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**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Continued risk of an upset from Donald Trump looms on the final day of campaigning as Clinton pours last-minute resources into industrial midwestSupport our fearless, independent journalism by making a contribution or becoming a member

The US presidential campaign ended on Monday where the fiercest nomination battles began – in the rust belt – as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump spent the last hours of a bitter election focused on the country’s deep economic divide.

Democrats gained a late confidence boost as a final series of national opinion polls confirmed a small but steady lead for Clinton. Early voting numbers point already to record turnout among Latino voters stirred into action by Trump’s anti-**immigration** rhetoric.

Related: Donald Trump calls FBI 'disgraceful' on frantic final day of election campaign[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/07/donald-trump-fbi-hillary-clinton-emails-final-day-campaign]

But the continued risk of an upset that would send shockwaves around the world was underlined by state-level polling suggesting several possible paths to victory also remain for Trump. He hopes to galvanise white working-class anger over jobs and trade in the traditionally Democratic manufacturing regions, though also needs an almost clean sweep of battleground states including Florida and North Carolina to win outright.

Sensing possible danger, the Clinton campaign poured last-minute resources into the industrial midwest, a region where she struggled against a similar anti-establishment surge for Bernie Sanders during the primary election season. Both Clinton and Barack Obama held afternoon rallies in Michigan before planning to finish the night on stage together in Philadelphia with Bruce Springsteen.

Trump was also headed to Michigan where he planned to end the night, before returning to New York, where he will vote. The Republican candidate took aim at Clinton’s use of celebrities to amplify her final pitch to voters, with a loaded jibe at Jay Z and Beyonce: “Were they talking or singing?”

“What’s happening is a disgrace,” he told his first rally in Florida after the FBI confirmed overnight[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/fbi-director-hillary-clinton-email-investigation-criminal-james-comey] it would not be changing its decision not to charge Clinton over her private email use. “With what’s happening with our justice, our country is a laughing stock all over the world. They’re laughing.”

Related: Who is leading the polls the day before voting? Not a clear 'Clinton' or 'Trump'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/07/polls-us-election-accuracy-margin-error-clinton-trump]

“We are going to bring back the jobs and the wealth that have been stolen from you,” Trump told a later rally in Raleigh, North Carolina. “We are going to bring back the miners and the factory workers.”

Under the crisp blue skies forecast[http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/election-day-2016-weather-battleground-states/61213031] for much of the country on election day, his opponent began her last full day of campaigning with a more personal moment: one that highlights the historic opportunity ahead of her to become the first female president and role model for a generation of young women.

Pausing beneath the plane that has carried her through the closing months of a sometimes interminable-feeling campaign, she stopped to show the scene to her two-year-old granddaughter Charlotte via her phone’s FaceTime application.

Related: Hillary Clinton focuses on healing national divide on campaign's last day[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/07/hillary-clinton-campaign-last-day-us-election]

“I wouldn’t have worked as hard as I have over 18 months … if I did not believe in my heart that we can do this,” she later told supporters in Pittsburgh. “We don’t have to accept a dark and divisive vision for America. Tomorrow you can vote for a big-hearted America.

“Our core values are being tested in this election,” Clinton added. “I know a lot of people feel frustrated and left behind. There is fear and anger in our country, but anger is not a plan. We have got to start talking to each other again.”

Amid continued Democratic rancour over the late role of the FBI[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/fbi-director-hillary-clinton-email-investigation-criminal-james-comey] and Trump’s threat to refuse to recognise an election result he claims may be “rigged”, it will a tough battle whoever wins.

The Department of Justice announced on Monday that its Civil Rights Division plans to deploy more than 500 personnel to 67 jurisdictions in 28 states to monitor voting. There is particular concern that changes to voting rules in states such as North Carolina may have deliberately depressed African American turnout.

Related: What is the voter turnout in your state? An election quiz[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2016/oct/11/voter-turnout-presidential-election-states-2012-2016]

Though stock markets rebounded on Monday in the wake of better national polls for Clinton, Democrats fear the unnecessary cloud cast by the FBI could cost them control of Congress and prolong Washington gridlock even if she wins the White House.

“I think I have some work to do to bring the country together as I’ve been saying in these speeches in the last few days,” Clinton acknowledged to reporters on her plane. “These splits, these divides that have been not only exposed but exacerbated by the campaign on the other side are ones that we really do have to bring this country together.”

Obama urged Americans to focus on the big picture as he began his last day of campaigning warning that Tuesday’s election could be close-fought.

“I want you tune out all the noise and I want you to focus because the choice you face when you step into the voting booth could not be clearer: Donald Trump is temperamentally unfit to be commander in chief,” he told a rally in Ann Arbor, Michigan. “Just think, over the weekend his campaign took away his Twitter account. Now, if your closest advisers don’t trust you to tweet, why should we trust you with the nuclear codes?”

Defending his economic record, and a Democratic sponsored bailout for the auto industry, the president reserved his harshest comments for the notion that a wealthy Manhattan property developer was portraying himself a blue-collar champion.

“Don’t be bamboozled. Don’t fall for the okey-doke,” blasted Obama. “I don’t think Trump knows any working people apart from the folks who work on his golf course and clean up in his hotel.”

Trump has spent his final days barnstorming throughout states that have long leaned Democratic such as Michigan and Minnesota in attempt to strike electoral lightning and pull off an upset as he kept up a frenetic schedule of rallies. The Republican nominee seemed aware the odds are were against him, telling a crowd in Virginia, a state that has long been considered to be safely in Clinton’s column that election day “will be Brexit times 50”.

His closing message remained little changed from the themes which had defined his campaign since launch on 16 June 2015, railing against targets like **immigrants** and the media.

In Minnesota, home to the US’s largest Somali-American community, Trump took aim at that minority group[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/donald-trump-minnesota-somali-migrants-isis] to deafening cheers in a Minneapolis airport hangar. “Here in Minnesota, you’ve seen first-hand the problems caused with faulty refugee vetting, with very large numbers of Somali refugees coming into your state without your knowledge, without your support or approval,” Trump told the crowd.

Related: Somali migrants are 'disaster' for Minnesota, says Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/donald-trump-minnesota-somali-migrants-isis]

He added: “Everybody’s reading about the disaster taking place in Minnesota,” he added, before falsely claiming: “You don’t even have the right to talk about it.”

Trump has long made refugees from Syria targets of his scorn, using his pledge to prevent any from being admitted into the United States as a regular applause line at this rallies. However, adapting his message in a state which was last won by a Republican in a presidential election in 1972, he added Somalis to his target list.

The Republican nominee though seemed most energized by Jay Z and Beyoncé, who appeared in a concert on behalf of Hillary Clinton in Cleveland on Friday. He repeatedly bashed the two over weekend. Trump boasted that he didn’t need celebrities to draw a crowd. “I don’t need Beyonce and I don’t need Jay Z,” he told a cheering crowd in a late night rally in Denver on Saturday.

The Republican nominee, well known for a host of controversial and vulgar comments, including a leaked recording in October where he boasted of grabbing women “by the pussy” , also criticised the pop stars for the language in their songs. Trump told the crowd in Minneapolis: “Jay Z and Beyonce use the most filthy language you’ve ever heard,” while making clear, “I like Jay Z and I like Beyonce but the language is terrible.”

With the sound of far-harsher words from Trump ringing in their ears, Americans take the polls poised to banish his rhetoric from the political realm or usher in an angry four years.

What’s the mood where you are?[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/08/us-election-voting-polls-mood] Share your pictures and views with us

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**With less than 24 hours before election day, Tom McCarthy predicts and considers five possible results – each named after an imaginary electoral cocktail

The Clinton Crush In which Donald Trump loses every state with even a hint of Democratic flavor and drops a few big Republican ones too – the fantasy scenario for every American who yearns for his/her sense of shock and offense at Trump’s candidacy to be reflected in the electoral result.

Trump not only loses the big battleground states of Florida, North Carolina and Ohio, he hemorrhages support everywhere, losing Iowa, losing Colorado, and then – in the stroke that places the election among the all-time routs – losing in states where Republicans have simply never lost in the modern era. African American voters in Georgia turn out in Obama-era numbers to defeat him; Hispanic voters do the same in Arizona. In Texas, second- and third-generation Mexican **immigrants** unite with educated white voters, including a lot of moderate Republicans, to deliver the first Democratic presidential victory in the Lone Star state since Watergate.

Clinton even beats Trump in Utah, where pious Mormon voters decide at the moment of truth that no, they cannot vote for a candidate who wants to “grab them by the pussy”. Republican leaders get on TV the day after the election and declare that the nomination of Trump was a historic mistake. Thousands of words are spilled haranguing Republicans for nominating a candidate whose appeal to the base may have been strong but who obviously was not a serious contender to lead so great and diverse a nation. Final electoral tally:

The Trump Bank Shot In which Trump wins the 270 electoral college votes he needs to grab the keys to the White House with a surprise victory in the upper midwest, despite failing to convert in the more familiar battleground states of Nevada, Colorado, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

In this squeaker scenario, Trump owes his electoral life to white voters – especially rural white voters. As the night grows late, Trump realizes that he has lost Nevada and Colorado, owing to a strong Hispanic vote against him both places. He has lost Virginia because there are too many people in the DC suburbs who have some actual experience of the federal government and who are horrified to their teeth at the idea of his taking the White House. Surprisingly strong turnout among Trump supporters in the white working-class communities of Pennsylvania has failed to push Trump over the Democratic wall of Philadelphia and its suburbs. But Trump has performed strongly all night in the battleground states that count, winning Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Iowa.

And then, luck strikes: Trump picks up a single electoral vote in northern, rural Maine, one of two states that split their electoral votes. Finally, against all odds and the predictions of most polls, he pulls off an upset win in Wisconsin, which has not gone Republican in a presidential election since 1988, but which is more homogeneously white than its neighboring states, where Hillary Clinton ends up having failed to inspire African American voters in Milwaukee to turn up on election day, and where Republican governor Scott Walker’s political machine has once again succeeded. Final electoral tally:

The Clinton Cliffhanger In which Democrats’ blood pressure climbs to 220/140 before Florida finally reports a conclusive win for Clinton at 3am, handing her 29 electoral votes and the White House.

This one won’t be pleasant. Clinton has had some nice, expected victories over the course of the evening, bagging Pennsylvania and Virginia and the states she was supposed to win in the upper midwest, and seeing all the talk of a strong early vote for Democrats in Nevada come true. The people who were supposed to vote for her are voting for her – women, nonwhite voters, educated white voters – and there’s no reason she won’t win. But the night has been interrupted, over and over, by signals that have made Democratic eyes twitch. First, the independent voters of New Hampshire have responded to Trump’s late-race momentum, and concluded that no, they’d really rather not have a Clinton dynasty in American politics. They give Trump four electoral votes. Then Trump wins North Carolina, where there admittedly are plenty of white Republican voters, where Republican efforts to quash voting have succeeded and, let’s be honest, if Barack Obama lost it in 2012, how was Hillary Clinton supposed to win it?

It gets really white-knuckle, however, when the Colorado result comes in. A large share of voters in Denver’s suburbs are registered independents, and maybe they’ve had the same kind of feeling New Hampshirites have had: enough with the Clintons. So Clinton stalls out at 266 electoral votes. Trump gets to 243. And all eyes are on Florida. Nonwhite voters in Miami haven’t turned up at the polls as they might have. Meanwhile, turnout among white voters in retirement communities has proven absolutely crushing. The Puerto Rican vote around Orlando seems to have failed to materialize. And they’re still counting Tampa and St Petersburg. Then final results in Broward County, where Obama won by more than 260,000 votes in 2012, come in, and the state is clearly Clinton’s. Trump cries foul but nobody can hear him through the cacophony of popping corks. Final tally:

The Al Gore In which America gets the constitutional crisis implicitly promised the moment Donald Trump, who has been involved in more than 4,095 lawsuits, according to one analysis[http://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/trump-lawsuits/], set foot on his golden escalator. The election turns out to be close – closer than anyone would have thought. Maybe Trump wins New Hampshire and makes a sweep of the other battleground states, save Colorado, to produce a 269-269 electoral vote tie. Or maybe Florida, which even in the relatively placid year of 2012 took four days to report its election result, comes down to a razor-thin margin like the one that separated Al Gore and George Bush in 2000, resulting in recounts, fights over absentee ballot postmarks[http://www.nytimes.com/2001/07/15/us/examining-the-vote-lieberman-put-democrats-in-retreat-on-military-vote.html], a refusal to concede on either side and, ultimately, the mother of all legal battles.

The 2016 election cycle has proven its ability to soar beyond the human imagination, and surely no mere mortal can comprehend how hairy things could get. The most horrible scenarios appear to lie down the path of an electoral tie. What happens then? Nobody really knows. While the constitution prescribes that Congress shall step in to resolve such a tie, and while a couple of early 19th-century elections[http://www.leinsdorf.com/House.htm] were close enough for Congress to get involved, there really are no applicable precedents. Since presidents are technically chosen by electors who meet to cast formal votes in December, it is conceivable that a so-called “faithless elector” might break a tie in favor of, say, Clinton, by going against the will of his or her state’s voters. But then Congress must formally count the ballots in January, and if but one senator and one representative disagree with the result, each chamber must vote on the validity of the count. You see where this is going. This is a Congress that cannot so much as tie its shoes, much less leap constitutional hurdles.

Would a result ever emerge on the other side? Would the supreme court get involved, again? (When they’re still one justice down? What if they tied, too?) Who would ultimately prove more litigious, Trump or the Clintons? Eesh. Some bridges are better left uncrossed until necessary. Final tally: pass the Scotch.

The Make America Great Again Britain Brexited. The Cubs won the World Series. And guess what? These things happen in threes. It’s 2016. The age you thought you were living in is yesterday. This is the age of reality television, the era of entertainment uber alles, the time of Trump. And any fool not foolishly attached to her or his notions of the false-glorious yesterday could see it coming. American voters unbothered by the worst of what Trump had to say simply voted for him. But millions of additional voters – suburban moms, second-generation **immigrants** who have already paid their dues, Republicans who came to their senses, and men everywhere – found that when they stepped into the polling booth, they either couldn’t check the box for a relic of America’s political past – a woman, no less – or they weren’t as bothered by Trump’s words, and by the actions of his supporters, as they thought. After all, he’s not serious about wanting to deport millions of American residents, just as he wasn’t serious when he said what he did about women, wasn’t serious when he impugned American democracy, wasn’t serious when he said Mexicans were rapists and Muslims were terrorists, wasn’t serious when he called for a nuclear Saudi Arabia and wasn’t serious when he said journalists should be silenced and when he said, over and over, that Hillary Clinton should be in prison.

Trump’s big night begins in New Hampshire, continues shortly thereafter in Virginia and North Carolina, rolls through Iowa and Ohio and then – earlier than anyone could have thought – through Florida, where he maintains a second home. Nobody can believe it when Trump wins Pennsylvania – it turns out that African American voters in Philadelphia stayed home, and a surprising number of centrists in the Philly suburbs decided that no candidate who loved golf so much could be so bad. Trump wins Colorado, maybe misses in Nevada and misses in the upper midwest – but by then he’s over 300 electoral votes, so who cares? Hang the White House with a big gold T, and brace yourselves for whatever may be. Final tally:

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Despite higher than usual early voting among Latin communities, Trump could still succeed. Even if he doesn’t, he’s made racism against us fashionable again

The nightmare truly began when Donald Trump threw[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/26/donald-trump-in-iowa-obama-esque-campaign-but-the-same-mouthy-mogul] Jorge Ramos out of a press conference in August last year. Some might argue it was when he called Mexican **immigrants** “ rapists[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/02/donald-trump-racist-claims-mexico-rapes] ” the month before, but the beast hadn’t yet emerged, hadn’t yet been given a clear face or features.

“Go back to Univision!” Trump shouted as Ramos was escorted out of the room. The familiar syntax was not lost on us Latinos, who have been told to “go back” for as long as we’ve been in the United States, whether we were born here or not.

Before he was forcibly removed, Ramos was criticizing Trump for effectively saying he would deport 11 million undocumented people and build a 1,900-mile border wall. Well, Trump skirted those specifics, but that was the reality of what he was proposing. We Latinos were put in a familiar place – where we are merely numbers or parasites to the economy, seen not for our worth as human beings but for our worth as laborers.

Al mal tiempo, buena cara, goes an old Mexican proverb. “To the bad times, good face.” When I first delved into the world of activism, I used to hold the saying in contempt. It seemed to feed into the bottomless humility of the Mexican American in the face of oppression, the **immigrant** family, the Chicano who doesn’t want to make a fuss. It painted us, I thought, as a people who merely stood by while bad things happened to us.

Watching the Trump campaign, being its first scapegoats, I felt we were in that helpless place where our only option was to endure. The slogan Make America Great Again encapsulated exactly how we are seen in this country. We are the unclean other, our culture dilutes the purity of America’s white citizens who must be protected from us. Make America great again – by kicking us out.

Violence against Latinos surged[http://americasvoice.org/trumphatemap/], at Trump rallies and across the country. Xenophobia and racism were whipped into a fever pitch by the demagogue’s rants, his constant attacks on our families and our neighbors. “Send them back” was a phrase I heard more in those months than I ever had in my life. “You have to go back” became a common response to everything I wrote. Something had changed.

It was Trump’s attack on US district court judge Gonzalo P Curiel, born in Indiana and of Mexican descent, that saw our worst fears begin to take shape in reality. Trump, then the presumptive Republican nominee, accused Curiel, who was overseeing a class action lawsuit against Trump University, of being biased simply because of his Mexican heritage.

I remember watching the debacle unfold and thinking: “So this is how he’ll silence us as president.” All of us. For Trump, it has never been about **immigration**. It’s been about stoking racism against brown people, against black people, against the “other”. “He’s a member of a club or society very strongly pro-Mexican,” Trump said of Curiel. “Which is all fine. But I say he’s got bias.” It harkened back to McCarthyism. This is what he meant when he said he would make America great again.

Things took a dip into the absurd with the infamous Cinco de Mayo taco bowl tweet.[https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/728297587418247168?lang=en] Trump, smiling and without irony, as if he hadn’t advocated for the mass deportation of our people and hadn’t called us criminals and thugs, tweeted: “I love Hispanics!”

It was beyond parody.

Today, many hope that the long nightmare is about to draw to a close. But Trump could still pull off a win. And even if he doesn’t, the Trump machine will roll on, with or without him. We have on our hands a significant population of angry white citizens who blame us for all their frustrations. Things are about to get worse for us, not better.

It happens in cycles. America’s last mass deportation[http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/09/08/437579834/mass-deportation-may-sound-unlikely-but-its-happened-before] of Latinos and Mexican Americans happened during the Great Depression. Approximately 2 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans were rounded up and ejected from the country. And leading up to Trump, xenophobia in the Republican party was already the norm. Trump merely brought the subtext to the fore, bolded it and added several exclamation points. It’s a recipe for disaster.

Al mal tiempo, buena cara. I used to hate the phrase, but now I think of it daily. It helps me survive the daily inanities of the election cycle, the daily ways we are dehumanized. It’s not putting on a smile and pretending the bad times aren’t happening. It is a radical act of survival. It is a resolute affirmation in the face of adversity: I will make it through this. I will live to see the better days.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The US position in the global financial world, and the fact that many investors have bet on Clinton, means a Trump election could bring a cataclysmic shockWhat you need to know before voting Clinton or Trump

President Donald J Trump. Imagine, if you can, beginning the trading day on Wednesday with those words ringing in your ears. It’s a scenario that has a lot of investors worried.

“I think we’d have to brace for tremendous volatility and an initial drop in the market,” says Timothy Fisher, a New York-based tax attorney and an investor with retirement savings invested in stocks and bonds, and in whose eyes this election involves both high political principles and economic arguments.

Like his peers, Fisher has been watching the last-minute shifts in the polls anxiously. Trump, he argues, simply wouldn’t be a good president for financial markets or for investors – or for the economy as a whole, given that his adversarial approach to dealing with trading partners could dampen export earnings for US businesses and hurt the country’s GDP.

Related: Asian shares slide again after market's 'fear index' spikes for eighth day[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/nov/04/asian-shares-slide-again-after-markets-fear-index-spikes-for-eighth-day]

Fisher and other investment strategists and economists have been burning the midnight oil of late, analyzing what a Trump victory would mean for the United States. Their response? Think Brexit[http://money.cnn.com/2016/06/26/investing/markets-brexit-reaction-monday/] and multiply.

Hundreds of US economists working in academic institutions (including several Nobel laureates) have warned against electing Trump[http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/economics/2016/11/01/prominent-economists-including-eight-nobel-laureates-do-not-vote-for-donald-trump/], precisely because of what they referred to, in a public letter, as his propensity to misinform the electorate and promote “willful delusion over engagement with reality”.

“It would be the US version of Brexit,” says Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics. The election of the Republican candidate for president would be, like the British vote to leave the European Union[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/sep/23/george-osborne-brexit-won-majority-hard-brexit-did-not], an event that “is not expected, but that is very consequential, while also being very uncertain in terms of precisely what it means for us all, now and into the future”.

Given that stock markets loathe uncertainty above all else, the initial reaction to a Trump victory – as with the Brexit vote – would be a stock market selloff[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/economics-blog/2016/jun/24/the-day-brexit-pushed-the-markets-into-freefall]. “This kind of wave of emotionally fuelled selling could lead to the market losing between 5% to 10% in a couple of weeks or a couple of months,” says Jack Ablin, the chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank.

Following that poll, we saw a kind of Brexit bounce[http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-eu-economy-idUKKCN11B0TQ], when investors realized that Britain’s departure from the United Kingdom wouldn’t happen overnight and that it would take years to negotiate a new relationship with its trading partners in Europe.

But the United States is a different kind of animal. It’s a much larger market, for one thing: about a quarter of global GDP and some half of the value of all the stocks traded in the world are US companies, changing hands on US stock exchanges. Add to that the fact that a lot of investors have already placed big bets[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/donald-trump-wall-street-effect-markets-230164#ixzz4PATlxIQy] that Trump’s Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, will prevail in Tuesday’s presidential election, and you’ve got all the makings of a nasty market shock. The starting point for a selloff in the stock market could be 10%, and it could get worse from there, some suggest – and that shock would almost certainly be a global one, rippling outward from the peso and the Canadian dollar to the yen and European markets.

Simon Johnson, an economist at the MIT Sloan School of Management, has argued that the kind of “big adverse surprise” that Trump’s election would pose to the system, causing the stock market to crash, could prove cataclysmic[https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/economic-consequences-of-trump-victory-by-simon-johnson-2016-10]. Trump, whose promises to boost economic growth immediately to between 4% and 5% are “pure fantasy” – in Johnson’s opinion – has advocated anti-trade policies that would lead to anything but growth, the economist argues. And a Trump victory? Well, that might just be enough to cause a worldwide recession, Johnson says.

Nonetheless, some investors are preparing for the heightened risk of a Trump presidency, stocking up on cash, gold and such hedges against the US market as German bonds[http://fortune.com/2016/11/02/donald-trump-investors-safe-havens-german-bonds/] in their portfolios. They have done so as the political situation has become more fraught and Trump has succeeded in narrowing the polling gap[http://www.newsweek.com/trump-narrows-polling-gap-rigged-message-512682] between Clinton and himself and making a Trump presidency more likely.

Should Trump actually triumph, the immediate market shock isn’t the only factor that these investors will have to consider, however.

“In the near term, I think a Trump administration would affect business investment and hiring decisions,” says Zandi, a former adviser to Republican presidential candidate John McCain. “No one is sure what kind of specific policy decisions president Trump would make and businesses would pause until they got more clarity. That would slow economic growth.”

Longer term, Zandi adds, the outlook depends on what choices a president Trump would make. What form would his anti-**immigration** stance take? If Trump chooses to follow through on all his policies – deporting undocumented **immigrants**, building a wall along the Mexican border – it could shrink the size of the US economy or trigger a trade war.

“This is what markets will worry about most,” says Stuart Hoffman, chief economist of PNC Financial Services. “If we were to impose tariffs or quotas on imported goods, our trading partners would likely retaliate, and our exports to those countries, like China and Mexico, would suffer.” There would be no winners; global growth would slow.

Trump has promised that he would cut taxes if elected, which sounds appealing to voters. That has the potential to give the consumer sector at least a brief jolt, to the extent that those tax cuts are significant enough to register for individual taxpayers, and if those people choose to spend their windfall.

But Hoffman notes that Trump’s tax plan is set up to benefit wealthy Americans most[http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2016/09/26/Trump-s-Tax-Plan-Would-Benefit-Wealthy-Most-Study-Finds]. Many economists believe that changes in tax policy have less effect on spending by affluent households. There’s also the pesky question of how Trump would pay for those tax cuts. “He is not at all clear how he would do that,” says Hoffman. “Do you just run higher deficits? That would be a longer-term negative.”

Related: Why a surging stock market isn't making ordinary investors happy[https://www.theguardian.com/business/us-money-blog/2016/aug/21/stock-market-records-ordinary-investors]

Still, investors who confront a Trump-induced market selloff on Wednesday morning shouldn’t imagine that there are no economic upsides to his election. Trump has promised to take a light approach to regulating businesses – that could be good for corporate profits, and for stock prices, when the shock is over. “Many of his ideas are pro-market policies,” Ablin says.

And if you shudder at the idea of a President Trump, remember that some of what he is able to accomplish will be governed by the makeup of Congress. He can’t abrogate existing trade treaties, like the Nafta trade pact between the US, Canada and Mexico, single-handedly; he could find working with Congress to pass some of the more protectionist measures that investors find so terrifying to be far harder than he expects.

The idea of President Hillary Clinton is one that investors have had plenty of time to accustom themselves to, and the Democratic candidate’s policies are clearly articulated and by now offer few surprises to anyone who has been paying attention. Trump? He’d bring nothing but surprises with him, starting with the astonishment of his victory. So, buckle your seatbelts – just in case.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump catalyzed a movement that has destroyed the conventional wisdom – and the establishment – that has led the GOP for a generation

Not long after he launched his rocket of a campaign last summer, Donald Trump walked into a gathering of hardcore conservative activists in Nashville, Tennessee. Meeting a Manhattan businessman with no clear ideological discipline, the crowd could have been skeptical at best and hostile at worst.

The National Federation of Republican Assemblies casts itself as the keeper of the flame of modern conservatives, claiming a big role in the Goldwater and Reagan revolutions that defined the party for a generation. “We are the Republican wing of the Republican party,” the group likes to say.

The group would go on to endorse Ted Cruz, but at the time members happily ignored Trump’s flip-flops on abortion and his lack of religious roots to cheer on his anti-establishment war cry.

“You know, I’m a Republican. I’m a conservative,” he claimed. “But I’m just as angry with the Republicans because they go to Washington, something happens – they become weak … Then they walk into these magnificent buildings with those incredible vaulted ceilings, and they go: ‘Oh, I made it, darling, I made it. I vote for you. I vote for you. I vote for Obamacare expansions. I’ll do whatever you want me to do. I’m in Washington.’ It’s amazing. Isn’t it amazing? Don’t you agree? It won’t happen to me, I promise. And if it does, you can let me know about it. But it won’t. I promise. I promise.”

Midway through a rant about “phony statistics” and free trade, Trump spotted a sign in the crowd and stopped in his tracks.

“You know, this is a movement, folks,” he said. “This is not, like, maybe even about me. I don’t want it to be about me. This is about common sense. It’s about doing the right thing.”

As his explosive campaign draws to a close, Trump is claiming once again to lead something even bigger than his own ego. In one of its rare positive commercials, called simply Movement, the Trump campaign mixes scenes of the Republican convention and the new Trump hotel in Washington to claim: “It’s a movement, not a campaign. Its leader, Donald Trump, dreaming big, building bigger.”

Of all the outlandish assertions to emerge from Trump’s mouth, this one is by far the most credible. Win or lose, Trump has catalyzed a movement that has destroyed the conventional wisdom – and the establishment – that has led the Republican party for a generation. Whether he built the movement or simply rode its wave, Trump has profoundly reshaped the politics of the Grand Old Party. From his opposition to trade to his admiration for Putin, from his authoritarian tendencies to his anti-Nato stance, Trump has trampled across several red lines of Republican politics. In many ways, the biggest unknown in American politics is not about the winner of Tuesday’s election; it’s about the future of the Republican party and the power it continues to wield.

Related: My year with Trump: covering a curiosity that became a dark phenomenon[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/my-year-with-donald-trump-campaign-2016-election]

There are several GOP establishment types who believe that Trump’s hold on the GOP is weak. Without any national network of his own, Trump has no loyal hacks holding on to the party apparatus. In that thesis, the party’s leadership – the RNC, congressional officials, major donors, thinktanks and chief strategists – can wrest back control just as soon as Trump shuffles off stage.

Other campaign veterans think that is wishful thinking.

“The sooner we come to terms with the fact that Trump is not going away, the sooner we can confront the very real threat he represents to the profile and long-term prospects of the party,” says Kevin Madden, who served as senior adviser and spokesman for the last Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney. Madden says Trump’s tenacity and love of the limelight – as well as his own campaign infrastructure of mailing lists, donors and volunteers – will give him longevity, no matter what happens in the general election.

Related: World looks on anxiously as US makes a fateful choice[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/06/us-election-world-anxious-wait-clinton-trump]

“I believe two worldviews will emerge amongst Republicans on 9 November,” says Madden. “One worldview will look to replicate the Trump model of defining the party as a vehicle for grievances against the so-called establishment. The other worldview will look to confront the Trump effect on the party, separating the Trump voter from Trump himself, and look to rebuild the party as one of reform, with a real agenda and message that connects with the anxieties and concerns that were on display this year.

“So, yes, it’s reasonable to expect there will be a civil war within the party. If I had to handicap it, I’d even say that Trump and his supporters are winning that battle right now.”

This civil war has been a long time coming.

Trump was not the first to understand the potency of **immigration** as a defining test for the new Republican party. That moment came at a high point of President George W Bush’s power, soon after his re-election in 2004.

At the time, the establishment consensus was clear about the rise of Latino voters. Republicans could not afford to concede them to Democrats, and instead could win them over with an agenda of family values, faith and support for small business.

So when Bush pushed for **immigration** reform in 2005, he fully expected his political capital to pay dividends. Instead, he found himself outflanked and outgunned by House Republicans and nativist hosts on conservative talk radio. A comprehensive approach died that year and a more limited version was killed two years later, just as the financial crisis was beginning to emerge.

The crash of 2008, and the Great Recession that followed, transformed a political landscape that was already shifting against the pro-business, pro-**immigration**culture that once represented mainstream Republican opinion.

Steve Schmidt was a senior staffer on Bush’s 2004 re-election campaign and in effect campaign manager of McCain’s 2008 effort as the economy collapsed. He sees the emergence of Trump and Bernie Sanders as part of a far bigger shift in global politics that threatens the security and economic order we have known since the second world war.

“The absolute acquiescence of the Republican establishment, who discarded a generation of conservative ideology at the knees of an authoritarian wannabe, and the fact that someone so manifestly unprepared intellectually, emotionally and morally came this close to achieving real power in this country is a historic event that is truly unprecedented,” says Schmidt.

Related: What I learned after 100,000 miles on the road talking to Trump supporters[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/03/trump-supporters-us-elections]

“The notion that there’s a snap-back to normal is naive in my view. It has exposed at a really massive level the profound hypocrisy of the Christian right leaders – not good people of deep faith, but the Falwells and Perkins and Robertsons.”

For Schmidt, the decision of those Christian conservative leaders – Jerry Falwell Jr of Liberty University, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and Christian Broadcasting Network founder Pat Robertson – to support Trump undermines their preaching about family values, given the candidate’s personal conduct and life choices.

He added: “And it has demonstrated the intellectual bankruptcy of the movement – the Republican party of the 80s and 90s as the party of ideas.”

Schmidt sees this election as the second of four global contests fought along the same lines, along with this year’s Brexit vote on EU membership in the UK[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/eu-referendum] and next year’s presidential elections in France and federal contests in Germany. Across Europe, and some parts of the world like the Philippines, Schmidt sees the troubling rise of rightwing populism based on blue-collar job losses[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/03/trump-supporters-us-elections], stagnating middle class wages, and poor job prospects for the young.

“We’ve seen in this campaign the emergence of this underbelly of American nativism, of white nationalism, the alt-right movement,” he says. “If you have any sense of history it’s not difficult to look at this and be very disturbed by it. There’s always been a question in America of: could it happen here?”

For now, the party’s elected leaders seem dazed and confused about the path forward. Take Jason Chaffetz, the Utah congressman and conservative star, who was disgusted by Trump’s comments about assaulting women just a few short weeks ago. “I’m out,” he told the Washington Post. “I can no longer in good conscience endorse this person for president.”

Last week he decided he was not totally out, after all. “I will not defend or endorse @realDonaldTrump,” Chaffetz tweeted, “but I am voting for him. HRC is that bad. HRC is bad for the USA.”

This is just the kind of political weakness Trump was lampooning last year. In which case, the future of the party after next week belongs not to the non-endorsers but to the harder-core conservatives supported by groups like FreedomWorks, the Tea Party-fuelled grassroots group promoting a libertarian-style agenda.

Related: 'Mr Brexit' meets Mr Brexit: Nigel Farage to stump with Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/24/nigel-farage-donald-trump-mississippi-rally-appearance]

Jason Pye, director of communications, says the group is pinning its hopes on anti-Trump senators like Rand Paul, Ben Sasse and Mike Lee, alongside the House Freedom Caucus that helped oust the last House speaker, John Boehner.

“These guys are the thin red line that protects the constitution from Hillary Clinton,” says Pye. “These are the guys who fight for economic freedom and personal liberty and we’re supporting them.”

That makes at least three Republican splinter groups in the wake of a Trump defeat: the old main street GOP, the libertarian wing, and the diehard Trump loyalists.

For some conservatives, the only silver lining is the age profile of those Trump fans. “The one hope is that all the crazy people in the Republican party are older and the crazy people in the Democratic party are younger,” says Schmidt.

It’s not much to cling to, but it’s all they can do to hope this movement dies of natural causes.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Deputies of sheriff with record of ethnic profiling will be ‘stationed around the valley’ as activists raise concerns for Latino community

Joe Arpaio, the controversial sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona who has been charged with criminal contempt[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/joe-arpaio-arizona-sheriff-contempt-court-racial-profiling] in a racial discrimination case, is preparing to deploy his deputies at polling stations on election day in a move that voting rights activists warn amounts to intimidation.

Poll workers assigned to the county’s 640 polling places have been instructed by the election recorder, Helen Purcell, to contact Arpaio’s office for all non-life threatening police needs on election day. Principals whose schools have polling places have also been told that Arpaio’s deputies will be “stationed around the valley for easy dispatch should there be any need for an officer”.

But voting rights activists warn that deploying Arpaio’s officers will itself serve as intimidation, given the sheriff’s track record of ethnic profiling, harassment and organized raids directed against undocumented Hispanic people. Arpaio is locked in a tense re-election fight on 8 November, as a growing number of Latino citizens and allied progressives seek to oust him as sheriff after 23 years in the post.

“The presence of Arpaio’s deputies would be intimidation,” said Samantha Pstross, president of the Arizona Commission for Election Accountability, a coalition of non-partisan voting rights groups. “They consistently treat voters differently based on the color of their skin, so why would they do any differently on election day, especially given that their boss is running for re-election?

“This is a recipe for disaster,” she added.

Arizona is one of several states where activists fear potential intimidation and vigilantism at polling stations, whipped up by the rhetoric of Donald Trump, who has falsely claimed widespread voter fraud[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/21/donald-trump-fact-check-rigged-election-voter] and a “rigged” election. The activists fear that the Republican presidential candidate is promoting hostility[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/05/election-day-violence-donald-trump-poll-watchers] by repeatedly exhorting his followers to act as poll watchers, particularly in areas with large African American[http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trump-racial-politics-20161102-story.html] or other minority populations.

Related: Arizona asks 'the unprecedented': could Democrats sweep the west?[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/21/arizona-swing-state-west-democrats-clinton]

Arizona is one of nine states where federal election monitors will be present in significantly depleted numbers on Tuesday, as a result of a 2013 supreme court ruling, Shelby County v Holder[https://www.oyez.org/cases/2012/12-96], which gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act[https://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/jun/25/supreme-court-voting-rights-act-obama]. The judgment freed the states, most of which are in the deep south, from federal controls designed to prevent disenfranchisement of minority voters stretching back to Jim Crow era of racial segregation.

As a result of Shelby, election monitors from the Department of Justice will be spread much thinner on the ground in Arizona on Tuesday, and their powers to enter and monitor polling places sharply curtailed. Voting rights campaigners fear that will leave voters vulnerable to potential intimidation.

Arpaio is now acting as a lightning rod for many of those fears. A passionate supporter of Trump’s insurgent bid for the US presidency, the 84-year-old styles himself as “America’s toughest sheriff” and has a long history of run-ins with the federal courts to prove it.

Last week, federal prosecutors charged Arpaio[http://www.12news.com/news/federal-prosecutors-file-proposed-charges-against-sheriff-joe-arpaio/337022713] with criminal contempt of court, for allegedly violating an order by continuing to arrest **immigrants** with no evidence they had broken any state law. That came on top of a 2007 civil lawsuit that found against him in a claim that he racially profiled Latinos.

Related: 'Born and raised' Texans forced to prove identities under new voter ID law[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/oct/27/texas-vote-id-proof-certificate-minority-law]

One of his most contentious techniques over the years has been to conduct mass raids of factories[http://archive.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/07/14/20110714mesa-sheriff-arpaio-raid-bread-abrk.html] where undocumented Latinos are suspected to be working, rounding them up and then detaining anyone lacking appropriate **immigration** paperwork.

“He is hated and feared by the Latino community here,” Pstross said. “Especially hated, which is why the very presence of a sheriff’s deputy in a high-Latino population neighbourhood will cause problems on election day.”

Arizona has voted Republican in every presidential election since Bill Clinton’s re-election bid in 1996. But this year, the race gave Democrats enough hope[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/az/arizona\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-6087.html] that they sent in a stream of high-profile figures to campaign in the state, from Hillary Clinton herself to her vice-presidential pick, Tim Kaine, and Michelle Obama. Arpaio has insisted he is still investigating[http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona/2016/09/21/arizona-joe-arpaio-still-investigating-obamas-birth-certificate/90743412/] Barack Obama’s birthplace, although even Trump gave up his five years of conspiracy claims[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/16/trump-obama-birth-certificate-clinton] about the president in September.

Pollsters attribute the race’s tightening to a surge in Latino voter[http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/11/03/arizona-leads-nation-early-voting-surge-latinos/93129112/] registration and interest. In early voting, Hispanics now form 13% of the early ballots cast, compared with 11% in 2012.

Outside money has also poured into Arpaio’s race for re-election, as his detractors have sensed a chance to finally unseat him. The progressive philanthropist and financier George Soros invested $2m[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/george-soros-joe-arpaio-arizona-230724] into the Super Pac Maricopa Strong to pay for a series of TV attack ads on the sheriff.

In the light of the revelation that Arpaio’s office will have a leading role in controlling poling stations on Tuesday, one of the supervisors of county affairs in Maricopa, Steve Gallardo, has written to Purcell, the election recorder, asking her to reconsider her decision to call on sheriff’s deputies.

“Neither the sheriff nor his office has a good relationship with segments of our communities and voters,” the letter says. “It is unfortunate, but the reality of using Maricopa County deputies when the sheriff himself is in a very contentious re-election race and given his proven actions against citizens’ rights may be perceived as voter intimidation.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The Republican’s long road to election day took in insults, adulation, violence and outlandish claims as the press pack was progressively corralled and vilified

In the beginning, Donald Trump simply wouldn’t allow the press to eat cold meats from the buffet.

Trump was holding a house party in suburban New Hampshire in late June 2015. The main event was around a backyard swimming pool under a fickle summer sky.

Related: A-Z of Trump: 26 illustrators imagine a 'ghastly' future – in pictures[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/gallery/2016/nov/02/a-z-of-trump-26-illustrators-picture-a-ghastly-future-in-pictures]

The family hosting the presidential candidate had a 22-year-old son who was a Trump superfan. He had somehow coaxed the candidate to appear at the backyard event. Before the speech, there would be a reception for invited guests with hors d’oeuvres stacked on the family’s dining room table. But this was for invited guests only. Reporters, let alone more plebeian Trump supporters, were not permitted to partake.

Otherwise, there were no press pens as reporters stood intermingled in the crowd with ardent Tea Partiers and curious onlookers there to see a television celebrity who had somehow ended up in Bedford, New Hampshire, for the evening.

Trump delivered a long, winding monologue of the sort that would later become his trademark as he veered from dire warnings about illegal **immigrants** to praise for executives at Comcast and an extended and impassioned anecdote about how professional politicians couldn’t recognize low-quality highway guardrails.

The event, with more than 200 people was one of the rare times that Trump attempted anything approaching traditional retail politics. As he soared in the polls, Trump became a phenomenon who packed arenas and stadiums across much of the south. By September 2015, even the gesture of a retail stop at a tailgate outside an Iowa v Iowa State football game turned into a mob scene. The candidate was swarmed by people chanting his name and reaching out to somehow touch him as a pack of bodyguards protected Trump from getting too close to the masses outside the stadium.

It was during this period that the Guardian interviewed Trump in a New Hampshire hotel conference room after he had addressed a non-partisan event designed to focus on “problem solving”. He was gracious and soft-spoken if vague on policy detail. He broadly endorsed several progressive priorities like federal funding for police body cameras and rail transit while striking his typical isolationist notes on foreign policy. The interview was filmed and it was noteworthy how keenly aware he was of the camera and how carefully he positioned himself for it.

Instead, Trump became a candidate of big venues and big speeches. Once or twice a day in high school gyms or a convention center in Iowa or New Hampshire, the Republican nominee would put on his show. By the autumn of 2015, Trump had acquired secret service protection and all the other accoutrements of a general election candidate, despite the fact that he was a political novice who had never appeared on a ballot. Reporters were caged in a press pen, unable to freely roam and mingle with voters once the nominee was in the vicinity.

His campaign stops became must-see events, especially in states where visits from presidential candidates were rarities. Trump rallies seemed to resemble rock concerts more than anything previously seen in presidential politics. In a January 2016 rally in the Bernie Sanders heartland of Burlington, Vermont,[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jan/08/donald-trump-burlington-vermont-bernie-sanders-home-turf] lines stretched for blocks in the bitter cold as thousands of people congregated to see Trump in a downtown theater. Many were taking their minds off the weather by drinking steadily as they waited and the street was soon littered with empty beer cans.

The atmosphere was just as unusual inside the Trump rallies. The Republican candidate’s events became ground zero for protests over a variety of issues, ranging from his vehement anti-**immigrant** rhetoric to his advocacy of a ban on Muslims entering the United States. In Burlington, a liberal college town, Trump staffers were eagle-eyed at the door, requiring attendees to take loyalty pledges to enter. That wasn’t enough to stop the event from being repeatedly interrupted, with the candidate urging: “Take him out. Get him out of here. Don’t give him his coat!” as one heckler was ejected.

Repeated disruptions became routine, along with actual outbreaks of violence. The disturbing trend culminated in a cancelled rally in Chicago, which descended into chaos. The candidate didn’t take the stage as the venue in the heart of deep Democratic blue, ethnically diverse Chicago was filled with protesters. When the announcement came that Trump was not taking the stage, fights quickly broke out throughout the arena. Such scenes of political violence had not been seen in decades in the United States.

The next day, Trump’s rally in Cleveland had about a dozen interruptions from protesters, something which would have been astonishing had it happened in any other year to any other candidate. Instead, there was no violence and no attempt by Trump to encourage violence and it just seemed like the new normal as he sneered at those who were escorted out, claiming that they were sent by “our communist friend”, Bernie Sanders.

But it wasn’t just the crowds at Trump’s events, which were unusual. It was the candidate’s rhetoric. On a daily basis, Trump made statements that were just astonishing by any traditional standard, comparing a rival to a child molester, or linking another’s father to a plot to kill President Kennedy. In the course of a single day on the campaign trail in South Carolina, Trump both attacked the pope[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/18/donald-trump-pope-francis-christian-wall-mexico-border] and accused[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/19/trump-appears-to-endorse-executing-terrorists-citing-questionable-history] one of the most decorated American soldiers in history of committing war crimes. The statements had no effect on his standing in the polls and he won a commanding victory only a few days later in the South Carolina primary.

Trump finally clinched the Republican nomination in early May when Ted Cruz dropped out after the Indiana primary. His next event was a raucous rally in a grim brutalist arena in Charleston, West Virginia. It had been scheduled in advance of the state’s primary. Hours before it started, the crowd outside formed a disorderly horde in red and white Make America Great Again hats. Once Trump finally took the stage in the dank 60s-era construction in the dilapidated downtown, he strutted about the stage triumphantly, suggesting to attendees that they didn’t need to bother to vote in the primary any more as he boasted about his abiding love and affection for coal and coalminers.

In the weeks that followed, there was no pivot to a general election. Instead, Trump seemed nostalgic for the intra-Republican contest as he travelled the length of California in advance of the state’s June primary, as well as taking a bizarre trip to Scotland to see his golf course in the aftermath of the Brexit referendum.

When Trump officially became the nominee in July, it was at a convention in Cleveland that was more banal than anyone could have imagined. Although Trump had promised star-studded festivities and there were fears that protests in the surrounding streets would rival the dramatic scenes outside the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago, it was instead a grim, depressing slog.

In lieu of celebrities, there was former Happy Days actor Scott Baio and, instead of graceful concession speeches, former rival Ted Cruz urged Republicans to “vote their conscience” in what was widely viewed as a snub to Trump. Much of the effort seemed to be focused on stopping anti-Trump rebels from forcing any vote or coming close to any open display of dissatisfaction. No one had any illusions that Trump could somehow be thwarted.

The nomination was secured after more than a week of grinding procedural warfare replete with the type of tactical chicanery that one would have expected from smoke- not iPhone-filled rooms. Anti-Trump petitions mysteriously disappeared, wavering delegates were subjected to intense pressure and every available scrap of procedure was put to good use. For a moment, he was just like any other candidate overseeing a political organization.

Paul Manafort, the shadowy veteran campaign aide who had finally elbowed out Trump’s longtime campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, after an intense turf war, oversaw all of these efforts. For his reward, he was unceremoniously fired less than a month later after growing reports of his ties to Russia and acrimony within the highest ranks of the Trump campaign.

At that point, the campaign came under the control of Steve Bannon, the editor of the rightwing site Breitbart. Working in concert with veteran GOP pollster Kellyanne Conway, Trump abandoned his unscripted rallies and began using a teleprompter exclusively. He also hunkered down, avoiding the media outside of deeply conservative talk radio and Fox News.

In personal unguarded interactions, Trump was genial with the press. When the Guardian accompanied him on his personal plane in September as a pool reporter, he chatted freely with handful of journalists who accompanied him and went out of his way to be gracious. But these were few and far between as the Republican nominee became increasingly distant outside of his rallies and his omnipresent Twitter account.

The rallies began to take on darker tones. There was no more open violence or unruliness. Protesters had become rare. Instead, they became venues for Trump to share his rage over the “rigged system” and stir up an angry crowd – against the media, against Hillary Clinton, against “globalists” and a host of other villains.

Attendees showed up in bitter T-shirts proclaiming that they were “deplorable” and took up Trump’s invitation to deride reporters.

At one rally in Cincinnati in October, the traveling press was booed by a crowd of roughly 15,000 as it entered the arena.

Trump had stopped trying to be a normal candidate but he was no longer being Trump. It was a dark hybrid. He had lost much of the freewheeling joie de vivre that had taken him to strange, albeit controversial places. Instead, he had become a relatively coherent figure, articulating a clear world view – but one that was deeply paranoid and out of the mainstream, where the press was no longer a stalking horse but simply the enemy.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Amid a bitter split between the cities and provinces of America, the Republican and the Democrat are each pushing hard in the other’s backyard

As millions nervously refresh polling websites[http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/?ex\_cid=rrpromo] to assess Donald Trump’s chances of catching Hillary Clinton on Tuesday, it can be a shock to see how much of the election map is already coloured red. But while the sight of large Republican swaths easily exaggerates the party’s likely share of voters, it also highlights another, more meaningful, trend.

Of the many dividing lines in this bitterly fought election – race, gender, education – few are as stark[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/03/upshot/why-republicans-dont-even-try-to-win-cities-anymore.html] as that between metropolitan America and its less densely populated suburbs, towns and countryside. The reason Clinton’s islands of blue look so small, particularly in county level maps[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/19/upshot/what-this-2012-map-can-tell-us-about-the-2016-election.html], is that her supporters are clustered together in large, cosmopolitan and overwhelmingly Democratic cities. More than most Republicans, Trump appeals to those in the rest of the country who view such urban populations with disdain.

It is most obvious when comparing coastal enclaves like New York with conservative “flyover” territory such as Kansas. But what is more interesting is to contrast two inland states that are on the target list for each party to flip – to look at a small town and a big city at opposite ends of the metropolitan-provincial divide:

Related: Specter of election day violence looms as Trump spurs vigilante poll watchers[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/05/election-day-violence-donald-trump-poll-watchers]

Ripon, Wisconsin The state of Wisconsin is an ambitious target for Republicans. Reliably Democratic in eight of the last 10 presidential elections, it nonetheless feels a long way from Washington DC or Clinton’s Brooklyn campaign headquarters.

Employment is not the problem in what still feels a relatively prosperous part of the midwest. As Friday’s national jobs report showed, finding work is less and less of a challenge. What are harder to come by are jobs that pay well. While the cost of living has traditionally been lower in places like Ripon, voters face the same soaring bills for essentials such as healthcare and college tuition.

In the Democratic primary, Wisconsin was one of the 22 mostly provincial states that rejected Clinton in favour of Bernie Sanders. Unusually, voters were also wary of Trump. His campaign is hoping to change that on Tuesday.

In Ripon, a small town about an hour or so north of the state capital, there is a small 19th-century schoolroom that underlines just how far the Republican party will have come if Trump does pull off a surprise win here on Tuesday.

On a chilly night in March 1854, several dozen local residents came together at the schoolroom to found the Republican party. Unlike the Democratic or Whig parties, this was a movement deliberately started outside Washington – to stand up for the common man and, most strikingly in the context of a 2016 campaign which has been accused of racism, to stop the spread of slavery.

“The current Republican party is considerably different to how it originated,” says Jason Mansmith, director of Ripon’s chamber of commerce, which looks after the Little White School House[http://www.littlewhiteschoolhouse.com/]. “Back then, the party was more progressive than it was conservative.”

Whether Mansmith’s remarks represent an anti-establishment grassroots spirit that a wealthy New York businessman such as Trump is capable of rekindling remains to be seen.

Clinton has not visited the state since April, but as polls have tightened in recent days, particularly in a crucial Senate race, Democrats have sprung into action, eager to shore up a crucial component of their so-called “firewall” strategy to block Trump from the 270 electoral college votes he needs to take the White House.

Last weekend, the Clinton campaign started to air TV commercials in Wisconsin. On Tuesday, Clinton’s running mate, Tim Kaine, was sent to Madison to campaign. He returns on Sunday for events in Milwaukee, Green Bay and La Crosse. Joe Biden, the vice-president, was in Madison on Friday, telling supporters: “We have to win Wisconsin, and we will with Russ [Feingold, the Democratic Senate candidate] leading the way.”

One poll had Trump cutting Clinton’s lead to just two points, but an eagerly anticipated survey on Tuesday suggested it will still be a tough slog for Republicans to take back their birthplace.

Related: The Big Con: what is really at stake on election day[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/05/the-big-con-what-is-really-at-stake-on-election-day]

Instead, Democrats are worried that former senator Russ Feingold’s chances of winning back his seat from Ron Johnson in the Senate race appear to be slipping away. Sanders rushed out an alert to supporters: “Dire news from Wisconsin. A poll released this afternoon has Russ Feingold only up by one point – meaning he’s in a virtual tie. This is too close.”

Clinton’s director of state campaigns, Marlon Marshall, drew solace from early voting data which suggests Democratic strongholds are outvoting Republican counties in suburban Milwaukee by two to one.

For Trump, the hope is that traditional boundaries blur as the provinces rise against Washington. “If you try to apply conventional political wisdom to Donald Trump you lose every time,” said his campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, this week. “Michigan and Wisconsin have been elusive to Republican candidates, but his message on illegal **immigration**, trade and jobs, and patriotism is different.”

Phoenix, Arizona Just as winning Wisconsin on Tuesday would mean Trump was having a very good night, Democrats will know they are heading for a blowout win if they can flip Arizona.

The desert state has voted for a Republican president in nine of the last 10 elections – making it an even more uphill struggle on paper for Democrats than Trump faces in Wisconsin. Unlike there, the Senate race has not flipped back and forth between parties but is dominated by a Republican incumbent, John McCain, who has represented the state for three decades.

But Arizona, and in particular its largest city, Phoenix, is changing fast – an emblem of the modern and metropolitan America to which Clinton hopes to appeal. This sprawling desert metropolis is in many ways a rebuke to everything that Trump says is wrong with the country. Though it was hit hard by a property boom than turned to bust during the banking crisis, it has a modern and diverse economy and an even more diverse workforce – swollen by internal and external **immigration**, as workers move from the rust belt to the sun belt and the population steadily becomes more Hispanic.

The state’s other Republican senator, Jeff Flake, was one of the first to distance himself from Trump’s divisive rhetoric on **immigration**. McCain himself was to flip-flop over endorsing Trump as he sought to win a difficult nomination battle before pivoting to a much more diverse general electorate.

On Thursday, at a community centre in Phoenix, Kaine gave a speech entirely in Spanish. Michelle Obama and Chelsea Clinton have visited and Sanders is also being dispatched to help, campaigning in Phoenix on Sunday.

Related: Rise, sisters, rise. Defeat Donald Trump | Eve Ensler[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/05/eve-ensler-defeat-donald-trump-us-election]

According to aides, he intends to address “Clinton’s plans to build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top, and Donald Trump’s plans, which would benefit himself and other millionaires and billionaires like him.

“Sanders will say ‘Let’s raise the minimum wage to a living wage, let’s make public colleges and universities tuition-free, let’s end a broken criminal justice system, and let’s defeat Trump and make Clinton our next president.’”

The candidate herself was here on Tuesday[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/02/hillary-visits-arizona-in-unprecedented-show-of-bravado-for-democratic-nominee]. In many ways, Arizona is the sole survivor of a so-called “expansion” strategy that saw her target vulnerable Republican states like Arizona, Georgia and Utah when her national lead over Trump looked more robust. The policy had to be scaled back when Trump looked more of a threat again back east in the rust belt, but cities like Phoenix and Atlanta remain a big future hope for Democrats.

“Arizona ain’t an indulgence,” said campaign spokesman Brian Fallon[https://twitter.com/brianefallon/status/792043601463283713]. “It’s a true battleground. Perhaps even more favourable-looking right now than some other places we’ve been on TV.”

If Clinton wins here, it would not only signal that Trump’s presidential hopes were over, but that the Democrats were right to favour the demographics of the new America over the grievances of the old.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Founding father Alexander Hamilton has become the unlikely star of a hit hip-hop Broadway musical. Coming to the UK next year, its portrayal of **immigrant**inclusiveness could not be more timely

On the evening of 23 June, I happened to be in a theatre in New York, watching a musical about a man who exhorted his country first to revolution and then into a federal union. While King George III was singing, “Oceans rise, empires fall / We have seen each other through it all”, across the ocean, Britain was voting to leave the European Union. When Hamilton: The Musical brings its story of the American revolution to London next year, its certain triumph is going to create all kinds of historical ironies.

Related: Sixteen ways Hamilton transformed theater – and the world[https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/may/03/hamilton-tony-awards-broadway-lin-manuel-miranda]

Hamilton is the kind of transformative theatrical experience that has only happened a few times in the history of American musicals. It joins the likes of Show Boat, Oklahoma! and West Side Story as game changers, innovative productions that forever redefined what came after them. Unlike most of its predecessors, however, Hamilton was created by one man, Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the music, lyrics, and book about the musical (only Stephen Sondheim can claim as much, and none of his shows were such blockbusters). Hamilton fuses American history with current politics, using a soundtrack of American popular music and one of the most inventive librettos ever written. The result is that nearly every song in the show works as a complex historical concert, layering musical pasts with the musical present, just as the historical past mingles with the political present. In less than two years, it has exploded all box office records – it has sold $1bn worth of tickets – and won every theatrical prize (including the Pulitzer prize for drama), garnering the kind of hyperbolic praise that no production can possibly live up to. But Hamilton exceeds its own acclaim.

Miranda had already created a successful musical ( In the Heights ) when he impulsively decided to read Ron Chernow’s prize-winning biography Alexander Hamilton on holiday (Miranda’s whim has made Chernow, who reportedly gets 1% of Hamilton’s profit, a very wealthy man). Hamilton represents something of an anomaly in American history, a founding father who never transferred from official histories into popular mythology. There are many reasons for this, not least that Hamilton’s positions were incompatible with many of our myths – he was avowedly elitist, for example, and supported the idea of a president for life – while his expansion of the federal government prompted the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, which he brutally suppressed. Neither of these facts makes it into Miranda’s musical, which is the story of a “young, scrappy and hungry” **immigrant** from the West Indies who became the quintessential American success story through a combination of brains, hard work and audacity. Miranda creates a myth for Hamilton by celebrating him as a symbol of **immigrant** inclusiveness, egalitarianism and meritocracy: historically it’s a stretch, but theatrically it’s genius.

Eventually Hamilton became a hero of the American revolution, George Washington’s right-hand man, the nation’s first secretary of the treasury, the co-author (with James Madison) of The Federalist Papers, and the primary proponent for federal government over state government. He argued for a national bank, created the national reserve as well as the national debt, and laid the foundations for the US’s economic success. His dramatic life came to a melodramatic end when he was killed in a duel by the sitting vice president, Aaron Burr. And yet, despite all these achievements and dramas, Hamilton has been marginalised by most popular accounts of American history. Washington[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2001/sep/28/culture.peterbradshaw3], Jefferson, John Adams[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2012/jul/26/john-adams-next-box-set] have been the subject of countless books, films, miniseries and even their own popular musical, 1776. But 1776, which tells the story of the battle over writing the Declaration of Independence, does not even mention Hamilton.

That sidelining resonated with Miranda, himself the son of Puerto Rican **immigrants**, as an emblematic instance of the nation’s treatment of **immigrants**, both as individuals and as a collective part of the nation’s history. Those twin intuitions sparked a musical about historical, cultural and political inclusion, in which an almost entirely non-white cast plays the founding fathers (and a few of the mothers, although the cast is also overwhelmingly male). The result is the most unexpected of phenomena: a Broadway hit that is about political, economic and racial history while also offering an implicit but acidic running commentary on the racial and cultural politics of the US today. Everything about the show is “meta”, as layered references compound meaning like interest: Hamilton is metatheatrical, metahistorical, metamusical, metamorphic.

Much has been written about Miranda’s wide-ranging but acute musical references, from a Britpop-inflected George III (“When you’re gone, I’ll go mad / So don’t throw away this thing we had / Cause when push comes to shove / I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love”) to the three Schuyler sisters singing about New York in the manner of Destiny’s Child; from the Notorious BIG[https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2015/dec/16/the-notorious-big-biggie-smalls-10-of-the-best] to Kander and Ebb. Miranda is conducting a magisterial conversation with musical theatre, which is a kind of microcosm of American popular history, marked in important ways by the mainstream’s appropriation of minority cultures ( Show Boat, West Side Story ). Hamilton reverses that process, exploring mainstream history through the music of subcultures. Lines about racism from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s South Pacific (“you’ve got to be carefully taught”) rub shoulders with Busta Rhymes; Sondheim’s experiments in perspective from Pacific Overtures meet Snoop Dogg[https://www.theguardian.com/music/snoopdogg]. There is a running gag about Adams, in which Miranda riffs on 1776 ; its opening number is the resounding “Sit Down, John!” in which the Continental Congress tells him to shut up. Miranda is doing the same, telling Adams and the Anglocentric American history he embodies to step aside. He sidelines Adams, waiting until the second act to mention him, and then has Hamilton sing, “Sit down, John, you fat motherfucker!” Less explicit (in every sense) is Miranda’s decision to give Hamilton a signature refrain – “I will never be satisfied” — that echoes Adams’s line from 1776, “I have always been dissatisfied, I know that.”

Miranda’s lyrics are dizzying: he rhymes Socrates with mediocrities, before linking manumission, abolition and ammunition. Gilbert and Sullivan are not only sampled, they are schooled; Miranda gleefully told a journalist he felt he’d improved the rhyme in Gilbert’s famous patter, which becomes George Washington’s rap: “Now I’m the model of a modern major general / The venerated Virginian veteran whose men are all / Lining up, to put me up on a pedestal.” Puns abound with the exuberant energy of a word-drunk writer: “Local merchants deny us equipment, assistance / They only take British money, so sing a song of sixpence.”

Almost all of Hamilton is sung through, as opera: there is very little spoken dialogue, and much less rap than some accounts might suggest. When rap comes in, it is with “practical tactical brilliance”, as when Miranda turns cabinet debates into rap battles, in which Jefferson and Hamilton face off and drop the mic, in reference to Eminem’s 8 Mile[https://www.theguardian.com/film/8-mile]. Hamilton and Burr’s fatal duel is likened to gang violence by sampling the legendary “Ten Crack Commandments” by Notorious BIG, himself notoriously the victim of gang violence. “It must be nice to have Washington on your side,” sung by Burr, Jefferson and Madison, is ostensibly about President Washington’s patronage of Hamilton, but it also becomes about modern disenfranchisement, alienated citizens who feel that Washington DC is not on their side. A song called “Wait for It” is about Burr’s character, but it is also about – wait for it – how destructive it has been for communities of colour to be told to wait their turn.

As with the lyrics, the music is used to make historical points, rather than simply to score points. Jefferson and Burr each have a standout solo in the second act. (Miranda is markedly generous, giving his co-stars most of the best songs.) Returning from Paris, Jefferson sings “ What’d I Miss?[http://genius.com/Lin-manuel-miranda-whatd-i-miss-lyrics] ” over boogie-woogie piano with riffs on other Dixieland jazz sounds, including stride and ragtime. Its invocations of the origins of jazz as the kind of grandfather of rap are at once facetious – as performed by Daveed Diggs, Jefferson even uses “jazz hands” – and serious. Because Jefferson was considerably older than Hamilton and his contemporaries, Miranda gives the younger characters hip-hop influences, while Jefferson sings old-school jazz, which also lets Miranda tip his hat to classic performers such as Cab Calloway, whose vocals pointed the way to rap. As the act progresses, Jefferson’s influence on Burr deepens. By the time Burr breaks out into his great second act number, “The Room Where It Happens”, his musical style has subtly shifted, as he picks up Jefferson’s Dixieland jazz. Burr’s song is the kind of gospel-inspired, choir-backed showstopper that composers have used for more than a century in American musical theatre to get audiences on their feet, from Cole Porter’s “Blow, Gabriel, Blow” to Frank Loesser’s “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat”. But unlike those songs, which are great fun but almost entirely meaningless, “The Room Where It Happens” is a foot-stomping, barnstorming, surge-to-your feet instant classic about – the historical record.

It’s a turning point in the show in many senses: Burr stops waiting for it, and the gaps in the historical record become a metaphor for political exclusion. “The Room Where It Happens” is about the way in which historiography constructs mythologies of power, and it’s about realpolitik, how politics gets done. Burr sings, “No one really knows how the / Parties get to yes / The pieces that are sacrificed in / Ev’ry game of chess / We just assume that it happens / But no one else is in / The room where it happens”, before launching into his power verse: “I wanna be in / The room where it happens / The room where it happens.”

Miranda is putting **immigrants** and the descendants of slaves, black people, Latinos and Asians, low-income kids with little hope for the future, in the room where it happens. The ambitious individual left out of the “smoke-filled room” becomes the emblem of entire groups excluded from power. “We want our leaders to save the day – / But we don’t get a say in what they trade away / We dream of a brand new start – / But we dream in the dark for the most part.” The song encapsulates the entire musical, which continually raises questions of historiography and the power to shape a national narrative. Hamilton’s wife, Eliza, initially wants to take her place in history – “Oh, let me be a part of the narrative / In the story they will write someday” – but when Hamilton betrays her, she burns their letters, to control the narrative. And then in the end, when Hamilton has died far too young, Eliza sings, “I put myself back in the narrative”. Miranda returns in closing to the question of competing historical versions in a song in which Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Eliza all admit that what matters is, “Who lives, who dies, who tells your story? Will they tell your story? … Who tells your story?”

Related: Hamilton's teenage superfans: 'This is, like, crazy cool'[https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/jun/22/hamilton-teenage-superfans-this-is-like-crazy-cool]

The question of what gets left out of the narrative is one that can also be asked of Hamilton ’s own mythmaking, however. Although Miranda invokes popular histories to accuse them of colour blindness, the fact is that even 1776 confronted the question of slavery far more directly back in 1969 than Hamilton does today. To be sure, 1776 features an all-white cast arguing about whether slavery is bad; Jefferson terribly misses his terribly blond wife and can’t write the Declaration of Independence until she joins him, while his slave Sally Hemings, who probably mothered six of his children, is never mentioned. But 1776 also ends on “Molasses to Rum”, a startlingly frank and brutal account of the triangle trade, and an indictment of the north’s hypocrisy about slavery. Hamilton does mention Hemings – once – and has some other references to slavery, but strongly implies that only Jefferson owned slaves, while suggesting that Hamilton was a far more dedicated abolitionist than the record shows. In fact, Washington and Madison also owned slaves, while Hamilton bought and sold slaves for his wife’s family, and was inconsistent in regards to manumission.

Hamilton features black and brown actors, but its story never depicts a slave. That said, it’s also true that minstrelsy is crucial to Miranda’s project: he takes the long American minstrelsy tradition of white people in blackface on stage and reverses it. He appropriates its music, rewrites its lyrics, turns its politics on its head, and fashions the whole thing into a show that is simultaneously an excoriation of current American political realities, an encomium to American revolutionary energies, and a celebration of American musical theatre history. If you live in Britain, you will have to wait until next November for it, but when it comes, believe me, you’ve gotta be in the room where it happens.

• Hamilton opens at the Victoria Palace theatre, London SW1E, in November 2017. Tickets go on sale in January. hamiltonthemusical.co.uk[http://www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk/]

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**From Colm Tóibín’s story of renewal in Brooklyn to Mourid Barghouti’s desolate experience in Palestine, these stories show some of the many meanings of home and its loss

I saw Beirut in all the other places I have lived: around the hum of London streets, and in the quiet self-containment of a Parisian neighbourhood; at the water’s edge in Sydney on a wintry afternoon as rain and sea mixed and swirled around me and in the razor-sharp sunlight of spring and early morning in Washington DC.

Many miles and 20 years from home, I carried my city with me as I would a worn suitcase that I could not put down, the weight of it like some unspecified regret, a memory that came alive at unexpected moments and left me breathless.

I wanted my characters in An Unsafe Haven to experience their exile in the same way. A Syrian artist unable to accept the worsening situation back home is determined to return to Damascus. An American married to a Lebanese woman struggles to adapt to a society he does not wholly understand. An Iraqi aid worker seeks refuge in Beirut but dreams of going to the west. A Syrian refugee loses track of her family while fleeing the war and is prepared to do anything to rejoin them. Hannah, a journalist, returns to Lebanon after a long exile, no longer certain if she will ever recapture the sense of belonging that Beirut once awarded her.

These characters are not always sure what is missing from their lives, but they helped me understand that home can have different meanings for those of us who, at one time or another, are deprived of it.

1. Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/americanah.html]

The possibility that one can feel doubly exiled is at the centre of this novel. Ifemelu is an educated young woman who moves from her native Nigeria to the US, where she discovers that race continues to influence social status and compromise one’s rights as a citizen. Not news to most of us, perhaps, but while Adichie’s message is undoubtedly political, it is her focus on Ifemelu’s day-to-day life in exile that makes this novel so compelling. At a dinner party in New York, Ifemelu tells a group of liberal intellectuals that her race had never been an issue in Nigeria, concluding: “I only became black when I came to this country.”

2. Selected Writings by Mai Ghoussoub[http://www.saqibooks.co.uk/book/mai-ghoussoub/]

If exile is an art form, then the late Mai Ghoussoub was its embodiment. Artist, writer, performer and publisher, Ghoussoub left Lebanon in 1979 after being injured while volunteering with an ambulance service during the civil war. Showcasing her musings on politics, war, exile and the arts, on Lebanon and the despair of its people, this collection is testament to a woman whose perspective was always led by her compassion and humour, by an enduring sense of wonder that makes her observations of people in the Middle East and Europe intensely valuable.

3. Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/brooklyn-336804.html]

Beset by homesickness as an Irish **immigrant** to the US, Eilis Lacey manages to fashion a new and more sophisticated version of herself there which, once she returns home for a visit, is impossible to shake. This is a haunting depiction of what it means to reinvent oneself and permanently suffer the loss of belonging. Tóibín’s writing is austere and seemingly effortless, and is evocative of the depth of loneliness plaguing his characters, no matter where they happen to be.

Related: Top 10 refugees' stories[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/may/18/top-10-refugees-stories]

4. The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/portrait-of-a-lady-11.html]

Isabel Archer and her suitor Gilbert Osmond are Americans living in Europe. While Isabel, a spirited, outspoken and innocent young heiress, can never be tainted by European decadence, Osmond is portrayed as the personification of old-world guile, cynicism and self-interest. Realising the truth about Osmond only after they are married, Isabel nonetheless remains true to character and chooses to honour her commitment to him. The desolation she consequently feels is not merely at being away from home, but is in the absence in her life of love and ultimately of any meaning. My favourite James novel.

5. Snow by Orhan Pamuk[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/snow-13.html] (translated by Maureen Freely)

Great writers perfectly mirror the historical concerns of nations in their fiction, making Snow essential reading for anyone wishing to truly understand modern-day Turkey. Tackling religion, secularism, dissent and women in Islam, this intensely beautiful novel is also a story of love and sacrifice. The poet Ka returns to a virtually unrecognisable Istanbul after 12 years as a political exile in Germany, and decides to travel to the remote city of Kars to try to recapture memories of the Turkey he once knew. While investigating the rise of Islamic extremism and the bafflingly high suicide rates among young women there, he encounters a long-lost love and discovers that the notion of home he had harboured was illusory.

6. I Saw Ramallah by Mourid Barghouti[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2004/feb/28/featuresreviews.guardianreview32] (translated by Ahdaf Soueif)

Barghouti returned to Ramallah after 30 years in exile, initially to Cairo in 1967 following Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, then to Eastern Europe 10 years later when he was expelled from Egypt. A poet and diplomat, Barghouti made the emotional journey back home only to discover how much it had changed, to conclude that Israel’s occupation had “created generations without a place … had succeeded in changing us from children of Palestine to children of the idea of Palestine”. Lyrical and deeply moving, this memoir explores the human consequences of enforced exile, the hopelessness, the suffering endured.

7. Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/unaccustomed-earth.html]

These stories are so beautifully written that one would be forgiven for thinking there was a romantic aspect to exile. First-generation Americans coping with double lives, Lahiri’s characters are inextricably tied to their parents’ India yet are not quite western enough to integrate completely. Images of their daily lives are poignant; a relentless dislocation making any semblance of continuity an illusion to which they will always aspire. Heartbreaking and wonderful.

8. Arab in America by Toufic El Rassi[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cciEJsZG59U]

The attacks in September 2001 had enormous repercussions on life in the US, among them the intensification of discrimination against Arabs and Americans of Arab descent. Exposing the brutal consequences of racism and fearmongering, El Rassi’s graphic novel is fittingly illustrated in black and white and offers a unique perspective on the prejudices that still divide our world.

9. Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/me-talk-pretty-one-day.html]

Sedaris’s hilarious reflections on what it means to be an American expat in Europe reveal the lighter side of the exile experience. The second half of Me Talk Pretty One Day is devoted to the years Sedaris spent in Paris trying to learn the language and adapt to the culture and, as a result, finding out what the rest of the world really thinks about his country.

10. The Wanderer by Christopher Brennan[http://www.middlemiss.org/lit/authors/brennanc/poetry/wanderer.html]

On a plaque on the walkway leading to the Sydney Opera House is a quote that, when I first read it, perfectly expressed my own despair at ever achieving a sense of belonging. In this stunning collection of poems, Brennan, the son of Irish **immigrants** to Australia, reflects on the repercussions of emotional and spiritual exile, suggesting that its consequences are profound even when it is self-imposed and is not tied to place. The plaque reads:

I know I am the wanderer of the ways of all the worlds,

to whom the sunshine and the rain are one

and one to stay or hasten, because he knows

no ending of the way, no home, no goal

• An Unsafe Haven by Nada Awar Jarrar is published by Borough Press, priced £12.99. It is available from the Guardian bookshop, priced £10.65[https://bookshop.theguardian.com/unsafe-haven.html].

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump’s message resonates in the most forgotten corners of the US, because viewed from these places, America no longer seems a great country

The first voter I heard mention Donald Trump’s name was a mechanic in a small town near my upstate New York home. It was days after Trump announced his run, and I was at the start of a drive across the United States.

The man, like many Trump supporters then, didn’t want his name used or his picture taken. An outraged press was loudly mocking Trump and he was embarrassed. But he was clear why he would vote for Trump. “There’s no American dream for anyone who isn’t a lawyer or banker,” he said. “Everyone else, we are getting a raw deal. **Immigrants** are taking all our jobs.”

As I pressed on, putting over 100,000 miles on my car, I heard a steady and growing crescendo of support for Trump – one that changed from embarrassment to pride.

In the early days of the election, most were like Robert McAdams, 78, of Peru, Nebraska: older whites who had dedicated their lives working in the communities where they were born. He owned a gas station, and spun a long tale of opportunities lost and grievances mostly voiced at government, many of them arcane and petty.

He was obtuse about whom to blame, other than a vague “them”, but he was emphatic about the solution: “We need to get this country straight again.”

While I was hearing a rising euphoria for Trump from many white voters, I was also hearing an equally loud and growing disbelief from the media.

Most journalists ensconced in their New York or Washington offices refused to accept[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/oct/13/liberal-media-bias-working-class-americans] that someone as louche and crass as Trump could appeal to voters. Trump supporters, in many of their minds, were simply dumb or racist, overshadowing any notion that these voters might also have some valid concerns.

As Trump started winning primaries, the outrage and disbelieve increased. I continued my drives around the US and saw a feedback develop: the loud distaste voiced against Trump by who they saw as “the establishment” only added to his appeal.

Florence Johnson, 69, was like that. She was shopping in the Goodwill in Natchitoches, Louisiana, buying a vacuum cleaner and an electrical stuffed parrot (“I have always like birds”). She wasn’t shy about her situation. “I am poor,” she said. She also wasn’t shy about her support for Trump, or why. “Hell yes I am voting for Trump. Tired of politicians. He is putting on a great show, pissing them other bastards off. They deserve it!”

Natchitoches was like many other towns with their share of enthusiastic Trump supporters. It had suffered a devastating economic downturn in the 1970s and 1980s when the cotton gin mills closed. Other than jobs related to the state university, it has since offered little opportunity. Those in town whose lives were not connected to the university lifeline were the Trump voters.

Well, the white people in town. Natchitoches, like the US, has long been divided along racial lines, with black residents confined to a lesser choice of jobs, homes, and schools. And Trump was dividing them further.

Linda Thompson, 54, was shopping in a small store down the road from Florence. She, like every minority voter I talked to, hated Trump. “I would vote for anybody but Trump. He say he ain’t racist, but sure talks that way. From my experience, them are the worst kind.”

Michael Braxton, 50, had returned to Natchitoches after a period in the military. A deeply religious man, he punctuates every sentence with “praise the lord.” “I am for Hillary. Praise the lord. Trump will probably start us another war. Praise the lord. And he is a racist. Praise the lord.”

As months went by, Trump wasn’t just exploiting and expanding white racism; he was also exposing a divide between those with good education, and those without. It was the front row versus the back row.

It became simple: if I wanted to talk to a community overwhelmingly supporting Trump, I would go to a white town or neighborhood nearest the rusting factory surrounded by razor fence.

If I wanted to find Clinton, or Jeb Bush, or even Rubio voters, I would go near a university, or go to the wealthier neighborhoods near tech companies, or near headquarters of global corporations.

America has changed fundamentally over the last 35 years, and I saw and heard the impact of those changes. America had finally started upending a longstanding and ugly racial hierarchy, removing legal barriers that had made the playing field anything but level. For this, minorities overwhelmingly supported the new system, despite still suffering economically and socially more than white Americans.

Yet we replaced that system with one based on schooling, building a playing field that was tilted dramatically towards anyone with the “right” education. The jobs requiring muscle decreased (many going overseas) while the jobs requiring school increased. Compounding the pain from this, we started giving the winners a much larger share of the profits.

The early Trump voters I met were the losers from these changes. Their once superior status – based only on being white – was being dismantled, while their lack of education was also being punished. They lived in towns and communities devastated by economic upheaval. They were born in them and stayed in them, despite their fall. For many, who had focused on their community over career, it felt like their entire world was collapsing.

As Trump gained momentum, as he marched towards the GOP nomination, his message started to resonate with these entire communities – including those that were doing well economically. Many solidly middle-class Americans have friends, relatives, or congregants who are suffering.

More than that, supporting Trump has become a way of showing support for their failing communities. It had become tribal: entire communities were joining the back-row kids.

This was the case in communities like Clarington, Ohio, an all-white town of less than 500 laying in a small break in the hills along the Ohio river.

Lori Ayers, 47, works in the gas station. She was blunt when I asked her about her life. “Clarington is a shithole. Jobs all left. There is nothing here anymore. When Ormet Aluminum factory closed, jobs all disappeared.” She is also blunt about the pain in her life. “I have five kids and two have addictions. There is nothing else for kids to do here but drugs. No jobs. No place to play.”

She stopped and added: “I voted for Obama the first time, not the second. Now I am voting for Trump. We just got to change things.”

I found a similar viewpoint in communities such as West Cleveland: Donna Weaver, 52, is a waitress, and has spent her entire life in her community. “I was born and raised here. I am not happy. Middle class is getting killed; we work for everything and get nothing. I hate both of the candidates, but I would vote for Trump because the Iraq war was a disaster. Why we got to keep invading countries. Time to take care of ourselves first.”

These communities are dealing with lost and changing jobs, which are no longer a sources of pride, but simply about getting by. Life for many has become a constant anxiety over upcoming bills. They are also dealing with social problems that always follow economic loss, such as families broken apart, children struggling with little support, eroded institutions, and substance abuse – a quick salve to either forget or numb the pain.

Compounding the anxiety, and helping to morph it into humiliation, is the false national narrative that the US is a meritocracy where anyone can advance with the right education, and hence failure is because of being dumb or lazy.

But in communities I visit, the right education is often beyond most people. Many residents often fail to go beyond high school, and if they do, it is an education cobbled together by night classes and community colleges, together with a concoction of loans, programs and overwhelming debt.

All of this is humiliating and painful, and has made the perfect setting for populist politics built on blaming minorities and **immigrants**. And that is what Trump has exploited. He has has come into these communities with white identity politics, a message that is both simple and loud: He will make America great again.

It is a message that resonates, because viewed from these places, America no longer seems a great country.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**To get a real feel for the diversity and quirkiness of America, visit its small towns – where fascinating history, regional cuisine and great scenery are just some of the attractions

Winning tip: Helper, Utah

Helper is an old mining town 100 miles or so from Salt Lake City. It had been in decline for years but a steady flow of artists who can’t afford SLC prices are moving in. The old, run-down cinema still displays a poster of the last film shown in the 1960s. Its rich history of **immigration** and mining, plus its Butch Cassidy links, is reflected in the fascinating contents of its antique shops. The residents were pleased and perplexed to have an English couple turn up in town. We heard stories of the town’s past from a retired actor carrying his three white poodles who had moved in a decade ago from LA. He told of the huge increase in the town’s population when miners came down from the mountains at the weekends, the bars and bordellos doing great business. The town is a sort of living museum and anyone interested in American culture would delight in spending time here, chatting with real characters full of stories and legends. Go before this place disappears. It’s authentic and unforgettable.

Pappi

Poulsbo, Washington On the Olympic peninsula 35 minutes by ferry from Seattle, this picturesque little town highlights its Nordic heritage – the town saw a lot of **immigration** from Norway and Finland particularly – while remaining distinctly American. Grab a coffee and a doughnut from Sluys Bakery[http://sluyspoulsbobakery.com/] and head over to the water to see sail boats drift against the backdrop of the 8,000ft Olympic Mountains. A stroll through town reveals numerous galleries and antique shops. Grab some food at Tizley’s[http://www.tizleys.com/] then head over to the Valhöll Brewery[https://www.facebook.com/ValhollBrewing/] to try some excellent local beer. And don’t forget to visit Mora[http://moraicecream.com/mora-ice-cream-locations-2/mora-ice-cream-poulsbo/], voted one of the best ice creameries in the US.

halfpennybuddha

Marfa, Texas

This is the quintessential small Texan town out in the state’s far west. It has a remarkable art scene with several galleries[http://www.visitmarfa.com/arts.php#.WBnSrzaLRdA]. It also has the Marfa Lights. It might be desert gas, locals having a laugh or atmospheric conditions reflecting car lights, but it’s been going on for more than a century. People go out and have fun and wait for them to appear. The town is also relatively close (in Texas terms) to the beautiful 8,000ft Davis mountains.

Lee Franke

Essex, Connecticut

A colonial seaport midway between New York and Boston, Essex embodies every Hollywood cliche about small town New England but does so in the most winning way. There are white clapboard federal-style houses with the Stars and Stripes aflutter, classy boutiques and a corker of a tavern. The Griswold Inn[http://www.griswoldinn.com/], opened in 1776, making it America’s oldest continuously-serving hostelry. It has a collection of firearms on the walls and serves up delights like lobster pot pie. If it all gets a bit cutesy, wander down to the Connecticut river to inspect the boatyards and yachts. George III’s forces attacked in 1814 and torched 28 ships there, but the cheery locals won’t hold it against British visitors.

manofmode

The other Las Vegas, New Mexico

For those interested in the old west, this town (700 miles east of its Nevada namesake) hits the spot. The city museum hosts Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Rider Memorial Collection, full of artefacts from the late 19th century wars in Cuba and beyond. It’s easy to visualise Billy the Kid and Jesse James riding into this town. Bed down at the 1920s Spanish colonial-style El Fidel (doubles from $45, +1 505 425 6761, no website) on Douglas Avenue with ceiling fans and tiled floors that take you to another era. Also on Douglas, drop into Charlie’s Spic and Span[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charlies-Spic-and-Span/205854889429503] for some fine New Mexican food and friendly service.

klokan

Roanoke, Virginia

A quaint town that serves as gateway for some serious hiking and driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway[https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2016/sep/24/blue-ridge-mountains-music-road-trip-virginia-bluegrass-old-time]. Mill Mountain Park offers nice views and lovely trails and a picture by the Roanoke Star at night is a must. There is plenty of stuff to keep you entertained – enjoy some locally roasted coffee at Little Green Hive Coffee & Smoothie Bar[https://www.facebook.com/LittleGreenHive/] or at Sweet Donkey Coffee House[http://www.sweetdonkeycoffee.com/] where pumpkin spice latte is on the menu this fall, and spend the day at Center in the Square[http://www.centerinthesquare.org/] visiting their four museums (including the pinball museum[http://www.roanokepinball.org/] ), the Mill Mountain Theatre and the shops and restaurants around the venue. The lovely Historic Roanoke City Market[http://www.downtownroanoke.org/explore/city-market] is open every day and is a foodie delight.

cheesecake79

Beaufort, South Carolina

A stay at the luxurious Rhett House Inn[http://www.rhetthouseinn.com/] (doubles from $219 B&B), epitomises the glamour of Gone with the Wind. The surrounding streets are lined with grand antebellum mansions shaded by mature oaks dripping with Spanish moss. Strictly speaking, it feels as though we should be over the state line in Georgia but Beaufort is a willing stand-in: much of Forrest Gump was filmed here instead of Alabama. The town, which is on low-lying Port Royal island, was also the setting for The Big Chill movie. The town’s Old Point historic district is a delight; we took a carriage ride with the Sea Island Carriage Company[http://www.seaislandcarriagecompany.com/] and visited the town’s delightful art galleries before chowing down at a waterfront eateries on Bay Street.

Julia Hammond Johnson

Boulder City, Nevada

Built in 1931 to re-house workers on the nearby Hoover Dam from their tented slums, this small town is only a dice roll from Vegas. The Boulder Dam Museum[http://www.bcmha.org/] (entry $2) focuses on the social and human cost of that engineering marvel (and is curated by the son of a former Ragtown inhabitant). It is located in the elegant, colonial Boulder Dam Hotel[http://www.boulderdamhotel.com/] (doubles from $80 B&B), built in 1933 to accommodate VIPs visiting the dam construction site. Bronze statues adorn the quaint streets, depicting the history of this sympathetically planned settlement where spacious parks were integral in providing recreational opportunities for its first citizens. Casino-free, it’s a genteel and friendly antidote to Sin City.

rja123

Shipshewana, Indiana

This fascinating town is halfway between Detroit and Chicago, making it a perfect stopover on a road trip. This small town with a population of around 700 people offers a fascinating insight into an alternative strand of American culture: the Amish. The Menno-Hof Amish and Mennonite Centre[http://www.mennohof.org/] is the best place to start your visit; guided tours allowing an insight into the culture of the town and its people. A subsequent horse carriage tour around town will let you sit back and learn more about the workings of the place. The bakeries are filled with fresh cinnamon-rolls and the flea market every Wednesday presents a fine array of Americana memorabilia.

ID7840980

Guerneville, California

About 90 minutes’ drive north of San Francisco, you’ll find the laid back town of Guerneville. Charmingly rustic, but with a wonderful food and wine scene thanks to it’s Sonoma county location, since the 1970s the town has become a welcoming resort for the LGBT community. At its heart is the Russian river, with canoes, kayaks, umbrellas and beach chairs available for rent. Check out the excellent bistro Boon Eat + Drink[http://eatatboon.com/], featuring a menu using local, fresh, seasonal ingredients.

Darina1983

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**FTSE 100 hits one month low as sterling strengthens following polling data putting Donald Trump narrowly ahead of Hillary ClintonFed keeps US rates on hold but hints at December hikeOil slides as US crude stocks surge Sterling jumps but FTSE 100 downMoody’s warns of Brexit downgrade risksJD Wetherspoon threatens to drop European drinks over Brexit rowAnalyst: ‘Early stages of panic’ about Trump victory

block-time published-time 6.29pm GMT

But it is not a given that the Fed will hike in December, says economist James Knightley at ING Bank:

There is little in the statement to suggest that a December hike is definitely going to happen (markets currently pricing in a 67% chance of a move). The statement comments that ”the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has continued to strengthen” while adding the word “some” to the line that it wants to “wait for SOME further evidence of continued progress towards its objectives”. This all suggests that things are moving in the right direction, but the Presidential election is an obvious reason for waiting.

Assuming Clinton wins, markets are likely to react with relief given expectations of policy continuity. This, coupled with the reasonably firm growth, rising employment and a gradual pick-up in inflation should reinforce market expectations for a December rate hike. Should Trump win then this is likely to hurt market sentiment given uncertainty as to what he will actually do when in power. It is hard to imagine the Fed hiking in this environment. We also have plenty more data to come ahead of the December 14 FOMC meeting, including two more job reports so there are other reasons for caution.

The Fed statement has failed to give much support to the dollar, and US markets have struggled for direction after the news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is now down 33 points, compared to around 70 ahead of the statement. The US dollar index has lost 0.3% to 97.38.

On that note, it’s time to close for the evening. Thanks for all your comments, and we’ll be back tomorrow.

block-time published-time 6.26pm GMT

enltr #Fed[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Fed?src=hash] #FOMC[https://twitter.com/hashtag/FOMC?src=hash] statement: US #economy[https://twitter.com/hashtag/economy?src=hash] chugging along, #inflation[https://twitter.com/hashtag/inflation?src=hash] & expectations rising, only need a little more progress: #December[https://twitter.com/hashtag/December?src=hash] #ratehike[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ratehike?src=hash]

— Gregory Daco (@GregDaco) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/GregDaco/status/793878361986793509]block-time published-time 6.16pm GMT

enltrNo alarms and no surprises. Fed leaves rates unchanged but hihts st hike in December. Uber-hawks George and Mester dissent. Wanted hike now.

— Paul R. La Monica (@LaMonicaBuzz) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/LaMonicaBuzz/status/793876400642088960]enltr #FOMC[https://twitter.com/hashtag/FOMC?src=hash] "judges that the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has continued to strengthen"; #Fed[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Fed?src=hash] remains on track for Dec rate hike

— Joseph A. LaVorgna (@Lavorgnanomics) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Lavorgnanomics/status/793879869205733377]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.21pm GMT

block-time published-time 6.10pm GMT

Although there was no rate change today, it looks increasingly likely there will be one in December. Paul Sirani, chief market analyst at Xtrade, said:

With just days to go before election fever sweeps America, Janet Yellen’s Federal Interest Rate statement held no shocks with rates remaining the same.

However, it’s becoming ever more likely that Yellen will implement a raise early next month following signs that the American economy is gradually picking up steam.

She made clear in September that a rise before the end of 2016 was more than likely and with employment and inflation continuing to strengthen the central bank may get its wish.

block-time published-time 6.07pm GMT

The Fed has dropped a reference to inflation remaining low in the near term.

In September it said:

Inflation is expected to remain low in the near term, in part because of earlier declines in energy prices, but to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of past declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further.

This now reads:

Inflation is expected to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of past declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further.

block-time published-time 6.04pm GMT

The Fed said in its statement[http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/monetary/20161102a.htm] :

The Committee expects that, with gradual adjustments in the stance of monetary policy, economic activity will expand at a moderate pace and labor market conditions will strengthen somewhat further. Inflation is expected to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of past declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further. Near-term risks to the economic outlook appear roughly balanced. The Committee continues to closely monitor inflation indicators and global economic and financial developments.

Against this backdrop, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 1/4 to 1/2 percent. The Committee judges that the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has continued to strengthen but decided, for the time being, to wait for some further evidence of continued progress toward its objectives. The stance of monetary policy remains accommodative, thereby supporting further improvement in labor market conditions and a return to 2 percent inflation.

block-time published-time 6.02pm GMT

This time there were only two Fed dissenters who wanted to raise rates not three, Esther George and Loretta Mester.

Eric Rosengren, who voted for a rise last time, has now sided with the majority.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.15pm GMT

block-time published-time 6.00pm GMT

Federal Reserve leaves US rates unchanged BREAKING NEWS

To no one’s great surprise, the Federal Reserve has opted to leave US interest rates unchanged just days ahead of the presidential election.

It said it was waiting for further evidence of progress towards its objectives before hiking.

block-time published-time 5.54pm GMT

enltrAwaiting any subtle change in #FOMC[https://twitter.com/hashtag/FOMC?src=hash] language to hint towards Dec hike... look out for "next meeting" or "further strengthened"

— Anthony Cheung (@AWMCheung) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/AWMCheung/status/793873322211696640]block-time published-time 5.10pm GMT

The US Federal Reserve’s interest rate decision will be released in less than an hour.

While most commentators expect there to be no change - not this close to the presidential election - the prospect of a rate rise in December is thought to be reasonably likely, given the recent reassuring US economic data.

There is likely to be a focus - as usual - on the exact wording of the Fed statement and whether it shows any changes from the September comments. At that meeting seven of the Fed members voted for no change, with three, Esther George, Loretta Mester, and Eric Rosengren, backing an increase. Any variance here could also give a clue to the likely outcome in December.

block-time published-time 4.59pm GMT

European markets hit by US election fears Investors have been unnerved by suggestions that Donald Trump is gaining ground in the US presidential race, with one poll this week even showing him in the lead over Hillary Clinton. Combined with a slump in oil prices following a record weekly rise in US crude stocks, this has pushed markets in Europe sharply lower.

But on Wall Street the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which lost 100 points or so on Tuesday, has not been hit as badly (so far), and is currently down just 20 points ahead of the latest US Federal Reserve interest rate decision.

Meanwhile the Vix index of volatility, seen as a gauge of investor fears, is up 3% to 19. When Clinton looked a shoo-in to win, the index was hovering around 13. But despite this recent rise, it is still well below the 25 level it reached after the Brexit vote in June. Jasper Lawler, market analyst at CMC Markets, said:

Less than a week out from the US election and markets are demonstrating both complacency and a palpable fear at the same time. A surge in the VIX index shows volatility is on the rise and investors are hedging equity exposure with safe havens like gold and government bonds. But at the same time equity benchmarks are only modestly down, showing an overriding comfort in owning stocks.

The VIX is up over 40% in the last seven days, reaching above 18, a level in which many investors sit up and pay attention to signs of heightened risk in the market. Over that same period the FTSE 100 and S&P 500 are down 2-3%.

There is still a general perception that Hillary Clinton will take the White House, but the surprise Brexit result is fresh in minds of investors and they are buying gold and VIX index tracking products to hedge their bets.

The final scores in Europe showed:

\* The FTSE 100 fell 71.72 points or 1.04% to 6845.42, its lowest level since 27 September

\* Germany’s Dax dropped 1.47% to 10,370.93

\* France’s Cac closed down 1.24% at 4414.67

\* Italy’s FTSE MIB finished 2.51% lower at 16,474.52

\* Spain’s Ibex ended down 1.85% at 8873.4

\* In Greece, the Athens market dipped 0.15% to 581.56.

block-time published-time 4.12pm GMT

Ahead of the US Federal Reserve interest rate decision in a couple of hours and the Bank of England meeting tomorrow, the dollar continues to weaken against the pound.

Jitters about the prospect of Donald Trump winning the White House have sent the US currency lower, to the benefit of sterling which is now up 0.57% at $1.2313, a three week high.

The pound is not faring so well against the euro but nor is it losing ground, being pretty much unchanged at €1.1078.

block-time published-time 3.52pm GMT

Back with oil:

enltrBack to Algiers #Brent[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Brent?src=hash] and #WTI[https://twitter.com/hashtag/WTI?src=hash] crude #oil[https://twitter.com/hashtag/oil?src=hash] have now lost all gains made after #OPEC[https://twitter.com/hashtag/OPEC?src=hash] agreed output limits with other producers Sept 28 #OOTT[https://twitter.com/hashtag/OOTT?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/xb3NZzdBKN[https://t.co/xb3NZzdBKN]

— Christopher Johnson (@chris1reuters) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/chris1reuters/status/793836490023460865]block-time published-time 3.48pm GMT

Global manufacturing grew at the fastest rate for two years in October, according to data from purchasing managers surveys in more than 30 countries.

The JP Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI, compiled by Markit, rose to 52 in October form 51 the previous month, its highest since October 2014. Markit said the surveys hinted at “ a welcome resurgence of life in the world’s factories at the start of the fourth quarter. Inflationary pressures also picked up to the highest for nearly three years.”

It said the data were roughly consistent with global manufacturing output rising at a reasonable 4% annual pace.

enltrGlobal #manufacturing[https://twitter.com/hashtag/manufacturing?src=hash] growth hit a two-year high in October https://t.co/qTuXC8F9vq[https://t.co/qTuXC8F9vq] pic.twitter.com/YYWjzDUxFw[https://t.co/YYWjzDUxFw]

— Chris Williamson (@WilliamsonChris) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/WilliamsonChris/status/793839768828317697]block-time published-time 3.08pm GMT

With investors spooked by the prospect of Donald Trump possibly winning the US election, not to mention the plunge in oil prices following the jump in US crude stocks, markets remain under pressure.

The FTSE 100 is currently down 0.9%, Germany’s Dax has dropped 1.2% and France’s Cac has lost 1.1%.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has not been so badly hit and is currently 0.2% lower.

That could mean that investors are not necessarily convinced by polls showing Trump in the lead. Kathleen Brooks, research director at City Index, said:

The markets are not in full on panic mode right now, suggesting that they still think Clinton could clinch a win next week. This is reflected in the Vix volatility index, which is considered a fear gauge for Wall Street. Even though it has risen in recent days it is still below 20%, to put this in context, after the Brexit vote in June volatility spiked above 25%.

Global stock markets are generally lower on Wednesday, but US markets have outperformed their European counterparts even with 6 days to go before the US election. Interestingly, the Dow Jones Transport Index, considered a lead indicator for Wall Street, is higher today. Considering a Trump presidency is considered the worst outcome for the US economy, the fact that this index has not fallen further on the back of the bad poll news for the Clinton camp, suggests that the US equity market may not sell off sharply until volatility spikes further, or until the actual result is confirmed.

But the other potentially market moving event is the US Federal Reserve interest rate announcement later. Brooks said:

The market is expecting a 14% chance of a hike tonight. If the Fed does hike, that would throw the cat among the pigeons, and we could see a steeper sell off in equities, a rally in bond yields and a broad-based recovery in the dollar.

However, in our view the bigger risk from today’s meeting could be a dovish slant from the Federal Reserve, who may not want to commit to a rate hike until the election result is confirmed. Although the Fed is expected to be politically neutral, a potential market sell-off on the back of a win for Trump next week could put the prospect of a December rate hike to bed for the Fed. Added to this, the Fed chair and vice chair have given speeches with fairly dovish slants in recent weeks, so a sell-off in the dollar on Wednesday could be in advance of a dovish “shock” from the Fed later on today.

block-time published-time 2.48pm GMT

enltr$50 fading fast. Brent crude oil -12% in the last two weeks, U.S. crude -13%.

— Jamie McGeever (@ReutersJamie) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/ReutersJamie/status/793825218724782080]block-time published-time 2.43pm GMT

Crude slumps as US oil stocks surge Oil prices are under pressure again after a much bigger than expected rise in US crude stocks.

Last week, crude stocks rose 14.42m barrels to 482.58m compared to expectations of an increase of just 1m barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration. This is the highest weekly build on record. Last week there was a 0.55m fall in oil stocks.

Gasoline stocks fell by 2.21m barrels, higher than the 1.9m drop expected.

A rise in stocks reported by the American Petroleum Institute on Tuesday had already signalled a jump in the EIA figures was possible:

enltrAPI +9M last night meant a big EIA build was possible. They don't exactly mirror, but direction + magnitude has proved quite reliable lately

— Mike van Dulken (@Accendo\_Mike) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Accendo\_Mike/status/793823384287272960]With the build in stocks signalling oversupply and falling demand, Brent crude is on the slide, down 2.89% to $46.75 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate - the US benchmark - has dropped 3.2% to $45.15.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.14pm GMT

block-time published-time 2.36pm GMT

Time for a quick recap.

World markets are falling back today, as investors get a bad case of pre-US election jitters.[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819e63fe4b0d073c27d0a98#block-5819e63fe4b0d073c27d0a98] Britain’s FTSE 100 has hit its lowest level since the end of September, while the pound has popped over $1.23 for the first time in three weeks.

The FTSE 100 this lunchtime Photograph: Thomson Reuters Moody’s has warned that the UK will be downgraded if it loses ‘core’ access to the EU single market after Brexit.[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963#block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963] The credit rating agency says growth will suffer if British firms lose their current access:

One scenario that Moody’s considers to be realistic is a series of accords offering access to the EU market for goods and more constrained access for services, in particular financial services. However, such an outcome is far from certain.

Alastair Darling, the former UK chancellor, says there is an ‘urgent need’ for Britain and the EU to hold grown-up talks about the situation[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819bd18e4b029b92ca44a71#block-5819bd18e4b029b92ca44a71] .

But UK drinkers may find themselves struggling to find a pint of foreign beer in their local Wetherspoons.[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819c073e4b0d073c27d09a8#block-5819c073e4b0d073c27d09a8] Chairman Tim Martin says he’ll take steps if Brussels keeps ‘bullying’ the UK.

A UK court will rule tomorrow on whether Theresa May trigger article 50 and begin the Brexit process without MPs voting on the issue. Set your alarm for 10am GMT!

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.41pm GMT

block-time published-time 1.49pm GMT

Nervous investors have just pushed the gold price up to a new one-month high,at $1,300.91 per ounce.

enltrGold > 1300

— RANsquawk (@RANsquawk) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/RANsquawk/status/793811917995409408]block-time published-time 1.45pm GMT

Markets still dogged by US election jitters Moody’s warning that Britain’s credit rating is vulnerable[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963#block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963] hasn’t improved the mood in the City.

The FTSE 100 is still hovering at a one-month low, down 32 points at 6884. The other European markets are also in the red, down around 0.8%, leaving the Stoxx 600 index at its lowest since July.

And shares are also dropping on Wall Street at the start of trading:

enltrDOW JONES DOWN 40.47 POINTS, OR 0.22 PERCENT, AT 17,996.63 AFTER MARKET OPEN

— Hartswell Capital (@hartswellcap) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/hartswellcap/status/793808311132893185]Investors are still worrying about t hat opinion poll[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/01/donald-trump-polls-lead-hillary-clinton-campaign], putting Donald Trump narrowly ahead of Hillary Clinton.

So the dollar remains under pressure , keeping the pound up over the $1.23 mark for the first time in two weeks.

Chris Saint, senior analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown currency service, says:

The dollar is broadly lower ahead of tonight’s Federal Reserve interest rate decision, with US election anxieties returning to the fore after Clinton’s lead over Trump in the polls has evaporated following the new FBI probe into her personal email use.

enltrStocks, dollar and oil down. Bonds, gold and Swiss franc up as rising chances of a Trump victory rattle investors. https://t.co/ftXDrljW4x[https://t.co/ftXDrljW4x]

— Jamie McGeever (@ReutersJamie) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/ReutersJamie/status/793801947518275584] Joshua Mahony, market analyst at IG, says investors are suddenly considering that Trump has a real chance of victory, following the FBI’s new probe into Clinton’s emails.

Global stock markets are lower this morning, as US election fears dominate, despite a week’s worth of top tier data to contend with. The sudden change in fortunes set in train on Friday has seen investors run for cover amid a realisation that Trump might actually win.

Here’s our latest report from the US campaign trail.

Related: 'D?on’t get distracted, don’t get diverted': Hillary Clinton pulls out all the stops in Florida[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/02/dont-get-distracted-dont-get-diverted-hillary-clinton-pulls-out-all-the-stops-in-florida]

block-time published-time 1.30pm GMT

Here’s our news story about Moody’s Brexit warning, plus some other developments:

Related: Moody's warns of UK credit rating downgrade[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/nov/02/moodys-warns-uk-credit-rating-downgrade-brexit]

Related: Next cuts sales forecast after tough third quarter[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/nov/02/next-cuts-sales-forecast-after-tough-third-quarter]

Related: Just Eat drops 3% as UK order growth slows[https://www.theguardian.com/business/marketforceslive/2016/nov/02/just-eat-drops-3-as-uk-order-growth-slows]

block-time published-time 12.56pm GMT

A new survey of US employment has come in weaker than expected.

The monthly ADP survey shows that US companies created 147,000 new jobs in October, shy of the 165,000 which economists expected.

The construction sector saw a sharp drop in employment, down 15,000.

enltrBiggest drop in ADP's data on U.S. construction employment last month since Dec. 2010 pic.twitter.com/aTWh1YuVO4[https://t.co/aTWh1YuVO4]

— Matthew B (@boes\_) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/boes\_/status/793790123930480643]This may suggest that Friday’s non-farm payroll - the main measure of US employment -- will be weak.....

block-time published-time 12.38pm GMT

We’ve also seen signs today that Britain’s housing market may be slowing.

First, Nationwide reported that prices stalled last month - ending a 15 month run of rising prices.

Robert Gardner, chief economist at Nationwide, says the market seems “fairly subdued”.

Related: House price growth at a standstill in October, says Nationwide[https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/nov/02/house-price-growth-nationwide]

Second.. data firm Markit’s latest survey of the building sector painted a mixed picture.

The construction PMI (which tracks activity) rose to 52.6 from 52.3, which shows business activity increases at fastest pace since March.

But...new order growth slowed, and business confidence dipped sharply to its second-lowest level since May 2013.

Markit says it’s partly due to the EU referendum.

A number of survey respondents cited the impact of Brexit uncertainty on investor sentiment, alongside reduced confidence towards the general economic outlook.

block-time published-time 12.03pm GMT

Ireland’s leader, Enda Kenny, has warned that negotiations between EU states over Britain’s exit from Europe “could turn vicious.”

Speaking at a Brexit conference in Dublin, Kenny said he and Theresa May are both committed to avoiding a new border being built between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Kenny said:

Neither I, nor the prime minister, desire to limit the freedom of people on both sides of the Irish sea to trade, live, work and travel freely across these islands.

And he also hinted at the tensions already developing between London and the rest of the EU:

If you go to Downing Street, if you drop in there it’s fine, but sometimes when friends call they can overstay their welcome.

Our Politics Live blog has all the details:

Related: May and Corbyn at PMQs - Politics live[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/blog/live/2016/nov/02/pmqs-may-corbyn-chilcot-hammond-to-adopt-flexible-fiscal-targets-in-autumn-statement-politics-live]

block-time published-time 11.59am GMT

Heads-up: Bloomberg’s legal correspondent says the high court will rule tomorrow morning whether article 50 can be triggered without a parliamentary vote:

enltrConfirmed: Brexit Art 50 ruling to come at 10am tomorrow morning.

— Patrick Gower (@PatrickGower) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/PatrickGower/status/793783083975733249]block-time published-time 11.42am GMT

Pound hits $1.23 Kerching! The pound just hit $1.23 for the first time in two weeks.

Sterling has now gained one and a half-cents since Monday morning, partly due to relief that Mark Carney will stay as Bank of England governor until June 2019.

Today’s rally is mainly due to fears over the US election ( as covered earlier[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819a3bee4b0d073c27d093b#block-5819a3bee4b0d073c27d093b] ), which have sent the dollar down against the yen, the euro and the Swiss franc as well.

enltrSterling is turning the tables on the dollar. It's up for a 4th day as the U.S. tussles with its own political risks https://t.co/CiroedE1Gf[https://t.co/CiroedE1Gf] pic.twitter.com/KzCgfrv5FZ[https://t.co/KzCgfrv5FZ]

— David Goodman (@\_DavidGoodman) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/\_DavidGoodman/status/793767867103797248]enltrThe ultimate ignominy https://t.co/HE0zQ6xg2u[https://t.co/HE0zQ6xg2u]

— Joe Weisenthal (@TheStalwart) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/TheStalwart/status/793768009974317056]block-time published-time 11.32am GMT

Moody’s new report on the consequences of the EU referendum is only available to its customers, but there’s a summary here:

Moody’s: UK sovereign rating would be downgraded if the UK was unable to conclude an agreement with the EU that protected core elements of its access to the Single Market[https://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-UK-sovereign-rating-would-be-downgraded-if-the-UK--PR\_357447]The rating agency also has bad news for Remain supporters who are hoping that Brexit might not happen:

In Moody’s view, there is little likelihood that the UK will not exit the EU.

enltrMoody's: UK rating would be downgraded if the UK didn't protect core elements of its access to the Single Market https://t.co/TRSJroxusN[https://t.co/TRSJroxusN]

— Livesquawk (@Livesquawk) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Livesquawk/status/793734139329581056]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.51am GMT

block-time published-time 11.13am GMT

The prospect of Wetherspoon’s ditching European drinks brands in a Brexit protest[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819c073e4b0d073c27d09a8#block-5819c073e4b0d073c27d09a8] has caused quite a stir.

Historian Greg Jenner was reminded of the great Gin Craze that gripped Britain three hundred years ago[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gin\_Craze], when the UK tried to restrict imports of French brandy in favour of British gin.

It backfired, though, once Britons developed quite a thirst for it.

enltrThis is how the 18th century Gin Crisis happened - we hated the Dutch/French, deregulated domestic distilleries, and CATASTROPHE FOLLOWED. https://t.co/ODNAp2lFIx[https://t.co/ODNAp2lFIx]

— Greg Jenner (@greg\_jenner) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/greg\_jenner/status/793764687359930368]Journalist Rupert Myers suggests such a move might backfire on ‘Spoon:

enltrA rare Brexit move likely to be popular with almost everyone, since it will also surely harm his pub chain https://t.co/LYTyi9olC3[https://t.co/LYTyi9olC3]

— Rupert Myers (@RupertMyers) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/RupertMyers/status/793766796767727616] Juho Romakkaniemi[https://twitter.com/Romakka], head of cabinet to EC vice-president Jyrki Katainen, has criticised the idea.

enltrThe force is not strong with this one. https://t.co/4TKCbie4Et[https://t.co/4TKCbie4Et]

— Juho Romakkaniemi (@Romakka) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Romakka/status/793759769148399616]Some people have even suggested that it sounds like a skit from The Pub Landlord, Al Murray’s satirical character.

And it soon might be....

enltrHang on just need to write this down https://t.co/hf8k4xngc3[https://t.co/hf8k4xngc3]

— Al Murray the318 (@almurray) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/almurray/status/793764035858690048]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.26am GMT

block-time published-time 10.45am GMT

Darling: We need Brexit clarity now Alastair Darling, the former chancellor of the exchequer, says Theresa May urgently needs to give clarity about the sort of Brexit deal she wants.

Speaking a moment ago, Lord Darling says the prime minister needs to spell out her plans, so a “grown-up conversation” can take place with Brussels. That would help Britain to fulfil June’s referendum while limiting the long-term economic damage of Brexit, he argues.

Darling told Bloomberg TV that:

The referendum decision is the biggest single challenge facing the UK arguably since the end of the Second World War.

Darling points out that Nissan, the Japanese car maker, has received assurances from May which gave it the confidence to build two new models at its Sunderland plant.

That could indicate that May wants Britain to remain part of the single market, and the customs union, Darling adds - but is that just for the auto sector? What about the banks, who rely on passporting to offer services across the EU?

We’ve got to salvage as much as we can so we don’t disrupt trade and damage the UK’s long-term growth prospects.

It’s a pertinent point, given Moody’s warning earlier today[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963#block-5819af7fe4b0d073c27d0963].

Darling argues that the government cannot “segregate out” the UK economy, dealing with some concerns immediately (eg Nissan) and leaving other sectors in the dark for a couple of years.

“The one things all businesses don’t like is uncertainty”

Darling, who was Britain’s finance minister during the 2008 crisis, says that both sides have to “recognise the new reality, and get on with it.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.43pm GMT

block-time published-time 10.36am GMT

The boss of pub chain JD Wetherspoon has weighed in on Brexit this morning, threatening to ditch European drinks brands unless EU leaders stop “bullying” Britain.

Tim Martin is not happy that European Commission chief Jean Claude Juncker, French President Francois Hollande and German chancellor Angela Merkel have all said Britain should pay a high price for leaving the EU[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/08/eu-leaders-line-up-to-insist-uk-will-pay-a-high-price-for-brexit-stance].

He told the Guardian this morning that he’s prepared to throw out foreign drinks brands, and replace them with British alternatives.

“I don’t think Wetherspoon or British buyers are in a weak position because we can switch from Swedish cider to British cider. So the people put in a weak position are the sellers and I think that is the paradox that has not been illustrated.

The UK is in a much more powerful position than most economists would assume.”

Martin (who was in favour of leaving the EU) also suggested the UK consumers could vote with their wallets and shun French champagne and German beer.

Related: Wetherspoon's boss: we could drop European brands over Brexit bullying[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/nov/02/wetherspoon-boss-eu-leaders-brexit-talks-tim-martin]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.19am GMT

block-time published-time 9.50am GMT

Moody’s is also concerned that the UK government might wilt under the pressure of exiting the European Union, leading investors to lose faith in Britain’s fiscal credibility.

Kathrin Muehlbronner says:

The UK will have to handle multiple, complicated policy decisions in areas including global trade, **immigration** and regulation.

Given the magnitude and complexity of these decisions, the risk is material that some might damage the UK’s economic or fiscal strength.

block-time published-time 9.36am GMT

Moody's: We'll downgrade UK if it gets a poor Brexit deal NEWSFLASH: Britain could suffer another credit rating downgrade if Theresa May fails to get a decent Brexit deal from Europe.

In a new report, Moody’s says that it would slash Britain’s credit rating if UK companies lose ‘core access’ to the single market.

It believes the terms at which Britain can trade with the rest of Europe after Brexit are crucial to the country’s long-term prosperity.

Kathrin Muehlbronner, senior vice-president at Moody’s Investors Service, says :

“We would downgrade the UK’s sovereign rating if the outcome of the negotiations with the EU was a loss of access to the Single Market as this would materially damage its medium-term growth prospects.

A second trigger for a downgrade would be if we were to conclude that the credibility of the UK’s fiscal policy had been tarnished as a result of Brexit or other reasons.”

enltrMoody's will downgrade UK sovereign rating if Brexit leads to loss of access to EU single market as this would materially damage growth.

— Simon Nixon (@Simon\_Nixon) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Simon\_Nixon/status/793739118538784768]Moody’s singles out the ‘passporting’ currently enjoyed by the City, which allow banks in London to offer services across the EU. If these rights are lost, then it would be ‘credit negative’ for the UK banking sector’s rating, but not enough to prompt a downgrade.

Moody’s currently rates the UK as Aa1, which is the second-highest rating. It downgraded the outlook on 24th June[https://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-changes-outlook-on-UK-sovereign-rating-to-negative-from--PR\_350566], in the immediate aftermath of the EU referendum.

In the report, Moody’s predicts that the UK will carve out “some form of free trade agreement with the EU”.

One scenario that Moody’s considers to be realistic is a series of accords offering access to the EU market for goods and more constrained access for services, in particular financial services. However, such an outcome is far from certain.

Theresa May has said she intends to get the “maximum possible access to the single market”, while also bringing in new controls on **immigration**.

However, European politicians have warned that they’re not prepared to sacrifice the ‘four freedoms’ - free movement of labour, capital, goods and services.

And yesterday, an influential European MEP warned that Britain can’t agree a new trade deal until it has left the EU.

Danuta Hübner, a former Polish minister who became the country’s first European commissioner, told the Guardian:

“Formally you cannot conclude or even negotiate the agreement that belongs to a third-country situation while you are still a member. Article 50 is only about withdrawal and only when you are out can [you] negotiate another agreement.

Related: Liam Fox's attempt to secure pre-Brexit deal with EU suffers setback[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/nov/01/liam-fox-pre-brexit-deal-setback-european-union]

Here are the key points from Moody’s report:

\* Moody’s would downgrade the UK’s rating if we were to conclude that the UK’s loss of access to the Single Market would materially weaken medium-term growth.

\* A second driver for the UK rating will be the fiscal outlook, on which we expect to obtain significantly more clarity with the upcoming Autumn Statement, scheduled for 23 November.

\* A wide-ranging Free Trade Agreement which would limit the negative impact of Brexit on growth remains a plausible but not certain outcome.

\* Moody’s negative outlook for the UK banking system reflects Brexit-induced uncertainties, which are exerting pressure on the revenues, asset quality and profitability of all UK banks, although some are more resilient to such strains than others.

\* Brexit-related loss of “passporting” rights for UK banks that operate across jurisdictions would be credit negative but manageable. The resulting higher costs and reduced inefficiencies are not sufficient to pressure the ratings.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.21am GMT

block-time published-time 9.23am GMT

Conner Campbell of SpreadEx sums up a nervous morning in the City:

A fresh batch of pre-US election jitters has swept the markets this morning, investors fretting over news that Trump has taken the lead in a national poll.

While Clinton is still ahead in the majority of surveys, the fact that the orange-faced Republican nominee has clawed his way back to being a potential victor in the aftermath of the FBI email scandal has sent a wave of fear through first the Asian markets[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-58199602e4b07ceadb3a1833#block-58199602e4b07ceadb3a1833], and now the European open.

While that means the FTSE has dropped 30 points, taking it under 6900 for the first time in over a month,[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/nov/02/us-election-uncertainty-stock-markets-uk-construction-federal-reserve-live?page=with:block-58199e01e4b0d073c27d0927#block-58199e01e4b0d073c27d0927] with the DAX and CAC also shedding 0.6% apiece, it has led to a moment of respite for the pound, which rose back above 1.22 against the weakened dollar.

European stock markets have all suffered losses this morning Photograph: Thomson Reuters block-time published-time 9.17am GMT

Some good news amid the gloom. The eurozone’s factory sector has posted its fastest growth in nearly three years.

That’s via data firm Markit, which reports that growth picked up across the region (apart from in poor old Greece, which suffered a contraction).

enltr #Eurozone[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Eurozone?src=hash] manufacturing expansion gathers momentum in October as #PMI[https://twitter.com/hashtag/PMI?src=hash] rises to 33-month high of 53.5 (Sep: 52.6) https://t.co/8VUYWuwW4H[https://t.co/8VUYWuwW4H] pic.twitter.com/UtMGlXVEWK[https://t.co/UtMGlXVEWK]

— Markit Economics (@MarkitEconomics) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/MarkitEconomics/status/793739981730803712]block-time published-time 9.10am GMT

US dollar gets a hammering The US dollar is having a bad morning, allowing the British pound some relief.

Sterling has hit a two-week high of $1.227 this morning, as US election worries trump (ahem) Brexit fears.

The pound vs US dollar over the last two months Photograph: Thomson Reuters The dollar has also clattered to a three week low against the euro, a one-month low against the Swiss franc, and a two-week low against the Japanese yen.

However, the US dollar has gained against emerging market currencies - such as the Mexican peso.

Kit Juckes, currency expert of Societe Generale, says investors may struggle to work out the market implications of a Republican win next week:

It’s easy to see Trump as ‘bad’ for Mexico in particular and for US trade-dependent economies in general but there are limits to what a President can legislate. This isn’t like the UK’s EU referendum, where the potential medium-term economic damage of leaving the single market is much clearer.

However, with less than a week to go, market opinion is coming to the conclusion that a Trump win would create too much uncertainty and is bad for risk sentiment generally.

block-time published-time 8.56am GMT

The odds on Donald Trump becoming the most powerful man in the world have narrowed recently, but he’s still only a 27% shot at Betfair.

enltrLatest Betfair betting on Trump Clinton pic.twitter.com/yqUJYUhFOk[https://t.co/yqUJYUhFOk]

— Mike Smithson (@MSmithsonPB) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/MSmithsonPB/status/793735601057099776]However, you might remember that the Remain campaign had a healthy lead on 23 June, and we all know what happened next.

block-time published-time 8.48am GMT

Investors take cover in safe-haven government debt Nervous investors are selling shares, and putting the money into government debt this morning, in another sign of Trump-related jitters.

That’s driving up prices, and cutting the interest rate on the bonds.

Reuters has the details:

British government bond prices jumped on Wednesday, tracking U.S. and German debt prices higher as markets reacted to increased uncertainty about next week’s U.S. presidential election.

Ten-year gilt yields dropped more than 8 basis points on the day to a six-day low of 1.197%, while two-year yields fell nearly 6 basis points to 0.207%, their lowest since Oct. 21.

The move in gilts and many other European government bonds followed a similar fall in U.S. Treasury yields as investors started to rethink their long-held bets of a victory for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton on signs her Republican rival Donald Trump could be closing the gap.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.16am GMT

block-time published-time 8.37am GMT

FXTM Chief Market Strategist Hussein Sayed reckons markets are in the “early stages of panic” about next week’s election.

Investors are dumping risk assets this morning as latest ABC News/Washington Post tracking polls showed Trump ahead of Clinton for the first time[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/01/donald-trump-polls-lead-hillary-clinton-campaign]. Trump’s odds for winning the U.S. elections increased after the FBI reopened its investigation into Hillary Clinton’s use of a private server and he will maximise his leverage on the case with less than a week remaining to the election date.

Most major Asian equity indices fell by more than 1%, as Wall Street’s fear index “VIX” soared above 20 levels for the first time since September 12. The Mexican peso which has become the popular election proxy also fell this morning, declining by more than 4.3% for the past six trading days.

And with the dollar weakening, Sayed expects a “a roller coaster ride for the next couple of days”.

The post Brexit vote market reaction is still fresh in investors’ memory and no one wants to be caught on the wrong side of the trade, it will only take another one or two polls showing a Trump lead to boost markets anxiety and thus a steep sell off in equity markets and high beta currencies.

This chart shows how the FTSE 100 hit one-month low this morning Photograph: Thomson Reuters block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.48am GMT

block-time published-time 8.32am GMT

Europe’s Stoxx 600 index, which includes the 600 largest companies across the region, has hit its lowest level since 11 July.

block-time published-time 8.28am GMT

Every one of the main European stock market sectors is falling this morning, led by the banks:

enltrSays it al... #riskoff[https://twitter.com/hashtag/riskoff?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/LuoW9DqZWA[https://t.co/LuoW9DqZWA]

— Caroline Hyde (@CarolineHydeTV) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/CarolineHydeTV/status/793726100883050496]block-time published-time 8.20am GMT

FTSE 100 hits one-month low European stock markets have opened in the red, as US election angst hits the City.

The FTSE 100 shed 40 points at the open, or 0.6%, to 6875. That’s its lowest level since 30 September.

Across the channel, shares are falling too. Germany’s DAX lost 0.8%, France’s CAC dropped 0.7%, Spain’s IBEX shed 0.9%, and the Italian FTSE MIB is down 0.5%.

This follows last night’s nervy session on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index closed down 100 points, and the overnight losses in Asia that drove the yen and gold higher.

M ike van Dulken & Henry Croft at Accendo Markets explain:

Anxious investors the world over are pricing in an even tighter US election race, with increased fears of a Trump win next week and the political, economic and market uncertainty that would surely ensue.

The probability of a Clinton win may remain high but a blindside Brexit result is also still very fresh in the memory of market participants.

block-time published-time 8.15am GMT

This chart show how investors are becoming more nervous (the white line), as the Mexican peso (seen as vulnerable to a Trump victory) has dropped (blue line).

enltrFear factor Trump: Asia stocks plunge w/ Mexican Peso as election angst boosts safe haven assets like Gold or Franc. https://t.co/R93zS1zp4E[https://t.co/R93zS1zp4E] pic.twitter.com/LrGmVc2pY1[https://t.co/LrGmVc2pY1]

— Holger Zschaepitz (@Schuldensuehner) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/Schuldensuehner/status/793679840230662144]block-time published-time 8.09am GMT

The yen is extending its gains against the US dollar as I type - hitting ¥103.57 to the $1. That’s the highest since October 21st.

block-time published-time 8.01am GMT

Hirokazu Kabeya, chief global strategist at Daiwa Securities, says Trump vs Clinton is now the number one issue worrying investors:

“It’s becoming all about the U.S. elections. Markets are trying to factor in the changing atmosphere.”

block-time published-time 8.00am GMT

Election nerves drive yen up and hit the peso Investors are piling into safe-haven assets such as gold and the Japanese yen, after the ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll put Trump in the lead.

This sent the dollar down to 103.69 yen, from 104.14 on Tuesday night[http://www.marketwatch.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/story/investors-turn-to-yen-dollar-rises-versus-mexican-peso-as-us-politics-rattle-2016-11-02]. The Mexican peso was another casualty, weakening to 19.31 to the US dollar, from 19.18 last night.

Elsa Lignos, senior currency strategist at RBC Capital Markets, explains:

The probability of a Trump victory has risen materially since last Friday.

On FiveThirtyEight’s models it is back to 28–30%, levels not seen since before the second debate and the controversial NBC video leak. Although Trump’s chances have been rising steadily since Friday, yesterday set off a scramble for election hedges.

enltrLatest betting odds on #USElection[https://twitter.com/hashtag/USElection?src=hash] post FBI investigation have seen Clinton lead trimmed by over 10% in recent days pic.twitter.com/6xIRMrqBsx[https://t.co/6xIRMrqBsx]

— Anthony Cheung (@AWMCheung) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/AWMCheung/status/793721300053331968]block-time published-time 7.45am GMT

Asian markets hit seven-week low as US election worries build Stock markets are coming under pressure today as international investors become increasingly anxious about the US presidential election.

In exactly one week’s time, we’ll know whether Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump has won the race to the White House. And with the polls seemingly closing, shares are on the slide.

Asia’s stock markets have fallen overnight, hitting their lowest level in seven weeks.

Japan’s Nikkei fell by 1.7%, the Hong Kong Hang Seng lost 1.4%, and Australia’s S&P/ASX200 shed 1.1%.

This followed losses on Wall Street last night, where stock market volatility hit its highest level since Britain’s EU referendum in June.

Gold, which usually rallies at times of anxiety, has hit a four-week high at $1,293.00

It was triggered by a new ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll which put Trump one point ahead[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-leads-clinton-point-poll-enthusiasm-declines/story?id=43199459]. Hillary Clinton’s team swiftly dismissed it, saying the poll was “not what we see at all”.

Related: Clinton campaign dismisses polls putting Donald Trump in the lead[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/01/donald-trump-polls-lead-hillary-clinton-campaign]

But it’s enough to make traders edgy, says Naeem Aslam, c hief market analyst at Think Markets:

The surge in gold prices and the volatility index is the real reflection that traders have finally woken up to the reality that the US election does represent a significant risk, something they were completely ignorant about until now.

European markets are also expected to dip today, says Bloomberg’s Caroline Hyde.

enltrRisk off! Marke waking up to possibility of Trump Presidency? #Stocks[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Stocks?src=hash] set to fall for an 8th straight day in Europe. pic.twitter.com/KWiwRG3j8x[https://t.co/KWiwRG3j8x]

— Caroline Hyde (@CarolineHydeTV) November 2, 2016[https://twitter.com/CarolineHydeTV/status/793718194317975552]block-time published-time 7.29am GMT

The agenda: UK construction report, and US interest rate decision Good morning, and welcome to our rolling coverage of the world economy, the financial markets, the eurozone and business.

There’s a lot coming up this morning, including new data showing how Europe’s factories, and Britain’s builders, fared last month.

And later on today, the US central bank will end its two-day monetary policy meeting:

\* 9am GMT: Eurozone manufacturing PMI - expected to remain unchanged at 53.3

\* 9.30am GMT: UK Construction PMI - expected to fall to 51.8, from 52.3

\* 6pm: US Federal Reserve - expected to leave US interest rates on hold

On the corporate front, the City are getting results from retailer Next, pub chain JD Wetherspoon, housebuilder Persimmon.

And Nationwide, the estate agent, have just reported that house price growth stalled last month, pulling the annual rate of house price growth down to 4.6%, from 5.3% in September. We’ll have more on that later...

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.29am GMT

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Decision to compete in the red state, where a victory would effectively deny Trump a path to the presidency, is based on polling and early voter numbers

In the frenetic dash to election day, Hillary Clinton will swing through the usual key target states for any Democratic candidate: Ohio, Florida, North Carolina – and Arizona?

On Wednesday, Clinton will visit the Grand Canyon State for the first time since winning the Democratic nomination, a move that signals the campaign’s increasing confidence in her chances of turning a traditionally red state blue.

“This is very rare,” said Richard Herrera, an associate professor in the school of politics and global studies at Arizona State University, of a visit from a Democratic presidential nominee. Democrats have carried the state only once since Harry Truman was in office: Bill Clinton in 1996.

If the Clinton campaign is this confident to make a play for Arizona, she is serious about her chances of winning here

Richard Herrera

“If the Clinton campaign is this confident that it makes sense to make a play for Arizona, she is serious about her chances of winning here,” Herrera said.

The Democrat’s hope of a victory in Arizona largely rests with the state’s rapidly growing Hispanic population, a group Trump repeatedly has antagonized throughout his nativist campaign. As many as one in five[http://www.pewhispanic.org/fact-sheets/2016-state-election-fact-sheets/latinos-in-the-2016-election-arizona/] eligible voters in Arizona are Hispanic, but turnout rates have lagged behind those of other groups.

“It’s tight,” a senior Clinton campaign aide said on Tuesday of the race in Arizona. “We think it’s about even right now.”

A number of polls in the past few months have shown Clinton slightly ahead or within striking distance of Trump in the Grand Canyon State. The RealClearPolitics polling average[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/az/arizona\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-6087.html#polls] ahead by one percentage point.

At campaign rallies in Las Vegas and Phoenix on Wednesday, Clinton is expected to appeal directly to Latino voters in an effort to harness the backlash against Trump into a surge of support for her campaign.

The Democratic nominee will rail against Trump’s policy on **immigration** and offer her candidacy as a riposte to the divisive campaign he has run in a speech that highlights the disparaging comments he has made about **immigrants**, Mexicans and a federal judge of Mexican heritage, according to a campaign aide.

In Phoenix, she will be introduced by the parents of Damian Lopez Rodriguez[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHdnfWnHhig], an Arizona native who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, the aide said. The parents appeared in a Spanish-language ad for Clinton.

Clinton’s visit is a continuation of the campaign’s vigorous push in the state. Early last month, the campaign announced that it had ramped up its efforts in the state, investing another $2m to be spent on TV and digital advertising as well as voter registration efforts.

Ahead of her Southwestern swing, the campaign released on Wednesday a pair of Spanish[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ls6Ts9TvmY&feature=youtu.be] and English[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVuH42xybVM&feature=youtu.be] language TV and radio ads aimed at mobilizing the Latino community against Trump. The ads are titled “27 million strong”, a reference to the estimated number of eligible Latino voters.

Related: Arizona asks 'the unprecedented': could Democrats sweep the west?[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/21/arizona-swing-state-west-democrats-clinton]

On Thursday, Clinton’s running mate Tim Kaine will deliver a speech entirely in Spanish at a community center in Phoenix and will hold a rally at a high school in Tucson, a rare blue bastion in the state.

Last week, the campaign deployed top surrogates to rally troops in the state, including Senator Bernie Sanders, Chelsea Clinton, and first lady Michelle Obama.

Before Obama took the stage in Tempe, the crowd heard from Congressman Ruben Gallego, a Democrat from Arizona. “We are officially a swing state!” he boomed into the microphone, drawing loud applause from the more than 6,000 people who turned out to see the first lady speak.

The decision to compete in Arizona is based on assessment of factors, including internal polling and early voter numbers. Campaign manager Robby Mook said that based on early analytics showed a higher than anticipated turnout there among minority groups, young people, women and Independents.

Campaign aides have repeatedly said that they believe Arizona is a true battleground state – and not a potential cherry atop a pleasing electoral map. Still, stealing the red state would all but deny Trump a path to an Electoral College victory.

“Arizona ain’t an indulgence,” campaign spokesman Brian Fallon[https://twitter.com/brianefallon/status/792043601463283713] said on Twitter last week. “It’s a true battleground. Perhaps even more favorable-looking right now than some other places we’ve been on TV.”

Clinton’s visit to Arizona less than a week before voters go to the polls was made before the announcement that the FBI was reviewing emails related to her private server while she was secretary of state[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/28/fbi-reopens-hillary-clinton-emails-investigation], and perhaps reflects a confidence that has been somewhat dented since then.

Trump has visited Arizona seven times, including once to give a major speech on **immigration** in which he doubled down on his improbable but central campaign plank: build a border wall that is paid for by Mexico.

Arizona ain’t an indulgence. It’s a true battleground

Brian Fallon, Clinton campaign spokesman

He also touts endorsements from two of the state’s most stalwart conservatives: former Arizona governor Jan Brewer, known for ushering through a hardline **immigration** law that inspired a rash of copycat legislation, and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who has been charged with contempt of court for disobeying a judge’s order in a racial profiling case.

Trump, who faces a difficult path, has embraced new polling that shows the race tightening as reason to spend his finally days campaigning in traditionally states like Michigan, New Mexico and Wisconsin.

Herrera expects Clinton’s visit to the desert will energize Democrats across the state and may help boost Latino voter registration.

A Clinton victory in the historically red state could prove to be the start of a long-anticipated political shift – or it could be one-off twist in a wild election year.

“That’s the big question,” Herrera said. “And the answer is, we just have to wait and see.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Jose Jaramillo was paralyzed and later died due to inadequate healthcare at a prison in New Mexico. The justice department had ended its contract with such facilities – but in a stunning reversal another agency has been brought on board

Theodula Jaramillo had kept vigil over her son’s deteriorating body for seven years before he died on Independence Day.

On some days, when there were no available chairs at the Sagecrest Nursing Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the 79-year-old would stand for eight hours at a time, watching his motionless body for signs of pain or discomfort. Only his eyes – and, on occasion, his mouth – were left with any movement.

Although it was a kidney infection that finally took his life three months ago, Theodula had no doubt who was to blame: “It was the prison,” she said in Spanish, her voice quivering. “They’re who triggered everything. All of this suffering could have been been prevented just by giving him simple medicine.”

Jose Jaramillo was 52 years old and in the middle of a three-year sentence when he collapsed inside his cell at the Cibola County correctional center in May 2008. His crime had been to illegally enter the US to reunite with his wife and children. Jaramillo would never regain adequate cerebral functions, as his impoverished family battled on his behalf, firstly to keep him in America and then to sue to the prison’s private contractor, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), for medical negligence.

The father of three, who had lived almost his entire life in the US, had been detained in one of the federal government’s secretive criminal alien requirement prisons, a network of 13 privately operated facilities dotted mostly around the American south, which almost exclusively detain low-risk inmates convicted of **immigration** offenses.

Just weeks after Jaramillo’s death this year, the US Department of Justice announced that all 13 of these private prisons would be closed following a scathing audit[https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2016/e1606.pdf#page=2] that revealed they were markedly less safe than similar facilities run directly by government. The first scheduled to close would be the one where Jaramillo suffered his catastrophic illness, as reports indicated[https://www-thenation-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/article/federal-officials-ignored-years-of-internal-warnings-about-deaths-at-private-prisons/] that the Cibola County prison was among the worst providers of medical care in this cohort of private prisons, and the DoJ found that medical complaints were the most frequent grievance of inmates held in the contract network.

But just as migrant rights advocates celebrated the planned closure, it was announced last week that the Cibola County facility would in fact remain open, as CCA secured a new contract with a different arm of the federal government, **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement (Ice), to turn the prison into an **immigration**detention center.

The failings in Jaramillo’s case, reported here for the first time and pieced together through court documents, depositions, public records and interviews, reveals extraordinary details of the substandard medical care given to inmates in this facility and, advocates warn, the likelihood of continued failure when the institution reopens its doors to detainees this week.

But Theodula Jaramillo knew nothing of the DoJ announcement, and took no solace when she was told. She stared at the floor in her small bungalow in the village of Hatch, where mold creeped up the woodchip walls and seams on the ceiling drooped from their fixings. “It makes no difference to us. It won’t bring him back,” she said. “Everyone involved should pay for what they did to him.”

••• Two layers of fencing and thick rolls of razor wire separated the remaining inmates from the Zuni mountain range, which undulated in the distance behind the Cibola County correctional center’s recreation ground. The facility once held around 1,200 inmates but just a few hundred remained when the Guardian visited the grounds to photograph the prison in the last week of September. The prison is nestled in a corner of the tiny village of Milan, a former mining town with just 1,300 residents about an hour and half’s drive from Albuquerque.

Prisoners could be seen in small groups jogging and exercising next to the perimeter fence, dwarfed by the empty grounds. Within a minute, a patrol car sped along the outside road and pulled up next to the north-western guard tower.

“You can’t take pictures here,” a guard shouted. “You need to leave. Now.”

The Jaramillo family have scant memories of Jose’s time inside. They were never able to visit him and he rarely shared his experiences of incarceration with them. Occasionally he would send photographs in the mail – taken with a smuggled camera. One, dated February 2008, shows him crouched in snow in the prison’s recreation ground, smiling at dusk.

That year, an annual audit by the Federal Bureau of Prisons had found serious failings in the standard of medical care that CCA offered to inmates, noting: “Needle/syringe inventories were not accurate. Chronic care clinics’ physical examinations were incomplete or not performed. Annual foot exams were not current … Nursing care was not always in accordance with protocols and the State Nurse Practices Act.”

The prison was also without a physician on staff for several periods of that year – against the parameters of its contract with the government, while staff repeatedly reported serious delays in obtaining basic medication from approved suppliers, according to deposition testimony from multiple CCA employees.

Nonetheless, the federal government still paid the company an annual bonus added to its three-year, $237m baseline fee – meaning CCA was paid well in excess of $82,000 per inmate, per year.

“In that particular facility in a remote area of New Mexico, it was always difficult to maintain the staffing,” conceded former Cibola County prison warden Walt Wells during a deposition hearing in 2013. “But we got the job done.”

Lawyers disagreed with Wells’s positive assessment, and argued it was this chronic understaffing and the poorly resourced clinic that ultimately led to Jaramillo’s catastrophic illness.

Related: Private federal prisons more dangerous, damning DoJ investigation reveals[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/12/private-federal-prisons-more-dangerous-justice-department]

The 52-year-old, a barrel-chested man who spent most of his life labouring, was diagnosed with diabetes by prison medical staff in 2007. Bureau of Prisons infectious diseases regulations – to which, lawyers argued, CCA was bound by contract[https://drive-google-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/drive/folders/0B7woNJLKHttNNUp4NENxcTdjZ00] – dictated he should have received a routine pneumococcal vaccine soon after diagnosis; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all diabetics receive the vaccine[http://www.cdc.gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/vaccines/programs/vfc/awardees/vaccine-management/price-list/] due to their substantially higher risk of pneumonia and meningitis. But no such vaccination was provided, and Jaramillo went unprotected from pneumonia and meningitis for the rest of his time inside.

“You have 1,000 men, living together in bunk beds. They have 2ft apart from one another, and so bacteria is everywhere,” said Lisa Curtis, a veteran medical malpractice attorney in Albuquerque, who took Jaramillo’s case to federal civil court. “For a diabetic without a vaccination, that is a death sentence.”

During the case CCA officials argued, however, that these Bureau of Prisons rules did not apply to their facilities, which, they argued, were governed by company rules.

CCA, which this week rebranded itself as CoreCivic, did not answer a detailed list of questions related to Jaramillo’s case, staffing issues at the facility and contractual obligations, citing “health care privacy considerations”.

But CoreCivic spokesman Jonathan Burns said: “Protecting the health and safety of those entrusted to our care is our top priority.”

Curtis, who described the case as one of the clearest violations of basic medical care she had ever encountered, said she believed the subtext was clear: “They just believed pneumococcal vaccinations were too expensive.” The CDC lists the current price of a pneumococcal vaccination kit[http://www.cdc.gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/vaccines/programs/vfc/awardees/vaccine-management/price-list/], which contains 10 doses, at $86.71 – or $8.67 each.

Medical experts who testified on behalf of the Jaramillo family argued the vaccination itself would likely have prevented what happened next.

Related: The DoJ is right to ditch private prisons. But it won't do much in practice | Jessica Pishko[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/19/doj-private-prisons-closing-treatment-percentage-in-practice]

The symptoms began in the first week of May. Pains in his throat. Earache. Body ache. Fever, coughing and nausea. He lined up for the prison’s sick call, which opened for just 45 minutes at 5am, allowing prisoners a short window to sign requests for medical assistance. Staffed by just one nurse, according to deposition testimony, the queues were so long many inmates gave up before receiving any attention. Between three to five nurses worked in the prison on each shift. Nurses estimated that they would see 400-500 patients a month.

Medical records and depositions show that Jaramillo was seen first on 8 May and then again on 11 May, and finally on the morning of 22 May. He told his family his symptoms were getting worse, that he was in pain and wanted to go to the hospital, but records show he was only ever given cough syrup and saltwater by medical staff.

He told his family his symptoms were getting worse, but records show he was only ever given cough syrup and saltwater

“They didn’t listen to him for weeks. He should have gone to hospital, but they just waited so long,” said Jaramillo’s 20 year-old daughter, Judy, who spoke to her father on the phone during this period.

Under CCA policy any inmate who reported sick three times with the same symptoms should automatically have been referred to a physician with the ability to prescribe medicine. But the referral never happened, according to the deposition of a nurse who saw Jaramillo at his last sick call.

Instead, just hours after he was examined on 22 May, Jaramillo was found collapsed in his cell. He was placed in a wheelchair and taken back to the clinic where the nurse described him now as “just flaccid”, loosely able to articulate intense pains in his chest. The prison finally called emergency services.

