack of due process in drone strikes on terrorists overseas -- a far more limited action than the kind of mass killings Hussein oversaw.

"Reasonable people can differ on whether Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism constituted a threat great enough to go to war in an attempt to eliminate it," Hayes concluded in his article. "But no reasonable person can cite Saddam Hussein as a model for an approach to handling jihadist terror."

Gartenstein-Ross agreed that any discussion of Hussein's methods of controlling terrorism are, at most, academic rather than practical.

"I absolutely do not find Saddam's methods of dealing with terrorism applicable to the United States," he said. "Extreme repression like that is a self-defeating strategy."

-July 7, 2016

http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jul/07/donald-trump/was-saddam-hussein-good-killing-terrorists-donald-/

Comes out as an anti-Semite after retweeting an image of Hillary Clinton superimposed on an image of a stack of cash and the Star of David, tries to deflect by saying Disney is anti-Semitic

Donald Trump's vigorous defense of an image widely regarded as anti-Semitic has alarmed many Jewish Americans, who are growing increasingly fearful that someone who could be the next president is willing to stoke the kinds of stereotypical attacks that have haunted Jews
around the world for generations.

Rabbis and other Jewish community leaders point to a moment of reckoning following a Wednesday night appearance in which Trump, with his voice raised, defended the use of a six-pointed star, which resembled the Star of David, mounted over a pile of $100 bills as part of an attack against Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. The image previously appeared on a website popular with white supremacists.

“That was a turning point for many,” said Lisa Spies, a veteran Republican fundraising consultant and former staffer of the Republican Jewish Coalition. “It forced people to say, ‘I’m going to hold off right now’ or to say, ‘I just can’t vote for this guy.’”

Added Bethany Mandel, a conservative writer who has gained attention for past criticisms of the ties between some Trump supporters and hate groups: “This past week has been really scary as a Jew in America.”

The concern expressed by many Jews is that Trump, who earlier this year was slow to condemn former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and has on several occasions retweeted messages from white supremacists, is bringing into the mainstream a sentiment that has largely been relegated to the dark underworld of the Internet.

The latest controversy has been roiling since Saturday, when the image first appeared in Trump’s personal Twitter feed, along with his message, “Crooked Hillary – – Makes History!” Soon thereafter, amid criticisms from some Jewish groups, Trump’s campaign deleted the tweet and issued a new image featuring a red circle instead of the star.

But then Wednesday night, in a freewheeling speech to thousands of supporters in Cincinnati, Trump expressed regret that the image had been changed.

“I said: ‘Too bad. You should have left it up,’ ” Trump said. “I would have rather defended it — just leave it up and say: No, that’s not a Star of David. That’s just a star.”

Trump compared the image to stars his young son draws at school and accused the media of using racial profiling to interpret the image as anti-Semitic. Later in the evening, he tweeted a photograph of a book cover from the animated movie “Frozen” that features a six-pointed star. Trump asked, “Where is the outrage for this Disney book?”

To some Jewish clergy, the disregard for their feelings demonstrated by a presumptive major-party presidential nominee, combined with online messages from hate groups cheering him on, was a shocking development.

“He was defending it with such passion. Shouting and screaming and regretting the fact that it was taken off and replaced,” said Philip Schein, a Toronto rabbi who is president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the New York-based international association of rabbis from Judaism’s Conservative movement. “Before, there was this subtle tinge of anti-Semitism. Once it’s pointed out clearly — somebody took it off his account and replaced it — even then, to still stand up for it is kind of mind-boggling.”

July 8, 2016

Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Tuesday that whoever is responsible for writing the should be fired.

"Whoever was the staff person who wrote this speech should be held accountable and should be fired," Lewandowski told CNN's John Berman and Kate Bolduan.

Lewandowski, who is a CNN contributor, was fired from the Trump campaign last month.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said at a Bloomberg Politics event Tuesday morning he'd "probably" fire whoever was responsible for including plagiarized quotes, though he added: "It all kinda depends on the circumstances and how these things are written."

The controversy quickly overshadowed the speech, which was to have been her introduction to voters. It focused on her immigration to the United States and her love for her husband.

-July 19, 2016

http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/19/politics/melania-trump-michelle-obama-speech/

================================================================================

Says Hillary Clinton is to blame for the creation of ISIS (despite ISIS existing before Clinton was Secretary of State or even before President Obama took office...ISIS was in fact created in 2004)

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Donald Trump and his vice presidential candidate Mike Pence gave their first joint interview to 60 Minutes and used the show to point the finger at Hillary Clinton for ISIS.

Trump told CBS's Lesley Stahl that the United States will have to declare war against ISIS -- and he vowed to do it with very few troops on the ground to wipe out ISIS.

"Hillary Clinton invented ISIS with her stupid policies," Trump said in an interview that aired July 17. "She is responsible for ISIS."

Trump has made this claim repeatedly. It’s wrong, and we’ll explain why.

The roots of ISIS

Trump was referring to Clinton’s actions related to Iraq, Libya and Syria, said Trump spokesman Stephen Miller, who referred us to a previous Trump speech on the topic.

The sources of ISIS are complex and interconnected, said John Pike, an expert on defense and director of GlobalSecurity.org, a website that provides information on defense.

"She may ‘share some of the blame’ but there is more than enough share to go around. She was in no sense the singular author of the thing," Pike said.

For starters, the terrorist group’s roots pre-date Obama’s presidency and Clinton’s role as secretary of state.

It has gone by several names since 2004, when long-time Sunni extremist Abu Mus‘ab al-Zarqawi established al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and more recently the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), according to the National Counterterrorism Center.

After he was killed in a 2006 U.S. airstrike, the group became the Islamic State of Iraq. In 2013, the group was referred to as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham and then just the Islamic State in 2014.

Given the timing, Democrats blame President George W. Bush for the creation of ISIS, because al-Qaida flourished after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.
Obama’s decision to leave Iraq after 2011 contributed to the security vacuum that gave ISIS the chance to put down roots there, said Michael O’Hanlon, a security expert at the Brookings Institution, a centrist-to-liberal group. (O’Hanlon is one of hundreds of voluntary advisers to the Clinton campaign but has a minor role.)

You could say the blame touches both Bush, for creating a strong space for al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, and Obama, for giving the group a chance to regroup.

As for Clinton, Trump’s campaign points to her vote as a senator to authorize force in Iraq in 2002. She later said she regretted that vote.

Republicans have blamed Obama for not keeping 10,000 troops in place in Iraq, which they say could have deterred the opening for ISIS. However, Obama inherited a timeline to exit Iraq from Bush, and there was no agreement to leave a large force behind.

Trump’s campaign also points to Clinton’s positions on Syria and Libya. In 2011, she echoed Obama’s support for regime change in Syria in 2011.

“The transition to democracy in Syria has begun, and it’s time for Assad to get out of the way,” she said while secretary of state in August 2011.

Regime change in Libya also gave ISIS an opening, said Christopher Preble, a defense expert at the libertarian Cato Institute.

“Clinton’s enthusiasm for regime change in Libya in 2011, which Obama endorsed, resulted in the collapse of order there, which ISIS and others have exploited,” he said. “That is a fair criticism, in my opinion.”

It’s possible to argue that these factors -- withdrawing from Iraq, the administration’s lack of support to anti-Assad rebels in Syria and the decision to intervene in Libya -- contributed to the power of ISIS, said Austin Long, a Columbia University international and public affairs professor.

"Then Sen. Clinton’s vote for the Iraq war could also be seen as contributing the preconditions for the emergence of al-Qaida in Iraq," Long said. “So Trump’s argument cannot simply be dismissed out of hand.”

However, Clinton was in favor of supporting Syrian rebels and was overruled by Obama and advocated strongly for maintaining a moderate troop presence in Iraq after 2011.

“So on both of those points, I don’t think it was Clinton leading Obama -- rather, it was the reverse,” Long said. “The Libya intervention and the vote for the Iraq war are thus the only points in the argument that actually stand up to scrutiny.”

On her vote related to the Iraq war, Clinton was many of many in both parties who supported the intervention advocated by Bush.

"On Libya while this clearly appears to have been a mistake in hindsight it was a fairly minor contribution to the emergence of ISIS, which grew out of the Iraq and Syrian conflict,” Long said.

Our ruling

Trump said “Hillary Clinton invented ISIS with her stupid policies. She is responsible for ISIS.”

There were several factors that contributed to the growing power of ISIS, but it’s misleading to pin the responsibility solely on Clinton. For starters, the roots of ISIS trace back to 2004, when Bush was president and before Clinton was Obama’s secretary of state.

-July 20, 2016


================================================================================
Encourages Russia to commit espionage against the US, implies Russia should blackmail Hillary Clinton
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Donald Trump just walked into another political and foreign policy minefield of his own making.

Trump said Wednesday that he hopes a country that just happens to be one of the United States' most antagonistic fellow world powers — Russia — has or would obtain unreleased emails from Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

"They probably have her 33,000 emails, too. I hope they do," he said, adding later: "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press."

There are many, many potential problems with this scenario — and not just for Clinton's campaign, but also for U.S. national security. Indeed, the logical extension of his comments is that a foreign power would be deciding how to handle possibly sensitive information about a potential U.S. president.

And none other than Trump himself has suggested this kind of information could be used to "blackmail" Clinton.

-July 27, 2016


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Trump insults dead soldier's mother because she's a Muslim
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Ghazala Khan stood silently next to her husband as he attacked Mr Trump in an emotional speech to the Democratic National Convention on Thursday.

Mr Trump suggested she may not have been allowed to speak.

Republicans and Democrats said the Republican candidate's comments were no way to talk of a hero's mother. Mrs Khan said she was upset by his remarks.

Last week her husband Khizr Khan told Democrats Mr Trump had sacrificed "nothing and no-one" for his country.

At the convention in Philadelphia, he said his son would not even have been in America if it had been up to Mr Trump, who has called for a ban on Muslims entering the US.

Humayun Khan was killed by a car bomb in 2004 in Iraq at the age of 27.

Mr Trump responded to the criticism in an interview with ABC's This Week.

"If you look at his wife, she was standing there," he said. "She had nothing to say... Maybe she wasn't allowed to have anything to say. You tell me."

-July 31, 2016


================================================================================
Flip-flops on his love for Russian President Putin after repeatedly stating they have met and are good friends when they have never met at all
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The intrusion into the Democratic National Committee's computers, allegedly by Russian hackers, has put a renewed spotlight on Donald Trump's connections to Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin.

When Trump sat for an interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos shortly after the Democratic National Convention, Stephanopoulos brought up the topic. Trump told Stephanopoulos that he didn't have a relationship with Putin.
Stephanopoulos challenged him on this -- and the host was on solid ground. Trump’s denial of a relationship with Putin contradicted what he had said on multiple previous occasions.

Prior to early 2016, Trump seemed to tout his ties to the Russian leader. Trump, a lifelong businessman, boasted of foreign policy experience based on his experience hosting the Miss Universe pageant in Moscow in 2013. For instance, during an interview with Fox News on May 6, 2016, Trump told host Bret Baier, "I know Russia well. I had a major event in Russia two or three years ago, Miss Universe contest, which was a big, big, incredible event. An incredible success."

But the closeness Trump claims to Putin-era Russia has prompted questions from critics, including foreign policy professionals in both parties. The U.S. government sees Russia as a geopolitical rival and Putin in particular as a sometimes problematic force in international relations.

Trump’s seeming fondness for Putin has worried critics in both parties.

For instance, Trump took flak a few days before the Stephanopoulos interview after he seemed to encourage Russia to spy on the United States in order to find thousands of Hillary Clinton’s emails. “Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing,” he said. "I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press," Trump said during a news conference in Florida.

So, facing growing questions about the wisdom of attaching his star to Putin’s, has Trump changed his position on whether the two have had a relationship? Here’s a closer look.

Trump’s earlier comments suggesting a relationship with Putin

Here are four occasions between 2013 and 2015 when Trump touted his ties to Putin.

- When Thomas Roberts of MSNBC asked Trump, “Do you have a relationship with Vladimir Putin? A conversational relationship or anything that you feel you have sway or influence over his government?” Trump responded, “I do have a relationship, and I can tell you that he's very interested in what we're doing here today. He's probably very interested in what you and I am saying today, and I'm sure he's going to be seeing it in some form.” -- interview, November, 2013

- “You know, I was in Moscow a couple of months ago. I own the Miss Universe Pageant and they treated me so great. Putin even sent me a present, a beautiful present.” -- address at the CPAC conference, March 2014

- “Russia does not respect our country any longer. They see we've been greatly weakened, both militarily and otherwise, and he certainly does not respect President Obama. So what I would do—as an example, I own Miss Universe, I was in Russia, I was in Moscow recently and I spoke, indirectly and directly, with President Putin, who could not have been nicer, and we had a tremendous success. The show was live from Moscow, and we had tremendous success there and it was amazing, but to do well, you have to get the other side to respect you, and he does not respect our president, which is very sad.” -- address at the National Press Club, May 2014

- “As far as the Ukraine is concerned ... if Putin wants to go in -- and I got to know him very well because we were both on 60 Minutes. We were stablemates, and we did very well that night.” -- portion of an answer at the Fox Business News debate, Nov. 2015. (The notion that the two men appeared together on 60 Minutes has been debunked. As Time magazine put it succinctly, “In fact, they weren’t even on the same continent.”)

The Stephanopoulos interview

Recently, though, Trump has changed his tune.

Here are excerpts from the Trump-Stephanopoulos interview, which aired on ABC’s This Week on July 31.

Stephanopoulos: “Let’s talk about Russia. You made a lot of headlines with Russia this week. What exactly is your relationship with Vladimir Putin?”

Trump: “I have no relationship to -- with him. I have no relationship with him.”

Stephanopoulos: “But if you have no relationship with Putin, then why did you say in 2013, I do have a relationship. In 2014, I spoke...“

Trump: “Because he has said nice things about me over the years. I remember years ago, he said something -- many years ago, he said
something very nice about me. I said something good about him when Larry King was on. This was a long time ago. And I said he is a tough cookie or something to that effect. He said something nice about me. This has been going on. We did 60 Minutes together. By the way, not together-together, meaning he was probably shot in Moscow...."

Stephanopoulos: "Well, he was in Moscow...."

Trump: "And I was shot in New York."

Stephanopoulos: "You were in New York. But that's the thing."

Trump: "No, just so you understand, he said very nice things about me, but I have no relationship with him. I don't -- I've never met him. ... I have no relationship with Putin. I don't think I've ever met him. I never met him. ... I mean if he's in the same room or something. But I don't think so. ...."

Stephanopoulos: "You've never spoken to him on the phone?"

Trump: "I have never spoken to him on the phone, no. ... Well, I don't know what it means by having a relationship. I mean he was saying very good things about me, but I don't have a relationship with him. I didn't meet him. I haven't spent time with him. I didn't have dinner with him. I didn't go hiking with him. I don't know -- and I wouldn't know him from Adam except I see his picture and I would know what he looks like."

Also, on July 27, Trump said at a press conference in Florida, "I never met Putin -- I don't know who Putin is. He said one nice thing about me. He said I'm a genius. I said thank you very much to the newspaper and that was the end of it. I never met Putin."

For the record: Media outlets have said the more accurate translation for what Putin said was “flamboyant,” rather than "genius," and Putin subsequently confirmed that he was trying to indicate “flamboyant” when he made his his remark.

Our ruling

Trump has changed what he’s said about whether he’s had a relationship with Putin.

In 2013, he said, "I do have a relationship." In 2014 he said, "I spoke, indirectly and directly, with President Putin" and said the Russian leader had sent him a present. In 2015, he said, "I got to know him very well" due to their joint appearance on 60 Minutes.

More recently, though, Trump has said, "I never met Putin -- I don't know who Putin is" and "I have no relationship with him."

We rate this a Full Flop.

-August 1, 2016


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Hates babies, "jokingly" orders a mother to leave a rally because he couldn’t cope with a crying child interrupting him

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Donald Trump, speaking in Loudon County, Virginia, on Tuesday, could not seem to decide whether he wanted a crying baby in his vicinity.

“Don’t worry about that baby – I love babies,” the Republican candidate said, to the mother of a baby that had started crying during his stump speech. “I love babies. I hear that baby crying, I like it. What a baby, what a beautiful baby. Don’t worry, don’t worry. The mom’s running around, like, don’t worry about it, you know? It’s young and beautiful and healthy and that’s what we want.”

The audience laughed and clapped politely.

Later, when the baby continued crying, however, Trump was a little rougher.
“Actually, I was only kidding – you can get the baby out of here,” Trump said firmly. “That’s all right, don’t worry. I think she really believed that I love having a baby crying while I’m speaking. That’s OK. People don’t understand. That’s OK.”

-August 2, 2016


Attacks fire marshal in Colorado for doing their job correctly by restricting the number of supporters at a venue, implies fire marshal must be a Democrat (fire marshal is a registered Republican)

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has blasted fire marshals across the country over crowd-size restrictions at venues, including accusing marshals in Colorado and Ohio of incompetence or political skulduggery within three days.

The latest fireworks began July 29, at Trump’s rally at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

The billionaire real estate developer entered the Gallogly Events Center to a cheering crowd. But he quickly launched into an attack on Colorado Springs Fire Marshal Brett Lacey.

“This is why our country doesn’t work,” Trump said. “We have thousands of people in (an overflow) room next door. We have plenty of space here. We have thousands of people outside trying to get in. And we have a fire marshal that said, ‘Oh we can’t allow more people.’ ... And the reason they won’t let them in is because they don’t know what the hell they’re doing.”

Trump continued to blame the fire marshal for the "disgraceful situation" during his one-hour address. He decried Lacey’s "incompetence," saying "he’s probably a Democrat" and "maybe they’re a Hillary person."

Our research shows Trump is wrong on several counts. Public records show Lacey is a registered Republican, and fire officials were following standard guidelines for crowd limits.

Standing room

Trump’s account of what went wrong at the rally and who was to blame is questionable.

There were 1,100 people -- not “thousands” as he said -- in the overflow room who watched his speech on a TV screen.

There was a line of people left outside, but it’s unclear if included “thousands of people,” as he said.

What about Trump’s claim that "We have plenty of space here," to let more people into the events center?

Colorado Springs Fire Department spokesman Steve Wilch told PolitiFact the Trump campaign was aware a day before the rally that Lacey, the fire marshal, had limited the events center to 1,500 spectators and the overflow room to 1,000 spectators.

UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak told the Colorado Springs Gazette, “The campaign handled all the ticketing and more tickets were issued than the space available."

PolitiFact requested comment from the Trump campaign but received no reply.

In an interview after the rally, Lacey told PolitiFact partner Denver7 that he based his crowd restrictions on a Thursday walk through of the event center and the overflow room, where he double-checked the exits, the size of the space and potential obstructions like crowd-control barriers, the stage and platforms for news cameras.

Lacey also reviewed the original construction design plans for the building, which had passed international fire and building codes. These plans include a "life-safety sheet," detailing the building’s intended use, square footage, capacity and exits.
The fire code, which most fire agencies rely on, is "based on the premise that every space can hold a certain number of people based on the square footage, and then based on the number of people we're going to provide the proper number of exits," Boulder Chief Fire Marshal Dave Lowrey told PolitiFact.

What the building is used for is key to determining space requirements known as the "occupant load factor." Restaurants are required to provide 15 square feet per person, because they have tables and chairs that people need to get around while fleeing an emergency, Lowrey said. At a political rally, where people are sitting on folding chairs, the code requires 7 square feet per person. If it's standing-room-only, the requirement is 5 square feet per person.

Emergency exits are a key 'life-safety factor'

But the most important "life-safety factor" is the number of exits.

"If you can't get out of building in an emergency, well, you're in a whole a lot of trouble," Lowrey said. "Every large, tragic indoor fire has probably been contributed to somehow by overcrowding, and blocked exits or locked doors."

Lacey said he worked closely with the Secret Service, police and UCCS officials as he made his decision about the right "occupant loads" for the venues. These officials weren't the only ones who agreed to the fire marshal's decisions on crowd restrictions.

Three days before the rally, Trump campaign treasurer, Timothy Jost, and UCCS officials signed a "Facility Usage License Agreement." The contract stated that the campaign "shall comply with...all other rules and regulations prescribed by the Fire and Police Departments and other governmental authorities, as may be in force and effect during the terms of this Agreement."

So the Trump campaign had agreed to comply with the fire department's safety requirements days before the candidate blew up at the fire marshal.

Earlier Friday afternoon, Lacey received a call from the police command center that there was a request to allow more people into the rally. After conferring with security officials and an on-site fire battalion chief, Lacey said he was comfortable with a 10 percent increase in the events center crowd (to 1,650) and the overflow room (to 1,100).

Denver7 asked Lacey about Trump's assertions that he was a disgrace and "probably a Democrat."

"Absolutely not," the fire marshal replied. "Anytime that any of the members of the Colorado Springs Fire Department are working, the politics or policies like that are not on our agenda. We're here for public safety and making certain our community is safe from harm."

"If the event planners wanted to have more people inside, we have a number of venues here in the Colorado Springs area that they could have secured," Lacey added. "But this is the event (venue) that they chose."

While fire marshals wrestle with these life-or-death decisions, they've also had Trump publicly berating them in at least four states.

In Ohio on Monday, Trump pulled aside reporters before a rally at the Greater Columbus Convention Center to rail against another fire marshal's crowd restrictions.

"For political reasons, purely for political reasons, they said in this massive building, you're not allowed to have any more than 1,000 people, and that's nonsense. We could've had 4, 5, 6,000 people -- they've all be turned away... It's a disgrace," Trump said in a video that New York Times reporter Nick Corasaniti posted in Twitter. "The fire marshal said he's not allowed to allow any more, even though the building handles many thousands of people. I just want to tell you that's politics at its lowest. You ought to check it out, but it's really politics at its lowest."

PolitiFact did check it out and obtained documents from the Greater Columbus Convention Center that contradicted Trump's claims that his campaign was blindsided by the crowd restrictions.

The center's "event acknowledgement" document, containing the name and contact information for Trump campaign official John Hiller, stated the maximum event capacity was "800+ media (not to exceed 1,000 per Fire marshal and contract)." The document states "This event is by invitation" and it was "Fire marshal approved." The venue license contract was signed July 29 -- three full days before the event -- by Jost, the campaign treasurer, and the convention center general manager.

Columbus Fire Department spokesman Steve Martin told the New York Times that Trump's accusations of politics were "completely false."
Trump’s ‘battle with America’s firefighters’

What Politico calls the GOP nominee’s “battle with America’s firefighters” has been going on for more than a year.

At a February rally at Madison City Stadium in Alabama, Trump twice complained

that a fire marshal had shut the gates when the candidate claimed 32,000 were trying to hear him speak, according to AL.com. “Let them come in, Mr. Fire Marshal,” Trump urged from the stage. The news website said estimates placed the rally at more than 10,000 people.

Then in Phoenix last summer, Trump did an about-face, saying city officials “broke the fire code” by allowing too many people into the convention center room where he was speaking.

"Convention Center officials in Phoenix don't want to admit that they broke the fire code by allowing 12-15,000 people in 4,000 code room," Trump tweeted in July 2015.

But the Phoenix Fire Department told ABC15 its officials limited the room to 4,200 people and closed the doors once that capacity was reached. "No rules or codes were broken," Deputy Chief Shelly Jamison said.

Back in Colorado, other fire marshals are praising Lacey for handling the Trump rally dispute with dispassionate professionalism.

"That's what Brett, the fire marshal in Colorado Springs, was trying to ensure -- the safety of the people in there. I don't want to over-crowd. If something does happen, I want to make sure people can get out," said Lowery, the Boulder fire marshal.

Our ruling

Trump claimed, “We have a fire marshal that said, ‘Oh we can't allow more people’....And the reason they won't let them in is because they don't know what the hell they’re doing.”

The Colorado Springs fire marshal laid out a clear explanation of how he set the crowd capacity based on fire codes and the professional calculus of how many people can swiftly and safely be evacuated if an emergency occurs. A Trump campaign official signed a contract agreeing to comply with the fire department’s rules and the campaign was notified of the crowd limits a day before the event.

In at least four states, the Republican nominee has accused fire marshals of incompetence or political favoritism during crowd-capacity disputes. But documents often show high-ranking campaign officials agreed to the restrictions in writing ahead of time.

Someone call the fire department: This claim is Pants on Fire!

-August 3, 2016


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Melania Trump likely illegally immigrated to the US, Trump has yet to call for her deportation as per his campaign's platform

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Nude photographs published this week are raising fresh questions about the accuracy of a key aspect of Melania Trump’s biography: her immigration status when she first came to the United States to work as a model.

The racy photos of the would-be first lady, published in the New York Post on Sunday and Monday, inadvertently highlight inconsistencies in the various accounts she has provided over the years. And, immigration experts say, there’s even a slim chance that any years-old misrepresentations to immigration authorities could pose legal problems for her today.

While Trump and her husband, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, have said she came to the United States legally, her own statements suggest she first came to the country on a short-term visa that would not have authorized her to work as a model. Trump has also said she came to New York in 1996, but the nude photo shoot places her in the United States in 1995, as does a biography published in February by Slovenian journalists.
The inconsistencies come on top of reports by CBS News and GQ Magazine that Trump falsely claimed to have obtained a college degree in Slovenia but could be more politically damaging because her husband has made opposition to illegal immigration the foundation of his presidential run.

Representatives of the Trump campaign and the Trump Organization did not address detailed questions about the timing and circumstances of Melania Trump’s arrival in the country, but campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks responded to the emailed questions by stating, “Melania followed all applicable laws and is now a proud citizen of the United States.”

In a statement issued hours after POLITICO published this report, Trump reiterated on Thursday that she had been “at all times in compliance with the immigration laws of this country.” But her statement conspicuously avoids addressing multiple reports and photographs that place her in the United States and working as a model in 1995, as well as her multiple past statements that she would return every few months to Europe to renew her visa. (Other news outlets, including Bloomberg View, have also noted the inconsistencies in her account.)

Although she may be a proud citizen, Trump’s own statements suggest she may not have followed all applicable laws, immigration experts say.

In a January profile in Harper’s Bazaar, Trump said she would return home from New York to renew her visa every few months. “It never crossed my mind to stay here without papers. That is just the person you are,” she said. “You follow the rules. You follow the law. Every few months you need to fly back to Europe and stamp your visa. After a few visas, I applied for a green card and got it in 2001.”

In a February interview with Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” Trump repeated that characterization of her early years in the United States. “I never thought to stay here without papers. I had visa. I travel every few months back to the country to Slovenia to stamp the visa. I came back. I applied for the green card. I applied for the citizenship later on.”

The Trump campaign and Trump Organization representatives did not address questions about the type of visa Trump first used to enter the country, but it has been widely reported that she came here on an H-1B work visa. Writer Mickey Rapkin, who interviewed Melania for a May profile in the luxury lifestyle magazine DuJour, said she confirmed as much to him. “When I interviewed Melania, I mentioned that she’d come to New York on that H-1B visa, and she nodded in agreement,” Rapkin wrote in an email to POLITICO.

Trump’s tale of returning to Europe for periodic visa renewals is inconsistent with her holding an H-1B visa at all times she was living in New York — even if it was the lesser-known H-1B visa specifically designed for models — said multiple immigration attorneys and experts. An H-1B visa can be valid for three years and can be extended up to six years — sometimes longer — and would not require renewals in Europe every few months. If, as she has said, Trump came to New York in 1996 and obtained a green card in 2001, she likely would not have had to return to Europe even once to renew an H-1B.

Instead, Trump’s description of her periodic renewals in Europe are more consistent with someone traveling on a B-1 Temporary Business Visitor or B-2 Tourist Visa, which typically last only up to six months and do not permit employment.

If someone were to enter the United States on one of those visas with the intention of working, it could constitute visa fraud, according to Andrew Greenfield, a partner at the Washington office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, a firm that specializes in immigration law.

“It’s quintessential,” he said. “If you enter the United States with the intention of working without authorization and you present yourself to a border agent at an airport or a seaport or a manned border and request a visa, even if there is not a Q&A — knowing that you are coming to work — you are implicitly, if not explicitly, manifesting that you intend to comply with the parameters of the visa classification for which you sought entry and were granted entry.”

Paolo Zampolli, an Italian businessman who was then a partner in Metropolitan and is credited with sponsoring Trump’s entry into the United States and introducing her to her future husband, said that he did not recall that particular shoot or the exact timing of Trump’s first arrival in New York.

Zampolli said the models he worked with would have entered the country on either an H-1B or an O-1, a visa for foreigners who possess “extraordinary ability.” O-1 visas are frequently given to star scientists, athletes and entertainers, but because Melania Knauss (her maiden name) was an obscure model who mostly posed for advertisements and catalogs in the mid-‘90s, it is highly unlikely she qualified for an O-1, which comes with an initial stay period of up to three years, said immigration attorneys. An O-1 visa would also not have required her to leave the country periodically.

Zampolli said he first met Trump in Milan and that models he worked for moved across international borders legally. “Every model we represented, we did a visa,” he said. “It’s just part of the rules.”

Even Melania’s use of the H-1B program would stand in contrast to her husband’s position today. Trump, who has made his opposition to illegal immigration the centerpiece of his campaign, has also vowed to crack down on the use of H1-B visas as president. In March, he said he would “end forever the use of the H-1B as a cheap labor program, and institute an absolute requirement to hire American workers first for every visa and immigration program. No exceptions.”
Trump begins to lose support with military veterans after insulting dead soldier’s family, information comes to light as to how Trump dodged the draft during the Vietnam War

The backlash against Donald Trump escalated on Thursday as angry US military veterans arrived on Capitol Hill urging Republican leaders to withdraw their support for the party’s nominee.

The protest came after a torrid week for the maverick candidate, whose criticism of Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the parents of an American Muslim soldier killed in Iraq in 2004, triggered a Republican revolt.

The veterans presented a petition on Thursday to the office of Senator John McCain, a Vietnam war veteran and former prisoner of war who was the Republican presidential nominee in 2008. McCain joined the condemnation of Trump this week, but stopped short of withdrawing his endorsement of him.

The petition on MoveOn.org was started by Perry O’Brien, who served as a medic in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division and was discharged as a conscientious objector in 2004. “Every vet I know is absolutely outraged,” he said on Wednesday. “Trump is someone who clearly does not share core American values and the values that we in the military hold dear: respect, sacrifice, selflessness. When he said he’s always wanted a Purple Heart, it showed he doesn’t know what a Purple Heart is. It’s like saying: ‘I want to be shot in the face’ or ‘I want to be blown up’. He doesn’t have a certain awareness that there are some things you don’t do or don’t say in this country. Even George W Bush knew not to personally slander a gold star mother.”

Trump received five deferments—four for university, one for medical reasons (heel spurs)—from the military draft for the Vietnam war. O’Brien, an organiser of the #VetsVHate campaign and Common Defense political action committee, added: “I’ve heard a lot of Vietnam veterans joke: ‘Thank God he got a deferment and I didn’t have Donald Trump at my back.’”

Lies about youth unemployment while hosting a “town hall-like” meeting on Reddit, a website that is popular with white nationalists

In Donald Trump’s Ask Me Anything (AMA) on the web-forum Reddit, the Republican presidential nominee was asked what he thought was the most important issue facing American young people.

“The question most young people ask me is about the rising cost of education, terrible student debt and total lack of jobs. Youth unemployment is through the roof, and millions more are underemployed. It’s a total disaster!” Trump wrote.

Among the concerns Trump addressed in this answer, his assertion about youth unemployment stood out. If true, it would mean that youth employment was bucking the downward trend of the overall unemployment rate since 2010.

To get a sense of whether youth unemployment is unusually high, we looked at a couple of questions. Is youth unemployment in the United States rising? Is it high historically? Is it high compared with other wealthy countries? The answer to each of these questions, we found, is no.

The unemployment rate for people 16 to 24 peaked at 19.5 percent in April of 2010. In June of this year, the rate was a little more than half that—10.7 percent. The number fluctuates from month to month, but has trended downwards for years.

The unemployment rates for people 16 to 24 have not yet reached its low from the mid 2000s. But it is close—less than one percent higher. The current rate is lower than some pre-crisis months between 2006 and 2008.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has collected youth unemployment data since 1948. The current rate is below the average for that whole
period, and below the average rates for each of the last four decades.

Trump said, “Youth unemployment is through the roof.”

Individual young people he speaks to may be worried about unemployment, but Trump is wrong to say that youth unemployment is exceptionally high. It is, at worst, average, in historical and international terms. We reached out to the Trump campaign, but they did not respond.

-August 4, 2016


Lies about seeing a video of ransom money being paid to Iran for release of American hostages, eventually flip-flops and says he never saw a video

For two days, Donald Trump told rally audiences a detailed account of seeing video footage of stacks of cash being taken off an airplane, destined to pay Iran for the release of American hostages.

Now, even Trump acknowledges that such video footage doesn’t exist.

The issue emerged because news reports suggested that a $400 million cash payment from the U.S. government amounted to ransom for hostages held by Iran. Republicans have charged that a quid pro quo ran counter to longstanding U.S. policy not to pay ransom for hostages. The White House has responded that the payments were the conclusion of a decades-old dispute over funds frozen after the fall of the Shah of Iran and were not a ransom.

But questions surrounding Trump’s depiction of video footage has distracted from the substantive policy dispute over whether and how such a payment should have been made. Almost from the moment Trump mentioned seeing the video, skeptics wondered whether it actually existed, because none had been publicly released.

So what actually happened?

What Trump said

Trump addressed this topic at two different rallies. The first was an Aug. 3 rally in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Here’s what he said:

“I got up this morning, and I pick up the papers, and then I turn on the news, and I see $400 million being shipped in cash, they didn’t want dollars, it’s in different currencies, and it’s being shipped overnight to Iran -- $400 million. ... I look, and I’ll never forget the scene this morning. And remember this: Iran -- I don’t think you’ve heard this anywhere, but here -- Iran provided all of that footage, the tape, of taking that money off that airplane, right? $400 million in cash. ... And they have a perfect tape done by obviously a government camera and the tape is of the people taking the money off the plane, right? That means that in order to embarrass us further, Iran sent us the tapes, right? It’s a military tape. It’s a tape that was a perfect angle, nice and steady. Nobody getting nervous because they’re going to be shot because they’re shooting a picture of money pouring off a plane."

The next day, he held a rally in Portland, Maine.

He said this:

“You saw that with the airplane coming in. Nice plane. And the airplane coming in. And the money coming off, I guess. Right? That was given to us, has to be, by the Iranians. You know why the tape was given to us? Because they want to embarrass our country. They want to embarrass our country. And they want to embarrass our president, because we have a president who’s incompetent.”

Trump certainly makes it sound as if there’s video footage of the cash being hustled off a plane, and that he’s seen that footage.
The backtrack

But before the second rally was even held, his campaign had already backed off that claim.

The Washington Post reported that late on Aug. 3 -- which was after the Daytona Beach event but before the Portland event -- Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks responded to an email "that asked if the footage Trump was referencing was actually widely shown video of a private plane landing in Switzerland in January with three American prisoners who had just been released by Iran, including Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian."

According to the Post, Hicks responded in an email, "Yes. Merely the b-roll footage included in every broadcast." (B-roll is a television industry term for pre-recorded videotape spliced into a live report.)

Still, Trump went out and made the remarks again.

After the second rally, Trump himself tweeted that he was referring to a different piece of video. "The plane I saw on television was the hostage plane in Geneva, Switzerland, not the plane carrying $400 million in cash going to Iran!"

In other words, Trump had seen widely reported video footage of the hostages being released, but described it in some detail -- and incorrectly -- as showing stacks of money being unloaded from a plane.

-August 5, 2016


Calls for gun rights supporters to assassinate Hillary Clinton

Donald Trump has been accused of making an “assassination threat” against rival Hillary Clinton, plunging his presidential campaign into a fresh crisis.

The volatile Republican nominee was speaking at a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina, about the next president’s power to appoint supreme court justices. "Hillary wants to abolish, essentially abolish, the second amendment," said Trump, eliciting boos from the crowd.

“If she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the second amendment people, maybe there is, I don’t know. But I’ll tell you what, that will be a horrible day.”

Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, where the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting took place in Newtown in 2012, went further in a tweet: “Don’t treat this as a political misstep. It’s an assassination threat, seriously upping the possibility of a national tragedy & crisis.”

Mark Glaze, former executive director of Everytown for Gun Safety, said: “It may well be an incitement to violence, but understand it’s the basic theory on which the modern gun industry is built. Their core audience is people who hate the government and believe they’re going to have to take up arms against it. My guess is this is a deliberate dog whistle to that significant number of people.

“There are people out there who hear this kind of thing in a certain way, and if they’re already inclined to hatred of government and Hillary Clinton and see guns as a public policy solution, who knows what could happen?”

The concern was echoed by Paul Begala, a former adviser to Bill Clinton in the White House. “This is not something that should be joked about,” he told CNN. “I hope in the best case you could say he was joking. It didn’t seem like a joke to me. Tony Schwartz, the guy who wrote [Trump’s book] The Art of the Deal, says Trump never jokes.

“I fear that an unbalanced person hears that in this inflamed environment and, God forbid, thinks that was a threat. I certainly take it as a threat, I really do, and Trump needs to apologise.”

Michael Hayden, former director of the CIA and National Security Agency, said on the same channel:

“Well, let me say, if someone had have said that outside the hall he’d be in the back of a police wagon now with the secret service
Donald Trump has found a ferocious way to describe President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton: as the founder and cofounder of ISIS, the terrorist group behind beheadings of Americans and lethal attacks around the world.

Speaking to thousands of supporters at a Broward County arena Aug. 10, Trump vowed to “knock the hell out of ISIS” before pointing the finger at the Democrats.

"ISIS is honoring President Obama,” he said. "He is the founder of ISIS. He is the founder of ISIS, okay? He is the founder. He founded ISIS. And I would say the cofounder would be crooked Hillary Clinton."

Trump has been making similar comments for several months, and he repeated his latest talking point in an interview with Republican radio host Hugh Hewitt the day after his Broward speech.

In fact, when Hewitt proposed a more cautious interpretation of his assertion — that Obama and Clinton “created the vacuum” in the region and thus “lost the peace” to ISIS — Trump rejected that formulation, sticking with the most literal version of “founder” and “co-founder.”

"No, I meant he’s the founder of ISIS,” Trump told Hewitt. "I do. He was the most valuable player. I give him the most valuable player award. I give her, too, by the way, Hillary Clinton."

Hewitt pushed back, saying, "But he’s not sympathetic to them. He hates them. He’s trying to kill them."

Trump dismissed that again, saying, "I don’t care. He was the founder. The way he got out of Iraq was, that, that was the founding of ISIS, okay?"

And hours after the Hewitt interview aired, Trump tripled down on the attack in a speech to the National Association of Homebuilders in Miami Beach once again accusing them of being the founder and cofounder of ISIS.

Trump was already incorrect when he said Clinton “invented” ISIS with her “stupid policies,” as he did a few weeks ago.

Now he’s taking it a step further with the “co-founded” attack.

Let us be clear: It is wildly inaccurate to say Obama or Clinton “co-founded” ISIS.

- August 11, 2016

Trump revived these theories as he fell behind Hillary Clinton in the polls (which, according to his surrogates, are "skewed").

"Nov. 8, we'd better be careful, because that election is going to be rigged," he said at an Aug. 1 rally in Columbus, Ohio. "People are going to walk in and they're going to vote 10 times, maybe, who knows?"

"I know last time, you had precincts where there were practically nobody voting for the Republican (Mitt Romney)," he said to Fox News' Sean Hannity that same night. "I'm telling you, Nov. 8, we better be careful because that election is going to be rigged and I hope the Republicans are watching closely, or it's going to be taken away from us."

This is a serious allegation that challenges the integrity of the election, so we asked the Trump campaign to elaborate. We didn't hear back.

When Trump has offered specifics — people voting though they're ineligible, people voting multiple times, people impersonating dead voters — he's actually talking about voter fraud, committed by individuals and committed very rarely.

Stolen 2012 election?

To sow doubts about the 2016 election, Trump pointed to alleged rigging in 2012.

While some precincts in Philadelphia exclusively voted for Obama in 2012, it's grasping for straws to claim this is evidence for election rigging.

Defending Trump, Fox's Sean Hannity pointed to a Philadelphia Inquirer article that showed 59 precincts in inner-city Philadelphia in which "Mitt Romney did not get a single vote, not one."

But Hannity leaves out that the same article also stated that "such results may not be so startling after all." The Inquirer wrote that 75 to 80 percent of voters in big cities like Philadelphia identify as Democrats, and 93 percent of African-Americans voted for Obama.

When the paper sought out the few registered Republicans living in the 59 districts, it found that several had moved, others didn't realize they were registered with the party, and others confirmed that they had voted for Obama despite their political identification.

Election inspector Ryan Godfrey, an independent who was a Republican in 2012, called Hannity's claims "absurd and personally insulting." After all, Godfrey argued, there's a paper trail for the ballots in Philly and no evidence that he and the other election officials had risked prosecution to collude against Romney.

Plus, CNN's Brian Stelter countered, "a Google search would show that there are also precincts in other states, like in Utah, where Obama did not get a single vote."

Trumped up charges of voter fraud

Trump's claims of voter fraud, which echo arguments for voter ID laws, are also not reflective of reality.

While the U.S. Government Accountability Office has acknowledged that it's difficult to estimate how often voter fraud happens based on reported incidents, the evidence for rampant fraud is lacking.

News 21 found just 150 alleged cases of double voting, 56 cases of noncitizens voting, and 10 cases of voter impersonation across all elections from 2000 to 2011. Many of these never led to charges, while others were acquitted or dismissed. Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School and an expert on voter fraud, found an even smaller number: 31 credible incidents out of more than 1 billion votes cast from 2000 to 2014.

Put it in another way: You're more likely to get struck by lightning than to find voter fraud.

When voter fraud does occur, it's not always intentional. Multiple studies have traced known cases not to willful deception but to clerical errors or confusion.

For example, one case of a dead person voting (Alan J. Mandell) happened because a poll worker accidentally marked his name instead of the
man who actually cast the ballot, Alan J. Mandel. Similarly, in one of just five cases of a noncitizen voting between 2000 and 2004, a permanent resident was told he was eligible and given a voter registration form by a DMV clerk when renewing his license.

So, given the rarity of occurrence, the lack of intent, and a federal penalty of a $10,000 fine or up to five years in prison, experts say it would be extremely difficult to rig an election through the ways Trump has suggested.

“I’d like to see him try to vote 10 times on Election Day. It would be virtually impossible and a knuckle-headed way to try to corrupt an election,” said Lorraine Minnite, a political science professor at Rutgers University who wrote The Myth of Voter Fraud.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. election system is rigged.

He has cited examples of voter fraud, which is extremely rare, often unintentional and not on a scale large enough to affect a national election.

While there are isolated examples of bought local elections, experts say it cannot be replicated on a national scale. While it is possible to tamper with electronic voting machines, there is no evidence deliberate malfeasance has altered any election.

We rate Trump’s claim Pants on Fire.

-August 15, 2016


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Trump campaign manager resigns after being linked to Ukraine’s former pro-Russia regime and Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos

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Paul Manafort has resigned his post as chairman of Donald Trump’s campaign after staff changes and questions about his links to Ukraine’s former pro-Russia regime.

“This morning Paul Manafort offered, and I accepted, his resignation from the campaign,” the Republican presidential nominee said in a statement. “I am very appreciative for his great work in helping to get us where we are today, and in particular his work guiding us through the delegate and convention process. Paul is a true professional and I wish him the greatest success.”

The move comes just two days after a staff shake-up brought on Stephen Bannon, formerly of right-wing Breitbart News, as the new campaign CEO, and promoted pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. At the time, Manafort send an email to the staff welcoming Bannon and saying he planned to stay on as chairman “providing the big-picture, long-range campaign vision and working with all of you to implement our strategy that will guide us to victory in November.”

Manafort became embroiled in controversy earlier this week after a New York Times report found that political leaders in Ukraine earmarked millions in undisclosed cash for him. Manafort said the findings were “unfounded, silly, and nonsensical.”

Manafort was hired by the Trump campaign in March to be the convention manager and work on delegate issues. He took over the campaign in June when Trump’s former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was fired. Manafort has been an operative in Republican circles for years, working as an adviser to the presidential campaigns of Republicans Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and John McCain, among others.

He also has worked as a consultant or lobbyist for controversial foreign leaders, including Phillippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1985 and pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovych in Ukraine in 2010, the Guardian reports.

-August 19, 2016

http://time.com/4459066/paul-manafort-donald-trump-campaign/?iid=sr-link2

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ISIS endorses Trump, believes a Trump presidency would increase radicalization of all Muslims
Donald Trump has been campaigning on a promise to eradicate the Islamic State (also known as ISIS). The Republican presidential nominee regularly makes belligerent statements such as “I would bomb the shit out of . . . those suckers” and “We have to knock the hell out of them.” He has said that he would send up to 30,000 more U.S. troops to fight ISIS and refuses to rule out the possibility of using nuclear weapons against the group. One might expect ISIS to view his candidacy with apprehension. However, interviews with ISIS supporters and recent defectors suggest just the opposite: jihadists are rooting for a Trump presidency because they believe that he will lead the United States on a path to self-destruction. Last week, an ISIS spokesman wrote on the ISIS-affiliated Telegram channel, Nashir, “I ask Allah to deliver America to Trump.” Meanwhile, an ISIS supporter posted on one of the numerous jihadist “channels” hosted by the Telegram messaging application, “The ‘facilitation’ of Trump’s arrival in the White House must be a priority for jihadists at any cost!!”

Analysis of ISIS chatter on social media and conversations with 12 current and former supporters of the group do indicate that ISIS strongly prefers Trump over the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton. When asked to explain their preference for Trump, interviewees offered several reasons. First, Trump’s anti-Muslim rhetoric plays into ISIS’ narrative of a bipolar world in which the West is at war with Islam. Second, ISIS hopes that Trump will radicalize Muslims in the United States and Europe and inspire them to commit lone-wolf attacks in their home countries. Third, ISIS supporters believe that Trump would be an unstable and irrational leader whose impulsive decision-making would weaken the United States. And fourth, ISIS subscribes to the prophecy of a “Final Battle,” to take place in the northern Syrian town of Dabiq, in which the caliphate will decisively triumph over its enemies. Some ISIS supporters believe that Trump would lead the United States and its Western allies into the apocalyptic clash they have been waiting for.