The undiagnosed infection had turned to sepsis and then to pneumococcal meningitis.

Although years later CCA began administering the pneumococcal vaccine to inmates at the Cibola County facility, the chronic staffing issues remained. During a 2012 deposition hearing, the prison’s long-serving nurse practitioner, June Kershner, told Curtis that once again the prison had no physician on staff, leaving the facility dangerously under-resourced. Inmates and staff now referred to her as “doctor” despite her lack of qualifications, and medication was prescribed by an Arizona-based doctor over the telephone.

An investigation by the Nation magazine[https://www-thenation-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/article/federal-officials-ignored-years-of-internal-warnings-about-deaths-at-private-prisons/] found that the Cibola County facility accumulated more repeat deficiencies or significant flaws in health provision than any other private federal prison, with 30 out of 34 contract citations since 2007 related to poor standards of medical care. The investigation also identified three deaths, not including Jaramillo’s, linked to questionable care at the facility by the end of 2015.

These failures, argued experts, made Ice’s decision to keep the facility open all the more extraordinary, particularly when the Department of Homeland Security is conducting its own review of its use of privatised institutions, following the DoJ announcement in August.

“It’s just stunning that Ice is turning around and signing a new contract there,” said Carl Takei, a staff attorney at the ACLU’s national prison project. “We have serious concerns about the medical care for Ice detainees being just as terrible as it was for BOP prisoners. There’s no reason to believe it will improve. It’s the same company and the same facility.”

On Monday, CCA chief executives formally announce the five-year contract with Ice, arguing: “CCA already has an experienced, well-trained workforce at the Cibola County corrections center which, for many years, has provided an exceptional level of service to the BOP, and we are proud to have the opportunity to extend the same level of exceptional service to another federal customer under this new contract.”

••• The village of Milan, with a population of just 1,300, was caught off guard when the DoJ announced the closure earlier in the summer. CCA is the largest employer here, and also in the neighboring town of Grants, where the company operates a controversial[https://www.abqjournal.com/144121/former-inmate-testifies-about-sexual-assault.html] women’s prison under a contract with the state government.

There were 245 jobs scheduled to be lost by the time the Cibola County prison was due to close, at the end of October. The village stood to lose a projected $358,000 in revenue from property taxes and gross receipts, while the county government would have lost $700,000 annually in taxes.

Families had already begun packing up and leaving town in September, as local government officials frantically pushed for solutions and endorsed CCA efforts to keep the prison open as it sought contracts with Ice, the US Marshall Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“It will turn this community into a ghost town,” said Marcella Sandoval, the Milan village manager in September. “The prison is a lifeline for us.”

Milan and Grants lost three-quarters of their population in the late 1990s after uranium mining in the region’s rich mineral belt ceased. It was around this time that CCA bought facilities in the area, offering a chance of employment to those who remained in town.

The prison drew almost instant controversy. In 2001, inmates rioted over the quality of food, drawing local police and outside law enforcement who used teargas to quell the unrest. But residents soon grew used to the prison’s presence. Many who spoke to the Guardian in September felt slighted by the federal government’s decision to close the prison. In this heavily Democratic county, some said the decision had been enough to make them vote Republican at the election in November. Sandoval said the county was given no advanced warning and no assistance was offered to the local economy.

Milan police chief Jerry Stephens, who commands the village’s small seven-strong police department, said just two escapes had occurred from the prison under his tenure as chief.

“I don’t think the community worries here worries about it at all,” he said. A records request indicated his department had attended 49 assault calls at the prison between 2014 and 2015.

Despite this, the Department of Justice’s inspector general found[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/12/private-federal-prisons-more-dangerous-justice-department] that inmates in its contract prisons were nine times more likely to be placed on lockdown than in other comparable facilities, and assault rates were 28% higher in federal prisons.

In an interview in October, Sandoval told the Guardian that the reopened facility could now eventually hold 1,400 detainees – expanding its already stretched capacity by 200 beds. “The decision basically saved us. They’re rehiring and will have even more jobs this time,” she said, relieved.

••• Jose Jaramillo wrote a short statement after he was arrested for illegal re-entry in August 2006: “I know what I did is against the law and so I accept full responsibility for my conduct. I came back to work and be with my family.”

Jaramillo had been pulled over as he drove from the chili fields outside of Roswell, where he had worked backbreaking shifts for most of his life, starting at 5am and finishing at sunset. A sheriff’s deputy had noticed he had a broken headlight, and later reported him to Border Patrol agents in New Mexico after he failed to present identification papers. Instead of running away when agents called to inform him he was likely to be arrested, he waited for them to arrive at the door that evening.

“I think that just shows you what sort of a law-abiding guy he was,” Lisa Curtis said.

That year over 29,000 people were convicted for illegal entry and re-entry[http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/356/]. By 2013, that number had soared to just under 88,000 – meaning more than half of all federal criminal prosecutions that year were for unlawful border crossings. By the time the DoJ announced it was abandoning all contracts with these 13 private **immigrant** jails, their populations had swelled to 22,000 inmates, costing the federal government $600m a year.

After he stabilized in 2009, Jaramillo was moved to the nursing home in Las Cruces. The federal government had initially moved to deport him, but the family successfully appealed after arguing he would die within days if he was moved back to Mexico. But the brain damage was irreparable. He had no movement from the neck down. When he spoke it was often nonsensical. On rare occasions when he could muster a coherent sentence, he told his daughter Judy, born in the US with full citizenship, that he wanted her to finish high school and become a nurse.

“It was his dream,” she said.

Judy is now training to become an elementary school teacher, but visited her father twice a week at nursing home until his death in July. The family, who settled with CCA in 2014 for an undisclosed amount with no admission of liability, placed the money in a trust to pay for Jaramillo’s care, but knew the end was coming as his health rapidly deteriorated from another infection.

“I just felt like the world was hitting me,” Judy said of the day her father died. “It was sadness and anger. Anger at the prison.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**There was evidence of HIV/Aids in America before Gaetan Dugas came carrying it. But society needs a scapegoat

Last week, the New York Times times reported[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/27/health/hiv-patient-zero-genetic-analysis.html?\_r=0] on a study[http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19827.html] published by the journal Nature which charged that the HIV virus first came to the United States in the 1970s, taking the blame for bringing Aids to our shores away from the infamous “Patient Zero”, Gaëtan Dugas, a French Canadian gay flight attendant. Dugas was not named in early research, and is still not named in the Nature study[http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19827.html] - but he was outed and demonized in Randy Shilts’s 1987 book And the Band Played On.

Related: Gaétan Dugas: 'patient zero' not source of HIV/Aids outbreak, study confirms[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/oct/26/patient-zero-gaetan-dugas-not-source-of-hivaids-outbreak-study-proves]

This “news” was met largely with a collective yawn by many people I know who, like me, study Aids for a living. After all, Patient Zero’s importance has long been downplayed by scientists, recognized as[http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19827.html] “neither the first Aids case to come to CDC researchers’ attention, nor the first to display symptoms.” And while Nature notes the origins of HIV/Aids[http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19827.html] “remain contentious” amongst serious scholars, “and the earliest movements of the virus within the US are unknown,” Shilt’s account has never been taken too seriously by them.

And the Band Played On – a work of book-length journalism written as the Aids epidemic was unfolding in the United States – was not a work that examined events after time had passed. Since Shilts’s death (itself related to Aids), his overwrought emphasis on Dugas has been widely criticized by Aids historians[http://www.bu.edu/today/2015/anthony-petro-after-the-wrath-of-god/], social scientists[https://books-google-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/books?id=kZOso0FMsrMC&q=and+the+band+played+on#v=snippet&q=and%20the%20band%20played%20on&f=false] and public health researchers[https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/pmc/articles/PMC4046389/] – particularly for framing “the epidemiological spread of the epidemic as very much a moral failing on the part of this flight attendant,” as scholar Anthony Petro puts it[http://www.bu.edu/today/2015/anthony-petro-after-the-wrath-of-god/].

Indeed, those of us who study Aids have long known that long before common symptoms such as Kaposi sarcoma and pneumonia were showing up among hemophiliacs and gay men, they were likely affecting homeless people who lived off society’s radar, people who used IV drugs and those who avoided medical treatment out of fear. As activist Betty Williams told the Act up Oral History project[http://www.actuporalhistory.org/interviews/images/bwilliams.pdf] in 2008: “I actually believe that Aids kind of existed among this group of people first, because if you look back, there was something called junkie pneumonia, there was something called the dwindles that addicts got, and I think this was another early Aids population way too helpless to ever do anything for themselves on their own behalf.”

What is newsworthy about the Nature study is that, by “jackhammering” the decaying RNA of decades-old blood samples, epidemiologists have proven that the strain of HIV Dugas had was already circulating before he was a carrier. The Times article also poetically points out[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/27/health/hiv-patient-zero-genetic-analysis.html?\_r=0] an irony: Dugas was never supposed to be known as Patient Zero, but as Patient Letter O, for “outside southern California”.

So why, then, did the myth of Patient Zero live on for so long? Why was he, or anyone, scapegoated in the first place?

Both happened because we like to blame individuals (especially queer folks, women, **immigrants** and people of color) for diseases, particularly communicable ones that involve sex. Societally, it is far easier to blame them for disease rather than to deal with the complex medical, political and epidemiological causes – just as it has been easier to unfairly malign Dugas all these years.

In white America’s long, ableist history of considering itself well unless made unwell by those it considers sick outsiders[https://www.academia.edu/3560422/Technologies\_of\_Blood\_Asylum\_Medicine\_and\_Biopolitics], Dugas was just one of many individually maligned as pariahs.

They include “Typhoid” Mary Mallon[https://www.amazon.com/Typhoid-Mary-Captive-Publics-Health/dp/0807021032], an Irish **immigrant** blamed for typhoid transmission and kept in isolation for 26 years on an island in New York City; Nushawn Williams[https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/notorious-h-i-v], convicted for transmitting HIV to nine young women and – despite having long ago finished his sentence – kept in “civil confinement” indefinitely[https://www.poz.com/article/hivpositive-convict-nushawn-williams-remain-civil-confinement] ; and Michael “Tiger Mandingo” Johnson[https://www.buzzfeed.com/steventhrasher/a-black-body-on-trial-the-conviction-of-hiv-positive-tiger-m?utm\_term=.dyLKjPy6e6#.tul8rPXOJO] (whom I have covered at length and is the subject of my doctoral dissertation), who was convicted of four people to HIV and transmitting the virus to one person despite there being no RNA evidence used to even see if Johnson and his sex partner shared the same strain of HIV. (Johnson is serving a 30-year prison sentence in Missouri, often in solitary confinement, in a state where the average sentence for second-degree murder is only 25 years[https://doc.mo.gov/Documents/publications/Offender%20Profile%20FY14.pdf].)

But while blaming diseases on individuals – or even criminalizing them, as people with HIV are in more than 30 US states[http://www.cdc.gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/hiv/policies/law/states/exposure.html] and 70 countries[http://www.hivjustice.net/news/new-report-shows-hiv-criminalisation-is-growing-global-problem-but-advocates-are-fighting-back/] – may make well people feel weirdly superior, it doesn’t do much about curing or curtailing the transmission of communicable diseases. According to[http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/en/] the World Health Organization, Aids has killed about 35 million people, and about 37 million people are currently living with HIV globally. Threatening them for living with such a treatable disease only increases its stigma, forcing them into the shadows and decreasing the likelihood that others at risk will get tested.

We would do well to look at the Nature study’s new timeline and ponder if HIV was circulating among IV drug users in the early 1970s. Many such people avoided healthcare settings which they (rightly) believed could be punitive – which could have aided HIV’s transmission. We as a society are in part to blame, then, for creating the condition in which the epidemic could take hold – just as we are now responsible for allowing punitive laws that specifically target HIV to continue letting it flourish.

It’s also worth noting that societies begin to understand that a disease exists and is worthy of treatment only when it begins to affect people (or animals) whose lives the society values. When Aids was only affecting homeless people and IV drug users in the US, there was not a critical mass of care about them to make it register. Aids began to come into some focus when it affected homosexual men, not because gay men’s lives were valued by US society at large (they weren’t), but because amongst them were some powerful, often closeted, white gay men who were raised to believe their bodies were important and infallible.

When they believed that their bodies were unfairly giving out on them (and threatening to out them), these men – along with out lesbians and gay men and transgender people of all races – did something about it, founding groups like Gay Men’s Health Crisis[http://gmhc.org/] and Act-up[http://www.actupny.org/]. They applied so much pressure that scientific and political communities had to verify that Aids existed.

Hastening this process was news that hemophiliacs and others receiving blood and organ transfusions were affected. These people – particularly children like Ryan White – were considered “innocent” and worthy of protecting from the disease, unlike homosexuals like Dugan who were considered guilty for getting it and for giving it to others.

Since the disease wasn’t given public attention until it infected those with societal clout, is it ever right to out one believed to be “Patient Zero”? As a journalist, I understand the desire to do so to tell a story. Times story author Donald G McNeil Jr defends[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/30/sunday-review/the-ethics-of-hunting-down-patient-zero.html?\_r=0] the practice epidemiologically, saying stopping such people is important in stopping epidemics. But he uses the term “super-spreaders”, which sounds too much like “ super-predators[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/25/hillary-clinton-race-crime-justice-reform] ” and is too pejorative for my taste, with both terms overburdening the individual rather than the conditions they inhabit.

In her new book Conflict Is Not Abuse[https://www.amazon.com/Conflict-Not-Abuse-Overstating-Responsibility/dp/1551526433], novelist and Aids historian Sarah Schulman writes about how the transmission of HIV to millions worldwide is a normative human experience unworthy of criminalization or stigma. Dugas was innocent not just because RNA now says so, but because all people who live with HIV or who die of Aids are innocent[https://www.academia.edu/10002442/Statement\_of\_Ownership\_An\_Autethnography\_of\_Living\_with\_HIV].

Let’s allow Dugas’s most recent exoneration to be his final one, and let’s take this chance to retire the idea of the HIV/Aids scapegoat. Let’s stop the shame and blame, so that we may move on the challenge of tackling the real, treatable and preventable ways HIV is transmitted.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The billionaire tech investor in a speech painted a dark picture of America as he praised the GOP nominee as a ‘political outsider’ who would reverse US decline

Peter Thiel has defended his support of Donald Trump, dismissing concerns about the Republican nominee’s anti-**immigrant** and anti-Muslim campaign positions as the result of the media “taking Trump literally” but not “seriously”.

Thiel used a speech Monday at the National Press Club in Washington to praise the Republican candidate as a “political outsider” who would reverse America’s decline.

“It is not a lack of judgment that leads Americans to vote for Trump,” the PayPal co-founder and billionaire tech investor said, referencing the presidential candidate’s boast[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women] that he could sexually assault women without consequence. “We’re voting for Trump because we judge the leadership of our country to have failed.”

The media is always taking Trump literally. It never takes him seriously, but it always takes him literally

Peter Thiel

Thiel’s speech came in response to a firestorm of criticism in Silicon Valley[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/19/peter-thiel-support-donald-trump-mark-zuckerberg] over his pledge to donate $1.25m to the Trump campaign on 15 October. The timing of the donation, just days after numerous women made allegations of sexual assault or misconduct against Trump, prompted many within the tech industry[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/17/project-include-y-combinator-donald-trump-peter-thiel] to call for companies such as Facebook and Y Combinator to sever ties with the investor.

Thiel acknowledged the criticism in his speech, complaining that “louder voices have sent a message that they do not intend to tolerate the views of one half of the country” and pointing out that an op-ed in the Advocate[http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2016/10/14/peter-thiel-shows-us-theres-difference-between-gay-sex-and-gay] said Thiel was “an example of a man who has sex with other men” but was “not a gay man” because of his politics.

“The lie behind the buzzword of diversity could not be made more clear,” he said. “If you don’t conform then you don’t count as diverse, no matter what your personal background.”

“Diversity” is a charged concept for Thiel. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, who has Thiel on his board of directors, defended his politics as an important part of his company’s diversity. In his 1995 book The Diversity Myth: Multiculturalism and Political Intolerance on Campus[http://www.independent.org/store/book.asp?id=38#t-0], Thiel wrote: “Real diversity requires a diversity of ideas, not simply a bunch of like-minded activists who resemble the bar scene from Star Wars.”

In his speech, Thiel painted a dark picture of America, referencing the country’s “overpriced healthcare system”, student debt crisis and stagnant wages for American workers. He criticized free trade policies that he said had resulted in “the heartland [being] devastated” and lambasted the “wasting of trillions of dollars of taxpayer dollars on faraway wars”.

He categorized the country’s problems as a series of “bubbles” akin to the housing bubble or the dotcom bubble and criticized the “heedlessness” of the elite in ignoring them. Current “bubbles” threatening the country include the “trade bubble”, “war bubble”, “**immigration** bubble” and “globalization bubble”, he said.

“It shouldn’t be surprising to see people vote for Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump, who is the only outsider left,” he said, later adding that he would have liked to see Trump and Sanders face off in the general election “because I think both of them viscerally felt the decline”.

Related: The hypocrisy of Facebook's silence on Peter Thiel's support for Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/18/donald-trump-peter-thiel-support-facebook]

Throughout the speech, and during a later question-and-answer session, Thiel glossed over some of Trump’s most prominent and controversial statements.

Asked about Trump’s statements proposing the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border and a ban on all Muslims entering the country, Thiel suggested that Trump supporters do not actually endorse those policies.

“I don’t support a religious test. I certainly don’t support the specific language that Trump has used in every instance,” he said. “But I think one thing that should be distinguished here is that the media is always taking Trump literally. It never takes him seriously, but it always takes him literally.”

The billionaire went on to define how he believes the average Trump supporter interprets the candidate’s statements. “I think a lot of voters who vote for Trump take Trump seriously but not literally, so when they hear things like the Muslim comment or the wall comment their question is not, ‘Are you going to build a wall like the Great Wall of China?’ or, you know, ‘How exactly are you going to enforce these tests?’ What they hear is we’re going to have a saner, more sensible **immigration** policy.”

During his speech at the Republican national convention, which Thiel attended as a keynote speaker[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/21/peter-thiel-republican-national-convention-proud-to-be-gay], Trump was interrupted with chants of “Build a wall.”

Thiel also defended Trump’s failure to release his tax returns, saying that we know enough about the candidate’s business dealings. “We can debate how many zeros he has in his net worth, but he has a lot,” Thiel said.

The investor, who initiated a secret legal campaign against Gawker after the publication outed him as gay, asserted that “we have a less talented group of people” running for office today because of the media taking transparency in a “toxic” direction.

He also defended his secret funding of the lawsuit, brought by the wrestler Hulk Hogan, that bankrupted the now defunct media website Gawker[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/aug/16/univision-buys-gawker-media-auction-bankruptcy-hulk-hogan]. Thiel accused a former Gawker editor of being “an aspiring child pornographer” and called the entire publication a “singularly sociopathic bully”, and portrayed his backing of the lawsuit as an act of charity.

“If you’re a single-digit millionaire like Hulk Hogan, you have no effective access to our legal system,” he said.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Guardian Australia’s new monthly column Stream Lover highlights films and series that are fresh to your local on-demand services

What’s on tonight? Thanks to the tyranny of digital choice, the answer’s never been less clear.

Each month online services add new films and series, and subtract older ones, so we’ve trawled the major Australian streaming sites for highlights to save you an hour-long scroll.

Stan Film: Truth (2015, US), director James Vanderbilt – out now

Related: Truth review – Cate Blanchett in the eye of a journalistic storm[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/mar/06/truth-review-cate-blanchett-60-minutes-george-w-bush-war-record]

Shot in Sydney with an ensemble of supporting Australian actors, Truth dramatises 60 Minutes’ 2004 exposé of the period in which then-president George W Bush went awol from the military in the 1970s. At the time, 60 Minutes’ story was so scandalous that, although it was largely right, the authenticity of key documents was questioned, and producer Mary Mapes (Cate Blanchett as a fierce woman pushed to the edge of self-doubt) and anchor Dan Rathers lost their jobs.

With Robert Redford cast as Rathers, the shadow of journo classic All the President’s Men looms tall over Truth. Though Truth doesn’t reach those heights, it’s a pretty good iteration of the genre, wrapping you up in the ethos of table-slamming self-righteousness, just as a good journo movie should. And from the mad vantage point of the US election campaign, it’s fascinating to see the disgracing of Mapes and Rathers as part of a broader political witch-hunt in what we thought at the time were the USA’s gloomiest days.

Truth is like a devoted fan’s love letter to the great newsroom dramas that preceded it, and an enjoyable and smart film for a night in.

Film: Alice (1990, US), director Woody Allen – out now

Related: Woody Allen: 'There are traumas in life that weaken us. That’s what has happened to me'[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/aug/25/woody-allen-traumas-in-life-weaken-us-cafe-society-amazon]

Woody Allen’s latest, Cafe Society, is in theatres, but his magical, odd film from 1990 makes for far less masochistic viewing: it’s Woody in a good mood.

With her wide, anxious face and hurried eyes, Mia Farrow’s heroine is a Woody stand-in: a Manhattanite whose existential dissatisfactions coalesce into a longing for an affair with a divorced musician called Joe. Alice’s treatments from a Chinese doctor (please turn your Hollywood-racism filters to HD) supernaturally switch off her inhibitions.

There are two lovely observations at the heart of Alice: the first is that there is a particular type of person for whom infidelity is actually incredibly difficult, even when they desire it; and the second is that all types of people have ways of insisting on unhappiness via increasingly elaborate forms of self-sabotage. On the surface, Alice has everything she should want (wealth, a husband, lovely children); as a character, she also has the compassion of her film-maker – an unusual thing to treasure in an Woody Allen film.

Film: Volcano (Ixcanul) (2015, Guatemala/France), dir. Jayro Bustamante – out now

Related: Ixcanul review – a fascinating blend of modernity and ritual[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/sep/12/ixcanul-review-fascinating-blend-of-modernity-and-ritual-toronto-film-festival]

An Australian theatrical release evaded this Berlin film festival competitor, but it’s well worth a look on VOD.

Volcano is a small, simple, clash-of-civilisations arthouse film set on a coffee plantation on the low banks of a volcano in present-day Guatemala. Our Mayan heroine María is set for a local arranged marriage, but yearns to run away with another man, Pepe, for a new life in the United States. She is torn: “What else is there?” in the US, she asks Pepe. “Money. Dollars,” he replies while the camera remains on María’s face. “What does the air smell like there?” He doesn’t know. “Here, the air smells of coffee. And of the volcano.”

The really special thing about Volcano is its palpable creation of this remote place, with clean cinematography that captures life in the plantation in long, wide, unmoving shots. Through that honest film-making approach, debut writer-director Jayro Bustamante lets the story unfold like a fable, and makes Volcano a lovely, living eulogy to a culture that may soon be lost.

• Honourable mentions:Frackman[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/mar/23/frackmans-accidental-activist-theres-blood-in-the-water-and-im-the-shark] (film, 5 November), Nightcrawler[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2014/sep/06/nightcrawler-review-jake-gyllenhaal-toronto-film-festival] (film, 18 November), What We Do In the Shadows[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2014/nov/20/what-we-do-in-shadows-review] (film, 25 November), Nick Cave: 20,000 Days on Earth[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2014/sep/19/20000-days-on-earth-review-nick-cave-artistic-legacy-documentary] (film, 27 November), No Activity[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/oct/26/no-activity-patrick-brammall-and-darren-gilshenan-deliver-australian-farce-at-its-finest] (TV, season one, out now)

Netflix Australia TV: Black Mirror, season three (2016, UK), created by Charlie Brooker – out now

Related: Black Mirror review – this nightmare sterile world is only five minutes away[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/oct/21/black-mirror-review-charlie-brooker-nightmare-sterile-world-is-only-five-minutes-away]

“There’s no cure for the internet. It’ll never go away.” It’s always been pessimistic, but episode three of Black Mirror’s new season delivers the dystopian drama’s thematic mandate in two brutal sentences.

Now a Netflix Original, the latest Black Mirror instalments continue the template set early in the series: each hour-long episode is a self-contained, speculative science-fiction about one element of technology gone rogue – episode one, for instance, shows a Pinterest-y pastel world in which every person is reduced to a numerical rating via a social media app – with a twist in the final moments that usually sends the protagonist to madness, social expulsion or death.

The difference now is that showrunner Charlie Brooker’s bleak outlook is increasingly expressed in classical horror conventions, most notably in episode two’s haunted house concept. Black Mirror is not always subtle and never light viewing, but it remains anchored in beautifully observed truths about how tech amplifies existing anxieties and unhappinesses.

TV: The Crown, season one (UK/US, 2016), created by Peter Morgan – 4 November

Netflix’s entry into British longform storytelling and the company’s most expensive production to date, The Crown is indeed a must-watch – but not for the reasons you might think.

Based on a viewing of the first two episodes, Netflix has applied the sensibility of prestige UK film-making to television production: Stephen Daldry (The Reader, Billy Elliot) directs a script from Peter Morgan (The Queen) presenting an origin myth of Queen Elizabeth II, beginning with the decline of King George VI’s health in late 1940s and newlywed Elizabeth’s premature ascent to throne.

With its original programming, Netflix’s genius may be its ability to tap into the cultural zeitgeist of each country: where House of Cards is a melodramatic thriller that undermines US political institutions, The Crown is an immaculately-art-directed propaganda biopic aimed at humanising those in the monarchy[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/oct/27/the-crown-writer-peter-morgan-ducked-chance-to-meet-queen] and positioning the Queen as a kind of proto-feminist.

Mmmmm, politically dubious addictive longform prestige trash. Thank you, Netflix.

Film: The Big Short (US, 2015), director Adam McKay – out now

Related: Housing blew up the global economy in 2008 and we learned nothing[https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2016/jan/29/housing-global-economy-2008-the-big-short-financial-crash]

This Oscar-winner (for best adapted screenplay) is part of a subgenre of post-GFC dramas like Arbitrage and 99 Homes — talky, officey, dramatic affairs that make mortgage securities sexy. In The Big Short, big-time corporate trickery, fraud and corruption is unlaced by nerdy dudes who balance throwaway lines with Hollywood’s idea of financial-speak.

It’s a love/hate genre. If you like Aaron Sorkin stuff[http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0815070/], chances are this will be right up your alley.

From the Observer[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/jan/24/the-big-short-review-crash-riveting-steve-carell-christian-bale] : “A blackly catastrophic comedy, a story of greed, venality, incompetence and barefaced corruption in which the good guys are the renegades who see disaster coming and stake their shirts on the apocalypse. Unlike the slick suits and killer sheen of Oliver Stone’s Wall Street, this is a world of chaos and disorder filled with misfits who understand numbers more than people.”

• Honourable mentions:Zootopia[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/mar/21/disney-diversity-animation-zootopia-zootropolis] (film, 15 November), Hook (film, 16 November), Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/oct/25/gilmore-girls-revival-netflix-first-trailer-watch] (series, 25 November).

Foxtel Play Film: Brooklyn (2015, UK), director John Crowley – 12 November

Related: Brooklyn review – Saoirse Ronan shines in a heartfelt and absorbing adaptation[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/nov/05/brooklyn-review-saoirse-ronan-shines-in-nick-hornby-colm-toibin-drama]

Set between Ireland and Brooklyn in the 1950s, this terribly romantic drama is a New York story and an **immigrant** story. It’s about the finality of cross-continental **immigration** for previous generations – no yearly trips home, no weekly Skype calls – and what it might mean to marry somebody who your mother and your sister will never meet; to have your heart cleaved between two places, and everything that goes with that.

Beautifully old-fashioned in its sensibility, with a script by Nick Hornby based on Colm Tóibín’s novel, it features a performance of great stillness and sensitivity from Saoirse Ronan as a young woman caught between two continents.

Film: 45 Years (2015, UK), director Andrew Haigh – 4 November

Related: 45 Years review – Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling superb as couple freshly possessed by the past[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/aug/27/45-years-review-tom-courtenay-and-charlotte-rampling-superb-as-couple-freshly-possessed-by-the-past]

45 Years plays out like a horror relationship drama – an anti-romance – in that it preys on your worst fears about your partner, and unspools in a slow-motion pace to engage a feeling of pure dread.

On the week before their 45th wedding anniversary party, Kate (Charlotte Rampling) learns of a past relationship of her husband (Tom Courtenay) that throws the nature of their own marriage into doubt; the discovery is a poison compelling her on a search for more clues that plays out until the very moment of their party.

In any other relationship drama, the revelation would be of rank infidelity, but director Andrew Haigh’s script is unusual in its non-idealism and its emotional intelligence: it is founded on the notion that a large part of your partner is a stranger to you, and that although you needn’t share everything with them, those very unshared things can open an unbridgeable chasm. Newlyweds: avoid this.

• Honourable mentions: Divorce[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/oct/11/divorce-review-sharon-horgan-sarah-jessica-parker] (TV, season one, through November), The Wire[https://www.theguardian.com/media/series/the-wire-re-up] (TV, out now), Bran Nue Dae[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2010/jul/25/bran-nue-dae-germaine-greer] (film, 20 November).

SBS On Demand Film: Body Melt[http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/11694659590/body-melt http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/11694659590/body-melt] (1994, Australia), director Philip Brophy – out now

Overlooked in the story of Australian cinema, artist Philip Brophy’s trashy horror follows a marketing scheme gone wrong: an effervescent vitamin drink designed to advertise a luxury homeworld actually melts people’s bodies from the inside out.

Drenched in fake blood and green slime, Body Melt evolves the George Romero horror tradition of portraying zombie shoppers in shopping centres to satirise consumerism: Brophy’s vision of a dead-end upper-middle-class housing estate is scarier than any American slasher and remains politically on-point today.

Harold from Neighbours as the villainous doctor screaming “Fuck the chain stores!!!” could be a key moment of Australian film. Listen for a scrambled sample of the 1990s aspirational health series Healthy, Wealthy and Wise jingle in the soundtrack.

Film: Oldboy[http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/328368707566/oldboy] (2003, South Korea), director Chan-wook Park – out now

Related: How would you make Oldboy's ending darker?[https://www.theguardian.com/film/filmblog/2011/nov/29/oldboy-remake-darker-ending]

A fall-down drunk is bailed out of a police station by a mate and immediately recaptured by a mystery lunatic and imprisoned in a seedy hotel room. For 15 years. He’s fed nothing but valium gas, fried dumplings and television; he tattoos the years on his forearm and plots his escape to find his captor and claim his vendetta, all the while wondering what landed him in that police cell in the first place.

Oldboy’s art-direction is reminiscent of the paintings of David Lynch[https://www.google.com.au/search?q=paintings+of+David+Lynch&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwib6tbkvvrPAhUFVxoKHVKnC8IQ\_AUICCgB&biw=1440&bih=761], its neo-noir vision of Seoul like the run-down, acid-rain shine of Blade Runner, while its thematic obsession with hyper-cruelty and the crime genre itself recalls a less slick, lower-budget David Fincher.

Director Chan-wook Park has gone on to be one of the most acclaimed and adventurous figures of global art cinema, at the helm of which is South Korean cinema. His latest, The Handmaiden, is an erotic thriller about lesbians who must kill to free themselves from male tyranny (!) and is currently in select theatres. If you want to know more about where this auteur started, queue up Oldboy at once.

ABC iView TV: You Can’t Ask That[http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/you-cant-ask-that/LE1517H003S00] (2016, Australia) – out now

Related: Screen bites: can a show like You Can't Ask That change the conversation?[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/aug/01/screen-bites-can-a-show-like-you-cant-ask-that-change-the-conversation]

This clever single-concept show leaps over taboos to ask the unaskable questions. Fat people are asked “Why don’t you eat less”; transgender people, “Have you had the surgery?” Anonymous viewers pose the questions online and people from the relevant marginalised group give their answers. They do it with great insight, self-awareness and snappy, self-deprecating humour, and the show becomes an exemplar of allowing diverse people their own voices in media.

Simon Copland wrote for Guardian Australia[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/aug/01/screen-bites-can-a-show-like-you-cant-ask-that-change-the-conversation] : “Yes, there are questions about sex, drugs and crime – some that could be considered extremely insulting. But the show doesn’t treat those issues as scandalous but rather just as a normal part of people’s lives. It ends up being extremely genuine and heartfelt: real people, sitting with friends, families or lovers, having real conversations about the realities of their lives. From these conversations, we can actually learn a lot.”

TV: The Not So Secret Life of the Manic Depressive: 10 Years On[http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/not-so-secret-life-of-the-manic-depressive-10-years-on/ZW0916A001S00] (2016, UK) – out now

Related: Stephen Fry opens a window on to male depression – we must let boys cry | Ally Fogg[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jun/11/stephen-fry-male-depression-boys-cry]

A decade ago, a BBC series about Stephen Fry’s bipolar disorder[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2006/jul/21/mentalhealth.broadcasting] helped to shift the national dialogue about mental health in the UK. This year a follow-up doco[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/feb/01/stephen-fry-to-feature-in-bbc1-mental-health-season] picked up the conversation, and was released in Australia to coincide with the ABC’s Mental As programming.

The centrepiece of the program is filmed sessions with Fry’s psychiatrist, in which they discuss his terrifying self-management habits like “creating sleep” via a nightly cocktail of Xanax and vodka.

The documentary sensitively asks difficult questions. Are treatments improving? Does diagnosis always result in better management of symptoms? To those profiled, including Fry, the answers are clearly often “no”.

In going beyond the positive spin of much public mental-health discussion and into the much greyer realm of shifting diagnoses and burdensome medications, this program makes an unusually candid contribution to the destigmatisation of psychiatric illnesses.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**FBI director Comey may be under investigation for Hatch Act violationHillary Clinton’s email controversy explainedDonald Trump to rally in Michigan with eight days to go until election day

block-time published-time 7.53pm GMT

Speaking at a rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this morning, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump praised James Comey for writing to Congress about the FBI’s review of Hillary Clinton emails.

Donald Trump praises FBI director for letter to Congress – video[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/31/donald-trump-fbi-james-comey-congress-video] Trump said Comey had guts for the move and jokingly thanked Huma Abedin and Anthony Weiner. He also said Clinton’s election would lead to a constitutional crisis.

block-time published-time 7.49pm GMT

The scene outside of Donald Trump’s upcoming rallies in Warren, Michigan:

enltr"Just remember with Trump it'll all treats no tricks!" (At Trump Rally in Warren, MI) pic.twitter.com/CIo7mmVr8z[https://t.co/CIo7mmVr8z]

— Anne Helen Petersen (@annehelen) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/annehelen/status/793131537843752960]block-time published-time 7.39pm GMT

Report: FBI concluded Russia undermining election, avoided saying so because it was 'too close' to Election Day FBI director James Comey reportedly argued that although the FBI had concluded that the Russian government was involved in attempts to undermine the legitimacy of the U.S. electoral process, it was too close to Election Day for the government to say so publicly, according to a report from CNBC.[http://www.cnbc.com/2016/10/31/fbis-comey-opposed-naming-russians-citing-election-timing-source.html]

Citing a former FBI official, CNBC reported that Comey kept the FBI’s name off of a statement released on October 7 declaring that “the US intelligence community is confident that the Russian government directed the recent compromises of emails from US persons and institutions, including from US political organizations,” and that “these thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the US election process.”

“A foreign power was trying to undermine the election,” the official told CNBC. “He believed it to be true, but was against putting it out before the election.”

Comey clearly felt differently about possible emails on Anthony Weiner’s computer.

block-time published-time 7.17pm GMT

Congressman Jim Jordan, the chair of the Freedom Caucus of tea party-aligned Republicans in the House of Representatives, is one of the sharpest critics of Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration, but the latest person to receive criticism from the Ohio congressman is the Republican director of the FBI.

“I think this was probably not the right thing for [James] Comey to do - the protocol here - to come out this close to an election,” Jordan told Fox News Radio host Brian Kilmeade this morning.[http://radio.foxnews.com/2016/10/31/rep-jim-jordan-r-oh-i-think-this-was-probably-not-the-right-thing-for-comey-to-do-to-come-out-this-close-to-an-election/] “But this whole case has been mishandled, and now it is what it is.”

“He probably felt in light of what he did before he had to bring this out,” Jordan continued. “Quite frankly, because he had done the press conference and all the things he had before he probably did have to send a letter to Congress like he did last week. But I would argue all of this has been wrong from the get go in the way it’s been handled.”

The Office of Special Counsel, an independent federal investigative agency, will neither confirm nor deny[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/31/james-comey-fbi-hillary-clinton-hatch-act-election] any the existence of investigation into Comey for violating the Hatch Act, a law designed to prevent federal officeholders from abusing their power to influence an election.

block-time published-time 6.51pm GMT

Democratic party officials in four swing states have sought federal court injunctions against the Trump campaign and its affiliates, alleging they plan to intimidate minority voters on election day.

Donald Trump in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photograph: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images The lawsuits argue that the Trump campaign, along with the nominee’s close confidant Roger Stone and state Republican party officials are “ conspiring to threaten, intimidate, and thereby prevent minority voters in urban neighborhoods from voting[http://electionlawblog.org/wp-content/uploads/16-2514-As-Filed-Complaint.pdf] ”, citing Trump’s ongoing efforts to recruit “ election observers[https://www.donaldjtrump.com/landing/volunteer-to-be-a-trump-election-observer] ” and Stone’s plans, as revealed by the Guardian[https://viewer.gutools.co.uk/us-news/2016/oct/20/citizens-for-donald-trump-exit-poll-roger-stone-rigged-election-claim], to conduct unorthodox “exit polling” on election day, as evidence of potentially “virulent harassment”.

The lawsuits follow another legal action made in federal court in New Jersey l ast week by the Democratic National Committee[http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-10-27/democratic-party-sues-gop-over-trump-s-election-rigging-claims], which argues that the Republican National Committee is in violation of a 1982 consent decree that forbids the organisation from monitoring polls on election day.

Stone told the Guardian last week his group “Stop The Steal” planned to conduct exit polling in nine major cities in swing states, ostensibly to counter “election theft” and gauge the accuracy of electronic voting machines. But a number of polling and election law experts cast doubts on the methodology and suggested the process could be a smokescreen for voter intimidation.

The Republican nominee has for months warned supporters of a “rigged election” and encouraged them to monitor polling areas in cities such as St Louis, Chicago and Philadelphia. The lawsuits, filed by state democratic parties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada would cover many of the cities Stone said he intended to target.

The filings argue that such efforts, along with Trump’s rhetoric, could violate both the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices in the American south and the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871, which outlawed intimidation against African American voters.

Election law experts said it was unclear whether courts would issue a broad order, as requested in the filings, to simply prevent voter intimidation, but could look in more detail at the temporary restraining order requested against Stone’s exit polling.

“It could be useful in getting the word out about these activities and secondly getting the [Republican state] parties and [Trump] campaign on record saying they will not engage in these activities,” said Rick Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California and whose Election Law blog first reported the lawsuits on Monday[http://electionlawblog.org/?p=88351].

The Republican National Committee has been under a consent decree since the 1981 gubernatorial election in New Jersey when the group sent armed off-duty law enforcement officers to patrol polls in minority neighborhoods. These volunteers wore arm bands that identified them as an unofficial “Ballot Security Task Force” and erected posters warning against voting fraud. The RNC dismissed the lawsuit as “completely meritless” last week.

Stone’s exit pollers, self-titled “vote protectors”, had originally planned to use similar non-official identification badges, until these were removed from the organisation’s website late last week. The organisation is still encouraging its volunteers to live stream video from polling stations.

The Guardian contacted Stone and the Trump campaign for a response to the recent lawsuits and is awaiting a response.

block-time published-time 6.40pm GMT

Hillary Clinton sought to play down the impact at her first public event of the week.

“Most people have decided quite a long time ago what they think about all this,” she told a rally in Ohio. “Now what people are focused upon is choosing the next president and commander-in-chief.”

But there was less direct criticism of the FBI than over the weekend and Clinton said they were welcome to look at the emails of her aide Huma Abedin.

“I am sure a lot of you may be asking what this email business is about and why in the world the FBI would decide to jump into an election without any evidence and it’s a good a question,” she said to boos from the young crowd at Kent State University in Ohio.

“By all mean they should look at them and I am sure they will reach the same conclusion as when they looked at my emails: there is no case.”

block-time published-time 6.31pm GMT

Donald Trump’s companies have deleted thousands of documents and records from court proceedings, often defying court orders, according to a Newsweek investigation[http://www.newsweek.com/2016/11/11/donald-trump-companies-destroyed-emails-documents-515120.html] - despite his anger at Hillary Clinton deleting emails from her private server.

Journalist Kurt Eichwald explains the tactics Trump would use to hide documents:

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.

Trump would file untruthful affidavits, ignore deadlines and employ top delaying tactics, says Eichwald.

block-time published-time 6.13pm GMT

Trump says it 'took guts' for FBI chief to send letter to Congress Trump claimed on Monday that the FBI had stumbled across a digital “motherlode” and predicted they would discover missing work-related emails that had been deleted from Clinton’s computers.

“650,000?.. I think you are going to find the 33,000 that are missing,” he told supporters in Michigan. “I think we hit the motherlode as they say in the mining industry.”

He also urged FBI director James Comey to resist political pressure from those criticizing his decision to disclose the investigation.

“He’s gotta hang tough because a lot of people think he did the wrong thing, but he did the right thing,” Trump told the Grand Rapids rally. “I was not his fan but what he did he brought back his reputation.”

“It took guts for director Comey to do what he did,” he added, to chants of “lock her up” from the crowd.

block-time published-time 6.05pm GMT

UK golf resort owned by Trump summonsed for alleged privacy breach A Scottish golf resort owned by Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] is being taken to court for allegedly breaching the privacy of a rambler photographed by staff without her consent or knowledge.

The resort in Aberdeenshire was served with a court summons on Monday after Trump’s Scottish lawyers admitted that two staff members took mobile phone images of Rohan Beyts while she was on the course in April.

Trump International Golf Club Scotland[https://www.theguardian.com/uk/scotland], owned by the Republican presidential candidate, has been ordered to appear at Edinburgh sheriff court on 22 December to respond to a civil action lodged in the small claims court by Beyts this month.

Beyts is seeking damages of up to £3,000 ($3,650) after TIGCS rejected her initial requests by letter[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/05/rambler-sues-trump-golf-resort-scotland-breach-of-privacy] for an apology and damages. Her civil action claims the company is guilty of a criminal offence under the UK’s data protection and privacy legislation, after an investigation by the Guardian[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/11/trump-scottish-golf-resort-admits-breaching-data-protection-law?CMP=share\_btn\_tw] revealed the resort was in breach of the Data Protection Act.

The resort admitted it was not registered under the act with the Information Commissioner’s Office despite operating at least nine CCTV cameras and holding confidential records on its staff, its thousands of customers and its suppliers. It subsequently registered with the ICO in August.

In the US, meanwhile, Trump has threatened to sue any cinema that screens the documentary, You’ve Been Trumped Too. Made by Anthony Baxter, the film is a sequel to You’ve Been Trumped, in which Baxter was seen being forcibly arrested[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/sep/12/film-makers-arrested-donald-trump-scottish-golf-resort] by police as he investigated allegations of intimidatory behavior against the property tycoon’s neighbors in 2010.

Read the rest of the article here[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/31/uk-golf-resort-owned-donald-trump-summonsed-alleged-privacy-breach].

Related: UK golf resort owned by Trump summonsed for alleged privacy breach[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/31/uk-golf-resort-owned-donald-trump-summonsed-alleged-privacy-breach]

block-time published-time 5.57pm GMT

Donald Trump’s campaign is refusing to pay a $767,000 bill to a Florida pollster, reports the Washington Post[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/10/31/donald-trump-is-refusing-to-pay-his-campaign-pollster-nearly-three-quarters-of-a-million-dollars/?postshare=7601477933633852&tid=ss\_tw].

The Trump campaign hired GOP strategist and pollster Tony Fabrizio in May. Trump’s latest campaign filings show that it is disputing over three quarters of a million dollars to Fabrizio’s company.

The Trump campaign already paid $624,000 for Fabrizio’s services.

block-time published-time 5.40pm GMT

“Her election would mire our government and country in a constitutional crisis that we can not afford,” says Trump, arguing that an investigation into Hillary Clinton’s email will last years and cripple the economy.

block-time published-time 5.38pm GMT

“Thank you Huma! Good job Huma! Thank you Anthony Weiner!” says Trump to laughter at Michigan, referencing how the FBI is examining emails that came to light due to the investigation of Weiner sexting with an underage girl.

block-time published-time 5.33pm GMT

“It took guts for director Comey to make the move he made in light of the opposition he had where they’re trying to protect her from criminal prosecution... it took a lot of guts,” says Trump in Michigan.

block-time published-time 5.30pm GMT

enltrIt's a festive stage for Trump today in Grand Rapids (??: pooler @alivitali[https://twitter.com/alivitali] ) pic.twitter.com/11SevR8sxj[https://t.co/11SevR8sxj]

— Ashley Killough (@KilloughCNN) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/KilloughCNN/status/793142731518410753]The pool reporter Ali Vitali also notes that Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner is also in attendance today.

block-time published-time 5.27pm GMT

“When I win on November 8, I am going to bring your jobs back to America,” Trump tells the crowd in Michigan.

“We’re going to make Michigan the economic envy of the entire world once again,” he says.

block-time published-time 5.24pm GMT

Donald Trump takes to the stage in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

block-time published-time 5.20pm GMT

White House will not 'defend or criticize' FBI chief The White House says it will not “defend or criticize” FBI chief James Comey’s decision to alert Congress on Friday to new emails relating to the use of a private email server by Hillary Clinton just 11 days out from the election.

Josh Earnest, White House secretary, said Comey is a well-regarded official and that the White House does not have enough information to support or not support his actions.

“The president doesn’t believe that Comey is deliberately trying to affect the outcome of an election, or that he’s secretly strategizing to benefit one candidate or political party,” said Earnest in a press briefing.

block-time published-time 4.49pm GMT

Interesting article in the Washington Post[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/inside-evan-mcmullins-10-years-undercover-in-the-cia/2016/10/30/10347aa6-9d42-11e6-9980-50913d68eacb\_story.html?utm\_term=.9baefd420321] about Evan McMullin, the independent candidate, who was an undercover CIA agent for a decade. Because of security concerns, little information about this time has previously been made public:

McMullin joined the CIA as a student trainee while an undergraduate at Brigham Young University. He would alternate semesters between the university and training at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. During that time, he spent a year in Israel and Jordan learning Arabic. He also worked for a refugee resettlement program run by the United Nations.

After graduating in 2001, McMullin joined the CIA’s directorate of operations, which runs clandestine missions abroad. He was in a computer training class at Langley headquarters when the 9/11 attacks occurred. After that, McMullin’s 18-month training to be an undercover operative was sped up, and he soon found himself in a southwest Asian country where the U.S. military was deeply engaged in the new war on terror. The specific country remains classified to protect his contacts there.

The CIA station chief who supervised McMullin in his first overseas assignment told me that McMullin stood out among all the new case officers because of his insistence on going outside the safe confines of the embassy to meet and develop human- intelligence assets. As a Mormon, McMullin could not indulge in the vices that often help to build such bonds, so he used his piousness and his experience before college as a missionary in Brazil to his advantage.

... McMullin served his later years as an undercover officer in Iraq while the U.S. military was battling a brutal Sunni insurgency and collecting intelligence on what was then called al-Qaeda in Iraq but is now the Islamic State. McMullin worked in Iraq until 2010, when the country achieved a degree of stability and the terrorist threat was temporarily minimized.

block-time published-time 4.37pm GMT

CNN 'completely uncomfortable' with leaked Clinton debate question CNN is “completely uncomfortable” with news that acting DNC head Donna Brazile allegedly leaked debate questions to Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

CNN spokesperson Lauren Pratapas released a statement on the revelations from today’s latest Wikileaks release of emails supposedly from Clinton campaign chief John Podesta, that show Brazile alerted Clinton that a question on the Flint water crisis would be asked during her debate with Bernie Sanders.

Pratapas’ statement reads:

On October 14th, CNN accepted Donna Brazile’s resignation as a CNN contributor. (Her deal had previously been suspended in July when she became the interim head of the DNC.) CNN never gave Brazile access to any questions, prep material, attendee list, background information or meetings in advance of a town hall or debate. We are completely uncomfortable with what we have learned about her interactions with the Clinton campaign while she was a CNN contributor.

block-time published-time 4.32pm GMT

Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] falsely claimed at a rally on Sunday that Hillary Clinton wants to let “650 million people pour in” to the US and “triple the size of our country in one week”.

Speaking in an airplane hangar in Albuquerque, New Mexico[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/newmexico], Trump again pushed his hardline **immigration**stance and warned of the dangers posed by what he described as Clinton’s “open borders” policy.

Trump took his alarmist rhetoric to a new height when boasting about his endorsement from the union which represents ICE and border patrol officers. He told them: “You know, it would be much easier working for Obama or working for crooked Hillary because frankly when you’re working for Hillary, she wants to let people just pour in.”

Trump continued: “You could have 650 million people pour in and we do nothing about it. Think of it, that’s what could happen. You triple the size of our country in one week. Once you lose control of your borders you have no country.”

The Republican nominee’s campaign has long used strident rhetoric about **immigration**. He alleged in his June 2015 campaign announcement that the Mexican government was deliberately sending rapists[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/02/donald-trump-racist-claims-mexico-rapes] across the border and has repeatedly compared Syrian refugees to “the Trojan horse”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/donald-trump-syria-refugees-us-immigration-security-terrorism].

Trump though has never suggested that Clinton, whom he has long derided as “a globalist”, supported tripling the size of the US through a mass migration unprecedented in world history.

Although Clinton is long on the record in favor of comprehensive **immigration** reform and a path to citizenship for undocumented **immigrants**, there is no evidence she favors increasing the US population by 650 million, a total roughly equal to the combined population of Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

Read the rest of the article here[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/31/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-650-million-people-immigration].

Related: Donad Trump says Clinton would let 650 million people into US in a week[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/31/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-650-million-people-immigration]

block-time published-time 3.57pm GMT

New Podesta emails show Clinton received leaked debate question A new batch of emails leaked by Wikileaks from the gmail account of John Podesta, Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager is out today, seeming to show Donna Brazile, the interim head of the DNC and a CNN contributor, giving Clinton a heads up about a likely debate question the day before she was due to take on Bernie Sanders at a primary debate.

enltrBrazile 2 weeks ago: "I never had access to questions and would never have shared them with the candidates if I did"

Yeah, ok. pic.twitter.com/8jBOZ4G8q6[https://t.co/8jBOZ4G8q6]

— Gabby Morrongiello (@gabriellahope\_) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/gabriellahope\_/status/793094919275544577]A woman did ask about the Flint water crisis at the next debate.

On October 11, Brazile released a statement – after earlier Podesta emails supposedly showed Brazile leaking a CNN town hall question – declaring: “As it pertains to the CNN debates, I never had access to questions and would never have shared them with the candidates if I did.”

enltrDonna Brazile statement on Wikileaks emails pic.twitter.com/LqblQt6Kjo[https://t.co/LqblQt6Kjo]

— Zeke Miller (@ZekeJMiller) October 11, 2016[https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller/status/785915299593801729]In another message, Podesta emails Neera Tanden, the president of Center for American Progress, about Clinton’s prospects and questions her “instincts” in the campaign.

Leaked John Podesta email Photograph: Wikileaks WikiLeaks has been publishing batches of the leaked emails all month, after publishing leaks from the Democratic National Committee’s emails in October. Podesta and the Clinton campaign have refused to confirm the emails are genuine.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.28pm GMT

block-time published-time 3.26pm GMT

From Washington bureau chief Dan Roberts in Cleveland

The Republican campaign is seizing on signs of momentum to target an expanded map of states that it now sees as winnable, including once safely Democratic territory in industrial Midwest.

Donald Trump was due to speak in Grand Rapids and Warren in Michigan on Monday, before appearing with running mate Mike Pence in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on Tuesday.

Until his polling gap began to narrow again last week, Trump had been forced back back to a dwindling number of competitive-looking swing states, while it was Hillary Clinton who was expanding her campaign ambitions by eyeing Republican territory in Utah, Arizona and Georgia.

But renewed optimism among Republicans, particularly after the FBI letter, has created an unusually vast national battleground for both candidates to cover, particularly as Trump’s economic populism scrambles traditional demographic dividing lines.

Michigan and Wisconsin have both been hit hard by the loss of manufacturing jobs and were the scene of surprise defeats for Clinton during the Democratic primary when large numbers of blue-collar workers favored Bernie Sanders.

Signs of fresh Democratic nervousness in Wisconsin first became apparent last week when the Clinton campaign suddenly announced a new advertising blitz. Sanders has now been despatched to help campaign for Clinton in the state on Wednesday.

The impact of early voting may also be forcing Trump to look further afield for the necessary electoral college votes however. States such as a North Carolina, which were seen as must win for Republicans, have seen heavy early turnout among Democrats and may be relatively immune from any late swing away from Clinton.

If he cannot win North Carolina but picks up the must-win states of Florida and Ohio, Trump’s best hope of pulling off a shock victory would rely on over-performing either in rustbelt states like Michigan and Wisconsin, or closing ground rapidly in the North East by wining New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and a congressional district in Maine.

Clinton meanwhile is redoubling her efforts to prevent Trump from even reaching this point. Two stops on Monday in Ohio will be followed by three stops in Florida on Tuesday and another swing to North Carolina later in the week as Democrats look to nip any resurgent Republican hopes firmly in the bud.

block-time published-time 3.25pm GMT

“It’s surprising to me that anybody would say that ‘you’re beyond the pale’ for a position that’s taken by around half the country,” says Peter Thiel, in his DC address.

“This is the first time I’ve done something that is conventional... and it’s been the most controversial thing ever,” he adds.

block-time published-time 3.23pm GMT

Clinton strong in Nevada early voting Jon Ralston, dean of Nevada journalism, has been tracking early voting in Nevada[http://www.ktnv.com/news/ralston/the-nevada-early-voting-blog] and he thinks Hillary Clinton looks strong.

Dems are up 15 points in Clark (it was 16 in 2012), which is a point above registration, and that firewall is going to get to 60,000-plus, unless something strange happens. I repeat: Trump appears to have no path here, but the Senate race is not quite over yet.

Nevada is one of three states, with Ohio and Florida, to have voted for every presidential winner since 1996; it’s also a very important state for Trump this year.

After Sunday, the Dems are leading in Nevada by 34,000 votes. So far voter turnout is 31% of all voters.

block-time published-time 3.07pm GMT

“Real events seem like the rehearsals for Saturday Night Live,” says billionaire Peter Thiel, kicking off his chat about why he’s backing Trump.

block-time published-time 3.03pm GMT

Billionaire Peter Thiel is about to address the National Press Club in DC about why he supports Donald Trump.

block-time published-time 3.00pm GMT

Former AGs speak out against Comey's handling of Clinton emails Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey penned an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal[http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/the-fbi-directors-dishonorable-choice-1477863402] questioning the FBI’s handling of the entire investigation into Hillary Clinton’s emails.

The publicity around the case “do no credit to him [FBI chief James Comey], or to the leadership of the Justice Department, of which the FBI is a part,” writes Mukasey.

He continues:

Friday’s announcement had a history. Recall that Mr. Comey’s authority extends only to supervising the gathering of facts to be presented to Justice Department lawyers for their confidential determination of whether those facts justify a federal prosecution.

Nonetheless, in July he announced that “no reasonable prosecutor” would seek to charge her with a crime, although Mrs. Clinton had classified information on a private nonsecure server—at least a misdemeanor under one statute; and although she was “extremely careless” in her handling of classified information such that it was exposed to hacking by hostile foreign nations—a felony under another statute; and apparently had caused the destruction of emails—a felony under two other statutes. He then told Congress repeatedly that the investigation into her handling of emails was closed.

Those decisions were not his to make, nor were the reasons he offered for making them at all tenable: that prosecutions for anything but mishandling large amounts of classified information, accompanied by false statements to investigators, were unprecedented; and that criminal prosecutions for gross negligence were constitutionally suspect.

Former AG Eric Holder’s Washington Post op-ed[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eric-holder-james-comey-is-a-good-man-but-he-made-a-serious-mistake/2016/10/30/08e7208e-9f07-11e6-8832-23a007c77bb4\_story.html?utm\_term=.bb2886061c76] today also points out Comey’s previous public statements in July about Clinton’s emails were problematic and against DOJ policy.

This controversy has its roots in the director’s July decision to hold a news conference announcing his recommendation that the Justice Department bring no charges against Hillary Clinton. Instead of making a private recommendation to the attorney general — consistent with Justice Department policy — he chose to publicly share his professional recommendation, as well as his personal opinions, about the case. That was a stunning breach of protocol. It may set a dangerous precedent for future investigations. It was wrong.

Over the weekend, the Clinton campaign got nearly 100 former federal prosecutors and Department of Justice officials, including Holder and former Deputy AG Larry Thompson, to sign an open letter questioning Comey’s behavior.

Perhaps most troubling to us is the precedent set by this departure from the Department’s widely-respected, non-partisan traditions. The admonitions that warn officials against making public statements during election periods have helped to maintain the independence and integrity of both the Department’s important work and public confidence in the hardworking men and women who conduct themselves in a nonpartisan manner.

We believe that adherence to longstanding Justice Department guidelines is the best practice when considering public statements on investigative matters. We do not question Director Comey’s motives. However, the fact remains that the Director’s disclosure has invited considerable, uninformed public speculation about the significance of newly-discovered material just days before a national election. For this reason, we believe the American people deserve all the facts, and fairness dictates releasing information that provides a full and complete picture regarding the material at issue.

The full letter is available on Clinton’s website[https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/statements/2016/10/30/open-letter-from-former-federal-prosecutors-and-high-ranking-officials-of-the-u-s-department-of-justice/].

block-time published-time 2.39pm GMT

Peter Thiel to explain his support of Trump Controversial billionaire Peter Thiel, who secretly funded the Hulk Hogan lawsuit that shut Gawker down, will speak at the National Press Club in Washington, DC at 11am today about why he supports Donald Trump.

Thiel, a Facebook board member, donated $1.25 million to the Trump campaign two weeks ago.

He wants today’s address to be a dialogue.

“Ideally, this will have the give-and-take of debate,” he told the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/31/technology/peter-thiel-defends-his-most-contrarian-move-yet-supporting-trump.html]. “Obviously, I’ll get some very tough questions about Trump. But I thought the best way to advance the discussion was not to have some completely contrived format. The future of this country depends on us engaging with the tough questions.”

block-time published-time 2.25pm GMT

Sport is surely more unpredictable than an election, but still.

enltrCubs have slightly better chance of winning World Series than Trump does winning Presidency. Split screen via @FiveThirtyEight[https://twitter.com/FiveThirtyEight] @jonkarl[https://twitter.com/jonkarl] pic.twitter.com/yx095451e1[https://t.co/yx095451e1]

— David Wright (@WrightUps) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/WrightUps/status/793086877846867969]block-time published-time 1.57pm GMT

Original 'Daisy girl' stars in Clinton nuclear weapons ad The original “Daisy girl”, from the 1964 Lyndon B Johnson ad warning of nuclear war, appears in a Hillary Clinton ad warning of Trump’s embracing of nuclear weapons.

“The fear of nuclear war that we had as children, I never thought our children would ever have to deal with that again. And to see that coming forward in that election is really scary,” says Monique Corzilius Luiz in the newly released ad.

enltr"The fear of nuclear war that we had as children, I never thought our children would ever have to deal with that again." pic.twitter.com/7LYCDaUau9[https://t.co/7LYCDaUau9]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/793072337960697857]And for old times sake, here’s the original Daisy ad (over 50 years later and it stands up well as a fear-inducing ad, don’t you think?).

block-time published-time 1.35pm GMT

On Thursday Melania Trump will deliver a speech in Philadelphia, her first since her address at the Republican National Convention in July, which was partly copied from a speech by Michelle Obama.

enltrNew: the next First Lady, @MELANIATRUMP[https://twitter.com/MELANIATRUMP], to deliver speech in suburban #Philly[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Philly?src=hash] on Thursday. #MAGA[https://twitter.com/hashtag/MAGA?src=hash]

— Kellyanne Conway (@KellyannePolls) October 30, 2016[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls/status/792760066080473089]When Trump mentioned last week in an interview with George Stephanopoulos that Melania would be making two to three speeches before the election, she appeared surprised:

enltrDonald Trump tells @GMA[https://twitter.com/GMA] Melania will be making "two or three speeches" https://t.co/uK3nCE5p1h[https://t.co/uK3nCE5p1h] https://t.co/UFgEF1lcsT[https://t.co/UFgEF1lcsT]

— ABC News (@ABC) October 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/ABC/status/791605547862597632]block-time published-time 1.25pm GMT

Ex-congressman Joe Walsh - he of the recent “if Trump loses, I’m grabbing my musket” comments - may despise Hillary Clinton, but he doesn’t agree with FBI chief James Comey’s actions either.

enltrPolitics aside, James Comey has screwed this thing up from the get go.

He wrongly let her off in July & he wrongly stuck it to her Friday.

— Joe Walsh (@WalshFreedom) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/WalshFreedom/status/792892327337553921]enltrU may hate me, but I'll always say what I believe.

I want Trump to win, but what Comey just did to Hillary Is wrong & really unfair to her.

— Joe Walsh (@WalshFreedom) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/WalshFreedom/status/792898831134359553]enltrHillary is corrupt as hell, but the FBI Dir has no right to mess with an election.

He goes public cuz of emails no one has seen? Just wrong

— Joe Walsh (@WalshFreedom) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/WalshFreedom/status/792908247258783744]block-time published-time 12.33pm GMT

Happy Halloween and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. It’s a scary time for the Clinton campaign, after the director of the FBI alerted Congress on Friday to newly discovered emails[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-fbi-director-comey-emails] relating to the investigation into Hillary Clinton’s private email server. FBI chief James Comey has also had a fright, coming under fire for what might be seen as some rather partisan behavior.

The FBI has acquired a warrant[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-fbi-director-comey-emails] needed to examine thousands of emails found on a laptop used by Clinton’s top aide Huma Abedin, whose estranged husband, Anthony Weiner, is under investigation for allegedly sending illicit texts to a minor.

As many as 650,000 emails[http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/laptop-may-include-thousands-of-emails-linked-to-hillary-clintons-private-server-1477854957] were found about a month ago during the separate investigation of Weiner, reports said. Some of them may have been sent through the Clinton private server and perhaps not examined by the FBI in its initial investigation of the Clinton emails, which ended with no charge in July.

Eight days out from the election, the effect of all this remains uncertain. Here, Dan Roberts asks if it will cost Clinton the election[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/hillary-clinton-lose-election-fbi-email-investigation]. Here, a Morning Consult/Politico poll[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/clinton-emails-comey-poll-politico-morning-consult-230519] has Clinton still three points ahead.

Related: James Comey: Hillary Clinton email inquiry is FBI chief's latest controversy[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/james-comey-fbi-director-hillary-clinton-email]

Comey slammed for election interference Eric Holder, attorney general in the Obama administration from 2009 to 2015, wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eric-holder-james-comey-is-a-good-man-but-he-made-a-serious-mistake/2016/10/30/08e7208e-9f07-11e6-8832-23a007c77bb4\_story.html?hpid=hp\_no-name\_opinion-card-e%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\_term=.6091e9fe3bdf] saying Comey broke justice department policy by possibly interfering with an election and commenting on an ongoing investigation:

These rules have been followed during Republican and Democratic administrations. They aren’t designed to help any particular individual or to serve any political interest. Instead, they are intended to ensure that every investigation proceeds fairly and judiciously; to maintain the public trust in the department’s ability to do its job free of political influence; and to prevent investigations from unfairly or unintentionally casting public suspicion on public officials who have done nothing wrong.

Director Comey broke with these fundamental principles.

Holder joined dozens of formal federal prosecutors[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-fbi-director-comey-emails] criticizing Comey for contacting Congress about the emails just 11 days out from the election.

Senate minority leader Harry Reid, meanwhile, launched a blistering attack on Comey, accusing him of possibly violating the law:

My office has determined that these actions may violate the Hatch Act, which bars FBI officials from using their official authority to influence an election. Through your partisan action, you may have broken the law.

Reid also claimed, without citing evidence, that Comey’s FBI had withheld information about links between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Congressman Steve Cohen, a Democrat from Tennessee, called on Comey to resign:

If Director Comey cares about the bureau and the rule of law, as I have felt he has in the past, I’m sure upon reflection of this action, he will submit his letter of resignation for the nation’s good.

The Clinton campaign has called for Comey to explain what is going on – so far there is no indication that the FBI or Comey will clarify anything.

Related: Clinton emails: FBI gets warrant as Comey told he may have broken law[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-fbi-director-comey-emails]

Clinton camp goes quiet

Joe Scarborough, host of NBC’s Morning Joe, noted this morning that Clinton surrogates avoided coming on TV to discuss the email drama:

enltrWe have been asking Clinton campaign officials and senior Democrats to come on the show all weekend.

The invitation remains wide-open.

— Joe Scarborough (@JoeNBC) October 31, 2016[https://twitter.com/JoeNBC/status/793044973184815104] Where the rallies are today Today Trump is in Michigan, a state most expect to vote Democratic: he has a rally in Grand Rapids at 12pm, then another in Warren at 3pm. His VP pick, Mike Pence, is hosting three events in Florida. Clinton is in another battleground state, Ohio, hosting early vote rallies in Kent and Cincinnati. Her veep, Tim Kaine, is in North Carolina.

Please join us in the comments.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**US Treasury secretary tells Oxford Union there has been a rise in anxiety in many countries over the ‘lopsided’ economy

Liberal democracy and free market capitalism are under threat unless governments do more to tackle inequality, the US Treasury secretary has warned on a visit to the UK.

Jack Lew called for Britain and the EU to ensure their economies remain “highly integrated” when Britain leaves the bloc[http://uk.reuters.com/article/us-usa-treasury-lew-idUKKBN12V14Z]. He linked the vote for Brexit[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/eu-referendum] to a more general rise in anxiety among people over how economies have evolved and the “lopsided” nature of gains.

With just over a week to go to the US presidential election[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-elections-2016] and against the backdrop of a tight race[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/democratic-senators-fbi-director-comey-clinton-emails-letter] between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, Lew told an audience in Oxford that populism was on the rise in many countries, calling it “a challenge in so many parts of the world right now”.

Lew told the Oxford Union debating society: “Clearly it was an issue during the vote here and the decision whether or not to remain part of the European Union. It’s clearly a part of the elections taking place in the United States this year. And if you look around in Europe, it’s part of elections in so many countries in Europe.”

He said people’s worries about their economic situation and economic prospects stemmed from many sources, including technological changes and globalisation.

“In the United States – and I would hazard to say that this is true here in the vote for Brexit – there is some anxiety that flows from the way that the modern economy has evolved that is looking for a solution,” he said.

“Why don’t people feel good? They are looking at an economy that increasingly seems lopsided,” he added, saying many workers who paid tax felt wronged by what they saw a business tax system where “on the international side you see a whole lot of international firms organising themselves to avoid paying in some cases any taxes”.

The onus was on government to reform the tax system, to increase investment in people so that they have the right education and skills for the modern workplace and to spend on infrastructure, according to Lew, who has served as Treasury secretary under president Barack Obama since 2013 after a stint as White House chief of staff.

Without such moves, he predicted drastic long-term consequences. “We run the real risk that middle class, working class people say, ‘I see the economy is growing but I don’t see how I am going to benefit from it.’ The danger, if that is where things drift to, is not just a short-term political one, I actually think it’s a fundamental threat to liberal democracy and to free market capitalism.”

Without referring specifically to Trump and his proposal to build a wall between the US and Mexico, Lew also addressed rising concerns among voters over **immigration**.

“We have a history [in the US] of ‘everyone should have an opportunity’, and you look at the way the modern economy has evolved and people are beginning to question that proposition.

“When people question that proposition they lash out and historically one of the places people lash out is against outsiders. And I don’t think it’s a surprise to see that when people are anxious they lash out on issues like **immigration**. But the answer is not to put up borders that are impermeable … but it’s also not to ignore the anxieties,” Lew told his audience in Oxford.

Related: There's comfort in the GDP figures – but it's strictly early days[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/27/theres-comfort-gdp-figures-early-days-philip-hammond]

Touching on a debate at the heart of the UK’s referendum battle, when pro-Brexit MP Michael Gove remarked “people in this country have had enough of experts”[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/09/michael-gove-experts-academics-vote], Lew also raised concerns about widespread scepticism over fact-based analysis.

“I fear that there is a growing distrust of authorities in general … The alternative to relying on expert analysis is making decisions more emotionally and that worries me,” he said.

He also championed US efforts to strike free trade deals but said politicians had a responsibility to convey to people how those trade deals were improving economic growth and living standards. Barriers, on the other hand, hindered economic growth, he added, in another apparent dig at Trump’s protectionist policies.

Lew also congratulated himself and his administration for progress made on shoring up financial stability since the global crisis.

He said conversations with big banks in the week after the Brexit vote showed him that moves to build up capital and readiness to deal with shocks was paying dividends. But he stressed that the fact the global economy had been able to withstand shocks like the referendum should not lead to complacency.

“We should never take our eye off the ball in terms of asking what is the threat of the future … False complacency is a thing to worry about,” he said.

Earlier on Monday, Lew met with bank bosses in London. Following the discussions his spokeswoman relayed the Treasury secretary’s pleas for an orderly Brexit process. “The secretary reiterated that a transparent, smooth and cooperative process that results in a highly integrated economic relationship is in the best interests of Europe, the United States, and the global economy,” she said.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Republican presidential nominee makes outlandish **immigration** claim at a rally in New Mexico while also stoking fears of voting fraud in Colorado

Donald Trump falsely claimed at a rally on Sunday that Hillary Clinton wants to let “650 million people pour in” to the US and “triple the size of our country in one week”.

Speaking in an airplane hangar in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Trump again pushed his hardline **immigration** stance and warned of the dangers posed by what he described as Clinton’s “open borders” policy.

Trump took his alarmist rhetoric to a new height when boasting about his endorsement from the union which represents ICE and border patrol officers. He told them: “You know, it would be much easier working for Obama or working for crooked Hillary because frankly when you’re working for Hillary, she wants to let people just pour in.”

Trump continued: “You could have 650 million people pour in and we do nothing about it. Think of it, that’s what could happen. You triple the size of our country in one week. Once you lose control of your borders you have no country.”

The Republican nominee’s campaign has long used strident rhetoric about **immigration**. He alleged in his June 2015 campaign announcement that the Mexican government was deliberately sending rapists[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/02/donald-trump-racist-claims-mexico-rapes] across the border and has repeatedly compared Syrian refugees to “the Trojan horse”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/donald-trump-syria-refugees-us-immigration-security-terrorism].

Trump though has never suggested that Clinton, whom he has long derided as “a globalist”, supported tripling the size of the US through a mass migration unprecedented in world history.

Although Clinton is long on the record in favor of comprehensive **immigration** reform and a path to citizenship for undocumented **immigrants**, there is no evidence she favors increasing the US population by 650 million, a total roughly equal to the combined population of Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

Related: Kellyanne Conway: Trump fan yelling ‘Jew-S-A’ behaved in ‘deplorable’ way[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/donald-trump-rally-jew-s-a-media-kellyanne-conway]

Trump’s comments on **immigration** came hours after he further stoked[http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/30/politics/donald-trump-write-in-ballots/index.html] fears of election fraud in a rally in Colorado.

There, in a state where all voters can vote by mail, he suggested the electoral process was insecure and that his supporters should show up in person at polling places on election day and request a new ballot.

The Republican nominee has long suggested without basis that, as part of “a rigged system”, there is major in-person voter fraud in the US. A recent study found only 31 cases of in-person voter fraud out of a billion ballots cast between 2000-2014.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**In Florida, Democrat Patrick Murphy tries to highlight hypocrisy, but Republican Marco Rubio has proved resilient in a key Senate race

As Marco Rubio and Patrick Murphy squared off in the final debate of their Florida Senate race, the discussion turned to the Syrian civil war. Rubio, a former presidential candidate and member of the Senate intelligence committee, challenged his rival’s understanding of the factions on the ground. Murphy, a two-term congressman, reverted to a familiar line.

Related: Inside a Donald Trump rally: good people in a feedback loop of paranoia and hate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/donald-trump-voters-rally-election-crowd]

“It just goes back to the same point,” he said, “that Senator Rubio continues to support Donald Trump, and it is shameful that he stands there with him.”

The audience laughed, faintly, at one of nearly 20 mentions of the Republican presidential nominee[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/donald-trump-voters-rally-election-crowd] during the one-hour debate. When Murphy next mentioned Trump, Rubio was quick with a rejoinder based on a famous Joe Biden rebuke of Rudy Giuliani[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DteDRD6cbbM] : “A noun, a verb and Donald Trump: that’s his answer to everything.”

The race in Florida, among the most closely watched in the country, could help determine whether Republicans keep control of the Senate. Democrats see the vote as a referendum on Trump. But Murphy’s mentions of the businessman underscored the potential limitations of using the top of the ticket to mount attacks down the ballot.

Murphy has questioned how Rubio can endorse Trump, whom Rubio has called “a con man”, untrustworthy with the nuclear codes, and “the most vulgar person ever to aspire to the presidency”. In recent weeks, polls have given the Democrat hope, in part because Trump is trailing Hillary Clinton in Florida by around three points. But with nine days left before Election Day, Rubio is about seven points up on Trump in the state.

‘Less than ideal choices’ This week, both candidates spoke to the Guardian. “I’ve said all along that these are less than ideal choices before us,” Rubio said, “and that’s why we need a senator willing to stand up to the next president no matter who it is – even if it’s from your own party.”

Rubio was speaking on the day the FBI director, James Comey, said the agency was reviewing emails that might be pertinent to the closed investigation into Clinton’s use of a private server while secretary of state.

“The question now is will Patrick Murphy still 100% trust Hillary Clinton, as he has said in the past,” he said.

Murphy, who spoke earlier in the week after appearing with Clinton at a rally in Coconut Creek, said there was no comparison between the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees.

“I’m grateful that Senator Rubio’s connecting me to Secretary Clinton,” Murphy said. “You look at what she’s been fighting for her entire life, and you contrast that to Donald Trump. You talk about a contrast of both qualifications and temperament for who our next world leader is going to be.”

Citing Trump’s litany of inflammatory comments – against **immigrants**, Muslims, women, the Gold Star parents of an Iraq war hero, prisoners of war and more – Murphy said it was “appalling to a lot of Floridians that Marco Rubio continues to stand by Donald Trump’s side”.

“A lot of people had the courage to stand up to Donald Trump,” he added, noting the flurry of Republicans who withdrew their support earlier this month after a video was unearthed from 2005[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/08/john-mccain-donald-trump-sex-boast-tape] in which the former reality TV star bragged about groping and kissing women without consent.

Rubio, despite condemning Trump’s comments, was not among them. His has kept Trump at a distance, however, making no campaign appearances with the nominee despite his frequent presence in Florida.

Rubio’s rationale rests primarily in the balance of the supreme court, where the vacancy left by Antonin Scalia remains. In the primary, Rubio doubted whether Trump would nominate a conservative. He told the Guardian a list of potential appointees released by Trump was “encouraging”.

“We’ll have to wait and see who wins the election and whether he’ll actually do that,” Rubio said. “But they’ll be held to the same standard, whether it’s a Republican president or a Democrat president … I’m looking for people that will apply the constitution according to the original intent of the words of the constitution.”

Rubio also expressed confidence that he would be judged on his own record. Saying his opponent lacked any legislative accomplishments despite having served in Congress for four years, Rubio touted his own work on issues such as human trafficking, sanctions against Venezuela and Hezbollah, and veterans affairs.

Asked if he would be willing to work with Clinton, he stopped short of naming potential areas of agreement. “I have a record of working with people across the aisle, and I’ll work with anyone if they’re pursuing ideas that I think are good for America,” he said.

Murphy, whose time in Congress has been been spent in the minority, denied he had little to show. He listed funding for the Everglades, preventing cuts to a key component of Medicare, and securing lower flood insurance rates, and stated his commitment to issues such as climate change, equal pay and raising the minimum wage.

He has nonetheless struggled with a lack of name recognition, compounded by limited resources after national Democratic groups withdrew millions of dollars in reserved ad spending.

The decision has drawn criticism from some observers, for its apparent abandonment of a race many believe is winnable. Others complain of a missed opportunity to deliver a fatal blow to Rubio, whom many believe will make another run for the presidency, potentially challenging Clinton in 2020.

But some involved in Democrats’ efforts to retake the Senate defended their move, citing Florida’s expensive media markets in comparison to battlegrounds such as Indiana, Missouri, and North Carolina, where money can prove more influential.

“I do think the threat of him running for president in 2020 is real,” a Senate Democratic strategist said of Rubio. “But our goal is to take back the Senate and win the White House right now. We’re not running a campaign for 2020.”

‘The height of cynicism’ Another Democratic strategist familiar with the Florida Senate race said internal polling conducted by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Clinton campaign showed Murphy trailing Rubio by high single digits. On Thursday, FiveThirtyEight[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/senate-update-rubio-is-keeping-the-republicans-hopes-alive-in-the-senate] gave Rubio an 81% chance of defeating Murphy, finding the sitting senator ahead in 48 of 50 public polls.

Pressure to reinvest in the race did pay some dividends last week, when a Super Pac affiliated with Senate minority leader Harry Reid confirmed it was transferring a seven-figure sum to a pro-Murphy super pac in Florida. Nonetheless, Murphy has largely had to rely on earned media coverage and high-profile surrogates.

Among the most vocal has been Barack Obama, who called Rubio’s support for Trump “the height of cynicism”.

“How can you call him a ‘con artist’ and ‘dangerous’ and object to all the controversial things he says and then say, ‘But I’m still gonna vote for him?’ C’mon, man!” Obama said at a campaign stop in Miami Gardens.

“That’s the sign of somebody who will say anything, do anything, pretend to be anybody, just to get elected. And you know what? If you’re willing to be anybody just to be somebody, then you don’t have the leadership that Florida needs in the United States Senate.”

Clinton has also urged voters to back Murphy and made a familiar connection: “Unlike his opponent, Patrick Murphy has not been afraid to stand up to Donald Trump and his dangerous, divisive campaign.”

Related: Donald Trump's ghostwriter on being the 'Dr Frankenstein' who made a monster[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/30/donald-trump-tony-schwartz-art-of-the-deal-out-of-control]

Such high-profile support, however, may prove too little, too late. For one thing, Rubio has a solid base of support among Hispanic voters, many of whom identify with the Spanish-speaking son of Cuban **immigrants** and in 2012 accounted for 17% of Florida’s electorate.

Murphy ramped up his outreach to the Hispanic community – somewhat belatedly, some say. In doing so, he sought to revive Rubio’s involvement in a comprehensive **immigration** reform bill in 2013, noting that the senator backed away from the issue when faced with backlash from conservatives.

It has been an uphill battle. In Miami’s Little Havana recently, at one of Clinton’s 81 Florida field offices, volunteers labored to get out the vote. Dozens of voters, mostly Latino, entered and left the building.

Among them were Azalia and Lucia Rodriguez. Originally from Nicaragua, they were motivated in part by resentment of Trump and said they would vote for Clinton. They did not support Rubio, they said. But they also did not plan to vote for Murphy.

Their reason? They hadn’t heard of him.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Trump’s crowd is full of honest and decent people – but the Republican’s invective has a chilling effect on fans of his one-man show

This is what greets you when you arrive at a Trump rally: two 18-wheelers parked outside the sports stadium where the Republican nominee will be speaking, placed end-to-end so that nobody can miss them. The front truck, painted white, has “The Donald for President” scrawled across its side, above the slogans: “All lives matter”, “Build the wall”, and “Keep Mexican dope in Mexico”.

It is a relatively gentle introduction to Trumpworld, a scattering of antagonism for the gathering crowd. If only the same could be said about the yellow truck parked right behind it.

“Hillary for prison”, it says beside a picture of Hillary Clinton behind bars. Another image of the Democratic presidential candidate has her brains spilling out of her skull with the caption: “Concussion wired”. Bill Clinton is seen laughing above the words: “Just realized if Hillary wins … I get interns”. A final shot of Hillary has her pointing at her husband and saying: “Bill! Monica gave you what?”

A couple of hundred feet away, in full view of the trucks, thousands of supporters patiently line up to hear their idol. Many of them have been here for hours. Many have small children in tow, including Jillian Major, a school food provider (“I’m a lunch lady”) who has an eight-month-old son in her arms and her daughter, 10, standing by her side.

What does Major think of the flood of revelations about Trump’s sexual indiscretions? I ask, trying to keep my voice down so that the girl won’t hear. “Hillary Clinton’s still married to Bill,” the mother replies, unflustered, “and he had oral sex in the White House, so she can’t say anything.”

Related: Election diary: Trump pledges to #DrainTheSwamp and Clinton turns 69[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/29/election-diary-donald-trump-hillary-clinton-birthday]

Isn’t she worried about the impact on her daughter of potentially having someone in the White House who brags about groping women’s genitals? “I’ll teach my own daughter to be independent and stand up for herself; that’s my job, not the president’s.”

A column of men and women stomp past heading for the front of the line, a confidence in their step as they march by sporting Harley-Davidson leather jackets. Who are they? Where are they going?

“We’re Bikers for Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/jul/19/bikers-for-trump-at-rnc-openly-carry-guns-video], and we’re going to join the VIP line,” says one of the club. “We ride for Trump; they make sure we get in.”

After only 15 minutes in Trumpworld, already the incongruities are overwhelming. Bikers in the VIP line, coming to support a real estate tycoon who lives in a $100m gilded penthouse[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3303819/Inside-Donald-Trump-s-100m-penthouse-lots-marble-gold-rimmed-cups-son-s-toy-personalized-Mercedes-15-000-book-risqu-statues.html]. A mother absolving Trump for his self-proclaimed sexual predation[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/08/donald-trump-lewd-tape-groping-recording-apology-debate-republicans] as her 10-year-old daughter listens in. Thousands lining up to Make America Great Again in the shadow of an 18-wheeler covered in crude sexual references.

As the bewildering 2016 presidential election draws to a close, some basic questions are left hanging in the air. After we have spent months watching the impossible happen, of hearing the defense of the indefensible, of observing American values – one after another ­– fall like bowling pins, it’s time to ask: what has this sometimes maddening, bizarre, gruesome, hilarious, shocking, scary Trump phenomenon been about? More urgently, once the pall of this most baffling of presidential elections has cleared and 8 November fades into the background, what will the Donald have left behind?

Some of the answers to those questions come easily, shared freely by Trump’s supporters as they wait in line. Conspiracy theories are one aspect of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Donald likely to be with us for a long time.

Here’s Vjekoslav Grgas, a Croatian American, standing dutifully in the non-VIP line. In five short minutes, he rattles off a litany of horror stories. Did you know that three men were assassinated at the Democratic national convention in July to cover up the fact that they were the source of the WikiLeaks dump of hacked Democratic emails? Or that the liberal financier George Soros bankrolled several US foreign policy disasters, and that Hillary Clinton personally pocketed 99% of the donations to the Clinton Foundation following the 2010 Haiti earthquake? In a rare note of discordance with the Republican nominee, he even adds that Trump was wrong to finally admit[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/16/donald-trump-barack-obama-birther-video] last month that Barack Obama is an American, as the US president’s birth certificate was obviously Photoshopped.

Other elements of the Trump phenomenon are more difficult to tease out. Phrases are thrown out from the line with such repetitive frequency that they take on the blandness of cliches. One of the VIP Bikers for Trump, John Hearl, is among many at the rally who says he likes the reality TV star because unlike career politicians, Trump “speaks his own mind”.

“Trump’s going to say what needs to be said, and if that offends somebody, well then, they just have to understand the goal of all this.”

Which is?

“America first.”

A little further ahead in the VIP line stands Carole Urban, wearing a sequined hat in the colors of the American flag. She says she is also looking forward to hearing Trump speaking, because “he’s down to our level. He’s not like past presidents who prepare a beautiful speech but it’s not coming from the heart. He speaks it like it is.”

Beautiful speeches from past presidents. Is she referring to Obama?

She pulls her shoulders back and with a note of indignation says: “When I first heard Obama I was elected, I thought he could improve our country. I voted for him in 2008. I was so disillusioned in him – after four years, he helped ruin this country.”

Was part of that disillusionment to do with Obama’s “beautiful speech”, as she puts it?

She shrugs a second time. “Yes, I was angry about his oratory. The way he was speaking, it touched my soul, it was so beautiful. A black person, everyone says, but he’s actually mulatto. I thought he could do a great job helping American people, but it didn’t happen like that.”

When I ask Urban about how, as a woman, she feels about Trump’s self-confessed sexually predatory behavior, she gets indignant. “I’m sick and tired of this being brought up. Words come out in the wrong way at times; you put your foot in your mouth. I don’t think Donald Trump is remotely derogatory to women.”

To follow Urban’s train of thought: Trump is loved by his supporters not just because of the content of what he says, such as his seemingly endless ability to insult anyone from Mexicans[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2015/06/16/trump\_mexico\_not\_sending\_us\_their\_best\_criminals\_drug\_dealers\_and\_rapists\_are\_crossing\_border.html] to Muslims[http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/07/politics/donald-trump-muslim-ban-immigration/] to African Americans[http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/19/politics/donald-trump-african-american-voters/] to women[http://www.cosmopolitan.com/politics/news/a44629/donald-trump-insults-women/]. It’s also the way he says it. It’s the language he uses: unscripted, unpolished, and not infrequently unintelligible. He is the antithesis of the fancy, considered Obama, with the Harvard law degree and the “beautiful speech”.

The contrast is worth exploring. Here is Obama speaking on the campaign trail at a similar end-game stage in the 2008 election: “Hope! That’s what kept our parents going when times were tough. It’s what led **immigrants** from distant lands to come to these shores against great odds and carve a new life for their families in America; what led those who couldn’t vote to march and organize and stand for freedom, that led them to cry out: ‘It may look dark tonight, but if I hold on to hope, tomorrow will be brighter.’”

And here is Trump speaking tonight at the rally, reproduced verbatim: “Bikers love me. I will see these bikers, oftentimes on Harleys, not always, but a lot of times. I feel so safe with these bikers. A lot of times they don’t want to come inside, they just want to make sure I feel safe. I love you guys, I love you guys.”

Or this on his rival: “Hillary lied. No, no, no, she lied. She’s a liar. And she lied and she lied. She lied. It’s so important we vote in November so that we get rid of these liars, these incompetent people, the Hillary Clintons.”

So what if Trump’s diction is less than perfect? There are no rules on how a would-be president should communicate with the people, nor are there minimum standards of rhetorical prowess for the White House.

What seems apparent is that Trump has given his followers the license to emulate him in throwing caution to the wind and saying things that previously were considered unacceptable. Trump has also opened a new era in American politics in which it doesn’t matter what you say or how you say it. Be as offensive as you like. Speak your own mind.

Related: Stop right there: assuming a Hillary Clinton victory is downright dangerous | Kate Aronoff[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/28/hillary-clinton-poll-assuming-win-is-downright-dangerous]

Inside the sports stadium, the impact of the Republican presidential nominee’s anti-oratory is all around us. Many are wearing “Hillary Clinton For Prison” T-shirts. Others have shirts that say “Proud member of the basket of deplorables”, a reference to the Democratic nominee’s unflattering description[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/10/hillary-clinton-half-of-trumps-supporters-go-into-the-basket-of-deplorables-video] of half of Trump’s following. A third T-shirt design scattered among the crowd has the face of Bill Clinton superimposed on the famous 2008 rainbow-colored Obama poster, with the word Hope replaced by Rape.

As the rally gets rowdier, whipped into a half-frenzy by the warm-up speakers, “Lock her up! Lock her up! Lock her up!” chants fill thestadium.

The former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani comes on to introduce the main speaker and immediately launches into a story about locker rooms, turning the candidate’s excuse for why he bragged about grabbing “pussy” into a joke. Then he turns his comments on Clinton, adding: “I’m going to get down off the stage with you into the basket of deplorables. Because unlike Clinton, you speak the truth. You’re for real, she’s a phoney.”

There’s a disconnect between the ugly schoolyard name-calling coming from the speakers and the outward appearance of their audience. Yes, there are the usual smattering of patriotic followers in costume of the sort that frequent any Republican event: women robed in the Stars and Stripes; men posing as Uncle Sam with crooked top hats like wonky chimneys on their heads. But most Trump supporters wear the unassuming uniform of middle America: jeans, checked shirt and jacket.

Most, too, are in work, and their median income[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-mythology-of-trumps-working-class-support/] is in fact above the national average. Until Trump and his surrogates get to work on them, the thousands filling the arena come across as wholly unexceptional: a genial bunch intent on enjoying themselves for the night, rather than die-hard fanatics baying for Clinton’s blood.

It’s the children who are the most striking. There are lots of them peppered around the stadium, from toddlers in diapers to wide-eyed teenagers taking it all in.

“I think Trump will bring back jobs,” says Ben, aged 13. “And he’ll close the borders down to Mexicans and illegal **immigrants** so that less young people like me die of opioid addiction.”

It’s a hefty thought for a 13-year-old. Does Ben know of anyone who’s died of a painkiller overdose? “No, I don’t know anyone personally.”

The crowd is at it again, raising a deafening cry of: “Lock her up! Lock her up! Lock her up!” – a powerful civics class for a middle-schooler.

Ben reacts to the chant: “I think Clinton lied in front of federal Congress and continues to lie about her emails. She’s unfit to be president.”

Trump enters the auditorium and the atmosphere rises to another level. Before he arrived it was already electric; now it’s like one of those static balls that make your hair stand on end.

The candidate launches into his routinely un-beautiful speech. “If you’re talking about Crooked Hillary, what about the crooked media? CNN is a disgrace. CNN is a disgrace.”

A huge boo erupts from the stadium floor as the crowd turns towards the media compound where reporters and camera operators are penned in for the duration. Trump’s invective has an immediate and chilling impact among the crowd. Men and women who only moments ago were pleasantly talking to us, sharing generously their reflections on the state of the nation, are now jabbing their fingers in our direction and spitting: “CNN sucks! CNN sucks! CNN sucks!” The hatred is intimidating.

“I’m telling you, folks, they are so dishonest,” Trump continues. “Without the media Hillary Clinton couldn’t be elected dog-catcher.”

He pauses, strutting up and down the stage like Mick Jagger in a business suit. He looks elated.

“Unshackled” is how he later describes his mood. But better than that would be “unbothered”. Donald Trump seems no longer bothered about the election, whether he wins or loses. He no longer cares about his perceived humiliation at the hands of CNN. Perhaps all he cares about is the adoration he is feeling right here, right now, in the Trumpworld bubble, surrounded by his adoring devotees.

And then it dawns. Trump is not just an enabler of his people. They enable him, too. This is a never-ending feedback loop of paranoia, hate, fear and envy that drives them – good, honest, decent people – down to the muddy bottom.

Related: Trump's rise and Brexit vote are more an outcome of culture than economics[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/28/trumps-rise-and-brexit-vote-are-more-an-outcome-of-culture-than-economics]

“Is there any more fun to be had than at a Trump rally?” Trump says, before launching into his favorite dialogue with the crowd that by now comes as second nature.

“We are going to build a…”

“Wall,” boom the Trumpistas.

“Who is going to pay for the wall?”

In the split second before the inevitable answer comes from the crowd, I turn around to look at Ben, seated a couple of rows behind me.

“Mexico!” shouts the 13-year-old. The boy is smiling, and clapping gleefully.

Before Trump departs for his private jet and Fifth Avenue apartment modeled on Versailles, this unlikely man of the people has a final word for his presidential fans. “You’re going to look back on this rally for the rest of your life,” he tells them. “This is a movement like you’ve never seen before and you will never see again. Believe me, it will never happen again.”

His point is clear: the marvel of Trumpworld can never be reconstructed by anyone other than the greatest political real estate developer of them all, Donald Trump. His one-man show is reaching the end of its run, but its impact may endure in a coarser, darker discourse even if he does lose on 8 November.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Despite being adopted at almost four years old by American parents, a court ruled that he is not a US citizen despite living almost his entire life there

Thirty-seven years after being adopted to the US, Adam Crapser is being deported back to South Korea, his birth country – a place he knows very little about, where he doesn’t speak the language, and to a culture he has had little to no exposure to.

When he lands in Seoul, Crapser, 41, will be able to write his name in Korean and recite the Korean alphabet. With only that, he will need to fill out documents to become an official Korean citizen, open a Korean bank account, get a job to support himself, and money to secure the expensive deposit for an apartment rental.

But first, “I will try to find a place to stay and rent a room,” he said Tuesday, in a phone interview from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, where he’s been held for nearly nine months.

On Monday, Crapser’s two-year-long **immigration** case[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/03/adam-crapser-deportation-korean-adoption-system-immigration] came to an end when, in a courtroom located in the detention center, Judge John C O’Dell denied Crapser’s plea to cancel his deportation removal and Crapser waived his right to appeal. He could be deported as early as three weeks from now. But in the meantime, the Korean consulate in Seattle must issue him travel documents, and **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement has to arrange his flight out of the US.

Related: Korean adoptee in **immigration** battle fights to remain in his country — the US[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/03/adam-crapser-deportation-korean-adoption-system-immigration]

His ordeal began in January 2015 with a knock on his door. Two Department of Homeland Security officers told him he was facing deportation charges because, despite being adopted at almost four years old by American parents, he was not a US citizen.

Before 2001, foreign-born adoptees such as Crapser weren’t granted automatic citizenship, instead entering the US on foreign-born adoption visas. Last November, Senator Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat, introduced the Adoptee Citizenship Act, which would grant retroactive citizenship to all foreign-born adoptees. Then in June, a companion bill was introduced in the House, but there has been no movement in Congress since.

His first adoptive parents, a strict couple, relinquished custody to the state of Oregon’s foster care system in 1985, when he was around 10 years old, after deciding they didn’t want him any more. After bouncing around foster homes, he was adopted into the Crapser family. Those parents were eventually arrested in 1991, charged with 34 counts of rape, sexual abuse and criminal mistreatment, including extreme physical assault. They were eventually found guilty of 12 of those charges. Adam Crapser was 17 at that time.

“Most people don’t understand that I didn’t ask to come here [US],” he said about his adoption. “I got placed with some idiots but I went on to live my life the best I could.”

Most people don’t understand that I didn’t ask to come here. I got placed with some idiots

Adam Crapser

He sighed: “It obviously wasn’t good enough.”

A troubled childhood then became a troubled adulthood, but things had settled down by the time the **immigration** authorities knocked on his door in 2015. He was living in Vancouver, Washington, with his wife and two young daughters, a third on the way.

Crapser had filed for a green card in 2012, trying to finally do what his adoptive parents had never gotten around to doing. But a standard background check in the application flagged his criminal record.

According to the Korean government, there are only 10 other adopted Koreans, known as deportees, who grew up in the US as children but were then deported as adults.

Other Korean deportees like Crapser have said that they were left at the Incheon airport – alone, with no plan and no money. Because Crapser’s case has been highly publicized, he has garnered an immense amount of support from many, including the Korean adoptee community. “A lot of deportees unfortunately didn’t have the support that I have,” he says. “I was fortunate and have braced myself for this.”

John Compton, internal adviser of Global Overseas Adoptee Link, an adoptee-led nongovernmental organization in Seoul, says he will try to meet Crapser upon his arrival in Korea. He’s also scrambling to find a place for Crapser to sleep on his first night in Seoul.

A little financial aid has been given to other deportees by a Korean government group, Korea Adoption Services, but Compton says it has run out of funds.

In a country that places a high value on higher education and language skills, finding a job will be difficult. Other Korean deportees work low-wage jobs with no tips in restaurants or bars.

Crapser does not have a college degree and has minimal language skills – he only recently learned the alphabet and his name because another Korean at the detention center taught him. “I have to see if there are English-speaking [jobs] or it’s going to be really difficult,” he said. Nonetheless, he can’t work until he has Korean government identification and a bank account.

Even with that ahead of him, Crapser sounds eager to go – this nightmarish experience has opened his eyes to **immigration**.

“It made me see the brutality of the **immigration** system,” he says. “You are property of the federal government and now I am a Korean citizen, waiting to be picked up.”

It made me see the brutality of the **immigration** system. You are property of the federal government

Adam Crapser

The stress of Crapser’s deportation proceedings has taken a physical and emotional toll on him – even affecting his personal relationships. In July 2015, a reported domestic dispute with his wife, Anh, ultimately led to his arrest and placed him in NWDC.

Now he has spent the greater part of 2016 locked inside a complex that resembles a drab suburban business park. He describes life inside as “a place that breaks you”.

“[The detention centers] pressure people so people will sign their rights off and self-deport,” he says.

He spends the majority of his time in a 70-person dorm. He says he is only allowed to go outside one hour a day, but in order to be alone, he chooses to stay inside. He says he hasn’t seen sunlight for 75 days.

There is a sense of relief in his voice: “I can’t wait to get out of here. This place is hell.”

Although he is being kicked out of the US – a place he didn’t have a choice to come to in the first place – he is striving to find the good in his bad situation.

In December, Korean television company MBC found his birth mother.

“My plan is to just to get over there to spend time with my biological family and immerse myself with [them],” he said with excitement. “I think she [his birth mother] is happy to see me.” And he has since reconciled with his wife and says she plans to follow him to Korea with their three daughters.

“I have lived some very hard times in America,” he said softly, but “I am still alive and still breathing.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**At a rally in Geneva, the cries of ‘lock her up!’ are loud and every negative opinion poll or media report only entrenches the support of Trump fans

Whatever doubts gnaw at Donald Trump at dead of night, his hardcore supporters will not allow him to give up the dream of the White House.

All 18 people interviewed by the Guardian at a Trump campaign rally in the battleground state of Ohio on Thursday night challenged the basic premise that he is losing. If anything, they seemed even more convinced than he is that opinion polls and mainstream media cannot be trusted so he should not throw in the towel.

Trump, channelling the mix of vexation and continued hope, said: “I’ve been saying if we win ‘cos I want to be nice, right, but the people are getting angry at me so we’ll just say when we win on November 8.”

Related: Former Miss Finland is 12th woman to accuse Trump of sexual assault[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/27/trump-twelfth-woman-sexual-assault-accusation-ninni-laaksonen]

But the omens are not good. As Hillary Clinton dominates opinion polls and gets positive signs from early voting, Trump has stopped formal, major donor fundraising events for the Republican party. He has reportedly cut back on transition plans and taken time off the campaign trail to open his new hotel[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/donald-trump-opens-international-hotel-campaign-trail-brand] in Washington. Recently Trump dolefully asked supporters whether they were glad he ran, adding: “I’ll let you know on the evening of November 8 whether I’m glad.”

The candidate’s rally at a sports complex in Geneva – his third in Ohio on Thursday – drew an estimated 7,000 people but was far from full, in contrast to his swashbuckling early campaign. It was overwhelmingly white, including many retirees. But those who did attend waved “Trump/ Pence” and “Make America great again” signs and chanted “Lock her up!” and “Build the wall!” with the usual gusto.

They nodded approvingly when Trump described his opponent as “unstable” and jeered when Trump reeled off a list of State Department expenditures during Clinton’s tenure as secretary, including $79,000 on Barack Obama’s books, $630,000 to try to make State Department Facebook pages more popular and $88,000 to send three comedians to India.

They whooped with delight when the showman made reference to Vice-President Joe Biden’s recent comment[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/25/donald-trump-says-he-would-love-to-beat-up-joe-mr-tough-guy-biden] that he would like to take him behind the gym. “You know what you do with Biden? You go like this.” Trump turned to one side and blew a puff of air from his mouth. “And he’d fall over.” He added: “I dream about Biden. Boy, would that be easy. That would be an easy function.”

Towards the end of the event, two Vietnam war veterans moved through the crowd with a giant Trump/ Pence sign. “Now that’s a beautiful, big sign,” Trump said. “Now those are fans.” Later one of them, Tom Line, 68, a retired construction worker, said: “I think Donald Trump will keep fighting. I don’t think he’s a man who gives up. None of us really believes in the polls because of the way the situation is with the media. We don’t know who to believe any more.”

This view was shared by Wesley Gaul, a 57-year-old consultant. “I don’t think there’s any sign of him giving up,” he said. “Look at all the people here. I live around here and there are Trump signs in every yard and only two Clinton signs in 30 miles. I don’t believe the polls. I think the people’s vote will shock everyone.”

Then there was Devon Coffin, 24, a maintenance mechanic wearing a profane t-shirt that referenced Monica Lewinsky. He said: “He’s doing three rallies a day, seven days a week. That’s not giving up. That’s a man on a mission. We’ve got a broken system and this is our way of taking it back.

“Hillary Clinton is a corrupt globalist. She’s going to be eight more years of Obama, taunt Russia and take money from people who pay taxes and give to people who don’t want to work. I know people who don’t work and have more food in their fridge than me.”

And if she wins? “I’m not going to burn down the White House because this is still my country,” Coffim replied. “It doesn’t mean we’re done trying.”

Others echoed Trump’s own view that the media and the polls are rigged against him and that size of the crowds he draws to rallies – which he holds more frequently than Clinton – demonstrates his grassroots support. In May Trump told the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/12/us/politics/donald-trump-campaign.html] : “Word of mouth is the No 1 thing. And the word of mouth at my rallies is like, ‘You’ve got to go see it’. And you know, one person goes and they talk about it to 20 people.”

Michael Seckely, 39, a US Marine, said: “He ain’t going to quit. If you follow the numbers of people who come out to these events, you have to believe there’s opportunity. It’s like you go to a football game and the crowd is so big, you play hard. If there are no fans, you might want to go home real quick. This guy is doing two or three shots a day. If you compare it to her, it’s overwhelmingly in his favour.”

If there are problems... that’s when you talk about pitchforks.

Michael Seckely, a US Marine, on accepting the election result

Will Seckely accept the election result? “If you wake up on the ninth and Hillary Clinton’s the president and there’s no proof of problems, then you have to accept it. If there are problems, I’m going to argue it. That’s when you talk about pitchforks. Violence? You’re talking to a marine who is in combat. It wouldn’t bother me either way.”

Like Trump, many of his loyalists are clinging to the hope that his campaign can emulate the shock British vote to leave the European Union in June. Nigel Farage, then leader of the UK Independence party, called it a victory for the “little people” over the establishment and has appeared alongside Trump at rallies.

Marte Sellura, 65, an artist, said: “I feel we’re in a similar situation to Brexit. I listen to Nigel Farage’s speeches all the time. I feel that we in America are in tune with the British on **immigration** issues. America has woken up: there is a globalist agenda. Those things we though are conspiracy theories are not conspiracy theories any more; they’re happening.”

Sellura, wearing a t-shirt depicted a rifle with the slogan: “The people will never surrender”, also launched a critique familiar to consumers of conservative media such as Breitbart News and Fox News. “The polls are lying. We all know they’re rigged. The real polls show him 10 or 15 points higher. The only way she can win is to have it rigged horribly. They all know they’re going to steal it. There is massive evidence of voter fraud: dead people are voting, illegal **immigrants** are voting. It’s been a Democratic tradition.”

Sellura also claimed that the involvement of TV presenter Billy Bush, cousin of George W Bush, in the lewd 11-year-old video that rocked Trump’s campaign was evidence of a conspiracy by the “Bush-Clinton family”. “We feel we’re up against a crime family that makes the Russian mob and the Sicilian mobs look like schoolboys.”

Trump took his usual swipes at the “dishonest” media during Thursday’s rally, eliciting boos and whistles. Chris Burton, 65, a building restorer, said: “The media are full of BS it’s unbelievable that people don’t go down and burn the newspapers out of existence. It’s just lies.”

Most of those interviewed said they would have to accept the outcome and move on without a violent backlash, but not everyone. “I don’t want to live under President Clinton,” said one man, who did not wish to be named. “I think there’ll be a revolution. People will rise up and take over the government. A civil war has happened before so it’s not unthinkable today.”

Queuing outside the arena was retired secretary Irena Rus, 75, from Melania Trump’s home country, Slovenia. When she explained she had **immigrated** legally and learned English, Trump supporters congratulated her and shook her hand. Asked if Trump was losing, she pointed to the long queue and said: “Can you see this? No, I don’t think so, because the news media make him lose. He’s doing a good job campaigning. He’s the only one who speaks the truth.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Far right groups are gaining a global foothold because they echo mainstream discourse which has shrunk the political horizon to issues of border paranoia, terror, and security

In 2016, hate travels fast. News that the Soldiers of Odin were conducting vigilante patrols in Melbourne’s CBD[http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/vigilantestyle-group-soldiers-of-odin-patrolling-melbourne-cbd-20161009-gry51g.html] coincided with reports of renewed activity by the group in Canada, a widening presence in the United States, as well as ongoing incidents at their point of origin, in Europe.

The group was founded in Finland in late 2015 by Mika Ranta, who has a long history as a white supremacist activist. Members of the group in Finland are allegedly responsible for the murder of a young anti-racist activist[http://finlandtoday.fi/the-neo-nazi-attack-against-jimi-28-who-later-died-after-being-released-from-hospital-explained/]. This year the group has exploded, in Europe and internationally. It’s growth in the United States has been so rapid that the Anti Defamation League was moved to issue a special report on the group, which it described as an “anti-refugee vigilante group”.

The ADL noted that the group had thousands of Facebook supporters, an increasing presence on the streets throughout the country, and had been instrumental in activism opposed to the settlement of refugees in states like Montana.

Related: Why are we surprised by every populist politician? Voting for them can be a rational choice | Jason Wilson[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/13/why-are-we-surprised-by-every-populist-politician-voting-for-them-can-be-a-rational-choice]

The central idea the Soldiers push is an association between Muslims – both refugees and **immigrants** – and crime. Alexander Reid Ross, a US-based anti-fascist researcher and author of the upcoming book, Against the Fascist Creep, says they are part of a “radicalisation of the right that is grounded in the reaction to the spectre of ‘refugees’ and ‘**immigrants**’.”

Their offer of protection is explicitly pitched at white fears about Arabs and other migrant groups. Their name and iconography refer directly to Norse mythology, which they interpret in racial terms[https://antifascistnews.net/2016/04/21/soldiers-of-odin-plan-meet-up-in-lodi-lake-ca-on-april-30th/]. As Reid Ross puts it, “they explicitly present themselves as preservers and defenders of the white race in spiritual terms”.

In this context, one thing that sets them apart from other groups is their street patrols – an idea they’ve brought to Melbourne. Alan Dutton works for the Canadian Anti-racism Education and Research Society ( CAERS[http://www.stopracism.ca/] ). He says that in that country, patrols are one way that the Soldiers are “trying to appear to support civil responsibility. But that seems to be a strategy to gain social license to raise money and recruit members”.

He added that while the Soldiers discourage open, public racism in their online communities, and try to disavow the unapologetic white supremacism of European chapters, they “have been unable to explain why, if they disavow racist violence, they assume the name of a racist and violent group”.

The same question could be asked of the Melbourne chapter, which similarly plays down the racist associations of their name and group. Indeed, the Age’s reporting on the group has been criticised in some quarters for similarly backgrounding the group’s far right associations.

Kieran Bennett, an Australian political blogger and antifascist researcher, faulted the Age for not seeing that the Soldiers “are implementing a tried and tested racist strategy”. Like many far right groups, they offer security that they say the state has failed to provide.

“Fascist rhetoric centres around the idea that the state has failed the ‘nation’ in some way … they are purporting to react to this failure.”

In the US context, Reid Ross says that “they thrive off the anti-government movement, and its attempts at replacing the federal government with localised systems of right-wing, sovereign power”, and there is a lot of crossover with so-called patriot groups and other right wing militia.

In Melbourne, some of the members of the Soldiers of Odin have been drifting around the far right for a while. Long standing blogger and researcher on the far right in Australia, Andy Fleming, says the Soldiers’ leader, Jay B Moore (who featured in the Age’s report), was previously a member of the Patriots Defence League of Australia.

“They’re drawn from an already-existing milieu,” he says, “and you could argue for some of them it’s a rebadging – they’ve taken off they’re PDLA gear and put on Soldiers of Odin gear instead.”

Given that the PDLA was itself a splinter group from the Australian Defence League, and that he estimates that the Soldiers in Melbourne number no more than 20, they need to be understood in the context of the fractious history of the far right.

So far they have attended far right rallies and intermittently clashed with other far right groups like the True Blue Crew. According to their Facebook page, they are planning to attend the “Battle of Eltham” rally this weekend, where a number of far right groups will be protesting the decision to re-settle Syrian and Iraqi refugees[https://www.facebook.com/events/1129066260508415/] in St Vincent’s care facility in Eltham, in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne.

Related: Extremist militias recruiting in fear of Clinton winning election, activists say[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/18/us-militia-recruiting-clinton-trump-election-patriot-movement]

Their numbers may be small in Australia so far and that may, in part, indicate a fragmentation of the local far right. The uptake of Odinist branding may be a matter of convenience – window dressing for personality conflicts in a movement stacked with big egos.

But what’s undeniable is that the common currency of international far right groups is Islamophobia, and that social media allows far right activists to make common cause across national boundaries.

If such groups are gaining more of a foothold throughout advanced democracies, it may be because they echo mainstream political discourse, which for a generation has shrunk the political horizon to issues of border paranoia, terror, and security.

The best way to defeat them, long term, will be to build real alternatives to the politics of fear and resentment.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Khizr Khan: I would stand up to Donald Trump ‘again and again and again’Trump implies he would fight vice-president Joe Biden: ‘I’d love that’Trump has close financial ties to Dakota Access pipeline company

block-time published-time 2.26am BST

Utah congressman Jason Chaffetz, who un-endorsed Donald Trump after the release of video in which the Republican presidential nominee bragged about sexually assaulting women, has announced that he will vote for Trump anyway:

enltrI will not defend or endorse @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump], but I am voting for him. HRC is that bad. HRC is bad for the USA.

— Jason Chaffetz (@jasoninthehouse) October 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/jasoninthehouse/status/791445788656226304]block-time published-time 2.02am BST

A pair of fundraisers for the Clinton Foundation attempted to steer business opportunities toward former president Bill Clinton, according to hacked emails obtained by activist group Wikileaks[http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/clinton-foundations-fundraisers-pressed-donors-to-steer-business-to-former-president-1477527597] :

In the memo, Mr. Band explained how he helped the foundation and former president, and found donors among his own firm’s clients. Mr. Band responded to the review by writing: “We appreciate the unorthodox nature of our roles, and the goal of seeking ways to ensure we are implementing best practices to protect the 501(c)3 status of the Foundation”...

In 2009, according to the memo, Declan Kelly, an Irish-American businessman and ally of the Clintons, introduced a senior UBS Group AG executive[http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/ubs-deal-shows-clintons-complicated-ties-1438223492], Bob McCann, to Mr. Clinton at a charitable event. “Mr. Kelly subsequently asked Mr. Mccann to support the foundation … [and] also encouraged Mr. Mccann to invite President Clinton to give several paid speeches, which he has done,” according to the 12-page memo. Mr. Clinton earned $1.5 million from those speeches.

The Clinton campaign has refused to confirm or deny the authenticity of this or any hacked emails obtained by Wikileaks.

block-time published-time 1.17am BST

Donald Trump: 'Had I been president, Captain Khan would be alive today' Speaking with ABC News’ George Stephanopoulos, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump declared that if he had been president in place of either George W. Bush or Barack Obama, Captain Humayun Khan would be alive.

“I have great respect for the Khan family, I have great respect for - I mean, the son is a great hero,” Trump said, when asked if he should apologize to the Khan family for insinuating that their grief was choreographed by the Clinton campaign. “But if I were president at that time, Captain Khan would be alive today, George, because I wouldn’t have been in Iraq.”

Stephanopoulos, an assiduous fact-checker, countered that Trump did, in fact, support the war in Iraq before it began[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/19/donald-trump-confronted-with-past-support-for-iraq-war].

“I never supp- look, look, let’s get it straight: I was opposed to the war in Iraq,” Trump said, falsely. “Right from the beginning - that was way before the war started, and that was the first time I was ever even asked about Iraq, and I gave a very, like, ‘I don’t know, who knows.’ That was way before. If you look at just before the war started, I said, ‘don’t do it, it’s a mistake, you’re gonna destabilize the Middle East.’ From the beginning, I was opposed to the war in Iraq.”

Trump’s record on the matter has been exhaustively fact-checked[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/in-2002-donald-trump-said-he-supported-invading-iraq-on-the]. In an interview in 2002, before the invasion of Iraq, radio host Howard Stern asked Trump: “Are you for invading Iraq?”

Trump answered, “Yeah, I guess so.”

“Had I been president, Captain Khan would be alive today,” Trump continued. “We wouldn’t have been in this horrible, horrible mistake, the war in Iraq.”

Khizr Khan, who is currently touring Virginia[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/khizr-khan-trump-virginia-campaign-hillary-clinton?CMP=twt\_gu] on Hillary Clinton’s behalf, called Trump’s comments “the most cruel thing you can say.”

“There’s no sincerity in those remarks,” Khan continued. “He utters these words totally oblivious to the understanding of where we are, where we stand, what our values are, and how to be empathetic. There is one character that a leader must have to be the leader of a great country, to be the leader of the armed forces of the United States: empathy.”

“And he totally lacks that.”

Related: Khizr Khan: I would stand up to Donald Trump 'again and again and again'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/khizr-khan-trump-virginia-campaign-hillary-clinton]

block-time published-time 12.55am BST

Donald Trump, about getting in a fistfight with Joe Biden: I dream about that kinda stuff. Mister Tough Guy. I would dream about that.

block-time published-time 12.42am BST

Speaking in Kinston, North Carolina, Donald Trump was swiftly interrupted by a protestor, who he accused of being a Clinton campaign plant.

“Were you paid $1,500 to be a thug?” Trump said. “Was he paid? Get him out - get him out. Out!”

Trump then marched around the platform while the protestor was escorted out.

“Folks, did you see where, through Wikileaks, we found out that Clinton was paying people $1,500 plus an iPhone to go out and be violent at our rallies?” Trump said, referring to a discredited conspiracy theory espoused by James O’Keefe, of Project Veritas.” Okay? It’s a disgrace - it’s a disgrace.”

“They found our people were very tough - they found that out.”

block-time published-time 12.33am BST

Donald Trump in 2013: I have 'sex' in common with Ivanka Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has a long history of making suggestive - some might say “super creepy and gross” - comments about his eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump. But a newly unearthed interview from 2013 shows the tycoon making the connection much more explicit.

In the February 2013 interview on the Wendy Williams Show, obtained by Us Weekly[http://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/donald-trump-joked-he-and-ivanka-had-sex-in-common-w446872], Williams asked Ivanka Trump, then 31, her favorite thing that she had in common with her father.

“Either real estate or golf,” Ivanka replied.

Williams then asked the elder Trump, then 67, the same question.

“Well, I was going to say sex, but I can’t relate that to her,” Trump said, pointing to Ivanka, who appeared embarrassed by the comment.

block-time published-time 12.30am BST

Nearly half an hour after he was scheduled to appear, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has emerged from his private jet in Kinston, North Carolina, to speak to a smallish rally of supporters at an airfield.

“We are going to win North Carolina, and we are going to win back the White House - believe me!”

block-time published-time 12.26am BST

Donald Trump lends name to new hotel so near – and so far from – White House It was once a brand synonymous with gold and marble; a sign of guaranteed opulence if not necessarily good taste. Instead, the taint of sexual assault claims and alleged racism hung over the formal opening of the latest building to bear the Trump name: the Republican presidential candidate’s newest hotel in Washington DC[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/washington-dc].

Donald Trump opens his newest hotel with his family. Photograph: UPI / Barcroft Images Just 723 short steps along Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, this may be the closest Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] comes to the heart of political power this year, but the glitzy launch was meant to be the highlight of his business calendar.

Rooms during inauguration week in January were marketed at up to $500,000 each. During a soft launch[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/13/trump-international-hotel-washington-opening-protests] in September, Trump ensured wall-to-wall media coverage by using the occasion to finally admit he had been wrong to doubt Barack Obama’s right to American citizenship.

But weeks of political scandal appear to have taken their toll on the brand. During the recent IMF meetings in Washington, usually the busiest week of the year for luxury hotels in the city, rooms could be found online at a significant discount[http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/10/trumps-d-c-hotel-shows-as-poll-sink-so-does-his-brand.html] compared to its sold-out rivals.

While Trump was boasting of the building’s 5ft-thick walls during Wednesday’s ribbon-cutting ceremony, the sound of political protest out on the street could be heard from inside the lobby. Overnight, Trump’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/donald-trump-hollywood-walk-of-fame-star-damaged] was destroyed by a vandal with a sledgehammer and pickaxe.

The candidate sounded wistful and unusually subdued as he took a break from the campaign trail to attend the launch. “With the notable exception of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, this is the most coveted location in DC. The best location,” said Trump.

Even the struggling campaign’s slogan, “Make America great again”, was watered down, perhaps succumbing to criticism that it implies the country is no longer at its best. ‘The United States is great. Its people are great,” said Trump, during brief political remarks that followed the launch.

Related: Donald Trump lends name to new hotel so near – and so far from – White House[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/donald-trump-opens-international-hotel-campaign-trail-brand]

block-time published-time 12.02am BST

Donald Trump campaigns in Kinston, North Carolina Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 11.35pm BST

For those outside of the United States - we’re so, so sorry.

enltrDaylight Saving Time switches on November 6. That's right, this presidential campaign is an hour longer than you thought.

— Tucker Doherty (@tucker\_doherty) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/tucker\_doherty/status/791366824051011585]block-time published-time 11.22pm BST

Donald Trump, on love:

Last night was something, wasn’t it? You know, they kept 15,000 outside. They actually did this - they said we couldn’t allowed, they allowed 15,000 in. They said, ‘We’re afraid of a stampede.’ Can you imagine? Because there were so many people, if there were a stampede we’d be in trouble. Even out of love! Love can kill too.

block-time published-time 10.49pm BST

Trump on military experts: 'I'll teach him a couple of things' Donald Trump dismissed the expertise of former Army War College dean Jeff McCausland, telling ABC’s George Stephanopoulos[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/donald-trump-hell-teach-military-expert-couple-things/story?id=43083480] that “You can tell your military expert that I’ll sit down and I’ll teach him a couple of things.”

McCausland had said that Trump’s recent comments declaring that the current battle for control of Mosul is a “total disaster” betrays a lack of knowledge on military strategy.

enltrThe attack on 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!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) October 23, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/790337063489040384]“I’ve been hearing about Mosul now for three months,” Trump said, reiterating his longstanding point that the essence of military strategy is surprise. “‘We’re going to attack. We’re going to attack.’ Meaning Iraq’s going to attack but with us. Okay? We’re going to attack. Why do they have to talk about it?”

“Element of surprise,” Trump said. “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 gonna be attacked, they left. The resistance is much greater now because they knew about the attack. Why can’t they win first and talk later?”

block-time published-time 10.43pm BST

Throughout her presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] has said that she supports the second amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

But many gun rights advocates say they fear she will reopen the door for cities and states to ban private ownership [https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/constitution-and-second-amendment/] of handguns, pointing to her repeated comments questioning a key US supreme court decision on gun ownership. Even liberal second amendment experts have called some of Clinton’s explanations of her position “odd”.

As one law professor who supports gun rights put it, Clinton on guns is like a Republican politician who claims she supports abortion rights, even as she opposes Roe v Wade.

At the final presidential debate last week, Clinton reiterated her position that the supreme court was wrong in its 2008 decision in District of Columbia v Heller, which overturned Washington DC’s ban on handgun ownership, as well as a law that required other guns in homes to be “kept nonfunctional”.

In a controversial 5-4 decision, the court ruled that Americans have a constitutional right to have and use firearms in their homes for self-defense.

Clinton had dodged giving a clear answer[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/DemocraticDebate/story?id=4670271&page=1] about her opinion of the ongoing case during a presidential primary debate in early 2008, though she suggested that the supreme court would probably find a full ban on handguns unconstitutional. But in 2015, the Washington Free Beacon reported[http://freebeacon.com/politics/leaked-audio-clinton-says-supreme-court-is-wrong-on-second-amendment/], Clinton told an audience at a private event that “the supreme court is wrong on the second amendment. And I am going to make that case every chance I get.”

That’s an opinion that is shared by many people – including some of the liberal justices on the supreme court, who argued[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/07pdf/07-290.pdf] in their dissent that the second amendment was intended to protect the right of people in each state to form militias, not to limit lawmakers’ ability to regulate civilian gun ownership.

But that particular view is not one that is popular with the general public. A Gallup poll from 2008 found that 73% of Americans[http://www.gallup.com/poll/105721/public-believes-americans-right-own-guns.aspx] believed the second amendment “guarantees the rights of Americans to own guns”.

Related: Why gun rights advocates don't trust Clinton on the second amendment[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/hillary-clinton-gun-rights-second-amendment]

block-time published-time 10.20pm BST

With less than two weeks before the general election, Hillary Clinton’s campaign deployed one of its most potent weapons in the fight against Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump: Khizr Khan, the father of a Muslim war hero killed in the line of duty.

Father of Muslim American soldier: ‘Donald Trump, you have sacrificed nothing’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/jul/28/khizr-humayun-khan-donald-trump-video-democrat-convention]Khan, a Gold Star father whose impassioned speech[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/29/khizr-khan-democratic-convention-constitution-trump] on the final night of the Democratic National Convention helped knock Trump down to his current position in the presidential race, spoke on Clinton’s behalf to congregants and guests of a mosque in Norfolk, Virginia, home to the world’s largest naval base and more than 60,000 active duty military personnel.

“The courage [to speak against Trump] wasn’t ours,” Khan said at Masjid William Salaam, the first of three stops in Norfolk Khan made on Wednesday. “The courage was given to us.”

“People ask would I do it again,” Khan continued. “A million times - again and again and again - up until hatred and political bigotry is wiped out of this United States, we will continue to speak.”

Khan’s son, Marine captain Humayun Khan, was killed in 2004 by a car bomb after instructing the soldiers under his command to fall back from the vehicle. Khan was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, and is buried in nearby Arlington National Cemetery.

With his wife, Ghazala Khan, standing beside him, Khan excoriated Trump in a self-written speech at the DNC in June, describing his family as “patriotic American Muslims with undivided loyalty to our country” whose son would never have been able to serve his country had Trump’s proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States been in place.

“If it was up to Donald Trump, he never would have been in America,” Khan said at the time. “Donald Trump consistently smears the character of Muslims. He disrespects other minorities, women, judges, even his own party leadership. He vows to build walls and ban us from this country.”

block-time published-time 10.09pm BST

Poll: Clinton holds 9-point lead in New Hampshire, tied in Nevada Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton leads Republican rival Donald Trump by 9 points in battleground New Hampshire - but is dead-even with him in Nevada, according to two new NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist polls[http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/polls-clinton-holds-9-point-lead-new-hampshire-tied-nevada-n673361] out this afternoon.

In the Granite State, which gave Trump his first victory in the Republican primaries, Clinton leads with the support of 45% of likely voters, trailed by Trump with a mere 36%. Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson holds the support of 10% of likely voters, and Jill Stein of the Green Party has 4% support.

Clinton is up seven points from the most recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll of New Hampshire, which showed her lead at a mere two points.

Down-ballot, the race is much tighter: Incumbent Republican Kelly Ayotte leads the race for reelection to the US Senate with the support of 48% of likely voters, with Democratic challenger Maggie Hassan at 47%.

In battleground Nevada, Clinton and Trump are tied with 43% support from likely voters each. Johnson holds 10% support, and Stein is not on the ballot.

block-time published-time 9.56pm BST

Donald Trump has 'no doubts' about winning the White House In an exclusive interview with Bloomberg’s Mark Halperin[http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-10-26/trump-has-no-doubts-about-winning-white-house?utm\_content=politics&utm\_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm\_source=twitter&utm\_medium=social&cmpid%3D=socialflow-twitter-politics], Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump dismissed polls showing Democratic rival Hillary Clinton on the verge of an electoral landslide in the upcoming presidential election.

“We are gonna win,” Trump said. “I think we’re going to do fantastically in Pennsylvania... I think we’re winning North Carolina,” Trump continued, naming two states where he has led in a single poll stretching back months.

The proof, Trump said, is in the popularity of his campaign rallies.

“You know the reason why they couldn’t get in?” Trump said, of the lines outside his most recent rallies. “Stampede.”

block-time published-time 9.32pm BST

Former congressman and professional troll Joe Walsh seems keen on armed rebellion if Donald Trump loses on November 8:

enltrOn November 8th, I'm voting for Trump.

On November 9th, if Trump loses, I'm grabbing my musket.

You in?

— Joe Walsh (@WalshFreedom) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/WalshFreedom/status/791369493809201152]block-time published-time 9.29pm BST

Lennie and Pearl, a lesbian couple who have been together for five decades and helped fight for the right to same-sex marriage, have filmed a get-out-the-vote short for Hillary Clinton:

block-time published-time 9.05pm BST

Sad news on the campaign trail: Maverick, Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence’s beagle, has died.

enltrHeavy hearts today. Our beagle of 13 years passed away quietly last night. Rest In Peace, Maverick. We will miss you. pic.twitter.com/JPnFvsHB3Y[https://t.co/JPnFvsHB3Y]

— Mike Pence (@mike\_pence) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/mike\_pence/status/791367546242998272]block-time published-time 8.54pm BST

More video of the anonymous man who destroyed Donald Trump’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame:

enltrEarlier we reported that an unknown man dressed up as a construction worker vandalized #DonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/hashtag/DonaldTrump?src=hash] 's Hollywood Walk of Fame star this am pic.twitter.com/x00aBlpLOZ[https://t.co/x00aBlpLOZ]

— Tha Celebritea News (@thacelebritea) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/thacelebritea/status/791310348724731904]block-time published-time 8.50pm BST

Opinion: A short US election cycle sounds great, but it wouldn't be good for democracy I get it. Sheryl Crow’s call to shorten our presidential cycle will resonate with just about everyone this year. Who isn’t counting down the days until this is over? Even Hillary Clinton has been winding the months in balls.

As Crow points out in a petition[https://www.change.org/p/democratic-national-committee-shorten-the-us-presidential-election-cycle] on Change.org, which, as of Wednesday, had more than 40,000 signatures, this extended political circus is a singularly American phenomenon. “The 2016 election will have lasted nearly 600 days by the time polls close on Nov. 8. By comparison, Canada had its longest campaign season[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/canadas-election-cycle-has-taken-less-than-three-months-and-canadians-are-tired-of-it/2015/10/18/b57ce852-7419-11e5-8d93-0af317ed58c9\_story.html] in recent history last year, and it lasted just 11 weeks,” she writes. “Countries across the globe have limited campaign seasons to as short as 6 weeks. With an organized system, a successful, informative, professional campaign could be run.”

The sentiment is relatable but perhaps the problem is less the length of the cycle than the fact our Republican nominee for president actively brags about “grabbing” women by the “pussy”; a fact which, it’s worth noting, didn’t come out until more than 500 days into the cycle.

What Crow deems the “start” of the election – Ted Cruz choosing to announce the beginning of his campaign – is not something the DNC or RNC can actually control. Nor is the fact that campaign reporters often start sourcing up to cover the next campaign the moment the current one ends. Party committees do set the timetable for primaries, but even there they are in a constant tug-of-war with state governments, which battle to move up in the primary calendar so their voters get more attention.

Related: A short US election cycle sounds great, but it wouldn't be good for democracy | Lucia Graves[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/26/sheryl-crow-short-presidential-election-cycle-bad-democracy]

block-time published-time 8.34pm BST

Hillary Clinton announces Election Night party location Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign has announced the location of her Election Night party - and it comes with a literal glass ceiling.

Clinton will deliver remarks to supporters and volunteers at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan on November 8, according to a release from her campaign. ( You can RSVP here.[https://www.hillaryclinton.com/events/view/qzvp7kv43z2gc3b2/] ) The Javitz Center is a massive convention center on the west side of Manhattan - and, has been noted, is made entirely of glass:

enltrReminder: The Javits Center, where Hillary Clinton is holding her election night party, has a literal glass ceiling pic.twitter.com/RvGLDx9cAc[https://t.co/RvGLDx9cAc]

— Elliot Smilowitz (@SmiloTweets) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/SmiloTweets/status/791354961087037440]block-time published-time 8.18pm BST

Win or lose, works either way...

enltrReminder: The Javits Center, where Hillary Clinton is holding her election night party, has a literal glass ceiling pic.twitter.com/RvGLDx9cAc[https://t.co/RvGLDx9cAc]

— Elliot Smilowitz (@SmiloTweets) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/SmiloTweets/status/791354961087037440]block-time published-time 7.59pm BST

Trump exaggerates personal spending on campaign Donald Trump is insisting that he will spend $100 million or more of his own money on his presidential bid. Campaign finance documents show he’s not even close, the AP reports:

The Republican nominee said in a CNN interview Wednesday that his personal investment in his campaign will top $100 million. He said he’s “prepared to go much higher than that.”

Yet finance reports current through Sept. 30 show Trump, a billionaire New York businessman, has put about $56 million into his own campaign.

To hit $100 million, he would have to put another $44 million into his race - far more than he’s ever contributed in a single month.

When pressed by CNN’s Dana Bash, Trump declined to give specific plans about when he might be contributing additional money. The election is Nov. 8.

Separately, Trump told ABC News that he would put “a lot” of money into the campaign in the next 13 days.

“I’m going to be over $100m and it could be much more than that,” he said.

enltrDonald Trump tells @GStephanopoulos[https://twitter.com/GStephanopoulos] he's willing to pour millions more into his campaign before Election Day. https://t.co/3Yq8tGl7Bt[https://t.co/3Yq8tGl7Bt] pic.twitter.com/NpCjbawaPt[https://t.co/NpCjbawaPt]

— ABC News Politics (@ABCPolitics) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/ABCPolitics/status/791353046185967617]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.11pm BST

block-time published-time 7.56pm BST

Clinton to hold election-night party in Manhattan - report Her campaign headquarters is in Brooklyn, but for her election night party, Hillary Clinton and friends will occupy the cavernous Jacob K Javits center on Manhattan’s west side, Politico reports:

enltr. @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] to spend election night at Javits Center in Manhattan https://t.co/PWWL66Dqzg[https://t.co/PWWL66Dqzg] | AP Photo pic.twitter.com/flf6uJQKGW[https://t.co/flf6uJQKGW]

— POLITICO (@politico) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/politico/status/791351658089476096]block-time published-time 7.41pm BST

I get it. Sheryl Crow’s call to shorten our presidential cycle will resonate with just about everyone this year. Who isn’t counting down the days until this is over? Even Hillary Clinton has been winding the months in balls.

As Crow points out in a petition[https://www.change.org/p/democratic-national-committee-shorten-the-us-presidential-election-cycle] on Change.org, which, as of Wednesday, had more than 40,000 signatures, this extended political circus is a singularly American phenomenon. “The 2016 election will have lasted nearly 600 days by the time polls close on Nov. 8. By comparison, Canada had its longest campaign season[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/canadas-election-cycle-has-taken-less-than-three-months-and-canadians-are-tired-of-it/2015/10/18/b57ce852-7419-11e5-8d93-0af317ed58c9\_story.html] in recent history last year, and it lasted just 11 weeks,” she writes. “Countries across the globe have limited campaign seasons to as short as 6 weeks. With an organized system, a successful, informative, professional campaign could be run.”

Her suggestion for how we reform our electoral process – that we ask the DNC and RNC to reform the process – is less compelling. In a segment on Morning Joe on Wednesday, she threw out 5 days as the optimal amount of time (was she joking?). And she’s previously floated the notion that all 50 states and the District of Columbia should hold their primaries on the same day, a move that would prove hugely advantageous to the richest candidates by short-circuiting grassroots campaigns. [...]

Again the sentiment is relatable but perhaps the problem is less the length of the cycle than the fact our Republican nominee for president actively brags about “grabbing” women by the “pussy”; a fact which, it’s worth noting, didn’t come out until more than 500 days into the cycle.

Read further:

Related: A short US election cycle sounds great, but it wouldn't be good for democracy | Lucia Graves[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/26/sheryl-crow-short-presidential-election-cycle-bad-democracy]

block-time published-time 7.24pm BST

Isn’t it kind of cold in Wisconsin right now to be running around at night in your undies?

This is in Platteville, a southwestern university town in Grant county, which Barack Obama won by 14 points in 2012.

enltrMan wearing only his underwear takes blowtorch to his neighbors' Trump sign — and they caught it all on camera https://t.co/XxdHdjAveM[https://t.co/XxdHdjAveM] pic.twitter.com/mwWFZAwlBI[https://t.co/mwWFZAwlBI]

— NBC News (@NBCNews) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/NBCNews/status/791341142277185537]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.28pm BST

block-time published-time 7.21pm BST

Does anyone have any appetite for individual national polls anymore?

enltrnew USA Today/Suffolk national poll: Clinton 47%, Trump 38%, Johnson 4%, Stein 2%

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/791342375692017664]The new Suffolk poll happens to mirror be 50% again as large as the margin in HuffPost Pollster’s average[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-general-election-trump-vs-clinton] [sorry, misread the #s at first]:

HuffPost Pollster’s average for a head-to-head race. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.51pm BST

block-time published-time 6.50pm BST

In which conservative Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan praises a get-out-the-vote video targeting Hispanic voters, paid for by an outside group, that ends with a dicey election result and a young girl asking her papí, “can we stay?”

enltrPut your stands, your decision, aside for a moment. A brilliant spot -filmic, beautiful, moving. Verdict https://t.co/CMtDGNG61s[https://t.co/CMtDGNG61s] via YouTube

— Peggy Noonan (@Peggynoonannyc) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/Peggynoonannyc/status/791328053758656512]block-time published-time 6.34pm BST

Hillary Clinton kicked off her birthday celebrations with a rally in Lake Worth, Florida, on Wednesday as Donald Trump christened his new Washington DC hotel.

The crowd gathered at Palm Beach State college for the midday rally broke into a round of “Happy Birthday” as Clinton took the stage. She is 69 years old.

Clinton hit many of her usual themes, but tested a new impression[https://twitter.com/evanmcmurry/status/791312085468717056] of Trump following her onstage during the second presidential debate. Hunching her shoulders she shuffled away from the podium, miming the way she said Trump “stalked me and lurked over me”.

She later criticized Trump for his business practices, and drew ‘boos’ from the crowd when she mentioned his event in Washington.

“Today he’s in Washington DC to open a new luxury hotel, and while the hotel may be new, it’s the same old story,” she said.

She asked the crowd to inform their Trump supporting friends that Trump “relied on undocumented workers to make his project cheaper” despite his campaign promise close the border and deport **immigrants** living in the US illegal. She also said that the hotel is furnished with products made overseas, despite his promise to return jobs to American. And she said he sued[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/06/donald-trump-taxes-hotel-224956] to reduced the taxes on the luxury hotel.

“You can talk a good game, but lets look at the facts and the facts show he has stiffed American workers – he has stiffed American businesses,” Clinton said to cheers.

On Wednesday afternoon, Clinton will campaign in Tampa with celebrity chef José Andrés, who once had plans to open a restaurant inside Trump’s hotel.

enltrYou know it is going to be an amazing day when you are boarding a plane to #Tampa[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Tampa?src=hash] to join @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] early voting rally!! #ImWithHer[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ImWithHer?src=hash]

— José Andrés (@chefjoseandres) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/chefjoseandres/status/791253450239647744]Andrés, a naturalized US citizen originally from Spain, fell out with Trump over his vocal denunciation of **immigrants** and pulled out of the project. The businessman sued and the Spanish chef has launched a countersuit, in a legal battle that has yet to be resolved.

block-time published-time 6.32pm BST

Here’s Tim Kaine chatting about criminal justice reform, systemic racism, voting rights, early childhood education and more with Pusha T, the recording artist, who is helping the Clinton campaign get out the vote:

(h/t @fahima\_haque[https://twitter.com/fahima\_haque?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 6.20pm BST

Last month, Clinton was ahead by nine points in this Monmouth poll of New Hampshire voters, so while her margin still looks healthy, the trend doesn’t, particularly:

filtrBREAKING: New Hampshire

HRC 46

DJT 42

GJ 7 #NHSen[https://twitter.com/hashtag/NHSen?src=hash]

Ayotte 46

Hassan 46 #NHGov[https://twitter.com/hashtag/NHGov?src=hash]

Van Ostern 48

Sununu 43 https://t.co/s16ZHICp8h[https://t.co/s16ZHICp8h]

— MonmouthPoll (@MonmouthPoll) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/MonmouthPoll/status/791324555281182723]Huffpost Pollster has Clinton up by six on average[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-new-hampshire-president-trump-vs-clinton] in the Granite state, which is a must-win for Trump in scenarios within reason.

Note how close the run for the senate is – all tied up at 46-46, in this poll. The Democrat leads in the gubernatorial race.

block-time published-time 6.13pm BST

Another day, another brilliant picture by Doug Mills of the New York Times. That baby is intrigued – but not committal:

enltr. @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] holds a baby during a campaign rally at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Fl. pic.twitter.com/G4d1mnM37y[https://t.co/G4d1mnM37y]

— Doug Mills (@dougmillsnyt) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/dougmillsnyt/status/791325231776407552]block-time published-time 6.08pm BST

If she’s elected president, Hillary Clinton will be spending most of her time testifying before the House oversight committee, to hear chairman Jason Chaffetz tell it to Dave Weigel at the Washington Post:[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-republicans-are-already-preparing-for-years-of-investigations-of-clinton/2016/10/26/e153a714-9ac3-11e6-9980-50913d68eacb\_story.html]

“It’s a target-rich environment,” said Chaffetz in a interview in Salt Lake City’s suburbs. “Even before we get to Day One, we’ve got two years worth of material already lined up. She has four years of history at the State Department, and it ain’t good.”

If Republicans retain control of the House, something that GOP-friendly maps make possible even in the event of a Trump loss, Clinton will become the first president since George H.W. Bush to immediately face a House Oversight Committee controlled by the opposition party. (Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama lost Congress later in their presidencies.)

Read further[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-republicans-are-already-preparing-for-years-of-investigations-of-clinton/2016/10/26/e153a714-9ac3-11e6-9980-50913d68eacb\_story.html].

block-time published-time 6.01pm BST

Is this one of those states that matters? Trump’s headed there now, after his ribbon-cutting.

enltrClinton leads 59-36 in the North Carolina early vote with more than 800k votes cast. We'll be tracking it daily https://t.co/YKXDPri6oq[https://t.co/YKXDPri6oq]

— Nate Cohn (@Nate\_Cohn) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/Nate\_Cohn/status/791322704079097856]Some fascinating detail if you click through:

Already, about 812,000 people have voted in North Carolina, out of about 4,425,000 we think will eventually vote. Based on the voting history and demographic characteristics of those people, we think Hillary Clinton leads in North Carolina by about 6 percentage points. We think she has an even larger lead – 22 percentage points – among people who have already voted.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.02pm BST

block-time published-time 5.52pm BST

There are less than two weeks to go before the election, and Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] is doubling down in Florida with Latino voters.

On Tuesday, the Democratic presidential candidate paid a visit to El Gordo y La Flaca, the popular variety chat show on Spanish-language channel Univisión – and it was one of the most unrestrained appearances of her campaign. Clinton was personable, relaxed and, thanks to the nature of the show, fully committed to having some fun. During the show, Clinton danced to Marc Anthony, practiced her Spanish[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjIqMXW1wHg] and was even serenaded by Bronx-born singer Prince Royce and a Mariachi band for her 69th birthday, on Wednesday.

esltrY así bailó @hillaryclinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] con @rauldemolina[https://twitter.com/rauldemolina] #VivirMiVida[https://twitter.com/hashtag/VivirMiVida?src=hash] del flaco @marcanthony[https://twitter.com/MarcAnthony] ?? #LoMaximo[https://twitter.com/hashtag/LoMaximo?src=hash] #HillaryEnGyF[https://twitter.com/hashtag/HillaryEnGyF?src=hash] para el mundo ?? pic.twitter.com/aY7zH3VvqQ[https://t.co/aY7zH3VvqQ]

— El Gordo y La Flaca (@ElGordoyLaFlaca) October 25, 2016[https://twitter.com/ElGordoyLaFlaca/status/791028074653581312]“What gets better than this? I get Prince Royce to give me a hug, I get a mariachi band to play for me and I get to be here with you guys. It doesn’t get any better than this,” said the Democratic nominee.