Although not all ISIS supporters are following the election—some say they aren’t interested or don’t have time to care about the domestic politics of their enemies—many are keen spectators of a bitter and divisive race that they believe has the potential to do serious damage to the United States. According to Khaled, a former ISIS fighter who now supports Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra), Trump is becoming well-known among jihadists owing to Al Jazeera’s regular coverage of the election. Azzam, another ISIS defector who still considers himself a jihadist, said he watches television every day just to see what Trump will say next. As the presidential race intensifies, it is clear that ISIS views the impending change in U.S. leadership as an opportunity to advance its ideological and military goals.

ISIS’ view of international relations is based on a stark division between two antagonistic realms: the lands governed by the caliphate, which it calls dar al-Islam (“the domain of Islam”), and the lands of its enemies, known as dar al-harb (“the domain of war”). For a group whose ideology is based on a bipolar universe in which everyone is either a friend or an enemy—there is no such thing as neutrality—it is helpful to have adversaries who are easy to hate.

Trump is “the perfect enemy,” in the words of Tarek, a former ISIS fighter who recently switched sides to one of its Salafi rivals, Ahrar al-Sham. Take, for example, Trump’s vitriolic speeches, which provide a constant stream of material for ISIS’ hyperactive propaganda machine. He has been featured in at least two ISIS videos so far—one about the Brussels attack and the other about the strike in Orlando—as well as a third video released by al Shabab, al Qaeda’s Somalia-based affiliate.

One recent ISIS defector, Samer, said that when he was fighting for the group in Deir ez-Zor, “we were happy when Trump said bad things about Muslims because he makes it very clear that there are two teams in this battle: the Islamic team and the anti-Islamic team.” Khaled expressed a similar view. “When Trump says hateful things about Muslims, it proves that jihadists are right to fight against the West, because the West is against Islam,” he said. A Trump presidency would make it easier for ISIS to justify its bipolar worldview, in which the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds are engaged in an existential clash of civilizations.

When asked why Clinton has not yet been shown in an ISIS video, a recent defector, Adel, said it is because “she never says anything bad about Muslims.” Indeed, it is far more difficult for ISIS to vilify Clinton, who routinely insists that “Islam is not our adversary” and “Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people.”

Some ISIS supporters are hoping for a Trump presidency because they believe that it would fuel radicalization in the United States and Europe. As ISIS has suffered territorial losses and military setbacks in Syria and Iraq, the prospect of life in a shrinking and embattled caliphate is becoming less attractive to potential recruits. And so, over the past year, ISIS propaganda has become increasingly focused on encouraging homegrown terrorism and lone-wolf attacks in the United States and Europe and devotes less coverage to the battles it is fighting (and losing) on its own turf.

Former and current ISIS supporters say that a Trump presidency would lend credence to ISIS’ claim that Muslims are unwelcome and unsafe in the West and would therefore facilitate radicalization. According to Maher, a former ISIS fighter who deserted last year but still considers himself a jihadist, “We don’t need to convince Muslims in the Middle East that the West is against them. They already know. The next step for the Islamic State is to reach Muslims in America and Europe.” Adnan, a Syrian who recently left ISIS, offered a similar assessment, saying that ISIS wants to make the West an “incubator” (hadinah) for attacks that are locally bred or inspired. Both men agreed that the group views Trump as the candidate most likely to inspire homegrown terrorism.

For this reason, it was not surprising when, earlier this month, the ISIS-affiliated Telegram channel, Nashir, shared a link to a story about Trump’s views on immigrants with the comment “The filthy monkey Donald Trump describes Muslims in America as ‘animals.’” Nor was it unexpected when, the day after Trump’s speech at the Republican National Convention, a member of a Facebook group called “The Caliphate is right in spite of the haters” shared an image of the U.S. flag overlaid with the words “War on Terror ISLAM,” with a caption commenting on the election: “Trump urges clashes and confrontation while Clinton prefers diplomacy.”

Interviews and analysis of ISIS-related chatter on Twitter suggests that the group welcomes Trump’s belligerent rhetoric as a harbinger of the apocalypse it has been waiting for. As one Twitter user wrote, “This is the time of Trump. . . . They see it as Armageddon and we see it as Dabiq.” Another said, “Congratulations to us on the victory of Trump! Sit back and relax and watch the end of America at his hands. Dabiq is coming.” The group has a large following in America . . . and he will provoke the Jews and Christians to fight Islam and Muslims . . . and he will divide the world into two camps: the camp of faith and the camp of hypocrisy, and God knows that the third world war will begin and then the
Great Battle (at Dabiq near Aleppo)." From ISIS' perspective, Trump's eagerness to wage war against the caliphate makes him an ideal adversary for this prophesied final battle.

In other words, although Trump has promised to eradicate ISIS, supporters of ISIS say that a Trump presidency is exactly what they want. Seemingly unaware of the candidate's falling poll numbers, an ISIS spokesman cheered on Telegram last week that “all indicators say that Trump is the candidate most likely to win the election. And this is what we want.” Whether or not Trump wins in November, ISIS knows that Islamophobic politicians make the best enemies and will continue to root for them.

-August 24, 2016

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2016-08-24/why-isis-rooting-trump-0

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Doctor that claimed he was “most physically-fit presidential candidate” admits he wrote note in five minutes while Trump’s limo waited outside

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"In the rush I think some of those words didn't come out exactly the way they were meant," Dr Harold Bornstein told NBC News. Dr Bornstein’s letter said Mr Trump, 70, would be the "healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency".

He said he “picked up” the candidate's own “kind of language” when writing it.

Two weeks before the note was written, Mr Trump tweeted to say he had “instructed my long-time doctor to issue, within two weeks, a full medical report", adding that it would “show perfection”.

Mr Trump later highlighted the endorsement from Dr Bornstein, who faced questions about its exaggerated tone.

The doctor, of New York's Lenox Hill Hospital, says he may have overstated the case “so that they [the Trump campaign] would be happy".

“I think I picked up his kind of language and then I just interpreted it to my own,” he said.

Mr Trump would be the oldest person to be elected US president, were he to win in November. Mrs Clinton is 68.

The health of two candidates has become a focal point in the campaign, with Mr Trump repeatedly alleging that his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton is physically unfit.

Mrs Clinton has hit back at what she says are unfounded allegations, and Mr Trump has faced criticism over the personal nature of the attacks.

Neither candidate has divulged their full medical record. Mrs Clinton released a statement from her doctor, Lisa Bardack, last year.

Dr Bardack said: “She is excellent physical condition and fit to serve as President of the United States.”

-August 27, 2016


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Blames Democrats for economic inequality, lies about inner-city crime reaching record levels (unless he means the record low levels they are at currently)

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Aiming to blunt an overwhelming edge among African-American voters, Donald Trump has been decrying longstanding black support for Democratic politicians, who he blames for allowing economic inequality and crime to fester in African-American communities.
In an Aug. 29, 2016, tweet, Trump wrote, "Inner-city crime is reaching record levels. African-Americans will vote for Trump because they know I will stop the slaughter going on!"

There is no official category -- or even a definition -- for "inner-city" crime. So the best we can do is look at crime in large cities. Among the crime data the FBI collects is for that committed in cities over 250,000 in population, so that's what we used.

The chart below shows the rate of all violent crimes -- including homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults -- committed per 100,000 people, which is a standard way of measuring the extent of crime. The top line shows the rate for cities over 250,000 in population, while the lower rate shows it for the country as a whole.

The two lines track each other fairly well, but the trend is unmistakable: The frequency of violent crime has declined since the early-to-mid 1990s.

We also looked at one subset of the violent crime rate -- the homicide rate -- for both the country as a whole and for cities over 250,000 in population.

The patterns for homicide are the same as they are for violent crime generally -- they have been declining since the early-to-mid 1990s.

The same pattern holds for the subset of the nation’s very largest cities -- those of 1 million or more residents. In 2014, the violent crime rate in these largest cities was 658.7 per 100,000 residents, a significant decline from 868.9 in 2006 (and even higher in earlier years). Over the same period, the murder rate in these cities fell from 12.3 per 100,000 residents to 7.4 per 100,000 residents.

A cursory look at a few specific cities shows that the number of murders, even at their somewhat elevated rate today, are well below their peaks in the 1990s.

The number of murders in New York City, for instance, fell from 2,262 in 1990 to 1,927 in 1993, 629 in 1998 and 352 in 2015.

And in Chicago, there were 468 murders in 2015, well below the 925 recorded in 1991, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Trump said that "inner-city crime is reaching record levels."

We rate the statement Pants on Fire.

-August 30, 2016


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Promises to trample on 1st Amendment Rights to enforce the saluting of the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, further solidifying his fascist tendencies

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Donald Trump kicked off a speech to a major veterans Thursday by firing back against those like San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick who protest the American flag.

"We will stop apologizing for America, and we will start celebrating America," he told the American Legion's national gathering in Cincinnati Thursday morning.

"We will be united by our common culture, values and principles, becoming one American nation.

"One country, under one constitution, saluting one American flag — and always saluting it. The flag all of you helped to protect and preserve. That flag deserves respect, and I will work with American Legion to help to strengthen respect for our flag. You see what's happening. It's very, very sad," he continued. "And, by the way, we want young Americans to recite the Pledge of Allegiance."

The Republican presidential nominee kept up his "American, love it or leave it" rhetoric, promising to keep out refugees and "change our immigration screening procedures to help keep terrorists and extremists out of our country" before ad-libbing a line demonizing refugees.
"We do not want to let anyone in our country who doesn't support our values and is not capable of loving our people," he said.

-September 1, 2016


================================================================================

Repeats xenophobic claims that there are 30 million illegal immigrants in the US at a white nationalist rally in Arizona

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In a major policy speech on immigration, Donald Trump criticized the government’s approach to the undocumented population, saying the feds don’t even know the scope of the problem.

"Honestly we've been hearing that number for years. It's always 11 million. Our government has no idea. It could be 3 million. It could be 30 million," Trump said. "They have no idea what the number is. Frankly our government has no idea what they're doing on many, many fronts, folks."

Trump questioned the 11 million figure early in his presidential bid last year, and floated 30 million and 34 million as alternative estimates. That claim rates Pants on Fire.

Is it possible that, a year later, Trump’s claim of 3 million or 30 million is more accurate?

The answer is still no.

The U.S. Homeland Security Department last estimated the size of the undocumented immigrant population at 11.4 million in January 2012, down from a peak of 12.2 million in 2007. This count includes people who entered the United States illegally and people who overstayed their visas.

Trump said the number of illegal immigrants "could be 3 million. It could be 30 million."

Both figures are not within the range of possibility. Every credible estimate we found was in the 11 million range, with a margin of error of around 1 million. The figure has "always" been 11 million, in recent years, because of the flow of undocumented immigrants in and out of the United States.

We rate Trump’s claim Pants on Fire.

-September 1, 2016


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Dances around not releasing his tax returns (probably because it would reveal that he has never donated to charity or that he's not really worth what he says he is)

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As Election Day draws nearer, the window for Donald Trump to release his tax returns continues to narrow. When asked about his refusal to release his tax returns during an interview with ABC News’ David Muir, Trump said that “the only one that cares is the press. ... It’s not a big deal.”

Trump went on to say that he’s already provided significant information about his holdings.

“I released the most extensive financial review of anybody in the history of politics," Trump said. "It’s either 100 or maybe more pages of names of companies, locations of companies, etc., etc., and it’s a very impressive list, and everybody says that. ... You don't learn much in a tax return.”
The key difference comes from Trump’s refusal to release his tax filings. (Trump has cited an ongoing audit by the Internal Revenue Service.) Whereas the personal financial disclosure form must by law be made public, public release of a candidate’s tax returns is a 40-year tradition that isn’t required by law.

As we have previously noted, Tax Analysts, a publisher specializing in tax policy, has been collecting publicly available tax returns of presidential candidates and other top officials for its Tax History Project. This archive goes back as far as the 1913 tax returns of future president Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford, did not release his tax returns but instead provided a summary of his taxes. His opponent, Jimmy Carter, did release his tax returns that year -- and every major-party nominee since Carter has released them to the public, until Trump.

Hillary Clinton has released her tax returns from 2000 to 2015.

Right off the bat, the fact that Trump has not released any tax filings undermines his claim to have “released the most extensive financial review of anybody in the history of politics,” despite the lengthy personal financial disclosure form he submitted.

Romney’s 2010 tax filing, for instance, runs 203 pages and is chock full of detail about his personal financial situation. For instance, Romney’s tax return “scrutinized his family’s charitable foundation and their donations to their church,” said Ryan Williams, a longtime aide to Romney and a spokesman during his 2012 presidential campaign.

“It is true that Trump’s businesses have received a lot of attention, but without the release of Trump’s tax returns, we don’t know a lot about his personal financial situation,” said Lawrence White, an economist at New York University’s Stern School of Business.

The two most obvious pieces of the puzzle missing without Trump’s tax returns are the effective rate of tax he pays on his income, and the extent and nature of his charitable giving.

Depending on what figures appear on his tax forms, Trump could face political criticism. Paying a low tax rate could be politically embarrassing. And Trump has faced questions about his past charitable giving. (For details, see the ongoing coverage by reporter David Farenthold of the Washington Post.)

Tax returns also can give a clearer picture of the candidate’s liquid assets. “Trump can inflate his image of being rich on the financial disclosure forms, but you can get a better sense of how much he’s actually making from his tax returns,” said Williams, who did not support Trump during the GOP primary and now says he’s officially undecided on the presidential race.

Other nuggets can be gleaned from tax forms as well, such as what specific mix of taxes the candidate paid.

“Romney’s tax return showed us a ton of valuable information about Romney, including the fact that most of his substantial income was ‘carried interest,’” which is a type of tax-favored income available primarily to fund managers, said Allan Sloan, a business columnist for the Washington Post. Because of this, “we saw that the majority of his income was taxed at low rates.”

Trump wouldn’t necessarily qualify for the carried-interest tax, but as a someone in the real-estate business, he would have access to specialized tax breaks of his own, Sloan said.

There is a “provision in tax law that allows people who spend at least half their working time as real-estate or development professionals to get depreciation deductions not available to other investors,” he said. “That’s a huge loophole, and it’s gotten nothing like the attention that carried interest has gotten.”

The fact that Trump has not run for office before or served in government makes the scrutiny of his business dealings especially important for those who care about transparency. Yet the fact that he runs a privately held company makes it hard for outsiders to get a handle on his personal finances as long as no public tax filing is available, experts said.

“Because Trump’s business dealings are varied and extensive, there is a lot to look at, but the quality of information is often poor, so reporters spend a lot of time looking at information insufficient to draw accurate conclusions,” said Dennis Caplan, an associate professor of accounting at the University at Albany.

Trump said that he has "released the most extensive financial review of anybody in the history of politics. ... You don't learn much in a tax return."

Trump did release an extensive (and legally required) document detailing his personal financial holdings. However, experts consider that a red herring. Unlike all presidential nominees since 1980, Trump has not released his tax returns, which experts say would offer valuable
details on his effective tax rate, the types of taxes he paid, and how much he gave to charity, as well as a more detailed picture of his income-producing assets.

Trump's statement is inaccurate. We rate it False.

-September 7, 2016


Decides to end ban of a dozen media organizations he had blacklisted from his rallies and news conferences, bringing his infringement of Americans’ 1st Amendment Rights to an end after four months

Donald Trump said Wednesday he is ending his ban on several news organizations, including The Washington Post, that he had stripped of their credentials to cover his rallies and news conferences.

The Post was the last and largest of about a dozen media organizations that the Republican presidential nominee banned because of what he deemed unfair coverage of his campaign. Others on the blacklist included the Huffington Post, the Daily Beast, Politico and BuzzFeed.

The bans, apparently unprecedented by a major-party candidate, prevented reporters at blacklisted news organizations from receiving credentials to cover Trump's public events and from flying on a press charter that follows the Republican nominee around the country.

The ban's demise was first reported by CNN.com. "I figure they can't treat me any worse!" Trump told CNN.

-September 7, 2016


Says illegal immigrants are treated better than veterans

Donald Trump has repeatedly said immigrants living illegally in the United States have it better than veterans who have served the country.

He said it over Memorial Day weekend at a rally honoring prisoners of wars and troops missing in action, during a speech in Arizona outlining his immigration plan and most recently at the Union League of Philadelphia, which supports veterans and their families.

"Our veterans, in many cases, are being treated worse than illegal immigrants, people that come into our country illegally," Trump said Sept. 7.

Other than the anecdote about the DUI case, we're not sure any of these examples show how veterans are being treated worse than people living in the United States illegally.

So we decided to directly compare the two groups using things Trump often talks about -- education, health care and tax and fiscal policy.

Education

In terms of K-12 public education, the Supreme Court ruled in 1982 that no one can be denied access, even if they are undocumented, said Irene Bloemraad, a sociology professor at the University of California.

That equal access also applies to veterans, but presumably veterans are not seeking K-12 education, Bloemraad said. "At best, we can conclude no advantage, one way or another, at this level of education," she said.

That Supreme Court ruling does not apply to post-secondary education and it's up to states to set the rules regarding undocumented
immigrants’ access to public colleges and universities, Bloemraad said.

Two states -- Alabama and South Carolina -- bar undocumented students from enrolling in public postsecondary institutions. Georgia’s State Board of Regents does not allow undocumented students to enroll in selective public universities (institutions that admit fewer than apply), according to University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity Network.

"Veterans would presumably face no ban to enrolling," Bloemraad said. "So clearly, veterans are not treated worse; rather, in some states undocumented students are in a much more difficult position."

A veteran resident can also pay in-state tuition rates and can apply for federal benefits for post-secondary education, she said.

Higher education and training benefits are available to veterans, servicemembers and their families through federal programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid. In some states, undocumented students are required to pay higher, out-of-state rates for their education, even if they have lived in that state most of their life, Bloemraad said.

Overall: Advantage veterans.

Medical care

The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, enacted by Congress in 1986, provided that hospitals provide anyone emergency care until stabilized, said Gail Wilensky, former head of Medicare and Medicaid under President George H.W. Bush.

So undocumented immigrants, by law, can get immediate emergency care -- but so can veterans. In this regard, both groups are treated the same in case of medical emergencies.

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to buy health coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Veterans enrolled in the Veteran’s Affairs health care system (about 9 million of the 22 million veterans) are not eligible for the Affordable Care Act, but others would be -- unless they are eligible or have other coverage such as Medicare or employer-sponsored insurance, Wilensky said.

Still, veterans are eligible for medical care.

It’s "hard to think of an example where an illegal immigrant would get better care," Wilensky said. Some of the Veterans Affairs care is clearly substandard or delayed, but that’s a different problem, she said.

Katherine Baicker, a health economist at the Harvard University, said there are limits to the programs and care available to undocumented immigrants. They are not eligible for Medicaid, for instance, she said.

Veterans are eligible for Medicaid and those who qualify usually do not pay copays for Veterans Affairs health care, according to the Veterans Affairs Department.

"I can't think of ways in which veterans have less access or lower quality care than undocumented immigrants," Baicker said.

Overall: Advantage veterans.

Taxes, Social Security

Veteran’s benefits generally are not subject to tax and many tax provisions benefit service members, said Roberton Williams, senior fellow at the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center.

Pay earned while serving in a combat zone is exempt from federal income tax, he said.
"I can't think of any tax issue that would hit troops harder than undocumented immigrants," Williams said.

Veterans are entitled to Social Security benefits.

Laws enacted in 1996 and 2004 block Social Security benefits paid to unauthorized immigrants or to any noncitizen without a work-authorized Social Security number at some point in time, according to the Social Security Administration.

As the Associated Press has also noted, undocumented immigrants don't have the right to vote, don’t have legal permission to work or to receive most government benefits.

Veterans who are citizens have the right to vote, have job employment resources such as the Veterans Employment Center and may qualify for Veteran Affairs health benefits.

Overall: Advantage veterans.

Our ruling

Trump said, "Our veterans, in many cases, are being treated worse than illegal immigrants."

In some states undocumented immigrants are barred from enrolling in post-secondary institutions, or pay out-of-state tuition even if they've lived in that state most of their lives; veterans are eligible for federal benefits for higher education and training and are eligible for in-state tuition. Undocumented immigrants also aren't eligible for Medicaid, cannot buy coverage through the Affordable Care Act and cannot receive Social Security benefits, all of those services and benefits are available to veterans.

Veterans also have the right to vote and are eligible for federal job placement resources.

Veterans are entitled to several more benefits that are not offered to civilians, much less undocumented immigrants.

We rate Trump's statement False.

-September 9, 2016


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Trump still in love with Russia, goes on Russian government-controlled mouthpiece Russia Today to complain about the US media

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Donald Trump criticized the state of the America’s media and its leader on Thursday in an interview aired on a state-owned Russian television network.

In an interview with journalist Larry King broadcast on RT America, Trump said the thing that most surprised him about the American political process was “the dishonesty of the media,” the Washington Post reports. “The media has been unbelievably dishonest,” he said. “I mean they’ll take a statement that you make which is perfect and they’ll cut it up and chop it up and shorten it or lengthen it or do something with it.”

He also voiced familiar criticisms of President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. “Hillary Clinton with her policies and Barack Obama — you know, look, we should have never gone into Iraq. Period,” Trump said. (Trump claims he was against the invasion of Iraq from the beginning, which is not true.) “But once we went in, Larry, we shouldn’t have gotten out the way we got out. And the way they got out really caused ISIS, if you think about it. We got out in such a horrible, foolish fashion, instead of leaving some troops behind.”

The interview comes as Trump continues to struggle with allegations that he’s too close to the Russian government. In July, he called on Russia to hack Clinton’s emails. His former campaign chairman Paul Manafort resigned in August over questions about his links to Ukraine’s former pro-Russia regime. And Trump himself expresses open admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Wednesday night, one day before the interview aired, Trump said of Putin in an NBC military form, “Certainly, in that system, he’s been a leader, far more than our president has been a leader.”
Trump’s campaign claimed they did not know the interview was to be aired on the Russian network. A spokesperson told the Post, "Mr. Trump recorded a short interview with Larry King for his podcast as a favor to Mr. King. What Larry King does with the interview content is up to him; we have nothing to do with it."

He’s not the only politician to appear on the network, accidentally or otherwise. British politician Nigel Farage, who appeared onstage with Trump in August, makes regular guest appearances and was recently offered his own television show on RT, according to media reports.

-September 9, 2016


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Boasted about how Trump Tower was largest building in New York after 9/11

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A long Politico piece that looks at what Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were doing on Sept. 11, 2001* and how it shaped them, begins with an interesting little nugget that few people probably remember. On that fateful day, when everyone was struggling to understand what had just happened, Trump seemingly had no hesitation to brag about the fact that his building was now the tallest in Lower Manhattan. It happened during an interview with WWOR and Politico points out that what seems striking about that interview was "Trump's composure and tone." A candidate known for his bluster, he avoided talking about retribution and even avoided reaching any conclusions about who was to blame.

In the middle of the 10-minute conversation though, Trump suddenly started talking about the size of 40 Wall Street, his 71-story building that was blocks away from the Twin Towers. And the fact that the attack and resulting collapse of the towers resulted in "an amazing phone call," Trump said. "40 Wall Street actually was the second-tallest building in downtown Manhattan, and it was actually, before the World Trade Center, was the tallest," he said. "And then, when they built the World Trade Center, it became known as the second-tallest. And now it's the tallest."

Here is the full interview that makes clear that portion was only a small part of a 10-minute interview. (The relevant portion starts at 1:52.) In another part of the interview (at around the six-minute mark), you can hear Trump speculate that the planes were carrying bombs.

-September 11, 2016

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/09/11/listen_to_trump_brag_on_9_11_that_his_building_was_now_the_tallest.html

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Shares white supremacy meme on social media accounts (the meme is popular on white supremacist websites), meme also includes Alex Jones, popular conspiracy theorist and Holocaust denier

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Donald Trump’s sandy-haired head is superimposed onto Sylvester Stallone’s muscular neck. On his right is the Pepe the Frog version of the real estate mogul, an iteration of a popular Alt-Right meme that has become a persistent visual aid to the fever swamps of the 2016 internet.

It’s a play on the poster for the 2014 film The Expendables 3 and an intentional ribbing of Hillary Clinton’s remarks at a Friday fundraiser where she characterized some of Trump’s supporters as “deplorables.”

Rounding out the rest of the row of “The Deplorables” is a crazed-looking Ben Carson, InfoWars radio host and Trump acolyte Alex Jones screaming his head off, and a pumpkin-colored Donald Trump Jr. smiling mischievously.

Trump Jr. proudly shared it on his Instagram late Saturday. Roger Stone, a conspiracy theory peddler and informal adviser for Trump, did the same earlier in the afternoon. And like many images that emanate from the Trump campaign and its nexus of allies, it appears to have originated on 4chan, a consortium of Trump fanboys where prospective school shooters have been urged to act out their darkest fantasies and where overtly racist memes flourish.

An anonymous 4chan user posted the image in a thread on Saturday afternoon where a number of different mock-ups were crafted. (One featured Brexit leader Nigel Farage and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.)

It is unclear how Trump Jr. got the image and the Trump Organization has not responded to a voicemail from The Daily Beast seeking additional information. Stone didn’t respond to a text message asking where he got it from either. But hours after it appeared on the site, it
made its way to a personal account belonging to the Republican candidate’s son.

“A friend sent me this,” Trump Jr. wrote in an Instagram post on Saturday. “Apparently I made the cut as one of the Deplorables All kidding aside I am honored to be grouped with the hard working men and women of this great nation that have supported @realdonaldtrump and know that he can fix the mess created by politicians in Washington.”

David Duke, an ex-KKK Grand Wizard and current Louisiana Senate candidate, tweeted his own version of the image on Saturday as well.

His version of the poster featured Hulk Hogan and Ann Coulter in a cowboy hat.

Duke’s campaign manager Mike Lawrence told The Daily Beast that this particular picture was made in-house and not ripped from 4chan.

“We have two graphics folks on staff,” Lawrence said via text. “Why is Trump using our stuff again lol?” he said, tying his candidate once again to Trump.

In August, Trump used a chart at one of his rallies featuring an anti-Clinton meme Duke has previously tweeted out.

InfoWars founder Alex Jones, who believes that the Sandy Hook shooting was fake and who Trump has praised as having an “amazing” reputation, approvingly commented on Trump Jr.’s post: “hahaha! Nice.”

Not only was the picture housed on 4chan—which among other things has attempted to jokingly misidentify mass shooters in the past—but the photoshop was also featured on Vanguard News Network, an anti-Semitic and white supremacist forum on the same weekend Donald Trump Jr. brought it to mainstream eyes.

VNN is operated by Alex Linder, a Holocaust denier who created the site’s catchphrase, “No Jews. Just right.”

Linder did not respond to a request for comment via email.

The Trump campaign is not new to carelessly disseminating images that generate from white supremacist sources. He has retweeted memes from Twitter accounts with handles like @WhiteGenocideTM (that tweet has still not been deleted). Trump faced widespread criticism for sharing an image of Clinton next to a Star of David on top of a pile of money that was first housed on a white supremacist forum.

As the campaign responds to accusations that some of its supporters are bigoted, sharing pictures from racist message boards will do little to help quell those rumors.

-September 12, 2016


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Continues to dance around the fact that he’s a climate change denier

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump says there is “still much that needs to be investigated in the field of ‘climate change.’”

Trump, who has previously said that climate change is a Chinese hoax, mostly avoided the climate question in a candidate forum on science policy released Tuesday. Rather than answer a question about what should be done to address it, Trump raised some hypotheticals:

“Perhaps the best use of our limited financial resources should be in dealing with making sure that every person in the world has clean water. Perhaps we should focus on eliminating lingering diseases around the world like malaria. Perhaps we should focus on efforts to increase food production to keep pace with an ever-growing world population. Perhaps we should be focused on developing energy sources and power production that alleviates the need for dependence on fossil fuels. We must decide on how best to proceed so that we can make lives better, safer and more prosperous.”

“Science is science and facts are facts,” said Trump. “My administration will ensure that there will be total transparency and accountability without political bias. The American people deserve this and I will make sure this is the culture of my administration.”
Trump’s answer was again characteristically nonspecific. “This is about balance,” he wrote. “We must balance a thriving economy with conserving our resources and protecting our citizens from threats. Science will inform our decisions on what regulations to keep, rescind or add. A vibrant, robust free market system will regulate the private sector.”

-September 13, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-clinton-science-debate_us_57d71cd0e4b0fbd4b7baaf78?utm_hp_ref=donald-trump

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Attacks Flint pastor that invited him to African American church after he decides to start attacking Hillary Clinton, then goes on Fox to lie about what happened, saying the audience cheered him on when, in reality, they heckled him, once again proving he is a racist

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Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump went on the offensive Thursday against a pastor who interrupted his remarks to her congregation in Flint, Michigan.

“Something was up because I noticed she was so nervous when she introduced me,” he said on “Fox & Friends.” “She was shaking and I said, ‘Wow, this is sort of strange’ ... She was like a nervous mess. So I figured something was up, really.”

Rev. Faith Green Timmons of Bethel United Methodist Church stepped in on Wednesday when Trump attacked his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

“Mr. Trump, I invited you here to thank us for what we’ve done in Flint, not to give a political speech,” she said.

Trump said that the interruption didn’t bother him.

“Everyone plays their games,” he said during the Fox News interview. “The audience was saying, ‘Let him speak.’ The audience was so great. These were mostly African American people, phenomenal people. I got unbelievably good treatment from people, even in that audience.”

This actually didn’t happen, according to NPR’s Scott Detrow, who was in the room as a pool reporter.

“Several audience members began to heckle Trump, asking pointed questions about whether he racially discriminated against black tenants as a landlord,” he wrote Thursday in response to Trump’s “Fox & Friends” interview.

He added that Timmons actually defended Trump and demanded that the congregation respect him because he was “a guest of my church.”

Timmons later commented on the incident.

“Had he stuck to what his camp claimed he came to do, we would not have had a problem!” she wrote on Facebook Wednesday night.

-September 15, 2016


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Trump peddles fear-mongering in light of terror attacks in New York and New Jersey, says there will be more bombings if country does not enact xenophobic policies on immigration

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Donald Trump says there will be “more and more” bombings like those that occurred in New York and New Jersey over the weekend because the country’s “stupid” leaders have been “weak” on immigration.

“It’s a mess, and it’s a shame,” the Republican nominee said in an interview with “Fox & Friends” Monday. “I think this is something that
maybe we’ll get — will happen perhaps more and more all over the country because we’ve been weak. Our country’s been weak. We’re letting people in by the thousands, the tens of thousands."

Trump pointed to President Obama’s recently announced goal to admit 110,000 refugees from around the world to the United States during the 2017 fiscal year — an increase from the 85,000 goal for the 2016 fiscal year.

“They can’t be properly vetted,” Trump said. “I spoke to law enforcement, the best people in law enforcement. They think there’s no way of vetting these people.”

The real estate mogul took the opportunity to ratchet up his anti-Obama rhetoric: “Our leaders are — I don’t even say ‘weak,’ I say ‘stupid.’”

Trump questioned officials who said it appeared there was no connection between the explosions and international terrorism. Shortly after the “Fox & Friends” interview, federal officials announced they are seeking 28-year-old Ahmad Khan Rahami, a U.S. citizen of Afghan descent, in connection with Saturday’s bombing in New York City.

“I think there is many foreign connections,” he said. “I think this is one group. You have many, many groups because we’re allowing these people to come into our country and destroy our country and make it unsafe for people.”

The former reality television host lamented the reluctance of police to use racial profiling to combat terrorism.

“We don’t want to do any profiling,” Trump said. “If somebody looks like he’s got a massive bomb on his back, we won’t go up to that person … because, if he looks like he comes from that part of the world, we’re not allowed to profile. Give me a break.”

Trump was criticized for telling a crowd at a rally that a “bomb” had gone off in New York City before officials were able to determine what caused the explosion. But on Monday, he boasted that he “called it.”

“I didn’t see it, but I heard I was criticized for calling it correctly,” Trump said. “But what I said was exactly correct. I should be a newscaster, because I called it before the news.”

At his rally in Colorado Springs on Saturday, Trump informed the crowd about the blast in Manhattan before city officials confirmed a bomb had caused it.

“I must tell you that just before I got off the plane, a bomb went off in New York,” the Republican nominee said. “And nobody knows exactly what’s going on. But, boy, we are living in a time — we better get very tough, folks. We better get very, very tough.”

-September 19, 2016


Clinton’s collapse at 9/11 memorial services reveals double standard of criticizing health as media has refused to criticize her older opponent (who, if elected, would be the oldest president elected and who is also overweight)

A disturbing video surfaced of presidential nominee Hillary Clinton unsteadily leaving a Sept. 11 memorial event. After becoming "overheated and dehydrated," a shaky Clinton was escorted by security detail into a van headed toward the apartment of her daughter, Chelsea Clinton.

Discussions about Clinton’s health are not new to her campaign. Out-of-context remarks by vocal members of the Republican Party cloud news outlets daily. There appears to be no refuge for Clinton as videos and accusations about her health circulate, covering everything from coughing throughout a Labor Day rally to “seizure-esque” clips while speaking to reporters.

What makes these coded remarks particularly unsettling are how they relate Clinton’s health to her inability to serve as president. Clinton’s age is discussed without noting that Donald Trump is one year her senior. An eight-paragraph letter from her internist (Dr. Lisa Bardack) is scrutinized, without questioning the suspiciously unorthodox note produced by Trump’s gastroenterologist. In reality, we know more about Hillary Clinton’s health than we do about Donald Trump’s.

Many presidential candidates have spoken out about their health concerns. These presidential candidates have also been men. These health issues are historically considered to be proof of male candidates’ grit, the byproduct of experience and dedication. In the case of Hillary Clinton, her health concerns are seen as a sign of weakness or frailty in women, broadly defined.
The hashtag #HillarysHealth and Trump’s criticisms of her lack of “stamina” are all manifestations of this double standard. Rumors that Clinton takes naps in the afternoon and cannot handle the campaign trail are debunked by those working alongside her. Yet news outlets have not worked to combat these rumors.

Perhaps #HillarysHealth is gaining so much momentum because of a sense of uneasiness among Americans about having a woman president. Trump has acted upon this discomfort with his own misogynistic remarks about women throughout his presidential campaign. His politically strategic comments serve to further Trump’s appeal among his followers while attacking Clinton, and by extension, a sense of liberalism associated with the women’s-rights movement.

A similar uneasiness was evident during President Barack Obama’s campaign, also fueled by the conspiracy theories backed by Trump. The “birther movement” was, at best, an allegation against Obama’s citizenship, a subtle accusation that he had ties to terrorism because of his race at worst. Trump finds a way to make his racism and sexism spoken but not overt by maintaining plausible deniability in expressing feelings his followers may feel but cannot express directly.

“Why doesn’t he show his birth certificate?”

“Why doesn’t she publish her medical records? I will publish mine!”

The overlap is unsettling.

-September 20, 2016


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**Trump Jr. makes anti-Semitic remark in reference to the media**

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Donald Trump Jr. made a reference to “warming up the gas chamber” while complaining about how the treatment his father has received by the political press compares to coverage of Hillary Clinton.

“The media has been her number one surrogate in this. Without the media, this wouldn’t even be a contest. But the media has built her up. They’ve let her slide on every indiscrepancy, on every lie, on every DNC game trying to get Bernie Sanders out of the thing,” Trump Jr. told Philadelphia-based conservative talk radio host Chris Stigall on Wednesday.

“I mean, if Republicans were doing that, they’d be warming up the gas chamber right now. It’s a very different system -- there’s nothing fair about it,” Trump Jr. added.

Trump Jr. also said that as a Republican running as an outsider, “every day, everyone’s throwing everything they could possibly throw at him.”

Gas chambers were used by Nazis in the Holocaust -- the genocide of 6 million Jews and millions of others during World War II.

The Anti-Defamation League, a prominent Jewish advocacy organization, on Twitter called on Trump Jr. to apologize.

“Trivialization of the Holocaust and gas chambers is NEVER okay,” the group said in one tweet, directed at Trump Jr.

“We hope you understand the sensitivity and hurt of making Holocaust jokes. We hope you retract,” it followed up in another.

-September 15, 2016


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Walks back on the birther conspiracy he started, now admits President Obama was born in the US, now is trying to fabricate a
lie that Hillary Clinton started the conspiracy

onald Trump, who led a years-long movement to prove President Barack Obama was born in Kenya and thus ineligible to be president, abandoned that position in a speech in Washington Sept. 16, 2016.

"Hillary Clinton and her campaign of 2008 started the birther controversy," Trump said. "I finished it. I finished it. You know what I mean. President Barack Obama was born in the United States. Period. Now we all want to get back to making America strong and great again."

At PolitiFact, our Flip-O-Meter judges whether someone has been consistent on an issue. The rating is not making a value judgment. Indeed, voters often like politicians who are flexible and have the ability to compromise or adapt their positions to the wishes of constituents. Still, accusations of shifting positions are so common in politics that it is valuable to have us provide an analysis of a shift and rate the amount of change.

Trump previously took credit for Obama releasing his long-form birth certificate and pledged to donate $5 million to charity if Obama released his passport records.

"A book publisher came out three days ago and said that in his written synopsis of his book, he said he was born in Kenya and raised in Indonesia. His mother never spent a day in the hospital," Trump said in 2012.

"His grandmother in Kenya said, ‘Oh no, he was born in Kenya and I was there and I witnessed the birth.’ Now, she's on tape and I think that tape's going to be produced fairly soon ...The grandmother in Kenya is on record saying he was born in Kenya," Trump said, incorrectly, in 2011.

Trump made an identical false claim in a 2011 Today show interview: "His grandmother in Kenya said he was born in Kenya and she was there and witnessed the birth, okay?"

In 2015, he dodged a question of where Obama was born in an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper.

When Cooper asked directly if Trump believed Obama was born in the United States, Trump responded, "I don't know."

"I really don't know. I mean, I don't know why he wouldn't release his records. But you know, honestly, I don't want to get in it," Trump said.

"I don't talk about that anymore," Trump told MSNBC's Chris Matthews in December 2015. He said "he didn't want to answer the question."

As recently as Sept. 15, 2016, Trump would not acknowledge Obama's birthplace, declining to address the matter when asked by the Washington Post, according to the Associated Press.

"I'll answer that question at the right time," Trump said. "I just don't want to answer it yet."

He talked more about it on Sept. 16, 2016, switching his long-held position.

His reversal rates Full Flop.

-September 16, 2016


Trump is upset that New York bombing suspect will be treated by the letter of the law, will be given medical treatment, will be given due process, as is right of all American citizens
Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Monday complained that under U.S. law, bombing suspect Ahmad Rahami would be treated in a hospital for his injuries, and represented by a lawyer if, and when, he is tried for his alleged role in a string of bombings in New York and New Jersey.

"Now we will give him amazing hospitalization. He will be taken care of by some of the best doctors in the world," Trump told the crowd at a rally in Fort Myers, Florida.

Rahami “will be given a fully modern and updated hospital room, and he’ll probably even have room service, knowing the way our country is,” Trump said. “On top of that, he will be represented by an outstanding lawyer.”

Trump’s objection to granting Rahami, a U.S. citizen, his constitutional right to due process, which is guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment, is in keeping with other comments Trump has made about national security and individual rights.

Still, it was chilling to hear Trump scoff at a fundamental American value. He seemed to be saying that criminal suspects should not receive emergency medical care or legal representation.

Rahami, 28, was taken into custody Monday morning in New Jersey after police identified his fingerprint on an unexploded bomb. After a shootout with police, Rahami was injured and taken to a hospital, where he remains under arrest. The FBI has said that so far there is no evidence that Rahami was part of a “terror cell,” or that he was acting on behalf of a foreign terrorist group such as the so-called Islamic State.

Trump also complained that Rahami’s punishment might be too lenient, because public anger would likely have subsided by the time Rahami would be sentenced, if he were to be found guilty of the bombings.

“His case will go through the various court systems for years. And in the end, people will forget, and his punishment won’t be what it once would have been,” Trump said. “What a sad situation.”

-September 19, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-bombing-suspect-medical-care_us_57e051fee4b08cb140977816

After Trump’s pedophile friend Jeffrey Epstein goes to jail and is registered on the sex offender list, Trump is also implicated in lawsuit for raping a 13-year-old girl

In late April 2016, rumors began to circulate online holding that Republican presidential Donald Trump had either been sued over, or arrested for, raping a teenaged girl. One of the earliest versions of the rumor was published on 2 May 2016 by the Winning Democrats web site, which reported that woman using the name Katie Johnson had named Trump and billionaire Jeffrey Epstein in a $100 million lawsuit, accusing them of having solicited sex acts from her at sex parties held at the Manhattan homes of Epstein and Trump back in 1994 (when Johnson was just 13 years old):

The first major scandal to hit the Trump campaign besides the typical “what a racist, such a sexist, yada yada yada,” came from a lawsuit stemming from the infamous sex parties held by billionaire and known pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. The woman named in the suit is Katie Johnson, who says Trump took her virginity in 1994 when she was only 13 and being held by Epstein as a slave.

Johnson says in the complaint that Trump and Epstein threatened her and her family with bodily harm if she didn’t comply with all of their disgusting demands. The Trump campaign has been on this immediately, calling it absolute nonsense and not even remotely true or possible.

Many aggregated reports cited a 28 April 2016 article that described the circumstances under which the lawsuit had been filed:

Presidential frontrunner Donald Trump is fighting what could be the biggest election season bombshell yet — explosive court claims that he raped a woman when she was a teen.

The woman — identified as Katie Johnson — filed documents in a California court on April 26, accusing Trump and billionaire pedophile Jeffrey Epstein of “sexual abuse under threat of harm” and “conspiracy to deprive civil rights,” RadarOnline.com has exclusively learned.

She filed the lawsuit herself — without legal representation — and is suing for $100 million.
that I needed to put together a modeling portfolio before I would be considered. I then went to the Port Authority in New York City to start to

I traveled by bus to New York City in June 1994 in the hope of starting a modeling career. I went to several modeling agencies but was told

(aka "Jane Doe") asserted:

A copy of the New York-based suit was also uploaded to Scribd, and in the second filing (which asked for no specific amount of monetary damages) the plaintiff was represented by Thomas Francis Meagher, a New Jersey patent lawyer who learned of her allegations via an article published on the GossipExtra web site advertising that she was "shopping for an attorney." In a statement attached to her filing, the plaintiff

"Both defendants let plaintiff know that each was a very wealthy, powerful man and indicated that they had the power, ability and means to carry out their threats," the complaint claims.

A copy of the California lawsuit (filed on 26 April 2016) shared via the Scribd web site outlined the allegations, which included the accusation that Trump and Epstein had (over 20 years earlier) "sexually and physically" abused the then 13-year-old plaintiff and forced her "to engage in various perverted and depraved sex acts" — including being "forced to manually stimulate Defendant Trump with the use of her hand upon Defendant Trump’s erect penis until he reached sexual orgasm," and being "forced to engage in an unnatural lesbian sex act with her fellow minor and sex slave, Maria Doe, age 12, for the sexual enjoyment of Defendant Trump" — after luring her to a "series of underage sex parties" by promising her "money and a modeling career:

According to RadarOnline's initial reporting, the lawsuit filed in California on 26 April 2016 was dismissed over technical filing errors (the address listed in court documents was a foreclosed home that has been vacant since its owner died), with the plaintiff failing in her attempt to avoid incurring the cost of the litigation:

A judge recommended on April 29 that “Katie Johnson” should have to pay her own attorneys’ fees and court costs related to the $100 million lawsuit she brought against Trump and billionaire pedophile Jeffrey Epstein over alleged sexual assault charges. Then on May 2, a U.S. District judge ordered the entire lawsuit thrown out.

"Johnson" had previously filed forms asking to be let off the hook for the costs of the lawsuit, claiming she had only $300 to her name ... such an allowance — known as in forma paupers — is only given in civil rights cases in California, and the judge ruled that she “failed to state a claim for relief” on a civil rights basis, even though she “utilized the form provided by the Central District of California for civil actions.”

"Even construing the ... pleading liberally, Plaintiff has not alleged any race-based or class-based animus against her, and consequently, her ... allegations fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted,” the judge wrote ... the address listed on the paperwork leads to an abandoned property, and the phone number goes straight to voicemail.

For his part, Trump asserted that the charges were “not only categorically false, but disgusting at the highest level and clearly framed to solicit media attention or, perhaps, are simply politically motivated," adding that “There is absolutely no merit to these allegations. Period.”

On 20 June 2016, New York City-based blog Gothamist reported that the plaintiff had refiled a similar complaint in a New York State federal court:

A federal lawsuit filed in New York accuses Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump of repeatedly raping a 13-year-old girl more than 20 years ago, at several Upper East Side parties hosted by convicted sex offender and notorious billionaire investor Jeffrey Epstein.

The suit, first reported by the Real Deal, accuses Trump and Epstein of luring the anonymous plaintiff and other young women to four parties at Epstein's so-called Wexner Mansion at 9 East 71st Street. Epstein allegedly lured the plaintiff, identified in the suit only as Jane Doe, with promises of a modeling career and cash.

Another anonymous woman, identified in additional testimony as Tiffany Doe, corroborates Jane's allegations, testifying that she met Epstein at Port Authority, where he hired her to recruit other young girls for his parties. Trump had known Epstein for seven years in 1994 when he attended the parties at Wexner, according to the suit. He also allegedly knew that the plaintiff was 13 years old.

Jane Doe filed a similar suit in California in April, under the name Katie Johnson, also accusing Trump and Epstein of rape. That suit was dismissed on the grounds of improper paperwork — the address affiliated with her name was found to be abandoned. Today’s suit confirms that the plaintiffs are one and the same.

The online outlet that first reported the second filing in New York explained that the lawsuit might be allowed to proceed even though the statute of limitations for bringing suit has expired, because (according to plaintiff's lawyer) the plaintiff lacked the "freedom of will to institute suit earlier in time" due to her having been threatened by Trump:

It should be noted that anyone can file a civil complaint in federal court. The statute of limitations in New York for civil rape cases is five years, but [the] complaint argues that the time limit should be waived, noting that the plaintiff was too frightened to report the abuse because Trump had threatened that if she did “her family would be physically harmed if not killed.”