Read further:

Related: Hillary Clinton makes push for Latino vote with Univision appearance[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/hillary-clinton-univision-el-gordo-y-la-flaca-latino-voters]

block-time published-time 5.49pm BST

??

enltrHappy Birthday Hillary! ?? In awe of you today and every day.

— Bill Clinton (@billclinton) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/billclinton/status/791319442919686144]block-time published-time 5.44pm BST

Clinton gets the James Franco nod: “After she opens a can of whoop ass, she always recycles the can.”

Where did he get that toaster?

block-time published-time 5.37pm BST

Clinton notes Trump hotel full of foreign goods Clinton swipes at Trump for the hotel opening:

Today he’s in Washington DC to open a new luxury hotel. While the hotel may be new, it’s the same old story... He relied on undocumented workers to make his project cheaper. And most of the products in the rooms were made overseas[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/trumps-new-hotel-offers-everything-he-claims-to-hate/2016/09/16/fe08a18a-7c04-11e6-bd86-b7bbd53d2b5d\_story.html?utm\_term=.3053135bf9ac]. And he even sued to get his taxes lowered.

We know he used undocumented workers... he’s made his products in foreign countries. He’s used Chinese steel instead of American steel. You can talk a good game, but let’s look at the facts.

Clinton notes that she will appear in Tampa later today with celebrity chef José Andrés, who “had the courage to stand up to Trump about his divisive anti-**immigrant** views by refusing to put his restaurant in this hotel.”

block-time published-time 5.26pm BST

The Democratic congressional campaign committee jumps on Ivanka Trump’s expression of gratitude at the hotel opening for the help of John Mica, the 12-term Republican congressman in a tough reelection fight in Florida:

“As Ivanka Trump highlighted today, John Mica pulled out all the stops to help Donald Trump with his luxury DC hotel project,” a DCCC statement reads:

Mica has not only helped Trump line his own pockets, he’s stood by Trump every step of the way, even after he was caught bragging about sexual assault.

When Donald Trump’s toxic candidacy brings down John Mica’s campaign, I’m glad that Mica will have a place to stay in DC, where he has spent the last three decades. Hopefully he gets the Trump family discount he clearly deserves.”

(h/t @bencjacobs[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 5.22pm BST

Protestors demonstrate outside the new Trump International Hotel. Photograph: Gabriella Demczuk/Getty Images Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during the grand opening of the Trump International Hotel as his daughter Ivanka looks on. Photograph: Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images Italian land artist Dario Gambarin’s work near the Italian city of Verona. Photograph: Dario Gambarin/AP block-time published-time 5.18pm BST

A star dedicated to Donald Trump on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame has been badly vandalised after it was reportedly attacked with a sledgehammer, according to a Press Association report:

According to Deadline, a man dressed as a city construction worker and wielding a sledgehammer and pick-axe targeted the star on Wednesday morning.

Potholed star. Photograph: Richard Vogel/AP The man told the Hollywood trade magazine he originally intended to remove Trump’s star to auction it off to raise funds for women who have accused the Republican candidate of sexually assaulting them.

Trump has vehemently denied the allegations.

The billionaire tycoon received the 2,327th star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame in 2007 for his work on the American version of The Apprentice.

block-time published-time 5.12pm BST

Here’s Hillary Clinton speaking in Lake Worth, Florida – that’s Palm Beach county, north of Miami.

enltrThe crowd sings happy birthday to @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] as she takes the stage at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Florida

— Lauren Gambino (@LGamGam) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/LGamGam/status/791310475564908546]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.14pm BST

block-time published-time 5.05pm BST

Most humiliating? More than just tweeting to their faces that they’re bought-and-sold losers who are going to lose? More than refusing to endorse Paul Ryan after calling the House speaker to heel? More than Scotland-Mexico-the convention-the debates-no ground game-no campaign –– well it’s a competitive prize:

enltrThis is probably the most humiliating thing the Trumps have done to the Republican Party. Down eight points and they do a hotel infomercial.

— Ryan Lizza (@RyanLizza) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/RyanLizza/status/791305785095708672]block-time published-time 4.58pm BST

Trump says “make America great again” and steps away. There’s applause.

block-time published-time 4.55pm BST

Trump: “Today is a metaphor for what we can accomplish for this country.”

Either that or it’s an opportunistic play by Trump to enrich himself personally. Which may be... a metaphor for what he hopes to accomplish for this country.

block-time published-time 4.54pm BST

Trump stops speech to praise Gingrich for fight with Kelly Trump was talking about crumbling infrastructure. “Right, Newt?” he says. Then:

By the way, congratulations Newt on last night. That was an amazing interview. We don’t play games, right? We don’t play games.

enltrThis is the interview in which Newt Gingrich told Megyn Kelly she is "fascinated with sex." https://t.co/KNyCeEFuGo[https://t.co/KNyCeEFuGo]

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/791306817980825600]enltrTrump is happy Newt was rude to a female journalist who wanted to talk about Trump’s alleged sexual assaults. https://t.co/MssubNMYx1[https://t.co/MssubNMYx1]

— Philip Bump (@pbump) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/pbump/status/791307502767988736] Eleven women who have accused Trump of sexual misconduct[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/18/donald-trump-sexual-allegations-nine-women-video]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.59pm BST

block-time published-time 4.52pm BST

Trump is riffing on “bad results” in the educational system, crumbling infrastructure and Obamacare “in freefall”. “The American people know what this election is about and they see it every time they get their health care bills... or arrive in an airport.”

enltrTrump opening new hotel: “Our military is so depleted”

— Zeke Miller (@ZekeJMiller) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller/status/791306105699917824]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.57pm BST

block-time published-time 4.50pm BST

Trump says – generously, is it supposed to be? – that the hotel project is insignificant compared to the year’s other project:

“As soon as we’re finished cutting the ribbon, I’m off to North Carolina and Florida, where I hear we’re doing very well.”

“My theme today is five words: under budget and ahead of schedule.”

That’s six words, everybody surely is now pointing out.

block-time published-time 4.48pm BST

Ivanka’s done. Trump to speak.

enltrAs he trucks the media along to another corporate event for his campaign— Trump has held 32 events @ his properties over campaign: pic.twitter.com/L44isDp5U8[https://t.co/L44isDp5U8]

— Alexandra Jaffe (@ajjaffe) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/ajjaffe/status/791303221117464578]enltrAt Trump hotel, Ivanka Trump shouts out Florida Rep. John Mica. Yesterday in Mica's Florida district, Donald Trump didn't mention Mica.

— Reid J. Epstein (@reidepstein) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/reidepstein/status/791304955512565760]block-time published-time 4.39pm BST

Nothing reportable out of the Trump event so far, except to say it’s a purely commercial event. Here’s that live stream if you like. Ivanka Trump about to talk:

block-time published-time 4.35pm BST

The Trump family has joined the event. They were applauded. The head of the Trump hotel group is now talking. He says the company mantra is “never, ever settle.”

“If you allow me a moment of commercial, I hope you will experience our other hotels as well.”

enltrjust looked and you can get a room at Trump International tonight for $404. lots of availability.

— Rosie Gray (@RosieGray) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/RosieGray/status/791300805932355584]We’ve got to stop using Trip Advisor. They’re only giving us $429!

Trip Advisor deals on Trump’s new DC hotel. Photograph: Trip Advisor block-time published-time 4.25pm BST

The Trump pool report advises that in addition to the Gingriches, senator Jeff Sessions and former Apprentice contestant Omarosa are in attendance.

Empty seats in the front next to the Gingriches are reserved for Trump family members. Campaign staff tell your pooler that Melania, Don Jr., Eric and Ivanka will all be here.

block-time published-time 4.22pm BST

No fun waiting for Trump to pop up to brag about his Washington DC hotel. Let’s tune into Bill Clinton speaking now in Wilmington, North Carolina:

block-time published-time 4.20pm BST

Hmmm... trying to think of a race Mitt Romney left off of this get-out-the-vote tweet...

enltrBe sure to head to the polls for GOP Senate, House and statehouses; they are essential to defend and advance constitutional conservatism.

— Mitt Romney (@MittRomney) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/MittRomney/status/791295689754079232]block-time published-time 4.18pm BST

Celebrity chef who pulled out of Trump hotel to campaign today for Clinton After Trump launched his presidential candidacy on a platform of Mexicans-are-rapists, two restaurateurs pulled out[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/digger/wp/2016/04/29/donald-trump-jose-andres-and-the-death-of-a-grand-washington-restaurant/] of contracts to establish restaurants in the very hotel Trump is about to open.

Lawsuits in both directions ensued. One of the chefs involved was celebrity chef José Andrés – who this morning announced he is hopping a plane today to campaign with Clinton in Florida:

enltrYou know it is going to be an amazing day when you are boarding a plane to #Tampa[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Tampa?src=hash] to join @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] early voting rally!! #ImWithHer[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ImWithHer?src=hash]

— José Andrés (@chefjoseandres) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/chefjoseandres/status/791253450239647744]block-time published-time 4.12pm BST

The only part of Trump’s hotel that’s solidly occupied:

enltrTrump aides says this event at Old Post Office hotel not a campaign event, not a press conference; it's just a hotel ribbon cutting. pic.twitter.com/7DRxGHxeVs[https://t.co/7DRxGHxeVs]

— Jennifer Jacobs (@JenniferJJacobs) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/791295122214359041]block-time published-time 4.10pm BST

More Gingrich on himself:

enltrHere's what Newt told reporters about that Megyn Kelly intv in a gaggle just before going into the event ballroom here: pic.twitter.com/Rrii5N6kfp[https://t.co/Rrii5N6kfp]

— Ali Vitali (@alivitali) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/alivitali/status/791295363315556352]block-time published-time 4.03pm BST

Yesterday Clinton told a Florida crowd not to get complacent and to ignore the polls showing her far ahead – people still have to get out and vote.

Cher amplifies that message in Cherspeak:

enltrDONT POP??CORKS,BECAUSE UR SURE HILLARY WILL WIN IN A LANDSLIDE??DONT TAKE HER WIN 4GRANTED??DEAD??'S KILL,&??IS A WOUNDED??,HE CAN STILL KILL??

— Cher (@cher) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/cher/status/791184673665716224](ty @ambiej[https://twitter.com/ambiej?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 3.58pm BST

Gingrich says Trump hotel event is on-message Daily Mail politics editor David Martosko, who has Trump pool duty today, has cornered Newt Gingrich at Trump’s hotel to ask him about his tangle on TV last night with Megyn Kelly.

Martosko is a partisan of all caps which we’re letting stand for effect.

Gingrich explains Trump’s appearance at his hotel like this: “Right now he’s got to make the case that he brings things in under budget and ahead of schedule. And a Trump government would be under budget and ahead of schedule.”

Here’s Martosko’s report:

ASKED IF HIS INTERVIEW WITH MEGYN KELLY GOT “A LITTLE ROUGH” LAST NIGHT:

“That’s just the business.”

ASKED IF TRUMP CAN “TURN IT AROUND” BY NOV. 8:

“I think Trump will win. I don’t think he has to turn it around. I think he’ll win.”

ASKED WHAT TRUMP SHOULD BE DOING FOR THE NEXT 13 DAYS:

“What he’s doing. Right now he’s got to make the case that he brings thing in under budget and ahead of schedule. And a Trump government would be under budget and ahead of schedule.”

TOLD THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SEE THIS HOTEL EVENT AS “A DISTRACTION FROM THE CAMPAIGN”:

“That’s because they don’t understand the message: It’s under budget and ahead of schedule. That’s a very important message because it means nothing in the current bureaucratic government tells you what a Trump administration would be like.”

ASKED IF TRUMP IS “WORRIED ABOUT UTAH” AND THE “THIRD-PARTY” THREAT:

“I’m sure he is.”

“REALLY?”

“Sure, he is! He should worry about all 50 states.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.59pm BST

block-time published-time 3.51pm BST

Longtime Republican strategist and communications hand Matt Mackowiak, who it should be noted doesn’t like Trump, questions what in Hades Trump is doing in DC today:

enltr1. Here's my electoral map as of today:

HC 324 (FL, PA, NC, NV, NH)

DT 207 (OH, IA, GA, AZ) https://t.co/kOnGkmeJQi[https://t.co/kOnGkmeJQi]

— Matt Mackowiak (@MattMackowiak) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/MattMackowiak/status/791285066466865154]2. Today, with 13 days left, here’s what the GOP nominee’s campaign is doing:

> Trump is opening a hotel in DC (3 EVs)

> Pence is in Utah

3. Trump has only 1 path to 270. Hold Romney states (incl GA, AZ, NC) & pick up FL, OH, IA & NV. But that’s only 265. He needs NH(4) & ME(1)

4. Any campaigning or resource deployment anywhere outside FL, OH, NC, NV, IA and NH is deliberately wasteful at this point. Time and money.

5. The single most valuable commodity in any campaign is the candidate’s time, because it is a constantly diminishing resource.

6. Trump in DC today, instead of NH (which he must have) or the 5 battleground states he needs is ridiculous. @ KellyannePolls[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls] knows this.

7. As @ stuartpstevens[https://twitter.com/stuartpstevens] says, “Trump isn’t running a campaign, it’s a concert tour.” All he cares about is earned media and his brand.

8. There are no more big moments left in the campaign. Debates are past. Early voting is going on everywhere. Clinton is banking votes.

9. I’ll admit this is a volatile election and Trump’s base is more enthusiastic, but as of today I see no way for Trump to win. None.

10. Set the polls/punditry aside. Hillary is -700 to win. That means you’d have to bet $700 on Hillary to win $100. She’s a 7-1 favorite.

enltr12. At this point I expect Hillary to win more than 320 EVs w/ a national win of 5-7%. In that range, the GOP has a chance to hold Senate.

— Matt Mackowiak (@MattMackowiak) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/MattMackowiak/status/791288168590913537]block-time published-time 3.43pm BST

Hillary Clinton turns 69 years old today.

enltrSurprise! Happy Birthday HRC!! ?? pic.twitter.com/U2H7XUUltc[https://t.co/U2H7XUUltc]

— Nick Merrill (@NickMerrill) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/NickMerrill/status/791278005209460736]This looks more like an anniversary photo?

enltrHappy birthday, Hillary. I hope this year is one for the history books. pic.twitter.com/UndDdFb1xh[https://t.co/UndDdFb1xh]

— Senator Tim Kaine (@timkaine) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/timkaine/status/791288887155036160]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.46pm BST

block-time published-time 3.42pm BST

Khizr Khan to campaign against Trump in Virginia Democrats take their fight to the heart of the US military establishment on Wednesday by deploying the father of a Muslim war hero to campaign against Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump].

Khizr Khan, whose speech at the party’s convention in June came at the high-water mark in Trump’s poll ratings, will speak to veterans in Norfolk, Virginia, home of the world’s largest naval base and some 150,000 military workers.

Father of Muslim American soldier: ‘Donald Trump, you have sacrificed nothing’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/jul/28/khizr-humayun-khan-donald-trump-video-democrat-convention]Trump shocked many Republicans[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/republicans] earlier this year by initially attacking the sincerity of the parents of army captain Humayun Khan, who died saving his unit from an Iraqi suicide bomb, after they criticised his proposed ban on Muslims entering the US.

But Captain Khan’s father is returning to haunt the campaign, and launching a new television advert[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCqFCCgU1xk&feature=youtu.be], in which he again challenges the celebrity property developer: “Would my son have a place in your America?” It could further drive a wedge into remaining Republican support among military families after a disastrous few weeks that has seen the party’s presidential campaign pull out of states like Virginia[http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/washwire/2016/10/13/trump-campaign-withdraws-from-virginia/].

block-time published-time 3.36pm BST

Guardian Washington bureau chief Dan Roberts catches a protest outside the hotel:

block-time published-time 3.32pm BST

Donald Trump is expected to appear any moment at the grand opening of his empty[http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/10/26/donald-trump-s-plan-b-sell-trump-branded-stuff-is-now-his-plan-a.html] hotel in Washington, DC. Here’s a live video stream:

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.32pm BST

block-time published-time 1.05pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. The Clinton campaign has the candidate and surrogates arrayed across Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Ohio today while the Trump campaign is in... Washington DC and Utah ?

Donald Trump is attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony today at his eerily[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/24/opinion/donald-trumps-shiny-new-washington-hotel.html?\_r=0] empty[http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/10/trumps-d-c-hotel-shows-as-poll-sink-so-does-his-brand.html] new hotel in the nation’s capital. He has two later events in North Carolina.

enltrDC does have three electoral votes https://t.co/3DRKa6yJYM[https://t.co/3DRKa6yJYM]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 24, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/790686778986422272]Trump running mate Mike Pence, meanwhile, will be covering serious ground, with events in three western states: Nevada, Utah and Colorado. Pence’s stop in Utah is sure to have people talking, as the state usually is at the top of the rankings of states voting Republican. Mormon aversion to Trump and the independent candidacy of Evan McMullin have changed the calculus this time around.

Hillary Clinton has two rallies in Florida today, one in Palm Beach County in the south-east and one in Hillsborough County on the Gulf coast. Tim Kaine has two events in Pennsylvania, while Bill Clinton is diligently trying to put his wife over the top in North Carolina, with three stops there today after three stops there yesterday. Chelsea Clinton has three stops in Ohio, while senator Elizabeth Warren has an event in Pittsburgh.

Trump with narrow Florida edge – Selzer poll A poll of likely voters[http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-10-26/florida-poll] in Florida by gold-star pollster J Ann Selzer for Bloomberg politics has Trump slightly ahead of Clinton in the state, 45-43, when third-party candidates are included. That’s within the margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points. Trump had 46% to Clinton’s 45% in a head-to-head matchup. Clinton has a three-point lead in polling averages of the state.

Trump wants Biden behind barn The campaign action overnight was typically nasty and nausea-inducing, with Trump saying that yes, he would like to go in back of the barn with Biden (Biden had said gym[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/21/joe-biden-donald-trump-election-campaign-2016] ), and campaign surrogate Newt Gingrich accusing Fox News host Megyn Kelly of having a “fascination with sex” because she takes the women who say Donald Trump violated them[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/18/donald-trump-sexual-allegations-nine-women-video] seriously.

Trump says he would love to beat up ‘Mr Tough Guy’ Joe Biden[https://www.theguardian.com/global/video/2016/oct/26/trump-says-he-would-love-to-beat-up-mr-tough-guy-joe-biden-video]The row on Tuesday night between Kelly and one of Trump’s most stalwart supporters began when the host brought up the multiple sexual assault and misconduct allegations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/list-of-donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations] against the candidate.

During the ensuing debate, which bordered on personal attack, Gingrich said the host was “fascinated with sex” and Kelly urged him to “take your anger issues and spend some time working on them”.

Dan Scavino, Trump’s director of social media, later responded on Twitter, saying Kelly had “made a total fool out of herself” and warning: “Watch what happens to her after this election is over.”

enltr. @MegynKelly[https://twitter.com/megynkelly] made a total fool out of herself tonight- attacking @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump]. Watch what happens to her after this election is over.

— Dan Scavino Jr. (@DanScavino) October 26, 2016[https://twitter.com/DanScavino/status/791095922709200897] Revealed: Trump’s ties with pipeline company Donald Trump’s close financial ties to Energy[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/energy] Transfer Partners, operators of the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline, have been laid bare, with the presidential candidate invested in the company and receiving more than $100,000 in campaign contributions from its chief executive.

Trump’s financial disclosure forms[https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2838696-Trump-2016-Financial-Disclosure.html] show the Republican nominee has between $500,000 and $1m invested in Energy Transfer Partners[http://www.energytransfer.com/default.aspx], with a further $500,000 to $1m holding in Phillips 66, which will have a 25% stake in the Dakota Access project once completed.

Related: Donald Trump has close financial ties to Dakota Access pipeline company[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/donald-trump-dakota-access-pipeline-investment-energy-transfer-partners]

Thank you for reading and please join us in the comments.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The battle over Florida ripped a veil off a dysfunctional system and offered an opportunity for meaningful electoral reform and new forms of political warfare

Donald Trump may have shocked the American political establishment with his refusal to say whether he will accept the results of next month’s presidential election, but he is far from the only candidate for high office in the United States who has cast serious doubt on the integrity of the system and the campaign tactics of his opponents.

Over the past 16 years – ever since the epic, 36-day presidential showdown in Florida in 2000 that was resolved not by a full recount of the votes, but by a supreme court split along partisan lines – accusations of vote-rigging and out-and-out theft have become increasingly common among partisans on both sides, and the electoral process has become ever more politicized, rancorous and fraught with mistrust.

“I will tell you at the time,” Trump said at last Wednesday’s debate when asked if he would accept the election result on 8 November. “I’ll keep you in suspense.” The Republican candidate has repeatedly claimed, without evidence, that the election is “rigged” against him[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/17/man-who-cried-rigged-problem-with-trump-election-claims]. “Of course there is large-scale voter fraud happening on and before election day,” he tweeted last week. All available evidence shows[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/21/donald-trump-fact-check-rigged-election-voter] that in-person voter fraud is exceedingly rare.

Related: What would happen if Donald Trump refused to concede this election?[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/20/donald-trump-refuse-concede-election-electoral-college]

Opinion polls suggest that Trump’s charges of a “rigged election” have struck a nerve[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/21/republicans-reject-us-election-result-hillary-clinton-win] : 41% of voters believe him when he says the election could be stolen[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/poll-41-percent-of-voters-say-the-election-could-be-stolen-from-trump-229871#ixzz4NyQ6BbyQ], according to one survey. More than two-thirds of all Republicans believe that if Hillary Clinton is declared the winner, it will be because of illegal voting or vote-rigging[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-poll-rigging-idUSKCN12L2O2], according to another.

Those attitudes are almost certainly the result of Republicans beating the drum for more than a decade about elections being skewed by the illegal participation of dead people, illegal **immigrants** and even the occasional household pet. To this day, many in the GOP are convinced Barack Obama was elected only because community organizing groups such as Acorn[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/sep/21/acorn-prostitution-videos] – now defunct – registered extraordinary numbers of ineligible or nonexistent voters in the inner cities, and because busloads of Mexicans came over the border to vote using someone else’s name.

Eight years before Trump ever publicly uttered the words “rigged election”, Obama’s first Republican opponent, John McCain, said in a presidential debate that Acorn was “on the verge of perpetrating one of the greatest frauds[http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2008/oct/17/sorting-truth-obama-acorn/] in voter history in this country, maybe destroying the fabric of democracy”. No credible evidence ever emerged of a single fraudulently cast ballot arising from Acorn’s activities.

While Democratic candidates have rarely resorted to such inflammatory language, their rank-and-file supporters certainly have, suggesting the problem crosses party lines. The 2004 election, which saw George W Bush re-elected despite the mounting unpopularity of the Iraq war, saw an explosion of unfounded conspiracy theories that Republicans were in cahoots with the manufacturers of electronic voting machines and would never lose an election again. (The theory fell apart as soon as Democrats retook control of the House of Representatives two years later.)

This year, a hard core of Bernie Sanders supporters remains convinced that the senator from Vermont was cheated out of the Democratic presidential nomination by the underhanded maneuvering of the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee – despite the fact that Clinton won over 3m more primary votes[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-system-isnt-rigged-against-sanders/].

American history is hardly lacking in examples of real voter manipulation and electoral skullduggery, especially in the segregation-era deep south. To this day, the US electoral system is widely viewed as an anomaly[http://kimalex.blogspot.com/2004/12/jimmy-carter-on-npr-air.html] in the western world because of persistent problems with the reliability of its voting machinery, frequent bureaucratic incompetence, the lack of uniform standards from state to state or even county to county, the systematic exclusion of more than 6 million felons[http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/felony-disenfranchisement/] and ex-prisoners, and the tendency of election officials to adopt rules that benefit their party over democracy itself.

Until 2000, though, these issues were not widely aired in public. Then the battle over Florida ripped a veil off a dysfunctional system and offered an opportunity not just for meaningful electoral reform – a slow and frustrating process – but also for new forms of political warfare unseen since the darkest days of the segregation era in which the electoral process itself became fair game, particularly for the Republicans.

It began, perhaps, when the hand recount of punch card ballots requested by Al Gore and the Democrats – something both parties had routinely pressed for in previous contested elections – was recast by many leading Republicans in their talking points as a form of “ slow-motion grand larceny[http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0011/22/ip.00.html] ”.

Then, in Missouri, Republican Senator Kit Bond took one look at African American voters in overcrowded precincts in St Louis casting ballots beyond the official poll closing time – something that has since become standard practice in many states – and denounced what he called a “ major criminal enterprise[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=122543] ”.

Soon, a narrative took hold that Democrats were habitual vote-stealers – something that was indubitably true in the days of Boss Tweed in 1860s New York but now took the form of a racist dog-whistle because the voters under most suspicion were black or Latino. Within a few years, politicians such as Sarah Palin were openly distinguishing “ real Americans[http://www.politico.com/story/2008/10/rep-says-liberals-hate-real-americans-014797] ” – meaning white Republicans – from the rest, and states under Republican control were passing voter ID laws to crack down on a problem – voter impersonation fraud – that experts have repeatedly found to be rare to non-existent[http://www.pressherald.com/2016/10/18/analysis-heres-why-vote-fraud-is-less-likely-than-being-struck-by-lightning/].

As the federal courts have now begun to find[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/31/north-carolina-voting-rights-law-republicans-november-elections], the effect of these laws has in fact been to discriminate against groups of voters – the transient, the elderly, students and the poor – who are much more likely to support Democrats.

Given the level of mistrust, rank-and-file members of both parties have increasingly come to define democracy by the elections their side wins, and any other outcome as prima facie evidence of theft and corruption.

Royal Masset, a former political director of the Texas Republican party, once described how he would receive dozens of calls[http://blog.chron.com/texaspolitics/2007/04/a-republican-his-mother-and-voter-id/] from disappointed candidates after election day complaining about some unsubstantiated outrage, usually involving illegal **immigrants** or lightning-rod political figures such as Jesse Jackson. “Human beings do not accept defeat easily,” he observed in 2007.

If Trump is different, it is only because he began complaining about vote-rigging months before election day and because he threatens to depart from the tradition that says you fight as hard and as dirty as you want, but only until the final results come in.

The sheer volume of his complaints, however, may be doing his prospects little good: a fascinating[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/10/21/trumps-election-rigging-claim-will-backfire-heres-the-evidence/?tid=pm\_politics\_pop\_b] American National Election Study survey conducted in 2012 shows that people are less likely to vote when their faith in the integrity of the system has been shaken, and much more likely to vote if they think the ballots are counted fairly. In other words, Trump’s rhetoric may just be depressing his own turnout and making defeat all the more likely.

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**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Hillary Clinton failed to take account of the populist anger and lost ground to the rightwing demagoguery of Donald Trump. But in belatedly recognising widespread frustration with elites, she deserves to win

The final presidential debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/donald-trump-presidential-debate-election-result], thankfully the last set piece in a wretched campaign, revealed what is admirable and loathsome in American politics. Hillary Clinton displayed a razor-sharp intelligence and a quick wit. Her facility with facts trumped Donald Trump’s lack of them. Americans finally saw on Wednesday why Secretary Clinton had got rich from giving lectures after leaving office. Her fluency with words, which has earned her $22m in speaking fees, appeared to silence her opponent. Mr Trump, a boastful, thin-skinned billionaire who trades in racism[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/16/donald-trump-mexico-presidential-speech-latino-hispanic] and misogyny, was left squawking on the sidelines of the debate. His jibes revealed a man out of his depth. His answer was to plunge down deeper. By disgracefully refusing to rule out calling this a rigged election he gave up a fight he had by then lost.

Americans should vote for Secretary Clinton as an able and proven politician. A Trump presidency would be bad for America and dangerous for the world, so a vote for Secretary Clinton is the most effective way of preventing it. Mr Trump has been exposed for questionable tax arrangements[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-taxes.html?\_r=0], outrageous business practices and irregularities at his charity. The billionaire is a grabber and kisser[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women] of women who he presumed gave consent because he was famous. There are numerous allegations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/20/donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-tenth-woman-accuser] of sexual assault by Mr Trump. He has demonstrated that he has neither the conscience, training nor sense of history – and the desire to be judged well by it – to occupy the White House. Secretary Clinton possesses such attributes. She has a serious and sustained commitment on issues like education, healthcare and equality, and she has stood consistently for the rights of women, ethnic minorities, children and the disabled through her long career.

However, there are fewer reasons to vote for Secretary Clinton than one would have hoped. For more than two decades she has been part of a political establishment that shaped a dysfunctional country. She has been unable to escape being tarnished by the most damaging policies – notably around criminal justice[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-36020717] – of her husband’s administration. There are well-founded concerns, highlighted by transcripts of her speeches[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/16/wikileaks-hillary-clinton-wall-street-goldman-sachs-speeches], that she is too close to Wall Street to be an effective check on its excesses if elected.

The mood for change Even so, as the first female president she would represent a symbolic transformative change in American politics. In some ways what Secretary Clinton has had to deal with are ingrained cultural attitudes about what success and leadership look like. These were exposed by the finding that Mr Trump would win if only men voted[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/election-update-women-are-defeating-donald-trump/] and Secretary Clinton would win if only women voted. That most men favor Mr Trump over Secretary Clinton demonstrates at some level a more insidious sexism than the one Mr Trump peddles: that centred on the mind, not the body. It is a hostility – deeply embedded but rarely conceded – against seeing women as genuinely equal.

There is little doubt that the 2016 presidential campaign has been one of the most confrontational contests of the modern era. The mood for change has been more pervasive and volatile, and has been supercharged by Mr Trump, a braggart with tyrannical instincts. The backdrop to this election has been genuine and understandable public anger about economic insecurity, growing inequality and frustration with elites. Mr Trump on the right and Bernie Sanders on the left have reflected that mood in their very different ways. That is not going to disappear after 8 November. The election has also raised real questions about the crisis of American democracy. Mr Trump encouraged violence against opponents and threatened to jail Secretary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/10/debate-donald-trump-threatens-to-jail-hillary-clinton] if he took office.

The civility that has marked out US democracy as ordered and restrained appears dead. The next president will have to resurrect it. The political topography of a polarized and resentful nation has been obscured by the preternatural equanimity of Barack Obama. Mr Trump has in some ways skilfully exploited these divisions. On social security he has moved to the left on the campaign trail, telling jobless Americans that he would not touch their benefits[http://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2016/08/08/social-security-where-clinton-and-trump-stand/#6dbc02aa4f40]. Mr Trump also wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the landmark measure that increases health coverage for low-wage workers and benefits large numbers of **immigrants** and minorities[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/18/health/immigrants-the-poor-and-minorities-gain-sharply-under-health-act.html?\_r=0]. This contrasts with the real estate magnate’s offer to expand the US health programme for the elderly – Medicare[http://www.webmd.com/health-insurance/20161020/clinton-trump-tangle-on-preserving-medicare] – which benefits overwhelmingly older, whiter voters.

These dog whistles have been part of American politics for decades. But they come at a time when there is a sense that there are too many losers from economic growth in the country. Driving discontent in the US is a system that no longer defuses high levels of inequality with opportunities for all. The middle classes are poorer today than in 2000[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-13/u-s-poverty-rate-falls-to-post-recession-low-as-incomes-gain]. Since the Great Recession the top 1% of families in the US have captured 52% of the income growth[http://equitablegrowth.org/research-analysis/u-s-top-one-percent-of-income-earners-hit-new-high-in-2015-amid-strong-economic-growth/]. There’s understandable anger that the wealthy were bailed out while ordinary Americans were hollowed out. Voters rage that, in the current incarnation of globalization, jobs that disappeared when the US decided to import rather than manufacture did not come back – they simply popped up elsewhere, usually in China.

The Sanders effect Nowhere has this fury been more keenly felt than in the country’s former manufacturing heartlands, tapping into America’s long history of resistance to free trade and making protectionism a potent political force once again. The politician who has shaped the politics of the country and accounted for populist anger is Senator Sanders. The man from Vermont understood, earlier than most, that voters see the economy as rigged against them by a political system that has been corrupted by big money. His campaign was backed three to one by millennials in the Democratic primaries[https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2016/06/03/the-democrats-generation-gap/]. This month his favorability ratings in opinion polls are only bettered by Michelle Obama[https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus\_uploads/document/cx4orjzwhb/econTabReport.pdf].

Senator Sanders’ insurgent campaign has transformed Democratic politics – forcing Secretary Clinton to adopt, albeit sotto voce, key planks of his program[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-election-democrats-sanders-commentary-idUSKCN0Y90C9] such as a federal minimum wage of $15 an hour, tuition-free public college and opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership – President Obama’s big trade deal. Until this week, Secretary Clinton failed to outline enough of a bold reform program. Tellingly, she offered signs of one in the final televised debate, making unprompted promises to push **immigration** reforms, a key Sanders point, within the first 100 days of her presidency.

Although domestic politics has framed the campaign, Secretary Clinton’s election would be greeted with relief and optimism in most world capitals other than Moscow and Damascus. Despite her hawkish outlook[http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/07/27/hillary-the-hawk-a-history-clinton-2016-military-intervention-libya-iraq-syria/], she will have no alternative but to recognize that the 21st century no longer always looks to the United States as an indispensable hegemon, whether benign or threatening. Secretary Clinton should focus on US soft, not hard, power – dealing with climate change and working out fairer global trade arrangements.

If Secretary Clinton is elected she must recognize the mood without pandering to its demons. She needs to bring the bold ambition about the role of government to this era that Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt each did in earlier times. She has the intelligence, the seriousness and the experience to do this. The US presidency is hugely powerful: 10% of all posts in federal government are allocated on the basis of political patronage. Secretary Clinton offers the best chance of ensuring those jobs go to competent people. Her choice of Treasury secretary in the aftermath of the banking crisis will be watched with special care, as will an olive branch appointment to Senator Sanders of the kind that president Obama made to her in 2008. She offers the greatest hope that the supreme court defends abortion rights and looks again at issues like campaign finance as well as background checks on gun owners. Yet America will soon find itself weakened at home and abroad if the new president is as badly served by congress as Mr Obama has been for most of his tenure.

There is a danger, if Mrs Clinton wins, that the Republicans will relapse into the Hillary-hatred that has marked them for a quarter century. The tragedy of this election is that, to become president, Secretary Clinton has had to talk more radically than she actually felt; to be an effective president she may be compelled to act more conservatively than she now says she wants to do.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Alan Yuhas checks the statements made by Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton during the third and final presidential debate in Las Vegas

Donald Trump’s claims “We will have a second amendment that is a very small replica of what it is now” in a Clinton administration

Trump is being reductive: Clinton has never called for abolishing the second amendment, the right to bear arms, though she does support gun control measures such as an assault weapons ban, increased background checks and greater liability for manufacturers.

Related: Donald Trump refuses to say if he will accept election result in final debate [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/donald-trump-presidential-debate-election-result]

As moderator Chris Wallace noted, Clinton has said she disagrees with the supreme court’s 5-4 decision [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/27/washington/27scotus.html] in 2008 to broadly affirm the personal right to gun ownership. Her campaign has said Clinton would prefer states have the right to enact as strict gun control laws as they see fit.

“Chicago has the toughest gun laws and the most gun deaths”

Chicago police have pushed back on the notion that the city’s gun laws have proven ineffective, noting that a huge number of gun seizures were of firearms purchased outside the city or outside Illinois [https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20140528/chicago/majority-of-illegally-owned-guns-first-bought-out-of-state-cops-mayor], where laws are more lax. Trump is largely correct about Chicago’s homicide problem: the city is on pace [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2016/09/01/chicago-has-seen-more-homicides-this-year-than-new-york-and-los-angeles-combined/] to have more than 600 gun deaths in 2016.

“If you go with what Hillary is saying in the ninth month you can rip the baby out of the womb of the mother … up to the last day.”

Clinton does not support such an extreme view on abortion, nor have courts ever ruled such a late term operation legal, or suggested that they would. States vary on how late they allow abortions [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/06/18/us/politics/abortion-restrictions.html?\_r=0], ranging from a ban six weeks after a woman’s last menstrual period (North Dakota) to three states with third-trimester abortion bans [http://www.theatlantic.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/politics/archive/2015/01/a-look-at-late-term-abortion-restrictions-state-by-state/448098/]. There are nine states without specific term prohibitions, but clinics do not abort at such late terms: only 1.2% of abortions occur after 21 weeks, according to the nonprofit [http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\_induced\_abortion.html] Guttmacher Institute.

“Clinton wants open borders”

Clinton does not want “open borders”: she supports reform to let people pass background checks and pay back taxes in order to stay in the US, and she supports Obama’s executive actions to shield some migrants, such as people who were brought to the US as children. Like Obama, she supports deportation for people with criminal records.

“Obama has moved millions of people out”

Trump is correct: Barack Obama has deported more than 2.5 million people, more than any other recent president, but he has prioritized migrants with criminal records. “Millions and millions”, however, is an exaggeration, and Obama also supports shielding millions of undocumented **immigrants** without criminal records, and reform for citizenship.

Obama “has thousands and thousands of people, they have no idea where they come from”

Ten thousand Syrian refugees have come to the United States in 2016, but Trump makes it sound misleadingly large.

He is patently wrong about the screening process. The US has among the most intensive screening process in the world for refugees: it requires they register and interview with the United Nations, which then must refer them to the US, refugees who pass this test then interview with state department contractors and have at least two background checks, then they have three fingerprint and photo screenings, then US **immigration** reviews the case, then Homeland Security interviews the refugee, then a doctor examines the refugee, and finally several security agencies perform one last check after the refugee has been matched with a resettlement agency.

The process takes 18 months [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/donald-trump-syria-refugees-us-immigration-security-terrorism] to two years. The US has a very clear idea about which refugees it allows into the country.

“I don’t know Putin. He said nice things about me … He has no respect for our president.”

It’s not clear whether Trump has ever spoken with the Russian president. Putin was invited to but did not attend a 2013 beauty pageant in Moscow, according to one of the oligarchs [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/inside-trumps-financial-ties-to-russia-and-his-unusual-flattery-of-vladimir-putin/2016/06/17/dbdcaac8-31a6-11e6-8ff7-7b6c1998b7a0\_story.html] who helped organize the event. “Will he become my new best friend?” Trump wondered [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/347191326112112640] beforehand.

The pair may have communicated through intermediaries. In 2014, Trump told a National Press Club luncheon [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKkKQmbyECw] : “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.” A year earlier, Trump told MSNBC [http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-putin-tried-arrange-meeting-moscow-source-n619006] : “I do have a relationship and I can tell you that he’s very interested in what we’re doing here today.”

Last November, Trump claimed in a debate [http://time.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/4107636/transcript-read-the-full-text-of-the-fourth-republican-debate-in-milwaukee/] that he “got to know him very well because we were both on 60 Minutes”. They appeared in separate, pre-taped segments and were not on set together.

Trump has repeatedly tried to do business in Russia, and his refusal to release tax returns prevents him proving that he has no assets there.

Related: Entire US political system ‘under attack’ by Russian hacking, experts warn [https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/14/hillary-clinton-email-hack-russia-cybersecurity]

Putin has never called Trump “a genius”; he used the Russian word ?????, which means “colorful” or “flamboyant”. Trump likely heard the word translated as “bright” or “brilliant”, though its connotations are often more pejorative than not: bright in the sense of glaring and gaudy, brilliant in the sense of dazzling light. Putin also called him “talented, undoubtedly”.

“It’s not our business to decide his merits; that’s for US voters,” Putin said earlier this year. He did say, however, that he would welcome the rapprochement in Russian-American relations that Trump has suggested. You can read more about Putin’s remarks here [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/18/vladimir-putin-donald-trump-striking-america-superpower].

“She has no idea whether it’s Russia, China or somebody else … Our country has no idea”

US intelligence officials have formally accused Russia of hacking Democratic organizations, saying they have “high confidence” [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/08/us/politics/us-formally-accuses-russia-of-stealing-dnc-emails.html] that the Kremlin is behind cyberattacks on the US government, Democratic organizations and polling centers. Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on this claim, despite personal briefings with US intelligence officials.

Even his running mate, Mike Pence, has accepted the briefings, and told NBC on Sunday: “I think there’s more and more evidence that implicates Russia.” Earlier Wednesday a Russian man suspected of involvement in the hacks was arrested in Prague [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/world/europe/prague-russian-hacker.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur].

“The border patrol agents, 16,500 plus, ICE, endorsed me. First time they’ve ever endorsed a candidate”

**Immigration** and Customs Enforcement is a government agency. It does not endorse political candidates. A union representing about 7,600 ICE officials endorsed Trump [http://iceunion.org/about] in September. A group representing 16,500 of 21,000 [http://www.bpunion.org/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/1824-national-border-patrol-council-endorses-donald-trump-for-president] border patrol agents similarly endorsed Trump; this does not represent all the agents.

Clinton called for “open borders”

Clinton is correct that Trump took the quote out of context: she was talking primarily about trade to Banco Itau, a Brazilian bank that eventually became Unibanco. Here’s what she said, according to a hacked email released by Wikileaks:

My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, some time in the future with energy that is as green and sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere.

Clinton has flip-flopped on free trade since 2013, most notably supporting and then rejecting the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

“I’m a big fan of Nato but they have to pay up”

Trump is not necessarily a big fan of Nato, which he has called “obsolete”, and he’s wrong that allies do not pay for US military bases, though they do not pay perhaps as much as some Nato commanders want.

The US has urged its Nato allies to pay more for years [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/11/world/europe/11gates.html], especially as eastern and central European allies have loudly warned about aggressive Russian action. The US currently pays [http://www.act.nato.int/nsip] about 22% of overall Nato spending, compared to Germany’s 15%, France’s 11%, the UK’s 10%, etc, and most Nato members fail to pay the 2% of GDP [http://www.nato.int/nato\_static\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\_2016\_01/20160129\_160128-pr-2016-11-eng.pdf] into defense as the alliance’s guidelines dictate. But the US does receive payments for military bases abroad from countries like Japan and South Korea [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/q-a-how-much-do-u-s-military-bases-in-japan-and-korea-cost-1461822624], and takes profits from arms deals (sometimes to controversial clients, such as Saudi Arabia [http://www.factcheck.org/2016/04/u-s-foreign-military-support/] ).

The US also benefits strategically through foreign military bases, which have acted as foundations for American influence abroad.

“I never said Japan should have nuclear weapons”

Trump has suggested Japan and South Korea should develop their own nuclear weapons. He told the New York Times in March [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/27/us/politics/donald-trump-transcript.html?\_r=0] : “Well I think maybe it’s not so bad to have Japan – if Japan had that nuclear threat, I’m not sure that would be a bad thing for us.”

Trump says you won't find a quote from me suggesting Japan gets nuclear weapons..... err.... #debate [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debate?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/TMtvOeJiwq [https://t.co/TMtvOeJiwq] — david munk (@davidmunk) October 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/davidmunk/status/788917375814873090] — david munk (@davidmunk)

“Obama has doubled the debt”

Trump has the raw numbers just about right. When Obama took office on 20 January 2009, the federal debt was $10.63tn [http://www.treasurydirect.gov/NP/debt/search?startMonth=01&startDay=20&startYear=2009&endMonth=&endDay=&endYear=]. As of 28 September 2016, it was $19.5tn [http://www.treasurydirect.gov/NP/debt/current]. Trump omits, however, two key points: Congress controls the government’s wallet (ie Obama cannot spend or tax without approval from lawmakers), and Obama took office during the financial crisis, when Republicans, Democrats and most economists agreed that the US needed to spend in order to counteract the collapsing economy. Pence has the right numbers but imputes too much responsibility on the president.

“When you ran the state department, $6bn was missing! Maybe it was stolen … nobody knows”

This is not correct. Trump is alluding to a March 2014 alert, about contractor spending in the Middle East and Africa, by the state department’s inspector general, who was so perturbed by careless language around the $6bn figure that he wrote the Washington Post a letter [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/about-the-state-depts-missing-6-billion/2014/04/13/a6130790-c194-11e3-9ee7-02c1e10a03f0\_story.html?utm\_term=.452a9d665b36] that April. His alert did not conclude that the money was “missing” he told the Post, but rather that officials had failed “to adequately maintain contract files” that created “significant financial risk”. Files were missing or incomplete regarding several dozen contracts, not the money itself, and the state department agreed to his recommendations.

“Clinton flip-flopped on the Trans-Pacific Partnership”

Trump is right: Clinton has not been consistent on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and her language from 2010 through 2014 suggests she was broadly in support of Barack Obama’s trade deal, before eventually opposing it as a presidential candidate. As secretary of state in 2012, she said [http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trade-tpp-20160926-snap-story.html] : “This TPP sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open free, transparent, fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field. And when negotiated, this agreement will cover 40 percent of the world’s total trade and build in strong protections for workers and the environment.”

She continued to praise it [http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/11/200664.htm] while she worked for the Obama administration, variously calling it “high quality”, “cutting edge”, “groundbreaking” and “high standard”.

“She gave us Isis … she created a vacuum”

The claim that Hillary Clinton “gave” the world Isis condenses and distorts a conservative view that, closer to its original form, says that that by withdrawing American forces from Iraq, Barack Obama created a power vacuum in which Isis could rise.

This argument ignores that Isis’s first segments [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/world/middleeast/in-rise-of-isis-no-single-missed-key-but-many-strands-of-blame.html] formed [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/11/world/middleeast/us-actions-in-iraq-fueled-rise-of-a-rebel.html] out of Iraq’s civil war [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/11/-sp-isis-the-inside-story], while George W Bush was president, that the group gained strength in Syria’s civil war, where the US did not intervene until 2014, that Obama withdrew American forces in 2011 under the timeline [http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/12/20081214-2.html] agreed on by Bush and Baghdad [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/22/world/middleeast/united-states-and-iraq-had-not-expected-troops-would-have-to-leave.html], and that both Bush and Obama failed to come to an agreement with Baghdad over troops – in large part over a disagreement about whether American troops could be prosecuted by Iraq.

Trump supported the invasion of Iraq [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/24/donald-trump-fact-check-foreign-policy-taxes-business] in 2003 and “surgical” intervention [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/24/donald-trump-fact-check-foreign-policy-taxes-business] to remove Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, though he now claims otherwise. He also supported withdrawal from Iraq in 2007 and 2008 [https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/trump-cites-iraq-withdrawal-he-passionately-supported-to-say?utm\_term=.xhMYJNVWN#.qpgXZWm3W].

“Those stories have been largely debunked”

The sexual allegations against Trump have not been “debunked”, though they have not been proven, either. For context, Jill Harth sued Trump in 1997 for “attempted rape” and earlier this year told the Guardian [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/20/donald-trump-sexual-assault-allegations-jill-harth-interview] he “me up against the wall” of a child’s bedroom “and had his hands all over me and tried to get up my dress”. Jessica Leeds and Rachel Cooks recounted to the New York Times [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/13/us/politics/donald-trump-women.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news] that Trump had groped the former “like an octopus” and kissed the latter without consent.

Related: Jill Harth speaks out about alleged groping by Donald Trump [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/20/donald-trump-sexual-assault-allegations-jill-harth-interview]

Reporter Natasha Stoynoff [http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/?xid=socialflow\_twitter\_peoplemag] has said Trump cornered her in a room in 2005 and “within seconds, he was pushing me against the wall, and forcing his tongue down my throat”. Mindy McGillivray told the Palm Beach Post [http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/palm-beach-post-exclusive-local-woman-says-trump-groped-her/w5ii48gwdJY9htsLl88GcP/?ecmp=pbp\_social\_twitter\_2015\_sfp] a similar story, saying that Trump groped her 13 years ago, also at his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida. Summer Zervos, a former Apprentice contestant, has alleged that he groped and kissed her [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/14/donald-trump-summer-zervos-apprentice-sexual-assault] without consent in 2007. Temple Taggart accused Trump of advances [http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/14/politics/trump-women-accusers/] at rehearsal for the 1997 Miss USA pageant, photographer Kirsten Anderson said Trump groped her at a nightclub in the 1990s, and Cathy Heller said he grabbed and kissed her [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/15/donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations-cathy-heller] at a Mar-A-Lago brunch in 1997.

The Trump campaign has denied the allegations. It has produced a self-professed witness, who has a history of making unproven claims, from the flight with Leeds, and a letter from the cousin of Zervos expressing doubt about her claim but not calling her a liar. “I can only imagine that Summer’s actions today are nothing more than an attempt to regain the spotlight at Mr Trump’s expense,” his letter said.

“I did not say that [women were not unattractive enough for him to advance on]”

Trump clearly suggested that he did not find at least one of his accusers attractive, saying “ She would not be my first choice, believe me [http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-on-accuser-she-would-not-be-my-first-choice/].”

Related: A timeline of Donald Trump's alleged sexual misconduct: who, when and what [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/list-of-donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations]

“They hired people [to incite violence at rallies], they gave them $1,500 … she caused the violence, it’s on tape!”

Trump appears to be alluding to an edited video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IuJGHuIkzY] that suggests a few Democratic staffers had hired people to incite violence. One of those staffers has resigned, and said that “none of the schemes described in the conversations ever took place”. So far there is no proof that anyone was actually hired to cause violence.

“Criminally, after getting a subpoena by the United States Congress, [Clinton deleted emails]. One lie.”

Trump has the timeline correct, but not the criminality. He omits the FBI’s conclusion that there was no evidence of an intentional effort to conceal anything, and the FBI learned that a Clinton aide had asked for the emails unrelated to government work to be deleted in December 2014, months before the 4 March 2015 subpoena.

The emails were deleted at the end of March, according to the FBI, when an employee had what he called an “oh shit” moment about his previous order from Mills. The state department first agreed to produce records in July 2014.

“General David Petraeus faces a worse deal than Clinton”

The justice department’s lenience toward Petraeus actually made it more difficult, in part, for prosecutors to recommend charges against Clinton.

In 2015 Petraeus, a former CIA director and a four-star general, pled guilty to giving a large amount of classified information [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/mar/03/david-petraeus-pleads-guilty-classified-information-paula-broadwell] – including the identities of covert officers and war strategy – to his biographer, with whom he was having an affair. During the FBI investigation, Petraeus lied to agents, according to the plea deal. But the justice department only sentenced Petraeus to two years’ probation and a $100,000 fine [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/23/david-petraeus-sentenced-sharing-classified-information], provoking accusations that this relatively lenient sentence was evidence of a double standard [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jan/12/petraeus-case-politicians-stand-by-general-despite-leaks-inquiry] for the powerful.

“The Clinton Foundation is a ‘criminal enterprise’

There is no evidence that the Clinton Foundation is a “criminal enterprise”, or that its donors or the Clintons profit from the charity.

Trump appears to be alluding a garment factory built after Haiti’s 2010 earthquake in the town of Caracol , while Bill Clinton was the UN’s special envoy to Haiti and co-chairman of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), an organization that approved US government funded projects that added up to hundreds of millions of dollars. The IHRC approved a project between the US, Haiti’s government and Sae-A Trading, a South Korean clothing company, and it now provides 8,900 jobs to Haitians.

An eventual review [http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655278.pdf] by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office found “mixed results” with the project, including “unrealistic initial timeframes”, delays, incomplete information in the feasibility study, and funding problems. Earlier in October, labor organizers alleged that factory managers were mistreating workers there [http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/haiti-factory-big-money-state-department-clintons-meet/story?id=42729714], but an ABC News investigation found no evidence that Clinton Foundation donors profited from the project, though some were involved in the project. The US committed funding but did not participate in building the industrial park; a labor group that reviewed the factory found it had adequate oversight and had dealt [https://drive-google-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/file/d/0BwiJbAWhwPe\_U3pDTkpMVmhNdFQ4NWZPR3VsSTNnVEtmVGJF/view] with concerns, though the factory remains within the range of the often grueling garment industry.

He was correct, at least, that the Clinton Foundation has accepted millions from Middle East countries with records of repression of women and gay people.

“I don’t buy boats, I don’t buy planes [with money the Trump Foundation], we put up the American flag, and that’s it … We fought for the right in Palm Beach to put up the American flag”

Trump is not being wholly honest about his charitable foundation, at least according to the Trump Foundation own documents, which show that he used its money to pay for legal settlements [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] and even self-portraits, as Clinton said and the Washington Post [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-clue-to-the-whereabouts-of-the-6-foot-tall-portrait-of-donald-trump/2016/09/14/ae65db82-7a8f-11e6-ac8e-cf8e0dd91dc7\_story.html] has reported at length.

“I started with a small $1m loan”

Trump does not come from modest beginnings. In 1978 his father gave him a loan totaling almost $1m – about $3.7m today – and acted as guarantor for the young Trump’s early projects. A 1981 report by a New Jersey regulator [https://www.scribd.com/doc/301761265/Report-on-Donald-Trump-to-Casino-Control-Commission] also shows a $7.5m loan from the patriarch, and years later he bought $3.5m in gambling chips [http://articles.philly.com/1991-04-09/news/25780577\_1\_casino-control-act-donald-trump-casino-owners] to help his son pay off the debts of a failing casino, a transaction found later found illegal [http://articles.philly.com/1991-04-09/news/25780577\_1\_casino-control-act-donald-trump-casino-owners]. Trump also borrowed millions against his inheritance [https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/donald-trump-in-deposition-96-million-i-borrowed-from-dads-e?utm\_term=.eboXJGMWG#.qbNV4Jl1J] before his father’s death, a 2007 deposition shows.

Trump has not proven that he is worth $10bn, though his tax returns, which he has refused to release, could provide a clearer picture of his worth. His financial filings suggest he has less than $250m in liquid assets [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/self-financing-campaign-all-the-way-would-have-been-a-stretch-for-trump-1463341722], according to a Wall Street Journal analysis. Trump has a history of overstating his properties: he has, for instance, told the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that a New York golf club is worth $50m but also argued in court that it is worth only $1.4m [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/12/donald-trump-briarcliff-manor-golf-course-tax].

“These people have all left. The element of surprise … all she had to do was stay there”

Isis has not left Mosul: several thousand fighters remain there and are fighting the coalition of Iraqi and Kurdish troops, backed by US airstrikes and special forces. Isis leaders have known for years that Baghdad would try to retake the city, if they have not known since they took the city.

Related: Battle for Mosul: Iraqi forces converge in decisive battle against Isis [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/17/kurds-lead-advance-on-mosul-in-decisive-battle-for-iraqs-second-city]

Trump did not support leaving a residual American force in Iraq [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/09/donald-trump-fact-check-lies-military-tax-returns], but actually called for a complete withdrawal from Iraq, despite the likelihood of civil war or an authoritarian coup. “You know how they get out? They get out. That’s how they get out. Declare victory and leave,” he told CNN [http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0703/18/le.01.html] in 2007. “This is a total catastrophe, and you might as well get out now because you’re just wasting time, and lives.”

The argument that Isis rose out of the vacuum of post-withdrawal Iraq also ignores that its origins were in the country’s civil war, while George W Bush was in office, and that the terror group concentrated strength in Syria’s civil war before Barack Obama began a bombing and special forces campaign there.

Trump, told he was for the invasion of Iraq: “Wrong”

This is a lie [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/19/trump-fact-check-iraq-war-san-bernardino-nato]. In the months before the Iraq war began, Trump mildly endorsed invasion to radio host Howard Stern [https://soundcloud.com/buzzfeedandrew/trump-on-the-howard-stern-show-on-sept-11-2002?utm\_source=soundcloud&utm\_campaign=share&utm\_medium=twitter], who asked him whether US forces should attack. “Yeah, I guess so,” Trump answered. A few weeks later he told Fox News that George W Bush was “doing a very good job”. Several weeks after the invasion, Trump told the Washington Post: “ The war’s a mess [https://www.washingtonpost.com/pb/archive/lifestyle/2003/03/25/hollywood-partyers-soldiering-on/06327347-83d3-44c4-ab7b-dcd6fbda5437/?resType=accessibility].” In August 2004 he told Esquire [http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/interviews/a37230/donald-trump-esquire-cover-story-august-2004/] : “Two minutes after we leave, there’s going to be a revolution, and the meanest, toughest, smartest, most vicious guy will take over.”

Even in an interview [https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/a-guide-to-donald-trump-early-flip-flops-on-the-iraq-war?utm\_term=.vq5VjeKwe#.uy2eDvV5v] cited by the Trump campaign, Trump expressed impatience with Bush for not invading sooner. “Whatever happened to the days of the Douglas MacArthur? He would go and attack. He wouldn’t talk.”

“Our country is stagnant. We’ve lost our jobs”

About 10.7 million people have gained jobs since Barack Obama took office in 2009 (not 15 million as the Clinton campaign sometimes claims). Growth is not stagnant, though it is not significant, and it requires context: the 2008 financial crisis that nearly collapsed the economy. According to a 2015 nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the stimulus may have increased GDP buy up to 0.2 percentage points. US growth in the second quarter of 2016 was 1.4% [http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/gdp-growth].

“Their [the people of New Hampshire’s] single biggest problem is heroin that pours across our southern borders, just pouring and destroying their youth”

Related: How cracking down on America's painkiller capital led to a heroin crisis [https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/may/25/opioid-epidemic-prescription-painkillers-heroin-addiction]

Trump is correct that heroin deaths have increased dramatically since 2007, in part because of the abuse of painkillers [https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/may/25/opioid-epidemic-prescription-painkillers-heroin-addiction] and the growth of a number of powerful heroin-related drugs, such as fentanyl. According to the DEA, 10,574 Americans died from heroin-related overdoses [https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq062716\_attach.pdf] in 2014, more than three times the number in 2010.

“Next week [the healthcare premiums] are going to go up 100%”

Trump and Clinton both accept the reality that healthcare premiums have increased since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, but Trump appears to be exaggerating wildly. On average, premiums have risen [http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2013/sep/04/republican-national-committee-republican/republican-national-committee-says-health-insuranc/] by about 5.8% a year since Barack Obama took office, compared with 13.2% in the nine years before Obama, Politifact found [http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2013/sep/04/republican-national-committee-republican/republican-national-committee-says-health-insuranc/] earlier this year. Trump, however, is cherry-picking data from various states [http://acasignups.net/] and providers [https://ratereview.healthcare.gov/#urrresults?U2FsdGVkX19n4kcCdR5qUI27%2BwHheoDO2VGbcEEfi84Zrt9YzdawzO8%2BdPHtCLfThVI4mtetRmr28iQ8w29yvQ%3D%3D] where rates have had higher [https://ratereview.healthcare.gov/#urrresults?U2FsdGVkX186EmjG4AR6ruydOJE2fGfzzCgpYCDVKZngFNf0hgLfrIhE%2BJuoUQjwImgHKotCy9LrONfdtvsk4im1VSMZcQCpaU3VHLZUiPU%3D] jumps. The most common healthcare plans will increase 9% on average, according to an analysis [http://kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/analysis-of-2017-premium-changes-and-insurer-participation-in-the-affordable-care-acts-health-insurance-marketplaces/] by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

“We take care of illegal **immigrants** … better than we take care of our vets”

This claim flies in the face of evidence and logic. Like all US citizens, veterans enjoy the basic rights and benefits granted by US law (voting rights, social security, Medicaid, etc), while undocumented migrants (non-citizens) do not. Trump has in the past tried to justify this claim by saying the US spends more on undocumented people than on veterans, but has drawn a $113bn price tag from an explicitly anti-**immigration** foundation [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/lyin-trump-fact-check-mexico-wall-immigration]. He also inflated that number.

The campaign has said the US spends $2.8bn on housing migrants in prisons, combining an estimate on prison costs [http://www.nationalreview.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/article/421673/report-us-spent-187-billion-incarcerate-illegal-immigrant-criminals-2014-joel-gehrke] and the 2016 budget for the care and processing of children who came to the US without adults. The Veterans Affairs administration has a 2016 budget of $69.7bn. Veterans and undocumented migrants alike have access to K-12 education, though few veterans would likely seek it, and veterans have access to the Affordable Care Act, military benefits and health benefits, while migrants do not.

“Our inner cities are a disaster. You get shot walking to the store, you have no education, no jobs”

Trump’s repeated claim that “ African Americans, Hispanics, are living in hell [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-lies-this-week-taxes-bankruptcy] ” defies most of American history, from antebellum slavery through the Jim Crow decades, great depression and segregation. Even if Trump is only referring the past half century, he is still wrong by most metrics.

Data on employment, education and health show empirical evidence for the persistent reality [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/18/sharp-differences-over-who-is-hurt-helped-by-their-race/] of discrimination [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/27/blacks-with-college-experience-more-likely-to-say-they-faced-discrimination/] against black Americans, but also show major gains in the last few decades. In 2015, black people earned just 75% as much as whites in median hourly earnings, whether full- or part-time, according to a Pew Research [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/01/racial-gender-wage-gaps-persist-in-u-s-despite-some-progress/] analysis. The black unemployment rate in August 2016 was 8.1% [http://www.bls.gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/news.release/empsit.t02.htm], compared with 4.4% for white people, but still lower than for most of the last 40 years. [http://www.macrotrends.net/2524/black-unemployment-rate-history-chart] Black life expectancy has increased from the mid-30s around 1900 to the mid-70s in 2016, according to the CDC [http://www.cdc.gov.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nchs/products/databriefs/db244.htm]. Education rates have similarly increased in the last 40 years, according to the census [http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/cps/historical/fig8.jpg].

Hillary Clinton’s claims “We have 33,000 people a year who die from guns”

Clinton is broadly correct. The Centers for Disease Control reported 33,636 firearm deaths in 2013, and similar figures in the years preceding it.

“Trump exploited undocumented workers”

Clinton is not quite right. A Trump contractor hired undocumented Polish workers in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and in 1983 union members sued one of their organizers. Trump appeared in court in 1990 and blamed the contractor overseeing the project, which was for Trump Tower.

“I will not add a penny to the debt”

Estimates suggest Clinton is not wholly correct. Her proposed tax plan would add $191bn to the debt over the long term, according to the [http://taxfoundation.org/sites/default/files/docs/TaxFoundation-FF496.pdf] Committee for a Responsible Budget [http://crfb.org/papers/promises-and-price-tags-preliminary-update], a conservative thinktank. The Tax Policy Center, however, estimates that she would add $1.1tn in revenue [http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/analysis-hillary-clintons-tax-proposals] in a decade, though much of that would be offset by increased spending. The Tax Foundation estimated that Trump’s plan would add $5.3tn to the debt [http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/economics/2016/09/26/donald-trump-would-boost-debt-more-than-hillary-clinton-report-says/].

“We at the Clinton Foundation spend 90% [of what’s given] and have the highest rating from watchdogs”

The Clinton Foundation does have high marks from charity watchdogs, which also show that the group does spend the vast majority of its donations on its own charitable programs.

Clinton says Trump has called the election ‘rigged’, while Trump says he won’t necessarily accept the election results [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/19/donald-trump-accept-election-result-debate-video]

All available evidence shows that in-person voter fraud is exceedingly rare: you are more likely to be struck by lightning in the next year ( a one in 1,042,000 chance [http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/odds.shtml], according to Noaa) than to find a case of voter fraud by impersonation ( 31 possible cases in more than a billion ballots cast [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/08/06/a-comprehensive-investigation-of-voter-impersonation-finds-31-credible-incidents-out-of-one-billion-ballots-cast/] from 2000 to 2014, according to a study by Loyola Law School).

Related: The man who cried rigged: the problem with Trump’s election claims [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/17/man-who-cried-rigged-problem-with-trump-election-claims]

Voter fraud would have to happen on an enormous scale to sway elections, because the electoral college system decentralizes authority: each of the 50 states has its own rules and local officials, not federal ones, run the polls and count the ballots. This complexity makes the notion of a “rigged” national election, at least in the US, logistically daunting to the point of practical impossibility. Thirty-one states have Republican governors, including the swing states of Florida, North Carolina, Iowa, Nevada and Ohio; Pennsylvania only elected a Democratic governor in 2015. Polls show Trump losing even in some states where governors have strongly supported him. In Maine, for instance, the Real Clear Politics average [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/me/maine\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5896.html] shows him down five points.

About 75% of the ballots cast [http://money.cnn.com/2016/08/09/technology/voting-machine-hack-election/] in federal elections have paper backups, and most electronic voting machines are not connected to the internet – though they have other flaws and may be vulnerable [http://www.cbsnews.com/news/rigged-presidential-elections-hackers-demonstrate-voting-threat-old-machines/] to tampering. But voter fraud to swing a major election, whether by tampering, buying votes or official wrongdoing, would quickly attract attention by its necessarily large scale [https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/08/05/donald-trump-is-wrong-rigging-an-election-is-almost-impossible/?utm\_term=.e3b72d4ba7ff].

If Trump loses the presidential election, it will be because American voters do not want him in the White House, not because of a conspiracy involving Republicans and Democrats alike at state and city levels around the nation – a conspiracy for which Trump has provided no evidence.

“Trump’s plan largely helps the wealthy and add $20tn in debt”

Clinton is correct that although Trump’s tax plan would cut taxes for everyone, it would disproportionately help the wealthiest Americans [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/08/donald-trump-tax-plan-business-income-middle-class], saving them millions of dollars and adding $5.3tn to the national debt, according to an analysis by the Tax Foundation [http://taxfoundation.org/article/details-and-analysis-donald-trump-tax-reform-plan-september-2016], a conservative thinktank. She seems to be citing another analysis, by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center [http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/analysis-donald-trumps-tax-plan], about the debt, and possibly overstates its estimated consequences.

That center warned that without severe spending cuts, the plan would balloon national debt “by nearly 80% of gross domestic product by 2036, offsetting some or all of the incentive effects of the tax cuts”. According to that group, half of Trump’s tax cuts would go to the top 1% of earners, and most families below the top 20% of earners would have income gains of less than 1%.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Hillary Clinton calls Republican nominee’s unprecedented refusal ‘horrifying’ in debate that saw heated clashes on abortion, **immigration** and gun rights

Donald Trump used the final presidential debate with Hillary Clinton to declare he would keep the country “in suspense” over whether he would accept the outcome of November’s election, stoking conspiracies over the legitimacy of the democratic process.

The Republican nominee’s refusal to endorse the results of the forthcoming election, unheard of in modern American history, capped a fractious debate in which he clashed with Clinton over abortion[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/abortion-trump-clinton-debate], gun rights, **immigration** and foreign policy.

Related: Debate fact-check: Clinton and Trump's claims reviewed[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/third-presidential-debate-fact-check-trump-clinton]

In some of the most heated exchanges, Clinton accused Trump of being “a puppet” of Russian president Vladimir Putin. Trump repeatedly interrupted his Democratic rival, at one point cutting her off mid-sentence with the line: “ Such a nasty woman[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/20/nasty-woman-donald-trump-hillary-clinton] ”.

However, it was Trump’s refusal to accept the outcome of an election he is currently projected to lose that will stand out from Wednesday night’s ill-tempered clash.

Trump’s comments directly contradicted those of his running mate, Mike Pence, who just four days[http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/video/pence-promises-to-accept-results-but-calls-election-rigged-786977859619] ago said he would “absolutely accept the result of the election”.

It also contradicted a promise Trump himself made last month, in the first presidential debate, when he was asked a nearly identical question about whether he would accept the election result.

“The answer is: if she wins, I will absolutely support her,” he answered then.

However on Wednesday, Trump repeatedly refused to accept the election result and raised questions about voter registration inaccuracies.

“I will look at it at the time,” Trump said, when pressed by Fox News moderator Chris Wallace, who said Trump was breaking with centuries of peaceful transitions of power. “I will keep you in suspense, OK?” the businessman said.

Clinton described her rival’s refusal to accept the outcome of the election, which takes place in less than three weeks, as “horrifying”.

“He is denigrating and he is is talking down our democracy,” said the former secretary of state. “And I, for one, am appalled that someone who is the nominee of one of two major parties would take that position.

“Every time Donald thinks things are not going in his direction, he claims whatever it is is rigged against him,” said Clinton, adding that he has, at various times, accused the FBI, the Republican primary process and the judicial system of being corrupt.

“There was even a time when he didn’t get an Emmy for his TV program three years in a row and he started tweeting that the Emmys were rigged.”

“Should have gotten it!” Trump interjected.

People in the debate auditorium giggled at that interruption from the Republican nominee, one of several occasions when the audience could be heard breaking a rule that they should stay silent.

On another, there were sniggers when Trump insisted: “Nobody has more respect for women that I do, nobody.”

The businessman’s treatment of women was once again on trial in a debate.

Asked about the nine women who have come forward to accuse Trump of the sexually predatory behavior he bragged about in a 2005 video leaked earlier this month[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women], Trump insisted they were all either seeking “10 minutes of fame” or had been somehow orchestrated by Clinton’s campaign.

“Those stories are all totally false – I have to say that,” Trump said. “And I didn’t even apologize to my wife who is sitting right here because I didn’t do anything.”

Pointing out how Trump has publicly denigrated his accusers, Clinton said: “Donald thinks belittling women makes him bigger. He goes after their dignity, their self-worth, and I don’t think there is a woman anywhere doesn’t know what that feels like.”

One of the women to level accusations at Trump, Jill Harth, who gave an extensive interview to Guardian US[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/jul/20/jill-harth-donald-trump-sexual-assault-lawsuit-video], tweeted mid-debate: “Trump lied and lied again,” adding: “He says he doesn’t know any of the women. Well, he definitely knew me.”

Another exchange from Trump likely to alienate some women, but one seemingly intended to court the evangelical vote, stemmed from a discussion about the future shape of the US supreme court, which has had an unfilled vacancy since conservative justice Antonin Scalia’s death in February.

Related: Clinton condemns Trump's abortion 'scare rhetoric' in debate clash[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/abortion-trump-clinton-debate]

Trump portrayed himself as a candidate who would protect the second amendment right to keep and bear arms and said Roe v Wade, the historic ruling in 1973 that legalized abortion in the US, would “automatically” be overturned if he were elected because of his commitment to pro-life justices.

The Republican characterized Clinton’s position as one that would “rip the baby out of the womb of the mother” in the final days of a pregnancy. “You can say that that is OK and Hillary can say that that is OK, but it’s not OK with me.”

Clinton countered that Trump’s “scare rhetoric is just terribly unfortunate”, while setting out her view in favor of women’s reproductive rights. “I can tell you the government has no business in the decisions that women make with their families in accordance with their rights,” she said.

The third debate was not as one-sided as the opening televised contest between the two candidates, in which Clinton was by most accounts declared the winner[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-clinton-trump-recap-presidential-election-hofstra]. Neither was it as personal as the second debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/10/debate-donald-trump-threatens-to-jail-hillary-clinton], in which the candidates clashed in some of the most brutal exchanges ever seen on a presidential stage.

However there was nothing in the last debate that seemed likely to alter the dynamics of a race in which Clinton has a six-point lead in an average of national polls – and an edge in almost all of the key battleground states needed to win the White House.

A CNN/ORC poll of debate watchers found 52% who thought Clinton emerged the victor, compared to 39% who said Trump won.

Embarrassingly for Trump, who has claimed victory in the wake of previous debates because he “won” instant – easily rigged[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/10/poll-won-debate-trump-clinton-drudge-report-us-voters] – online polls, he was also declared the loser on an online survey conducted by the pro-Trump website Breitbart.com.

The bad blood between the candidates was unmistakeable throughout their final head-to-head; pointedly, there was no handshake before or after the contest.

Trump spoke in stark terms about **immigration**, the touchstone of his campaign, saying there were mothers in the audience whose children had been “brutally killed” by undocumented **immigrants**. He promised to stem what he characterized as an avalanche of people and heroin coming across the border, which he said was “poisoning the blood” of young Americans.

Trump reiterated his call for a wall on the US-Mexico border and said of his plans to deport undocumented **immigrants**: “We have some bad hombres here that we’re going to get them out.”

Clinton reiterated her position of allowing undocumented **immigrants** to come out of the shadows, and mocked Trump for failing to mention his signature wall during his meeting with the Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto over the summer. “He choked,” she said.

She also delivered a wounding line telling him that there were “undocumented **immigrants** in America who are paying more federal income tax than a billionaire”.

Trump did not deny the charge of tax avoidance, instead repeating his argument that he only exploited loopholes that she should have changed with legislation when she was a New York senator.

“Because your donors and your special interest are doing the same thing as I do – except even more so,” he said.

The Democratic nominee was pressed over a disclosure in emails leaked via WikiLeaks[https://www.theguardian.com/media/wikileaks], the whistleblower website, which revealed she said during a speech[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/09/clinton-campaign-fends-off-questions-about-wikileaks-speech-excerpts] paid for by a Brazilian bank that her “dream” was for a “hemispheric common market with open trade and open borders”.

Related: Why the final debate highlights the madness of Donald Trump's ideas[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/presidential-debate-trump-clinton-analysis]

After first insisting the quote was taken out of context, Clinton deftly pivoted to Russia’s apparent involvement in the US election by allegedly hacking the emails of her campaign manager and passing them to WikiLeaks.

She insisted “the most important question of this evening” was whether Trump would condemn president Vladimir Putin’s “unprecedented” attempt to interfere in the US election[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/07/us-russia-dnc-hack-interfering-presidential-election], which she said had been confirmed by 17 intelligence agencies.

When she challenged Trump to disavow Putin’s support, he replied: “I don’t know Putin. He said nice things about me. If we got along well, that would be good.”

“That’s because he would rather have a puppet as president of the United States,” Clinton shot back.

“No puppet,” Trump replied. “You’re the puppet.”

Trump added that Clinton has “no idea if it’s Russia, China, or anyone else” who was behind the hacking, apparently contradicting the reported briefings he has received from security officials fingering Putin’s regime.

He added: “She doesn’t like Putin because Putin has outsmarted at every step of the way.”

One section of the WikiLeaks disclosures Trump sought to capitalize on was an email in which her campaign manager appeared to question the Democratic candidate’s instincts.

“WikiLeaks just actually came out John Podesta said some horrible things about you and boy was he right,” Trump said. “He said some beauties.”

Trump, who is being opposed by many senior Republicans, added that Clinton’s suitability for office had also been questioned by her former Democratic rival.

Related: Hillary Clinton is almost certain to be president | Jill Abramson[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/20/hillary-clinton-president-debate-us-election]

“Bernie Sanders said you have bad judgment,” he said. “I agree.”

Clinton countered that Sanders has been campaigning for her across the country, warning voters the Republican candidate is “the most dangerous person to run for president in the modern history of America”. She added: “I think he’s right.”

There are 20 days left before election day, but Wednesday’s debate was the last occasion both candidates will share a stage, and marked the final stretch in one of the most wildly unpredictable presidential races of modern times.

It has been one that has been dominated throughout by the former reality TV star, who opened the first primary debate 14 months ago by brazenly declaring “politicians are stupid” and threatening to ditch the GOP and run as an independent.

His refusal on Wednesday to accept the outcome of the election was a similarly unprecedented move, and perhaps his last throw of the dice. But it is a move the Clinton camp is likely to exploit in the closing weeks of its campaign.

“Nobody, Republican or Democrat, can support him going around trying to question the integrity of our elections,” said Clinton’s campaign spokesman Brian Fallon, adding that Trump was jeopardizing “the peaceful transition of power that has been a long running tradition and is an important democratic institution in this country”.

• This article was amended on 20 October 2016. An earlier version said “just days before a pregnancy” where “in the final days of a pregnancy” was meant.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**70% of family cases – mostly Central Americans – have no legal representationFamilies without lawyers much more likely to be deported – and quickly

An overwhelming majority of migrant families received no legal representation during US **immigration** court proceedings, meaning they were more likely to be deported, and to be subject to faster proceedings, a new data analysis has revealed[http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/441/].

Researchers at Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (Trac) found that since a 2014 surge in border crossingsby migrant families, 38,601 **immigration** cases involving migrant families have been closed throughout the federal **immigration** court system. Seventy percent of these families had no legal representation to defend them from deportation.

The analysis revealed that 43.4% of these unrepresented families were deported at their initial court hearing, compared with just 4% of families who secured representation.

Related: Central American migrants desperate to reach US risk new dangers at sea[https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/sep/15/migrants-mexico-human-trafficking-us-immigration-crackdown]

Overall, unrepresented families spent an average of just 60 days in the court system, whereas those with legal representatives spent 286 days before the courts.

Human rights observers said the findings were indicative of the “massive dysfunction and massive denial of due process” present in US **immigration** courts and warned that many families being deported could have failed to lodge legitimate applications for asylum or relief from deportation.

“These are hugely complex claims, in cases that often involve reams of evidence and of legal argument that can only really be done by a lawyer who is expert in that area,” said Clara Long, an **immigration** researcher at Human Rights Watch’s US program. “So the idea that someone representing themselves in **immigration** court can get a fair shake is just fiction.”

The analysis reveals that just one in 15 unrepresented families were able to file papers claiming asylum or apply for other forms of relief from deportation, compared with 70% of families who were able to obtain legal representation.

The statistics come just days after the Obama administration announced[https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children/fy-2016] that the number of families and unaccompanied minors crossing the southern border into the US was slightly higher in 2016 than it was during the surge of 2014. A total of 137,366 migrant families and children were apprehended by US border patrol this year, compared with 136,986 in 2014. The total number of apprehensions, however, was down from 479,371 in 2014 to 408,870 in 2016.

According to data published by Trac[http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/mwc/], groups from Central America made up the bulk of family cases brought to court in 2016. The 16,491 family cases from El Salvador brought in 2016 were the largest of any national cohort – with the vast majority of these (15,623) still pending.

Statistics published by the Department of Homeland Security showed that 27,114 families from El Salvador, 23,067 families from Guatemala, and 20,226 families from Honduras were apprehended at the border in 2016, with just 3,481 families apprehended from Mexico.

The homeland security secretary, Jeh Johnson, acknowledged on Monday that: “Far fewer Mexicans and single adults are attempting to cross the border without authorization, but more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America.”

Families and unaccompanied minors have been prioritised in **immigration** courts following an executive order issued by Barack Obama in 2014[https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/30/letter-president-efforts-address-humanitarian-situation-rio-grande-valle] but a shortage of judges has led to crippling backlogs throughout the system[https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/empty-benches-underfunding-immigration-courts-undermines-justice].

The Trac analysis also highlights large disparities in the access to counsel at different court locations. For example, about two-thirds of families before the judges in Baltimore, Memphis and Dallas had no representation, whereas less than 15% of families in New York, Orlando and San Francisco were unable to secure representation.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Fox News survey shows Clinton with six-point lead over Trump Trump and Clinton face fear and loathing at third debateSign up for debate reactions and fact-check alerts for Android phonesHelp us hold power to account by supporting our fearless, independent journalism

block-time published-time 6.20pm BST

Madonna has made a very, erm, unique promise to fans who vote for Hillary Clinton in the upcoming presidential election.

“If you vote for Hillary Clinton,” Madonna told audience members at Manhattan’s Madison Square Garden, “I will give you a blow job.”

“And I’m good,” she elaborated, as the audience laughed and hooted. “I’m not a tool. I take my time.”

enltrMadonna opened for Amy. Msg @Madonna[https://twitter.com/Madonna] pic.twitter.com/qcfNAH4TOm[https://t.co/qcfNAH4TOm]

— Joe (@jgra555) October 19, 2016[https://twitter.com/jgra555/status/788552619929272320]block-time published-time 5.56pm BST

Muslim women's group inundated with hate mail after endorsing Hillary Clinton A post on the aggregator site Drudge Report sparked a cascade of hate mail and phone calls to the American Muslim Women political action committee[http://www.americanmuslimwomen.com/about-us/] (Pac) on Tuesday.

Mirriam Seddiq, a criminal defense attorney and the founder of the group, woke up to an email with a link to a site that sold ammunition covered in pork.

“It’s bullets made to kill Muslims,” said Seddiq.

After showing the email to her Pac colleagues, she realized that Drudge Report had highlighted their seven-week-old Pac at the top of its site. A link that read “Hijab for Hillary” referred to a press release[http://www.press.org/events/american-muslim-women-pac-press-conference] of the group endorsing Hillary Clinton last week.

enltrYesterday we got hoaxed, so let's return to the basics: Unhinged Islamophobia. pic.twitter.com/i6Ny90tvWj[https://t.co/i6Ny90tvWj]

— Imraan Siddiqi (@imraansiddiqi) October 18, 2016[https://twitter.com/imraansiddiqi/status/788422288748052480]While the link meant their site received a wave in traffic, the press release also contained Seddiq and her colleagues’ names and phone numbers.

“We’ve gotten dozens of hate mail to the website. And then our [communications director] said she had gotten about a dozen if not more hate emails,” Seddiq told the Guardian. “And then the phone calls started.”

Throughout the day, Seddiq and the Pac’s other board members received phone calls telling them to go back to their country, referred to them as towel heads, and some became threatening, Seddiq said.

The American Muslim Women Pac was founded by Seddiq shortly after the Democratic and Republican conventions. The Pac aims to get Muslim women more involved in the election cycle, partly by ensuring more of them register to vote.

Related: Muslim women's group inundated with hate mail after endorsing Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/muslim-womens-group-hate-mail-hillary-clinton-drudge-report]

block-time published-time 5.19pm BST

Ididn’t give much thought to Canada for the first 18 years of my life. Many Americans would not see this as a problem – Americans who think of Canada[https://www.theguardian.com/world/canada] as ‘America’s hat’. But when I found myself in a bar with hundreds of Canadian strangers on my first night at university in Montreal (a city where I could legally go to a bar at 18), I realized that this had been a tremendous oversight.

“Who’s the prime minister of Canada?” someone asked me, when I confessed my American-ness. I had no idea, and it hit me like a hockey puck smashed into an unguarded net: my ignorance of Canada was an awful oversight. For my whole life all of these Canadians had been living in Canada, not wanting to be American, drinking milk from bags.[http://mentalfloss.com/article/81468/why-do-canadians-drink-milk-bags]

Perhaps that’s why I was particularly moved by the sympathetic message sent south this week[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/18/world/americas/sympathetic-canadians-have-a-message-for-americans-you-guys-are-great.html?module=WatchingPortal®ion=c-column-middle-span-region&pgType=Homepage&action=click&mediaId=thumb\_square&state=standard&contentPlacement=3&version=internal&contentCollection=www.nytimes.com&contentId=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2016%2F10%2F18%2Fworld%2Famericas%2Fsympathetic-canadians-have-a-message-for-americans-you-guys-are-great.html&eventName=Watching-article-click] by some lovely northern neighbors: America, they say, you guys are already great. Designed by a Toronto-based creative agency, the video and accompanying social media campaign aims to help Canadians to “make a positive contribution to an election season that has been downright depressing”.

enltrThanks for introducing us to the cultural phenomenon known as the “Carlton Dance"! #tellamericanitsgreat[https://twitter.com/hashtag/tellamericanitsgreat?src=hash] @alfonso\_ribeiro[https://twitter.com/alfonso\_ribeiro] #HugANeighbour[https://twitter.com/hashtag/HugANeighbour?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/1C9qeueK7W[https://t.co/1C9qeueK7W]

— Lea (@CrayCrayRules) October 18, 2016[https://twitter.com/CrayCrayRules/status/788357279603101696]enltrSome great things about the US: BBQ, my friendly neighbours during my 5 yrs in CT, the NFL, Star Wars, Disneyland. #TellAmericaItsGreat[https://twitter.com/hashtag/TellAmericaItsGreat?src=hash]

— Steve McKoen (@Steve\_McKoen) October 17, 2016[https://twitter.com/Steve\_McKoen/status/788067266373890048]enltrBeyoncé, the food, (Omg! the food is to die for), innovation, music, parks, sports, hospitality, accents & diversity #tellamericaitsgreat[https://twitter.com/hashtag/tellamericaitsgreat?src=hash] ??

— Bryna Corcoran (@BrynaTweets) October 16, 2016[https://twitter.com/BrynaTweets/status/787531058581348352]Like an ignored younger sibling reaching out to give a gentle squeeze of the hand to a pompous, bullying older one in a time of sudden vulnerability, it’s a most Canadian acknowledgment of our current predicament. Polite. Sensitive. Cheerful. Gently overlooking the fact that Canada rarely crosses the mind of many Americans unless they’re looking for a way to easily emigrate if national leadership is passed into the hands of a despotic, racist egomaniac by a bonkers electorate.

Americans often speak as if “moving to Canada” to escape the worst of the United States is a decision that can be made casually. We discuss the idea as though we believe that Canada is but a giant, pleasant, snowy backyard that we can wander into when we feel like it.

Related: Canada's response to the US election is a most Canadian nod to our predicament | Jean Hannah Edelstein[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/19/canada-response-to-us-election-tell-america-its-great]

block-time published-time 4.54pm BST

Trump campaign manager: 'I do not believe' there will be widespread voter fraud In a break from Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, campaign manager Kellyanne Conway told MSNBC this morning that she does not think that the upcoming presidential election will be the target of widespread voter fraud, despite her charge’s baseless claims[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/18/trump-rigged-election-obama-warning-america-divided] that the election is on the verge of being stolen.

“No, I do not believe that,” Conway told MSNBC’s Stephanie Ruhle when asked about the ( im[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-you-rig-a-us-presidential-election-experts-say-its-basically-impossible/2016/10/18/7bcc4390-9557-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\_story.html] )possibility of wide-scale fraud at the polls.

“Absent overwhelming evidence that there is, it would not be for me to say that there is,” Conway continued. “We know in the past we know that people who are dead are still on the voter rolls. We know that people are voting a couple different times in places, so you do hear reports here and there.”

On Monday, Trump specifically said that 1.8 million dead people would vote – and for “somebody else”. The statement was apparently a reference to the fact that one 2012 study[http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs\_assets/2012/pewupgradingvoterregistrationpdf.pdf] found up to 1.8 million active voter registrations from deceased voters. In reality the study it found no evidence of fraud or that any illegitimate ballots were cast – it simply meant state voter databases were out of date.

“I think Donald Trump’s point is a larger one,” Conway continued, dismissing Trump’s claims that the election is “rigged” as a criticism of journalists. “She has so many advantages,” Conway said of Hillary Clinton. “She has endless money, she has a lot of the media. She has a very popular president and first lady out there campaigning for her.”

block-time published-time 4.32pm BST

How do you one-up bringing Bill Clinton’s accusers to the second presidential debate? By bringing President Barack Obama’s Kenyan half-brother to the third presidential debate.

enltrTrump is bringing Obama's half-brother to the debate, @KatyTurNBC[https://twitter.com/KatyTurNBC] reports

— Bradd Jaffy (@BraddJaffy) October 18, 2016[https://twitter.com/BraddJaffy/status/788503100340506625]Malik Obama, the president’s half-brother, reportedly[http://nypost.com/2016/07/24/why-obamas-half-brother-says-hell-be-voting-for-donald-trump/] stopped supporting the Democratic Party - a moot point since he’s not a US citizen and cannot vote, as it happens - when Obama (the president) came out in support of same-sex marriage rights.

If Trump plays his cards right, Obama will be out of the White House by January!

block-time published-time 4.25pm BST

In an interview with Breitbart News, a former local news reporter has accused former president Bill Clinton of sexually assaulting her.

Leslie Millwee told the far-right website[http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/10/19/exclusive-video-interview-new-bill-clinton-sexual-assault-accuser-goes-public-first-time/] that Clinton, then the governor of Arkansas, groped her on three occasions while she was a reporter for a local news station in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

“He followed me into an editing room,” Millwee said. “The first time I remember. That it was very small. There was a chair. I was sitting in a chair. He came up behind me and started rubbing my shoulders and running his hands down toward my breasts. And I was just stunned. I froze. I asked him to stop. He laughed.”

Millwee had previously told the story in a 2011 paperback titled You Can’t Make This Stuff Up!

block-time published-time 4.13pm BST

Milwaukee is one of the most politically polarized and racially segregated cities in America. Paul Lewis and Tom Silverstone discover a mix of alienation and hope in the city’s African American community:

America’s most segregated city: the young black voters of Milwaukee[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/18/milwaukee-wisconsin-segregation-young-black-voters-election-video]block-time published-time 4.03pm BST

With less than three weeks until the election, President Barack Obama is keeping his eyes on the down-ballot races - particularly the Democratic pickup opportunity for a party desperate to unseat Florida senator Marco Rubio.

Congressman Patrick Murphy, the newly minted winner of the Miami Herald’s endorsement, has released a new Spanish-language ad featuring the president addressing Spanish-speaking Florida voters.

“Patrick will fight for **immigration** reform, better education, and higher wages. Working each day to improve our lives,” Obama says in the ad, according to a translation. “Go out and vote for Patrick. Your vote is very important.”

block-time published-time 3.53pm BST

Tonight's debate: Who, what, where, when? Debate officials are seen on stage inside the Thomas and Mack Center prior to tonight’s debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Photograph: UPI / Barcroft Images When is the debate? Like the previous two presidential debates, tonight’s debate starts at 9pm ET and is scheduled to run for 90 minutes without commercial interruption. ( Other interruptions, however, are inevitable.[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSsdEQ8gB2o] )

Who is participating? Aside from Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, you mean? Fox News anchor Chris Wallace - the first anchor from that network to host a presidential debate - will moderate tonight’s engagement. For a network that has been embroiled in scandal that brought down its chief executive[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jul/21/roger-ailes-leaves-fox-news-sexual-harassment-claims], Wallace’s position is an opportunity to hit the reset button on a miserable year - although Trump’s willingness to feud[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/14/fox-anchor-megyn-kelly-meets-donald-trump] with Fox News personalities means that Wallace will not be protected from onstage criticism from the candidate just because he’s besties with Sean Hannity.[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/oct/06/trump-only-goes-on-hannity-megyn-kelly-clashes-with-friend-at-10-oclock]

What is the format? The debate will consist of six 15-minute segments, following the same format as the first presidential debate. Each segment will be approximately 15 minutes long. Wallace will open each segment with a question, after which each candidate will have two minutes to respond. Clinton and Trump will then have an opportunity to respond to each other. Wallace may use the balance of the time in the segment for a deeper discussion of the topic. Those topics, as revealed by the Commission on Presidential Debates[http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=2016debates], are as follows:

\* Debt and entitlements

\* **Immigration**

\* The economy

\* Supreme Court

\* Foreign hot spots

\* Fitness to be president

Where is the debate being held? The debate is being held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, which means that the journalists covering the debate are going to come home broke and hung over (they’ve earned it, trust me).

How do I watch the misery? That’s the easy part! The debate will be broadcast on the three major networks, as well as the cable news networks and C-SPAN. For those watching on their phones at the gym or on their laptops in their fallout shelters, Facebook will stream ABC News’s coverage and Twitter will stream the debates in partnership with Bloomberg.

block-time published-time 3.22pm BST

The increasingly bitter presidential campaign and Donald Trump’s refusal to follow protocol has claimed another victim, this time in the form of the pre-debate handshake between candidates’ spouses.

According to the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/19/us/politics/melania-trump-bill-clinton.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share], the ritual of Bill Clinton and Melania Trump crossing the stage and shaking hands before the debate’s beginning was likely scuttled after the Clinton campaign responded to Trump’s attempts in the second presidential debate to seat three women who have accused Bill Clinton of sexual impropriety in his family box, which would mean the former president of the United States shaking hands with women who have accused him of sexual assault on national television.

This time, the Clintons aren’t horsing around:

But the Clinton side is not taking any chances at the final presidential debate, on Wednesday night in Las Vegas, and has apparently gained approval of a different protocol for the entry of the candidates’ spouses and families into the debate hall.

block-time published-time 3.12pm BST

Hillary for America is making a bid for national unity in the campaign’s latest advertisement, A Place for Everyone - part of what the campaign is characterizing as its “closing argument.”

Narrated by Hillary Clinton, the ad splices together footage of diverse Americans performing everyday tasks while the former secretary of state intones that her “vision of America is an America where everyone has a place.”

block-time published-time 3.08pm BST

Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] may be a nightmare for fans of logic, justice and the English language. But he’s a godsend for any writer out to capture a character you can’t ignore.

Small wonder so many songwriters signed on to 30 Days, 30 Songs[http://www.30days30songs.com/], a kind of sonic pop-up project that has been delivering a new message of protest every 24 hours for the entire month leading up to the election. Each piece means to offer a different view of the mother of all reality show stunts: the Trump campaign.

Nine have been released so far, together swirling a cocktail of wit, vitriol and apoplexy. Not every participant in this project wrote a song to order. Josh Ritter[http://www.joshritter.com/] ’s The Temptation of Adam first turned up on an album nearly a decade ago, while Jim James’s Same Old Lies already served as the first single off his forthcoming solo album. For yesterday’s release, REM retro-fitted a song from nearly 20 years ago. It’s a live version of World Leader Pretend, a song whose megalomaniacal, wall-building narrator originally served as a metaphor for a self-involved lover. Subbing in Trump proves not that big a leap.

Related: 'Isn't anybody going to stop me?' 30 songs protesting a President Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/oct/19/anti-trump-30-days-30-songs-project-musicians]

block-time published-time 2.43pm BST

Siren: A new poll from the Arizona Republic[http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/10/19/arizona-poll-hillary-clinton-donald-trump/92339110/] shows Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton leading in the Grand Canyon state by five points - yes, you read that correctly.

Clinton has won the support of 39% of likely Arizona voters, according to the poll, while Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is supported by a dismal (for a Republican in Arizona) 33.9%. An additional 20% of Arizona voters are undecided.

This latest poll only adds more credit to the theory that Arizona’s shifting demographics may put the state in play, considered a fantasy for most of the 2016 campaign. The idea that blood-red Arizona’s 11 electoral votes could be up for grabs has inspired a flurry of campaign spending and surrogate placement by the Clinton campaign this week, with more than $2m in advertisements purchased and first lady Michelle Obama set to address a Phoenix campaign rally tomorrow afternoon.

For more on Arizona’s purple-ish possibilities, The Guardian’s Lauren Gambino reported from Phoenix:

Related: As Trump slips into red with Latinos, Democrats hope to turn Arizona blue[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/donald-trump-arizona-latino-voters-democrats]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.50pm BST

block-time published-time 2.31pm BST

Debate notifications: reactions and fact-checks straight to your phone During the third and final US presidential debate tonight, the Guardian Mobile Innovation Lab will send experimental notifications[https://www.gdnmobilelab.com/third-debate/] with real-time reactions and live fact-checks from Guardian US reporters and editors.

These notifications are separate from the breaking news alerts sent through the Guardian mobile app, and you don’t have to be an app user to take part in this experiment.

Please take the follow-up survey we’ll send out following the experiment. Your feedback is important to us, and will inform our future work.

block-time published-time 2.23pm BST

Looks like Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] is getting his wall after all.

In anticipation of tonight’s final presidential debate, the Culinary Workers Union is building a wall of taco trucks outside Trump International Hotel, miles away from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas’s campus – the setting for the showdown between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

The rally aims to have at least five taco trucks as well as a giant banner designed as a wall where members, organizers and participants will be able to write messages and sign their names. While approximately 400 people are expected to rally in the morning on the Las Vegas[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/las-vegas] strip, the trucks will be handing out free tacos in order to support the protest. The union has been using Twitter and other social media platforms as they promote their #WallOfTacos and #TacosOnEveryCorner event, hoping to make some noise before the debate.

enltrAt Culinary Union meeting of former and current Trump workers: "bad bosses make bad presidents" pic.twitter.com/QMqVHm7Eft[https://t.co/QMqVHm7Eft]

— issie lapowsky (@issielapowsky) October 18, 2016[https://twitter.com/issielapowsky/status/788468224341839872]They will be joined by representatives from Plan Action, Latino Victory Project, iAmerica, Center for Community Change Action, For Our Future, and 50 **immigrant** advocacy activists from Los Angeles. The Democrat Ruben Kihuen – who is running to represent the fourth congressional district in the House – will also speak at the rally.

“We’re protesting Donald Trump’s hotel here in Vegas, where a majority of workers voted to unionize,” said Kihuen[https://www.buzzfeed.com/adriancarrasquillo/a-union-is-building-a-wall-of-taco-trucks-outside-trumps-las?utm\_term=.om0qrDk9z#.qhPQo59m6]. “Trump has failed to sit down at the table with them.”

Related: Taco trucks will be lined up near presidential debate in Las Vegas[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/19/wall-of-taco-trucks-las-vegas-presidential-debate]

block-time published-time 2.15pm BST

In an “exclusive” interview with The Late Show’s Stephen Colbert, “Melania Trump” - who suspiciously looks like Broadway star Laura Benanti[https://twitter.com/LauraBenanti] - appeared via satellite to clear the air around Donald Trump’s most recent controversies.

block-time published-time 1.52pm BST

Marco Rubio has declared that, unlike many other members of his party, he will not answer any questions relating to emails hacked by the Russian government and released by WikiLeaks:

I will not discuss any issue that has become public solely on the basis of WikiLeaks. As our intelligence agencies have said, these leaks are an effort by a foreign government to interfere with our electoral process and I will not indulge it. Further, I want to warn my fellow Republicans who may want to capitalize politically on these leaks: Today it is the Democrats. tomorrow it could be us.

Looks like somebody took the Miami Herald editorial[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/18/donald-trump-campaign-election-news-hillary-clinton-live?page=with:block-5806d3dde4b005f21833adf7#block-5806d3dde4b005f21833adf7] calling him “a disappointment” to heart.

block-time published-time 1.28pm BST

What to expect at tonight's debate Good morning, and welcome to the Guardian’s campaign liveblog.

Donald Trump’s plane idles near Hillary Clinton’s plane in Las Vegas. Photograph: Brendan Smialowski/AFP/Getty Images With a mere 20 days until election day, the bleary eyes of a campaign-weary nation are aimed squarely at Las Vegas, where the third and final presidential debate between Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican rival Donald Trump is set to begin in 12 hours.

In the nine days since the two candidates last met, the polling gap between Clinton and Trump has yawned ever wider, after 10 women came forward[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/list-of-donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations] with allegations that Trump had sexually assaulted them in incidents stretching back decades. Trump’s response - that the accusers were Clinton plants with the goal of “rigging” the upcoming election - may have appeased some of his supporters, but a late-breaking survey[http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/10/18/fox-news-poll-clinton-tops-trump-by-6-points.html] from Fox News last night shows just how far the Republican presidential nominee’s chances of victory in November have fallen:

\* Clinton has a 6-point national lead over Trump, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg...

\* The poll, one of the first to be conducted entirely after the full slate of Trump’s accusers came forward, shows Clinton leading among women by 7 points.

\* Whites with a college degree, long a Republican bloc, favor Clinton by 9 points.

\* Voters believe, by a two-to-one margin, that Trump committed at least some of the sexual assaults of which he has been accused.

\* Clinton leads on every single issue[http://www.foxnews.com/politics/interactive/2016/10/18/fox-news-poll-october-18-2016/], minus the economy, as well as on qualifying attributes like temperament, judgment and making decisions about the use of nuclear weapons.

So how does this affect tonight? Tonight’s debate may be Trump’s last opportunity to salvage the dwindling support that in recent weeks has seemingly placed the election increasingly out of the Republican nominee’s reach - and if we’ve learned anything about Trump over the past 16 months, it’s that he’s at his most vicious when backed into a corner. Repetitions of his baseless claims of voter fraud to assert that the election is “rigged”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/18/trump-rigged-election-obama-warning-america-divided], as well as continued references to Bill Clinton’s past personal scandals, are a given.

Clinton, unflappable in the second debate even as Trump invited women who have accused her husband of sexually predatory behavior, is unlikely to take the bait.

“We understand the strategy that he is trying to do to explain his loss and also to try to deter voters,” said Jenn Palmieri, the Clinton campaign’s communications director, “[but] we believe that it’s going to be easier to vote than ever before.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.51pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Rally planned with at least five taco trucks and a banner designed as a wall outside Trump hotel near the showdown between the Republican and Clinton

Looks like Donald Trump is getting his wall after all.

In anticipation of Wednesday’s final presidential debate , the Culinary Workers Union is building a wall of taco trucks outside Trump International Hotel, miles away from UNLV’s campus – the setting for theshowdown between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

The rally aims to have at least five taco trucks as well as a giant banner designed as a wall where members, organizers and participants will be able to write messages and sign their names. While approximately 400 people are expected to rally in the morning on the Las Vegas strip, the trucks will be handing out free tacos in order to support the protest. The union has been using Twitter and other social media platforms as they promote their #WallOfTacos and #TacosOnEveryCorner event, hoping to make some noise before the debate.

At Culinary Union meeting of former and current Trump workers: "bad bosses make bad presidents" pic.twitter.com/QMqVHm7Eft[https://t.co/QMqVHm7Eft] — issie lapowsky (@issielapowsky) October 18, 2016[https://twitter.com/issielapowsky/status/788468224341839872]

They will be joined by representatives from Plan Action, Latino Victory Project, iAmerica Action, Center for Community Change Action, For Our Future, and 50 **immigrant** advocacy activists from Los Angeles. Democrat Ruben Kihuen – who is running to represent the fourth congressional district in the House – will also speak at the rally.

“We’re protesting Donald Trump’s hotel here in Vegas, where a majority of workers voted to unionize,” said Kihuen[https://www.buzzfeed.com/adriancarrasquillo/a-union-is-building-a-wall-of-taco-trucks-outside-trumps-las?utm\_term=.om0qrDk9z#.qhPQo59m6]. “Trump has failed to sit down at the table with them.”

The relationship between labor unions and Trump has been a tumultuous one. Last December the majority of workers in Las Vegas voted and officially agreed to unionize, but Trump Hotel management has not recognized the vote and has refused to meet or discuss labour issues. Union groups across the country have lent their overwhelming support including a protest outside Trump International Hotel in Washington DC[http://www.insidesources.com/dc-unions-picket-trump-hotel/] on October 13.

On Tuesday , The Culinary Workers Union – who have endorsed Hillary Clinton – held a press conference where many members who have worked at Trump hotels expressed their frustrations and described what it’s like to be an employee for Trump without the possibility of ever bargaining their contracts. This is supported by a video that was published last month where workers expressed their anger toward Trump Hotel and Casino establishments. “We get paid three dollars an hour less and bad benefits,” said Jeff Wise, a worker at Trump Hotel Las Vegas, “so the employees got together, voted democratically to have a union. Donald Trump ignores this vote.”

The union and their partners also wanted to ensure Latinos had an opportunity to vent their frustrations before tonight’s debate. “We want to make sure our voices are heard on election day,” says Pili Tobar, communications director for the Latino Victory Project, a nonpartisan organization co-founded by Eva Longoria and Henry R Muñoz III. “There’s no way that he will make it to the White House if we have anything to do with it so we wanted to make sure we gave his campaign a proper welcome in Las Vegas.”

On Tuesday for example, Tobar’s organization - who is one of the union’s main collaborators - arranged for taco trucks to act as voter registration booths throughout Las Vegas. The Culinary Union has spent the last year registering more than 8,000 people to vote and helped more than 2,200 of its members to become American citizens this year.

After the wall rally, hundreds of **immigrants** and volunteers will attend a debate viewing party at the Culinary Union and on Thursday they will host a forum with Trump Hotel workers to elaborate what it’s like to work for the Republican nominee.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**While we rake over Clinton’s emails and Trump’s late-night tweets, climate has been the elephant in the room, leaving scientists and campaigners asking why there hasn’t been a single direct question about the crisis

Climate change has been the elephant in the room during the past two US presidential debates. Ignoring this issue would be more understandable if this metaphorical pachyderm wasn’t about to rampage the lives of Americans, causing upheaval on a scale not seen since the start of human civilization.

“I’ve been shocked at the lack of questions on climate change, it really is fiddling while the world burns,” said Kerry Emanuel, a leading climate scientist. “This is the great issue of our time and we are skirting around it. I’m just baffled by it.”

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have yet to face a moderator question on climate change during two debates in which time was found to grill Clinton repeatedly over her use of emails and to ask Trump about a series of late-night tweets he sent about a former Miss Universe’s sex tape. Lester Holt, the moderator of the first debate, was reportedly set to ask a climate question but ran out of time.

Wednesday’s final debate is set to retread the same ground, with debate referee Chris Wallace of Fox News planning to prod[http://www.debates.org/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=71&cntnt01origid=93&cntnt01detailtemplate=newspage&cntnt01returnid=80] the candidates on **immigration**, the economy and “fitness to be president”.

Wallace has also decided to ask about “foreign hot spots”, but it appears unlikely that it will segue into talking about the diabolical heat suffered in Kuwait[http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/kuwait-swelters-record-breaking-54c-heatwave-weather-7152911.html] and India[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/20/india-records-its-hottest-day-ever-as-temperature-hits-51c-thats-1238f] this year.

“It’s like a sort of collective cowardice,” said Emanuel of the omission. Michael Mann, another prominent climate scientist, added: “One has to wonder if television networks are compromised by the millions of advertising dollars they take from fossil fuel interests.”

Should the final debate also neglect climate, the only question related to the issue across four-and-a-half hours of TV will have come from Ken Bone, he of red sweater and short-lived internet sensation, who asked about coal mining policy as the credits were preparing to roll on last week’s debate. Climate campaigners have been unable to contain their exasperation.

“Let’s be clear: a last minute question about energy doesn’t do justice to the threat of the climate crisis,” said May Boeve, executive director of climate group 350 Action shortly after the debate.

“This crisis threatens our communities, our economy, and the future for our children – we saw that threat with Hurricane Matthew just this week – yet climate change doesn’t get a single direct question in the debate.”

Hurricane Matthew[https://www.theguardian.com/world/hurricane-matthew], which resulted in more than 20 deaths, is just the latest example of an extreme event, from flooding in Louisiana[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/16/louisiana-flood-damage-recovery] to a historic drought in California[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/california-drought], that will become more common as the world warms.

This year hasn’t exactly been short of climate conversation topics – 2016 is on track to be the warmest on record[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/18/2016-locked-into-being-hottest-year-on-record-nasa-says?CMP=edit\_2221], beating a mark set just in 2015. The Paris climate accord has been ratified by nations[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/07/paris-agreement-climate-change-carbon-emissions] around the world while the Obama administration has attempted to implement its Clean Power Plan in the teeth of fierce opposition from 27 states[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/28/clean-power-plan-court-obama-climate-change]. Alaska barely had a winter[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/mar/24/iditarod-climate-change-sled-dogs-winter-alaska] this year while some American communities are already having to relocate due to rising seas.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans say that climate change is at least somewhat important to them personally, according tor the Yale Program on Climate Communication[http://climatecommunication.yale.edu.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/publications/climate-spiral-silence-america/], although few people talk about the issue with family or friends.

Americans are broadly in favor of developing clean sources of energy but there’s a clear political divide about how to approach climate change. Polling by the Pew Research Center[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/10/10/clinton-trump-supporters-worlds-apart-on-views-of-climate-change-and-its-scientists/] shows half of Clinton’s supporters care about climate change a great deal, compared to 15% of Trump supporters.

This division is most starkly demonstrated by the candidates themselves. Clinton has talked about installing half a billion solar panels, halting oil drilling in the Arctic and, in sobering evidence of this election’s debasement, proudly told the DNC that “I believe in science”.

While some liberal Democrats are suspicious of Clinton’s climate credentials – fears were exacerbated by recent leaked emails that show[http://www.ibtimes.com/clinton-wikileaks-update-leaked-emails-show-hillary-told-climate-change-activists-get-2432359] she said those who want to shut down fossil fuels should “get a life” – the former secretary of state’s plan cannot be compared meaningfully with Trump’s.

The Republican nominee has called climate change a Chinese hoax and “bullshit”. He has promised to withdraw the US from the Paris climate deal, revive the coal industry while also expanding oil and gas drilling. He has darkly hinted at scrapping the Environmental Protection Agency and resurrecting the controversial Keystone oil pipeline.

“I wish there was a proper battle of ideas that we could judge accordingly,” said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club. Green groups have supported Clinton almost as a default position because she’s the only candidate who accepts climate science.

While Clinton and Trump differ on issues such as police shootings, **immigration** and the economy, both candidates at least accept that these things actually exist. It’s tricky to have a debate on a topic that a participant doesn’t think is real.

Trump’s denial is shared by many members of Congress, who have been lavished with $29.6m in contributions from fossil fuel companies in the 2016 election cycle, according to figures compiled by ClimateTruth.org Action[http://nofossilfuelmoney.org/].

Regardless, here are three germane, and pressing, climate change questions that Wallace could ask:

An overwhelming majority of climate scientists say that climate change is real, caused by humans and is a growing threat to our way of life. What would you do as president to tackle this clear and present danger?

All of the top 10 hottest years on record have occurred since 1998[http://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics/the-10-hottest-years-on-record], the year when many climate skeptics claim that global warming somehow stopped. The world’s top scientific institutions are unequivocal[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jan/25/record-hot-years-near-impossible-without-manmade-climate-change-study] that the burning of fossil fuels is the cause of this warming, with recent research showing this brings punishing drought[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/05/climate-change-megadrought-california-global-warming], extreme weather events, poverty[https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/oct/17/climate-change-could-drive-122m-more-people-into-extreme-poverty-by-2030-un-united-nations-report] and economic stagnation[http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/nature/journal/v527/n7577/full/nature15725.html].

The Pentagon has said that climate change is a national security risk due to the destruction caused by rising seas and displacement of people. What would you do to prepare the US for this?

Millions of people are set to become climate refugees[http://www.unhcr.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/en-us/climate-change-and-disasters.html] as crops fail and drinking water supplies are sullied by seawater, potentially putting the current refugee crisis in the shade. The Pentagon has warned[http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/612710] of the potential for conflict and the need for humanitarian mobilization but the two main presidential candidates have yet to talk about this.

Rising sea levels are already causing Americans to be uprooted and whole cities to be put at long-term risk. What national plan will you put in place to ensure that areas such as New York, Virginia and Florida aren’t inundated?

Incidents of nuisance flooding have more than trebled along US coasts since the 1960s, with most coastal areas set to be inundated by 30 days or more a year by 2050[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141218\_sealevelrise.html]. Miami Beach is spending $400m on a system of pumps to ward off the sea for just a few decades, according to its mayor. Climate change is far from an abstract concept for people in towns in Louisiana[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/15/louisiana-isle-de-jean-charles-island-sea-level-resettlement] and Alaska[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/16/alaska-town-shishmaref-vote-climate-change-relocation] that are being relocated due to the rising seas.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Companies including Tecate and Cucapá are using humor to push back against the Republican’s fighting talk (and market their products)

When a group of young Mexicans began selling “I support Donald” T-shirts to Trump supporters on the streets of Los Angeles last month they drew reactions of anger and disbelief from many passersby.

The joke was on the buyers. As temperatures rose a clown nose appeared on the Republican presidential candidate and the wording on the shirts changed, crossing out “I support” and leaving “El Que Lo Lea,” which translates to whoever reads this but is a nod for any Mexican Spanish speaker to the popular phrase: “Whoever reads this is an asshole.”

The prank was part of a viral marketing campaign by the Mexican craft brewery Cucapá[http://cucapa.com/], with the sales destined to fund free beer giveaways and a big party in Mexico City.

Cucapá’s stunt was the latest in a series of advertising campaigns by Mexican businesses that have mocked and criticized the Republican candidate for his racist rhetoric.

Mario García, the Cucapá founder, said the company came up with the idea after Trump’s surprise visit to Mexico in August. Upon returning to the US, Trump triumphantly proclaimed[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] : “Mexico will pay for the wall, 100%. They don’t know it yet, but they’re going to pay.”

Related: 'Cállate, imbécil': the best Mexican responses to Donald Trump's visit[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-memes-cartoons-pena-nieto]

A native of the border town of Mexicali, García responded to Trump’s latest affront by organizing the T-shirt sales and posting footage online with the message[https://twitter.com/cucapa/status/780459899075514368] : “Someone tell Donald he paid for our beers”. The videos went viral, with Cucapá claiming they clocked up 8.3m views and 500,000 interactions within 10 days.

“As Mexicans we all feel extremely offended and we have the right to defend ourselves,” said García, whose firm sells border-related ales with names like Green Card, Runaway and La Migra, the Mexican slang term for **immigration** officials. “As a beer company I don’t think we’re going to reach young people by taking a formal political stance, but instead we can stay true to ourselves by taking a more humorous, irreverent stance.”

Trump has been loathed in Mexico ever since decrying its people as criminals, rapists and drug-dealers when he launched his campaign last year. With Trump urging the US to stop doing business[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/570235239848681472?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] with its southern neighbor, it was only a matter of time before Mexican companies began to respond.

I have a lawsuit in Mexico’s corrupt court system that I won but so far can’t collect. Don’t do business with Mexico!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 24, 2015[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/570235239848681472]

Tecate, a Mexican beer company owned by Heineken, released a commercial[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bev4NZEFsCQ] on Fox News during the first presidential debate that mocked Trump’s planned border wall. In its place, Tecate proposed a new wall, “tremendous” mini beer wall, more like a very long bar, where people from both countries could meet to share ice-cold Mexican lager. “This wall may be small but it’s going to be huge,” claimed the ad.

“Being a Mexican brand, we almost felt the obligation to play into this conversation,” said Felix Palau, vice-president of Tecate USA. “We really wanted to address this notion of a wall. However, we wanted to put a positive spin on it, while raising a glass to beer’s uncanny ability to bring people together.”

He’s an easy target. It’s very difficult to find a Mexican who likes Donald Trump

Fernanda Guerra, marketing director

Larger corporations like Corona[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Rj48IJaI14] and Aeromexico[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Isj2\_xjulHI] have launched more subtle campaigns that also question the concept of borders, while Mexican[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlQ5pPqp8mE] and Argentine[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTEnBC-2ZL4&feature=youtu.be] TV networks have used Trump’s inflammatory comments about **immigrants** to promote football matches taking place in the US. “We don’t have victories anymore. The American dream is dead,” Azteca, Mexico’s second largest media company, quoted Trump saying in its promotions for September’s USA v Mexico soccer match.

It’s unusual for Mexican businesses to release such political commercials. Fernanda Guerra, director of the digital marketing firm Wawa[http://wawa.mx/], said Mexican companies normally avoid such delicate issues for fear of losing clients or undermining important relationships. While smaller, more irreverent brands like Cucapá have less to lose from releasing bolder adverts, Guerra said larger corporations tend to be more serious and risk averse. In Trump’s case, however, companies of all sizes are taking shots at him.

“He’s an easy target. It’s very difficult to find a Mexican who likes Donald Trump,” Guerra explained. “He’s someone who’s been attacking Mexican society so there’s a common sense that he’s our enemy.”

The strength of anti-Trump sentiment on both sides of the border has created opportunities for philanthropy as well as publicity. Since launching a Trump-baiting viral campaign last year, John Rexer, founder of the Mexican liquor brand Ilegal Mezcal[http://www.ilegalmezcal.com/], has raised over $30,000 to provide educational opportunities for children in Guatemala and undocumented youths in Los Angeles and his native New York.

Inspired by a conversation with a distressed Mexican waiter in a New York restaurant, Rexer began mocking up posters of Trump’s face with a phrase the **immigrant** had used: “Donald eres un pendejo” (Donald you’re an asshole). His team quickly put up over 5,000 posters, projections and spray-paintings across several major US cities.

Ilegal Mezcal is now selling T-shirts with the same design to raise money for charity. In April they donated $2 for every shot of their liquor that customers consumed at 75 bars across three continents as part of a mass drinking protest dubbed “ A shot at Donald[http://www.ilegalmezcal.com/donald] ”.

“Some people have been shocked, asking, ‘Should companies be taking this kind of stance?’” said Rexer, a former Mexico resident who now lives in Guatemala. “It takes some degree of risk for a brand to take a political point of view but I think Mexican brands have a responsibility to their own people. They do business with the US and they should be concerned with [Trump’s] tone, that not only affects them business-wise but also affects the bigger picture.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The view from Middletown: voters seem embarrassed – not angrySexual misconduct: Trump campaign rocked by new wave of allegationsDangerous idiots: how the liberal media failed working-class AmericansVideo: Michelle Obama’s powerful rebuke to Trump’s ‘predatory behavior’

block-time published-time 4.54am BST

Today in Campaign 2016 Donald Trump Photograph: Mike Segar/Reuters

\* Donald Trump scrambled to dig himself out from an avalanche of fresh abuse allegations today, after a series of women came forward to dispute his claim that his comments about sexual assault were only empty boasts. “There is nothing the political establishment will not do, no lie they won’t tell to hold their prestige and power at your expense and that’s what’s happening,” he told a rally in Florida[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-assault-hillary-clinton-new-york-times]. “The establishment has trillions of dollars at stake in this election.” After a series of initial denials in capital letters on Twitter and more than an hour after his speech was due to start, Trump launched into an hour-long attack on the media and female accusers he called “horrible, horrible liars”. “Take a look. Look at her. Look at her words. And you tell me what you think. I don’t think so,” Trump said of Natasha Stoynoff, a People magazine reporter who alleged he had “forced his tongue down my throat”[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/].

Trump denies ‘vicious’ sexual misconduct allegations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-allegations-hillary-clinton-video]

\* First lady Michelle Obama delivered a devastating rebuke[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/michelle-obama-donald-trump-misconduct-frightening] to Trump, calling past comments and alleged misconduct by the Republican nominee[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-women-new-sexual-harassment-stories] “cruel”, “frightening” and beyond the “basic standards of human decency.”

This is not normal, this is not politics as usual. This is disgraceful, it is intolerable, and it doesn’t matter what party you belong to... No woman deserves to be treated this way – none of us deserves this kind of abuse.

Michelle Obama’s powerful rebuke to Trump’s ‘predatory behavior’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/michelle-obama-speech-donald-trump-sexual-assault-video]

\* To get to the facts of the matter, here is a timeline[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/list-of-donald-trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations] of the allegations by more than a dozen women, many of which have only been made public in recent days.

\* New Jersey governor Chris Christie[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/chris-christie] is facing an official misconduct complaint stemming from the closure of lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge in 2013. A judge signed the summons today, sending the case to the Bergen County prosecutor’s office, which will decide whether the case will lead to an indictment. The Republican governor appointed the prosecutor.

\* Hillary Clinton hinted at a possible landslide in the 8 November election, exhorting several thousand supporters at a San Francisco fundraiser today to help her “have the kind of victory we need” to serve as a “rebuke” to Donald Trump. On a day when Trump went on the attack – calling women who have accused him[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-women-new-sexual-harassment-stories] of inappropriate touching and kissing “ horrible, horrible liars[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-assault-hillary-clinton-new-york-times] ” – an increasingly confident Clinton encouraged her backers to double down on their efforts during the final weeks of the fractious 2016 campaign.

\* “Everything we care about is at risk,” she said. “If you can help me to have the kind of victory we need, that stands as a rebuke of all the bigotry and bullying we’ve seen, then together, together we will build the future that all of us, particularly the children of our country, deserve to have.”

block-time published-time 4.43am BST

Speaking to a Linda Ross, a friend of Jessica Leeds, a woman who has accused Donald Trump of physically assaulting her onboard an airline flight in 1979, CNN’s Don Lemon revealed tonight the moment when Leeds decided to come forward with her allegations.

“We were sitting together on her couch, and I looked right at her and I said, ‘Oh, my God, Jessica, he just flat out lied right to our faces,’” Ross said, regarding the moment in the second presidential debate in which Trump pledged that he had never sexually assaulted a woman.

“I mean, that’s how personal it felt,” Ross continued. “He just flat out lied to our faces, and we were both shaking. We were so angry... She said, ‘I’ll think about it,’ and I went home at the end of the debate. I live two floors below her and the next morning, I got an e-mail from her telling me that she had sent a letter or an e-mail to the New York Times on Monday.”

block-time published-time 4.27am BST

Even the right-tilting New York Post seems to be going bearish on Donald Trump in its woodcut for tomorrow:

enltrTomorrow's Cover: Donald Trump launches an all-out attack after multiple women accuse him of sexual assault https://t.co/juq3rYptyK[https://t.co/juq3rYptyK] pic.twitter.com/3i2NuvINkK[https://t.co/3i2NuvINkK]

— New York Post (@nypost) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/nypost/status/786770024182808576]block-time published-time 4.18am BST

Poll: Donald Trump's lead in Texas falls to margin of error A new poll in the Lone Star State has Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump’s lead over Democratic rival Hillary Clinton slipping to a mere four percentage points, within the margin of error in a state that hasn’t voted for a Democratic presidential nominee in four decades.

The WFAA-TV and Texas TEGNA television stations poll[http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/texas-news/new-poll-trump-lead-shrinks-in-texas-within-margin-of-error/335896258] shows Trump holding a four-point lead over Clinton, 47% to Clinton’s 43% in a survey with a four-point margin of error.

“I think to put these numbers in context - it shows that Trump’s position has eroded a little bit,” political science professor Matthew Wilson told WFAA. “His lead is down to four percentage points according to this poll, but even in the wake of some really terrible news for him, he still leads in Texas, which shows what a tough nut Texas is to crack for Democratic candidates right now.”

Historically, Texas is one of the most blood-red states in the Union: Mitt Romney won Texas by 16% in 2012.

block-time published-time 4.05am BST

After a day of extraordinary statements – attacking women who have accused him of sexual assault, and invoking shocking antisemitic tropes – Donald Trump exercised what might be seen as a rare degree of restraint.

Speaking to a Cincinnati arena filled with roughly 15,000 people tonight, he merely insulted the state’s Republican governor, mocked Hillary Clinton’s health and watched as his supporters treated the press with the same affection that lions in the Coliseum treated Christians.

Donald Trump. Photograph: Bryan Woolston/Reuters In the first full day after Trump faced a barrage of accusations of groping and sexual misconduct from nearly a dozen women, the Republican nominee went on the offensive. In a rally in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump insisted that he would never have sexually assaulted one woman who came forward – because she was unattractive.

“Take a look. Look at her. Look at her words. And you tell me what you think. I don’t think so,” Trump said of Natasha Stoynoff, a People magazine reporter who alleged[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] he had “forced his tongue down my throat”. The Republican nominee also attacked the New York Times – which reported the statements of two women who alleged Trump groped them.

He threatened to sue the paper and insisted he had eyewitnesses who could disprove the New York Times’ reporting. He described the women who alleged sexual assault against him as “horrible people, they’re horrible horrible liars”. Trump insisted that the press as a whole was “false and slanderous in every respect” and said “the depths of their immorality is absolutely unlimited”.

The allegations came less than a week after a leaked tape was revealed[https://viewer.gutools.co.uk/us-news/2016/oct/08/donald-trump-forced-into-apology-as-sex-boast-tape-horrifies-republicans] of Trump bragging about groping women and insisting: “When you are a star they let you do anything.”

At the same rally Trump also warned darkly about Clinton meeting “in secret with international banks to plot the destruction of US sovereignty in order to enrich these global financial powers”.

Jonathan Greenblatt, the head of the Anti Defamation League, promptly denounced the statement, which harkened back to antisemitic tropes like the Protocols of the Elders of Zion[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_Protocols\_of\_the\_Elders\_of\_Zion] :

enltr. @TeamTrump[https://twitter.com/TeamTrump] should avoid rhetoric&tropes that historically have been used ag. Jews & still spur #antisemitism[https://twitter.com/hashtag/antisemitism?src=hash]. Lets keep hate out of cmpgn https://t.co/9LMnurQ3Xg[https://t.co/9LMnurQ3Xg]

— Jonathan Greenblatt (@JGreenblattADL) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/JGreenblattADL/status/786672319452291074]block-time published-time 3.57am BST

A good reminder that, for those of you lucky enough to not have to watch Sean Hannity’s television show as part of your job, he’s a little soft on the facts.

enltrKathleen Willey tells Sean Hannity the mainstream media hasn't reached out to her. I contacted her repeatedly for a year. No response.

— Olivia Nuzzi (@Olivianuzzi) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/Olivianuzzi/status/786751648114810881]block-time published-time 3.51am BST

Tony Abbott defends Trump’s policies as ‘reasonable enough’ and ‘classic conservatism’ Tony Abbott[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/tony-abbott] has described some of Donald Trump’s policies as “classic conservatism” while calling others “over the top” after garnering criticism for seemingly giving support to the Republican presidential candidate.

The former Australian prime minister urged “Trump haters” not to get “too excited” over his comments after he told Paul Murray on Sky News that the vast majority of Trump supporters were not deplorables[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/10/hillary-clinton-trump-supporters--bigoted-deplorables].

“[They are] decent people who want to see change inside their country and that’s fair enough,” he said on Thursday night.

“Many of the Trump positions are reasonable enough, and there will be tens if not hundreds of millions of Americans who will continue to support some of those positions.”

Since tapes surfaced of Trump bragging about sexually assaulting women, which he later denied, several alleged victims have come forward[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-assault-hillary-clinton-new-york-times]. The accusations include claims from beauty pageant contestants[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-miss-usa-dressing-room-2001-rehearsal] that Trump burst into their dressing rooms while they were naked.

Taking to Twitter on Friday morning, Abbott sought to head off the inevitable reaction to his comments, but instead prompted further rebuke.

“Before the Trump haters get too excited, some of his views are OTT but cutting tax and boosting defence are classic conservatism,” he wrote.

enltrBefore the Trump haters get too excited, some of his views are OTT but cutting tax and boosting defence are classic conservatism

— Tony Abbott (@TonyAbbottMHR) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/TonyAbbottMHR/status/786726224588439553] Related: Tony Abbott defends Trump’s policies as ‘reasonable enough’ and ‘classic conservatism’[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/oct/14/tony-abbott-defends-trumps-policies-as-reasonable-enough-and-classic-conservatism]

block-time published-time 3.45am BST

Idaho Statesman endorses Hillary Clinton A famously right-leaning Idaho newspaper has endorsed Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, acknowledging that while there was “low to medium enthusiasm for Clinton” on the paper’s editorial board, none of its members could bring themselves to endorse Donald Trump.

Citing issues relevant to Idaho voters ranging from education, **immigration** and rural issues to gun control and health care, the Idaho Statesman[http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/editorials/article108108882.html], the state’s most widely circulated newspaper, criticized Trump as insufficiently reliable on conservative issues, or unreliable, period.

On health care, for example, “We are confused by Trump’s approach - one day he is going to repeal it, the next he proposes single-payer alternative - but we believe Clinton will work to make the improvements that are absolutely needed.”

On more lofty qualifications like communication style and positivity, the Statesman’s editorial board compared Trump to a “spoiled child.”

“We live in the real world, with real problems that need real solutions,” the board concludes. “We need someone with pragmatic approaches that include patience and compassion. We need Hillary Clinton to be the next president.”

block-time published-time 3.32am BST

Sean Hannity, in his interview with three women who have accused former president Bill Clinton of sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape, inferred from their anecdotes on his show that they might fear for their lives if Hillary Clinton were to be elected president.

“There’s been so many things happen to so many people connected to the Clintons,” Paula Jones said. “She’s gonna rule the world.”

block-time published-time 3.24am BST

Fox News personality Sean Hannity, who has functioned as an arm of the Trump campaign’s communications strategy since the Republican primaries, held a special on his show tonight in which he interviewed a trio of women who have accused former president Bill Clinton, husband of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, of sexual impropriety.

Paula Jones, Kathy Shelton, and Juanita Broaddrick sit in the gallery before at the start of the presidential debate. Photograph: UPI / Barcroft Images Donald Trump was originally scheduled to appear on the show, but pulled out of the appearance after more than a dozen accusations of sexual harassment, assault and inappropriate behavior were reported in various media outlets, including the Guardian US[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-miss-usa-dressing-room-2001-rehearsal], surfaced on Wednesday night.

The women - Juanita Broaddrick, Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey - have long alleged that Bill Clinton committed acts of sexual impropriety toward them, ranging from sexual harassment to sexual assault to rape, and have made a similar appearance on Hannity’s eponymous show in the past.

“Back in 1978, when I was working for BC’s campaign for governor, I was raped by Bill Clinton. I was viciously raped,” Broaddrick told Hannity. “And three weeks later, at a fundraiser for him... Hillary personally threatened me.”

Clinton has long denied Broaddrick’s claims, and Broaddrick herself submitted an affidavit in 1997 denying that Clinton had made “any sexual advances” towards her.

Regarding the alleged threat, Broaddrick said that at a fundraiser for her husband’s gubernatorial campaign, Hillary Clinton “comes straight to me and says to me, big smile, very pleasant voice, says to me, ‘I’m Hillary, it’s so nice to meet you. I just want to thank you for everything you do for Bill’s campaign.’”

Clinton then allegedly grabbed her arm and pulled her closer, saying in “a very angry voice, a very low voice, and she pulls me close to her and she says, ‘Do you understand everything you do?’”

“I don’t know what she’s capable of.”

Jones, a former Arkansas state employee whose lawsuit over allegations of sexual harassment eventually lead to Bill Clinton’s impeachment by the House of Representatives, told Hannity that after she was invited to his room at an Arkansas hotel, Clinton propositioned her and exposed himself to her.

“And I said, ‘I’m not that kind of girl, and I need to walk by to my desk,’” Jones said. Clinton then allegedly told her: “You’re a smart girl - let’s keep this between us.’”

Clinton settled Jones’ lawsuit out of court for $850,000 without admission of guilt.

Kathleen Willey, a former White House volunteer aide, has alleged since 1998 that Bill Clinton had sexually assaulted her in the Oval Office in 1993.

“I headed back out the hall to go back to the door that led into the Oval Office, and he took my coffee cup from me and put it on a desk or table, and next thing I knew, he had me backed into a corner,” Willey told Hannity. “My mind was racing, and I thought, ‘should I slap him, or kick him, or knee him?’”

Willey then says that when Clinton was distracted, she then fled the Oval Office.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.30am BST

block-time published-time 3.09am BST

Report: Donald Trump called deaf Celebrity Apprentice 'retarded,' according to staffers Citing three staffers from the hit reality show The Apprentice that turned Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump into a star, The Daily Beast reports[http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/10/13/donald-trump-called-deaf-apprentice-marlee-matlin-retarded.html?via=desktop&source=twitter] that Trump “had a habit of insulting, mimicking, and demeaning” Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin, who is deaf.

“[Trump] would often equate that she was mentally retarded,” one staffer, who like the others was bound by an ironclad nondisclosure agreement, told The Daily Beast.

“[Trump] would make fun of her voice. It actually sounded a lot like what he did [to] the New York Times guy,” another staffer told The Daily Beast, in reference to an incident in which Trump mocked a disabled reporter[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2015/nov/26/donald-trump-appears-to-mock-disabled-reporter-video] during a rally. “Like, to make it seem like she was mentally not there? [It] sounded like he got a real kick out of it. It was really upsetting.”

“In the boardroom, he would talk to her like she was ‘special,’” another source said. “He took her deafness as a some kind of [mental] handicap.”

Matlin eventually placed second in the 2011 season of Celebrity Apprentice.

block-time published-time 3.00am BST

Indian governor and Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence was asked about self-image by a journalist quoting an 11-year-old girl, who said that when she heard words used by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, “they make me feel bad about myself.”

Pence’s response:

Well, I would say to any one of my kids and any children in this country that Donald trump and I are committed to a safer and more prosperous future for their family. The weak and feckless foreign policy that Hillary Clinton promises to continue has literally caused wider areas of the world to spin apart. The rise of terrorist threats that have inspired violence here at home, and we’ve seen an erosion of law and order in our streets. And we’ve seen opportunities and jobs evaporate and even leave Ohio and leave this country. I would say to any of our kids that if Donald Trump and I have the chance to serve in the White House that we’re going to work every day for a stronger, safer and more prosperous America.

So, in response to a young woman’s questions about Trump’s attitudes toward women, Pence responded with foreign policy, law and order, and lost manufacturing jobs.

What’re your thoughts?

block-time published-time 2.55am BST

Report: Donald Trump may have lied about donating to 9/11 charities A review of hundreds of pages of sealed records into charities aimed at benefitting those affected by the September 11 terrorist attacks by the New York City controller show that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump may not have fulfilled a self-made obligation to donate $10,000 to a major 9/11 charity, according to the New York Daily News[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/donald-trump-lied-donating-9-11-charities-article-1.2829908?cid=bitly].

“For the periods covered by the audits, we did not find any record of a donation from Trump himself or a Trump entity to either the Twin Towers Fund or the New York City Public/Private Initiative,” said New York City controller Scott Stringer in a statement to the Daily News.

According to the city’s records, there is no evidence that Trump gave to either the Twin Towers Fund or the New York City Public/Private Initiative through at least mid-2002, although the limits of the audit mean that the controller’s office is “unable to conclude definitively that Trump never gave to either of these two funds.”

Trump pledged $10,000 to the Twin Towers Fund as part of a donation initiative sparked by radio personality Howard Stern, according to the New York Daily News. A review of records from the Donald J. Trump Foundation, Trump’s personal charitable arm, shows that between 2001 and 2014, there was no donation listed to either the Twin Towers Fund or the NYC Public/Private Initiative.

block-time published-time 2.37am BST

Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] hinted at a possible landslide in the 8 November election, exhorting several thousand supporters at a San Francisco fundraiser on Thursday to help her “have the kind of victory we need” to serve as a “rebuke” to Donald Trump.

Hillary Clinton. Photograph: Andrew Harnik/AP On a day when Trump went on the attack – calling women who have accused him[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-women-new-sexual-harassment-stories] of inappropriate touching and kissing “ horrible, horrible liars[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-assault-hillary-clinton-new-york-times] ” – an increasingly confident Clinton encouraged her backers to double down on their efforts during the final weeks of the fractious 2016 campaign.

“Everything we care about is at risk,” she said. “If you can help me to have the kind of victory we need, that stands as a rebuke of all the bigotry and bullying we’ve seen, then together, together we will build the future that all of us, particularly the children of our country, deserve to have.”

Just one day earlier, the floodgates began to open up on Trump, as women accused him of putting his hands up a woman’s skirt[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/13/us/politics/donald-trump-women.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news] on an airplane, shoving his tongue down a reporter’s throat[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] at his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida, bursting into[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-miss-usa-dressing-room-2001-rehearsal] beauty pageant dressing rooms and ogling the semi-clad contestants.

Not one but two incidents from 1992 surfaced in which the Republican standard bearer – then 46 – told young girls that he would be dating them[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-unearthed-footage-trump-says-of-10-year-old-i-am-going-to-be-dating-her-in-10-years/] in the not-too-distant future.

During the San Francisco[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/san-francisco] fundraiser, Clinton rued that “the disturbing stories just keep coming”.

“The whole world has heard Trump brag about how he mistreats women,” Clinton said. “But it’s more than just the way he degrades women, as horrible as that is. He has attacked **immigrants**, African Americans, Latinos, people with disabilities, POWs, Muslims and our military, which he’s called a disaster.

“There’s hardly any part of America that he has not targeted,” she continued. “Now, it makes you want to turn off the news. It makes you want to unplug the internet. Or just look at cat gifs. Believe me, I get it. In the last few weeks, I’ve watched a lot of cats do a lot of weird and interesting things.”

Related: Clinton: landslide victory would be a rebuke to Trump's 'bigotry and bullying'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/clinton-california-calls-landslide-victory-trump-bigotry-bullying]

block-time published-time 2.28am BST

This sounds familiar: after yesterday’s tape[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/trump-makes-inappropriate-remarks-about-10-year-old-girl-video] of a then 46-year-old Donald Trump saying of a young girl “I am going to be dating her in 10 years”, here’s a report from the same year (1992) in which Trump reportedly told two 14-year-olds: “In a couple of years, I’ll be dating you.”

enltrDonald Trump once told 14-year-old girls, 'In a couple of years, I'll be dating you' https://t.co/nslYeqp8dg[https://t.co/nslYeqp8dg] pic.twitter.com/ayDeW6nGNz[https://t.co/ayDeW6nGNz]

— L.A. Times Politics (@latimespolitics) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/latimespolitics/status/786686078417764352]block-time published-time 2.22am BST

Pence: I believe Trump And what of Mike Pence? Trump’s VP candidate was interviewed on Thursday evening and was pressed directly by WBNS’ Scott Light on the claims that have been made against his running mate.

Light: But governor, can you say with certainty that he has never done this: assaulted a woman. Yes or no?

Pence: I can say with certainty that Donald Trump has denied that any of those actions that have been alleged have ever occurred. And I believe him.

block-time published-time 1.59am BST

People magazine is standing by its reporter Natasha Stoynoff and her allegations that Donald Trump forcibly kissed her against her will, despite receiving a letter from Melania Trump’s lawyers[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/13/trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations-election-clinton-obama?page=with:block-58001af2e4b01ffb8ffcb764#block-58001af2e4b01ffb8ffcb764], according to CNN:

enltrPeople Magazine spox confirms they received the letter from Melania Trump’s lawyer, and says they stand by their story.

— Dylan Byers (@DylanByers) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/DylanByers/status/786723878412226560]Jess Cagle, People’s editor-in-chief, earlier published a defence of the story, which you can read in full here[http://people.com/politics/people-editor-in-chief-why-we-printed-natasha-stoynoffs-story-of-being-assaulted-by-donald-trump/] :

We are grateful to Natasha Stoynoff for telling her story. Ms Stoynoff is a remarkable, ethical, honest and patriotic woman, and she has shared her story of being physically attacked by Donald Trump in 2005 because she felt it was her duty to make the public aware.

To assign any other motive is a disgusting, pathetic attempt to victimize her again. We stand steadfastly by her, and are proud to publish her clear, credible account of what happened.

block-time published-time 1.55am BST

Australia’s former prime minister Tony Abbott – he’s a Liberal, but not in the sense that Trump supporters might use the word – has praised the Republican nominee for his “classic conservative” policies, while conceding that “some of his views” might go a bit far:

enltrBefore the Trump haters get too excited, some of his views are OTT but cutting tax and boosting defence are classic conservatism

— Tony Abbott (@TonyAbbottMHR) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/TonyAbbottMHR/status/786726224588439553]Abbott’s successor, current PM Malcolm Turnbull, said today he wouldn’t get involved in the US elections. But on Monday he called Trump’s comments on grabbing women’s genitals “loathsome”:

They deserve the absolutely universal condemnation that they’ve received.

block-time published-time 1.44am BST

If the slew of Trump allegations and his responses are getting a bit much, Hillary Clinton shares your pain, she told a rally in San Francisco earlier on Thursday:

It makes you want to unplug the internet or just look at cat gifs.

Believe me, in the last few weeks, I have watched a lot of cats do a lot of weird and interesting things.

Clinton on Trump: ‘It makes you want to unplug the internet or just look at cat gifs’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/14/clinton-on-trump-it-makes-you-want-to-unplug-the-internet-or-just-look-at-cat-gifs-video]block-time published-time 1.38am BST

And back in Cincinnati, where Trump has just said there is no better or safer place to be than a Trump rally:

enltrNot fans of political correctness pic.twitter.com/0BnkwIGm2I[https://t.co/0BnkwIGm2I]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/786695531389186048]block-time published-time 1.33am BST

Meanwhile:

enltrBarack Obama is LIGHTING INTO Republicans who just now figured out Trump is unacceptable. "You don't get points for that."

— Josh Barro (@jbarro) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/jbarro/status/786724358047817730]enltr"People who know better stood silently by." Can't argue with that.

— Josh Barro (@jbarro) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/jbarro/status/786724904687239171]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.45am BST

block-time published-time 1.28am BST

enltrTrump says if Clinton goes to China "if she goes down in Tiananmen Square, they'll just leave her there."

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/786724572598902784]block-time published-time 1.23am BST

Trump says “multi-generational terrorism … is embedded in our communities … all over our country”:

I am going to keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country!

To be strong, the US needs to be a rich country, Trump adds. Current trade deals are “terrible, horrible”, he says.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.46am BST

block-time published-time 1.18am BST

Donald Trump is speaking now in Cincinnati. He’s on to his favoured topics: Hillary Clinton should be locked up; he’ll appoint a special prosecutor to investigate her. He’s going to build a wall. And who is going to pay for it, he muses.