"Both defendants let plaintiff know that each was a very wealthy, powerful man and indicated that they had the power, ability and means to carry out their threats," the complaint claims.

A copy of the New York-based suit was also uploaded to Scribd, and in the second filing (which asked for no specific amount of monetary damages) the plaintiff was represented by Thomas Francis Meagher, a New Jersey patent lawyer who learned of her allegations via an article published on the GossipExtra web site advertising that she was "shopping for an attorney." In a statement attached to her filing, the plaintiff (aka "Jane Doe") asserted:

I traveled by bus to New York City in June 1994 in the hope of starting a modeling career. I went to several modeling agencies but was told that I needed to put together a modeling portfolio before I would be considered. I then went to the Port Authority in New York City to start to
make my way back home. There I met a woman who introduced herself to me as Tiffany. She told me about the parties and said that, if I would join her at the parties, I would be introduced to people who could get me into the modeling profession. Tiffany also told me I would be paid for attending.

The parties were held at a New York City residence that was being used by Defendant Jeffrey Epstein. Each of the parties had other minor females and a number of guests of Mr. Epstein, including Defendant Donald Trump at four of the parties I attended. I understood that both Mr. Trump and Mr. Epstein knew I was 13 years old.

Defendant Trump had sexual contact with me at four different parties in the summer of 1994. On the fourth and final sexual encounter with Defendant Trump, Defendant Trump tied me to a bed, exposed himself to me, and then proceeded to forcibly rape me. During the course of this savage sexual attack, I loudly pleaded with Defendant Trump to stop but he did not. Defendant Trump responded to my pleas by violently striking me in the face with his open hand and screaming that he would do whatever he wanted.

Immediately following this rape, Defendant Trump threatened me that, were I ever to reveal any of the details of Defendant Trump's sexual and physical abuse of me, my family and I would be physically harmed if not killed.

The filing also included a statement from "Tiffany Doe" (i.e., the woman referenced in plaintiff's statement above who brought her to the parties) attesting that:

- I personally witnessed four sexual encounters that the Plaintiff was forced to have with Mr. Trump during this period, including the fourth of these encounters where Mr. Trump forcibly raped her despite her pleas to stop.

- I personally witnessed the one occasion where Mr. Trump forced the Plaintiff and a 12-year-old female named Maria [to] perform oral sex on Mr. Trump and witnessed his physical abuse of both minors when they finished the act.

- It was my job to personally witness and supervise encounters between the underage girls that Mr. Epstein hired and his guests.

A video reportedly featuring "Katie Johnson" (her identity hidden through the use of facial pixillation, a long blonde wig, and an electronic voice distorter) appeared online, in which she graphically described giving Donald Trump a hand job and being raped by him:

There is little doubt that Donald Trump knows Jeffrey Epstein, as Trump acknowledged in a 2014 New York magazine profile of Epstein:

- Epstein likes to tell people that he's a loner, a man who's never touched alcohol or drugs, and one whose nightlife is far from energetic. And yet if you talk to Donald Trump, a different Epstein emerges. "I've known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy." Trump booms from a speakerphone. "He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it — Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

Epstein has been named in multiple similar lawsuits over the last several years, served 13 months in jail, and is registered as a sex offender for life:

- Billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has paid another accuser.

The 56-year-old money manager has quietly settled with Jane Doe 102, an unnamed woman who alleged in federal court in Florida that Epstein had induced her to "serve his every sexual whim" from the time she was 15 until she was 19. The woman also claimed Epstein had flown her around the world, paying her "to be sexually exploited by [his friends] ... including royalty, politicians, academicians [and] businessmen."

Epstein flatly denied those charges. But a source close to the financier confirms "the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties." The woman's lawyer, Robert Josefsberg, wouldn't say how much she's getting. Epstein had in the past offered accusers a minimum of $150,000.

Epstein has settled at least two other civil suits but still faces more than a dozen from women who claim he sexually abused them as minors at his Palm Beach mansion.

As of now, all of the information about this lawsuit comes solely from the complaint filed by "Katie Johnson," and no one has as yet located, identified, or interviewed her.

The original lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed on 16 September 2016, with the plaintiff's attorney stating they would be refiling with
information from a new witness.

-September 19, 2016


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Walks back on his statement that he wanted to profile Muslims, now says he wants to profile everyone “who looks suspicious”

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Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Monday said he has never suggested that law enforcement or immigration officials screen Muslims more than other groups.

“I never said the term ‘Muslim,’” Trump told Fox News host Bill O'Reilly, who asked whether Trump’s profiling plan could cause all Muslims to be viewed with suspicion. “I’m saying we’re going to profile people that maybe look suspicious, I didn’t say [if] they were Muslims or not.”

Trump has built his presidential campaign on the promise to keep other people out of the U.S. — be they immigrants from Central and South America, refugees from the war-torn Middle East, or citizens of countries Trump says are “compromised” by “terrorism,” although he won't actually name those countries. His remarks on Fox News followed bombings in New York and New Jersey over the weekend that left scores of people injured. The suspect, Ahmad Rahami, is a naturalized U.S. citizen who came from Afghanistan as a child with his asylum-seeking father.

Trump promised to expand the use of “profiling,” an illegal tactic in which authorities target certain individuals for suspicion based on their race, ethnicity, religion or nationality. Though he tried to distance himself from illegal profiling, his presidential campaign website still proudly displayed Trump’s longstanding promise to institute “a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”

Pressed by O'Reilly on what it means to “look suspicious,” Trump exclaimed, “I don’t know! These are [profiling] experts, that's what they do. They profile. You go to Israel, and [U.S. law enforcement] should study [Israel], because Israel’s done a phenomenal job at this. They’re not happy about [having to profile], but they do it. And people aren't complaining about it. But we have to do it, we have to profile.”

O'Reilly noted that Trump’s plan wasn’t aimed at profiling “guys with leather jackets and blue eyes,” which both men understood to mean that Trump would single out Muslims and people from the Middle East, and not blue-eyed caucasians.

“I’m not using the term Muslim!” Trump insisted. “I’m saying we’re going to have to start profiling. And I don’t know if it’s that bad, but certainly it’s not a wonderful thing. But we have a country to keep safe. And you know, and I know, it’s going to get worse.”

For anyone who’s paid even remote attention to Trump’s campaign over the past year, Trump didn’t have to use the word Muslim. Since announcing his candidacy, Trump has used the terms “Muslim” and “Islam” thousands of times, almost always in order to warn his supporters of the threat posed by the world’s 1.6 billion followers of the religion.

On Monday evening, Trump met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a move intended to make the reality TV star look presidential. Trump’s campaign said the nominee emphasized to Sisi “his high regard for peace-loving Muslims.” Sisi is a career military officer who seized power in a coup, and whose government detains political dissidents indefinitely without trial.

The profiling system Trump has pointed to as a model for the United States is Israel’s system of profiling and screening Arabs, non-Jews, and occupied Palestinians. The United Nations has labeled Israel’s institutional oppression and segregation of the largely Muslim Palestinians an “apartheid.”

“Israel does it, and Israel does it very successfully,” Trump told O'Reilly. “And when they see someone they’d like to talk to, or have a look at, or open up their satchel and see what’s inside, they do it. And they don’t like to do it, but they do it. And we have to do it.”

Trump complained that constitutional protections against police profiling in the United States mean that “you have a woman who’s 87 years old from Sweden, and we have to look at her the same way we’re going to look at somebody else [who looks suspicious]. It’s ridiculous.”

-September 19, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-muslims-profiling_us_57e08416e4b08cb14097a5e4?utm_hp_ref=donald-trump
Defends Paula Dean being criticized for her racist rant of using the n-word

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump asked in 2013 why it was OK for Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-N.Y.) to say “cracker” but Paula Deen was ripped in the media for using the N-word.

“Paula Deen was absolutely crucified, what they did with her,” Trump said during an appearance on “Fox & Friends.” “I don’t know what even happened to her. I see everybody dropped her. She has really got some problems. It’s amazing.”

Trump was on the show to comment about Rangel using the term “cracker” to refer to members of the tea party in an interview with The Daily Beast.

In 2012, a former employee sued Deen and her brother for racial and sexual discrimination in the workplace. The lawsuit alleged that during a conversation about what kind of wedding Deen would like her brother to have, Deen said she wanted “a bunch of little n*****s to wear long-sleeve white shirts, black shorts and black bow ties.”

Despite Trump’s implication that “cracker” is a racist term, the origins of the word aren’t rooted in racism. As MTV host Franchesca Ramsey explains in a viral video, the word is short for “cracked brains” and was coined by British aristocrats to “disparage lower-class people as dumb and lazy.” It was also used by enslaved Africans and northern abolitionists to refer to slave masters, as shorthand for “whip cracker.”

While race and class often overlap, and the term has become racially charged over time, “cracker” has never been used as a racially dehumanizing term for white people, nor was it ever linked to a system that disadvantages them socially, politically and economically because of their race.

Still, co-host Steve Doocy called the backlash against Deen a “stunning double standard.”

“You know, [Rangel] is on the left, and then a couple of months ago you had the instance with Paula Deen where she said one word thirty years ago, and she was crucified, lost her business deals. They took her to task, but Charlie Rangel gets a pass,” Doocy said.

Trump agreed.

“Yeah, and nothing will happen to Charlie,” Trump said. “I see it all the time. If you’re a Republican and you make a statement like that, it’s over. I mean, you are finished. If you’re a conservative — by the way, the further right you are, the worse it gets. So, it’s a very rough — it’s a double standard. It’s a very rough double standard.”

-September 19, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-paula-deen_us_57e05be8e4b08cb1409780db?utm_hp_ref=donald-trump

Trump Jr. uses Nazi propaganda to rail against Syrian refugees

Donald’s Trump Jr’s controversial comparison of Syrian refugees with a bag of Skittles sweets has provoked outrage and distaste. Yet for those who know their right-wing memes it is nothing new, channeling as it does the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and echoing Nazi propaganda.

This week, the presidential candidate’s son posted an image on Twitter that said: “If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful? That’s our Syrian refugee problem.”

The comment came a day before a pioneering United Nations summit in New York about the plight of Syrian refugees. But the comparison with sweets longstanding associations.

But before Skittles became a symbol for lost innocence, the poisoned candy of choice for right-wing commentators was M&Ms, used as a way to make flawed generalisations about ethnic minorities.

In the 1940s, Nazi newspaper founder Julius Streicher wrote a book about the “poisoned mushroom” to indocrinate children in hate, referring to Jews “springing up in every country.”
“Just as poisonous mushrooms often lead to the most dreadful calamity, so the Jew is the cause of misery and distress, illness and death,” he describes a mother telling her child.

Mr Trump has come under fire over the years for his remarks about civil rights. Shortly after the wrongful conviction of the five black and Hispanic boys who were accused of raping and beating investment banker Trisha Meili in 1989, Mr Trump took out a full-page advert in several newspapers, calling for the death penalty.

-Separator-September 20, 2016


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Used $258,000 of his charity’s money to settle his legal disputes

Donald Trump spent more than a quarter-million dollars from his charitable foundation to settle lawsuits that involved the billionaire’s for-profit businesses, according to interviews and a review of legal documents.

Those cases, which together used $258,000 from Trump’s charity, were among four newly documented expenditures in which Trump may have violated laws against “self-dealing” — which prohibit nonprofit leaders from using charity money to benefit themselves or their businesses.

In one case, from 2007, Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club faced $120,000 in unpaid fines from the town of Palm Beach, Fla., resulting from a dispute over the height of a flagpole.

In a settlement, Palm Beach agreed to waive those fines — if Trump’s club made a $100,000 donation to a specific charity for veterans. Instead, Trump sent a check from the Donald J. Trump Foundation, a charity funded almost entirely by other people’s money, according to tax records.

In another case, court papers say one of Trump’s golf courses in New York agreed to settle a lawsuit by making a donation to the plaintiff’s chosen charity. A $158,000 donation was made by the Trump Foundation, according to tax records.

The other expenditures involved smaller amounts. In 2013, Trump used $5,000 from the foundation to buy advertisements touting his chain of hotels in programs for three events organized by a D.C. preservation group. And in 2014, Trump spent $10,000 of the foundation’s money on a portrait of himself bought at a charity fundraiser.

Or, rather, another portrait of himself.

Several years earlier, Trump used $20,000 from the Trump Foundation to buy a different, six-foot-tall portrait.

If the Internal Revenue Service were to find that Trump violated self-dealing rules, the agency could require him to pay penalty taxes or to reimburse the foundation for all the money it spent on his behalf. Trump is also facing scrutiny from the New York attorney general’s office, which is examining whether the foundation broke state charity laws.

More broadly, these cases also provide new evidence that Trump ran his charity in a way that may have violated U.S. tax law and gone against the moral conventions of philanthropy.

“I represent 700 nonprofits a year, and I’ve never encountered anything so brazen,” said Jeffrey Tenenbaum, who advises charities at the Venable law firm in Washington. After The Washington Post described the details of these Trump Foundation gifts, Tenenbaum described them as “really shocking.”

“If he’s using other people’s money — run through his foundation — to satisfy his personal obligations, then that’s about as blatant an example of self-dealing [as] I’ve seen in awhile,” Tenenbaum said.

The Post sent the Trump campaign a detailed list of questions about the four cases but received no response.
The New York attorney general’s office declined to comment when asked whether its inquiry would cover these new cases of possible self-dealing.

- September 20, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-used-258000-from-his-charity-to-settle-legal-problems/2016/09/20/adc88f9c-7d11-11e6-ac8e-cf8e0dd91dc7_story.html

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New evidence surfaces that Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi decided to not pursue charges against Donald Trump on fraudulent Trump University scam after he donated $25,000 to her

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Attorney General Pam Bondi says she doesn’t regret receiving a campaign donation from Donald Trump, even though it has dogged her for months and tied her to a national controversy with the Republican nominee for president.

"No, because there was not an investigation, at all," Bondi said when asked if she was concerned about taking $25,000 from the Donald J. Trump Foundation in 2013. "There was not an investigation into Donald Trump."

For Bondi, whose remarks came before a Cabinet meeting Tuesday, it was her first news conference addressing the issue and her most extensive defense of how she handled complaints against Trump University.

She said she wished she had explained herself to the news media sooner.

"You know what I wish I had done was come out in front of all of you early on and say – I guess I just knew there was nothing improper," Bondi said.

Bondi’s political committee And Justice for All received a $25,000 donation from Trump’s charity on Sept. 17, 2013.

Four days earlier, the Orlando Sentinel reported her office was reviewing a case filed in New York against Trump University alleging that it had cheated many of its students out of thousands of dollars.

Within a month, Bondi’s office decided not to join the New York suit. Subsequent complaints were forwarded to other departments or told to join the New York case.

Bondi and Trump have repeatedly denied the donation had anything to do with the decision not to pursue the investigation.

Bondi said she asked Trump for the donation because she was campaigning for re-election. She didn’t find out about the complaints filed with her office about Trump University and another entity, the Trump Institute, until October, she said.

But emails from her office have shown that top staff members were discussing the complaints in September 2013, before the check was posted with Bondi’s committee.

She also defended her office’s response to the matter, saying there was only one complaint at the time she received the donation. But there were 20 more complaints filed with her predecessor, Bill McCollum, before she took office, including one filed the day before she was sworn in on Jan. 4, 2011.

- September 20, 2016


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Former President George H.W. Bush to vote for Hillary Clinton (that’s one of two former Republican presidents who think Trump isn’t the best pick for the job)

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Former President George H.W. Bush said Monday that he will vote for Hillary Clinton in November, according to sources close to the 41st
President -- an extraordinary rebuke of his own party's nominee.
The sources said this was not the first time Bush had disclosed his intention to vote for Clinton.

The comments came during a receiving line for board members of the bipartisan Points of Light Foundation when Bush was speaking to
Kathleen Hartington Kennedy Townsend, Robert F. Kennedy's daughter and the former Maryland lieutenant governor. There were roughly 40
people in the room, and it's not clear how many people heard him, though multiple sources did.

The Republican former president's embrace of the Democratic nominee represents a dramatic new chapter in the complicated three-decade-old
relationship between the two most prominent families in American politics.

It's a stunning political move -- one that comes just 49 days from the election, and less than a week before Clinton and Donald Trump square
off in their first debate.

-September 20, 2016


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Says African Americans are in the worst shape they've ever been (I guess he missed the lessons in school about segregation and slavery)

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Donald Trump faced a swift backlash Tuesday after declaring that African Americans are “in the worst shape they’ve ever been” during a
campaign event here.

"We're going to rebuild our inner cities because our African American communities are absolutely in the worst shape they've ever been in
before. Ever, ever, ever," Trump said during a campaign event at the Duplin County Events Center, where thousands of supporters gathered.

The comments drew immediate criticism on social media from critics who accused him of failing to consider the United States’ history with
slavery and North Carolina’s history with Jim Crow laws and segregation. Kenansville itself is named after a man whose family owned a slave
plantation.

Trump has been regularly blasted for the way he has spoken about the struggles facing black Americans around the country. Black leaders
have accused Trump of stereotyping African Americans. He has compared American inner cities to war zones, has overstated unemployment
among blacks, and has often asked several times, “What do you have to lose?”

"You take a look at the inner cities, you get no education, you get no jobs, you get shot walking down the street. They're worse, I mean
honestly, places like Afghanistan are safer than some of our inner cities,” Trump said Tuesday. “And I say to the African American
communities and I think it's resonating, because you see what's happening with my poll numbers with African Americans. They're going, like,
high.”

President Obama on Saturday tore into Trump on that very issue, suggesting that Trump lacked historical awareness. "You may have heard
Hillary [Clinton]'s opponent in this election say that there's never been a worse time to be a black person. I mean, he missed that whole civics
lesson about slavery or Jim Crow,” Obama said during the Congressional Black Caucus gala in Washington.

Obama urged voters to support Clinton over Trump.

"If I hear anybody saying their vote does not matter, that it doesn't matter who we elect, read up on your history. It matters. We've got to get
people to vote," Obama said. "I will consider it a personal insult, an insult to my legacy, if this community lets down its guard and fails to
activate itself in this election. You want to give me a good sendoff? Go vote.”

-September 20, 2016


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Has been endorsed by all 22 major US white supremacy organizations, has not disavowed a single one
With his many appeals to nativism, bigotry, and bitter discontent, Donald Trump has enthralled far-right extremists with his campaign for president. According to an investigation by Mother Jones and the Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute, since Trump officially announced his bid in June 2015 he has drawn effusive praise and formal backing from some of the country's most virulent neo-Nazis, white supremacists, militia supporters, and other extremist leaders. They include the head of the American Nazi Party, three former Ku Klux Klansmen, four people involved in a recent armed standoff against federal authorities at an Oregon wildlife refuge, and at least 15 individuals affiliated with organizations described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as hate groups.

Trump has disavowed none of them.

“We have a wonderful OPPORTUNITY here folks, that may never come again,” wrote Rocky J. Suhayda, the head of the American Nazi Party, last fall. “Donald Trump's campaign statements, if nothing else, have SHOWN that 'our views' are NOT so 'unpopular' as the Political Correctness crowd have told everyone they are!”

During the Republican National Convention in July, Trump endorser Andrew Anglin, who runs a neo-Nazi website called the Daily Stormer, wrote: "The biggest story in the filthy kike media has been a few lines from Melania's speech which these Jews claim she stole from monkey Michelle."

Responding to questions about his views by email, Anglin echoed Trump's statements about the 2016 election being "rigged," warning: "If he loses, it is by fraud, and all of these people who are currently supporting him are going to be radicalized." Trump, he said, "will order a putsch."

Others among Trump's extremist endorsers have advocated a violent overthrow of the US government, expressed hatred for blacks, Latinos, Muslims, and Jews, and threatened to "level and demolish every mosque across this country."

Last February, praise for Trump from former Klansman David Duke attracted widespread media attention, eventually spurring Trump to distance himself from the Louisiana political figure. But Trump has not rejected endorsements from any of these other extremists—none of whom have before openly backed a major party nominee for the White House.

Hillary Clinton has accused Trump of "taking hate groups mainstream." In August, Trump declared at a campaign rally, "We will steadfastly reject bigotry and hatred and oppression in all of its ugly forms."

The Trump campaign, however, did not respond to multiple detailed requests for comment about the following list of nearly two dozen extremist endorsers.

- September 21, 2016


Admits the only reason he admitted that Obama was born in America was so he could get on with his campaign, also dodges the fact that he has been using his charity funds for his own personal use

Garbarek: "And with The Washington Post report out this week about the Trump Foundation. Could you explain to people why you may have used some charitable donations for personal uses?"

Trump: “The foundation is really rare. It gives money to vets. It’s really been doing a good job. I think we put that to sleep just by putting out the last report."

Garbarek: “This announcement earlier this week with you saying that you believe President (Barack) Obama was, in fact, born in the United States, after all the years where you’ve expressed some doubt, what changed?"

Trump: “Well, I just wanted to get on with. I wanted to get on with the campaign. A lot of people were asking me questions. We want to talk about jobs. We want to talk about the military. We want to talk about ISIS and get rid of ISIS. We want to talk about bringing jobs back to this area, because you’ve been decimated, so we just wanted to get back on the subject of jobs, military, taking care of our vets, etc."

-September 21, 2016

Hosts a town hall meeting on African American concerns, audience is mostly white, making this his first official Nuremberg rally where he railed against black people in front of white supremacists

GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump continued his supposed outreach to African-American voters on Wednesday with a pair of events at a black church in Ohio.

The first function, which the New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights billed as a “meeting on African-American concerns,” featured Trump flanked by a few of his most prominent black supporters. Pastor Darrell Scott played host as a leader of the church. Legendary boxing promoter and convicted killer Don King introduced Trump, at one point dropping the N-word. The setting may have projected an air of diversity and inclusion, but it was a mostly white audience that sat and listened as Trump declared black communities can’t get “much worse” and that only he could “fix it.”

Trump then hurried to another room in the church to film a closed town hall, hosted by Fox News’ Sean Hannity. The cable news network described the gathering as a forum to “discuss the core issues and concerns surrounding African-Americans this 2016 election cycle.”

It’s not entirely clear what “surrounding African-Americans” means in this context, but a photo of the audience suggests the event itself was “surrounded” by white people.

Trump’s “African-American” town hall on Hannity pic.twitter.com/MINAQ9rbXY
— Brandon English (@brandonenglish) September 21, 2016

The crowd certainly didn’t appear to reflect the church’s usual congregation or the general population of Cleveland Heights, which is 42.5 percent black, according to the most recent Census figures.

By this point, the frequent lack of diversity at Trump’s events, and among his supporters more broadly, has been well documented. Like many Republican candidates, Trump has struggled to court people of color, especially African-Americans. His support among black voters has fallen as low as 0 percent in a few swing states, according to some polls.

Yet Trump has repeatedly made his pitch to black voters at campaign events attended almost exclusively by white people. Many now see this strategy as an attempt not to win over black voters, but to increase Trump’s palatability among white Republicans and independents who are concerned about Trump’s troubling record on race and his enthusiastic supporters in the white supremacist community. By making at least a perfunctory effort to woo black communities, Trump may be able to persuade some white people that he’s not racist at all.

September 21, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-black-voters_us_57e2c70ce4b0e80b1b9fc038

Wants to implement stop-and-frisk, AKA racial profiling

At a town-hall-style forum hosted by Sean Hannity and airing Wednesday night, Donald Trump was asked what he’d do about black-on-black crime. His answer, reported by NBC’s Alexandra Jaffe, is worth reading in full:

"Right, well, one of the things I'd do, Ricardo, is I would do stop-and-frisk. I think you have to. We did it in New York, it worked incredibly well and you have to be proactive, you know, you really help people sort of change their mind automatically, you understand, you have to, in my opinion, I see what's going on here, I see what's going on in Chicago, I think stop-and-frisk. In New York City it was so incredible, the way it worked. Now, we had a very good mayor, but New York City was incredible, the way that worked, so I think that could be one step you could do."

Trump’s answer comes in the context of his latest series of events aimed at black voters, and nearly every sentence here offers something to think about.

First, stop-and-frisk is already in place in Chicago and other cities, making this idea in keeping with Trump’s habit of suggesting policies, such as “extreme vetting” of refugees, that closely resemble practices that are already in place. (Stop-and-frisk is not federal policy, but it is practiced by police departments across the country.) Second, the best studies suggest that stop-and-frisk does not effectively reduce crime where it is used. Third, court decisions and settlements have acknowledged that the methods used in both New York and Chicago were unconstitutionally discriminatory, setting aside their efficacy. Fourth, one of the two New York mayors who oversaw the implementation of stop-and-frisk, Michael Bloomberg, has blasted Trump, saying, “I'm a New Yorker, and New Yorkers know a con when we see one.”
Moreover, it’s hard to take the proposal seriously as outreach to the black community. National polling on stop-and-frisk is tough to come by, but both anecdotal and statistical data from New York suggest that black citizens view the practice as discriminatory and dehumanizing. In a 2012 Quinnipiac poll, seven in 10 black New Yorkers opposed stop-and-frisk. In 2013, Marist found an even higher proportion, 75 percent, wanted an overhaul.

Trump’s supposed black outreach has taken place to a great degree in white communities, before white audiences, while his appearances in African American communities have not always gone so well. His advocacy for stop-and-frisk offers more evidence for the view that Trump’s goal is not so much to court black voters but to convince white ones who are rattled about crime to back him.

This is one of the many contradictions of Trump’s recent moves. Even as he campaigns on the basis of “law and order,” he appeared at events in Ohio Wednesday with Don King, the boxing promoter who shot and killed a man (the death was excused as justifiable homicide) and served time for manslaughter after stomping a man to death in 1966. King’s speech in Cleveland was a strange, sporadically coherent stream of consciousness, in which he said, “I want you to understand, every white women should cast their vote for Donald Trump, not for Donald Trump the man but to knock out the system.”

-September 22, 2016


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Employs a white supremacist as his campaign chair in Ohio who says there was no racism until Obama got elected

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Donald Trump’s campaign chair in a prominent Ohio county has claimed there was “no racism” during the 1960s and said black people who have not succeeded over the past half-century only have themselves to blame.

Kathy Miller, who is white and chair of the Republican nominee’s campaign in Mahoning County, made the remarks during a taped interview with the Guardian’s Anywhere but Washington series of election videos.

“If you’re black and you haven’t been successful in the last 50 years, it’s your own fault. You’ve had every opportunity, it was given to you,” she said.

“You’ve had the same schools everybody else went to. You had benefits to go to college that white kids didn’t have. You had all the advantages and didn’t take advantage of it. It’s not our fault, certainly.”

Miller also called the Black Lives Matter movement “a stupid waste of time” and said lower voter turnout among African Americans could be related to “the way they’re raised”.

Her comments risk further alienating African American voters from Trump in the crucial swing state. No Republican president has reached the White House without also winning Ohio, a state in which 12.7% of the population is black.

Miller, a real estate broker, said that the Democrats switching over to her party were mostly older, white voters.

She said there were “some” African Americans but played down their importance, suggesting they were only a small portion of the population and do not tend to turn out in elections in significant numbers.

African Americans constitute 16% of Mahoning county’s population, which is larger than the state and national average.

During the past two presidential elections, voter turnout in Ohio was actually higher among black people than white people.

Miller, however, suggested low turnout among black people could be connected to culture. “I don’t think that’s part of the way they’re raised,” she said. “For us, I mean, that was something we all did in our families, we all voted.”

Miller also dismissed the racial tensions of the 1960s, when she said she graduated from high school. “Growing up as a kid, there was no racism, believe me. We were just all kids going to school.”

Asked about segregation and the civil rights movement, she replied: “I never experienced it. I never saw that as anything.”
Miller added: “I don’t think there was any racism until Obama got elected. We never had problems like this ... Now, with the people with the guns, and shooting up neighborhoods, and not being responsible citizens, that’s a big change, and I think that’s the philosophy that Obama has perpetuated on America.”

Miller dismissed the suggestion that Trump was exploiting racist or prejudiced views among some voters as “the media making stuff up”. Instead, she said of the Republican nominee: “He’s very willing to talk about issues that have never been discussed publicly.”

When it was pointed out that some people might find her remarks offensive, Miller replied: “I don’t care, it’s the truth.”

-September 22, 2016


 Lies in first debate about climate change, says he never said global warming was a hoax created by China

Donald Trump said he never blamed China for inventing climate change after being called out by Hillary Clinton for doing so during the first presidential debate. But an earlier tweet from the real estate mogul proves otherwise.

While facing off with Trump at Hofstra University during their first debate together, Clinton said her opponent “thinks that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.” Trump interrupted, denying the accusation.

However, in a tweet in November 2012, Trump said: “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”

“The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) November 6, 2012

-September 26, 2016


 Brags about breaking the law, about not paying taxes

Donald Trump said he’s “smart” by not paying income taxes — and argued that if he did, the money would be “squandered.”

Trump’s jaw-dropping statements came after Hillary Clinton launched a fiery attack on the Republican presidential nominee for breaking a four-decade tradition of White House aspirants releasing their federal income tax returns.

“The only years that anybody’s ever seen were a couple of years when he had to turn them over to state authorities when he was trying to get a casino license, and they showed he didn’t pay any federal income tax,” Clinton said.

Trump quickly retorted: “That makes me smart.”

Later, when Clinton told Trump was that “maybe ... you haven’t paid any federal income tax for a lot of years,” the real estate mogul, who claims to be worth up to $10 billion, said that he was a better steward for his money than the government.

“It would be squandered, too, believe me,” Trump said.

-September 26, 2016
Lies about not releasing his tax returns, says he can’t while he is being audited

“I don’t mind releasing [my tax returns]. I’m under a routine audit.” — Donald Trump

Trump says that he can’t release his tax returns because he’s under audit from the IRS. But the consensus among tax lawyers is that there’s no law barring the Republican nominee from releasing these returns. It might be a bad idea, but it’s not against the law. “He can obviously release them if he wants to,” Daniel Shaviro, professor of taxation at New York University Law School told NPR. “I can imagine either my lawyer or my PR adviser saying ‘don’t’ until the audit is over.”

-September 26, 2016

Lies about how he first supported the Iraq War

“Donald supported the invasion of Iraq” — Clinton

“Wrong.” — Trump

Trump was supportive of the Iraq invasion as far back as 2002, according to interviews the Donald did with Howard Stern, which were first uncovered by BuzzFeed. Stern asks Trump if he agreed with the Bush administration trying to sell the war. He said, “Yeah, I guess so.”

The argument between Clinton and Trump then spilled over into a clash of words between Trump and moderator Lester Holt. Holt insisted Trump had supported the war, referencing the Stern interview.

Trump then claimed he’d had arguments with Fox News television host Sean Hannity, in which he argued against the war. He also said the argument that he supported the war was a media “lie.”

He also cited a 2004 Esquire interview that mentioned his criticism of the Iraq invasion as proof of his opposition. That interview took place after the start of the war, and Esquire has since attached a note to the article arguing that Trump is misrepresenting its contents.

-September 26, 2016

Lies about Michigan job losses to play in to his fear-mongering

“Thousands of jobs leaving Michigan, leaving Ohio, they’re all leaving. And we can’t allow it to happen anymore.” — Donald Trump

Donald Trump claims that “thousands of jobs” are leaving Michigan. In fact, the state's unemployment rate has declined in recent years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That figure now stands around 4.5 percent, down from a 14.9 percent unemployment rate in June 2009.

-September 26, 2016
Continues to call $14 million a “very small loan”

“You know, Donald was very fortunate in his life and that’s all to his benefit. He started his business with $14 million, borrowed from his father.” — Hillary Clinton

“My father gave me a very small loan in 1975 and I built it into a company that’s worth many, many billions of dollars.” — Donald Trump

Clinton is right on this one. The Wall Street Journal tracked down a 1985 casino-license disclosure that showed Trump’s father lent him $14 million — a value of $31 million in today’s dollars. Trump’s spokesman told the Journal he was referring to Trump’s very first loan, a decade earlier. But it’s clear Trump’s $1 million claim understates his father’s assistance. In the 1990s, New Jersey regulators dinged Trump after his father bought $3.5 million in chips at one of his casinos.

We’re also unable to verify the value of Trump’s company because it’s privately held and he hasn’t released his tax returns.

-September 26, 2016


Exaggerates how much experience Clinton has had, in the process letting everyone know that she is far more qualified for the job than he is since he has zero political experience

“For 30 years you’ve been doing it, and now you just started thinking of solutions.” — Donald Trump

Trump has said at least three times that Hillary Clinton has been working on trade issues, and other national policy issues, for 30 years. But as Clinton said, it hasn’t been “quite that long.” In 1986, Clinton was Arkansas first lady, and her involvement on trade policy would have been limited at best. Her first major role in national politics was as First Lady, when former President Bill Clinton won his first presidential race in 1992.

-September 26, 2016


Lies about Clinton’s tax plan

“She’s going to raise taxes $1.3 trillion. Look at her website.” —Donald Trump

Trump is relying on an analysis of Clinton’s tax plan by the right-wing American Action Forum. According to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, her plan would increase revenue by $498 billion over 10 years.

-September 26, 2016


Lies about how long ISIS has been around

“No wonder you’ve been fighting ISIS your entire adult life” — Donald Trump to Hillary Clinton.

Contrary to Trump’s claim, Clinton hasn’t been fighting the Islamic State her entire adult life. Hillary Clinton (née Rodham) turned 18 in 1965. The roots of ISIS are a little convoluted — it evolved out of Al Qaeda in Iraq — but the Islamic State did not exist until Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate in June 2014. The Islamic State grew out of Al Qaeda in Iraq, an organization that was formed in 2004, five years before
Hillary Clinton was secretary of state.

-September 26, 2016


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Lies about Clinton wanting to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership
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"NAFTA is the worst trade deal maybe ever signed anywhere but certainly ever signed in this country and now you want to approve Trans-Pacific Partnership." — Donald Trump

Donald Trump accused Hillary Clinton of wanting to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, but that’s not what she’s been saying for nearly a year.

“You were totally in favor of it and then you heard how I said how bad it was and, if you win, you would approve it and it would be almost as bad as NAFTA,” Trump said.

Clinton supported the TPP as President Barack Obama’s secretary of state, but came out against the agreement in an interview on the PBS Newshour on Oct. 7, 2015.

-September 26, 2016


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Lies about what he said regarding negotiating down the national debt
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"You even at one time suggested that you would try to negotiate down the national debt." — Hillary Clinton

"Wrong." — Donald Trump

Trump is wrong here. Earlier this year he suggested that: "I would borrow, knowing that if the economy crashed, you could make a deal."

He has since tried to clarify his position, saying he would not ask the nation’s creditors to accept less than they were owed.

-September 26, 2016


================================================================================
Lies about filing for bankruptcy six times
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"And when we talk about your business, you’ve taken business bankruptcy six times. There are a lot of great business people that have never taken bankruptcy once. You call yourself the king of debt." — Clinton

"Wrong." — Trump

Clinton is actually right. Trump has filed for bankruptcy six times, according to Politifact. Five of the six had to do with the struggling gaming industry, but Trump is wrong to say that they didn’t happen.
Lies, says ‘stop and frisk’ isn’t unconstitutional, then proceeds to debate with African American moderator Lester Holt what is and isn’t racist to minorities

“Stop and frisk’ was ruled unconstitutional in New York, because it largely singled out black and hispanic young men...” — Lester Holt

“No, you’re wrong. It went before a judge who was a very against police judge. It was taken away from her and our mayor, our new mayor, refused to go forward with the case. They would have won an appeal.” — Donald Trump

On August 12, 2013, U.S. District Court Judge Shira A. Scheindlin ruled the controversial police tactic unconstitutional. The Bloomberg administration appealed, and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals suspended the order and sent it back to be tried under a new judge. But the court denied the city’s motion to vacate Scheindlin’s decision. Eventually, the de Blasio administration dropped the appeal.

Lies about murder rate in New York City

“It’s fair to say, if we’re going to talk about mayors, that under the current mayor, crime [in New York City has] continued to drop, including murders.” — Hillary Clinton

“You’re wrong.” — Donald Trump

What really happened to New York’s murder rate since Mayor Bill de Blasio took over in 2014? New data from the FBI, released Monday, find that there were 352 murders in New York City in 2015, a rate of 4.1 murders per 100,000 people. That’s up from 333 murders last year, a rate of 3.9 murders per 100,000 people.

But preliminary numbers from the NYPD show a large decline in murders in New York City more recently: In 2016, there have been 252 murders through September 25, a 5.3 percent decline compared to this time in 2015.

Lies about being endorsed by ICE

“I was endorsed by ICE”— Donald Trump

No, Donald Trump was not endorsed by an entire government agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He was endorsed this week by a union of ICE employees, but that’s not the same. The National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council had never endorsed a candidate for president.

Trump is right that their endorsement of him was a first, but a union is an independent body distinct from the agency where its members work.
Lies about when ISIS was formed, saying it wouldn't have existed if troops were left behind in Iraq

“They [ISIS] wouldn't have even been formed if they left some troops behind.” — Donald Trump

ISIS formed as Al Qaeda in Iraq in 2004, before Hillary Clinton became secretary of state and Barack Obama became president, and long before the U.S. began drawing down troops in Iraq.

-September 26, 2016

Double-downs again on lying about his initial support for Iraq War, rambles for a minute on making up a story on how he was always opposed to the war

“Donald supported the invasion of Iraq” — Clinton

“Wrong.” — Trump

Trump was supportive of the Iraq invasion as far back as 2002, according to interviews the Donald did with Howard Stern, which were first uncovered by BuzzFeed. Stern asks Trump if he agreed with the Bush administration trying to sell the war. He said, “Yeah, I guess so.”

The argument between Clinton and Trump then spilled over into a clash of words between Trump and moderator Lester Holt. Holt insisted Trump had supported the war, referencing the Stern interview.

Trump then claimed he'd had arguments with Fox News television host Sean Hannity, in which he argued against the war. He also said the argument that he supported the war was a media “lie.”

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-September 26, 2016

 Lies about Palm Beach’s wealth while also plugging his club

“In Palm Beach, Florida, tough community, a brilliant community, a wealthy community. Probably the wealthiest community there is in the world...” — Donald Trump

In fact, Palm Beach is nowhere near the wealthiest city in the U.S., let alone the world.

The median household income for Palm Beach County in 2015 was $52,878, only slightly higher than the national average. The median income from the town itself was $105,700 in 2014. Nerdwallet.com, which ranks the wealthiest cities in the U.S. by taking into account home value and other cost of living factors, didn't even have Palm Beach in its top 100. The top city was Palo Alto, Calif. with a median income of $151,370.

-September 26, 2016
Tells a great big lie on how much the US is playing NATO's budget

"We pay approximately 73 percent of the cost of NATO. It's a lot of money to protect other people. But I'm all for NATO." — Donald Trump

Trump is wrong. The U.S. doesn’t pay 73 percent of NATO’s operational budget. The United States pays just over 22 percent of the cost of NATO’s spending. Trump is confusing the numbers. President Barack Obama has also urged other NATO member-states to up their defense spending.

-Leslie Keshner
September 26, 2016

Lies about Birther movement, claims Clinton started the movement, believes he did a “good job” by leading racist witch hunt

"I figured you'd ask the question tonight, of course. I was the one that got him to produce the birth certificate, and I think I did a good job. Secretary Clinton also fought it, I mean, you know -- now, everybody in mainstream is going to say, that's not true. Look, it's true. Sydney Blumenthal sent a reporter -- you just have to take a look at CNN, the last week, the interview with your former campaign manager. And she was involved." — Trump

The Republican got flogged earlier this month when he tried to pin the origins of the Barack Obama birther controversy on Clinton. But that didn’t stop him from doubling down Monday, again claiming incorrectly that Clinton and her campaign first spread the rumor in 2008 that Obama was not born in the U.S.

To make his case, Trump referenced a McClatchy story quoting its own former Washington D.C. bureau chief saying he had been urged to pursue the birther story in 2008 by Clinton loyalist Sydney Blumenthal. Trump also cited comments by Patti Solis Doyle, the Clinton 2008 campaign manager, who told CNN that an Iowa campaign worker did pass on an email about the birther controversy.

But it’s much less simple as that.

Blumenthal has denied pushing the birther rumors in his meeting with the McClatchy editor, and the editor and his reporters were less definitive in follow-up interviews with POLITICO as to exactly what they were urged to pursue by the Clinton operative. As for Solis Doyle, she did admit in the CNN interview earlier this month that she fired a volunteer who passed along a birther email. But she also insisted in the same program that the email was “so beyond the pale of the campaign Hillary wanted to run.”

-Leslie Keshner
September 26, 2016

Tries to justify his racist housing discrimination practices, says others were doing it as well, then brags about having to never admit guilt about it

"When I was really young, I went into my father's company, we along with many, many, many other companies, throughout the country, it was a federal lawsuit, were sued. We settled the suit with zero — no admission of guilt. It was very easy to do. But they sued many people." — Donald Trump

Trump is correct to state that he and his father never admitted wrongdoing, though they did submit to a court order changing their rental practices — only after accusing the Justice Department of "gestapo tactics" and a failed countersuit against the government agency.

Trump is also correct that his family business was not the only one sued for discriminatory practices. But he is disingenuous in claiming his suit was unexceptional. It was, and still is, one of the biggest lawsuits ever brought by the Justice Department for housing discrimination against black people.
Lies about calling pregnancy an inconvenience for employers

“[Trump is] someone who has said pregnancy is an inconvenience to employers.”— Hillary Clinton

“I never said that.” — Donald Trump

Trump did make such a claim. In a 2004 interview with NBC’s “Dateline,” Trump said pregnancy is “a wonderful thing for the woman, it’s a wonderful thing for the husband, it’s certainly an inconvenience for a business. And whether people want to say that or not, the fact is it is an inconvenience for a person that is running a business.”

Lies about what America’s allies pay for US troop presence, says he will bully our allies into paying their fair share

While Trump is correct in that the U.S. does fund the stationing of troops throughout the world via its defense budget, key U.S. allies do share the budgetary load in exchange for the security benefits of hosting a U.S. military presence.

Japan allocated $1.7 billion this year “in direct support” for U.S. bases, and pays more than 90 percent “of the cost of the 25,500 Japanese nationals working at the bases.” South Korea, meanwhile, paid $866.6 million — about 40 percent — in 2014 to host the U.S. military, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Proponents of stationing troops in Asia and elsewhere also argue that spending on the U.S. military presence is an investment by helping to avert conflicts that could be far more costly in the long run.

Does not apologize to the workers he has not paid over the years

Hillary Clinton on Monday called on Donald Trump to apologize to people who have worked on the real estate mogul’s properties who have not been paid in full.

Do “the thousands of people that you have stiffed over the course of your business not deserve some kind of apology from someone who has taken their labor, taken the goods that they’ve produced and then refused to pay them?” Clinton said at the first debate of the general election. “I can only say that I’m certainly relieved that my late father never did business with you.”

Over the course of the campaign, reports have emerged about Trump refusing to pay what some vendors said he owed them.

“I have met a lot of the people who were stiffed by you and your businesses, Donald,” Clinton said, adding that there was an architect in the audience who wasn’t fully paid by Trump for designing a clubhouse at a Trump golf course. “It’s a beautiful facility. It immediately was put to use. And you wouldn’t pay what the man needed to be paid what he was charging you.”
"Maybe he didn't do a good job and I was unsatisfied with his work," Trump responded.

Trump went on to suggest that he had only taken that route four times, and that he was within his legal rights to do so.

"My obligation right now is to do well for myself, my family, my employees, for my companies," he said. "And that's what I do. But what she doesn't say is the tens of thousands of people that are unbelievably happy and they love me."

-September 26, 2016


Cheers taking advantage of the housing collapse, calls it ‘business’

When Donald Trump said he was hoping for a collapse in the housing market before the Great Recession, it was just smart business sense, he said in the first sharp exchange of the debate.

"In fact, Donald was one of the people who rooted for the housing crisis," Hillary Clinton said when discussing the recovery from the Great Recession. "He said back in 2006, ‘Gee, I hope it does collapse because then I can go in and buy some and make some money. Well it did collapse."

“That’s called business, by the way,” Trump said, interrupting. But Clinton talked over him.

"Nine million people lost their jobs, five million people lost their homes," she said.

Clinton appeared to be referencing when Trump, in 2006, said regarding a crash: “I sort of hope that happens because then people like me would go in and buy.”

-September 26, 2016


Pretends he never made racist and sexist remarks against a beauty pageant contestant, instead double-downs on being an unapologetic sexist by bringing up his feud with Rosie O’Donnell

In the final moments of the first presidential debate Monday night, Hillary Clinton brought up Alicia Machado, a former winner of Trump’s Miss Universe pageant, who told Inside Edition this year that Donald Trump referred to her as “Miss Housekeeping” and “Miss Piggy” after she gained weight following her victory in 1996. “After that episode, I was sick, anorexia and bulimia for five years,” Machado said of the ridicule from Trump. “Over the past 20 years, I’ve gone to a lot of psychologists to combat this.”

As Clinton mentioned during the debate, Machado became a U.S. citizen this year and “you can bet she’s going to vote this November.” In response, Trump repeated the question, “Where did you find this?” and went on to defend the derogatory comments he has made in the past about comedian Rosie O’Donnell. Tweeting in Spanish following the debate, Machado thanked Clinton for respecting women, adding, “I’m with you!”

The Clinton campaign was armed with a new video featuring Machado that went up on Twitter shortly after the debate ended. In the piece, Machado tells her story about the insults hurled at her by Trump. “This is a man who doesn’t realize the damage he causes,” she says. “He bears many grudges and harbors a deep racism, and he is convinced there are lesser human beings than him.”

-September 26, 2016

Lies about American manufacturing, says it’s in decline

One of Donald Trump’s big themes at Monday’s night’s debate has been to blame trade — and especially Bill Clinton’s trade policies — for the decline of America’s manufacturing sector.

“Your husband signed NAFTA, which was one of the worst things that ever happened to the manufacturing industry,” Trump said to Clinton. “You go to New England, Ohio, Pennsylvania, you go anywhere you want, Secretary Clinton, and you will see devastation where manufacturing is down 30, 40, sometimes 50 percent.”