Mexico, the crowd helpfully supplies.

Apparently that is indeed the correct answer, Trump confirms.

enltrTrump: The Clintons are the past but we are all going to be together a very bright future

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 14, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/786722029512818693]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.46am BST

block-time published-time 1.08am BST

A lawyer for Billy Bush – caught on tape laughing along with Trump’s comments about groping women[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women] – has said Bush would have been fired if he had stood up to Trump, Associated Press reports:

An attorney for Billy Bush is defending the TV personality’s part in a lewd 2005 exchange with Donald Trump.

Marshall Grossman told the Hollywood Reporter[http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/billy-bush-lawyers-up-goes-938219] that Bush would have been fired from his then job with Access Hollywood if he’d been passive or told Trump to shut up.

Grossman noted Bush was a NBC Universal employee talking with NBC’s The Apprentice star.

The attorney, who was quoted by the trade paper online Thursday, declined comment when reached by phone.

Bush, who joined NBC News’ Today as a co-host in recent months, was suspended after the tape became public last week. NBC is said to be privately negotiating his exit.

Both NBC and Access Hollywood declined to comment on the report. A publicist for Bush didn’t immediately respond when asked for comment.

More on one of the previously lesser-known Bushes here:

Related: Who is Billy Bush: the man egging on Trump in tape about groping women[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/billy-bush-donald-trump-lewd-comments-tape-arianne-zucker]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.45am BST

block-time published-time 12.53am BST

Let’s hope People magazine is checking its Twitter notifications: it looks as if Melania Trump’s lawyers have sent that letter to the wrong postal address.

Mathew Katz, news editor at Time magazine (People is part of Time Inc), says the company moved almost a year ago:

enltrThis was mailed to the wrong address - we (Time Inc.) moved downtown in November https://t.co/yhXkx3mLPt[https://t.co/yhXkx3mLPt]

— Mathew Katz (@MathewKatz) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/MathewKatz/status/786709704017936384]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.46am BST

block-time published-time 12.41am BST

Melania Trump demands retraction from People magazine Melania Trump has now weighed in on the flurry of accusations that have hit her husband in recent days, posting to Twitter a letter apparently sent by her lawyers to People magazine, which published an account[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] by reporter Natasha Stoynoff who said Donald Trump had kissed her against her will at his Mar-A-Lago estate a decade ago.

The letter – tweeted with only a “!” for comment – demands that People magazine remove and apologise for statements in the article that describe a meeting between Stoynoff and Melania Trump after the alleged groping took place:

Mrs Trump did not encounter Ms Stoynoff on the street, nor have any conversation with her. The two are not friends and were never friends or even friendly.

At the time in question, Mrs Trump would not have even recognized Ms Stoynoff if they had encountered one another on the street.

Your publication of the false statements is actionable and gives rise to claims of damages.

The letter gives the publisher 24 hours to respond:

Failure to do so will require Mrs Trump to consider her legal options.

undltr! @people[https://twitter.com/people] #NatashaStoynoff[https://twitter.com/hashtag/NatashaStoynoff?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/zXNm6boveP[https://t.co/zXNm6boveP]

— MELANIA TRUMP (@MELANIATRUMP) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/MELANIATRUMP/status/786707074096963585]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.45am BST

block-time published-time 11.38pm BST

Watch in full: Michelle Obama's speech in Manchester, New Hampshire Only hours old, this speech is being lauded as one of the most important addresses of this presidential campaign.

Give it a watch.

block-time published-time 11.28pm BST

Comedian Rob Delaney has raised tens of thousands of dollars in a bid to oust Republicans who tried to distance themselves from Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] following his recent scandals.

Rob Delaney. Photograph: Alecsandra Raluca Dragoi/Commissioned for The Guardian Delaney, star of the TV show Catastrophe, established a fund on ActBlue[https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/oct7fund], a fundraising site for the Democratic party, to raise money for opponents of Republicans who retracted their endorsement from Donald Trump in the past week after a recording of Trump making lewd remarks[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women] during an Access Hollywood appearance about groping women surfaced.

The fund has raised $68,294 from 1,176 donors in the four days since its launch.

“That’s what it took for you to disavow him?” Delaney said in a blogpost announcing the fund titled No Getting Off the Train[http://robdelaney.tumblr.com/post/151577393553/no-getting-off-the-train]. “Since I’m not a total moron, I know that what really happened is that it finally became clear to anyone who knows how elections work that Trump was definitely going to lose.

“So the same drive for self-preservation that led these turd balls to endorse him in the first place,” he continued, “has compelled them to pull the ripcord when Access Hollywood revealed their pussy tape and gave them the opportunity to pretend they care about women or something.”

Related: Rob Delaney raises almost $70,000 against former pro-Trump Republicans[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/rob-delaney-fundraising-donald-trump-republicans]

block-time published-time 11.07pm BST

Bill Clinton, responding to questions about allegations against Donald Trump: I think my job is to tell people why Hillary should be president. I think Michelle Obama just gave the best speech of the campaign. I have nothing else to say.

block-time published-time 11.03pm BST

Donald Trump in 1998: My 'record' with 'the women' is too 'controversial' to be president During a 1998 appearance on CNBC with host Chris Matthews, current Republican presidential nominee and then simple tycoon Donald Trump declared that if Bill Clinton’s personal pecadillos were enough to prompt impeachment proceedings, his own history with women was more than sufficient to keep him out of the White House.

“Can you imagine how controversial I’d be?” Trump said at the time.[http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/decades-old-video-shows-trump-predict-his-campaign-problems-with-women-783048771685] “You think about him with the women. How about me with the women? Can you imagine?”

Trump was still confident that “his women” would be better received by the American public.

“Yeah. They might like my women better, too, you know?”

block-time published-time 10.37pm BST

Speaking in Columbus, Ohio, at Columbus Middle School in an address putatively geared towards millennial voters, beleaguered Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump told a raucous crowd

“Our government has been taken hostage by global special interests,” Trump said, reiterating a conspiratorial tone from earlier today that has many observers cautioning against dog-whistling.

Hillary Clinton, Trump said, is the apex of that corrupt enterprise.

“She is a criminal - she is a criminal,” Trump said.

block-time published-time 10.27pm BST

Speaking with CNN’s Anderson Cooper, Jessica Leeds, one of the dozen women who have come forward with allegations that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump behaved sexually inappropriately towards them, detailed the incident on-air for the first time.

Leeds told the New York Times in a blockbuster story published last night that Trump fondled her and kissed her while they were seated next to each other in the first-class section of a plane in 1979, an allegation Trump has denied.

“The guy in the seat across the aisle could see,” Leeds told Cooper, but she held out hope for a stewardess to come to stop Trump’s advances. “But she never came.”

Asked where Trump kissed her, Leeds responded: “Wherever he could find a landing spot.”

block-time published-time 10.22pm BST

Donald Trump campaigns in Columbus, Ohio Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 10.03pm BST

Here’s the full text of comments Hillary Clinton gave the press regarding Donald Trump and cats:

“The whole world has heard Trump brag about how he mistreats women,” Clinton said. “And the disturbing stories just keep coming, but it’s more than just the way he degrades women, as horrible as that is. He has attacked **immigrants**, African Americans, Latinos, people with disabilities, POWs, Muslims, and our military, which he’s called a disaster. There’s hardly any part of America that he’s not targeted.”

“Now, it makes you want to turn off the news,” Clinton continued. “It makes you want to unplug the internet. Or just look at cat Gifs. I get it… I’ve watched a lot of cats do a lot of weird and interesting things. But we have a job to do and it’ll be good for people and for cats.”

block-time published-time 9.52pm BST

Hillary Clinton, on Donald Trump’s comments today: It makes you want to unplug the internet or just look at cat gifs.

block-time published-time 9.36pm BST

In other news relating to inappropriate sexual conduct by Republican politicians, a married Louisiana lawmaker has released a bizarre video in which he obliquely apologizes for sending explicit text messages to an underage teenage boy.

Mike Yenni, the president of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana - the state is organized by parishes, rather than counties - admitted to sending “improper texts” to a 17-year-old boy, promising voters that he was “smart enough to never repeat the past.”

“Last summer, I was old enough to know better, but I guess I was still young enough to do something stupid,” the 40-year-old politician said. “I chose to send improper texts to a young man. I made a bad decision. I regret my actions.”

“I apologize to the families involved and anyone I embarrassed, especially my own family,” Yenni continued.

block-time published-time 9.19pm BST

New accusation: Donald Trump allegedly looked up models' skirts Another woman has joined the chorus of people alleging that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior towards women, after wave of claims about Trump’s alleged sexual transgressions emerged late last night.

According to a report from the Huffington Post[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-models-skirts-underwear\_us\_57ffd172e4b0162c043ac07f?a8zlrf6r], Lisa Boyne, Trump “paraded women in front of their table, looked under women’s skirts, and commented on whether they were wearing underwear” during a dinner in the mid-1990s:

According to Boyne, the group was seated at a semi-circular table, with the women in the middle and Trump and Casablancas flanking either end. The women couldn’t get out of their seats without one of the men getting up - which they refused to do. Instead, Boyne said, Trump insisted that the women walk across the table, allowing him to peer up their skirts while they did so. Trump ‘stuck his head right underneath their skirts,’ Boyne said, and commented on whether they were wearing underwear and what their genitalia looked like.

“It was the most offensive scene I’ve ever been a part of,” Boyne said. “I wanted to get the heck out of there.”

The Trump campaign denied the allegations in a statement to the Huffington Post, as it has denied all the allegations that have surfaced over the past 24 hours.

“Mr. Trump never heard of this woman and would never do that,” spokesperson Hope Hicks said.

block-time published-time 9.11pm BST

A new set of polls from NBC News[http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/poll-clinton-ahead-north-carolina-virtual-tie-ohio-n665981], the Wall Street Journal and Marist College show a neck-and-neck race for president in Ohio, and a narrow gap in North Carolina, with Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton trailing Republican rival Donald Trump by a single point in Ohio among likely voters, and leading him by four points in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, leads 45% to Trump’s 41%, with Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson trailing at 9%. In Ohio, Trump leads by one point, 42% to Clinton’s 41%, with Johnson at 9% and Green nominee Jill Stein at 4%.

block-time published-time 9.03pm BST

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton is hyping Michelle Obama’s widely lauded speech to a group of supporter in New Hampshire earlier today:

enltrEvery minute of Michelle Obama’s 30 minute speech today is worth watching. https://t.co/ZlEX3YaU6a[https://t.co/ZlEX3YaU6a]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/786658289555832834]block-time published-time 8.52pm BST

Trump assault allegations aren't new. Why are we only listening now? When I first reported the story of Jill Harth’s sexual assault accusation[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/20/donald-trump-sexual-assault-allegations-jill-harth-interview] back in July, I didn’t get a single interview request to talk about it. The radio show I’d already been booked to go on engaged me only briefly, during an hour-long interview, on the matter of a woman accusing the Republican nominee of grabbing her crotch in a child’s bedroom at his Mar-a-Lago estate, before changing the subject.

Woman who sued Trump over alleged sexual assault speaks out[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/jul/20/jill-harth-donald-trump-sexual-assault-lawsuit-video]Even Democratic opposition organizations had made a calculation early in the campaign that it wasn’t strategic to get into personal matters with Trump. Because he had said so many damning things out in the open, it hardly seemed necessary to skewer his personal life.

Harth’s story is a complicated one and her character, like the characters of most living, breathing women, is also complex. But her accusation against Trump was always plausible. She has stood by it for 20 years. Now, finally, Harth’s account and those of women like her are not just gaining traction. They have been placed center stage in the campaign.

Trump addressed crowds on Thursday calling the most recent allegations “slander and libels... part of a concerted, coordinated, and vicious attack”, while Michelle Obama made a powerful speech[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/flotus-speech-229741] on what’s at stake this election. If we don’t vote against Trump, she said at a campaign event in Manchester, New Hampshire, “We’re telling our sons that it’s OK to humiliate women”. It’s not just the sexual assault allegations, she explained, though they cannot be marginalized. It’s about Trump’s entire world view. “What’s more, strong men,” Obama said, “men who are truly role models, don’t need to put down women to make themselves feel powerful”.

Women know this. Americans know this. Why then did it take Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] bragging about sexual assault on video for the country to take the claims seriously?

This is an issue that’s come up before this year, and not just on the presidential campaign trail. We didn’t need one woman to come forward against Bill Cosby in order to get society’s attention – we didn’t even need 10 of them to. We needed male comedian Hannibal Buress to make a joke about it. For a lone woman to be heard she seems to require special status. Numerous women[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/aug/08/roger-ailes-sexual-harassment-accusations-fox-tv-producer] have now come out to accuse Roger Ailes, former Fox boss – and current Trump surrogate – of sexual harassment. But they were only empowered to do so after one of the country’s most famous female anchors filed a lawsuit[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jul/06/fox-news-gretchen-carlson-roger-ailes-sexual-harassment].

Related: Trump assault allegations aren't new. Why are we only listening now? | Lucia Graves[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-assault-allegations-women-jill-harth]

block-time published-time 8.43pm BST

Republican National Committee chair Reince Priebus is living up to his promise to continue supporting Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in the face of a tsunami of crises that threatens to drown every down-ballot Republican in the country.

In an email under the subject line “Attention required:”, Priebus writes to supporters of the Republican Party that “the future of our great country... is at stake in this election. The party that wins the White House, and controls the Senate and the House will determine the course of our nation, from our National Security, to the balance of the Supreme Court, to the future our kids and grandkids will live – it is all on the line just 26 days from now.”

Without naming Trump, Priebus encourages voters to sign up for the Republican National Committee’s “Voter Target Survey” to ensure that the party is “targeting the right people.”

The fact that Priebus is sending out an email asking for survey responses to ensure adequate voter targeting less than four weeks before the general election is a story in and of itself, considering that the RNC held a presser with reporters last fall in which Priebus described the party’s data-gathering and voter-turnout operations as the most sophisticated in Republican history.

No moment like the last moment!

block-time published-time 8.27pm BST

Bernie Sanders has set the bar low, and implies that Donald Trump still can’t clear it:

enltrWhen you run for president there has got to be at least a threshold of decency.

— Bernie Sanders (@BernieSanders) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/BernieSanders/status/786639976155021312]block-time published-time 8.26pm BST

People Magazine has reiterated its support for a writer who penned a disturbing story[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] in which she accused Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump of forcing her against a wall and “forc[ed] his tongue down my throat,” dismissing Trump’s attacks against the report.

“Donald Trump on Thursday spoke out against claims that he has assaulted women by defiantly attacking his accusers and the media outlets who printed their stories,” People editor in chief Jess Cagle wrote in a piece titled Why We Printed Natasha Stoynoff’s Story of Being Assaulted by Donald Trump.

“At a raucous rally in Florida, the GOP nominee denied all of the allegations, saying: ‘These vicious claims of inappropriate conduct about me with women are totally and absolutely false,’” Cagle continued. “He also attacked media reports of the alleged abuse, including one by People writer Natasha Stoynoff, as ‘lies.’ But People stands by Stoynoff’s story of being assaulted by Trump in 2005 while on assignment for the magazine.”

Earlier today, Cagle issued a statement underscoring her faith in the veracity of Stoynoff’s story, calling her “a remarkable, ethical, honest and patriotic woman.”

block-time published-time 8.20pm BST

Trump blames sexual assault claims on collusion between Clinton and media But with allegations to the contrary casting an ever-growing shadow over the campaign, Trump instead sought to dismiss the accusations as a vast establishment conspiracy, orchestrated by his opponent Hillary Clinton “as part of a concerted, coordinated and vicious attack”.

“There is nothing the political establishment will not do, no lie they won’t tell to hold their prestige and power at your expense and that’s what’s happening,” he told a rally in Florida. “The establishment has trillions of dollars at stake in this election.”

Trump denies ‘vicious’ sexual misconduct allegations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-allegations-hillary-clinton-video]Read further:

Related: Trump blames sexual assault claims on collusion between Clinton and media[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/donald-trump-sexual-assault-hillary-clinton-new-york-times]

block-time published-time 7.53pm BST

Trump camp: Serbia story a hoax The Trump campaign knocks down reports that he opposed the 1990s Nato bombing of Serbian forces, saying Trump never spoke to the Serbian weekly where the remarks were said to appear. A Trump aide says she was not a go-between for Trump:

“Mr. Trump never gave an interview to the Serbian weekly magazine Nedeljnikas as falsely reported by the discredited Newsweek, nor was such an interview conducted through our Indiana State Director. This was a hoax and we look forward to receiving a formal retraction and apology from all involved.”– Jason Miller, Senior Communications Advisor

”Regarding the article about a media interview with a Serbian politician and Mr. Trump via my email, this is completely false. I have never served as a conduit to interview Mr. Trump for anyone.” - Suzie Jaworowski, Indiana State Director

block-time published-time 7.39pm BST

Here’s video of Michelle Obama’s powerful rebuke to Donald Trump’s “sexually predatory behavior,” in her phrase:

Michelle Obama’s powerful rebuke to Trump’s ‘predatory behavior’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/michelle-obama-speech-donald-trump-sexual-assault-video]enltr. @FLOTUS[https://twitter.com/FLOTUS], I'm in awe. Thanks for putting into words what's in so many of our hearts. -H

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/786638992741638144]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.50pm BST

block-time published-time 7.31pm BST

Trump Jr on sex assault claims: 'I've never heard anything dumber' Donald Trump Jr. reacted on a North Carolina radio station to new sex assault claims against his father described in the New York Times and elsewhere, CNN[http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/13/politics/trump-jr-on-new-york-times-report/index.html] reports:

“Come on guys, it’s so ridiculous, I’ve never heard anything dumber in my life. All of sudden, two, three weeks before election, someone comes out — it’s not like he hasn’t been in the public eye for 30 years,” Trump Jr. said on Charlotte Morning News on WBT[http://wbt.com/] radio. “I think it’s probably a typical New York Times smear campaign. “

enltrDonald Jr on hot mic tape: "I've had conversations like that with plenty of people. two guys, amongst themselves. makes him a normal person"

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/786628572450525185]enltrTo Michelle Obama's point about how all this is also bad for boys https://t.co/UYSVqZDMRx[https://t.co/UYSVqZDMRx]

— EricaGrieder (@EricaGrieder) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/EricaGrieder/status/786636530689323008]enltrWhy ONLY NOW is Donald Trump Jr. deleting this 5 year old tweet? pic.twitter.com/j9GnR8NEYZ[https://t.co/j9GnR8NEYZ]

— southpaw (@nycsouthpaw) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/nycsouthpaw/status/786632011121209344]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.37pm BST

block-time published-time 7.22pm BST

Bill Clinton has a Bob Dylan sculpture. Or the foundation does, or something.

enltrCongrats @bobdylan[https://twitter.com/bobdylan] on a well-deserved Nobel for wise, powerful lyrics that touched minds & hearts. And TY for this amazing orig. sculpture! pic.twitter.com/YdhpIMHiDh[https://t.co/YdhpIMHiDh]

— Bill Clinton (@billclinton) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/billclinton/status/786632730553544704]block-time published-time 7.02pm BST

A Canadian colleague has characterized this as “the most Canadian thing ever,” and we can’t say we disagree. In our time of need, it’s a video of Canadians telling USA people they love us:

You’re next, Britain? We’re waiting.

(h/t @ruths[https://twitter.com/ruths?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 6.58pm BST

“Take a look, you look at her, look at her words, you tell me what you think. I don’t think so,” Trump said of Natasha Stoynoff, who wrote the “ attacked by Trump[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] ” story for People.

enltrTrump implies that a woman is not worthy of his unwanted sexual advances because of her looks, minutes after @FLOTUS[https://twitter.com/FLOTUS] delivered this: pic.twitter.com/K4wDyUnOm5[https://t.co/K4wDyUnOm5]

— Jacqueline Alemany (@JaxAlemany) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/JaxAlemany/status/786625219377045504]enltr"Our Independence Day is at hand, and it arrives finally on November 8th," Trump says, finishing a blistering speech here in FL.

— Ali Vitali (@alivitali) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/alivitali/status/786626329982672896]block-time published-time 6.51pm BST

Trump and his family did the Howard Stern show some years ago. Here’s Trump sitting next to daughter Ivanka and copping to being a sexual predator at which everyone laughs:

enltrThe full interview is here: https://t.co/IkSyQNg4sJ[https://t.co/IkSyQNg4sJ]

— Sid Verma (@\_SidVerma) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/\_SidVerma/status/786618022232399872]block-time published-time 6.47pm BST

Trump: 'I take all these slings and arrows gladly for you' Trump:

They knew they would stop at nothing to try to stop me. But I never knew that it would be this vile... Nevertheless, I take all these slings and arrows gladly for you. I take them for our movement.

Trump then elaborates on his conspiracy theory that Bill Clinton planned to meet with attorney general Loretta Lynch on her airplane on an Arizona tarmac.

“He was never there to play golf, folks. Don’t be foolish,” Trump says.

(If Clinton wanted a secret meeting with Lynch, would he have done it in public?)

I believe they talked about her remaining in her position under a crooked Hillary Clinton administration. That’s what I believe. That’s what I believe folks. And I think that’s what most people in this room believe.

Trump said he had a nice life and he could have kept living it “instead of going through this absolute horror show of lies.”

Now I’m being punished for leaving the special club and revealing to you the terrible things that are going on with this country. Because I used to be part of the club, I’m the only one that can fix it.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.49pm BST

block-time published-time 6.39pm BST

Times to Trump: You can't sue us for printing stuff you brag about Trump has just said he’s preparing a lawsuit against the New York Times for its reporting on women who have accused him of unwanted touching. Trump’s lawyer sent the Times a letter telling them to take the story down.

Here’s a letter from the New York Times’ lawyer replying to Trump’s lawyer.

“We decline to do so,” the letter says. “Nothing in our article has had the slightest effect on the reputation that Mr Trump, through his own words and actions, has already created for himself.”

The letter also says, “It would have been a disservice not just to our readers but to democracy itself to silence their voices.”

enltrDavid McCraw, NYT lawyer, responds to Trump’s letter. pic.twitter.com/ziPBCIjkvP[https://t.co/ziPBCIjkvP]

— Sydney Ember (@melbournecoal) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/melbournecoal/status/786620067370991616](thx @bencjacobs)

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.44pm BST

block-time published-time 6.32pm BST

Trump says he’s the victim of “the single biggest pile-on in history”.

The great editors of the past... ladies and gentlemen, are spinning in their graves.

“I will not allow the Clinton team to turn our campaign into a discussion of their lies,” Trump says, after like a half hour of talking about it.

These attacks are orchestrated by the Clintons and their media allies. The only thing Hillary Clinton has going for herself is the press... what they say is false and slanderous in virtually every respect.

Trump says he has polls showing him in a dead heat with Clinton. Then quotes Rasmussen[http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\_content/politics/elections/election\_2016/white\_house\_watch\_oct13] (he is two points ahead in that poll).

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.37pm BST

block-time published-time 6.28pm BST

Trump calls alleged victims 'horrible, horrible liars' Trump’s now talking about the People magazine writer’s account[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] :

Why wasn’t it part of the story that appeared 12 years ago? Why wasn’t it part of the story... it would’ve been one of the biggest stories of the year... Think of it, [she’s doing this story] and she said I made inappropriate advances. And by the way, the area is a public, people...

Of the author:

Take a look, you look at her, look at her words, you tell me what you think. I don’t think so.

These people are horrible people. They’re horrible, horrible liars.

“Why wasn’t in the piece? Biggest story of the year,” Trump says.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.31pm BST

block-time published-time 6.24pm BST

Trump calls assault claims 'totally and absolutely false' Trump now says he’s the victim of a concerted, coordinated and vicious attack.

“It’s not coincidence that these attacks come at the exact same moment... as Wikileaks exposes documents” he says.

“These vicious claims about me of inappropriate conduct with women are totally and absolutely false, and the Clintons know it. These claims are all fabricated, they’re pure fiction and they’re outright lies.”

Trump then attacks his alleged victims:

You take a look at these people, you study these people and you’ll understand.

He also calls the claims “preposterous” and “ludicrous.”

He says he has “substantial evidence” that he will reveal in the future to disprove the claims. “Even a simple investigation would have shown that these were nothing more than false smears.”

Trump says he’s preparing a lawsuit against the New York Times.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.25pm BST

block-time published-time 6.21pm BST

Trump says nation will not survive if he loses This is a struggle for the survival of our nation, believe me, and this will be our last chance to save it.

Trump says the election will reveal whether the country is a democracy or whether the levers of power “are in fact controlled by a small band of global interests rigging the system. This is reality, you know it, I know it...”

Trump sounds distant in this speech. He’s talking about the invisible global network of elites and what they will do if you take them on.

“They will attack you, they will slander you, they will seek to destroy... everything about you including your reputation. They will lie, lie, lie... the Clintons are criminals, remember that. They’re criminals.

block-time published-time 6.16pm BST

Trump says the global economy will explode unless he’s elected president. Then he makes a newish claim about Clinton, that she operates in secret “in order to enrich these global financial powers.” Trump says he read it in Wikileaks.

Lock her up! chants the crowd.

“Honestly, she should be locked up,” Trump says.

Each day he seems to go farther into Infowars territory.

block-time published-time 6.12pm BST

What did you think of Michelle Obama’s speech? Watch it here:

enltrIf you missed FLOTUS speech just now, you can watch replay here. https://t.co/JSJwvLLHgA[https://t.co/JSJwvLLHgA]

— Jesse Ferguson (@JesseFFerguson) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/JesseFFerguson/status/786615214376706048]enltrBest speech of FLOTUS’s career, equal to her 2016 convention speech.

— laura olin (@lauraolin) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/lauraolin/status/786612806095364096]enltrTruly honored Michelle Obama is our First Lady.

Now listen to her & get involved. https://t.co/Lr7sJEQ2lG[https://t.co/Lr7sJEQ2lG]

— Lily Adams (@adamslily) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/adamslily/status/786612730061058049]enltr. @FLOTUS[https://twitter.com/FLOTUS] : Trump's comments about women have "shaken me to my core in a way that I couldn't have predicted." https://t.co/ir3KrSplho[https://t.co/ir3KrSplho]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/786609030399754240]enltr. @FLOTUS[https://twitter.com/FLOTUS] on Trump: "This is not normal. This is not politics as usual. This is disgraceful. It is intolerable." https://t.co/NiL6b68w2T[https://t.co/NiL6b68w2T]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/786611804126445569]enltrMichelle Obama: If Trump is elected "We're telling our sons it's ok to humiliate women." https://t.co/8YTDI3Gswr[https://t.co/8YTDI3Gswr] https://t.co/23YSJOmk2f[https://t.co/23YSJOmk2f]

— CNN Newsroom (@CNNnewsroom) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/CNNnewsroom/status/786611803434418176]block-time published-time 6.08pm BST

Here now is Trump. This will be... different.

block-time published-time 6.01pm BST

The first lady is winding toward her finish. A very powerful advancement of the message that Trump treats women despicably, is hurting people and the country by doing so and must not be elected:

enltrBREAKING: First Lady on Trump: This was a powerful individual speaking openly about "sexually predatory behavior." https://t.co/UHJcVKRNiY[https://t.co/UHJcVKRNiY]

— NBC Nightly News (@NBCNightlyNews) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/NBCNightlyNews/status/786610600268791809]block-time published-time 5.58pm BST

Meanwhile, in Trumpland:

enltrReporter kicked out of Trump meeting ahead of speech.

REPORTER: "Mr. Trump, can you deny, have you ever touched...?"

TRUMP: "Sleazebag." pic.twitter.com/j3TC2HN1oU[https://t.co/j3TC2HN1oU]

— JM Rieger (@RiegerReport) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/RiegerReport/status/786609704306737152]block-time published-time 5.57pm BST

Michelle Obama: electing Trump would set bad example 'for entire world' Obama:

If any of us raised a daughter like Hillary Clinton, we would be so proud... in this election, if we turn away from her, if we just stand by and let her opponent be elected, then what are we telling our children about what values they should hold.

If “we” elect Trump, Obama tells the crowd, “we would be telling our children that “everything they’re seeing and hearing is perfectly OK. We are validating it.... we’re telling our sons that it’s OK to humiliate women. We’re telling our daughters that this is how they’re treated.”

She says “we won’t just be setting a bad example for our kids, but for the entire world.”

Obama says that Trump “routinely degrades women, brags about sexually assaulting women.”

Obama says it’s time to show that “enough is enough and we do not tolerate this kind of behavior in this country.”

Then she tells New Hampshire women to vote:

In 2012 women’s votes were the difference between Barack winning and losing... back in 2012 Barack won New Hampshire by about 40,000 votes, which sounds like a lot, but... the difference was just 66 votes per precinct.

block-time published-time 5.51pm BST

The first lady is not stopping. She says that Hillary Clinton is the most qualified presidential nominee ever “and yes, she happens to be a woman.”

“Hillary Clinton has never quit on anything in her life.”

block-time published-time 5.47pm BST

Michelle Obama: Trump's comments 'disgraceful, intolerable' Michelle Obama is delivering an extraordinary critique of Trump’s attack on women.

Maybe we just don’t want to believe that there are still people out there who think so little of us as women.

New Hampshire, be clear. This is not normal. This is not politics as usual. This is disgraceful. It is intolerable....

This is not about politics. This is about right and wrong.

We simply can’t expose our children to this, not for another minute, and not for four years....

Enough is enough. This has got to stop right now.

What messages are our little girls hearing?

block-time published-time 5.43pm BST

Michelle Obama: Trump engaged in 'sexually predatorial behavior' Michelle Obama says “we have heard a candidate talking about sexually assaulting women.”

She says she thinks about Trump’s comments all the time, and that they make her shake.

This was not just a lewd conversation... this was a powerful individual speaking freely about sexually predatorial behavior...

It’s one of countless examples of how he has treated women his whole life...

I feel it so personally, and I’m sure that many of you do too, particularly women...

The belief that you can do anything you want to a woman? It’s cruel, it’s frightening, and the truth is it hurts. It hurts.

block-time published-time 5.37pm BST

Here now is Michelle Obama in Manchester, New Hampshire, speaking for Clinton:

block-time published-time 5.32pm BST

The People editor has released a statement defending journalist Natasha Stoynoff, the author of Physically Attacked by Donald Trump – a PEOPLE Writer’s Own Harrowing Story[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/] :

enltrStatement from Jess Cagle, Editor in Chief of PEOPLE (via @jdisis[https://twitter.com/jdisis] ) pic.twitter.com/DQfPOCfaxv[https://t.co/DQfPOCfaxv]

— Dylan Byers (@DylanByers) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/DylanByers/status/786601829719154688]block-time published-time 5.19pm BST

Comments: we’ve now turned them on. Sorry for their having been off. And thanks very much to reader Alex C for pointing it out.

block-time published-time 5.18pm BST

Trump employees don't donate much to campaign Reuters has analysed the donation records of tens of thousands of Trump employees and determined “only a dozen” donated more than $200:

Kerry Woolard, the 37-year-old manager of Trump Winery in Charlottesville, Virginia, went online in June and made her first political contribution: A $250 donation to the campaign of her boss, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Woolard’s donation was unusual.

Only a dozen of an estimated 22,450 people employed at Trump’s companies have donated more than $200 to the celebrity businessman’s bid for the U.S. presidency, a Reuters review of federal campaign finance records through August shows. Those who gave less to either Trump’s campaign or his joint fundraising committees would not have shown up in the review.

The contributors, including an office cleaner, a golf course groundskeeper, a bartender and an attorney, have given $5,298 to Trump’s campaign, a fraction of the $112 million Trump’s political operation has received from donors and joint fundraisers.

An employee at Trump enterprises gave $275 to the campaign of her employer’s Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. A 13th Trump employee, a lawyer at the Trump Organization, contributed to a Trump Super PAC, giving $1,000.

“Honestly, I wish I could do more,” said Woolard, who addressed the Republican national convention in July and has attended private dinners with Trump, his wife Melania, and their son, Barron. “He is an amazing boss, has been a great leader and I believe would do a great job for our country.”

block-time published-time 4.57pm BST

Besweatered undecided Ken Bone is cashing in on his debate fame, per his Twitter feed:

enltrEveryone wants to know if I've decided... and I have. uberSELECT helps you ride in style like me https://t.co/HyOS8z9SRd[https://t.co/HyOS8z9SRd]

— Ken Bone (@kenbone18) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/kenbone18/status/786594567999066112]block-time published-time 4.54pm BST

This is strange? But campaigning presents many scheduling conflicts.

enltr. @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] just canceled his interview with Sean Hannity, scheduled to air tonight, per @FoxNews[https://twitter.com/FoxNews] executive.

— Peter Alexander (@PeterAlexander) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/PeterAlexander/status/786593402687152129]CNN’s Brian Stelter reports:

On Thursday morning, he canceled on his friend Sean Hannity, a Fox News spokeswoman said. He had been scheduled to appear on Hannity’s Fox News show Thursday night. He backed out around 11:30 a.m. ET.

Hannity is still set to interview the four Clinton critics who appeared with Trump at a pre-debate photo op on Sunday: Kathy Shelton, Paula Jones, Kathleen Willey, and Juanita Broaddrick.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.55pm BST

block-time published-time 4.50pm BST

Donald Trump’s media pool reports that he’s en route to his midday West Palm Beach rally. Here’s a live video stream in case you want to watch the warmup acts, which sound terrible:

enltrOne of Trump's warm up acts just knocked Clinton for using private email "and blaming it on a black guy, Colin Powell?"

— Jose A. DelReal (@jdelreal) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/jdelreal/status/786593650788610048] block-time published-time 4.41pm BST

Only 46 days till the election!

enltrThe best of last night's late-night TV: Go out and vote on Nov. 28 https://t.co/6s69SayzBB[https://t.co/6s69SayzBB] pic.twitter.com/pBApCKCch7[https://t.co/pBApCKCch7]

— POLITICO (@politico) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/politico/status/786591201013145600]block-time published-time 4.36pm BST

Notice : An earlier block incorrectly attributed opposition to the 1990s Nato bombing of Serbian forces to Donald Trump, when in fact it was a Trump adviser who registered that view with a Serbian magazine, and not the candidate. The story was originally reported by Newsweek[http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-apologises-serbia-yugoslavia-bombing-509417?rx=us]. The previous block in this blog has been updated.

The Trump campaign has not replied to a request for comment.

Update: Trump campaign says Syria story a hoax[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/13/trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations-election-clinton-obama?page=with:block-57ffd780e4b01601238957e2#block-57ffd780e4b01601238957e2].

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.54pm BST

block-time published-time 4.27pm BST

And here’s the latest Politics for Humans podcast, in which the Guardian’s Sabrina Siddiqui puts political topics in people terms:

enltrNEW Politics for Humans: @FareedZakaria[https://twitter.com/FareedZakaria] & Amb. Ronald Neumann join me to discuss the global view on this election https://t.co/Ror6vlsKOH[https://t.co/Ror6vlsKOH]

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/786588048595320832]block-time published-time 4.23pm BST

Here’s Barack Obama on when Dylan was awarded a medal of honor:

enltrOn Bob Dylan

by Barack Obama pic.twitter.com/o0lC4V5Bsv[https://t.co/o0lC4V5Bsv]

— Edward Tufte (@EdwardTufte) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/EdwardTufte/status/786542194874212352]block-time published-time 4.12pm BST

Trump campaign chair on Bill Clinton: 'we're going to turn him into Bill Cosby' A senior Trump adviser tells Bloomberg the campaign will soon bring forward new accusers: “Women are coming to us who have been groped or sexually abused by Bill Clinton.” Bloomberg reports[http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-10-12/trump-takes-a-back-to-the-future-focus-on-bill-clinton-s-women] :

Trump is considering featuring these women at campaign rallies to “give witness to what Hillary Clinton actually did.”...

On Thursday night, the Trump campaign will begin a new media blitz, his advisers say, with Broaddrick, Willey, and Jones appearing together on a one-hour Fox News special hosted by Sean Hannity. Additional interviews will follow.

The move to further amplify the campaign’s focus on Bill Clinton’s past relationships with women comes amid fresh allegations of Trump’s misbehavior...

“She’s led a program of victim intimidation,” [Trump campaign CEO Stephen] Bannon told Trump staffers, according to two advisers who were present. “This has nothing to do with consensual sexual affairs and infidelities. This is Bill. We’re going to turn him into Bill Cosby.”

Stephen Bannon in August. Photograph: Carlo Allegri/Reuters block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.20pm BST

block-time published-time 4.09pm BST

Here’s the latest edition of Anywhere but Washington, in which Paul Lewis explores the power of the Republican presidential nominee’s message in the poorest county of West Virginia:

Why the poorest county in West Virginia has faith in Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/12/west-virginia-donald-trump-supporters-mcdowell-county-poverty-video]block-time published-time 4.04pm BST

Conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh warned his listeners against the “rape police” on Wednesday, and mocked the concept of sexual consent.

Limbaugh said Trump’s critics on the left were being hypocritical:

“You can do anything, the left will promote and understand and tolerate anything, as long as there is one element. Do you know what it is? Consent,” Limbaugh said, in a clip published by Media Matters[http://mediamatters.org/video/2016/05/13/rush-limbaugh-jokes-about-legalizing-rape/210421]. “If there is consent on both or all three or all four, however many are involved in the sex act, it’s perfectly fine. Whatever it is. But if the left ever senses and smells that there’s no consent in part of the equation then here come the rape police.”

Many took to social media to explain to Limbaugh that the rape police were in fact just the police.

enltrInfluential US radio host rants against consent in sex (ie, for rape). Watch out for "rape police" (ie, police) https://t.co/x5RMSkGPLu[https://t.co/x5RMSkGPLu] pic.twitter.com/zxF4TjwBl9[https://t.co/zxF4TjwBl9]

— Andrew Stroehlein (@astroehlein) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/astroehlein/status/786463594498158592]enltrSomeone should explain to Rush Limbaugh that "the rape police" are just, you know, the police. https://t.co/2EeTiKEMoq[https://t.co/2EeTiKEMoq]

— The Rude Pundit (@rudepundit) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/rudepundit/status/786415234768441344]Limbaugh hosts one of the country’s most popular talk radio shows and draws millions of listeners daily.

He has a history of flippant comments about rape including saying, “no means yes if you know how to spot it”[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/15/rush-limbaugh-consent\_n\_5824582.html] and that women on college campuses were imagining they were being raped[http://mediamatters.org/video/2016/10/10/limbaugh-gender-relations-are-so-politicized-college-women-write-fake-stories-about-being-raped/213715].

block-time published-time 4.00pm BST

NJ.com has further[http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2016/10/judge\_rules\_christie\_could\_be\_charged\_with\_officia.html] on the official misconduct complaint against Christie:

A judge in Bergen County ruled Thursday morning that there is enough probable cause for an official misconduct complaint against Gov. Chris Christie to move forward in connection with the governor’s alleged role in the Bridgegate scandal.

Bill Brennan, a retired Teaneck firefighter and citizen activist, filed the complaint against Christie. The September 2013 incident that became known as Bridgegate caused significant traffic issues over a four-day span[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/on\_the\_road\_to\_bridgegate\_mileposts\_of\_the\_investi.html] in the Fort Lee area. The closures sparked a 16-month federal investigation.

Bergen County Superior Court Judge Roy McGeady ruled that there was probable cause for Brennan’s complaint to move forward....

McGeady said the case would now go to the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office. The prosecutor, Gurbir S. Grewal, a Christie appointee, would probably recuse himself, McGeady said.

The audience in his court room, mostly there for minor criminal violations, applauded after he ruled.

block-time published-time 3.42pm BST

Trump, one year ago: bombing Serbs was 'OK' One year ago today, the Guardian’s Ben Jacobs interviewed Trump about foreign policy.

Trump staked out the exact opposite position on the Kosovo intervention from the one his campaign advisor took in an interview revealed today. Ben wrote at the time:

The US needs to focus on fixing itself rather than on “nation-building” abroad, Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] told the Guardianin an exclusive interview. The Republican presidential frontrunner then gave two examples of exceptions to his philosophy: in Kosovo in the 1990s, and in the conflict against Isis today. [...]

Asked about Bill Clinton’s support for intervention in Kosovo in order to prevent ethnic cleansing in the 1990s, however, Trump allowed: “It’s OK, sure.”

Donald Trump talks to the Guardian about Syria and his worldview[https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2015/oct/13/donald-trump-putin-assad-humanitarian-foreign-policy-video] Related: The Donald Trump doctrine: 'Assad is bad' but US must stop 'nation-building'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/oct/13/donald-trump-foreign-policy-doctrine-nation-building]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.33pm BST

block-time published-time 3.31pm BST

Carson: allegations against Trump 'a bunch of crap' Asked on Fox and Friends about the numerous new allegations against Donald Trump of unwanted touching, former presidential candidate and stalwart if unpredictable Trump defender Ben Carson says the story is “a bunch of crap” cooked up by the media:

There’s an atmosphere that’s been created by the New York Times and others that says look, if you’re willing to come out and say something, we’ll give you fame, we’ll give you whatever you need… what a bunch of crap. The people have to see through this because again the train is going off the cliff. Our country is going off the cliff financially and so many other ways. If we don’t deal with this stuff now, our children are completely going to be disadvantaged and destroyed, their future will be destroyed.”

Onstage at the Republican national convention. Photograph: ddp USA/REX/Shutterstock block-time published-time 3.26pm BST

Judge summons Christie Last month, a witness in a criminal case concerning the closure of traffic lanes on the George Washington Bridge as an act of political retribution testified that New Jersey governor Chris Christie’s office had been informed of the plan, despite Christie’s denials of any knowledge of the plot.

Christie now faces a new inquiry for official misconduct in the incident:

enltrURGENT BREAKING: NJ judge issues Probable Cause criminal summons vs. @GovChristie[https://twitter.com/GovChristie] for official misconduct in office #Bridgegate[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Bridgegate?src=hash] @NBCNewYork[https://twitter.com/NBCNewYork] pic.twitter.com/VuqJursEfx[https://t.co/VuqJursEfx]

— Brian Thompson (@brian4NY) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/brian4NY/status/786567420861419520]block-time published-time 3.22pm BST

Correction : Comments attributed to Trump in an earlier version of this block were not made by Trump but by Trump campaign senior adviser Suzanne Ryder Jaworowski, Newsweek reports.

Jaworowski told a Serbian magazine that the US participation in the 1995 and 1999 Nato bombing of Serbian forces was “a big mistake,” in comments originally attributed to Trump. Newsweek has the story[http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-apologises-serbia-yugoslavia-bombing-509417?rx=us].

Update: Trump campaign says Syria story a hoax[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/13/trump-sexual-misconduct-allegations-election-clinton-obama?page=with:block-57ffd780e4b01601238957e2#block-57ffd780e4b01601238957e2].

“The bombing of Serbs, who were our allies in both world wars, was a big mistake,” the Serbian weekly magazine Nedeljnik[http://www.nedeljnik.rs/nedeljnik/portalnews/donald-tramp-ekskluzivno-za-nedeljnik-izvinjavam-se-srbiji-1/]quoted the Trump campaign as saying. “Serbians are very good people. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration caused them a lot of harm, but also throughout the Balkans, which they made a mess out of.”

The 1995 bombing followed the massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebenica and the Markale market massacres.

It’s estimated that more than 8,000 Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) were rounded up by soldiers from the Republika Srpska and killed in and around the town of Srebrenica[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/04/how-britain-and-us-abandoned-srebrenica-massacre-1995]. Deemed an act of genocide, it was a war crime that came to symbolise the ugliness of the ethnic disputes that set the Balkans aflame in the 1990s.

You can read more about Srebenica here[https://www.theguardian.com/world/srebrenica-massacre].

Related: The Bosnian war baby still searching for answers, 20 years on[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/12/alen-muhic-bosnia-war-baby]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.55pm BST

block-time published-time 3.01pm BST

Where the candidates are today Michelle Obama will participate in a campaign organizing event in New Hampshire today for Hillary Clinton, who has a fundraiser in San Francisco. Bill Clinton has two Iowa stops on his schedule, and Chelsea Clinton has a Maine organizing event.

Donald Trump has a noon event scheduled in West Palm Beach, Florida, and an evening event in Cincinnati, Ohio.

His campaign has also announced a late add: a speech in Columbus to focus on millennials.

enltrPer pool note from @hollybdc[https://twitter.com/hollybdc], Trump is giving a surprise speech focused on millennials today in Columbus

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/786561039840251905]block-time published-time 2.51pm BST

#TBT

Ivanka Trump: my father is not a ‘groper’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/may/18/ivanka-trump-donald-women-new-york-times-video] Crossing the Line: How Donald Trump Behaved With Women in Private[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/15/us/politics/donald-trump-women.html?smid=pl-share&\_r=0]

Donald was having a pool party at Mar-a-Lago. There were about 50 models and 30 men. There were girls in the pools, splashing around. For some reason Donald seemed a little smitten with me. He just started talking to me and nobody else.

He suddenly took me by the hand, and he started to show me around the mansion. He asked me if I had a swimsuit with me. I said no. I hadn’t intended to swim. He took me into a room and opened drawers and asked me to put on a swimsuit.

(h/t @bencjacobs[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 2.48pm BST

On the night of the second debate, as Trump staged a media event with three women who have accused Bill Clinton of sexual assault and rape, Trump’s campaign manager called for every survivor of sexual assault to be heard:

enltrRT if you agree. "Every" the operative word here. https://t.co/hqvij2DPjA[https://t.co/hqvij2DPjA]

— Kellyanne Conway (@KellyannePolls) October 10, 2016[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls/status/785269953700171776]block-time published-time 2.42pm BST

Impeach Jeb Bush!

enltrOn Earth B, Jeb gaffes today by telling reporters in his daily gaggle that his favorite Dylan song is "The Weight." His lead slips to 4 pts.

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/786543530751602688]Bob Dylan has been awarded the Nobel prize for literature. The Weight of course is a The Band song with songwriting credit going to Robbie Robertson.

block-time published-time 2.37pm BST

Trump: allegations 'a total fabrication' Trump is swiping left and right at publications this morning carrying stories about him making unwanted physical contact with women.

To this New York Times story, Two Women Say Donald Trump Touched Them Inappropriately[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/13/us/politics/donald-trump-women.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&\_r=0], Trump says:

enltrThe phony story in the failing @nytimes[https://twitter.com/nytimes] is a TOTAL FABRICATION. Written by same people as last discredited story on women. WATCH!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/786560925113266176]To this People magazine story, Physically Attacked by Donald Trump – a PEOPLE Writer’s Own Harrowing Story[http://people.com/politics/donald-trump-attacked-people-writer/], Trump says:

enltrWhy didn't the writer of the twelve year old article in People Magazine mention the "incident" in her story. Because it did not happen!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/786554517680693248]This is from the People story:

When we took a break for the then-very-pregnant Melania to go upstairs and change wardrobe for more photos, Donald wanted to show me around the mansion. There was one “tremendous” room in particular, he said, that I just had to see.

“I just start kissing them,” he said to Bush. “It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything.”

We walked into that room alone, and Trump shut the door behind us. I turned around, and within seconds he was pushing me against the wall and forcing his tongue down my throat.

Now, I’m a tall, strapping girl who grew up wrestling two giant brothers. I even once sparred with Mike Tyson. It takes a lot to push me. But Trump is much bigger — a looming figure — and he was fast, taking me by surprise and throwing me off balance. I was stunned. And I was grateful when Trump’s longtime butler burst into the room a minute later, as I tried to unpin myself.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.54pm BST

block-time published-time 1.52pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. A wave of claims about Donald Trump’s alleged sexual transgressions and inappropriate behaviour – in one case involving comments about a young girl – has emerged, threatening the Republican presidential nominee’s already fragile campaign less than a month before election day.

Ever since video[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-leaked-recording-women] of the real estate mogul surfaced on Friday showing him bragging about how he could grab women’s genitals with impunity, more and more women have come forward to claim they were demeaned and touched inappropriately.

By late Wednesday evening the list of new allegations against Trump included:

\* Two Miss USA contestants who claimed Trump deliberately walked in on them[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-miss-usa-dressing-room-2001-rehearsal] when they were naked in a dressing room.

\* Two women who allege Trump groped or kissed them without consent – one in the first-class seat of an aircraft.

\* A claim by a woman that she was groped at a Trump event at his Mar-A-Lago estate in Florida.

\* A People magazine reporter who says Trump forced himself on her shortly before she was due to interview him and his wife in 2005.

\* An incident in which Trump appears to sexualize a young girl[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-unearthed-footage-trump-says-of-10-year-old-i-am-going-to-be-dating-her-in-10-years/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab7e&linkId=29868172].

Trump makes inappropriate remarks about 10-year-old girl[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/13/trump-makes-inappropriate-remarks-about-10-year-old-girl-video]Read further:

Related: Trump campaign rocked by new wave of sexual harassment allegations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/12/donald-trump-women-new-sexual-harassment-stories]

A Trump lawyer sent the New York Times a letter asking them to retract a story:

enltrHere it is: Trump campaign lawyer sends letter to @nytimes[https://twitter.com/nytimes] demanding "full and immediate retraction and apology" of article==> pic.twitter.com/yQpk5lgGOB[https://t.co/yQpk5lgGOB]

— Frank Thorp V (@frankthorp) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/frankthorp/status/786421991997902848]enltrThis isn't a lawsuit. This is what a lawyer writes to pretend to his client that's he's doing something beyond filing a suit that can't win. https://t.co/VaJCIxcHsv[https://t.co/VaJCIxcHsv]

— Jake Tapper (@jaketapper) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/786534023908716544]The national field director for the Democrats circulates a video of Trump supporters abusing African Americans and scenes from the civil rights era:

enltrAbsolutely devastating. pic.twitter.com/n6Y6NOZvCe[https://t.co/n6Y6NOZvCe]

— Adam Parkhomenko (@AdamParkhomenko) October 13, 2016[https://twitter.com/AdamParkhomenko/status/786472154661527552] Obama back on trail Barack Obama will try to rev up Democrats in Ohio during a two-day visit, as the number of states that could swing to either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump narrows to just a handful, the AP reports:

Obama heads to Columbus on Thursday to be the featured speaker at an annual dinner benefiting Ohio Democrats and Gov. Ted Strickland, who is running to oust incumbent Republican Sen. Rob Portman. On Friday, Obama will hold a rally in Cleveland for Clinton emphasizing early voting, a major focus for Democrats across the U.S. this year.

Before flying to Ohio, Obama planned to speak in Pittsburgh at the “White House Frontiers Conference,” where aides said he’d announce new funding for technology and research and tout innovations like self-driving cars and artificial intelligence. Obama, in an op-ed in the magazine Wired, said the U.S. needed to adapt its skills to address emerging threats like antibiotic-resistant “superbugs,” cybersecurity and climate change.

Thank you for reading and please join us in the comments.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.45pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**600 janitors who clean Target, Macy’s and Best Buy stores will start collective bargaining for better conditions after a highly unorthodox organizing drive

Maricela Flores, a 43-year-old **immigrant** from Mexico, was so unhappy at her job as a janitor at a Target store just outside Minneapolis – unhappy about having to work seven days a week, about being paid $8 an hour, about not having health coverage or paid sick days – that she did something unusually risky. She went on strike even though she was not part of a labor union.

When Flores, a mother of five, walked out in February of 2013, she was one of just eight janitors from stores in the Twin Cities to go on strike that day to demand better conditions. Flores was relieved not to get fired.

Related: Massachusetts to adopt equal pay law to break pattern of unfair pay for women[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/02/massachusetts-equal-pay-law-women-salary-history]

Now, 44 months later and after a highly unorthodox organizing drive that included six more one-day strikes, Flores and other janitors who clean Target, Macy’s and Best Buy stores in the Twin Cities are declaring victory. On Thursday, they will announce that 600 janitors have won union recognition and will soon start collective bargaining in the hope of winning higher pay, health coverage and other improvements.

“I could have done nothing, but I chose to fight,” Flores said. “This has been a long fight, but now I feel overjoyed. All the hard work has paid off.”

Flores hopes that her new union, Local 26 of the Service Employees International Union, will bring important gains when it bargains with the retailers’ cleaning contractors. “We want fair work scheduling, health insurance, higher wages,” Flores said in Spanish. “All these things would allow me to be more involved in the daily lives of my children and to have a better quality of life.”

This fight began seven years ago when an **immigrant** workers’ center in Minneapolis – Centro Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (United Workers Center in Struggle) – contacted janitors at retail stores in the Twin Cities area. That workers’ center, known as CTUL, formed an organizing committee, led a three-mile protest march, held a 12-day hunger strike and sponsored a series of steadily expanding one-day strikes, which aimed to pressure retail powerhouses like Target and Best Buy, both based in the Twin Cities, to give the janitors a voice at work.

The effort grew more ambitious, with its focus turning towards getting Target to adopt a Responsible Contractor Policy. Target adopted such a policy in 2014, requiring its contractors to comply with labor and wage laws, and the janitors’ focus then changed to forming a labor union, convinced that this was the best way to win better conditions.

Labor experts say this is probably the most successful effort to unionize retail store janitors in the US. “The retail janitorial industry has been overwhelmingly non-union – it was viewed by most people as ‘unorganizable,’” said Stephen Lerner, the former head of the SEIU’s Justice for Janitors Campaign, which unionized tens of thousands of office building janitors nationwide.

Javier Morillo, the president of Local 26, noted a disconnect in the way Target’s janitors are treated. A unionized janitor “who cleans Target’s corporate headquarters makes over $15 an hour and has health benefits”, he said. “But if you clean inside a store, you make close to the minimum wage and have no health coverage or other benefits. It’s strange. It’s the same work.”

The campaign faced some major hurdles, among them that few janitors spoke English; that they were from many countries, from El Salvador to Somalia; and that many were undocumented. Veronica Mendez Moore, CTUL’s co-director, said the effort faced two other big obstacles: employee isolation and the complex structure of the industry.

Her group sought to contact janitors at 300 stores in the Twin Cities area, with many stores having just one or two janitors, who often worked after midnight.

“It’s a complicated industry structure with all these retailers and contractors so it was hard to figure out strategy,” Mendez said. “And these workers felt very isolated. It’s hard for them to feel there are other workers standing up with them. We did a lot of work to find ways to connect workers.” Organizers arranged conference calls that connected dozens of janitors, who for the first time could hear other janitors speaking out. Often, individual organizers drove to stores after midnight and used their mobile phones to connect one or two janitors to a conference call.

“It doesn’t seem revolutionary, but workers haven’t done anything like this,” Mendez said. “It was very intense to connect workers this way. They’re scattered all over the suburbs.”

The increasingly connected janitors grew more emboldened, holding several protests outside Target stores in Minneapolis. For Target these strikes became a headache. After the second strike, Target executives sat down with several CTUL leaders and janitors. Ultimately Target agreed to a Responsible Contractor Policy, which requires contractors not to break the law in fighting against unionization. The janitors also protested at a Best Buy shareholders meeting, helping to persuade that company to hire a new cleaning contractor that CTUL viewed as “responsible.”.

“These strikes really helped, they really pressured the companies to do the right thing,” said Ramon Hernandez, a janitor at Best Buy stores. He told of a cleaning contractor who cheated him and his coworkers out of overtime by forcing them – when working more than 40 hours a week – to punch in under the name of a “ghost” employee.

CTUL and the janitors brought several lawsuits against such wage theft, winning settlements that totaled more than $1m in back pay and damages. As a result of the campaign, the area’s retailers jettisoned some law-breaking contractors and hired better ones to replace them, helping to shrink the number of major contractors to four, from 20.

The janitors are winning recognition from three cleaning contractors, IFS, Carlson Building Maintenance and Prestige Maintenance. The companies agreed to begin bargaining under a trigger mechanism – only once the janitors gained recognition from contractors that clean 60% of the area’s roughly 300 big box stores. Officials from IFS, Carlson and Prestige did not respond to phone messages.

“The trigger means the contractors aren’t sticking out their necks too much,” Mendez said. In other words, they won’t have to increase costs because of a union agreement unless their competitors are doing the same thing.

Molly Snyder, a Target spokeswoman, said the retailer has a “strong commitment to maintaining high standards” for its cleaners and encouraged its contractors and CTUL “to have an honest and open dialogue that is focused on finding mutually agreement solutions”.

“We are very pleased by the progress that our vendors have made in that effort,” she said.

The Twin Cities campaign is unusual in that a workers’ center has worked so closely with a labor union. Morillo, Local 26’s president, noted that some labor leaders criticize worker centers for doing little to unionize workers.

“The importance of this is that five years ago, this market looked unorganizable, in the way that many low-wage and contingent workers seem unorganizable for traditional collective bargaining,” Morillo said. “That’s the big innovation here.”

Mendez said worker centers in other cities have called CTUL for advice on how they, too, can mobilize and organize retail janitors.

“A lot has changed for us,” said Maricela Flores, the janitor. “That first day I went on strike I was very afraid, afraid of getting fired. But I had to fight to change things to have a better life for me and my family. I was willing to take the risk to bring changes.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Trump supporters are not the caricatures journalists depict – and native Kansan Sarah Smarsh sets out to correct what newsrooms get wrong

Last March, my 71-year-old grandmother, Betty, waited in line for three hours to caucus for Bernie Sanders. The wait to be able to cast her first-ever vote in a primary election was punishing, but nothing could have deterred her. Betty – a white woman who left school after ninth grade, had her first child at age 16 and spent much of her life in severe poverty – wanted to vote.

So she waited with busted knees that once stood on factory lines. She waited with smoking-induced emphysema and the false teeth she’s had since her late 20s – both markers of our class. She waited with a womb that in the 1960s, before Roe v Wade, she paid a stranger to thrust a wire hanger inside after she discovered she was pregnant by a man she’d fled after he broke her jaw.

Betty worked for many years as a probation officer for the state judicial system in Wichita, Kansas, keeping tabs on men who had murdered and raped. As a result, it’s hard to faze her, but she has pronounced Republican candidate Donald Trump a sociopath “whose mouth overloads his ass”.

No one loathes Trump – who suggested women should be punished[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/31/us/politics/donald-trump-abortion.html] for having abortions, who said hateful things about groups of people she has loved and worked alongside since childhood, whose pomp and indecency offends her modest, midwestern sensibility – more than she.

Yet, it is white working-class people like Betty who have become a particular fixation among the chattering class during this election: What is this angry beast, and why does it support Trump?

Not so poor: Trump voters are middle class Hard numbers complicate, if not roundly dismiss, the oft-regurgitated theory that income or education levels predict Trump support, or that working-class whites support him disproportionately. Last month, results of 87,000 interviews [http://papers.ssrn.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=2822059] conducted by Gallup showed that those who liked Trump were under no more economic distress or **immigration**-related anxiety than those who opposed him.

According to the study, his supporters didn’t have lower incomes or higher unemployment levels than other Americans. Income data misses a lot; those with healthy earnings might also have negative wealth or downward mobility. But respondents overall weren’t clinging to jobs perceived to be endangered. “Surprisingly”, a Gallup researcher wrote, “there appears to be no link whatsoever between exposure to trade competition and support for nationalist policies in America, as embodied by the Trump campaign.”

Earlier this year, primary exit polls revealed that Trump voters were, in fact, more affluent than most Americans, with a median household income of $72,000[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-mythology-of-trumps-working-class-support/] – higher than that of Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders supporters. Forty-four percent of them had college degrees, well above the national average of 33% among whites or 29% overall. In January, political scientist Matthew MacWilliams reported[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/01/donald-trump-2016-authoritarian-213533] findings that a penchant for authoritarianism – not income, education, gender, age or race –predicted Trump support.

These facts haven’t stopped pundits and journalists from pushing story after story about the white working class’s giddy embrace of a bloviating demagogue.

In seeking to explain Trump’s appeal, proportionate media coverage would require more stories about the racism and misogyny among white Trump supporters in tony suburbs. Or, if we’re examining economically driven bitterness among the working class, stories about the Democratic lawmakers who in recent decades ended welfare as we knew it, hopped in the sack with Wall Street, and forgot American labor in their global trade agreements.

We don’t need their analysis, and we sure don’t need their tears. What we need is to have our stories told

But, for national media outlets comprised largely of middle- and upper-class liberals, that would mean looking their own class in the face.

The faces journalists do train the cameras on – hateful ones screaming sexist vitriol next to Confederate flags – must receive coverage but do not speak for the communities I know well. That the media industry ignored my home for so long left a vacuum of understanding in which the first glimpse of an economically downtrodden white is presumed to represent the whole.

Part of the current glimpse is JD Vance, author of the bestselling new memoir Hillbilly Elegy[http://www.newyorker.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/culture/cultural-comment/the-lives-of-poor-white-people]. A successful attorney who had a precariously middle-class upbringing in an Ohio steel town, Vance wrote of the chaos that can haunt a family with generational memory of deep poverty. A conservative who says he won’t vote for Trump, Vance speculates about why working-class whites will: cultural anxiety that arises when opioid overdose kills your friends and the political establishment has proven it will throw you under the bus. While his theories may hold up in some corners, in interviews coastal media members have repeatedly asked Vance to speak for the entire white working class.

His interviewers and reviewers often seem relieved to find someone with ownership on the topic whose ideas in large part confirm their own. The New York Timeselection podcast The Run-Up[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/19/podcasts/understanding-the-trump-voter.html?\_r=0] said Vance’s memoir “doubles as a cultural anthropology of the white underclass that has flocked to the Republican presidential nominee’s candidacy.” (The Times teased its review of the book with the tweet, “Want to know more about the people who fueled the rise of Donald Trump?”).

While Vance happens to have roots in Kentucky mining country, most downtrodden whites are not conservative male Protestants from Appalachia. That sometimes seems the only concept of them that the American consciousness can contain: tucked away in a remote mountain shanty like a coal-dust-covered ghost, as though white poverty isn’t always right in front of us, swiping our credit cards at a Target in Denver or asking for cash on a Los Angeles sidewalk.

One-dimensional stereotypes fester where journalism fails to tread. The last time I saw my native class receive substantial focus, before now, was over 20 years ago – not in the news but on the television show Roseanne[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roseanne], the fictional storylines of which remain more accurate than the musings of comfortable commentators in New York studios.

Countless images of working-class progressives including women such as Betty, are thus rendered invisible by a ratings-fixated media that covers elections as horse races and seeks sensational b-roll.

This media paradigm created the tale of a divided America – “red” v “blue”– in which the 42% of Kansans who voted for Barack Obama in 2008 are meaningless.

This year, more Kansans caucused for Bernie Sanders[http://usuncut.com/politics/bernie-sanders-wins-kansas/] than for Donald Trump – a newsworthy point I never saw noted in national press, who perhaps couldn’t fathom that “flyover country” might contain millions of Americans more progressive than their Clinton strongholds.

In lieu of such coverage, media makers cast the white working class as a monolith and imply an old, treacherous story convenient to capitalism: that the poor are dangerous idiots.

Poor whiteness and poor character The two-fold myth about the white working class – that they are to blame for Trump’s rise, and that those among them who support him for the worst reasons exemplify the rest – takes flight on the wings of moral superiority affluent Americans often pin upon themselves.

I have never seen them flap so insistently as in today’s election commentary, where notions of poor whiteness and poor character are routinely conflated.

In an election piece last March in the National Review, writer Kevin Williamson’s assessment of poor white voters – among whom mortality rates have sharply risen in recent decades – expressed what many conservatives and liberals alike may well believe when he observed that communities ravaged by oxycodone use “ deserve to die[https://www.nationalreview.com/nrd/articles/432569/father-f-hrer] ”.

“The white American underclass is in thrall to a vicious, selfish culture whose main products are misery and used heroin needles,” Williamson wrote. “Donald Trump’s speeches make them feel good. So does OxyContin.”

For confirmation that this point is lost on most reporters, not just conservative provocateurs, look no further than a recent Washington Postseries[http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2016/08/31/opiods-and-anti-anxiety-medication-are-killing-white-american-women/] that explored spiking death rates[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/white-death/] among rural white women by fixating on their smoking habits and graphically detailing the “haggard face” and embalming processes of their corpses[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/life-lessons-from-a-small-town-undertaker-as-white-women-die-younger-in-america/2016/08/20/a1e64d76-60b6-11e6-af8e-54aa2e849447\_story.html]. Imagine wealthy white woman examined thusly after their deaths. The outrage among family and friends with the education, time, and agency to write letters to the editor would have been deafening.

A sentiment that I care for even less than contempt or degradation is their tender cousin: pity.

In a recent op-ed headlined Dignity and Sadness in the Working Class[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/opinion/dignity-and-sadness-in-the-working-class.html], David Brooks told of a laid-off Kentucky metal worker he met. On his last day, the man left to rows of cheering coworkers – a moment I read as triumphant, but that Brooks declared pitiable. How hard the man worked for so little, how great his skills and how dwindling their value, Brooks pointed out, for people he said radiate “the residual sadness of the lonely heart”.

I’m hard-pressed to think of a worse slight than the media figures who have disregarded the embattled white working class for decades now beseeching the country to have sympathy for them. We don’t need their analysis, and we sure don’t need their tears. What we need is to have our stories told, preferably by someone who can walk into a factory without his own guilt fogging his glasses.

One such journalist, Alexander Zaitchik, spent several months on the road in six states getting to know white working-class people who do support Trump. His goal for the resulting new book, The Gilded Rage[http://www.alternet.org/books/gilded-rage-conversation-trump-supporter-will-surprise-you], was to convey the human complexity that daily news misses. Zaitchik wrote that his mission arose from frustration with “‘hot takes’ written by people living several time zones and income brackets away from their subjects”.

Zaitchik wisely described those he met as a “blue-collar middle class”– mostly white people who have worked hard and lost a lot, whether in the market crash of 2008 or the manufacturing layoffs of recent decades. He found that their motivations overwhelmingly “started with economics and ended with economics”. The anger he observed was “pointed up, not down” at those who forgot them when global trade deals were negotiated, not at minority groups.

Meanwhile, the racism and nationalism that surely exist among them also exist among Democrats and higher socioeconomic strata. A poll conducted last spring by Reuters found[http://www.reuters.com/article/usa-election-trump-idUSKBN0TQ2QT20151208] that a third of questioned Democrats supported a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States. In another, by YouGov, 45%[https://today.yougov.com/news/2015/12/09/most-americans-dislike-islam/] of polled Democrats reported holding an unfavorable view of Islam, with almost no fluctuation based on household income. Those who won’t vote for Trump are not necessarily paragons of virtue, while the rest are easily scapegoated as the country’s moral scourge.

When Hillary Clinton recently declared half of Trump supporters a “basket of deplorables”, Zaitchik told another reporter, the language “could be read as another way of saying ‘white-trash bin’.” Clinton quickly apologized for the comment, the context of which contained compassion for many Trump voters. But making such generalizations at a $6m fundraiser in downtown New York City, at which some attendees paid $50,000 for a seat, recalled for me scenes from the television political satire Veep in which powerful Washington figures discuss “normals” with distaste behind closed doors.

When we talked, Zaitchik mentioned HBO talk-show host Bill Maher, who he pointed out “basically makes eugenics-level arguments about anyone who votes for Donald Trump having congenital defects. You would never get away with talking that way about any other group of people and still have a TV show.”

Maher is, perhaps, the pinnacle of classist smugness. In the summer of 1998, when I was 17 and just out of high school, I worked at a grain elevator during the wheat harvest. An elevator 50 miles east in Haysville, Kansas, exploded (grain dust is highly combustible), killing seven workers[http://www.kansas.com/news/article986253.html]. The accident rattled my community and reminded us about the physical dangers my family and I often faced as farmers.

I kept going to work like everyone else and, after a long day weighing wheat trucks and hauling heavy sacks of feed in and out of the mill, liked to watch Politically Incorrect, the ABC show Maher hosted then. With the search for one of the killed workers’ bodies still under way, Maher joked, as I recall, that the people should check their loaves of Wonder Bread.

That moment was perhaps my first reckoning with the hard truth that, throughout my life, I would politically identify with the same people who often insult the place I am from.

Such derision is so pervasive that it’s often imperceptible to the economically privileged. Those who write, discuss, and publish newspapers, books, and magazines with best intentions sometimes offend with obliviousness.

Many people recommended to me the bestselling new history book White Trash[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/22/books/review-white-trash-ruminates-on-an-american-underclass.html], for instance, without registering that its title is a slur that refers to me and the people I love as garbage. My happy relief that someone set out to tell this ignored thread of our shared past was squashed by my wincing every time I saw it on my shelf, so much so that I finally took the book jacket off. Incredibly, promotional copy for the book commits precisely the elitist shaming Isenberg is out to expose: “(the book) takes on our comforting myths about equality, uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever-present, always embarrassing – if occasionally entertaining –poor white trash.”

The book itself is more sensitively wrought and imparts facts that one hopes would dismantle popular use of its titular term. But even Isenberg can’t escape our classist frameworks.

When On the Media[http://www.wnyc.org/story/americas-long-unaddressed-history-class/] host Brooke Gladstone asked Isenberg, earlier this year, to address long-held perceptions of poor whites as bigots, the author described a conundrum:“They do subscribe to certain views that are undoubtedly racist, and you can’t mask it and pretend that it’s not there. It is very much a part of their thinking.”

Entertain a parallel broad statement about any other disenfranchised group, and you might begin to see how rudimentary class discussion is for this relatively young country that long believed itself to be free of castes. Isenberg has sniffed out the hypocrisy in play, though.

“The other problem is when people want to blame poor whites for being the only racist in the room,” she told Gladstone. “… as if they’re more racist than everyone else.”

That problem is rooted in the notion that higher class means higher integrity. As journalist Lorraine Berry wrote last month, “The story remains that only the ignorant would be racist. Racism disappears with education we’re told.” As the first from my family to hold degrees, I assure you that none of us had to go to college to learn basic human decency.

Berry points out that Ivy-League-minted Republicans shepherded the rise of the alt-right. Indeed, it was not poor whites – not even white Republicans – who passed legislation bent on preserving segregation, or who watched the Confederate flag raised outside state capitols for decades to come.

It wasn’t poor whites who criminalized blackness by way of marijuana laws and the “war on drugs”.

Nor was it poor whites who conjured the specter of the black “welfare queen”.

These points should not minimize the horrors of racism at the lowest economic rungs of society, but remind us that those horrors reside at the top in different forms and with more terrible power.

Among reporters and commentators this election cycle, then, a steady finger ought be pointed at whites with economic leverage: social conservatives who donate to Trump’s campaign while being too civilized to attend a political rally and yell what they really believe.

Mainstream media is set to fail the ordinary American Based on Trump’s campaign rhetoric and available data, it appears that most of his voters this November will be people who are getting by well enough but who think of themselves as victims.

One thing the media misses is that a great portion of the white working class would align with any sense before victimhood. Right now they are clocking in and out of work, sorting their grocery coupons, raising their children to respect others, and avoiding political news coverage.

Barack Obama, a black man formed by the black experience, often cites his maternal lineage in the white working class. “A lot of what’s shaped me came from my grandparents who grew up on the prairie in Kansas,” he wrote[http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/obama-thank-god-im-a-country-boy/article/2603608] this month to mark a White House forum on rural issues.

Last year, talking with author Marilynne Robinson for the New York Review of Books, Obama lamented common misconceptions of small-town middle America, for which he has a sort of reverence. “There’s this huge gap between how folks go about their daily lives and how we talk about our common life and our political life,” he said, naming one cause as “the filters that stand between ordinary people” who are busy getting by and complicated policy debates.

“I’m very encouraged when I meet people in their environments,” Obama told Robinson. “Somehow it gets distilled at the national political level in ways that aren’t always as encouraging.”

To be sure, one discouraging distillation – the caricature of the hate-spewing white male Trump voter with grease on his jeans – is a real person of sorts. There were one or two in my town: the good ol’ boy who menaces those with less power than himself – running people of color out of town with the threat of violence, denigrating women, shooting BB guns at stray cats for fun. They are who Trump would be if he’d been born where I was.

We don’t need their analysis, and we sure don’t need their tears. What we need is to have our stories told

Media fascination with the hateful white Trump voter fuels the theory, now in fashion, that bigotry is the only explanation for supporting him. Certainly, financial struggle does not predict a soft spot for Trump, as cash-strapped people of color – who face the threat of his racism and xenophobia, and who resoundingly reject him, by all available measures – can attest. However, one imagines that elite white liberals who maintain an air of ethical grandness this election season would have a harder time thinking globally about trade and **immigration** if it were their factory job that was lost and their community that was decimated.

Affluent analysts who oppose Trump, though, have a way of taking a systemic view when examining social woes but viewing their place on the political continuum as a triumph of individual character. Most of them presumably inherited their political bent, just like most of those in “red” America did. If you were handed liberalism, give yourself no pats on the back for your vote against Trump.

Spare, too, the condescending argument that disaffected Democrats who joined Republican ranks in recent decades are “voting against their own best interests,” undemocratic in its implication that a large swath of America isn’t mentally fit to cast a ballot.

Consider that within the context of their experience and culturally entrenched information sources, they may be voting the way you would, if you’d walked in their shoes.

Journalist? Then chances are you’re not blue collar A recent print-edition New York Times cutline described[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/11/opinion/sunday/we-need-somebody-spectacular-views-from-trump-country.html] a Kentucky man:

“Mitch Hedges, who farms cattle and welds coal-mining equipment. He expects to lose his job in six months, but does not support Mr Trump, who he says is ‘an idiot.’”

This made me cheer for the rare spotlight on a member of the white working class who doesn’t support Trump. It also made me laugh – one can’t “farm cattle”. One farms crops, and one raises livestock. It’s sometimes hard for a journalist who has done both to take the New York Times seriously.

The main reason that national media outlets have a blind spot in matters of class is the lack of socioeconomic diversity within their ranks. Few people born to deprivation end up working in newsrooms or publishing books. So few, in fact, that this former laborer has found cause to shift her entire writing career to talk specifically about class in a wealth-privileged industry, much as journalists of color find themselves talking about race in a whiteness-privileged one.

This isn’t to say that one must reside among a given group or place to do it justice, of course, as good muckrakers and commentators have shown for the past century and beyond. See On the Media’s fine new series on poverty, the second episode of which includes Gladstone’s reflection that “the poor are no more monolithic than the rest of us.”

I know journalists to be hard-working people who want to get the story right, and I’m resistant to rote condemnations of “the media”. The classism of cable-news hosts merely reflects the classism of privileged America in general. It’s everywhere, from tweets describing Trump voters as inbred hillbillies to a Democratic campaign platform that didn’t bother with a specific anti-poverty platform until a month out from the general election.

The economic trench between reporter and reported on has never been more hazardous than at this moment of historic wealth disparity, though, when stories focus more often on the stock market than on people who own no stocks. American journalism has been willfully obtuse about the grievances on Main Streets for decades – surely a factor in digging the hole of resentment that Trump’s venom now fills. That the term “populism” has become a pejorative among prominent liberal commentators should give us great pause. A journalism that embodies the plutocracy it’s supposed to critique has failed its watchdog duty and lost the respect of people who call bullshit when they see it.

One such person was my late grandfather, Arnie. Men like Trump sometimes drove expensive vehicles up the gravel driveway of our Kansas farmhouse looking to do some sort of business. Grandpa would recognize them as liars and thieves, treat them kindly, and send them packing. If you shook their hands, after they left Grandpa would laugh and say, “Better count your fingers.”

In a world in which the Bettys and Arnies of the world have little voice, those who enjoy a platform from which to speak might examine their hearts and minds before stepping onto the soap box.

If you would stereotype a group of people by deeming them inferior to yourself – say, the ones who worked third shift on a Boeing floor while others flew to Mexico during spring break; the ones who mopped a McDonald’s bathroom while others argued about the minimum wage on Twitter; the ones who cleaned out their lockers at a defunct Pabst factory while others drank craft beer at trendy bars; the ones who came back from the Middle East in caskets while others wrote op-eds about foreign policy – then consider that you might have more in common with Trump than you would like to admit.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**One small town, one big election. I’m travelling to middle America to find out what people feel about an extraordinary presidential race

In 2012 I recall hosting an event in Washington DC during which columnist Ana Marie Cox, a former Guardian colleague, insisted she could cover the election from the couch. I remember being shocked by that admission-cum-brag at the time but the more I thought about it, the more I came to believe she was on to something. US elections are made-for-TV events. The conventions, rallies, polls and pundits are all essentially spectator sports. The process is built for consumption rather than engagement. It’s big business. In 2012, Republican spending on ads in Florida alone was almost double[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/politics/track-presidential-campaign-ads-2012/] the total spent by the six main British parties combined during the UK 2015 election.

That does make covering elections in a substantive way very difficult. The mainstream narrative is driven not by what will change but who will win; not by what people are thinking but against which of those two crude boxes they will put their name. It’s as though the whole process takes place on a split screen[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/oct/01/younge-america-return-roanoke] with the debate analysis, gaffes and ads on one side and the place where people work, love, and live on the other. When Barack Obama came out for gay marriage in 2012 the first question on cable television was not “What will this mean for gay people?” but “What will this mean for Obama’s re-election prospects?”

This new, twice-weekly series marks my sixth presidential election as a journalist and, as someone who prefers the road to the couch and ordinary people to TV pundits, I’ve always found it tough to cover the process in a way that both satisfies the reader’s need for a steer on the big picture and my desire to try to shift the framing of our coverage away from the horse race. Readers of course want to know who is likely to be the next president, and what headline issues they should look out for but I’m also interested in what the whole thing can tell us about how American society is evolving – particularly in an election as extraordinary as this, where a character as bizarre as Donald Trump and another as experienced as Hillary Clinton are candidates.

In 2004, I drove from John Kerry’s hometown[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/nov/02/uselections2004.usa4] in Boston to George W Bush’s former hometown in Midland, Texas, stopping in swing states along the way. I can’t vouch for what it was like to read, but I found it enthralling to write. I found myself at a drag show[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/oct/23/uselections2004.gayrights] in a small town in Missouri, breaking bread with Christian fundamentalists[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/oct/09/uselections2004.usa] who’d lost their son in Iraq in Pennsylvania, and watching the presidential debates with students in Iowa.

In 2008 I went to Roanoke, Virginia – a swing town in a swing state with a sizeable enough African American population that I could gauge the excitement around the potential election of America’s first black president. It was only by sticking around that I discovered that the town had a thriving arts scene that was politically engaged, or that the local courts set aside one whole day a week to deal with people with healthcare debts.

This time I’m going to Muncie, Indiana. Ahead of the election, I’ll be publishing articles twice a week – on Tuesdays and Thursdays – about what I discover here, who I’ve met, before writing an extended report after the vote. I chose Muncie, population 70,000, as my destination for two reasons. First of all it sits in Delaware County, which voted for[http://www.delawarecountyelectionday.com/] both Donald Trump (53%) and Bernie Sanders (58%). In an election year when Americans appear to be enamored with neither of the nominees – Clinton has a net favourability rating[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/clinton\_favorableunfavorable-1131.html] of -11 while Trump’s is -20[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/trump\_favorableunfavorable-5493.html] – I’m hoping that this trip will give some insight into what Americans appear to find **alienating** about their political establishment. I also want to ask: what is peculiarly American about this moment? How many similarities are there between here and Brexit Britain, or a France where the Front National is a serious contender for the presidency?

Indiana is a reliable Republican state – though Obama did win it in 2008 – but Delaware is a swing county. Both Obama[http://dcelectionday.com/20082General/Html/DelawareElecSumm.htm] and George W Bush[http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/statesub.php?year=2000&fips=18035&f=0&off=0&elect=0] won it twice. Once narrowly[http://dcelectionday.com/20122General/Html/DelawareElecSumm.htm] and once with double figures[http://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/statesub.php?year=2004&fips=18035&f=0&off=0&elect=0]. But I’m also heading to Muncie because it has an iconic place in American social science as the subject of major sociological case study in the 1920s called Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aRFcRFNUNQ].

The authors, Helen Merrell Lynd and Robert Staughton Lynd, who were married, were seeking a fairly typical American town in which to conduct extensive field research. They described Muncie, which they only ever referred to as Middletown, as “a community as small as thirty-odd thousand... [in which] the field staff was enabled to concentrate on cultural change... the interplay of a relatively constant... American stock and its changing environment.” Having first visited during a period of relative prosperity in the 1920s, they returned a decade later to write Middletown in Transition: A Study in Cultural Conflicts during the Depression.

I want to hear from people who live in Muncie or nearby in Indiana: we intend that this project should be guided by readers. Let me know if there are issues you think I am missing or questions I’m not asking. Do you know smart people I should talk to? Put us in touch.

The question of political **alienation** and political parties losing their grip on their bases is not, however, unique to America[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/video/2016/jan/06/dont-let-trump-fool-you-rightwing-populism-is-the-new-normal-video]. Look across Europe and you will see that there is nothing uniquely American about the rise of Donald Trump. In Britain we’ve seen the grassroots of the major parties rebel against against their own leaderships with the double election of the leftwing Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, and the Conservative revolt over Brexit. So while I’m staying in Muncie I hope readers from across America and elsewhere let me know if they are seeing similar themes emerge and if so how they are manifesting themselves. Every country has a Middletown – and most of them are hurting.

I have been to Muncie before, 13 years ago[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/sep/11/september11.usa3], to write about the second anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. Back then, the political mood was tender with the political polarisation prompted by the Iraq war in particular and the Bush presidency in general. “The day when you would go out of your way to make a political statement are gone,” Joseph Losco, chairman of the town’s Ball State University political science department, told me at the time. “I don’t know if it’s gone for ever but it’s gone for now.”

I don’t know that I’d call Muncie typical – what place truly is? – but it certainly showcased America as a complex place. True, the sign for the local mosque was destroyed and one local preacher held a memorial service in which he refused to share the pulpit with Muslims, Jews or any other religion. But following the mosque incident a local Muslim man held a barbecue and 200 neighbours showed up; an alternative interfaith service attracted twice the number of participants as the Christian-only one.

So I’m back in Middletown in the hope that I will once again find that level of complexity and nuance in this volatile moment. I want to visit the food banks, gun ranges, churches and gay bars to talk to its teachers, preachers, cops and kids. To find out not just how people will vote but what they are thinking, and not just who will win but what, if anything, might change.

\* Main image by David Levene

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump: ‘You can do anything’ to women when you’re famousTrump: US government is ‘letting people pour into country to vote’Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton take day off ahead of Sunday debate

block-time published-time 9.40pm BST

TBT:

enltrSexual pervert Anthony Weiner has zero business holding public office.

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) April 10, 2013[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/322079549812785152]block-time published-time 9.38pm BST

Tim Kaine on Trump's comments on women: 'I should be surprised and shocked. I’m sad to say that I’m not' CNN’s Betsy Klein asked Democratic vice-presidential nominee Tim Kaine about Donald Trump’s comments about women, with Kaine responding that the remarks made “me sick to my stomach.”

“It’s just, I mean, it makes me sick to my stomach,” Kaine said. “I don’t like to even say the words that he’s used in the past when he calls women pigs, dogs and slobs. I didn’t like saying it onstage the other night when my mom and my wife sitting in the front row. But this is behavior that is just outrageous, and so that there would be a new story that would have more statements like this, of this kind, I mean, I’m sad to say I’m not surprised. I should be surprised and shocked. I’m sad to say that I’m not.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.39pm BST

block-time published-time 9.28pm BST

Leaked recording: Donald Trump speaking graphically about women, sex and 'pussy' In a 2005 conversation with a television host caught on a hot microphone, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump bragged about attempting to “fuck” married women and kissing women without waiting for their consent, “like a magnet.”

“When you’re a star, they let you do it,” Trump says in the recording, first obtained by the Washington Post[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?postshare=3561475870579757&tid=ss\_tw]. “You can do anything.”

The audio, accompanied by a videotape, was apparently recorded during an interview with Access Hollywood’s Billy Bush in September 2005, eight months after he married model Melania Knauss. Trump and Bush - a cousin of former Trump rival Jeb Bush and now co-host of the Today Show - were on a bus headed to the set of the soap opera Days of Our Lives, on which Trump was set to make a cameo appearance.

The media obtained by the Washington Post includes both audio from inside the bus as well as video shot after the bus arrived on the set.

At the beginning of the audio, Trump relays to Bush a past attempt to seduce a married woman.

“I moved on her and I failed - I’ll admit it,” Trump says.

“I did try and fuck her; she was married,” 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.”

“Then all of a sudden I see her, she’s now got the big phony tits and everything,” Trump continues. “She’s totally changed her look.”

Trump and Bush then apparently see actress Arianne Zucker outside the bus.

“Your girl’s hot as shit, in the purple,” Bush tells Trump.

“Whoa!” Trump responds. “Whoa! I’ve gotta use some tic tacs, just in case I start kissing her. 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 continues. “You can do anything.”

“Whatever you want,” Bush replies.

“Grab them by the pussy,” Trump replies. “You can do anything.”

Bush and Trump, after commenting on the legs of a woman walking near the bus, then emerge in view of the Access Hollywood cameras to greet Zucker.

In a statement upon the recording’s release, Trump described the conversation as “locker room banter” and declared that former president Bill Clinton “has said far worse to me on the golf course - not even close.”

“I apologize if anyone was offended.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.29pm BST

block-time published-time 9.03pm BST

Donald Trump announces national security advisory council Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump’s presidential campaign has announced new additions to his national security advisory council, including senators Tom Cotton, Richard Burr, Bob Corker and Jim Inhofe, congressmen Darrell Issa and Mike McCaul, and former US attorney general/ singer-songwriter[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woLQI8X2R6Y] John Ashcroft.

“This distinguished group stands behind Mr. Trump because it is imperative that the US has a strong leader to combat terrorism, strengthen its borders and make sure that America is safe,” the campaign stated in a release.

Some of the additions - Cotton and Ashcroft in particular - represent breaks in orthodoxy from the isolationist platform that Trump has crafted, with Cotton especially being the modern face of American neoconservatism.

The new members join the likes of senator Jeff Sessions, General Mike Flynn and Rudy Guiliani on the council.

block-time published-time 8.42pm BST

White House 'confident' that Russian government hacked DNC The US government is “confident” that the Russian government has orchestrated a series of cyberattacks on American political organizations and parties, including the Democratic National Committee, as a way “to interfere with the US election process,” according to the Department of Homeland Security.

“These thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the US election process,” said homeland security secretary Jeh Johnson and director of national intelligence James Clapper in a statement.

“Such activity is not new to Moscow-the Russians have used similar tactics and techniques across Europe and Eurasia, for example, to influence public opinion there. We believe, based on the scope and sensitivity of these efforts, that only Russia’s senior-most officials could have authorized these activities.”

Earlier this summer, Russian hackers released emails procured by breaking into the Democratic National Committee, leading to the resignation of the DNC chair, Debbie Wasserman Schultz[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/24/debbie-wasserman-schultz-resigns-dnc-chair-emails-sanders] on the eve of the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

block-time published-time 8.20pm BST

Nuclear launch officer in Clinton ad: Donald Trump 'scares me to death' Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign appears to be taking a page out of the political playbook of Lyndon Johnson, the Democratic president whose infamous Daisy advertisement implied that the election of bellicose Republican rival Barry Goldwater would lead to nuclear war.

In Clinton’s newest ad, titled Silo, a nuclear launch officer addresses the camera at the site of one of America’s nuclear missile silos, telling viewers that the temperament of the president may be the only thing that prevented the launch of the missiles with which he was charged.

“If the president gave the order, we had to launch the missiles - that would be it,” says Bruce Blair in the ad. “Self-control may be all that keeps these missiles from firing.”

As the camera pans up a missile’s side and an air-raid siren blares, the ad then cuts to Donald Trump telling an audience that he would “bomb the shit” out of America’s military foes and telling an interview that he wants to be “unpredictable.”

“The thought of Donald Trump with nuclear weapons scares me to death,” Blair says at the ad’s conclusion. “It should scare everyone.”

The ad is an obvious callback to Daisy, one of the most iconic - and controversial - campaign ads ever aired. In that advertisement, a little girl counting flower petals is vaporized in a nuclear blast, followed by a voiceover from Johnson urging voters to “vote for President Johnson on November 3rd - the stakes are too high for you to stay home.”

block-time published-time 8.02pm BST

Actor and Hillary Clinton supporter Eva Longoria has some harsh criticism for Republican running mate Mike Pence following his dismissal of Donald Trump’s assertion that Mexican **immigrants** are drug-peddling rapists[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/16/donald-trump-announces-run-president] as “that Mexican thing.”

“Governor Pence, we are not a ‘thing,’” Longoria says in a new video released by the Democratic National Committee today.

“Could you be a little more specific?” Longoria, a tenth-generation Mexican-American, asks the governor.

“‘That Mexican thing’ contributes to a purchasing power of over a trillion dollars. ‘That Mexican thing’ opens countless small businesses each year. ‘That Mexican thing’ is woven into the tapestry of this nation’s art and music. It’s part of our politics, our culture, our commerce.”

“We are proud American citizens,” Langoria continues. “And most importantly, Governor Pence, will be voting this November.”

block-time published-time 7.43pm BST

Donald Trump will be making an appearance at a Republican Hindu Coalition rally in New Jersey on October 15, an interesting use of the candidate’s time less than a month before the general election considering that rival Hillary Clinton currently leads him by double digits[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/nj/new\_jersey\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5872.html] in the state.

block-time published-time 7.27pm BST

Trump campaign communications advisor Jason Miller says that the $1.5m in cut ad buys will be allayed by purchases in “battlegrounds within battlegrounds.”

enltr1/2 A few media buying updates on our increased media spend, which is growing by an extra $1M. State-by-state levels remain roughly same… https://t.co/eFIzjF3MET[https://t.co/eFIzjF3MET]

— Jason Miller (@JasonMillerinDC) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/JasonMillerinDC/status/784452203360690176]enltr2/2 Our data-driven campaign is shifting resources from over-performing markets to new battlegrounds w/in the battlegrounds. Buy is growing.

— Jason Miller (@JasonMillerinDC) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/JasonMillerinDC/status/784452744358813697]block-time published-time 6.53pm BST

Here’s more detail on Trump’s canceled ads, via Politico:

enltrWhere Trump has cancelled buys next week, per ad tracker: pic.twitter.com/KzLBhI3o3Q[https://t.co/KzLBhI3o3Q]

— Shane Goldmacher (@ShaneGoldmacher) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/ShaneGoldmacher/status/784449564027805696]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.53pm BST

block-time published-time 6.42pm BST

Here’s a colorful tidbit from a Washington Post report just published from inside the Trump campaign.

Trump apparently has it in him to object to accommodations on the grounds that they’re too fancy :

enltrTrump furious that his team booked him at the Ritz instead of Holiday Inn Express, per @costareports[https://twitter.com/costareports] & @PhilipRucker[https://twitter.com/PhilipRucker] https://t.co/uj4Kyq9uPn[https://t.co/uj4Kyq9uPn] pic.twitter.com/bSz6LXBvX7[https://t.co/bSz6LXBvX7]

— Abby D. Phillip (@abbydphillip) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/abbydphillip/status/784448084331880448]Another good snippet (how we read now: paragraph by tweeted paragraph):

enltr @PhilipRucker[https://twitter.com/PhilipRucker] @costareports[https://twitter.com/costareports] you guys were given explicit typographical instructions here pic.twitter.com/oeGXPylfRA[https://t.co/oeGXPylfRA]

— Philip Bump (@pbump) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/pbump/status/784447391529365509] MAJORDOMO Photograph: Team GT/GC Images block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.45pm BST

block-time published-time 6.30pm BST

Trump campaign mysteriously cancels ads in key markets We’re working to find out more about this. NBC News and the New York Times[https://twitter.com/maggieNYT/status/784439194982682624] report that the Donald Trump campaign is canceling hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising in what appear to be key markets in states including Ohio, North Carolina, Iowa, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Colorado.

With early voting already happening in Iowa, North Carolina and elsewhere, and Trump needing to make up ground quickly in many – all? – of these states, with only a month to go until the election, this decision to reverse ad reservations is perplexing.

enltrCancelations represent next week's buy, per the sources. Possible they are shifting elsewhere for final three weeks https://t.co/PrQ5U1vtAu[https://t.co/PrQ5U1vtAu]

— Maggie Haberman (@maggieNYT) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/maggieNYT/status/784440364572737536]enltrTrump camp cutting ~$1.5M ads in battlegrnd states nxt wk, Per @mmurraypolitics[https://twitter.com/mmurraypolitics], cuts are in smaller mkts pic.twitter.com/mTryhelWsq[https://t.co/mTryhelWsq]

— Alexandra Jaffe (@ajjaffe) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/ajjaffe/status/784420385395793921]enltrTrump cuts in Florida all in markets where he needs to exceed Romney to win https://t.co/BSoJnvzNqK[https://t.co/BSoJnvzNqK]

— Steve Schale (@steveschale) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/steveschale/status/784447048133308416]undltr???? https://t.co/i4htb30Q3e[https://t.co/i4htb30Q3e]

— Chris Cillizza (@TheFix) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/TheFix/status/784441854720872450]undltrHuh? https://t.co/xYCGMBKFOz[https://t.co/xYCGMBKFOz]

— Julie Pace (@jpaceDC) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/jpaceDC/status/784439696742952960]enltr @maggieNYT[https://twitter.com/maggieNYT] that's....weird

— Christopher Hayes (@chrislhayes) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/chrislhayes/status/784439765567475713]enltrMaybe he won so much he got tired of winning? https://t.co/REJTLQzgoR[https://t.co/REJTLQzgoR]

— daveweigel (@daveweigel) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/daveweigel/status/784443602546073600]enltrIt's a con. https://t.co/Xo3LoieuFK[https://t.co/Xo3LoieuFK]

— jon gabriel (@exjon) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/exjon/status/784441209263534080]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.38pm BST

block-time published-time 6.13pm BST

Independents flock to Clinton – poll A 21-point swing by independent voters after the first presidential debate has bopped Hillary Clinton into a comfortable national lead in the presidential race, new numbers from Quinnipiac University say.

A Q-pac poll just released has Clinton up 45-40 on Trump among likely voters in a four-way race. She leads him 50-44 in a two-way race in the poll. On 26 September the same poll depicted a much tighter race, 47-46 for Clinton.

Women break for Clinton 53-33 in the poll’s four-way race, while nonwhite voters back Clinton 63-18.

But the most significant shift was among independent voters, “who go from 42 - 35 percent for Trump, with 15 percent for Johnson on September 26, to 46 - 32 percent for Clinton, with 10 percent for Johnson today,” the pollster says.

enltrWomen, Non-Whites Give Clinton 5-Point Lead Over Trump; Independent Voters In Big Shift To Clinton #Election2016[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Election2016?src=hash] https://t.co/Cf8wpkM4p2[https://t.co/Cf8wpkM4p2]

— Quinnipiac Poll (@QuinnipiacPoll) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll/status/784426767465390080]HuffPost Pollster’s average of national polls of a two-way race now has a 6.5-point lead for Clinton:

HuffPost Pollster’s national polling average for a two-way race. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster enltrnew Quinnipiac national poll, by age; 18-34, Clinton +21; 35-49, Clinton ,+8; 50-64, Trump +5; 65 or older, even

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/784433519762272260]enltrSo maybe stop panicking over millennials and go talk some sense into the fifty-somethings in your life. https://t.co/pPUtv5B3KP[https://t.co/pPUtv5B3KP]

— Teddy Goff (@teddygoff) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/teddygoff/status/784437069049270272]block-time published-time 6.03pm BST

Phone? Cigarettes? Nuclear codes?

enltrWalking to Marine One, Pres Obama suddenly checks his pockets, does a 180 - and scoots back to the Oval Office. pic.twitter.com/7qflAsPsLP[https://t.co/7qflAsPsLP]

— Mark Knoller (@markknoller) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/markknoller/status/784438062742929408]block-time published-time 5.59pm BST

Russia lodges formal complaint at UN over Trump-bashing Diplomats tell The Associated Press that Russia’s government lodged a formal complaint last month with the United Nations over a top UN official’s condemnations of Donald Trump and some European politicians:

The intervention underscores the unusual links between the Kremlin and the Republican presidential nominee.

There is no evidence Trump sought Russia’s assistance, or was even aware of the criticism by Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

But three diplomats say the criticism prompted Vitaly Churkin, Russia’s U.N. ambassador, to issue a verbal “demarche” to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a private meeting on Sept. 13.

The diplomats weren’t authorized to speak publicly about the matter and demanded anonymity, fearing possible diplomatic repercussions from Russia, a powerful, permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

block-time published-time 5.41pm BST

Trump recasts Central Park Five as guilty In stunning defiance of a landmark exoneration of five African America rape suspects originally convicted through racial scapegoating, Donald Trump suggested to CNN Thursday that the so-called Central Park Five are after all guilty.

Five African American youths were convicted and imprisoned in the 1989 rape and beating of a jogger in Central Park. They were exonerated in 2002 after the perpetrator came forward and his identity was confirmed by DNA evidence.

Trump at the time of the crime took out a full-page ad in the New York Times calling for the re-institution of the death penalty in New York.

Central Park Five member recalls Trump: ‘He has not changed’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/feb/17/donald-trump-central-park-five-jogger-death-penalty-new-york-video]Here’s some of our reporting on the case:

The miscarriage of justice is widely remembered as a definitive moment in New York’s fractured race relations. But Trump’s intervention – he signed full-page newspaper advertisements implicitly calling for the boys to die – has been gradually overlooked as the businessman’s chances of winning the Republican nomination have rapidly increased. Now those involved in the case of the so-called Central Park Five and its aftermath say Trump’s rhetoric served as an unlikely precursor to a unique brand of divisive populism that has powered his rise to political prominence in 2016.

Related: Donald Trump and the Central Park Five: the racially charged rise of a demagogue[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/17/central-park-five-donald-trump-jogger-rape-case-new-york]

Here, meanwhile, is Alabama senator Jeff Sessions, a charter member of the Trump fan club, saying that Trump’s ad calling for the blood of innocent youth just demonstrates that the candidate has always liked “law and order”:

enltrSen. Sessions: Central Park Five Ad Shows Trump Has Always Believed In Law And Order https://t.co/iHIM46y33a[https://t.co/iHIM46y33a] via @buzzfeednews[https://twitter.com/BuzzFeedNews]

— Ben Smith (@BuzzFeedBen) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/BuzzFeedBen/status/784432297663721473]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.49pm BST

block-time published-time 5.13pm BST

61% of likely voters in Ohio would like to see Trump's taxes please – poll “Keep the tax returns coming,” tweets the New York Times reporter whose receipt in the mail of Trump’s 1995 taxes revealed that he declared personal losses of $916m that year potentially allowing him to duck federal taxes for years and years afterwards:

enltrLoving all the mail. Keep the tax returns coming. Also accepting transcripts of Clinton's speeches & info on Jimmy Hoffa's whereabouts #USPS[https://twitter.com/hashtag/USPS?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/uOSp7Gg2zH[https://t.co/uOSp7Gg2zH]

— Susanne Craig (@susannecraig) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/susannecraig/status/784143795323539457]Likely voters in Ohio agree 61%-25%, according to a Public Policy Survey of likely Ohio voters released[http://www.publicpolicypolling.com/main/2016/10/tight-race-for-president-in-ohio.html] on Thursday:

Only 35% of voters in the state think Trump pays his fair share in federal income taxes, to 47% who think he doesn’t. Among those who don’t think Trump pays his fair share, he’s trailing Clinton 77-9. A plurality of voters in Ohio- 45%- think they personally pay more in taxes than Trump does to only 34% of voters who think Trump pays more. There continues to be a strong consensus among voters that Trump should release his returns- 61% say he ought to do that, to only 25% who don’t think it’s necessary. Of course one reason for his reluctance may be that releasing his returns could confirm a suspicion that voters have about Trump’s finances- only 35% believe that he’s as rich as he says he is.

PPP’s poll had Clinton leading by a single point, 48-47, in a two-way race in Ohio, with a margin of error of +/- 3.5%.

That eensy-weensy margin comports with the polling averages – although we note that three of the four most recent major polls of Ohio voters have Clinton in the lead.

HuffPost Pollster’s average of polls of a two-way presidential race in Ohio, a must-win for Trump. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster Here’s some further reading via 538: Maybe it’s time for Ohio and Pennsylvania to part ways[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/election-update-maybe-its-time-for-ohio-and-pennsylvania-to-part-ways/]

block-time published-time 4.57pm BST

Vice president Joe Biden is scheduled to appear soon in Bristol Township, Pennsylvania, in the Philadelphia suburbs, to talk about Hillary Clinton.

Here’s a live stream:

block-time published-time 4.43pm BST

Latino polling group sees unprecedented move toward Clinton Latino voters are preparing to break for Hillary Clinton in the most lopsided way since the advent of reliable records in 1980, according to new surveys by the politics and polling group Latino Decisions[http://www.latinodecisions.com/blog/2016/10/06/ld-vote-predict-2016-latino-voters-poised-to-cast-most-lopsided-presidential-vote-on-record/].

The group predicts a national split of the Latino vote, which comprises many subgroups of voters, of 82% for Clinton and 15% for Donald Trump.

“We are highly confident that—barring any major unforeseen change—Trump’s Latino vote will fall between 9.5% and 20.5%,” the group says. “Today, our model estimates 82% vote for Clinton and we are highly confident that it will be somewhere between 76.5% and 87.5%.”

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said Thursday that among Hispanics in Florida, vote-by-mail requests were up 77% compared with the same point in 2012.

Separately, the Clinton campaign released a new video spot featuring Salma Hayek urging Latinos to vote – for Clinton:

esltr"Podemos demostrar que somos una comunidad poderosa. We can prove that we are a mighty community." — @SalmaHayek[https://twitter.com/salmahayek] ? https://t.co/tTgeqxNqYm[https://t.co/tTgeqxNqYm] pic.twitter.com/6eBe5fXQ3n[https://t.co/6eBe5fXQ3n]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/784233438261968896](h/t @mikeelliotbarry[https://twitter.com/MikeElliotBarry?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 4.19pm BST

Clinton on hurricane: 'stay safe' The Clinton campaign has released a new statement on hurricane Matthew, issued in the name of the candidate:

My thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the path of Hurricane Matthew, and my heart is broken for the victims and their families in Haiti, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Florida.

This is a serious storm, and it has already caused serious damage. If you get an evacuation order, please follow it immediately. Bring any important documents, medicines, and your pets with you. Listen carefully to instructions from local and national officials. And if you’re not sure what to do, please visit ready.gov[http://ready.gov/] for tips on staying safe.

To all our local campaign staff, volunteers, and supporters: Please take care of yourselves and your neighbors – nothing is more important than that. To our extraordinary first responders and everyone working to prepare for and respond to the storm: We’re so grateful for your courage and sacrifice, especially in times like these.

And to the people of Florida and the Southeast, and everyone in the eye of the storm: Stay safe, and know that America is with you. In times of disaster, we pull together. We’ll have your back every step of the way – today, and in the weeks and months to come.

block-time published-time 3.53pm BST

Trump: 'they’re letting people pour into the country so they can go and vote' To this point, Donald Trump has painted **immigration** mainly as a security threat, and as a threat to American jobs, in both cases counterfactually.

On Friday morning, however, in a meeting with a union representing border patrol agents, Trump floated a new conspiracy theory, saying that **immigration**officials are trying to expand the pool of American voters.

“They are letting people pour into this country so they can go and vote,” Trump said.

Trump directly challenged the media to report his remarks, which followed comments by union vice president Art Del Cueto in a meeting in Trump Tower. The meeting was reported on by a pool of journalists assigned to Trump.

Del Cueto told Trump that “**immigration** is so tied up with trying to get the people who are on the waiting list to hurry up and get them their **immigration** status corrected.”

“Why?” asked Trump.

“So they can go ahead and vote before the election,” replied Del Cueto.

“Big statement, fellas,” Trump said, motioning to reporters. “You’re not going to write it. That’s huge. But they’re letting people pour into the country so they can go and vote.”

Del Cueto has appeared on Fox News as a supportive commentator for segments such as this Bill O’Reilly report titled “Southern Border Chaos.”

Del Cueto has not always been a Trump supporter. He signed a letter[http://www.bpunion.org/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/1787-national-border-patrol-council-statement-on-trump-s-visit-to-laredo] issued by the union in July 2015 objecting to a quickie Trump trip to the border area in Laredo, Texas.

“Trump’s comments deriding the military service of our friend John McCain are disrespectful not just to the Senator but to all veterans, many of whom serve as Border Patrol agents,” the letter said.

The border patrol union endorsed Trump[http://www.bpunion.org/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/1824-national-border-patrol-council-endorses-donald-trump-for-president] in March.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.00pm BST

block-time published-time 3.29pm BST

Evangelicals oppose Trump: 'we cannot ignore this bigotry' A group of 94 evangelical leaders has published an open letter declaring they “will not tolerate the racial, religious, and gender bigotry that Donald Trump has consistently and deliberately fueled, no matter how else we choose to vote or not to vote.”

Significant support from evangelicals help power Trump primary victories from Iowa through the southeast, and Pew research found in July[http://www.pewforum.org/2016/07/13/evangelicals-rally-to-trump-religious-nones-back-clinton/] “that despite the professed wariness toward Trump among many high-profile evangelical Christian leaders, evangelicals as a whole are, if anything, even more strongly supportive of Trump than they were of Mitt Romney at a similar point in the 2012 campaign.”

In a letter posted at change.org[https://www.change.org/p/donald-trump-a-declaration-by-american-evangelicals-concerning-donald-trumpposted%20to%20change.org,%20has], the dissenting group of pastors says, “We believe the candidacy of Donald J. Trump has given voice to a movement that affirms racist elements in white culture—both explicit and implicit.”

The letter continues:

Mr. Trump has fueled white American nationalism with xenophobic appeals and religious intolerance at the expense of gospel values, democratic principles, and important international relationships. He mocks women and the sanctity of marriage vows, disregards facts and the accountability to truth, and worships wealth and shameful materialism, while taking our weakening culture of civility to nearly unprecedented levels with continuing personal attacks on others, including attacking a federal judge based purely on his Mexican heritage, mocking a disabled reporter, and humiliating a beauty pageant winner for her weight and Latina ethnicity—to give just a few examples....

For this reason, we cannot ignore this bigotry, set it aside, just focus on other issues, or forget the things Mr. Trump has consistently said and done.

Read the full letter here[https://www.change.org/p/donald-trump-a-declaration-by-american-evangelicals-concerning-donald-trump].

block-time published-time 3.16pm BST

British bookmaker takes record bet on Clinton to win The British bookmaker William Hill reports that it has accepted “the biggest bet ever staked on either the UK general or US presidential elections” – a 550,000 euro wager ($615,310) on Hillary Clinton to become president, at odds of 4/11 (73% chance of success).

The bettor stands to profit 200,000 euros. If the bettor wins.

enltrBookmaker William Hill reveal they've taken a record €550,000 ($615,000) bet from 46 year old woman on Hillary Clinton to win, odds of 4/11.

— Dan Roberts (@RobertsDan) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/RobertsDan/status/784381604575739905]The Irish bookmaker Paddy Power paid out more than $140,000 to customers who bet that Donald Trump would win the Republican presidential nomination.

William Hill says “the biggest bet ever placed on any political event remains the £900,000 gambled on the outcome of the 2014 Scottish referendum by a client from southwest London who was successful and received a payout of £1,093,333.33.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.17pm BST

block-time published-time 1.24pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. The presidential campaigns issued statements of support for residents of south-east Florida as Hurricane Matthew barreled in[https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2016/oct/06/hurricane-matthew-storm-florida-haiti-live-updates], knocking out power in hundreds of thousands of homes.

“Please know that we are praying for you and everyone in the path,” Donald Trump said last night at a town hall event in New Hampshire. “You’ve got to take care of yourself, you’ve got to get out of the area, you’ve got to listen.”

Hillary Clinton, who was speaking at fundraising events in New York, tweeted: “Hurricane Matthew is a major storm... Stay safe Florida.”

Florida governor Rick Scott, a Republican, rejected an emergency request by the Clinton campaign for more time to register voters once the hurricane passes (the Florida registration deadline is 11 October). South Carolina’s Republican governor, Nikki Haley, extended registration in the state, which also was under hurricane warning, from 8 October to 11 October. The Trump team pulled its negative TV ads in Florida, AP reported, and Clinton’s campaign delayed[http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/oct/6/clinton-delays-weather-channel-ads-matthew/] a planned series of Weather Channel ads.

Debate prep day Neither Trump nor Clinton has any public events scheduled for today, with the second debate coming on Sunday. But Clinton’s army of surrogates will continue its march, with vice-president Joe Biden and senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren all deployed, including a double event for Sanders in New Hampshire.

Trump wins debate without opponents Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] prepared for Sunday’s town hall-style debate with Hillary Clinton by insisting he wasn’t preparing for it, reported Guardian politics reporter Ben Jacobs.

At a town hall in Sandown, New Hampshire, questions were written down by an invited audience and then read by moderator Howie Carr, a pro-Trump talk show host in New England.

There was even a timer that kept Trump from talking for more than two minutes at a time.

But the Republican nominee insisting he wasn’t preparing for his next bout with Hillary Clinton. “This has nothing to do with Sunday,” Trump insisted.

He even complained about the media hype around his debate preparations. “Even tonight they said ‘Donald Trump is going to New Hampshire to practice for Sunday’ … it’s like they make you into a child.

“You really think Hillary Clinton is debate prepping for three or four days? She is resting … she wants to build up her energy for Sunday night and that’s fine.”

‘That’s not debate prep, she’s resting’ “And I want to be with the American people. I want to be with the people from New Hampshire, and she wants to rest” – Donald Trump

Trump scoffs at Clinton’s debate preparation – video[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-new-hampshire-hillary-clinton-debate-preparation-video]enltr @TheRickWilson[https://twitter.com/TheRickWilson] @dcexaminer[https://twitter.com/dcexaminer] "Studying is for nerds" - A real presidential candidate

— Andrew Kirk (@AJSKirk) October 7, 2016[https://twitter.com/AJSKirk/status/784362079490670592] Related: Donald Trump the clear winner in New Hampshire debate featuring only himself[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/07/donald-trump-the-clear-winner-in-town-hall-debate-featuring-only-himself]

Thanks for reading and please join us in the comments.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**New interactive museum will be first building constructed on island in decades and part of $70m will be funded by private donations

In an election year where **immigration** and talks of building a wall between the US and Mexico dominate, the unveiling of plans on Thursday for a new $70m Statue of Liberty museum to be built honoring liberty and mass migration seemed particularly timely.

“Lady Liberty is a symbol of everything America’s about: freedom, hope, possibility and resilience,” said designer Diane von Furstenberg, chair of the fundraising campaign raising money for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation.

“What she represents out there is everything we love about this country and everything that has to be protected,” said Von Furstenberg.

Related: The Statue of Liberty was built to welcome **immigrants** – that welcome must not end | Dave Eggers[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/04/the-statue-of-liberty-immigrants-independence-day]

Designs for the new Statue of Liberty museum, created by the foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, were revealed at a press conference on the grounds of Liberty Island on Thursday morning.

It’s the first building to be constructed on the island in decades and there will be an interactive museum that discusses the ideals of liberty and **immigration**, and will also showcase the original torch, which was replaced in the 1980s.

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French government, given in 1886, and visited by 4.3 million people every year. A plaque on the statue reads: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Mayor Bill de Blasio attended the event, noting that his grandmother came from Italy as a young **immigrant** and passed the statute on her way to Ellis Island. He noted that most **immigrants** “experience some form of exclusion of discrimination” and directly referenced the upcoming presidential election.

“Look at the year 2016, I don’t need to overanalyze it or say anything more too pointed; I can say we’re still trying to figure out who we are in this country. We’re still fundamentally questioning and debating what **immigration** means to us,” said De Blasio.

The mayor said he hoped the museum would help Americans “come to peace with the fullness of what we are”.

And museum “godmother” Furstenberg has been busy convincing her rich and famous friends to cough up $100m in funding to help pay for the museum and Liberty Island renovations.

Her idea was to create an artwork using the original iron bars forged under the supervision of engineer Gustave Eiffel, designer of the Statute of Liberty and another well-known tower in Paris.

Related: New York City unveils Statue of Liberty: archive, 29 October 1886[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/oct/29/new-york-city-statue-of-liberty-1886]

The hand-forged bars will be sculpted into a mural of 50 stars, after the American flag, and appear in the entrance of the museum. Donors can purchase a star – each one costs $2m – and get information about their family history displayed.

“People like what is limited,” said Von Furstenberg, a lucrative designer who knows how to combine business with art.

She reeled off a list of names of friends and companies she’s already had agree to chip in, including billionaire Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and owner of the Washington Post, who will donate in honor of his father, a Cuban **immigrant**.

“Then I went to Chanel – Coco Chanel, French, makes sense, right? So I got that. I went to Coca Cola, that was obvious,” said Von Furstenberg.

Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg – “He was my first call,” said Von Furstenberg – said yes, as did Brian Roberts, the CEO of Comcast; the billionaire Tisch family; and businesswoman Mellody Hobson and her husband, Star Wars creator George Lucas, who will dedicate their star to the late Muhammad Ali.

“I don’t know a lot of people who say no to Diane von Furstenberg. I do not advise it,” said De Blasio.

The museum will be designed by architecture firm FXFOWLE, with their plans showing a raised roof garden that will also serve as a viewing platform of downtown Manhattan.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Clinton supporters step up efforts for their candidate as Trump says ‘Nevada’ wrong – and Fox News hosts spar over election‘Trump only goes on Hannity’: Kelly clashes with Fox News colleagueTrump and Clinton return to center stage after lackluster VP debate

block-time published-time 2.38am BST

Today in Campaign 2016 Donald Trump holds up polling data. Photograph: Mary Schwalm/AFP/Getty Images

\* So much for every Republican running away from Trump. House speaker Paul Ryan will campaign with the presidential nominee in his home district in Wisconsin on Saturday, according to a statement from his office. Rather hilariously – no, let’s go with quite hilariously – given Ryan’s chronic bobbling[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/paul-ryan-not-talking-about-trump\_us\_573f1225e4b0613b5129f74b?by8kwc4qjlaexw29] of the Trump question, the statement advises that “all questions related to Mr. Trump should be directed to the Trump campaign.”

\* At the end of the first presidential debate last week, Donald Trump patted himself on the back for not bringing up some unnamed thing relating to the Clinton family, which pretty clearly was Bill Clinton’s infidelities. After the debate, Trump continued to pat himself on the back for not bringing up Clinton’s infidelities, which most political analysts agreed[http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/30/politics/donald-trump-women/] was not a fight that would end well for him. Now Trump has definitively declared – on Page Six of the New York Post[http://pagesix.com/2016/10/05/trump-i-wont-mention-bill-clintons-past-at-next-debate/] – that he will NOT bring up “Bill Clinton’s past”: “I want to win this election on my policies for the future, not on Bill Clinton’s past,” Trump told Page Six via email. “Jobs, trade, ending illegal **immigration**, veteran care, and strengthening our military is what I really want to be talking about.”

\* Trump running mate Mike Pence this morning told CNN that Trump no longer supports a ban on Muslims entering the US but wants a ban on **immigrants** “from countries compromised by terrorism.”

\* “We’re going to suspend **immigration** from countries compromised by terrorism,” Pence said. CNN’s Chris Cuomo does a good job of pushing him: “But governor that is a finessed position,” Cuomo said, pointing out that Pence strongly condemned Trump’s call for a Muslim ban back when he was supporting Ted Cruz. “You condemned those comments. Why do you not condemn them now?” Pence laughed, as if no questions could be sillier. “Well because it’s not Donald Trump’s position now.”

block-time published-time 2.12am BST

Donald Trump’s core supporters may back his views on curbing **immigration** – but they disagree with him over global trade and US involvement in Nato, an opinion poll has found.

Trump has made opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal between the US and Asia a central theme of his populist campaign, but more of his base favour it (49%) than oppose it (46%), according to the 2016 Chicago Council on Global Affairs survey[https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/america-age-uncertainty?utm\_source=homepage&utm\_medium=post&utm\_campaign=ccs-report].

In another surprising finding, despite Senator Bernie Sanders’ vocal criticism of the TPP[http://www.npr.org/2016/07/03/484574128/sanders-centers-platform-fight-on-trans-pacific-trade-deal] during the Democratic primary, some 56% of his supporters back the agreement, as do 74% of Hillary Clinton’s.

The annual survey suggests a gap between the views of those who shout loudest during the presidential election and the more nuanced positions of many Democratic and Republican voters on the ground, most of whom want America to remain engaged with the world.

As expected, **immigration** does seem to be a vote winner for Trump, who has been accused of inciting hatred and violence. “ Trump’s rhetoric on **immigrants**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/30/trump-comments-mexico-rapists-planned-deposition-video] and refugees has most clearly struck a chord with his base,” notes the report, published on Thursday. “On each and every question concerning **immigration**, Trump’s core supporters are the least favorable.”

Related: Trump supporters split on his opposition to TPP, survey shows[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/06/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-tpp-survey]

block-time published-time 1.33am BST

The final question at Donald Trump’s town hall: “What is one of the earliest memories you had as a child?” The question is followed by a “Go, Donald!” from its asker.

He answers this question by discussing the vacancy on the supreme court.

Apparently, despite being spoon-fed handpicked softballs by a sycophantic moderator in a venue packed exclusively with supporters chosen by his campaign, Trump wasn’t that interested in treating tonight like actual preparation for Sunday night’s debate.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.34am BST

block-time published-time 1.31am BST

Pete from Nashua wants to know about social security! Specifically, how Hillary Clinton will bankrupt the programs by extending citizenship to undocumented **immigrants**.

“When they want to do their jobs, and, it’s much more difficult, and who’s gonna come out and endorse Trump?” Trump begins, before meandering into a discussion about the war on drugs. “If I win, and if I become president - first get the nomination, that happened - then become president, I’m gonna promise the people of New Hampshire that we’re gonna stop this crap coming into your state.”

block-time published-time 1.15am BST

Voter registration in Florida will not be extended, despite the arrival of Hurricane Matthew:

enltrRick Scott will not extend reg deadline due to storm, he says at presser, via @MAlexJohnson[https://twitter.com/MAlexJohnson] : "Everybody has had plenty of time to register."

— Alex Seitz-Wald (@aseitzwald) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/aseitzwald/status/784178507052093440]block-time published-time 1.12am BST

Next question, this time from Bob Swanson: Can you assure the American people that you are going to clean house at the FBI, Justice Department, State Department and the FDA?

“One of my favorite questions,” the “moderator” declares.

“What’s happened to the FBI and to the Justice Department at the highest level, honestly I think it’s one of the saddest things that’s happened to this country,” Trump says.

block-time published-time 1.05am BST

Next question: How do you define the income range for “middle class”?

“The middle class has been forgotten in this country,” Trump says, before drifting into talking about China for a spell. “I will tell you, it’s such a great question, because our middle class has been treated so badly by our politicians - it’s been forgotten.”

block-time published-time 1.03am BST

Next question in New Hampshire: What message do you have for Latinos deceived by the biased media to vote for Hillary Clinton?

(Yes, this is seriously a question in Donald Trump’s debate prep.)

“People that are here legally, they don’t want people coming across the border illegally taking their jobs, taking their homes, taking whatever they want to take,” Trump says. “We’re gonna do fantastic with the Hispanics - I believe that.”

“Doing well!” the moderator says.

block-time published-time 12.58am BST

Donald Trump’s “moderator” in the town hall that his campaign insists is not debate prep allows the first question - after noting that there is a two-minute clock he can use or not use, at Trump’s discretion - which asks of Trump whether he will amp up his criticism of Hillary Clinton, after “holding back” in the first debate.

“I think for good reason, I think for good reason,” Trump said. “Let’s see what happens, I mean, let’s see what happens. I think we’re all better off if we can do that.”

block-time published-time 12.46am BST

Donald Trump begins his “town hall” in New Hampshire by pumping his poll numbers in South Carolina – where he’s only five points ahead.

block-time published-time 12.41am BST

Donald Trump speaks at 'town hall' in Sandown, New Hampshire With a friendly moderator and a hand-picked crowd, Donald Trump hopes to prepare for Sunday night’s town-hall debate with Hillary Clinton tonight in New Hampshire. Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 12.18am BST

Donald Trump campaigns in Sandown, New Hampshire Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 11.18pm BST

That’s the wrong building.

enltrLooking forward to a great future... pic.twitter.com/5i1EkvThym[https://t.co/5i1EkvThym]

— Evan McMullin (@Evan\_McMullin) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Evan\_McMullin/status/784154406635712512]block-time published-time 10.50pm BST

Evan McMullin to announce running mate #NeverTrump spoiler candidate Evan McMullin, who joined the race for the White House in August, will announce the official selection of his running mate with only 33 days to go before the presidential election, according to Buzzfeed News[https://www.buzzfeed.com/mckaycoppins/evan-mcmullin-will-announce-gop-strategist-as-running-mate?utm\_term=.nfLXZXY2NR#.dnxn6nB0a7].

The choice is another little-known Republican: Mindy Finn[https://www.linkedin.com/in/mindyfinn], a Republican consultant who has advised the Republican National Committee and founder of conservative women’s organization Empowered Women whose LinkedIn page describes her as “a media strategist, an early founder of the digital democracy movement, and specializes in brand marketing, issue advocacy and civic reform.”

McMullin is running as an independent conservative alternative to Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/08/republican-evan-mcmullin-presidential-run-trump], backed by some of the Republican nominee’s most determined rightwing opponents.

block-time published-time 10.07pm BST

President Barack Obama is cutting short the sentences of 102 federal inmates as part of his ongoing push to grant clemency[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/03/obama-cuts-short-prison-sentences-commutations] during his final months in office.

The latest round brings to 774 the number of sentences Obama has commuted, including 590 this year. The White House says it is more than the previous 11 presidents put together.

Almost all of those receiving commutations were convicted of drug-related offenses. Most are considered non-violent offenders, although some were convicted of firearms charges in connection with drug crimes.

Many of the recipients had been serving life sentences.

But Obama is not setting them all free right away. Many of those receiving commutations will see their sentences end in October 2018, almost two years into the next president’s term.

block-time published-time 9.45pm BST

Update: Matt Drudge is now a Hurricane Matthew truther.

enltrHurricane Center has monopoly on data. No way of verifying claims. Nassau ground observations DID NOT match statements! 165mph gusts? WHERE?

— MATT DRUDGE (@DRUDGE) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/DRUDGE/status/784130444614705152]block-time published-time 9.43pm BST

For the first time in the history of presidential debates, the American public has the opportunity to vote for some of the questions that will be asked during Sunday night’s presidential debate.

Any one of the top 30 questions voted on the Open Debate Coalition’s website[https://presidentialopenquestions.com/] will be up for consideration - and some of them are making major waves[https://twitter.com/UncleRUSH/status/783872482583404544] on social media:

Which ones do you think should be asked?

block-time published-time 9.36pm BST

As Donald Trump’s campaign urges Floridians in Hurricane Matthew’s path to seek shelter, some of his supporters are apparently wondering whether the entire “strongest Florida storm in more than a century” thing is just a liberal conspiracy:

enltrThe deplorables are starting to wonder if govt has been lying to them about Hurricane Matthew intensity to make exaggerated point on climate

— MATT DRUDGE (@DRUDGE) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/DRUDGE/status/784121449606852608] This is, for the record, insanely dangerous.[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/06/hurricane-matthew-florida-preparations-evacuation]

block-time published-time 9.15pm BST

enltrPEAK TRUMP, asked about Yucca Mountain, read this whole thing: "And I will come very strongly one way or the other. I will have an opinion." pic.twitter.com/0K6H8XPFW0[https://t.co/0K6H8XPFW0]

— Sopan Deb (@SopanDeb) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/SopanDeb/status/783919560189673472]block-time published-time 8.56pm BST

With 32 days remaining until the US election, Hillary Clinton’s campaign is touting its advantage over opponent Donald Trump in the early voting process that is already underway in pivotal battleground states.

“We are certain that more voters are going to cast ballots in this election than any other election in our nation’s history,” Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook told reporters on a Thursday conference call, while predicting a historic show of early voting as well.

Hillary Clinton Photograph: Brian Snyder/Reuters Key swing states such as Nevada, North Carolina and Florida “could be decided before Election Day,” he added, stating the campaign’s objective to create an “insurmountable lead” by encouraging supporters to cast their ballots early.

Citing a 50% increase in vote-by-mail requests in Florida alone, compared with the same point in the race in 2012, Mook said the Clinton campaign was already succeeding in turning out its low propensity voters as opposed to Republicans.

Another significant development working in Democrats’ favor: An uptick in voter registration among African Americans and Hispanics. Vote-by-mail requests among Hispanics in Florida, for example, were up 77% since this juncture four years ago, Mook said.

The trend of more vote-by-mail requests extended to other demographics who have increasingly voted Democrat and might feel alienated by Trump, such as Asian Americans. Changes to strict voter ID laws in some battlegrounds, enacted by Republicans and found to disproportionately target minorities, would also help to boost Clinton’s campaign, Mook said.

“We think we have a superior turnout operation than Donald Trump does and early voting is the time when we can really put that to use and exploit that advantage that we have,” Mook said.

Republicans have historically dominated the process of voting early by mail. While Clinton’s campaign acknowledged Democrats were unlikely to overtake their opponents overall in early voting this cycle, they were optimistic about closing the gap.

Mook also said the campaign was requesting that officials in Florida extend its Oct. 11 voter registration deadline in light of Hurricane Matthew. The Category 4 deadly storm, which is making its up up the Florida coast, prompted its governor to declare a state of emergency.

Mook additionally previewed the next presidential debate, slated for Sunday evening in St. Louis, Missouri. While Clinton was near unanimously regarded as the winner of the first debate, Mook said the campaign did not anticipate Trump to be as undisciplined.

“We expect a more focused, more prepared Trump at this debate,” Mook said.

And while Trump has foreshadowed bringing up controversial issues such as Bill Clinton’s previous infidelities, Mook was less convinced. “We do not expect him to come with the personal and harsh attacks he’s been threatening,” he said.

block-time published-time 8.44pm BST

Bernie Sanders blasted Donald Trump as a billionaire who exemplifies a “corrupt American political system” in the Vermont senator’s first visit to Michigan on the campaign trail for Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] today.

Bernie Sanders. Photograph: Kelsey Kremer/AP At a local United Auto Workers chapter in Dearborn, the first of four campaign stops across the state, Sanders’ appearance on behalf of Clinton came several months after he eked out a shocking victory in Michigan’s primary election. But in his roughly 50-minute speech, Sanders stressed the importance of electing Clinton, declaring Trump’s policy agenda is “particularly dangerous and un-American”.

The Republican nominee, Sanders said, differs from any candidate in modern history for one reason: “The reason Trump’s campaign is particularly dangerous and un-American is that he has made the cornerstone of his campaign bigotry.”

He continued, “This campaign, what Trump is trying to do trying to win votes by dividing us up, by insulting the Latino brothers and sisters, by insulting the Muslim community, by every day hurling insults at women.”

Sanders said the revelation of Trump’s 1995 tax returns released last week[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/02/donald-trump-income-tax-returns-published] accomplished more in one day “than I have in a year” to illustrate the “corrupt” American economy.

Related: Sanders warns Michigan voters that Trump is 'dangerous and un-American'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/06/donald-trump-michigan-bernie-sanders-clinton-campaign]

block-time published-time 8.25pm BST

Donald Trump has issued a statement regarding the impending landfall of Hurricane Matthew:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in the path of Hurricane Matthew, namely in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, and we encourage everyone to listen to their Governors and local emergency officials urging the evacuations of at-risk coastal communities. These warnings are very, very serious – if your home is in the path of the hurricane and you are being advised to leave, you need to do so right now. Nothing is more important than the safety of your family.

I would also like to offer my thanks to the law enforcement, first responders and power crews making the necessary preparations for the storm and carrying out their plans to help our communities survive and recover in the aftermath.

I also want to extend my personal condolences to those families in Haiti who lost loved ones as this storm tore through their island. The news reports that over a hundred people are feared dead saddens us all, and the United States should offer our assistance to help our island neighbors.

Please stay safe.

block-time published-time 7.55pm BST

Pence says Trump no longer wants a Muslim ban Trump running mate Mike Pence this morning told CNN that Trump no longer supports a ban on Muslims entering the US but wants a ban on **immigrants** “from countries compromised by terrorism.”

Even before Tuesday’s debate, a large part of Pence’s job had become to describe Trump’s policies and views as less extreme than the candidate has described them (see the lengthy Sunday show footage of Pence taking questions about whether Trump still wants a “deportation force”).

“We’re going to suspend **immigration** from countries compromised by terrorism,” Pence says.

CNN’s Chris Cuomo does a good job of pushing him: “But governor that is a finessed position,” Cuomo says, pointing out that Pence strongly condemned Trump’s call for a Muslim ban back when he was supporting Ted Cruz.

“You condemned those comments. Why do you not condemn them now?”

Pence laughs, as if no questions could be sillier. “Well because it’s not Donald Trump’s position now.” Ha. Ha.

enltrWhy isn't Mike Pence condemning Trump's past call for a Muslim ban? "Because it's not Donald Trump's position now" https://t.co/9fAIpGXCd4[https://t.co/9fAIpGXCd4]

— New Day (@NewDay) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/NewDay/status/784014344958930944]enltrThe plan is still to ban **immigration** from Muslim-majority countries, which is based on religion. https://t.co/DQ4M1ZPrzW[https://t.co/DQ4M1ZPrzW]

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/784023456572645377]block-time published-time 7.40pm BST

Here is a mashup of Hillary Clinton and a bunch of other Democrats pronouncing “Nevada” correctly as Donald Trump, speaking to a Reno crowd last night, did not ( see earlier[https://twitter.com/allinwithchris/status/783828875230912512?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] ):

enltrHey @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump],

We made this video to help you pronounce Nev-AD-a! https://t.co/T1hQzrqaZx[https://t.co/T1hQzrqaZx]

— Tim Hogan (@timjhogan) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/timjhogan/status/784098942598340610]block-time published-time 7.32pm BST

A debate Wednesday in the interesting – or not[http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/10/05/65368/california-s-us-senate-race-unique-historic-and-ut/] – Democrat-on-Democrat US senate race in California, pitting state attorney general Kamala Harris, who leads in polls[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-california-senate-harris-vs-sanchez], against US representative Loretta Sanchez culminated with congresswoman Sanchez dabbing.

To wit:

enltrToday in 2016 election moments: US Senate candidate Rep. Loretta Sanchez dabbed after her closing statement in tonight's California debate pic.twitter.com/pZWIwiL9hm[https://t.co/pZWIwiL9hm]

— Max Tani (@maxwelltani) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/maxwelltani/status/783893258187509760]enltr @seungminkim[https://twitter.com/seungminkim] this: https://t.co/Ry3PTr8DKu[https://t.co/Ry3PTr8DKu]

— Michael Schwab (@michaelschwab13) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/michaelschwab13/status/784086175824900096]block-time published-time 7.23pm BST

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block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.23pm BST

block-time published-time 7.22pm BST

The man who ran Trump tower Here’s an eye-opening Associated Press report: Donald Trump once hired a convicted felon – a man who had tried to help a triple murderer break out of prison – to run Trump tower.

Here’s the top of the report:

Six years after George Gjieli left federal prison, where he’d been sent for trying to break out a triple murderer, Donald Trump gave him a job running Trump Tower, where the billionaire businessman lived and worked.

For a decade, the Albanian **immigrant**, whom federal prosecutors had described as having “utter disdain for the laws of our country,” was the live-in residential superintendent of Trump’s most prized Manhattan high-rise. Meanwhile, he was accused in court papers of coordinating a cash-for-jobs racket inside the building, an Associated Press review has found.

Some of the finest real estate in the world. Photograph: Mark Lennihan/AP Trump’s decision to entrust responsibility of his namesake Fifth Avenue skyscraper to Gjieli adds to a growing public accounting of men with questionable backgrounds whom Trump has hired or partnered with. The AP and others have reported they include a Mafia-linked government informant whom Trump named as a senior adviser and a convicted cocaine dealer whom Trump supported in a letter to a federal judge.

Gjieli, who said Trump wrote him a recommendation letter when he left Trump Tower in 2001, denied taking kickbacks including cash in envelopes delivered to his 29th floor office. In an interview, he called the allegations “bulls-t,” likely made by Romanian building workers harboring generations-old European ethnic rivalries.

The AP uncovered no evidence that Trump knew of money being paid for jobs. His presidential campaign spokeswoman, Hope Hicks, declined to address whether Trump ever conducted a background check before hiring Gjieli. She said Trump wasn’t familiar with the kickback allegations.

“Mr. Trump’s management style has led to the creation of one of the great private companies anywhere in the world,” she said.

Trump himself has said he cares more about his supervisors’ ability to get things done than their tactics or pasts, writing approvingly in his best-selling “Art of the Deal” about a “con man” project manager who likely stole $50,000 annually from the company, including from his secretaries’ funeral fund used to buy flowers.

“Even so, I was probably getting a bargain,” Trump wrote, saying the con man it was not Gjieli was a good manager.

Read the full piece here[http://bigstory.ap.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/article/84436a9fcb104bfd96c40fe9e2045cae/all-guys-pay-cash-jobs-alleged-inside-trump-tower].

block-time published-time 7.09pm BST

In an unusual development, Trump fliers appearing in mailboxes in Iowa, Colorado and Pennsylvania[https://twitter.com/randomsubu/status/784083391226470400] are listed as paid for by the New York state Republican party. It could indicate that polling in New York has convinced the local GOP that mailing these in-state would be a waste.

Lines are parallel if they are always the same distance apart and will never meet. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster Or maybe the phenomenon represents a jury-rigged coordination among the state parties or some other Trumpian disorganized logic.

enltrTrump campaign mail hitting Iowa mailboxes. Paid for by New York State GOP pic.twitter.com/2QJ2onwgcL[https://t.co/2QJ2onwgcL]

— Jason Noble (@jasonnobleDMR) October 5, 2016[https://twitter.com/jasonnobleDMR/status/783799213767299074]enltrNew Trump flier hitting CO mailboxes. Check out who paid for it. #copolitics[https://twitter.com/hashtag/copolitics?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/nLfTw2JQeu[https://t.co/nLfTw2JQeu]

— John Frank (@ByJohnFrank) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/ByJohnFrank/status/784078106403282944](h/t @bencjacobs[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 6.41pm BST

Trump works to hold Nevada In front of an energetic crowd at the Reno-Sparks convention center in Reno, Nevada, Trump on Wednesday sang a symphony composed largely of old favorites from his songbook: Nafta took up a large part of his speech, with the debates – either his last week[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-first-debate-winner] or his running mate’s on Tuesday – barely mentioned.

Pence, who was widely considered to have bested Kaine in the debate, merited only the barest of nods. “The problems we face as a country are immense – and, by the way, didn’t Mike Pence[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/mike-pence] do a great job?” The line did not get much of a cheer, and he did not mention his running mate again.

Nevada[https://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2016/08/state-factboxes/?id=NV]If Trump has suffered in national polling since his debate with Clinton last week, his supporters did not seem to mind. The atmosphere in Reno was almost festive, with the crowd engaging in Trump’s call-and-responses with gusto. “What’s my economic – my economic,” Trump said, pretending to forget, and the crowd shouted back: “Jobs! Jobs!”

Only when Trump asked if there were any Latinos in the room was the Republican candidate met with near-silence. Even the booing of the media – a ritual at Trump rallies – seemed milder and more good-natured than usual.

Read the full piece here[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/05/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-vp-debate] :

Related: Trump and Clinton return to center stage after lackluster VP debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/05/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-vp-debate]

enltrCan we please get these? pic.twitter.com/eNhhJq8I1a[https://t.co/eNhhJq8I1a]

— Michelle White (@MickyWhiteNV) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/MickyWhiteNV/status/783895328701448193] HuffPost Pollster’s average of polls of a two-way race in Nevada. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.43pm BST

block-time published-time 6.05pm BST

Anywhere but Washington: Maine edition As Hillary Clinton makes history while openly campaigning for gun law reform, the NRA faces possible defeat in a Maine referendum. Paul Lewis and Tom Silverstone travel to Maine, where a push for universal background checks is being bankrolled by billionaire Michael Bloomberg:

How firearm-loving Maine could defeat the gun lobby[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/05/gun-control-reform-maine-hillary-clinton-nra]block-time published-time 6.02pm BST

Trump tells Page Six he won't bring up Bill at second debate At the end of the first presidential debate last week, Donald Trump patted himself on the back for not bringing up some unnamed thing relating to the Clinton family, which pretty clearly was Bill Clinton’s infidelities.

After the debate, Trump continued to pat himself on the back for not bringing up Clinton’s infidelities, which most political analysts agreed[http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/30/politics/donald-trump-women/] was not a fight that would end well for him.

Now Trump has definitively declared – on Page Six of the New York Post[http://pagesix.com/2016/10/05/trump-i-wont-mention-bill-clintons-past-at-next-debate/] – that he will NOT bring up “Bill Clinton’s past”:

“I want to win this election on my policies for the future, not on Bill Clinton’s past,” Trump told Page Six via email. “Jobs, trade, ending illegal **immigration**, veteran care, and strengthening our military is what I really want to be talking about.”

Clinton at the US Open in Flushing, New York, in a September 8, 2000 handout photo. Photograph: HANDOUT/Reuters block-time published-time 5.54pm BST

Battleground states: North Carolina North Carolina[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/northcarolina] has been in the eye of many storms this year. The state of emergency declared by Governor Pat McCrory ahead of the expected arrival of Hurricane Matthew this weekend follows similar civil measures in September when the police killing of a black man set off a wave of angry protests on the streets of the state’s largest city, Charlotte.

Few of the tempests to sweep by in 2016 have defined the national mood quite as much, though, as the political maelstrom battering this state. A vital battleground in the presidential election, North Carolina could determine whether Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] manages to assemble enough angry white voters to make it all the way to the White House. A “bathroom ban” preventing transgender students from using toilets not matching the gender on their birth certificates has reopened the wounds of America’s culture wars, leading to a boycott by college sport authorities and protests from leading employers such as Apple, American Airlines and Bank of America.

But the conservative wave that allowed Republicans to take control of all layers of local government in the state is now threatening to drown the party itself. The fervour stoked by battles over gay rights, voter registration laws, and **immigration** is putting off many moderates[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/29/donald-trump-nascar-north-carolina-republicans] and could yet see Democrats win presidential, Senate and gubernatorial races here in November.

Related: Battleground states: North Carolina's sharp divides put election on knife-edge[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/06/battleground-states-north-carolina-trump-clinton-sharp-divisions]

What has made such controversies so shocking to many outsiders is that the Tar Heel state had long since stopped conforming to any easy stereotypes of a politically conservative southern backwater. The recent protests against the killing of Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte took place among gleaming downtown high-rises of the New South – race riots shattering the calm of what otherwise appears a diverse and progressive boomtown at the heart of one of America’s major transport and financial hubs.

Pride in North Carolina’s modern and open economy is still visible, despite the high-profile battles over sexual and racial equality. Drive into the state from the north, and road signs quickly herald its repeated ability to win Nobel prizes, celebrating last year’s award of the chemistry prize to a Turkish American biochemist, Aziz Sancar, based at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill. He proudly spoke of being a US Muslim at his acceptance speech and told a Turkish newspaper[http://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/aziz-sancar-i-am-proud-of-being-a-muslim-but-i-cannot-say-it-2367444] that Trump should not be allowed to obscure America’s multicultural progress in the eyes of the world.

NC[https://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2016/08/state-factboxes/?id=NC] Read the full piece here.[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/06/battleground-states-north-carolina-trump-clinton-sharp-divisions]

block-time published-time 5.30pm BST

'How Howard Stern owned Donald Trump' Here’s a perceptive piece by Virginia Heffernan in Politico, How Howard Stern Owned Donald Trump[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/10/howard-stern-donald-trump-2016-214322].

It was on shock-jock Stern’s radio show that Trump in 2002 said he supported the Iraq war, discussed the attractiveness of 12-year-old Paris Hilton and made some of his most nakedly sexist and craven pronouncements.