Of course there are some towns in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere in America where factories have closed and hence manufacturing has gone down. But for the country as a whole, manufacturing output is actually up about 50 percent since the NAFTA agreement took effect in 1994.

It’s true that over the same period, manufacturing employment declined by about 14 percent, from 22.7 million workers to 19.6 million.

But that’s not a sign that America’s manufacturing sector is in decline — it’s a sign that American manufacturers are becoming more and more productive. And ultimately, this growing productivity is what raises American living standards.

-September 26, 2016


Double-downs on sexist and racist remarks he said against beauty pageant contestant, still unapologetic

Donald Trump said early Tuesday that Hillary Clinton only managed to get under the GOP nominee’s skin once during the first presidential debate Monday night.

It was when Clinton brought up Trump’s previous comments about a Miss Universe contestant whom he allegedly called "Miss Piggy" and "Miss Housekeeping."

"When she brought up that person that became — I know that person. It was a Miss Universe person. She was the worst we ever had," Trump said on "Fox & Friends."

"Ultimately a winner. They had a tremendously difficult time with that Miss Universe. ... She was a winner, and she gained a massive amount of weight, and we had a real problem. We had a real problem with her."

"Hillary found the girl, and talked about her like she was Mother Theresa."

Alicia Machado, Miss Universe 1996, has claimed that Trump yelled at her, calling her ugly and fat.

"One of the worst things he said was about a woman in a beauty contest — he loves beauty contests, supporting them and hanging around them — and he called this woman ‘Miss Piggy,’ then he called her ‘Miss Housekeeping’ because she was Latina. Donald, she has a name," Clinton said at the debate.

"Her name is Alicia Machado, and she has become a U.S. citizen, and you can bet she’s going to vote this November."

-September 26, 2016


Out of touch with reality when it comes to cybersecurity, is worried about 400 lb. people sitting in their beds, worried about
Trump did a lot of rambling during Monday night's first debate between the two presidential nominees, but nothing was more mind-numbingly incoherent than his response to a question about cybersecurity.

Asked about who's behind recent cyber attacks on U.S. institutions and how the U.S. can fight them, Trump followed Hillary Clinton's answer by touting some of his endorsements.

Then, at last, he began to talk cyber. He questioned who was behind a recent hack of the Democratic National Committee.

"I don't think anybody knows it was Russia that broke into the DNC. She's saying Russia, Russia, Russia, but I don't — maybe it was. I mean, it could be Russia, but it could also be China. It could also be lots of other people. It also could be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds, OK?"

Then he swerved into random attack mode, throwing a jab at the DNC and saying "under President Obama we've lost control of things that we used to have control over," without offering any specifics.

Trump swerved yet again in an answer that only spanned 10 paragraphs, this time aiming his words at the Islamic State.

"We came in with the Internet, we came up with the Internet, and I think Secretary Clinton and myself would agree very much, when you look at what ISIS is doing with the internet, they're beating us at our own game."

By "game," does he mean "internet?" They're beating us at internet?

Then he pivots another time, because why not, and here's where you may have to blink a few times.

"I have a son. He's 10 years old. He has computers. He is so good with these computers, it's unbelievable. The security aspect of cyber is very, very tough. And maybe it's hardly doable. But I will say, we are not doing the job we should be doing. But that's true throughout our whole governmental society. We have so many things that we have to do better, Lester, and certainly cyber is one of them."

At least we know that, should Trump become president, his youngest son will be running the administration's cybersecurity.

-September 27, 2016


Gloats that he didn't bring up Bill Clinton's sex scandal during the debate but considered it after he was faced with sexist remarks he has made in the past about Hillary Clinton

Donald Trump claimed during the first presidential debate on Monday night that he considered using sordid details of Hillary Clinton's personal life against her, but refrained.

"I was going to say something extremely rough to Hillary and her family, and I said to myself, I couldn't do it. It's inappropriate. It's not nice. But she's spent hundreds of millions of dollars on negative ads against me, many of which are untrue," Trump said. "It's not a nice thing."

Trump later reiterated to Yahoo News reporter Hunter Walker in the spin room he was indeed tempted to bring up former President Bill Clinton's decades-old extramarital affairs.

"I was, but I decided not to do it out of respect for Chelsea," the Republican presidential candidate said, referring to Chelsea Clinton, the Clintons' daughter.

The comments came after the Republican presidential nominee defended his assertion that Hillary Clinton does not have a "presidential look."
Pressed by moderator Lester Holt, Trump doubled down.

“She doesn't have the look. She doesn't have the stamina. I said she doesn't have the stamina,” Trump said.

Clinton quickly shot back, touting her experience as secretary of state as proof of her stamina.

“As soon as he travels to 112 countries and negotiates a peace deal, a cease-fire, a release of dissidents, an opening of new opportunities and nations around the world, or even spends 11 hours testifying in front of a congressional committee, he can talk to me about stamina,” Clinton said.

“Hillary has experience, but it's bad experience,” Trump replied.

Clinton responded by highlighting some of Trump's past comments about prominent women.

“He tried to switch from looks to stamina, but this is a man who called women pigs, slobs, and dogs,” Clinton said.

She added: “One of the worst things that he said was at a beauty contest — he loves supporting them and hanging around them — he called this woman Miss Piggy and then he called her Miss Housekeeping, because she was Latina.”

-September 27, 2016


Believes in eugenics, a pseudo-science theory popularized by the Nazis

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has offered a litany of racist comments, which it turns out may be rooted in his deeper belief in the inherent superiority of some people — and not others.

The Frontline documentary “The Choice,” which premiered this week on PBS, reveals that Trump agrees with the dangerous and abusive theory of eugenics.

Trump’s father instilled in him the idea that their family’s success was genetic, according to Trump biographer Michael D'Antonio.

“The family subscribes to a racehorse theory of human development,” D'Antonio says in the documentary. “They believe that there are superior people and that if you put together the genes of a superior woman and a superior man, you get a superior offspring.”

The Huffington Post dug back through the archives and found numerous examples of Trump suggesting that intellect and success are purely genetic qualities and that having “the right genes” gave him his “very good brain.”

-September 28, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-eugenics_us_57ec4cc2e4b024a52d2cc7f9

Broke the law by doing business in Cuba during the US embargo

A company controlled by Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president, secretly conducted business in Communist Cuba during Fidel Castro’s presidency despite strict American trade bans that made such undertakings illegal, according to interviews with former Trump executives, internal company records and court filings.

Documents show that the Trump company spent a minimum of $68,000 for its 1998 foray into Cuba at a time when the corporate expenditure of even a penny in the Caribbean country was prohibited without U.S. government approval. But the company did not spend the money directly. Instead, with Trump’s knowledge, executives funneled the cash for the Cuba trip through an American consulting firm called Seven
Arrows Investment and Development Corp. Once the business consultants traveled to the island and incurred the expenses for the venture, Seven Arrows instructed senior officers with Trump’s company—then called Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts—how to make it appear legal by linking it after the fact to a charitable effort.

The payment by Trump Hotels came just before the New York business mogul launched his first bid for the White House, seeking the nomination of the Reform Party. On his first day of the campaign, he traveled to Miami, where he spoke to a group of Cuban-Americans, a critical voting bloc in the swing state. Trump vowed to maintain the embargo and never spend his or his companies’ money in Cuba until Fidel Castro was removed from power.

He did not disclose that, seven months earlier, Trump Hotels already had reimbursed its consultants for the money they spent on their secret business trip to Havana.

-September 29, 2016


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Literally losing sleep over devastating debate loss, encourages people to watch a fake sex tape of Alicia Machado, rambles on in the early AM on Twitter showing how horrible his temperament is

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While you were probably still sleeping, the 2016 Republican presidential nominee encouraged all of us to check out a “sex tape” and offered a baseless conspiracy theory about his opponent helping the woman from the alleged sex tape get citizenship so she could take him down.

And in doing so, Donald Trump did everything Hillary Clinton could have hoped he would, drawing out a now-week-long story about Alicia Machado, making things up and — above all — reinforcing all those very real questions about whether he has the temperament to be president.

There have been plenty of rumors of a “sex tape,” and Machado has been described as a “porn star” by some. But, according to Snopes, this is based on nothing more than Internet rumors and some grainy, non-explicit footage of Machado apparently having sex under the covers while she was a reality show contestant.

Then there’s Trump’s peddling of the theory that Clinton helped Machado “become a U.S. citizen so she could use her in the debate.” This doesn’t make sense, given Machado became a U.S. citizen in August and the application process generally takes at least six months. So Clinton would have had to hatch this plot in early 2016 — to know just as the primaries were beginning that she would face Trump in the debates and that Machado would figure into them. (But, again, we’re applying facts to a conspiracy theory that’s apparently based upon nothing.)

More than anything, though, here we have the Republican presidential nominee, less than 40 days before the election, doing the very same things that have led voters to severely question his temperament.

And however well Trump is doing in the head-to-head polls — and no matter how much he says that his temperament is great — it’s a very real concern for voters.

A New York Times/CBS News poll earlier this month showed just 31 percent of registered voters say Trump has the “right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president.” Fully 64 percent said he did not. That’s almost two-thirds of the electorate.

As much as the media gets attacked for not being hard enough on Trump, it’s clear that a strong majority of Americans have processed the many controversial things he’s said, including his comments about women and his tendency to get drawn into petty feuds. Some people can get past it and are still voting for him, yes — but it’s a clear liability.

And it’s a liability the Clinton campaign seems to be intent on driving home in the final weeks of the campaign — apparently with the able assistance of Trump himself.

Clinton said at the Democratic National Convention two months ago: “A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons.”

-September 30, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/30/before-6-a-m-donald-trump-proved-hillary-clintons-point-about-his-
Pleading the Fifth is a well-known term in the U.S. justice system. The Amendment says American citizens have the right to not incriminate themselves, so those suspected of committing a crime can remain silent rather than deliver testimony.

Thousands of people have invoked that right over the years, from powerful politicians and business leaders to everyday people who refuse to testify when they’re being charged with a crime.

On Wednesday, Donald Trump criticized a particular group of people who invoked that right: former staff members of Hillary Clinton called on to testify about her setting up a private email server.

“So there are five of them taking the Fifth Amendment, like you see on the mob, right?” he said at another rally in Iowa, though it was three former Clinton staff members who pleaded the Fifth. “The mob takes the Fifth Amendment. If you’re innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?”

That’s exactly the question Donald Trump was asked 26 years ago, in 1990 when he was in the midst of divorcing Marla Maples, according to the Huffington Post. During the divorce proceedings, which included five depositions, Trump pleaded the Fifth 97 times on approximately 100 questions related to marriage infidelity.

By pleading the Fifth, he avoided any admittance to adultery.

That worked in his favor, as Trump reportedly ended up paying Maples an amount similar to their prenuptial agreement.

-September 30, 2016


Tax returns from 1995 reveal he suffered a $916m loss ($1.4bn when adjusted for inflation), legally allowing him to avoid paying income taxes for 18 years

Donald J. Trump declared a $916 million loss on his 1995 income tax returns, a tax deduction so substantial it could have allowed him to legally avoid paying any federal income taxes for up to 18 years, records obtained by The New York Times show.

The 1995 tax records, never before disclosed, reveal the extraordinary tax benefits that Mr. Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, derived from the financial wreckage he left behind in the early 1990s through mismanagement of three Atlantic City casinos, his ill-fated foray into the airline business and his ill-timed purchase of the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.

Tax experts hired by The Times to analyze Mr. Trump’s 1995 records said that tax rules especially advantageous to wealthy filers would have allowed Mr. Trump to use his $916 million loss to cancel out an equivalent amount of taxable income over an 18-year period.

-October 1, 2016

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-taxes.html?_r=0

Coming off the rails after NY Times revealed his tax returns from 1995, is now encouraging his supporters to return to the Jim Crow days to monitor polls in “urban” areas, then rambles on about movies and The Apprentice, then suggests Hillary Clinton has been unfaithful to her husband, follows with mocking Clinton’s pneumonia faint on 9/11

The New York Times posted its piece on how Donald Trump may not have paid federal income taxes for 18 years just as the Republican presidential candidate took the stage for a rally in Manheim, Pennsylvania. Trump was 102 minutes late to getting the rally started and once
he did, the candidate just seemed to find it impossible to stick to the script. Throughout his speech, Trump went off topic several times to lob what may very well be some of the wildest accusations against Hillary Clinton and the American election process in general. And there were also some head-scratching tangents about how Hollywood doesn't make good movies anymore and praise for the success of the Apprentice.

For the second day in a row, Trump told a mostly white audience that they need to monitor polls in “certain” areas because voter fraud is a really big deal and could cost him the election. “You’ve got to go out, and you’ve got to get your friends, and you’ve got to get everybody you know, and you gotta watch the polling booths, because I hear too many stories about Pennsylvania, certain areas,” Trump said during the speech. “I hear too many bad stories, and we can’t lose an election because of what I’m talking about. So, go and vote and then go check out areas because a lot of bad things happen, and we don’t want to lose for that reason.” The warnings over voter fraud are particularly concerning considering they come shortly after Trump suggested he may not accept the results of the election if Clinton wins.

At one point, Trump said Clinton did the bidding of her donors and gave away jobs of Pennsylvanians but people probably don’t realize it, and, hey aren’t movies awful these days? “You’re unsuspecting,” Trump said. “Right now, you say to your wife: ‘Let’s go to a movie after Trump.’ But you won’t do that because you’ll be so high and so excited that no movie is going to satisfy you. Okay? No movie. You know why? Honestly? Because they don’t make movies like they used to—is that right?”

That seemed to be the perfect moment for Trump to talk about another aspect of the entertainment industry: himself. “Oh, I could be doing the Apprentice right now,” Trump said. “I loved it—14 seasons. How good was that? Tremendous success. They wanted to extend—I could be doing the Apprentice now. Somehow I think this is a little bit more important. Do we agree? Just a little bit?”

The Republican presidential candidate directly attacked his opponent several times during the speech saying at one point that “she has bad temperament, she could actually be crazy.” He then went on to imply that the former secretary of State had likely been unfaithful to her husband. “Hillary Clinton’s only loyalty is to her financial contributors and to herself … I don’t even think she’s loyal to Bill, if you want to know the truth,” Trump said. “And really, folks, really, why should she be? Right? Why should she be?”

Trump also for some reason thought it’d be a good idea to impersonate how Clinton stumbled because of her pneumonia on September 11. “Here’s a woman, she’s supposed to fight all of these different things, and she can’t make it 15 feet to her car,” Trump said. “Give me a break.” Trump also seemed to veer offscript when he brought up Clinton’s use of a private email server. “She should be in prison, let me tell you,” Trump said. “She should be in prison.” The crowd went wild with that one and began chanting: “Lock her up! Lock her up! Lock her up!”

-October 2, 2016

Charitable foundation found in violation of the law, ordered a cease and desist by New York state attorney general

The office of New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued a “Notice of Violation” to the Donald J. Trump Foundation and ordered the foundation to cease and desist from soliciting contributions in New York.

The notice states that the Trump Foundation failed to register with the Charities Bureau before soliciting contributions or engaging in fundraising activities.

Schneiderman’s office said in a press release it found that “the Trump Foundation ‘is in violation of section 172 of Article 7-A New York’s Executive Law, which requires charitable organizations that solicit contributions in New York State to register with the Charities Bureau and to provide annual financial reports and annual audited financial statements.’ Despite failing to register pursuant to Article 7-A, the Trump Foundation solicited contributions in New York State earlier this year, in violation of New York law.

“The notice directs the Trump Foundation to ‘immediately cease soliciting contributions or engaging in other fundraising activities in New York’ and ‘to provide the [AG’s] Charities Bureau with the information specified in Section 172 within fifteen (15) days’ of receiving the notice.”

-October 3, 2016

Despite being critical of American companies that do business with China, he has been buying steel from China for all of his construction projects since 2008
Plenty of blue-collar workers believe that, as president, Donald Trump would be ready to fight off U.S. trade adversaries and reinvigorate the country’s manufacturing industries through his commitment to the Rust Belt. What they likely don’t know is that Trump has been stifling American steel workers on his own construction projects for years, choosing to deprive untold millions of dollars from four key electoral swing states and instead directing it to China—the country whose trade practices have helped decimate the once-powerful industrial center of the United States.

A Newsweek investigation has found that in at least two of Trump’s last three construction projects, Trump opted to purchase his steel and aluminum from Chinese manufacturers rather than United States corporations based in states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. In other instances, he abandoned steel altogether, instead choosing the far-less-expensive option of buying concrete from various companies, including some linked to the Luchese and Genovese crime families. Trump has never been accused of engaging in any wrongdoing for his business dealings with those companies, but it’s true that the Mafia has long controlled much of the concrete industry in New York.

Throughout his campaign, Trump has maintained that some controversial decisions for his companies amounted to nothing more than taking actions that were good for business, and were therefore reflections of his financial acumen. But, with the exception of one business that collapsed into multiple bankruptcies, Trump does not operate a public company; he has no fiduciary obligation to shareholders to obtain the highest returns he can. His decisions to turn away from American producers were not driven by legal obligations to investors, but simply resulted in higher profits for himself and his family.

Hope Hicks, a spokeswoman for the Trump campaign, did not return an email seeking comment.

Of Trump’s last three construction projects, the first to use Chinese steel was Trump International Hotel Las Vegas, which opened in 2008. That the manufacturer is from China is not immediately evident; this fact is hidden within a chain of various corporate entities, including holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. That micro-state is a popular site for obscure off-shore entities that exist only on legal documents, limiting the potential liability of real businesses while obscuring their true owners.

According to government documents, the Chinese entity chosen by Trump to provide steel for the Las Vegas property is a holding company called Ossen Innovation Co. Ltd.—formerly known as Ultra Glory International Ltd. That British Virgin Islands entity in turn owns a second holding company called Ossen Innovation Materials Group Ltd., which, through a complex legal arrangement, indirectly owns Ossen Innovation Materials Co. Ltd., and through it, Ossen (Jiujiang) Steel Wire & Cable Co. Ltd., the operating business located in Shanghai. With such layers upon layers of corporate shells and divisions, builders like Trump can purchase their steel from less-expensive Chinese suppliers without the ultimate supplier being readily apparent. That steel was then used in the construction of the Las Vegas property.

When Americans like Trump purchase their steel through Ossen, they are providing financial benefits to an array of Chinese companies and even the government. For example, Ossen corporate records show Chinese banks provide all of its short-term financing in the form of loans that almost all mature after one year, and then are replaced by new loans; most Chinese banks are arms of the state, tightly controlled by the Chinese Communist Party, and provide financing to companies that are competitors to American manufacturers in other industries. (For example, the Chinese companies that manufacture suits and ties for the Donald Trump Signature Collection also obtain loans from mainland banks; Trump has said he has been forced to use the Chinese for his clothing lines because no American company makes those kinds of products anymore. That is not true—for example, all Brooks Brothers ties are made in New York, while about 85% of the company’s suits are made in Massachusetts.)

Another recent Trump building that has used metal from China is Trump International Hotel and Tower in Chicago, which opened in 2009. For that project, Trump obtained loans from Deutsche Bank and three hedge funds that in turn used financing from George Soros, the business magnate who is the subject of many conservative conspiracy theories and is portrayed as a threat to the Republican Party.

The building required tons of aluminum and Trump elected not to purchase the metal from Alcoa or any other similar American producer, but instead turn to a subsidiary of a Chinese aluminum manufacturer. Because American businesses have been turning to cheaper aluminum from overseas, the industry is collapsing. For example, in just the last two years, more than half of the country’s aluminum smelters in states like Ohio, West Virginia and Texas have closed as a result of being undercut on price by competition from overseas.

-October 3, 2016


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**Broke the law by using $286,000 of his charity money to fund his campaign by bribing conservatives who were on the fence for supporting him**

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Donald Trump used $286,000 in funds from the Donald J. Trump Foundation on donations aimed at winning over skeptical conservatives as he began preparing for a presidential run, according to a new report by RealClearPolitics.

A review of the foundation’s tax filings from 2011 to 2014 found that Trump spent more than a quarter-million dollars on donations to influential conservative and policy groups, money that appears to have secured him some prime speaking slots in front of conservative audiences or endorsements from conservative king-makers.
That included $10,000 to the Palmetto Family Council, whose leader, South Carolina conservative player Oran Smith, had previously been critical of Trump.  

"He was never heavy-handed about any quid pro quo," Smith said about the donation, which came after Trump met with him and his wife.  

Trump hasn't donated to his own foundation since 2008, according to CNN, and has faced scrutiny for using other people's money to buy portraits of himself, an autographed Tim Tebow helmet and other questionable items. This latest potential form of self-dealing, which is illegal, showed he also used the foundation to lay the groundwork for his presidential run.

"Getting the right to speak or access to networking events, that’s definitely starting to push into self-dealing, where you’re using the private foundation assets to benefit Mr. Trump," charity law specialist Rosemary Fei, a partner at the Adler & Colvin law firm in San Francisco, told RCP.

Those donations are also reminiscent of the $25,000 Trump's foundation improperly made to Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi in 2013 before misreporting it in a way that hid the contribution's intent. Trump's foundation later claimed it was a clerical error and paid a $2,500 fine to the IRS.

Another donation found by RCP appears to fall in the same category: $10,000 in 2013 to The Family Leader, a group that can effect policy and engage in limited political activity and faces tougher restrictions on charitable contributions. If Trump's foundation indeed did give its money to the main organization and not its affiliated nonprofit, The Family Leader Foundation, and didn't earmark that money for charitable purposes, that'd be another violation of IRS rules.

The same year Trump made that donation, The Family Leader gave Trump a key speaking slot at an influential gathering of social conservatives in early-voting Iowa.

Other bigger donations went to Franklin Graham, an influential Evangelical Conservative who had once been a critic, $50,000 to the group that puts on the Conservative Political Action Conference and allowed him to speak, and $100,000 to the nonprofit partner of Citizens United in 2014.

Trump gave Graham's foundation $100,000 in 2012, and $50,000 to the American Conservative Union Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the group that organizes CPAC. Citizens United's former head, David Bossie, is now a senior Trump advisor who also introduced Trump to his original campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski.

-October 4, 2016

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/trump-286g-charity-money-build-political-brand-article-1.2816864

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Reminds everyone he wants to commit war crimes by randomly bombing “enemies"  
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Donald Trump has suggested that an "attack first" strategy might be best when confronting America's enemies.

During a town-hall event in Sandown, New Hampshire, on Thursday, the Republican presidential nominee expressed contempt for Hillary Clinton's plan to fight terrorist groups like ISIS.

Clinton, the Democratic nominee, has proposed supply-line disruptions and increased airstrikes to drive ISIS militants out of key areas of Iraq and Syria.

Trump, who has been criticized for refusing to publicly discuss details of his campaign's antiterrorism proposals, asked on Thursday: "Isn't there an element of surprise?"

"Remember when we were young and we were studying history, and they talk about some of the great generals, and the great attacks? ... Wouldn't it be nice if we attacked first, and talked about our great victory later?" the GOP nominee added.

"It's a very, very sad thing. We are being run by people that are incompetent."

Clinton, who served as secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term, has criticized Trump for not outlining the specifics of his plans to fight terrorism. At the candidates' first debate, she said, "He says it's a secret plan, but the only secret is that he has no plan."
With just a little over a month until election day, Donald Trump has racked up zero major newspaper endorsements, a first for any major party nominee in American history.

While newspaper endorsements don't necessarily change voters' minds, this year’s barrage of anti-Trump endorsements could actually move the needle come November, experts say.

“It’s significant,” Jack Pitney, professor of government at California’s Claremont McKenna College, told TheWrap. “The cumulative effect of all these defections could have an impact on moderate Republicans.”

Some conservative papers, which have endorsed Republicans for decades, are now breaking with tradition to endorse Hillary Clinton or, at the very least, urge their readers not to vote for Trump.

Several have taken a stand even at the expense of losing subscribers at a time when newspapers are barely staying afloat. Some papers have received death threats.

But for a growing number of newspaper editorial boards, staying on the sidelines is no longer an option.

The Dallas Morning News, which has endorsed every Republican nominee since 1940, was so appalled by the idea of a President Trump that it introduced its Clinton endorsement with this caveat: “We don’t come to this decision easily. This newspaper has not recommended a Democrat for the nation’s highest office since before World War II — if you’re counting, that’s more than 75 years and nearly 20 elections.”

The Cincinnati Enquirer’s editorial board broke from a nearly century-long tradition of backing Republicans to support Hillary Clinton, telling its readers: “This is not a traditional race, and these are not traditional times.”

The Arizona Republic also endorsed Clinton, the first time the paper backed a Democrat since its founding in 1890. Same for the San Diego Union-Tribune, which hadn’t endorsed a Democratic nominee in its 148-year history.

After the Houston Chronicle endorsed Clinton, the Texas Monthly asked, "Will Any Major Newspapers In Texas Endorse Donald Trump?"

But why limit that question to Texas?

The Chicago Sun-Times reversed a 2012 decision to stop making presidential endorsements, explaining to its readers that “the best way to avert a train wreck is to wave a warning flag as soon as possible.”

USA Today, which had never endorsed a presidential candidate, did not actually endorse anyone this year either, but did publishing a non-endorsement: “Resist the siren song of a dangerous demagogue. By all means vote, just not for Donald Trump,” the paper urged its readers.

And on Wednesday The Atlantic endorsed Clinton, marking just the third time in the magazine’s 160-year history that it has made a presidential endorsement.

The last time The Atlantic took sides in a presidential election was in 1964, when it endorsed Lyndon Baines Johnson for fear of a Barry Goldwater presidency. The other endorsement was 104 years earlier, when it backed Abraham Lincoln.

And it’s not just the papers but also writers who are taking a stand. Last month, a member of The Wall Street Journal’s traditionally conservative editorial board endorsed Clinton, calling Trump the candidate of “white supremacists and swastika devotees.”

Trump did receive four endorsements during the primary, including one from the New York Observer, which is owned by his son-in-law Jared
Kushner and the National Enquirer.

But so far Trump has gotten no general election endorsements, a stunning development considering even Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson, known best for his head-scratching “Aleppo moment,” has scored a few.

The fact that so many conservative bastions are willing to go out on a limb, experts say, could eventually convince moderate Republicans to break from their own traditions of voting for the GOP.

“Even Michael Chertoff, the man who led the Whitewater investigation against Clinton has endorsed her,” Pitney said. “That should tell you something. This is the first election where I’m not voting Republican.”

-October 6, 2016


**Historical & Groundbreaking Endorsements Compiled:**

- The Chicago Tribune endorsed a Non-Republican for only the 2nd time in 163-years by supporting Johnson
- The Atlantic endorsed a Presidential candidate for only the 3rd time in 159-years by supporting Clinton
- The San Diego Union-Tribune endorsed a Democrat for the 1st time in 148-years by supporting Clinton
- The Arizona Republic endorsed a Democrat for the 1st time in 126-years by supporting Clinton
- Philadelphia endorsed a Presidential candidate for the 1st time in 108-years by supporting Clinton
- The New Hampshire Union Leader endorsed a Non-Republican for the 1st time in 100+ years by supporting Johnson
- The Cincinnati Enquirer endorsed a Democrat for the 1st time in 100+ years by supporting Clinton
- The Detroit News endorsed a Democrat for the 1st time in 90-years by supporting Clinton
- The Philadelphia World refused to endorse a Republican or Presidential Candidate for the 1st time in 72-years
- The Houston Chronicle endorsed a Non-Republican for the 1st time in 70-years by supporting Clinton
- The Richmond-Times Dispatch endorsed a Non-Republican for the 1st time in 36-years by supporting Johnson
- USA Today gave an endorsement/non-endorsement for the 1st time in 34-years by opposing Trump
- The Dallas Morning News endorsed a Democrat for the 1st time in 34-years by opposing Trump
- The Dallas Voice endorsed a Presidential candidate for the 1st time in 32-years by supporting Clinton
- Wired endorsed a Presidential candidate for the 1st time in 25-years by supporting Clinton

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**Bragged about how he could get away with sexual assault, says he’s famous enough to get away with fondling women, boasts about how he cheats on Melania with other women**

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Donald Trump bragged in vulgar terms about kissing, grooving and trying to have sex with women during a 2005 conversation caught on a hot microphone, saying that “when you’re a star, they let you do it,” according to a video obtained by The Washington Post.

The video captures Trump talking with Billy Bush, then of “Access Hollywood,” on a bus with the show’s name written across the side. They were arriving on the set of “Days of Our Lives” to tape a segment about Trump’s cameo on the soap opera.

Late Friday night, following sharp criticism by Republican leaders, Trump issued a short video statement saying, “I said it, I was wrong, and I apologize.” But he also called the revelation “a distraction from the issues we are facing today.” He said that his “foolish” words are much different than the words and actions of Bill Clinton, whom he accused of abusing women, and Hillary Clinton, whom he accused of having “bullied, attacked, shamed and intimidated his victims.”

“I’ve never said I’m a perfect person, nor pretended to be someone that I’m not. I’ve said and done things I regret, and the words released today on this more than a decade-old video are one of them. Anyone who knows me knows these words don’t reflect who I am,” Trump said.

In an apparent response to Republican critics asking him to drop out of the race, he said: “We will discuss this more in the coming days. See you at the debate on Sunday.”

The tape includes audio of Bush and Trump talking inside the bus, as well as audio and video once they emerge from it to begin shooting the segment.

In that audio, Trump discusses a failed attempt to seduce a woman, whose full name is not given in the video.
“I moved on her, and I failed. I’ll admit it,” Trump is heard saying. It was unclear when the events he was describing took place. The tape was recorded several months after he married his third wife, Melania.

“Whoa,” another voice said.

“I did try and f--- her. She was married,” Trump says.

Trump continues: “And I moved on her very heavily. In fact, I took her out furniture shopping. She wanted to get some furniture. I said, ‘I’ll show you where they have some nice furniture.’”

“I moved on her like a bitch, but I couldn’t get there. And she was married," Trump says. “Then all of a sudden I see her, she’s now got the big phony tits and everything. She’s totally changed her look.”

At that point in the audio, Trump and Bush appear to notice Arianne Zucker, the actress who is waiting to escort them into the soap-opera set.

“Your girl’s hot as s---, in the purple,” says Bush, who’s now a co-host of NBC’s “Today” show.


“I’ve got to use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her,” Trump says. “You know I’m automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait.”

“And when you’re a star, they let you do it,” Trump says. “You can do anything.”

“Whatever you want,” says another voice, apparently Bush’s.

“Grab them by the p---y,” Trump says. “You can do anything.”

-October 8, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-recorded-having-extremely-lewd-conversation-about-women-in-2005/2016/10/07/3b9ce776-8cb4-11e6-bf8a-3d26847eeed4_story.html

Repeats racist remarks by still saying Central Park Five are guilty, despite DNA evidence

Wading into a racially-charged case from his past, Donald Trump indicated that the “Central Park Five” were guilty, despite being officially exonerated by DNA evidence decades after a notorious 1989 rape case.

“They admitted they were guilty,” Trump said to CNN in a statement.

“The police doing the original investigation say they were guilty. The fact that that case was settled with so much evidence against them is outrageous. And the woman, so badly injured, will never be the same.”

The five men were convicted as teenagers after implicating each other under intense questioning over a brutal sexual assault on a jogger that dominated the tabloids. Defenders said they were coerced into confessing and all five were later cleared by DNA evidence and a separate confession in 2002 from another criminal who took credit for the assault.

New York paid them $41 million in a settlement in 2014 over their ordeal.

Trump took out a full-page ad at the time of the crime calling for New York to reinstate the death penalty in response.

The case was notable for its racial politics: Four of the Central Park Five were black and one was Latino while the victim was a white banker.
Hillary Clinton's campaign denounced Trump's recent statements on the case Friday.

"The facts here are clear: These men were exonerated. Another man has admitted to committing the crime, as proven by DNA evidence," the campaign said in a statement. "Trump rushed to judgment on the case, has refused to admit he is wrong and continues to peddle yet another racist lie, a pattern for him and a clear reason why he is unfit to be president."

-October 8, 2016


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Top Republicans begin to call for him to drop out of race after bragging about getting away with sexual assault, uninvited from event by Speaker Ryan, denounced by his own running mate

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A defiant Donald Trump pledged to finish out the race on Saturday as a stampede of Republican politicians denounced his behavior toward women and a number openly called on him to quit.


Trump also told The Wall Street Journal there is "zero chance I'll quit."

"The support I'm getting is unbelievable, because Hillary Clinton is a horribly flawed candidate," he added.

Trump has weathered plenty of storms in the past, but the severity of the response from his own party over and the timing, just 30 days before the election and one day before the second presidential debate, left his campaign fighting for its life on Saturday morning.

Even Trump's own running mate, who dutifully represented Trump at last week's vice presidential debate, distanced himself from the remarks.

"As a husband and father, I was offended by the words and actions described by Donald Trump in the eleven-year-old video released yesterday," Pence said. "I do not condone his remarks and cannot defend them. I am grateful that he has expressed remorse and apologized to the American people. We pray for his family and look forward to the opportunity he has to show what is in his heart when he goes before the nation tomorrow night."

Notably, the statement did not reaffirm Pence's support for the nominee or include any of the counterattacks on Clinton that Trump emphasized in his own response.

Melania Trump, the nominee's wife, issued a rare statement decrying her own husband's behavior in stark terms but vouching for his broader character.

"The words my husband used are unacceptable and offensive to me," she said. "This does not represent the man that I know. He has the heart and mind of a leader. I hope people will accept his apology, as I have, and focus on the important issues facing our nation and the world."

Trump's taped apology just after midnight on Friday night, which promised a new war on Bill Clinton's sex scandals, did little to stem the bleeding, which appeared to worsen as multiple prominent Republicans and conservatives withdrew their endorsements.

"Donald Trump should withdraw and Mike Pence should be our nominee effective immediately," Sen. John Thune (R-SD), the third-ranking member of the Senate GOP leadership, tweeted.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), the 2008 GOP nominee who Trump famously said was "not a war hero" because he was captured in Vietnam, withdrew his support on Saturday in a detailed statement.

In addition to excoriating Trump's "boasts about sexual assaults," McCain also cited his recent claim that the "Central Park Five" were guilty of a notorious 1989 rape despite DNA evidence exonerating them.
He and his wife, he said, "will write in the name of some good conservative Republican who is qualified to be President."

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who had not weighed in on the election, also came off the fence to denounce Trump.

"Enough!" she wrote on Facebook. "Donald Trump should not be President. He should withdraw."

Among those who dropped their support for Trump on Saturday morning alone: Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL), and radio host Hugh Hewitt, who had been a prominent Trump supporter. In the case of Roby, Crapo, and Hewitt, they called on Trump to drop out. Moore Capito said Trump should "reexamine his candidacy." Ayotte said she would write in Pence on her ballot.

As the day continued, the response threatened to spread into a panic. Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV), running for an open senate seat, delivered a speech in Las Vegas demanding Trump withdraw and allow the GOP to select a replacement. Similar statements followed from Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE), Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), and Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), all of whom called for Pence to lead the ticket.

Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), a rising star in the party, also threw his weight behind a Pence takeover: "I cannot and will not support someone who brags about degrading and assault women," he said in a statement.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) tweeted that Trump "forfeited the right to be our party's nominee."

The timing of newly obtained audio from 2005 in which Trump boasted how he used his stardom to approach women and "grab 'em by the pussy," could not be much worse for the nominee, whose standing with women in surveys has already been abominable throughout the campaign.

"This one matters," a Trump campaign staffer conceded on Friday, adding they had "no idea" how to spin the story in their favor.

"It's over," a Republican strategist who has been supportive of Trump said. "Never seen anything like it. Never will."

"No woman should ever be described in these terms or talked about in this manner," RNC chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement on Friday. "Ever."

Speaker Paul Ryan condemned Trump as well on Friday and announced the nominee would no longer attend his scheduled event with Priebus in Wisconsin on Saturday.

"I am sickened by what I heard today," he said. "Women are to be championed and revered, not objectified. I hope Mr. Trump treats this situation with the seriousness it deserves and works to demonstrate to the country that he has greater respect for women than this clip suggests."

-October 8, 2016


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In petty attempt to take limelight off of him since his bragging about getting away with sexual assault, held a panel with Bill Clinton’s accusers 90 minutes before the second debate

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Donald Trump, reeling after two days of Republican disavowals and disaffections over a 2005 videotape of him bragging about his ability to get away with sexual assault, attempted to change the subject to his opponent's husband's alleged infidelities.

Just 90 minutes before his second debate Sunday night with Hillary Clinton, the GOP nominee held a surprise panel, broadcast live to Facebook, with women who have accused Bill Clinton of sexual misconduct -- in effect, dousing a campaign already on fire with buckets of fresh gasoline and bringing the worst fears of many Republicans to a stunning realization.

Seated beside four women -- including Juanita Broaddrick, Paula Jones, Kathleen Willey and Kathy Shelton -- Trump addressed viewers ahead of the debate, making an issue of the sexual history of Bill Clinton, who is not running for president.
Standing in the back of the Four Seasons Hotel ballroom were Trump's closest aides, including Breitbart publisher Steve Bannon and David Bossie, who have made a career -- on the fringes of conservative politics -- out of attacking the Clintons.

The surprise roundtable and the tawdriness of the subject is unprecedented in presidential politics, especially on the eve of a debate.

-October 9, 2016


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Second debate: Lied about the rise of insurance premiums rising
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TRUMP: “When I watch the deals being made, when I watch what’s happening with some horrible things like Obamacare where your health insurance and health care is going up by numbers that are astronomical 68 percent, 59 percent, 71 percent…”

Health insurance premiums for families rose an average 3 percent last year, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Premiums have risen 20 percent from 2011-2016, according to the Kaiser report.

-October 9, 2016


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Second debate: Lied about the trade deficit amount in 2015
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TRUMP: “Last year we had an almost 800 billion dollar trade deficit.”

The 2015 foreign trade deficit was $531.5 billion.

-October 9, 2016


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Second debate: Lied about tape that recorded him bragging about getting away with sexually assaulting women
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COOPER: “We received a lot of questions online Mr. Trump about the tape that was released on Friday, as you can imagine. You called what you said locker room banter. You described kissing women without consent grabbing the genitals. That is sexual assault. You brag that you have sexually assaulted women. Do you understand that?”

TRUMP: “No I didn’t say that at all.”

He did say that. The exact words were, “You know I’m automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait.”

-October 9, 2016


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Second debate: Lied about having respect for women
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TRUMP: “I have great respect for women. Nobody has more respect for women than I do.”

Trump has had many occasions to make this claim over the course of the campaign, dating back to his tense interaction with Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly during the first Republican primary debate in Cleveland in August 2015, when Kelly reminded him of his history of offensive comments about women. Here is a partial list compiled by PBS.

-October 9, 2016


Second debate: Lied about having ever sexually assaulted women

COOPER: “So for the record you’re saying you never did.”

TRUMP: “Frankly, you hear these things are said and I was embarrassed by it but I have tremendous respect for women.”

COOPER: “Have you ever done those things?”

TRUMP: “And women have respect for me. And I will tell you, no I have not...”

The New York Times reported in May that a Miss USA contestant named Temple Taggart said Trump introduced himself by kissing her “directly on the lips.” After the 1995 video came out on Friday CNN’s Erin Burnett reported that a friend of hers had also been kissed by Trump without consent.

Since the tape came out on Friday, news articles have quoted one woman accusing Trump of kissing her unwantedly and another woman accusing him of touching her crotch unwantedly. However, these are only allegations.

-October 9, 2016


Second debate: Lied about Hillary Clinton laughing at a rape victim, lied further by trying to paint Clinton for defending a rapist when she was bound by law to do so as a public defender (and by the judge after she had asked to be excused from representing her client)

TRUMP: “One of the women, who was a wonderful woman, 12 years old, was raped -- at twelve. Her client -- she represented, got him off. And she’s seen laughing on two separate occasions, laughing at the girl who was raped. Kathy Shelton, that young woman is here with us tonight.”

Allegation: In 1975, then-27-year-old Hillary Rodham was the court-appointed lawyer for a 41-year-old man accused of raping a 12-year-old girl. Recordings taped for an interview years later on the trial but never published were unearthed by the Washington Free Beacon in 2014. They depict Clinton laughing several times while discussing the case in a casual and cynical way, implying at times that she thinks her client is guilty, according to the Washington Post.

A 2008 Newsday article said a 1975 affidavit signed by Clinton indicates that she questioned the 12-year-old’s honesty, saying she had made accusations in the past and had sought out older men. Shelton — whose name was not published at the time — said she had not realized that Clinton was the lawyer at the time, but in the Newsday article said she was sure “Hillary was just doing her job.” Shelton told The Daily Beast in 2014 that “Hillary Clinton took me through hell.”

Public Remarks by HRC: In response to the 2008 Newsday article, a Clinton spokesman said, “As an attorney and an officer of the court, she had an ethical and legal obligation to defend him to the fullest extent of the law. To act otherwise would have constituted a breach of her professional responsibilities.”

-October 9, 2016
Second debate: Lied again by trying to pin the Birther movement on Clinton when he started it

TRUMP: “Well, you owe the president an apology because, as you know very well, your campaign, Sidney Blumenthal, he’s another real winner that you have. And he’s the one that got this started along with your campaign manager and they were on television just two weeks ago he was saying exactly that.”

We have fact-checked Trump’s birther claims previously (several times) online and on air. At the event in which Trump finally admitted that Obama was born in the U.S., he shifted the blame to Clinton’s campaign. We noted that Trump was trying to strike a “false equivalence” that does not compare to what he did: See here and here and here for more on Trump’s specific claims. As we noted, “There’s a big difference between what fringe supporters of Clinton said at the time, who were disavowed by the candidate, and the campaign Trump himself undertook in the subsequent years.”

-October 9, 2016

Second debate: Lied about Obamacare, missing the fact that the main problems with it are the Republican hold-out states that have not expanded Medicaid, thus keeping people in red states from taking advantage of ACA

TRUMP: “Obamacare is a disaster. You know it, we all know it. It is going up at numbers that nobody has ever seen worldwide. Nobody has ever seen numbers like this for health care. It is only getting worse. In seventeen, it implodes by itself.”

Obamacare has pushed the uninsured rate to an all-time low of just over 9 percent while extending coverage to some 20 million people (including Medicaid expansion, exchanges and young adults on family plans). The uninsured rate would be lower still had the 19 holdout states expanded Medicaid.

Competition on the exchanges is shrinking. Fewer insurance companies are playing, and 19 percent of exchange enrollees will have just one company to choose from in 2017. (That’s up from 2 percent in 2016.) Sixty-two percent of enrollees will still have at least three choices. The problem tends to be worse in rural areas and in the South. Premiums in the exchanges are also increasing. McKinsey Center looked at 18 states and found an average increase of 11 percent for the benchmark plan next year. Some of that increase will be absorbed by the federal government as most exchange subscribers receive a subsidy. A study by the Urban Institute finds that even without the subsidy, exchange plans cost an average of 10 percent less than employer-provided coverage.

-October 9, 2016

Second debate: Lied again about being against the war in Iraq

TRUMP: “I was against the war in Iraq.”

There is no evidence to support this claim. There is no evidence that Trump opposed the invasion of Iraq. In a 2002 interview, Howard Stern asked Trump if he would support the invasion. Trump replied: “Yeah, I guess so. I wish the first time it was done correctly.” Worth noting: Trump’s running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, voted in favor of the bill authorizing the Iraq War, when he represented Indiana in the House of Representatives.

-October 9, 2016

Second debate: Lied about Russia being behind the recent hacking incidents targeted at the DNC
“But I notice anytime anything wrong happens they like to say the Russians we don’t know if it’s Russian.”

The U.S. intelligence community and Department of Homeland Security said Friday that Russia is behind this year’s campaign of hacks and the release of information related to the 2016 campaign.

Second debate: Lied again about his tax cut plan benefiting the middle class

Trump wants to cut income tax rates while capping deductions for the wealthy. He would also reduce the business tax rate to 15 percent and eliminate the estate tax. The conservative Tax Foundation estimates that his plan would reduce federal revenue by $4.4 trillion to $5.9 trillion over the next decade, which is a lot, but down from $10 trillion in his original plan. Some of that could be offset by economic growth, but even using “dynamic scoring,” the foundation says the plan cuts tax revenue by $2.6 trillion to $3.9 trillion over 10 years. (The higher figure is if the 15 percent business tax rate is applied to “pass through” entities.) The biggest beneficiaries of Trump’s tax cuts are the wealthy. The top 1 percent of earners see their after-tax income rise by between 10.2 percent and 16 percent. Overall savings would be less than 1 percent.

Clinton would raise taxes on the wealthy — especially those making more than $5 million/year (2/10,000 people), limit value of certain deductions, and increase the estate tax rate, while extending that tax to more families (with thresholds set at $3.5 million/$7 million for couples). The Tax Policy Center estimated that an earlier version of her plan would raise an extra $1.1 trillion over a decade, with three-quarters of that coming from the top 1 percent of earners. Clinton recently modified her estate tax proposal, raising the top rate to 65 percent on estates of more than $500 million.

Second debate: Lied again about economic growth in the US

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, an international economic organization, evaluated the U.S. economy this summer and concluded: “Seven years after the financial crisis, the US economy has rebounded: output has surpassed its pre-crisis peak by 10%, robust private-sector employment gains have sharply reduced unemployment, fiscal sustainability has been largely restored and corporate profits are high.”

Second debate: Lied again about ISIS controlling “a good chunk” of Libyan oil

Donald Trump has said before that ISIS controls Libyan oil but experts say this just isn’t true. PolitiFact addressed this in some detail last April and CNBC checked back in on the claim as recently as September.
Second debate: Has a Gary Johnson moment by saying Aleppo has fallen (it hasn’t)

TRUMP: “I think that it basically has fallen. OK? It basically has fallen.”

Aleppo has not fallen to the Syrian government. It has been a divided city for years and rebels control the eastern side. The Syrian government and its Russian allies have increased airstrikes on the eastern side lately. The U.N. warned last week that more than 200,000 civilians live there and thousands could die if the Syrian regime tries to take it over.