Stern hosting on Sirius Radio in 2006. Photograph: Getty Images Heffernan points out that Trump was really broke in the mid-1990s, perhaps somewhat desperate, and hungry for attention and celebrity. And then Stern used him, she writes:

This much-craved publicity, of course, came at price: Stern has long had a devilish talent for lulling guests into a false sense of security—and then luring them into rhetorical traps. He casts his guests in a burlesque he scripts for them, and cattle-prods them into playing their parts, first fawning over them until they feel like celebrities, then bringing down the hammer of humiliation. He’s a diabolically domineering scene partner. No interviewer has ever been as adroit with treacherous leading questions in the vein of “When did you stop beating your wife?” Stern, in other words, gets people to publicly embrace their worst selves—and say things they live to regret.

That’s exactly what happened with Trump. Today, as the Republican nominee, he may fashion himself as a boss and a master of the universe. But what comes across in old tapes of the show, resurfaced recently by BuzzFeed and other outlets, is that Trump, like many of Stern’s guests, was often the one being played. By nailing him as a buffoon and then—unkindest cut—forcing him to kiss the Howard Stern ring, Stern and his co-anchor, Robin Quivers, created a series of broadcasts that today showcase not just Trump’s misogyny but his ready submission to sharper minds.

Read the full piece here[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/10/howard-stern-donald-trump-2016-214322#ixzz4MK5DCjOP].

block-time published-time 5.06pm BST

Paul Ryan to campaign with Donald Trump So much for every Republican running away from Trump. House speaker Paul Ryan will campaign with the presidential nominee in his home district in Wisconsin on Saturday, according to a statement from his office.

Rather hilariously – no, let’s go with quite hilariously – given Ryan’s chronic bobbling[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/paul-ryan-not-talking-about-trump\_us\_573f1225e4b0613b5129f74b?by8kwc4qjlaexw29] of the Trump question, the statement advises that “all questions related to Mr. Trump should be directed to the Trump campaign.”

For some reason it’s difficult to find a photo of Paul Ryan and Donald Trump together. Here’s a composite:

Trump, two hands, Ryan, one hand. Composite: AFP & AP Read further: Paul Ryan: So handsome, so sad[https://www.buzzfeed.com/mckaycoppins/paul-d-ryan-so-handsome-so-sad]

block-time published-time 4.56pm BST

Senator Ted Cruz, who courageously refused to endorse Donald Trump onstage at the Republican national convention, only to be called to heel after it became clear that the non-endorsement was hurting him more than Trump – here Cruz phone banks under a bunch of Trump signs. Does this really humiliate Ted Cruz, though? Does anything...

enltrThe final humiliation pic.twitter.com/NvSQGKRAUL[https://t.co/NvSQGKRAUL]

— Liam Donovan (@LPDonovan) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/LPDonovan/status/784031314399887360]block-time published-time 4.51pm BST

State polls look good for Clinton We went looking for good news for Trump in the latest state polls. Instead we found a bunch of strong polls for Clinton. Every arrow seems to point in one direction: Clinton is gaining strength. Note that most of the following state snapshots represent one poll and that you should always consult the averages[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster] before acquitting yourself of an opinion about the state of the race.

Florida:

enltrThe UNF poll--a good one--shows Clinton+3 in Florida two-way, +7 in the two-way https://t.co/CZJV3jpC8z[https://t.co/CZJV3jpC8z]

— Nate Cohn (@Nate\_Cohn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Nate\_Cohn/status/784026877765844992]North Carolina:

enltrNorth Carolina Is becoming a problem for Trump: https://t.co/RAHINo46OZ[https://t.co/RAHINo46OZ] pic.twitter.com/7ZSKoUzeGi[https://t.co/7ZSKoUzeGi]

— FiveThirtyEight (@FiveThirtyEight) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/FiveThirtyEight/status/784043284758880256]Michigan:

enltrBig lead for clinton in latest Freep poll: https://t.co/mAd9uQzCG3[https://t.co/mAd9uQzCG3] via @freep[https://twitter.com/freep]

— Kathy Gray (@michpoligal) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/michpoligal/status/784028910099005440]Arizona:

enltrTPM Electoral Scoreboard Moves to Clinton 323, Trump 186 as Arizona Moves from Trump to Toss Up https://t.co/TqnIwFS0Je[https://t.co/TqnIwFS0Je] via @TPM[https://twitter.com/TPM]

— Josh Marshall (@joshtpm) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/joshtpm/status/784035035003416576]Iowa:

enltrHey, Iowa back in (light) blue on @FiveThirtyEight[https://twitter.com/FiveThirtyEight] predictor pic.twitter.com/LshT7ojbdW[https://t.co/LshT7ojbdW]

— Iowa Starting Line (@IAStartingLine) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/IAStartingLine/status/784038385090297856]enltrIf the election result matched current RCP averages: Clinton would win, 323 to 215. https://t.co/BCmurahs0D[https://t.co/BCmurahs0D]

— EV Tracker (@ev\_tracker) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/ev\_tracker/status/784032053012475905] Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway is first a pollster, and she has an argument to make: the pollsters are missing Trump supporters, who don’t want to tell anyone, much less strangers asking a bunch of nosy questions, about their political opinions. The shy Tory effect.

Could be?

enltrWill Trump's poll-shy fans surprise elites? @CNN[https://twitter.com/CNN] https://t.co/UR7wou2TlS[https://t.co/UR7wou2TlS]

— Kellyanne Conway (@KellyannePolls) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls/status/784030997427916800]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.53pm BST

block-time published-time 4.15pm BST

Trump loosens Republican grip on senate Uh-oh. A month before the election, incumbent Republican senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, who is up for reelection, has had to make an “I’m not perfect” ad:

Standing Up In a debate on Monday night against challenger Maggie Hassan, the Democratic governor, Ayotte was asked whether Donald Trump would be a good role model for children.

“Absolutely,” she replied. Ayotte, a centrist Republican, has been trying to have Trump both ways all year, saying she would vote for him but not endorse him.

Quickly after the debate, Ayotte sought to walk back her statement about Trump, saying that she had misspoken.

But Hassan is out this morning with an ad seeking to pin her more closely to the top of the ticket:

“Absolutely” A HuffPost Pollster average of polls in the senate race has it tied[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-new-hampshire-ayotte-vs-hassan] :

HuffPost Pollster polling average of the Senate race in New Hampshire. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster An Ayotte loss would be a significant blow to Republican efforts to hold the senate. The Democrats need to flip four seats – and for Clinton to win the presidency – to gain control of the senate. (If the Democrats get four seats, a 50-50 tie would be established, with straight party-line votes thereafter being resolved by the vice president, whoever he may end up being.)

The Democrats look very likely to flip in Illinois and Wisconsin. But they may lose the Nevada seat of retiring minority leader Harry Reid. So they may need at least three more wins from among the five states of Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri, Pennsylvania or New Hampshire. To see a map with further analysis, pay a visit to Sabato’s Crystal Ball[http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/2016-senate/].

Republicans are worried that Trump is screwing up their chances of holding onto Congress, report Jonathan Martin and Alexander Burns today in the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/donald-trump-campaign.html] :

Donald J. Trump[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/us/elections/donald-trump-on-the-issues.html?inline=nyt-per] ’s support has plunged across the swing-state map over the last 10 days, wiping out his political recovery from September and threatening to undo weeks of Republican gains in the battle for control of Congress. [...]

Mr. Trump has already slipped perceptibly in public polls, trailing widely this week in Pennsylvania and by smaller margins in Florida and North Carolina — three states he cannot afford to lose. But private polling by both parties shows an even more precipitous drop, especially among independent voters, moderate Republicans and women, according to a dozen strategists from both parties who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the data was confidential.

Read the full piece here[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/donald-trump-campaign.html].

Update:

enltrNew: 30 former GOP members of Congress come out against Trump, saying they won't vote for him. pic.twitter.com/7H3Nyi5pDI[https://t.co/7H3Nyi5pDI]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/784047532833923072]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.28pm BST

block-time published-time 3.45pm BST

Here’s New York Daily News editorial cartoonist Bill Bramhall[https://twitter.com/BillBramhall] on the veep debate:

enltrHere's today's @billbramhall[https://twitter.com/BillBramhall] cartoon: https://t.co/6jDB4vdsnd[https://t.co/6jDB4vdsnd] pic.twitter.com/x1iVC8aCTJ[https://t.co/x1iVC8aCTJ]

— Josh Greenman (@joshgreenman) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/joshgreenman/status/784029606378672128]block-time published-time 3.31pm BST

We really don’t want to know any more about this apparent meeting between comedienne Rosie O’Donnell and the daughter of a man with whom she is engaged in an ongoing and epic flame war – “orange anus,” she called him last month[https://twitter.com/rosie/status/780616540395859968] – except that it happened and they appear to have gotten along just fine. #healing #bless

enltr @IvankaTrump[https://twitter.com/IvankaTrump] in a city of 8 million - we meet face 2 face - i thank u 4 listening - mother 2 mother - on this new years week - my best 2 u

— Rosie (@Rosie) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Rosie/status/783848742759829510](thx @fahima\_haque[https://twitter.com/fahima\_haque?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor] )

block-time published-time 3.25pm BST

How charming is this guy? Trump told Nevada voters last night to please cling to life until Election Day.

“I don’t care how sick you are,” he said, “hang on till November 8th, get out and vote and then, all we’re going to say is, we love you and we’ll remember you always.”

Donald Trump urges terminally-ill voters to hang on until election[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/oct/06/donald-trump-urges-terminally-ill-voters-to-hang-on-until-election-video]The crowd is cracking up. But this is not only in questionable taste – it’s misleading. Dying voters in Nevada, where a large 69% majority of ballots were cast early in 2012, only have to make it until the opening of early voting on 22 October to make their support for Trump known before dying.

The Trump campaign, which isn’t very good at get-out-the-vote, seems rarely to brief the candidate on useful information like this that he might share with voters.

And yes, if you vote early and then die before election day, your vote still counts[https://www.quora.com/If-a-person-votes-early-then-dies-before-the-official-election-day-is-their-vote-counted]. America.

Then Trump spots an Elvis impersonator. Most Las Vegas rally ever.

block-time published-time 1.37pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. It’s 6 October, Barack Obama’s approval rating has touched a new second-term high of 55%, according to a CNN/ORC poll[https://twitter.com/Morning\_Joe/status/783987682288340992], and Hillary Clinton has a growing national lead of at least four points over Donald Trump in one[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-general-election-trump-vs-clinton], two[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/general\_election\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5491.html], three[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/us/elections/polls.html], four[http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/national-polls/] respected polling averages.

Which makes this new poll from Fairleigh Dickinson University /PublicMind an outlier:

enltrNational poll of likely voters: Clinton 50%, Trump 40% pic.twitter.com/u8LTxz2Vrn[https://t.co/u8LTxz2Vrn]

— Morning Joe (@Morning\_Joe) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Morning\_Joe/status/783989196939636736]Clinton supporters concerned that she might quit while she’s ahead might take heart in the facts that she continues to raise money, appear with down-ticket candidates at rallies across the country and produce new campaign ads, like two out this morning.

Here’s one directed by Lee Daniels (Monster’s Ball, Precious, The Butler, Empire):

enltrLee Daniels direct new Clinton ad, "What Will You Say", featuring African American stars talking about what's at stake in this election: pic.twitter.com/ODniz2O8gs[https://t.co/ODniz2O8gs]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/783838485585260544] Trump says ‘Nevada’ wrong Like daughter, like father[https://twitter.com/TeeMcSee/status/778980420226605056]. Donald Trump lectured a crowd in Reno, Nevada – a state he needs to win – last night about how to pronounce “Nevada”. But he said it wrong, it’s “Nevada” like a baby’s “dada” not a Tzara’s Dada. They take this very seriously[https://twitter.com/RalstonReports/status/783826804918390784?lang=en] in Nevada.

Here’s Trump spouting nonsense:

enltrTrump explains how to pronounce Nevada - the wrong way. #inners[https://twitter.com/hashtag/inners?src=hash] https://t.co/5ZlOEMEMzv[https://t.co/5ZlOEMEMzv]

— All In w/Chris Hayes (@allinwithchris) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/allinwithchris/status/783828875230912512]nlltrHarry Reid https://t.co/kawy6zSpUv[https://t.co/kawy6zSpUv] pic.twitter.com/NKhUG0iSZ3[https://t.co/NKhUG0iSZ3]

— Farhad Manjoo (@fmanjoo) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/fmanjoo/status/783864562105757698] Trump supporters shout down Holocaust denier Attendees at a Trump rally grew agitated that the media was interviewing the one guy seeking a platform for his theories about the Holocaust:

enltr"You're not speaking the truth for us!" A Trump supporter shouts down alt-right man in Reno. pic.twitter.com/67Y5O1wDzI[https://t.co/67Y5O1wDzI]

— Ali Vitali (@alivitali) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/alivitali/status/783829942438023168] Here’s another Clinton ad out this morning, made from home movie footage:

Top Fox talent spat This is more than just a public fight between top on-air talent at a national news network; this is a civil war inside the most powerful brand in “conservative” news, coming right after the network’s head was cut off, as Fox founder Roger Ailes succumbed to a sexual harassment scandal, but not before the network helped elevate a historically bad, in the judgment of many top Republicans[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/05/07/the-10-republicans-who-hate-donald-trump-the-most-ranked/], presidential nominee.

enltr @megynkelly[https://twitter.com/megynkelly] u should be mad at @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] Clearly you support her. And @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] did talk to u. https://t.co/vsQiNMgHut[https://t.co/vsQiNMgHut]

— Sean Hannity (@seanhannity) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/seanhannity/status/783850273420738560] Related: 'Trump only goes on Hannity': Megyn Kelly clashes with Fox News colleague[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/oct/06/trump-only-goes-on-hannity-megyn-kelly-clashes-with-friend-at-10-oclock]

This is going to hit Florida starting as soon as tonight:

enltrHurricane #Matthew[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Matthew?src=hash] is expected to intensify later tonight and Thursday: https://t.co/MdjzkqMQtl[https://t.co/MdjzkqMQtl] #scwx[https://twitter.com/hashtag/scwx?src=hash] #gawx[https://twitter.com/hashtag/gawx?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/Bwr7sfz4gJ[https://t.co/Bwr7sfz4gJ]

— NWS Charleston, SC (@NWSCharlestonSC) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/NWSCharlestonSC/status/783822189980225537]Thanks for reading and please join us in the comments.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.04pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Sterling has hit $1.2634, lowest since 1985, as Philip Hammond flies to New York to reassure US banks about BrexitHammond’s Bloomberg interviewSterling slides againExpert: Here comes the sterling crisisEl-Erian: I’d hate to be Hammond todayIntroduction: Chancellor heads to Wall Street

block-time published-time 6.05pm BST

European markets edge lower With investors cautious ahead of the US non=farm payroll numbers on Friday, markets slipped back once more. Brexit concerns and continuing weakness in the pound added to the nervousness, amid growing anxiety about whether the UK would stay in the single market. Things were not helped by a profit warning from budget airline easyJet. The final scores showed:

\* The FTSE 100 finished down 0.47% or 33.29 points at 6999.96

\* Germany’s Dax dipped 0.16% to 10,568.80

\* France’s Cac closed down 0.22% at 4480.10

\* Italy’s FTSE MIB was the exception, up 0.09% at 16,491.62

\* Spain’s Ibex ended down 0.24% at 8757.4

\* In Greece, the Athens market slipped 0.20% to 574.22

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is currently down 19 points or 0.1%.

Meanwhile the pound is down 0.85% at $1.2640 - off its worst level of $1.2623 - and 0.42% lower against the euro at €1.1324.

On that note it’s time to close for the evening. Thanks for all your comments, and we’ll be back tomorrow.

block-time published-time 5.51pm BST

IMF and World Bank defend free trade At the IMF and World Bank meeting, there has been a strong defence of globalisation. Larry Elliott reports:

The leaders of the International Monetary Fund [https://www.theguardian.com/business/imf] and the World Bank [https://www.theguardian.com/business/worldbank] have launched a strong defence of open markets and free trade, as concern grows that the Brexit vote and calls for protectionism in the US presidential election represent a backlash against globalisation.

Christine Lagarde[https://www.theguardian.com/world/christine-lagarde], the IMF’s managing director, said international trade had been a force for good in the past few decades but that without a more equal division of the benefits of growth there was a risk of barriers going back up.

As part of a concerted push back against protectionism, the World Bank’s president, Jim Yong Kim[https://www.theguardian.com/business/jim-yong-kim], said China had lifted 700 million people out of poverty as a result of trade and opening its economy to competition.

Kim said the UK’s vote to leave the European Union[https://www.theguardian.com/world/eu], the US presidential race and looming elections in Europe were adding to uncertainty. “These are all risks. Uncertainty is normally very bad for most developing countries.”

Outlining her global policy agenda, Lagarde said: “Policymakers should act and use a balanced mix of all policy levers to revive demand and raise productivity, and ensure the gains from technology and globalisation – which have led to unprecedented global welfare gains in recent decades – are shared more broadly.

“A retreat from globalisation and multilateralism is a serious risk at a time when international cooperation and coordination are as critical as ever.”

The full story is here:

Related: IMF and World Bank launch defence of open markets and free trade[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/06/imf-and-world-bank-launch-defence-of-open-markets-and-free-trade]

block-time published-time 5.21pm BST

Carney - May's comments not an attack on Bank Following UK prime minister Theresa May criticising the Bank of England’s quantitative easing programme and chancellor Philip Hammond’s subsequent comments backing Mark Carney to stay on at the Bank of England, the governor is defending himself in Washington.

He said he agreed with the spirit of May’s comments on QE and admitted monetary policy had “distributional consequences” but said it was not the job of the central bank to offset those.

And he said May’s comments were absolutely not an attack on the Bank’s independence.

As a reminder, this is what May said:

Because while monetary policy – with super-low interest rates and quantitative easing – provided the necessary emergency medicine after the financial crash, we have to acknowledge there have been some bad side effects.

People with assets have got richer. People without them have suffered. People with mortgages have found their debts cheaper. People with savings have found themselves poorer.

A change has got to come. And we are going to deliver it.

block-time published-time 4.49pm BST

FTSE 100 closes below 7000 - just Just days after all the excitement about the UK’s leading index soaring through the 7000 barrier and heading towards a new high, it has sagged back below that level with a bit of a whimper.

It has closed down 33.29 points at 6999.96 as the uncertainty over Britain’s exit from the European Union continued, with the trade off between migration controls and remaining in the single market still unresolved. Fears of a hard Brexit continued despite chancellor Philip Hammond maintaining the government would seek the right Brexit for both the UK and EU.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.51pm BST

block-time published-time 4.31pm BST

Better than expected US weekly jobless claims - coming ahead of Friday’s non-farm payroll numbers - have renewed talk that the Federal Reserve would have leeway to raise interest rates, and thus helped push the dollar higher.

That of course means the pound continues to be pressured, as if there were not enough negative noises around the UK currency. Jasper Lawler, market analyst at CMC Markets, said:

There were three G’s selling off in markets; the Great British pound, gilts and gold. An apparent shift in UK politics under the wing of Teresa May towards an interventionist and anti-business agenda was not received well in markets. The pound slid again in what has become a relentless barrage of selling, UK government bonds were sold and the FTSE 100 underperformed its European peers.

Comments from the German chancellor have also been taken as another sell signal for the pound.

enltrGerman chancellor #Merkel[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Merkel?src=hash] warns Britain over #Brexit[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Brexit?src=hash] terms. #TDI2016[https://twitter.com/hashtag/TDI2016?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/9beIvuzFYe[https://t.co/9beIvuzFYe]

— DW - Business (@dw\_business) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/dw\_business/status/783980361374167040]Connor Campbell at Spreadex said:

It seems that we are firmly back in Brexit-dominating territory – even the mildest squawkings from the news-wire are causing pain for the pound. Today it was the turn of Angela Merkel to make sterling’s life even more difficult, the German leader resolute in her claim that freedom of movement is a must if Britain wants to stand any chance of remaining in the single market.

This, alongside seemingly the very idea that Chancellor Phillip Hammond has had to make a trip to Wall Street to reassure US banks about London’s position as a financial hub post-Brexit, has led the pound to its latest 31 year nadir against the dollar and a 5 year low against the euro.

At the moment the pound is down 0.8% at $1.2646 and 0.47% lower against the euro at €1.1319.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.34pm BST

block-time published-time 4.12pm BST

Philip Hammond has also been on CNBC, reports Reuters:

Any future decision on whether the British government should approve another round of quantitative easing to spur the economy will be taken “carefully and cautiously,” finance minister Philip Hammond said on Thursday.

“I approved a round of quantitative easing back at the beginning of August as a response to the shock that the economy had felt, but we are conscious of the impacts that QE has and we will use it carefully and cautiously,” Hammond, who is currently in New York, said in a television interview with CNBC.

On Wednesday British Prime Minister Theresa May said low interest rates and quantitative easing have bad side-effects.

block-time published-time 3.49pm BST

And Reuters:

British finance minister Philip Hammond said on Thursday that he would focus on increasing the country’s economic output by improving productivity, but that overall growth could slow as Britain barred most low-skilled European Union migrants.

“What we need to drive is a growth in GDP per capita. We need to see our economic expansion coming from an improvement in productivity, not simply from bringing ever larger numbers of low skilled people into the economy,” Hammond said in an interview with Bloomberg TV in New York.

Economic data earlier on Thursday showed British productivity continued to lag other countries after several years in which growth has been driven by a growing workforce, which includes higher numbers of EU migrants.

Hammond also said Britain’s government was looking at the costs and benefits of remaining in a customs union with the EU, as being outside would have “frictional costs” for manufacturers such as carmakers.

block-time published-time 3.47pm BST

Here’s[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-06/brexit-has-long-term-benefits-u-k-chancellor-hammond-says] Bloomberg’s take on their interview with chancellor Philip Hammond:

The U.K. will use Brexit to build on historic trading relationships outside of the EU, Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond told Bloomberg TV in New York.

“We want to get the right Brexit for Britain,” Hammond told Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait.

He described the U.K. as “mid-Atlantic in the way it does business,” and said capitalism faced problems across the developed world.

“We have a problem, not just a British problem but a developed world problem, in keeping our populations engaged and supportive of our market capitalism economic model,” Hammond said.

Hammond, who is on a visit to U.S. to meet Wall Street bosses and attend meetings of the International Monetary Fund, said he would make protecting London’s financial sector a priority for him.

“It will be one of the U.K. government’s objectives to ensure that parts of the financial services sectors that are Europe-facing are able to continue doing business in Europe.”

enltrThere are long-term economic advantages to @Brexit[https://twitter.com/Brexit], Philip Hammond says https://t.co/KAo4N8YKEB[https://t.co/KAo4N8YKEB] pic.twitter.com/xhHqLjzm6a[https://t.co/xhHqLjzm6a]

— Bloomberg TV (@BloombergTV) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/BloombergTV/status/784039441073483776]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.55pm BST

block-time published-time 3.43pm BST

Philip Hammond may not want to disclose whether he thinks the value of sterling is too high or too low, but he might be pleased to know it has come off its lows of the day.

The pound is currently at $1.2646, down 0.8% on the day but above the new 31 year low of $1.2623 it reached earlier.

block-time published-time 3.39pm BST

Hammond backs Carney Question: Should Mark Carney (one of Britain’s best known foreign workers) stay on longer as Bank of England governor?

I think the governor is doing a good job. The bank is fulfilling its remit very effectively. It helped us recover from the financial crisis and helped us smooth the shock that came on 23rd June.

It is Mark Carney’s decision...I would welcome his decision to stay if that’s the decision he makes.

And there the interview ends.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.54pm BST

block-time published-time 3.36pm BST

Question: isn’t UK economy doing ok?

Media is focussing on backward data. UK economy was stronger than we thought.. but the concensus of forecasters is suggesting growth will slow as we go through period of negotiation until we have certainty over our position with EU.

Business investment is the key focus. Business postpones decisions if climate is uncertain. We want to bring back certainty as soon as we can.

block-time published-time 3.34pm BST

Question: Investment outside London?

We have a productivity problem in UK, and one of drivers is regional disparity. We are hugely underinvested in transport links [in northern region].

We will continue to support Northern powerhouse and other regions.

On infrastructure, lot is done by private sector. In public sector, we have an opportunity to borrow cheaply and we have further capacity for targeted investments in productive infrastructure. But with our debt to GDP ratio we cannot have unrestrained programme of public spending.

After shock of Brexit decision there will be a period of uncertainty, we have to support the economy through that.

block-time published-time 3.31pm BST

Question: Sterling gone down since Brexit. Does UK economy work at this level?

We don’t target exchange rate level. Market makes its judgement, and that can change quickly.

The market determines the appropriate level and we are committed to free floating exchange rate system.

block-time published-time 3.29pm BST

UK government is pro-business - Hammond Question: Theresa May seemed more critical of business than previous PMs. Is government anti-business?

Absolutely not. We are pro-business.

But we [Western economies} have a problem in keeping populations supportive of capital market model. People feel economy is not working for them, they are losers. We have to re-engage those people who feel they do not have a stake any more.

We have to address signs of a sizeable amount of people becoming disenchanted.

We have to deal with rogue operators. We have examples in UK of companies abusing market power, abusing workers. We have to deal with that.

PM said there is a limit to the power of government but doesn’t mean they have no power at all. They have to make sure markets work properly. Sending out strong message that best way to make people free and prosperous is to have a free liberal economy.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.57pm BST

block-time published-time 3.26pm BST

Question: is there any economic advantage to Brexit?

In the long term yes and outside the EU we will build on historic trading links. Our economy is more mid-Atlantic than Europe.

block-time published-time 3.24pm BST

One reaction so far:

enltrOffhand review from one American hedge fund manager about Hammond's talk: "well, he's a good \*politician."

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784030741449629696]block-time published-time 3.21pm BST

Question: EU will say you either get migration controls or single market. From conference it appears migration is more important.

Hammond: I don’t agree. There will be discussions and there will have to be give and take on both sides... if there is a solution that is advantageous to both sides. We don’t delude ourselves our European partners owe us any favours.

They still want access to UK market.

It has to be a win-win solution.

But we have to realise the Brexit vote said implicitly that we should not have freedom of movement in way we had in the past. That is about control, not saying people from Europe cannot come into the UK.

This is a negotiation, we both have our starting positions and will discuss it.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.22pm BST

block-time published-time 3.18pm BST

We have an economy heavily integrated with the EU after forty years.

One of things we have to do is analyse benefits and costs of being in a customs union.

block-time published-time 3.17pm BST

Question: could we not have a longer transition period that 2 years?

No doubt the process of negotiation is something we will begin to discuss. The arrangements for UK’s exit, and arrangements for future relations.

No one thought Article 50 would be used, it does not answer a lot of the questions.

block-time published-time 3.15pm BST

On passporting, allowing banks etc to trade across Europe:

There are different options, passporting, equivalents. It will be one of our objectives that financial services companies doing business in Europe can continue to do so.

block-time published-time 3.13pm BST

Problem is not highly skilled workers coming to UK - Hammond On the number of foreign workers being limited:

The problem is not highly skilled workers, banks, surgeons.. coming to the UK. The issue is people with low skills competing for entry level jobs.

Our economy is growing but GDP per capita is not. Have to drive that. We will need some low skilled people but our demographics are different to elsewhere in Europe. We have population still growing before **immigration**.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.11pm BST

block-time published-time 3.10pm BST

Financial services key part of economy - Hammond Hammond’s interview is live, and begins with Brexit and the worries of financial firms about what it will mean for them.

He says we don’t recognise a distinction between hard and soft Brexit. It has to be the right Brexit for UK and EU.

On financial services, he says it is an important part of the UK economy.

We’ll place high priority on right solution.

There are some specific needs and issues we have to understand.

On euro clearing, he said ECB tried before to force clearing to take place within EU, and the court said it had no power to make such a rule.

When Britain leaves EU, there will be countries not in euro but in EU requiring protection of single market. So not clear ECB could require euro clearing to be moved.

Hammond Photograph: Bloomberg TV block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.58pm BST

block-time published-time 3.01pm BST

And after Theresa May’s comments seen as critical of the Bank of England, Hammond seems more positive on governor Mark Carney:

enltrHammond @business[https://twitter.com/business] says BoE's Mark Carney will make decision in due course about whether to continue. He says he wud welcome Carney to stay.

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784029875497734144]block-time published-time 2.59pm BST

Philip Hammond’s interview should be available to watch here [http://www.bloomberg.com/live/europe] shortly.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.02pm BST

block-time published-time 2.56pm BST

And on the state of the UK economy following the Brexit vote:

enltrHammond says Britain's econ has "suffered a significant shock" from Brexit. Micklethwait challenges him. Hammond says media using old data

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784028901433602048]enltrHammond cites forecasts predicting slower economic growth during Brexit negotiations. He's most focused on lagging business investment

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784029230191509504]block-time published-time 2.55pm BST

enltrHammond believes UK could drive productivity by investing in infrastructure, increasing borrowing for "carefully targeted invstmnts"

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784028453905567746]block-time published-time 2.52pm BST

And following the UK productivity figures earlier[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/06/uk-productivity-back-at-pre-financial-crisis-level-office-for-national-statistics] :

enltrHammond says "we have a very big productivity problem in the UK" which he pins on regional inequities, not "harvesting" cities outside UK

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784028130608574464]enltrHammond believes UK could drive productivity by investing in infrastructure, increasing borrowing for "carefully targeted invstmnts"

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784028453905567746]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.53pm BST

block-time published-time 2.50pm BST

Interviewer John Micklethwait tackles Theresa May’s criticism of business in her Conservative party conference speech on Wednesday:

enltrMicklethwait says Theresa May has been more critical of business than PMs recently. Hammond says new govt is "pro-business" "pro free trade"

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784026888897433601]enltrUK's Hammond says it is "developed world problem" for "liberal capitalist" nations to respond to failures of globalization to local workers

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784027176538673153]block-time published-time 2.47pm BST

So Hammond is reinforcing the comments made by Theresa May over the weekend, which suggested **immigration** controls would take priority over remaining in the single market. ( Those comments of course started this week’s slide in the pound.)

enltrUK's Hammond says implicit in the Brexit referendum was "there has to be controls over how people from the European Union come into the UK."

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784026262775926784]block-time published-time 2.44pm BST

enltrHammond says he expects EU will say "the 4 freedoms are indivisible."

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784025965852786688] Earlier [https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/06/pound-sterling-chancellor-hammond-wall-street-charm-offensive-business-live?page=with:block-57f61062e4b08ebe3d55759c#block-57f61062e4b08ebe3d55759c] German chancellor Angela Merkel said that Europe’s four freedoms of movement – for labour, capital, services and goods – could not be split up.

If Europe didn’t stick to the position that full access to the internal market is conditioned on freedom of movement, Merkel said, each member state would start doing what it wanted.

block-time published-time 2.41pm BST

enltrUK's Hammond @business[https://twitter.com/business] says Article 50 was inserted without focus on detail because no one thought they would have to use it....

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784025075116871680]enltr...which means the UK has to create this process from scratch with the EU, Hammond suggests. https://t.co/O6Gb9qlHZj[https://t.co/O6Gb9qlHZj]

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784025244591857664]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.42pm BST

block-time published-time 2.37pm BST

enltr. @business[https://twitter.com/business] editor Micklethwait asks Hammond what abt **immigration** as an economic booster, which it is. Hammond replies UK wants to depend...

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784024032555458560]enltr...entirely on increasing productivity of existing workers rather than relying on **immigration** for growth. (My Q: why give up ANY growth?)

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784024202340884481]block-time published-time 2.36pm BST

UK chancellor Philip Hammond is speaking at Bloomberg and journalist Heidi Moore is tweeting the highlights:

enltrView from Bloomberg HQ before Philip Hammond, UK Chancellor of the… https://t.co/9YmofpMxXg[https://t.co/9YmofpMxXg]

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784020997729124352]enltrRoom waiting for Philip Hammond https://t.co/3X3QHohv4Q[https://t.co/3X3QHohv4Q]

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784021318656286723]enltrHammond: "When Britain leaves the Union, there will still be countries that don't use the euro and still...function within the single mkt"

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784023258253422592]And on whether euro-clearing activities would move out of the City of London after Brexit, he said:

enltrHammond: "if the ECB were to try its hand again to dictate the euro clearing process, would be a LEGAL process."

— Heidi N Moore (@moorehn) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/moorehn/status/784023583777587200]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.40pm BST

block-time published-time 2.32pm BST

IMF managing director Christine Lagarde has been giving her press conference ahead of the fund’s meeting in Washington. And in the wake of UK prime minister Theresa May calling for the benefits of globalisation to be shared by all, Lagarde said:

enltrNow is not the time to push back globalisation, says @Lagarde[https://twitter.com/Lagarde]. What with Brexit & US election, that’s the overarching theme of IMF meetings

— Ed Conway (@EdConwaySky) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/EdConwaySky/status/784016885926993924]block-time published-time 2.13pm BST

The value of British government debt is falling today, matching sterling’s selloff.

This has pushed up the interest rate, or yield, on 10-year gilts to 0.89%, from 0.82% yesterday.

That implies it would cost the government more to issue new debt.

enltrGilt yields up, GBP down. Not pleasant.

— Duncan Weldon (@DuncanWeldon) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/DuncanWeldon/status/784017965083688960]block-time published-time 1.44pm BST

America’s labour market continues to improve.

Just 249,000 US citizens filed new claims for unemployment benefit last week, down from 255,000.

That’s the lowest since April, and means the ‘four-week moving average’ of new claims has hit its lowest level in over 40 years;.

And that’s likely to help the US dollar strengthen, and mean more pain for the pound.

enltrThe 4-week moving average of U.S. initial jobless claims just hit its lowest level since 1973 https://t.co/eXgKcy6Of7[https://t.co/eXgKcy6Of7]

— Joe Weisenthal (@TheStalwart) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/TheStalwart/status/784008369988366336]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.53pm BST

block-time published-time 1.42pm BST

Over in Germany: Deutsche Bank has announced plans to cut 1,000 jobs in its domestic market, as part of a restructuring plan.

This takes the total of jobs being cut to 9,000, including 4,000 in Germany itself.

The restructuring is meant to cut Deutsche’s costs, and help it build up its capital reserves.

There’s still no word on the ongoing negotiations with the US authorities over a fine for mis-selling toxic mortgage-backed securities before the 2008 crisis.

enltrWhile you were lunching: Deutsche Bank announces extra 1,000 jobs to go in Germany https://t.co/NcgIqV3q6G[https://t.co/NcgIqV3q6G] @CNBCi[https://twitter.com/CNBCi]

— Louisa Bojesen (@louisabojesen) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/louisabojesen/status/784009834890989568]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.51pm BST

block-time published-time 1.32pm BST

Over in New York, traders are expecting Twitter’s shares to tumble when trading begins in one hour’s time.

Twitter’s shares are down 17% in pre-market trading, after the Recode website reported that Google is unlikely to bid for the social media platform[http://www.recode.net/2016/10/5/13179604/sources-google-will-not-make-a-twitter-bid-and-apple-also-an-unlikely-suitor].

enltrTwitter shares now down nearly 17% after Recode reports that Disney and Google won't bid for it https://t.co/y4xbLHykKA[https://t.co/y4xbLHykKA] pic.twitter.com/k4hTGoFoq1[https://t.co/k4hTGoFoq1]

— CNBC Now (@CNBCnow) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/CNBCnow/status/784008064210989058]block-time published-time 1.24pm BST

The pound’s still falling... down a whole cent today at $1.2640.

block-time published-time 12.59pm BST

Naeem Aslam, c hief market analyst at Think Markets UK, reckons sterling is being hit hard by speculators who are determined to drive it lower.

He says further losses are a real possibility:

Bears are out for blood and they want to squeeze every single drop out of this trade. Although this is the most crowded trade on the street today, but it is not preventing them to keep piling up their bets.

My biggest worry is that short squeeze can happen soon as we are approaching towards an important level of support which is at $1.25. However, if the selling pressure remains this aggressive, we could easily break this support and we could be looking at the level of $1.22.

enltrSo pound is now 1.266 against the dollar. Incredible stuff.

— Mark Scott (@markscott82) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/markscott82/status/783998059474739200]block-time published-time 12.36pm BST

Pound hits another 31-year low A wave of selling has just swept the pound down to a fresh 31-year low against the US dollar, just $1.2664.

That’s the weakest level since June 1985, and means sterling has lost more than three cents since Theresa May pledged to trigger article 50 by March 2017.

Here’s some chart action from the Financial Times’s Katie Martin:

enltrFor it was written, in the very specialised vomiting camel technical formation.

Sterling chucking up again.

$1.2663 pic.twitter.com/y8VTb16maP[https://t.co/y8VTb16maP]

— Katie Martin (@katie\_martin\_fx) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/katie\_martin\_fx/status/783992454479478784]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.21pm BST

block-time published-time 12.32pm BST

El-Erian: I'd hate to be Hammond today Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser to German investment giant Allianz, says Philip Hammond faces a very tricky mission today.

Speaking on Bloomberg TV, El-Erian says Hammond will have to justify Theresa May’s conference speech yesterday:

I would hate to be the chancellor right now. He has a hard job explaining what his prime minister just said.

Hammond has three tasks, El-Erian adds:

He has to explain the notion of hard Brexit, explain PM’s comments about the rootless international elite and the harm they create, and explain the criticism of the Bank of England.

Wall Street may find some of this surprising, El-Erian adds, given that (in his view) the UK has benefitted a lot from globalisation, and the government has benefitted from the Bank of England’s stimulus programme.

Without low interest rates and QE, May would be facing an economic mess, he concludes.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.32pm BST

block-time published-time 12.21pm BST

Sterling is coming under more pressure, falling by 0.6 of a cent to $1.2690, close to yesterday’s 31-year low.

enltrBritish pound back below $1.27 https://t.co/VblPM7fe7Z[https://t.co/VblPM7fe7Z] pic.twitter.com/yUxWg8d7je[https://t.co/yUxWg8d7je]

— Bloomberg Markets (@markets) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/markets/status/783988801416880128]block-time published-time 11.14am BST

Paresh Davdra, chief executive of foreign exchange firm RationalFX, says chancellor Hammond may get a sceptical reception from Wall Street bankers today:

Philip Hammond’s visit to Wall Street later today[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/06/pound-sterling-chancellor-hammond-wall-street-charm-offensive-business-live?page=with:block-57f5f228e4b0e2a2a25af768#block-57f5f228e4b0e2a2a25af768] will see the Chancellor try to convince the US’s biggest banks that Britain is open for business. It comes weeks after the Prime Minister’s own talks with Wall Street bankers and is the latest in a series of international visits from UK ministers in an attempt to allay fears over Brexit and drum up support for new trade. Although previously met with scepticism due to the uncertainty surrounding the UK’s exit from the EU, Hammond’s visit will be the first since the likelihood of a ‘hard’ Brexit by early 2017 was confirmed.

The Chancellor is expected to tell Wall Street that the UK is still a financial hub for global business. The challenge he will face will be in reassuring banks that the UK is indeed still a safe-bet investment in a week that has seen the pound plunge to a new three decade low against the dollar on the prospect of ‘hard’ Brexit and businesses within the City of London warn that it could cost the city £38 billion. Whilst a timetable for Brexit makes Hammond’s job easier in some respects, it remains to be seen if Wall Street can be convinced by him.”

block-time published-time 11.13am BST

The pound has dropped by 0.25% today but is still clinging onto the $1.27 level.

That’s above yesterday’s 31-year low, despite worries about a hard Brexit.

Theresa May’s broadside at ultra-low interest rates appears to be propping up sterling.

The pound vs the US dollar since 1980 Photograph: Thomson Reuters block-time published-time 10.42am BST

Over in Greece, the unemployment rate has dropped to a four-year low, but remains far too high.

The Greek jobless rate dipped to 23.2% in July from 23.4% in June – the lowest since March 2012, but more than double the eurozone average after years of austerity.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.44am BST

block-time published-time 10.25am BST

The pound continues to bob around the $1.273 mark, as traders wait for news of Philip Hammond’s meetings in New York.

That’s about half a cent above the 31-year low struck on Wednesday.

Angela Merkel’s comments about freedom of movement being intrinsic to the EU haven’t eased concerns about a ‘hard Brexit’.

And Theresa May’s attacks on the wealthy ‘global elite’ have also left City investors feeling vulnerable.

Chris Turner, the head of currency strategy at ING, explains:

May has pushed her party way across the centre ground – taking issue with self-serving individuals and businesses and appealing to the non-metropolitan voter.

That does not bode well for financial services in Brexit discussions.

( Thanks to Reuters for the quote )

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.43am BST

block-time published-time 9.59am BST

Merkel: Brexit negotiations won't be easy Newsflash from Berlin: the German chancellor Angela Merkel is telling industry leaders that Brexit is a “watershed moment” for the EU.

Merkel also says negotiations won’t be easy and will determine what access each side has to the other’s market. Talks cannot start until Britain triggers article 50, she says.

The chancellor also warns that Europe’s four freedoms of movement – for labour, capital, services and goods – can’t be split up.

If Europe doesn’t stick to the position that full access to the internal market is conditioned on freedom of movement, Merkel says, each member state will start doing what it wants.

enltrIn speech to German industry, #Merkel[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Merkel?src=hash] as clear as she's ever been about link between single market access & free movement pic.twitter.com/0FLhygyWZf[https://t.co/0FLhygyWZf]

— Noah Barkin (@noahbarkin) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/noahbarkin/status/783953883903254528]Earlier today, Germany reported that factory orders jumped by 1%[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-06/german-manufacturing-orders-surge-as-domestic-demand-rebounds], thanks to a surge of domestic orders. This suggests that Europe’s largest economy isn’t being dragged back by Brexit fears (yet, anyway).

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.46am BST

block-time published-time 9.52am BST

City traders are speculating about how long Mark Carney will remain as Bank of England governor, after Theresa May attacked the Bank’s loose monetary policy stance yesterday.

Carney is expected to decide by the end of 2016 whether to do five years at the Bank (the original plan), or sign up for an extra three years. He arrived in July 2013.

May’s criticism could, perhaps, encourage Carney to exit gracefully in 2018 after all. Or he might decide that London remains the place to be, as the Brexit story plays out.

May surprised the City by telling the Conservative party conference that ultra-low interest rates and quantitative easing had disproportionately helped the rich.

Charalambos Pissouros, a senior analyst at IronFX Global, told Reuters that this could signal a change of approach to monetary policy:

In our view, this suggests that once (BoE chief) MarkCarney’s term is finished at the BoE, he may be replaced by someone more hawkish on policy.

One of the prime minister’s advisers has hinted that the government is considering using the fiscal levers of spending and borrowing to generate growth.

George Freeman told Newsnight :

We have to think about, with money available at nought percent (how to)... drive an industrial strategy, get infrastructure built. We need to make sure we are looking at all the mechanisms to making sure that money flows properly.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.47am BST

block-time published-time 9.18am BST

Analyst: on the road to a sterling crisis Fears that the City will lose its EU ‘passporting rights’ have undermined the pound since June’s referendum.

Britain is already running a sizeable current account deficit of about 6% of GDP, due to the persistent gap between imports and exports.

So if London financial companies are locked out of the EU, Britain will suffer a fall in ‘invisible earnings’. That could be compounded by a drop in physical exports, depending on the trade terms that Britain agrees with the rest of the world.

Desmond Lachman, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, fears that the current account deficit will get even worse, pushing the pound down. He writes:

There appear to be at least two reasons to believe that market fears about the consequences of a hard Brexit for continued large capital flows to the UK are not misplaced. The first is that, were the UK no longer to have ready access to Europe’s single market for its exports, it would lose its attractiveness as a location for foreign companies’ European investments. This was precisely the point that the Japanese government made at the September G20 meeting in China – when it publicly warned its UK counterparts of the likelihood that Japanese companies would relocate out of the UK in the event of a hard Brexit.

The second reason is that a hard Brexit would almost certainly result in the loss of the ‘financial passport’ that City of London financial institutions currently enjoy for accessing the European market. A Financial Conduct Authority report in September suggested that as many as 5,500 UK financial firms could be affected by such a loss of passport rights. Major international banks including JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs have warned that, if the City loses its financial passport, they will need to conduct at least part of their European operations from outside the UK.

A key point that those in favour of a hard Brexit overlook is that a rapid drying up of foreign capital flows to the UK would have dire consequences for domestic living standards. A further currency dip would raise import costs and increase inflation. Moreover, there is a likelihood that domestic economic policy would need to be tightened – both to contain inflation and to make room for a large narrowing in the external current account deficit that foreigners would no longer be prepared to finance. UK households would be forced to reduce their consumption levels painfully, while businesses would be forced to cut back on their investment plans, to the detriment of future UK growth prospects.

More here[http://www.omfif.org/analysis/commentary/2016/october/on-the-road-to-a-sterling-crisis/] .

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.49am BST

block-time published-time 9.00am BST

HSBC has knocked up a handy chart showing some of the possible relationships that Britain could have with the EU ( and what it is giving up ):

enltrLost in #Brexit[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Brexit?src=hash] options? Here's a great recap table, made by HSBC. https://t.co/DhGA8k5wvM[https://t.co/DhGA8k5wvM] pic.twitter.com/pqGS2q268F[https://t.co/pqGS2q268F]

— Maxime Sbaihi (@MxSba) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/MxSba/status/783933535459676160]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.47am BST

block-time published-time 8.43am BST

Philip Hammond needs to reassure Wall Street[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/06/pound-sterling-chancellor-hammond-wall-street-charm-offensive-business-live?page=with:block-57f5f228e4b0e2a2a25af768#block-57f5f228e4b0e2a2a25af768] that London still wants to be a major financial centre, says the currency expert Kit Juckes of Société Générale.

He’s concerned that the pound hasn’t managed even a small rally this week, even though the latest economic data has been quite encouraging:

The FX market, for one, needs a lot of reassurance. Sterling really ought to have managed some sort of short-covering rally in the last day or two, as the market slowly gives up all hope of a further rate cut in 2016.

From here, in the absence of new news and with the major (depressing from the currency’s point of view) speeches from the Conservative party conference behind us, the fall in the pound versus the US dollar will probably be slow. But steady...

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.50am BST

block-time published-time 8.37am BST

Politics, eh?

enltrItem 1 on FT website - "Theresa May takes swipe at rootless capitalist elite". Item 3 - "Hammond in Wall Street charm offensive".

— Patrick Wintour (@patrickwintour) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/patrickwintour/status/783931185261150208]block-time published-time 8.14am BST

Weak pound hits easyJet's profits Ouch! Shares in easyJet have fallen by 6% in early trading, and the Brexit vote is party to blame.

The budget airline has told shareholders that it expects pre-tax profit to fall[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/06/easyjet-set-for-annual-profit-fall-year-extraordinary-events] by about 28% this year, due to the slump in the pound, recent terror attacks and industrial action.

My colleague Angela Monaghan has the details:

The British airline said currency movements would cost the company £90m in the full year, largely because of the the sharp fall in the value of the pound since the Brexit vote on 23 June.

EasyJet reports in pounds, but mosts of its costs are in dollars and euros. It buys fuel in dollars and pays air traffic costs and landing charges on its many European routes in euros.

enltrEasyjet says fall in sterling will cost it £90 million. Share down 6%

— Simon Jack (@BBCSimonJack) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/BBCSimonJack/status/783928943422373888]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.52am BST

block-time published-time 8.07am BST

The Wall Street Journal has a grim chart this morning showing how the pound is close to its weakest level (when measured against a basket of currencies):

enltrSterling is at a 31-yr low against the dollar. Trade weighted, it's worse: £ has barely ever been lower. https://t.co/FDxB4iCtes[https://t.co/FDxB4iCtes] pic.twitter.com/Z76xW0cppC[https://t.co/Z76xW0cppC]

— Mike Bird (@Birdyword) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Birdyword/status/783924225656647680]enltrLooking at £/$ understated the huge depreciation of sterling over the last 35yrs. Down ~45% since 1981.

— Mike Bird (@Birdyword) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Birdyword/status/783924503080538112]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.52am BST

block-time published-time 8.03am BST

London’s stock market has opened without drama, with the FTSE 100 index gaining 10 points to 7,041. That’s about 63 points below its record closing level.

Bank shares are among the risers, after officials from the International Monetary Fund tried to downplay worries[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/05/deutsche-needs-a-convincing-case-to-win-over-investors-says-imf] about Deutsche Bank’s financial health yesterday.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.53am BST

block-time published-time 7.53am BST

Hammond to meet with Wall Street bankers today Philip Hammond and his wife, Susan Williams-Walker, arrive on day four of the Conservative conference. Photograph: Carl Court/Getty Images The chancellor, Philip Hammond, is scrambling to New York today in an attempt to reassure America’s biggest banks about Brexit.

He is due to meet with Wall Street powerbrokers (the kind of elite savaged by Theresa May yesterday[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/05/mays-conservative-party-conference-speech-key-points-analysed] ).

He will say London plans to keep its position as the world’s leading financial centre once the break from the EU is complete.

Hammond will arrive hot from the Tory conference and is expected to say:

One of Britain’s great strengths is the ability to offer and aggregate all the services the global financial services industry needs. This has not changed as a result of the EU referendum and I will do everything I can to ensure the City of London retains its position as the world’s leading international financial centre.

Whether it’s British employers or US firms who support thousands of highly skilled jobs in the financial sector, we are listening and taking the time to understand the issues thoroughly, in advance of opening negotiations with the EU.

We will continue to welcome the best and brightest talent and organisations from around the world, including the US. While the government has not finalised its future approach to our relations with the EU, the government’s position is clear; we want the best deal for trade in UK goods and services, including our world leading financial services industry.”

He’ll be meeting with top executives from Citi, BNY Mellon, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and others with operations in the City.

A report this week warned that a ‘hard Brexit’ could wipe out 70,000 jobs and cost £10bn in tax receipts. That’s the worst-case scenario, if City firms lose their passporting rights, which let them sell services across the EU.

Wall Street executives will want to hear that their concerns are taken seriously, following Theresa May’s attack on “citizens of the world” yesterday. They could also press Hammond on the idea that UK-based companies should provide a list of any foreigners[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/05/theresa-may-business-proposals-foreign-workers-tory] on their books...

enltrHammond travels to New York to reassure banks over #Brexit[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Brexit?src=hash] https://t.co/UpoepcqfiN[https://t.co/UpoepcqfiN] via @johnainger[https://twitter.com/johnainger] pic.twitter.com/DRxJbUmK3H[https://t.co/DRxJbUmK3H]

— Forward Guidance (@ecoeurope) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/ecoeurope/status/783904779063943168]enltr"So, when we said rootless global elite... we didn't mean you". https://t.co/2luddI0D1Y[https://t.co/2luddI0D1Y]

— Duncan Weldon (@DuncanWeldon) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/DuncanWeldon/status/783911661442895872]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.09am BST

block-time published-time 7.38am BST

The agenda: Brexit fears weigh on the pound Good morning, and welcome to our rolling coverage of the world economy, the financial markets, the eurozone and business.

Concerns over Britain’s exit from the EU continue to weigh on sterling this morning.

The pound has sidled back to the $1.271 mark in early trading, close to the 31-year lows plugged yesterday.

Against the euro, sterling is close to a five-year low at €1.135. This week’s tumbles have already forced Britain to surrender the title of fifth-largest economy (in local currency terms) to France.

Yesterday, the prime minister, Theresa May, promised to build a “global Britain” after Brexit[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/oct/05/theresa-may-consigns-cameron-to-history-in-populist-speech], telling the British public: “Come with me and we’ll write that brighter future.”

But is the UK going to lose its prized membership of the single market, in return for **immigration** controls?

Analysts at PNC Bank explain why this is a worry:

May’s position substantially increases the possibility that the UK will give up its right to export financial and other services to EU markets in exchange for control over **immigration** – a “hard Brexit”.

The UK’s exports of services to the EU account for more than 4% of the UK’s GDP, so trade barriers to them would cause a serious negative shock to the British economy.

Also coming up today.... Global policymakers are gathered in Washington for the International Monetary Fund’s annual meeting.

World investors are pondering whether America’s central bank might raise interest rates in November, following strong service sector data yesterday.

They’re also wondering whether the European Central Bank could start to “taper” its bond-buying programme soon.

enltrGood morning from Berlin. Asia stocks up on solid US data & weaker Yen. Samsung at all-time high. Bonds & Gold hit by stimulus taper fears. pic.twitter.com/j9fnBxmQTX[https://t.co/j9fnBxmQTX]

— Holger Zschaepitz (@Schuldensuehner) October 6, 2016[https://twitter.com/Schuldensuehner/status/783880562763243520]In the City, budget airline easyJet, defence firm BAE Systems and furniture group DFS are reporting results.

On the economic front, Germany has just reported a 1% jump in factory orders (more on that shortly). And at 1.30pm, we get the latest US weekly unemployment figures. That will set the scene for tomorrow’s monthly jobs report.

We’ll be tracking all the main events through the day...

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.12am BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Duncan Haldane and Sir Fraser Stoddart call for scientists to be given protected status for visas, and highlight the role of EU funding in attracting elite scientists

Two British laureates who were awarded Nobel prizes this week have warned that government policies linked to Brexit risk turning elite scientists away from British laboratories.

Duncan Haldane, who was awarded the Nobel prize for physics on Tuesday[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/oct/04/david-thouless-duncan-haldane-and-michael-kosterlitz-win-nobel-prize-in-physics], said that he had been considering returning to Britain from his post at Princeton University, New York, but that this would be unlikely if access to prestigious research grants from the European Research Council (ERC) was cut off.

“I was seriously considering coming back a few years ago,” he said. “It was suggested it might be possible to get one of these €5m ERC grants. That’s much better support than I can get here. These grants are specifically aimed at bringing established people back. Without that it makes it more difficult for people to come back.”

“I wouldn’t be going back just to kill myself eating high table dinners at a college,” he added. “The ERC made it much more attractive.”

Haldane called for scientists to be given a protected status for visas, although he told the Guardian that he did not share some scientists’ broader fears about a potential future clampdown on **immigration** in Britain. “There is clearly a need to be able to attract the top scientists and it goes without saying that complicated paperwork is going to put people off,” he said.

A second scientist, Sir Fraser Stoddart, the Scottish chemist who was awarded the Nobel prize on Wednesday[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/oct/05/nobel-prize-chemistry-2016-jean-pierre-sauvage-jean-pierre-sauvage-bernard-feringa-nano-machines], said that government plans to crackdown on **immigration** could be a deterrent for the best British scientists as well as those from abroad. “I am very disturbed by the talk coming out of the UK at the moment,” he said. “Anything that stops the free movement of people is a big negative for science.”

He said that he has even advised young scientists to consider looking outside the UK in the future, due to fears that British science may enter a period of decline.

“I would have a plan B if I was a young scientist in Britain,” he said. “It’s not going to be good news for British science. There are a lot of things that, particularly as a Scottish person, you can’t make your mind up about. But there’s no doubt in my mind about this. I do feel very strongly about it.”

Haldane’s move the US in the 1980s was prompted by the Thatcher government squeezing funding for curiousity-driven scientific research. “There was a depressing atmosphere in British science at the time because of stupid government ideas that one should do something ‘useful’,” he said.

“They wanted to fund research into turbulence in North Sea gas pipes - an idea that I found pretty depressing.”

Fraser moved from Birmingham to the University of California Los Angeles in 1997, where he succeeded a past Nobel laureate, Donald Cram, in a prestigious chemistry professorship.

In her conference speech in Birmingham on Wednesday, the prime minister cited Britain’s Nobel successes in science as a source of national pride. “[Britain is] a successful country - small in size but large in stature - that with less than 1% of the world’s population boasts more Nobel laureates than any country outside the United States… with three more added again just yesterday – two of whom worked here in this great city.”

UK universities currently get about £1.2 billion research funding a year from the EU. Switzerland and Israel both “buy in” to allow their scientists access to ERCgrants, but Swiss participation is in jeopardy because of proposals to limit free movement of EU citizens into the country.

Stoddart said that in his own research group, at Northwestern University, Illinois, he had scientists and students from more than a dozen different countries. “We get on extremely well regardless of background,” he said. “We have this unity based on shared pursuit of science.”

Stoddart said that early in his career, at Sheffield University, he faced some criticism for recruiting from abroad. “I got colleagues saying ‘Don’t you know that our people are better?’” he said. But he argues that recruiting from a wider pool and bringing in talent from abroad raises everyone’s standards - an approach that is now widely accepted in the scientific world.

“When you get people from Messina or Madrid moving to a cold place like Sheffield, they’re serious about science,” he said. “It’s better for everyone.”

Sir Martin Rees, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Cambridge, and the Astronomer Royal, said: “The UK scientific scene is now much stronger than it was [in the 1980s] - thanks in part of the strengthening of science on mainland Europe. But there is a serious risk, aggravated by the tone of Amber Rudd’s deplorable speech on Tuesday[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/04/rudd-announces-crackdown-on-overseas-students-and-new-work-visas], that there will be a renewed surge of defections, weakening UK science and causing us to fail to recoup our investments over the last 20 years.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Alan Yuhas fact-checked the statements of the vice-presidential nominees at the first presidential debate at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia

Mike Pence: ‘Norwood University’ In his opening statement, Pence misstated the name of the university hosting the debate. It is Longwood University, not Norwood.

He also said that Barack Obama has raised more taxes to extraordinary levels This isn’t quite right. There were two major changes to the tax code in Obama’s two terms: the 2012 expiration of tax cuts created by George W Bush (with extensions for people making less than $400,000 a year), and levies to fund the Affordable Care Act (including a penalty for not having health insurance, a 10% tax on tanning services and a 3.8% tax on investment income for top earners).

Obama also enacted temporary cuts meant to spur investment and help Americans in the depths of the financial crisis, but all in all tax rates for most Americans have not changed much since Bush’s presidency, according to a report[https://www.cbo.gov/publication/51361] by the nonpartisan congressional budget office. Under Bush, the top tax rate was 35%; under Obama, the wealthiest Americans pay 39.5%.

Pence: The Obama administration has ‘stifled the economy’ Obama took office in the depths of the 2008 financial crisis, and the economy has crawled back into recovery over his two terms, with employment nearly down to pre-crisis levels. It’s arguable that his policies have restricted some growth, but the economy has held to a steadily upward track.

This summer the OECD gave its stamp[https://www-oecd-org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/eco/surveys/United-States-2016-overview.pdf] of approval to the US economy, saying in a report: “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.”

Related: Vice-presidential debate live: Mike Pence and Tim Kaine face off[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/oct/04/tim-kaine-mike-pence-vice-presidential-debate-elections-live]

Pence: ‘The Clinton Foundation accepted foreign donations while she was secretary of state … She kept that pay-to-play process in’ Pence is correct that the foundation took donations from foreign governments, and that the charity did not disclose every contribution – in violation of an agreement to identify donors that it made with the Obama administration. But no one has yet produced evidence of a quid pro quo exchange between the Clinton Foundation and its donors.

Pence: ‘It was a failure of the secretary of state’ to acquire a status of forces agreement with Iraq The argument that Hillary Clinton’s failure to secure an agreement with Baghdad over keeping American troops in Iraq ignores several key facts, including that the Bush administration similarly failed. It also ignores that Isis’s first segments[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/world/middleeast/in-rise-of-isis-no-single-missed-key-but-many-strands-of-blame.html] formed[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/11/world/middleeast/us-actions-in-iraq-fueled-rise-of-a-rebel.html] out of the post-invasion civil war[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/11/-sp-isis-the-inside-story] in Iraq, while Bush was president; that the group took root in Syria’s civil war, where the US did not intervene until 2014; that Obama withdrew American forces in 2011 under the timeline[http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/12/20081214-2.html] agreed on by Bush and Baghdad[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/22/world/middleeast/united-states-and-iraq-had-not-expected-troops-would-have-to-leave.html]. Pence also voted for the Iraq war, and unlike Clinton has not expressed regret for the vote.

Donald Trump supported the destabilizing invasion of Iraq in 2002[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/24/donald-trump-fact-check-foreign-policy-taxes-business] and supported “surgical” intervention[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/24/donald-trump-fact-check-foreign-policy-taxes-business] to remove Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, though he now claims otherwise. He also supported withdrawal from Iraq in 2007 and 2008[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/trump-cites-iraq-withdrawal-he-passionately-supported-to-say?utm\_term=.xhMYJNVWN#.qpgXZWm3W].

Tim Kaine claims that the Bush-era tax cuts were a direct cause of the financial crisis The tax cuts signed by Bush lowered taxes on income, capital gains and dividends, and had several provisions to help married people, parents and the poor. They greatly benefited the wealthy, and unsurprisingly became a symbol of the way inequality in the US has yawned[http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/06/21/the-united-states-of-inequality/] into a chasm[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/28/upshot/todays-inequality-could-easily-become-tomorrows-catastrophe.html] between the rich[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/06/upshot/up-geo-inequality.html] and everyone else. But while inequality may be[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/22/weekinreview/22story.html] a destabilizing [http://www-economist-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/blogs/freeexchange/2010/08/income\_inequality] force[http://www.neweconomics.org/press/entry/rising-inequality-risks-another-financial-crisis-new-study] in the economy[http://www-economist-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/blogs/freeexchange/2010/08/income\_inequality], the tax cuts themselves were not one of the factors that drove the 2008 crisis.

Related: Tim Kaine v Mike Pence: what to know about the vice-presidential candidates[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/04/mike-pence-tim-kaine-facts-vp-debate-trump-clinton]

A lack of regulation on Wall Street, on the other hand, ranks among the more important causes of the crisis, whose causes include rampant, feckless mortgage lending, irresponsible bundling of those mortgages, and carelessness by ratings agencies and central bankers.

Kaine: ‘15m new jobs’ gained in the Obama administration Kaine is cherry picking statistics, and the 15m figure is not correct in context. Since Obama took office in January 2009 the US has created 10.8m private-sector jobs[http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CES0000000001], according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Kaine is counting back from the depths of the economic recession, in early 2010, which would erase a full year off of Obama’s presidency.

Kaine: ‘The debt explosion on the Trump side is much much bigger than anything on the Clinton side’ Kaine is correct, according to conservative and nonpartisan thinktanks alike. Clinton’s proposed tax plan would add $191bn to the debt over the long term, according to the [http://taxfoundation.org/sites/default/files/docs/TaxFoundation-FF496.pdf] Committee for a Responsible Budget[http://crfb.org/papers/promises-and-price-tags-preliminary-update], a conservative thinktank. The Tax Policy Center, however, estimates that she would add $1.1tn in revenue[http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/analysis-hillary-clintons-tax-proposals] in a decade, though much of that would be offset by increased spending. The Tax Foundation estimated that Trump’s plan would add $5.3tn to the debt[http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/economics/2016/09/26/donald-trump-would-boost-debt-more-than-hillary-clinton-report-says/].

Kaine: Even Richard Nixon released his taxes Richard Nixon did not release his tax returns while running for president in 1960 or in 1968 – he released them in 1973, after his second term began. In 1968 Nixon only gave a limited glimpse of his to a magazine writer and only released the returns under pressure from the Watergate inquiry. He released the returns despite an audit by the IRS, which Trump has repeatedly claimed is his reason for not releasing returns.

You can look at Nixon’s returns at the Presidential Tax History Project[http://www.taxhistory.org/www/website.nsf/web/presidentialtaxreturns]. You can look at Trump’s 1995 returns at the New York Times. If you can somehow see Trump’s later returns, feel free to send copies along to our offices at 222 Broadway, New York.

Kaine: Trump and Pence want to privatize social security Neither Clinton nor Trump has proposed privatizing social security. Pence, on the other hand, supported[http://thehill.com/capital-living/meet-the-lawmaker/20999-house-conservatives-oppose-add-ons] a 2005 plan[http://money.cnn.com/2016/07/15/news/economy/trump-pence-social-security/] that would have modified the program into a private system.

Pence: ‘He’s created a business that’s worth billions of dollars’ There is no direct evidence that Trump’s business is worth billions of dollars – the only tax return publicly available, published by the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-taxes.html] last weekend, shows that he reported a $916m loss in 1995. Trump could prove the worth of his business by publishing his returns. Forbes estimates Trump is worth $3.7bn[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/04/donald-trump-net-worth-forbes-400], far lower than his claimed $10bn.

Kaine: Trump would let states decide whether to be rid of the minimum wage Kaine is correct insofar as Trump has a position on minimum wages, if he’s talking about the federal minimum wage, specifically.

Trump has changed his position on the minimum wage at least three times, including within the span of a single interview. On 26 July, when Fox News host Bill O’Reilly asked him[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQMK8Iv7tiE] where he would set a federal minimum wage, he repeated a stance from May[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/08/federal-minimum-wage-trump] that the US does not need one: “There doesn’t have to be.”

He then immediately changed his position: “Well, I would leave it, and raise it somewhat.” A day later in Florida he said he wanted a $10 an hour minimum wage, up from the current level of $7.25, and confirmed to a reporter: “federal”. He has most consistently said that states should decide a minimum wage.

Kaine notes, correctly, that black people are more likely than white people to be arrested and given long sentences. They are also more likely to be shot by police[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/31/the-counted-police-killings-2015-young-black-men].

Pence: Clinton and Kaine support ‘open borders’ Neither ticket supports “open borders”, which the US does not have. Pence appears to be using the word to denigrate Barack Obama’s support for **immigration** reform and protection for some undocumented people from deportation. But Obama has deported a record more than 2.5 million people since he took office[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/21/latino-immigrants-us-war-on-terror-study], including a record 438,421 people in 2013[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/02/u-s-deportations-of-immigrants-reach-record-high-in-2013/], and increased border patrol staff to a record 21,444 agents in 2011[https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/performance-accountability-financial] ; his policy could not reasonably be described as “amnesty” or “open borders”.

Clinton supports reform to let people pass background checks and pay backtaxes in order to stay in the US, and she supports Obama’s executive actions to shield some migrants, such as people who were brought to the US as children. Like Obama, she supports the deportation for people with criminal records.

Kaine: Trump has ‘called Mexicans rapists and criminals … He attacked an Indiana-born federal judge and said he was unqualified … He said African Americans are living in hell’ Kaine is right that Trump has broadly characterized **immigrants** in derogatory terms, but Trump also almost always gives himself a way out. On 16 June 2015, when he announced his candidacy, Trump said: “They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Trump’s claim is patently false, as we[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/26/donald-trump-fact-check-immigration-inner-cities] and fellow[http://www.npr.org/2016/08/31/492096565/fact-check-donald-trumps-speech-on-immigration] fact-checkers[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/09/01/fact-checking-donald-trumps-immigration-speech/] have repeatedly[http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/jul/09/donald-trump/donald-trump-says-mexican-government-forces-many-b/] shown, since most migrants leave their homes for work or family and the Mexican government has nothing to do with their emigration. Statistics on crime by non-citizens mostly suggest that Mexican migrants – more of whom are leaving the US than entering – don’t affect overall crime rates.

Trump has i ndeed called judge Gonzalo Curiel unqualified[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/05/donald-trump-muslim-judges-face-the-nation] because the American judge is “Mexican”, and said that African Americans are “living in hell”.[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/28/living-in-hell-milwaukee-segregation-donald-trump]

Pence: Clinton called half of our supporters ‘deplorable’ At a fundraiser[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/10/hillary-clinton-trump-supporters--bigoted-deplorables] Clinton said: “To just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump’s supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables”. This group, she said, included “racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic” people. She later regretted[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/10/hillary-clinton-basket-of-deplorables-donald-trump] the generalization of “half”.

Polling suggests that Trump’s supporters are more likely[http://www-economist-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/news/united-states/21706341-political-science-refashions-itself-deal-republican-nominee-trump-and] than other voters to express negative sentiments[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-race-idUSKCN0ZE2SW] about minorities. Polls also show lower but significant such sentiment among supporters of Clinton. Her generalization pointed to real racial animus, ignored it among her own supporters and showed how difficult it is to attach a number to racism, even while separate polling[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/18/sharp-differences-over-who-is-hurt-helped-by-their-race/] shows racism[http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/06/27/on-views-of-race-and-inequality-blacks-and-whites-are-worlds-apart/] is affecting millions[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/27/blacks-with-college-experience-more-likely-to-say-they-faced-discrimination/] in widespread[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/06/29/roughly-half-of-hispanics-have-experienced-discrimination/] and systemic ways[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/01/racial-gender-wage-gaps-persist-in-u-s-despite-some-progress/].

Trump’s complaint contradicts his own past remarks. In 2012, after Mitt Romney was lambasted for dismissing 47% of Americans[http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/18/the-47-percent/], Trump agreed, telling Fox News[http://news.yahoo.com/video/trump-romney-dont-apologize-47-025517267.html] : “You do have a large percentage of people that feel they’re entitled.” Last year he similarly dismissed half of all Americans, telling Fox[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2015/06/18/donald\_trump\_eventually\_50\_of\_americans\_are\_not\_going\_to\_be\_able\_to\_carry\_the\_other\_50.html] : “We have a society that sits back and says, ‘We don’t have to do anything.’ Eventually the 50% cannot carry, and it’s unfair to them, but cannot carry the other 50%.”

Kaine: Trump hasn’t apologized to anyone Trump has expressed regret for having said “ the wrong thing[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/19/donald-trump-tries-out-a-new-campaign-tactic-saying-sorry] ” but not said what that thing was or whom he had caused “personal pain”.

Kaine: Trump supports the mass deportation of 11 million people During a 10 November debate[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDUADNTpAh0] Trump expressed support for Dwight Eisenhower’s Operation Wetback, the forcible deportation of hundreds of thousands of migrants[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/06/annotated-transcript-the-aug-6-gop-debate/], sometimes under inhumane circumstances. He was pressed on this support in an interview with O’Reilly, who himself called the operation “ really brutal[http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/donald-trump-immigration-deportation-215783] ”.

“Well, well, I’ve heard it both ways. I’ve heard good reports, I’ve heard bad reports,” Trump told the Fox News host. “We would do it in a very humane way.”

But Trump has given mixed messages since his early calls[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-60-minutes-scott-pelley/] for mass deportation, and he has used the phrase “deportation force”[http://www.msnbc.com/hardball/watch/trump-vows-to-deport-11-million-people-564859459935]. In August of this year, he appeared to have doubts,[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/27/donald-trump-immigration-policy-deportation] until finally promising “no amnesty” and a “humane” removal [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech] of migrants.

Kaine: The nuclear deal with Iran has prevented Tehran from developing weapons The nuclear deal with Iran was finalized in July 2015, three years after the end of Clinton’s term as secretary of state, and it does not completely remove Iran’s nuclear program. It removes a reserve of medium-enriched uranium, cuts into its low-enriched uranium, and allows access to international inspectors.

Kaine also appears to exaggerate how quickly Iran could have developed a bomb. During negotiations, intelligence officials and analysts said they believed Iran was two to three months[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/14/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-deal.html] away from bomb capabilities[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/15/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-deal-is-reached-after-long-negotiations.html]. The terms of the deal extend that “breakout” ability to a year, and have restrictions extending over 10, 15 and 25 years.

Pence: The US doesn’t know who Syrian refugees are and should block them The government has a fairly clear idea about how many people are in the US without legal authorization. Using data from the census, Department of Homeland Security, Office of Refugee Resettlement and surveys and analysis from Mexico and Latin American countries, the DHS[https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics-publications] and nonpartisan Pew Research[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/19/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/] have each been able to estimate the number and arrived at similar figures in recent years: around 11.3 million to 11.5 million people. The margin of error for these figures is generally around a million people at most, not 20 million people as Trump says.

Pew and the DHS both try to account for deaths, under-counted groups, arrivals and departures, and have adjusted their calculations based on decades’ worth of research. Both have found that net migration has stabilized in recent years, and that more undocumented Mexicans are leaving[http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/11/19/more-mexicans-leaving-than-coming-to-the-u-s/] the US than entering it. In other words, recent net migration into the US has hovered near its lowest levels of the past 20 years.

Kaine: Blocking Syrian refugees is unconstitutional On Monday, the seventh circuit court of appeals accused Pence of baseless “nightmare speculation” and compared the governor’s attempt to block refugees to an attempt to exclude black people from his state, Indiana. Pence tried to deny 174 refugees resettlement aid, and the case was taken to court.

“The governor of Indiana believes, though without evidence, that some of these persons were sent to Syria by Isis to engage in terrorism and now wish to infiltrate the United States in order to commit terrorist acts here. No evidence of this belief has been presented, however; it is nightmare speculation,” Judge Richard Posner wrote in the opinion[http://media.ca7.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/rssExec.pl?Submit=Display&Path=Y2016/D10-03/C:16-1509:J:Posner:aut:T:fnOp:N:1838881:S:0]. Pence lost the case.

Before he became Trump’s running mate, Pence did not support his call to ban Muslims from entering the US[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/07/donald-trump-ban-all-muslims-entering-us-san-bernardino-shooting].

Calls to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. are offensive and unconstitutional.— Governor Mike Pence (@GovPenceIN) December 8, 2015[https://twitter.com/GovPenceIN/status/674249808610066433]

Kaine: ‘A Republican FBI director’ concluded that there was no reasonable prosecutor who would charge Clinton with wrongdoing FBI Director James Comey was Bush’s deputy attorney general, and a registered Republican, but is no longer registered with the party[http://www.politico.com/blogs/james-comey-testimony/2016/07/what-party-is-james-comey-registered-as-225223]. Comey did say that “no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case” against Clinton over her use of a private email server while secretary of state. But Comey also excoriated Clinton for “extremely careless” practices[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/05/fbi-no-charges-hillary-clinton-email-investigation] and found that she had spoken falsely repeatedly about the system.

Kaine: Trump has praised Vladimir Putin and ‘it’s clear that he has business dealings with Russian oligarchs who are dealing with Putin’ Trump has repeatedly called Russia’s president a “strong leader” and spoken approvingly of this strength and Putin’s polling numbers. For instance, on 18 December 2015 he told MSNBC[http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/washwire/2015/12/18/donald-trump-praises-putin-as-strong-leader/] : “I’ve always felt fine about Putin. I think that he’s a strong leader.”

He added: “He’s running his country and at least he’s a leader, unlike what we have in this country.”

Last September, he told Fox News[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-gives-russias-putin-an-a-in-leadership/] : “In terms of leadership [Putin’s] getting an A.” In a 10 March debate[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaA2rmuJu9c], Trump tried to hedge on semantics. “Strong doesn’t mean good,” he said. “Putin is a strong leader, absolutely. He is a strong leader. Now I don’t say that in a good way or a bad way. I say it as a fact.”

Pence also said, as Kaine points out, that it’s “inarguable” that Putin is a stronger leader than Obama[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/09/08/mike-pence-says-its-inarguable-that-putin-is-a-stronger-leader-than-obama/].

Kaine also said that Putin “has run his economy into the ground, he persecutes LGBT folks and journalists”.

The caliber of Putin’s leadership is debatable in and of itself. Russia’s economy under Putin’s 16 years of leadership has become over reliant on oil and hamstrung by economic sanctions, themselves prompted by Putin’s aggressive military action in Ukraine. The value of the ruble has collapsed[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-28/bank-of-russia-said-to-shield-reserves-as-putin-taps-wealth-fund], and the Kremlin started hinting that it would start to reach into its reserves[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/04/12/world/europe/russian-economy-tumbling.html]. The economy has shrunk[http://www.ft.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/cms/s/0/a4b9944c-3f77-11e5-b98b-87c7270955cf.html?siteedition=intl] to a smaller GDP than Spain, according to the IMF[http://data.imf.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/?sk=B981B4E3-4E58-467E-9B90-9DE0C3367363], and Russia’s newly active military is involved in conflicts in Ukraine and Syria that appear to have no resolution in sight. In Ukraine nearly 10,000 people[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/29/world/europe/9333-killed-since-ukraine-conflict-began-un-says.html?\_r=0] have been killed, and in Syria nearly 500,000.[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/12/world/middleeast/death-toll-from-war-in-syria-now-470000-group-finds.html] Putin has passed anti-LGBT laws[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/14/vladimir-putin-gives-state-honour-to-anti-gay-politician], clamped down on the press[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/20/donald-trump-defends-vladimir-putin-endorsement], and been accused of murdering opponents, including journalists[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/21/world/europe/moscow-kremlin-silence-critics-poison.html].

Kaine: ‘Trump on the other hand didn’t know that Russia had invaded Crimea’

Pence: ‘He knew that.’ Here’s what Trump told ABC’s This Week in August[http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/31/politics/donald-trump-russia-ukraine-crimea-putin/] : “He’s not going into Ukraine, OK, just so you understand. He’s not going to go into Ukraine, all right? You can mark it down. You can put it down. You can take it anywhere you want.”

Host George Stephanopoulos: “Well, he’s already there, isn’t he?”

Trump: “OK, well, he’s there in a certain way. But I’m not there. You have Obama there. And frankly, that whole part of the world is a mess under Obama with all the strength that you’re talking about and all of the power of Nato and all of this. In the meantime, he’s going away. He takes Crimea.”

Back in 2014, Trump called the invasion of Ukraine “ so smart[https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/trump-called-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-so-smart-in-2014?utm\_term=.rrwVxox3w] ”.

Pence: ‘That [diplomatic] reset [overseen by Clinton] resulted in the invasion of Ukraine’ This claim strains credulity. Russia invaded Ukraine in the wake of the country’s 2014 revolution, which ousted a pro-Kremlin president who had reneged on a pledge to join an economic pact with the EU.

There is an argument, vaguely, that a lack of American or Nato forces in eastern Europe may have encouraged Russia’s actions, but this is speculative at best. Ukraine is not a member of Nato, the history of Crimea and Russia goes back centuries, and the continued war in eastern Ukraine is being fueled by both the Kremlin and local forces.

Pence: The Associated Press found that more than half of Clinton’s meetings as secretary of state were with donors to the Clinton Foundation The AP story on Clinton’s meetings did not include her meetings with people in the US government and from foreign governments[http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2016/09/ap-deletes-clinton-foundation-tweet-227917] – who were by a huge margin the people she met with while serving as the top diplomat of the United States.

The news agency deleted a tweet about the story – virtually verbatim to what Pence said – for lack of context, and the Associated Press’s vice-president for standards John Daniszewski wrote a blog post about the decision[https://blog-ap-org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/announcements/statement-on-why-ap-deletes-clinton-tweet?utm\_campaign=SocialFlow&utm\_source=Twitter&utm\_medium=AP].

Pence: ‘Trump and I would just never support legislation that would punish a woman for making the heartbreaking decision to terminate a pregnancy’ Kaine is correct that Trump suggested women should be punished for having abortions[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/30/donald-trump-women-abortions-punishment] – he then recanted the idea[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/30/donald-trump-women-abortions-punishment] at the end of a day of flip-flopping positions. Unlike Pence, Trump has not been pro-life his whole life. In 1999, he said[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/donald-trumps-evolving-stance-abortion/story?id=38057176] : “I hate the concept of abortion. I hate it. I hate everything it stands for, I cringe when I listen to people debating the subject, but still I just believe in choice.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Foreign exchange traders are “spooked” by Theresa May’s Brexit plan, say analysts, as sterling slides again - pushing share prices higher1.30pm: FTSE 100 near record high: Pound falls to $1.275UK construction bounces back after Brexit votePOUND HITS 31-YEAR LOWFTSE 100 jumps over 7,000 markFTSE 250 hits a record highComing up: IMF World Economic Outlook at 2pm

block-time published-time 1.46pm BST

Heads-up: In 15 minutes, the International Monetary Fund will release its latest assessment of the global economy.

The World Economic Outlook will contain new forecasts, which will surely include the impact of the Brexit vote...

block-time published-time 1.28pm BST

Sky News’s Ed Conway has created a nice chart of the pound’s value over the centuries ( click here to see a larger version[https://twitter.com/EdConwaySky/status/783253070666948608/photo/1?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] ).

enltrI've updated my annotated history of the pound sterling 1791-2016 to reflect the latest fall. Still above 1985 lows. But getting weaker pic.twitter.com/suw14OtX7n[https://t.co/suw14OtX7n]

— Ed Conway (@EdConwaySky) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/EdConwaySky/status/783253070666948608]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.29pm BST

block-time published-time 1.19pm BST

There’s absolutely no love for the pound today.

As US traders arrive at work in New York, sterling is still at a 31-year low against the US dollar at just $1.275, down 1 cent or 0.7%.

This is a historically bad moment for the pound -- it’s only been weaker in 1985.

The pound vs the US dollar since 1971 Photograph: Bloomberg The unexpected good news that Britain’s construction sector surged in September ( details here[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4#block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4] ) hasn’t brought any relief. Investors are focusing on Brexit, and the prospect of a divorce between Britain and the EU by March 2019.

FXTM research analyst Lukman Otunuga says sterling is suffering from a “horrible combination” of Brexit anxieties and a resurgent Dollar, prompting traders into waves of selling.

It seems Theresa May’s sanguine attitude to leaving the European Union while focusing on **immigration** may have sparked concerns of a potential hard Brexit consequently leaving the Sterling vulnerable to steep losses.

Although investors were provided some clarity when March 2017 was the date set to invoking the article 50, the uncertainty over how the Brexit negotiations will take place in the period after continues to haunt investor attraction towards the pound.

And there could be worse to come....

It should be kept in mind that the persistent Brexit fears have always had a firm grip on the Sterling with explosive levels of volatility expected in the coming months as anxiety mounts ahead of the article 50 invoke date.

block-time published-time 1.05pm BST

George Osborne hasn’t had a lot to cheer about recently, what with being sacked by Theresa May and seeing the central pillar of his economic plan trashed by the new chancellor, Philip Hammond.

But there’s one piece of good news for the member for Tatton; his family firm is going to benefit from the slump in the pound.

My colleague Simon Bowers has the details:

Osborne & Little, the luxury wallpaper chain owned by the family of former chancellor George Osborne[http://www.theguardian.com/politics/georgeosborne], says it expects to benefit from the fall in the value of the pound triggered by the Brexit vote.

The company said there would be “limited impact” in the short term from Britain’s decision to leave the European Union, but if sterling remained weak, it would bring a “material benefit” to the business next year.

In the company’s latest accounts, they say that:

“In the short term there will be limited impact resulting from the UK leaving the EU, but if exchange rates stay as they are, in particular, the exchange rate between sterling and the US dollar, then there will be a material benefit in the year ending 31 March 2018.”

What a stroke of luck....

Related: George Osborne's family firm to benefit from Brexit vote[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/04/george-osborne-little-family-business-wallpaper-benefit-brexit-vote-eu-referendum]

block-time published-time 12.48pm BST

Remember the wild hours of 24 June, after Britain voted to leave the European Union?

Of course you do. How could anyone forget the prime minister resigning, the pound plunging, and the stock market taking an almighty bath when trading began?

But, anyone who had the foresight to buy shares at that moment is sitting on some huge gains. The FTSE 100 is now 20% higher than its worst point on that Friday morning.

enltrUK stocks in a bull market, the FTSE 100 now +20% from the low on June 24, the day after the Brexit referendum pic.twitter.com/E7bFHqOUpk[https://t.co/E7bFHqOUpk]

— Jamie McGeever (@ReutersJamie) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/ReutersJamie/status/783270379636854784]block-time published-time 12.31pm BST

Higher still and higher goes the FTSE 100.

Britain’s blue-chip stock index is now above than its record close, 7103.98, recorded in April 2015.

It’s now up 126 points, or 1.8%, at 7110, with almost every shares up.

enltrLATEST: FTSE 100 surpasses previous record high in intraday trading https://t.co/qrNbOhqfQl[https://t.co/qrNbOhqfQl] pic.twitter.com/un9wIdJG4b[https://t.co/un9wIdJG4b]

— Bloomberg (@business) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/business/status/783267747174178820]But, at the risk of banging on... this is partly due to the slump in the pound (which makes internationally focused companies more valuable in sterling terms).

enltrI did a 'splainer pic.twitter.com/qsm8hPtu7X[https://t.co/qsm8hPtu7X]

— Lorcan Roche Kelly (@LorcanRK) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/LorcanRK/status/783266032395882496]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.34pm BST

block-time published-time 12.14pm BST

Umunna blames Brexiteers for sterling slide Chuka Umunna MP. Photograph: Richard Gardner/REX/Shutterstock Chuka Umunna MP, Chair of Vote Leave Watch, has seized on the slump in the pound to berate the leaders of the Brexit campaign.

In a resounding blast, Umunna says:

“Leave campaigners promised that the economy would be unaffected by a vote to leave the EU. They dismissed every economic warning as ‘scaremongering’ or ‘Project Fear’.

“Today we see how hollow their assertions were. This collapse in the value of the pound means ordinary British workers will be worse off, as prices in the shops soar and the pound in everyone’s pocket is worth less.

“The Tory conference in Birmingham reveals three cabinet members responsible for Brexit – Davis, Fox and Johnson – blind to the damage Brexit is already doing to Britain. Instead of rushing to pull out of the Single Market, they should focus on limiting the damage to our economy and maintaining as many of the current benefits we enjoy as possible.”

Umunna is absolutely right that the weak pound is pushing up the cost of imports; both finished goods and raw materials.

Some technology companies began hiking prices[https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/jul/07/computers-and-chocolate-set-to-get-pricier-after-brexit-vote] immediately after the referendum. Consumer goods group Unilever warned in August [https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jul/21/unilever-shoppers-rising-prices-brexit-vote-sterling] that prices will be pushed higher; it makes Dove Soap, icecream, biscuits and Flora.

Even bacon from China[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/aug/25/brexit-vote-pushes-up-price-bacon-china-british-pork] could become more expensive too.

But other companies say they hope to ‘absorb’ these costs, rather than pushing up prices. For example, baking firm Greggs said today it will do its “absolute utmost” to avoid price rises.

Related: Greggs sales bolstered by lower-calorie food[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/04/greggs-sales-lower-calorie-food-profit]

block-time published-time 11.53am BST

Ireland trims growth forecasts on Brexit fears The uncertainty swirling around the Brexit issue has forced the Irish government to cut its growth forecasts.

Reuters has the story:

Ireland on Tuesday cut its gross domestic product forecast for 2017 on concerns about the fall-out from Britain’s vote to leave the European Union and said risks were centered “firmly to the downside.”

The finance ministry cut its 2016 GDP forecast to 4.2 percent from 4.9 percent and for 2017 to 3.5% from 3.9% and said there was considerable uncertainty to the outlook for next year with the impact of Brexit still unfolding.

“We have reduced next year’s forecast by around half a percentage point to take into account the uncertainty associated with Brexit,” John McCarthy, the finance ministry’s chief economist, told a parliamentary committee.

Around 40% of Ireland’s food and drink exports are sold to the UK, in an example of the close trade links between the two countries.

Dublin is particularly anxious about the prospect of the UK leaving the EU customs union without any new trade agreement. The future of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic is another obvious issue -- leading to calls today for a new agreement to prevent a ‘hard border’ being established.

Related: Ireland to seek special status to keep open border with UK amid 'hard Brexit' fears[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/04/ireland-to-seek-special-status-to-keep-open-border-with-uk-amid-hard-brexit-fears]

block-time published-time 11.36am BST

Time for some history: a market report from the last time the pound was worth just $1.27.

enltrA forex report by @dsmitheconomics[https://twitter.com/dsmitheconomics] in the Times, June 15 1985 - about the last time GBP was this weak @TimesArchive[https://twitter.com/TimesArchive] pic.twitter.com/6oCsHe7q7f[https://t.co/6oCsHe7q7f]

— Andy Bruce (@BruceReuters) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/BruceReuters/status/783243967974506496]Health worries about a senior US politician? An Argentinian debt crisis? Concern about the oil price? P lus ça change, plus c’est la même chose....

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.36am BST

block-time published-time 11.27am BST

Mining companies and internationally-focused firms have been the best performing companies on the London stock market this year, as this chart shows:

It was sent over by Laith Khalaf, senior analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. He reckons the market could still go higher.

With cash and bonds yielding next to nothing, equities are the natural alternative for anyone looking for a decent level of income. Nor will there be any shortage of income-seekers at the moment, as millions of baby boomers are reaching retirement age, while the recent pension freedoms conveniently allow them to park their retirement funds in the stock market rather than buying an annuity.

And on some measures, shares aren’t actually too expensive today, he adds:

If you compare share prices to company earnings, the valuation of the UK stock market is actually somewhere in the middle of its historic range, neither particularly cheap, nor dear, at current prices. This is in stark contrast to the former peak of the market in 1999, when the price-earnings ratio of the UK stock market stood at an eye-watering level.

block-time published-time 10.57am BST

City fears hard time after hard Brexit The City isn’t going to get any special treatment in the Brexit negotiations, according to a new report that has alarmed some investors.

Bloomberg is reporting that PM Theresa May wants to “change the relationship between the government and the City of London”.

According to three senior figures in May’s administration, the government will refuse to prioritize the protection of the sector after the U.K. has left the European Union.

Her team has also dismissed the key business demand for an interim deal with the EU to help ease the transition out of the bloc, one of the people said. All asked not to be named because the information is sensitive.

Here’s the full piece: Banks to Miss Out on Special Favors in May’s Brexit Plans[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-03/may-said-to-downgrade-city-in-brexit-shock-for-financial-sector]The City fears a hard Brexit because it could prevent firms in London from offering services across the European Union.

Those ‘passporting rights’ are highly prized, but would be lost if Britain leaves the single market in 2019.

This uncertainty is already making it harder for City firms to plan, or hire new staff.

enltrGood @FT[https://twitter.com/FT] chart on role of non-Brits in the City (22% of 360k workforce) pic.twitter.com/v26fYOSwfV[https://t.co/v26fYOSwfV]

— Mark Scott (@markscott82) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/markscott82/status/783188308964900864]block-time published-time 10.50am BST

Tom Stevenson, director of personal investing for Fidelity International, suggests the London stock market could easily keep climbing, despite the clouds of Brexit uncertainty.

“As the pound plunges to a three decade low, the FTSE 100 has broken through the 7000 barrier, reaching 7,076 this morning, close to its highest ever. The first time the FTSE surpassed this milestone was in March 2015 before rising to its all-time intra-day high of 7,122 in April 2015. Since then we have seen the markets fluctuate, hitting a low in February 2016 of 5,499, before bouncing back again – an increase of 28.6 per cent.

“This is obviously good news for UK investors and no-one would complain about the market finally moving decisively on from its 1999 dot.com[http://dot.com/] bubble peak. But it should be remembered that the main reason shares are rising today is the remarkable slide in the pound to its lowest level since 1985. It’s good for UK exporters and overseas earners but for foreign stock market investors it takes the edge off the latest gains.

“Can the market go further from here? Despite coming close to a new high, the valuation of the UK market is not excessive and investors still look to shares for income, growth and stability.

block-time published-time 10.25am BST

FTSE 100 posts triple-digit gains London’s stock market is surging higher, sending the FTSE 100 index up by 100 points to a new 16-month high.

Shares in consumer group Unilever, drinks company Diageo, and food group Compass have all hit record highs.

And the Footsie is now hovering around 7084 points, only 38 points shy of its record high. Nearly ever share is up.

The FTSE 100 today Photograph: Thomson Reuters We shouldn’t forget the proviso that this is partly due to the weakness of the pound (which boosts the share prices of companies with international earnings, as explained earlier[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f3564be4b03ca720ca2490#block-57f3564be4b03ca720ca2490] ).

But investors may also be showing some confidence in Britain’s prospects; especially after this morning’s strong data from the building secto[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4#block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4] r.

Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at City firm IG, explains:

There may be no shortage of commentators pointing out that the index is still down in dollar terms, but with the index at its highest level in over a year there is a distinct feel-good factor among UK investors.

European markets are joining in the party, with Deutsche Bank shares resilient despite no developments on a potential reduction in the DoJ fine. The traditionally strong quarter for equities has got off to a remarkably good start, although the move has probably been helped by the lack of heavyweight data so far this month.

Today’s UK construction PMI continues the trend set by manufacturing yesterday, although with so much focus still on the UK’s path to Brexit the relief for sterling has been minimal. If tomorrow’s services number also comes in strongly the Bank of England is going to have a hard time justifying another cut in interest rates.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.31am BST

block-time published-time 10.05am BST

The resurgence in Britain’s construction sector[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4#block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4] hasn’t done the pound much good.

Sterling is still ploughing 31-year lows this morning, trading at $1.2771 against the US dollar and 87.4p against the euro.

Carlo Alberto De Casa, chief analyst at ActivTrades, says:

“This is a clear signal that the fears for a hard Brexit are becoming bigger day by day and that also the limitation of the freedom of movement is taking the investors away from the pound.”

block-time published-time 9.47am BST

Here’s some expert reaction to Britain’s construction sector surging back to growth in September[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4#block-57f368cbe4b01506cbf24fb4] :

Tim Moore, Senior Economist at IHS Markit: “Resilient housing market conditions and a renewed upturn in civil engineering activity helped to drive an overall improvement in construction output volumes for the first time since the EU referendum.

“A number of survey respondents noted that Brexit- related anxiety has receded among clients, although it remained a factor behind the ongoing decline in commercial building work.

Mike Chappell, Global Corporates managing director for construction at Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking

“Far from being overwhelmingly downbeat, many construction firms, particularly those at the larger end of the market, have indicated that the EU referendum result has – so far at least – had little impact on business.

“The industry has also been buoyed by the Government’s decision to press ahead with Hinkley Point, one of the most significant infrastructure projects of recent decades. Even if not all in the sector will share in the spoils, the move suggests a commitment to infrastructure, underlined by encouraging comments from the chancellor at the Conservative Party conference. Other major projects, such as HS2 and the airport expansion in the South East, are also in the pipeline.

“On the other side of the coin, the weakness of sterling continues to make raw materials more expensive for those without relevant hedging and the expectation of many is that inflation is set to become more of a headache during 2017.”

Paul Trigg, construction specialist and assistant head of risk underwriting at Euler Hermes, said:

“Construction is sitting in the eye of the storm. The sector has yet to feel the full brunt of Brexit as a healthy pipeline of work will carry companies through the next 12 to 18 months. Triggering Article 50 is likely to spark a significant change, and encouraging indicators could be false positives.

“The Government has an opportunity in the Autumn Statement to strengthen the commitment to infrastructure spending. Projects like Hinckley Point, together with smaller scale developments to keep the economy moving, will be on the wish list of a sector that needs more prospects on its horizon.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.14am BST

block-time published-time 9.47am BST

Some snap analysis:

enltrConstruction sector PMIs were the worst hit pre & post referendum, so return to growth is good news. Commercial building still languishing. https://t.co/vx69MJlvVT[https://t.co/vx69MJlvVT]

— Rupert Seggins (@Rupert\_Seggins) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/Rupert\_Seggins/status/783224418898247680]enltrMore good news from the PMI surveys - construction output rises to 52.3 points in Sep. Expanding (above 50) for first time since referendum

— Ed Conway (@EdConwaySky) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/EdConwaySky/status/783225923399278592]enltrUK construction; strong residential, strengthening civil, weak commercial. Costs rising on GBP falls, employment mixed.

— World First (@World\_First) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/World\_First/status/783223612660645888]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.14am BST

block-time published-time 9.37am BST

UK construction sector rebounds after Brexit vote Boom! Britain’s building sector had surged back to growth, new data shows.

In the latest sign that the Brexit vote has not hurt the economy, the monthly construction PMI has leapt to 52.3 in September, up from 49.2 in August.

That’s much stronger than expected. It means activity in the sector increased last month, at the fastest rate since March (any reading over 50 = shows growth).

Markit, which compiles the report, says that residential housebuilding drove the recovery. There was also a welcome pick-up in new orders, after four months of “sustained decline”

UK construction PMI Photograph: Markit The PMI, or purchasing managers index, measures activity, new orders, and confidence in the sector.

More to follow...

block-time published-time 9.27am BST

The important point about today’s selloff [https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f3516de4b03ca720ca247e#block-57f3516de4b03ca720ca247e] is that the pound has slumped below its lowest point after the EU referendum.

That strongly suggests that traders have been unsettled by the prospect of Britain leaving the EU, and the single market, as early as March 2019.

By falling through July’s lows, the pound is now at levels only seen during the sterling crisis of 1985.

Back then, the world was struggling to cope with a particularly strong US dollar[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-36727177], as America’s central bank held interest rates high to tackle inflation (which encouraged traders to hold dollars).

The pound vs the US dollar since 1980 Photograph: Thomson Reuters enltrSterling fell to $1.04 in 1985, so it might be a while before you hear about a pre-1985 low. (It did go back to $1.50 the next year).

— Mike Bird (@Birdyword) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/Birdyword/status/783209007339212800]block-time published-time 9.07am BST

Kit Juckes of French bank Société Générale also blames the Conservative Party for sending pound down to levels last seen in 1985.

Confirmation that the UK Government plans to trigger article 50 by the end of Q1 2017 hit sterling harder than I expected yesterday, which is saying something.

Some sort of a bounce is possible today but the noises from the Conservative party conference aren’t helpful. There will be fiscal slippage as the Chancellor won’t try to hit previous deficit reduction targets, but a significant easing is not on the cards. Nor is the government showing any signs of shifting a position where control on **immigration** is the hardest of lines in negotiations to leave the EU, and won’t be sacrificed or watered down in order to keep access to the single market, particularly for financial services. There’s nothing there to soften the outlook for sterling, at all.

block-time published-time 8.54am BST

Ana Thaker, Market Economist at PhillipCapital UK, believes the pound could slump to $1.25, or worse, as exit talks with the European Union get underway.

She says:

There is great uncertainty regarding how the Brexit negotiations will take shape and this could see a renewed bout of volatility in the currency.

The Bank of England could also seek to stabilise markets if volatility continues but it remains to be seen how far Sterling could drop with the $1.25 being the next target level; whilst it could dip lower than this, there is likely to have to be significant developments for the pair to reach the $1.20 level.

block-time published-time 8.48am BST

FTSE 250 hits record high The FTSE 250 index of medium-sized companies has hit a new record high!

That’s significant, as the index is seen as more representative of the UK economy than the heavyweight FTSE 100.

The FTSE 250 index Photograph: Thomson Reuters block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.12am BST

block-time published-time 8.40am BST

Hats off to Bloomberg for this chart, which shows how the London stock market rally is partly due to the drop in the pound since 23 June.

enltrSO much love for @queenofchartz[https://twitter.com/queenofchartz] and this Pound + FTSE chart pic.twitter.com/IH8PJGADQP[https://t.co/IH8PJGADQP]

— Francine Lacqua (@flacqua) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/flacqua/status/783206326272978944]

\* The light blue line is the FTSE 100 - hitting a new 16-month high this morning[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f3564be4b03ca720ca2490#block-57f3564be4b03ca720ca2490].

\* The purple line is the pound, plunging to 31-year lows[https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2016/oct/04/pound-dollar-low-construction-imf-brexit-business-live?page=with:block-57f3516de4b03ca720ca247e#block-57f3516de4b03ca720ca247e].

\* The white line is the FTSE 100 priced in dollars (and still below the pre-referendum levels)

\* And the orange line is EU referendum day.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.37am BST

block-time published-time 8.36am BST

The prospect of a ‘hard Brexit’ is hurting the pound, says Conner Campbell of SpreadEx:

It seems that it is going to be hard to provide a tourniquet for sterling’s recent wounds given the solidity of the newly announced Brexit timeline (with March set to go down in the history books as when Article 50 was triggered), and the firmness with which May stated her intention to chase border control even if it means relinquishing Britain’s position in the single market.

block-time published-time 8.33am BST

Today’s selloff is reinforcing the pound’s claim to be the worst-performing major currency of 2016.

This chart shows how the pound has weakened sharply against all its major rivals:

enltrSterling performance YTD; we're even down against the Trump trampled Mexican peso pic.twitter.com/V00NM8DtFU[https://t.co/V00NM8DtFU]

— World First (@World\_First) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/World\_First/status/783204722186608640]block-time published-time 8.26am BST

block-time published-time 8.24am BST

FTSE 100 hits 7,000 points (but......) While the pound slides, shares are soaring in London.

The FTSE 100 index of leading blue-chip companies bounced excitedly over the 7,000 point mark at the start of trading, to a new-16-month high.

It’s up 52 points to 7040, up 0.85%, as money pours into shares.

BUT.... before anyone gets excited, it’s important to note that this is partly due to the pound’s weakness.

The Footsie is packed with internationally-focused firms, whose overseas earnings are worth more when the pound is lower.

And if you price the FTSE in dollars, not pounds, it’s certainly not at a 16-month high....

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.35am BST

block-time published-time 8.16am BST

Bloomberg says “Brexit angst” is hurting the pound:[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-04/pound-tumbles-to-three-decade-low-as-angst-over-brexit-persists]

The pound dropped to a three-decade low, as investor concern about Britain’s exit from the European Union welled up after Prime Minister Theresa May’s announcement that she would begin the process of leaving the bloc in the first quarter of 2017.

Sterling fell beyond its post-Brexit-vote low, and was down against 29 of its 31 major peers. During the first day of the Conservative Party’s annual conference in Birmingham on Sunday, May promised to curb **immigration** and set a date for Britain to trigger Article 50, which starts a two-year withdrawal process.

block-time published-time 7.58am BST

Pound hits 31-year low after Brexit timetable released Newsflash: the pound has hit a new 31-year low against the US dollar.

It has shed 0.5% in early trading in London, dropping to $1.2778.

That’s its lowest level since June 1985, and almost 15% weaker than before the EU referendum on 23 June.

enltrSterling falls to a 31-year low of $1.2775. pic.twitter.com/2mVzAbuhEE[https://t.co/2mVzAbuhEE]

— Jamie McGeever (@ReutersJamie) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/ReutersJamie/status/783198173196128256] The pound has also ploughed to a new three-year low against the euro, at 87.51p.

Sterling has been under pressure since UK government announced on Sunday it would trigger the process of leaving the European Union by the end of March 2017.

City investors are also concerned that Britain appears to be on track to leave the EU single market, as it places a priority on restricting **immigration** into the UK.

Currency expert Kathleen Brooks[https://twitter.com/kathleenbrooks], of FOREX.com and City Index, pins the blame on events at the Conservative party conference in Birmingham[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/blog/live/2016/oct/04/conservative-conference-theresa-mays-morning-broadcast-interviews-politics-live].

The Tory party conference is turning into a sell for the pound, as FX traders get spooked by May’s apparent sanguine attitude to leaving the single market, preferring to focus on **immigration** and UK sovereignty rather than the economic fallout of Brexit.

Phillip Hammond, the UK’s new Chancellor, didn’t help the pound either when he suggested that George Osborne’s fiscal rules will be abandoned and government spending increased. This is designed to cushion some of the blow from the UK’s departure from the European Union. However, it is likely to weigh on the UK’s already large budget deficit, which is another blow to the pound at the start of the new quarter.

More reaction to follow!

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.06am BST

block-time published-time 7.44am BST

The agenda: Construction survey and IMF report Good morning, and welcome to our rolling coverage of the world economy, the financial markets, the eurozone and business.

The health of Britain’s economy will probably dominate the agenda today, as the UK faces up to the prospect of exiting the EU by spring 2019.

For starters, we get a new health check on Britain’s construction sector, at 9.30am BST.

Economists predict that activity in the building industry contracted a little in September, as the sector’s recession continued[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/aug/12/uk-construction-sector-slips-into-recession-for-first-time-in-four-years].

CMC Market’s Michael Hewson says:

The construction sector has been a significant underperformer in the last three to four months, posting sub 50 readings every month since June. Expectations are for a reading of 49.1, slightly down from 49.2 in August.

Yesterday, though, we got some extremely decent manufacturing data - showing the biggest surge in two years. So a surprise can’t be ruled out.

The big news comes at 2pm BST, though, when the International Monetary Fund publishes its latest assessment of the global economy.

This will be the first World Economic Outlook since the Brexit vote in June, so it will be fascinating to see the IMF’s view today.

Back in June, they warned that Britain would lurch into recession if it voted to leave the EU[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jun/18/imf-says-brexit-would-trigger-uk-recession-eu-referendum] ; obviously its early days, but the economy does seem to be coping OK so far.

enltrTuesday 9:00 a.m. EDT: Launch of the World Economic Outlook ( #WEO[https://twitter.com/hashtag/WEO?src=hash] ). Follow the press conference live: https://t.co/PaKZ3KFPdp[https://t.co/PaKZ3KFPdp]

— IMF (@IMFNews) October 4, 2016[https://twitter.com/IMFNews/status/783094385504387072]It’s not all about the UK, though. Germany’s Deutsche Bankremains under pressure to agree a fine for mis-selling mortgage backed securities.

Its shares will reopen at 8am, after a Monday holiday in Frankfurt...

We’ll be tracking all the main events through the day....

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.50am BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump’s running mate, the governor of Indiana, has sought to prevent resettlement of Syrian people on the basis of terrorism fears

A federal appeals court has issued a stinging ruling dismissing as “nightmare speculation” Indiana governor Mike Pence’s attempt to deter Syrian refugees[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/03/refugees-drc-congo-us-syria] from settling in the state because of terrorism fears.

The decision by the seventh circuit on Monday was the latest legal setback to efforts launched by Donald Trump’s running mate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/01/indiana-syrian-refugees-resettlement-blocked] in the wake of last November’s Paris terrorist attacks to stop Syrian refugees from coming to Indiana by denying them aid.

Like many other states, Indiana receives money from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and contracts with humanitarian groups to provide local welfare services to refugees. Under federal law, such help must be provided “without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion”.

Related: Connecticut welcomes Syrian refugee family after Indiana governor says no[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/nov/19/connecticut-welcomes-syrian-refugee-family-indiana-governor-says-no]

The Republican vice-presidential candidate, though, specifically attempted to exclude refugees originating from Syria on the basis that they might be terrorists. He ordered the state not to reimburse groups for the costs of providing aid to Syrians. According to the court, 174 Syrian refugees came to Indiana in the past fiscal year.

While this hardline stance may have chimed with the views of Trump, whose **immigration** policies have included proposing a temporary ban on Muslims entering the US, it was rejected by the three-judge appeals court panel in a six-page ruling that echoed a lower court’s decision earlier this year.

“The governor of Indiana believes, though without evidence, that some of these persons were sent to Syria by ISIS to engage in terrorism and now wish to infiltrate the United States in order to commit terrorist acts here. No evidence of this belief has been presented, however; it is nightmare speculation,” Judge Richard Posner wrote in the opinion[http://media.ca7.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/rssExec.pl?Submit=Display&Path=Y2016/D10-03/C:16-1509:J:Posner:aut:T:fnOp:N:1838881:S:0].

“[Pence] provides no evidence that Syrian terrorists are posing as refugees or that Syrian refugees have ever committed acts of terrorism in the United States. Indeed, as far as can be determined from public sources, no Syrian refugees have been arrested or prosecuted for terrorist acts or attempts in the United States. And if Syrian refugees do pose a terrorist threat, implementation of the governor’s policy would simply increase the risk of terrorism in whatever states Syrian refugees were shunted to.”

The opinion adds that Pence’s claim that he is not discriminating based on nationality but purely acting based on safety concerns is “the equivalent of his saying (not that he does say) that he wants to forbid black people to settle in Indiana not because they’re black but because he’s afraid of them, and since race is therefore not his motive he isn’t discriminating. But that of course would be racial discrimination, just as his targeting Syrian refugees is discrimination on the basis of nationality.”

The outcome was expected after Indiana’s plan was received less than warmly in court during oral arguments last month. Courthouse News reported that Judge Frank Easterbrook said[http://www.courthousenews.com/2016/09/14/indiana-ban-on-syrian-refugees-draws-mockery-from-7th-circuit.htm] : “When a state makes an argument that’s saying we’re differentiating according to whether somebody is from Syria, but that has nothing to do with national origin, all it produces is a broad smile.” Posner asked: “Are Syrians the only Muslims that Indiana fears?”

Ken Falk, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, said in a statement: “The Court of Appeals’ decision underscores what we have said throughout this litigation … Governor Pence may not constitutionally or legally discriminate against a particular nationality of refugees that are extensively vetted by the federal government.” The ACLU represented Exodus Refugee **Immigration**, a not-for-profit agency that brought the lawsuit.

With **immigration** and battling Isis key issues in the forthcoming presidential election, leading Republican politicians have accused the federal government of failing to adequately screen refugees and several states have tried to exert more control over who is resettled inside their borders, though **immigration** is a federal matter.

Last Friday, Texas became the latest state[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/30/texas-withdraws-federal-refugee-resettlement-program-syrians] to opt out of the federal refugee resettlement programme, following New Jersey and Kansas earlier this year.

But the move will not stop the arrival of refugees from Syria or anywhere else in the Lone Star state. The federal government and aid agencies will instead work to formulate an arrangement that circumvents the state’s administration of the process.

The Obama administration has pledged to increase the number of refugees arriving in the US from Syria and other nations. The president announced last month[http://www.voanews.com/a/us-narrowly-misses-refugee-limit-for-2016/3533782.html] that the US would accept 110,000 in fiscal year 2017 – up from 85,000 in 2016, of which more than 12,500 were Syrian.

Pence faces off against Tim Kaine, his Democratic opponent, in the vice-presidential debate in Virginia on Tuesday.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Report from Black Alliance for Just **Immigration** reveals 2013 deportation rates for criminal grounds was 76% compared to 45% overall

It is widely recognized that African Americans in the US are more likely to be arrested, convicted and imprisoned[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/18/mass-incarceration-black-americans-higher-rates-disparities-report]. A new report finds this pattern of criminalization has had a spillover effect for black **immigrants**.

People from Africa and the Caribbean are twice as likely to face deportation due to a criminal conviction compared to those from other regions, and more than three times as likely to be detained while their cases are pending, according to the Black Alliance for Just **Immigration**.

“This report shows black **immigrants** encounter major social and economic challenges in the US because of systemic racism,” said Opal Tometi, the Alliance’s Executive Director and a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, who is a first generation Nigerian American and was born and raised in Arizona.

But criminal convictions are just one of the reasons **immigrants** are placed in deportation proceedings. Others are funneled into deportation proceedings simply because of **immigration** violations. Overall, black **immigrants** are slightly more likely to face deportation for any reason than **immigrants** overall. Black **immigrants** comprise about 7% of **immigrants** in the US, and nearly 11% percent of those facing deportation.

Related: Privilege, policing and living while black in Chicago's white north side[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/17/privilege-policing-black-chicago-white-north-side]

The period examined in the report spans the two decades since the Illegal **Immigration** Reform and **Immigrant** Responsibility Act broadened the scope of crimes that are deportable offenses, including possession of marijuana.

“Our theory is that many black **immigrants** live in urban areas that are subject to heavier policing than other communities,” said Carl Lipscombe, policy director for the Alliance and a co-author of the report. “So they are more likely to face a police encounter, and more likely to get arrested and end up in court.”

Lipscombe says he witnessed this pattern as a public defender in New York City, where a federal judge found the police department’s stop-and-frisk program unconstitutional after it was shown to disproportionately target black people.

“I encountered dozens of young black **immigrants** who were arrested for minor offenses such as possession of marijuana and the district attorney would offer them a $25 fine if they pleaded guilty,” said Lipscombe. “This is why we say black **immigrants** are similarly situated to African Americans, except they face additional consequence of deportation.”

Related: Wage gap between white and black Americans is worse today than in 1979[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/wage-gap-black-white-americans]

Most of the report’s new findings stem from a trove of data about **immigrants** in detention originally obtained through an open records request by Buzzfeed News, which analyzed those facing deportation on non-criminal grounds and found three-quarters of Mexicans were detained, compared to 39% for all others.

The Black Alliance for Just **Immigration** asked New York University Law School’s **Immigrant** Rights Clinic and a statistician to conduct a first-of-its-kind analysis of detained black **immigrants** facing deportation due to criminal convictions.

“The data confirms what advocates have long suspected,” said report co-author and NYU law student Juliana Morgan-Trostle.

Since the government does not track **immigrants** based on race, she said the analysis identified black **immigrants** by their country of origin, including those from countries such as Haiti and Nigeria, and then compared to the overall **immigrant** population.

When it compared **immigrant** groups by region in fiscal year 2013, it found 76% of black **immigrants** were deported on criminal grounds, in contrast to 45% overall, 38% of Asian **immigrants**, 47% of South American **immigrants** and 54% of European **immigrants**.

The new report on black **immigrants** also examines census data that shows they have similar rates of educational attainment as white and Asian **immigrants**, but rank highest on unemployment, with one in five living below the poverty line.

It calls on lawmakers to address the disparate rates of detention and deportation for black **immigrants** by eliminating certain drug offenses as a cause for deportation, and by restoring judicial discretion in such cases.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**With the Republican candidate’s professed love for the ‘poorly educated’ reciprocated in the polls, socioeconomic class could swing the presidency in 2016

The sign hanging on Main Street announces, “Crawfords Restaurant, Guns & Ammo”[http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/arts\_and\_entertainment/crawfords-restaurant-guns-ammo/article\_a2845018-089a-59f2-99ba-f38260db83fa.html]. In the window an illuminated sign elaborates: “Breakfast, lunch specials; cards, gifts, toys, ammo, guns, groc.” Inside, there is an unpretentious cafe and shelves of gift cards, tinned food and other sundries as well as camo hats, firearms and ammunition. A deer’s head is mounted on the wall.

The family that helps run Crawfords, in downtown Boonsboro, Maryland[http://www.town.boonsboro.md.us/], owns more than a hundred guns. Allen Crawford, Pam Rutherford and their four teenage daughters are deer hunters; a single kill yields around 80 to 90lbs of meat for their dinner table, and they donate the hide and antlers to be recycled as furniture. Come November’s presidential election, they will vote for Donald Trump.

“You either have the common man with Donald Trump or the privileged with Hillary Clinton,” Rutherford said this week. “Clinton’s supporters could go 50 miles or less from their plush condos and elegant houses and find someone who has to hunt to support their family. I don’t think they realise that.”

In Britain it might be called a class divide. The nation premised on the American dream is more reluctant to accept such terms. Accent, dress sense and taste are not supposed to matter in the ultimate meritocracy. But the uniquely polarising candidacy of Trump has raised the prospect that, with important faultlines such as age, gender, geography and race relatively settled from election to election[http://ropercenter.cornell.edu.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/polls/us-elections/how-groups-voted/how-groups-voted-2012/], socioeconomic class could swing the presidency in 2016.

One marker is education. In 1992, Republican voters were much better educated than their Democratic counterparts, according to the Pew Research Center[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/09/15/educational-divide-in-vote-preferences-on-track-to-be-wider-than-in-recent-elections/]. Today registered voters with a college degree favour Clinton by 23 percentage points, while those without a college degree prefer Trump by five. This trend cuts across demographic groups, although it is most pronounced among whites. The Slate website noted:[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\_and\_politics/politics/2016/09/trump\_clinton\_is\_defined\_by\_an\_educational\_gap\_among\_white\_voters.html] “The educational split among white voters is the defining characteristic of this election.” If this holds in November, it will be the widest educational divide at the ballot box for several decades.

Another marker is cultural and about optics. When Clinton recently referred to half of Trump’s supporters as a “basket of deplorables”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/10/hillary-clinton-trump-supporters--bigoted-deplorables], critics also seized on the context: she was addressing millionaires at a fundraiser headlined by the singer Barbra Streisand at the New York restaurant Cipriani Wall Street. And her backers include those other temples of coastal privilege, Hollywood and Silicon Valley.

Trump, by contrast, was anointed the “blue-collar billionaire” at the Republican national convention, where Willie Robertson of the TV reality show Duck Dynasty, wearing stars and stripes bandanna and bushy beard, declared that media pundits[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/07/18/duck-dynasty-star-willie-robertson-might-have-a-point-about-the-media/] “don’t hang out with regular folks like us, who like to hunt and fish and pray and actually work for a living. Heck, I don’t even know that they know how to talk to people from middle America. I mean, when I tell ’em I’m from Louisiana, they really start talking real slow and real loud.”

In Boonsboro, a town of 3,400 people steeped in revolutionary and civil war history, a giant Trump sign has been spraypainted with the word “love”. Opposite a Subway restaurant and closed-down bakery, the Turn the Page Bookstore[http://www.ttpbooks.com/], owned by the romance novelist Nora Roberts, sells soy candles, handmade soaps and organic coffee. Its employees make little secret of their allegiance to Clinton. Two doors away, at Crawfords Restaurant, Guns & Ammo, a handwritten sign behind the laminated counter warns “No free refills on drinks” and the staff are for Trump.

As a reality show about hunting in the woods played on the TV, Rutherford, who is cashier, dishwasher, shelf stacker and much else, said of Clinton’s supporters: “I don’t think they realise the importance of small-town America and they don’t see the value of it. Everybody in this community loves this little store but big companies make it harder and harder for us.

“People say, ‘You must be doing well with Obamacare’. I say, actually, unless you have an astronomical salary or a company to pay for it, it’s crippling. Our health insurance is $900 per month for the family; that’s why I work. Obamacare sounds really good to people not close to the reality of it.”

Rutherford, 47, who grew up Southern Baptist, has seen the urban-rural divide from both sides. She attended the prestigious Winston Churchill high school[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/churchillhs] in Potomac and still visits friends in the wealthy Chevy Chase area. But she moved to Boonsboro in 2002, where the family keeps horses, dogs and chickens on 30 acres of land and hunts 80% of their own food. Her daughters, aged 13, 14, 15 and 16, “all hunt and play volleyball”.

Displaying a phone picture of herself with a deer she bagged, Rutherford said: “A lot of my friends don’t agree with what I do but they don’t have trouble wearing a full-length coyote coat to a fundraiser in January. They will wear leather shoes and carry an alligator handbag. The people of Washington don’t want to go out to the rural areas; no one wants to go out of their comfort zone. But I would love to go to a Clinton rally just to eavesdrop and hear the interaction.”

Along the street, at Marly’s Laundry, Wayne Stonesifer was waiting patiently as his clothes spun in a tumble dryer. In his spare time, the maintenance technician goes hunting and fishing or watches TV: Fox News[http://www.foxnews.com/] or children’s shows with his grandsons. He belongs to the National Rifle Associationand intends to vote for Trump.

“Hillary Clinton won’t come round here,” the 48-year-old said. “We’re too low class for her.”

Clinton’s followers would object to him hunting deer, Stonesifer believes. “They have their opinions and I have mine. As long as we don’t bother each other, that’s fine. If you try to interrupt me when I’m hunting, that’s different.”

The country has a bigger divide now than ever, he added. “You’ve got your gay rights, abortion laws, racism. Everybody’s split. It wasn’t this bad when I was growing up. Everybody’s afraid to say something ’cos you’re going to hurt someone’s feelings. The 80s were better. I think God needs to be back in the picture; everyone’s taking him for granted. Times are getting nearer.”

Kevin Dobereiner, 36, owns two small businesses and complains that taxes are too high. He is also supporting Trump. “He’s not a liberal and we’re $20 trillion in debt and unemployment is too high and our healthcare is terrible. The community organiser-in-chief has no qualifications and Hillary Clinton is just an extension of that.

“I don’t care what Trump says; I care what he does and he’s not a billionaire because he’s stupid. I like a guy who puts his foot in his mouth because at least he tells the truth.”

Trump’s plain speaking has been identified as one of the sources of his appeal to voters angry at the status quo in general and Republican establishment in particular. Even his outlandish gaffes are said to humanise him, emphasising his status as outsider and non-politician. His anti-Mexican and anti-Muslim diatribes have disgusted liberals and been cheered at raucous rallies, where he declares his love for “the poorly educated”.

John Hudak[https://www.brookings.edu/experts/john-hudak/], a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution thinktank in Washington, said: “I think supporters look at Donald Trump and see a bit of an everyman, even though his biography completely opposes that worldview. Then they look at Hillary Clinton and see her as more elite than her background would actually suggest. Trump is the person you want to see on TLC; Clinton appears to live the way an average wealthy person lives.”

There is a crucial gender dimension, Hudak argues. “A female candidate would not be allowed to ramble like Trump does or Bill Clinton did. Only in a race between a man and a woman could her polish be a liability and his freewheeling be an asset.”

Trump has scrambled the orthodoxy of class, for example by tweeting a picture of himself eating McDonald’s fast food and drinking Coke on his luxurious private jet. He loves both boxing and golf. He has named Orson Welles’s masterpiece Citizen Kane as his favourite film but also once told the New Yorker[http://www.newyorker.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/magazine/1997/05/19/trump-solo] that Bloodsport, a violent action flick starring Jean Claude Van Damme, is “an incredible, fantastic movie”. The music at his rallies ranges from Nessun dorma, an aria from Giacomo Puccini’s opera Turandot, to Elton John. His properties are crammed with chandeliers, gold leaf, mirrors and marble – tacky to some, aspirational to others. Both patrician and plebeian, his reading list is said to consist mainly of articles about himself.

Some would say he lacks class, in every sense. And there is a tenacious myth that, free of the ossified layers of agricultural and industrial Europe, America is a class-free land of opportunity, where someone born into poverty can become president. It is not so simple, according to sociologists. Arlie Hochschild of the University of California, Berkeley, and author of Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right, said: “Class is profoundly important, imprinting all aspects of childhood, self, character and behind, and the denial of it is in the service of keeping alive the hope of lifting out of it. But America would be far better off talking about the realities of it.”

Robert H Frank[http://www.robert-h-frank.com/], a professor of economics at Cornell University and author of Success and Luck: Good Fortune and the Myth of Meritocracy, added: “People here, if you ask them, will say they are ‘middle class’. Even relatively rich people will answer middle class because we deny there’s such a thing as class here, which is of course preposterous. The barriers are different from England but they’re real.”

Research suggests that Trump’s core support should not be simply characterised as the white working class. Many earn an average of $70,000 but are caught in the downdraft of deindustrialisation, losing jobs to factory or mine closures, lacking the skills for a digital economy, anxious that their children will be worse off than they were. Joe Sims, a member of the national board of the Communist Party USA[http://www.cpusa.org/], said: “My sense is that Trump’s support comes not so much from the white working class but the lower middle class and small business people who have been pushed into the ranks of the working class. The wages are flat and they’re pissed off.”

But in a supposedly classless society, there is often a gap between perception and reality. Sims added: “During the 1950s and 1960s there was a myth propagated about the American dream and the American way of life and the sense that everyone was middle class and upwardly mobile. Certainly during that period there was at least a steadiness in increase in income and their children were able to do a little better than them. But this idea of everyone being middle class has crashed on the rocks of reality. Wages have been stagnant since the 1970s.”

Numerous academic studies have found that the extent of social mobility was probably always exaggerated and, in the past generation, may have become deteriorated. The soaring cost of studying at university[http://www.cnbc.com/2015/06/16/why-college-costs-are-so-high-and-rising.html] has been blamed for stifling upward movement and allowing middle-class families to entrench their advantage. Pew’s research, published last week, found a growing ideological divide, with highly educated adults holding increasingly liberal attitudes, while under a third of the less educated held liberal views.

Stanley Greenberg[http://www.gqrr.com/stanley-b-greenberg], a veteran political consultant and senior pollster for Bill Clinton, said: “I think we’ll see the biggest divide between working-class voters and those with a college degree in this election. It’s already there in the polls. Trump is reinforcing it by the nature of the campaign he’s running and the issues he’s running on. He’s driving away college graduates as well as the whole Republican party.”

In the Republican primaries, Trump the class warrior made Ted Cruz, the conservative Christian ideologue, look quaint. Greenberg admits that he was surprised. “The college-educated Republicans keep moving year after year more to the Democrats but this election has really accelerated it because it’s the first time we’ve had a candidate running on a straight working-class campaign. [George W] Bush was very much centred on faith; that’s legitimate but it wasn’t an economic argument.”

However, he warned against an oversimplified binary split, pointing to the success of Bernie Sanders, the senator from Vermont, in the Democratic primaries. Sanders stressed issues of economic inequality and access to college education, to the extent that he was criticised by some for neglecting race[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/03/bernie-sanders-failure-diversity-hispanic-black-voters].

“There were a lot of Democrats who were voting for somebody who was a self-described socialist, running against big money, getting big money out of politics, going after Wall Street and big banks, attacking Hillary for being a creature of the big banks, so you need a third bucket,” Greenberg said. “There are others who are not so focused on the racial and cultural issues who are quite ready to rally. Sanders, in the polls at least, was stronger than Hillary against Trump because he actually was winning both millennials and working-class voters.”

But now Sanders is out, there are two historically unpopular candidates and a fear of two classes, or tribes, or nations, mutually hostile and suspicious. Like the Brexit vote in Britain,[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/eu-referendum] a painful rift has been exposed and polling day itself will not necessarily heal it. If diehard Clinton and Trump supporters sat down to dinner tonight, would they find much to talk about?

In Chevy Chase, an affluent neighbourhood in north-west Washington DC, an area where deer roam audaciously in the gardens of multimillion-dollar houses, Trump fans are hard to find. The owner of the retro American City Diner[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jan/29/american-city-diner-owner-fights-trump-puns-signs-jeffrey-gildenhorn] has endorsed Clinton with a giant billboard and sign that says: “Trump exercise: lifting bags of money.” Up the road, the Avalon Theatre, an independent cinema that opened in 1923, sells organic ice cream and shows films including the French-language Les Cowboys.

Levon Avdoyan, a 69-year-old librarian strolling nearby, said: “There are people who live the life of the mind and people who live the life of emotion. Trump is a regrettable example of the latter. He has no politics and caters to the worst part of the American psyche. He caters to people who don’t know what fascism is.”

Asked his opinion of Trump’s supporters, Avdoyan replied: “They’re scared little people.”

And how would they regard him? “I’m gay. I’m an atheist. I have a PhD. It’s almost a trifecta.”

Howard Shaker, 64, had just been to see the Beatles documentary Eight Days a Week. He said: “Trump’s a vulgar man who knows nothing. He’s a very privileged individual who came from wealth. You’d think he would be cosmopolitan but there’s something primitive about him. I don’t think he would fit here in Chevy Chase but he should because of his background.”

The retired IT contractor added: “There’s a tremendous chasm in the US. In many respects it comes down to urban verus rural. The people who go to a Trump rally are a different crowd. There is a divide between them and other Americans. It confounds me that he’s doing so well in the polls.”

Sitting in the alfresco dining area of the Chevy Chase Lounge were Diana Blitz, a school counsellor, and Wendie Lubic[http://www.collegeladydc.com/About\_Wendie.html], an education consultant, both of whom intend to vote for Clinton. Blitz, 59, rejected the notion of a class divide. “There are some poor people who are Clinton supporters; there are wealthy people who are Trump supporters,” she said. “He’s playing to a disenfranchised group in the US. After a black president, the idea of a woman president is abhorrent to them. They feel this isn’t their country any more.”

Lubic, 54, added: “I don’t think you can call it a class divide when you have people of colour that are not supporting him. It may come down to an education divide. Colleges try to encourage empathy with others. Many of the Trump supporters are lacking in empathy for people who are not like them.”

At another table, Joel Cohn, 52, a lawyer, and his partner Ellen Anderton, 50, a freelance writer, disagreed on one point. Anderton said: “I wouldn’t want to talk to people who were Trump supporters. I wouldn’t want to engage with them.”

Cohn responded: “I would, even if they’re ‘deplorables’. Bring them on. Those voting for Trump think it’s two different countries and two different cultures. They see liberals and Democrats as **alien** life forms. I grew up in a rural environment and it’s not like guns are totally **alien** to us. It’s part of class, educational, geographical resentment: it’s more their perception than my perception.”

America has been described as a split-screen nation and it is, of course, about much more than class: some polls show Trump at 0% among African American voters[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/07/13/new-polls-in-pennsylvania-and-ohio-show-donald-trump-with-0-percent-of-the-black-vote/]. But this is the year that a Republican, campaigning as an anti-intellectual vulgarian, won over many who feel neglected by what they view as the metropolitan intelligentsia. America, home of the class divide that dare not speak its name.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The death of an unarmed black man has prompted days of protests in the California suburb of El Cajon, and police chief says video is ‘vital’ to show

El Cajon police have released video of the police shooting of Alfred Olango, an unarmed black man whose killing on Tuesday prompted days of protests in the San Diego suburb.

Olango was shot and killed on Tuesday[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/28/police-killing-black-man-el-cajon-san-diego-protest] after police confronted the 38-year-old behind a Mexican restaurant with reports that he was “ not acting like himself[http://www.cityofelcajon.us/Home/Components/News/News/2867/112] ” and walking into traffic. In their initial account, police said that Olango refused to comply with commands by police to pull his hand from his pocket.

He then “rapidly drew an object from his front pants pocket”, according to police, “placed both hands together and extended them rapidly toward the officer taking up what appeared to be a shooting stance”.

Two officers, Richard Gonzalves and Josh McDaniel, fired a gun and Taser respectively, El Cajon’ police chief, Jeff Davis, said. They later revealed Olango was holding an e-cigarette[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/28/police-say-black-man-killed-by-officer-near-san-diego-was-holding-e-cigarette]. “The investigation is still continuing,” Davis said, “this video is part of the evidence and that is why it was vital we show it today.”

The videos, taken from a surveillance camera by a drive-through and the cellphone of a witness, shows Olango pacing in the street as an officer confronts him and mirrors his movements. Olango eventually pauses and makes a gesture that is difficult to interpret from a distance. Officers fire, and in the witness’s video a woman screams.

Related: Police killing of unarmed black man near San Diego sparks protest[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/28/police-killing-black-man-el-cajon-san-diego-protest]

“The decision to release the video,” Davis said, “was not made in a vacuum.” Davis said that after the shooting, people were spreading “misleading” information that “had the potential to create unrest in the community”.

“It was because of this that I decided to release a still image of the video that you’re about to see,” Davis said.

The San Diego district attorney, Bonnie Dumanis, said investigators had not reached any conclusions about the case or potential charges. “Video evidence is one piece of the evidence that is out there, but we want to make sure that we have every bit of the evidence.”

Several hundred protesters took to the streets in the days after the shooting, and on Thursday night several dozen people blocked roads, broke car windows and knocked a motorcyclist off his vehicle, according to the police department.

When told to disperse by police, protesters threw glass bottles, bricks and rocks, and officers used pepperball projectiles on demonstrators, the department said[http://www.cityofelcajon.us/Home/Components/News/News/2873/112]. Two men, 19 and 28, were taken into custody for unlawful assembly, Davis said, and one was arrested for assault on a police officer after a brick was thrown.

The night before, one person was injured in demonstrations that turned violent, according to police[http://www.cityofelcajon.us/Home/Components/News/News/2869/112], and a cameraman from the San Diego Union-Tribune was assaulted. Davis said the camera has since been recovered.

“From the beginning our position has been to allow the demonstrations and protests to go forth as long as they were peaceful and non-violent,” Davis said. “Businesses are closing, schools are releasing students from classes prematurely,” he added, explaining the decision to release the video.

Also at the press conference the Rev Gerald Brown, a local organizer, urged people to protest peacefully. “We want to move forward in peace. It is OK to protest but we want folks to protest in peace,” he said.

A fourth night of protests on Friday remained peaceful at least for the first few hours, with about 200 people blocking intersections and at one point attempting to walk on to a freeway before police stopped them.

Several hundred people gathered peacefully at a park in downtown El Cajon on Saturday, to hear speeches by religious leaders and then march through the streets to police headquarters, where family members joined them.

Olango’s father, Richard Olango Abuka, called for the resignation of the police chief and said his son’s death would be a turning point in a peaceful struggle to change police practices. Other speakers demanded changes in how police respond to calls about people in mental distress. A modest police presence attended, to direct traffic.

On Friday Brown and Andre Branch, president of the NAACP San Diego branch, praised police and the mayor. “We want to applaud and commend Chief Jeff Davis and the city of El Cajon for releasing this video of this police involved shooting,” Branch said. “The NAACP believes this is the action that should follow any and all police-involved shootings.”

Olango’s mother told reporters that her son, a Ugandan refugee[http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-alfred-olango-pamela-benge-20160929-snap-story.html] who arrived in the US in 1991, was in distress because of a friend’s recent death. **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities told the Associated Press on Thursday that ICE had tried to deport Olango for a drug and firearm conviction[http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/national-international/El-Cajon-Police-Shooting-US-Tried-to-Deport-Slain-Refugee-Twice-395289321.html], but failed to convince Uganda to accept him. He stopped reporting to **immigration** officers in February 2015, ICE officials said.

The police shooting of Keith Scott, a black man in Charlotte, North Carolina, similarly prompted mass protests [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/22/charlotte-protests-north-carolina-governor-declares-state-of-emergency] last week and the eventual release of video [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/video-keith-scott-shooting-charlotte-police] of the confrontation. For more than two years the high-profile[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/09/ferguson-michael-brown-shooting-anniversary-protest] police killings[https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/jul/25/eric-garner-killing-one-year-on-sit-down-son-its-time-for-the-talk] of black people[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/22/philando-castile-film-police-shooting-happy-birthday], many unarmed, have brought people into the streets [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/10/ferguson-department-of-justice-lawsuit-police-reforms] to protest against police abuses and systemic racism.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Clinton made the former Miss Universe turned actor and activist a talking point of the first debate, criticizing Trump’s public comments about her weight

Alicia Machado became an American citizen just in time to vote against Donald Trump. It’s a vote that has been a long time coming.

In May 1996, the Venezuelan beauty queen was just 19 years old when she was crowned the winner of the Miss Universe pageant, which had recently been bought by the Manhattan business mogul. That year should have been one of sheer happiness and possibility for Machado, and for a moment it was. “I remember I hug my mom and I tell her, now our lives is going to be changed forever,” she told the Guardian in an interview in her adopted hometown of Los Angeles.

Related: Trump attacks Alicia Machado again: 'She gained a massive amount of weight. She was the worst'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/donald-trump-alicia-machado-miss-universe-fox-and-friends]

But when she put on weight soon after winning, Trump turned what should have been a golden year into the most traumatizing one of her life. It wasn’t just that Trump shamed her about about gaining weight, calling her things like “Miss Piggy” and “an eating machine”. It wasn’t even that he did so publicly. It was that he did it with the biggest audience he could find, in an attempt to sear her weight fluctuation into the public consciousness, forever changing how she would be remembered.

Then on Monday night, in a twist of cosmic justice, Trump – now the Republican nominee for president – was presented with a bigger audience for his comments about Machado’s weight than he ever could have imagined, or wanted.

In what has been billed as the most-watched debate in presidential history[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-clinton-trump-recap-presidential-election-hofstra], Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton made Trump’s remarks to Machado a centerpiece of their first televised clash, citing the name-calling[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/donald-trump-alicia-machado-miss-universe-fox-and-friends] – in particular, Trump calling her “Miss Housekeeping” in reference to her Latina origins – as a prime example of her opponent’s demeaning views about women.

Trump’s treatment of Machado reached its nadir in January 1997 when, having put the recently crowned Miss Universe on a stringent diet and exercise regime, he scheduled a trip with her to a New York City gym. There he blindsided her with dozens of cameramen, who gathered to film her jumping rope, lifting weights and pedaling a stationary bike. Trump cast himself in the role of disapproving dad, leaning over Machado as she hid her mortification behind a show of charms only the world’s top beauty queen could have mustered, laughing along with reporters and even once planting a kiss on Trump’s cheek.

Although she appeared happy, smiling for the crowd of cameras as she dutifully skipped rope, she tells the Guardian she felt like a mouse in a cage, running endlessly on her fixed wheel for the entertainment of others. “I was in some gym in New York like a mouse,” she said. “Look at that mouse: how she run, how she jump, how she make exercise. Like that. In that moment is when … problems come to me and start.”

The media loved the spectacle, and so did Trump, who didn’t hesitate to pass out some memorable if fallacious tidbits himself. “She weighed 118 pounds or 117 pounds and she went up to 170, so this is somebody who likes to eat,” he said in an interview at the time. In fact Machado says she gained only a fraction of that weight but she didn’t dare correct him; she was already frightened he’d make good on a threat to strip her of her crown if she didn’t follow through on the performance at the gym. (Trump’s campaign did not return a request for comment.)

Machado never did lose her crown, but she lost her health for a time. Though she had never suffered from eating disorders previously, in the years that followed the ordeal at the gym, she struggled with anorexia and bulimia. It took five years before she was fully recovered, and longer before she could talk about what she went through. Now she hopes to use the insights gleaned to help teenagers struggling to love their bodies.

“No matter what, no matter who tells you that you don’t look good, that is only outside,” she said, speaking partly, perhaps, to her younger self. “You are more than some weight. You are more than some phase. You are more than if you are short or tall, or you are black or you are white, or you are skinny or fat or whatever. Your value is how you can work, how you can feel for the people around you.”

She added: “In this moment 20 years later, the only thing I need to say is I’m a really happy person. I’m a very successful person. I have my family, my daughter, my career, my dreams, my ideas.” Referring to Trump’s character, she said: “And he can’t be a president of the United States of America.”

That Machado is thriving these days was readily apparent from where she sat in her publicist’s fourth-floor office in West Hollywood, and apparent in many different realms. She has traded pageants for success as an actor, starring in a string of telenovelas – a childhood dream come true. She is also a successful businesswoman, with a line of products bearing her name. And she is the proud mother of a seven-year-old girl, whose privacy she fiercely protects; a question about whether she would encourage her daughter to compete in beauty pageants was met with stern disapproval.

More recently, she has added another title to her list of identities: activist. In June, Machado teamed up with civil rights icon Dolores Huerta[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/former-miss-universe-civil-rights-legend-delores-huerta-team-up-against-trump/2016/06/15/a287616e-3313-11e6-8758-d58e76e11b12\_story.html] in Virginia to join **immigrant** advocacy groups in encouraging Latinos to register – and to vote for Clinton. She took her own advice to heart, too. On 19 August she became a registered US citizen, pledging in a post on Instagram[https://www.instagram.com/p/BJS8lOEjhGV/] to cast her ballot for Clinton. Later that month she traveled to Florida to lend her star power to a Clinton campaign drive to register Latino voters, posting video excerpts from the trip to social media accounts.

Her celebrity is at the nexus of two very important voter groups this election cycle, and they are groups overwhelmingly supportive of Clinton: women and Latinos[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/15/donald-trump-republicans-newt-gingrich]. Both have been broadly insulted by Trump, who has called Mexican **immigrants** “rapists”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/02/donald-trump-racist-claims-mexico-rapes] and regularly refers to women as animals; Machado has the dubious distinction of being the recipient of both racial and gender-specific slurs, a powerful reference point that certainly isn’t lost on the Clinton campaign.

“Alicia Machado has seen first hand the dangerous impact Trump’s hateful and divisive rhetoric can have on people,” a Clinton spokesperson said of Machado’s involvement with the campaign. “As a Latina, as a first-time voter and as a respected leader in the Latino community, Alicia has become an invaluable voice of our campaign to help mobilize Latinos against Trump’s bigoted agenda and to educate the community about Hillary’s plans to build a better future for them.”

In the first presidential debate on Monday, Machado’s value could scarcely have been more evident. Clinton’s strongest moment in an already impressive debate performance – arguably her strongest moment in the cycle[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/clinton-trump-debate-analysis] – came near the end when she seized on a question about what Trump had meant when he had said she didn’t “look” presidential. Trump tried to deflect the damaging line of inquiry, saying he had actually been questioning her stamina. Clinton wasn’t having it; and she used the concrete details of Machado’s story to pull him back in the ring of fire.

“He tried to switch from looks to stamina, but this is a man who has called women pigs, slobs, and dogs, and someone who has said, ‘Pregnancy is an inconvenience to employers.’ Who has said, ‘Women don’t deserve equal pay unless they do as good of a job as men,’” Clinton said as Trump tried to protest.

“One of the worst things he said was about a woman in a beauty contest,” Clinton continued. “Her name is Alicia Machado and she has become a US citizen, and you can bet she’s going to vote this November.” It was a rare moment in which Trump’s words were effectively weaponized against him. And, for the first time all debate, Trump had noticeably lost his cool, switching focus to offensive comments he had made about TV personality Rosie O’Donnell and saying: “I think everybody would agree that she deserves it and nobody feels sorry for her.”

Another measure of the attack’s effectiveness came the following morning, when Trump was asked on Fox and Friends what, if anything, from the debate had gotten under his skin. Without hesitation he singled out Machado[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/donald-trump-alicia-machado-miss-universe-fox-and-friends]. “She was the worst we ever had, the worst, the absolute worst. She was impossible,” he said of the former beauty queen.

“She was the winner and she gained a massive amount of weight and it was a problem,” Trump continued. “We had a real problem, not only that, her attitude and we had a real problem with her. Hillary went back into the years and found the girl and talked about her like she was Mother Teresa and it wasn’t quite that way, but that’s OK.”

Related: Fat people, rise up! We could swing this election | Lindy West[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/27/fat-people-rise-up-we-could-swing-this-election]

But it isn’t 1996 any more; Machado, far from being a girl, is a 39-year-old woman, and if body-shaming constituted good press for Trump’s fledgling beauty pageant business then, it seems less of a good look for his presidential campaign today. It’s a similar case with his continued insistence on how right he is to call women out for their weight. Machado understands this, perhaps even more acutely than Clinton, because she’s lived it; and she is willing to relive and keep reliving this painful episode if it means shedding light on a man she feels has no business anywhere near the Oval Office.

On a call organized by the Clinton campaign on Tuesday afternoon billed as a chance to let Machado respond to Trump’s most recent attacks, the former beauty queen was much more interested in talking about his Democratic rival, whose mention of her story in the debate the night before had moved her to tears. She “never imagined it would matter to someone so powerful”, she said.

But as someone who straddles two powerful voting blocs this election cycle, Machado is a double threat to Trump, and she feels that her celebrity means she has a responsibility to speak up about her experiences when they can help people. “If I can be a voice for my Latino community in this moment, I will do it,” she told the Guardian.

It’s not just a matter of Trump: a few years ago she survived a battle with breast cancer, and as a person of faith, she said she struggled to make sense of why God sent her such a challenge. Tearing up ever so slightly for the first time in an hour-long interview, she said she finally determined it was because she needed to share her story: “People believe in my words,” she said. “People look at me as a strong person. That is my character – I’m a strong woman.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**A day after comments about Machado were condemned by Hillary Clinton, audio is uncovered of Trump and Stern discussing the then Miss Universe in 1997Alicia Machado speaks to the Guardian about Trump and weight-shamingPresidential debate fact-check: Trump and Clinton’s claims reviewedOur panel verdict: ‘Clinton weaponized Trump’s words’

block-time published-time 2.31am BST

Speaking to a crowd of 7,500 the day after his first presidential debate with Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-polls-reaction-hillary-clinton-donald-trump], Trump claimed: “I was holding back. I didn’t want to do anything to embarrass her.”

Donald Trump Photograph: Spencer Platt/Getty Images He still insisted that every poll showed him winning the debates but cited only internet surveys to prove this; every scientific poll taken in the aftermath of the debate showed a majority of viewers believing Clinton had won.

The Republican nominee’s unhappiness with coverage of his widely panned performance showed. Three times in the course of the rally, Trump called out “the corrupt corporate media” and gestured towards his supporters to turn towards the press pen to boo, hiss and even, in one instance, shout “go to hell”.

Trump constantly revisited different moments in the debate and told of how, before taking the stage, “I took a deep breath and pretended I was talking to my family.” He recounted what he felt were his best lines during the debate – like, “You are experienced but it’s bad experience” – and touted how he had done well on the issue of trade and exposed Clinton’s “real positions” on Nafta, which he described as “the single worst deal you’ll ever see”.

He even bashed Lester Holt, the debate moderator, whom Trump described as “the emcee”, for challenging him when he praised stop and frisk, a controversial police tactic that involved New York police officers stopping pedestrians without a warrant, asking them questions and checking them for weapons. A federal judge ruled in 2013 that the practice was unconstitutional as it disproportionately targeted African Americans and Latinos. Trump insisted, “I also explained last night stop and frisk was constitutional. The emcee argued with me, taking up the time. Law enforcement does stop and frisk every day.”

Trump also re-litigated his false claim that he had opposed the Iraq war from the beginning, asking the crowd for approval. “And does everybody believe me, I was against going into Iraq?” he asked the crowd.

Related: Trump boasts after first debate against Clinton: 'I didn't want to embarrass her'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-first-debate-winner]

block-time published-time 2.20am BST

Arizona Republic endorses first Democratic presidential candidate in 126 years The Arizona Republic has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president[http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/editorial/2016/09/27/hillary-clinton-endorsement/91198668/], making her the first Democratic presidential candidate to earn the newspaper’s endorsement in its 126-year history.

“Since The Arizona Republic began publication in 1890, we have never endorsed a Democrat over a Republican for president. Never,” wrote the editorial board of Arizona’s most widely read daily newspaper. “This reflects a deep philosophical appreciation for conservative ideals and Republican principles. This year is different. The 2016 Republican candidate is not conservative and he is not qualified.”

The newspaper’s editorial board makes no bones about what it views as the temperamental deficiencies of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump: “Clinton has the temperament and experience to be president. Donald Trump does not.”

Calling Trump’s antics on and off the debate stage “beneath our national dignity,” the Arizona Republic’s editorial board dismissed Trump’s stance on **immigration**as inflammatory and ineffective - a potentially consequential assertion in the border state.

“Arizona went down the hardline **immigration** road Trump travels. It led our state to SB 1070, the 2010 ‘show me your papers’ law that earned Arizona international condemnation and did nothing to resolve real problems with undocumented **immigration**,” the editorial board writes. “Arizona understands that we don’t need a repeat of that divisive, unproductive fiasco on the national level.”

block-time published-time 2.08am BST

Former GOP senator John Warner to endorse Hillary Clinton Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has scored another endorsement from a Republican politician, this time from former Virginia senator John Warner, according to the Washington Post[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/clinton-to-score-another-gop-endorsement-former-senator-john-warner-of-virginia/2016/09/27/43caf6e6-84cf-11e6-a3ef-f35afb41797f\_story.html].

Warner, an icon in the commonwealth with strong ties to the military community, joins a long list of Republicans who have avoided endorsing Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, instead attaching himself to a ticket that already features another Virginian: current senator Tim Kaine, Clinton’s running mate.

“For 30 years, Virginians trusted John Warner in the senate, and for good reason: he has dedicated his life to defending our country, from serving in the Navy in World War II to chairing the senate armed services committee, where I had the honor of working with him to support our men and women in uniform and their families,” Clinton wrote in a statement. “I am proud to have John’s support, and to know that someone with his decades of experience would trust me with the weighty responsibility of being commander in chief.”

block-time published-time 1.41am BST

Donald Trump: I 'held back' in last night's debate Speaking to a campaign rally audience in Melbourne, Florida, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump declared that the only reason he didn’t get in more jabs in last night’s first presidential debate was that he “held back” because he “didn’t want to embarrass” Hillary Clinton.

“For 90 minutes, I watched her very carefully and I was also holding back, I didn’t want to do anything to embarrass her, but I watched her and she was stuck in the past,” Trump said. “For 90 minutes on issue after issue, Hillary Clinton defended the terrible status quo, while I laid our plan, all of us together, to bring jobs, security and prosperity back to the American people.”

“For 90 minutes, she argued against change, while I called for dramatic change. We have to have dramatic change. We have to get rid of Obamacare, we have to strengthen up our depleted military. It’s in such bad shape. We’re gonna do a lot of great things, folks. November 8, you have to get out there and vote.”

block-time published-time 1.18am BST

Oh, hey there:

enltr1992 discussing the possibility of a minority for President. The most important cutaway in debate history. pic.twitter.com/XR6cHQ9P43[https://t.co/XR6cHQ9P43]

— Jesse Case (@jessecase) September 28, 2016[https://twitter.com/jessecase/status/780921403637764098]block-time published-time 12.40am BST

Donald Trump campaigns in Melbourne, Florida Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 12.38am BST

Melissa Joan Hart named as Gary Johnson's Connecticut campaign chair Actress Melissa Joan Hart - best known as Sabrina in Sabrina the Teenage Witch and Clarissa in Clarissa Explains It All - has joined Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson’s campaign, under the title of Connecticut campaign chair.

Hart has previously supported Republican candidates, tweeting in 2012 that she planned to vote for Mitt Romney:

enltrCan't get too political in only 140 chac but for those asking, I'm voting #RomneyRyan[https://twitter.com/hashtag/RomneyRyan?src=hash].

— Melissa Joan Hart (@MelissaJoanHart) November 5, 2012[https://twitter.com/MelissaJoanHart/status/265561101608042499]...but has previously announced support for Johnson’s campaign earlier this year.

“I want to break away from this two-party system and I think it’s important for people to know that there’s another candidate out there who really toes the line between Democrat and Republican,” Hart told People Magazine[http://www.people.com/article/melissa-joan-hart-gary-johnson-campaign-connecticut-chairperson]. “I mean, he’s libertarian, but socially he’s liberal, but fiscally conservative.”

“Governors, I love, because they already ran their state as like a little president,” Hart continued, referring to Johnson’s service as the governor of New Mexico. “So he gets the way, you know, things run. The politics of it all. He was on a border state, so if you want to talk about **immigration**, he’s the guy.”

block-time published-time 11.55pm BST

Donald Trump’s rally in Florida, set to begin in five minutes, is being delayed by storms:

enltrPer ATC, Trump plane is deviating to avoid the storms, necessitating a delay at the rally

— Zeke Miller (@ZekeJMiller) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller/status/780902205771640833]block-time published-time 11.46pm BST

Colin Kaepernick to Trump: 'America has never been great for people of color' Colin Kaepernick[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/colin-kaepernick] has hit back at Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s assertion that the quarterback “should find another country that works better for him” in response to his decision to kneel for the national anthem.

Kaepernick, whose protest has sparked a national discussion over racial injustice and inspired dozens of other professional[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/sep/11/marcus-peters-raises-fist-national-anthem-nfl-protest] and collegiate players[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/sep/24/national-anthem-protest-college-football-kaepernick] to follow suit, characterized Trump’s comment as a “very ignorant statement” during this afternoon’s media availability at the team’s practice facility.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick meets with Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin. Photograph: Troy Wayrynen/USA Today Sports “It’s a very ignorant statement that, if you don’t agree with what’s going on, hearing that if you want justice and liberty and freedom for all, then you should leave the country,” Kaepernick told reporters in a video shared by the Bay Area News Group[https://twitter.com/CamInman/status/780863524377464833/video/1]. “He always says make America great again. Well, America has never been great for people of color. And that’s something that needs to be addressed. Let’s make America great for the first time.”

Kaepernick’s remarks came the morning after Monday’s first presidential debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-polls-reaction-hillary-clinton-donald-trump], where Trumped doubled down on his call for the national introduction of “stop and frisk”, the controversial police tactic ruled unconstitutional in 2013 when a federal judge found it disproportionately targeted African American and Latino neighborhoods.

Trump first addressed Kaepernick’s protest in an appearance last month on the Dori Monson Show, a conservative afternoon talk-radio program in the Seattle area.

“I have followed it and I think it’s personally not a good thing,” the GOP candidate said. “I think it’s a terrible thing, and you know, maybe he should find a country that works better for him. Let him try: it won’t happen.”

Related: Colin Kaepernick to Trump: 'America has never been great for people of color'[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/sep/27/colin-kaepernick-donald-trump-america-people-of-color]

block-time published-time 10.24pm BST

Ben Jacobs has more fashion reports from Donald Trump’s rally in Florida tonight:

enltrJeff says he is wearing this shirt because it's offensive and to get a rise out of people pic.twitter.com/uAo2fdn5W8[https://t.co/uAo2fdn5W8]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/780867586082934785]frltrDeplorable Trump supporter pic.twitter.com/zVBBRzlqYg[https://t.co/zVBBRzlqYg]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/780872408672731136]undltr #ClubGitmo[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ClubGitmo?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/GG741b6GQx[https://t.co/GG741b6GQx]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/780868680599166976]enltrDIY Trump swag pic.twitter.com/3JxPnOscW8[https://t.co/3JxPnOscW8]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/780868386179911683]enltrShirtless Trump rides a bear pic.twitter.com/p2ecMQii6t[https://t.co/p2ecMQii6t]

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/780867708996976641]block-time published-time 10.01pm BST

Howard Dean defends cocaine tweet Former Vermont governor and onetime head of the Democratic National Committee Howard Dean defended tweeting that Republican nominee Donald Trump’s persistent sniffing during last presidential night’s debate indicated possible cocaine abuse, a sentence we never thought we’d have to type and yet here we are.

enltrNotice Trump sniffing all the time. Coke user?

— Howard Dean (@GovHowardDean) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/GovHowardDean/status/780588448470163456]“You can’t make a diagnosis over the television, but that is a signature of people who use cocaine,” Dean told MSNBC’s Kate Snow of Trump’s sniffling. “I’m not suggesting that Trump does, but... I’m just suggesting that we think about it.”

“He sniffed during the presentation, which is something that users do,” Dean continued. “He also has grandiosity, which is something that accompanies that problem.”

“Something funny was going on with Donald Trump last night.”

block-time published-time 9.33pm BST

Former Miss Universe's nickname for Donald Trump: #NaziRat The former Miss Universe winner who was the subject of a Donald Trump tirade this morning about her weight and “attitude,” Alicia Machado, hasn’t held any punches in her war of words with the Republican presidential nominee.

The Venezuelan pageant queen, who was cited by Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton during last night’s debate as an example of Trump’s misogyny, called Trump a “Nazi rat”.

esltrPor mi salud! Ojalá @RealOsmelSousa[https://twitter.com/RealOsmelSousa] y @noticierovv[https://twitter.com/noticierovv] me hubieran defendido y protegido de la rata Nazi! Miss Universe 96, con apenas 18 años!

— Alicia Machado (@machadooficial) June 19, 2015[https://twitter.com/machadooficial/status/611947716663349248]Yesterday, Machado started the hashtag #RataNazi, declaring in Spanish that “My freedom of opinion is what I most love about being a US citizen! My position is overwhelmingly and firmly: #NaziRat you won’t be president!”

esltrMi libertad de opinión es lo que más amo de ser US citizen ! mi posición es contundente y firme #RataNazi[https://twitter.com/hashtag/RataNazi?src=hash] no serás presidente

— Alicia Machado (@machadooficial) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/machadooficial/status/780595143606808576]block-time published-time 8.52pm BST

A real-time map of trending Twitter topics[http://trendsmap.com/] seems to show that the #TrumpWon hashtag - lauded by the candidate himself as the most popular hashtag[https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/780758306239512577] on the internet this morning - appears to show that the hashtag’s starting location is in St. Petersburg, Russia.

enltrThe #TrumpWon[https://twitter.com/hashtag/TrumpWon?src=hash] hashtag starting location, that's interesting pic.twitter.com/V7SFhvEurX[https://t.co/V7SFhvEurX]

— Dusty (@DustinGiebel) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/DustinGiebel/status/780814613021548544]Granted, the campaign could just be hiding its virtual private network’s address by changing theirs in St. Petersburg - which would just mean that the campaign dropped a pretty penny on its Twitter advertising this morning - but given that hundreds of bloggers[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/02/putin-kremlin-inside-russian-troll-house] are paid by the Russian government to flood forums and social networks at home and abroad with anti-western and pro-Kremlin comments, it’s an interesting coincidence...

Related: Salutin' Putin: inside a Russian troll house[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/02/putin-kremlin-inside-russian-troll-house]

block-time published-time 8.31pm BST

Trump called Machado an 'eating machine' in Stern interview In a 1997 interview with Howard Stern, Donald Trump called the Miss Universe winner Alicia Machado an “eating machine,” revealed audio unearthed by Buzzfeed[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/on-howard-stern-trump-called-1996-miss-universe-an-eating-ma?utm\_term=.od7K2bAPd#.sx2ONJGW8].

Machado, who won the Miss Universe contest in 1996, is in the news today after Hillary Clinton used Trump’s comments - he labeled her “Miss Piggy” and “Miss Housekeeping” (she’s originally from Venezuela) - to nail him on gender issues during last night’s debate.

The new audio from Buzzfeed[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/on-howard-stern-trump-called-1996-miss-universe-an-eating-ma?utm\_term=.od7K2bAPd#.sx2ONJGW8] of the 1997 Stern interview shows exactly what the conversations around Machado were like at the time (remember, this is a 20-year-old woman who is being discussed by these men).

Stern announces the issue: “The Miss Universe, it turns out, the woman who won last year, blows up to a fat pig. I mean, like obese.”

Trump laughs in the background.

Stern: “Most people would have fired her, because she broke the rules. Mr Trump goes in there and he says “listen you, I’m not going to fire you, but you better get skinny, you better lose some weight.”

Stern adds: “You whipped this fat slob into shape. I don’t know how you did it. I see all these diet plans, everything else. God bless you. You whipped her into shape, and you held the whole pageant together. Congratulations.”

Trump responds: “Well, that was an amazing one. She went from 118 to almost 170.”

Stern: “And you got her right down again to 118, didn’t you?”

Trump: “Well, she’s going to be there. She’s probably 145 or something.”

Trump adds: “It was an amazing phenomena. She weighed 118 when she won... she was as beautiful a woman as I’ve ever seen. She gained about 55 pounds in a period of nine months. She was like an eating machine.”

“What does a girl eat in less than a year to gain [that]?” Stern asks.

“I think she ate a lot of everything,” replies Trump.

This is what Machado looked like when Trump was arranging for the media to turn up at gyms to watch her work out in order to lose the extra weight.

enltrThis is what Alicia Machado looked like when Trump took to publicly & privately humiliating her over her weight. She had just turned 20. pic.twitter.com/jfmMM3jGHW[https://t.co/jfmMM3jGHW]

— Garance Franke-Ruta (@thegarance) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/thegarance/status/780842808240398336]She’s now appearing in pro-Clinton ads, and spoke with the Guardian’s Lucia Graves[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/alicia-machado-miss-universe-weight-shame-trump-speaks-out-clinton] about how Trump weight-shaming impacted her life and affected her health and psychological wellbeing.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.55pm BST

block-time published-time 8.11pm BST

Donald Trump surrogate Rudy Giuliani declared that Hillary Clinton was “too stupid to be president” for being unaware that Bill Clinton had cheated on her with Monica Lewinsky.

The comments came after Giuliani was asked if Trump was a feminist, and Giuliani noted that Trump didn’t mention Bill Clinton’s affairs, but he thought he should hae.

“I sure would’ve talked about what she did to Monica Lewinsky, what that woman standing there did to Monica Lewinsky, trying to paint her as an insane young woman when in fact Monica Lewinsky was an intern,” Giuliani said.

“The president of the United States, her husband, disgraced this country with what he did in the Oval Office and she didn’t just stand by him, she attacked Monica Lewinsky. And after being married to Bill Clinton for 20 years, if you didn’t know the moment Monica Lewinsky said that Bill Clinton violated her that she was telling the truth, then you’re too stupid to be president.”

enltrI asked Giuliani if Trump is a feminist #DebateNight[https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/xWvkgVuKXV[https://t.co/xWvkgVuKXV]

— Alexandra Svokos (@asvokos) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/asvokos/status/780619672760623104]Let’s just remember that Guiliani started dating his current wife Judith when he was mayor of New York City and still married to and living with his second wife, Donna Hanover.

block-time published-time 7.50pm BST

Clinton-Trump debate gets highest ratings on record Around 81 million viewers tuned into to watch Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton battle it out in last night’s debate, making it the highest rated debate in history, according to new figures from Nielsen.

Nielsen’s figures - which is based on viewers watching one of the 12 channels from home, and does not account for online livestreams, viewing parties in other venues or those watching PBS or C-SPAN - show on average 80.9 million people tuned in.

Those additional viewers that were not counted means the number is significantly higher than the 80.9 million figure, noted Brian Stelter on CNN Money[http://money.cnn.com/2016/09/27/media/debate-ratings-record-viewership/].

Previously the highest ever watched debate was when 81 million watched Jimmy Carter take on Ronald Reagan back in 1980.

In 2012, an average of 70 million voters tuned in to Mitt Romney and Barack Obama’s first debate, says Politico[http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2016/09/first-trump-clinton-debate-smashes-ratings-records-228788]. In 2008, John McCain and Obama’s debate averaged 53 million.

block-time published-time 7.11pm BST

Clinton says she’s trying to prove that “love trumps hate,” as she thanks the crowd and walks off to the strains of Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.11pm BST

block-time published-time 7.09pm BST

Clinton is attacking Trump in Raleigh abut his comments last night that seemed to insinuate he doesn’t pay federal taxes.

“He actually bragged about gaining the system to get out of the paying his fair share,” notes Clinton.

In last night’s debate, Clinton pushed Donald Trump on why he wasn’t releasing his tax returns, suggesting that perhaps he hadn’t paid any federal income taxes.

“That makes me smart,” replied Trump.

“If not paying taxes makes us smart, what does that make all the rest of us?” asks Clinton in Raleigh on Tuesday.

“I think there’s a strong possibility he hasn’t paid federal taxes for a lot of years. And this is a man who goes around calling our military a disaster... he probably hasn’t paid a penny to support our troops, or our vets, or our schools, or our healthcare systems,” says Clinton.

She says her and husband Bill always pay their taxes, because that’s what Americans should do.

“We pay the highest marginal rate. We try and give 10% to charity. Because we believe in this country. And we believe with the blessings we’ve been given, we should do our part,” adds Clinton.

block-time published-time 6.56pm BST

enltrHillary Clinton rallies in Raleigh, NC the day after the debate pic.twitter.com/pvWndH0zlK[https://t.co/pvWndH0zlK]

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/780825358442590209]block-time published-time 6.54pm BST

Clinton is comparing her surrogate Mark Cuban to Donald Trump - “He is a real billionaire, by the way,” she quips.

She talks about how Cuban has long used profit-sharing and shared the profits of his sale of his business and turned 300 of his employees into millionaires because of it.

“That’s the kind fo business leadership I want to hold up,” she says, noting that Trump has built his business on the backs of little guys who didn’t get paid.

“I’m glad my dad never had a contract with Donald Trump when he was running his small business,” says Clinton.

block-time published-time 6.51pm BST

Clinton’s speaks of her mother’s upbringing in severe poverty and how she was lucky to find someone that let her live in their house and attend high school.

“When I talk about us being strong together, I’m not just talking about government, I’m talking about what each of us can do to contribute,” says Clinton.

block-time published-time 6.46pm BST

Clinton mentions last night’s debate, and gets huge applause from her audience in Raleigh.

“I got a chance to say a few things,” she laughs, a clear reference to Trump interrupting her repeatedly.

“I do have this old fashioned idea that if I’m asking for your vote, I should tell you what I want to do,” says Clinton.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.48pm BST

block-time published-time 6.45pm BST

In Raleigh, Clinton speaks against the “mean-spirited” transgender bathroom law, House Bill 2.

“Right here in North Carolina, the mean-spirited wrong-hearted decision to pass and sign House Bill 2, has hurt this state. And more than that it’s hurt people. It’s sent a message to so many people ‘well you’re not really one, you’re not really part of us. I think the American dream is big enough for everything,” says Clinton.

Today is National Voter Registration Day, points out Clinton, calling on people to go to iwillvote.com and register to vote. She notes that North Carolina already has issues with voter suppression.

“Everything they could to make voting harder. They were pretty blatant, make it harder for people of color, make it harder for the elderly and make it harder for the young. Some of that’s been rolled back, thankfully, because it was so wrong and i would argue, unconstitutional... we want everyone to exercise his or her right to vote,” she adds.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.48pm BST

block-time published-time 6.34pm BST

Clinton takes to the stage in Raleigh, North Carolina, after a sweet speech from a local nurse and working mother who notes that she’s going to cry as she introduces Clinton to the stage.

“You made me cry,” Clinton tells her, putting her hand on her heart as she thanks her.

“Did anyone see that debate last night? Oh yes, one down, two to go,” declares Clinton to the audience.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.49pm BST

block-time published-time 6.26pm BST

Jeb Bush gets a job at Harvard Failed presidential candidate and former Florida governor is heading back to school, after Harvard’s Kennedy School announced Tuesday that Jeb Bush will be a visiting fellow on education policy, reports AP[http://bigstory.ap.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/7524252ce364452392152e694220ad5f?utm\_campaign=SocialFlow&utm\_source=Twitter&utm\_medium=AP].

Bush - who last popped up in the public eye during a comic bit in the Emmy Awards - where he starred as an Uber driver - will be a guest speaker and teacher during the fall term.

AP says it will begin with Bush delivering the Edwin L. Godkin Lecture at Harvard this Thursday on economic and social mobility.

block-time published-time 6.13pm BST

Hillary Clinton campaigns in Raleigh, North Carolina Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton campaigns in Raleigh, North Carolina, the day after the first presidential debate.

Hillary Clinton campaign in Raleigh block-time published-time 6.03pm BST

A Republican super PAC unveiled a new ad, using Hillary Clinton’s comments from last night’s debate against her in a new attack ad.

The new ad by Future 45 shows Clinton talking about how she has stamina to be president as proven by her years of Secretary of State travel to 112 countries.

“But beyond the flight miles, what’s the Clinton record?” asks the voice-over, before referencing Russia, Libya, ISIS and the Benghazi attack.

“Hillary has experience, but it’s bad experience,” replies Trump.

Future 45 is funded by big GOP donors, the Adelson and Ricketts families.

block-time published-time 5.47pm BST

From the Clinton plane this morning, regarding Trump’s complaints from earlier today that his microphone wasn’t working during the debate.

enltrHillary Clinton to reporters: "Anyone who complains about the microphone is not having a good night."

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/780781931529138176]block-time published-time 5.45pm BST

When Ted Cruz was in the race, Trump pushed a conspiracy theory that Cruz’s father was somehow involved in the assassination of JFK.

But even with Cruz gone from the race, Trump hasn’t disavowed the claim - even pushing it shortly after the RNC in July. The Weekly Standard tried yesterday[http://www.weeklystandard.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/trump-wont-disavow-conspiracy-theory-that-cruzs-dad-helped-kill-jfk/article/2004559#.V-pSwPfzNFA.twitter] to get Trump surrogates to admit the argument was baseless, but to no avail.

“I think really the fact that Senator Cruz came out and endorsed Mr. Trump I think really says a lot. I think it talks about how the party’s coming together, how it’s united,” said Trump senior advisor Jason Miller.

But Ted Cruz’s chief strategist Jason Johnson took a dig at Miller, who was a former Cruz top spokesman before taking on the Trump role.

enltrWhen Donald talked about 400# 'hackers' I think he meant 'hacks' https://t.co/CCSBcw88hQ[https://t.co/CCSBcw88hQ] pic.twitter.com/d7Z2KLAKH5[https://t.co/d7Z2KLAKH5]

— Jason Johnson (@jasonsjohnson) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/jasonsjohnson/status/780775369276260352]Hat tip to Ben Jacobs.

block-time published-time 5.30pm BST

Comedian Rosie O’Donnell called Donald Trump an “orange anus” after the Republican nominee said in last night’s debate that she “deserves” his criticism, which includes him calling her a “fat pig,” “slob,” and “loser.”

During the debate at Hofstra University, Trump was quizzed on his comments about women’s bodies.

“Some of it’s said — somebody who’s been very vicious to me, Rosie O’Donnell, I said very tough things to her, and I think everybody would agree that she deserves it and nobody feels sorry for her,” said Trump.

In response, O’Donnell tweeted a video from The View where she mocked Trump’s hair and pointed out his bankruptcies, failed marriages and called him a “snake oil salesman.” She says it was this moment that resulted in Trump’s vicious attacks against her.

enltr https://t.co/EvxYa7A4bL[https://t.co/EvxYa7A4bL] --- the 5 mins orange anus can't seem to get over --- tell the truth - shame the donald #ImWithHer[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ImWithHer?src=hash]

— Rosie (@Rosie) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Rosie/status/780616540395859968]When one of Trump’s supporters tweeted at her that she was “burned” by “President Trump”, she replied:

enltrHE WILL NEVER BE PRESIDENT... @WeinerAnne[https://twitter.com/WeinerAnne]

— Rosie (@Rosie) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Rosie/status/780612891057594368]Pop star Madonna, who endorsed Clinton back in September, then came out in support of her friend:

enltrMess with my girl Rosie and you're messing with me!!! Cruelty never made anyone a winner. ?? #rebelhearts4ever[https://twitter.com/hashtag/rebelhearts4ever?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/gvkF6HpU47[https://t.co/gvkF6HpU47]

— Madonna (@Madonna) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/Madonna/status/780668180628922368]block-time published-time 5.00pm BST

Cruz applauds Trump's debate performance Ted Cruz, the former Trump foe turned reluctant supporter applauded Trump for his debate performance last night, telling a radio host he had his “strongest debate performance” so far and that the media is only saying Clinton won because they support her.

Cruz was a top college debater and he was regarded as the toughest Republican debater of the primaries.

“Anyone who is swooning at Hillary’s performance last night, that’s a pretty good indication that you’re a card-carrying member of the liberal media, especially in the first half hour. I think Donald very much had the upper hand over Hillary,” said Cruz in a radio interview with Hugh Hewitt on Tuesday.

“And the biggest thing is her answers, they sound old and tired, and I don’t mean that in a comment on her health. It mean it on a comment on her ideas. Her ideas are rehashed 1960s Great Society, big government programs. And to me, they did not rise to the occasion remotely. Now of course the media is going to hyperventilate at how terrific she is, because that’s what they do,” said Cruz.

enltrTrump supporter Ted Cruz offers a full throated defense of Trump's debate performance to @hughhewitt[https://twitter.com/hughhewitt] : pic.twitter.com/GNxLNqVKJa[https://t.co/GNxLNqVKJa]

— Sopan Deb (@SopanDeb) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/SopanDeb/status/780791668123590656]block-time published-time 4.48pm BST

Mic edited together a video of 28 times Trump interrupted Clinton in last night’s debate.

enltrHere’s what it is like to be interrupted 28 times during a debate: #Debates[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates?src=hash] #debatenight[https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/Br6c8UBMTb[https://t.co/Br6c8UBMTb]

— Mic (@mic) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/mic/status/780616596201111552]But Vox says the total is actually higher, with their count showing[http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2016/9/27/13017666/presidential-debate-trump-clinton-sexism-interruptions] Trump interrupted her 51 times, while she interrupted him 17 times.

block-time published-time 4.25pm BST

After the conventions back in July, Lauren Leatherby from the Guardian US interactive team, analyzed the post-convention bump Hillary Clinton was experiencing. She noted that debates also influence polls, writing in August[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/14/hillary-clinton-polls-convention-trump-election-data] :

In the past, debates have had a big influence on the number of people who say they will vote for a given candidate. After the 2004 and 2012 convention seasons, both George W Bush and Obama were able to hold onto their convention bumps for a few weeks. (For Bush, his post-convention bump lasted about a month. For Obama, his numbers stayed high for two weeks.)

But, in both cases, the candidates’ poll numbers took a hit after the first debate.

How debates affect candidate's poll numbers[https://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2016/08/polling-debates/]Despite trailing Bush in the polls for much of the fall of 2004, a majority of viewers polled thought John Kerry won the first debate. The candidates sparred over the war in Iraq for nearly two-thirds of the debate, and Bush’s defenses appeared weak in the face of Kerry’s persistent criticisms. Bush subsequently lost around five points of his polling lead.

A similar scene played out again in 2012, between another incumbent, Obama, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney. Despite trailing in the polls, Romney was well prepared for the first debate, and Obama – often glancing at his notes – didn’t perform particularly well. More than seven in 10 Americans told Gallup that Romney did a better job, which was reflected in post-debate polls when Obama’s lead decreased by around three points.

If Clinton’s current lead holds up by the first debate in late September (which would be a very long post-convention bump indeed), her debate performance could once again change the balance of the race.

Clinton’s post-DNC bump had disappeared almost entirely by yesterday, with the latest shows pre-debate showing the pair neck-and-neck.

But largely favorable reviews across the board for Clinton’s debate performance may now affect polls - even if that may not reflect the eventual election winner.

block-time published-time 3.53pm BST

Mary J Blige interviews Clinton Hip hop queen Mary J Blige interviewed Hillary Clinton for a new show to be unveiled on Apple Music Friday, with a preview showing Blige questioning Clinton about race and singing to her.

“A lot of people in my community think Obama was blocked in Congress because he was black. How are you going to do what he wasn’t able to do?” asks Blige, in an Apple music preview put on Instagram.

margin:8px 0 0 0; padding:0 4px; An intimate conversation. @therealmaryjblige and @hillaryclinton. #The411 coming September 30 on Apple Music. (Link in bio.)[https://www.instagram.com/p/BK2HMW-gNf\_/]

color:#c9c8cd; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; font-size:14px; line-height:17px; margin-bottom:0; margin-top:8px; overflow:hidden; padding:8px 0 7px; text-align:center; text-overflow:ellipsis; white-space:nowrap;A video posted by Apple Music (@applemusic) on Sep 26, 2016 at 9:12pm PDT

The 411 with Mary Blige appears to be a new Apple Music show where the R&B star interviews people, the name taken from Blige’s 1992 album ‘What’s the 411’.

In another 30-second preview available on iTunes, the camera focuses on Blige, who belts out a cover of Bruce Springsteen’s American Skin[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQMqWAiWPMs] - which is about the police killing of unarmed black man Amadou Diallo in 1999 - to a rather awkward-looking Clinton.

“It ain’t no secret/No secret my friend/You can get killed/Just for living in your American skin,” she sings as she sits in front of Clinton, reaching out to grab hold of her hand.

“I just want to know where we go from here,” asks Blige. Clinton opens her mouth, and the camera cuts to show name and its September 27 release date.

Just how bizarre will this interview be?

enltr"what will you do to fix the national epidemic of hateration in this dancerie?" pic.twitter.com/jVDy3eJBCP[https://t.co/jVDy3eJBCP]

— Deaux (@dstfelix) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/dstfelix/status/780621259293986816]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.14pm BST

block-time published-time 3.20pm BST

Reviewing moderator Lester Holt Last night Lester Holt, the host from NBC Nightly News, moderated the debate, under a bright spotlight after his colleague Matt Lauer was criticized for going soft on Trump during a major interview and the Trump campaign declaring that Holt’s job was as moderator not fact checker.

Holt pushed back on Trump’s claims that he did never supported the Iraq War and his argument that the stop-and-frisk policy in NYC was a big success, and news outlets including Washington Post[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/holt-strikes-a-moderate-tone-as-debate-moderator/2016/09/26/fd6ce0d6-8403-11e6-a3ef-f35afb41797f\_story.html] and Think Progress[https://thinkprogress.org/lester-holt-succeeds-in-fact-checking-trump-in-real-time-ee9a4d38d110#.ov4xdzfmb] applauded him for fact-checking.

What did others think?

Holt’s a registered Republican, but Dan Gainor wrote on FoxNews.com[http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/09/27/lester-holt-spins-debate-for-hillary-6-huge-ways-plays-gotcha-with-trump.html] that Holt pushed hard for Clinton:

Holt reminded viewers he’s liberal[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\_\_newsbusters.org\_blogs\_nb\_geoffrey-2Ddickens\_2016\_09\_06\_presidential-2Ddebate-2Dmoderator-2Dlester-2Dholts-2Dmost-2Dliberal-2Dmoments&d=DQMFaQ&c=cnx1hdOQtepEQkpermZGwQ&r=qQJXqc0Va1bpQwNiPe6xLU0Q39EzGSb9b1gh8nv1aks&m=QJJhyqxNW99FdVVT5maHYWnDrnYwDeP1OYW6\_eMFe60&s=d0eTd\_cVgZLvAEGqSQwgjuVvJVMQhMRr1bqRiQ4MT7o&e=] – from pushing the birther issue to harassing Trump about his tax returns to a wildly biased question about Clinton as “the first woman nominated by a party” not having “the look.” Clinton skated[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\_\_www.washingtonpost.com\_news\_the-2Dfix\_wp\_2016\_09\_26\_the-2Dfirst-2Dtrump-2Dclinton-2Dpresidential-2Ddebate-2Dtranscript-2Dannotated\_&d=DQMFaQ&c=cnx1hdOQtepEQkpermZGwQ&r=qQJXqc0Va1bpQwNiPe6xLU0Q39EzGSb9b1gh8nv1aks&m=QJJhyqxNW99FdVVT5maHYWnDrnYwDeP1OYW6\_eMFe60&s=p8PVKLrh4O9Y61uJHyAFSwKxeVyKKervINPjJpx6zTQ&e=] by with a 15-second response on her emails while Trump was asked repeated follow-up questions while Hillary was not. There was no “deplorables” question and Holt promoted the birther meme without noting its origin in the Clinton camp.

Slate’s Isaac Chotiner reckons[http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\_slatest/2016/09/26/grading\_lester\_holt\_s\_performance\_at\_the\_first\_presidential\_debate.html] that Holt asked good, tough questions - just in time.

Holt’s performance, like Hillary Clinton’s, was not a total knockout. But like Clinton’s, it was more than adequate. And in a year like this one, that counts as a victory for a beleaguered press corps.

Holt was good to not get too involved with the debaters, said Michael Calderone in Huffington Post[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/lester-holt-donald-trump\_us\_57e9c8c6e4b0c2407cd8ffb5] :

The biggest critique of Holt one could make ? and some did[http://fortune.com/2016/09/26/presidential-debate-lester-holt-moderator/] on social media ? was that he was too hands-off. However, moderators try to avoid becoming the third debater on stage, and instead force the candidates to spar with one another. There were moments, especially early on, that Holt could have been more forceful in maintaining order. But he also wisely used his discretion to keep the debate going at times instead of sticking to the somewhat arbitrary 15 minutes allotted for each segment.

At the New York Times, Michael M Grynbaum called him[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/lester-holt-moderator.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share&\_r=0] the “minimalist moderator”:

He was silent for minutes at a time, allowing Hillary Clinton and Donald J. Trump to joust and bicker between themselves — and sometimes talk right over him — prompting some viewers to wonder if Mr. Holt had left the building.

But his reticence as moderator also gave viewers an unfiltered glimpse of the candidates: their views, speaking styles, and reactions under pressure.

Kyle Smith in the New York Post[http://nypost.com/2016/09/26/lester-holt-shows-he-doesnt-know-the-meaning-of-impartial/] said Clinton got off easy compared to Trump:

In the early going, it looked like it was going to be an ideal, Jim Lehrer-style performance from Lester Holt, the “NBC Nightly News” anchor. Lehrer was so boringly nonpartisan, so unwilling to play gotcha that he was always hotly in demand to moderate debates. For the first half or so, Holt gave simple, broad, open-ended questions and let the candidates go at it. He didn’t venture into live fact-checking, didn’t much quarrel with the nominees, didn’t ask persnickety questions... But in the last half of the show, Holt started going after Trump.

block-time published-time 2.49pm BST

Two of the country’s major publications are running campaign ads across their debate coverage this morning.

enltrWSJ and the Washington Post right now, and the banner ads running on top. So much winning happening. h/t @sarahportlock[https://twitter.com/sarahportlock] pic.twitter.com/810K716kru[https://t.co/810K716kru]

— Natalie Andrews (@nataliewsj) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/nataliewsj/status/780761459785687040]On the Guardian website, I’m seeing a Microsoftad, so I think that means journalism wins.

Last night I monitored Red and Blue Twitter, noting how the same debate question and answer was viewed in two completely differently ways depending on what side the supporter was on[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/clinton-trump-first-debate-reaction-twitter].

For example, Trump on trade: his supporters saw it as a dominant showing where he was able to get his message across, Clinton supporters saw him constantly interrupting her in a sexist way.

Who do you think won the debate? Please share in the comments.

block-time published-time 2.33pm BST

On Fox and Friends this morning, Trump claimed that he won the debate because online polls showed it to be true - although those poll numbers may be a little dodgy.

“I know I did better than Hillary and ever poll shows that,” said Trump.

“I won Slate, I won Drudge, I won CBS, I won Time magazine. I won every poll apart from CNN and not many people are watching CNN,” he declared.

Except, Major Garrett from CBS rebuked Trump’s claim:

enltrOn @foxandfriends[https://twitter.com/foxandfriends] @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] said he won a @CBSNews[https://twitter.com/CBSNews] post-debate poll. We did not conduct a post-debate poll.

— Major Garrett (@MajorCBS) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/MajorCBS/status/780747025398763520] Ben Collins from the Daily Beast[http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/09/27/donald-trump-s-online-trolls-turn-on-their-god-emperor.html] notes that the very polls Trump is claiming he won were gamed by Trump supporters on 4chan and Reddit.

...some users took time to attempt to game online polls[https://twitter.com/mighty\_buzzer/status/780610863476518912] soliciting opinions on who won the debate, imploring users to “abuse airplane mode toggling” to allow for more votes for Trump on websites like CNBC, Time, ABC News, and CNN.

Trump then spent the night pointing his Twitter users[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/780656338628145153] to those same poll numbers, which had been brigaded by 4chan and Trump’s Reddit community r/The\_Donald.

block-time published-time 1.53pm BST

Undecided voters pick Clinton as winner, reports Lauren Gambino from Philadelphia.

In a clash between the two most unpopular presidential nominees[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-clinton-trump-recap-presidential-election-hofstra] in modern history, a group of undecided voters in the battleground state of Pennsylvania declared Hillary Clinton the clear winner of Monday night’s debate; but remained deeply pessimistic about their choices in November.

“It’s like asking me to choose between a heart attack and a stroke,” said one of the 27 voters selected to participate in the focus group conducted by Republican pollster Frank Luntz in Philadelphia[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/philadelphia] on Monday.

‘Clinton weaponized Trump’s words’: the reaction to the presidential debate Jill Abramson, Steven W Thrasher, Christopher R Barron, Jamie Weinstein and Lucia GravesRead more

The visceral electoral anger that helped fuel Trump’s rise was felt in the room at the National Constitution Center where the mood was perhaps best encapsulated by Luntz’s opening question: “How the hell did we get here?”

The Pennsylvania[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/pennsylvania] voters shared some of the same entrenched views that voters across the country have expressed over the past 18 months. They described Clinton as a “liar”, “corrupt”, “secretive” and “self-centered”. They labeled Trump “scary”, “fake”, an “egomaniac” and a “shape-shifter”.

The battleground state voters watched the debate from a room inside the National Constitution Center and recorded their snap reactions throughout the 90-minute debate. On display behind the voters were large, expressionistic paintings of an American flag, John F Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Trump and Clinton by artist and GOP darling Steve Penley.

At the end of the debate, 16 of the 27 participants agreed that Clinton had won while just six believed Trump had won the debate. In near uniformity, the voters said the outcome of the debate was the result of Trump’s failure rather than Clinton’s success.

Read the rest here[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/presidential-debate-focus-group-frank-luntz-hillary-clinton-winner].

Related: Hillary Clinton clear debate winner among group of undecided voters[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/presidential-debate-focus-group-frank-luntz-hillary-clinton-winner]

block-time published-time 1.30pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House.

Last night Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton battled it out at Hofstra University in the first 2016 presidential debate. This morning, we’re wading through the reviews, columns and analysis.

First a look at some Guardian stories to check out:

\* Our politics team - Dan Roberts, Sabrina Siddiqui and Ben Jacobs – covered the debate from inside the room[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-clinton-trump-recap-presidential-election-hofstra], declaring that Clinton kept her cool while Trump lost his.

\* Tom McCarthy summed up what we learned at the debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/27/debate-what-we-learned-clinton-trump-hofstra-recap-presidential-election] – and the importance of the line “ Whew, OK![https://twitter.com/ditzkoff/status/780594971812429825] ”.

\* Alan Yuhas fact-checked[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/debate-fact-check-trump-clinton-live-quotes-hofstra], clarifying exactly which candidates’ arguments hold up to inspection.

“Whew, Ok!” Trump defensive on Fox News this morning Trump has already come out on the defensive on Fox and Friends this morning, declaring that moderator Lester Holt asked him “hostile questions” but didn’t drill Clinton on her own scandals, and said his microphone suffered audio problems possibly “on purpose”.

“I thought it went really well... It was the debate of debates,” Trump declared at 7am.

Trump said he thought the NBC Nightly News host did a “fine” job, although he argued that he got asked much tougher questions, including about his support of the birther conspiracy, his refusal to release his tax returns and former employees’ lawsuits against him.

“He didn’t ask her about the emails. Didn’t ask her about her scandals. Didn’t ask her about the Benghazi deal she destroyed. He didn’t ask her about a lot of things... Didn’t ask about her foundation,” said Trump.

He also echoed his claim made after the debate last night, that after Clinton grilled him on his treatment of women, including former Miss Universe winner Alicia Machado, he wanted to bring up Bill Clinton’s extramarital affairs but didn’t out of respect for their daughter Chelsea Clinton.

“I didn’t feel comfortable doing it with Chelsea in the room,” said Trump.

But he said he might mention the affairs in the next debate. “I may hit her harder in certain ways. I really eased up in certain ways because I didn’t want to hurt anyone’s feelings,” he said.

Trump admitted that Clinton’s comments about Alicia Machado riled him up, as he tried to explain his “Miss Piggy” comments about her:

“She was the winner, she gained a massive amount of weight, it was a real problem,” said Trump. “Not only that, her attitude, we had a real problem with her.”

He noted that the comments happened years ago and says the Clinton campaign “found a girl and talked about her as if she was Mother Theresa and it wasn’t quite that way, but that’s OK, Hillary has to do what she has to.”

enltr"She gained a massive amount of weight, and it was a real problem." —Trump just defended his attacks on Fmr. Miss Universe Alicia Machado. pic.twitter.com/HbVtaBpK3R[https://t.co/HbVtaBpK3R]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/780737548725485568]Trump gave both Clinton and Holt a C+ grade.

#TrumpSniffles not true? Last night Trump appeared to sniffle his way through the debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/trump-sniffles-presidential-debate-clinton-hofstra], the #Trumpsniffles hashtag trending thanks to the irony of Trump having heath issues after he’s drilled Clinton so hard on her own.

Except... he claims it was a microphone issue and that he wasn’t sniffling.

“I had a problem with my mic that didn’t work, I wonder if it was set up on purpose. In the room they couldn’t hear me, not exactly great... I wonder if it was set up that way,” said Trump.

He said his mic dropped in and out. “I don’t want to believe in conspiracy theories. But it was crackling. To me, it was a bad problem,” said Trump.

When he was specifically asked about the sniffling, he replied:

No, no sniffles. No, the mic was very bad, but maybe it was good enough to hear breathing. But no sniffles. No allergies. No cold.

So this was just a microphone?

undltr #TrumpSniffles[https://twitter.com/hashtag/TrumpSniffles?src=hash] #debatenight[https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/fpn9bA19bd[https://t.co/fpn9bA19bd]

— Mashable News (@MashableNews) September 27, 2016[https://twitter.com/MashableNews/status/780585590844563457] Biden’s review Vice-president and Clinton supporter Joe Biden was on Facebook last night[https://www.facebook.com/joebiden/posts/10153743738876104] after the debate to criticize Trump over his bragging that he hadn’t paid federal taxes:

Donald Trump all but admitted he hasn’t paid federal taxes on his income. He says that makes him smart. But what does that say to the factory worker or the nurse or the teacher earning $40,000 or $50,000 or $60,000 a year and paying almost 15% of their income to support our troops, keep our neighborhoods safe and clean, and rebuild our roads? Does he really think these patriotic Americans are not smart? He’s a guy who is proud of a phrase he made famous: “You’re fired.”

In today’s campaign movements: Trump is off to Melbourne, Florida, for a rally tonight (reporter Ben Jacobs will be there). His VP pick Mike Pence was supposed to hold and event in Wisconsin, but that’s since been cancelled. Clinton’s hosting a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has her surrogates out in force today. Her VP pick Tim Kaine has a canvass kickoff in Orlando, while husband Bill is hosting events in Ohio. Joe Biden will speak at a rally in Philadelphia.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.10pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Full report: Clinton stays calm as Trump whips himself into frenzyPresidential debate fact-check: Trump’s and Clinton’s claimsTrump’s sniffles distract viewers at first presidential debate with ClintonGuardian panel verdict: Clinton weaponzied Trump’s wordsSupport the Guardian’s independent political coverage by making a one-time contribution or becoming a member

block-time published-time 4.58am BST

Summary The first presidential debate is in the can. Here’s a summary of what happened:

\* Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump engaged in an occasionally raw series of clashes on topics from trade policy to the Iran deal to Trump’s taxes.

\* The Republican candidate came out swinging on Nafta and on, he said, his Democratic rival’s failed record of public service. His most aggressive attacks had Clinton appealing to “ fact checkers [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/debate-fact-check-trump-clinton-live-quotes-hofstra] ” instead of offering rebuttals.

\* Clinton’s performance was magisterial. She slipped easily into the details of many policy areas – cyber warfare, community policing, paid family leave – that Trump could not touch.

\* Clinton also scored the biggest moment of wit, at the end of a long Trump boast about his temperament, which he delivered hotly. “Whew, OK!” she said when he was through, smiling.

\* Clinton flayed Trump on his refusal to release his tax returns, on his “long record” of “racist behavior,” on his lack of knowledge about the deal to withdraw US troops from Iraq, on climate change being a Chinese “hoax,” and on and on. But his best line was: “Hillary’s got experience but it’s bad experience.”

\* Clinton’s best line (apart from “whew, OK!”): “I think Donald just criticized me for preparing for this debate. And yes I did. And you know what else I prepared for? I prepared to be president. And that’s a good thing.”

\* Clinton’s runner-up best line, in reply to a Trump charge that “we don’t have the money because it’s been squandered on your ideas”, was: “Maybe it’s because you haven’t paid your taxes!”

\* There were lots of manterruptions [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/sep/26/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-presidential-debate-live?page=with:block-57e9cf34e4b0a785ec48bcd8#liveblog-navigation]. Trump also had the sniffles.

\* Trump lost altitude quickly after the first half hour, shifting from pointed interruptions to a more incoherent, sloppy pattern of interruption.

\* Trump tried to deny five years of spreading birtherism – the conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was born outside the US. Clinton replied sharply: “It can’t be dismissed that easily... He has a long record in engaging in racist behavior.”

\* Trump cast doubt on the notion that the hacking of the Democratic National Committee was Russia-backed. He said it may have been China, or bizarrely, a “400lb person sitting on their bed”.

\* Clinton said neighborhood security would come from community policing and getting guns off streets while Trump called for “law and order” and “stop-and-frisk”.

\* Clinton poked fun at Trump’s unlimited indictment of her record. “I have a feeling that by the end of this evening everything is going to be my fault,” she said. Then Trump agreed with her.

enltr. @HillaryClinton [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] after Trump's comment about her temperament: "Whew! Okay." https://t.co/LFGeC7wIJD [https://t.co/LFGeC7wIJD] after Trump's comment about her temperament: "Whew! Okay." #Debates [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates?src=hash] after Trump's comment about her temperament: "Whew! Okay." https://t.co/0bZczb87cv [https://t.co/0bZczb87cv] after Trump's comment about her temperament: "Whew! Okay."

— ABC News Politics (@ABCPolitics) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/ABCPolitics/status/780599581994209280]

\* Clinton launched a last-minute attack on Trump for his insults of women. She introduced the world to Alicia Machado, a beauty pageant contestant who said Trump called her “Miss Piggy” and “Miss Housekeeping”.

enltrThe woman Trump called “Miss Piggy” has a name: Alicia. #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/XlthzE8X8j [https://t.co/XlthzE8X8j]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/780597333650239488]esltrGracias señora @HillaryClinton [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] su respeto a las mujeres y nuestras diferencias la hacen grande! Estoy con usted!

— Alicia Machado (@machadooficial) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/machadooficial/status/780598124075110401]block-time published-time 4.40am BST

Trump held off on Bill Clinton's 'indiscretions' After Clinton attacked Trump at the end over his insults of women, Trump said he was resisting attacking Clinton on... something. Now he has told Fox News’ Sean Hannity a bit more about what he was thinking:

I didn’t want to say – her husband was in the room along with her daughter, who I think is a very nice young lady – and I didn’t want to say what I was going to say about what’s been going on in their lives... I decided not to say it. I thought it would be very disrespectful to Chelsea and maybe to the family. But she said very bad things about me... it’s a disgrace.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.43am BST

block-time published-time 4.32am BST

Clinton has popped up at a student watch event at Hofstra. She’s thanking the student organizers for everything they’ve done. “We need to turn out a big vote here in New York,” she says. And in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Hampshire.

“You saw tonight how high the stakes are, didn’t you?” she says.

block-time published-time 4.10am BST

Asian shares recovered and the Mexican peso surged on Tuesday as investors seemed to award the first US presidential debate to Clinton over Trump, Reuters reports:

Markets have tended to see Clinton as the candidate of the status quo, while few are sure what a Trump presidency might mean for US foreign policy, trade and the domestic economy.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan bounced to be up 0.2%, while South Korea and Shanghai inched higher.

Japan’s Nikkei more than halved its losses and was down 0.4% by late morning, while the U.S. dollar edged up to 100.74 yen from a low of around 100.08.

EMini futures for the S&P 500 also recouped all its losses to trade 0.5 percent firmer.

block-time published-time 3.54am BST

Trump says he will 'absolutely' accept outcome of election Trump walks through the spin room. He’s asked, “will you accept the outcome of this election?”

“Oh yes, absolutely I will,” he says.

From the horse’s mouth.

block-time published-time 3.48am BST

Top three most-Tweeted debate moments, via the good folks at Twitter :

1. Trump says he has “good temperament”

2. Trump comments on stop and frisk

3. Trump and Clinton exchange over plan for defeating ISIS

block-time published-time 3.46am BST

Snap reaction:

enltrJust ran into Scott Walker who called it a "draw" but said Trump "spent too much time on defense, which really exposed his inexperience"

— Glenn Thrush (@GlennThrush) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/GlennThrush/status/780598015996207104]enltrNotice Trump sniffing all the time. Coke user?

— Howard Dean (@GovHowardDean) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/GovHowardDean/status/780588448470163456]enltr. @HillaryClinton [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] is tough as nails. She put @realDonaldTrump [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] in his place. Now let's put her in hers: the White House. #DebateNight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash] in his place. Now let's put her in hers: the White House.

— Martin O'Malley (@MartinOMalley) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/MartinOMalley/status/780598233097768961]enltrDonald Trump proved once and for all he cannot change: ignorant, bullying, dishonest -- even worse than I expected and I didn't expect much.

— Tony Schwartz (@tonyschwartz) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/tonyschwartz/status/780598171110170624]enltrMost debates are all about the first 30 minutes. This one was about the last 30 minutes.

— Patrick Murray (@PollsterPatrick) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/PollsterPatrick/status/780598091812573184]enltrTrump might have been verge of blowing himself up there but pulled back

— Rich Lowry (@RichLowry) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/RichLowry/status/780597339413176320]enltrClinton clearly won. But I emphasize that I have no idea how people will see it or how it will affect polls. That's just how I saw it. 3/3

— Jon Ralston (@RalstonReports) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/RalstonReports/status/780599025443700736]enltrWho won tonite's debate?

In my focus group, 6 people said Trump and 16 said Clinton. #DebateNight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash]

You can say here: https://t.co/rFZYklEsdr [https://t.co/rFZYklEsdr]

— Frank Luntz (@FrankLuntz) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/FrankLuntz/status/780598663978418176]block-time published-time 3.43am BST

The cast of early 2000s hit sitcom Will & Grace reunited for a special election episode released Monday packed with 2016 campaign jokes - mocking Trump University and joking that voters should support Hillary Clinton because pop star Katy Perry does.

A nine-minute mini-episode was put online just an hour before the debate on Monday, although the actors had hinted it was coming earlier today. As Brian Moylan predicted in the Guardian this afternoon [https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/sep/26/will-grace-coming-back-return-viral-video-clinton], the actors - several of whom are known Clinton backers - are basically just doing the show as a pro-Clinton ad - but at least it’s funny. As always, Karen Walker, the sardonic troublemaker who is the lone Trump supporter, gets all the best lines.

“You know Donald is one of my oldest friends. I helped him pick out Melania!” she says.

They talk about **immigration** and Latinos, and Karen, speaking about her maid Rosario (who was revealed as undocumented **immigrant** during the show), quips: “She owes me, I sent her to college.”

“You sent her to Trump University! To study dusting!” says Will.

“It’s what they teach,” replies Karen.

In the show, Karen had supposedly shot at Rosario, but that just became a comment about gun control.

“If Crooked Hillary had her way, I wouldn’t have that gun and I’d have to use my cannon and Rosario would be dead,” said Karen.

When Will complains that Trump uses hateful language to talk about people, Karen turns to Grace.

“Did you hear what your pussy gay Muslim boyfriend just said?” she asks.

Will’s friend Jack stars as the undecided voter who is considering not bothering to cast a ballot in November.

“But does my vote even matter? How can one unemployed white fella registered in Pennsylvania make a difference?” he asks.

Grace attempts to appeal as Clinton being the first female president. But Jack isn’t convinced, saying he hasn’t heard “the one thing that will convince me to vote for one candidate over the other”.

But Will knows exactly what to stay to win over the urban gay Jack. “Katy Perry likes Hillary,” he says.

At the end of the “episode”, the words #votehoney appears. Votehoney.com redirects viewers straight to hillaryclinton.com [http://hillaryclinton.com/].

block-time published-time 3.41am BST

It’s over. What do you think? Winner? Loser? Highlights? Lowlights?

block-time published-time 3.40am BST

Fact check: ICE Trump: “I was just endorsed by ICE.”

**Immigration** and Customs Enforcement is a government agency. It does not endorse political candidates. A group of former customs officials endorsed Trump just before the debate.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.40am BST

block-time published-time 3.39am BST

Last question: will you accept the outcome of the election?

Clinton says she will. But she’s asking for support because she believes livelihoods and families depend on it.

Trump says he wants to make America great again.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.43am BST

block-time published-time 3.38am BST

enltrDoes Trump have the right temperament to be president? 35% said yes. How about Clinton? 58% said yes. https://t.co/xNSvANQbjA [https://t.co/xNSvANQbjA] pic.twitter.com/77UcwY0Sj8 [https://t.co/77UcwY0Sj8]

— Mona (@MonaChalabi) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/MonaChalabi/status/780597098664386560]block-time published-time 3.37am BST

Fact check: the nuclear deal with Iran Trump on the Iran nuclear deal: “One of the worst deals ever made by any country in history.” He said $400m in cash was part of that deal – and Clinton was responsible.

Clinton had nothing to do with the delivery of $400m to Iran as part of a settlement for a failed arms deal that Tehran’s pre-revolutionary government had made with the US in the 1970s.

The State Department under John Kerry has admitted, however, that it wanted to use that money as “leverage” [http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/400m-iran-cash-payment-leverage-prisoner-release-state/story?id=41482397] to secure the sailors’ release, although its transfer had been mediated through an international court. The money was delivered as foreign currency because US law bars any transaction in US dollars and sanctions make bank transactions difficult.

The US is not giving any of its own money to Iran as part of an international nuclear arms deal [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/14/iran-nuclear-deal-expected-to-be-announced-in-vienna] meant to prevent the construction of weapons. The deal gradually unfreezes assets [https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/iaea-director-general%E2%80%99s-statement-iran] that belong to Iran but were frozen under sanctions related to the nation’s nuclear program. Sanctions related to human rights, terrorism and other issues remain in place and still lock Iran out of billions.

Trump’s guess of how much Iran will benefit by unfrozen assets is far higher than most experts’ estimates, though not inconceivable. Treasury secretary Jack Lew has put the number at $56bn [http://www.c-span.org/video/?327246-1/secretaries-kerry-moniz-lew-testimony-iran-nuclear-agreement], and Iranian officials have said $32bn [http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2016/01/19/446415/Iran-32bn-unfrozen-assets] and $100bn [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/iran-claims-100-billion-now-freed-in-major-step-as-sanctions-roll-back/2016/02/01/edfc23ca-c8e5-11e5-a7b2-5a2f824b02c9\_story.html]. Independent economists have calculated that Iran will free up anything between $30bn to $100bn [http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-iran-frozen-assets-20160120-story.html]. Complicating the math are Iran’s debts: it will have to pay off tens of billions to countries such as China [http://www.cfr.org/world/getting-china-sanction-iran/p24212].

There is no evidence that the brief capture in January of 10 American sailors [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/13/iran-releases-us-navy-boat-crews-who-entered-territorial-waters-state-tv] had any effect on the nuclear deal, which had been finalized five months earlier, although the incident rattled fragile relations between Washington and Tehran. A few days after the sailors were released, United Nations inspectors confirmed that Iran had complied [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/17/world/middleeast/iran-sanctions-lifted-nuclear-deal.html] with the deal.

What Iran does next remain an open question – subject to inspection by UN officials – and Clinton’s argument in favor of the deal hinges on a degree of good faith that Tehran will comply by the terms of the deal.

block-time published-time 3.33am BST

Donald Trump has questioned Hillary Clinton’s temperament, perhaps because voters are questioning Donald Trump ’s temperament. A poll conducted by Monmouth University [http://www.pollingreport.com/wh16.htm] just last week found that 61% if respondents didn’t think Trump “has the right temperament to be president” while just 39% said the same of Clinton.

block-time published-time 3.32am BST

Trump says the Iran deal “was one of the first deals ever made by any country in history.”

Holt tries to move on.

Trump: “I met with Bibi Netanyahu the other day. Believe me, he is not a happy camper.

Clinton: “I want to reassure our allies in Japan and South Korea and elsewhere that we have mutual defense treaties and we will honor them... I want to on behalf of myself and I think on behalf of the majority of the American people say that ‘our word is good.’

“There’s no doubt that we have other problems with Iran... and Donald never tells you what he would do.. would he have bombed Iran?

“He should tell us what his alternative should be. It’s like his plan to defeat Isis. He says it’s a secret plan, but the only secret is that he has no plan...

“Are we going to lead the world with strength in accordance with our values? That’s what I intend to do... we cannot let those who would try to destabilize the world... to be given any opportunities at all.”

block-time published-time 3.31am BST

Fact check: Nato and a hotel Trump has claimed that Nato must turn to a directly anti-terror campaign in the Middle East, and that his urging has already influenced the alliance.

But Nato has had a Defense Against Terrorism program [http://www.nato.int/nato\_static\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\_2014\_10/20151029\_141007-dat-prog.pdf] since June 2004, almost a full 12 years before Trump called the alliance “obsolete”. In July its member nations decided to increase efforts [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/nato-muscles-up-to-fight-isis-1468968122] against Isis, specifically, in Syria and Iraq, as its leaders had discussed for months. Trump was not involved.

Trump also claimed that his new Washington DC hotel came in before schedule and under budget.

Not quite. Per the AP:

A June 2013 press release posted on the Trump Organization ’s website announced [http://www.trump.com/getmedia/8bfa0933-d7bb-45b6-bf5d-1e28af1a6951/OPO/] that the redevelopment of the old post office was “expected to start in 2014 with the hotel opening scheduled in 2016.” A few months later, the Trump Organization announced the expected grand opening of the hotel would happen at the end of 2015 [http://www.trump.com/getmedia/74de47aa-15c0-4328-a9cf-82f17624c4ad/GHAOPO/]. The Trump Organization said in a third statement in 2013... completion was expected in late 2015 [http://www.trump.com/getmedia/7b3402f3-96ff-4a74-ab4a-300f006dad4c/OPODesign/].

In 2014, the Trump Organization went back to announcing the hotel would open in mid-2016 [http://www.trump.com/getmedia/fa325427-ee75-4e6c-b496-31350e8f2ca7/JoseAndresatTIHT/]. In February, in the midst of Trump’s presidential campaign, the organization shifted and announced [https://www.trumphotelcollection.com/washington-dc/press/trump-international-hotel-washington-dc-set-to-open-two-years-ahead-of-schedule] the hotel was planned to open in September, “almost two years ahead of schedule, which is unheard of for a project of this size and complexity,” Ivanka Trump is quoted as saying.

And during a March visit to the site, Donald Trump said, “We’re two years ahead of schedule. We’re going to be opening in September.”

The hotel is now only partly open [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/digger/wp/2016/09/14/eleven-things-you-should-know-about-trumps-new-d-c-hotel-even-if-youre-not-going-to-go-there/].

block-time published-time 3.28am BST

Holt moves to the last segment. Do you support the current policy on “first use” of nuclear weapons? It’s a bit of a gotcha question. He’s talking about no first use.

Trump blathers about Russia, then says, “I would certainly not do first strike.”

He says China should “go into North Korea.” Then he says Iran has power over North Korea. He’s casting an extremely wide net for this answer.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.29am BST

block-time published-time 3.28am BST

As the candidates debate “securing America” with a particular focus on the threat of Isis and each candidate’s stance on the Iraq war, this chart offers some context:

block-time published-time 3.27am BST

Clinton quotes Trump as saying “you know if they taunted our sailors, I’d blow them out of the water...” referring to sailors taken captive by Iran.

Clinton continues on Trump’s temperament: “The worst.. has been about nuclear weapons. He has said repeatedly that he does not care if other countries got nuclear weapons..

His cavalier attitude about nuclear weapons is so deeply troubling... A man who could be provoked with a tweet should not have his finger anywhere near the button.

Trump:

That line is getting a little bit old.

Clinton:

It’s a good one, though. Well describes the problem.

block-time published-time 3.24am BST

Clinton tweaks Trump for temperament boast Trump: “I have much better judgment than he does. There’s no question about that. I also have a much better temperament than she does...

I think my strongest asset maybe by far is my temperament. I have a winning temperament.

He’s raving about his perfect temperament.

Holt: Secretary Clinton?

Clinton: “Whoo! OK... ” She makes fun of him and gets a laugh.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.26am BST

block-time published-time 3.21am BST

Holt says that Trump supported the war in Iraq.

Trump flies off the handle: “That is a mainstream media nonsense put out by her!”

Holt: “The record shows otherwise.”

Trump: “The record shows that I’m right.”

Then he runs through his own history of his positions. He talks about Sean Hannity telling him, Trump, that he, Trump, opposed the war.

Trump is still talking. “If somebody would call up Sean Hannity, he and I used to have arguments.”

block-time published-time 3.21am BST

Fact check: Isis, Libya and Iraq Trump: “President Obama and Secretary Clinton created a vacuum” for Isis.

The claim that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton created the conditions for Isis ignores that its first segments [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/world/middleeast/in-rise-of-isis-no-single-missed-key-but-many-strands-of-blame.html] formed [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/11/world/middleeast/us-actions-in-iraq-fueled-rise-of-a-rebel.html] out of the post-invasion civil war [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/11/-sp-isis-the-inside-story] in Iraq, while George W Bush was president; that the group took root in Syria’s civil war, where the US did not intervene until 2014; and that Obama withdrew American forces in 2011 under the timeline [http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/12/20081214-2.html] agreed on by Bush and Baghdad [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/22/world/middleeast/united-states-and-iraq-had-not-expected-troops-would-have-to-leave.html].

Clinton: “Donald supported the invasion of Iraq.”

Trump: “Wrong.”

This is a lie. In the months before the Iraq war began, the businessman made a tepid endorsement of invasion to radio host Howard Stern [https://soundcloud.com/buzzfeedandrew/trump-on-the-howard-stern-show-on-sept-11-2002?utm\_source=soundcloud&utm\_campaign=share&utm\_medium=twitter], who asked him whether he thought the US should attack Saddam Hussein.

“Yeah, I guess so,” Trump answered.

A few weeks later he told Fox News that George W Bush was “doing a very good job”. Several weeks after the invasion, Trump told the Washington Post: “ The war’s a mess [https://www.washingtonpost.com/pb/archive/lifestyle/2003/03/25/hollywood-partyers-soldiering-on/06327347-83d3-44c4-ab7b-dcd6fbda5437/?resType=accessibility].” In August 2004 he told Esquire [http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/interviews/a37230/donald-trump-esquire-cover-story-august-2004/] : “Two minutes after we leave, there’s going to be a revolution, and the meanest, toughest, smartest, most vicious guy will take over.”

Even in an interview [https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/a-guide-to-donald-trump-early-flip-flops-on-the-iraq-war?utm\_term=.vq5VjeKwe#.uy2eDvV5v] cited by the Trump campaign to explain his “opposition”, Trump expressed impatience with Bush for not invading sooner. “Whatever happened to the days of the Douglas MacArthur? He would go and attack. He wouldn’t talk.”

Trump also supported complete withdrawal from Iraq, even in the event of continued civil war or authoritarian violence there. “You know how they get out? They get out. That’s how they get out. Declare victory and leave,” he told CNN [http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0703/18/le.01.html] in 2007. “This is a total catastrophe, and you might as well get out now because you’re just wasting time, and lives.”

Like Clinton, Trump also supported military strikes in Libya, saying in a February 2011 video blog [https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/trump-claims-he-didnt-support-libya-intervention-but-he-did?utm\_term=.cxLgP37W3#.je5XJqPgq] that the US should take “immediate” action against dictator Muammar Ghaddafi.

“We should go in, we should stop this guy, which would be be very easy and very quick. We could do it surgically.” No one supported an occupation to “build democracy” there in the model of George W Bush’s occupation of Iraq.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.28am BST

block-time published-time 3.19am BST

Trump accuses Clinton of turning Iran into “a major power.”

On Nato, “they have to understand I’m a business person,” Trump says. He accuses allies of not “paying their fair share.”

Then Trump claims credit for Nato opening up a major terror division.

“I think we have to get Nato to go into the Middle East with us, and we have to knock the hell out of Isis, and we have to do it fast.”

Then Trump says that in fact Clinton did pull out the troops.

Clinton: We’ve covered this ground.

block-time published-time 3.17am BST

Holt brings up domestic and homegrown terrorism. How to prevent those? Trump is first.

Trump goes back to Isis. He blames the formation of Isis on the precipitous withdrawal from Iraq. He suggests leaving 10,000 troops behind. “We should’ve taken the oil … Isis would not have been able to form either,” he says.

Trump refers to “Libya, which was another one of her disasters.”

Clinton again appeals to the refs, to the “fact-checkers.” Clinton says Trump supported the invasion of Iraq...

Trump: “Wrong. Wrong.”

... and Clinton says that George W Bush made an agreement to leave Iraq, not Obama.

This is basic history. Will it fly?

Clinton is on to the homegrown terrorism problem. She calls for an “intelligence surge.” She says that the US must work with Nato and allies to improve intelligence and turn attention to terrorism. “Donald has consistently insulted Muslims abroad, Muslims at home, when we need to be cooperating.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.19am BST

block-time published-time 3.16am BST

Fact check: foreign policy Clinton: Trump has been “praiseworthy of Vladimir Putin”.

Trump: “Wrong.”

Trump has repeatedly called Russia’s president a “strong leader” and spoken approvingly – “praise” by nearly any definition – of this strength and Putin’s polling numbers. For instance, on 18 December 2015 he told MSNBC [http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/washwire/2015/12/18/donald-trump-praises-putin-as-strong-leader/] : “I’ve always felt fine about Putin. I think that he’s a strong leader.”

He added: “He’s running his country and at least he’s a leader, unlike what we have in this country.”

Last September, he told Fox News [http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-gives-russias-putin-an-a-in-leadership/] : “In terms of leadership [Putin’s] getting an A.” In a 10 March debate [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaA2rmuJu9c], Trump tried to hedge on semantics. “Strong doesn’t mean good,” he said. “Putin is a strong leader, absolutely. He is a strong leader. Now I don’t say that in a good way or a bad way. I say it as a fact.”

Trump: Clinton has been “fighting Isis your entire adult life.”

The Islamic State’s first segments [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/world/middleeast/in-rise-of-isis-no-single-missed-key-but-many-strands-of-blame.html] formed [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/11/world/middleeast/us-actions-in-iraq-fueled-rise-of-a-rebel.html] out of the post-invasion civil war [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/11/-sp-isis-the-inside-story] in Iraq, while George W Bush was president. The group took root in Syria’s civil war, where the US did not intervene until 2014. The terror group largely formed out of the remnants of Saddam Hussein’s government and the factions that formed al-Qaida in Iraq – all of which happened in the last decade or so. The group also gained international notoriety only in 2014, when it invaded Iraq in significant forces and when Clinton was out of office.

Trump: “Whether [the DNC hack] was Russia, whether that was China, whether that was another country, we don’t know.”

Several independent security firms, in addition to intelligence officials, have p ointed to Russian-backed hackers [https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/29/cozy-bear-fancy-bear-russia-hack-dnc] as the culprits behind a hack of the Democratic National Committee . Trump is correct in an extremely technical sense: no one has provided 100% proof that Russia was behind the hack, and the Obama administration has proven loath to escalate a hacking war. But security experts have found technical fingerprints that seem to hint back toward Russia, just as they have found links back to Chinese hacks in unrelated cases [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/01/world/asia/us-decides-to-retaliate-against-chinas-hacking.html].

block-time published-time 3.13am BST

Clinton says she has a plan to defeat Isis that involves combatting them online. “But we also have to intensify our air strikes against Isis and … support our Arab and Kurdish partners...”

“We’re making progress, our military is … in Iraq,” she says. “We’re hoping that within a year we’ll be able to push Isis out of Iraq.”

She ignores Trump’s defense of Russia on the hacking. She says that taking out Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is a top plank in her plan to take out Isis.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.15am BST

block-time published-time 3.11am BST

Donald Trump has tried to deflect a question about how he demanded to see Barack Obama’s birth certificate. Those racist attitudes are still prevalent among the Republican’s supporters.

A poll in May found that two-thirds [http://www.rollcall.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/news/politics/poll-two-thirds-trump-supporters-think-obama-muslim] of voters with a favorable opinion of Donald Trump believed Barack Obama was a Muslim and 59% believed Obama was born outside of the US.

block-time published-time 3.11am BST

Trump defends Russia from accusation of hacking DNC Trump says he was endorsed by more than 200 admirals and generals “and many more are coming.” “So when secretary Clinton says this... I’ll take the admirals and the generals over the political hacks.”

That line may not play well in northern Virginia.

Trump casts doubt on the notion that the DNC hacking was Russia-backed. He says it may have been China, or bizarrely, a “400-lb person sitting on their bed.”

“Under President Obama, we’ve lost control of things we should have had control over.. we have to get very, very tough on cyber and cyber warfare.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.14am BST

block-time published-time 3.09am BST

Clinton takes a question on cyber war. She says that Trump has praised Russian president Vladimir Putin. Trump does something strange to the microphone. Kind of swoops on it and blows into it with his full round mouth.

Clinton: “We need to make it very clear.. the United States has much greater capacity, and we are not going to sit idly by to let state actors go after our information.

“I was so shocked when Donald publicly invited Putin to hack into Americans. That is just unacceptable... Donald is unfit to be commander-in-chief.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.11am BST

block-time published-time 3.07am BST

Fact check: birtherism Trump blames Sidney Blumenthal, a friend of the Clinton’s, and Patti Solis Doyle, a 2008 campaign manager [http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=4269776], for creating the false claim that Barack Obama was not born in the United States.

There is no evidence that Clinton or her campaign had anything to do with the false rumors that Barack Obama was not born in the United States, nor did Clinton have anything to do with Donald Trump ’s five years of questions about birth certificates, which he finally recanted last Friday.

Trump’s campaign has tried to blame several people who were, if at all, tangentially related to the Clinton campaign. There is no evidence that Solis Doyle had anything to do with the claim either. She told CNN that there was a volunteer coordinator in Iowa who forwarded the email [http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/16/politics/hillary-clinton-patti-solis-doyle-birther-donald-trump/] and that the volunteer was dismissed, and that she called the Obama campaign to apologize.

A former aide named Mark Penn wrote a 2007 memo [https://www.scribd.com/doc/4097983/Penn-Strategy-Memo-3-19-07#fullscreen&from\_embed] that Obama’s “lack of American roots” could “hold him back”. But he added: “We are never going to say anything about his background.” The Clinton campaign never [http://www.theatlantic.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/magazine/archive/2008/09/the-front-runner-s-fall/306944/] that Obama’s “lack of American roots” could “hold him back”. But he added: “We are never going to say anything about his background.” The Clinton campaign acted [http://www.politico.com/story/2008/08/clinton-told-to-portray-obama-as-foreign-012420] on his advice, and he was dismissed [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/07/us/politics/07hillary.html] in April 2008.

Some Clinton supporters have been blamed over anonymous chain emails [http://www.snopes.com/politics/obama/citizen.asp] questioning Obama’s citizenship, but none of the rumormongers were linked to the campaign. Philip Berg, a former Pennsylvania official who supported Clinton, filed a lawsuit in 2008 over Obama’s birth certificate; the suit was thrown out because it was groundless [http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/law/2014/01/29/supreme-court-ousts-attorney-who-sued-to-oust-obama/]. Sidney Blumenthal, an old friend of the Clintons who frequently sent them unsolicited advice, reportedly asked reporters [http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article102354777.html] to investigate Obama’s birth, but he has denied this and denounced the conspiracy.

As fellow fact-checkers at Politifact have noted, a Texas volunteer for Clinton named Linda Starr eventually joined Berg’s failed lawsuit [http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/sep/23/donald-trump/hillary-clinton-obama-birther-fact-check/] ; there is nothing to suggest Starr had any influence in the campaign at any level. Campaign volunteers who forwarded emails falsely alleging Obama is Muslim resigned [http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2015/sep/25/obama-muslim-myth-clinton-connection/] when they were found out.

Trump did not answer the question about what convinced him that the president was born in the United States, even though Obama’s birth certificate has been public for the five years that has Trump continued questioning [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/02/27/about-that-donald-trump-speech-at-cpac/] his birthplace.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.10am BST

block-time published-time 3.07am BST

Clinton describes Trump's 'long record' of 'racist behavior' Holt asks Trump about what changed his mind about the “birther” babble, which Trump reversed himself on recently after five years.

Trump says that Clinton aide Sydney Blumenthal started it and he ended it. Then he lists things he’d like to get on to – trying to put the conversation behind him.

Holt: The birth certificate was produced in 2011, you continued to press the issue in 2012, 2013, 2014...

“Nobody was caring much about it,” Trump says. He returns to Sydney Blumenthal.

Trump says he did a “great job and a great service” for the country and the president by demanding the birth certificate.

Clinton: “Just listen to what you heard... he tried to put the whole racist, birther lie, to bed. But it can’t be dismissed that easily. He has started his campaign activity based on this racist lie... because some of his supporters.. believed it or wanted to believe it.

Donald started his career back in 1973 being sued by the justice department for racial discrimination...

He has a long record in engaging in racist behavior. And the birther lie was a very difficult one. Barack Obama is a man of great integrity. I would like to remember what Michelle Obama said...

When they go low, we go high.

Trump accuses Clinton of disrespecting Obama in her debates with him. Then he defends the 1970s lawsuits.

We settled the suit with zero with no admission of guilt. They sued so many people.”

Then he says “I have been given great credit for what I did” in Palm Beach, referring to the integration of a club.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.12am BST

block-time published-time 3.01am BST

Fact check: race and gun crime Clinton claimed that African American men are more likely to be killed by guns than other demographics, and is broadly correct.

She is broadly correct [http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/black-americans-are-killed-at-12-times-the-rate-of-people-in-other-developed-countries/] that African American man are disproportionately affected by gun violence, including by police [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/31/the-counted-police-killings-2015-young-black-men]. She’s also correct that crime rates are overall still down from where they were in the 1990s [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/rate-murder-fbi-increase], but she omits the 10.8% single-year increase in murders in 2015. The recent spike in violent crime has been concentrated in a handful of cities, such as Chicago, Washington DC and Baltimore.

Trump: “African Americans and Hispanics are living in hell because it’s so dangerous. In Chicago they’ve had thousands of shootings since January 1st … Almost 4,000 people in Chicago have been killed since Barack Obama became president.”

Trump often cites Chicago’s shooting crisis as evidence that the US is plagued by dangerous crime, but even that city, which has the most homicides in the US [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/08/us/us-murder-rates.html], but not even that city compares to a “war zone” as Trump says. In 2015, Chicago had 2,988 people who were victims of gun violence, according to the Chicago Tribune [http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/shootings/], and 488 homicides in all. The city has more than 500 homicides [http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-chicago-violence-labor-day-tuesday-20160906-story.html] so far this year, per the paper, and more than 2,100 victims of gun violence.

In Afghanistan – a country Trump often compares the city to – between January and June 2016, 1,601 civilians have been killed and 3,565 injured, according to the United Nations. [http://unama.unmissions.org/afghanistan-record-level-civilian-casualties-sustained-first-half-2016-un-report] The figures include 388 killed and 1,121 injured children. The UN reported 3,545 civilians killed and 7,457 injured in 2015. More than 80,000 people have been displaced by violence [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/18/world/middleeast/civilian-casualties-in-afghan-war-are-unabated-in-2016.html] this year. The US and Afghan forces control only about 70% of the country, while the Taliban and militants control the other 30%, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff told the Senate [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/09/22/u-s-backed-forces-control-70-percent-of-afghanistan-us-military-chief-says/] on Thursday.

Trump on stop and frisk police tactics: “Stop and frisk which worked very well in New York it … it brought the crime rate way down.”

The controversial police tactic of stop and frisk, which became a hallmark of New York policing through the mayorships of Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg , has landed the city in federal court, where a judge ruled it unconstitutional [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/12/new-york-stop-and-frisk-unconstitutional-judge]. One research paper, unpublished through peer review, found modest drops [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/08/20/ray-kelly-says-stop-frisk-saves-lives-theres-no-good-evidence-for-that/] in some crimes. A second paper [http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/rosenfeld\_fornango.pdf], published through peer review, found problems in the first study and “few significant effects” of the tactic.

A New York Civil Liberties Union report [http://www.nyclu.org/publications/report-stop-and-frisk-during-bloomberg-administration-2002-2013-2014], on 12 years’ worth of police data, found young black and Hispanic men were targeted for stops at a vastly higher proportion than white men: more than half the people searched were black and about 30% were Hispanic. Among more than 5m stops during the Bloomberg administration, police found a gun less than 0.02% of the time, according to the report. NYPD , on 12 years’ worth of police data, found young black and Hispanic men were targeted for stops at a vastly higher proportion than white men: more than half the people searched were black and about 30% were Hispanic. Among more than 5m stops during the Bloomberg administration, police found a gun less than 0.02% of the time, according to the report. records between 2004 and 2012 [http://www.slate.com/articles/news\_and\_politics/jurisprudence/2013/08/new\_york\_s\_stop\_and\_frisk\_policy\_is\_neither\_effective\_nor\_constitutional.html] show similar figures: in 4.4m stops, weapons were seized from 1.0% of black people, 1.1% from Hispanic people and 1.4% of white people.

New York’s long-term decline in crime rates began before Giuliani took office in the 1994, and its causes were and are diverse [http://www.city-journal.org/html/how-new-york-became-safe-full-story-13197.html] : data-driven policing with the Compstat system [http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/inside-look-system-cut-crime-new-york-75-percent-n557031], the growth of the police force by 35% [https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/what-caused-crime-decline] over the decade, incarceration increases by 24% [http://www.theatlantic.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/politics/archive/2016/04/what-caused-the-crime-decline/477408/], and the 39% unemployment decline [http://www.nber.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/digest/jan03/w9061.html] that matched with national economic growth. Not even the loudest supporters of stop and frisk, including Bloomberg, whose last term Trump has called “a disaster”, have argued the tactic alone reduced crime to its current lows.

Trump said that the tactic was not ruled unconstitutional because of a judge “who was against policing”, but his personal opinion about the judge does not mean she did not rule it unconstitutional.

Trump: “We have to take the guns away from the people that shouldn’t have them … these are bad people.”

This argument flies in the face of Trump’s pro-gun rights stance for legal owners; he has repeatedly and falsely insisted that Clinton wants to take away guns from legal owners.

Trump claimed that New York’s crime rate is up since the end of stop and frisk. It remains near historic lows [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/27/nyregion/anxiety-aside-new-york-sees-drop-in-crime.html].

enltrNo, murders in New York City are not up this year. They are down 4.3%. Shooting incidents have dropped by even more: https://t.co/enQFutOeQh [https://t.co/enQFutOeQh] pic.twitter.com/wuBeFxIAyn [https://t.co/wuBeFxIAyn]

— Lois Beckett (@loisbeckett) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/loisbeckett/status/780593501411151873]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.28am BST

block-time published-time 2.59am BST

Trump “agrees” that no-fly lists should apply to background checks. Then he tells Clinton that her 1996 crime law-era reference to “Super-predators” was harmful.

Trump then returns to stop-and-frisk and says Clinton secretly agrees with him that it was a great program.

Trump says murders are up in New York. Clinton says they’re down.

Clinton says effective policing is necessary not “things that sound good.” And “no one should disagree about respecting the rights of young men who live in those neighborhoods.”

Holt tries to get in.

“The African American community has really been let down by politicians... the community within the inner cities have been abused and used in order to get votes by Democratic politicians because that’s where it is.”

Trump says: “I’ve been all over the place.. you decided to stay home, and that’s OK.”

Clinton has this answer pre-cooked:

I think Donald just criticized me for preparing for this debate. And yes I did. And you know what else I prepared for? I prepared to be president. And that’s a good thing.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.07am BST

block-time published-time 2.59am BST

Hillary is talking about “systemic racial discrimination in the criminal justice system”. The stats back her up.

According to 2008 data [http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbse&sid=18] from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, white, black and Hispanic drivers were stopped at similar rates by police. But black drivers were about three times more likely than white drivers to be searched during a traffic stop.

A 2013 study in the Yale Law Journal [http://repository.law.umich.edu.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2497&context=articles] found that in cases when judges have discretion over how long a sentence should be for a specific crime, they tend to select longer sentences for black men than white men, even if they have the same criminal history.

block-time published-time 2.58am BST

Trump always pumps himself up as a businessman and a billionaire, but Clinton points out that his businesses have filed for bankruptcy on six occasions, that workers have sued for him not receiving payment, and that he refuses to release his tax returns.

Again, that exchange is different depending on who you support.

On the right

Washington Times writer:

enltrWow. Hillary Clinton scolding somebody else for hiding things from the public?

— Charlie Hurt (@CharlesHurt) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/CharlesHurt/status/780582137556787204]A Trump surrogate and conservative commenter:

enltr"It's about time we have someone running this Country, who knows a thing about money!"- @realDonaldTrump [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] #Debates2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates2016?src=hash] #MAGA [https://twitter.com/hashtag/MAGA?src=hash]

— Scottie Nell Hughes (@scottienhughes) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/scottienhughes/status/780582629133266945]A conservative:

enltrTrump got rich by creating phenomenal buildings and structures.

Hillary got rich by selling out America to foreign adversaries.

— Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/charliekirk11/status/780582990644510720] On the left

President of the Center for American Progress:

enltrHe's hocking his hotel.

This whole thing is a take on all of us.

— Neera Tanden (@neeratanden) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/neeratanden/status/780583538479554561]Vermont senator and Clinton rival-turned-supporter Bernie Sanders:

enltrMany of these lawsuits were filed by working class americans who worked for Trump and never got paid.

— Bernie Sanders (@BernieSanders) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/BernieSanders/status/780583431378010112]Politico reporter:

enltr“I take advantage of the laws of the nation” is not a great sound byte.

— Jimmy Vielkind (@JimmyVielkind) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JimmyVielkind/status/780583493067825152]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.04am BST

block-time published-time 2.55am BST

Clinton calls for restricted gun access Clinton on guns: “We’ve got too many military-style weapons on the streets. In a lot of places, our police are outgunned … we need to keep guns out of the hands of those who’d do harm...

“There are things we can do and we ought to do it in a bipartisan way.”

Good question from Holt: are you saying that police have an implicit bias against black men?

Clinton: “I think the implicit bias is a problem for everyone, not just police... too many of us in our great country jump to conclusions about each other.”

She calls for all of us to ask questions about “Why am I feeling this way?”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.59am BST

block-time published-time 2.53am BST

Clinton hits Trump for 'dire negative picture of black communities' Trump says “you need better relationships between the community and police.. there’s some bad things going on … we need law and order and we need law and order in the cities.”

Clinton is still listening. Now she speaks.

“I’ve heard Donald say this at his rallies, and it’s really unfortunate that he paints such a dire negative picture of black communities in our country.”

“There’s a lot we should be proud of.”

Clinton says “stop-in-frisk was found to be unconstitutional.” She says it was not effective. “It’s just a fact that if you’re a young African American man, and you do the same thing as a young white man, you’re more likely to be charged, convicted and imprisoned...”

“We can’t just say ‘law and order’. We need to come up with a plan.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.55am BST

block-time published-time 2.51am BST

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton at the presidential debate on Monday. Photograph: Rick Wilking/AFP/Getty Images block-time published-time 2.49am BST

Trump: African Americans and Hispanics are living in hell Trump says Clinton won’t say “law and order”. “We need law and order in our country.”

Then he describes an inner-city hellscape:

African Americans and Hispanics are living in hell because it’s so dangerous. You walk down the street you get shot.

He says the country needs law and order. He mentions stop and frisk, says Rudy Giuliani is in the audience and “it worked very well in New York.”

Clinton is looking at him evenly.

Holt follows up on stop-and-frisk. He says it was unconstitutional because it targets nonwhite men.

“No you’re wrong,” Trump says. “It went before a judge who was a very against-police judge.”

Holt: “The argument is that it causes racial profiling.”

Trump flatly denies the correlation.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.00am BST

block-time published-time 2.49am BST

The candidates are currently discussing racial justice in America. But some voters clearly have other priorities. When Pew Research Center [http://www.people-press.org/2016/07/07/4-top-voting-issues-in-2016-election/] asked what voters consider as “very important”, treatment of racial and ethnic minorities comes tenth on the list.

Voters’ priorities. Photograph: Pew Research Center block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.58am BST

block-time published-time 2.46am BST

Clinton: 'race often determines too much' Holt brings up police shootings of black men and asks about healing along lines of race and racism.

“Unfortunately, race often determines too much,” she says. Where they live, how they’re treated in the criminal justice system. “We have to restore trust between communities and the police. We have to work to make sure that our police are using the best training, the best techniques, that they’re well prepared to use force... everyone should be respected by the law and everyone should respect the law.”

She says her platform would address criminal justice reform. “And we’ve got to get guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.” She refers to the gun epidemic. “We have to tackle the plague of gun violence.”

block-time published-time 2.44am BST

Trump says he’s opening a hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. “So if I don’t get there one way, I’ll get there another.”

Trump is ranting about the budget. We use the word ranting because his teeth are bared, he’s chopping the air with his hands and his voice is at high volume.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.01am BST

block-time published-time 2.43am BST

Fact check: tax plans Trump claimed that his tax plan will be the largest cuts since Ronald Reagan and create jobs, while in his words Clinton’s would create a huge tax hike.

Trump’s tax plan would disproportionately help the wealthiest Americans [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/08/donald-trump-tax-plan-business-income-middle-class], saving them millions of dollars and adding trillions to the national debt, according to an analysis by the Tax Foundation [http://taxfoundation.org/article/details-and-analysis-donald-trump-tax-reform-plan-september-2016], a conservative thinktank. He would reduce the business tax rate to 15%, eliminate the estate tax (aka the “death tax”), which mostly affects wealthy inheritors, and would reduce revenue from taxes by about $5tn. According to the Foundation, the top 1% of earners would see a 10.2% increase to their incomes.

Clinton’s tax plan [https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/01/12/investing-in-america-by-restoring-basic-fairness-to-our-tax-code/] does not change tax rates for the middle class, but does increase taxes by 4% on people who have an adjusted income of more than $5m, as well as closing corporate loopholes. Only about 0.5% [https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/tax-analysis/Documents/TP-4.pdf] of small businesses in the US reported a profit of more than $1m in 2011, according to the US Treasury Department . Clinton would increase tax revenue by $1.1tn by taxing the top 1% of earners, increasing the estate tax and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, and by implementing and a more complex tax code, according to the Tax Policy Center [http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/analysis-hillary-clintons-tax-proposals].

Trump has not proven that he pays any federal income tax, and did not deny that he doesn’t pay, saying simply that it would prove he’s “smart”.

block-time published-time 2.43am BST

Trump: “It’s about time that this country had somebody running it who has some idea about money.” He appears to be referring to himself.

Then he compares La Guardia unfavorably to Dubai, Qatar and Chinese airports. Then he lists all the infrastructure he would build.

“We don’t have the money because it’s been squandered on your ideas,” Trump says.

Maybe it’s because you haven’t paid your taxes, she says. Good line.

Clinton hits Trump for not paying people:

I’ve met a lot of people who were stiffed by you and your businesses, Donald... who you refused to pay when they finished the work that you asked them to do.

Clinton says there’s an architect in the audience who was not paid by Trump for his work.

Clinton: “Do the thousands of people who you have stiffed in the course of your business not deserve some kind of apology?”

Trump says the person probably did not do good work.

She points out he’s taken business bankruptcy six times: “You even at one time tried to suggest that you would negotiate down the national debt. Sometimes there’s not a direct transfer of skills … but sometime what would happen in business would be disastrous for government.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.02am BST

block-time published-time 2.41am BST

Manterruptions Notice how Donald Trump keeps on talking over Hillary Clinton? Social scientists around the country will probably be shrugging with a “go figure”. In 1975, two sociologists conducted a study by loitering in public places like coffee shops and drug stores with a tape recorder, listening to two-person conversations they overheard. They found [http://web.stanford.edu/~eckert/PDF/zimmermanwest1975.pdf] men were responsible for 47 of the 48 interruptions they overheard.

A separate study [http://jls.sagepub.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/content/early/2014/05/09/0261927X14533197?papetoc] in 2014 found pretty similar results. When men were talking to women, they interrupted 2.1 times over a three-minute dialogue - when they were talking to men, they interrupted 1.8 times on average. When women were talking to women, they interrupted even more though, 2.9 times per 3 minutes on average. But the women interrupted just once if their talking partner was male.

block-time published-time 2.40am BST

Debating trade - one of Donald Trump ’s biggest claims is that he’s against trade deals such as TPP and NAFTA - has created the most aggressive moment between the two so far, with Trump and Clinton both yelling at each other. But the winner of the spat depends on which side you’re on.

On the right:

Author of Reclaiming the American Right: Lost Legacy of the Conservative Movement:

enltrHe's slaughtering her.

— Justin Raimondo (@JustinRaimondo) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JustinRaimondo/status/780578314352111616]

Conservative commentator AJ Delgado:

enltrTrump is ON FIRE!!!!! #NAFTA [https://twitter.com/hashtag/NAFTA?src=hash] #TPP [https://twitter.com/hashtag/TPP?src=hash]

— A.J. Delgado (@AJDelgado13) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/AJDelgado13/status/780578293019922433]A Breitbart News reporter:

enltrWow.. Trump killing Clinton on NAFTA. She has no idea what to do except repeat B.S. talking points.

— John Hayward (@Doc\_0) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Doc\_0/status/780578352553947137]GOP strategist:

enltrTrump is winning so far. The first 15-20 minutes are crucial. #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash]

— Matt Mackowiak (@MattMackowiak) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/MattMackowiak/status/780578514986827778] On the left:

Political junkie:

enltrDonald Trump can't help himself. He's drunk, ractist uncle at Thanksgiving. #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] #debates [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debates?src=hash]

— Russell Drew (@RussOnPolitics) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/RussOnPolitics/status/780578391951020032]Progressive columnist:

enltrHow many women watching now are remembering men in their lives who yelled at them wouldn't let them talk? #Debates2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates2016?src=hash]

— Julia Ioffe (@juliaioffe) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/juliaioffe/status/780578983800954881]Slate editor:

enltrI'm becoming a better parent tonight learning from Hillary Clinton's patience and even demeanor.

— Franklin Foer (@FranklinFoer) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/FranklinFoer/status/780578666883547137]block-time published-time 2.39am BST

Media reports today have claimed that as many as 100 million people [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/25/business/media/presidential-debate-audience.html] could be tuning in to watch this debate - a number vaguely attributed to “network executives and political strategists”. Wherever the number comes from, it really does seem to be epic by historical standards - is it though?

Nielsen, the market research company which tracks such numbers, looked at 50 years of household viewership [http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/news/2016/from-your-house-to-the-white-house-the-top-presidential-debates.html] for televised presidential debates (note, they’re looking at households though so it’s a slightly different measure). They found that the biggest debate was the one between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on 3 October 2012 which attracted 46.2 million households.

And, as the candidates debate the economy, remember that viewers will have different attitudes about where the country is at. According to polling by Pew Research Center , Republicans are much less likely than Democrats to say that “economic conditions in the country are excellent” or “very good”.

Nielsen Photograph: Nielsen block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.43am BST

block-time published-time 2.38am BST

Clinton on Trump's taxes: 'there's something he's hiding' Clinton gets the mic. She says candidates going back 40 years have released their returns. “So you’ve gotta ask yourself, why won’t he release his tax returns? Maybe he’s not as rich as he says he is. Maybe he’s not as charitable... third, he owes $600m to foreign banks... or maybe he doesn’t want the American people, all of you watching to know he didn’t pay any income taxes.”

Trump: “That makes me smart.”

Clinton: “Zero for troops, zero for vets.. it must be something really important, or terrible, that he’s trying to hide... I have no reason to believe that he’s ever going to release his tax returns. Because there’s something he’s hiding... were he ever to get near the White House. What would be these conflicts? Who does he owe money to?

I made a mistake using private email.

Trump: That’s for sure.

Clinton: I take responsibility.

Trump: That was not a mistake. That was done purposefully.

She’s blinking at him. He may be in conspiracy territory here.

“As far as my tax returns, you don’t learn that much from tax returns, I can tell you.. the other things, I’m extremely under-leveraged.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.03am BST

block-time published-time 2.36am BST

It’s ironic (or just plain awful) that voters who are faced with a choice between two of the most unpopular candidates [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/04/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-general-election-analysis] in history must do so on a medium they also thoroughly distrust.

According to data published by Pew Research Center [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/09/26/from-universities-to-churches-republicans-and-democrats-differ-in-views-of-major-institutions/] today, 70% of US adults believe the news media is having a negative effect on the country. By contrast, 50% say the same about banks and financial institutions. When analyzed by partisanship, those views are even stronger among Republicans than Democrats.

Trust in institutions. Photograph: Pew block-time published-time 2.34am BST

Holt asks Trump about releasing his tax returns. “Don’t Americans have a right to know?”

Trump says he’s under audit.

It will be released as soon as the audit’s finished... but you will learn more about Donald Trump where I have filed a 100-page.. the income is filed at $694m this past year.. you would’ve told me I was going to make that [X] years ago I would’ve been surprised.

That’s the kind of thinking our country needs.

Holt says the IRS says he can still release his returns even under audit.

Trump replies that he’s always under audit. “I will release my tax returns against my lawyer’s wishes when she releases her 33,000 emails that were deleted.”

Some people in the hall clap for that.

Holt: “So it’s negotiable?”

Holt tells the audience to be quiet.

block-time published-time 2.31am BST

Trump: 'our country is suffering' Clinton says we need “broad-based inclusive growth.” She spins through a few rather automatic talking points.

Trump says Clinton is “all talk, no action, sounds good, never going to happen. Our country is suffering because of people like secretary Clinton.”

“We are in a big, fat, ugly bubble.. and we have a Fed that is doing political things...”

block-time published-time 2.29am BST

Trump is now kind of ranting alone onstage about “bureaucratic red tape” and corporate inversions. “We have no leadership, and honestly that starts with secretary Clinton.”

“I have a feeling that by the end of this evening everything is going to be my fault,” she says.

He agrees with her. Everything is her fault.

She smiles. “Join the debate by saying more crazy things.”

Trump jumps in again: “There’s nothing crazy about not letting our companies bring their money back into our country.”

He’s interrupting her continuously now.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.30am BST

block-time published-time 2.27am BST

Donald Trump is sniffling - but only anti-Trump people are acknowledging it, with clear schadenfreude after conservative bloggers pushed stories about Clinton’s ill health and supposed coughing fits for months.

Democrat strategist Stu Loeser:

enltrTwelve of those snorts so far. 13. 14. 15. 16.

— Stu Loeser (@stuloeser) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/stuloeser/status/780576359366135808]A progressive tweeter:

enltrTrump's got the sniffles.

— southpaw (@nycsouthpaw) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/nycsouthpaw/status/780576256735731712]New York Times TV critic:

enltrIf Hillary were sniffling like that Drudge would have her on deathwatch

— James Poniewozik (@poniewozik) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/poniewozik/status/780576584109584385]Rick Wilson, who is a Republican but not a Trump fan:

enltrTrump keeps sniffling and snorting. Where are the experts on his obvious case of bird flu?

— Rick Wilson (@TheRickWilson) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/TheRickWilson/status/780576384485822464]But Trump fans aren’t mentioning it at all.

block-time published-time 2.27am BST

I’m monitoring red and blue Twitter tonight, to see how different sides report the same thing depending on their political opinions.

Speaking of red and blue, Trump has Clinton is wearing a red pantsuit (the traditional Republican color), while Trump has dumped his red tie for a blue one. It’s a choice that both sides are already commenting on.

On the left, Obama’s former speechwriter...

enltrLook at that power red next to that beta blue.

— Jon Lovett (@jonlovett) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/jonlovett/status/780574208468275201]And the president for the Center of American Progress:

enltrNo white power tie for Trump.

— Neera Tanden (@neeratanden) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/neeratanden/status/780574029073842177]And on the right, conservative blogger Ben Shapiro:

enltrHillary wears Communist red. Trump wears the Serious Face. https://t.co/p1BZLeg4EQ [https://t.co/p1BZLeg4EQ]

— Ben Shapiro (@benshapiro) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/benshapiro/status/780574184350978048]And alt-right blogger Richard B Spencer:

enltrIntriguingly, Hillary wears a RED pantsuit and Donald wears a BLUE tie.

Subliminal outreach.

— Richard B. Spencer (@RichardBSpencer) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/RichardBSpencer/status/780574127916654593]block-time published-time 2.27am BST

Trump:

You are going to approve one of the biggest tax cuts in history. You are going to drive businesses out... you are going to regulate these companies out of business...

You have regulations on top of regulations.. and you want to increase the regulations and make them even worse. I’m going to cut taxes big league, and you’re going to raise taxes

Clinton stops Holt from trying to move on. She says Trump cannot go on unanswered. “I kind of assumed that there would be a lot of these charges and claims,” she says. She refers people to her web site to fact-check Trump.

Holt tries to move on. Trump won’t be silenced. “Just go to her web site to fight Isis,” he mocks her. He says General MacArthur would not have said that.

Then he makes another accusation against her: “You’re telling the enemy everything we want to do. No wonder you’ve been fighting Isis your entire adult life.”

Clinton appeals to the refs; “Fact checkers, please.” The pummeling of his attacks, as aggressive, and fantastic, as they are, has an intense energy.

block-time published-time 2.23am BST

Trump launches attack Trump attacks Clinton: “You’ve been doing this for 30 years. Why are you just starting to think about this right now?”

Clinton: “Well, actually, I have thought about this quite a bit.... I think my husband did quite a good job in the 1990s...

Trump interrupts her, sort of inaudibly. She smiles more broadly and continues.

“Incomes went up for everybody... manufacturing jobs also went up in the 1990s, if we’re actually going to look at the facts.”

Then she spouts a bunch of statistics.

“When you haven’t done it for 30 years... your husband signed Nafta, which is one of the worst things that ever happened. You go to Ohio, you go to Pennsylvania... Nafta is one of the worst things signed anywhere...”

It’s a bracing attack. He accuses her of supporting TPP. He’s really going after her. “You called it the gold standard.”

“That is just non-accurate,” Clinton says. “Well, Donald, I know that you live in your own reality, but that was not the facts...”

“Was it President Obama’s fault?”

“There are different views about our country, our economy and...”

Trump: “You have no plan. Secretary Clinton you have no plan.”

Clinton: “I do. I wrote a book about it... We have a very robust set of plans.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.27am BST

block-time published-time 2.22am BST

Fact check Trump: “Our jobs are fleeing the country, they’re going to Mexico they’re going to many other countries … Hundreds of hundreds of companies are doing this.”

Trump is primarily talking about the North American Free Trade Agreement , but the long-term decline in manufacturing around the United States can’t only be attributed to the trade deal. Economists still debate the effect of the deal on jobs, since US trade with Canada and Mexico is modest at best. In 2015, the Congressional Research Service wrote [http://www.npr.org/2016/06/22/483100251/fact-check-trumps-speech-on-clinton-annotated] : “Nafta did not cause the huge job losses feared by the critics or the large economic gains predicted by supporters.”

Manufacturing is down 37% since its peak in 1979 [https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MANEMP], but this change has a great deal to do with the general shift toward a service-based economy, which the US has had surpluses in in recent years. It’s true that many manufacturing jobs have been outsourced, especially since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, but it’s also true that the US has added more than 800,000 factory jobs since 2010.

Trump: “My father gave me a small loan in 1975.”

Trump never struggled for money or started with anything modest. In 1978 his father gave him a loan totaling almost $1m – about $3.7m today – and acted as guarantor for the young Trump’s early projects. A 1981 report by a New Jersey regulator [https://www.scribd.com/doc/301761265/Report-on-Donald-Trump-to-Casino-Control-Commission] also shows a $7.5m loan from the patriarch, and years later he bought $3.5m in gambling chips [http://articles.philly.com/1991-04-09/news/25780577\_1\_casino-control-act-donald-trump-casino-owners] to help his son pay off the debts of a failing casino, which was found to have broken the law by accepting them [http://articles.philly.com/1991-04-09/news/25780577\_1\_casino-control-act-donald-trump-casino-owners]. Trump also borrowed millions against his inheritance [https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/donald-trump-in-deposition-96-million-i-borrowed-from-dads-e?utm\_term=.eboXJGMWG#.qbNV4Jl1J] before his father’s death, a 2007 deposition shows.

Trump has not proven that he is worth $10bn, though his tax returns, which he has refused to release, could provide a clearer picture of his worth. His financial filings suggest he has less than $250m in liquid assets [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/self-financing-campaign-all-the-way-would-have-been-a-stretch-for-trump-1463341722], according to a Wall Street Journal analysis. Trump has a history of overstating his properties: he has, for instance, told the FEC that a New York golf club is worth $50m but also argued in court that it is worth only $1.4m [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/12/donald-trump-briarcliff-manor-golf-course-tax].

“Donald is one of the people who rooted for the housing crisis.”

Clinton is correct, and Trump unrepentant. In a video made in 2006 for his defunct and legally embattled Trump University, Trump said he hoped for a real estate “bubble burst”.

“I sort of hope that happens because then people like me would go in and buy” property and “make a lot of money,” he said.

“That’s called business by the way,” Trump interrupted Clinton.

Clinton: “Donald says climate change is a hoax created by the Chinese.”

Trump: “I did not, I do not say that.”

Trump did say that, in a 2012 tweet, right here:

enltrThe 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 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/265895292191248385]block-time published-time 2.19am BST

Trump: “she talks about solar panels.. we invested in solar panels, that was a disaster... our energy policies are a disaster... you can’t do what you’re looking to do with $20tn in debt... [Obama] has doubled it in almost eight years... seven and a half years to be semi-exact.”

block-time published-time 2.18am BST

Clinton: “Donald thinks that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.”

Trump: “I did not say that. I did not say that. I did not say that.”

Clinton just continues.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.16am BST

block-time published-time 2.17am BST

Clinton: 'Donald... rooted for the housing crisis' Clinton says, “Let’s stop for a second and remember where we were eight years ago.”

She says the recession was owing to “tax policies that slashed taxes on Wall Street... in fact Donald was one of the people who rooted for the housing crisis...

Trump: That’s called business, by the way.

Clinton: 9 million people lost their jobs... The last thing we need to do is to go back to policies that failed us. She cites a nonpartisan tax study saying his plan would create a $5tn debt over ten years.

block-time published-time 2.15am BST

Trump is sniffling a lot. He’s on to Nafta. He says “secretary Clinton and others, politicians, should have been doing this for years... what’s happened to our jobs and our economy... we are $20tn, we cannot do it.

Holt: How do you bring back American manufacturing.

Trump: Don’t let the companies leave... “You say, fine... if you think you’re going to make... whatever you make and bring them into our country without a tax, you’re wrong.”

Clinton is watching him respectfully, attentively. He’s repetitious.

block-time published-time 2.14am BST

Trump falls for it. He says his father gave him “a small amount of money” in the 1970s and he built it into buildings. He’s a bit tetchy on the inheritance issue, and on his own brilliant record as a businessman.

“Let me give you the example of Mexico,” he says, and starts talking about the Vat tax.

Does he have a sniffle? Is he sick?

block-time published-time 2.12am BST

Clinton: 'Donald is very fortunate in his life' “Donald is very fortunate in his life, and that’s all to his benefit... he borrowed $14m from his father, he really believes the more you help wealthy people, the better off you’ll be.”

Clinton contrasts her father’s experience dying drapery fabrics.

block-time published-time 2.12am BST

Trump on child care: 'I think Hillary and I agree' Now Trump. “Our jobs are fleeing the country,” he says. “They’re going to Mexico. You look at what China is doing... they’re using our country as a piggy bank to rebuild China.”

He returns to Mexico. They’re building plants. “With the United States, not so much... thousands of jobs...

As far as child care is concerned.. I think Hillary and I agree on that... but we have to stop our jobs from being stolen from us.

He returns to Mexico. Then he says “I’ll be reducing taxes tremenodously,” and that’s “going to be a job creator.”

Two minutes is tough for him?

Trade is an important issue,” Clinton says. We are 5% of the world’s population. We have to trade with the other 95%.”

She says, “The kind of plan Donald has put forth would be trickle-down economics, all over again.”

Then she tries, clumsily, a pseudo-zinger: “I call it Trumped-up trickle down economics.”

block-time published-time 2.08am BST

Let’s begin. Achieving prosperity. Holt frames the question. There’s been six years of jobs growth and increasing incomes.

This question is for Clinton. “Why are you a better choice to create jobs to put $$ in the pockets of American workers?”

Clinton thanks the moderator and crowd. What kind of country will we be, she asks. She says she thinks about her granddaughter, who’s turning two.

“I want to invest in you. I want to invest in the future.”

“We also have to make the economy fairer,” she says.

She’s quite poised. She is speaking not quickly. Paid family leave, earned sick days, affordable child care, wealthy pay their fair share.

Finally we tonight are on the stage tonight, Donald Trump and I. Donald it’s good to be with you... you have to judge us, who can shoulder the immense, awesome responsibilities of the presidency...

block-time published-time 2.05am BST

Here are the candidates. He’s in a blue tie, she’s in a red pantsuit. So that’s different.

They shake hands. They are both smiling ear-to-ear. 72 teeth between them.

block-time published-time 2.04am BST

Candidates take stage Holt begins. He announces six segments, 15 minutes long. He’ll begin each segment with identical leadoff questions. Each candidate will have two minutes to respond. They’ll go from there.

Here come the candidates.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.05am BST

block-time published-time 2.03am BST

Go time... we’re within a minute, Holt has just informed the audience.

enltrgo time. pic.twitter.com/VBYEZpkmLo [https://t.co/VBYEZpkmLo]

— Molly Redden (@mtredden) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/mtredden/status/780572844434554881]block-time published-time 2.02am BST

Can Trump clear the “adequately competent” bar?

enltr. @realDonaldTrump [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] will pass the test of being adequately competent & will get a big boost in acceptability. https://t.co/IjwV9chPax [https://t.co/IjwV9chPax] will pass the test of being adequately competent & will get a big boost in acceptability. #debates [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debates?src=hash] will pass the test of being adequately competent & will get a big boost in acceptability. pic.twitter.com/PzJT2ToIcP [https://t.co/PzJT2ToIcP] will pass the test of being adequately competent & will get a big boost in acceptability.

— Newt Gingrich (@newtgingrich) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/newtgingrich/status/780568639548293125]block-time published-time 1.59am BST

Ignore everything?

enltrThings to ignore on #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash]

1. Snap polls.

2. Body language experts.

3. Anyone in the spin room.

4. The Internet.

5. The debate.

— Paul Fairie (@paulisci) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/paulisci/status/780570726235418624]Thanks again for joining – and please jump in below the line!

block-time published-time 1.57am BST

Moderator Lester Holt takes the stage.

Here we go. Holt tries some charm:

That thud you heard backstage was the sound of my knees buckling when [the announcement came] of a potential audience of 100m tonight.

He says he’ll give a one-minute warning when they’re about to go on air.

Psst, Lester: you’re on air.

block-time published-time 1.55am BST

Melania Trump and Bill Clinton are welcomed to the hall.

They’re not together. They enter separately. Clinton alone. Melania Trump trailed by her husband’s family. The two meet in the middle and shake hands. We know they have hung out at least twice – at the 2000 US Open tennis tournament and at her wedding.

block-time published-time 1.52am BST

Both candidates are tweeting about Clinton.

enltrLet's do this. #DebateNight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/NkPEGHzucT [https://t.co/NkPEGHzucT]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/780570465681235968]enltrWhy isn't Hillary Clinton 50 points ahead? #DebateNight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash]enltrWhy isn't Hillary Clinton 50 points ahead? pic.twitter.com/iux7icIkaT [https://t.co/iux7icIkaT]enltrWhy isn't Hillary Clinton 50 points ahead?

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/780569413321789440]block-time published-time 1.50am BST

Ten minutes to go. Here’s HuffPost Pollster’s updated national average [http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-general-election-trump-vs-clinton] :

HuffPost Pollster’s national average. Photograph: HuffPost Pollster block-time published-time 1.47am BST

Debate rules: no clapping, no booing Representatives of the debate commission have taken the stage to beseech the crowd not to interrupt the candidates and to keep their partisan cheering to a minimum.

enltr"This is not like the primary debates – there's no clapping, there's no cheering, there's no booing, there's no sound."

Let's see.

— Scott Bixby (@scottbix) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/scottbix/status/780568779130540033]block-time published-time 1.44am BST

In the house:

Rudy Giuliani kisses the hand of businessman Sheldon Adelson’s wife Miriam Ochsorn. Photograph: Win McNamee/Getty Images Did you hear what Wildstein said? Photograph: Carlos Barria/Reuters Don King et al. Photograph: Andrew Gombert/EPA Sheldon Adelson. Photograph: Mike Segar/Reuters The Trump pool reporter, Time magazine’s Zeke Miller, sends a list of people spotted in the room:

\* Mark Cuban (who appears to be seated in the front row)

\* Dan Malloy

\* Jesse Jackson

\* Andrew Cuomo and Sandra Lee

\* Reince and Sally Priebus

\* Donna Brazile

\* Don King

\* Rudy Giuliani in conversation with Sheldon Adelson

\* Eliot Engel

\* Chuck Schumer

\* Steve Israel

\* Mike Flynn

\* One of the Baldwin brothers with a Trump button

\* Bill de Blasio

\* Ray Washbourne

\* Charles Rangel calling out to Don King: “Welcome home, welcome home, we missed you.”

\* Mike Pence sitting up front

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.47am BST

block-time published-time 1.38am BST

Video streams Twenty minutes or so to go. Here are live video streams of the action, via Reuters and PBS:

block-time published-time 1.36am BST

Donald Trump could have an inherent advantage in this presidential debate purely because his speaking voice is a couple of notes lower than his opponent Hillary Clinton’s. Don’t take my word for it (you probably wouldn’t if I was reading this aloud) - this is based on a study [http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0051216] into human voice pitch research conducted in 2012. The methodology couldn’t be more relevant to this debate.

In the study, 10 women and 10 men were recorded saying the phrase “I urge you to vote for me this November” - a sentence that’s about elections and yet is politically neutral. The researchers then manipulated the sounds of the recordings to be lower or higher and played them to a bunch of men and women who were asked which hypothetical candidate they’d vote for. They found that male and female leaders with lower-pitched voices (ie those that are more stereotypically masculine) were preferred by both men and women.

Here’s how the authors interpreted the results: “This bias could be a consequence of lower-pitched female voices being perceived as more competent, stronger, and more trustworthy … [and] in the case of men’s voices, men with lower-pitched voices are larger, stronger, and more aggressive.”

The findings can be corroborated by any woman who has ever spoken in a meeting.

Reaction to female and male candidates compared block-time published-time 1.35am BST

We’ve asked for your favorite music to fact-check to. (Is this turning into your favorite Ramones to fact-check to? Hampstead’s not so far from Forest Hills...)

Here’s a winner:

enltr. @TeeMcSee [https://twitter.com/TeeMcSee] if you're going to listen to the Ramones when you fact check, maybe Bonzo goes to Bitberg might work https://t.co/59YkGuB6zT [https://t.co/59YkGuB6zT] if you're going to listen to the Ramones when you fact check, maybe Bonzo goes to Bitberg might work

— Mary Higgins (@worldofhiglet) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/worldofhiglet/status/780565848368963584]block-time published-time 1.28am BST

It's debate time If you’re just joining us – welcome to our live-wire coverage of the first presidential debate of the 2016 general election.

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are scheduled to take the stage at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, at 9pm ET. The debate will last 90 minutes and be moderated by Lester Holt, host of NBC Nightly News. Clinton has won a coin flip and will take the first question.

The Commission on Presidential Debates has announced three amorphous topics for debate: America’s Direction, Achieving Prosperity and Securing America. So … anything, basically.

Eagle? Check. Founding documents? Check. Lecterns? Check. Let’s do this. Photograph: Drew Angerer/Getty Images What must the candidates do this evening? In one version of the prevailing punditry, Clinton must avoid feeding voter doubts about her trustworthiness, while Trump must avoid coming across as a massive [redacted]. Sense a double standard? You’re not alone [https://twitter.com/IAStartingLine/status/780469063659114496?lang=en].

The goal for the candidates, of course, is to capture those voters who have yet to make up their minds, especially those living in swing states like Florida and Ohio and Pennsylvania. Such a voter may not react to the same thing the crowd reacts to, the campaigns react to or, needless to say, the media reacts to. Watch and judge for yourself, America... and the world.

They’re going to start soon. Both candidates arrive onstage as practiced debaters, though Trump does not have any experience facing just one other person. He participated in a dozen primary-season debates this cycle, while Clinton participated in nine … plus the two dozen she showed up for in 2008.

Thank you for reading, and please join us in the comments!

enltrBrb getting Oreos.

— Scott Bixby (@scottbix) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/scottbix/status/780564439514963969]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.31am BST

block-time published-time 1.19am BST

Here’s Clinton aide Philippe Reines – best-known among journalists as the state department spokesman who told a reporter to fuck off [http://www.politico.com/blogs/media/2015/03/how-philippe-reines-handles-the-press-203496] – playing Trump in a debate prep session:

enltrThere are multiple Trumps. But only one Philippe.

(h/t @jmpalmieri [https://twitter.com/jmpalmieri] ) pic.twitter.com/I5cY3QW40B [https://t.co/I5cY3QW40B] )

— Brian Fallon (@brianefallon) September 27, 2016 [https://twitter.com/brianefallon/status/780558043457196033]Re-upping from before:

enltrIn Clinton mock debate, Philippe Reines wore red tie & did "the cobra" -- a hand gesture Trump often makes, per aide pic.twitter.com/qEgIDzy75u [https://t.co/qEgIDzy75u]

— MJ Lee (@mj\_lee) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/mj\_lee/status/780545099688251392]block-time published-time 1.14am BST

Clinton won tonight’s coin toss – and will get the first question of the night:

enltrClinton wins coin toss, gets first question at tonight's debate: https://t.co/xKA6pkSdqH [https://t.co/xKA6pkSdqH] @SunlenSerfaty [https://twitter.com/SunlenSerfaty] on #TheLead [https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheLead?src=hash] on

— Jake Tapper (@jaketapper) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/780523178426851329]block-time published-time 1.07am BST

One hour to the opening bell Here’s one way to look at it:

enltrtonight, we are pretty much sending Hillary Clinton to drill into a giant asteroid & nuke it from the inside before it can destroy the earth

— david ehrlich (@davidehrlich) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/davidehrlich/status/780409698482810880]enltr. @MELANIATRUMP [https://twitter.com/MELANIATRUMP] on the scene for #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] on the scene for #debates [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debates?src=hash] on the scene for #Debates2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates2016?src=hash] on the scene for pic.twitter.com/nsKnUO1Gld [https://t.co/nsKnUO1Gld] on the scene for

— Patrick Cornell (@PCornellCNN) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/PCornellCNN/status/780556999163543554]block-time published-time 12.44am BST

Hillary Clinton engages in some pre-debate trolling by tweeting footage of the 2011 White House correspondents’ dinner, in which Barack Obama skewered Donald Trump , who attended the dinner and who that year had become the foremost exponent of birther babble.

“Trump was so humiliated by the experience, they say, that it triggered some deep, previously hidden yearning for revenge,” wrote Roxanne Roberts, who was seated nearby, in the Washington Post [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/i-sat-next-to-donald-trump-at-the-infamous-2011-white-house-correspondents-dinner/2016/04/27/5cf46b74-0bea-11e6-8ab8-9ad050f76d7d\_story.html].

enltr“You didn’t blame Little John or Meat Loaf. You fired Gary Busey.

These are the kinds of decisions that would keep me up at night." pic.twitter.com/njW7YAxf5I [https://t.co/njW7YAxf5I]

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/780540877047341057]block-time published-time 12.35am BST

Ninety minutes to go until the candidates take the stage. What’s your favorite fact-checking music?

How’s everyone feeling out there tonight?

undltr pic.twitter.com/mOxAnNJimO [https://t.co/mOxAnNJimO]

— (((Harry Enten))) (@ForecasterEnten) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/ForecasterEnten/status/780546550309224449]block-time published-time 12.29am BST

Historic video of Trump, capless and tieless, exiting his vehicle, giving a thumbs up, giving a second, more vigorous thumbs up, and then walking away.

enltrVIDEO: Donald Trump arrives at Hofstra University for #Debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debatenight?src=hash]. https://t.co/vZT1RazpjT [https://t.co/vZT1RazpjT].

— AP Politics (@AP\_Politics) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/AP\_Politics/status/780548826960629760]enltrIn Clinton mock debate, Philippe Reines wore red tie & did "the cobra" -- a hand gesture Trump often makes, per aide pic.twitter.com/qEgIDzy75u [https://t.co/qEgIDzy75u]enltrIn Clinton mock debate, Philippe Reines wore red tie & did "the cobra" -- a hand gesture Trump often makes, per aide

— MJ Lee (@mj\_lee) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/mj\_lee/status/780545099688251392]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.30am BST

block-time published-time 12.25am BST

What would you ask the candidates? What do you want moderator Lester Holt to ask? Tell us in the comments.

Here’s Dan Roberts with his list of 10 awkward debate questions to put Clinton and Trump on the spot:

For Donald Trump How can you be trusted with the nuclear codes?

Did you support US intervention in Iraq and Libya?

Why would Mexico pay for you to build a wall?

Is there anyone you regret offending?

What evidence do you have against climate change?

For Hillary Clinton: What single policy should your campaign be known for?

Do you believe in globalisation?

How would your counter-terrorism policy differ from Obama’s?

Why are you so secretive?

How would you reduce income inequality?

Click through for Dan’s analysis of each question:

Related: 10 awkward debate questions to put Clinton and Trump on the spot [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-debate-awkward-questions]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.26am BST

block-time published-time 12.22am BST

Make or break: the defining moments of presidential debates Here’s David Smith writing on watershed moments from presidential debates past:

1980: Carter accused Republican Ronald Reagan of planning to cut Medicare healthcare funding for the elderly. Reagan, who had complained that Carter was misrepresenting his positions on numerous issues, said with a chuckle: “There you go again.” The audience erupted. The duel attracted 80.6 million viewers, the most ever for a presidential debate, according to Nielsen, though Clinton v Trump is expected to shatter that record.

Read the full piece here:

Related: Make or break: the defining moments of presidential debates [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/25/us-presidential-debates-famous-moments]

block-time published-time 11.56pm BST

Take it from a guy who was in Congress for 60 years:

enltrDonald Trump couldn't pour piss out of a boot if the instructions were printed on the heel. Looking forward to this debate.

— John Dingell (@JohnDingell) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JohnDingell/status/780534119197442049](Dingell, 90, is a Democrat.)

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.26am BST

block-time published-time 11.53pm BST

This is going to be a zoo, isn’t it.....

enltrVIPs starting to filter into spin room. @mike\_pence [https://twitter.com/mike\_pence] and @mcuban [https://twitter.com/mcuban] and pic.twitter.com/MMExyIVyiM [https://t.co/MMExyIVyiM] and

— Anthony Zurcher (@awzurcher) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/awzurcher/status/780539929457754112]enltrIt's going to be one of those nights....Don King setting expectations for Trump in media room ahead of #Debates2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates2016?src=hash]enltrIt's going to be one of those nights....Don King setting expectations for Trump in media room ahead of pic.twitter.com/jvSlkfuk30 [https://t.co/jvSlkfuk30]enltrIt's going to be one of those nights....Don King setting expectations for Trump in media room ahead of

— Ed O'Keefe (@edatpost) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/edatpost/status/780542122160160768]enltrDon King stomped a man to death because he owed him $600. https://t.co/ERJewIOvrY [https://t.co/ERJewIOvrY]enltrDon King stomped a man to death because he owed him $600.

— Scott Bixby (@scottbix) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/scottbix/status/780542693512544256]That was in the mid-60s though. Something like $4,500 in current dollars.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.06am BST

block-time published-time 11.44pm BST

American politics is not for sa– oh, Mr Adelson. Right this way:

enltrThe Adelsons have some prime real estate in Trump section -- 4 seats, 3rd row #Debates2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debates2016?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/VGYKeJwqET [https://t.co/VGYKeJwqET]

— Jake Tapper (@jaketapper) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/780537366540943361]block-time published-time 11.41pm BST

This is unprecedented for any of the primary debates or the conventions, as far as we experienced or heard about: the powers that be at the debate site are scanning for rogue hotspot connections and disabling them so they can charge people to use the local network.

enltrTechnicians patrolling #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] press file using this device to detect & shut down hotspots, so they can sell $200 wifi accounts instead pic.twitter.com/JzbkzlZR1g [https://t.co/JzbkzlZR1g] press file using this device to detect & shut down hotspots, so they can sell $200 wifi accounts instead

— Kenneth P. Vogel (@kenvogel) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/kenvogel/status/780532591992594432]Update: there’s also a trigger warning placard outside the hall . – For a different event, we’re informed.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.13am BST

block-time published-time 11.33pm BST

About 350 souvenir tickets to tonight’s debate for Hofstra University students misspell the Democratic nominee’s name:

enltrUm, @HofstraU [https://twitter.com/HofstraU] —please get your shit together and, I dunno, SPELLCHECK THE NAMES OF THE #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] participants?! IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK? pic.twitter.com/AsUnJjApNH [https://t.co/AsUnJjApNH] participants?! IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?

— Alicia Lutes (@alicialutes) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/alicialutes/status/780533948455657472]Hofstra University spokeswoman Karla Schuster said in a statement [http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Hofstra-University-Presidential-Debate-Ticket-Gaffe-Hillary-Clinton-Name-Misspelled-394865061.html] emailed to NBC 4 New York:

These tickets are not official tickets to the debate. They were printed at the last minute to create a souvenir for the students. We’ll be reprinting them for all those who won tickets.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.46pm BST

block-time published-time 11.30pm BST

What will the first debate question be?

#ff @johnjharwood [https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood], who supplies precedents:

enltrFIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1960, to JFK - The VP has said you were naive and at times immature. Why do you think people should vote for you?

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/780530342859907072]FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1976 to Carter: Your #1 priority is reducing unemployment. What specifically would your first step be next January?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1980, to Carter - What are differences between the two of you on the uses of American military power?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1984, to Reagan - In 1980 you promised to balance the budget. We’ve had bigger deficits. Do you have a secret plan?

enltrFIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1988, to Bush - What is it about these times that drives or draws so many Americans to use drugs?

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/780531498466222081]FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1992, to Perot - What do you believe tonight is the single most important separating issue of this campaign?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 1996, to Clinton - How would you define the difference in your view of the role of federal government w/Sen Dole?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 2000, to Gore - You’ve questioned that Gov Bush has the experience to be president of US. What exactly do you mean?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 2004, to Kerry - Do you believe you could do a better job than President Bush in preventing another 9/11?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 2008, to Obama and McCain - Where do you stand on the financial recovery plan?

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 2012, to Obama and Romney - What are major differences between the two of you about how you would create new jobs?

Which was the best first debate question?

Which would you use tonight? How about:

FIRST DEBATE QUESTIONS: 2016, to Trump and Clinton: You’re the two most loathed presidential nominees in US history. Why do you think that is?

block-time published-time 11.19pm BST

Trump arrives at Hofstra The reportorial pool attending Trump reports that he is on the scene now at Hofstra university. MSNBC had footage of him exiting an SUV and entering a building.

Anybody feeling butterflies yet?

Ben Wilke, 19, poses outside Hofstra University . Photograph: Shannon Stapleton/Reuters block-time published-time 11.12pm BST

The Guardian’s Dan Roberts, Sabrina Siddiqui and Ben Jacobs are on the scene at Hofstra university in Hempstead, New York:

block-time published-time 11.10pm BST

Haters and losers and bears, oh my!

enltrTrump tweeted this two years ago today: https://t.co/vT8oJdagRE [https://t.co/vT8oJdagRE]

— Hunter Schwarz (@hunterschwarz) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/hunterschwarz/status/780522618072031232]enltrI wonder if I run for PRESIDENT, will the haters and losers vote for me knowing that I will MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN? I say they will!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 26, 2014 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/515635087275474944]block-time published-time 11.08pm BST

It’s that kind of night in America. (What is the Portland police department going to do if Trump wins the presidency? Send out a drunken driving advisory for every state of the union address, every Brady briefing room appearance, every time Trump walks out of the White House and gets his helicopter?)

enltrIf you are planning to consume alcohol or marijuana while watching #DebateNight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/DebateNight?src=hash] please do not get behind the wheel. pic.twitter.com/g2Ib33M1aX [https://t.co/g2Ib33M1aX] please do not get behind the wheel.

— Portland Police (@PortlandPolice) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/PortlandPolice/status/780515808963207168]( @monachalabi [https://twitter.com/monachalabi?lang=en] )

block-time published-time 10.58pm BST

Trump directed erstwhile income to foundation – report The Trump campaign has elected not to answer questions about suspect donations by the Trump foundation – seemingly for political purposes – or purchases by the foundation – seemingly to cover Trump’s personal costs, or even to settle lawsuits tied to Trump’s for-profit businesses.

We know all about the strange way the Trump foundation operates thanks to dogged reporting by David Fahrenthold of the Washington Post [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-directed-23-million-owed-to-him-to-his-charity-instead/2016/09/26/7a9e9fac-8352-11e6-ac72-a29979381495\_story.html].

Late this afternoon, Farenthold published another bombshell: after Trump stopped giving money to his foundation years ago, it received millions in payments from companies that owed money to Trump or one of his businesses “but were instructed to pay Trump’s tax-exempt foundation instead, according to people familiar with the transactions”.

From the Post report:

In cases where he diverted his own income to his foundation, tax experts said, Trump would still likely be required to pay taxes on the income. Trump has refused to release his personal tax returns. His campaign said he paid income tax on one of the donations, but did not respond to questions about the others.

That gift was a $400,000 payment from Comedy Central , which owed Trump an appearance fee for his 2011 “roast.”

Then there were payments totaling nearly $1.9 million from a man in New York City who sells sought-after tickets and one-of-a-kind experiences to wealthy clients.

That man, Richard Ebers, bought goods and services — including tickets — from Trump or his businesses, according to two people familiar with the transactions, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the payments. They said that Ebers was instructed to pay the Donald J. Trump Foundation instead. Ebers did not respond to requests for comment.

The gifts begin to answer one of the mysteries surrounding the foundation: Why would other people continue giving to Trump’s charity when Trump himself gave his last recorded donation in 2008?

Read the full piece here [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-directed-23-million-owed-to-him-to-his-charity-instead/2016/09/26/7a9e9fac-8352-11e6-ac72-a29979381495\_story.html].

block-time published-time 10.48pm BST

Here’s Guardian Washington correspondent David Smith with a longer explanation for that series of Barack Obama photos a couple blocks back:

Barack Obama was honoured in a traditional blanketing ceremony on Monday and sought to reassure American Indians and Alaska Natives that his departure from office will not mean they are forgotten.

Obama has visited more of America’s 567 federally recognised tribal communities than any president and was introduced at their annual White House conference as a man who “kept his campaign promises”. There is trepidation in Indian Country at the possibility of Donald Trump taking his place.

The president donned a hat and was wrapped in a blanket by Brian Cladoosby, president of the National Congress of American Indians and chairman of the Swinomish Indian Tribe, as an honour song filled the Mellon Auditorium. Cladoosby praised Obama’s legacy on Native American issues and warned delegates that “there is no guarantee going forward there will be the same commitment from the next administration”.

Tip o’ the basket. Photograph: AUDE GUERRUCCI / POOL/EPA Obama described it as an “amazing honour” before removing the hat and blanket and giving a short speech that noted his administration had restored more than 428,000 acres of tribal homelands to their original owners. “I’ve been proud of what we’ve been able to do together,” he said. “We haven’t solved every issue. We haven’t righted every wrong. But together, we’ve made significant progress in almost every area.”

The president continued: “We’ve got to keep fighting to the finish line. Even after my time in this office comes to an end, I’m going to be standing alongside you because I believe that, yes, our progress depends in part on who sits in the Oval Office, and whether they’re setting the right priorities, but lasting progress depends on all of us, not just who the president is.”

Demonstrators gathered half a block away to protest against a $3.7 billion oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Obama was applauded as he acknowledged the controversy: “I know that many of you have come together across tribes and across the country to support the community at Standing Rock. And together, you’re making your voices heard.”

Interior secretary Sally Jewell told the conference that the administration will soon ask federal agencies to require that Native American treaty rights be considered in decision-making on natural resource projects.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.49pm BST

block-time published-time 10.39pm BST

Green party candidate ejected from debate vicinity First the commission on presidential debates excluded Green party candidate Jill Stein from the debate stage.

Now Stein has been ejected from the vicinity:

enltrWe were on our way to an interview with @MSNBC [https://twitter.com/MSNBC] when we were stopped by Hofstra security and Nassau County police just now. #debatenight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/debatenight?src=hash] when we were stopped by Hofstra security and Nassau County police just now. pic.twitter.com/Y0fQjih47Y [https://t.co/Y0fQjih47Y] when we were stopped by Hofstra security and Nassau County police just now.

— Dr. Jill Stein (@DrJillStein) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/DrJillStein/status/780472077698555904]Stein was escorted off campus. Gothamist has further: [http://gothamist.com/2016/09/26/stein\_escorted\_off\_hofstra\_campus\_debate.php?utm\_source=Gothamist+Daily&utm\_campaign=84c42c2b92-RSS\_EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_73240544d8-84c42c2b92-15299741]Stein was escorted off campus.

A Nassau County police spokesperson told the Long Island Press [https://www.longislandpress.com/2016/09/26/jill-stein-third-party-candidate-escorted-off-hofstras-campus/?utm\_source=dlvr.it&utm\_medium=twitter] that Stein lacked the appropriate credentials to be on campus ahead of tonight’s presidential debate [http://gothamist.com/2016/09/25/where\_to\_watch\_the\_debates\_without.php].

block-time published-time 10.25pm BST

Let’s do this. President Barack Obama receives a traditional blanket and hat during the 2016 White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, September 26, 2016, Washington, DC. Photograph: Pool/Getty Images Hm. Photograph: AUDE GUERRUCCI / POOL/EPA Cheese. Photograph: AUDE GUERRUCCI / POOL/EPA block-time published-time 10.04pm BST

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And if you haven’t been reading our daily roundup of election news, The Campaign Minute, there are still seven weeks of... fun?... left. Read today’s version below, and scroll to the end to have the Minute delivered free to your inbox:

Related: The big debate: tonight's the night [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/sep/26/big-debate-tonight-is-the-night]

block-time published-time 9.41pm BST

Still time to run out and grab dinner before the debate. Thanksgiving dinner:

enltrOh man - still more than 4 hours left on those countdown clocks

— John Harwood (@JohnJHarwood) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JohnJHarwood/status/780506556391493632]block-time published-time 8.59pm BST

Fifty-six years ago today: John F. Kennedy vs. Richard Nixon. More than half a century ago tonight, more than 60 million Americans tuned in to the first televised presidential debate in American history. ABC News’ Bob Fleming hosted the hour-long debate between then-senator John F. Kennedy and then-vice president Richard Nixon, each of whom were allowed to give one eight-minute opening statement (that’s pretty long!) and were allowed 150 seconds to answer a series of questions from Fleming, with a 90-second opportunity for rebuttal. The closing remarks were three minutes long.

Those watching the televised debate saw Kennedy - young, handsome and recently tanned after a trip in California - as the victor, while dismissing Nixon as appearing sweaty, uncomfortable and untrustworthy.\* Radio listeners, meanwhile, gave Nixon the edge.

\*Of course, time would later prove the superficial judgments of the American television-watching public to be depressingly accurate.

block-time published-time 8.39pm BST

Trump campaign releases white paper on economic plan Hours before his upcoming televised duel with Hillary Clinton at Hofstra University on Long Island, Donald Trump ’s campaign has released a white paper for his full economic policies [https://assets.donaldjtrump.com/Trump\_Economic\_Plan.pdf], a first for his campaign.

Donald Trump signing a $5 bill. Photograph: Jonathan Ernst/Reuters “Donald Trump ’s economic plan proposes tax cuts, reduced regulation, lower energy costs and eliminating America’s chronic trade deficit,” the campaign stated in a release, describing the 31-page paper penned by economist and policy advisor Peter Navarro and leveraged buyout billionaire Wilbur Ross. “Trump’s goal is to significantly increase America’s real GDP growth rate and thereby create millions of additional new jobs and trillions of dollars of additional income and tax revenues.”

The Trump plan, the campaign states, “generates positive and substantial tax revenue offsets from its synergistic suite of trade, regulatory and energy policy reforms,” a frequent claim made by laissez faire economists.

The report purports to fill “analytical gap” from the non-partisan Tax Foundation’s analysis of Trump’s tax plan [http://taxfoundation.org/article/details-and-analysis-donald-trump-tax-reform-plan-september-2016], which the Tax Foundation deduced would reduce government revenue by between $2.6 trillion and $3.9 trillion.

The campaign release incorrectly implies that “the Tax Foundation does not score other elements of the Trump economic plan that are growth-inducing and therefore revenue-generating.” In fact, the $3.9 trillion figure accounts for what Trump says would be a larger economy - without that as a given, Trump’s plan would reduce federal revenue by between $4.4 trillion and $5.9 trillion, according to the tax foundation.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.41pm BST

block-time published-time 8.29pm BST

Hillary Clinton has made an aggressive play [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/hillary-clinton-appeal-millennial-voters-stop-donald-trump] for younger voters this cycle, highlighting her campaign’s message of diversity and inclusiveness compared to that of Donald Trump , ’s history of “a candidate with a long history of racial discrimination in his businesses, who retweets white supremacists, who led the birther movement to delegitimize our first black president.”

But on the day of the first presidential debate of the general election campaign, Trump has jumped ahead of Clinton on sheer millennial-era social media savvy with the creation of a nationwide Snapchat geofilter, which allows Snapchat users to shoot a selfie of themselves under the banner “Donald J. Trump vs. Crooked Hillary,” as red-and-blue fireworks explode above his campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again.”

Debate Day Snapchat Photograph: Snapchat (Yes, that’s me.)

It’s an unusual technical fail on the part of the Clinton campaign, which famously bought anti-Trump geofilters during the Republican National Convention in Cleveland in July.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.59pm BST

block-time published-time 8.11pm BST

A classic from John Kasich’s former senior strategist:

enltrImagine a NASCAR driver mentally preparing for a race knowing one of the drivers will be drunk. That's what prepping for this debate is like

— John Weaver (@JWGOP) July 27, 2015 [https://twitter.com/JWGOP/status/625810551243825152]block-time published-time 8.00pm BST

Another poll shows Clinton leading ahead of tonight's debate Six hours before the first presidential debate of the 2016 general election campaign, a new poll from NBC News and SurveyMonkey ’s weekly tracking poll shows Hillary Clinton leading Donald Trump by 5 points, 45% to 40%, with no change from the week before.

Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson trails behind with 10% support, and Green nominee Jill Stein has 3% support. In a face-to-face matchup against Trump, Clinton increases her lead to 7 points, 51% to 44%, an increase from last week’s margin of 5 points.

Weekly tracking numbers. Photograph: NBC News/SurveyMonkey block-time published-time 7.54pm BST

Fact check: The Republicans were not a “third-party” in the traditional sense, since the Whig party was declared “dead - dead - dead!” by senior members in 1852 after a demonstrative loss to Democratic presidential candidate Franklin Pierce. The party was later functionally split in two, Solomon-style, by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act that led to “Bleeding Kansas,” and had functionally ceased to exist by 1860.

enltr3rd Party candidate has never won? Hmm...Abraham Lincoln? pic.twitter.com/ScLZs3WZzD [https://t.co/ScLZs3WZzD]

— Gov. Gary Johnson (@GovGaryJohnson) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/GovGaryJohnson/status/780474591235993601]block-time published-time 7.30pm BST

Donald Trump is too 'mentally challenged' for Between Two Ferns, says Zach Galifianakis Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton’s appearance [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/22/hillary-clinton-zach-galifianakis-between-two-ferns-trump] on Zach Galifianakis’ hit comedy web series Between Two Ferns has shattered viewership records for the show, but that doesn’t mean its host wants a repeat performance with her rival for the presidency.

“No - that doesn’t interest me,” Galifianakis told the Los Angeles Times [http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/tv/la-et-st-zach-galifianakis-clinton-between-two-ferns-20160924-snap-story.html] about doing a segment with Donald Trump . “Doing it the other way doesn’t interest me.”

Trump, Galifianakis said, is “the kind of guy who likes attention - bad attention or good attention. So you’re dealing with a psychosis there that’s a little weird.” He continued: “I wouldn’t have somebody on that’s so mentally challenged. And you can print that.”

Clinton’s willingness to be skewered in Between Two Ferns is not without precedent: in 2014, Barack Obama gamely appeared on the show [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/11/obama-zach-galifianakis-between-two-ferns] to talk about healthcare. The interview was watched online more than 11m times on its first day online, increasing traffic to healthcare.gov [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/12/obama-between-two-ferns-healthcare-traffic-boost] by 40%.

block-time published-time 7.02pm BST

This Priorities USA ad might be a little too subtle:

block-time published-time 6.57pm BST

The government’s key witness in the George Washington Bridge lane-closing case testified on Monday that he interpreted an email from one of the defendants that it was “time for some traffic problems” as an order to put a political revenge plot into action and that he immediately told Governor Chris Christie’s campaign manager.

David Wildstein. Photograph: Julio Cortez/AP David Wildstein worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey , the agency that operates New York-area bridges, tunnels, ports and airports. He pleaded guilty last year [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/may/01/chris-christie-david-wildstein-bridgegate] to conspiring to cause traffic gridlock near the bridge to punish Fort Lee’s Democratic mayor for not endorsing the Republican governor.

Bridget Kelly, Christie’s former deputy chief of staff, has claimed the email from mid-August 2013 was a joke, but Wildstein testified on Monday that he didn’t take it as one.

“I understood that to mean it was time to change the lanes configuration at the upper level of the George Washington Bridge in order to create traffic in the borough of Fort Lee,” Wildstein said. “We had had joking emails before. I did not think she was joking.”

Wildstein also said he told Christie’s campaign manager, Bill Stepien, about the plot within 24 hours of that email and told him that he would create a traffic study as a cover story.

Related: 'Traffic problems' email was no joke, key witness in Bridgegate trial says [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/bridgegate-christie-traffic-problems-david-wildstein]

block-time published-time 6.33pm BST

While his running mate goes toe-to-toe with Donald Trump in the first presidential debate of the general election campaign tonight, Virginia senator Tim Kaine will join the Human Rights Campaign for a debate watch party in Orlando tonight, along with former congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly.

The trio will join HRC president Chad Griffin as part of its #TurnOUT campaign, which aims to register and mobilize LGBTQ voters in battleground states to support pro-gay and pro-gun control candidates.

“What we do between now and Election Day will determine the kind of America we wake up to November 9th,” Griffin said in a statement. “Our ground game is stronger than ever. But we’ve also dedicated significant resources to actionable and effective online organizing efforts - from tweet-ups, and Snapchat filters, geo-targeted ads, and more, HRC is fighting to ensure the voice of our community is heard loud and clear this November.”

block-time published-time 6.18pm BST

How are Clinton and Trump polling before the first debate? In January, I wrote [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/datablog/2016/jan/27/dont-trust-the-polls-the-systemic-issues-that-make-voter-surveys-unreliable] that “in the first 26 days of this year, 186 political polls were released”. Since then, I’ve lost count.

Hostra University students playing the roles of the candidates and moderator go through a rehearsal for the first presidential debate at Hofstra University . Photograph: Rick Wilking/Reuters New numbers are released every day by different organizations (some academic, some corporate and some media businesses themselves), and they all depict a slightly different political reality.

To state the obvious, in 2016 political reality is very different from that of previous presidential elections. And not just because the two remaining candidates are the least popular for more than 30 years [http://i0.wp.com/espnfivethirtyeight.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/enten-generaldislike-1.png?quality=90&strip=all&w=575&ssl=1]. It’s also because polls, which have come to be the manna of political analysts, now offer less help in making sense of it all.

In past elections, the polls had settled down by Labor Day. This year, they continue to point all over the place. On Sunday, a survey by the Economist and YouGov [https://today.yougov.com/news/2016/09/25/yougoveconomist-poll-september-22-24-2016/] found that Hillary Clinton had a lead of 4%. Less than 24 hours later, a poll from the LA Times and USC Tracking [http://www.latimes.com/politics/] put Donald Trump 4% ahead.

Both pollsters are considered credible, which makes this even more confusing.

This series is intended to help you make sense of the ceaseless onslaught of numbers by taking a closer look at just one poll. But to start us off, I want to talk about a crucial tool in polling analysis: the average [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/general\_election\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5491.html].

The site Real Clear Politics [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/general\_election\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5491.html] (RCP) takes the average of all recent credible polls to create a moving average. Right now, RCP has Clinton with 45.9% of the vote while Trump has 43.8%, meaning that the Democratic nominee is ahead by 2.1%.

Notice how Democrats [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/democrats] aren’t singing from the rooftops or gloating on Twitter ? It’s because 2.1% means nothing.

It’s so small, it could be down to errors in the ways that polls are conducted. It’s so narrow, it could easily be reversed by individuals who change their mind or who are not honestly disclosing how they plan to vote.

The takeaway? Going into tonight’s debate [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/25/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-debate-gennifer-flowers], the two candidates are neck and neck.

But how much do debates matter? As my former colleague Lauren Leatherby has pointed out [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/14/hillary-clinton-polls-convention-trump-election-data], they have hurt candidates in the polls (see Barack Obama in 2012 and George Bush in 2004). But ultimately those candidates have been able to recover by election day (see, uh, the same candidates).

So even if tonight produces a clear loser, the November vote is not a done deal.

Related: How are Clinton and Trump polling before the first debate? [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/skeptical-polling-clinton-trump-before-first-debate]

block-time published-time 6.00pm BST

Monmouth poll: Clinton has 4-point lead over Trump Eight hours before going toe-to-toe at the first presidential debate of the general election campaign, Hillary Clinton has a four-point lead over Donald Trump among likely voters nationwide, according to a just-released Monmouth University poll. It’s a three-point drop from her lead one month ago, but a more positive position than the latest numbers from Bloomberg, which show Trump taking the lead in race that includes third-party candidates.

Hillary Clinton Photograph: Matt Rourke/AP Clinton is currently polling at 46% among likely voters, according to Monmouth, while Trump commands the support of 42% of likely voters. Libertarian party nominee Gary Johnson is polling at 8% in the survey and Green nominee Jill Stein is at 2%. Among all registered voters, and not just those most likely to vote in the upcoming election, Clinton leads with 45%, while Trump falls slightly further behind with 40% Trump.

Among her compatriots in the Democratic party, Clinton has the support of 91% of party members, while Trump has won 85% of Republicans. This is an improvement for Trump, who previously counted only one-in-four Republican voters in his corner. Monmouth’s polling suggests that independents are cutting right, supporting Trump over Clinton by 39% to 33%, a precipitous drop for the former secretary of state, who held a five-point lead among independent voters in late August.

The generation gaps are in keeping with previous polling. Clinton leads among millennial voters under the age of 35 by 48% to Trump’s 28%, while voters 35 to 54 support Trump at and Clinton at 41%. For voters older than 55, support is similarly divided, with 47% supporting Clinton and 46% supporting Trump.

“Clinton’s support has softened since the summer, but she has still managed to grab a share of those who tend to vote Republican,” Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, said in a statement.

The historically unpopular major-party candidates are still viewed negatively by large majorities of the electorate. According to the survey, 36% of voters view Clinton positively, while 54% view her negatively. Trump fares even worse - 32% of voters view him positively, and 57% view him negatively.

Three-in-four voters (75%) plan to watch tonight’s debate, but that doesn’t mean the debate will necessarily change minds: Only 48% of undecided voters or those supporting a third-party candidate plan to watch tonight, while eight-in-ten supporters of Clinton and Trump hope to watch.

“Pundits expect that a lot will be riding on the first debate. The voters? Not so much,” said Murray.

block-time published-time 5.41pm BST

Five awkward questions Hillary Clinton might field tonight: Trump v Clinton: an analysis of debate styles [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/24/trump-clinton-presidential-debate-styles-video] What single policy should your campaign be known for?

Harder than it sounds, or should be, this question gets at a weakness which many critics feels lies at the heart of the campaign. Instead of one signature issue, Clinton has dozens of detailed policies on a host of subjects. It may make her a great president one day, but for now voters struggle to understand what slogans such as “stronger together” mean in practice. If Clinton were forced to pick one concrete thing for viewers to remember her for, what would it be?

Do you believe in globalisation?

Over many years in public life, the former secretary of state has understandably embraced an evolving set of economic positions. But few have come further than Clinton on the subject of free trade deals and the damage they may or may not have done to American manufacturing. She says she opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership now proposed by Obama, but is it a principled opposition or a mere pragmatic response to Trump? Are there limits to the benefits of globalisation for US workers?

How would your counter-terrorism policy differ from Obama’s?

In the face of continued terrorist attacks, the issue of “defending America” will be top of Monday’s agenda. Yet Clinton risks being caught between defending the legacy of an Obama administration in which she served and acknowledging that not everything is working out well right now. How would she defeat Islamic State? Would she be more or less hawkish in Iraq and Afghanistan? If nothing changes, then Trump may be able to pin her to a range of foreign policy failures.

Why are you so secretive?

From emails [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/03/hillary-clinton-email-server-potential-vice-presidents-defend-brown-booker-becerra-perez] to pneumonia [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/15/hillary-clinton-returns-campaign-pneumonia], Clinton has repeatedly got herself into trouble by going out of her way to hide information from the public. The obvious question is: what does she have to hide? The usual explanation is that Clinton has been on the receiving end of so many smears over the years that she has learned to be cautious, but this should also teach her to be wary of cover-ups. Why should someone who ignores medical advice to rest, or legal advice to keep email on government servers, be trusted to take wise decisions in office?

How would you reduce income inequality?

Supporters would argue that Clinton has provided many answers to this question: from infrastructure spending and a jobs program to minimum wage increases and taxing the rich. Yet many still wonder if a campaign so heavily funded by America’s rich and powerful really understands or is committed to helping its middle class. Her answers may be more nuanced than Trump’s crude protectionism, but they need to cut through with voters if she is to blunt his appeal in the rust belt.

Related: 10 awkward debate questions to put Clinton and Trump on the spot [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-debate-awkward-questions]

block-time published-time 5.15pm BST

What are the third-party candidates up to? Jill Stein Photograph: Derek Henkle/AFP/Getty Images Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump will be the only two candidates to participate in tonight’s presidential debate at Hofstra University on Long Island - polling limitations have limited the field to just the two major-party candidates, as has happened in every presidential debate since 1992 - but that doesn’t mean that the other would-be presidents have given up on participating in some capacity.

Former New Mexico governor and Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson will watch tonight’s debate from New York City with his running mate, Bill Weld, and will be livetweeting the proceedings from Twitter’s offices in Chelsea.

Green party nominee Jill Stein, meanwhile, plans to “literally insert herself” into the debate tonight, responding to each of the debate questions via Periscope livestream. Responses will also be livestreamed via Facebook Live on her Facebook page. “In effect, using a range of cutting-edge social media tools, Jill Stein will literally ‘insert’ herself into the debate process,” according to Meleiza Figueroa, Stein’s press director.

block-time published-time 4.55pm BST

In the latest episode of Last Week Tonight, host John Oliver dedicated much of the show to make the case that Donald Trump’s worst scandals “trump” those of opponent Hillary Clinton.

To view the full episode in the US click here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1Lfd1aB9YI]“This campaign has been dominated by scandals, but it is dangerous to think that there is an equal number on both sides,” he said. “And you can be irritated by some of Hillary’s – that is understandable – but you should then be fucking outraged by Trump’s.

“Ethical failings in a politician are like raisins in a cookie,” he explained. “They shouldn’t be there. They disgust people. But most politicians have at least a few raisins.

“Hillary is a cookie like this one,” he said, holding an oatmeal raisin cookie. “She arguably has more raisins than average.”

As for Trump? “The man is a fucking raisin monsoon,” yelled Oliver, as a torrent of raisins rained down on his desk.

Related: John Oliver tears into Wells Fargo over banking scandal [https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/sep/26/john-oliver-wells-fargo-last-week-tonight]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.21pm BST

block-time published-time 4.43pm BST

Three days after he endorsed onetime foe Donald Trump, Texas senator Ted Cruz sat down for an interview with one of his most infuriated former supporters: Glenn Beck.

The interview is, as you might imagine, extremely uncomfortable.

“I tried very very hard, as did you, to prevent it from being a binary choice between Hillary and Donald Trump and I think it is fair to say there was no other Republican candidate who left more on the field and did more to stop Donald from being the nominee than I did,” Cruz protested, “but the voters made a different decision and you have to respect the democratic process even if you may not be terribly happy with the outcome.”

In a statement posted to Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/tedcruzpage/posts/10154476728267464] on Friday, Cruz declared that “after many months of careful consideration, of prayer and searching my own conscience, I have decided that on Election Day, I will vote for the Republican nominee, Donald Trump.”

Citing Trump’s release of a long list of potential supreme court justices he would nominate to replace the late Antonin Scalia, Cruz said that, in his eyes, the list indicated that the nominee is “critically committed that the only nominees he would consider for the court were on that list. Now that was a major shift.”

block-time published-time 4.28pm BST

Five awkward questions Donald Trump might field tonight: Trump v Clinton: an analysis of debate styles [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/24/trump-clinton-presidential-debate-styles-video] How can you be trusted with the nuclear codes?

A symbolic question, but one that goes to the heart of concerns about Trump’s suitability for the job of commander-in-chief. He has made a number of erratic comments appearing to suggest a cavalier approach to nuclear proliferation; he has also threatened to undermine both Nato and a longstanding commitment to non-nuclear allies in Asia. Combining all this with a general belligerence that terrifies even generals, Trump has much to do to reassure voters he is not a dangerous loose cannon.

Did you support US intervention in Iraq and Libya?

Trump has tried to have his cake and eat it on the subject of Middle East policy, attacking Clinton for backing regime change in Iraq and Libya while implying he was opposed to both wars at the time. But though this real estate investor’s foreign policy views were not then widely sought out, there is a plenty of evidence [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/02/25/timeline-of-trumps-comments-on-iraq-invasion-not-loud-not-strong-and-no-headlines/?postshare=7121471286662065&tid=ss\_tw] to suggest he kept any opposition very quiet. Asked if he backed the invasion of Iraq, he said: “I guess so.”

Why would Mexico pay for you to build a wall?

The flagship policy of building a physical wall on the southern border is frequently embellished with a boast that Trump would make sure Mexico paid for its construction. A recent meeting with the Mexican president [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration], however, made clear that this is highly unlikely. Trump appeared to mislead supporters almost immediately afterward and continues to ignore evidence that Mexican net migration into the US has dropped to near zero in recent years. The mechanics of his deportation policy are even vaguer.

Is there anyone you regret offending?

An open question that could lead Trump into uncharted territory. For over a year, the Republican nominee has outraged Muslims, African Americans, women, Latinos and disabled people with a series of ever-more outrageous comments. Any attempt to hold him to account for offensive language was dismissed as mere political correctness. Attacking the family of a Muslim war hero [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/07/humayun-khan-donald-trump-military-arlington-national-cemetery] after the Democratic convention finally seemed to damage Trump in the polls, though, and prompted a half-apology. Who else will he say sorry to?

What evidence do you have against climate change?

Like many Republicans, Trump has repeatedly suggested that action to prevent man-made climate change is unnecessary because he does not “believe” it is real. He is even threatening to pull the US out of the Paris climate accord [http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/21/politics/scientists-open-letter-trump-climate-change/]. Yet in the face of overwhelming evidence from world scientists, surely the onus is now on skeptics to prove their claims with facts and numbers of their own. What proof does Trump have that climate change is a “hoax”?

Related: 10 awkward debate questions to put Clinton and Trump on the spot [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-debate-awkward-questions]

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.41pm BST

block-time published-time 4.15pm BST

Jill Abramson: ‘Saving the country from Donald Trump isn’t enough of a message’ Hillary Clinton waves. Photograph: Carlos Barria/Reuters Dear Hillary Clinton [https://medium.com/u/762ff63cce75],

The debates give you the best opportunity to describe a real vision of where you want to lead the country and to get voters excited about a future you can help create as president.

Saving the country from Donald Trump isn’t enough of a message. Your toughness and readiness to do battle with him have been amply demonstrated. Most voters already know why they should not vote for Trump.

But they are not sure they can trust your leadership to bring about change in Washington, DC. They worry that you will be “more of the same.” So it’s vital that you have a crisp, forward-looking message about why you want to be president, where you’ll lead the country, and how you will improve the lives of people. Many of your specific policy proposals actually do this. Show that you are excited about enacting them and that you have a record of getting things done by building bipartisan alliances. Cite your accomplishments, so the audience knows it can count on you to get the job done. Rinse and repeat.

Stay on the high road and don’t let Trump drag you down.

Best of luck,

Jill Abramson

block-time published-time 4.01pm BST

The topic of live fact-checking during tonight’s presidential debate has become one of the most heated issues relating to the first face-to-face confrontation between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump - we honestly can’t say why [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/series/lyin-trump-a-weekly-fact-check] - and one network appears ready and willing to take on the challenge.

According to Politico [http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2016/09/bloomberg-to-fact-check-debate-on-screen-228670], Bloomberg TV, which you might recognize as the most orange-data-choked channel in your cable package, will fact-check tonight’s debate at Hofstra University on Long Island in real time onscreen, setting it apart from other networks that don’t want to appear biased. (Biased towards reality, we guess?)

Anchor and debate host Lester Holt has a history of fact-checking [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/lester-holt-debate-moderator-trump-clinton-fact-check-election] during his interviews, but hasn’t made it known whether he plans on correcting falsehoods from either candidate. Janet Brown, the executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates that organizes the debates every election, told CNN [http://money.cnn.com/2016/09/25/media/janet-brown-presidential-debate/] that “I don’t think it’s a good idea to get the moderator into essentially serving as the Encyclopedia Britannica,” and that “I’m not sure, what is the big fact, and what is a little fact?”

The Guardian will also be fact-checking tonight’s debate live.

block-time published-time 3.44pm BST

Hillary Clinton announces guests for first debate At 9pm tonight, Hillary Clinton will take to the stage at Hofstra University on Long Island with an audience of 100 million people watching at home - and four special guests in the debate hall itself.

Clinton’s guests to the debate “are people who she has worked with and fought for during her career in public service,” according to the campaign, which extended invitations to four voters who “embody some of the causes of [Clinton’s] career”:

\* Lauren Manning: One of the most severely injured survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Manning spent more than six months in the hospital after sustaining burns to more than 80% of her body. Clinton, then serving as the junior senator from New York, met Manning in the hospital and worked with her upon her release for increased benefits for 9/11 survivors and first responders. Manning spoke at the Democratic National Convention this summer about her relationship with Clinton: “She came through. Not for the cameras, not because anyone was watching, but because that’s who she is. Kind. Caring. Loyal.”

\* Maxine Outerbridge: Outerbridge is a 27-year-old single mother and a survivor of domestic violence who credits the Children’s Health Insurance Program that Clinton helped create during her time as first lady with helping her get her college degree and work her way out of poverty.

\* Anastasia Somoza: Somoza, who has cerebral palsy, first met Clinton when she was 9 years old, and has since become an advocate for people with disabilities, serving as Clinton’s Special Advisor for International Disability Rights during Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state. Somoza is also the face of a new testimonial advertisement criticizing Donald Trump’s comments regarding a reporter with a disability: “I honestly feel bad for someone with so much hate in his heart.”

\* Aleatha Williams: Williams first met Clinton after becoming pen pals with the then-first lady as a student in the Bronx. Clinton continued the relationship for years, attending Williams’ high-school graduation.

block-time published-time 3.10pm BST

During the first presidential debate tonight, the Guardian Mobile Innovation Lab [https://medium.com/the-guardian-mobile-innovation-lab] and the Guardian US opinion desk will send experimental web notifications with real-time opinions from Guardian columnists as they watch the debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

These experimental alerts, available to users of Android devices who have an updated Chrome browser installed on their phones, will supplement the news alerts sent from the Guardian’s Android [https://www.theguardian.com/technology/android] app with reactions from Guardian columnists Richard Wolffe [https://www.theguardian.com/profile/richard-wolffe] and Lucia Graves [https://www.theguardian.com/profile/lucia-graves]. They will be sent at key moments throughout the debate, while the Guardian app news alerts will provide only the most important updates. (The alerts can also be received through desktop Chrome browsers but unfortunately not iPhones. We’re working on a way to release iOS versions of our notifications experiments and hope to have that ready next month.)

During the debate, you will hear from the columnists with their quick takes on the candidates’ policy statements, their debating styles, and who’s winning and who’s losing.

This project is the latest installment in ongoing experimentation with notifications, part of the Mobile Lab’s mission to learn more about mobile storytelling. After the experiment, we’ll send out a survey soliciting feedback on the experience.

Sound interesting? Want to sign up? Web notifications are currently only available on Chrome on Android devices or desktop. If you have an Android mobile phone (Samsung, included!), open this page [https://www.gdnmobilelab.com/debates/] in a Chrome browser and tap to sign up.

block-time published-time 2.52pm BST

**Immigration** officers endorse Donald Trump A union representing 7,600 federal **immigration** officers has endorsed Donald Trump’s presidential bid [https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/immigration-and-customs-enforcement-officers-endorse-donald-j.-trump-for-pr] ahead of the upcoming presidential debate tonight, a boon to a candidate who has made **immigration** the centerpiece of his campaign’s platform.

Donald Trump at a news conference near the U.S.- Mexico border outside of Laredo, Texas. Photograph: Rick Wilking/Reuters In a statement, Chris Crane, the union’s president, blamed “the unconstitutional executive orders of President Obama, embraced by Hillary Clinton,” for regulations preventing the union’s members “from enforcing the most basic **immigration** laws.”

“Donald Trump reached out to us for a meeting, sat down with me to discuss his goals for enforcement, and pledged to support ICE officers, our nation’s laws and our members. In his **immigration** policy, he has outlined core policies needed to restore **immigration** security -- including support for increased interior enforcement and border security, an end to Sanctuary Cities, an end to catch-and-release, mandatory detainers, and the canceling of executive amnesty and non-enforcement directives.”

According to the statement, which characterized the union’s endorsement as a first in its history, Clinton received the support of only 5% of the union’s members.

The National **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement Council [http://iceunion.org/\] represents 7,600 officers, agents and employees who work for US **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for responsible for security along the American border.

block-time published-time 2.36pm BST

Hofstra University debate: what you need to know With T-minus 12 hours until the first of three presidential debates between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump, here’s a rundown of the whos, wheres and whens of tonight’s debate - including some predictions and runups from the Guardian’s crack political reporting team.

Workers make adjustments to the set for the first presidential debate at Hofstra University. Photograph: Drew Angerer/Getty Images Who: Aside from Clinton and Trump, the debate will be moderated by NBC’s Lester Holt, the most-watched daily news broadcaster in the country with a reputation as a persistent fact-checker [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/26/lester-holt-debate-moderator-trump-clinton-fact-check-election] despite a 12-year stint as a weekend morning host. Trump has expressed displeasure with the selection of Holt, dismissing him as a Democrat in an interview with Fox News last week. (Holt is a registered Republican. [https://twitter.com/davidfolkenflik/status/778315866903642112?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] )

When: Tonight’s debate will begin at 9pm ET, running for 90 minutes without commercial interruption. The debate will consist of six sections, running approximately 15 minutes long apiece. Each of the six sections will begin with a question, with both candidates provided two minutes to answer. The candidates may also respond to direct mentions, accusations or calumnies made by their opponent, and Holt may ask follow-up questions.

Holt has separated the debate into three themes so nebulous as to be almost meaningless: “America’s Direction,” “Achieving Prosperity” and “Securing America.” Whether or not these blocks are divided into 30-minute segments depends on the succinctness of the candidates’ answers and Holt’s willingness-slash-ability to reign them in.

Where: The debate will be held at Hofstra University on Long Island, which also hosted presidential debates in 2008 between then-Illinois senator Barack Obama and Arizona senator John McCain and in 2012 between President Obama and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. It is the only university to ever host three consecutive presidential debates.

block-time published-time 2.17pm BST

Kellyanne Conway, Donald Trump’s campaign manager - well, by title, anyway [https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/22/kellyanne-conway-is-donald-trumps-last-chance-winning] - disputed characterizing Trump’s insistence that NBC anchor and debate moderator Lester Holt is a Democrat (factually inaccurate, as voter registration records show that Holt is a registered Republican [https://twitter.com/davidfolkenflik/status/778315866903642112?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] ), asserting that Trump can’t lie when he doesn’t know he’s saying something that’s not true.

enltr. @KellyannePolls [https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls] : Trump 'didn't lie' about Lester Holt, 'a lie would mean that he knew the man's party registration' https://t.co/dZWTCwpoim [https://t.co/dZWTCwpoim] : Trump 'didn't lie' about Lester Holt, 'a lie would mean that he knew the man's party registration'

— Morning Joe (@Morning\_Joe) September 26, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Morning\_Joe/status/780360090687647744]For those who haven’t read Harry Frankfurt’s On Bullshit - we recommend it for this and every election year - here’s a salient line from the tome:

It is impossible for someone to lie unless he thinks he knows the truth. Producing bullshit requires no such conviction.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.51pm BST

block-time published-time 1.44pm BST

Donald Trump takes lead in Bloomberg poll hours before debate Good morning and welcome to the Guardian’s campaign live blog.

The stage is set for the presidential debate. Photograph: Patrick Semansky/AP Mere hours before the most highly anticipated presidential debate in generations – 74% of Americans plan to watch tonight, according to an ABC/Washington Post survey [http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/clinton-trump-race-narrows-doorstep-debates-poll/story?id=42313593] – both nationwide and swing state polls have tightened to a statistical dead heat between former first lady, New York senator and secretary of state Hillary Clinton and real estate tycoon Donald Trump. In some polls, the Republican nominee has taken a small lead.

A new poll from Bloomberg [http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-09-26/national-poll], released Monday morning, shows the candidates locking horns with the support of 46% of likely voters in a head-to-head contest, with Trump up 43% to 41% with the inclusion of third-party candidates. A meaningful national poll, the Bloomberg survey suggests Trump has fully recovered from his post-convention flameout. Over the weekend, a Washington Post/ABC poll [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/poll-clinton-trump-in-virtual-dead-heat-on-eve-of-first-debate/2016/09/24/b99c95de-81cb-11e6-8327-f141a7beb626\_story.html] put Clinton two points ahead among likely voters, 46% to 44%. A survey by the Morning Consult website [https://morningconsult.com/2016/09/25/trump-edges-clinton-ahead-first-debate/] gave Trump an edge of one point.

Similarly positive numbers [http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/26/politics/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-colorado-pennsylvania-polls/index.html?sr=twCNN092616donald-trump-hillary-clinton-colorado-pennsylvania-polls1027AMVODtopLink&linkId=29195816] for Trump in Colorado and must-win Pennsylvania indicate that while eight in 10 voters say their minds are made up, tonight’s contest at Hofstra University in New York could prove decisive.

Trump v Clinton: an analysis of debate styles [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/24/trump-clinton-presidential-debate-styles-video]Over the weekend, as the 90-minute matchup between two candidates with vastly different debating styles, skills and sensibilities approached, the fight became increasingly dirty. Trump reacted to news that the Clinton campaign had invited critic and fellow billionaire Mark Cuban by musing that he might invite Gennifer Flowers [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/25/donald-trump-gennifer-flowers-debate-hillary-clinton], a former model who had an extramarital encounter with Bill Clinton in the 1980s. Flowers told news outlets she had accepted an invitation; the Trump campaign later denied that Flowers was invited.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.17pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Facebook, Apple, Amazon and Google have priorities ranging from taxes to trade and national security in this year’s elections

When US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] and Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] take the stage at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York, for their first formal, head-to-head debate on Monday night, they will undoubtedly be watched carefully by senior executives of – and lobbyists for – the country’s largest technology companies.

Both candidates have been vocal[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-elections-2016] on some key issues near and dear to the hearts of technology companies – such as global trade. As Dean Garfield, president and CEO of the Washington DC-based technology industry advocacy group the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), points out, it is unusual for trade agreements such as the Trans Pacific Partnership[https://www.theguardian.com/business/internationaltrade] (TPP) to take center stage in a presidential election.

What your industry does, if you can call it an industry, is bullshit. You guys don’t know anything about communication.

Steve Jobs, as quoted by Obama's former special advisor David Axelrod

Garfield said that the traditional axiom in policy circles is that “there’s no parade for trade – no one talks about it”. Yet both Clinton and Trump have declared their opposition to the TPP, while Trump – in a January speech at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia – said that he wanted to get Apple to start manufacturing computers in the United States again.

So both trade and technology appear to be on the agenda, but what else do the tech companies want Clinton and Trump talking about? Public statements by both nominees on key issues, as well as their publicly available lobbying records, have been documented by the Washington DC-based Center for Responsive Politics(CRP) and its Opensecrets.org site, which together provide a rich trove of data about the issues major technology companies care about in the context of this year’s elections.

Google: anti-competitiveness, labor issues and copyright According to CRP, the number one technology company spender on lobbying is Alphabet, the parent company of Google. So far in 2016 (up to the last CRP update on 9 August), Alphabet has already spent $8.04m on lobbying – putting it on pace to spend a little less than the $16.66m it spent for the whole of 2015.

Related: Revealed: how Google enlisted members of US Congress it bankrolled to fight $6bn EU antitrust case[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/17/google-lobbyists-congress-antitrust-brussels-eu]

The top issues Alphabet attempted to tackle with that money were copyright, patent and trademark issues (a common item for all the tech companies on the list), labor, antitrust and workplace issues, consumer product safety, science and technology – and homeland security. Yet some of Google’s biggest government-related challenges lie outside the US – notably in Europe, where the European commission has alleged that Google’s comparison shopping and advertising-related practices breach EU rules.

Amazon: tax, product safety and aviation CRP figures show that Amazon has put $5.81m worth of lobbying services in its Washington DC shopping basket. The company used that money to lobby on issues around computers and technology, taxes, consumer product safety, transportation and trade.

It was also no surprise to see Amazon lobbying on issues related to aviation, airlines and airports – given its involvement in both the use of drones and shipping goods by air.

Facebook: national security, intelligence and patent law Facebook is the third-largest lobbying spender, according to CRP, spending $4.97m so far this year. And it has a lot of government issues to care about.

Homeland security, intelligence, computers and information technology, copyright, patent and trademark issues – and taxes – make up the top five issues on which it has chosen to lobby.

Related: Facebook, Apple and Amazon to lobby next president over tech worker visas[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/may/05/us-tech-firms-visas-hillary-clinton-donald-trump-immigration]

Amongst the bills on which Facebook has offered comment is the “Requiring Reporting of Online Terrorist Activity Act” – which the Washington-based Center for Democracy & Technology criticized as requiring “all providers of Internet communications services to report to government authorities when they obtain ‘actual knowledge’ of apparent ‘terrorist activity’ on their services”.

Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg has also been very active in lobbying for **immigration** reform. He a passionate supporter of an **immigration**reform lobbying group called FWD.US[http://fwd.us/] – which also counts Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates and Napster founder Sean Parker amongst its founding members.

Apple: tax, telecoms and copyright battles Apple is not new to presidential politics. David Axelrod, the former chief strategist and senior advisor to President Barack Obama, has a great story in his 2015 memoir, Believer, in which he describes a phone conversation with the late Apple cofounder, Steve Jobs – one in which Jobs appeared to be deeply unimpressed with political media consultants, despite Jobs having requested the meeting after a personal visit from then Senator Barack Obama to Apple’s offices in Cupertino.

Axelrod quotes Jobs as saying: “What your industry does, if you can call it an industry, is bullshit. You guys don’t know anything about communication.”

Related: Apple tax: European commissioner defends €13bn ruling[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/sep/02/apple-tax-ruling-eu-margethe-vestager-13bn-euro-state-aid]

These days, Apple is much more engaged with government, from its showdown with the FBI earlier this year over the question of whether it should “unlock” an iPhone linked to the San Bernardino attacks to the more recent dispute between Apple and the European commission as it attempted to seek “recovery of illegal state aid” for alleged unpaid taxes[https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/sep/02/apple-tax-ruling-eu-margethe-vestager-13bn-euro-state-aid] in Ireland from Apple of up to €13bn – plus interest.

The Center for Responsive Politics shows that Apple has spent a relatively modest $2.25m on lobbying in 2016 so far. Not surprisingly, its top five issues for lobbying were tied to taxes, copyright, patent and trademark, telecommunications, computers and information technology – and trade.

The copyright issues are understandable given the huge legal battles that Apple has engaged in – most notably with Samsung – to preserve the unique elements of its products (a case is before the US supreme court this month).

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Forget ‘softenings’ on **immigration** and race, critics say: the Republican hasn’t changed. Now he faces Clinton in a fight where style can outshine substance

From the moment in May when Donald Trump all but sealed the Republican presidential nomination, he has been faced with a nagging question: when will he pivot?

Related: Clinton: ‘habitual liar’ Trump must be curbed in presidential debate[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-habitual-liar-presidential-debate]

When would a new Trump emerge – a candidate able to appeal to more than the angry base who propelled him to primary victory over much more seasoned politicians?

In the Republican establishment, the wait for the pivot began after Trump forced his remaining opponents out of the race, in Indiana four months ago[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/03/donald-trump-ted-cruz-jfk-assassination-indiana-primary-philanderer]. It continued through the convention in Cleveland in July. Once he had been formally nominated, the thinking went, maybe then the pivot would come. It didn’t.

On Monday, the first presidential debate against Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-habitual-liar-presidential-debate] takes place, at Hofstra University in New York. As Trump prepares to face the largest audience of the cycle thus far, the fabled pivot is nowhere in sight.

Urged by those who reluctantly embraced him to tone down his rhetoric, Trump has in recent weeks attempted to show he is capable of discipline. After doing without teleprompters for much of the primary, he turned to reading from scripts written by advisers brought in to save a sinking campaign. He also embarked on an “outreach” effort aimed at some minority communities, suddenly incorporating into his stump speech lines about the plight of African American voters.

But Trump’s platform, his slate of signature policies, chief among them his ultra-hard line on **immigration**, has remained exactly the same. And at the debate, some opposed to Trump worry, such details may be lost. Behind a podium, on primetime TV, appearance and style, not policy, often dictate who wins and who loses.

The idea was to make it sound like he was ‘softening’ in hopes of bringing home voters uncomfortable voting for a racist

Frank Sharry, America's Voice

“The fact that his base, even his ardent white nationalist supporters, are not complaining about his message pivots is a clear sign that his policies remain substantively the same,” said Frank Sharry, executive director of the **immigration** reform advocacy group America’s Voice.

On **immigration**, Sharry said, Trump hinted for weeks at a “softening” – and secured commensurate media coverage. Then he delivered a speech in Phoenix[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech] that “doubled down on his radical proposals”, such as deporting the roughly 11 million undocumented migrants who live in America today.

“That’s not a policy pivot, it’s a Kellyanne Conway-inspired messaging pivot,” Sharry said, referring to the Republican pollster hired in August as Trump’s campaign manager. “The idea was to make it sound like he was ‘softening’ in hopes of bringing home suburban voters, mostly women, who are uncomfortable voting for a racist.”

‘This is about white suburban voters’ A similar tactic was employed regarding Trump’s proposal to ban all Muslim **immigration**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/07/donald-trump-ban-all-muslims-entering-us-san-bernardino-shooting], which was widely criticized even among Republican elected officials. Trump rebranded the plan as “ extreme vetting[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/15/donald-trump-immigration-test-isis-islamic-state-foreign-policy] ”, rooted in an ideological test, but when asked directly plainly denied he was walking back the Muslim ban and said he was in fact strengthening it.

Last week, Donald Trump Jr once more revealed the campaign’s thinking, tweeting a photo of a bowl of Skittles[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/donald-trump-jnr-compares-refugees-poisoned-skittles-twitter-reacted] as a metaphor for refugees from Syria. If a few were poisoned and could kill you, he asked, would you want any at all?

Trump’s first television ad, released last month, depicted **immigrants** streaming across the border. The commercial claimed that under a Clinton presidency, “Syrian refugees flood in. Illegal **immigrants** convicted of committing crime get to stay – collecting social security benefits, skipping the line.”

Rick Wilson, a Republican strategist and leader of the Never Trump movement, made a similar assessment to Sharry’s. If there had been any strategic change from the Trump campaign, he said, it was only done to find ways for the nominee to mollify undecided voters uncomfortable with his comments about Latinos, Muslims and other demographics.

“There’s been no real pivot on **immigration** and there’s been no real pivot that he has any desire to communicate with Hispanic voters,” said Wilson, who also cited Trump’s efforts to discuss the concerns of black voters.

Donald Trump can give a hot damn about African Americans, but he comes out and says, ‘I want to help inner cities'

Rick Wilson, Republican strategist

“Donald Trump can give a hot damn about African Americans, but he comes out and says, ‘I want to help inner cities,’” he said. “That’s not really about African American voters, but about white suburban voters.”

While Trump has discussed the challenges facing the African American community, he has largely done so in the company of his own supporters or in the comfortable confines of Fox News.

When he did travel to Flint, Michigan[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/14/donald-trump-flint-visit-water-plant-tour], the site of a crisis over water poisoned by lead, Trump praised the executives implicated in the scandal and criticized a black pastor who interrupted him when he made a political speech at a predominantly black church.

Last week, Trump made headlines for saying African Americans were in their “worst shape ever”, an echo of his claim that black voters have nothing left to lose, because they lack jobs and education and are disproportionately affected by crime, and should therefore vote for him.

Related: Ted Cruz refuses to say Trump is fit to be president after endorsement[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/24/ted-cruz-donald-trump-president-endorsement]

“He’s a crafty enough salesman and a crafty enough conman to know that he cannot confuse the object with the subject,” said Wilson.

There may be no pivot, but the strategy of appearing to make one, to some of the people some of the time, is paying electoral dividends. Despite there being no indication that minority voters will turn out in the Republican’s favor, polling has tightened.

In Philadelphia recently, Stacye Mccollum braved the late summer heat to watch Barack Obama stump for Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/13/barack-obama-donald-trump-anger-hate]. An African American voter from Manayunk, Pennsylvania, she stood a dozen steps away from the first black president. Trump’s latest so-called “pivot” had not gone unnoticed.

She considered “the one comment he had made [about how], ‘I don’t understand why African Americans are voting for Democrats, because Democrats haven’t do you well. You have no job, you’re low poverty …”

Mccollum said she had only one takeaway from Trump’s version outreach.

“I found him to be very condescending,” she said.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Washington Post reports Trump used $258,000 from charityTrump Jr tweet comparing refugees to poisoned Skittles sparks outrageGeorge HW Bush reportedly planning to vote for Hillary Clinton

block-time published-time 1.52am BST

Donald Trump’s campaign manager has only the utmost respect for former president George HW Bush, whose age she mentioned casually while discussing his alleged plan to vote for Hillary Clinton:

enltr“I respect the 92-year-old-former president very much… that’s his right” @KellyannePolls[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls] on HW backing HRC https://t.co/qdJVGuOtZP[https://t.co/qdJVGuOtZP]

— Sam Stein (@samsteinhp) September 21, 2016[https://twitter.com/samsteinhp/status/778391880560209920]block-time published-time 1.32am BST

Fending off several controversies on Tuesday, Donald Trump started another when he proclaimed at a North Carolina[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/northcarolina] rally that “our African-American communities are in the worst shape they’ve ever been... Ever. Ever. Ever.”

Donald Trump Photograph: Jonathan Ernst/Reuters The plainly inaccurate statement, which was immediately lambasted on social media for failing to consider the long history of slavery and racial discrimination against African Americans, marked the latest misstep by the Trump campaign as the Republican nominee has struggled to harness the terrorist attacks in New York and New Jersey for his political advantage.

A day after the apprehension of suspected bomber[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/ahmad-khan-rahami-charged-bombings-new-york-new-jersey] Ahmad Khan Rahami, Trump made his remarks in Kenansville, North Carolina, and repeated familiar themes to crowds at multiple rallies across the swing state. “**Immigration** security is national security,” he said, and repeatedly read the lyrics of the The Snake[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\_ZBqpEUbik], a 1960s soul song about a woman who finds a dying snake and nurses it back to health. The snake then fatally bites her. To Trump, this was a parable about the consequences of the United States taking in refugees.

The Republican nominee went on to describe Clinton as “the vessel for all the global special interests seeking to run our lives” and said that the “failed political establishment” had “vested” in her “all of their money, all of their hopes for another generation of corruption”. Trump also argued that the “dishonest media” had “bled this country dry”.

But, Trump ran into more controversy when the Washington Post reported that the billionaire converted $258,000 in donations[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/trump-foundation-settlements-golf-course-mar-a-lago] to the Donald Trump Foundation to settle lawsuits against himself. The payments represent an apparent violation of tax laws that could potentially even force[http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/296914-scrutiny-of-trump-foundation-deepens] the IRS to shut down the Trump Foundation. Trump further stoked controversy by bragging on Tuesday about spending “OPM – other people’s money”.

Related: Trump lambasted for claiming black communities are in 'worst shape ever'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/donald-trump-african-american-communities-north-carolina]

block-time published-time 1.02am BST

Texas senator and former presidential contender Ted Cruz declined to say if he plans to endorse Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, again:

enltrCruz won't say if he'll endorse Trump but says: "My focus is on defeating Hillary Clinton and helping preserve a Senate Republican majority"

— Manu Raju (@mkraju) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/mkraju/status/778358226849001472]block-time published-time 12.23am BST

Donald Trump called for a more rigorous **immigration** policy following the arrest of an American man born in Afghanistan for bombing attacks in New York and New Jersey this weekend.

Trump: ‘We must defeat radical Islamic terrorism’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/20/trump-terrorism-new-jersey-new-york-video]The Republican presidential nominee spoke to supporters at High Point University in North Carolina today and reiterated his vow to build a wall on the Mexico-US border.

block-time published-time 11.54pm BST

Hillary Clinton brings in more than $140m in August, has $68m in the bank Former secretary of state and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton’s campaign has filed its September Federal Election Commission report[http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/forms/C00575795/1100718/] for the month of August, revealing that the nominee raised more than $62m in August for her campaign, as well as roughly $78m for allied action funds for state Democratic parties, from more than 1.1 million contributions, with an average contribution of $50.

The campaign begins the month of September with more than $68m in the bank.

Hillary Clinton. Photograph: MediaPunch/REX/Shutterstock “The millions of Americans who have contributed to this campaign and to the Democratic Party have ensured that we head into the final 50 days of the election with the most robust organizing effort in history, and the resources we need to mobilize the millions of voters we need to elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot,” campaign manager Robby Mook said in a statement.

“With voting already underway in some parts of the country, the race will continue to tighten and we will need to fight for every vote and do everything we can to make sure our message cuts through and that Democrats turn out to vote.”

More than 60% of the campaign’s August contributions were from women, and roughly $17m were raised from contributions lower than $200.

The Clinton campaign has raised more than $412m over the course of the campaign, and begins the month with more than $10m cash on hand than it began August.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.00am BST

block-time published-time 10.48pm BST

Donald Trump’s latest comments maybe needs a fact-check:

Our African American communities are in the worse shape they’ve ever been. Ever. Ever. Ever.

block-time published-time 10.32pm BST

Former secretary of state Madeleine Albright has released a message[https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/09/20/email-madeleine-albright-when-i-was-welcomed-refugee] sent to President barack Obama ahead of his remarks at a UN Refugee Summit regarding her own history as a refugee. Considering the recent political news involving debates over the acceptance of refugees from the Syrian civil war, it’s relevant reading:

I came to the United States as a refugee when I was 11 years old. My father was a diplomat and a strong supporter of democracy in Czechoslovakia, so when the Communists took over, we were forced into exile as refugees. In November 1948, we were welcomed to the United States of America.

Becoming a US citizen is the most important thing that ever happened to me. My father said that when we were in Europe during WWII people would say, ‘We are sorry for your troubles and hope that you have everything you need; by the way, when will you be leaving to go back home?’

But in America, people said: ‘We are sorry for your troubles and hope that you have everything you need; by the way, when will you become a citizen?’

America resettles more refugees than any other nation because it reflects one of our noblest traditions as a nation: providing support to those who are most vulnerable.

With the world facing the largest mass displacement on record since World War II, it has never been more important for world leaders to follow America’s example and work together to do more to support refugees....

When countries with insufficient resources take in refugees, it creates more instability, not just at the frontlines of this crisis, but around the world. If we were to slam the door in the faces of refugees with certain religious backgrounds, we would defy our history and our principles of pluralism and diversity. As we talk to other nations about what more needs to be done to tackle this crisis, it’s important that President Obama is setting this example.

When I came here as a child, I will never forget sailing into New York Harbor for the first time and beholding the Statute of Liberty. I did not have to face refugee camps or the kind of danger that many refugees endure. But like all refugees, I shared a hope to live a safe life with dignity and a chance to give back to my new country.

Together, we can help refugees rebuild their lives and live with dignity once again.

block-time published-time 10.18pm BST

Fox News talking head Sean Hannity’s outspoken and material support for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has reached another milestone today, with the release of an eight-minute promotional video for the nominee in which Hannity makes an appearance.

Hannity, whose eponymous program has long been a favorite slot for Trump to answer softball questions and for the duo to soak up each others’ awesomeness[https://vine.co/v/OeF3QBlnwlV], arrives about six minutes into #HEARTLAND4TRUMP, a promotional video studded with testimonials about the Republican nominee:

One of the reasons I’m supporting Donald Trump this year is, number one, he’s going to put originalists on the supreme court - people that believe in fidelity to the constitution, separation of powers, co-equal branches of government.

He’s a guy that will vet refugees to keep Americans safe.

And, of course, he’s gonna build that wall. He says he’s gonna have Mexico pay for it. That’s fine, as long as we secure the country and of course we don’t want people competing for jobs.

He said he will eliminate Obamacare, make us energy-independent.

And as somebody who’s been a marksman since I’m 11 years old, protecting our Second Amendment rights are paramount to me.

The endorsement lasts roughly 30 seconds.

block-time published-time 9.48pm BST

Report: Former president George HW Bush told group he will vote for Clinton On the heels of reports that former Republican president George HW Bush told Kathleen Kennedy Townsend – the former lieutenant governor of Maryland and daughter of Robert F Kennedy – that he plans to vote for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, CNN is reporting[http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/20/politics/george-hw-bush-hillary-clinton/index.html] that the former president told board members of the bipartisan Points of Light Foundation that he will, indeed, vote for his former opponent’s spouse:

Bush told a room of roughly 40 people Monday that he would vote for Hillary Clinton in November, according to sources close to Bush - an extraordinary rebuke of his own party’s nominee.

Although the Bush family has neither confirmed nor denied the claims of either CNN or Townsend, a family spokesman was pretty coy about the former president’s plans on 8 November.

“The vote President Bush will cast as a private citizen in some 50 days will be just that: a private vote cast in some 50 days,” Bush spokesman Jim McGrath said in a statement. “He is not commenting on the presidential race in the interim.”

block-time published-time 9.31pm BST

Trump campaign doubles down on Donald Trump Jr.'s Skittles tweet The Donald Trump campaign has elected to lengthen the amount of time Americans spend talking about Skittle-related racial metaphors that were once used by Nazi war criminals[https://theintercept.com/2016/09/20/nazi-who-originated-donald-trump-jr-s-skittles-metaphor-was-hanged-at-nuremberg/], releasing a statement this afternoon calling Donald Trump Jr. a “tremendous asset to the campaign.”

Don Jr. ignited a firestorm of criticism last night when he tweeted a meme[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778016283342307328] comparing Syrian refugees to poisoned Skittles, but as has become customary with the Trump campaign, the Republican nominee’s communications team has elected to double down on the statement.

“Don Jr. has been a tremendous asset to the campaign,” wrote communications advisor Jason Miller in a statement. “America has become less safe under Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, and Clinton’s planned 550% increase in Syrian refugees is a dangerous proposal that will put American lives at risk. Speaking the truth might upset those who would rather be politically correct than safe, but the American people want a change, and only Donald Trump will do what’s needed to protect us.”

The same sentiment expressed by Trump was once used in a bid to keep Jewish refugees from entering the United Kingdom. In 1903, Conservative MP Major Sir William Eden Evans-Gordon used a very similar metaphor[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/12/immigration-not-problem-hostility-migrants] in an address to Parliament:

Ten grains of arsenic in a thousand loaves would be unnoticeable and perfectly harmless but the same amount put into one loaf would kill the whole family that partook of it.

block-time published-time 9.18pm BST

The Nevada Republican party seems eager to focus on down-ballot races this year...

enltrI'm trying to think of the major Republican nominee left off of this slate card. It's a puzzlement. pic.twitter.com/RtpM9dpbV4[https://t.co/RtpM9dpbV4]

— Jon Ralston (@RalstonReports) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/RalstonReports/status/778326773977128960]block-time published-time 9.07pm BST

Donald Trump’s presidential campaign may have lifted the longstanding blacklisting of various media outlets ranging from the Washington Post to Buzzfeed News, but the press-loving/bashing candidate’s campaign is still breaking convention in how it treats the reporters assigned to cover the movements of the Republican nominee.

Donald Trump leaves his plane. Photograph: Jonathan Ernst/Reuters Case in point: a new ban on reporters traveling with Trump’s motorcade, a break in decades-old tradition that the campaign originally promised to maintain.

“We have communicated that this is an issue that the campaign should have spotted long ago and are vigorously protesting the decision,” Trump’s pool reporters told other members of the pool this morning in am email. “We have told the campaign that if they are truly committed to transparency, than [sic] they should place the pool on Trump’s plane so it is a truly protective pool. They have not been responsive to that request.”

The Trump campaign has resisted calls to include traveling press on his campaign plane, instead opting for a “chaser” plane that had led to delays for reporters traveling with the campaign from reaching his rallies, including an incident last week in which reporters missed a rally in New Hampshire entirely. (Trump mocked the candidates from the lectern for not being able to arrive in time.)

block-time published-time 8.35pm BST

Senators: They’re just like us!

enltrSenator Tim Scott just walked by in this outfit. I could have asked why, but thought it funnier not to know pic.twitter.com/MawdLQq9hX[https://t.co/MawdLQq9hX]

— Ben Terris (@bterris) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/bterris/status/778315373758283776]block-time published-time 8.32pm BST

An update on Donald Trump Jr.’s use of a white nationalist meme[http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/trump-junior-skittles-tweet-popular-white-nationalists] to describe Syrian refugees[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778016283342307328] : the photograph of a bowl of Skittles (ten percent of which are poisoned, according to the younger Trump) was taken by a refugee.

enltrThis image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016[https://twitter.com/hashtag/trump2016?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/9fHwog7ssN[https://t.co/9fHwog7ssN]

— Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778016283342307328] In an interview with the BBC[http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37421886], photographer David Kittos expressed dismay that a photograph he had taken of a bowl of candy had been hijacked to express anti-refugee sentiment, particularly since he himself was a Cypriot refugee as a child.

“This was not done with my permission, I don’t support his politics and I would never take his money to use it,” Kittos told the BBC. “In 1974, when I was six-years old, I was a refugee from the Turkish occupation of Cyprus so I would never approve the use of this image against refugees.”

Kittos, whose family fled the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, says that he never put the image up for sale and that the post, likening Syrian refugees to a bowl of Skittles, some of which are poisoned, was not crafted with his permission.

“I would like the Trump campaign to delete the image, but they are probably not interested in what I have to say,” Kittos said.

block-time published-time 8.12pm BST

Whit Ayres, a veteran political consultant who was pollster for Marco Rubio’s doomed campaign, has compared the US presidential race with an election in “a third-world country”.

Speaking at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Ayres argued that the contest between Hillary Clinton and reality TV star Donald Trump has come down to a battle of personalities, not policies.

Hillary Clinton speaks about Iran at the Brookings Institution. Photograph: Mark Wilson/Getty Images “This presidential election reminds me a lot more of a presidential election in a third-world country than an advanced industrialized democracy,” Ayres said. “What do I mean by that? I mean that it is a totally personality-driven election. We have this idea that voters sit there rationally and say, ‘Well, I have this set of issue positions on trade or abortion or gay rights or whatever, and I’m going to decide my issue positions, and then I’m going to look out and see which candidate reflects my issue positions best and go for that candidate.’”

“We neglect that fact that, frequently, the arrow goes the other way, that ‘I decide who I like based upon some other factors, particularly personality, and then I adopt what issue positions that particular person has.’ And in a third-world country, it’s ‘my big guy’ versus ‘your big guy’ and it’s all about the big guy or, in this case, the big guy and the big gal. It’s very personality driven, personality focused, and issues have very little to do with the choice between the two.”

Ayres, founder and president of North Star Opinion Research, added that a sense of anger, frustration and hopelessness had created the Trump phenomenon, and that Rubio sought to address this but in vain. “It’s a mistake to assume Donald Trump’s supporters believe all the crazy things he says. They don’t.”

But they do regard him a change agent who will “blow things up”.

Zoe Baird, president of the Markle Foundation, which focuses on uses of IT, predicted a close election as America undergoes a difficult transition from an industrial to digital economy.

“This is the heart of it,” Baird said. “Half the country, whether right or left, is looking back and has a sense of loss and is nostalgic, and half the country feels, ‘We can tackle this stuff. This is exciting. I love these tools, I love these toys’... It is amazing to see what people are actually doing.”

The trust level for government is just 20%, she added.

“The trust level for Hillary probably has something to do with the fact that people associate her with a government people don’t trust. It may not have much to do with Hillary at all. Is anyone asking that question? I don’t know.”

block-time published-time 7.42pm BST

Trump ducks 'birther' questions Reporters accompanying Trump asked him questions as he made his way to lunch but he did not answer them, according to a poll report.

Jill Colvin of The Associated Press asked him, “Mr. Trump, when did you change your mind about the birther issue? When did you decide that President Obama was actually born in the United States?”

He did not respond.

enltrMonmouth in FL: 24% think Trump actually believes Obama is a natural born citizen, while 54% say Trump only said so for political reasons.

— Tom McCarthy (@TeeMcSee) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/TeeMcSee/status/778282371065978880]block-time published-time 7.39pm BST

Donald Trump, Jr., made headlines from an interview with the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review last week when he said that his father should not release his tax returns “because he’s got a 12,000-page tax return that would create … financial auditors out of every person in the country asking questions that would distract from [his father’s] main message.”

Now we learn, from video of the interview just released by the paper, that Trump Jr also used the Skittles analogy that is drawing wider attention today after Trump Jr tweeted it:

“If we had a bowl of Skittles on this table...” Here’s video of Trump Jr on the tax returns:

“Our tax guys would say, ‘Hey, it’s crazy to do that, you’re just allowing everyone to be an independent auditor.’”

“It’s crazy to do that.” block-time published-time 7.30pm BST

First lady Michelle Obama will head back out on the trail for Clinton next week, the campaign has announced:

enltrMichelle Obama will campaign for Hillary Clinton in Pennsylvania next week, per the Clinton campaign

— Dan Merica (@danmericaCNN) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/danmericaCNN/status/778283744943824896] Michelle Obama greets fellow first spouses, students and guests at Broadway’s Jacobs Theater on 19 September, in advance of the UN general assembly meeting. Photograph: John Moore/Getty Images block-time published-time 7.26pm BST

Trump ducks media – except Fox News Donald Trump has been ducking[http://money.cnn.com/2016/09/19/media/donald-trump-fox-news-interviews-press-conferences/index.html] most interview requests from media outlets apart from Fox News, CNN notes. What’s more, he has not held a press conference in almost two months:

Newt Gingrich knocked Clinton at a Trump rally on Monday afternoon by saying “she doesn’t do press conferences.” But Clinton has taken questions from reporters at half a dozen press conferences in the past two weeks, including as recently as Monday morning.

These sessions, while relatively short, have been plentiful, while Trump has not held a press conference since July.

block-time published-time 7.13pm BST

Clinton’s “Briefing” rapid response team takes a tone on the report of Trump using the charitable donations of well-meaning others to pay his lawsuit settlements:

enltrPretttttttty sure you're not allowed to do this. https://t.co/Hy37Mq4Kte[https://t.co/Hy37Mq4Kte] pic.twitter.com/EW0TXZC8VK[https://t.co/EW0TXZC8VK]

— The Briefing (@TheBriefing2016) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/TheBriefing2016/status/778294391769292801]block-time published-time 7.03pm BST

Trump has stopped at Stamey’s Barbecue in Greensboro, N.C., for lunch, according to a press pool report. That’s a good idea. But don’t take our word for it – read Calvin Trillin writing about Stamey’s in the New Yorker[http://www.newyorker.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/magazine/2015/11/02/in-defense-of-the-true-cue] (if you can get around the paywall).

enltrTrump ordered a barbecue pork plate with cole slaw and hush puppies at Stamey's BBQ in Greensboro, NC.

— Jennifer Jacobs (@JenniferJJacobs) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/778293871243587584]enltr @Bencjacobs[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs] @JenniferJJacobs[https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs] good advance!

— Jonathan Martin (@jmartNYT) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/jmartNYT/status/778295614220173312][As in, good advance work by Trump’s campaign team, as in that order is a safe one in terms of not accidentally exposing oneself as a miserable clueless outsider.]

enltr @jmartNYT[https://twitter.com/jmartNYT] @Bencjacobs[https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs] @JenniferJJacobs[https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs] That's almost a solid Stamey's order, but if he didn't get a cup of Brunswick stew with it, no dice.

— Kevin M. Kruse (@KevinMKruse) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/KevinMKruse/status/778296132006973440]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.17pm BST

block-time published-time 6.56pm BST

Looks like some footage for the next installment of Dancing with the Stars has leaked.

Here’s former Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry effecting the insouciance and joy of a lovestruck teenager, from Texas:

enltrthere are magical things in this world. this gif is one of them. pic.twitter.com/5Mv2sYMO3r[https://t.co/5Mv2sYMO3r]

— Olivia Messer (@OliviaMesser) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/OliviaMesser/status/778204971686883328]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.57pm BST

block-time published-time 6.49pm BST

Pence finds Skittles outrage 'remarkable' Donald Trump running mate Mike Pence tells NBC News that he doesn’t see why everyone is so worked up about Donald Trump Jr comparing refugees to Skittles:

It’s remarkable to me to see the level of outrage about a metaphor used by Don Jr when Hillary Clinton’s calling for a 550% increase in the Syrian refugee program.

enltrPence to @KellyO[https://twitter.com/KellyO] RE: Skittles:"It's remarkable to me to see the level of outrage about a metaphor used by Don Jr..." https://t.co/P7cm22G2rv[https://t.co/P7cm22G2rv]

— Frank Thorp V (@frankthorp) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/frankthorp/status/778287363705286656]Politifact has rated[http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/13/donald-trump/donald-trump-says-hillary-clinton-wants-let-500-pe/] the 550% claim “mostly true”:

Clinton has, in fact, said that in response to the refugee crisis she would raise Obama’s limit of 10,000 to 65,000. That’s 550 percent more, a bit higher than what Trump said.

Pence’s really earning his dinner, isn’t he?

block-time published-time 6.32pm BST

Trump on Jolie: 'I don't get it' The Wall Street Journal has transcribed radio segments Donald Trump used to do[http://blogs.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/washwire/2016/07/11/radio-archive-what-donald-trump-said-about-hillary-clinton-tattoos-guns-more/] in the mid-2000s – “between 2004 and 2008, [Trump] recorded a daily 60-second commentary that was aired on several hundred radio stations across the U.S,” apparently.

We hadn’t read these before, but they’re bouncing anew around the Internet, with the news of a certain high-profile celebrity breakup.

Here’s some of Trump’s commentary:

Thursday, March 31, 2005 — Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie was just named the sexiest woman in the world. This was from the readers of FHM, a men’s magazine. Angelina took over the crown from Britney Spears who didn’t even make the sexy list this year. She has gone down, there’s no question about it. That’s what a marriage can do for you. ( Archived page[https://web.archive.org/web/20050402014707/http://trumponair.com/] )

Friday, April 7, 2006 — Sexiest Woman Alive

Every once in awhile, some magazine will name the sexiest man or the sexiest woman alive.

Now readers of FHM – a men’s magazine — have crowned Scarlett Johansson[http://topics.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/person/J/scarlett,-johansson/6675] the sexiest woman alive. The lovely 21-year-old actress – who I met recently on a Jay Leno show – posed semi-nude for the cover of Vanity Fair magazine not too long ago.

Some of the others on the list…Angelina Jolie is No. 2 (I don’t get it), Jessica Alba, Jessica Simpson, Keira Knightley (she’s unbelievable), Halle Berry, Jenny McCarthy, Maria Sharapova (truly unbelievable), Carmen Electra and and Teri Hatcher. Last year Scarlett was No. 9 on the list and Angelina was No. 1.

I know almost all of the people on the list. I know who’s really beautiful and who’s not. Some of them belong and some don’t, but I’m not going to get myself in trouble. ( Archived page[https://web.archive.org/web/20060411085415/http://www.trumponair.com/] )

(h/t: @willrahn[https://twitter.com/willrahn/status/778283678162116609] )

block-time published-time 6.25pm BST

Trump’s done.

enltrTrump wraps speech in High Point, NC after 26 minutes and his motorcade is gone in a flash.

— Jennifer Jacobs (@JenniferJJacobs) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/778284912172466176]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.36pm BST

block-time published-time 6.25pm BST

Trump, in his North Carolina speech, knocks Clinton for saying that his rhetoric is being used as a terrorist “recruiting tool.”

(It’s not just Clinton who says so, of course. In May, former NSA and CIA director Michael Hayden said[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/29/cia-ex-boss-secretive-spooks-tolerated-in-uk-more-than-in-us], “The jihadist narrative is that there is undying enmity between Islam and the modern world so when Trump says they all hate us, he’s using their narrative … he’s feeding their recruitment video.” Matt Olsen, former head of the national counterterrorism center, wrote this month[http://time.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/4480945/isis-donald-trump/] that Isis has “chosen a candidate” and “some of them are using those [social media] channels to advocate for Trump.”)

Trump thinks, inexplicably, that Clinton got the line from Madison Avenue, which he explains for his student audience:

You know somebody gave her that from Madison Avenue–you know what it, that’s advertising.

block-time published-time 6.15pm BST

Clinton up 5 points in Florida – poll Here’s another poll to add to the confusing mix in Florida. Monmouth University has Clinton ahead of Trump 46-41[http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/poll-clinton-leads-trump-by-5-voters-dont-buy-trump-on-birther-issue/2294359] in a four-way race, with Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson at 6%. But that lead for Clinton is down from 9 points last month in the poll.

This is an interesting poll finding, on Trump’s ‘birther’ bile:

Most Florida voters (75%) have heard about Trump’s recent admission that Barack Obama was born in the United States, but they doubt the GOP nominee’s sincerity. Only 24% think that Trump actually believes Obama is a natural born citizen, while the majority (54%) say Trump only made the statement for political reasons.

The poll also depicts a tight senate race:

enltrNew Monmouth Poll of Florida:

Hillary Clinton 46

Donald Trump 41 #FLSen[https://twitter.com/hashtag/FLSen?src=hash]

Marco Rubio 47

Patrick Murphy 45

— Sabrina Siddiqui (@SabrinaSiddiqui) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/SabrinaSiddiqui/status/778279393584087041] HuffPost Pollster’s Florida averages. Photograph: Huffpost Pollster block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.18pm BST

block-time published-time 6.07pm BST

Clinton: 'we can't lose our cool' Here’s a transcript of Hillary Clinton’s remarks on top of her conversation today with national security advisers, via the campaign:

Thank you all for joining. Events of the past few days have underscored that to defeat the terrorists we need experienced, steady leadership. Calm, not panic. Resolve, not fear.

I’ve been with many of you in the Situation Room advising on operations to prevent terrorist attacks and bring terrorists to justice. Many have never been in the news.

We know what it takes. We can’t lose our cool and start ranting and waving our arms. We shouldn’t toss around extreme proposals that won’t be effective and lose sight of who we are. That’s what the terrorists are aiming for.

Clinton attends a bilateral meeting with Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at a hotel in New York Monday. Photograph: Carlos Barria/Reuters We need to respond the way of brave law enforcement and citizen heroes responded They showed strength and steel and smarts. They saved lives and brought the terrorist attacker to justice.

And we need to respond with a real strategy. I’ve laid out a strategy to protect our communities and our country and to defeat ISIS and other terrorist groups. An intelligence surge. New efforts to disrupt recruiting online. Smashing the terrorists’ strongholds in the Middle East. Dismantling their global networks, stemming the flow of foreign fighters and making sure they can’t bring terrorism back home with them.

Today I want to talk to you all about what we’ve learned from these most recent attacks and how we can make our approach even more effective.

block-time published-time 5.59pm BST

Donald Trump has just taken the stage in High Point, North Carolina.

“Early voting starts here October 20th,” he notes. In other states he and his campaign have neglected to inform voters when and how they may start voting.

block-time published-time 5.39pm BST

If the Democrats can’t hold minority leader Harry Reid’s senate seat in Nevada – which they might – they would need to flip five senate seats, plus have Clinton win the presidency, to wrest control of the senate from Republicans.

Larry Sabato, who handicaps races at the University of Virginia’s center for politics, sees the effort as having just gotten a bit more strenuous.

The most vulnerable Republican senate seats appear to be in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Ohio. John McCain is defending his seat, as are Marco Rubio (Florida) and Roy Blunt (Missouri).

Sabato has moved[http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/2016-senate/] four of those races in the Republican direction:

enltrSabato’s Crystal Ball moves four Senate race ratings—all in the direction of Republicans. pic.twitter.com/pW8cg90KgK[https://t.co/pW8cg90KgK]

— Sahil Kapur (@sahilkapur) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/status/778261039297200128]Looks good for Portman in Ohio.

block-time published-time 5.26pm BST

Hillary Clinton is working from home With fewer than 50 days until the election, the Democratic nominee is taking a day off the campaign trail to talk strategy with advisers and to prep for the upcoming debate, her campaign said.

Hillary Clinton held a call with her national security and counterterrorism advisors to discuss the recent attacks in New York and across the country, according to the campaign.

She called into the Steve Harvey Show, where she discussed her mindset heading into the first debate and talked about the death of Terence Crutcher, an unarmed black man, shot and killed by police in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

“We have got to tackle systemic racism,” Clinton said. “This horrible shooting again. How many times do we have to see this in our country?”

Trump hit Clinton on Twitter for not holding a rally:

enltrHillary Clinton is taking the day off again, she needs the rest. Sleep well Hillary - see you at the debate!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/778238281196662784]Clinton is scheduled to campaign in Orlando, Florida, later this week, and her travel is expected to pick up post-debate.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.30pm BST

block-time published-time 4.59pm BST

Be apprised that if you click through to this Tampa Bay Times story, based on documents filed with the Palm Beach County clerk of court, you just get the titles of the paintings in Mar-a-Lago – you won’t actually get to see for example The Gentlemen’s Visit, which according to the list is a reproduction of a 19th century German painting:

enltr87 paintings in Trump’s mansion: everything from ‘3 Ladies Riding 3 Zebras and 3 Tigers’ to ‘The Gentlemen’s Visit’ https://t.co/j8sp9SOBq8[https://t.co/j8sp9SOBq8]

— Garance Franke-Ruta (@thegarance) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/thegarance/status/778260620214996992]block-time published-time 4.36pm BST

McMullin: 'someone needed to step up' The independent presidential candidate Evan McMullin[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/08/evan-mcmullin-republican-donald-trump-utah] has linked Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump, saying such events are a “reflection of a nativist movement across Europe and in the United States” that is “destructive to [the] economy here and in the world and to peace and security”, writes Guardian politics reporter Ben Jacobs :

The 40-year-old former CIA agent and Capitol Hill policy adviser accused Russia of fueling such sentiments – a phenomenon he said he understood because when working for the US intelligence service he “received the same training that Vladimir Putin did” while in the KGB.

“They do it through supporting candidates like Donald Trump and Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] poses a true threat to our national security by carrying Putin’s water in the United States,” he said.

Former CIA agent Evan McMullin at his campaign launch in August. Photograph: George Frey/Getty Images McMullin is running as an independent conservative alternative to Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/08/republican-evan-mcmullin-presidential-run-trump], backed by some of the Republican nominee’s most determined rightwing opponents. Speaking to the Guardian, he discussed his longshot bid for the White House and his disdain for those on the right who have failed to stand up to Trump, who is now closing in on Hillary Clinton in presidential polling[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/general\_election\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5491.html].

In McMullin’s view, the forces that drove the British vote to leave the European Union and have aided the rise of Trump are part of the “same movement, fueled largely by the Russians who seek to destabilize eastern and western Europe as well as North America through fomenting discord between different racial groups, different ethnic groups and different religious groups”.

McMullin, who spent a decade at the CIA, will make a foreign policy speech in Washington on Tuesday focusing on the global threats to US national security.

Read the full piece here:

Related: Evan McMullin on his presidential bid: 'Someone needed to step up' to Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/evan-mcmullin-independent-presidential-candidate-trump]

block-time published-time 4.31pm BST

Obama’s done.

block-time published-time 4.13pm BST

Increasing concern over absence of Trump tax returns Clinton spokesman Ian Sams argues that the revelation of egregious self-dealing by Trump, it appears, through his foundation heightens suspicions that his tax returns may be a lightning-streaked viper’s nest of hidden income, equity swaps, shell companies and who knows what else:

enltrTax experts say Trump foundation is clearly violating IRS laws. If this is his charity, imagine his personal taxes. https://t.co/BMe8FCEe8h[https://t.co/BMe8FCEe8h] pic.twitter.com/Daa8b2EpJz[https://t.co/Daa8b2EpJz]

— Ian Sams (@IanSams) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/IanSams/status/778247262757584897]block-time published-time 3.51pm BST

Trump used $258,000 from charity to settle legal problems – report Here’s a new bombshell report[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] from the Washington Post’s David Fahrenthold, whose bombshell report of 10 days ago, How Donald Trump retooled his charity to spend other people’s money[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-donald-trump-retooled-his-charity-to-spend-other-peoples-money/2016/09/10/da8cce64-75df-11e6-8149-b8d05321db62\_story.html], revealed how Trump has found a way to enjoy all the benefits of philanthropy – Donald, you’re a saint! – with none of the bite of having to actually, like, give away one’s money.

Now Fahrenthold has uncovered what may be[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], if there’s not some magical unforeseen explanation here (the Trump camp has yet to comment), the biggest abuse yet by Trump of tax laws and the trust of donors to his foundation.

Uses other people’s charitable donations to settle his own lawsuits, reportedly. Photograph: Joe Raedle/Getty Images “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,” Fahrenthold reports[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] :

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.

What’s the legal hazard here for Trump? Fahrenthold:

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 office of the New York attorney general, 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[https://www.venable.com/jeffrey-s-tenenbaum/], who advises charities at the Venable law firm in Washington. After The Post described the details of these Trump Foundation gifts, Tenenbaum described them as “really shocking.”

Read the full piece here[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].

enltrI'm looking for 3 items @realdonaldtrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] bought w/ charity $:

Tebow helmet ($12K)

6ft portrait ($20K)

4ft portrait ($10K)

DM me with tips! https://t.co/TB37zoLko0[https://t.co/TB37zoLko0]

— David Fahrenthold (@Fahrenthold) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/Fahrenthold/status/778246903880421377]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.01pm BST

block-time published-time 3.35pm BST

Obama: 'we must go forward' Obama says “a quarter century after the end of the Cold War, the world is by many measures less violent and more prosperous than ever before, and yet our societies are filled with unease...

I believe at this moment we all face a choice... to press forward with a better model of cooperation... or retreat into a world sharply divided... I want to suggest to you today that we must go forward and not backward.

Obama says that open markets, human rights and global ties are “the firmest foundation of human progress in this century.”

block-time published-time 3.31pm BST

Here’s Barack Obama, addressing the United Nations general assembly for his last time as president:

block-time published-time 3.31pm BST

Where’s she supposed to park the airplane?

enltrDo people notice Hillary is copying my airplane rallies - she puts the plane behind her like I have been doing from the beginning.

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/778237485402980352]Trump’s claim of leading the way on airport rallies is not entirely without validity. He has used rallies on tarmacs, which are easy-in, easy-out for the candidate, like no presidential candidate before him. Are they as effective as the candidate making his or her way into town, sitting at a roundtable, addressing a school auditorium? Jury seems out on that. Trump doesn’t have a traditional ground game.

block-time published-time 3.25pm BST

Trump Jr tweets racist Breitbart rape-scare piece What Donald Trump Jr is tweeting here would very comfortably appear in the feeds of the white nationalist accounts he approvingly retweets:

enltrEurope’s Rape Epidemic: Western Women Will Be Sacrificed At The Altar Of Mass Migration https://t.co/BkguApQqvQ[https://t.co/BkguApQqvQ] via @BreitbartNews[https://twitter.com/BreitbartNews]

— Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778209202095415296]The Breitbart story, a tourist’s out-of-nowhere description of a made-up gang-rape epidemic in Europe, is not only openly, wildly racist, describing a continental crisis of white European women under assault from “Middle Eastern-looking men” – the racist Breitbart piece is also breathtakingly unhinged from reality:

In England, it’s been rape after rape – tens of thousands of young British girls are brutalised, tortured, beaten and raped by organised gangs comprised almost exclusively of Muslims

enltr. @KellyannePolls[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls] better get her hands on Don Jr's phone. https://t.co/MONZ7joJiq[https://t.co/MONZ7joJiq]

— Ben White (@morningmoneyben) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/morningmoneyben/status/778229023591821312]enltrThat is just wildly racist https://t.co/4VbUVCybDC[https://t.co/4VbUVCybDC]

— John Bresnahan (@BresPolitico) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/BresPolitico/status/778234615161028608]Here’s DJT Jr a week ago:

margin:8px 0 0 0; padding:0 4px; A friend sent me this. 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. He's fighting for you and won't ever quit. Thanks for your trust! #trump2016 #maga #makeamericagreatagain #basketofdeplorables[https://www.instagram.com/p/BKMtdN5Bam5/]

color:#c9c8cd; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; font-size:14px; line-height:17px; margin-bottom:0; margin-top:8px; overflow:hidden; padding:8px 0 7px; text-align:center; text-overflow:ellipsis; white-space:nowrap;A photo posted by Donald Trump Jr. (@donaldjtrumpjr) on Sep 10, 2016 at 7:18pm PDT

If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, they say, it’s a duck.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.38pm BST

block-time published-time 3.08pm BST

Haley 'starts day' with Clinton anthem South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, a Republican, has tweeted that in the interest of giving “everyone” “an additional boost,” she “wanted to share” that she started her day with a song that happens to have been the anthem that the Hillary Clinton campaign used to give everyone an additional boost through all of the spring, until people’s ears started to bleed.

It’s Rachel Platten’s Fight Song:

enltrStarted my day with "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten. Wanted to share so that everyone gets an additional boost! https://t.co/jQbyVtxm1J[https://t.co/jQbyVtxm1J]

— Nikki Haley (@nikkihaley) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/nikkihaley/status/778224650455281664]Haley, a popular governor for whom some Republicans see a bright national future, endorsed Marco Rubio in the Republican primaries and has said she will support the Republican nominee[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2016/may/14/who-supports-donald-trump-the-new-republican-center-of-gravity], but she has not expressed support for Trump specifically and she has criticized his rhetoric[http://www.postandcourier.com/20160602/160609858/haley-criticizes-trump-and-his-rhetoric], a favor he returned with, of course, a Twitter insult:

enltrThe people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) March 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/704751393991737345]enltrwait governor are you saying what I think you're saying https://t.co/7EzxRCpkmf[https://t.co/7EzxRCpkmf]

— Jesse Berney (@jesseberney) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/jesseberney/status/778226128318259200]block-time published-time 1.21pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. Donald Trump has two events in North Carolina today. Hillary Clinton’s running mate Tim Kaine will appear in Reno, Nevada. Barack Obama is scheduled to address the UN general assembly this morning.

George HW Bush backs Clinton – report Former president George HW Bush is reportedly voting for Hillary Clinton in November, according to a Facebook post from John F Kennedy’s niece.

The post by Kathleen Kennedy Townsend – the former lieutenant governor of Maryland and daughter of Robert F Kennedy – shows her posing with George HW Bush with the caption: “The President told me he is voting for Hillary!!”

Townsend – writing on Facebook under the name Kathleen Hartington – has been a longtime vocal supporter of Clinton’s campaign.

Related: George H W Bush 'voting for Hillary', claims member of Kennedy family[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/george-h-w-bush-voting-for-hillary-claims-member-of-kennedy-family]

Donald Trump Jr compares refugees to Skittles Trump père spent Monday explaining that terrorism in the United States was “made possible because of our extremely open **immigration** system”. The suspect in the Chelsea bombing attack is a naturalized citizen from Afghanistan whose family was granted asylum 21 years ago, when the suspect was a boy of seven. Trump’s eldest son added on Monday evening that refugees are like Skittles. The analogy has caught a lot of negative attention:

enltrThis image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016[https://twitter.com/hashtag/trump2016?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/9fHwog7ssN[https://t.co/9fHwog7ssN]

— Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778016283342307328] Related: Donald Trump Jr compares refugees to poisoned Skittles[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/20/donald-trump-jnr-compares-refugees-poisoned-skittles-twitter-reacted]

enltrHey @DonaldJTrumpJr[https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr], this is one of the millions of children you compared to a poisoned Skittle today: https://t.co/SDSGw0eUIP[https://t.co/SDSGw0eUIP] pic.twitter.com/HuhY9RGvWW[https://t.co/HuhY9RGvWW]

— Jon Favreau (@jonfavs) September 20, 2016[https://twitter.com/jonfavs/status/778036417167368192]“Skittles are candy. Refugees are people,” said a spokeswoman for Skittles maker Wrigley. “We don’t feel it’s an appropriate analogy.”

Trump sticking with Christie The Republican nominee says he is sticking by New Jersey governor Chris Christie despite a prosecutor’s claim in federal court Monday that Christie knew about the closure of traffic lanes for political payback on the George Washington bridge in September 2013. Christie has pleaded ignorance of the traffic-snarl scheme which he claims was carried out by his lieutenants.

“I have known and liked Chris for 15 years,” Trump told the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/us/politics/chris-christie-donald-trump.html]. “After his recent run for president, he called me to say that he would like to endorse me in that he sees a movement like he has never seen before. I was greatly honored, accepted his endorsement, and he has been a spectacular advocate ever since.”

That’s a change of tune from what Trump said in December 2015, when Christie was still in the race and trying to win New Hampshire:

enltrTranscribing Donald Trump's past remarks on Bridgegate is a great workout. pic.twitter.com/z4DOess4qo[https://t.co/z4DOess4qo]

— Scott Bixby (@scottbix) September 19, 2016[https://twitter.com/scottbix/status/777908718583291904] Related: Chris Christie got Bridgegate updates as it happened, prosecutor says[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/chris-christie-bridgegate-trial-new-jersey-bridget-kelly-bill-baroni]

Thank you for reading and please join us in the comments.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Clinton accuses Trump of ‘giving aid and comfort to our adversaries’Donald Trump to hold rally in Florida this afternoon Hillary Clinton targets millennial voters at Philadelphia rally

block-time published-time 3.42am BST

Summary We’re going to wrap up our live blog politics coverage for the day. Thank you for reading and see you back here in the morning.

block-time published-time 3.42am BST

Adelson to channel millions to Trump Billionaire casino mogul Donald Trump Sheldon Adelson has committed roughly $45 million to Donald Trump ’s presidential campaign and other Republican candidates, CNN reports [http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/19/politics/sheldon-adelson-2016-spending/index.html].

Adelson’s gifts reportedly include $20m to the Senate leadership fund, a super Pac to elect Republican senators, and as much for the Congressional leadership fund. He was reportedly giving $5m to a political organization backing Trump.

enltrAlmost half of the $40m in August money for GOP Senate super PAC, per WSJ last wk, is coming from Adelson, per CNN . https://t.co/fzrayTnP8S [https://t.co/fzrayTnP8S].

— Nick Confessore (@nickconfessore) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/nickconfessore/status/778054705377312768]enltrAnd if my math is right, Adelson is going to account for over 2/3 of the \*disclosed\* cash. One dude. https://t.co/7jCQCjQUAq [https://t.co/7jCQCjQUAq]enltrAnd if my math is right, Adelson is going to account for over 2/3 of the \*disclosed\* cash. One dude.

— Nick Confessore (@nickconfessore) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/nickconfessore/status/778057261230989313]block-time published-time 3.29am BST

Clinton and Trump meet Egyptian president In advance of a meeting of the UN General Assembly , Egyptian president Abdel Fatah al-Sisi met, separately, with both Clinton and Trump at a Manhattan hotel. Clinton also met Monday evening with Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe .

Here is the Clinton camp’s description of her meeting with Sisi:

Secretary Clinton and President Sisi had a constructive discussion about bilateral ties and cooperation on a wide range of issues, including counterterrorism. They also discussed the importance of economic development and investment in Egypt. Secretary Clinton emphasized the importance of respect for rule of law and human rights to Egypt’s future progress. Secretary Clinton called for the release of U.S. citizen Aya Hijazi and raised concerns about prosecution of Egyptian human rights organizations and activists. Secretary Clinton discussed ways to deepen counterterrorism cooperation, particularly in the fight against ISIS. She and President Sisi exchanged views about the Middle East, and Secretary Clinton underscored the importance of the Egyptian cooperation with Israel on counterterrorism, and her commitment to defeating ISIS, to addressing foreign fighters, and to countering radicalization.

Here is Trump’s campaign’s description of his meeting with Sisi:

Donald J. Trump met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in New York today during his visit to the UN General Assembly . Mr. Trump and President el-Sisi discussed the strategic bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Egypt focusing on political, military and economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting also included Mr. Trump’s senior advisors, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and Lieutenant General Michael Flynn (Ret.).

Mr. Trump thanked President el-Sisi and the Egyptian people for what they have done in defense of their country and for the betterment of the world over the last few years. He expressed great respect for Egypt’s history and the important leadership role it has played in the Middle East.

Mr. Trump expressed to President el-Sisi his strong support for Egypt’s war on terrorism, and how under a Trump Administration, the United States of America will be a loyal friend, not simply an ally, that Egypt can count on in the days and years ahead.

Mr. Trump emphasized the strong partnership that the United States and Egypt have shared for so many years and how this relationship is vital to help promote peace and stability in the Middle East, broader region and the world. Mr. Trump also expressed his recognition of Egypt’s close relationship with Israel on countering terrorism.Mr. Trump highlighted how Egypt and the U.S. share a common enemy and the importance of working together in defeating radical Islamic terrorism, not only politically and militarily, but also addressing the ideology.

Mr. Trump emphasized to President el-Sisi his high regard for peace-loving Muslims and understands that every day there are people of goodwill that sacrifice their lives and fortunes to combat the growing threat of radical Islamic terrorism.

Mr. Trump said that if he were fortunate enough to win the election in November, he would invite President el-Sisi on an official visit to the United States and would be honored to visit Egypt and the Egyptian people who he has a great fondness for.

block-time published-time 2.07am BST

Pence sidesteps 'birther' question Our campaign isn’t focused on the past, Pence says. Back when the candidate at the top of the ticket regularly espoused the race-poison “theory” that Barack Obama was born in Africa.

enltr. @mike\_pence [https://twitter.com/mike\_pence] on Trump's birtherism: "Our campaign just really isn't focused on the past." https://t.co/BX1ekYzuti [https://t.co/BX1ekYzuti] on Trump's birtherism: "Our campaign just really isn't focused on the past." https://t.co/Fy6qqGEVOI [https://t.co/Fy6qqGEVOI] on Trump's birtherism: "Our campaign just really isn't focused on the past."

— ABC News Politics (@ABCPolitics) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/ABCPolitics/status/778036299987050496]block-time published-time 1.52am BST

Update: Somebody wants to claim copyright on the brilliant Skittles thing. It’s former (one-term) Illinois Representative Joe Walsh who now talks conservatively on the radio:

enltrHey @DonaldJTrumpJr [https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr], that's the point I made last month.

Glad you agree. pic.twitter.com/Nssw6KC1HY [https://t.co/Nssw6KC1HY]

— Joe Walsh (@WalshFreedom) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/WalshFreedom/status/778030543803822080]enltrIf I had a motor full of marbles and I told you Motörhead was in Marblehead, would you mentor a lemur named Lorna #trump2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/trump2016?src=hash]enltrIf I had a motor full of marbles and I told you Motörhead was in Marblehead, would you mentor a lemur named Lorna https://t.co/dpjJuJ3uWq [https://t.co/dpjJuJ3uWq]enltrIf I had a motor full of marbles and I told you Motörhead was in Marblehead, would you mentor a lemur named Lorna

— Brian Phillips (@brianphillips) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/brianphillips/status/778032417017696256]enltr"Make America the land of the timid, fearful and limp-spirited again." https://t.co/6zIJrJVV8C [https://t.co/6zIJrJVV8C]enltr"Make America the land of the timid, fearful and limp-spirited again."

— Dan Murphy (@bungdan) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/bungdan/status/778033996726796292]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.56am BST

block-time published-time 1.29am BST

Does this image say it all? This image is a bowl of Skittles. It’s tempting to get literal about this bowl of Skittles and point out that there have been zero lethal attacks in the USA by our 10,000+ Syrian refugees, so three out of what looks to be about 100 Skittles is a gross overstatement, just statistically speaking, of whatever threat we’re imagining here.

But why are we talking about Syrian refugees? Because of a man suspected of planting a bomb in Chelsea who came here in 1995 as a 7-year-old asylum-seeker with his family from Afghanistan?

We’ve spent too much breath on this bowl of Skittles. P.S. It’s dehumanizing and crass to compare people to Skittles.

enltrThis image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/trump2016?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/9fHwog7ssN [https://t.co/9fHwog7ssN]

— Donald Trump Jr . (@DonaldJTrumpJr) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/778016283342307328]enltrHonestly, doesn't it depend on how many skittles are in the bowl? #math [https://twitter.com/hashtag/math?src=hash]enltrHonestly, doesn't it depend on how many skittles are in the bowl? https://t.co/otTCGFiWbH [https://t.co/otTCGFiWbH]enltrHonestly, doesn't it depend on how many skittles are in the bowl?

— Justin Wolfers (@JustinWolfers) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/JustinWolfers/status/778023716005568513]enltrIf I told you 1 day you'd die from flesh eating bed bugs that snuck in your house, would you ever sleep? That's why we need the wall.

— Tim Miller (@Timodc) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Timodc/status/778028283128582145]enltrskittles suck anyway

— Gideon Resnick (@GideonResnick) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/GideonResnick/status/778030561399037952]enltrThis image does say it all if by "all" you mean total cluelessness. https://t.co/PNREt07Ixv [https://t.co/PNREt07Ixv]enltrThis image does say it all if by "all" you mean total cluelessness.

— Ben White (@morningmoneyben) September 20, 2016 [https://twitter.com/morningmoneyben/status/778027704776032256]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 1.44am BST

block-time published-time 12.30am BST

Mother Jones interviews New Yorkers on the street near the Chelsea bombing, about whether they think Trump or Clinton has better ideas for combatting terrorism.

The folks are for Clinton: “I think he’s a nutjob”:

Residents and workers along 23rd Street near 7th Avenue were getting on with life Monday afternoon, as police oversaw a complicated crime scene nearby. Meanwhile, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump engaged in a war of words over terrorism, and over who would make Americans feel safer. “They are looking to make this into a war against Islam, rather than a war against jihadists, violent terrorists,” Clinton said about potential terrorists attacking America. “The kinds of rhetoric and language Mr. Trump has used is giving aid and comfort to our adversaries.”

block-time published-time 12.26am BST

Pretty strong.

enltrthis is the best piece of investigative journalism I have seen all day https://t.co/hI0YsGQ0h4 [https://t.co/hI0YsGQ0h4]

— Nicky Woolf (@NickyWoolf) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/NickyWoolf/status/778009023778066432]undltr pic.twitter.com/l716LROj12 [https://t.co/l716LROj12]undltr

— Nut (@NutOfDeath) September 18, 2016 [https://twitter.com/NutOfDeath/status/777544953622728704]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.32am BST

block-time published-time 12.13am BST

Trump could create new US recession with trade war – study Trump Trade Plan Could Push U.S. into Recession, Study Says [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/trump-trade-plan-could-push-u-s-into-recession-study-says-1474257662?mod=wsj\_nview\_latest]

Bob Davis writes in the Wall Street Journal that “imposing stiff tariffs on China and Mexico, as Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump [http://topics.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/person/T/Donald-Trump/159] has proposed, could push the U.S. into recession and cost 5 million U.S. jobs, according to a study by the Peterson Institute for International Economics [https://piie.com/publications/piie-briefing/assessing-trade-agendas-us-presidential-campaign] ”:

The Peterson Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank that favors free trade, ran three computer simulations of the economic impact of placing 45% tariffs on Chinese goods and 35% tariffs on Mexico’s. Under the most dire outcome, China and Mexico would retaliate with tariffs on U.S. goods and services, U.S. exports and imports would shrink, import prices would rise, stock prices would tumble and investment would plunge, resulting in recession within three years.

enltrTrump's trade plan could push the U.S. into a recession, costing 5 million jobs —via @WSJ [https://twitter.com/WSJ] https://t.co/abCosp67eo [https://t.co/abCosp67eo] pic.twitter.com/g7rlK5fP7d [https://t.co/g7rlK5fP7d]

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/778004745378263041]Well, at least a president Trump wouldn’t have the power, unilaterally, to totally remake US trade policy, right?

Wrong, writes Justin Wolfers in a Bloomberg piece headlined Why a President Donald Trump could start a trade war with surprising ease [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/54405287.cms?utm\_source=contentofinterest&utm\_medium=text&utm\_campaign=cppst] :

Americans often dismiss populist promises that emerge on the presidential campaign trail because they are unlikely to be passed by Congress. Should Donald Trump get elected, Congress most likely would moderate his proposals to cut taxes, increase spending and even to build a border wall.

But international trade policy is one area where a President Trump could unilaterally deliver on the changes that he has promised.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 12.14am BST

block-time published-time 11.05pm BST

Here’s CBS News ’ Sopan Deb with a transcript of Trump’s fantastical remarks about the Chelsea bombing suspect getting room service in the hospital – and suggesting that the whole rule of law thing is an outmoded hindrance to real justice, wink wink:

enltrThis whole thing is worth your time to read from Trump in Florida today: pic.twitter.com/IdHgnYSsL8 [https://t.co/IdHgnYSsL8]

— Sopan Deb (@SopanDeb) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/SopanDeb/status/777984706490937344]enltrAwakening demons here. No modern precedent for a presidential candidate calling for the mistreatment of prisoners.

This is not normal. https://t.co/2w3wn08BS5 [https://t.co/2w3wn08BS5]

— Brendan Nyhan (@BrendanNyhan) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/BrendanNyhan/status/777991266478989312]enltrbut if we lock her up she will get room service https://t.co/Es37kKGxYc [https://t.co/Es37kKGxYc]enltrbut if we lock her up she will get room service

— Philip Bump (@pbump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/pbump/status/777993721786884096]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.13pm BST

block-time published-time 10.55pm BST

Obama praises 'outstanding police work' Obama made his remarks about the apprehension of Chelsea bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami at a New York meeting with Iraq prime minister Haider al-Abadi.

(Trump has been talking a lot about the US withdrawal from Iraq. He does not mention the status of forces agreement signed by George W Bush or the prime minister who presided over it. Can Trump name the last prime minister of Iraq?)

Obama hailed the “extraordinary work and coordination that is taking place between the FBI and law enforcement,” according to a pool report.

Obama said he talked with injured officers and said they were in good spirits. Obama declined to speculate on what motivated the attacks.

Obama at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel in New York. Photograph: Carolyn Kaster/AP Iraqi prime minister Haider al-Abadi at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel in New York. Photograph: Carolyn Kaster/AP Update: Here are Obama’s further remarks, via the press pool. Obama describes a plan to “go right at the heart of the Isil operation in Mosul”:

Since I met with him [Abadi] a year ago, we have significant progress in rolling back ISIL... Now, what we have been discussing and focusing on is to go right at the heart of the ISIL operation in Mosul.

This is going to be a challenging battle, Mosul is a large city. But because of the prepositioning of forces, because of the cooperation between the collation and the Iraqi security forces and because of the cooperation the courage of the Kurdish Peshmerga, we feel confident that we will be in a position to move forward fairly rapidly... It will be a tough fight... One of the things we discussed is the importance of not just driving ISIL out of Mosul but (...) that we are prepared to provide humanitarian assistance and that we can rebuild the city in a way that assures not only ISIL does not come back but that extremist ideology born out of desperation will not return.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.59pm BST

block-time published-time 10.22pm BST

Obama praises the police work that went from an 8am be-on-the-lookout phone alert to a midday arrest. “Outstanding” police work, Obama says:

enltrObama: "For us to be able to apprehend a suspect in just over 24 hours” is “outstanding” police work pic.twitter.com/Rx7tjYt2L9 [https://t.co/Rx7tjYt2L9]

— Oliver Darcy (@oliverdarcy) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/oliverdarcy/status/777978772746301440]block-time published-time 10.19pm BST

Interesting meeting here:

enltrIvanka Trump met with Paul Ryan today in NY, @deirdrewalshcnn [https://twitter.com/deirdrewalshcnn] reports

— Manu Raju (@mkraju) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/mkraju/status/777979054855192576]block-time published-time 10.18pm BST

How can people trust Clinton more on terrorism than they do on **immigration** when they are, to hear Trump tell it, exactly the same problem?

enltrRecent national polls, conducted before weekend attacks, show Clinton leading on terrorism https://t.co/zWHOCuAzk5 [https://t.co/zWHOCuAzk5] pic.twitter.com/8RqmlfKa3J [https://t.co/8RqmlfKa3J]

— ABC News Politics (@ABCPolitics) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/ABCPolitics/status/777979088879415296]block-time published-time 10.14pm BST

Trump’s done. He used the appearance to blame terror attacks on “our extremely open **immigration** system.” The suspect in the NYC bombing at the weekend was a naturalized American citizen born in Afghanistan who arrived in the USA as a boy.

enltrMSNBC reports Rahami family came to US in '95, granted asylum in '11. 1) asylum =/= refugee resettlement, 2) vetting has changed since '95.

— Elise Foley (@elisefoley) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/elisefoley/status/777961805939412993]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 11.14pm BST

block-time published-time 10.07pm BST

Trump lamented the January 2015 Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris earlier, in his list of terror attacks illustrating the insecurity of life these days.

Trump says the way to fix terrorism is to stop **immigration**. But that wasn’t always his solution. Directly after the attacks, Trump heralded the corrective power of market forces:

enltrIf the morons who killed all of those people at Charlie Hebdo would have just waited, the magazine would have folded - no money, no success!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) January 14, 2015 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/555367040907612160]block-time published-time 10.01pm BST

Trump is telling another fairy tale, in which Obama is nursing a wish that he never would have appointed Clinton secretary of state.

But he’ll never admit it, Trump says. The caveat here is very Trump:

I would never expect him to – although maybe if he gets a lot of money for a book – to admit he would not have picked her as secretary of state.

block-time published-time 9.54pm BST

enltrTrump out of context: "Great job President Obama, great job."

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/777972970249654272]enltrNot an accident Trump is returning to **immigration** restrictionism—it's the foundation of his campaign, connected to his econ/NatSec policies.

— Sahil Kapur (@sahilkapur) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/status/777972687452966912]enltrPrimary security policy=**immigration**restriction. Primary economic policy=trade protectionism. Thin agenda otherwise. https://t.co/0Ihcw6N2jI [https://t.co/0Ihcw6N2jI]enltrPrimary security policy=**immigration** restriction. Primary economic policy=trade protectionism. Thin agenda otherwise.

— Alex Burns (@alexburnsNYT) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/alexburnsNYT/status/777973038352592896]enltrTrump message in Florida basically indistinguishable from a National Front speech

— Alex Burns (@alexburnsNYT) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/alexburnsNYT/status/777969652534239232]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.58pm BST

block-time published-time 9.51pm BST

The commission on presidential debates has announced that Lester Holt, the moderator of the first debate, which will take place a week from today at Hofstra University , has “selected the topics for that debate.”

But they’re so broad as not to mean much:

America’s Direction

Achieving Prosperity

Securing America

The format calls for six 15-minute time segments:

Two 15-minute segments will focus on each of the topics listed above. All debates start at 9:00 p.m. ET and run for 90 minutes without commercial interruption.

enltrRegretfully, for yet another cycle "Potent Potables" has not been chosen as a debate topic.

— Jonathan Ladd (@jonmladd) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/jonmladd/status/777975397250129920]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 10.21pm BST

block-time published-time 9.47pm BST

Oh no. “Has anyone ever heard the Snake that I read once in a while?” It’s the poem Trump offers as an allegory of the dangers of **immigration**.

“This is called the Snake, and it has to do with people coming into our country.” We’ve pasted the lyrics here before. You can read them here [http://www.lyricsfreak.com/a/al+wilson/snake\_20276772.html].

Important:

enltrTrump wrongly says The Snake was written by Al Wilson in the 1990s. Al Wilson first performed it in 1968, it was written by Oscar Brown.

— Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Bencjacobs/status/777971690794053632]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.55pm BST

block-time published-time 9.43pm BST

Trump has called Obama the founder of Isis. He sticks with that theme here: “She is not the right person to solve a problem that largely her and Obama gave us. It disqualifies her from being a credible presidential candidate.”

Earlier he quoted Clinton as saying he was helping with terrorist recruitment. His response was basically, if she knows so much why does terrorism exist.

“Weakness invites aggression... and silence in the face of a brutal enemy. And they have become brutal because we’ve allowed them to become brutal.”

block-time published-time 9.40pm BST

Trump says Clinton “lacks the moral clarity to serve as our president.”

“She very much caused the problem when you think about it. Her weakness, her ineffectiveness caused the problem.”

Trump: “Today we have caught this evil thug who planted the bombs. Thank you law enforcement. Thank you police.”

But the bad part. Now we will give him amazing hospitalization. He will be taken care of by some of the best doctors in the world... and he probably even will have room service, knowing the way our country is. On top of that, he will represented by an outstanding lawyer... and his punishment will not be what it once would have been.

Trump calls it “sad” and says we need “speedy but fair trails, and we must deliver a just and very harsh punishment to these people.”

If you choose Donald Trump , these problems are going to go away far far greater than anyone would think.

block-time published-time 9.33pm BST

Trump complains that Clinton will not say “radical Islamic terror.” He says “Clinton talks tougher about my supporters than she does Islamic terror.”

He wants to know how many terrorist suspects Clinton would call “deplorable” or

“irredeemable.”

“Or are those words reserved for hard-working Americans that truly love our country?”

Trump: “Here in America we’ve seen one brutal attack after another.” He lists Ft Hood, Boston Marathon, Tennessee recruiting center, San Bernardino, Orlando.

“In Europe, we have seen the same carnage and bloodshed inflicted on our closest allies,” he says.

He continues to list attacks and body counts.

block-time published-time 9.29pm BST

Trump: 'open **immigration**' to blame for terrorist attacks Here comes Trump. He comes out and says the crowd is big and his poll numbers are great and he will win Florida.

He wants to begin by “thanking our incredible law enforcement officers who don’t get the credit they deserve.”

He says there have been Islamic terrorist attacks in Minnesota, New York and New Jersey – authorities found unexploded bombs in New Jersey – and they “were made possible because of our extremely open **immigration** system.”

Trump then tells a series of whoppers about Clinton’s plan to admit “620,000 refugees in her first term with no effective way to vet them or screen them.”

“You can’t have vetting if you don’t look at ideology, and Hillary Clinton refuses to consider an applicant’s worldview,” Trump says.

The vetting process for refugees to be resettled to the United States includes multiple interviews and background checks. The US has admitted about 10,000 Syrian refugees [https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2016/08/30/refugeeswelcome-us-admits-10000-syrian-refugees-year] in the last year, out of millions.

block-time published-time 9.19pm BST

Newt Gingrich has just finished addressing Donald Trump ’s rally in Estero, southwestern Florida, and promised the crowd that Trump is on soon.

Meanwhile they are being treated to a power ballad guitar solo. Here’s a live video stream:

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 9.22pm BST

block-time published-time 8.28pm BST

Statement from Donald Trump on terrorist incidents In the past 48 hours, our law enforcement showed again that, without them, our country is neither safe nor secure. I am grateful for the quick action of law enforcement in capturing the terrorist responsible for Saturday’s bombings, and the off-duty police officer for stopping the terrorist in Minnesota. This weekend’s attacks, from Minnesota to Manhattan, are just the latest to be carried out on US soil under President Obama. These should be a wake-up call for every American.

Today, Hillary Clinton showed again that she will say anything - and blame anyone - to shift attention away from the weakness she showed as Secretary of State. The Obama-Clinton doctrine of not taking Isis seriously enough has emboldened terrorists all over the world. They are hoping and praying that Hillary Clinton becomes President so that they can continue their savagery and murder.

While our President has referred to them as the ‘J.V. Team’ and Hillary Clinton calls them our ‘determined enemies,’ I have been willing to call them exactly what they are: radical Islamist terrorists.

I will bring an end to these senseless acts of violence. They are wrong to say that we’re in a fight about ‘narratives.’ These terrorists pose an existential threat to our country, our values, and our way of life.

When I am President, terrorists like today’s suspect in the New York and New Jersey bombings, Ahmad Khan Rahami, and yesterday’s knife-wielding ISIS sympathizer in Minnesota, Dahir Adan, will be stopped. We will not look the other way. We will not allow political correctness and soft-on-terror, soft-on-crime policies to threaten our security and our lives.

Revelations that the Obama Administration wrongly granted citizenship to over 800 **immigrants** awaiting deportation from countries of concern to national security or high rates of **immigration** fraud puts this weekend’s attacks in a broader perspective. The safety and security of the homeland must be the overriding objective of our leaders when it comes to our **immigration** policy.

That’s why I’ve proposed extreme vetting for **immigrants** from troubled parts of the world where terrorists live and train, and oppose Hillary Clinton ’s 550% increase in the number of refugees from the conflict in Syria. These are tough problems that require tough leadership. We need to get smart and get tough fast so that this weekend’s attacks do not become the new normal here as it has in Europe and other parts of the world.

block-time published-time 8.14pm BST

Fox News Channel host and future press secretary Sean Hannity will host a town-hall meeting with Donald Trump in Ohio on Wednesday, according to Politico :

enltrHannity will do a Town Hall with Trump this Wednesday in Ohio

— Hadas Gold (@Hadas\_Gold) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/Hadas\_Gold/status/777948042859257856]block-time published-time 7.58pm BST

Bernie Sanders is feeling the... Hill.

enltrWhen @HillaryClinton [https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] says she’s going to make public colleges and universities tuition-free, you know what? That's a very big deal.

— Bernie Sanders (@BernieSanders) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/BernieSanders/status/777941255888203777]block-time published-time 7.47pm BST

Donald Trump ’s presidential campaign, after deleting a tweet that criticized President Barack Obama for inaction on terrorism, has released a statement retrenching the candidate’s stance that Obama is responsible for allowing terrorists to enter the country.

“Last weekend’s attacks, which are just the latest to be carried out on US soil on President Obama’s watch, should be a wakeup call for every American,” wrote communications advisor Jason Miller. “It is highly disturbing and entirely unacceptable that 858 **immigrants** from dangerous countries have slipped into our country and been granted full US citizenship because of the failed policies supported by President Obama and Hillary Clinton . Even worse, Clinton must explain her reckless support for a 550% increase in Syrian refugees and her push for an all-out open border policy, which will put even more Americans at risk. The threat from radical Islamic terrorism has only grown under Obama and Clinton, and ISIS has greatly expanded the number of countries where it is fully operational.”

“Our enemies neither fear nor respect Hillary Clinton , and as a nation, that is dangerous, and it is disgraceful. Mr. Trump will bring an end to these attacks, because unlike Obama and Clinton, he believes we’re in more than a fight about ‘narratives’ – these terrorists pose an existential threat to our country and our values and they must be destroyed before they can harm any more of our citizens.”

block-time published-time 6.49pm BST

Flashback: From a 1999 Doonesbury strip about Donald Trump ’s (at the time) faux-candidacy.

Doonesbury, 1999. Photograph: Garry Trudeau/Doonesbury block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.53pm BST

block-time published-time 6.26pm BST

Hillary Clinton [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton] accused Donald Trump of “giving aid and comfort” to terrorist adversaries by seeking to exploit the manhunt gripping New York after a succession of weekend bombings.

As police captured an Afghan-born suspect [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/new-york-bombing-suspect-ahmad-khan-rahami] they believe is linked to attacks in New York and New Jersey [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/new-york-and-new-jersey-explosive-devices-what-we-know], the Democratic presidential nominee urged a targeted approach rather than Trump’s call for blanket **immigration** restrictions.

“We are going to have to go after the bad guys and we are going to get them, but we are not going to go after an entire religion and give Isis exactly what it is wanting,” Clinton told reporters at a press conference outside New York [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/new-york] City.

“The kinds of rhetoric and language that Mr Trump has used is giving aid and comfort to our adversaries,” she added.

She insisted that Trump had no plan, while she was the only candidate with experience of being “part of the hard decisions to take terrorists off the battlefield”.

Clinton said she had long supported tougher vetting for people coming into the US, but the events in New York – which included a bomb injuring 29 people on Saturday night in Manhattan [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/new-york-bombing-both-devices-used-pressure-cooker-and-phone-reports] – could be seen as a boost to Trump’s agenda, which has included a ban on Muslims entering the US and surveillance of mosques.

Related: Hillary Clinton: Trump's rhetoric about terrorist attacks 'gives Isis what it wants' [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/hillary-clinton-new-york-new-jersey-attacks-trump-muslims]

block-time published-time 6.02pm BST

Hillary Clinton only briefly addressed the subject of terrorism in her speech at Temple University in Philadelphia this afternoon, touching momentarily on the issue at an event targeting millennial voters. After informing the crowd that a suspect linked to the New York City bombing was allegedly in custody, Clinton emphasized the need to “remain vigilant.”

“This is a fast-moving situation and a sobering reminder that we need steady leadership,” Clinton said.

Donald Trump ’s response, of course, has already been tweeted:

enltrGreat job once again by law enforcement! We are proud of them and should embrace them - without them, we don't have a country!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/777908242538196992]enltrOnce again someone we were told is ok turns out to be a terrorist who wants to destroy our country & its people- how did he get thru system?

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/777910435425226753]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 6.03pm BST

block-time published-time 5.53pm BST

“This election in particular can be downright depressing,” Clinton said at Temple University . “Every election is important, from school board to state senate to president, but this time is different.”

“We have to stand up to this hate - we cannot let it go on!” Clinton says, after listing off Donald Trump ’s history of housing discrimination, affinity for retweeting white supremacists and his advocacy for the birther movement, and is met with loud cheers. “And when we do that, we send a clear message: America is better than this. America is better than Donald Trump .”

“And just as importantly, we have a chance to make real progress in our country! I need you as partners, not just for winning this election, but in driving real change over the next four years.”

block-time published-time 5.43pm BST

Speaking at Temple University in Philadelphia, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton told a crowd of college students that although “the gap between the change we want and the progress that politics should deliver can look like a chasm,” she wants younger voters to take a closer look at her candidacy.

“You may still have some questions about me - I get that. And I want to do the best to answer those questions,” Clinton said. “I will never be the showman my opponent is - and you know what? That’s okay with me.”

“No one will work harder to make your life better. I will never stop, no matter how tough it gets.”

block-time published-time 5.40pm BST

Hillary Clinton addresses millennial concerns at Temple University Watch it live here:

block-time published-time 5.33pm BST

Flashback: In December 2015, Donald Trump declared to South Carolina voters that New Jersey governor and future campaign surrogate Chris Christie “knew about it, totally knew about it” when it came to lane closures on the George Washington Bridge.

“The George Washington Bridge, he knew about it,” Trump said. “How do you have breakfast with people every day of your lives, they’re closing up the largest bridge in the world, the biggest in the United States, traffic flowing, during rush hour, people couldn’t get across for six, seven hours, ambulance, fire trucks. They’re with him all the time, the people who did it.”

“They never said, ‘hey boss, we’re closing up the George Washington Bridge today,’ no, they never said, they’re talking about the weather, right?” Trump continued. “Then, so he knew about it, he knew about it, totally knew about it.”

“I would say there’s less than one-percent chance” Christie didn’t know about the lane closure, Trump said, giving himself an out for when he would come very close to making Christie his running mate. “It could be. But I doubt it. He knew about it. They mention - they didn’t mention at one of their meetings. I think they had breakfast like every day or other day. They didn’t say, ‘Chris, tonight we’re closing up the George Washington Bridge because the mayor of a certain area is against you. Oh, okay.’ They didn’t mention? Nobody believes that.”

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.35pm BST

block-time published-time 5.29pm BST

A sitting member of Congress has implied that a football player who does not rise for the national anthem to protest the treatment of African-Americans by police is sympathetic to alleged terrorists:

enltrSuspect in custody. You are welcome Colin Kaepernick.

— Lee Zeldin (@leezeldin) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/leezeldin/status/777897972499488768]block-time published-time 5.14pm BST

For those still curious whether the alt-right’s use of the Pepe the Frog meme [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/23/alt-right-movement-white-identity-breitbart-donald-trump] means that a cartoon frog has become racist, here’s former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke:

enltrYou can't ZOG - the frog!

Best current year - ever. #MAGA [https://twitter.com/hashtag/MAGA?src=hash] #AmericaFirst [https://twitter.com/hashtag/AmericaFirst?src=hash] #AltRight [https://twitter.com/hashtag/AltRight?src=hash] #Cuckservatives [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Cuckservatives?src=hash] #Trump2016 [https://twitter.com/hashtag/Trump2016?src=hash] #USA [https://twitter.com/hashtag/USA?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/UzGRSt7axf [https://t.co/UzGRSt7axf]

— David Duke (@DrDavidDuke) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/DrDavidDuke/status/777739648923676672]block-time published-time 5.03pm BST

Prosecutor: Chris Christie knew about George Washington Bridge closure in real time New Jersey governor and current Donald Trump surrogate Chris Christie knew that staffers had helped orchestrate road closures at the George Washington Bridge in 2013 as it was happening, prosecutors declared today [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/nyregion/bridgegate-trial.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&\_r=1&mtrref=t.co], and also knew that the lane closures were conducted as political punishment for a small-town mayor who did not endorse his reelection campaign.

According to the New York Times [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/nyregion/bridgegate-trial.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&\_r=1&mtrref=t.co], prosecutors made the declaration during their opening arguments in the long-awaited trial of two former Christie officials who have been charged in connection with the lane closures at the world’s busiest bridge, which resulted in a five-day traffic snarl that led the town of Fort Lee, New Jersey, to declare a threat to public safety and forced emergency medical personnel to respond to medical emergencies on foot.

The defendants on trial are Bridget Anne Kelly, Christie’s deputy chief of staff, and Bill Baroni , Christie’s top appointee at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey , which operates the bridge. Following a 16-month investigation, federal prosecutors have charged them with nine counts, including conspiracy to commit fraud and with violating the civil rights of the people trying to cross the bridge.

A third defendant, former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey executive David Wildstein, pleaded guilty and is assisting prosecutors [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/may/01/chris-christie-david-wildstein-bridgegate]. He will be sentenced later this year.

block-time published-time 4.36pm BST

President Barack Obama urged Americans to remain vigilant and allow law enforcement to complete its investigations into terrorist incidents across the country this weekend, singling out the news media for not fomenting false leads regarding bombings in the Northeast or a stabbing at a shopping mall in Minnesota.

“At this point, we see no connection between that incident and what happened in New York and New Jersey,” Obama said. “I would ask that the press try to refrain getting out ahead of the investigation... it does not help if false reports or incomplete information is out there.”

Saying that Americans are “extremely fortunate and grateful” that no one was killed in any of the incidents, Obama commended “all of the outstanding police and first responders for their professionalism and their quick response.”

“The investigation is moving rapidly, and as is my practice, I’m going to leave it to the FBI … for more details,” Obama said, making no mention of reports that a suspect in the bombings in Manhattan and New Jersey had been apprehended after a shootout in New Jersey.

“It’s important to remember what terrorists and violent extremists are trying to do - they’re trying to hurt innocent people, but they’re also trying to inspire fear in all of us,” Obama said. “We all have a role to play as citizens in making sure that we don’t come to surrender to that fear.”

block-time published-time 4.20pm BST

Donald Trump ’s campaign has released a statement in response to what it called “CLINTON’S DISGUSTING ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT FROM ISIS FAILURES” (capitalization theirs).

“Hillary Clinton ’s comments today accusing Mr. Trump of treason are not only beyond the pale, it’s also an attempt to distract from her horrible record on Isis,” wrote communications advisor Jason Miller, in apparent reference to Hillary Clinton ’s mentioning of the fact that Trump’s remarks on terrorism and **immigration**have been used as a recruiting tool for Isis and sympathetic groups.

“If Clinton really wants to find the real cause of Isis, she needs to take a long, hard look in the mirror,” Miller continued. “The decision to remove all American troops from Iraq in 2011, which was vigorously supported by Clinton, created the vacuum that led to the founding of Isis. Nothing she says or does can ever un-ring that bell. The only thing we can expect from a Hillary Clinton presidency is more attacks on our homeland and more innocent Americans being hurt and killed.”

block-time published-time 4.05pm BST

More than 50 government officials call on Trump to release business investment details More than 50 former military officials, national security figures and government officials have published a letter [https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3110611/Letter-Trump-Business.pdf] calling on Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump to detail his overseas business investments ahead of the US presidential election, another consequence of the nominee’s tacit refusal to release any tax information relating to his vast and murky business empire.

Donald Trump . Photograph: Evan Vucci/AP “Trump still has not revealed to the American public his international business relationships, even as it becomes increasingly clear that his overseas ties could well constitute significant conflicts of interest when it comes to charting US foreign policy,” the letter reads. “This is unprecedented for a candidate for the nation’s highest office. As such, we are calling on Mr. Trump to disclose, in full, the nature of his business relationships overseas - to include specifically who his business partners are and what and where are his foreign investments. We also call on him to pledge that he will divest himself of his overseas business interests should he win the presidency.”

The letter was penned in response to a Newsweek investigation [http://www.newsweek.com/2016/09/23/donald-trump-foreign-business-deals-national-security-498081.html] into Trump’s international business dealings, which put Trump in a position to personally and financially benefit from some of the positions his campaign has taken. For instance, his stance that South Korea should be able to develop a nuclear weapons program [http://www.theatlantic.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/international/archive/2016/06/donald-trump-nuclear-weapons/485504/] would benefit the Daewoo Group, with which the Trump Organization has longstanding ties.

The letter did not mince words in criticizing Trump’s alleged links to shady international organizations and persons: “Trump’s other business partners have included Kremlin-tied oligarchs and Russians with mafia links, an individual accused of money laundering for the Iranian military, a Turkish media tycoon accused of running a fuel-smuggling ring, Indian companies that may have violated India’s laws in their pursuit of business with Mr. Trump, and a South Korean company mired in scandal.”

“It’s not hard to see why these reported relationships would be problematic,” the letter’s authors state. “The issues are too important to leave them unanswered. It would be in Trump’s own interest to resolve these potential conflicts before the election.”

block-time published-time 3.23pm BST

Speaking to reporters in her sixth press conference in three weeks, Hillary Clinton declared that “Americans will not cower” in the face of a spate of terrorist attacks across the country, urging Americans to “be vigilant, but not afraid.”

Hillary Clinton . Photograph: Matt Rourke/AP “It is crucial that we continue to build up trust between law enforcement and Muslim-American communities,” Clinton said of her counter-terrorism policy [https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/national-security/], emphasizing that the fight on global terrorism is a global fight requiring the US “work closely with our allies and partners to keep us safe.”

“We have faced threats before - if you see something, or you hear something, report it immediately to local law-enforcement authorities,” Clinton said. “We choose resolve, not fear. We will not turn on each other or undermine our values.”

Clinton, asked by a reporter about whether the person of interest in the bombings in New York and New Jersey, an Afghan **immigrant** and American citizen, would lend credence to Donald Trump ’s proposed ban on Muslim **immigration** to the United States, was dismissive.

“It is true that a suspect of interest has been identified,” Clinton said, “but let us remember, there are millions and millions of naturalized citizens in America from all over the world.”

“This is the kind of challenge that law enforcement can be and is prepared to address,” Clinton continued, telling reporters that while “I am absolutely in favor of and have long been an advocate for tough vetting, let’s not get diverted and distracted by the kind of campaign rhetoric we hear coming from the other side. This is a serious challenge, we are equipped to meet it… in concert with our values.”

Clinton also pointed to commentary from her opponent that has given “aide and comfort” to terrorists, citing CIA reports that Trump’s comments have been used to boost recruitment for terrorist organizations.

“Donald Trump ’s comments have been used online for recruitment of terrorists,” Clinton said, citing the former head of the CIA. “The kinds of rhetoric and language that Mr. Trump has used is giving aide and comfort to our adversaries… I’m the only candidate in this race who’s been part of the hard decision to take terrorists out of the battlefield.”

block-time published-time 3.21pm BST

Jill Stein: Hillary Clinton is more dangerous than Donald Trump Green party presidential nominee and future presidential also-ran Jill Stein has declared that Democratic rival Hillary Clinton is more dangerous for the future of the country, on climate change and other issues, than Republican nominee Donald Trump - an interesting platform for a Green party candidate to take, to say the least.

“Donald Trump , I think, will have a lot of trouble moving things through Congress,” Stein told Politico in a wide-ranging interview [http://www.politico.com/story/2016/09/jill-stein-trump-may-have-memory-problem-228346] for the podcast Off-Message. “Hillary Clinton , on the other hand, won’t. Hillary has the potential to do a whole lot more damage, get us into more wars, faster to pass her fracking disastrous climate program, much more easily than Donald Trump could do his.”

Over the course of the interview, Stein described the choice between Clinton and Trump as “death by gunshot or death by strangulation,” offered to run a (physical) race against Clinton, diagnosed Trump with a memory problem and lambasted Vermont senator Bernie Sanders for being on “the wrong team”:

block-time published-time 2.53pm BST

Hours before she is due to hold an event at Temple University in Philadelphia to address the needs of millennial voters, Hillary Clinton has penned an op-ed for Mic [https://mic.com/articles/154407/hillary-clinton-here-s-what-millennials-have-taught-me#.E9Xv92DMW], a millennial-oriented news and culture website\*, on what millennials have taught her.

“Your generation is the most open, diverse and entrepreneurial generation in our country’s history,” Clinton wrote. “And if we work together to take on the barriers that are holding you back and unleash your full potential, that won’t just improve your lives - it’ll make our entire country stronger.”

Clinton lavishes the generation with praise on its adaption to terrible economic conditions, its advocacy for human rights and work on behalf of marginalized communities before outlining her plan to win the support of young voters: reducing college debt, raising the minimum wage, paid family leave and the judicious appointment of supreme court justices. (Do most of those sound like non-specific campaign pledges that most Democratic-leaning voters, millennials included, might like? Probably.)

\*For which, full disclosure, I used to work.

block-time published-time 2.26pm BST

Donald Trump on Manhattan bombing: 'I called it' Donald Trump has a message for New Yorkers after a bomb injured 29 people in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan on Saturday: Called it.

“I should be a newscaster because I called it before the news,” Trump said in a phone interview on Fox & Friends. “What I said was exactly correct and everybody says, ‘while he was right, he called it too soon.’ Okay. Give me a break.”

Trump was roundly criticized for declaring at a campaign rally that the explosion in Chelsea had been caused by a bomb [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/18/trump-reacts-to-new-york-explosion-we-have-to-get-tough-smart-and-vigilant-video], hours before police voiced any public conclusions. “Just before I got off the plane, a bomb went off in New York and nobody knows exactly what’s going on,” Trump said at the time.

Trump then called on racial profiling in combating terrorism, citing what he characterized as Israeli security procedures.

“Our local police, they know who a lot of these people are. They are afraid to do anything about it, because they don’t want to be accused of profiling, and they don’t want to be accused of all sorts of things,” Trump said. “You know, in Israel, they profile. They have done an unbelievable job, as good as you can do, but Israel has done an unbelievable job and they will profile. They profile.”

block-time published-time 1.28pm BST

Candidates react to string of terrorist incidents Good morning, and welcome to the Guardian ’s campaign live blog.

Fifty days before the presidential election, and one week until the first presidential debate, both major campaigns are attempting to navigate a series of terrorist incidents across the United States this weekend, from a mass stabbing at a Minnesota mall being investigated as a “ potential act of terrorism [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/minnesota-mass-stabbing-mall-fbi-terrorism-investigation] ” to a string of bombings [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/new-york-bombing-no-international-terrorism-link-governor-cuomo] in the New York metro area that so far has culminated with the discovery of five pipe bombs [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/new-york-bombing-both-devices-used-pressure-cooker-and-phone-reports] near a New Jersey commuter train station.

The reactions of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump to the rising fear of more attacks to come has highlighted the contrasts between the two candidates: Clinton, whose tenure as secretary of state, and as New York senator during 9/11, bolsters her credentials on national security, released a statement strongly condemning the “apparent terrorist attacks”, applauding first responders and linking to her comprehensive plan [https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/combating-terrorism/] to fight domestic and international terrorism.

Trump, meanwhile, declared at a campaign rally that the explosion in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood on Saturday night had been caused by a bomb [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/18/trump-reacts-to-new-york-explosion-we-have-to-get-tough-smart-and-vigilant-video], hours before police voiced any public conclusions. “Just before I got off the plane, a bomb went off in New York and nobody knows exactly what’s going on,” Trump said at the time.

The Trump campaign has not said whether the Republican presidential nominee had received information privately from New York officials or was speculating without evidence.

Trump followed up his statements at the rally with a series of tweets:

enltrUnder the leadership of Obama & Clinton, Americans have experienced more attacks at home than victories abroad. Time to change the playbook!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/777696356211326976]enltrSaturday’s attacks show that failed Obama/Hillary Clinton polices won’t keep us safe! I will Make America Safe Again!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/777696558464823296]enltrTerrible attacks in NY, NJ and MN this weekend. Thinking of victims, their families and all Americans! We need to be strong!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 19, 2016 [https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/777696726933180416]Both campaigns have events throughout the day:

\* Donald Trump will hold a rally in Estero, Florida, at 3pm ET. Trump will be the first Republican presidential nominee to visit the area since George W Bush’s re-election campaign in 2004.

\* Trump’s running mate Mike Pence will be holding a town hall at the Music Man Square in Mason City, Iowa, at 3pm CT (4pm ET) and will be holding a rally at Giese Manufacturing in Dubuque, Iowa, at 7pm CT (8pm ET).

\* Hillary Clinton will hold a rally to discuss the stakes of the election for millennials at Temple University in Philadelphia at 1pm ET, and will appear on The Tonight Show with host Jimmy Fallon on NBC tonight – maybe he’ll ruffle her hair [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0BYqzdiuJc] too?

\* Clinton’s running mate Tim Kaine will hold a rally with wife Anne Holton at Iowa State University in Ames to talk about how young people can get involved in this campaign. That rally begins at 12pm CT (1pm ET).

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 2.01pm BST

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**At a Florida rally, Trump used the bombings as an opportunity to promote his anti-**immigration** message, saying: ‘**Immigration** security is national security’

Just hours after the apprehension of a man suspected[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/19/new-york-bombing-suspect-ahmad-khan-rahami] of involvement in weekend bombings[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/new-york-bombing-no-international-terrorism-link-governor-cuomo], Republican nominee Donald Trump left open the possibility that he should be treated as an enemy combatant.

Speaking to a crowd on Monday in Fort Myers, Florida, Trump said of Ahmad Khan Rahami: “We must use whatever lawful methods are available to obtain information from the apprehended suspect to get information before it’s no longer timely. And Congress should pass measures to ensure that foreign enemy combatants are treated as such. These are enemies.”

Born in Afghanistan, Rahami at the age of seven moved to the United States and became a naturalized citizen. Under the 2004 supreme court decision in Hamdi v Rumsfeld , while US citizens can be treated as enemy combatants, they have the right to challenge that designation in federal court and file a habeas corpus petition to be charged.

The point of declaring someone an enemy combatant is to allow for indefinite detention until the end of hostilities. Thus, under current law, Congress would need to override the court’s Hamdi decision in order to allow Rahami to be detained indefinitely.

A campaign aide, who spoke to the Guardian on condition of anonymity, said: “Mr Trump was making the point that Congress needs to pass laws to provide clear guidance in these situations.” The aide did not respond to a question about whether the Republican nominee believed Rahami should be treated as an enemy combatant.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham has already suggested[http://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=EE1C5174-E148-4007-8A6D-2769B96BE5C3] that Rahami could be treated as an enemy combatant solely for the purpose of gathering intelligence. However, the South Carolina senator made clear that Rahami should be tried in a civilian court and not a military one.

Rahami was arrested on Monday after a dramatic manhunt and shootout in New Jersey that followed bombings on Saturday and Sunday in New York and New Jersey. A bomb in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan left 29 people injured in New York. Authorities said that they had linked Rahami not only to the Chelsea bombing, but also to another unexploded device found nearby. They also said they believed he was linked to a pipe bomb that blew up in Seaside Park, New Jersey, and explosive devices found in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

At the rally on Monday, Trump used the bombings as an opportunity to promote his anti-**immigration** message. “**Immigration** security is national security,” he said, as he bashed Hillary Clinton for having what he described as “the most open borders of anyone ever to seek the presidency”.

He went on to say that Clinton refuses to consider “the worldview” of those who seek to **immigrate** to the United States and that terrorists “want her so badly to be your president”. He particularly attacked the process that allowed Rahami to **immigrate** as a child: “This thug today, they think he came through Afghanistan. What kind of screening procedures were performed?”

This thug today, they think he came through Afghanistan. What kind of screening procedures were performed?

Donald Trump

When asked about the attacks at a press conference earlier on Monday, Clinton insisted, “I am absolutely in favor of and have long been an advocate for tough vetting, for making sure that we don’t let people into this country – and not just people who come here to settle, but we need a better visa system.”

She added: “This is a serious challenge, we are well equipped to meet it, and we can do so with smart law enforcement, good intelligence and in concert with our values.”

Trump also bemoaned what he said was the plush treatment that would be accorded to Rahami. “The bad part,” he said, “now we will give him amazing hospitalization. He will be taken care of by some of the best doctors in the world. He will be given a fully modern and updated hospital room. And he’ll probably even have room service, knowing the way our country is. And, on top of that, he will be represented by an outstanding lawyer.”

Trump concluded by noting “and his punishment will not be what it once would have been. What a sad situation.”

The Republican nominee’s speech came shortly before he was reportedly scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who is in New York for the United Nations General Assembly. Trump and his campaign have not said whether the Republican nominee will meet with any other world leaders as well.

Spencer Ackerman in New York contributed reporting

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Previous evidence of racism in county’s segregation only anecdotal Parking fees and homeowner association rules said to support segregation

It was another sun-kissed afternoon in Huntington Beach this week, the seafront a playground. Surfers skimmed the waves. Volleyballers leaped and shrieked. Sunbathers splayed on the sand. Families paraded the boardwalk.

Almost everyone had brown skin, though really they were white, just with tans. Those with permanent brown skin, Latinos, were mostly miles inland, on the other side of the 405 freeway.

“It’s called life. In this world, no one gets along, so you hang out with your own kind,” said Ruben Montanez, 54, in shorts and shades, perched on a bench.

His heritage was Puerto Rican, but Montanez did not identify with, nor yearn to see, the absent Latinos. Huntington Beach was fine just as it was. “When a neighborhood goes downhill, people leave.”

There is little chance the social services worker will feel forced to flee his home, at least not on account of Latinos.

Orange County, a cluster of cities and freeways tucked between Los Angeles[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/los-angeles] and San Diego[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/san-diego], is known for being white and politically conservative. California’s Republican bastion, it helped launch Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, who called it the place “where all the good Republicans go to die”.

It led the state’s crackdown on illegal **immigration**[http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-latino-republicans-20160530-snap-story.html] in the 1990s. A sub-group of neo-Nazi surfers[http://www.vice.com/read/ed-templetons-huntington-beach] acquired notoriety for daubing swastikas on boards. The Real Housewives of Orange County[https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2014/feb/16/real-housewives-interview-scott-dunlop], a reality TV show, has bolstered the impression of a white enclave.

In fact, over the past two decades, the county has become diverse to the point that whites are no longer a majority. They make up 44% of the population of 3 million, with Latinos comprising 34% and Asians 18%.

But melting pot it is not. Most whites live in tracts that are at least 60% white, many of them coastal cities such as Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach and San Clemente. The inland city of Santa Ana, in contrast, once predominantly white, is now 78% Latino.

Economics explains much of this. Whites are wealthier and can afford pricey coastal real estate. Most Latinos cannot. Many observers have long suspected racism, too, but the evidence has been anecdotal.

Now there is an academic study bolstering the case that racism does indeed fuel the segregation. Celia Lacayo, a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA’s Institute of American Cultures, has published a report titled Latinos Need to Stay in Their Place: Differential Segregation in a Multi-Ethnic Suburb[http://www.mdpi.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/2075-4698/6/3/25].

It is based on in-depth interviews with 40 white residents in 2010, conducted by two white researchers Lacaya contracted to encourage candour. The random sample was aged 25 to 61 and mostly middle to upper class professionals involved in law, real estate, sales and marketing.

A small sample, but with striking findings. The respondents “overwhelmingly characterized Latinos and African Americans as culturally deficient, problematic and inferior”, according to Lacayo. They used words like “trash”, “third world” and “gangy”.

Asians, in contrast, were deemed assimilated to white American norms and values. “The Asians come in and they’re freaking motivated. Hispanics aren’t,” said one respondent. “Asians seem to be more proper, cleaner and conservative,” said another.

Many residents, Lacayo found, have split the county between the relatively diverse north and the whiter south, with freeways “functioning as a Mason-Dixon line”. People made intentional decisions to keep it so, she wrote. “Most respondents admit that they made a conscious choice to live in overwhelmingly white neighborhoods, and far away specifically from Latinos.”

Related: Latino students win battle to wear Dump Trump shirts to school[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/03/donald-dump-trump-shirts-latino-vote-calfornia-high-school]

Examples included a 42-year-old repo company owner named Mark. “Hispanics, they just don’t fit in,” he told the researchers. “The Mexicans go to the beach, and I don’t know why they always swim in their clothes... They have a wet dirty blanket and they’ll drag it, and they’ll stop on the boardwalk. They’ll just stop there. And it’s like: ‘Get out of the way. How stupid are you?’”

In an interview this week, Lacayo said whites used parking fees, homeowner association rules and gated communities to deter unwanted visitors and settlers, even middle-class Latinos. They resisted the transport of Latino children to white-majority schools and expressed willingness to withdraw their children from integrated schools.

Those interviewed by the Guardian on the boardwalk – a very unscientific sample of teenagers, fortysomethings and pensioners – bristled at any suggestion of prejudice. “It’s not segregation. We all get on. It’s just that people are more comfortable with their own culture,” said one 15-year-old girl.

Ask a Mexican and you get a very different perspective. Not just any Mexican - Gustavo Arellano, editor of the alternative magazine OC Weekly[http://www.ocweekly.com/] and author of the syndicated column ¡Ask a Mexican![http://www.ocweekly.com/topic/ask-a-mexican-6568416], which answers reader queries about Latino stereotypes.

Donald Trump’s head – the remnant of a piñata smashed at a protest rally[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/28/donald-trump-protesters-supporters-san-diego-new-mexico] when the presidential candidate visited Orange County – adorns the entrance to Arellano’s office. Which is apt, because the paper’s first Latino editor swings an ax at the county’s record.

Arellano, 37, has delighted and enraged readers by denouncing the absence of blacks and referring to Santa Ana as SanTana, the way Latinos pronounce the city’s name. Trolls routinely assail Arellano (and still ask about Latinos wearing clothes in the sea), but public discourse has evolved, he said. “We’re beyond the era of outright racism. No politician is stupid enough to be that blatant anymore. They code it as about illegal **immigration**.”

He thinks the “old Orange County” is dying, giving way to millennials who were reared by Mexican maids and eat Mexican food. “Which makes them half Mexican.” Progressive, artsy types who used to flee the Stepford Wives-type vibe were now staying to create a new Orange County, he said. “You have to fight the belly right in its beast.”

The Orange County Register recently crunched census data[http://www.ocregister.com/articles/county-291818-white-percent.html] showing the region had become slightly more diverse since 2000, largely due to Latinos and Asians moving into white areas. The median of the Diversity Index, a statistical tool, nudged from 48 to 54, meaning that in a typical neighborhood there is a better than even chance that two random residents will belong to different ethnic groups. But unless whites move to Latino areas such as Santa Ana, which demographers say is unlikely, the metropolis will remain segregated.

Still, even Huntington Beach yields little surprises. Richard, a 35-year-old longshoreman who declined to give his last name, was in a Mexican restaurant tucking into a taco. White male, blue-collar job, from a family of Trump supporters. But he himself loathed the GOP candidate.

So did somebody else in his neighbourhood, he smiled, showing a photo on his phone: a car with a Trump sticker vandalised with spray paint. “Fuck Trump. Trump Chump.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Clinton campaign is optimistic of success in the west, though past experience suggests that is akin to Charlie Brown ‘believing Lucy won’t pull the football’

Will this be the year Arizona turns blue? It’s a question Democrats ask every four years, only for the state to stay a deep Republican red.

Related: Trump allies scramble to defend false 'birther' claim as candidate shifts views[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/trump-birther-claims-chris-christie-mike-pence]

In 2016, they sense a real opportunity. Sean Spicer, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, predicts states like Arizona and Georgia will remain fire-truck red – and that even to ask the question again is akin to “ believing Lucy won’t pull the football[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=055wFyO6gag] ” away from Charlie Brown.

But this has been a presidential election year unlike any other in modern history, and Democrats see an opportunity as golden as the hair atop the head of the Republican nominee, Donald Trump.

“Anticipation is high this year,” said Enrique Gutierrez, a spokesman for the Arizona Democratic party. “You can feel the excitement in our volunteers, at phone banks and training. It’s really boosting morale for Democrats and for our supporters here in the state.”

Opinion polls show Clinton within striking distance of Trump in Arizona and Georgia, traditionally conservative states now in the churn of major demographic change. Clinton trails Trump by just two points[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/az/arizona\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-6087.html] in Arizona; according to the RealClearPolitics.com polling average, a smattering of recent surveys show her with a small edge. In Georgia, the average has Trump leading by four[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/ga/georgia\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson-5968.html].

Republicans see opportunities in Nevada, where averages show the race in effect tied[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/nv/nevada\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-6086.html], and Iowa, where Trump leads by more than four points[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/ia/iowa\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-5981.html].

Since the second world war, Arizona has given its handful of electoral votes to just one Democrat: Bill Clinton in 1996.

Hoping to re-create that magic, Hillary Clinton’s campaign recently opened two new field offices and launched a six-figure ad buy; the Democratic National Committee is expanding its presence[http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/dnc-expands-footprint-arizona-georgia-utah-n641611] in the state as well. Through a coordinated effort, Democrats have 27 field offices and 160 officers, not including volunteers.

“We thought it would be 2020 [when we had a chance], but the dynamics of this presidential race have just leapfrogged expectations,” said Gutierrez. “We did not expect Arizona to be in play this early.”

Over the past year, Democrats have outpaced Republicans in registering new voters. Since October 2015, Democrats have registered 100,000 and Republicans 80,000, according to data from the office of the Arizona secretary of state.

But there are still more Republicans than Democrats in the state and GOP voters have a stronger turnout record. There are 1.9 million Republicans registered in Arizona, just over 1 million Democrats and 1.6 million undeclared.

“Last month, Trump came here, to Arizona, to give his **immigration** speech,” said David Waid, a Democratic strategist and former state party chair. “You don’t come in and work a state if you think there’s no way can it can go into the Democratic column.”

Trump gave a fiery speech in downtown Phoenix on 31 August[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech], dashing hopes among moderate Republicans and his Hispanic supporters that he would soften his views on **immigration**. He reasserted his plan to build a border wall paid for by Mexico and declared that criminals would be deported while everyone else would have “to return home and apply for re-entry”.

Waid said that if Democrats could improve Latino voter turnout in Arizona by a few percentage points, Republicans up and down the ballot would be in trouble. In 2012, Latinos accounted for 18% of all votes cast, up from 16% in 2008.

Republicans still hope to woo Latino voters by stressing values like the importance of family and religion that they believe can resonate.

Democrats have struggled to mobilize Latino voters, engagement failing to keep pace with the sharp increase in eligible Latino voters. But Trump has driven record-setting numbers of citizenship applications and a surge in voter registration among Hispanics concerned about his hardline stance on **immigration** or turned off by his remarks about a federal judge of Mexican origin.

Related: Arizona Democrat aims to unseat McCain: ‘Nobody in DC thinks I’ll win’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/14/ann-kirkpatrick-arizona-democrat-john-mccain-senate]

“Latinos want to vote this year. We’re seeing that across the state,” said Pita Juarez of One Arizona, a Phoenix-based coalition of Latino voter registration groups.

The group’s Viva the Vote campaign had hoped to register 80,000 voters before November. Juarez said the group has surpassed that goal and is on track to meet a new goal of 120,000.

“Arizona is in play if the Democrats want it to be,” said Chuck Coughlin, Republican strategist and head of the political consulting group HighGround.

In the short term, Arizona could swing in the presidential election depending on the resources Clinton and the Democrats invest, Coughlin said. But in the long term, whether the state goes Democrat or remains Republican will be determined by how the GOP remakes itself after the election – especially on the issue of **immigration**.

“The Arizona electorate is ground zero for the **immigration** debate,” he said. “We’ve been baptized in this issue; we know what real answers are.

“The wall is not real answers,” he said, adding that Mexico is the state’s biggest trading partner. “It’s about building a secure economic and social relationship with our neighbors. Voters here know that.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The PM should use talks in New York on the global refugee issue to find a country to resettle those in Australian offshore detention, says Russell Broadbent

Malcolm Turnbull needs to use a looming refugee summit to find a country prepared to take detainees from Nauru and Manus Island, according to one of his backbenchers, who says the government’s policy amounts to indefinite detention.