Second debate: Lied again about NAFTA being the “worst trade deal in the history of the world”

TRUMP: “And will bring jobs back because NAFTA, signed by her husband, is perhaps the greatest disaster trade deal in the history of the world.”

Most studies show NAFTA had a relatively minor economic impact. “NAFTA did not cause the huge job losses feared by the critics or the large economic gains predicted by supporters. The net overall effect of NAFTA on the U.S. economy appears to have been relatively modest,” according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

Second debate: Lied about tweeting to check out Alicia M’s sex tape

COOPER: “Mr. Trump, let me follow up with you. In 2008, you wrote in one of your books that the most important characteristic of a good leader is discipline. You said if the leader doesn't have it, he or she won't be one for very long. In the days after the first debate, he sent out a series of tweets from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m., including one that told people to check out a sex tape. Is that the discipline of a good leader?”

TRUMP: “No, there wasn’t check out a sex tape.”

The verbatim tweet from Trump, time-stamped Sept. 30, 2016, at 5:30 a.m.:

“Did Crooked Hillary help disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a U.S. citizen so she could use her in the debate?”

Second debate: Lied about how much Hillary Clinton made by being “in office”

TRUMP: “I ask Hillary - why doesn’t she make $250 million by being in office? She used the power of her office to make a lot of money.”
Hillary Clinton released her 2015 tax returns in August. She and her husband, Bill, made $10.6 million last year. They paid more than a third of that in federal taxes and gave about 10 percent to charity. Most of the Clintons' income comes from paid speeches and book sales.

Over the past decade or so, the Clintons have made $150 million. They've paid about a third of that in taxes, and they've given just over 10 percent to charity.

-October 9, 2016


Second debate: Lied about the EPA killing the energy business in the US

TRUMP: “We are killing, absolutely killing our energy business in this country.”

Domestic oil and gas production have increased steadily during President Obama’s time in office. The U.S. has been the world’s leading producer of natural gas since 2011 and the top producer of oil since 2013.

The Energy Information Administration says gasoline prices averaged $2.25 a gallon last week — about seven cents a gallon cheaper than a year ago, and about 20 cents a gallon less than Obama’s first year in office.

-October 9, 2016


Admits to not having spoken to his running mate, then disagrees with his running mate

During the vice presidential debate, Mike Pence's refusal to defend some of Donald Trump's positions and comments became an issue for the Republican ticket.

Then in Sunday's presidential debate, Trump returned the favor by breaking with Pence over what the country's policy should be toward the Syrian civil war.

Pence had suggested there may be a need for U.S. military strikes in the Middle Eastern country.

"He and I haven't spoken and we don't agree," Trump said.

The distance between Trump and Pence didn't go unnoticed by commentators.

-October 9, 2016


Called Bill Clinton's accusers (the ones he had a panel for before the debate) “terrible” and “unattractive” back in 1998 when he was pretending to be a Democrat

Over the weekend, Donald Trump has called former President Bill Clinton an abuser of women and Hillary Clinton a bully who intimidated his victims.
But if you rewind to 1998, the Republican presidential nominee had a very different view of the 42nd president, defending him as the real "victim" in the wake of the fallout of the Monica Lewinsky scandal and blasting the accusers as "terrible" and "unattractive."

He also suggested that Clinton should have kept the scandal -- which he said "should have been nothing -- to himself."

Days after President Clinton admitted to having an inappropriate relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, Trump said Clinton was a "victim" and critiqued the physical appearances of various women with whom Clinton had been accused of having extramarital relations at different times.

"It's like it's from hell, it's a terrible group of people," Trump said in an interview with FOX News' Neil Cavuto on Aug. 19, 1998.

Asked by Cavuto if Clinton’s image as a “quasi-sex symbol” stood to somehow benefit from the alleged extramarital relations, Trump took issue with the characterization.

“I don't necessarily agree with his victims, his victims are terrible," Trump said. "He is really a victim himself. But he put himself in that position."

“The whole group, Paula Jones, Lewinsky, it's just a really unattractive group. I'm not just talking about physical," he said.

"Would it be any different if it were a supermodel crowd?" Cavuto then asked.

“I think at least it would be more pleasant to watch,” Trump replied.

-October 9, 2016


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Has business ties with Russia, despite repeated claims that he doesn't

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“The reason they blame Russia is they are trying to tarnish me with Russia. I know about Russia, but not about the inner workings. I have no business there and no loans from Russia. I have a great balance sheet.” — Donald Trump

We will never know the full range of facts and figures about Trump’s private business dealings across the globe, but there is some evidence that the businessman has done work in Russia.

The Washington Post has reported that at a real estate conference in New York in 2008, Donald Trump Jr. said that “Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets.” “We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia,” he added.

Additionally, Trump brought his Miss Universe pageant to Moscow, and POLITICO’s Michael Crowley writes “the Manhattan mogul watched 86 contestants don shimmering evening gowns and skimpy swimsuits for what he would call ‘the world’s biggest and most iconic beauty contest.’” Crowley has also written about Trump’s extensive business dealing with one Aras Agalarov, a billionaire Russian real estate mogul with ties to Putin.

-October 9, 2016


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Threatened to imprison Hillary Clinton if he became president, a promise most dictators make of their political opponents in banana republics

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There is no way to sugarcoat this: At Sunday night’s presidential debate, Donald Trump threatened to throw Hillary Clinton in jail if he wins the presidency. This — threatening to jail one's political opponents — is how democratic norms die.
The exchange happened during a discussion of the controversy over Hillary Clinton’s private email server. Trump began by decrying Clinton’s conduct — which, according to the FBI, was quite bad but not illegal. He then proposed appointing a special prosecutor to investigate her, and warned Clinton that, if he were president now, “you’d be in jail”:

TRUMP: I’ll tell you what. I didn’t think I’d say this, and I’m going to say it, and hate to say it: If I win, I’m going to instruct the attorney general to get a special prosecutor to look into your situation because there’s never been so many lies, so much deception … A very expensive process, so we’re going to get a special prosecutor because people have been, their lives have been destroyed for doing one-fifth of what you’ve done. And it’s a disgrace, and honestly, you ought to be ashamed.

CLINTON: Let me just talk about emails, because everything he just said is absolutely false. But I’m not surprised … It’s just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law of our country.

DT: Because you’d be in jail.

This is so far beyond normal that it’s hard to even know where to start.

In democracies, we respect people’s rights to disagree with each other. When one candidate wins a presidential election, the loser returns to private life or another government position. In some cases, former rivals become close friends. George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, who defeated Bush in the 1992 election, travel together and have spent decades jointly raising money to aid the victims of natural disasters.

They don’t get sent to jail, because we believe that political disagreement should be legal.

Donald Trump doesn’t seem to care about all that.

In his last line — “you’d be in jail” — he is outright saying that he would imprison Hillary Clinton in office (if he could). This comes despite the fact that there is no evidence Clinton committed a crime in her handling of the email servers, despite lengthy investigations that found evidence of carelessness and dishonesty. That would be a politically motivated prosecution — retribution for daring to run against Trump and attack him during the campaign.

This is everything we feared about Donald Trump. His long history of trying to silence critics with lawsuits, his inability to let personal slights go, his pettiness: The nightmare scenario is that these would incline him to use the power of the presidency to forcibly silence his critics and opponents. That’s what is done by tin-pot dictators spanning the globe from North Korea to Zimbabwe. That’s what happens in countries where peaceful transitions of power are the exception, not the rule.

Donald Trump just threatened to bring that to America.

-October 9, 2016


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In an attempt to assure voters that he is not a sexual predator, he proceeded to leer and lurk behind Hillary Clinton the entire time during the second debate

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Donald Trump’s major task for the second presidential debate—likely an insurmountable one—was to reassure women that he’s not a sexual predator. When asked a question early on about the instantly infamous tape from 2005 in which he bragged about groping women, Trump replied, “This was locker-room talk. I am not proud of it. I apologized to my family and the American people. I am not proud of it.” When moderator Anderson Cooper pushed him—“For the record, are you saying that what you said on the bus 11 years ago, that you did not kiss women without consent or grope women, you said you never did that?”—Trump insisted, “Nobody has more respect for women than I do.”

That respect doesn’t extend to Hillary Clinton, whom Trump repeatedly photobombed during the debate. During Clinton’s time, Trump wandered around the stage like a bored child at a wedding. He paced back and forth like a patriarch impatiently allowing a woman to speak but thinking better of it. He hovered a few feet behind her like a psycho killer about to burst through a glass window in a horror movie. This move did not go over so well on social media.

-October 9, 2016

http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2016/10/09/hillary_s_greatest_debate_accomplishment_was_ignoring_trump_as_he_lurked.html
Can’t tell time, says Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State when President Obama made red line comment about Syria (hint: she wasn’t)

“She was there as Secretary of State when there was the line in the sand.” — Donald Trump

“I wasn’t. I hate to interrupt you. At some point we need to get the facts out.” — Hillary Clinton

“Perhaps sadly Obama probably still listened. I don’t think he would listen very much anymore. Obama draws the line in the sand. It was laughed at all over the world what happened.” — Donald Trump

Obama said that use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime would be a “red line” in August 2012, when Clinton was still secretary of state. But she was not in office a year later, when evidence emerged that Assad had used chemical weapons, and Obama sought congressional authorization to use force in Syria.

-October 9, 2016


After admitting he hasn’t paid taxes in over 20 years, tries to side-step the issue by saying some of Hillary Clinton’s supporters have done the same

Earlier this month, the New York Times published several pages from Donald Trump’s 1995 New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut state income tax returns. They revealed an astonishing $916 million loss, one that—assuming the Internal Revenue Service didn’t challenge it—would have allowed Trump to avoid paying personal income taxes for about 18 years.

Is that what happened? It sure sounded possible! And now we appear to know for sure that Trump used the loss to avoid paying personal federal income taxes, at least for some period of time. How? Because he just said so in the second presidential debate.

When Anderson Cooper asked Trump, “Did you use the loss to avoid paying personal federal income taxes?” Trump responded bluntly: “Of course I do,” he said, adding, “So do all of her donors. I know many of her donors. They take massive write-offs.”

That’s quite possible! But they aren’t running for office, and they weren’t on the debate stage. Trump is. And he blamed Hillary Clinton for the fact he doesn’t pay taxes. Because, you see, “A lot of my write-off was depreciation, and that, Hillary as a senator, allowed. The people that give her all this money want it.” (Clinton, of course, wasn’t a senator in 1995, the year Donald Trump reported the $916 million loss. If you needed reminding!)

-October 9, 2016

http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2016/10/09/donal_trump_admitted_he_didn_t_pay_taxes_and_then_blamed_hillary.html

Is a sexual deviant, would purposely walk in beauty pageant dressing rooms when contestants were naked, bragged about getting away with it

Donald Trump would allegedly walk in on beauty pageant contestants while they were not dressed, according to recordings released Saturday by CNN.

Trump told radio host Howard Stern in 2005 that he would often go into the dressing rooms while the contestants were naked, saying in the recordings that he could “sort of get away with things like that.”

The recordings also support claims from Bridget Sullivan, former Miss New Hampshire, that Trump would do this while contestants were undressed during the 2000 Miss USA pageant, BuzzFeed reports. Trump’s campaign originally denied her story, saying in May that her claims were “totally false.”
But her story just received support from Donald Trump after CNN released the recordings yesterday, who owned the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants until last year.

"I'll tell you the funniest is that I'll go backstage before a show and everyone's getting dressed," Trump told Stern in the recordings. "No men are anywhere, and I'm allowed to go in, because I'm the owner of the pageant and therefore I'm inspecting it.... 'Is everyone OK'? You know, they're standing there with no clothes. 'Is everybody OK?' And you see these incredible looking women, and so I sort of get away with things like that."

"The time that he walked through the dressing rooms was really shocking. We were all naked," Sullivan told BuzzFeed.

Comparing Trump to a “creepy uncle” Sullivan also said the presidential candidate would “hug you just a little low on your back,” according to BuzzFeed.

Trump also referred to his daughter, Ivanka Trump, as a “piece of a–”, and talked about having threesomes, among making other vulgar comments about women in the recordings.

The recordings are the most recent way Trump has come under fire, released only days after he was scrutinized for making lewd comments about using his “star” power to force sexual advances on women.

- October 9, 2016


--------------------------------------------- Whined the entire debate because he got asked grown-up questions, says he was treated unfairly despite having more talking time than Hillary Clinton ---------------------------------------------

Donald Trump spent a lot of the second presidential debate complaining that the moderators were letting Hillary Clinton speak much more than him. At one point in the debate, Trump even described the event as “one on three” — “one” being Trump, and “three” being Clinton and debate moderators Anderson Cooper and Martha Raddatz.

Well, the numbers are in, and it turns out Trump actually got to speak more than Clinton throughout the debate. Trump spoke for about 40 minutes and 10 seconds, while Clinton spoke for about 39 minutes and 5 seconds.

- October 10, 2016


--------------------------------------------- Continues to whine that he’s getting called out for bragging about getting away with sexual assault, still trying to deflect to Bill Clinton (who isn’t running for president) on his allegations of sexual misconduct, threatens to continue to throw temper tantrum if he is continuously asked to be accountable for the things he says ---------------------------------------------

Donald Trump emerged from Sunday night's presidential debate, ready to sling more mud.

Trump, speaking before a rally in Pennsylvania on Monday afternoon, said he's been ganged up on ever since Friday's release of a 2005 tape that captured the billionaire speaking in incredibly crude terms about women.

“I was getting beaten up for 72 hours on all the networks for inappropriate words 12 years ago — locker room talk, whatever you wanna call it," Trump said, referring to the wall-to-wall coverage of comments that described his ability to get away with sexual assault. “But, I said to myself, wait a minute — and I just saw very inappropriate words — but Bill Clinton sexually assaulted innocent women, and Hillary Clinton attacked those women viciously. One of them said more viciously than he attacked them.”

Trump warned against the release of more damaging tapes of his past comments, threatening to continue attacking the Clintons over former President Bill Clinton’s alleged infidelities and Hillary Clinton’s response to those women’s accusations if more such tapes emerge.
Though Clinton’s campaign has denied any involvement in leaking the “Access Hollywood” clip that has dogged Trump’s campaign all weekend and prompted an exodus of support from prominent Republicans, Trump said more such releases will come at a risk for the Clintons — he cast Bill Clinton as a predator Monday and Hillary Clinton as a “total hypocrite” who enabled him to hurt more women.

“If they wanna release more tapes saying inappropriate things, we’ll continue to talk about Bill and Hillary Clinton doing inappropriate things,” Trump said. “There are so many of them, folks.”

-October 10, 2016

http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/trump-threatens-clinton-attacks-tapes-229566

Speaker Ryan all but pulls support from Trump after he bragged about getting away with sexual assault, says will focus on trying to keep House majority after implying Clinton will win the election

Speaker Paul Ryan told House Republicans on a conference call Monday morning that he’s done defending Donald Trump and will focus on maintaining his party’s increasingly imperiled House majority, according to sources on the call.

The message amounted to a concession by the highest-ranking elected Republican that his nominee for president can’t win — and lawmakers should save themselves and the Republican-controlled Congress to act as a check on Hillary Clinton.

Ryan stopped short of formally rescinding his endorsement of Trump — but just short. His move carries immense risk, and Ryan faced blowback from all sides: Trump and his surrogates warned Republican leaders they would pay a price for breaking from the nominee; some rank-and-file Republicans warned the strategy was a mistake; and immediately after the call, Clinton tweeted to her nearly 10 million followers that “Ryan is still endorsing Trump.”

Trump tweeted after the call that “Paul Ryan should spend more time on balancing the budget, jobs and illegal immigration and not waste his time on fighting Republican nominee.” And a Trump supporter in the House, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California, sharply criticized Republican leaders on the call for not doing enough to support Trump, sources said.

The continued fallout set off alarms among Republicans about a potential down-ballot wave that imperils not only the Senate, which Democrats are already in a strong position to win, but the until-now seemingly impenetrable House majority. At this point, the imperative for vulnerable Republicans on the ballot is simply political survival.

Ryan told his members that “you all need to do what’s best for you in your district,” said a source on the call, giving rank-and-file lawmakers political cover to disavow Trump. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California urged the lawmakers to take a deep breath and focus on their own races.

It was the biggest and most dramatic split between the highest-ranking Republican lawmaker on Capitol Hill and the party’s presidential nominee. Ryan has pushed back repeatedly on Trump’s most outrageous comments or positions, but until now, he has refused to openly break with the nominee.

Ryan and House Republicans are cognizant they could face a backlash from Trump supporters. With less than a month to go in the campaign, an open rupture between the presidential nominee and down-ballot Republicans could turn off independent voters and depress turnout among base voters, compounding their problems from the top of the ticket.

“The speaker is going to spend the next month focused entirely on protecting our congressional majorities,” said AshLee Strong, Ryan’s spokeswoman.

-October 10, 2016


Wanted to put Bill Clinton’s accusers in his family box during the second debate in an effort to turn the debate into an episode of Jerry Springer

Donald Trump’s campaign sought to intimidate Hillary Clinton and embarrass her husband by seating women who have accused former president Bill Clinton of sexual abuse in the Trump family’s box at the presidential debate here Sunday night, according to four people
involved in the discussions.

The campaign’s plan, which was closely held and unknown to several of Trump’s top aides, was thwarted just minutes before it could be executed when officials with the Commission on Presidential Debates intervened. The commission officials warned that, if the Trump campaign tried to seat the accusers in the elevated family box, security officers would remove the women, according to the people involved, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

The gambit to give Bill Clinton’s accusers prime seats was devised by Trump campaign chief executive Stephen K. Bannon and Jared Kushner, the candidate’s son-in-law, and approved personally by Trump. The four women — three of whom have alleged that Bill Clinton sexually assaulted or harassed them years ago — were to walk in the debate hall at the same time as the 42nd president and confront him in front of a national television audience.

“We were going to put the four women in the VIP box,” said former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who represents Trump in debate negotiations. “We had it all set. We wanted to have them shake hands with Bill, to see if Bill would shake hands with them.”

The four women — Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, Kathleen Willey and Kathy Shelton — sat with other ticketed members of the audience. Bill Clinton long has denied the allegations of Jones, Broaddrick and Willey. Shelton was 12 years old when she accused a 41-year-old man of raping her. Hillary Clinton was selected by a judge to defend the man, who eventually pleaded to a lesser charge.

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, the debate commission’s co-chairman and a former Republican National Committee chairman, caught wind of the plot on Sunday and immediately moved to put an end to it. Fahrenkopf tartly warned a Trump staffer that if the campaign tried to put the four women in the family box, security personnel would remove them, according to people with direct knowledge of the conversations.

“Fahrenkopf said, ‘no’ — verbally said ‘no,’ that ‘security would throw them out,’” Giuliani said.

-October 10, 2016


Encouraging his supporters to again intimidate voters in “certain neighborhoods” AKA non-white voters

Donald Trump made a very Trumpy first post-debate appearance Monday afternoon in Pennsylvania. In his Ambridge, P-A rally, Trump hit many of the same notes he gonged the night before during the second presidential debate of the campaign—a.k.a. the least uplifting debate in American history—while amping up his nostalgia for the glory days when Americans leisurely mined coal and ate steel for breakfast. Those were the days. Trump’s contrived nostalgia for things that once were has reached a point where the next logical step is he demands we rebuild America’s Styrofoam industry. Because science is for squares and nobody beats America.

One particularly disturbing theme Trump hit on again in Ambridge is the conspiracy theory that the Donald has been setting up for quite some time now that the election is going to be “stolen.” From him, obviously. Not by him. He would never do that. To further stir the pot of fear and loathing that certain segments of his supporters feel for others that don't look like them, he again told the Trump faithful to be on the lookout for “other communities” when it comes Election Day.

“So this year, we have an election coming up on November 8th, so important that you get out and vote. So important that—watch other communities because we don’t want this election stolen from us. We do not want this election stolen from us.”

What communities could Trump possibly be talking about? Would it, perhaps, be the same “communities” (of Americans) that Donald Trump and his supporters want to take “our country” back from? Trump doesn’t say. Because saying it would be overtly chauvinist and bigoted, implying it gives the campaign just enough wiggle room to gaslight the country later on. It’s unclear why Trump has drawn a seemingly arbitrary line of decorum and doesn’t say explicitly what he’s implying. Perhaps, like his ISIS strategy, it’s a secret.

Either way, it's a troubling, potentially damaging line of thinking that the Republican candidate for president is pushing that the election, like everything else in America these days, is being “stolen” from the people to whom it rightfully belongs. Trump people. “You’ve got to go out, and you've got to get your friends, and you've got to get everybody you know, and you gotta watch the polling booths, because I hear too many stories about Pennsylvania, certain areas,” Trump said during a speech last week. “I hear too many bad stories, and we can’t lose an election because of you know what I’m talking about. So, go and vote and then go check out areas because a lot of bad things happen, and we don't want to lose for that reason.”

“You know what I'm talking about...” In Pennsylvania and beyond, Trump is actively recruiting those that believe they do.
A riff by Donald Trump at a rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Monday night about Hillary Clinton's culpability in the deaths of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in Benghazi, Libya, is raising questions about where exactly Trump got his information and how.

During his speech, Trump held up a piece of paper. "This just came out a little while ago. I have to tell you this," Trump said as he read from the page, which he identified as an email from Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal.

"The attack was almost certainly preventable," Trump read. He continued, "Clinton was in charge of the State Department ... if the GOP wants to raise that as a talking point against her, it is legitimate."

Trump said, "In other words he [Blumenthal] is admitting that they could have done something about Benghazi. This just came out, a little while ago."

Trump folded the page and let it fall to the floor, and his audience booed.

So was this indeed a private admission by a Clinton ally that she was responsible for the deaths of the four Americans?

For Newsweek reporter Kurt Eichenwald, the words Trump read sounded familiar. It turns out they were taken from an article he wrote, which Blumenthal had included in an email. So they were not Blumenthal's words, but Eichenwald's.

The misconstrued "email" that Trump was reading had appeared in an article on a Russia-funded website called Sputnik, which has since taken it down.

You can see the original in a screen grab from The Washington Post.

It's unclear how Trump obtained the same misinformation that appeared in Sputnik. Eichenwald asks: "Who in the Trump campaign was feeding him falsehoods straight from the Kremlin?"

Donald Trump on Tuesday blasted Speaker Paul Ryan in an interview with "The O'Reilly Factor," stating that he no longer wants the Wisconsin Republican's support.

When asked if he thinks establishment Republicans, including Ryan, will support him as president if he's elected, Trump said yes while speculating about the Speaker's future.

"They'll be there. I would think that Ryan maybe wouldn't be there, maybe he'll be in a different position."

"The fact is, I think we should get support, and we don't get the support from guys like Paul Ryan," the GOP presidential nominee said Tuesday night on Fox News.

"He had a conference call yesterday with congressmen, with hundreds of them, and they practically rioted against him on the phone. One person stuck up for him. So I'm just tired of nonsupport, and I don't really want his support."
Ryan told his conference on a Monday call that he’s done defending Trump and has instructed members to do whatever they need to win reelection.

Trump has suffered a wave of high-profile Republican defections after a 2005 video was released Friday of him making obscene sexual remarks, and he’s furious over the GOP’s skittishness.

“This happens all the time — if you sneeze, [Ryan] calls up and announces, ‘Isn’t that a terrible thing?’ So look, I don’t want his support, I don’t care about his support.” Trump continued.

He then proceeded to criticize Ryan over immigration and balancing the budget.

“Paul Ryan opened borders and amnesty and bad budgets by the way, very, very bad budgets. Frankly the only one that Obama negotiates well with is Paul Ryan with the budgets because that’s the only negotiation he can win. He certainly can’t beat Iran.”

Trump on Monday morning unleashed a string of tweets that indicate he’ll be attacking Ryan and GOP leaders with the same vigor with which he’s attacking Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

-October 11, 2016

http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/300523-trump-i-dont-want-ryans-support

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Case against him in which he raped a 13-year-old girl closer to moving to trial

A lawsuit claiming that Republican nominee Donald Trump raped at least one 13-year-old girl in 1994 may have its day in court after a federal judge reportedly ordered a status conference to review the case, the Independent reported Tuesday.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of New York, alleges that Trump and financier Jeffrey Epstein raped two underage girls at several parties at Epstein’s apartment in Manhattan. The girls, identified in court documents as “Tiffany Doe” and “Jane Doe,” were allegedly promised money and modeling careers if they attended the parties.

The details described in the document are graphic. At one party, Trump is accused of tying one of the young girls to the bed before raping her while the victim repeatedly plead with him to stop.

Trump’s lawyer has denied the accusations. A status conference is a meeting to update the court on how the two sides are proceeding including any settlement discussions under consideration and any discovery that has been conducted.

As I have said before, the allegations are categorically untrue and an obvious publicity stunt aimed at smearing my client, ” Alan Garten, Trump’s general counsel for nearly a decade, told LawNewz.com.

Trump will reportedly head to court after the election on Dec. 16. The attorney representing the two women accusing the presidential hopeful of raping them while they were children previously became well known for representing Casey Anthony, who was accused of murdering her two-year-old daughter in Florida in 2008.

This is not the first time that Trump has been accused of rape. Trump’s ex-wife Ivana Trump accused the businessman of raping her in a sworn deposition that surfaced after their divorce. She later walked those statements back and said that he did not rape her in a “literal or criminal sense.”

The allegations come as questions about Trump’s conduct around women has reached a fever pitch in the 2016 campaign. A video came out Friday afternoon showing Trump boasting on a hot mic about sexual assault. Trump said the video shows “locker room banter” and don’t represent how he truly feels.

-October 12, 2016

Donald Trump denied a People magazine journalist’s claim that he sexually assaulted her during an interview. His explanation: She’s not attractive enough.

On Wednesday, People magazine journalist Natasha Stoynoff alleged that Trump tried to forcibly kiss her while she was on assignment. She wrote that Trump brought her into a room, shut the door, “and within seconds, he was pushing me against the wall, and forcing his tongue down my throat.”

On Thursday, Trump said it wasn’t true. “Look at her,” Trump said during a speech. “Look at her words. You tell me what you think. I don’t think so.”

This kind of objectification is part of a very long pattern for Trump.

As Libby Nelson explained for Vox, Trump seems to only show his feelings about women based on their physical characteristics or sexuality:

Trump is incapable of separating a woman’s value from her physical appearance. He assumes that his intimate commentary on women’s bodies is always welcome, no matter who might be listening — as the leaked audio, in which Trump is having a conversation with an acquaintance in a professional setting, demonstrates.

He apparently never stops to consider how the women he’s subjecting to all of this might feel. In a professional setting, it’s degrading to know that people are paying more attention to your looks than your abilities or achievements. It’s gross for your boss to tell you you’re beautiful, or for a man with more power than you to speculate about what you’re like in bed. It’s dehumanizing to be reduced to a set of breasts and a pretty face.

It is such an inherent part of Trump’s character, apparently, that he can’t even stop himself from doing it when he’s being criticized for it.

-October 13, 2016

utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=chorus&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

“I don’t know anything about her. I don’t even know who she is. She claims this took place in a public area. I never kissed her. I emphatically deny this ridiculous claim,” Trump told NBC News in a statement responding to the allegation that he’d kissed a former Miss Utah in 1997.

But back in May, when Temple Taggart McDowell’s allegation was first made public in a New York Times story, Trump reportedly told the Daily Mail that she’d recanted her story and he’d he’d merely kissed her on the cheek.

“Then there was that nice girl from Utah,” he said, according to the Daily Mail, “the one who said I gave her a kiss.”

“She recanted. She said it never happened,” Trump told the Mail. “You know what? She was a nice kid. She was in front of her parents. We had thousands of people there in the audience. She said, ‘Hi, Mr. Trump.’ And she came over and gave me a hug and I gave her a kiss on the cheek.”

“This was done on television!” he continued. “This was just before the pageant. And they made it sound like it was some act that happened in a dark bedroom somewhere.”

-October 13, 2016

http://www.nbcnews.com/card/trump-says-he-doesnt-know-accuser-months-ago-he-said-n665761
Never denounces supporters who plotted to bomb mosque in Kansas

So, have you heard the news coming out of the nation’s heartland? Three southwest Kansas men, Patrick Eugene Stein, Curtis Allen, and Gavin Wright, were arrested today for allegedly conspiring to blow up an apartment complex in Garden City that houses a mosque and serves as a home for many local Somali refugees, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. From the Washington Post:

“The “Crusaders” knew they wanted to kill Muslims — and with luck, use the “bloodbath” to ignite a religious war — but for months they couldn’t settle on a plan.

The easiest way would be to grab guns, go to the predominantly Somali-Muslim apartment complex they’d been surveilling and start kicking in doors, court documents said. They would spare no one, not even babies.

Stein allegedly remarked, “If you’re a Muslim I’m going to enjoy shooting you in the head,” before telling the group: “When we go on operations there’s no leaving anyone behind, even if it’s a one-year old, I’m serious. I guarantee you if I go on a mission those little f—— are going bye bye.”

In the end, they decided to set off bombs similar to the one Timothy McVeigh used in 1995 to kill 168 people in Oklahoma City. They planned to strike after the Nov. 8 election, investigators said. Curtis Allen, Gavin Wright and Patrick Eugene Stein face federal charges of conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction to blow up an apartment complex, a mosque and Muslim immigrants from Somalia, the Department of Justice announced Friday.

But there’s more — Patrick Stein also had a Facebook group, the Kansas Liberty Restoration Committee, dedicated to the eventual overthrow of the United States government (details of “The Plan” can be found here).

And, these cornfed commandos are loyal Trump supporters. On October 2, Stein posted an appeal on his Facebook group’s page, requesting volunteers for security details which he planned to run at the Trump presidential rallies taking place in late October in Ohio and Pennsylvania. I suppose that if Donald Trump wins, Stein’s followers intend to put their revolutionary plans on hold for a while. Such good little Committee members...

-October 15, 2016


Calls for drug test before third debate after rumors that his constant sniffling during debates is due to cocaine addiction

Donald Trump on Saturday called for himself and Hillary Clinton to take a drug test prior to the third presidential debate.

During a campaign rally Saturday in New Hampshire, the GOP presidential nominee compared himself and Clinton to athletes.

“Athletes, they make them take a drug test, right. I think we should take a drug test prior to the debate,” Trump said.

“Why don’t we do that? We should take a drug test, prior, because I don’t know what’s going on with her, but at the beginning of her last debate, she was all pumped up at the beginning, and at the end it was like, ‘Oh, take me down,’ ” Trump said, imitating Clinton.

“She could barely reach her car.’’

Trump said he was willing to take drug test.

-October 15, 2016

Calls women’s vaginas “potential landmines” after bragging about dodging the draft during Vietnam War, called avoiding STDs “my personal Vietnam”

In an unearthed interview from 1997, Donald Trump claimed he was a “brave soldier” for avoiding STDs during his single years in the late ‘90s.

“It’s amazing, I can’t even believe it. I’ve been so lucky in terms of that whole world, it is a dangerous world out there. It’s like Vietnam, sort of. It is my personal Vietnam. I feel like a great and very brave soldier,” Trump said in the interview when Howard Stern asked how he handled making sure he wasn’t contracting STDs from the women he was sleeping with.

The business-mogul-turned-politician elaborated on the fact in the interview, calling women’s vaginas “potential landmines” and saying “there’s some real danger there.”

Also appearing on Stern’s show in 1993, Trump bragged about his promiscuous lifestyle while single and stated that men who didn’t go to Vietnam didn’t need to feel guilty because dating during the AIDS epidemic in the ‘80s was also dangerous.

“You know, if you’re young, and in this era, and if you have any guilt about not having gone to Vietnam, we have our own Vietnam — it’s called the dating game,” Trump said to Stern in a 1993 interview. “Dating is like being in Vietnam. You’re the equivalent of a soldier going over to Vietnam.”

-October 15, 2016

http://people.com/politics/trump-boasted-of-avoiding-stds-while-dating-vaginas-are-landmines-it-was-my-personal-vietnam/

Calls to unite America under “one God”

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump strikes nationalistic and patriotic tone with supporters in Bangor, Maine, telling them to imagine a U.S. that came together “as one people, under one God, saluting one American flag.” Rough Cut (no reporter narration).

-October 15, 2016


Chose a running mate that supports his view that elections are rigged when Governor Pence orders police to suppress votes of 50,000 African Americans in Indiana

Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence is being applauded for publicly rebuking his running mate Donald Trump’s repeated claims of a “rigged” election, yet what’s gone under the radar is that Indiana governor may be allowing voter suppression in his own state.

On Sunday when Pence appeared on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” host John Dickerson asked him about Trump’s claims that the election is “absolutely rigged” and his calls for supporters to closely monitor polling places for voter fraud. “I don’t think any American should ever attempt to make any other American nervous” when voting, Pence responded.

Dickerson did not question Pence, however, about why Indiana State Police recently seized 45,000 voter-registration applications, most of them from black voters. So while viewers may have given Pence credit for seeming relatively reasonable compared with his running mate, alleged voter suppression in his own backyard went largely unnoticed amid the hoopla over Trump’s hysterical claims.

Indiana State Police last week raided the largest voter registration agency in the state because of just 10 confirmed cases amid 45,000 submitted voter-registration forms containing so-called fraudulent information.

Indiana’s Secretary of State Connie Lawson, a key sponsor of her state’s 2005 voter ID law (upheld by the Supreme Court), in September announced an investigation of the Indiana Voter Registration Project. On Oct. 4, state police detectives served a search warrant on the
The project’s Indianapolis office. The results of the search have not been released, and the affidavit and search warrant will remain sealed for 30 days, according to the Indy Star.

The D.C.-based Patriot Majority USA, which sponsored the Indiana Voter Registration Project and similar efforts to register communities of color in 13 other states, said the raid is a Republican-led effort to suppress turnout ahead of the presidential election. (Patriot Majority USA at one point this year had been affiliated with a PAC that supports Democrats in U.S. Senate races but not during this part of the election cycle.)

After the Indiana Voter Registration Project flagged for elections officials less than a dozen questionable registration forms in two counties, police began investigating the Indiana Voter Registration Project in August. State police initially said that they had identified 19 fraudulent registration applications but by Saturday announced an expansion of the investigation from 2 counties to 56 counties even though the project worked on voter registration in only 9 counties.

State police investigators said in a statement, the false information could be a “combination of made up names and made up addresses, real names with made up or incorrect addresses and false dates of births with real names as well as combinations of all these examples.”

But Craig Varoga, president of Patriot Majority USA, said in a email, “In Indiana, they took the forms . . . mischaracterized ten omissions as fraud and then brought in partisan Republicans from the State Police, who launched a partisan witch hunt designed to suppress the voting rights of tens of thousands of African Americans in Indiana.”

Vagora told Salon via email that he believes Pence is using the state police to suppress the votes of Indiana voters and violate their constitutional rights. “Essentially, the state police are using our quality-control methods to disseminate false charges of fraud. If that’s not a partisan abuse of a law-enforcement agency, nothing is,” Vagora said. According to a training manual, Indiana Voter Registration Project canvassers are not compensated by the number of registration form collected but rather with an hourly wage.

And Varoga said that while many of the 45,000 voter applications had been submitted to the county clerks by the day of the October raid by State Police, “they are in jeopardy because officials might not process them in time for the November 8th election, due to the false allegations of fraud by Pence, the police and Connie Lawson.”

Varoga said in a statement that Indiana State Police tried to intimidate the Indiana Voter Registration Project in several ways. “Investigators seized personal cell phones not related to the investigation; prohibited videotaping of investigators’ activities in the IVRP’s offices; [and] prevented IVRP staff from contacting in-state legal counsel, and then demanded that a state trooper be present if staff members called an attorney, a clear violation of attorney-client privilege.”

According to Varoga, the Republican state trooper leading the Indiana Voter Registration Project investigation is eyeing a run for sheriff in one Indiana county and personally went to the homes of African-American canvassers “in an effort to force them into taking polygraph exams and making false confessions.”

-October 17, 2016


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Despite repeated claims that election process is rigged, voter fraud is extremely rare in American elections

As Donald Trump has slumped in the polls, he has started to suggest that the election could be “rigged.” The FiveThirtyEight Elections podcast looks at how common voter fraud is in the United States and talks about the implications of Trump’s claims. The team also assesses what, if any, damage might come from WikiLeaks’ releases of Hillary Clinton campaign emails.

The podcast’s final live show before the election is on Oct. 24 in New York City.

Here is a portion of our conversation about Trump’s suggestion of election rigging. It begins at the 8-minute mark and has been lightly edited for clarity:

Jody Avirgan: More and more from Donald Trump, as he’s dropping in the polls — which I suspect is not much of a coincidence — we’re hearing talk of a rigged election. Trump has suggested that the election will be rigged. He’s urged his supporters to monitor polling sites; he’s suggested even that the polls are rigged. This morning, Monday morning, he tweeted, “Of course there is widespread voter fraud happening on and before election day.” There’s a lot to tease out here about the specific charges and about the long-term corrosive effect of sowing distrust in our electoral system. And I’ve got some data and some facts that will hopefully give us some context, but I also want to start with a basic question of definitions because I think there are some different definitions floating around of what the word rigged means. So, Clare, I wonder if you can start there. When Trump says that word — “rigged” — and he says this race is rigged, what do you think he means?
Clare Malone: I think he is mostly talking about voter fraud. Now, I think we should say that this has been a line that Republicans have used for a long time. They’ve talked a lot about voter fraud in elections, which we should state up front is very rare in the United States.

Jody: There’s this adage that more people are struck by lightning each year than commit in-person voter fraud. About 300 people are struck by lightning, and the voter fraud cases are much less than that each year.

-October 17, 2016


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Cozies up further to be a Putin puppet by saying he may meet with Putin before Obama administration ends, repeats Red Scare rhetoric on penis-measuring of nuclear arsenals between two countries

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Donald Trump floated the idea on Monday of meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin “prior to the start of my administration,” showing little concern that the gesture would provide a political opening for Hillary Clinton.

Trump was asked by radio host Michael Savage how he would avert world war with the Russians. While the Republican nominee did not get into specifics, he said part of the problem right now is that America’s leaders insult Putin too much.

"They insult him constantly, no wonder he can’t stand Obama and Hillary Clinton," said Trump, who has been heavily criticized for appearing to cozy up to the Russian leader and encouraging their hacking activities.

He went on to say that he would have no problem spending some facetime with Putin before he moves into the White House. "If I win on Nov. 8 ... I could see myself meeting with Putin and meeting with Russia prior to the start of the administration," he said, adding, "I think it would be wonderful."

Trump also claimed that Russia's nuclear capacity is "so far ahead" of the United States. The Arms Control Association, however, puts Russia with a slight edge over the U.S. when it comes to the 2016 inventory of deployed nuclear warheads, 1,735 to 1,481.

-October 17, 2016

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Decides to ignore reality when no poll has him winning against Clinton

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Donald Trump says he doesn't believe polls that show Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton beating him by an average of 7 points nationally.

"Even though we’re doing pretty good in the polls, I don’t believe the polls anymore," the GOP presidential nominee told a rally crowd in Colorado Springs, Colo., Tuesday.

"I don’t believe them," he repeated.

Trump accused the media of hiding good polls about him and playing up bad news. It’s comments like these that frustrate many Republicans in Washington, who privately kvetch that Trump and his allies are denying reality.

"If there’s 10 [polls], and if there’s one or two bad ones, that’s the only one they show," Trump said. "Believe me, folks, we’re doing great. If we keep our spirit, and if we go out and win."

Trump echoed the views of his campaign CEO, Steve Bannon, by claiming he’s going to produce a shock result like “Brexit” in Europe, where pollsters were stunned when a majority of British voters decided to leave the European Union.

"This is another Brexit, believe me," Trump said Tuesday.

Referring to the media, he added, "They are so worried. That's why they've become vicious and hostile and dirty. Because they see what's
going on."

Trump appeared to be arguing that his rally crowds provide evidence that he’s doing better than the scientific polls indicate.

“This rally,” he said, “set up just a short while ago, look at the number of people packed."

At Clinton’s rallies, Trump added, “very few people show up when she has the energy to go to the event, which isn't often.”

-October 18, 2016


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Vows to alter the Constitution, wants to limit political power of Congress, thereby increasing executive powers in the US

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Donald Trump on Tuesday said he would push for congressional term limits if he’s elected president — an expansion of his new campaign pledge to “drain the swamp” in Washington that comes as he propagates the conspiracy theory that the election will be rigged against him.

“If I’m elected president, I will push for a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress,” Trump said at a Tuesday afternoon rally in Colorado. “They’ve been talking about that for years. Decades of failure in Washington and decades of special interest dealing must and will come to an end.”

Trump clarified at a rally later in the day that he would propose a six-year limit for members of the House and 12-year limit for senators.

-October 18, 2016


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Continues to claim elections are rigged against him, despite only 17 states have Democratic-controlled electoral systems under a six-year Republican-led Congress in a nation that overwhelmingly identifies as progressively leftist

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Donald Trump continued on Monday to push his claims that the election is “rigged” against him, falsely suggesting widespread voter fraud and raising the specter of a conspiracy of media outlets scheming to provide negative coverage of his candidacy.

But while he may believe that he only way he could possibly lose would be for 1.8 million deceased people” to cast ballots against him and an array of other other vote-rigging techniques, many of those who oversee elections in the states have pushed back against his claims.

And most of those chief elections officers are Republicans—some of whom have publicly endorsed Trump.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 26 states have an elected secretary of state or lieutenant governor who oversee elections and 7 more have those officials share authority with a commission or board. Eight more states have a chief official selected by the legislature or governor; the rest are run by an appointed electoral commission of some sort.

In Hawaii, Illinois, New York, and Wisconsin, these are bipartisan boards. In other states, like Maryland and North Carolina, the majority on the boards goes to the current governor’s party.

In all, 29 states have GOP-controlled elections processes, representing 302 electoral votes. 17 states and the District of Columbia have a Democratic-controlled process, representing just 173 electors. The remaining 4 states, with a total of 63 electoral votes, have bipartisan boards.

In other words, if the election were truly “rigged,” it would have to be a Republican rig. Swing states like Florida, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio are all overseen by GOP chief elections officials.
Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted (R) and Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney (R) have said they will vote for Trump. Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R) endorsed Trump in February. Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate (R) even had Trump headline a 2015 campaign fundraiser for his own re-election. It seems unlikely these or other Republicans would secretly be working to rig an election for Hillary Clinton.

If anything, many of these Republican secretaries of state have moved to suppress the votes of Democrats and racial minorities—groups that are among the least likely to vote for Trump.

Perhaps this is why even Trump’s closest advisers are trying to push back against his claims. National campaign co-chair Sam Clovis told the Boston Herald on Tuesday, “I have a lot of faith in the secretaries of states across the country.”

And Gov. Mike Pence (R-IN), Trump’s own running mate, said on Sunday that the campaign would accept the results of the election and that the only “sense of a rigged election” came from the “obvious bias in the national media.”

-October 18, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/trump-election-rigging-by-gop-3bea26109db4#.ud0pg85kx

Has taken on Alex Jones as advisor, despite being an anti-Semite conspiracy theorist that believes the Sandy Hook attack was a hoax, that 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombings were perpetrated by the US government, and that the government is poisoning the drinking water to turn Americans gay

Your reputation is amazing. I will not let you down.

Donald Trump, the former reality-show host turned Republican presidential nominee, uttered those very words to Alex Jones during an appearance on the round Texan’s Infowars program in December. Jones—for the blissfully uninitiated—is an alt-right conspiracy theorist who believes the United States government was behind the Oklahoma City bombing, the September 11 attacks, and is poisoning our drinking water in order to turn American citizens gay.

He is also, by his own admission, a close adviser to candidate Trump.

Jones’s most despicable theory is his belief that the Sandy Hook massacre was staged. On Dec. 14, 2012, Adam Lanza shot and killed 20 young children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

“Sandy Hook is a synthetic completely fake with actors, in my view, manufactured,” said Jones on the Jan. 13, 2015, edition of his radio show. “I couldn’t believe it at first. I knew they had actors there, clearly, but I thought they killed some real kids. And it just shows how bold they are, that they clearly used actors.” (There is absolutely no evidence to support this odious claim.)

Trump’s Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, condemned his disturbing alliance with Jones in an Aug. 25 speech targeting the alt-right, along with an anti-Trump ad released by the Clinton campaign on Oct. 16.

Where does Trump get his talking points from? Often this alt-right conspiracy theorist, Alex Jones. (Watch all the way to the end.) pic.twitter.com/87zLGAbvyG

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) October 16, 2016

Mark Barden, whose 7-year-old son Daniel was murdered in the Sandy Hook shooting, is also appalled by the cozy relationship between Trump and Jones.

“The Republican presidential nominee of the United States is being advised by a delusional sociopath. It speaks for itself,” Barden tells me. “What else can you say about that? It’s disgusting.”

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: lies about 2nd Amendment being “under siege,” lies about Clinton being an opponent of the 2nd Amendment

TRUMP: “We need a Supreme Court that in my opinion is going to uphold the Second Amendment and all amendments. But the Second Amendment, which is under absolute siege. I believe if my opponent should win this race, which I truly don't think will happen, we will have a second amendment which will be a very, very small replica of what it is right now.”

Trump has repeatedly falsely claimed that Clinton would like to abolish the Second Amendment or “take your guns away.” This is not Clinton’s position, though she does favor stricter gun regulations.

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: wants to abolish abortion

WALLACE: “Well, let's pick up on another issue which divides you and the justices that whoever ends up winning this election appoints can have a dramatic effect there and that's the issue of abortion. Mr. Trump you are pro-life. I would ask you specifically, do you want the court, including the justices that you will name, to overturn Roe v. Wade which includes, in fact states, a woman's right to abortion.”

TRUMP: “Well, if that would happen because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states.”

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: has no understanding of how an abortion happens, believes babies are being “ripped out of the womb”

TRUMP: “I think it's terrible if you go with what Hillary is saying in the ninth month you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby. Now you can say that that’s okay and Hillary can say that that’s okay, but it’s not okay with me. Because based on what she's saying and based on where she’s going and where she's been, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb on the ninth month on the final day. And that's not acceptable.”

Very few of the millions of abortions performed each year involve dilation and extraction, which is called “partial-birth abortion” by opponents. These are abortions performed after 20 weeks. It would be extremely unusual, if it is done at all, for this kind of abortion to be done only a few days before a nine-month term is reached. Very few providers in the country still perform D&X abortions.

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: lied about Clinton wanting to offer amnesty to immigrants who enter the US illegally

TRUMP: “Well, first of all she wants to give amnesty, which is a disaster and very unfair to all the people that are waiting on line for many many years.”

Hillary Clinton has not proposed offering amnesty to immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Her immigration platform says she would defend and expand President Obama’s executive action of November 2014. His actions, thwarted by federal courts, would protect an estimated 5 million such immigrants and parents from deportation and offer them renewable work permits, not citizenship. Amnesty is different. Ronald Reagan’s 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act legalized and ultimately granted citizenship to immigrants in the country illegally who met certain criteria.

-October 19, 2016
Third debate: lies for a third time about being endorsed by ICE

TRUMP: “The border secure as you know the border patrol agents sixteen thousand five hundred plus, ICE endorsed me. First time they’ve ever endorsed a candidate.”

A union of immigration and customs enforcement officers endorsed Trump in September, not the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau.

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: racist jab about illegal immigrants, says they are “bad hombres” despite national statistics that say illegal immigrants are more law-abiding than US citizens

TRUMP: “We’re going to get them out we’re going to secure the border and once the border is secure at a later date we will make its determination as to the rest. But we have some bad hombres here that were going to get them out.”

Border Patrol apprehensions along the Southwest border with Mexico rose 23 percent in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 but remain lower than the two previous years and are 75 percent below the level in 2000. Apprehensions are considered a rough proxy for attempted border crossings. Immigrants from Central America — including families and unaccompanied children — now outnumber Mexicans in attempting to cross the border without authorization. The Pew Research Center reports more Mexicans left the U.S. than entered between 2009 and 2014.

Deportations increased during Obama’s first four years in office, peaking in 2012 at nearly 410,000. Since then, deportations have been dropping, reaching a low of 235,000 last year. Since 2014, the administration has focused on deporting recent arrivals and criminals, with fewer deportations of longtime residents whose only crime was crossing the border. In all, about 2.8 million people have been deported under Obama.

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: lies about NAFTA being the “worst trade deal” for a third time

TRUMP: “he NAFTA deal signed by her husband is one of the worst deals ever made of any kind of signed by anybody. It’s a disaster.”

Most studies show NAFTA had a relatively small impact on the economy. “NAFTA did not cause the huge job losses feared by the critics or the large economic gains predicted by supporters. The net overall effect of NAFTA on the U.S. economy appears to have been relatively modest,” according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: lies about not knowing Putin again

TRUMP: “I don’t know Putin.”
PolitiFact lists several instances in which Trump has talked about having some sort of contact with Putin.

-October 19, 2016


Third debate: plays the part of Putin’s puppet once more as he denies that Russia is behind hacked e-mails

TRUMP: “She has no idea whether it's Russia China or anybody else. She has no idea.”

According to the Oct. 7 statement by U.S. intelligence officials: “The U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) is confident that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from US persons and institutions, including from US political organizations. The recent disclosures of alleged hacked e-mails on sites like DCLeaks.com and WikiLeaks and by the Guccifer 2.0 online persona are consistent with the methods and motivations of Russian-directed efforts. These thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the US election process.”

-October 19, 2016


Third debate: lies about NATO countries not footing their share of the defense expenditures

TRUMP: “But I'd like to start off where we left, because when I said Japan and Germany -- and I'm not just singling them out but South Korea -- these are very rich powerful countries. Saudi Arabia -- nothing but money, we protect Saudi Arabia. Why aren’t they paying?”

False. Countries in which the U.S. has bases do help bear the cost for the maintenance and utilities of the bases. In the bigger strategic picture, the U.S. has bases in certain hotspots in the world because it aligns or advantages American policy, not just the countries in which there are bases.

-October 19, 2016


Third debate: lies about the recent jobs report

TRUMP: “Last week, as you know, the end of last week, they came out with an anemic jobs report, a terrible jobs report. In fact I said, is that the last jobs report before the election because if it is, I should win easily -- it was so bad. The report was so bad.”

Here is the September jobs report from the Bureau of Labor statistics. Total nonfarm payroll increased last month by 156,000. The unemployment rate did rise slightly to 5 percent. Here's how Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, described the monthly jobs numbers:

“In short, payrolls were a bit weaker than generally expected in Sep, but there has been a clear tendency for the Sep data to be underreported initially and revised up later. There is certainly no sign in the latest claims data of the labor market weakening significantly. We believe the trend remains more than strong enough to keep the unemployment rate declining over time. Meanwhile, unemployment appears to be low enough already to put upward pressure on wage gain.”

That is a far cry from “terrible.”

-October 19, 2016
Third debate: lies about job growth

TRUMP: “Look, our country is stagnant. We’ve lost our jobs.”

There are 10.7 million more people working today than when President Obama took office. Employers have added 15 million jobs since the trough of the recession in 2010. For comparison: Jobs per year was strongest under Bill Clinton (2.8 million), followed by Jimmy Carter (2.6 million), Ronald Reagan (2 million), President Obama (1.4 million as of September), George H.W. Bush (659,000), and George W. Bush (160,000). Unemployment, which peaked at 10 percent in October 2009, has fallen to 5 percent.

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: lies about saying that he couldn't have sexually assaulted a woman because he didn't find her attractive enough to sexually assault

CLINTON: “Well, at the last debate we heard Donald talking about what he did to women. And after that, a number of women have come forward saying that’s exactly what he did to them. Now what was his response? Well, he held a number of big rallies where he said that he could not possibly have done those things to those women because they were not attractive enough for them to be assaulted.”

TRUMP: “I did not say that.”

It appears that he did, and one of his top surrogates has said that he did. While Trump is technically correct that he did not use the exact phrasing that Clinton used to paraphrase his remarks, he did seem to criticize the appearances of women making the accusations. Regarding one of the women, a former writer for People magazine, Trump said, “Look at her” and “I don’t think so” while referring to her at a recent rally. Regarding Jessica Leeds, the woman who accuses Trump of groping her on an airplane decades ago, Trump said, “Believe me, she would not be my first choice.” If there was any doubt about Trump’s intended meaning, his attorney and surrogate Michael Cohen told CNN that “these aren’t even women that he’d be attracted to. … I think what Mr. Trump is really trying to say is that they’re not somebody that he would be attracted to, and therefore, the whole thing is nonsense.”

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: tells the biggest lie yet by saying nobody has more respect for women than he does, debate audience immediately erupts into laughter

TRUMP: “Nobody has more respect for women that I do, nobody. Nobody has more.”

-October 19, 2016

Third debate: lies about using his foundation money to pay for his legal bills

WALLACE: “Wasn’t some of the money used to settle your lawsuits, sir?”
TRUMP: “No, we put up American flag and that’s it. They put up the American flag. We fought for the right in Palm Beach to put up the American flag.”

WALLACE: “There was a penalty that was imposed by Palm Beach County and the money came from your foundation.”

TRUMP: “And the money went to Fisher House where they build houses the money that you’re talking about went to Fisher House with a build houses for veterans and disabled veterans.”

As the Washington Post documented, Trump used his foundation on multiple occasions to pay legal bills incurred by Trump’s corporate properties.

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: lies about voter fraud
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TRUMP: “I think they’re going to see right through it. We will find out on November eighth but I think they’re going to see through it. Excuse me Chris if you look at your voter rolls you will see millions of people that are registered to vote, millions, this isn’t coming for me this is coming from Pew Report and other places millions of people that are registered to vote that shouldn’t be registered to vote so let me just give you one other thing.”

Trump is correct that there are millions of people listed on voter registration rolls that are no longer eligible to vote. In 2012, the Pew Center on the States found that about 24 million, or 1 in 8 records, were inaccurate or no longer valid. However, this does not mean that this is voter fraud, as he has claimed. Many of the names are of people who are deceased or have moved, and states have yet to update their lists. There are also laws in place to protect states from taking voters’ names off the list until they are certain that they are no longer eligible or living at the recorded address. There are other protections in place to help ensure that ineligible voters don’t actually cast ballots, including the fact that doing so is a felony.

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: claims the reason Iraqi forces are now taking back Mosul is to support Clinton’s campaign
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TRUMP: “So we’re now fighting for Mosul, that we had, all she had to do was stay there and now we’re going in to get it, but you know the big winner in Mosul is going to be after we eventually get it and the only reason they got it is because she’s running for the office of president.”

The government of Iraq is responsible for and in command of the offensive against Mosul, with support from the U.S. and the other nations in its coalition.

-October 19, 2016


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Third debate: falsely claims Iran is taking over Iraq
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TRUMP: “Iran is taking over Iraq.”

Tehran has a large amount of influence in Baghdad, and Qassem Soleimani, the head of its external special operations branch, the Quds force, is a frequent visitor to Baghdad and elsewhere. But Iran does not control Iraq as a colony or vassal state; its own political leaders and other factions have their own objectives and interests as well.
Third debate: is as knowledgeable about Aleppo as Gary Johnson as he repeats once again that the city has fallen

TRUMP: “Aleppo is a disaster. It is a humanitarian nightmare but it has fallen from any standpoint. I mean what do you need a signed document? Take a look at Aleppo it’s so sad when you see what’s happened.”

Aleppo is a divided city and has been for years. The western side is controlled by the Syrian government, the eastern side by rebels. Syria and Russia have been bombing the rebel side — which has hundreds of thousands of civilians and no significant ISIS presence. The U.N. and others warn that if it falls to the government thousands could die in the fight.

Third debate: lies about how many Syrian refugees the US has taken in, lies about how they are not vetted when they are

TRUMP: “And this is what’s caused the great migration where she’s taking in tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who probably in many cases -- not probably who are definitely in many cases ISIS aligned - and we now have them in our country and wait until you see this is going to be the great Trojan horse and wait until you see what happens in the coming years. Lots of luck Hillary, thanks a lot for doing a great job.”

Actually, the U.S. has taken in 12,500 Syrian refugees in the past year and far fewer in the previous four years of the war, even as millions fled, overwhelming neighboring countries. The refugees who come to the U.S. go through a lengthy vetting process, including security and health checks. The State Department and advocates of the refugee program say that refugees go through more vetting than any other traveler to the U.S.

Lied about Clinton losing $6bn at the State Department

Donald Trump repeated an accusation that Hillary Clinton lost $6 billion at the State Department. She did not.

A 2014 alert by the department’s inspector general found found that over the previous six years, his office found “contracts with a total value of $6 billion in which contact files were incomplete or could not be located at all.” This included 2008, when George W. Bush was president and Condoleezza Rice was secretary of state, and 2013, when John Kerry had replaced Clinton.

Indeed, the Washington Post’s fact-checker noted that “easily two-thirds, or perhaps more, concerned contracts that predated Clinton’s tenure at State.”

In a clarification sent to the Washington Post after right-wing news sites incorrectly claimed that the money had been “lost” on Clinton’s watch, Inspector General Steve Linick noted, “Some have concluded based on this that $6 billion is missing. The alert, however, did not draw that conclusion.” Rather, the report dealt with incomplete record-keeping.

The Washington Post gave the claim “four Pinocchios,” and when Trump’s legal counsel Michael Cohen tweeted this and other false claims about Clinton, Politifact gave it a “pants on fire.”
Donald Trump interrupted Hillary Clinton's answer on Social Security to call her "such a nasty woman."

"I am on record as saying we need to put more money into the Social Security trust fund," Clinton said. "That's part of my commitment to raise taxes on the wealthy. My Social Security payroll contribution will go up as will Donald's, assuming he can't figure out how to get out of it, but what we want to do is:"*

"Such a nasty woman," Trump interjected.

"--replenish the trust fund by making sure we have sufficient resources," Clinton continued, without missing a beat, "and that will come from either raising the cap and/or finding other ways to get more money into it. I will not cut benefits. I want to enhance benefits for low-income workers and for women who have been disadvantaged by the current social security system."*

-October 19, 2016

Donald Trump wrongly claimed during Wednesday's debate that the allegations made by nine different women who have said he groped them have been debunked, and claimed they were brought on by the Clinton campaign.

Clinton jumped on the question, and said Trump's denial has been exemplary of the Republican candidate's unwillingness to take responsibility.

"Those stories have been largely debunked," Trump wrongly stated. "Nobody has more respect for women than I do."

Fox News' Chris Wallace asked Trump about the recent allegations and Trump's fitness to be president.

Trump denied the allegations and claimed, incorrectly, that the allegations had been refuted. Instead, Trump pointed toward violence that has surfaced at his campaign rallies and said the Clinton campaign was responsible for the violence, citing undercover videos that were released by a conservative activist.

Clinton, meanwhile, criticized the way Trump has referred to women in the past, including the leaked Access Hollywood video and his comments about former Miss Universe Alicia Machado.

"So we now know what Donald thinks and what he does towards women," Clinton said. "That's how Donald is."

Trump also said the allegations were false and, therefore, he did not apologize to his wife, contradicting a statement that was released by Melania Trump claiming the Republican nominee apologized to her after the Access Hollywood tape surfaced.

Clinton quoted comments Trump has made at his political rallies, where he told supporters to "look at her" about one of the women who have alleged that he forced himself on them, and that the accuser wouldn't have been his "first choice."

"This is a pattern of divisiveness of a very dark and in many ways dangerous vision of our country where he incites violence and applauds people that are punching and pulling people at his rallies," Clinton said.

-October 19, 2016
In his biggest “I'm running as a fascist dictator” moment yet, Trump refuses to accept results of election

Threatening to upend a fundamental pillar of American democracy, Donald Trump refused to say Wednesday night that he will accept the results of next month's election if he loses to Hillary Clinton. The Democratic nominee declared Trump's resistance “horrifying.”

Trump had spent the days leading up to the third and final presidential debate warning voters that the election would be “rigged.” Asked whether he would accept the outcome if Clinton emerges victorious, he said, “I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense.”

Trump's assertions raise the prospect that millions of his supporters may not accept the results on Nov. 8 if he loses, thrusting the nation into uncharted territory. Free and fair elections, with the vanquished peacefully stepping aside for the victor, have been the underpinning of America's democratic tradition since the country's founding 240 years ago.

The Republican National Committee immediately disavowed Trump's statement. There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, and election officials across the country have denied and denounced Trump's charges.

Wednesday's contest quickly shifted from a calm, policy-focused faceoff into a bitter and deeply personal confrontation. Trump called Clinton a “nasty woman,” while the Democrat panned him as “unfit” to be commander in chief.

-October 20, 2016

Took another page out of the Hitler handbook when it is revealed that he funded O'Keefe's ‘Project Veritas’ from his own foundation which he has been trying to propagate as his Reichstag Fire moment

In Wednesday's presidential debate, Donald Trump claimed that new videos proved that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama had “hired people” and “paid them $1,500” to “be violent, cause fights, [and] do bad things” at Trump rallies.

He was referring to videos released this week by conservative activist James O'Keefe that purport to show pro-Clinton activists boasting of their efforts to bait Trump supporters into violent acts. The videos offer no evidence that Clinton or Obama were aware of or behind the alleged dirty tricks.

Still, Trump claimed the videos exposed that a violence at a March Chicago rally was a “criminal act” and that it “was now all on tape started by her.”

Trump neglected, however, to mention his own connection to the videos, released by James O'Keefe and his Project Veritas tax-exempt group. According to a list of charitable donations made by Trump's controversial foundation (provided to the Washington Post in April by Trump's campaign), on May 13, 2015, it gave $10,000 to Project Veritas.

Trump, who claimed in the same debate that Hillary Clinton “shouldn’t be allowed to run” for president “based on what she did with e-mails and so many other things,” was funding a convicted criminal. O'Keefe was sentenced to three years of probation, 100 hours of community service, and a $1,500 fine in 2010 after taking a plea bargain following a botched “sting” attempt at the office of then-Sen. Mary Landrieu.

What’s more, there is a great deal of reason to be skeptical of the videos themselves. O'Keefe has a long history of selectively editing videos to present a false impression to the viewer. His most famous video, an attack on the now-defunct community organizing group ACORN, supposedly showed employees agreeing to help him smuggle underage prostitutes into the country. It turned out the employees later had called the police and O'Keefe eventually paid $100,000 in a settlement after being sued for surreptitious recording of someone's voice and image.

Even Glenn Beck's conservative The Blaze slammed O'Keefe over a selectively-edited video purporting to show unethical action on the part of National Public Radio executives, faulting ” editing tactics that seem designed to intentionally lie or mislead about the material being presented.
Though the latest video too has been criticized for selective editing by at least one of its subjects, two of the staffers resigned after its release.

-October 20, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/trump-funded-james-okeefe-53015c2f44b6#.o4hnyvpq

In true sore loser fashion, claims he will only accept election results if he wins

Donald Trump opened up a Thursday campaign rally by saying he'll accept the results of the presidential election as long as he wins.

"I will totally accept the result of this great and historic presidential election," Trump told supporters in Delaware, Ohio.

He then paused dramatically.

"If I win."

The crowd went wild.

Later in the speech, Trump said that he would accept a "clear election result," leaving the door open to conceding the race if Hillary Clinton wins by an overwhelming margin.

"I would accept a clear election result but I would also reserve my right to contest or file a legal challenge in the case of a questionable result," Trump told his crowd.

"And always, I will follow and abide by all of the rules and traditions of all of the many candidates who have come before me."

"Bottom line," he added to cheers, "we are going to win."

-October 20, 2016


Lied about hurricane damages suffered at his private club in Palm Beach, swindling the government out of $17m

PALM BEACH, FLA.—Donald Trump said he received a $17 million (US) insurance payment in 2005 for hurricane damage to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach, but there is little evidence of such large-scale damage.

Two years after a series of storms, the real estate tycoon said he didn't know how much had been spent on repairs but acknowledged he pocketed some of the money. Trump transferred funds into his personal accounts, saying that under the terms of his policy, "you didn't have to reinvest it."

In a deposition in an unrelated civil lawsuit, Trump said he got the cash from a "very good insurance policy" and cited ongoing work to the historic home.

"Landscaping, roofing, walls, painting, leaks, artwork in the — you know, the great tapestries, tiles, Spanish tiles, the beach, the erosion," he said of the storm damage. "It's still not what it was."

Trump’s description of extensive damage does not match those of Mar-a-Lago members and even Trump loyalists. In an interview about the estate’s history, Trump’s longtime former butler, Anthony Senecal, recalled no catastrophic damage. He said Hurricane Wilma, the last of a string of storms that barrelled through in 2004 and 2005, flattened trees behind Mar-a-Lago, but the house itself only lost some roof tiles.
“That house has never been seriously damaged,” said Senecal, discussing Mar-a-Lago’s luck with hurricanes. “I was there for all of them.”

Just over two weeks after Wilma, Trump hosted 370 guests at Mar-a-Lago for the wedding of his son Donald Jr.

While part of that celebration did have to be moved away from the front lawn due to hurricane damage, wedding photographs by Getty Images showed the house, pools, cabanas and landscaping in good repair.

“If there were $17 million dollars of damage, we sure as hell would have known about that,” said Frank. “I would have known if there was anything in the magnitude of $100,000.”

The Republican mayor of Palm Beach at the time — and Mar-a-Lago member — Jack McDonald, agreed: “I am unable to comprehend $17 million in reimbursable damage.”

Jane Day, the city’s former historical preservation consultant, who helped oversee Mar-a-Lago’s conversion to a private club and who has visited in the years since as a guest, also was mystified. “This is the first I’m hearing of it.”

-October 24, 2016


Inadvertently claims it’s okay to sexually assault pornographic actress because they are supposedly used to it

Donald Trump on Monday addressed the latest accusations of inappropriate sexual contact made against him, saying of the accuser, an adult film performer, “Oh, I’m sure she’s never been grabbed before.”

At a news conference Saturday, Jessica Drake accused Trump of grabbing and kissing her without permission and offering her money to go up to his hotel room alone a decade ago.

In an appearance on WGIR radio’s “New Hampshire Today,” Trump called the accusations against him “total fiction.”

“These are stories that are made up, these are total fiction. You'll find out that, in the years to come, these women that stood up, it was all fiction,” he said. “They were made up. I don’t know these women, it’s not my thing to do what they say. You know I don't do that. I don't grab them, as they say, on the arm.”

“One said, ‘he grabbed me on the arm.’ And she’s a porn star. You know, this one that came out recently, ‘he grabbed me and he grabbed me on the arm.’ Oh, I’m sure she's never been grabbed before,” Trump said.

-October 25, 2016


Seeing writing on wall, attempts to milk the cow all it’s worth and promotes his new hotel in the past two days on the campaign trail as he realizes his campaign has actually hurt his business

Last year, in a more innocent time, there were many who believed Donald Trump wasn’t serious about becoming president—that his nascent campaign was just a publicity stunt that would benefit his business interests. And while his campaign has become all too serious—particularly to, say, undocumented immigrants and Muslim Americans—there’s also a part of it that really is a ruse. For one, there’s all the donor money that Trump 2016 is paying to Trump businesses. For another, there are the repeated infomercial-esque appearances at Trump resorts and hotels, the latest of which is Wednesday at the ceremonial opening of Trump’s hotel in Washington, D.C.’s Old Post Office building. At least it’s on-brand with the theme of the campaign (incompetence):

Today Trump is promoting his hotel instead of, you know, running for president. Here is the (shitty) cocktail menu https://t.co/B39mgarLLH pic.twitter.com/hXix8Lg2Ud
— Olivia Nuzzi (@Olivianuzzi) October 26, 2016

In conclusion, misspells:
Just Tuesday, Trump flew to the key swing state of Florida … to appear at the Trump National Doral Miami resort for a photo op with his employees.

You may also remember the tour of the aforementioned D.C. hotel that Trump gave after his birtherism press conference as well as the press conference he held at a golf resort in Scotland during which he mused that the Brexit-driven fall of the British pound would be good for business.

The irony, as multiple outlets have reported, is that the close association between Trump 2016 and the Trump Organization is actually hurting the latter more than helping it. Hotel bookings are down; residents of Trump apartments are asking for his name to be removed from them. A new line of Trump-related properties will use the brand name "Scion" rather than "Trump." Scion 2020!

-October 26, 2016

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/10/26/donald_trump_using_presidential_campaign_to_promote_doral_d_c_properties.html

Claims wind turbines are the real threat to the environment

When it comes to renewable energy, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is just really concerned about the eagles.

"[Wind power] kills all the birds," Trump told 2012 Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain on the latter’s radio show Tuesday. "Thousands of birds are lying on the ground. And the eagle. You know, certain parts of California—they’ve killed so many eagles. You know, they put you in jail if you kill an eagle. And yet these windmills [kill] them by the hundreds."

Trump also told Cain that solar and wind are “very, very expensive” and “not working on a large-scale.” And he criticized the way wind turbines look, calling the windmills in Palm Springs, California a “junkyard.” (This is not the case, as Grist points out in their fact-check of Trump’s claims.)

“They have all these different companies and each one is made by a different group from, all from China and from Germany, by the way—not from here,” said Trump, who often sells products made in other countries. “And you look at all these windmills. Half of them are broken. They’re rusting and rotting. You know, you’re driving into Palm Springs, California, and it looks like a poor man’s version of Disneyland. It’s the worst thing you’ve ever seen.”

This is not the first time Trump has taken a swing at wind and solar power; he has tweeted about wind more than 100 times, mostly to complain about how ugly the turbines are. Nor is it the first time Trump has blamed wind turbines for killing birds, especially eagles. In August, he told a crowd in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania that “the wind kills all your birds.”

“All your birds, killed,” he said. "You know, the environmentalists never talk about that."

And in May, during a speech in Bismarck, North Dakota, Trump again blamed wind turbines for the deaths of hundreds of eagles each year.

“There are places for wind but if you go to various places in California, wind is killing all of the eagles,” Trump said. “You know if you shoot an eagle, if you kill an eagle, they want to put you in jail for five years. And yet the windmills are killing hundreds and hundreds of eagles... They’re killing them by the hundreds.”

It’s true that wind turbines account for the deaths of between 140,000 and 368,000 birds annually. But that figure pales in comparison to the
number of birds killed by cell towers (6.8 million) and glass building collisions (up to one billion) each year. And the biggest bird killer of all? Cats, which kill up to 3.7 billion birds annually.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only two eagles were killed by wind turbines in the Palm Springs area since 1997.

-October 26, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/donald-trump-wind-kills-all-the-eagles-bd4acf3264d#_9lpkybl5c

Says he will teach military experts a couple of things, double-downs on the “sneak attack” approach of not warning civilians ahead of time to evacuate an area that is to become a killzone

Donald Trump went on the offensive against a military expert and former dean of the Army War College, Jeff McCausland, who said the Republican nominee’s comments this weekend about the battle to reclaim Mosul in Iraq show he doesn’t have a firm grasp of military strategy.

“You can tell your military expert that I’ll sit down and I’ll teach him a couple of things,” Trump told ABC’s George Stephanopoulos in an exclusive interview.

On Sunday, Trump tweeted that the ongoing offensive against the ISIS stronghold of Mosul is turning out to be a “total disaster.”

“We gave them months of notice. U.S. is looking so dumb. VOTE TRUMP and WIN AGAIN!” he tweeted.

Trump doubled down on his assertion that the element of surprise is an important military strategy.

“I’ve been hearing about Mosul now for three months. ‘We’re going to attack. We’re going to attack.’ Meaning Iraq’s going to attack but with us. OK? We’re going to attack. Why do they have to talk about it?” he asked Stephanopoulos.

“Element of surprise. One of the reasons they wanted Mosul, they wanted to get ISIS leaders who they thought were, you know, in Mosul. Those people have all left. As soon as they heard they’re going to be attacked, they left,” Trump added. “The resistance is much greater now because they knew about the attack. Why can’t they win first and talk later?”

But according to The New York Times, some military experts disagree with Trump’s claims that the element of surprise is crucial to win the fight against ISIS.

“What this shows is Trump doesn’t know a damn thing about military strategy,” McCausland told the Times.

McCausland replied to Trump’s comments to Stephanopoulos in a lengthy statement today, saying, “I can’t wait to sit down with Mr. Trump and hear what he has to teach me about military strategy. I’m happy to compare my record of over 45 years working in national security affairs with his any time.

“When it comes to the question of the Mosul offensive, Mr. Trump doesn’t understand that 99.9 percent of the troops involved are Iraqi,” McCausland continued. “I reassert my statement to The New York Times: Mr. Trump doesn’t know a damn thing about military strategy.”

-October 27, 2016


Claims voter fraud is rampant in Texas, the greatest Republican stronghold in the US where 215 of 240 counties are controlled by Republicans, a 20 to 11 Republican state senate, a 99 to 48 Republican state House, and two Republican senators

Donald Trump is worried about “vote flipping” in Texas, a state where Republicans control every statewide elected office, oversee county elections supervisors and maintain the voter registration system.
“A lot of call-ins about vote flipping at the voting booths in Texas,” Trump tweeted. “People are not happy. BIG lines. What is going on?”

Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) October 27, 2016

A Tarrant County woman said her vote switched from Republican to Democrat when she cast her ballot at an electronic voting machine earlier this week, but an investigation determined she did not follow the proper instructions.

“Our investigations have indicated that the voter did not follow the directions for straight-party voting when they inadvertently click the 'enter' button or turn the wheel, causing the change in votes,” Tarrant County elections administrator Frank Phillips said in a statement. “Further, in each incident where we could actually speak to a voter, they tell us that they discovered the changed vote on the summary screen display. This shows that the machine is working exactly as it should.”

Phillips said on Thursday his office investigated six first-hand cases of voters claiming their votes were not tallied correctly since the start of early voting on Monday. None of the investigations showed a machine tallying votes incorrectly.

Whenever a voter expresses concern over a malfunctioning machine, Phillips said his office shuts down the machine and a tech inspector double checks to make sure it’s working properly.

“These things take on a life of their own on social media,” Phillips said. “People who have their own agendas use misinformation. People who work in every elections administrative office in Texas are just here to make sure things are fair and accurate.”

Elections officials urge voters to check the summary screen display to ensure accuracy. The screen allows voters to double check their selections before making a final decision.

“Our office has yet to find a verifiable report of anyone’s votes being switched by an electronic voting machine,” said Texas Secretary of State director of communications Alicia Pierce on Thursday. “What we do encourage voters to do is to make sure they thoroughly look over the confirmation screen when they vote and if they see anything that concerns them to make sure they address it before they hit the cast ballot button.”

Pierce said her office is receiving fewer phone calls today from concerned voters than earlier in the week, a sign that voters are being educated on how to properly cast their ballot.

-October 27, 2016


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Insists country should ignore democracy and just hand him the election immediately before voting

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Donald Trump suggested canceling the election Thursday and granting himself the presidency.

“What a difference. You know, what a difference this is,” Trump said during a rally in Toledo, Ohio, after comparing his tax plan with Hillary Clinton’s.

“And just thinking to myself right now, we should just cancel the election and just give it to Trump, right? What are we even having it for? What are we having it for?” he asked. “Her policies are so bad. Boy, do we have a big difference.”

Twelve days from Election Day, Trump’s indication that he should be given the White House also comes as he trails Clinton nationally and in a number of key battleground states. Polls also show Clinton is challenging the GOP nominee in Republican strongholds like Arizona, Utah and Texas.

Trump, who has propagated unsubstantiated claims that the election is rigged against him, has also suggested that if he were to lose, he may not concede the election, bucking the tradition of a concession by the loser and a peaceful transfer of power.
Wants to privatize roadways and institute tolls nationwide to pay for $1 trillion in new roads, screwing over every working-class American that has a driving commute

Donald Trump is planning to spend big-time on infrastructure.

According to a report from Yahoo Finance's Rick Newman, the Republican presidential nominee's campaign has a plan to spend $1 trillion on a variety of infrastructure projects over 10 years if he is elected.

Trump has long supported infrastructure spending, and has said he would double the $300 billion that his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, plans to spend on projects such as roads, bridges, and the like.

According to the report, Trump economic advisers Peter Navarro and Wilbur Ross developed the plan.

Interestingly enough, the plan does not call for tax increases to finance the projects. A tax credit would be offered to private companies to finance projects, while the companies would also have to take equity investments in the projects. According to Yahoo Finance, $167 billion of the $1 trillion investment would be equity investment, while the rest would be debt raised by private partners.

Additionally, all projects built under the plan would be required to generate cash flow, like toll roads or airports that produce tax revenue instead of free parks or highways without tolls. The equity investment partners would also take the revenue, essentially privatizing much of the new infrastructure and making riskier investments more palatable.

Calls all African American communities “ghettos” with “so many horrible problems”

First they were “inner cities” – now they’re just “ghettos.”

Donald Trump once again appeared to equate an entire ethnicity with a socio-economic segment as he, during a campaign rally in Ohio on Thursday, pledged to “work with the African-American community” to solve the problem of the “ghettos.”

“And we’re going to work on our ghettos, are in so the, you take a look at what’s going on where you have pockets of, areas of land where you have the inner cities and you have so many things, so many problems,” Trump rambled to a mostly white audience in Toledo, appearing to catch himself using the politically tabooed word. “So many horrible, horrible problems. The violence. The death. The lack of education. No jobs.”

Groped and non-consensually kissed a former Miss Universe after humiliating her on-stage

A disturbing video from a 2011 corporate speech shows Donald Trump sexually humiliating a woman in front of thousands of people and going in for what appears to be a nonconsensual kiss, the Huffington Post’s Ryan Grim reports.

The woman is Jennifer Hawkins, the 2004 Miss Universe winner from Australia. In the video, Trump calls Hawkins onstage to join him after
telling the audience his philosophy on using revenge to succeed in business: "Get even with people," he says. "If they screw you, screw them back 10 times as hard. I really believe that."

Trump, it seems, had spent the previous day being angry with Hawkins because he thought she had slighted him by supposedly declining to introduce him at the event in Sydney. Onstage with Trump, Hawkins laughs apologetically and explains that it was a "miscommunication with my management," and that she "felt really bad."

Trump seems to accept this: "When she found out, she got in her car and she got her ass over here, and I love her," he says. But that doesn't stop Trump from humiliating her anyway, in a bizarre, unsettling sequence of events.

First, he describes how he would have embarrassed Hawkins onstage, if she really had slighted him. "I was actually going to get up and tell you that Jennifer is a beautiful girl on the outside, but she's not very bright," he says. "That wouldn't have been true, but I would have said it anyway."

That part feels like an "I'm not touching you! I'm not touching you!" insult strategy that Trump has used before, notably when he called Fox anchor Megyn Kelly a "bimbo" and then claimed he didn't actually call her that.

Then Trump makes a sexual pun, and lingers on it until the audience gets it: "And you know what? She came tonight, she came — came, she came." Once the audience finally laughs, Trump adds: "See, so they have the same filthy minds in Australia."

Finally, Trump abruptly grabs Hawkins around the waist and goes in for a kiss. She turns away and puts her arm between them, and the kiss lands on her cheek.

Hawkins has refused to comment on the sexual assault allegations against Trump, and she hasn't said anything about this video yet either.

But the grab-and-kiss moment looks a lot like the unwanted sexual advances that several women have accused Trump of making, and what Trump himself bragged about doing in a leaked audio tape: "Just kiss. I don't even wait," he said.

Trump's modus operandi, according to his accusers, is to grab them and try to kiss them on the lips. Sometimes he lands the kiss, and sometimes he doesn't — but he's allegedly forceful enough that even if the women try to pull away, he'll usually land a kiss on the cheek.

-October 28, 2016


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Mistakes his only African American supporter at a rally as a protestor, calls him a “thug,” has him thrown out of the rally
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C.J. Cary really loves Donald Trump. He has loved him for years, and he really wants him to be president. On Wednesday night, the 63-year-old came to a Trump rally in Kinston, North Carolina, determined to pass his candidate a note of advice: stop being so offensive on the campaign trail to women, minorities, and people with disabilities, or else "lying Hillary" will defeat him.

According to the Charlotte Observer, Trump spotted Cary, wearing sunglasses and a bright red shirt, after he had made his way to about 30 feet from the stage and began waving his note in the air while shouting “Donald!”

Oh, did we mention Cary is black? He is.

Anyway, Trump mistook Cary for a protester. Trump addressed him directly from the podium: “We have a protester!” he said, as you can see in this video at the 11:53 mark. Trump then said this to Cary: "By the way, were you paid $1,500 to be a thug?"

As the crowd erupted into chants of "Trump! Trump! Trump!" the candidate instructed his security team, as he usually does when there’s a disturbance at one of his events: “You can get him out. Get him out.”

According to the Observer, the member of Trump's team who escorted Cary from the Kinston Jet Center noticed at some point that Cary was wearing a GOP badge. “I said, ‘I was trying to get to this doc to Mr. Donald ... will you get this to Donald?’ ” Cary told the paper. “He said, ‘Well dude, we’d be happy to give it to him.’ ”
Has greatly overplayed the charitable donations his foundation has made, has mostly misused the funds for himself, shows up at charity events where he never contributed for photo ops, had donated to only one charity out of 420 that he is connected to in the past 7 years and only for a $10,000 donation before the election, only has given money to charities recently during the election.

In the fall of 1996, a charity called the Association to Benefit Children held a ribbon-cutting in Manhattan for a new nursery school serving children with AIDS. The bold-faced names took seats up front.

There was then-Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani (R) and former mayor David Dinkins (D). TV stars Frank and Kathie Lee Gifford, who were major donors. And there was a seat saved for Steven Fisher, a developer who had given generously to build the nursery.

Then, all of a sudden, there was Donald Trump.

"Nobody knew he was coming," said Abigail Disney, another donor sitting on the dais. "There's this kind of ruckus at the door, and I don't know what was going on, and in comes Donald Trump. [He] just gets up on the podium and sits down."

Trump was not a major donor. He was not a donor, period. He'd never given a dollar to the nursery or the Association to Benefit Children, according to Gretchen Buchenholz, the charity's executive director then and now.

But now he was sitting in Fisher's seat, next to Giuliani.

"Frank Gifford turned to me and said, 'Why is he here?'" Buchenholz recalled recently. By then, the ceremony had begun. There was nothing to do.

"Just sing past it," she recalled Gifford telling her.

So they warbled into the first song on the program, "This Little Light of Mine," alongside Trump and a chorus of children — with a photographer snapping photos, and Trump looking for all the world like an honored donor to the cause.

Afterward, Disney and Buchenholz recalled, Trump left without offering an explanation. Or a donation. Fisher was stuck in the audience. The charity spent months trying to repair its relationship with him.

"I mean, what's wrong with you, man?" Disney recalled thinking of Trump, when it was over.

For as long as he has been rich and famous, Donald Trump has also wanted people to believe he is generous. He spent years constructing an image as a philanthropist by appearing at charity events and by making very public — even nationally televised — promises to give his own money away.

It was, in large part, a facade. A months-long investigation by The Washington Post has not been able to verify many of Trump's boasts about his philanthropy.

Instead, throughout his life in the spotlight, whether as a businessman, television star or presidential candidate, The Post found that Trump had sought credit for charity he had not given — or had claimed other people's giving as his own.

It is impossible to know for certain what Trump has given to charity, because he has declined to release his tax returns. In all, The Post was able to identify $7.8 million in charitable giving from Trump's own pocket since the early 1980s.

In public appearances, Trump often made it appear that he gave far more.
Trump promised to give away the proceeds of Trump University. He promised to donate the salary he earned from “The Apprentice.” He promised to give personal donations to the charities chosen by contestants on “Celebrity Apprentice.” He promised to donate $250,000 to a charity helping Israeli soldiers and veterans.

Together, those pledges would have increased Trump’s lifetime giving by millions of dollars. But The Post has been unable to verify that he followed through on any of them.

Instead, The Post found that his personal giving has almost disappeared entirely in recent years. After calling 420-plus charities with some connection to Trump, The Post found only one personal gift from Trump between 2008 and the spring of this year. That was a gift to the Police Athletic League of New York City, in 2009. It was worth less than $10,000.

The charity that Trump has given the most money to over his lifetime appears to be his own: the Donald J. Trump Foundation.

But that charity, too, was not what it seemed.

The Trump Foundation appeared outwardly to be a typical, if small, philanthropic foundation — set up by a rich man to give his riches away.

In reality, it has been funded largely by other people. Tax records show the Trump Foundation has received $5.5 million from Trump over its life, and nothing since 2008. It received $9.3 million from other people.

Another unusual feature: One of the foundation’s most consistent causes was Trump himself.

New findings, for instance, show that the Trump Foundation’s largest-ever gift — $264,631 — was used to renovate a fountain outside the windows of Trump’s Plaza Hotel.

Its smallest-ever gift, for $7, was paid to the Boy Scouts in 1989, at a time when it cost $7 to register a new Scout. Trump’s oldest son was 11 at the time. Trump did not respond to a question about whether the money was paid to register him.

At other times, Trump used his foundation’s funds to settle legal disputes involving Trump’s for-profit companies and to buy two large portraits of himself, including one that wound up hanging on the wall of the sports bar at a Trump-owned golf resort. Those purchases raised questions about whether Trump had violated laws against “self-dealing” by charity leaders.

In advance of this article, The Post sent more than 70 questions to the Trump campaign.

Those questions covered the individual anecdotes and statistics contained in this article, including the tale about Trump crashing the ribbon-cutting in 1996, as well as broader questions about Trump’s life as a philanthropist.

Exactly when, before this spring, did Trump last give his own money to charity?

What did Trump consider his greatest act of charity in recent years?

Trump’s campaign did not respond until Saturday afternoon, after this article was published online; it sent a written statement saying that Trump “has personally donated tens of millions of dollars . . . to charitable causes.”

Trump officials did not respond when asked to provide evidence of the tens of millions of dollars in gifts.

The result of The Post’s examination of Trump’s charity is a portrait of the GOP nominee, revealed in the negative space between what he was willing to promise — and what he was willing to give.

“All of this is completely consistent with who Trump is. He’s a man who operates inside a tiny bubble that never extends beyond what he believes is his self-interest,” said Tony Schwartz, Trump’s co-author on his 1987 book “The Art of the Deal.” Schwartz has become a fierce critic of Trump in this election.

“If your worldview is only you — if all you’re seeing is a mirror — then there’s nobody to give money to,” Schwartz said. “Except yourself.”
In several interviews with The Post this year, Trump has declined to supply details about his giving, saying that if charities knew what Trump had donated they would badger him to give more.

“I give mostly to a lot of different groups,” Trump said in one interview.

“Can you give us any names?” asked The Post’s Drew Harwell in May.

“No, I don’t want to. No, I don’t want to,” Trump responded. “I’d like to keep it private.”

Of the $7.8 million in personal giving that The Post identified, about 70 percent — $5.5 million — went to the Trump Foundation, which was founded in 1987. All of that giving came before 2009; since then, the foundation’s tax records show no donations at all from Trump to his foundation. Its coffers have been filled by others, including $5 million from pro-wrestling executives Vince and Linda McMahon.

At least $1.1 million of Trump’s giving has come in the last six months.

That includes a gift that first brought Trump’s charity — and the gap between the promises and the substance of his giving — to the center of his presidential campaign.

In January, Trump skipped a GOP primary debate in a feud with Fox News and held a televised fundraiser for veterans. In that broadcast, Trump said he’d personally donated to the cause: “Donald Trump gave $1 million,” he said.

Months later, The Post could find no evidence Trump had done so. Then, Corey Lewandowski — Trump’s campaign manager at the time — called to say the money had been given out. In private. No details. “He’s not going to share that information,” Lewandowski said.

In reality, at that point, Trump had given nothing.

Trump didn’t give away the $1 million until a few days later, as the news media sought to check Lewandowski’s false claim. Trump gave it all to the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation, which helps families of fallen Marines. Trump bristled at this reporter’s suggestion that he had given the money away only because the media were asking about it.

“You know, you’re a nasty guy. You’re really a nasty guy.” Trump said. “I gave out millions of dollars that I had no obligation to do.”

-October 29, 2016


In light of no evidence brought forth by FBI director on supposed new investigation into Clinton’s emails, Trump begins to wildly speculate, saying Clinton is guilty despite new emails have nothing to do with Clinton

In a letter to FBI employees explaining why he’d alerted Congress about newly discovered emails pertaining to Hillary Clinton, bureau Director James Comey stressed he understood the “significant risk” with going public so close to an election.

“Given that we don’t know the significance of this newly discovered collection of emails, I don’t want to create a misleading impression,” he wrote, adding that his desire to keep the public abreast with developments superseded that concern.

Less than 24 hours after Comey tried to calm nerves at the FBI, GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump proved his fears to be justified and raised additional questions about why he went public in the first place.

Speaking at a rally in Golden, Colorado, Trump made a series of apparent mischaracterizations or uninformed assertions about the state of the FBI investigation and law enforcement in general that will only muddy the waters further about this 11th hour campaign development.

It started with Trump’s blanket claim that the newly discovered emails — found, apparently, on a computer that belonged to former Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.), the estranged husband of longtime Clinton aide Huma Abedin — proved his Democratic rival was “guilty” of something.
The newly discovered emails do not support such a claim. Indeed, no one is entirely sure what the emails say. There are reportedly more than a thousand of them. But those reports also say that many may be duplicates of ones the FBI has already investigated. It’s not entirely clear, additionally, whether the emails originated from Clinton herself, Abedin or neither.

Trump also insisted that because the FBI had announced that investigators were looking into the emails, it had to be that the material they’d discovered was massive in scope and scandal. “Now the evidence is so overwhelming — because they wouldn’t have done this unless the evidence was overwhelming,” he said.

But all that Comey revealed on Friday was that the emails the FBI had discovered appeared “to be pertinent to the [earlier] investigation.”

Agents aren’t even sure what emails are on Weiner’s computer, it’s been reported. And Comey himself wrote that the FBI could not assess whether the material “may be significant.”

Trump didn’t stop there. Though no one actually knows what will be found on the device, he still speculated about what was there.

Trump again says the Weiner emails are part of the 30k lost emails. There’s no evidence of this as of yet
— john r stanton (@dcbigjohn) October 29, 2016

He admitted, at one point, that he had no knowledge to assert that Comey had made his announcement because there was dissatisfaction within his ranks. But Trump made the assertion anyway. “There was a revolt and I can be pretty sure of it,” he said.

Trump also seized on reports that Comey’s decision to write to Congress went against the recommendation of Attorney General Loretta Lynch to claim that the Department of Justice was biased against him.

“Now the Attorney General is fighting the FBI, because the FBI finally did what was right,” he said. “The Department of Justice is trying so hard to protect Hillary.”

But Lynch’s efforts to dissuade Comey from going public didn’t have to do with protecting Clinton so much as trying to uphold a longstanding DoJ practice of not interfering in campaigns so close to election day. If anything, Comey appears to have acted rogously in this instance, with numerous career and non-career justice officials expressing shock with his decision to make a public pronouncement 11 days before people vote.

That didn’t stop Trump from speculating, of course.

“There are those, and I happen to be one of them, who think Hillary Clinton offered Loretta Lynch a reappointment,” he said. This claim might be less dubious than the others, however, since The New York Times has reported that Clinton is considering retaining Lynch at the DOJ.

*For good measure, Trump compared the American system of justice to what one would find in a developing nation, adding that “in terms of our judicial system, this is the lowest point in the history of our country.”*

The Republican nominee is, of course, well within his rights to make political hay out of the latest reminder that Clinton acted recklessly in using a private email account. And considering all the wild things said during the course of the campaign, Saturday’s speech was not particularly noteworthy with respect to how far it departed from the factually known. Still, Trump showed Comey that his fears about misinformation being spread were not unfounded. And it raises the stakes on the FBI director to come forward to add some clarity to the conversation (both campaigns have called on him to do so).

There was one Trump assessment that seemed on point to all parties involved: Clinton, Comey and even his own campaign. Weiner, Trump noted, was “a major, major sleaze.”

-October 29, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-email-investigation_us_5814f6bde4b0390e69d0ab40

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Encourages his voters to commit election fraud, tells them to vote in-person after they mail in their ballots

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Despite a rash of recent polls showing the presidential race narrowing significantly, Republican nominee Donald Trump is not letting up with his message that the election might be rigged, telling supporters not to trust mail-in ballots and vote again if they are suspicious of their vote not being counted.

At a rally in Greeley, Colo., on Sunday night, Trump told supporters to obtain new ballots because, “do you think those (mail-in) ballots are properly counted?”

Trump then instructed rally-goers to visit a nearby voting center and check to see if their first ballot had been counted, then, “they’ll void your old ballot, they’ll give you a new ballot.”

"Now in some places they probably do that four or five times but we don’t do that. But that’s great,” Trump continued.

But according to Fox 31, Trump’s strategy might not be entirely permissible. Once a voting official has received a ballot, a voter cannot change their vote, according to the Colorado Secretary of State’s office. Whether a vote can be confirmed is unclear, but voiding a ballot does not seem to be an available process, though voters can request a replacement ballot. There is a website through which Colorado voters can check on the status of their ballot.

Trump’s claims that the election is rigged has already given rise to one incident of voter fraud on his own behalf, as an Iowa woman attempted to vote twice for Trump because she believed her first vote would be counted for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, according to The Washington Post.

-October 30, 2016


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Gets called out by US Air Force Secretary after claiming military is a disaster and claiming that the world’s largest military needs to expand even further

Donald Trump has called the U.S. military a “disaster.” The head of the Air Force says he’s wrong.

“I can tell you the United States military is not any sort of disaster,” U.S. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said in an interview with the Fortune Unfiltered podcast. “It is the best military on the planet.”

James, just the second woman to ever be Air Force Secretary, cited Russia as the greatest national security threat to the U.S. Tensions with Moscow, the battle to retake the Iraqi city of Mosul from ISIS, the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and heightened activity by China in the South China Sea all make for what she called “the most complex period we have ever faced during the three decades I’ve been on the scene.”

-October 31, 2016

http://time.com/4551396/donald-trump-deborah-lee-james/

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Made his company destroy emails and important documents when requested by courts to produce documents in lawsuits

Over the course of decades, Donald Trump’s companies have systematically destroyed or hidden thousands of emails, digital records and paper documents demanded in official proceedings, often in defiance of court orders. These tactics—exposed by a Newsweek review of thousands of pages of court filings, judicial orders and affidavits from an array of court cases—have enraged judges, prosecutors, opposing lawyers and the many ordinary citizens entangled in litigation with Trump. In each instance, Trump and entities he controlled also erected numerous hurdles that made lawsuits drag on for years, forcing courtroom opponents to spend huge sums of money in legal fees as they struggled—sometimes in vain—to obtain records.

This behavior is of particular import given Trump’s frequent condemnations of Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent, for having deleted more than 30,000 emails from a server she used during her time as secretary of state. While Clinton and her lawyers have said all of those emails were personal, Trump has suggested repeatedly on the campaign trail that they were government documents Clinton was trying to hide and that destroying them constituted a crime. The allegation—which the FBI concluded was not supported by any evidence—is a crowd-pleaser at Trump rallies, often greeted by supporters chanting, “Lock her up!”

Trump’s use of deception and untruthful affidavits, as well as the hiding or improper destruction of documents, dates back to at least 1973,
when the Republican nominee, his father and their real estate company battled the federal government over civil charges that they refused to rent apartments to African-Americans. The Trump strategy was simple: deny, impede and delay, while destroying documents the court had ordered them to hand over.

Shortly after the government filed its case in October, Trump attacked: He falsely declared to reporters that the feds had no evidence he and his father discriminated against minorities, but instead were attempting to force them to lease to welfare recipients who couldn’t pay their rent.

The family’s attempts to slow down the federal case were at times nonsensical. Trump submitted an affidavit contending that the government had engaged in some unspecified wrongdoing by releasing statements to the press on the day it brought the case without first having any “formal communications” with him; he contended that he’d learned of the complaint only while listening to his car radio that morning. But Trump’s sworn statement was a lie. Court records show that the government had filed its complaint at 10 a.m. and phoned him almost immediately afterward. The government later notified the media with a press release.

Prosecutors responded to Trump’s affidavit by showing he had fudged his claim by using the term “formal communication”—an acknowledgment, they said, that he had received what only he would characterize as an informal notification—which they described as an intentional effort to mislead the court and the public. But the allegation slowed the case; it required government lawyers to appear in court to shoot down Trump’s false charge.

The Trumps had more delaying tactics. Trump announced in a press conference that his family and their company were bringing a $100 million countersuit against the government for libel; anonymous tenants and community leaders, he said, had been calling and writing letters expressing shock at the government’s “outrageous lies.” Once again, motions, replies and hearings followed. Once again, the court threw out the Trump allegations.

For months, the Trumps ignored the government’s discovery demands, even though court procedure in a civil or criminal case requires each side to produce relevant documents in a timely manner. This allows for the plaintiffs or prosecutors to develop more evidence in support of their claims, as well as for the defense to gather proof to fight the case against them. When litigation is filed or even contemplated, scrupulous lawyers and corporations immediately impose document-retention programs or require that any shredding or disposing of records be halted. Courts have handed down severe sanctions or even criminal charges of obstruction of justice against executives and companies that destroyed records because they knew they were going to be sued.

Yet when the government filed its standard discovery requests, the Trumps reacted as though seeking that information was outrageous. They argued in court that prosecutors had no case and wanted to rifflle through corporate files on a fishing expedition. Once again, this led to more delays, more replies, more hearings... and another specious argument thrown out of court.

Six months after the original filing, the case was nowhere because the Trumps had repeatedly ignored the deadlines to produce records and answers to questions, known as interrogatories. When a government attorney finally telephoned a Trump lawyer to find out why, he was told the Trumps had not even begun preparing their answers and had no plans to do so. The Trumps also postponed and blocked depositions, refused to provide a description of their records, as required, and would not turn over any documents.

Finally, under subpoena, Trump appeared for a short deposition. When asked about the missing documents, he made a shocking admission: The Trumps had been destroying their corporate records for the previous six months and had no document-retention program. They had conducted no inspections to determine which files might have been sought in the discovery requests or might otherwise be related to the case. Instead, in order to “save space,” Trump testified, officials with his company had been tossing documents into the shredder and garbage.

The government dashed to court, seeking sanctions against the Trumps. Prosecutors asked the judge to allow them to search through the corporate files or simply declare the Trumps in default and enter a judgment against them. The judge opted to allow the government access to the company offices so they could find the records themselves.

In three letters and three phone calls, the government notified the Trumps that this inspection would take place on June 12, 1974. When they arrived at the Trump offices, Trump was there, but he and everyone else were “surprised” that prosecutors had come and refused to allow them access to documents without their defense lawyers present. A prosecutor called those lawyers, but they were not in their offices. The frustrated prosecutors then gave up and headed back to court.

They were then hit with a new delaying tactic. The Trumps submitted a filing based on statements by Trump that radically misrepresented what had occurred that day. He claimed a prosecutor, Donna Goldstein, had arrived at the company without notifying the Trumps’ counsel, refused to telephone their lawyer and demanded access to Trump’s office. The prosecutor—accompanied, the Trumps claimed, by five “stormtroopers”—then banged on doors throughout the office, insisting she and her team be allowed to “swarm haphazardly through all the Trump files and to totally disrupt their daily business routine.”

At the same time, in a move that caused another huge delay, the Trumps claimed that Goldstein had been threatening Trump employees who were potential witnesses. In several instances, the employees signed affidavits stating they had been subjected to abuse by Goldstein, then denied it when they were forced to testify. Even one of the government’s key witnesses, Thomas Miranda—who told the government the Trumps instructed managers to flag applications from minorities and that he was afraid the family would physically harm him—suddenly announced that prosecutors had threatened him and that he had never provided any evidence against the Trumps.
These allegations of misconduct, which demanded sanctions against the government for abusing its power, required more hearings. Once again, the Trump claims went nowhere.

In June 1975, more than 18 months after the government filed the case and with the Trumps still withholding potentially relevant records, the two sides struck a settlement. The agreement—which, like all civil settlements, did not contain an admission of guilt—compelled the Trumps to comply with federal housing regulations against discrimination, adopt specific policies to advance that goal, to notify the community that apartments would be rented to anyone, regardless of race, and meet other requirements.

The Trumps ignored these requirements and still refused to rent apartments to minorities, something the government proved by sending African-Americans and non-Hispanic Caucasians to pose as applicants. The government brought another complaint against the Trumps in 1978, who then agreed to a new settlement.

-October 31, 2016


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Refuses to pay his pollsters what they are owed

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Donald Trump’s hiring of pollster Tony Fabrizio in May was viewed as a sign that the real estate mogul was finally bringing seasoned operatives into his insurgent operation.

But the Republican presidential nominee appears to have taken issue with some of the services provided by the veteran GOP strategist, who has advised candidates from 1996 GOP nominee Bob Dole to Florida Gov. Rick Scott. The Trump campaign’s latest Federal Election Commission report shows that it is disputing nearly $767,000 that Fabrizio’s firm says it is still owed for polling.

Trump campaign officials declined to provide details about the reason the campaign has declined to pay the sum to Fabrizio Lee, the pollster's Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based firm. “This is an administrative issue that we’re resolving internally,” said senior communications adviser Jason Miller. Fabrizio did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump has repeatedly been accused of failing to pay vendors and contractors hired by his real estate empire, including painters, dish washers, real estate brokers and a music store that provided pianos for his Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City. The billionaire has said he pays fairly and that he has withheld payments only when he was dissatisfied with someone’s services.

Fabrizio was an ally of former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who persuaded a skeptical Trump in the spring that he needed a professional pollster. The abrupt departure of Manafort in August and Trump’s hiring of pollster Kellyanne Conway to be his campaign manager raised questions about whether Fabrizio would stay on. There have also been multiple reports that Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, have rejected Fabrizio’s advice.

Even though he was hired in May, the campaign did not make any payments to Fabrizio until September, when his firm received nearly $624,000, federal filings show. Trump’s finance reports show that the campaign owes the firm an additional $55,300 on top of the $766,756.67 in debt that it is contesting.

Fabrizio’s polling firm has also been paid by the Committee on Arrangements for the 2016 Republican National Convention, which gave it $273,378 in July, federal filings show.

Despite his issues with Fabrizio, Trump appears to have warmed up to pollsters in general. Since late August, the GOP nominee has tapped four other polling firms to conduct voter surveys, including Conway’s, which has been paid $673,000 through Oct. 19, filings show.

-October 31, 2016


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Claims 650 million immigrants could come to the US in one week, something that cannot happen within the realm of reality

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Twice on Sunday, Donald Trump told audiences at rallies that electing Hillary Clinton risked a truly spectacular shift in the composition of the United States.
"When you're working for Hillary, she wants to let people just pour in. You could have 650 million people pour in and we do nothing about it," Trump said. "Think of it. That's what could happen. You triple the size of our country in a week."

Well, no. For a lot of reasons.

Before we get into the important question of the mechanics of having 650 million people roll up to enter the United States, an exercise that will hopefully make clear just how hyperbolic this particular smear of hyperbole happens to be, let's stop and consider the comment. Donald Trump uses hyperbole the way some politicians use touching voter anecdotes — to reinforce a broader political point. He says completely outrageous and completely untrue things because he feels as though they bolster his broader point: Immigrants are risky. Is it true? Not the point. The point is oh no, immigrants.

This particular claim turns his normal immigration hand-wringing upside down. Usually he wants to curtail new immigration because, in his formulation, scattered among the some-of-them-who-are-good-people are a number of ne’er-do-wells who bring drugs and commit crimes and are adherents of the Islamic State. He's repeatedly pledged that "the good ones" could leave the country and come back, as a sop to those who criticize him for rejecting new immigrants out of hand. The "650 million" claim is a warning about having too many "good ones." It's a parent's warning about taking it easy on your Halloween candy, except the warning is that if you eat all your candy in one night and all the leftover candy in the house and also eat all of the candy collected by every kid in the tri-state area and also have a fudge IV inserted overnight, you will get sick.

So: 650 million people! That's a lot.

The population of the planet is about 7.1 billion, meaning that Trump figures one out of every 10 citizens of the world wants to live here for some reason. (About 319 million already do.) The United States would jump from the third-most populous country to ... the third-most populous. (China and India are very big.)

Where would those people come from? If literally every person in South America suddenly decided that Reno was a more appealing place to live than Rio, we could see 422 million people slowly make their way up to the United States. Add in everyone from Central America and we're at nearly 600 million. If every Canadian decided to move south, we hit 633 million, still a bit short. If every non-American in the Western Hemisphere decided to move to the United States, we'd be talking about 677 million people.

Let's assume that most of the new immigrants Trump is warning about are coming from Central and South America. (He seems less concerned about Canadian immigration, downplaying the need for a wall that the Trudeau administration would pay for.) That means they can simply pack up cars or trucks with their belongings and head on in. After all, Trump's argument is that the Clinton administration would welcome them; there's no need to trudge through the Arizona desert to enter the United States if you're allowed to come in.

The Department of Transportation has data on the number of border crossings each month. In July, 12.7 million people crossed the Southern border in personal vehicles or in buses. Six million crossed the border in Texas; 4.9 million in California and 1.5 million in Arizona. So far this year, 83 million people have crossed the border with Mexico.

Trump sort of paints himself into a corner with the "in a week" part of his comment. If we're assuming that all 600 million people from Central and South America want to relocate to the United States in a week, it would mean that each of the 25 busiest border crossings with Mexico would need to operate at 44 times the weekly capacity during July of the crossing in San Ysidro, Calif., the crossing that currently handles the most traffic. All moving in one direction, mind you; the Border Patrol would probably need to put the kibosh on anyone wanting to head south during that week. Or, of course, people could rent all-terrain vehicles and head across the border willy-nilly. With that backlog at the border crossing, it would be tempting to skip the wait. And this only accommodates 600 million people.

How many cars are we talking about? Let's assume that we squeeze four people and their belongings into each car. (That's higher than the average crossing the border; in July, most crossings had an average of two people in each passenger vehicle.) The most popular car in Brazil is the Fiat Palio, each of which is at least 12 feet long.

The line of Palias carting all of the new immigrants into the United States would therefore be 1.8 billion feet long, enough to stretch around the Earth 86 times. If each car started in Panama City, Panama, it would mean 106 lanes of traffic heading up to El Paso, with no room between the cars' bumpers from the Texas border to the Panamanian capital.

If everyone in Central America, South America and Canada came to the United States, 17 million more would have to come from somewhere else, meaning that they'd have to either fly or take a boat. (Of course, a lot of the 600-plus million who came from Central and South America would skip the thousands-of-miles-long line of cheap Italian compacts and fly or sail themselves.) The busiest airport in the country is in Atlanta, where just under 2 million people flew in and out in an average week in 2015. So we'd need nine airports to handle an equivalent capacity in this mega-week of immigration, just to accommodate those 17 million extra people.

If more of those new immigrants to the United States wanted to fly here, we've got a bit of a problem. The top 45 busiest airports in 2014 handled an average of 24.8 million people a week in 2014. If each of them somehow magically were able to deal with 10 times their normal influx of passengers — allowing flights at all hours and allowing planes to land in much closer sequence, say — we'd hit less than half of the one-week immigration total that Trump foresees.
Immigrants hoping to come by boat have a few options. If they're coming from Cuba, say, any number of boats might work. If they're coming from Europe, Africa or Asia, they need something a bit more robust. The largest cruise liner in the world is the Harmony of the Seas, which carries 5,500 passengers in luxurious comfort. If those 17 million people wanted to cross the ocean on a fleet of Harmony of the Seases, we'd need 3,090 of them. If my math is right, they'd displace a collective volume of about 100,000,000 liters of water (assuming a weight of 71,500 tons apiece). The good news is that the oceans are large enough to handle the slight rise in ocean level that would result.

Once all of these immigrants arrive that week, there would be a lot of ancillary problems. Traffic coming away from the borders and airports would be a mess for a long time. There were about 2.2 million rental cars in the United States in 2015; it's safe to assume that many rental car companies would be out of inventory for a while.

Another complication is housing. The Census Bureau estimates that there are currently 17 million vacant housing units in the country, meaning that the new immigrants would have to squeeze 38-to-a-home on average. We can offset that a bit by filling up each of the 5 million hotel rooms in the country. But that only helps a little.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that even if Hillary Clinton wanted to allow a tenth of the world to move to the United States, which she doesn't, it couldn't really happen, even if you gave her more than a week to get the job done.

It's almost like ... maybe ... Donald Trump just says things for effect sometimes?

-October 31, 2016


== CLAIMS HE NEVER VOTED FOR BUSH, YET CLAIMED HE DID IN 2005 ==

In a 2009 radio interview with Don Imus uncovered by CNN's KFile, Donald Trump claimed he did not vote for President George W. Bush. Four years earlier, in an interview on Fox News following the 2004 presidential election, Trump said the exact opposite: that he did vote Bush despite his opposition to the Iraq War.

As recently as January of this year, Trump said he voted for Bush in both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections.

Speaking with Imus in February 2009, Trump said, "You know how I feel about Bush, and I think you got to feel that way, also."

"I never voted for him," responded Imus. "I never voted for him, Donald."

"You're good, then. I didn't either, by the way," Trump said, "You're good. I just thought that guy was a dimwit. You looked at it, and he just didn't look like he was all there."

"You could ring that doorbell, and nobody was going to answer that door," says Imus.

"You look at his eyes, I mean he'd make a speech and you'd look at him and you'd say, 'Does he even know what he's reading?' This guy, he was a horrible president," said Trump.

Trump's answer on Imus is a direct contradiction to what he told Bill O'Reilly in January 2005, the day before then-president Bush was to be inaugurated for his second term.

"All right. You didn't vote for Bush, did you?," O'Reilly asked Trump.

"Actually, I did," said Trump.

"Did you really? You were bad-mouthing him," interjected O'Reilly.
"No, I wasn't," Trump responded. "I was bad-mouthing the war in Iraq. I'm not a big fan of the war in Iraq.

"So you voted for Bush," O'Reilly said.

"I voted for Bush because I think he's got certain things that are excellent, including a tax policy that's excellent and going to prove to be excellent," Trump said. "But I am not a big fan of the war in Iraq, and I've let a lot of people know about it, and perhaps that's being proven to be correct."

In a January 2016 interview, also with O'Reilly, Trump was asked if he voted for Bush twice.

"I did vote for Bush twice, yes," Trump said. "I don't think he did a particularly good job. I think he got us into Iraq which was a disaster. But I voted for Bush, yes."

In Bush's first term and into his early second term, Trump repeatedly praised the president while still being critical of the Iraq War. In a 2007 biography of Trump, now-deceased author Robert Slater also says Trump supported Bush in 2004. The biography was written with access to Trump and is sold at Trump Tower in New York.

A spokesperson for the Trump campaign did not return a request for comment on whether Trump voted for Bush or why he gave different answers to the question at different times.

-October 31, 2016


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Claims people shouldn't vote for Clinton because “she’s corrupt” yet he would be the most corrupt president in US history even before his first day in office (more corrupt than Nixon and Reagan combined)
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The fallout from Friday's bombshell announcement by James Comey, the FBI's director, that his agency had found emails potentially relating to the investigation of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's handling of classified information continued to shake up the presidential race on Monday. There were hours of excited speculation about how it was going to affect the race and whether Comey's reputation was damaged.

And there was lots and lots of breathless punditry about the "email scandal" without anyone perceiving a necessity to define it since it's taken on a life of its own.

In a study by Harvard's Shorenstein Center of the two campaigns' media coverage during their respective party conventions, Clinton's email scandal was the single most reported issue, with CNN vastly outpacing any other network or newspaper in its overwhelming attention to the issue.

And this was after the FBI had decided that no charges of mishandling classified information were warranted. Since Comey took it upon himself to publicly scold Clinton like an errant child, the news media naturally treated the event as if the words had come down from Sinai and condemned her as if she had been found guilty anyway.

One of the major rationales for the ceaseless coverage of the issue is the prospect of a Clinton presidency being burdened by the necessity of dealing with a full-blown witch hunt by Republican-led House committees investigating her alleged conflicts of interest. Oddly enough, the media can barely spare a moment to contemplate the overwhelming conflicts of interest and legal exposure that a President Donald Trump would bring to the White House.

As Media Matters laid out on Monday, Trump is currently facing 75 different civil lawsuits for matters including fraud, breach of contract, nonpayment, sexual harassment and defamation. He has three pending Trump University fraud suits and is suspected of perpetrating a “pay-for-play” scheme with Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and possibly others to shut down a state investigation into the same fraudulent enterprise.

Just last week Trump was ordered to appear in federal court on Dec. 16 for a status conference in a civil lawsuit brought by a woman who accused him of raping her when she was 13. (According to the latest blockbuster investigative piece by Kurt Eichenwald in Newsweek, Trump has destroyed emails and other documents in circumvention of court orders for decades.)

Everyone knows that last month Donald Trump was revealed on tape bragging about sexually assaulting women and that shortly thereafter women began to come forward by the dozen to allege the same. A number of such women are now represented by legal counsel, a problem...
with which a President Trump would surely have to deal. (The Supreme Court set that precedent with former president Bill Clinton in the Paula Jones case.) One can only imagine how many others might come forward.

And I have written before about the literal impossibility of Trump extricating himself from the Trump Organization’s foreign entanglements. He would have massive conflicts of interest all over the globe, no matter how much Trump and his family try to divest themselves from the business — which they have no intention of doing. American foreign policy would be held hostage to the president’s business interests, and that’s assuming we even knew what those interests were.

The only thing we do know is that Trump has dealings with shady characters in various countries around the world that would greatly complicate American national security and its relationship to its allies. At the moment he has refused to give any information about his foreign holdings and media outlets have been strangely passive about asking him about it. This is all he’s said about this extremely important topic:

If I become president, I couldn’t care less about my company. It’s peanuts. I want to use that same — up here, whatever it may be — to make America rich again and to make America great again. I have Ivanka and Eric and Don sitting there. Run the company, kids. Have a good time. I’m going to do it for America. . . . I would put it in a blind trust. Well, I don’t know if it’s a blind trust if Ivanka, Don and Eric run it. But — is that a blind trust? I don’t know. But I would probably have my children run it with my executives. And I wouldn’t ever be involved because I wouldn’t care about anything but our country — anything.

Now there’s this evolving issue of possible Russian involvement in the election on behalf of Trump’s candidacy. A flurry of conflicting stories came out yesterday, obviously leaked by warring FBI factions. One reported that the FBI had opened a preliminary investigation into the relationship between Trump’s former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, and former adviser Carter Page and pro-Russian interests.

Slate published an intriguing piece by Franklin Foer about computer experts who reportedly found possible direct connections between the Trump campaign and a Russian bank suspected of being a front for the government. David Corn of Mother Jones came out with a piece about a former intelligence officer finding evidence that Trump has been cultivated by the Russian government for years. And the Atlantic published a chilling report from Mike Lofgren about Russians’ influence on the far right in Europe and how their interference on behalf of Donald Trump was seen as a way of boosting the alt-right.

The New York Times quoted other anonymous FBI sources saying they’ve determined that the Russian government simply wanted to interfere with the election but had no preferred candidate. (This is an odd conclusion considering that the Russians appear to have targeted only the Democrats. So one has to wonder whether the Times’ FBI source is a Republican.) Coincidentally, a video has surfaced from 2013 in which Donald Trump says he knows Vladimir Putin very well, although he now says he’s never met the Russian president.

You have to see this for yourself.

In 2013, Trump, who now denies any such a relationship, repeatedly says he has a relationship w/ Putin. pic.twitter.com/wwo9XDWYbn

— Shaun King (@ShaunKing) Oct. 26, 2016

All of this raises a question The Washington Post’s Paul Waldman raised two months ago: How is it possible that Clinton’s email brouhaha has marked her as thoroughly corrupt and dishonest, while Trump’s monumentally nefarious past, present and future are overlooked? Waldman’s assumption is probably the correct one: The narratives were set early in the campaign cycle, with Trump being the bigoted, crazy one and Clinton being the corrupt one. That’s just how the media frames the contest.

They got it wrong. Yes, Trump is the crazy, bigoted one. He’s also a misogynist and worse. But he’s also the corrupt one, perhaps even more than most of us who had already understood that ever imagined. Considering that partial list of conflicts, misdeeds and legal entanglements I just laid out, a President Trump is unimaginable.

- November 1, 2016

National Committee servers might indicate similar activity being used against the Trump campaign, according to Slate.

Instead, the experts discovered that the Trump Organization had set up an email server that only performed one function: irregularly pinging a single email server located at Alfa Bank — one of Russia’s biggest banks, which has close connections to the Russian and Ukrainian political elite. Both servers were set up to reject connections from third-party servers, and neither was active outside of Moscow and New York business hours.

The information was presented to Paul Vixie, who wrote essential parts of the DNS code that makes the Internet work. “The parties were communicating in a secretive fashion,” Vixie told Slate. “The operative word is secretive. This is more akin to what criminal syndicates do if they are putting together a project.”

He later added that “this bears every indication that it was collected from a live link” and that “no reasonable person would come to the conclusion other than the one I’ve come to.”

When Alfa Bank was questioned about its Trump-oriented server, that server vanished, only to be immediately replaced by another that performed the same function, Slate reported.

It was also reported by The Hill on Monday that a former intelligence officer warned the FBI in July of “an established exchange of information between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin of mutual benefit.”

The FBI chose not to disclose the relationship to the public, but was investigating any possible connection. FBI Director James Comey was reportedly reluctant to blame Russia for the attacks perpetrated on the Democratic National Committee out of fear that it would influence the election — a concern he did not have Friday, when he said the agency had discovered more emails relating to its inquiry into Hillary Clinton.

The Trump-Russia connection has been long suspected, but impossible to pin down. One of Trump’s former campaign managers, Paul Manafort, came under fire this spring when it was revealed that he was connected to pro-Russian politicians in Ukraine. During the Republican National Convention, the Trump campaign forced through a foreign policy plank on Ukraine into its platform that was consistent with Putin’s views (the FBI is now investigating Manafort’s dealings).

Manafort has also been tied to Sergei Millian, the head of the Russian American Chamber of Commerce, since 2006. Millian has been publicly connected to Trump since 2014, and, according to the Financial Times, may have been seen as an intermediary between the Trump campaign and Russian business interests.

UPDATE: A representative from Alfa Bank contacted the author of this article with a statement that read, in part, “Alfa Bank wishes to make clear that there is no connection between Alfa Bank and Donald Trump, the Trump campaign, or the Trump organization. Any suggestion to the contrary is false.” They attribute the odd server activity to “an email marketing/spam campaign by a marketing server, which triggered security software.”

-November 1, 2016

http://www.salon.com/2016/11/01/donald-trump-companys-server-was-connected-to-russian-bank-report/

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**Is being sued on the 1871 KKK Act for voter intimidation**

The Democratic Party has filed lawsuits in four battleground states—Ohio, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania—alleging Donald Trump’s campaign and the Republican Party are “conspiring to threaten, intimidate, and thereby prevent minority voters in urban neighborhoods from voting.” The lawsuits cite the Voting Rights Act and the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act. In its filing, the Ohio Democratic Party write, “Trump has sought to advance his campaign’s goal of ‘voter suppression’ by using the loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful intimidation.” The suits also names Trump adviser Roger Stone and his super PAC, Stop the Steal. Trump has repeatedly urged his supporters to monitor polling booths on Election Day. The North Carolina NAACP has also filed a federal lawsuit Monday seeking an immediate injunction to stop the state and various county boards of elections from illegally canceling the registrations of thousands of voters. The NAACP says African-American voters are being targeted in a coordinated effort to suppress the black vote in the state. For more, we speak with Carol Anderson, professor of African American studies at Emory University. She is author of the new book, “White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide.”

AMY GOODMAN: The Democratic Party has filed lawsuits in four battleground states—Ohio, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania—alleging Donald Trump’s campaign and the Republican Party are, quote, “conspiring to threaten, intimidate, and thereby prevent minority voters in urban neighborhoods from voting,” unquote. The lawsuits cite the Voting Rights Act and the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act. In its filing, the Ohio Democratic Party writes, quote, “Trump has sought to advance his campaign’s goal of ‘voter suppression’ by using the loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful intimidation,” unquote. The suits also name Trump adviser Roger Stone and his super PAC Stop the Steal. Trump has repeatedly urged his supporters to monitor polling booths on Election Day.
DONALD TRUMP: You've got to go out. You've got to go out, and you've got to get your friends, and you've got to get everybody you know, and you've got to watch your polling booths, because I hear too many stories about Pennsylvania, certain areas. I hear too many bad stories. And we can’t lose an election because of you know what I'm talking about. So go and vote and then go check out areas, because a lot of bad things happen. And we don't want to lose for that reason. We don't want to lose, but we especially—we don't want to lose for that reason. So go over and watch, and watch carefully.

AMY GOODMAN: In related news, the North Carolina NAACP filed a federal lawsuit Monday seeking an immediate injunction to stop the state and various county boards of elections from illegally canceling the registrations of thousands of voters. The NAACP says African-American voters are being targeted in a coordinated effort to suppress the black vote in North Carolina.

Meanwhile, a prominent white nationalist is sponsoring robocalls in the state of Utah to urge voters to back Trump over the third-party candidate Evan McMullin. Some polls show McMullin, who is Mormon, could beat Trump in Utah. They ads feature William Johnson, the leader of the white nationalist American Freedom Party.

WILLIAM JOHNSON: My name is William Johnson. I am a farmer and a white nationalist. I make this call against Evan McMullin and in support of Donald Trump. Evan McMullin is an open borders amnesty supporter. Evan has two mommies: His mother is a lesbian married to another woman. Evan is OK with that. Indeed, Evan supports the Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage. Evan is over 40 years old and is not married and doesn’t even have a girlfriend. I believe Evan is a closet homosexual. Don’t vote for Evan McMullin. Vote for Donald Trump.

AMY GOODMAN: The election just a week away, we’re joined now by Carol Anderson, professor of African American studies at Emory University. She’s author of a new book; it’s called White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide.

Well, there's a lot to talk about in this election—

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes, there is.

AMY GOODMAN: —Professor Anderson. Let's begin with this suit that's being brought by the state Democratic parties in key states, saying that the Trump organization—that the Trump campaign is violating the Klan Act. Explain.

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes, and it’s really, in a horrible way, very simple. As I laid out in White Rage, part of what happened is that when African Americans advance, when they gain access to their citizenship rights, you see a wave of policies emanate out of Congress, out of the White House, to knock back those gains, those advancements. We saw that after the Civil War with Reconstruction.

Now, move this forward. Part of what we’re seeing now is the backlash to Obama’s election. And so, we saw a wave of voter suppression laws come up. And when you look at these key battleground states and the things that they’re doing, they’re vintage. They go back to the era of Jim Crow, they go back to the era after the Civil War, when the point was: How do we intimidate these newly freed people who now have their citizenship rights? How do we strip them of their citizenship rights? One was massive voter intimidation, being at the polls with rifles. It is then a series of laws coming on, from literacy tests and grandfather clauses and poll taxes—all of those things for disfranchisement. We move to the Voting Rights Act of '65, and then we get to Shelby County v. Holder, where this Supreme Court gutted it. And this is what we see as the result.

AMY GOODMAN: Now, I want to go back to the Civil War and after. You mentioned Reconstruction. So, slaves are freed, and what happens?

CAROL ANDERSON: What happens is, is that they don’t get free. They get—they're immediately hit with a thing called the Black Codes. And the Black Codes required the newly freed people to sign labor contracts with plantation owners and mine owners and lumber mill owners. And they refuse to sign the labor contract, then they could be arrested and then have their labor sold. They’d be put on the auction block, and their labor then sold to the highest bidder. And they wouldn’t be able to leave until that fine was paid off. It also said that they couldn’t carry weapons to be able to hunt, or they couldn’t fish, so they couldn’t even feed themselves. They had to work. And they could not leave that mine owner or that plantation owner for a year. If they left for better wages, better working conditions, they could be arrested, charged with vagrancy, and their labor auctioned off.

AMY GOODMAN: And what about voting?

CAROL ANDERSON: Oh, and voting was just verboten. They could not vote. I mean, and this is why you have to have then the 15th Amendment coming in in about 1870, providing the right to vote, because that thing of moving from property to citizen was so abhorrent, so repulsive to white Southerners, that they went, “Absolutely not,” and did everything in their power to strip African Americans of their citizenship rights.

-November 1, 2016

http://www.democracynow.org/2016/11/1/democrats_sue_trump_gop_under_1871
Fraudulently claimed a large loss to avoid paying taxes for 18 years, actually converted those losses into loans and stakeholder shares in his companies

Unlike past presidential nominees, Donald Trump has declined to release his complete tax returns, which has fostered fervid speculation about what they might contain — especially since the New York Times published a few pages from Trump's 1995 tax documents last month.

Those documents suggested that the Republican nominee could have avoided paying taxes on as much as $916 million in income. The question was how he could do so legally. Experts had put forward a range of intricate theories, and the new documents disclosed by the Times on Monday point to one explanation for how Trump sheltered the bulk of that money.

It appears Trump gave his creditors shares of his failing businesses to avoid taxes on hundreds of millions of dollars they granted him in debt relief, a practice that has since been explicitly outlawed, the Times explained.

In short, “He made it up,” said legal scholar Edward Kleinbard of the University of Southern California.

Some had missed Trump's maneuver, Kleinbard said, because they did not think that it would have been allowed at the time.

“The reason nobody thought of it is that nobody thought that it existed,” Kleinbard said. “The real surprise here is that he apparently got away with it.”

Trump declined to comment for the Times's story.

In a letter published by the Times, lawyers warned the New York businessman that his strategy would be legally risky. He was audited by the Internal Revenue Service, which has not commented on the result of its investigation.

The details of Trump's reported maneuver are somewhat complicated, but the essential idea is fairly straightforward. The documents reviewed by the Times suggest Trump worked around a couple of basic principles of U.S. taxation.

The maneuver began when Trump's businesses borrowed money from banks to purchase the Plaza Hotel in New York and his casinos in Atlantic City. Neither Trump nor his businesses owed taxes on the cash infusion because the tax code doesn't consider debt to be taxable income.

For instance, when someone takes out a mortgage, the money is not counted as income, even though the bank has just given the borrower hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mortgages do not actually make borrowers better off, because the borrowers are expected to return the money eventually.

“We don't tax proceeds on borrowing, because you’ve also assumed a liability,” said Steven M. Rosenthal, an attorney at the Tax Policy Center. “Your net position hasn’t changed.”

If the bank forgives the loan, however, then the amount that is forgiven does count as income under federal law. A canceled debt is equivalent to a gift from the bank, and it is subject to income taxes.

That is what happened to Trump. When the casino and hotel investments failed catastrophically, Trump's businesses declared bankruptcy, and his creditors were forced to forgive much of the debt.

“He borrowed other people's money and spent it in spectacular fashion,” Rosenthal said.

From the point of view of Trump's income, it all came out in the wash. He had lost a lot of money, but he had also persuaded the banks to write down what he owed them — a gift that largely wiped out his losses.

Trump then claimed on tax returns that he had lost the money, but he did not acknowledge the income in the form of canceled debts. He likely did not have to pay taxes on that money — which totaled at least $425 million, Rosenthal estimates based on his review of the documents obtained by the Times.

To avoid taxes on the income from his canceled debts, Trump used what experts described as a dubious legal argument, according to the account provided by the Times.
First, in exchange for writing down his debts, he gave the creditors shares of the partnerships through which he controlled the failing hotel and casinos. Then he essentially argued that the lenders had not done him a favor at all, because they had simply exchanged one asset for another.

The asset the banks gave up was real money Trump owed them. What they got, on the other hand, were shares in failing properties. Trump claimed that he and his borrowers were square.

Kleinbard and his colleagues developed an early version of the maneuver, sometimes called a “stock-for-debt swap,” more than three decades ago when he worked for Salomon Brothers. He recalled using it to engineer roughly 75 deals for the firm’s corporate clients in about a year-and-a half. Business was good until 1984, when Congress mostly shut down the practice. It was, Kleinbard admitted, clearly an abuse of the system.

Trump also would have been able to count his substantial losses against any future income, as well, Rosenthal said, possibly sparing him from the need to pay federal income tax again for years. Under the tax code, taxpayers can count their losses against future income because they aren’t really better off until they’re back in the black. By swapping stock for debt, Trump would have been able to claim he was still in the red.

The documents obtained by the Times that Rosenthal reviewed list at least $425 million in forgiven debts. Trump did not acknowledge that these cancellations effectively wiped out about half of his $916 million loss, Rosenthal said. As for the rest of that red ink, Trump might have used a similar maneuver with regard to loans that were not listed in the documents, or he might have used some other legal strategy to claim that he really was still in the hole.

In a recent debate with Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton that he does not pay federal income tax, the Republican candidate was asked about whether he pays federal income tax.

“Did you use that $916 million loss to avoid paying personal federal income taxes for years?” moderator Anderson Cooper asked him.

“Of course I do,” Trump replied. “Of course I do, and so do all of her donors, or most of her donors.”

Kleinbard said that he would have enjoyed bringing Trump to court on behalf of the authorities in order to force him to pay up. “I would have been certain that I would have won,” Kleinbard said.

Lawyers for Willkie Farr & Gallagher, the firm Trump retained to provide an opinion on the strategy, wrote that if the authorities took Trump to court, his odds of winning would be no better than a coin flip.

“We are unable to provide legal assurance that the probabilities are more likely than not that such positions will be upheld if litigated,” they wrote, according to the letter published by the Times.

- November 1, 2016


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### Denounced by 370 economists who say he promotes magical thinking and conspiracy theories, that a Trump presidency would be dangerous and destructive to the economy

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Some of the country’s most prominent economists have signed a letter warning that Donald Trump is a “dangerous, destructive” choice for president and urging voters to choose someone else.

The letter, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, was signed by 370 economists, including eight Nobel Prize winners.

The text stops short of endorsing Democrat Hillary Clinton, though, and doesn't criticize Trump on ideological grounds. Instead, it says he has made repeated statements aimed at misleading the public about jobs and growth:

“He misinforms the electorate, degrades trust in public institutions with conspiracy theories, and promotes willful delusion over engagement with reality. If elected, he poses a unique danger to the functioning of democratic and economic institutions, and to the prosperity of the country.”
Among other things, Trump has told voters that renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement or imposing tariffs on China would increase manufacturing jobs, the letter says.

"In fact, manufacturing's share of employment has been declining since the 1970s and is mostly related to automation, not trade," it says.

Trump has "lowered the seriousness of the national dialogue" by saying that the deficit can be reduced by eliminating government agencies such as the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"A credible solution will require an increase in tax revenue and/or a reduction in spending on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or Defense," it says.

The Republican presidential candidate has also falsely claimed that the United States is one of the most heavily taxed countries in the world, the letter says. It added:

"His statements reveal a deep ignorance of economics and an inability to listen to credible experts. He repeats fake and misleading economic statistics, and pushes fallacies about the [value-added tax] and trade competitiveness. He promotes magical thinking and conspiracy theories over sober assessments of feasible economic policy options."

Those signing the letter say they "represent a broad variety of areas of expertise." They include Nobel winners such as Angus Deaton of Princeton, Oliver Hart and Eric Maskin of Harvard and Kenneth J. Arrow of Stanford, as well as many other prominent academics.

A separate letter endorsing Clinton and signed by 19 Nobel laureates was released earlier this week.

One of Trump's senior economic advisers, Peter Navarro of the University of California, Irvine, said in an email to NPR that the letter is "an embarrassment to the corporate offshoring wing of the economist profession who continues to insist bad trade deals are good for America."

He added:

"You don't need Econ 101 to know Hillary Clinton's plan to raise taxes, increase regulation, raise energy and electricity prices by shutting down our fossil fuel industries, and continue to ship our jobs and factories overseas through bad trade deals will reduce growth, continue stagnant wages, and leave our government without the economic growth it needs to pay for everything from new infrastructure to national defense."

"You don't need a Ph.D. in economics to know Trump's plan to cut taxes, reduce regulation, increase oil, gas, and clean coal production, and eliminate our trade deficit by increasing exports and reducing imports will significantly increase growth, boost wages, and generate trillions in new tax revenues."

- November 1, 2016


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Lies about not having ties with a gambler tied to organized crime

Newly unearthed video seemingly contradicts Donald Trump’s claim that he has never known a gambler with alleged ties to organized crime, according to a new report.

The footage shows Trump standing beside Robert LiButti, a man with purported links to mafia boss John Gotti, Yahoo News reported Wednesday.

Yahoo said the pair’s appearance together occurred on March 27, 1988, during the “Wrestlemania IV” professional wrestling event in Atlantic City, N.J.

LiButti was banned from New Jersey’s casinos in 1991 due to his connection with Gotti, who was then chief of the Gambino crime syndicate, Yahoo reported.
The New Jersey Casino Control Commission that same year also levied $650,000 in fines against the Trump Plaza hotel, the news outlet added. The penalty stemmed from LiButti gambling huge sums at the hotel’s casino before his death in 2014.

“That’s definitely Bob LiButti standing right next to Donald Trump,” said David Cay Johnston, a former Philadelphia Inquirer reporter who extensively interviewed LiButti in the 1990s. “It’s an event that Bob described to me a quarter century ago in his Saddle River home.

“The ‘Wrestlemania’ event is just one of many times that Trump was close to Bob, who was the biggest loser at Trump casinos and therefore Trump’s most important customer.”

Trump’s presidential campaign dismissed footage of the billionaire and LiButti together.

“This was obviously a massive event, which took place decades ago,” spokeswoman Hope Hicks said in an email to Yahoo. “Mr. Trump attended many similar events with thousands of people during this time period.”

Trump, who is now the Republican presidential nominee, has repeatedly denied knowing LiButti in the past.

“If he was standing here in front of me, I wouldn’t know what he looked like,” he told the Inquirer in 1991 when first asked about the gambler.

“During the years, I very successfully ran the casino business, I knew many high rollers,” he wrote in an email to Yahoo earlier this year. “I assume Mr. LiButti was one of them, but I don’t recognize the name.”

Yahoo said a confidential source provided it with the video, which was discovered in the online archives of “Wrestlemania” sponsor World Wrestling Entertainment.

LiButti sits alongside Trump and his then-wife Ivana in the clip, which was filmed at the Atlantic City Convention Hall.

Trump greets ring announcer Bob Uecker in the footage before later kissing special guest Vanna White on the cheek.

Yahoo said New Jersey regulators decided to permanently “exclude” LiButti from state casinos in 1991. The ban occurred after undercover New Jersey police footage emerged of LiButti repeatedly calling Gotti “my boss.”

- November 2, 2016


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Healthcare plan is to abolish the Affordable Care Act and then expect people to pay their medical bills from their savings

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Then everyone stood up and applauded. Then Pence introduced the man who would “restore freedom to our health-care economy,” Donald Trump. As he walked on stage, I couldn’t see anyone in the audience who wasn’t taking a picture. “The Star-Spangled Banner” played. Trump said that a lot of people were “enthused and excited” about his campaign. He said that Ben Carson would be “very much involved” with his administration.

He said he will immediately “repeal and replace Obamacare.” He then said he would ask Congress to convene “a special session, so we can repeal and replace.” Congress will be in session already in January. “Obamacare has to be replaced,” he said, “it is a catastrophe.” He said, falsely, that Clinton “wants to put the government totally in charge of health care in America. If we don’t repeal and replace Obamacare, we will destroy American health care forever.”

The people stood and chanted “Trump! Trump! Trump!”

He repeated what Pence said, that he would like to have people use health savings accounts, where they save money tax-free that can be used to pay for health care. “It will be a much better health care [sic] at a much less expensive cost.”

It won’t be, though. When everyone pays for their own health care individually, they lose collective purchasing power and the pharmaceutical companies and hospital systems can charge whatever they want, offering care to only those who can afford high costs.
Then Trump took a hard right turn, and with the rest of his twenty minutes, he talked about bringing back manufacturing jobs, China, NAFTA, great negotiating, Mexico, currency manipulation, “clean coal,” steel-workers’ jobs being stolen by China, more choices for school for children, “bringing education local” [standing ovation], tax cuts, rebuilding the military [standing ovation], that we are “far less safe today than we were before we started,” vocational training, the fact that he went to Wharton, African Americans in the inner cities, and the enthusiasm of crowds at his rallies.

And that’s it. That was the health care meeting.

-November 2, 2016


Campaign representatives ordered to appear before a judge in Nevada due to his plans to engage in voter intimidation tactics

A federal judge Tuesday ordered representatives from the Donald Trump campaign and the Nevada Republican Party to appear at a hearing in his courtroom Wednesday afternoon in a lawsuit filed by Nevada Democrats accusing them of the engaging in voter intimidation tactics.

U.S. District Judge Richard Franklin Boulware also ordered the Trump campaign and state party to turn over any training materials they provided to “poll watchers, poll observers, exit pollsters or any other similarly tasked individuals.”

At the hearing, the Trump campaign and the Nevada GOP should be prepared to respond to the motion for a temporary restraining order that the Democrats requested in the lawsuit, the judge’s order said.

The Nevada Democratic Party’s lawsuit was filed along with lawsuits from three other Democratic state parties against their GOP counterparts and the Trump campaign in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Arizona. They allege that the Trump campaign and the state Republican parties have violated the Voting Rights Act and the Ku Klux Klan Act, with an approach to elections monitoring that Democrats described as “vigilante voter intimidation.” Roger Stone, the longtime GOP operative and former Trump adviser, was also named in the complaints, as was the group he is affiliated with, Stop the Steal, for its poll watcher recruitment efforts.

In Ohio, the judge ordered the defendants to respond to the Democrats’ complaints by Wednesday evening and provide any objections they may have to the judge placing an order limiting voter intimidation and the presence of unauthorized poll observers at election sites.

The judge presiding over the Arizona case issued a briefing schedule requesting responses to the Democratic complaints by 5 p.m. Wednesday, with an option for the Democrats to counter-respond by noon Thursday.

The judge in Pennsylvania issued what appeared to be a order outlining the typical next steps in the cases that he presides over. It did not include any specific expedited scheduling for this case.

A separate legal action filed by the Democratic National Committee against the Republican National Committee alleges that the RNC violated a decades-old consent decree limiting its poll watching activities by collaborating with Trump’s poll watcher call to arms. The judge has requested that the RNC hand over documents related to any agreements it made with the Trump campaign to assist in its elections monitoring activities.

-Polling at 0% with African American voters in Wisconsin, solidifying himself as the white nationalist candidate

Perhaps the most startling piece of data to come out of Wednesday’s final Marquette Law School Poll for 2016 is that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has literally no support among black voters.

Out of 59 likely black voters surveyed in the poll conducted October 26-31, not one said they have or will vote for Trump.

-November 2, 2016


Debroah Badger early voted in Fitchburg Thursday, and the ballot she cast for Hillary Clinton correlates with the polling data.

"I really just don't like him," said Badger. "I don't like how he's perceiving black people as like - we're ignorant."

It was at an August 16th rally in West Bend where Trump first tested out his message that black voters like Badger find offensive.

"The Democratic Party has failed the African-American community," said Trump. "Democratic crime policies, education policies and economic policies have caused only more crime, more broken homes and more poverty."

Bishop Harold Rayford, the pastor at Faith Place Church in Sun Prairie, told 27 News Trump's message fails flat because it paints all black voters with the same broad brush and there is no action to back up his words.

"His outreach efforts have been very disingenuous and I think that's the reason why he hasn't been able to reach minorities with much success," said Bishop Rayford. "I'm surprised he's at zero. I'm surprised he's that high."

Rayford said he and other African-Americans are open to Republican candidates. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) is polling at 11 percent among black voters in the same Marquette poll.

But others say Trump's problems with the African-American community date back much further than this election season.

"For Trump to take the positions and actions he did for the first African-American President, that was the first order of business in terms of my perception of him," said Greg Jones, President of the NAACP Chapter of Dane County.

Jones said Trump's failed crusade to prove President Obama wasn't an American-born citizen offended most African-Americans, and his language on the campaign trail has only hurt his appeal further.

"He needs to understand that their life experience is rooted in social, economic and racial injustice in many cases and they're looking for people to help bridge those gaps, not divide those gaps," said Jones.

27 News reached out to a spokesperson for Donald Trump's Wisconsin campaign for a comment on this story, but has yet to receive a response.

-November 3, 2016


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Man who killed two cops in Iowa is a Trump supporter, Trump never disavows

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After Scott Greene was arrested for the ambush murder of two Iowa police officers early Wednesday, a sign on the front lawn of the house he shares with his mother continued to announce a preference in the upcoming presidential election.

"They got a Trump sign," said Richard Leutinger, who lives just across 70th Street in Urbandale. "But what’s that got to do with anything?"

Maybe everything, whether 46-year-old Scott Greene put up the sign or his 66-year-old mother, Patricia Greene, did, as the Trump people insist.

Not that anybody could rightly suggest that Donald Trump would support the killing of 24-year-old Urbandale Police Officer Justin Martin as he sat in his radio car a dozen blocks up 70th Street from the Greene house at around 1 a.m. and then the killing of 39-year-old Des Moines Police Sgt. Tony Beminio 20 minutes later as he responded to reports of the first attack.

Trump was an hour and a half quicker than his opponent to offer his condolences.

"Praying for the families of the two Iowa police who were ambushed this morning. An attack on those who keep us safe is an attack on us all,"
he tweeted at 9:30 a.m.

Hillary Clinton may have taken extra time to prepare a message, which ended with the single initial that is supposed to signal she personally composed the tweet.

"Heartbroken for the families of two brave officers who were killed in Iowa. There’s no justification for this kind of violence. -H," she said at 11 a.m.

If Clinton really is heartbroken, she will soon be saying in future tweets and speeches that the death of these two brave officers is yet another instance of somebody who should never have been able to get his hands on a high-powered weapon, in this instance an assault rifle that littered the two crime scenes with spent .223 casings such as were also found at Sandy Hook and Aurora and San Bernardino and Orlando and Baton Rouge.

Clinton can also note that the first killing took place where Greene had videotaped himself in a confrontation with police back on Oct. 14, after he waved a Confederate flag in front of several black people during the playing of the national anthem at an Urbandale High School football game.

"I was offended by the blacks sitting through our anthem," Greene would write online. "Thousands more whites fought and died for their freedom. However this is not about the Armed forces, they are cop haters."

But it was a cop who hustled him from the stands to prevent trouble. He had already taken a selfie of himself in the stands getting the effect he wanted with the Confederate flag. He now recorded himself with several officers at the edge of the school grounds, announcing that he had been assaulted and that some of his property had been stolen.

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Very likely, Scott Greene was nasty and at least a little nuts long before Trump began running for president. He certainly appears to have already been freely using the N-word.

But there is no denying that when inciting and manipulating fear and bigotry, Trump encourages folks to release forces that are otherwise kept doubly in check by their conscience and by what is widely mocked as political correctness but is really personal correctness.

The effect is intensified by Trump’s dramas and myriad falsehoods, which further untether hateful fantasies from logic and reality. A man who is already unbalanced is liable to go from protesting "black cop haters" to becoming a cop killer, whether it was he or his mother who actually put up a Trump sign.

What matters is that there was a Trump sign at all.

-November 3, 2016


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Probably threatened 13-year-old girl he probably raped, said if she reported him, he would kill her

Further details of the child rape accusation against Donald Trump have been thrust into the spotlight after his accuser failed to show up at a press conference citing "great fear" after receiving "terrible threats".

Jane Doe alleges Mr Trump raped her when she was 13 years old at a party in 1994 at a New York apartment belonging to billionaire investor Jeffrey Epstein, who was convicted of soliciting an underage prostitute in 2008.

The lawsuit claims that after the rape, Mr Trump threatened the plaintiff by saying if she ever revealed any details, her and her family "would be physically harmed, if not killed".

-November 3, 2016
Singled out reporter at rally, intentionally targeting her among his supporters to incite violence against her

GOP nominee Donald Trump singled out NBC News reporter Katy Tur on Wednesday during a rally in Florida, continuing to taunt reporters covering his campaign.

Tur has been embedded with the Trump campaign, following the candidate throughout the presidential race. Trump in the past has called out Tur publicly by name, and has referred to her as “Little Katy, third-rate journalist.”

During his usual takedown of the “dishonest media” in Miami on Wednesday, Trump called out the press — and specifically Tur — for being biased and not reporting fairly on his campaign.

“We have massive crowds. They’re something happening. They’re not reporting it. Katy, you’re not reporting it, Katy.” Trump said to cheers. “But there’s something happening, Katy. There’s something happening, Katy.”

CNN host Wolf Blitzer last week asked Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway to talk to the Republican nominee about singling out reporters, especially those embedded with the campaign, citing safety concerns.

“He points to them, he sort of eggs the crowd on to go after them,” Blitzer said. “There are a lot of young journalists. He shouldn’t be doing that.”

Conway appeared on Blitzer’s CNN show later Wednesday and defended Trump, saying he didn’t intend to suggest that anyone be mean to Tur or to attack her.

“After he did that ... she was harassed by a lot of the people over there,” Blitzer said. “The last time we spoke, you told me you shared my concerns about the singling out of these embeds ... You said you would talk to him. How did that conversation go?”

-November 3, 2016

Trump campaign admits that they were leaked the story from the FBI about investigations into Clinton before they shared the story with anyone else; FBI showing their racist roots once again

During an Friday morning appearance on Fox & Friends, Trump surrogate Rudy Giuliani admitted “former FBI agents” leaked information to him about the Bureau’s renewed interest in Hillary Clinton’s emails days before the story became public knowledge on October 28.

Host Brian Kilmeade asked Giuliani about comments he made on Fox & Friends on October 25—three days before FBI Director James Comey wrote a letter to congressional Republicans informing them the Bureau was taking a look at newly discovered emails. That morning, Giuliani said, “I think he’s [Donald Trump] got a surprise or two that you’re going to hear about in the next few days. I mean, I’m talking about some pretty big surprises.”

One of them was apparently the Comey letter about the renewed investigation into Clinton, which created a political firestorm and a fresh line of attack for Trump during the campaign’s closing days.

On Friday morning, Kilmeade asked Giuliani, “A couple days before [the Comey letter] broke, you’re on with Martha McCallum, and you looked at Martha and go, ‘Well look out, something’s coming down,’ and it certainly did. What did you know?”

Giuliani—a former Associate Attorney General and U.S. Attorney in the Reagan administration—replied that while he’s “not a part of it at all,” he heard “former FBI agents telling me that there’s a revolution going on inside the FBI and it’s now at a boiling point.”

Later, Giuliani added, “I did nothing to get it out, I had no role in it. Did I hear about it? You’re darn right I heard about it, and I can’t even repeat the language that I heard from the former FBI agents.”
Federal law and longstanding FBI policy prohibit employees from trying to influence elections. But as the Guardian reported Friday, “the FBI is Trumpland.” Since Comey’s letter, FBI agents have leaked information about a separate investigation into the Clinton Foundation—one that has continued despite the Department of Justice concluding last February there was no wrongdoing worth investigating, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

Fox News anchor Bret Baier went a step further Wednesday night and said “two separate sources with intimate knowledge of what’s going on with these FBI investigations” told him an indictment resulting from the investigation into the Clinton Foundation is likely.

Baier’s claim is contradicted by the WSJ report. But the leaks and the political agenda they support are significant in and of themselves. On Thursday, ThinkProgress reported that the FBI has launched an internal investigation into one of its own Twitter accounts after that account shared a document dump pertaining to a long-dormant investigation into Bill Clinton.

- November 4, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/rudy-giuliani-fbi-leaks-trumpland-d5cc407ba79f#_fnab0bwyc

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Wants to end all clean energy development and climate science
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In the last week, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed to zero out all federal spending on clean energy research and development. And the plan he released would also zero out all other spending on anything to do with climate change, including the government’s entire climate science effort.

You may have missed this bombshell because team Trump did not spell out these cuts overtly. In a campaign where the media has “utterly failed to convey the policy stakes in the election,” as Vox’s Matt Yglesias explained recently, it appears only Bloomberg BNA bothered to follow up with the campaign to get at the truth of Trump’s radical proposal.

Polling guru Nate Silver of fivethirtyeight.com fame gives Trump a one in three chance of becoming president. So I agree with Yglesias that we ought to seriously look at the implications of Trump’s proposals—especially since if Trump wins, he’s all but certain to have a GOP-controlled Congress to back him.

In announcing his “New Deal For Black America” on October 26, Trump promised:

“I will also cancel all wasteful climate change spending from Obama-Clinton, including all global warming payments to the United Nations. These steps will save $100 billion over 8 years, and this money will be used to help rebuild the vital infrastructure, including water systems, in America’s inner cities.”

I’ll bet you never even knew the U.S. budgets $12.5 billion a year ($100 billion over eight years) on climate change, let alone wastefully.

Fortunately for us, BNA Bloomberg queried the campaign on where that $100 billion figure came from. You will not be shocked to learn the “Trump campaign did not give a specific tally to account for the $100 billion total in response.” And the news release announcing his New Deal contains no specifics.

But Bloomberg does have a money quote, so to speak:

“The e-mail said the estimate was based on a Congressional Research Service report in 2013 that looked at federal climate change funding from fiscal year 2008 to the administration’s budget request for FY 2014.”

And here is the money chart from the 2013 CRS report, “Federal Climate Change Funding from FY2008 to FY2014”:

What leaps off the screen is that the overwhelming majority of the money that was spent during the Obama years on “climate change” was in fact spent on clean energy technologies from solar energy to advanced batteries. In fact, CRS concluded, “more than 75 percent” of that total spending “funded technology development and deployment, mostly through the Department of Energy (DOE).”

If Trump isn’t planning to zero out federal funding for clean technology development and deployment, then there is no possible way of coming anywhere close to $100 billion dollars over eight years or $12.5 billion a year.
If we take the 2014 “climate” budget request of $11.7 billion as the baseline going forward to determine possible budget savings in a Trump administration, then team Trump would have to eliminate everything in it just to save $93.6 billion over eight years.

If Trump left clean energy alone, he’d only save $29.3 billion over eight years. Of course, that would still mean zeroing out essentially the entire U.S. climate science effort. But then who needs to research a hoax “created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive,” as Trump once tweeted about global warming?

Iloomberg notes, “Trump has said he would also cancel commitments for an international fund to help poor nations reduce carbon pollution and adapt to climate impacts.”

But the savings here are paltry. Beyond the meager multi-agency funding for “International Climate Change Assistance” already counted in the chart above, the only other big potential line item is for the U.N. Green Climate Fund (GCF). Obama has pledged $3 billion over four years to that fund—and paid $500 million into it in March.

But compared to $100 billion over eight years, those GCF funds are chump change (Trump change?). It’s true that in Paris last December, the rich countries agreed to create a $100 billion a year fund (using public and private money) to help the poor countries deal with climate change. But none of that is in the federal budget yet, so if Trump refuses to join in, he won’t be freeing up any money to spend on his “New Deal For Black America.”

In reality, the only way Trump can keep this promise is to zero out all clean energy research and development (along with all climate science and support for international efforts), which would shut the door on the below-2°C path just as the rest of the world was working together to pry that door open.

You may consider it unlikely Trump would follow through, but I was at the U.S. Department of Energy working on clean energy when the GOP took back the House in 1995, led by Newt Gingrich. The House GOP had pledged to zero out all clean energy development and deployment programs—and they succeeded in slashing the budget for all the deployment programs.

-November 4, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/trump-zero-out-federal-clean-energy-56cca794790#.k3bwpixru

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Ordered by Ohio federal judge to stop intimidating Ohio voters

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An Ohio federal judge on Friday issued a restraining order against the Donald Trump campaign, finding that Trump supporters are planning to monitor urban areas and illegally intimidate minority voters in the crucial swing state.

Cleveland-based civil rights attorney Subodh Chandra, who was observing Friday’s hearing, reported the news on Twitter.

He told ThinkProgress the judge said he plans to grant a restraining order against the Trump campaign and Trump ally Roger Stone, but not against the Ohio Republican Party because “there was insufficient evidence that the Ohio Republican Party itself was planning the voter intimidation.”

“Clearly he thought there was enough evidence about the Trump campaign,” Chandra said, adding that the order will be broad enough to apply to anyone conducting “rogue conduct” at the polls.

The case is one of four the Democratic Party filed against Trump and the GOP earlier this week—the Democratic National Committee also targeted the Republican Party in Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Arizona.

“It has also become clear in recent weeks that Trump has sought to advance his campaign’s goal of ‘voter suppression’ by using the loudest microphone in the nation to implore his supporters to engage in unlawful intimidation at Ohio polling places,” the complaint in Ohio federal court said.

Stone, who will also be named in the restraining order, has organized people through his “Stop the Steal” super PAC to monitor polls in areas with large minority populations.

Lawyers for the DNC asked the court to rule that Trump, Stone, and the GOP are violating both the Voting Rights Act and the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act, and to issue an order restraining the voter intimidation through November 8.
On Friday, the federal judge did just that, ordering both Stone and the Trump campaign to cease their planned voter suppression tactics.

The Trump campaign failed in its attempt to argue that it is an “absurd notion” for Democrats to argue that “essentially half of the electorate... is engaged in a ‘conspiracy’ to suppress voter turnout,” as the campaign argued in a motion Friday. At one point during Friday’s hearing, according to Chandra, Trump’s lawyer also tried to allege that Trump’s voter fraud message happens all the time. When the judge asked for an example, the lawyer walked back the claim.

With just a few days until the election, lawyers for the DNC are rushing to convince judges to issue similar restraining orders in the three other states with pending litigation.

In Nevada, the state GOP and the Trump campaign were ordered to appear in court Wednesday and to turn over training materials they provided to “poll watchers, poll observers, exit pollsters or any other similarly tasked individuals.” But on Thursday, the judge said he hasn’t seen evidence that Trump’s campaign is training people to intimidate voters in Nevada, and said he doesn’t think a restraining order will be necessary, but he will not know for certain until he holds another hearing with Stone on Friday.

November 4, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/ohio-intimidation-order-82e2ee1fe643#_tanjwsk6

Despite Fox News retracting story about possible Clinton indictment, Trump continues to cite it

Donald Trump cited an erroneous Fox News report on the FBI investigation of Hillary Clinton’s email on Friday as he pressed his case that his Democratic rival is a criminal who belongs in prison.

At a country club rally on a crisp autumn day in southern New Hampshire, Trump pronounced Clinton guilty of perjury, saying she lied to Congress about her use of a private email server when she was secretary of State.

“The FBI agents say their investigation is likely to yield an indictment,” Trump told about 1,000 supporters, alluding to a Fox News report that the network retracted Friday morning.

It was unclear whether Trump was aware that Fox News anchor Bret Baier had just acknowledged that there were no facts to back up his statement Thursday that the federal probe would result in an indictment.

“No one knows if there would or would not be an indictment,” Baier told Fox News viewers in a rare on-air apology.

“It was a mistake, and for that I’m sorry,” Baier said.

Fox News also retracted another element of its reporting that Trump has used to tar Clinton during the week since FBI Director James Comey announced that investigators were examining newly discovered emails to see whether they had any significance in the Clinton probe that was closed in July with no charges.

Fox News reported incorrectly – and Trump has repeated – that as many as five foreign intelligence agencies might have hacked Clinton’s private server, despite Comey saying in July that there was no evidence of a breach.

Baier acknowledged Friday that there were “still no digital fingerprints of a breach.”

November 4, 2016


Wife illegally earned $20,000 in the US as an undocumented worker, Trump has yet to call for her deportation as per his campaign platform

Melania Trump was paid for 10 modeling jobs in the United States worth $20,056 that occurred in the seven weeks before she had legal permission to work in the country, according to detailed accounting ledgers, contracts and related documents from 20 years ago provided to The Associated Press.

The details of Mrs. Trump’s early paid modeling work in the U.S. emerged in the final days of a bitter presidential campaign in which her husband, Donald Trump, has taken a hard line on immigration laws and those who violate them. Trump has proposed broader use of the government’s E-verify system allowing employers to check whether job applicants are authorized to work. He has noted that federal law prohibits illegally paying immigrants.

Mrs. Trump, who received a green card in March 2001 and became a U.S. citizen in 2006, has always maintained that she arrived in the country legally and never violated the terms of her immigration status. During the presidential campaign, she has cited her story to defend her husband’s hard line on immigration.

The wife of the GOP presidential nominee, who sometimes worked as a model under just her first name, has said through an attorney that she first came to the U.S. from Slovenia on Aug. 27, 1996, on a B1/B2 visitor visa and then obtained an H-1B work visa on Oct. 18, 1996.

The documents obtained by the AP show she was paid for 10 modeling assignments between Sept. 10 and Oct. 15, during a time when her visa allowed her generally to be in the U.S. and look for work but not perform paid work in the country. The documents examined by the AP indicate that the modeling assignments would have been outside the bounds of her visa.

- November 4, 2016


Compliments Texas official who called Clinton a c-word

Donald Trump on Saturday complimented a state official who called Hillary Clinton a “c---” and cited him as evidence that he’s winning Texas.

“A guy gets on two days ago. Man named Sid Miller,” Trump recalled Saturday morning during a rally here at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

“Don’t really know him. Wears a big, beautiful, white cowboy hat. In fact, I wanna find out where he got it. It’s pretty nice.”

“And he said, you know, you folks are getting it all wrong,” Trump continued, referring to polling and other media reports that suggest Clinton could steal Texas, a state long considered safely red.

Miller, the state’s agriculture commissioner and member of a Trump campaign advisory board, posted but quickly deleted a tweet that apparently highlighted polling results in Pennsylvania that showed Trump leading by a percentage point. However, he referred to Clinton as a “c---.”

After tweeting and then deleting a claim that his account was hacked, Miller said his team had “inadvertently retweeted a tweet” — though the campaign had actually copied and modified a tweet put out by a popular alt-right account — and apologized for the mishap.

Although Trump claimed not to “really know” Miller, he serves on the campaign’s agriculture advisory committee.

- November 5, 2016


Lied about how President Obama reacted to a protestor at a rally

The Republican presidential candidate’s lies really shouldn’t surprise us anymore. He has been at it for months, seemingly impervious to fact checkers and any kind of effort to hold him accountable for saying things that simply aren’t true. But it was still shocking Friday night when Donald Trump told supporters a story that didn’t just include a fib or two, but was pretty much the opposite of what actually happened.

Complaining about how the media always focuses on protesters at his rallies, Trump said Obama “was talking to the protestor, screaming at him, really screaming at him,” adding that “if I spoke the way Obama spoke to the protester, they would say, ‘He became unhinged!’”
then reiterated his point, saying that Obama “spent so much time screaming at this protester and, frankly, it was a disgrace.”

Sounds shocking, until you look at what actually happened and start wondering whether Trump really is living in a parallel reality where up is down and defending is attacking. There was indeed a pro-Trump protester who interrupted Obama’s speech Friday afternoon, but the president chastised the crowd for booing him and defended the Trump supporter’s right to free speech. The protester, who was wearing a military uniform, stood up in the bleachers at a get-out-the-vote rally and was immediately booed and heckled by the gathered Hillary Clinton supporters. Obama immediately tried to get the crowd to calm down. “Hold up! Hold up! Hold up! Hold up!” Obama shouted again and again as the crowd ignored his pleas. The president put on a professorial tone, clearly frustrated by the way the crowd was reacting to the protester. “Everybody! Hey!” Obama yelled. “I told you to be focused and you’re not focused right now.”

The president then asked the crowd to “sit down and be quiet for a second” and proceeded with a lecture on why they shouldn’t get worked up over a protester. “You’ve got an older gentleman who is supporting his candidate. He’s not doing nothing. You don’t have to worry about him. This is what I mean about folks not being focused,” Obama said. “First of all, we live in a country that respects free speech. Second of all, it looks like maybe he might have served in our military and we ought to respect that. Third of all, he was elderly and we got to respect our elders. And fourth of all, don’t boo—vote!”

In contrast, Trump has repeatedly encouraged violence against protesters at his rallies and even yearned for a time when security could be rougher with protesters.

-November 5, 2016

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/11/05/donald_trump_flat_out_lies_about_obama_s_reaction_to_a_protester_at_rally.html

Had his friend pay for the exclusive rights to tell the story about Trump’s infidelity tryst with a Playboy model, media organization instead never runs the story, effectively burying the truth

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has already triggered outrage over his sexist and derogatory comments toward women throughout his campaign. And in the latest development, a report suggests that pro-Trump media was attempting to bury an affair that the construction mogul had with a former Playboy model while he was married to his current wife Melania.

American Media Inc. (AMI), which owns the National Enquirer, allegedly agreed to pay former Playboy centerfold model Karen McDougal $150,000 for her story of an affair with Trump years ago. However, the publication, which backs Trump in the presidential election, did not publish the story, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Originally from Indiana, McDougal, 45, was the 1998 Playmate of the Year and continued modeling after the Playboy stint. People familiar with the matter told the journal that the model had confided in several of her friends that she had a relationship with Trump for about 10 months — starting in 2006, until 2007. Some sources also said that the relationship lasted a year.

In an instance mentioned by one of McDougal’s friends, she accompanied the Playboy model to the Miss Universe pageant at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles in 2006, on Trump’s invitation. While the Republican nominee’s limousine picked them up from McDougal’s residence, he personally escorted them home after the ceremony, the friend reportedly said.

Under the contract, AMI — run by Trump’s longtime friend David J. Pecker — has the exclusive rights to “any romantic, personal and/or physical relationship McDougal has ever had with any then-married man,” the Journal reported. If McDougal releases her story elsewhere, AMI is entitled to damages of at least $150,000. However, there is no explicit mention of Trump in the documents.

The company said that the $150,000 was not for the former Playboy model’s story, but for two years’ worth of her fitness columns and magazine covers. “AMI has not paid people to kill damaging stories about Mr. Trump,” the Journal reported, citing a written statement from the company.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks said: “We have no knowledge of any of this,” referring to the agreement between AMI and the model. Hicks reportedly added that McDougal’s claim of an affair with Trump was “totally untrue.”

Along with allegations of having extramarital affairs, Trump has also come under the scanner after a number of women came forward alleging unwanted sexual advances from the businessman. The Trump campaign has had to deal with a number of hurdles regarding the nominee’s record with women, providing rival and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton an upper hand ahead of the Election Day.

-November 5, 2016

A Donald Trump supporter carrying a gun and passing out sample Republican literature in front of a Virginia polling site badgered a mom with her young son as she attempted to cast her vote — but police declined to intervene because of the state’s open carry laws, she claimed.

Erika Cotti said the armed man harassed her for not taking one of the sample Republican ballots as she tried to walk into the Loudoun County election site.

“I had to explain to my 9-year-old why a man with a 357 magnum is standing outside the polling station,” she told the Huffington Post. “I felt intimidated.”

Cotti said the man in a Donald Trump shirt was on the sidewalk just in front of the voting location, where residents can submit absentee ballots in person because Virginia does not have early voting.

He had a gun holstered to his side when he tried to give Cotti his GOP literature. The mom declined his offer.

“He’s like, ‘Who are you going to vote for, crooked Hillary?’ And I was like, that’s really none of your business,” Cotti said.

Loudoun County registrar Judy Brown told the news site that the man was following the state’s laws and was allowed to stay.

Since Virginia is an open carry state, he could legally have his weapon. Plus, he was respecting Virginia’s rules about canvassing at polling places: Campaigners have to stay back 40 feet from polling places, and the sidewalk where the man was standing is outside of the no-canvass zone.

“They said that there’s nothing they could do, that he was well within his rights to be carrying his weapon,” she said.

While the unidentified Virginia man was allowed to stay, other Trump supporters in Ohio have been barred from converging on voting locations, NBC News reported.

A federal judge banned unauthorized poll watchers from hanging out within 100 feet of a polling place after activists claimed some Trump backers guised as election professionals were intimidating voters by heckling them about their candidate choices.

-New November 5, 2016


New ad from Trump campaign is anti-Semitic

Take a moment to look at this closing ad from Donald Trump.

From a technical and thematic perspective it’s a well made ad. It’s also packed with anti-Semitic dog whistles, anti-Semitic tropes and anti-Semitic vocabulary. I’m not even sure whether it makes sense to call them dog whistles. The four readily identifiable American bad guys in the ad are Hillary Clinton, George Soros (Jewish financier), Janet Yellen (Jewish Fed Chair) and Lloyd Blankfein (Jewish Goldman Sachs CEO).

The Trump narration immediately preceding Soros and Yellen proceeds as follows: “The establishment has trillions of dollars at stake in this election. For those who control the levers of power in Washington [start Soros] and for the global [start Yellen] special interests [stop Yellen]. They partner with these people [start Clinton] who don’t have your good in mind.”

For Blankfein: “It’s a global power structure that is responsible for the economic decisions that have robbed our working class, stripped our country of its wealth and put that money into the [start Blankfein] pockets of a handful of large corporations [stop Blankfein] and political entities.”
These are standard anti-Semitic themes and storylines, using established anti-Semitic vocabulary lined up with high profile Jews as the only Americans other than Clinton who are apparently relevant to the story. As you can see by my transcription, the Jews come up to punctuate specific key phrases. Soros: “those who control the levers of power in Washington”; Yellen “global special interests”; Blankfein “put money into the pockets of handful of large corporations.”

This is an anti-Semitic ad every bit as much as the infamous Jesse Helms ‘white hands’ ad or the Willie Horton ad were anti-African-American racist ads. Which is to say, really anti-Semitic. You could even argue that it’s more so, given certain linguistic similarities with anti-Semitic propaganda from the 1930s. But it’s not a contest. This is an ad intended to appeal to anti-Semites and spread anti-Semitic ideas. That’s the only standard that really matters.

This is intentional and by design. It is no accident.

Trump has electrified anti-Semites and racist groups across the country. His own campaign has repeatedly found itself speaking to anti-Semites, tweeting their anti-Semitic memes, retweeting anti-Semites. His campaign manager, Steven Bannon, is an anti-Semite. The Breitbart News site he ran and will continue running after the campaign has become increasingly open in the last year with anti-Semitic attacks and politics.

Beyond that, this shouldn't surprise us for a broader reason. Authoritarian, xenophobic political movements, which the Trump campaign unquestionably is, are driven by tribalism and ‘us vs them’ exclusion of outsiders. This may begin with other groups - Mexican immigrants, African-Americans, Muslims. It almost always comes around to Jews.

It's true there is son-in-law Jared Kushner, a Jew and Ivanka, who converted to Judaism. But this isn't terribly surprising. Kushner appears to be conscienceless. And as I noted here, there is a storied history of anti-Semites being happy to distinguish between good Jews and bad Jews.

There's been a lot of discussion of anti-Semitism and the Trump campaign but a fierce resistance to coming to grips with the fact that anti-Semitism is a key driving force of the Trump campaign, that the campaign itself is an anti-Semitic one even though the great majority of Trump's supporters are not anti-Semites. When he closes out his campaign with a blatantly anti-Semitic ad, it's time to rethink that resistance.

-November 5, 2016


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**Trump campaign hypes “assassination attempt,” actually was a Republican protestor with a sign, Trump orders his supporters to “take him out,” supporters begin to falsely shout “gun” to justify them beating and groping him as Trump is rushed away**

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Three days before the election, in the middle of get out the vote efforts across the country, the Trump campaign is claiming their candidate survived an assassination attempt. This is a fantasy.

Here is what really happened.

At a rally in Reno, Nevada on Saturday night, Donald Trump was talking about his strong support from the Hispanic community. Then he paused.

“Oh, we have one of those guys from the Hillary Clinton campaign,” he said peering down in front of him, shielding his eyes from the bright lights.

“How much are you being paid, $1,500? All right, take him out.”

There was some kind of scuffle, and before he knew it, he was quickly escorted off the stage by Secret Service.

The camera zoomed out to reveal a disturbance in the crowd and the Secret Service closing in on someone.

Soon, a surrogate came back onstage and assured everyone Trump would be back. In a few minutes, Trump came back onstage and continued with his speech.
“Nobody said it was going to be easy for us but we will never be stopped,” he said.

Minutes later the Trump campaign’s social media director Dan Scavino promoted a tweet claiming that Trump survived an assassination attempt. The same tweet was retweeted by Trump’s son, Donald Trump Jr.

The Secret Service apprehended the man who prompted the incident. He was interviewed and quickly released.

According to the Secret Service, the incident started when an unidentified individual shouted “gun.” No weapon was found on the scene.

The man the Secret Service talked to is Austyn Crites, and he told the Guardian’s Paul Lewis that he is a Republican voting for the GOP this year, but not Trump.

Crites said held a sign that said “Republicans against Trump.” He was terrified by the crowd’s reaction to him. “I was in survival mode,” he said. “I knew I could die at that moment.”

He told Lewis that “Someone grabbed his testicles and had his neck was in a chokehold.”

As ThinkProgress reported earlier this year, “violence by Trump supporters has been a recurring issue at his campaign events.” Trump himself sometimes seems to revel in an atmosphere of fear and paranoia, not only of policy and politics, but a more personal miasma at his rallies. “I’d like to punch him in the face.” “In the good ol’ days, they’d have knocked him out of seat so fast.” “Knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously, okay? Just knock the hell.” Trump has said each of these things at campaign rallies in response to protesters.

-November 5, 2016

https://thinkprogress.org/trump-signholder-assassination-attempt-survival-story-ff9afac59ea5#.6vpetrv8w

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Upset over Jay-Z’s lyrics, claims language is too strong, lies about never having used such strong language before

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Donald Trump, who has repeatedly used lewd and offensive language and bragged about sexually assaulting women, has lamented the language that rapper Jay Z uses in his music.

During an event in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday the GOP presidential nominee spoke about a rally that artists including Jay Z, Beyoncé and Chance The Rapper held for Trump’s Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton on Friday.

“I actually like Jay Z, but you know the language last night. Ooh, ooooh, I was just thinking maybe I should just try it, should I use that language for one event?” Trump said. “Can you imagine if I said that? So he used every word in the book. I won’t even use the initials, because I’ll get in trouble, they’ll [the media] get me in trouble.”

After boasting that he drew a bigger crowd on Friday than the superstars did, Trump went on to say that he never used lewd language in his life. This is despite his making international headlines when he boasted of grabbing women “by the pussy.”

“He used language last night that was so bad, and then Hillary Clinton said ‘I did not like Donald Trump’s lewd language’ My lewd language? I’ll tell you what, I’ve never said what he said in my life. But that shows you the phoniness of politicians and the phoniness of the whole system folks.”

Trump must have conveniently forgotten that he has regularly dropped the “f-bomb” during his presidential campaign.

Kellyanne Conway, Trump’s campaign manager, echoed Trump’s attack, tweeting that Jay Z’s lyrics weren’t good for America’s children.

“because our children are listening” right Hillary? Jay Z drops the n-word, f-bomb during concert for Hillary Clinton https://t.co/sbjZYksUpl
— Kellyanne Conway (@KellyannePolls) November 5, 2016

Several of Jay Z’s songs do contain explicit lyrics, but Trump has a history of using crude language.
In 2005, he was caught on tape bragging about making unwanted advances toward Nancy O’Dell, who was married at the time.

“I did try and fuck her. She was married,” Trump said. “I moved on her like a bitch. But I couldn’t get there. And she was married. Then all of a sudden I see her, she’s now got the big phony tits and everything. She’s totally changed her look.”

On the same “Access Hollywood” tape, Trump can be heard calling someone a “pussy” and making lewd remarks about groping women.

Trump's vulgar language has extended to the campaign trail.

Speaking at a rally in February, Trump said “we’re gonna have businesses that used to be in New Hampshire that are now in Mexico come back to New Hampshire and you can tell them to go fuck themselves because they let you down” Trump said, mouthing the expletive.

He also called Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) a pussy in February, when he repeated the words of a supporter who shouted it at a rally.

“You’re not allowed to say, and I never expected to hear that from you again, she said, I never expect to hear that from you again, she said he’s a pussy,” Trump said.

He has also said China is “ripping the shit out of the sea,” and declared he would “bomb the shit” out of the so-called Islamic State militant group.

-November 5, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-jay-z_us_581df453e4b0e80b02ca5c59

What McDonald failed to explain is that some polling places were open later than 7 p.m., and polls routinely stay open late to allow anyone waiting in line when they close to cast their ballots.

Despite these facts, and the chilling sound of a politician casting doubt on the rights of members of an ethnic minority to exercise their right to vote, Trump then claimed that the votes cast in a Clark County polling place in a Mexican supermarket — most likely against him — were evidence of fraud.

"It’s being reported that certain key Democratic polling locations in Clark County were kept open for hours and hours beyond closing time to bus and bring Democratic voters in,” Trump said. “Folks, it’s a rigged system,” Trump added, as the crowd booed.

The Republican frustration was no doubt fueled by the very large turnout in early voting of the state’s registered Democrats, particularly in Clark County, which is 30 percent Latino. As a country spokesman told the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Friday was “the largest single-day, early voting turnout” in the county’s history.

According to Jon Ralston, a political reporter for KTNV Las Vegas, the surge in early voting by Democrats suggested that Trump’s chances of carrying the state were very slim.

Images of voters waiting hours to cast ballots at a polling place in a Cardenas Market in Las Vegas suggested that Mexican-Americans had not forgotten that Trump began his campaign by calling their relatives drug dealer and rapists.
Campaign has caused historic drop in stock market

Shortly after the first presidential debate, former Obama adviser David Axelrod said on CNN that the commander in chief “can send armies marching and markets tumbling.”

Investors, it seems, are being reminded of this as polls show Hillary Clinton’s numbers dropping. The S&P 500 was down Friday for the ninth straight day, something that hasn’t happened since 1980. “The U.S. elections are the elephant in the room for markets,” Julius Baer’s head of research Christian Gatticker told Bloomberg. Donald Trump is still a long shot, consistently trailing Clinton in key swing states, but the stock market seems to be evaluating his odds for what they are: a low, if real, chance of economic harm.

Deporting some 11 million undocumented immigrants, building a wall along the border with America’s third biggest trading partner, starting a trade war with Mexico and China that would destroy 4 million U.S. jobs: These are all deeply harmful economic policies.

Moody’s says Trump’s policies would throw the U.S. economy into the longest recession since the Great Depression. Citigroup thinks a Trump win could cause a global depression. By a different measure, Trump in the White House would cause the American economy to shrink by $1 trillion over five years, according to British research firm Oxford Economics.

That a campaign based on those ideas still has by some estimates a 35 percent chance of winning should scare markets.

As Trump’s chances of winning have risen and Clinton’s chances have fallen, the stock market has reacted with the most prolonged sell-off since the financial crisis, as this chart compiled by the Financial Times’ John Authers shows:

This has pushed the index that measures stock market volatility, referred to on Wall Street as the “fear gauge,” to its highest point since right after the UK’s Brexit vote rocked financial markets.

And it’s not just falling stocks. Investors moved more money into cash-like money market funds last week than any week in the last three years.

Beyond public markets, concern about a Trump win is already affecting the fundraising plans of some startups. Companies are raising new capital earlier than they had planned in order to have a cash cushion in case Trump wins, according to a source whose company is currently doing just that, and who is familiar with several other companies’ plans.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous because he did not want competitors to know he is raising money, said that his concerns won’t evaporate if Clinton wins. Trump’s base is so angry and resentful of Clinton that he predicts the possibility of significant economic harm even if Clinton wins because Republicans may prevent any Democratic-backed legislation or appointments from passing. That’s only anecdotal, of course, but it reflects broader concerns that legislative paralysis and niggling economic harm are built-in costs of a Clinton win.

The recent drop in the stock market, research firm Capital Economics argues, “is not just because the stock market is nervous about Donald Trump’s more over-the-top claims about starting a global trade war and restricting immigration. It also reflects the reality that even if Clinton now wins, her authority and mandate will be damaged by the series of probes into her past conduct.”

The value of the Mexican peso has also been swinging wildly over the last three months, tracking Trump’s electoral prospects. That could do real damage to the U.S. economy; one banker told The Huffington Post that the intense volatility of the peso forced him to shelve a currency swap deal he was working on.

It might be hard to sympathize with a banker over that, but it is a reason to be worried. These sorts of deals allow huge companies to ship goods around the world with locked-in exchange rates. It’s incredibly important to have that kind of predictability when you’re operating a multibillion-dollar company in the real economy. That type of activity becoming more difficult is exactly the sort of scenario that shows Trump’s rhetoric — not to mention his actual policies — can hurt the economy in significant ways.

And indeed, if in a losing effort his campaign sets the stage for four years of rancor and intransigence in Washington, D.C., he may already have hurt it.

-November 6, 2016
Still has not disavowed supporters who took a page out of the Klu Klux Klan playbook and burned down African American church and spray-painted “Vote Trump” on it

The latest instance of the insanity this election has wrought took place on a dead-end street in a black neighborhood, where someone burned a 111-year-old baptist church and wrote “Vote Trump” on the side.

Hillary Clinton immediately took to Twitter to condemn the act, saying, “This kind of hate has no place in America.” It was signed “H” to show it was from Clinton herself. But when it came to the burning of a black church in his own name, Trump’s little fingers didn’t touch his favorite means of reaching millions of supporters, Twitter. Instead, his campaign issued a boilerplate statement.

So these are stakes of this election: a potential president who would not even condemn in his own words terrorism done in his own name.

The inside of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church looked like a deranged modern art exhibit when viewed on Friday afternoon. Pews, an organ, the podium for the Bible—all covered in what looked black paint. It was instead soot from the flames that licked up the walls and busted out the windows, burning so hot that firefighters at first had to watch it burn before finally being able to approach the building to try to save it.

They failed.

“We will rebuild,” said Marshall Wilson, a Greenville native and a deacon at the church for the last 38 years. The church will have the help of more than $200,000 raised online in the last few days.

“It’s overwhelming,” Wilson told The Daily Beast on Friday afternoon.

Whether the arsonist was a Trump supporter, someone hoping to throw off the authorities—although Wilson noted no one in the community that he knows of has every had a problem with church, especially not enough of one to spark flames—or someone else hoping to wreak some havoc of their own, is now up to authorities to find out.

“What the Devil do, whoever did this, his plan’s not gonna work,” Wilson said. “God’s got a plan for everything.”

So do a lot of other people.

They include the three men who are accused of planning to bomb a Somali mosque in Kansas, a crime that has federal authorities referring to the men as domestic terrorists. “The only way to turn around this country is a bloodbath,” one member of the group said in a phone call recorded by law enforcement.

The men were arrested in October after an eight-month long investigation.

Somali immigrants, a largely Muslim community, were targeted in North Dakota as well. Police eventually arrested a man for firebombing a Somali cafe there in December, writing “Go home” in spray paint on a window.

But the string of violence against minorities this election season may have begun in August 2015, when two men in Boston beat and urinated on a homeless Hispanic man simply because of his race, allegedly invoking Trump in the attack.

“Donald Trump was right; all of these illegals need to be deported,” one of the men said after he was arrested, according to police.

The GOP presidential candidate, in characteristically spineless fashion, said then he “would never condone violence” from his supporters. Our possible next president did not say, unequivocally, that he did not condone this specific act, because that wouldn’t fit into the dog whistle nature of his candidacy. During a press conference following the attack, Trump took his non-condemnation a step further, saying his supporters are “very passionate,” and that they “just want this country to be great again.”

For some of those supporters, that greatness is best shown by beating the hell out of someone who is a different color than you.
But the Trump-related violence didn’t stop there. The Daily Beast in March compiled a list of violent confrontations between Trump supporters and protesters at the GOP candidate’s rallies. At that time, Trump’s mostly white gang of thugs had roughed up men and women in at least six incidents, including one that month in which a white man cold-cocked a black protester. Trump at the time pledged to pay the attacker’s defense fees.

Like virtually everything that Trump promises, that ended up not happening. Some protesters, however, have taken legal action and are seeking $1 million in damages for the violence inflicted on them at Trump rallies.

Finally, and most ironically for the “law and order candidate,” is the man who killed two Iowa police officers in early November. A Trump-Pence lawn sign was planted in the front yard of the home where Scott Greene lived and we know that he is angry enough at blacks to record himself waving a Confederate flag in the faces of African-Americans at a high school football game. Police escorted Greene out following the incident.

The Trump tweet came first, then one from Clinton, expressing condolences for the families of the two fallen officers.

Clinton’s tweet condemning the arson at the Greenville church compared to Trump’s silence on his chosen platform is an important distinction to make. Twitter is the place where Trump is at his most “unshackled” where he regularly berates and bullies opponents, reporters, citizens, foreign leaders and whomever else chooses to question his manhood, sanity, or bonafides as a presidential candidate or basic human being. It’s also where he pushes conspiracy theories and fake news, where he utilizes plagiarism as a campaign tactic, and where he occasionally blames interns of questionable existence for insulting the entire state of Iowa.

That Trump had nothing to say on his own about the church doesn’t bother Deacon Wilson.

-November 6, 2016

Grounded from Twitter by his aides as he isn’t grown-up enough to not throw a temper tantrum in the last hours of the campaign

Donald Trump’s press aides have revoked access to his Twitter account, a new report claims, as the GOP nominee tries to stay on message for the campaign’s final stretch.

The New York Times reports on Sunday that Trump no longer has control of what goes out on his Twitter account, with aides drafting and sending out messages with his help.

In one example given by the Times, Trump and top press aide Hope Hicks co-authored a tweet about how President Obama shouldn’t be spending his time in office campaigning for Clinton that Hicks approved and sent.

Trump’s social media account boasts more than 13 million followers and the unconventional politician has regularly leaned on it to tar political rivals and give voters an unfiltered look at his thoughts. But his Twitter musings have been a regular source of headaches for his campaign both during the primary election and the general election.

He provoked the ire of Republican Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas) when he retweeted an unflattering photo of his wife during the GOP primary. More recently, a late-night series of tweets disparaging a former Miss Universe who claims Trump belittled her for gaining weight distracted his campaign and opened the door for ridicule from Democrats.

Last month, he also promised an all-out war against the GOP establishment and Hillary Clinton in a series of tweets, warning that the “shackles have been taken off.”

The more-restrained social media approach over the last few days mimics Trump’s overall direction as he heads into Election Day. His rallies have been increasingly reliant on scripted remarks, more subdued with less departures into areas that could come back to haunt him.

-November 6, 2016


Can’t stand that African American entertainers draw bigger crowds than he does, lies about the crowds he draws in
As Trump made his closing argument in Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 7, he decided to spend a few seconds telling voters that he's a bigger draw than Beyonce and Jay-Z.

"Beyonce and Jay Z, I like them, I like them," Trump told the crowd. "And you know what they do? I get bigger crowds than they do. It's true. I get far bigger crowds."

It's not true.

For the sake of argument, let's take Trump at his word on the size of his crowds. (We do this full-well knowing Trump is guilty of exaggerating the size of his crowds.)

"We go to Oklahoma, we have 25,000 people," Trump said in August. "We had 21,000 people in Dallas, we had 35,000 people in Mobile, Alabama. We get these massive crowds. Look, if (Clinton) had 500 people I would be surprised."

Anyway, if you take Trump as his word, that's an average of 27,000 for those three big rallies.

That's a good draw. But it's not Jay Z/Beyonce level.

Jay Z last toured in 2014 with Beyonce to promote her self-titled album and his Magna Carta Holy Grail. The couple played 16 shows across North America, and one in Paris, raking in over $100 million in ticket sales. All were sold out and averaged a crowd size of 45,700 per night, according to data assembled by Billboard. The biggest one-night performance drew a crowd of nearly 53,000 while their two-night Paris show topped 147,000.

Beyonce, who wrapped up her $210 million Formation tour in October, performed 49 sold-out shows across North America and Europe. She drew an average crowd of 45,423 per night and a record one-night crowd of 75,106 in Paris this July.

Beyonce and Jay Z campaigned with Clinton Friday in Cleveland at an event that drew about 10,000 people, according to estimates. That's comparable to the size of many Trump crowds but certainly smaller than some of Trump's bigger crowds.

To fully vet this bizarre claim, it's worth noting that Trump's rallies are free. Tickets to Beyonce in the swing state of Florida cost $40-$275 this year. Based on the latest Billboard numbers, Trump draws crowds similar to Phish.

Our ruling

Trump said, "Beyonce and Jay Z, I like them, I like them. And you know what they do? I get bigger crowds than they do. It's true. I get far bigger crowds."

There is no question Trump is fixated on the size of his crowds.

And there is no question, this claim -- as it relates to Beyonce and Jay Z -- is incorrect.

We rate it False.

-November 7, 2016