In the lead-up to the high-powered gathering this week in New York, the Victorian Liberal backbencher Russell Broadbent has comprehensively rejected a recent characterisation by the the prime minister that Australia has the best border protection policy in the world[https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/32653440/world-should-follow-us-on-migration-policy-pm/#page1].

Broadbent told Guardian Australia on Monday Turnbull could not possibly make that claim, given the consequences of the current policy. “It’s not the world’s best policy if you end up with 2,000 people in limbo in indefinite detention,” Broadbent said Monday.

Related: Notes on the great Syrian exodus: ‘Epic in scale, inconceivable until you witness it’ | Richard Flanagan[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/05/great-syrian-refugee-crisis-exodus-epic-inconceivable-witness-lebos-islamic-state]

“We should use this summit to look for a third country to take the people on Nauru and Manus Island.”

This week the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, will host a summit in New York “addressing large movements of refugees and migrants”. A draft declaration document[http://www.un.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/HLM-on-addressing-large-movements-of-refugees-and-migrants-Draft-Declaration-5-August-2016.pdf] from the summit has already been widely circulated – and widely condemned – for its failure to commit countries to concrete actions to make refugees’ journeys better or safer.

The day after Ban’s summit the US president, Barack Obama, will host his own “leaders’ summit”, also in New York.

But, unlike the UN event, the US summit has been billed as a “pay-to-play” summit, with Obama offering invitations only to countries who indicate in advance they are prepared to make concrete commitments to accept more refugees.

Turnbull will attend the summit with the **immigration** minister Peter Dutton, but the government has not given any public indication about what its commitment might be.

It appears unlikely Australia’s contribution to the summit will be any reform to its controversial mandatory detention, offshore processing, or regional resettlement policies but instead likely to be directed towards distant refugee flows, probably in the Middle-East.

Given the international publicity Australia’s punitive asylum regime has generated, the prime minister is expected to face questions about when its offshore processing centres will wind up.

Late last week Dutton signalled Australia might shift its position[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/sep/15/peter-dutton-open-to-refugees-on-nauru-being-resettled-in-new-zealand] on whether asylum seekers could be resettled in New Zealand, but he shut the door on that prospect on Thursday evening[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/sep/15/asylum-seeker-processing-at-nauru-will-continue-for-decades-says-dutton], saying Australia’s regional processing relationship with Nauru would continue for “decades”.

The group Australian Lawyers for Human Rights[https://alhr.org.au/] has written to the **immigration** and foreign ministers of New Zealand, Canada, the US, and Germany, urging those countries to resettle the recognised refugees currently held on Manus Island and Nauru.

The letter said it was “indisputable” that Australia’s offshore detention regime breached international law, a position supported by the UN, the Australian Senate, and Papua New Guinea’s supreme court.

“All of these countries [ALHR has written to] have demonstrated considerable generosity with respect to their resettlement intakes, particularly in response to the crisis in Syria,” ALHR president Benedict Coyne said. “New Zealand previously offered to resettle 150 refugees from Australia’s offshore processing centres but the Australian government refused.”

“ALHR is concerned that if countries such as these do not offer resettlement places, refugees will be sent to countries that do not have the capacity to adequately protect and provide for their rights.”

Canada has already accepted for resettlement two refugees held on Nauru, who had family members resettled in Canada.

The vast majority of people held in Australian-run offshore detention centres have been found to be refugees with a “well-founded fear of persecution” in their home country – 98% of the men on Manus[http://www.aph.gov.au/About\_Parliament/Parliamentary\_Departments/Parliamentary\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1516/Quick\_Guides/Offshore] who have been processed have been found to be refugees and 77% of the men, women and children on Nauru[http://www.aph.gov.au/About\_Parliament/Parliamentary\_Departments/Parliamentary\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1516/Quick\_Guides/Offshore].

An estimated 86% of the world’s 21.3m refugees[http://www.unhcr.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/576408cd7] are hosted in developing countries, usually close to the homelands they have fled.

The Refugee Council of Australia said Australia needed to outline – before this week’s two global summits – firm new commitments on its refugee policies.

The acting chief executive of the council, Tim O’Connor, said the agreed draft of the outcome document to the secretary general’s summit on Monday – which has been significantly watered-down from its original form – failed to adequately address the global forced migration issue.

“The international community is set to miss a landmark opportunity to manage the greatest displacement crisis the modern world has known if we again evade our responsibilities to provide durable solutions to displaced people and refugees.

“The global community needs to ensure people who flee conflict and persecution are protected and can live with dignity. The current draft does not go far enough and is an abrogation of our responsibilities.”

The refugee council said Australia’s refugee and asylum policies – which have been condemned by the United Nations, the Human Rights Commission, the Australian Medical Association, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and staff who work in Australia-run detention centres – undermine Australia’s credibility in international forums.

“The brutal impacts of Australia’s current offshore detention policy continue to undermine the positive story of Australia’s refugee resettlement success and the urgent need to engage with Australia’s neighbours to develop sustainable and humane regional solutions to the challenges of human displacement,” O’Connor said.

Related: Oxfam calls for Australia to triple humanitarian migration intake[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/19/oxfam-calls-for-australia-to-triple-humanitarian-migration-intake]

The refugee council proposed expanding and reforming the existing community proposal pilot, which allows communities to sponsor refugees to come to Australia. Moving this program outside Australia’s humanitarian intake, and reducing its cost – currently about $70,000 – would allow more refugees to be resettled in Australia in a safe and orderly movement.

The St Vincent de Paul Society also urged the government to increase Australia’s annual intake of refugees to 30,000. “Contrary to the government’s assertions, breaking people’s spirits in offshore processing facilities is not the unavoidable alternative to deaths at sea,” said its chief executive, John Falzon.

“The most urgent matter facing the Australian government is the fate of refugees and asylum seekers stuck in limbo on Nauru and Manus Island.”

“We call on the prime minister to embrace a humane and respectful way forward for the vulnerable children and their families on Nauru, along with the more than 800 men on Manus Island, who have been living without hope for too long.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The large Somali American community of St Cloud confronted longstanding tensions as an unconfirmed report named man responsible for stabbing nine people

The Somali American community in St Cloud, Minnesota, condemned on Sunday the mass stabbing attack at a mall the night before, as the **immigrant** population confronted longstanding tensions and unconfirmed reports emerged of the suspect’s identity.

Related: FBI investigates Minnesota mass stabbing as 'potential act of terrorism'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/minnesota-mass-stabbing-mall-fbi-terrorism-investigation]

Police have not yet named the suspect, who wounded nine people on Saturday night at the Crossroads Center mall, and whose attack is being investigated as “potential act of terrorism”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/18/minnesota-mass-stabbing-mall-fbi-terrorism-investigation]. But Ahhmed Adan, a Somali **immigrant**, told the Minneapolis Star Tribune on Sunday that police had told him the night before that his son, Dahir Adan, had died the night before.

None of the nine injured people suffered life-threatening injuries, and the only fatality of the attack was the suspect, who was shot dead by an off-duty police officer.

Police did not mention the attack on the mall, Adan said, but they seized photos and other materials from the family’s apartment. Adan said his son came to the US 15 years ago and was a student at St Cloud Technical and Community College. He added that he had “no suspicion” that his son might have considered such an attack.

Within hours of the attack, in which the suspect reportedly spoke of Allah, members of the Somali American community began to see anti-**immigrant** and Islamophobic messages directed toward them online. The virulence increased when an Islamic State-run news agency claimed credit for the attack; the terror group has previously claimed credit for attackers with whom it had no contact.

A leader of the community, Abdul Kalane, said he fears how those online messages will translate into the real world, especially since Dahir Adan was his neighbor. Kalane said he had moved to a new building at the beginning of the month, and met Adan in the parking lot. Though he didn’t know Adan well, he said he believed he was in his 20s and had moved to the United States at a young age.

“When I heard that the guy who did this was a member of the Somali community, I was so devastated, because I know what’s going to happen. The repercussions, the retaliation,” Kalane told the Guardian. “I was shocked, because the guy lives in the same building I live in. And even though we don’t know the full picture, we are actually devastated by this. It’s really tragic.”

St Cloud is home to a growing Somali Muslim community, largely made up of refugees feeling the country’s civil war. In January, the local paper reported[http://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/immigration/2016/01/24/fact-check-somali-student-numbers/79062702/] that about 20% of St Cloud’s students came from homes where the primary language spoken at home was Somali.

Not everyone has been accepting of the new arrivals. Last year, Somali students at one local high school staged a walkout to protest discrimination after a Somali student was labeled as “Isis” on snapchat. A nonprofit called #UniteCloud[http://www.unitecloud.org] later formed to help bridge the gap between the Somali community and the more established, mostly white St Cloud residents.

Natalie Ringsmuth, a white Minnesotan who co-founded the group with Haji Yusuf, said they had long feared something like this could happen.

“A some point in our community, we knew that the tensions were so high that somebody from either side of the equation was going to commit an act of violence,” she said. “Unfortunately, we’re here, but we’ve mentally prepared for this.”

Somali community leaders held a press conference Sunday afternoon to plead to plead for unity. Activist Lul Hersi said she had feared for her one of her sons when she heard about the attack, and was relieved when he arrived home that night. She called it a “dark day” that the community would never forget.

“We condemn the acts of yesterday. It was an individual and we don’t know what motivated that individual,” she said. “Let’s unite as one Minnesota. Let’s take love instead of hate.”

Community leader Hassan Yussuf said he hoped the city’s recent progress wouldn’t be derailed. “St Cloud has done a lot of hard work to come together, all of the leaders, and that should not be broken by this incident,” he said. “This incident should not be used to spread hate. It should be used to bring us together.”

Despite the absence of confirmed facts, at least one anti-**immigrant** group, Act! For America[https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/act-america], seized on the attack for political purposes. The group posted a link about the stabbings with a question: “More refugees, anyone?”

Jaylani Hussein, the executive Director for the Minnesota Chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, said central Minnesota has a history of anti-Muslim organizing. He pointed to a string of incidents dating back years, including visits by well-known anti-Muslim speakers[http://www.startribune.com/anti-muslim-speaking-circuit-runs-through-rural-minnesota/375924701/] and a recent billboard[http://www.startribune.com/anti-muslim-billboard-posted-near-st-cloud-taken-down/369177621/], eventually removed, that read “Catholic Charities Resettles Islamists, Evil or Insanity.”

“It’s not just random people being upset and acting randomly. This is people who actually organize, who hold events, who hold meetings, who fundraise. They make sure everyone in their community is aware of what is going on,” he said.

Hussein, like many present, said he hoped the stabbings would help bring the community together.

“There is tension, there is real concern, and this incident just magnifies everything that has happened here,” he said. “But we hope, even this big of an incident can bring St Cloud residents who have not played a role in this discussion to start to take back the narrative from the extremes.”

Ringsmuth, too, thought the attack posed Minnesotans a choice. “We are at a crossroads in our community,” she said. “This has broken us, we can either begins the road of healing together by choosing peace, or we can be broken even further, and that’s up to us.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**David Clarke has been accused of covering up a deputy’s misdeeds while Joe Arpaio has been called ‘unrepentantly lawless’. Meet the prominent officers who want the businessman in the Oval Office

Vincent Caldara, one of the Donald Trump campaign’s official pilots and head of his “Florida law enforcement coalition”, is doubly devoted to the Republican presidential nominee and his pledge to crack down on criminality.

A former police officer in New York and Miami, Caldara told supporters at a recent gathering in Florida that he had been flying vice-presidential nominee Mike Pence “from coast to coast to make sure we get the law and order message out to every single person that will be voting on November 8th”.

Caldara is simultaneously fighting claims that he is a lawbreaker himself.

The 55-year-old pilot is charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, after he allegedly drove a vehicle at another person repeatedly in Pompano Beach in July last year. According to court records, the victim, whose name is withheld, was treated in hospital for leg and back injuries. Caldara has pleaded not guilty.

In a separate case, Caldara is accused of severely injuring a woman in June 2014 by recklessly driving into her with his Harley Davidson motorcycle in Fort Lauderdale. The woman is suing Caldara and seeking a jury trial. According to court records, officials have been unable to find Caldara to serve him with a summons.

Related: No sleep till November: this election may be the most exhausting one yet[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/17/2016-us-election-hillary-clinton-pneumonia-donald-trump]

Caldara and spokespeople for Trump’s campaign did not respond to several requests for comment.

The accusations of wrongdoing against Caldara are only the latest in an eclectic series of claims leveled at law enforcement figures who have publicly endorsed Trump’s campaign for the White House.

Amid a spike in crime in some US cities, Trump on Friday received the endorsement of the national Fraternal Order of Police union, whose president, Chuck Canterbury, said: “Our members believe he will make America safe again”.

But dark spots on the records of some of Trump’s most prominent police backers challenge the credibility of his claim to be the “law and order candidate”. In July, a coalition of dozens of police chiefs and prosecutors pleaded with the Republican nominee[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/13/donald-trump-crime-policy-law-enforcement-officials-letter] to abandon his draconian ideas and embrace contemporary policing theory and criminal justice reform.

Here, the Guardian reviews some of the allegations made against a half-dozen lawmen who have lent their support to Trump’s presidential campaign:

David Clarke Sheriff David Clarke of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, has been Trump’s most visible ally among serving police. Although a registered Democrat, Clarke, 60, accused Hillary Clinton’s campaign of “embracing criminality” after mothers of African Americans killed by police [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/26/black-lives-matter-mothers-democratic-convention-hillary-clinton] appeared onstage at the Democratic National Convention.

But Clarke has been accused of violating rules and regulations himself since being elected in 2002. After one of his deputies broke a woman’s neck by crashing his vehicle into her car, Clarke was alleged to have overseen an attempted cover-up[http://fox6now.com/2014/07/13/false-accusation-leads-to-lawsuit-for-county-sheriff/] that involved framing the woman for drunk driving.

The victim, Tanya Weyker, sued Clarke, several deputies and county authorities in state and federal court in 2014 for compensation and civil rights violations. She said Clarke and his officers continued pursuing charges against her for months even after they knew video evidence showed the officer was at fault.

“Clarke was personally involved in the conspiracy to continue with the baseless prosecution of [Weyker],” the federal lawsuit said, “or, at the very least, was deliberately and recklessly indifferent to his subordinates’ unconstitutional actions and related misconduct.” Clarke and the officers denied the allegations.

An attorney for Weyker, Drew DeVinney, said Weyker settled her state lawsuit for the state-capped maximum $250,000 in compensation, and then settled the federal lawsuit for more than $95,000 for civil rights violations and attorneys’ fees.

Clarke has also come under criticism from within his own ranks. In 2010, deputy Richard Graber, a senior official in the Milwaukee deputies’ union, alleged that Clarke aggressively confronted him, called him a “sick fuck” and threatened to “come after him” for questioning an order that deputies must work mandatory overtime after the high-profile death of a local child.

“Clarke’s profanity-ridden rant included yelling, pointing, and calling Graber ‘waste,’ an ‘organizational terrorist,’ a ‘fucker,’ and a ‘cancer to the agency’,” according to an appeals court filing. Clarke denied most of Graber’s account of their confrontation. A federal appeals court said Clarke’s behavior amounted to an “adverse employment action” but rejected an allegation from Graber that the mistreatment was because of his union activity.

Inspector Edward Bailey, a spokesman for Clarke, declined to comment. “This county office does not involve itself in the current presidential race in any capacity,” he said in an email.

Joe Arpaio Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona, has over the past two decades become notorious as “the most unrepentantly lawless lawman in America”[http://www.theatlantic.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/national/archive/2014/03/sheriff-joe-arpaio-the-most-lawless-lawman-in-america/359613/] : repeatedly condemned by the courts, denounced by civil liberties advocates and forced to pay out tens of millions of taxpayer dollars in compensation.

Arpaio currently faces possible criminal charges for contempt of court for ignoring a judge’s order in 2011 that his aggressive **immigration** patrols must stop racially profiling suspects. Earlier this year, Arpaio was held in civil contempt on three counts[http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2016/05/13/arpaio-contempt-federal-court-ruling/77833232/] by a federal judge.

Less well known than Arpaio’s “Tent City”[http://www.12news.com/news/local/arizona/inmates-endure-extreme-heat-in-tent-city/250951997] detention center, however, is his record of using his department to go after personal and political enemies. In 2013, the cofounders of the Phoenix New Times newspaper, which had been investigating questionable real estate deals by Arpaio, were awarded $3.75m in damages[http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/joe-arpaio-loses-new-times-co-founders-win-375-million-settlement-for-2007-false-arrests-6651491] after Arpaio’s men arrested them on false charges in late-night raids on their homes.

In 2008, Arpaio had local judges and county legislators indicted on trumped-up criminal corruption charges that later collapsed entirely, resulting in yet more million-dollar payouts to those targeted. The failed charges also prompted the state supreme court to disbar the county attorney, an Arpaio ally, who was found to have brought malicious prosecutions against political foes.

Last year it emerged that Arpaio had even hired a private investigator to look into the wife[http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/04/23/joe-arpaio-apologizes-contempt-hearing-day-three-abrk/26240715/] of the federal judge who ruled in 2013 that Arpaio was engaged in illegal racial profiling. Spokespeople for Arpaio did not respond to a request for comment.

Tim Howard Sheriff Tim Howard of Erie County, New York, is a co-chairman of Trump’s campaign in the Republican nominee’s home state, which Trump has declared he can win even while trailing Hillary Clinton in state polls by an average of 19 percentage points[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/ny/new\_york\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5792.html].

Despite holding an official position in the Republican’s campaign, Howard earlier this year was involved in policing a Trump campaign rally in Buffalo, where he was filmed overseeing the removal of protesters. Aides to the sheriff denied that he had a conflict of interest.

Howard, 66, has endured rocky patchesin the upstate county – not least on three separate occasions when prisoners escaped or were mistakenly released from his jail. Two of them went on to commit serious crimes before recapture.

In April 2006, Ralph “Bucky” Phillips escaped from Alden prison. He killed a state trooper and wounded two others before being caught after five months on the run. In March 2009, Rasheed Milton was released from the same facility by mistake. Milton was recaptured after raping a woman. Then, in March 2012, Awet Gebreyesus was mistakenly released from Alden after being indicted for the attempted murder of his partner. Gebreyesus was caught before harming anyone.

Howard has also been accused of cronyism[http://wnymedia.net/2013/10/howard-widens-pay-play-net-8-years/] after it emerged that companies that gave Howard’s election campaign tens of thousands of dollars in contributions received hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of county contracts for purchases such as new police cars[http://wnymedia.net/2005/09/sheriff-howard-bought-like-new-car/], software and furniture.

Howard’s spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Paul Babeu Sheriff Paul Babeu of Pinal County, Arizona, enthusiastically supports Trump’s anti-**immigration** stance and campaign pledge to build a wall along the US border with Mexico. Babeu is also running as a Republican for a seat in the US House of Representatives and has made border security a key plank of his campaign.

Babeu promises voters on his website that he will tackle the “hundreds of thousands of illegal **immigrants** pouring across our southern borders”, warning that at present, “possible terrorists with military training, deliberate plans and lots of money can cross the border”.

In 2012, Jose Orozco, a Mexican man and ex-boyfriend of Babeu who worked for the sheriff’s election campaign, alleged that he was threatened with deportation by an aide to Babeu when he refused to sign an agreement not to publicly disclose the relationship. Orozco’s attorney said she was told Orozco’s US visa had expired, making him undocumented. Babeu denied Orozco’s allegations. An inquiry by the Arizona attorney general concluded[http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/sheriff-paul-babeu-pleaded-with-ex-boyfriend-to-keep-silent-about-relationship-ags-investigators-reveal-6641494] that he committed no criminal violation.

Babeu has also faced allegations made public by his sister [http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/sheriff-paul-babeu-on-defensive-again-denies-sisters-claims-he-had-sexual-relationship-with-17-year-old-boy-from-boarding-school-he-once-ran-6643099] that as headmaster and executive director of a boarding school for troubled teenagers in Massachusetts, he had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old student. Babeu, who led the controversial DeSisto School in West Stockbridge between 1999 and 2001, responded by publishing his sister’s mental health history[http://tucson.com/news/blogs/senor-reporter/babeu-camp-attacks-sister-over-new-allegations/article\_398e3692-622f-11e1-a591-0019bb2963f4.html].

The former student, Joshua Geyer, has not disputed[http://tucson.com/news/blogs/senor-reporter/babeu-camp-attacks-sister-over-new-allegations-updated/article\_398e3692-622f-11e1-a591-0019bb2963f4.html] that he had a relationship with Babeu, but insisted that it was not “inappropriate”. This week, a spokesman for Babeu sent the Guardian a letter purportedly from Geyer that said he and Babeu had no sexual relationship at all. Asked twice whether Babeu himself denied that the relationship took place, the spokesman did not respond.

State authorities pursued DeSisto[http://media.phoenixnewtimes.com/7687064.0.PDF] for operating illegally without a state license. Over the years, the school became notorious[http://www.bridges4kids.org/articles/2004/3-04/Globe2-23-04.html] for its severe punishment system, and was investigated repeatedly for allegations of abuse and mistreatment of students. It has since closed.

The Babeu spokesman, Barrett Marson, said in an email: “Paul was in charge of the business operations at the school. He never had any control over student discipline or instruction. He was in charge of ensuring there was food and bathroom supplies and things like that. But Paul was never investigated nor had any knowledge of any alleged abuse at the school while he was employed there.”

Wayne Ivey Sheriff Wayne Ivey of Brevard County, Florida, is playing an energetic part in Trump’s campaign. Earlier this month, he appeared at the opening of a Trump campaign office in Cocoa Beach with Caldara, the campaign pilot.

“I believe we need a leader that is going to stand shoulder to shoulder with those people that protect our great nation,” Ivey told supporters, “those men and women in uniform that protect our communities.”

Five years ago, Ivey retired as an agent with the Florida department of law enforcement (FDLE) three days after he was accused by a local muckraking website[http://volusiaexposed.com/fdle/ivey/phonecall.pdf] of making a threatening telephone call to a female probation officer who was the ex-fiancee of Ivey’s son, Robert.

A brief review by FDLE of the allegation said that no complaint had been made by the female officer, and that because Ivey was no longer employed by FDLE, the case was out of the department’s hands.

A spokesman for Ivey did not respond to a request for comment.

Scott Jones Sheriff Scott Jones of Sacramento County, California, pledged earlier this year to support Trump. But Jones, who is also running for Congress as a Republican, has dialed down his enthusiasm after the Republican nominee’s recent string of inflammatory remarks.

“He has not personally or publicly endorsed any candidate, but has said he will cast his ballot for Trump given the only alternative is Hillary Clinton,” Dave Gilliard, a spokesman for Jones, said in an email.

Jones was accused of sexually harassing a junior female deputy starting when he was a sergeant about 12 years ago, which he denies. The deputy, Tosca Olives, said in a sworn deposition that Jones frequently harassed her on visits to the department’s law library, to which she was assigned. Jones denied the allegations.

“It started with, like, rubbing my shoulders while I was on the phone,” said Olives. “It progressed to going underneath my shirt and feeling my breasts. There would be times when there would be kissing. There were times that he would unzip my pants and … but mainly feeling my breasts and kissing.”

She said Jones touched her inappropriately “approximately 30” times. Once, when she told him he must stop touching her breasts, she alleged, Jones replied: “Stop being so tempting.” Olives said she feared retaliation for taking action against Jones, and that when she eventually told him she was going to make a complaint about him, he advised her not to and suggested she would ruin both their careers.

Olives’s testimony was submitted as evidence in a lawsuit brought by four other female deputies, who alleged retaliation and discrimination by the sheriff’s department – much of it in a county jail, when it was run by Jones. Jurors ruled in favor of the female deputies and awarded them $3.6m.

In an emailed statement, Jones said the allegations against him were “without merit, corroboration or evidence” and that he denied them “in the strongest possible terms.”

“I have never been the subject of any internal complaint of misconduct of any kind during my 27-year career with the sheriff’s department, and have consistently opened up my personnel records for review,” said Jones.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Clinton and Trump oppose the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership but Obama wants to get it through the Congress and Senate before his term ends

Australia will seek out alternative free trade agreements in the region should the Trans-Pacific Partnership fail to pass a US Congress vote, the foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop, has said.

Bishop made the comments while addressing reporters in Washington, where she has met representatives for US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump . She will also meet the US Secretary of State, John Kerry , and attend US president Barack Obama ’s leaders’ summit on refugees in New York.

Clinton and Trump oppose the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership, saying the deal is not in the US interest. However Obama is committed to passing the agreement through the Congress and Senate before his term ends.

Bishop said she had urged the Trump and Clinton camps to view the deal as “not only economically important but strategically vital for our region”.

“I had a fairly sympathetic hearing from all of the representatives who see that free trade is the basis of US economic success,” she said.

Related: Trans-Pacific Partnership provisions 'questionable', says Productivity Commission [https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jul/25/trans-pacific-partnership-provisions-questionable-says-productivity-commission]

“Countries like Australia need to continue to press the case for liberalised trade and I believe the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a comprehensive high quality agreement that will be of benefit to the people of United States in appropriating more jobs and economic growth.”

If Obama failed to pass the agreement and her appeals to the presidential candidates proved unsuccessful, Bishop said Australia would be looking for other free trade agreements “and continuing our quest for a free trade zone in this part of the world, in the Asia-Pacific”.

“There is the regional comprehensive economic partnership that is being promoted by the ASEAN countries of south-east Asia, but we still want to see the Trans-Pacific Partnership pass through the US Congress and we’re certainly urging both the Clinton and the Trump camps to do just that,” she said.

“But in the meantime, president Obama has made it clear that he will seek to pass it through the period from the presidential election through to the inauguration.”

The opposition leader, Bill Shorten, is also in Washington meeting US officials. Asked by reporters whether Labor would support the deal, Shorten said the opposition would wait to see if the US ratified the accord and also for the findings of Australia’s Senate inquiry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership before endorsing it.

Bishop was also pressed by reporters about who Australia would be supporting for the UN Secretary-General position, after the prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, declined in July [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jul/29/malcolm-turnbull-kevin-rudd-un-secretary-general-nomination] to endorse the former Labor prime minister Kevin Rudd for the role. Bishop had supported Rudd’s nomination, though she did not endorse his campaign.

“We haven’t made a decision because there are still a number of opportunities for other candidates to put their names forward and I imagine that over the coming weeks we’ll see more candidates, not less,” she said.

Related: Malcolm Turnbull refuses to nominate Kevin Rudd as UN secretary general [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jul/29/malcolm-turnbull-kevin-rudd-un-secretary-general-nomination]

Asked whether she would be meeting Rudd in New York, she replied: “I haven’t planned to but if he’s here I’ll see him.”

Bishop also said she had not heard about comments made [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/sep/16/turnbull-attacks-george-christensen-and-pauline-hansons-anti-muslim-rhetoric] by the far-right Liberal-National MP George Christensen this week that Australia should stop taking **immigrants** from countries experiencing violent extremism and that did not “share Australian values”.

However, she said she did not agree with him.

“I believe we should have an open and transparent **immigration** system,” she said.

“We certainly don’t discriminate but we ensure that all necessary steps in terms of health, security, safety and character tests and checks are carried out.”

-with agencies

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Trump speaks to group dedicated to people killed by undocumented migrantsEvent closed to press as Vice says one of its reporters arrested

After reversing course a day earlier on false claims about Barack Obama’s birth, Donald Trump produced a familiar stance on another favourite theme on Saturday, telling an audience in Texas he would save American lives by securing the border.

Related: Donald Trump: Clinton's bodyguards should disarm and 'see what happens'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/16/trump-miami-clinton-disarm-security-obama-birther]

“Our nation should not accept one lost American life because our country failed to enforce its laws,” the Republican presidential candidate said. “This has to end. It will end if I become president, I promise you.”

The event at which Trump spoke, in Houston, was closed to press. Vice News reported that one of its journalists was arrested[https://news.vice.com/article/vice-news-reporter-arrested-outside-a-donald-trump-campaign-event] for alleged trespassing at the hotel “while inquiring about press access”.

Earlier, Trump’s standing on national security and foreign policy was attacked by the former defense secretary Robert Gates, in an op-ed [http://www.wsj.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/sizing-up-the-next-commander-in-chief-1474064606] in the Wall Street Journal.

At the lunchtime event, though, the Republican nominee concentrated on domestic policy, denouncing so-called sanctuary cities – places that do not cooperate with all federal **immigration** enforcement – and describing Hillary Clinton’s plan for comprehensive **immigration**reform[https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/immigration-reform/], including a pathway to citizenship, as an “amnesty” that would mean “a virtual end to **immigration** enforcement in the United States of America”.

Trump claimed his Democratic rival was “effectively proposing to abolish the borders around the country that she is supposed to be representing”.

He was speaking at a luncheon in a Houston hotel held for the Remembrance Project[http://www.theremembranceproject.org/], which bills itself as “a voice for victims killed by illegal aliens”. The group was founded by Maria Espinoza, the daughter of a Mexican **immigrant** father, in 2009. Its flagship initiative is The Stolen Lives Quilt[https://wethepeoplerising.wordpress.com/stollen-lives-quilt-project/], which depicts Americans killed by undocumented **immigrants**.

A subdued Trump spoke for about 15 minutes, then invited family members of victims, who wore T-shirts bearing names and images of their killed relatives, to tell their stories on stage.

The organisation has enjoyed a boost in attention and momentum during this election thanks to Trump’s inflammatory comments about migrants and his contention that unauthorised **immigration** presents not only an economic but also a safety threat to America.

In his speech at the Republican national convention last July, the candidate named several people allegedly killed by undocumented **immigrants**, including Kate Steinle, whose shooting death on a San Francisco pier last year became a cause célèbre for conservatives given that city’s status as a sanctuary city.

“I’ve met many incredible people during this campaign but nothing has moved me more deeply than the time I have spent with the families of the Remembrance Project,” Trump said on Saturday.

After initially inviting applications from members of the media to attend, the Project said on Friday that it was now a private event. It was livestreamed on YouTube.

Asked about a Vice report of one of its staff being arrested, a Houston police department spokesman confirmed that an adult male was arrested for trespassing at the event. According to police, hotel management asked them to arrest the 27-year-old for trespassing when he entered the hotel for a second time and refused to leave, shortly after complying with a prior request to exit.

According to the Vice report, Alex Thompson “entered the lobby of the Omni to ask members of Trump’s communications staff whether a final decision on access had been made.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said “the campaign was not involved in this incident or aware of the details surrounding it.

“The event organizers were responsible for today’s media presence and requested the campaign limit attendance to the traveling pool. The campaign had no staff presence at check-in for guests or media and therefore has no further knowledge of what occurred.”

A man who answered the phone at the hotel said no one was available this weekend to discuss the arrest. In March, police arrested a CBS News journalist[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/charges-dropped-against-cbs-news-journalist-sopan-deb/] who was covering a Trump rally in Chicago when scuffles broke out amid protests. He was accused of resisting arrest but all charges were dropped.

Espinoza and her not-for-profit group have been accused of fearmongering that feeds far-right nativist sentiments. She has described[http://www.theremembranceproject.org/about-us.html] deaths at the hands of undocumented **immigrants** as an “epidemic of killings across the country”, though studies[http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/10/15/crime-rises-among-second-generation-immigrants-as-they-assimilate/] indicate that **immigrants** are significantly less likely to commit crimes than people born in the US.

Victor Ibarra, a 47-year-old born in Mexico, was one of a small group of protesters outside the hotel on Saturday.

“There is more crime committed by American citizens than **immigrants**,” he said, clutching a Mexican flag and standing next to a Trump piñata with devil horns sprouting through blond hair.

“We’re not criminals. He keeps saying all that and I think he’s not right. If he wants to be president he needs to calm down with how he’s saying things. If he wants the Hispanic community, people who vote, he needs not to be so hard on us.”

Related: Two American Dreams: how a dumbed-down nation lost sight of a great idea[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/17/american-dream-divided-nation-equal-opportunity-trump-clinton-campaign]

The Remembrance Project’s website lists 14 people who it says have been killed in Texas by undocumented **immigrants** since 1998. While each death is an undoubted tragedy, that number would represent only a small fraction of the total number of murders in the state. Just in Harris County, which includes Houston, nearly 400 people[http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Variety-of-factors-cited-in-rise-in-Houston-6730937.php] were murdered in 2015.

There are an estimated 11 million undocumented migrants in the US, with about 1.5 million in Texas – second among states[https://www.texastribune.org/2015/01/28/undocumented-population-demographics/] to California’s three million - according to the Texas Tribune.

On Friday morning, Trump, after years of stoking rumours that Barack Obama was not born in the US, finally conceded that the conspiracy theories were baseless[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/16/trump-miami-clinton-disarm-security-obama-birther]. He then headed to Miami for a rally in which he criticised Hillary Clinton’s stance on guns and suggested that his Democratic opponent’s bodyguards should disarm, then “ let’s see what happens to her[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/16/trump-miami-clinton-disarm-security-obama-birther] ”.

The real estate and reality TV mogul was scheduled to head to a rally in Colorado later on Saturday.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Messing up the candidate’s hair might seem like friendly fun. But it humanizes a man whose hateful rhetoric has dehumanized millions of Americans

On Thursday, Jimmy Fallon had Donald Trump on the Tonight Show and ended the segment by saying[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0BYqzdiuJc], “Donald I want to ask you, because the next time I see you you could be the President of the United States. I just want to know if there is something we could do that’s just not really presidential, really – can I mess your hair up?” Trump let him and the NBC audience roared with laughter. But, for many of us, this is very far from being a joke.

Giving comic cover to Trump just isn’t funny when he’s unleashed forces of anti-blackness and anti-**immigrant** sentiment. He’s labelled Mexicans rapists, raised the prospect of a ban on Muslims, patronized and insulted African Americans while pretending to be a potential new hope. As a result, Fallon managed to come over as one powerful white man protecting another.

Not only was it not funny. It didn’t do anything to take Trump down a notch (if it was even meant to). Instead, it humanized him, boosting him on that stupid metric so many Americans use when choosing a president: “Hey, he’s a guy I’d want to have a beer with! Look at him, letting Fallon have fun with him!”

Fallon had real power last night and squandered it. I can’t imagine Chelsea Handler, Trevor Noah or the recently departed Larry Wilmore building up Trump like that.

By smoothing over Trump’s hatefulness with comedy, he allowed the Republican candidate’s supporters to say “Hey, can’t you all take a joke?!” I have been highly critical of Hillary Clinton[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/11/hate-trump-still-hold-clinton-accountable], but the misogyny directed at her by his supporters, who sell “ Trump That Bitch![http://fortune.com/2016/04/25/trump-clinton-misogynistic-merch/] ” shirts and who scream “ lock her up![http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/29/politics/donald-trump-lock-her-up/] ” is terrifying and wrong.

Trump was handed chance to change the story on a day when his conspiracy-minded views on President Obama’s nationality were back on the agenda. The routine smoothed the way for Trump to say he now believes[https://twitter.com/BuzzFeedNews/status/776808050875371521] Obama was born in the US, dashing off before answering any questions about his long espousal of birtherism – which he now blames on Clinton.

Jimmy Fallon, you’ve given permission for all of this to be chalked up as one big joke.

The writer Sarah Schulman recently asked[https://www.facebook.com/sarah.schulman.56/posts/10157468767695188?pnref=story] whether it was “the TV entertainment class that has sold out this country to Donald Trump”. CBS president Les Moonves basically admitted as much when he said[http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/leslie-moonves-donald-trump-may-871464] Trumpism “may not be good for America, but it’s damn good for CBS”. Now, NBC seems to concur. In January of 2015, NBC admirably cut ties [http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/tv/nbc-cuts-ties-donald-trump-immigrant-remarks-article-1.2275244] with Trump on the Apprentice and Miss Universe when he called Mexicans rapists. But like most corporations, when they saw how much power he wielded – that he could wind up in the Oval Office – it wanted access. And so last fall they let Trump host Saturday Night Live[http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/donald-trump-monologue/2933530], Fallon’s old stomping ground, before allowing him to engage in good humored chat with Fallon last night.

We see you, Jimmy Fallon. You are as “apolitical” as the wretched Jay Leno was, a champion of the status quo. You think the idea of Trump in the White House is as harmless as your face on a pint of Ben and Jerry’s.

Maybe it is to you, as a powerful white man on TV who doesn’t have to worry about life as a woman, Muslim, Black or Latin person, **immigrant**, or queer American living under Trumpism (an era which has already begun and will continue, regardless of whether Trump is elected). Your skit was nothing like Charlie Chaplin’s Great Dictator[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1fMvLbE85E], which brilliantly skewered a rising leader of the right. In fact, you did the opposite, making Trump seem more palatable. When history looks back on this moment, we may well say: Jimmy Fallon, you helped build a monster.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Republicans are furious about Obama’s modest proposal. But Canada shows that our fears about resettling those fleeing war are overblown

President Obama’s announcement that the United States proposes to admit 110,000 refugees over the course of the next year has elicited a furious[http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/14/outgoing-obama-plans-to-increase-refugees-by-twenty-nine-percent-next-year/] reaction from some Republican leaders. This was predictable. A spirit of xenophobia has once again taken hold in the United States, as has happened on several previous occasions in American history.

As early as 1798, just a few years after the establishment of the Republic, Congress adopted a Naturalization law that was intended to keep out radicals who could promote sedition. The main targets were the French, who might spread the “Jacobin” ideology of the French Revolution. In the nineteenth century, a focus of exclusion was the Chinese who were explicitly kept out under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. That law was not repealed until 1943, when it became embarrassing because China was an ally of the United States in the war against Japan. In the early part of the twentieth century, a number of measures were adopted to limit the admission of Southern Europeans, such as the Italians, ostensibly because they were thought to be more likely to spread the anarchist ideology than fairer skinned **immigrants** from Northern Europe. And so things have gone.

Today, of course, the main focus of those denouncing President Obama’s proposal is Syrian refugees. Up to now, the United States has admitted a few more than 10,000. So far, at least, their resettlement in the United States has seemed to go very well, though Governor Mike Pence of Indiana, Donald Trump’s running mate, has tried to keep them out of his state.

Additional refugees from Syria would constitute a minority of those that President Obama proposes to admit over the next year. The number projected for all countries in the Middle East and South Asia is 40,000. Yet in this election year, in which the Republican nominee for president swept aside his opponents for the nomination by saying he would deport 11 million undocumented **immigrants** from Mexico, and he would bar all Muslims from entering the United States, has made xenophobia look like a winning political strategy.

As should be apparent, a wealthy country of 320 million people can easily absorb 110,000 refugees. In the year that ends 30 September, America’s goal has been 85,000 refugees. The increase is modest given the scale of the global refugee crisis. It compares poorly to neighboring Canada, with a population just over ten percent of the United States.

In the brief period between 15 November, 2015 and 29 February, 2016, Canada admitted 25,000 Syrian refugees, as well as many refugees from other countries. As Canada’s highly popular Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, does not have political opponents trying to win office by exploiting xenophobia, the absorption of the Syrian refugees has been accepted not only approvingly but enthusiastically by the great majority of Canadians. A large number of the refugees have been sponsored by Canadian church groups, parent-teacher associations and other non-governmental organizations that have paid the initial costs of resettlement, and helped the refugees to find homes, learn English, get jobs and get their children into schools.

Canada carefully screens refugees accepted for resettlement. So does the United States. Typically, the American screening program for refugees lasts more than a year. That is possible when an orderly program is established. It is one of the reasons that a refugee program such as that conducted by Canada, and the one under which the United States admitted 10,000 Syrian refugees in the past year, tends to succeed.

I don’t think Americans are inherently more xenophobic than their Canadian neighbors. In such matters, as in much else, political opportunism plays a big role. It seems to bring out the worst in many people, including those denouncing the president’s modest proposal.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Trump skeptical of Clinton’s health while her doctor declares her ‘healthy and fit’; religion is worth $1.2tn in the US; why it’s easy to hate the tech industry

Trump on campaigning: ‘You think this is easy?’ The Republican nominee questioned[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/14/trump-clinton-health-medical-records-ohio-rally] Hillary Clinton’s health at a rally in Ohio, following her pneumonia diagnosis last week. Speaking about the harshness of campaigning, he said: “You think this is easy? In this beautiful room that’s 122 degrees. It is hot, and it is always hot when I perform because the crowds are so big. I don’t know, folks. You think Hillary Clinton would be able to stand up here and do this for an hour?” Trump, who at 69 would be the oldest president if elected, told Dr Oz during a special that will air today that he’d like to lose 15-20 pounds. He also said that he doesn’t exercise and takes statins. Separately, Trump doctor Harold Bornstein settled a malpractice lawsuit[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/15/donald-trump-doctor-malpractice-lawsuit-patient-death-harold-bornstein] in 2002 after being accused of ‘negligent and reckless’ prescribing of morphine and barbiturates.

Donald Trump questions Clinton’s health at Ohio rally: ‘You think this is easy?’[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/14/trump-clinton-health-medical-records-ohio-rally]

Candidate Clinton: ‘Healthy and fit’ Hillary Clinton’s doctor says she’s in “excellent mental condition” as she recuperates from pneumonia. “My overall impression is that Mrs Clinton has remained healthy and has not developed new medical conditions this year other than a sinus and ear infection and her recently diagnosed pneumonia,” physician Lisa Bardack wrote in her assessment. The Democratic candidate cancelled scheduled trips to California and Nevada this week. She is expected to attend a rally in Greensboro, North Carolina today.

Hillary Clinton ‘healthy and fit to serve as president’, doctor says[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/14/hillary-clinton-doctor-letter-pneumonia]

Religion: America’s biggest economy by far Religion in the United States is worth $1.2tn a year, making it equivalent to the 15th largest national economy in the world and worth more than the combined revenues of 10 biggest tech firms in America (including Apple and Google), according to new study. The report from Georgetown University estimated the value of religious institutions, including healthcare facilities, schools, daycare and charities; media; businesses with faith backgrounds; the kosher and halal food markets; social and philanthropic programs; and staff and overheads for congregations.

Religion in US ‘worth more than Google and Apple combined’[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/15/us-religion-worth-1-trillion-study-economy-apple-google]

Autopilot supplier disowns Tesla The company that supplied the autopilot system used by Tesla in a car that crashed in May, killing the driver, has accused the automaker of “pushing the envelope in terms of safety”. Mobileye broke ties with Tesla Motors over the company’s use of its Autopilot driver-assistance system. “It is not designed to cover all possible crash situations in a safe manner,” said Mobileye chairman Amnon Shashua. “No matter how you spin it, [Autopilot] is not designed for that. It is a driver assistance system and not a driverless system.”

Autopilot supplier disowns Tesla for ‘pushing the envelope on safety’[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/15/autopilot-supplier-disowns-tesla-for-pushing-the-envelope-on-safety]

Guantánamo prisoners return to battlefield A total of nine people freed from Guantánamo have ended up on the battlefield since Barack Obama took office in 2009, according to a report issued by the Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). In all, the Obama administration has released 161 prisoners from Guantánamo since 2009, nine of them had joined insurgencies, representing 5.6%. Under the Bush administration, 21%, or 113 of 532 released, rejoined the jihadist cause.

Guantánamo ex-prisoners continue to turn up on battlefield, says US[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/15/guantanamo-ex-prisoners-continue-to-turn-up-on-battlefield-says-us]

New dangers for Central American migrants A rising number of Central American migrants are heading out to sea in small open boats to evade the **immigration**officials and bandits who have proliferated along Mexico’s southern border. **Immigration** experts fear an increase in trafficking and drownings as a US-driven **immigration** crackdown on established land crossings through Mexico takes hold. Migrants, fishermen and local residents say the coyotes have established maritime networks linking isolated villages along the Pacific coast to transport people along routes previously favoured by drug traffickers.

Central American migrants desperate to reach US risk new dangers at sea[https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/sep/15/migrants-mexico-human-trafficking-us-immigration-crackdown]

Playing a terrorist, typecast as a terrorist UK actor Riz Ahmed[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/15/riz-ahmed-typecast-as-a-terrorist] started acting professionally during the post-9/11 terrorist-acting boom. His first film, Michael Winterbottom’s The Road to Guantánamo, told the story of a group of friends illegally imprisoned and tortured in the US detainment camp. Soon enough, security officials began to mistake him for a jihadist. “Returning to the glamour of Luton Airport after our festival win, ironically named British intelligence officers frogmarched me to an unmarked room where they insulted, threatened and then attacked me,” he recalls.

Typecast as a terrorist[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/15/riz-ahmed-typecast-as-a-terrorist]

The passage of climate disruption – from the Marshall Islands to Arkansas Few experience rising sea levels as acutely as the Marshall Islands, where the tides threaten the land itself. An attendant issue, a shortage of fresh water, is now so dire that President Hilda Heine declared a state of emergency when she took office in January. Coupled with that is a population exodus often headed, oddly, to Springdale, Arkansas. “The numbers are increasing, of people leaving,” Heine says. “We see that almost every day. It concerns us. I think to a certain extent there are people who are thinking about the sea level rise and they’re wanting to make sure they’re on secure land.”

Climate change and the Marshall Islands: lives in the balance[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/15/marshall-islands-climate-change-springdale-arkansas]

Tech’s negative image issue Last week, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg took heat after the most iconic photograph of the Vietnam war was censored from the site. Spontaneously self-inflicted harm is common in Silicon Valley and hardly a week goes by without a powerful person upsetting a significant number of people[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/15/silicon-valley-tech-industry-elitism-mark-zuckerberg]. Perhaps because they’re so often challenging the status quo, tech industry titans are the stuff that PR nightmares are made of, writes Ben Tarnoff. And besides, “tech executives seem to have a special talent for doing or saying infuriating things”.

Gaffes, ignorance and PR nightmares: why it’s so easy to hate the tech industry[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/15/silicon-valley-tech-industry-elitism-mark-zuckerberg]

In case you missed it … It’s the size of turkey with distinctive beak and broom-like bristles that erupt from its tail. Considered a relatively intelligent dinosaur, with good eyesight, Psittacosaurus lived across Asia 100m years ago. Now, using a fossil discovery carried out by a team led by Dr Jakob Vinther, palaeoartist Robert Nicholls has created what researchers believe is a near-perfect recreation of a spectacular fossil preserved with skin and pigments intact.

Scientists reveal most accurate depiction of a dinosaur ever created[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/sep/14/scientists-reveal-most-accurate-depiction-of-a-dinosaur-ever-created]

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**As US-driven **immigration** crackdown forces many to find alternative routes through Mexico, activists fear an increase in trafficking and drownings

The highway from Mexico’s southern state of Chiapas into the neighbouring region of Oaxaca hugs the Pacific coast, cutting through dusty towns and densely forested mountains. It only takes a few hours to drive, but for migrants trying to reach the United States, it is one of the most perilous sections of the overland route.

Related: Mexico's migration crackdown escalates dangers for Central Americans[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/13/mexico-central-american-migrants-journey-crackdown]

Undocumented travelers who take a bus or hop a freight train will almost certainly be detained by **immigration** agents. Those who choose to walk face a gruelling two-day journey through remote forests – and risk robbery, rape and even death at the hands of armed robbers who prey on the men, women and children heading north.

Yet, a rising number of Central American migrants are heading out to sea in small open boats to evade the **immigration** officials and bandits who have proliferated along Mexico’s southern border.

Coyotes – or people smugglers – have established maritime networks linking isolated villages along the Pacific coast to transport people along routes previously favoured by drug traffickers, according to migrants, fishermen and local residents.

It’s not the first time Mexico’s long shorelines have been used to smuggle people, but maritime routes have proliferated since a US-driven **immigration** crackdown forced migrants to find alternative routes through Mexico.

Mexico’s Southern Border Plan was launched after a surge in unaccompanied Central American children seeking refuge at the US border triggered a humanitarian crisis in June 2014.

American aid supported the deployment of thousands of troops to patrol alongside **immigration** agents[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/04/mexico-deports-record-numbers-women-children-central-america] along established migrant routes, forcing travellers to take even greater risks on their journey north. Many of the maritime routes are still controlled by drug-trafficking organisations: cocaine and chemicals used in the production of crystal meth have been discovered in navy operations against seaborne traffickers.

“The numbers of migrants travelling by sea has greatly increased since the launch of the Southern Border Plan. This migration policy has forced people to take more dangerous routes through drug trafficking corridors, increasing their vulnerability. The only ones benefiting from the policy are the traffickers,” said Rubén Figueroa, from the Meso-American Migrants Movement.

So far, there have been no mass drownings on the scale seen in the Mediterranean Sea, but the journey by open boat is fraught with risk. In July, three children drowned when a fishing boat carrying Honduran and Salvadoran migrants from Guatemala capsized in a storm off the coast of Chiapas.

This migration policy has forced people to take more dangerous routes through drug trafficking corridors

Rubén Figueroa, Meso-American Migrants Movement

Sergio Ramírez, 17, from Comayagua in central Honduras, left home in mid-May with seven others, hoping to find work in the US. Traveling by bus and taxi, they made it to the town of Arriaga in Chiapas, where before the clampdown, migrants would continue north on a freight train known as the Beast[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/23/migrants-mexico-train-the-beast-fleeing-poverty].

In the past two years, hundreds of migrants walking from Arriaga have been mugged at gunpoint, according to civil society groups running shelters along the route.

In Arriaga they joined up with another group from Honduras including five women and four children aged two to 10, who were travelling with a coyote.

“He told us about the boat, he said it was the safest option as the bus and walking from Arriaga are very dangerous. He knew the fishermen as he regularly works with them,” Ramírez said.

From Arriaga, they travelled 30km by bus to the tiny fishing village Pesquería de Gloria, from where you can see Bird Island – a spectacular reedy mass home to pink spoon-billed ibis and frigates.

On arrival in Gloria, they were taken to a house where they were given food and water. Each migrant paid £40 (1,000 pesos) for the ride, and late in the afternoon, they set out.

Three hours later, at dusk, the group arrived unscathed in the picturesque hamlet Rincón Juárez. They immediately set off by foot, walking all night to reach the town Unión Hidalgo.

“For us the boat was a good option, we were safe and saved a lot of time,” said Ramírez, who is currently in Mexico City awaiting money from relatives so he can continue his journey.

Only a handful of boat owners in Gloria transport migrants, said Javier, 22, a fisherman. “Not just anyone can do it, it’s their business, you can’t just get involved,” he said.

Those with double-engine boats take up to 30 passengers; smaller, single-engine vessels carry six to eight migrants.

Javier, who like other interviewees asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, added: “I don’t have my own boat, but sometimes I help, I’ve done it just a few times … I went last week, we took 20 people to Rincón Juárez. They have to lie down because the navy patrol this area.”

Two or three boats arrive daily in Rincón Juárez. From there, migrants continue on foot, avoiding the small naval base on the outskirts of the village.

This relatively short route is within a huge lagoon, known locally as the Dead Sea, where the water is relatively calm.

But the open sea is far riskier.

Paredón, Chiapas, is a fishing village of 6,000 habitants with stunning views on the southern tip of the Dead Sea lagoon. Local fishermen say that every day, several boatloads of migrants can be seen passing by on the open sea, where conditions can get very stormy, very quickly. In 2007, 15 migrants drowned near Aguachil[http://archivo.eluniversal.com.mx/primera/29792.html], Oaxaca, a few miles up the coast.

“They start in Central America, in Guatemala, and sometimes stop here for petrol. Some migrants also come here overland and leave by boat, but less at the moment as the navy carries out many operations,” said one elderly fisherman.

Related: Lost at sea: the man who vanished for 14 months[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/07/fisherman-lost-at-sea-436-days-book-extract]

It was very close to here that a Honduran fisherman lost control of his boat in 2012, drifting for 14 months, before miraculously turning up 6,500 miles away in the Marshall Islands. Scores of fishermen have died in these waters.

The boats carrying migrants are heading for beaches such as Bahía La Ventosa in Oaxaca, a small fishing village with a handful of seafront restaurants where migrants and drugs have been passing through for years, according to local resident Raúl Salinas.

“Around 10, 15 years ago, 200 to 300 Central Americans would disembark every few days, but that virtually stopped because of navy operations. Numbers have started to go up again in the last couple of years, and right now at least 80 to 100 land every week,” said Salinas, who has attempted to rescue drowning migrants on several occasions.

They arrive at night to avoid detection, and are met by local fishermen who take them home where they can rest, eat and bathe. Most leave the next day in taxis or buses arranged by their coyotes; others take to sea again, heading to the state of Guerrero.

According to Salinas, some local families have been persuaded to work with migrant smugglers and drug traffickers because of dwindling fish stocks caused by oil spills from the nearby refinery.

The involvement of organised crime groups means that migrants who travel by boat in an attempt to avoid danger, are instead at risk of falling prey to human traffickers. In this zone, Los Zetas, the Gulf and New Generation Jalisco cartels are currently battling for control over land and sea territory to transport drugs, arms and people. Reports of extortion by local police are common.

Amid ever-increasing violence in Central America, thousands of people continue to flee every month in search of safety and a better life. Activists and fishermen fear trafficking and drownings will rise as more migrants are persuaded to travel by sea.

Salinas said: “I’ve seen dead bodies, I’ve tried to rescue people. The open sea is dangerous, small boats can easily overturn, and most can’t swim. But people keep coming because they are desperate.”

\*Names have been changed to protect identities.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The ex-analyst hid her **immigration** status and embodied the American dream – but now as a US citizen she’s fighting for others and angry at the rise of Trump

Twenty-two floors high in a Manhattan skyscraper, Julissa Arce[http://julissaarce.com/] catches her breath at the sight of the Freedom Tower[https://www.wtc.com/about/buildings/1-world-trade-center] shimmering in the afternoon sun. It is 11 September and the ground below is still a radioactive historical site, teeming with tourists, cameras and flowers around the footprints of the fallen towers.

“It’s surreal being across the street from where the twin towers used to be,” she says in awe. “That day completely changed the world and completely changed the way this country approached **immigration**. So much more than what was lost that day was lost. From 9/11 on, our **immigration** policies have all come from a place of fear.”

From 9/11 on, our **immigration** policies have all come from a place of fear

Julissa Arce

Arce was an 18-year-old student on 11 September 2001. She would go on to secure a coveted job at Wall Street giant Goldman Sachs and, at only 27, climb the ranks to vice-president, earning more than $340,000 a year. Despite working furious 80-hour weeks she was, she says, living the dream. Yet the young master of the universe was also harbouring a secret that could destroy her life at any moment. She was an undocumented **immigrant**.

Hiding in plain sight, the constant dread of being unmasked, fired and deported to Mexico took its toll. Arce begins her memoir, My (Underground) American Dream[https://www.amazon.com/Underground-American-Dream-Undocumented-Immigrant/dp/1455540242], published on Tuesday, describing a panic attack that felt like a heart attack that could kill her. There were migraines and debilitating back pains. An ex-boyfriend threatened to report her to the authorities and she felt powerless to fly home to see her dying father. The book is a vivid reminder that beyond monolithic terms and sweeping categories such as “illegal aliens” there are inner lives as richly textured as any other.

Finally, in 2009, Arce married a US citizen and secured a green card, and went on to become a naturalised US citizen. She quit Wall Street and is now an author, speaker and social justice advocate based in Los Angeles, the centre of the undocumented **immigrant** population. She has watched the ascent of Donald Trump, who has made anti-Mexican rhetoric a centrepiece of his presidential campaign, with horror. Yet in March last year, when Arce went public with her story[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-25/how-an-undocumented-immigrant-from-mexico-became-a-star-at-goldman-sachs], Trump’s daughter Ivanka tweeted[https://twitter.com/IvankaTrump/status/574698652939255809] : “We love this story about an undocumented **immigrant** who worked her way up on Wall Street.”

“Trump is a racist and a bigot and a sexist. He is everything bad of humanity in my book,” Arce, who is now 33, says. “But not just that, he’s also incredibly unqualified to be president of this country.”

The third of four siblings, she grew up in Taxco, about a hundred miles south-west of Mexico City. Her parents travelled frequently to sell jewelry in Texas and eventually settled in San Antonio. Arce joined them on a tourist visa when she was 11, learning English from scratch. The visa expired when she was 14, rendering her undocumented.

When she graduated high school in 2001, a new law made it possible for undocumented Texas students to attend public universities and she was accepted at the University of Texas at Austin.

Arce’s parents moved back to Mexico in 2001. She took over their food cart business, which meant that every Friday she took a Greyhound bus 80 miles to San Antonio to sell funnel cakes with strawberries, whipped cream and cinnamon. But when the cart lost its place in a market square, Arce needed a new job to make ends meet. At 19, she bought a fake green card and social security number in “a mundane transaction” in a stranger’s apartment for a few hundred dollars.

At 19, she bought a fake green card and social security number in a stranger’s apartment for a few hundred dollars

She says: “I was really nervous about it because you never know those papers are going to work. That literally was the only choice I had. I didn’t give up on myself and I didn’t give up on my aspirations and I didn’t give up on the sacrifice my parents had already made and the sacrifice I had made. So to me, as difficult as the choice was, the choice was clear. I had to take the next step.”

With the help of Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, which recruits and trains outstanding minority students for summer internships, Arce got her foot in the door at Goldman Sachs. She impressed and was soon offered a full-time job as an analyst. But when the euphoria subsided, she realised she would have to show forms of government-issued ID to start on payroll. She writes: “In less than two weeks there was more than a good chance my secret would finally be exposed – that secret that could ruin my life, that could send me to jail, that could end my career before it ever began. The secret I’d been forced to keep since I was 14 years old.”

One night in the summer of 2005 she felt a sharp pain in her chest, unable to breathe and a tingling that crept down her left arm. She recalls: “You literally feel like you’re going to die …like your next breath is going to be your last.”

She was taken to hospital and told she had suffered a major panic or anxiety attack. And yet, when the moment came, she submitted her fake documents to Goldman Sachs and the alarm never sounded. Facing one of the most wealthy and ruthless companies in the world, she had got away with it. She believes that, perversely, her background worked to her advantage.

“One of the biggest reasons I learned I slipped through the cracks at Goldman Sachs and why I never got caught or deported is because we have this very narrow-minded view of who an undocumented **immigrant** is and what they do, and I didn’t fit that stereotype, so when people were looking at my papers they were never questioning are these papers real or not?[…]”

“But the truth is there are millions of us who do not fit that stereotype and we’re breaking down that stereotype all the time. So we do those jobs because we have to, those are the jobs that are available, we take them, we do them well, we work really hard at them because we want the next generation to do better and we aspire to bigger things than that.”

With a workaholic boss who was on the treadmill at 5.30am and at his desk by 7am, there was little respite. Just as Gordon Gekko in the movie Wall Street declared, “Lunch is for wimps,”[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WsOzrnBTHA] so meals were usually eaten at desks, with sandwiches delivered by cart so no one had to get up. Even the toilet was for wimps. “If you had to go pee, you literally were like running to the bathroom to pee and come back to your desk,” Arce recalls.

We have this very narrow-minded view of who an undocumented **immigrant** is and what they do

Julissa Arce

And yet she did not want to be anywhere else. Arce had the wide-eyed wonder that often eludes jaded locals. “I used to walk around New York City and think, ‘I can’t believe this is my life. I can’t believe I live here.’ People dream of one day seeing New York City … This is a place out of movies and here I am, I live here. I lived at 45 Wall Street, I lived on one of the most famous streets in the world, and I couldn’t believe that sometimes.”

And yet, corroding from within was the knowledge that it could all be shattered in a moment by some misstep. “There were periods of time when I couldn’t get it out of my mind. There were like two or three weeks where every single day I was in a panic about it, but in some ways having the kind of job that I had almost shielded me from it being consciously in my mind. I had to worry about my next promotion, my next trade, my next job assignment, my next raise. But it never really left me.”

Arce blames this stress for severe back pains that left her lying on the floor for hours as well as terrible migraines and stomach problems, all at the age of 24. The book also details a series of heart-in-the-mouth near misses. Arce had to find excuses not to travel to London for Goldman Sachs because she knew leaving the country would expose her **immigration** status. She confided in a boyfriend but then discovered he was cheating on her and vowed to phone the woman concerned; he threatened: “If you call her, I’ll call INS [**Immigration** and Naturalization Service].”

She recalls: “It’s a very painful moment because here was this person that I trusted with my life, that I thought had my back, that I thought loved me. The thing about that day that hurt me even more than him saying what he said is that I felt like I didn’t have the ability to express full human emotion.

“The way a normal human being reacts in a situation like that, rightfully so, when you’re brokenhearted more than you ever thought you’d be in your life, you scream and you yell and you act out. I didn’t have that privilege. I had to swallow it all and just say OK, you win.”

In 2007, word came that Arce’s father was dying. Her instinct was to fly straight home, but she realised that as soon as she crossed the border into Mexico, she would be giving herself a 10-year penalty. Her mother begged her not to come. She spoke to her father by phone two hours before he died. “You just feel so helpless because there’s absolutely nothing you can do and there’s no way you can ever change what happened. You can never go back in time.”

Something had changed, however. Arce grew tired of Goldman Sachs and longed to return to Mexico to see her family, permanently ending her gilded cage existence in America. By now she had a much healthier relationship with a different boyfriend. He proposed marriage and she accepted. This enabled her to finally get a green card in 2009. The years of hiding were finally over, but not in the way she wanted.

Arce muses: “The irony of my situation was so upsetting. The fact that my mum wanted to come to this country because she wanted to make sure her daughters never had to depend on a man. She would always tell me you’ve got to be independent, you’ve got to make your own money, be able to take care of yourself..”

And the marriage, buried in bureaucratic paperwork with no honeymoon, did not last, though the couple remain on friendly terms. “We were young and we never asked ourselves what does it really mean to be married. We had a problem and being married provided a solution to that problem. I read some of the reviews [of my book] that people have written on Goodreads and some people allude to me having got married only for the purpose of getting a green card. And that’s not how it was.

It was the first time since I was 14 years old I was really able to ask myself: what is it I want to do with my life?

Julissa Arce

Although Arce now has US citizenship, her mother’s visa was revoked and she is banned for 10 years, while her sister is living undocumented in San Antonio with four American-born children. Her mother and sister have not seen each other for more than a decade. “Finally I can have a passport that says I’m American and I can vote and when people tell me I’m a criminal, I can say no, I’m an American citizen actually. It’s a great feeling. But my family is still separated and we’re not able to be all together.”

Paradoxically, the green card that would once have conferred the legitimacy she craved at Goldman Sachs now liberated her to walk away. “It was the first time since I was 14 years old I was really able to ask myself: what is it I want to do with my life? I never had that choice before. And so when I asked myself that question, I wasn’t sure that Wall Street was the answer for that. There were so many other things I wanted to explore.”

Arce became the co-founder and chairperson of the Ascend Educational Fund, a scholarship programme that assists **immigrant** students, a board member for the National **Immigration** Law Center. She is “very critical” of Barack Obama for deporting more **immigrants** than any US president in history but nothing prepared her for the day in June last year when a brash businessman descended an escalator at Trump Tower and said of Mexicans: “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

She says: “I was really angry. I was like, I cannot believe that someone would say this, but I also erroneously didn’t take him seriously. I thought because he said that, he had no chance, there’s just no way that someone who comes out and says that … Like, this is going to be over in a week. He’ll be one of the first people to drop out before even the first Republican debate. He won’t be on stage. And I think that because enough of us didn’t take him seriously, that’s why he is in the position that he is today, and I wish myself and everyone else had taken him so much more seriously that we did.”

I think that because enough of us didn’t take Donald Trump seriously, that’s why he is in the position that he is today

Julissa Arce

Arce was even angrier when Saturday Night Live invited Trump to guest star on the TV show. “That was the biggest slap in the face because there were so many people who did cut ties with Trump – the Miss Universe organisation, The Apprentice, so many brands – but I cannot believe Saturday Night Live would have him on, because if he had said that about any other group of people, he would have been crucified. If he said that about black people, about gay people, about Jewish people, about anybody else, he would not have ever been on that stage.”

Win or lose, Trump has torn the social fabric. “It’s not just what he said that angers me, it’s the reaction of our country that angers me even more, and scares me frankly because the reason he is where he is is because the sentiment he’s expressing already exists in our country. He’s just said it loud and made it OK for everyone else to say it out loud. He has made it OK to be a racist. He has given people a platform to stand on and be bigots and be racists and be sexists and be xenophobic. He has set us back so many years in terms of civil rights.”

Trump is using **immigrants** as a scapegoat for everything from unemployment to terrorism, she adds. Arce rails against the cliche that Mexicans do the jobs that other people won’t.

“We don’t come here to clean houses and to pick strawberries and to mow lawns for the rest of our lives and because we want our children to do that. That’s not why we come here. We come here and we do those jobs in the hope that the next generation can get an education and go to college, and the next generation after that can run companies and become president of this country. That’s what the American dream is about.

“People want to mock us for doing those jobs but at the same time those are not jobs they want to go do. So they mock us and tell us we’re stealing their jobs. What jobs are we stealing if those aren’t jobs you want to fill? And by the way, that’s not all we aspire to, and also people who do those jobs deserve the same amount of dignity as anybody else because those are honest jobs and they’re earning an honest living.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The Republican candidate wants to deport **immigrants** and build a wall to keep Mexicans out. So what drives los Trumpistas?

‘Trump is our wakeup call’ Raul Rodriguez, 74, Apple Valley, California

I always carry a bullhorn with me to rallies and campaign events. Into it I shout: “America, wake up!” Americans have been asleep for way too long. We need to realise that the future of our country is at stake.

If we don’t elect Donald Trump, we’ll get another four years of Barack Obama and frankly, I don’t know what would happen to this wonderful country of ours. Obama has already done so much to destroy our way of life and Hillary Clinton is promising to carry on where he left off. Like Obama, she wants to change our fundamental values – the ones people like my father fought to defend.

My father was born in Durango, Mexico. When he came to the US he joined the military and served as a medic during the second world war. He was a very proud American – he truly loved this country. I think I got my sense of patriotism from him.

Obama and Hillary Clinton want to have open borders. They let illegal **immigrants** cross our borders and now they want to accept thousands of Syrians. We don’t know who these people are. If they want to come to this country, they have to do it the right way, like my father did it.

I’m tired of politicians telling voters what they want to hear and then returning to Washington and doing whatever their party tells them to do. Politicians are supposed to represent the people – not their parties or their donors.

Part of the reason I like Donald Trump is because he isn’t an established politician. Sometimes that hurts him and people get offended. But the truth hurts. Even if he doesn’t say it well, he’s not wrong. Trump is our wakeup call.

‘Democrats treat Latinos as if we’re all one big group’ Ximena Barreto, 31, San Diego, California

I was in primary school in my native Colombia when my father was murdered. I was six – just one year older than my daughter is now. My father was an officer in the Colombian army at a time when wearing a uniform made you a target for narcoterrorists, Farc fighters and guerrilla groups.

What I remember clearly from those early years is the bombing and the terror. I was so afraid, especially after my dad died. At night, I would curl up in my mother’s bed while she held me close. She could not promise me that everything was going to be all right, because it wasn’t true. I don’t want my daughter to grow up like that.

But when I turn on my TV, I see terrorist attacks in San Bernardino [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/san-bernardino-shooting] and in Orlando [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/orlando-terror-attack]. There are dangerous people coming across our borders. Trump [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] was right. Some are rapists and criminals, but some are good people, too. But how do we know who is who, when you come here illegally?

I moved to the US in 2006 on a work permit. It took nearly five years and thousands of dollars to become a US citizen. I know the process is not perfect, but it’s the law. Why would I want illegals coming in when I had to go through this? It’s not fair that they’re allowed to jump the line and take advantage of so many benefits, ones that I pay for with my tax dollars.

People assume that because I’m a woman, I should vote for the woman; or that because I’m Latina, I should vote for the Democrat. The Democrats [https://www.democrats.org/] have been pandering to minorities and women for the last 50 years. They treat Latinos as if we’re all one big group. I’m Colombian – I don’t like Mariachi [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariachi] music. Donald Trump is not just saying what he thinks people want to hear, he’s saying what they’re afraid to say. I believe that he’s the only candidate who can make America strong and safe again.

‘Trump beat the system: what’s more American than that?’

Bertran Usher, 20, Inglewood, California

Donald Trump is the candidate America deserves. For decades, Americans have bemoaned politicians and Washington insiders. We despise political speak and crave fresh, new ideas. When you ask for someone with no experience, this is what you get. It’s like saying you don’t want a doctor to operate on you.

But Trump is a big FU to America. He beat the system and proved everyone wrong. What’s more American than that?

As a political science student who one day hopes to go into politics, I am studying this election closely. Both candidates are deeply unpopular and people of my generation are not happy with their choices. I believe we can learn what not to do from this election. I see how divided the country is, and it’s the clearest sign that politicians will have to learn to work together to make a difference. It’s not always easy, but I’ve seen this work.

I was raised in a multicultural household. My mother, a Democrat, is Latino and African American, raised in the inner city of Los Angeles. My father, a Republican, is an **immigrant** from Belize. My parents and I don’t always see eye to eye on everything, but our spirited debates have helped add nuance to my politics.

I’m in favour of small government, but I support gay rights. I believe welfare is an important service for Americans who need it, but I think our current programme needs to be scaled back. I think we need to have stricter enforcement of people who come to the country illegally, but I don’t think we should deport the DREAMers [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DREAM\_Act] [children of **immigrants** who were brought to the country illegally, named after the 2001 Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act].

Trump can be a nut, but I think he’s the best candidate in this election. Though there are issues of his I disagree with, at least he says what’s on his mind, as opposed to Hillary Clinton [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/hillary-clinton], who hides what she’s thinking behind her smile.

It’s up to my generation to fix the political mess we’re in. I plan to be a part of the solution.

‘Trump’s The Art Of The Deal inspired me to be a businessman’ Omar Navarro, 27, Torrance, California

When I was a kid, people would ask what I wanted to be when I grew up. I would tell them: I want to be president of the United States. If that doesn’t work out, I want to be a billionaire like Trump.

In a way, I supported him long before he announced he was running for president. He was my childhood hero. I read The Art Of The Deal [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Trump-Art-Deal-Tony-Schwartz/dp/0345479173] as a student; it inspired me to become a businessman. Now I own a small business and am running for Congress [http://www.omarnavarro.com/] in California’s 43rd district.

Trump built an empire and a strong brand that’s recognisable all around the world; he’s a household name and a world-class businessman. Almost anywhere you go, you can see the mark of Donald Trump on a building or property. When I see that, I see the American Dream.

Some people ask me how I can support Donald Trump as the son of a Mexican and Cuban **immigrants**. They are categorising me. In this country we label people: Hispanic, African American, Asian, Caucasian. We separate and divide people into social categories based on race, ethnicity, gender and creed. To me, this is a form of racism. I’m proud of my Hispanic heritage but I’m an American, full stop.

Like all **immigrants**, my parents came to this country for a better opportunity. But they did it legally. They didn’t cut the line. They assimilated to the American way of life, learned English and opened small businesses.

Why should we allow people to skirt the law? Imagine making a dinner reservation and arriving at the restaurant to find out that another family has been seated at your table. How is that fair?

We have to have laws and as a country we must enforce those laws. A society without laws is just anarchy. If someone invited you to their house and asked you to remove your shoes would you keep them on? If we don’t enforce the rules, why would anyone respect them? I believe Donald Trump will enforce the rules.

‘He has taken a strong stand against abortion’ Jimena Rivera, 20, student at the University of Texas at Brownsville

I’m Mexican, so I don’t have a vote, but I support Donald Trump because he is the one candidate who opposes abortion. He may have wavered in the beginning, but since becoming the nominee he has taken a strong stand against abortion.

Hillary Clinton is running as the leader of a party that has pushed a very pro-choice platform. Even Democrats like her running mate, Tim Kaine [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/23/tim-kaine-vice-president-hillary-clinton-2016-campaign], who is a devout Catholic, compromise their faith to support abortion.

I don’t always agree with his positions on **immigration**. I see the border wall every day. I’m not convinced that it’s effective. The people who want to cross will find a way. I don’t think it’s right that they do, but most of them are looking for a better way of life. A wall won’t stop them.

‘Lower taxes and less regulation will create more jobs’ Marissa Desilets, 22, Palm Springs, California

I am a proud Hispanic conservative Republican woman. I became politically engaged as a political science and economics major at university. By my junior year, I was a member of the campus Republicans’ club. As a student of economics, I am very impressed with Trump’s economic agenda. I believe we must cut taxes for everyone and eliminate the death tax. Lowering taxes and reeling back regulations will create more jobs – meaning more tax-paying Americans. This in turn will generate more revenue for the Treasury.

I also support Trump because he favours strong leadership and promised to preserve the constitution of the United States. We must have a rule of law in this country. We must close our open borders. Like Trump says: “a nation without borders is not a nation.” This doesn’t mean we should not allow any **immigrants**. We should welcome new **immigrants** who choose to legally enter our beautiful country.

This won’t be the case if Hillary Clinton becomes president. I would expect the poor to become poorer and our country to become divided. I believe that liberals’ reckless domestic spending will bankrupt our future generations. I refuse to support a party that desires to expand the government and take away my civil liberties.

‘He has gone through so many divorces, yet raised such a close-knit family’ Dr Alexander Villicana, 80, Pasadena, California

I am an example of the opportunities this country has to offer. My parents came from Mexico at the turn of the 20th century. They were not educated but they worked hard to make a better life for us and it paid off.

I went to school and studied cosmetic surgery. Now I work as a plastic surgeon and have been in practice for the last 40 years. I have a beautiful family and my health. I am Hispanic – but I am a citizen of the United States and I feel very patriotic for this country that has given me so much.

I’m supporting Trump because I agree with his vision for our economy. He has experience at the negotiating table, so he knows what to do to create jobs and increase workers’ salaries. In Trump’s America people would be rewarded for their hard work rather than penalised with hefty taxes.

The security of our nation is a top priority for me. I think it would be impossible to deport 11 million people who are here illegally, but we have to do a better job of understanding who is in our country and who is trying to come into our country.

A lot of what Trump says, especially about security and **immigration**, is twisted by the media. What he said about Mexicans, for example, that wasn’t negative – it was the truth. There are Mexicans bringing over drugs and perpetrating rapes. But what he also said – and the media completely ignored – is that many Mexicans are good people coming over for a better quality of life.

He may be blunt and occasionally offensive but I find him likable. I was so impressed by Trump and his family at the Republican National Convention [http://convention.gop/]. It’s hard for me to imagine that someone who has gone through so many divorces has managed to raise such a close-knit family. None of his children had to work and yet they spoke with eloquence and integrity about their father.

‘When Trump is harsh about Mexicans, he is right’ Francisco Rivera, 43, Huntington Park, California

People ask me how I can support Donald Trump. I say, let me tell you a story. I was in line at the movie theatre recently when I saw a young woman toss her cupcake into a nearby planter as if it were a trash can. I walked over to her and said, “Honey, excuse me, does that look like a garbage can to you?” And you know what she told me? “There’s already trash in the planter, so what does it matter?”

I asked her what part of Mexico she was from. She seemed surprised and asked how I knew she was from Mexico. “Look at what you just did,” I told her. “Donald Trump may sound harsh when he speaks about Mexicans, but he is right. It’s people like you that make everyone look bad.”

I moved from Mexico with my family when I was seven. I still carry a photo of my brother and I near our home, to remind people how beautiful the city once was. Now I spend my time erasing graffiti from the walls and picking up trash. Sixty years ago, we accepted **immigrants** into our country who valued the laws, rules and regulations that made America the land of opportunity. Back in those days, people worked hard to improve themselves and their communities.

I’m tired of living in a lawless country. It’s like we put a security guard at the front door, but the Obama administration unlocked the back door. And I have seen what my own people have done to this country. They want to convert America into the country they left behind. This country has given me so many opportunities I wouldn’t have had if my mom had raised her family in Mexico. I want America to be great again, and that’s why in November I am going to vote for Donald Trump.

‘I voted for Obama twice, but Hillary gets a free pass’ Teresa Mendoza, 44, Mesa, Arizona

In my day job I am a real estate agent but every now and then I dabble in standup comedy. Comedy used to be a safe space. You could say whatever you wanted to and it was understood that it was meant to make people laugh. Now everything has to be politically correct. You can’t say “Hand me the black crayon” without someone snapping back at you: “What do you mean by that?” Donald Trump offended a lot of people when he gave the speech calling [Mexicans] rapists and criminals but he didn’t offend me.

I was a liberal Democrat all my life. Before this I voted for Obama twice. I wanted to be a part of history. If it wasn’t for Obamacare [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient\_Protection\_and\_Affordable\_Care\_Act] and the ridiculous growth of our federal government, I’d probably still be a Democrat, asleep at the wheel. But I woke up and realised I’m actually much more in line with Republicans on major policy points.

I like to joke that I’m an original anchor baby. My parents came from Mexico in the 1970s under the Bracero work programme [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bracero\_program] making me a California-born Chicana. We later became US citizens. But now that I’m a Republican, Hillary Clinton is trying to tell me I’m “ alt-right [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alt-right] ”. It’s strange isn’t it? All of a sudden I’m a white nationalist.

My sons and I go back and forth. They don’t like Trump. But it’s what they’re hearing in school, from their friends and teachers, who are all getting their news from the same biased news outlets.

I’m very concerned about the role the media is taking in this election. The networks sensationalise and vilify Trump while they give Hillary Clinton a free pass. It amazes me. I don’t care if Trump likes to eat his fried chicken with a fork and a knife. I do care that Clinton has not been held responsible for the Benghazi attacks [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012\_Benghazi\_attack].

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**European commission drawing up plans based on US system, which charges applicants a fee

British citizens may have to apply online and pay to travel to Europe after the UK leaves the EU, under plans being drawn up by the bloc for a visa waiver programme similar to the US system.

The European commission is due to unveil draft legislation for the EU travel information and authorisation system (Etias) later this year as part of a broader response to calls for greater security across the continent following recent terror attacks in France and Belgium.

The scheme would cover all visitors to the passport-free 26-nation Schengen zone – of which Britain is not a member – from countries that do not need a visa to enter, EU sources confirmed.

France and Germany both back a system based on the US ESTA scheme[https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/], under which visitors from countries that do not require full visas must apply online for permission to travel, preferably 72 hours before they leave, at a cost of $14 (£10).

Related: 'Fat and lazy' Britain is ill-prepared to secure future outside EU, says Fox[https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/sep/09/fat-and-lazy-britain-is-ill-prepared-to-secure-future-outside-eu-says-fox]

Currently, as citizens of the EU but not part of Schengen, UK nationals must show a valid passport to enter the zone but can then travel freely within it. But after Brexit, British citizens could have to apply through the Etias scheme and pay to visit, legal experts said.

“In theory UK citizens, as third-country nationals, would certainly be subject to the obligations” of such a scheme, said Camino Mortera-Martinez, a research fellow specialising in justice and home affairs at the Centre for European Reform. “This will have to be part of the Brexit talks. It will all have to be negotiated.”

Steve Peers, a professor of EU law at the University of Essex, said he could envisage British holidaymakers having to apply online through a future EU electronic visa waiver scheme before travelling to Spain or France, for example.

“It’s going to annoy a lot of people,” he said. “We can ask for full free movement, but any arrangement is going to have to be reciprocal, so you have to ask what Nigel Farage and the others will accept. We have no idea what the rules will be.”

Peers said the only guarantee that British citizens would not be subject to any future EU ESTA-style system and instead would still be able, for example, to use fast-track channels at EU airports would be if the government negotiated a deal similar enough to Norway’s or Switzerland’s to satisfy Brussels on free movement.

British residents made more than 30m holiday trips to EU countries last year, according to the Office for National Statistics, with Spain (13m visits)[https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2016/jan/27/terrorism-fears-see-uk-tourists-opting-for-safer-holiday-destinations] and France (8.8m) the most popular destinations.

The EU plan is part of series of measures planned in the wake of the Paris attacks in January and November last year and the Brussels airport and metro bombings in March this year[https://www.theguardian.com/world/brussels-attacks], which exposed serious failings in the EU’s external and internal border security systems.

The plan for a European ESTA was first outlined in 2011. The French interior minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, said last month[https://twitter.com/Place\_Beauvau/status/767996540589862912?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw] that France supported “a European ESTA, like that in the US, Canada and Australia”.

Under the US system, introduced in 2009, **immigration** authorities assess whether a visitor is eligible to enter the country under its visa waiver programme before they arrive at the border.

Related: Swiss blink first in EU standoff with striking similarities to UK predicament[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/06/swiss-eu-standoff-striking-similarities-uk-predicament]

Citing Brussels sources, the specialist EU news site Euractiv said[http://www.euractiv.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/section/global-europe/news/non-eu-citizens-will-pay-to-enter-the-schengen-area-under-future-etias-scheme/] the UK government was not involved in Etias, which is the responsibility of Dimitris Avramopoulos, the EU’s migration and home affairs commissioner, and not Britain’s future EU commissioner Julian King, who will take over the security portfolio.

The Schengen zone includes all 27 other EU member states except Ireland, which opted out like Britain, and Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania, which are waiting to join the zone. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland have signed Schengen association agreements.

The British government has given no clear indication of the form its preferred Brexit model will take, but appears to be aiming for a bespoke agreement that would give it control over EU **immigration**, possibly at the expense of single market membership, rather than a deal based on that of Norway and Switzerland.

Negotiations with the EU are likely to be long and tough, with European leaders repeatedly stressing that privileged access to the EU’s single market[http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jul/04/uk-could-access-single-market-suggests-french-presidential-favourite-alain-juppe] will not be on offer unless Britain accepts the fundamental principle of free movement.

Britain has also so far refused to guarantee the residence[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/04/future-of-eu-nationals-in-uk-uncertain-may-comments-tory-leadership-brexit] and other rights of EU citizens already in Britain unless it receives assurances from the EU on the status of British nationals on the continent.

Mortera-Martinez said Etias “may be some time coming” and stressed that that in practice Britain’s future deal with the EU would almost certainly include some form of provision for free travel – as opposed to the right to live and work – on the continent. But the free travel question will be one of many bargaining chips.

“Britain is a neighbouring country, it is a safe country, this would be very bad for business and there would always be a possibility of retaliation,” Mortera-Martinez said. “But this question will have to be dealt with. The two are not remotely comparable of course, but after Brexit Britain will be a third country like Turkey.”

The Paris and Brussels attacks exposed the ease with which even people flagged by police and intelligence services can move around the Schengen zone once they have crossed the EU’s external border, prompting France and some other countries to temporarily reinstate internal border controls.

Among a raft of new security measures, the EU has already adopted a passenger name record[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20150123BKG12902/eu-passenger-name-record-(pnr)-directive-an-overview], obliging airlines to hand EU countries their passengers’ data, and is working on an advanced entry-exit system aimed at registering all border crossings by third-country nationals in the Schengen area.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Set against the seaside charm (and ostentatious wealth), works previously seen as cold and sparse take on a new, warmer complexion

In the idyllic and also more than slightly insane seaside town of East Hampton, New York, just a mile away from waves crashing onto sandy shores and a rustic windmill that has turned in ocean air since 1806, austere arrangements of lines and grids serve an atmosphere of a markedly different kind. Tubes of bright fluorescent light shine in alternately inviting and estranging tones, with strategic deviations between extremes at different ends of a spectrum. Exacting patterns play out in measured stacks of metal boxes placed matter-of-factly on a wall. Momentous paintings that only barely register as paintings at all command attention with nothing more in terms of subject matter than the subtlest distinctions between shades of white and grey.

The occasion for the congregation of them all is Aspects of Minimalism[http://www.guildhall.org/events/?id=980&mode=id], an exhibition of minimalist art. Much of it hails from the heyday of the minimalism in the 1960s and 70s, when the term was affixed to strains of painting and sculpture that could be seen as a reaction, a reduction or a reification in line with an idea that art is in the ideal state when – no more, no less – it is what it is.

The setting for the exhibition is Guild Hall[http://www.guildhall.org/], a small and charming museum where work of the kind looks both at home and **alien** in this world. Getting there from New York City takes about three hours on a train or a bus, through suburban terrain that transforms into a sort of pastoral paradise. East Hampton, of all the Hamptons that serve as exurban sanctuaries and resorts, is the most moneyed and manicured, beautiful but with an anxiety and tension to it too. Sit and eat lunch on a bench in the serene town center and observe a pompous man exit his Porsche with a vanity license plate reading BOTML1NE. Stroll the shops and spy a bathing suit photo-printed with an image of midtown Manhattan, perfect for the beachgoer eager to miss the point of going to the beach entirely. Drop into Harper’s Books[http://www.harpersbooks.com/], a world-class destination devoted to rare and collectible art books, and lay eyes on an edition of a Donald Judd catalogue raisonné that can be yours but only for $8,500.

Money is hard to forget or avoid in East Hampton, but there is enough of it to want to privilege signs of good taste and discretion too. The simple beauty of the place is astonishing, in a way that fuses farmland with the sea. Swaying sawgrass, quietly imperial trees, white sand that leads out to the ocean’s deep blue – it’s a countryside Eden in many ways.

Inside Guild Hall, the environs are more reserved. For Aspects of Minimalism, visitors are greeted by wall text that aligns the exhibition with artists who “sought to remove any sign of personal expressivity, allowing the viewer to experience the work more intensely without the distractions of overt symbolism, narrative, and emotional content”. Many of these artists, the text continues, were reacting squarely against the “gestural excesses” of abstract expressionism[https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/sep/03/abstract-expressionism-not-just-macho-heroes-with-brushes], “challenging the conventional boundaries between various mediums, subordinating authorship, and calling attention to the materiality of their works”.

Materials vary, from felt ( Joseph Beuys[https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/jan/30/fat-felt-fall-earth-making-and-myths-joseph-beuys] ) and corten steel ( Donald Judd[https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2004/feb/03/1] ) to gunpowder ( Ed Ruscha[https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/ed-ruscha] ) and graphite ( Agnes Martin[https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/may/22/agnes-martin-the-artist-mystic-who-disappeared-into-the-desert] ). But the materials matter less than the ways they are arranged, in most cases very particularly. A somewhat loose curatorial conceit makes for the inclusion of work that classes as minimalism in less than strict and definitive ways (Gerhard Richter, Ruscha, Bridget Riley and Andy Warhol), but the classics, as it were, appear at home in their shared company.

Judd features with four works, including a pair of horizontally splayed wall pieces suggestive of mathematical properties internal to the sculptures themselves and a vertical array of six rectangular boxes – Untitled (Hernandez 94.2), from 1994 – that seems to evince a sort of ecosystem with its mix of rusty orange weathered steel and green plexiglass. Elsewhere another untitled Judd box, on its own alone, plays games with empty space as defined by mercurial differences between black and navy blue.

Among other work about measurement and more formal constraints, two large paintings by Martin breathe deep and subtly swallow up the air around them. The Peach, from 1964, tends toward a weighty grey with oil paint anointed by hazy silver pencil lines, while a later and much whiter work (Untitled #5, from 1989) seems to just hover in front a viewer whose gaze goes nowhere and everywhere at once. The most material aspect of it is a shiny silver frame, echoed nicely by the placement nearby of a sculpture by Larry Bell[http://www.larrybell.com/] comprising clear glass and similarly silver metal binding – just space, really, surrounded on all sides by windows to peer in.

All the art in the show, on view through 10 October, is from collections based on Long Island, all but one of the works belonging to Leonard Riggio[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/business/media/barnes-nobles-longtime-leader-leonard-riggio-is-stepping-down.html], the founder and executive chairman of the Barnes & Noble bookstore chain. Having recently announced his impending retirement – and with art activities including years of significant patronage for the Dia Art Foundation[http://www.diaart.org/] – Riggio gave a lecture at Guild Hall on opening weekend, to about 50 museum-goers there on a sunny summer Saturday.

“We were not looking at art as an asset class as is now all the rage,” Riggio said of his formidable collection. Minimalism, in a wide and ranging sense suggested by the exhibition, is among his favored modes, he said, for the ways it is “as elusive as it is profound”. He professed to know a little about art – but, amiably, “not enough to make a fool of myself”.

Considering minimalist icons in the context of a collection – as pieces to ostensibly be lived with in settings different than the museums and galleries in which they are most often seen – teases out elements of the work at odds with customary ways of regarding minimalism as totemic, remote and cold. As an aside in the Guild Hall show, a brief documentary by Chris Felver [http://www.chrisfelver.com/films/marfa.html] presents a portrait of the stalwart Judd at home in Marfa, Texas, the dusty desert town where he fashioned many of his gleaming pieces – less an **alien** aesthete and a looming legend than a guy in a plaid shirt with a lot of sun on his face.

The look of the art in Guild Hall guides it toward that kind of lived-in lineage, at least in part. Curved molding along the ceilings and soft carpet on the floors – something, anything different than the standard museum/gallery setting – can serve as a reminder of all the foraging and forging that went into making minimalism what it was at the start. Reading up on some history on the train, in the new book Eye of the Sixties: Richard Bellamy and the Transformation of Modern Art by Judith E Stein[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/28/eye-of-the-sixties-judith-stein-richard-bellamy-art-dealer], the distance between art’s creation by a bunch of bohemian scroungers and the ways it is most often encountered in antiseptic surroundings could not have been more clear.

Bellamy was a prescient curator who identified many of the minimalists early, when their work was still negotiating its way out of a blessed mess. About Flavin, whose sculptures in fluorescent light prove prominent via four pieces in the Guild Hall show, Stein writes of a young artist who “scavenged the city for detritus that appealed to his eye”. The image continues: “In his unheated apartment in the Meatpacking District he arranged his street finds with the care previous centuries lavished on their curiosity cabinets.” Light bulbs were industrial materials before they were grist for artworks of ethereal power and grace. They were worldly more than is typically remembered in the historical record.

Another recent show, Carl Andre in His Time[http://www.mnuchingallery.com/exhibitions/carl-andre], at the Mnuchin gallery in New York, put similar work in a similarly unusual setting last year. It was a blue chip gallery with a richly moneyed atmosphere, but a townhouse with ornamental detail work and dark wood on the Upper East Side is a long way from all the stark cement and white-walled uniformity elsewhere. In that show, minimalism by some of the same artists (plus Frank Stella, Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold and Robert Ryman, among others) proved approachable and more receptive to a kind of curiosity that can linger. Works burrowed into corners and stuck out in spaces where a person could actually, conceivably live. A stack of boxes by Judd greeted gallery-goers at the top of a grand and winding staircase – an atypical tableau indeed.

Another home for minimalistic experiences of the sort is, like Guild Hall, also out in the Hamptons, at the eminently rewarding Dan Flavin Art Institute[https://diaart.org/visit/visit/the-dan-flavin-art-institute-bridgehampton-united-states] in Bridgehampton, New York. In an unassuming building since 1983, when it opened to the public with support from the Dia Art Foundation after being arranged by the artist himself, the permanently installed display of Flavin’s work with fluorescent light takes up in a setting that was, more than a century ago, a small-town firehouse and later a Baptist church. A white picket fence runs along the outside, and the floors creak once inside through a weighty wooden door.

Upstairs is an assembly of light sculptures built into tiny hallways and alcoves that work in isolation and also interconnect. A single vertical red bulb greets you in the main space, glowing intensely in the center and softening as illumination from the tube disperses. The other pieces – with bulbs in pink, blue, yellow and green – grow more elaborate and complexly composed.

The colors seem to change as you make your way from piece to piece, or certainly to modulate in relation to one another. One that is deep green appears to be white after having looked at what follows, a trick of the eye or perception or perhaps not a trick at all. Blues and pinks seem to fluctuate in terms of intensity while staying static all the while. Slight openings through the ends of certain walls look different from one direction than the other, in a manner that makes less sense the more you try to figure it out. Wonder is more appropriate, or at least an openness to the kind of experience that can benefit from a lack of mediation.

Here is a refuge, all too rare and fertile whenever found, for minimalism to come home to a state where the worldly and otherworldly meet.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The more unflinchingly Trump preaches, the more it clicks with the national creed and the more satisfying it feels. There’s a reason for that: it’s part of the fabric of American history

This past summer, I was guest-teaching in Europe. When the talk of the town wasn’t Brexit, it was the US election. It was discussed the way you’d discuss an alien invasion: bizarre.

A look at US history, however, suggests that this election is far from unusual, and that Donald Trump’s populist, anti-Washington cry to Make America Great Again emerges from the foundational belief of many early settlers: that they were the chosen ones who saw corruption and fought it, building a world cleansed of its sins.

This ethos embodies what Jean-Jacques Rousseau[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/10/christianity-wrong-civil-religion-rousseau] called “civil religion” – that is, the features that undergird political, social and economic behavior. In America’s case, the sociologist Robert Bellah described the country’s civil religion through its symbols: the Exodus, Chosen People, Promised Land, New Jerusalem, and Sacrificial Death and Rebirth.

Related: Trump attacks Clinton as 'trigger-happy' as he vows to expand military[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/07/donald-trump-us-military-spending-sequester-isis]

These optimistic, populist, and nativist traditional underpinnings help explain why Americans think about politics as they do: we bring a good deal of fervor to these symbols.

Our country’s most pressing issues – from purchasing power stagnation to rust belt[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/01/trump-clinton-kaine-rust-belt-pennsylvania-ohio] job loss – tend to be concrete and measurable. But solutions, as they project into the future, are a matter of belief. Americans – heir to people so devout they crossed an ocean to stay true to principle – have faith in what will save the day. It’s “the economy, stupid” when it comes to describing problems. When it comes to solutions, beliefs count.

The main issue facing voters can be summed up by the significant drop in upward mobility. America is the most unequal[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-zuesse/us-is-now-the-most-unequa\_b\_4408647.html] of all western nations: our “Gini” (inequality) index is 85.1, in line with Chile’s 81.4, India’s 81.3, Indonesia’s 82.8, and Kazakhstan’s 86.7. The top 20% of households own over 84% of the wealth; the bottom 40% own 0.3%. In both the working and middle classes, people feel sidelined or fear their children soon will be.

Such are the problems agreed upon by voters across the political spectrum, from Sanders backers to Trump supporters. In coming to solutions, Americans bring fervor particularly to what Bellah described as Sacrificial Death and Rebirth. This includes not only a future orientation, rebirth and “start anew!”, but death to the old and decayed.

The Christian narrative of crucifixion and resurrection and the national tale of leaving the old world have anchored the story of Death and Rebirth in the American civil creed. In it, we hear echoes of the preacher’s “rid ye of the devil” and traces of the political call to “throw the bastards out”.

This election year, it’s clearest in the Trump campaign but emerges in alternative form in Democratic positions. Populist demands grow loud when the “bastards” are identified as Washington insiders, constrainers of liberties, corrupt and incompetent. Nativist demands increase when the “bastards” are **immigrants** or other suspect groups. In both, a troubled world will be set right when evil forces are purged.

The country was born in a revolution against central government, but long before, early settlers, fleeing the centralization of Charles I, were wary of London: the king’s men were the bastards to be thrown out in order to preserve local control. “The Congregational churches and self-contained towns of Massachusetts,” the historian TH Breen writes, “stood as visible evidence of the founders’ decision to preserve in America what had been threatened in the mother country.”

The many early settlers who were religious dissenters were doubly suspicious of government, first for its centralizing efforts and second for the persecution it had foisted upon them. Internal migration through sparsely settled land contributed to the dismissal of central government and growing self-reliance, as there was relatively little government to rely on. Individual initiative and local community were the keys to survival.

National government took a larger role as the country grew, yet the value of individual and local effort combined with a suspicion of central authorities were rooted in America’s civil faith.

Protestantism, born also in revolution (against Rome), added to the mix. The mandate to read the Bible for oneself and find one’s own path to God encouraged the view that the responsible moral agent is the individual (with guidance from her local church). The Great Awakenings of the 1730s-1740s and 1820s-50s were festivals of individual iconoclasm, religious groups splintering off from established institutions, and populist religious ideas.

Reformed Protestantism, which came to America through Puritan and other Calvinist traditions, had an even stronger impact on political development. It held that the sovereign nation does not start with central government but with the local covenanted community – the foedus – which form networks to constitute the nation. It’s these ideas that gave the US its federal system of government and the continuing political and legal battles about states’ rights.

During the revolution, America’s churches sided with the rebels, not London. Among the more anti-authoritarian sects was Arminianism – or in America, Methodism – in which the accent shifted subtly to the individual’s role in salvation. It was a faith well-suited to a self-reliant nation wary of authorities, and America embraced it. The number of Methodist churches rose from 20 in 1770 to 19,883 in 1860. By the mid-19th century, two Kentucky preachers could in good anti-authoritarian conscience opine: “We are not personally acquainted with the writings of John Calvin … neither do we care.”

When Reagan said government was the problem, he was channeling American history and zeal

From this history came the myth, reality and creed of self-reliant localism and suspicion of central authority. Reliance on government is for the faint and faithless of heart. When Reagan said government was the problem, he was channelling American history and zeal.

Today, Trump is giving this civil religion voice in populist form, and because “throw the bastards out” is rooted in US culture and worldview, it wins votes.

In April 2016, the Public Religion Research Institute reported: “Two-thirds of Trump supporters think the nation needs a leader who breaks the rules” (a ritual redux of Boston’s “throw the bastards out” Tea Party). Other Republican candidates had populist, small-government positions but lacked Trump’s feathers-and-warpaint yelp. Ted Cruz came closest, which is one reason, along with his social conservatism, why he was second in line and why there is substantial support for his running in 2020.

Even when Trump says he’d keep governmental social security for retirees, his jeremiad is brimstone and hellfire for Washington. The more unflinchingly Trump preaches, the more it “clicks” with the national creed and the more satisfying it feels.

Trump University taught: “You don’t sell products, benefits or solutions – you sell feelings.” Trump had no hand in the development of America’s civil-religious anti-authoritarian feelings, but he taps into them. His first and continuing charge against Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine is that they are “ultimate insiders”.

In nativist form, “rid ye of the devil” is extended from the populist Satan of big government to other spoilers of the City on the Hill, especially traditionally suspect groups like **immigrants** and Muslims. Many factors go into antipathy against these communities, and surveys have correlated support for Trump with pre-existing intolerance for **immigrants**, racial minorities, and Muslims. But intolerance becomes calls for deportation and border closings where “throw the devil out” is seen as the way to save a fallen world.

One definition of “tragic” is getting behind solutions that don’t solve problems. Closing borders to keep or throw the bastards out will probably not address America’s economic or national security problems. Given the extensive vetting process, it’s not clear that barring Muslims will boost security, but it does do Isis’s PR for them, giving weight to the claim that America is in a war against all Muslims. It’s also not clear that reducing **immigration** would yield economic benefits, since legal and illegal **immigrants** to the US create companies and jobs and boost the economy by a surplus of $35bn annually, benefiting all but the lowest earners.

Related: Pride and pain in Trump country: 'We all grew up poor, but we had a community'[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/07/kentucky-trump-obama-unemployment-drugs]

America’s employment crisis could be addressed through education, job (re)training, and regional redevelopment, for a start. But these options lack the satisfaction of “ride ’em out of town”.

What of Clinton and the year-long outpouring of support for Sanders? Though they occupy different positions on the Democratic spectrum, they, like Obama, preach America’s alternative gospel: government is not the devil that should be kept as small as possible; instead, it should be large enough to give the little guy a leg-up. The Clinton platform builds on the Roosevelt Institute’s policy recommendations that government “rewrite the rules” for broad-based distribution of resources.

This American gospel too believes in “cast out the old to build the new”. Obama, after all, also campaigned on “Change” in the American civil creed idiom. But this alternative “change” and creed sees government as the agent responsible for maintaining opportunities for ordinary people and for ensuring that the middle class is the largest class, which it is no longer.

The economic tsunami of 2008 has added to the problems that have been accumulating since the 1980s – not only purchasing power stagnation but the fear that it will worsen.

America is in a civil-religious war about its response. Rid-ye-of the-devil’s-government remains America’s first and oldest civil religion. It faces the newer “leg up” creed. Seventy-two percent of Democrats and those leaning Democratic see a major role for the government in lifting people out of poverty; only 36% of Republicans do. Eighty-two percent of Democrats see government as having a major role to play in healthcare; only 34% of Republicans do.

The apostles of each creed, like the circuit-rider preachers who traversed America, cross the country today with their campaign staffs, hoping to save the nation.

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**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**GOP nominee said his rival produced ‘only turmoil, suffering and death’ while he laid out his vision for a more robust military and cautious foreign policy

Donald Trump derided Hillary Clinton as a warmonger on Wednesday, saying: “Sometimes it seems like there wasn’t a country in the Middle East Clinton didn’t want to invade,” even as he called for a major increase in US defense spending.

In the speech at the Union League in Philadelphia, a century-and-a-half-old institution crammed with portraits of civil war generals and long-dead club presidents, Trump laid out his vision for a more robust US military paired with a cautious foreign policy.

Trump railed against his Democratic opponent as having been “trigger-happy and very unstable” during her tenure as secretary of state, claiming that she produced “only turmoil, suffering and death” while in office.

By contrast, the Republican nominee promised to “prioritize diplomacy over destruction” and pledged that in his administration “our actions in the Middle East will be tempered by realism”.

The address, billed as a policy speech on military readiness, marked Trump’s second on policy in the past week after addressing **immigration** last Wednesday in Phoenix. Trump has taken a more scripted approach in recent weeks, which have seen Hillary Clinton’s lead narrow in national polls[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/general\_election\_trump\_vs\_clinton\_vs\_johnson\_vs\_stein-5952.html].

Related: Military veterans demand Republicans unendorse Trump and his 'ignorance'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/04/us-military-veterans-donald-trump-petition-john-mccain]

Trump also called for an end to the sequester, the automatic spending cuts that took effect in 2013 as part of a budget deal in Congress, which forced significant cuts in both defense and non-defense spending. Trump only called for an end to the defense cuts, arguing that deep cuts in the military “invite more aggression” and, without increased spending, “we will have aggression like you’ve never seen before”.

At the time the sequester went into effect, the Republican nominee dismissed its impact. He told Fox News[http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/on-the-record/2013/02/24/trump-looming-sequester-its-being-overexaggerated] in 2013 that concern about it was “over-exaggerated” and dismissed naysayers, saying “a lot of things are not going to happen that people are thinking are going to happen.”

Clinton called for an end to the sequester at a speech to the American Legion in Cincinnati on 31 August. “We cannot impose arbitrary limits on something as important as our military,” the Democratic nominee said. “That makes no sense at all. The sequester makes our country less secure. Let’s end it and get a budget deal that supports America’s military, our families, and our country.”

Trump proposed to use the increased defense budget to expand the army to 540,000 people, the navy to 350 ships, and the air force to at least 1,200 fighter aircraft, as well as to develop a missile defense system. A number of the recommendations were based on a report from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative thinktank based in Washington that Republicans have long relied on for policy recommendations.

The size of the armed forces has been reduced in recent years, with the army moving towards a long-term goal[https://www.armytimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/07/09/army-outlines-40000-cuts/29923339/] of reducing its force to 450,00 active duty soldiers. The marine corps has only 23 battalions, which the Heritage Foundation has argued is below the minimum of 30 needed for the United States to fight two major regional conflicts simultaneously.

Trump also pledged to build a “state-of-the-art missile defense program”, which he said would create a significant number of jobs. He said: “Accomplishing this missile rebuild will be a 50-state effort. Every state in the union will be able to take part rebuilding our military and developing the technologies for tomorrow.”

The Republican nominee provided few details about how this massive increase in spending would be funded. Trump talked vaguely of “commonsense reforms that eliminate government waste and budget gimmicks” as well as “reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy through responsible workforce attrition”. One specific measure Trump suggested was “respectfully asking Germany, Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia to pay more for the tremendous security we provide them”. Trump was confident that those countries will “fully understand” and insisted currently “we are subsidizing them for billion of dollars”.

Trump has previously pledged to greatly increase infrastructure spending and slash tax rates, all while maintaining current entitlement spending.

Trump also reiterated a statement he first made[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/06/donald-trump-rally-greenville-north-carolina-clinton-attack] at a Tuesday night rally in Greenville, North Carolina, that, after being elected, he would “ask the generals to present a plan within 30 days to defeat and destroy Isis”.

Previously, Trump has said he had a secret plan[http://www.mediaite.com/tv/donald-trump-i-know-how-to-defeat-isis-but-im-not-gonna-tell-yet/] to defeat Isis that he did not want to share, telling Fox News in May 2015: “I don’t want the enemy to know what I’m doing.”

The Wednesday speech’s more sedate setting came after Trump delivered his most recent policy speech on **immigration**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech] to a roaring crowd in Phoenix last week. Trump admitted to reporters on Monday that the setting may have led to his more strident than expected tone.

“You had 15,000 people and 10,000 outside and they were going wild,” Trump told reporters on his aircraft. “A lot of that the noise was unbelievable, it’s possible when you make a speech like that you’re better off doing it for 150 people in front of the Washington Press Club.”

Related: Will the US elections be hacked? It's doubtful, but machines could be 'rigged'[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/aug/06/will-the-us-elections-be-hacked]

In a press release issued before his speech, Trump also said that among his first requests as commander-in-chief would be to ask the joint chiefs of staff as well as other departments to identify potential vulnerabilities in the US’s cyber-defenses.

Clinton has suggested that the Russian government is using cyber-attacks to meddle in the US presidential election[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/05/russia-influence-us-presidential-election-investigation], after a host of emails were leaked in a hack of the Democratic National Committee. Trump has downplayed the severity of these hacks and even once apparently jokingly invited Russia to hack Clinton’s emails and release the findings.

In a clear dig at his Democratic opponent, Trump said he would “enforce all classification rules, and enforce all laws relating to the handling of classified information”.

Clinton reportedly told the FBI in a July interview about her use of a private email server that she could not recall key details and events[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/hillary-clinton-emails-laptop-thumb-drive-archive-missing] related to classified information procedures, according to notes recently released by the bureau. Trump and his campaign have seized on this, saying Clinton’s apparent irreverence to the classification rules should “disqualify” her from seeking the presidency.

Additional reporting by Lauren Gambino in Washington

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**At a North Carolina rally Trump took aim at his rival’s ‘military adventurism’ and condemned the promotion of democracy oversees: ‘They don’t even want it’

Donald Trump, in a fiery attack on Hillary Clinton before a crowd of thousands in North Carolina, called his Democratic opponent a liar and said “her conduct is disqualifying”.

The Republican presidential nominee raised issues on Tuesday night about his Democratic rival’s policy of “military adventurism” and homebrew server to a capacity crowd that chanted “lock her up”.

Trump’s assault on Clinton, in a cavernous convention center, marked his first public rally since the Labor Day, the unofficial kickoff to the fall campaign. After bemoaning that Clinton didn’t talk about policy but instead engaged in “hitjobs” against him, Trump proceeded to return the favor. Only hours before, at a Tampa rally, Clinton had called him “temperamentally unfit and totally unqualified to be president of the United States”.

Related: Major 50-state poll shows leads for Hillary Clinton in key states[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/06/washington-post-50-state-poll-trump-clinton-2016-election]

Trump started by focusing on Clinton’s policies as Secretary of State. In a passage that was remarkable for a Republican less than eight years after George W Bush left office, Trump condemned democracy promotion overseas. “I believe in a foreign policy based on our national interests that focuses on American security and regional stability instead of using our military to create democracies in countries with no democratic history and couldn’t care less about democracy,” he said. “We are trying to force democracy down their throats and they don’t even want it.”

At a town hall earlier on Tuesday, Trump criticized the United States’ intervention in Libya as part of Nato in 2011. There, he said “this was a Hillary Clinton deal. We could have had a minor attack.” The Republican nominee supported the intervention[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/trump-claims-he-didnt-support-libya-intervention-but-he-did] at the time.

The attack on Clinton’s interventionist foreign policy came the night before Trump will hold a major address on defense policy in Philadelphia. He is expected to call for the end of the sequester and a significant increase in military spending. He is also expected to condemn Clinton’s foreign policy of regime change and democracy promotion as well.

In addition to policy, Trump used much of his speech to give a fervent indictment of the ongoing controversy of Clinton’s emails, which he said was “worse than Watergate”. In his view, “we can’t have someone in Oval Office who doesn’t know meaning of words ‘confidential’ or ‘classified.’”

The Republican nominee condemned Clinton’s use of the software BleachBit to wipe her servers – “she bleached her emails” – and raised questions about a Clinton aide destroying her discarded phones with a hammer. “Who uses 13 different iPhones in 4 years,” Trump asked. “The only people who use that many phones are usually involved in very, very, I mean very, shady activity.”

Trump also suggested that something ominous had happened to Bryan Pagliano, the IT worker who maintained Clinton’s server and invoked the fifth amendment in lieu of testifying to Congress on the matter. “He pleaded the 5th and where is he? We never heard about him again,” Trump said.

As Trump summed it up: “In history there has never been a situation like what’s going on with Justice and Hillary Clinton. There has never been a situation like what’s going with the media and Hillary Clinton.”

Trump also continued to compare Hillary Clinton to German chancellor Angela Merkel, calling her “America’s Merkel” and saw parallels to her fortunes in Merkel’s party losing regional elections in Germany on Sunday[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/04/mecklenburg-vorpommern-german-anti-immigrant-party-strong-regional-election-exit-polls-merkel]. “See what happened to Angela Merkel, they had a massive defeat recently in the elections.”

Trump did outline one new policy detail at the rally. The Republican nominee pledged that, if elected, “I am also going to notify all countries that refuse to take back dangerous illegal **immigrants** that they will lose access to our visa programs and many more little goodies.” Losing access to US visa program would effectively mean that residents of those countries would not be able to visit the United States for any reason.

He tied the issue to risk from **immigrants** committing crimes, in particular Syrian refugees whom he once again called “a Trojan Horse”. Unusually, Trump thought about history in expressing his concern about a potential threat from those fleeing the Syrian civil war. “In 200 years, 400 years, I don’t want people to be reading about it or talking about it,” said Trump.

The Republican nominee also pledged that he would have the US military submit a plan to defeat Isis within 30 days of taking office. This marked a shift from his statement[http://www.mediaite.com/tv/donald-trump-i-know-how-to-defeat-isis-but-im-not-gonna-tell-yet/] in May 2015, before he formally announced his candidacy, that he already had a plan to defeat Isis but that he wanted to keep it secret because: “I don’t want the enemy to know what I’m doing.”

In addition to his speech on defense policy Wednesday, Trump is also scheduled to address the presidential convention of the Conservative Party in New York City and participate in a televised forum with NBC’s Matt Lauer.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Citizenship will be a ‘get out and come back in’ process for the undocumented – but he is ‘not ruling out anything’ regarding those who say

Donald Trump kicked off Labor Day by pivoting yet again on **immigration**.

On a day when he barnstormed Ohio like a conquering hero, the Republican nominee left open the possibility of a path to legal status for undocumented **immigrants** and indicated a desire to move on from the issue.

In an interview with reporters on his jet, somewhere over north-eastern Ohio, Trump insisted that while anyone seeking to become a citizen was “going to have to get out and come back in through the process”, he was “not ruling out anything” when it came those who remained in the US.

“We are going to make that decision into the future. That decision will be made.

“Our first thing will be to get all the bad elements out, the gang members, secure the border, stop the drugs from coming in.

“You know what I talk about more than anything else is jobs. We’ve been talking about **immigration** … if I didn’t bring up **immigration**, you guys wouldn’t have been talking about it. **Immigration** is a huge problem. I’ve proved that and I’ll solve that problem. But the thing I am going to be best at is jobs, at renegotiating trade deals, which are a disaster.”

As the Republican nominee later declared in his in-flight interview “it’s all about jobs … The **immigration** position is so clear and so well announced – we gotta stop the drugs, we gotta stop criminality, get rid of the bad ones, and a lot of them are bad – it’s really now so much talking about jobs because our country has been destroyed by other countries taking our jobs.”

Less than a week earlier Trump had given a hardline **immigration** speech, proclaiming firmly[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] “There will be no amnesty” and insisting “anyone who enters the United States illegally is subject to deportation, otherwise we don’t have a country”.

But surrogates appearing on Sunday shows[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/donald-tump-immigration-mixed-messages-republicans] made his position sound more nuanced. The former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Trump confidante, told CNN he had left “a very big opening for what will happen with the people that remain here in the United States after the criminals are removed and after the border is secure”.

On Monday Trump seemed eager to focus on jobs in blue-collar Ohio communities. Starting with a round table with union members outside Cleveland, then making a retail stop before being mobbed by crowds at a county fair outside Youngstown, Trump bathed in the adulation – the 5th Avenue billionaire transformed into working-class hero.

At the roundtable, introduced by Tom Coyne, the Democratic mayor of Brook Park, Ohio who cast his first Republican vote for Trump in March’s presidential primaries, the nominee bemoaned the fact that Mexico and China were taking American jobs. As he told reporters later: “They are taking our jobs like Grant took Richmond.”

He criticised Barack Obama over his visit to China where the G20 hosts didn’t “give him stairs, the proper stairs to get out”. The “metal staircase” Obama descended was attached to Air Force One[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/05/trump-obama-china-trip-snub-clinton-ohio-campaign]. “[If it] were me I’d say you know what folks, I respect you a lot, but let’s get out of here.”

Voters in Ohio seemed to warm to his style. At a county fair in traditionally Democratic Mahoning county, Trump was mobbed as he briefly walked through the crowd. The Republican nominee smiled and waved as infatuated Ohioans shouted “We love you Donald” and even shrieked in glee.

Adulation in Ohio, maybe – but Trump faces as an uphill battle as he lags in national and state polls. Looking ahead to the debates, he pledged that barring “hurricanes [or] natural disaster, I expect to do all three. I look forward to the debates. I think it is an important element of what we’re doing. I think you have an obligation to do the debates.”

He confirmed that he was not engaging in traditional preparation – no mock debates, no one playing Hillary Clinton. “I’ve seen people do so much prep work that when they got out there they can’t speak.”

The first debate between Trump and Clinton takes place on 26 September.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Despite recent campaign resignations, don’t expect a pivot to the center: there will be more fiery rhetoric and impulsive outbursts as election day nears Clinton in the final stretch: winning over anti-Trump voters may be best play

As the presidential election enters the home stretch, Donald Trump’s campaign is in a vulnerable position. In recent weeks, the Republican nominee has changed key aides[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/26/steve-bannon-florida-registered-vote-donald-trump] yet again, flip-flopped on his signature issue of **immigration**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/donald-tump-immigration-mixed-messages-republicans] and stayed well behind Hillary Clinton in fundraising, organization and polling[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/29/donald-trump-nascar-north-carolina-republicans].

Trump is by no means out of the race, but his path to victory relies as much on Clinton missteps as on his own successes. That means he now has a clear goal. He is not going to try to be a normal candidate. There will be no attempt to pivot to the center. There will not be a softer side.

Trump will be the same fiery demagogue that tore up the Republican primary. The goal will not be to dam his torrent of political incorrectness. It will be to channel it, to produce maximum appeal to voters.

The biggest change in the Trump campaign in recent weeks was the replacement[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/19/paul-manafort-resigns-donald-trump-campaign] of top aide Paul Manafort with a two-headed team, pollster Kellyanne Conway as campaign manager and rightwing publisher Steve Bannon as campaign CEO. The two took over in mid-August, after a series of revelations about Manafort’s ties to allies of Russian president Vladimir Putin[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/16/donald-trump-campaign-paul-manafort-ukraine-yanukovich].

A veteran of Republican campaigns since 1976, Manafort was brought on to help guide the campaign through the arcane process of delegate selection for the Republican convention in Cleveland. He was then able to push out Corey Lewandowski, Trump’s previous campaign manager, who was known for his brash, hard-charging style.

Manafort is known for his charisma, but he was not able to bring it to bear on Trump. Before the billionaire clinched the nomination, Manafort promised top Republicans[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/21/trump-campaign-republican-establishment-election-strategy] his candidate was putting on “an act” for primary voters. Trump was reportedly furious, and therefore did his utmost to demonstrate that he was just being himself.

Trump subsequently meandered from controversy to controversy, a situation not helped by the fact that unlike Lewandowski, Manafort did not travel with him. It is almost unheard for campaign managers to travel with their candidate, but no candidate in American history has been so impulsive as Trump.

The result? To name just two controversies, Trump claimed a federal judge was biased against him because of his Mexican heritage[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/03/donald-trump-judge-curiel-university-case-biased-mexican] and insulted the family[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/31/donald-trump-father-muslim-us-soldier-khizr-khan-soul] of an American soldier who died in Iraq. And so Manafort was pushed out, along with other veteran operatives such as Rick Gates and Mike McSherry.

Related: Trump's new hire David Bossie has decades-long history attacking Clintons[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/03/citizens-united-david-bossie-trump-campaign]

The resulting shakeup also brought in David Bossie[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/03/citizens-united-david-bossie-trump-campaign], a long-time anti-Clinton operative. As a result, the campaign’s brains trust, which also includes Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/05/jared-kushner-new-york-observer-jewish-antisemitism], has no experience working a for a presidential candidate in a general election. It is however well-attuned to Trump’s idiosyncratic ways.

One of the biggest changes is that Trump now uses a teleprompter when speaking, even at his raucous campaign rallies. Although he has long disdained the device and boasted of his ability to improvise every night, thanks to the arrival of Conway he has finally been persuaded to stick to something resembling a script.

No one, of course, should mistake Trump for an automaton. He uses his prepared remarks in the same way John Coltrane used the sheet music to My Favorite Things: as the basis for a series of wild riffs. But the presence of the teleprompter means that Trump at least gets back to the basic notes, rather than off on a politically costly solo.

The most glaring sign Trump’s new reliance on technology came at the end of August, at an Iowa fundraiser for Senator Joni Ernst that was held in a barn on the state fairgrounds, where livestock normally compete for blue ribbons. Politician after politician took the stage to cheers from crowd sitting on benches on the dirt floor, wolfing down barbecued pork sandwiches. As Trump’s appearance drew near, technicians suddenly appeared and installed a teleprompter. At such an informal event, it was a jarring site.

In terms of policy, the candidate has returned to the “let Trump be Trump” tactics that defined his campaign in the primary. This was most clear in his **immigration**speech in Phoenix on Wednesday, where Trump definitely took a hardline stance[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech], a doubling down on the inflammatory rhetoric that drove his surge to the nomination.

Proclaiming “there will be no amnesty”, parading family members of Americans killed by illegal **immigrants**, he framed the issue[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] not as “a humanitarian crisis”, as he said earlier that day in Mexico, or even an economic one. Instead, it was about public safety and the “wellbeing of the American people”.

In the aftermath of a speech that showed little potential to improve poll numbers among Latino voters, a number of members of Trump’s Hispanic advisory council resigned. A recent poll showed only 19% of Hispanics[http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/trailguide/la-na-trailguide-updates-1472827916-htmlstory.html] supporting Trump. In 2004, George W Bush won 44%. In one recent poll, Trump’s approval rating among African Americans was zero[http://fusion.net/story/341993/trump-public-policy-polling-0-percent/]. To win, he will have to run the table with white voters.

Trump does appeal to disconnected blue-collar white voters. While diverse states like Colorado and Virginia, swing states in past cycles, have moved off the map, Trump is showing staying power in places such as Iowa[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/28/donald-trump-iowa-republican-red-state] and Nevada, which have recently leaned Democratic. The problem is that those states have comparatively few votes in the electoral college. He is also being significantly out-organized and out-fundraised by the Clinton political juggernaut.

Related: Married couples more politically split this election, thanks to Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/donald-trump-support-marriage-ipsos-poll]

His one advantage is Clinton. Trump may be the most unpopular presidential candidate in modern American history, but Clinton is the second-most unpopular. No less than 68% of Americans[https://www-google-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwjVramepfLOAhXL1CYKHXITBhwQFggcMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fnews%2Fthe-fix%2Fwp%2F2016%2F07%2F25%2F4-brutal-poll-numbers-that-greet-hillary-clinton-at-the-democratic-national-convention%2F&usg=AFQjCNF3LYkvtxduzuAbFlrG4LS35sas1g&sig2=avFhpcUS4ooeR2Bcx27UxQ&bvm=bv.131783435,d.eWE] think the Democratic nominee isn’t honest and trustworthy and with her email scandal[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/02/hillary-clinton-emails-laptop-thumb-drive-archive-missing] showing no sign of abating, the Democrat will come under continued scrutiny until election day itself.

Trump’s path to victory is still narrow. But if there is one thing Trump has shown in the past year, it’s that an underfunded, out-organized campaign can throw caution to the wind, and ride a never-ending twister of controversy to beat an establishment opponent. That worked in the Republican primary. Can it work in November?

One thing is clear: Trump is more confident pursuing an outlandish, unconventional approach than he is if he acts like a normal politician.

Key players Kellyanne Conway, campaign manager; Steve Bannon, campaign CEO; Jared Kushner, son-in-law; Roger Ailes, former Fox News chief.

Signature policies Building a wall and having Mexico pay for it; renegotiating free trade agreements; “bombing the hell out of Isis” and “taking their oil”.

Strongest point Able to garner free media with a single tweet.

Weakest point Has hit record lows with minority voters, reaching 0% in one recent poll of African Americans. Is also is being massively outspent and outorganized by Clinton.

Core supporters Blue-collar white males.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**With 64 days to the election, the nominee’s attack on the senator from the swing state of Arizona is a risky strategy

Donald Trump has entered a bitter war of words with Republican senator Jeff Flake as the Republican nominee reverted to his behavior in the primary where he constantly attacked GOP elected officials.

Trump used Twitter[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/772571293438840832] Sunday to blast Flake, a first term senator from Arizona who has yet to commit to supporting Trump in November, as “very weak and ineffective” on the issue of **immigration**.

Trump also tweeted[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/772556213313765377] “The Republican Party needs strong and committed leaders, not weak people such as @JeffFlake, if it is going to stop illegal **immigration**,” after Flake criticized the Republican nominee in an interview Sunday with CBS’s John Dickerson.

In the interview, Flake said Trump’s habit of changing his message on **immigration** was confusing for voters.

“It’s kind of a 360-degree pivot at times. That’s not clear at all. Some people said it was hardening, some said softening. I say it was just confusing.”

The result left Flake feeling that it was unlikely that he would be able to support the Republican nominee in November. “It becomes increasingly difficult to see that he’s going to change, so I don’t expect that I’ll be able to support him in November,” said Flake.

Trump had spent the two weeks leading up to his major **immigration** speech on Wednesday hinting at support for a path to legal status for undocumented **immigrants** before reversing course. This culminated when Trump made a surprise visit to Mexico to meet with President Enrique Peña Nieto where he described illegal **immigration** as a “humanitarian crisis.” Only few hours later, while speaking to crowd of supporters in Phoenix, Trump announced[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] “there will be no amnesty” and insisted “anyone who enters the United States illegally is subject to deportation, otherwise we don’t have a country.”

The Republican nominee has tangled with Flake before. In July, the Arizona senator confronted[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/07/donald-trump-meeting-congress-republicans-divided-responses] Trump in a closed door meeting with other Republican elected officials in Washington DC. Flake has since called on[https://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/sen-jeff-flake-gop-should-shift-resources-from-trump-to-sena?utm\_term=.vhWzaZP2A#.oc483BgkR] the RNC to shift resources away from Trump and towards downballot races.

Trump’s war of words with Flake comes 64 days before the election and with Flake’s home state of Arizona looking increasing close. Hillary Clinton has recently begun advertising in the once deep red state and recent polls show Arizona to be a toss-up in November[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/az/arizona\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5832.html] as the state’s growing Hispanic population has been **alienated** by Trump’s **immigration** rhetoric.

In addition, the attack on Flake, who is one of the most prominent Mormon politicians in the United States, risks further **alienating** that traditionally conservative demographic. Mormons have long viewed the Republican nominee unfavorably and their discontent has contributed to Trump’s weak poll numbers in states like Arizona as well as Utah.

Flake is not the only Republican senator who is not voting for the party’s nominee. At least half a dozen others are refusing to back Trump’s candidacy, ranging from arch-conservative Ben Sasse[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/29/nebraska-republican-senator-ben-sasse-says-he-wont-vote-for-trump] of Nebraska to moderate Susan Collins of Maine.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Mixed messages become Rorschach test for Republicans, who are drifting away from nominee after week that included vitriolic rally in Phoenix and Mexico visit

The ex-mayor of New York saw “a very big opening” to protect **immigrant** families and their American-born children. The governor of Indiana saw “a roadmap” to deportations and a wall, if not any signposts or directions. For a senator from Arizona, the whole thing was “just confusing”.

Related: The Miss USA hopeful sued by Trump: 'There are ways to stand your ground'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/sheena-monnin-donald-trump-miss-usa-lawsuit]

Donald Trump’s mixed messages on **immigration**, which this week took in a demur speech[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] in Mexico City and a vitriolic rally[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] in Phoenix, have become a Rorschach test for Republicans, exacerbating tensions in the party as several of its leaders drift away from their party’s nominee and look toward a Democratic presidency. Disappointed by the harsh tone of Trump’s Phoenix speech, the Republican National Committee reportedly[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/03/us/politics/donald-trump-rnc-reince-priebus.html?\_r=0] withheld planned praise.

“He pivots and then pivots right back,” the Arizona senator Jeff Flake told CBS’s Face the Nation on Sunday. “So it’s kind of a 360-degree pivot at times. That’s not clear at all. Some people said it was hardening, some said softening. I say it was just confusing.”

Flake is one of a handful of Republican senators who have refused to support Trump, though he said on Sunday he would like to escape that “uncomfortable” position and vote for the businessman.

“I’d like to see a firm position that he sticks with for a while,” he said, “and obviously I’d like to see a more realistic position in dealing with those who are here illegally now.”

But Flake also damned Trump with a hint of praise for his rival, Hillary Clinton, who has recently urged Republicans to remember that the businessman’s claims that Mexicans are “ rapists[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/02/donald-trump-racist-claims-mexico-rapes] ” and refugees a “ Trojan horse[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-warns-refugees-could-be-trojan-horse-for-u-s/] ” of terrorism do not reflect their party.

“For people to be reminded that this is not what the party stands for I think is a good thing,” Flake said. “I wish more Republicans would say that as well. But if Hillary Clinton wants to say it I’m glad – I’m glad people, voters, are being reminded of it, anyway.”

On Sunday night Trump responded on Twitter[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/772556213313765377] – by bashing Flake. “The Republican Party needs strong and committed leaders, not weak people such as JeffFlake, if it is going to stop illegal **immigration**,” he said.

Trump and Flake had already clashed, exchanging sharp words in July when the Arizona senator confronted Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/07/donald-trump-meeting-congress-republicans-divided-responses] in a meeting with elected Republicans on Capitol Hill.

In the realclearpolitics.com poll average[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/az/arizona\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5832.html] for Arizona, which has been won by a Democratic presidential candidate once in 65 years, Trump leads Clinton by less than three points. However, a rapidly growing Hispanic population means the state’s politics are turning steadily from red to purple, if not yet blue, prompting Clinton to advertise[http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/01/politics/hillary-clinton-arizona-advertising-immigration/]. In attacking Flake, Trump is unlikely to aid his own Arizonan cause.

Senator John McCain, Flake’s fellow Arizona senator and the party’s 2008 presidential nominee, has started running an ad that look toward a hypothetical Clinton presidency.

“My opponent, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick, is a good person,” he says in the ad[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLAdOwaIQ-E]. “But if Hillary Clinton is elected president, Arizona will need a senator who will act as a check, not a rubber stamp, on the White House.”

Trump is conspicuously absent from the ad: his name unsaid, his image omitted and his ideas implicitly rejected as McCain tells voters: “We need more control over our borders but also smarter **immigration** policies that enforce the law and reflect our values.”

McCain has not explicitly rejected Trump, who last year mocked the Vietnam war veteran for having been captured[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/19/donald-trump-john-mccain-vietnam-prisoner-of-war] by the Vietcong, but he has repeatedly asked the businessman to apologize to other former prisoners of war. Months of such harsh rhetoric from Trump have painted Republicans like McCain in a corner, Flake admitted, by threatening to turn reliably red states like Arizona into swing states.

“It shouldn’t be up for grabs,” he said, “but frankly it is.”

‘When America is safe, we will be open to all of the options’ Even Trump’s most stalwart allies could not seem to agree about his **immigration** message, even though the businessman said in Phoenix: “You can call it whatever the hell you want. They (undocumented **immigrants**) are gone.”

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, told CNN’s State of the Union that Trump had left “a very big opening for what will happen with the people that remain here in the United States after the criminals are removed and after the border is secure”.

“When America is safe, we will be open to all of the options,” Giuliani said. According to the former mayor, Trump “would find it very, very difficult to throw out a family that’s been here for 15 years, and they have three children, two of whom are citizens. And that is not the kind of America he wants.”

Trump’s campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, told ABC’s This Week through crosstalk with the host that it was “correct” the businessman would deport more than just migrants with a criminal record – and then changed her tone.

“But,” she said, “no, but he also said that, once you enforce the law, once you get rid of the criminals, then we’ll see where we are.

“And we don’t know where we’ll be. We don’t know who will be left. We don’t know where they live, who they are. That’s the whole point here, that we’ve actually never tried this.”

The man who would serve Trump as vice-president, Indiana governor Mike Pence, evaded any clear answer about his running mate’s position. In an interview aired Sunday with NBC’s Meet the Press[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/mike-pence-will-release-tax-returns-next-week], he said: “What Donald Trump laid out this week in Arizona was really a roadmap to end illegal **immigration** once and for all in this country.”

Pence then rattled off some of Trump’s ideas, including a wall on the southern border, targeting people who have overstayed visas and increasing border patrol staff, but left details for the future.

“We’ll give consideration, working with the Congress, in a new and reformed **immigration** system, to consider it at that time,” he said.

All three said Trump would prioritize deportations of people with criminal records, the same strategy Barack Obama has taken during his two terms, during which record numbers of migrants have been deported[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/21/latino-immigrants-us-war-on-terror-study] and Border Patrol staffing has reached an all-time high. Obama has also deferred deportations for several million migrants who came to the US as children through executive actions that Trump has said he will rescind.

Giuliani also conceded the limits of Trump’s shifting deportation plans, which would eject between 4 and 11 million people[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/27/donald-trump-deport-11-million-migrants-is-that-even-possible] and cost an estimated $50bn[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/01/trumps-big-immigration-crackdown-comes-with-a-big-5-year-price-tag-more-than-50-billion/]. But he and Conway insisted that Trump will somehow force Mexico to pay for the proposed border wall, even though Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto told Trump this week[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] it would not.

Related: Who will win the presidential election? No usual answers on Labor Day 2016[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/04/who-will-win-presidential-election-2016-labor-day-prediction]

Another ally, Trump transition team member and New Jersey governor Chris Christie, told CBS: “Donald Trump is going to get rid of, very early on, two to three million criminals that are here illegally in this country. That will be priority No1.”

Democrats had their own interpretations of Trump’s positions on **immigration**. Labor Secretary Tom Perez told CNN that Trump was “a loose cannon” and said his week of Janus-faced speeches “was a perfect illustration of why he’s not fit to be president”.

In a taped interview with CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, Obama was more stoic, saying anti-**immigrant** sentiment could be traced to the founding of the US, “but that’s not the majority of America”.

“The next generation of Americans, they utter – completely reject the kinds of positions that he’s taking,” the president said. “So overall, I’m optimistic. But, you know, I think we have to pay close attention to what’s going on.”

Polls suggest that only some voters were swayed by Trump’s winding week. In a new CBS poll[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/poll-hillary-clinton-leads-donald-trump-north-carolina-pennsylvania-email-questions-linger/], 47% of voters in swing states said they saw no change in his policy, and 37% said they thought he had slightly eased is proposals. In an ABC poll[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/majority-voters-trump-mexico-pay-wall/story?id=41849627&cid=tw\_tco], 78% thought Trump would fail to make Mexico pay for any wall, and 67% had a negative to his speech.

Others felt his Phoenix speech a return to form: former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke tweeted[https://twitter.com/DrDavidDuke/status/771177837072048129] “excellent speech by Donald Trump tonight” while conservative author Ann Coulter compared it[https://twitter.com/AnnCoulter/status/771172220249014272] favorably to the speeches of Winston Churchill.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Observers say election antics have pushed many of the estimated 50,000-70,000 Bosnian Muslims in what is historically a swing state to register to vote

Mirhada Jasarevic was a child when she and her family became refugees during the war in Bosnia in the 1990s. She became a naturalized US citizen earlier this year, in time for her to vote in the 2016 presidential election.

“I think this is probably one of the most important elections to be a part of,” Jasarevic said. “I came here just like those Syrian refugees are coming here. The same way. With no intention of hurting anybody. Just to get a chance at life. And that’s what makes America so great, and I feel like Donald Trump doesn’t understand that.”

Bosnian Americans in Missouri are expected to turn out in record numbers this November. With recent polls showing that Hillary Clinton and Trump are virtually tied in Missouri[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/trump-clinton-in-virtual-tie-in-missouri/article\_ecbca03a-ea36-5bef-bf8c-fcb817cc7c31.html], it could be a voting bloc that swings the election.

Related: Trump supporters in St Louis: how 'midwestern nice' became a sea of rage[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/12/donald-trump-supporters-st-louis-rally-protest-violence]

While never a monolith, Bosnian Americans in St Louis – which is home to an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Bosnian Muslims – have near-universally been put off by Trump’s anti-Muslim, anti-refugee rhetoric and are wary of the Republican candidate’s popularity among Serbian nationalists. If they are mobilized as a bloc to vote against Trump for these reasons, 2016 could mark the national debut of Missouri’s “Bosnian vote”, costing Trump the state’s 10 electoral votes.

“I know for a fact that a lot of people have gone out and registered to vote,” said Nedim Ramic, a Bosnian American attorney in St Louis who has twice met with Clinton during campaign stops in the city. “I think that the Bosnian community could really make a difference.”

Since religion and ethnic background are not recorded as part of the voter registration process, there is no record of how many Bosnian American voters are actually registered in St Louis. Anecdotally, community leaders estimate that voter registration in St Louis’s Bosnian community has surged by the thousands over the past two years.

“Right now I’m expecting to see a higher turnout than before,” said insurance agent Ibro Tucakovic, who came to St Louis from Sarajevo in 1998 and, in 2015, became the first Bosnian American[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/04/28/the-unlikely-community-that-drew-inspiration-from-the-ferguson-protests/?utm\_term=.469956a3f58a] to run for elected office in Missouri. “This election is really, really important, but especially for Bosnian Americans because we have seen what hate speech can do in a country. Some of the older ones are scared, because this is a similar thing going on back in Bosnia in the 1990s before the election.”

St Louis is home to one of the largest populations of Bosnian Muslims in the world outside Bosnia-Herzegovina itself. The community has its origins in the Balkan refugee crisis in the 1990s, when Yugoslavia was ripped apart at its seams, displacing millions. Bosnian refugees were resettled in St Louis by the thousands, and eventually the city became the anchor of the United States’ Bosnian diaspora.

Historically, Missouri has been a swing state, though is often assumed by pundits to be a Republican giveaway. In 2008, Republican John McCain won the state’s electoral votes by a margin of less than 1% – mere thousands of votes. In 2012, Republican Mitt Romney won the state by 10%, but liberal Democrat Claire McCaskill also kept her seat in the US Senate by more than 15%. The state also has a Democrat governor.

I came here just like those Syrian refugees are coming here. Just to get a chance at life

Mirhada Jasarevic

In recent years, Bosnian voters in St Louis have asserted themselves as a potent force in local politics, and politicians – mainly Democrats – have taken notice.

During 2014’s high-profile race for St Louis County executive following the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, Democratic candidate Steve Stenger – who visited Bosnian mosques and distributed Bosnian-language campaign literature while his Republican opponent did not – won, but by fewer than 2,000 votes. Had Bosnian voters stayed home, he probably would have lost.

Shortly after the election, Bosnians in the city of St Louis (a separate entity from St Louis County) took to the streets themselves as protests continued region-wide after the August 2014 police killing of teenager Mike Brown in Ferguson. Following the brutal murder of Zemir Begic – a Bosnian **immigrant** visiting St Louis to meet his future in-laws – in the heart of the city’s Bosnian neighborhood that December, hundreds of protesters shut down a main thoroughfare in the city’s south side over the span of two nights[http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/12/6/st-louis-bosnianspolicing.html], demanding increased police patrols and a voice in local affairs.

The St Louis County election and protests in the city of St Louis were defining moments for the region’s Bosnian American community, which had largely been politically silent during its 20-year history.

Since then, Bosnian Americans have been appointed to positions within the St Louis mayor’s office, and a delegation of St Louis Bosnian civic and religious leaders have twice visited officials in the state’s capital.

Earlier this year, members of the community – including Ramic – formed the Bosnian-American Public Affairs Alliance of Missouri (BAPAAM), an organization meant to organize and represent Bosnian American interests in politics. BAPAAM endorsed Clinton in March.

“We’ve seen the community become more active, in general,” Ramic said.

Serbian nationalists’ support of Trump has also raised red flags. During the Republican national convention, a man wearing a “Make Serbia Great Again”[https://twitter.com/mattdpearce/status/755855782290358272] hat was photographed several times. When Vice-President Joe Biden visited Belgrade earlier in August, hundreds of Serbian nationalists gathered to chant[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-balkans-biden-trump-idUSKCN10R1U0], “Vote for Trump!” The group was led by rightwing Serbian politician Vojislav Seselj, who was accused of helping to orchestrate the ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and other non-Serbs from “greater Serbia” in the 1990s.

Bosnian voters in St Louis, home to a substantial number of Srebrenica widows and survivors[http://www.npr.org/2015/07/13/422490056/bosnians-remember-when-their-city-became-one-big-concentration-camp], took note of Seselj’s endorsement.

“Some people reacted in a silly manner – ‘monkey see, monkey do’,” Tucakovic quipped. “But some people are actually concerned. You see people like [Seselj] that are supporting Trump, and that’s not a really good sign.”

The political clout of the St Louis Bosnian community has only increased as more Bosnian **immigrants** like Jasarevic become naturalized citizens, and as the first generation of children born to Bosnian **immigrants** reaches voting age.

“Just this year, three of the buddies I hang out with have actually become devoted to politics,” said Haris Bihorac, who just turned 18 and plans to vote for the first time in November. “They’re nonstop reading what they can to catch up on the politics. Even myself – before I didn’t really care this much who the president was or anything, but [I do] now that I have a say in it.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Trump’s biographer said the suit seemed to be ‘more a threat to other reporters, publishers, news organizations’ to shy away from reporting on nominee’s wife

The lawsuit filed by the wife of Donald Trump against the Daily Mail[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/melania-trump-daily-mail-lawsuit] is a message to the media from her husband “to stay away from my family, particularly Melania”, his biographer has said.

Lawyers for Melania Trump on Thursday filed suit for $150m in damages against the newspaper in Maryland state court. The wife of the Republican presidential nominee is also suing a blogger, Webster Tarpley, from the state in question.

Related: Melania Trump sues the Daily Mail for $150m over 'lies' about her past[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/melania-trump-daily-mail-lawsuit]

In a statement, Trump’s lawyer, Charles Harder, said: “These defendants made several statements about Mrs Trump that are 100% false and tremendously damaging to her personal and professional reputation [and] broadcast their lies to millions of people throughout the US and the world – without any justification.

“Their many lies include, among others, that Mrs Trump supposedly was an ‘escort’ in the 1990s before she met her husband. Defendants’ actions are so egregious, malicious and harmful to Mrs Trump that her damages are estimated at $150m.”

The suit was filed in Montgomery County, a suburban area bordering Washington DC, in response to articles published in August by the Daily Mail that reported rumors that Melania Trump worked as an escort in the 1990s.

Last month, announcing[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/22/melania-trump-lawsuit-daily-mail] that she was considering a suit, her lawyer called those rumors “100% false”.

In an interview with the Guardian, biographer Wayne Barrett, who has been threatened with lawsuits by Trump in the past over his reporting, said that the lawsuit seemed to be “more a threat to other reporters, publishers, news organizations” to shy away from reporting about the Republican nominee’s wife.

The author of Trump: The Greatest Show on Earth and Trump: The Deals and the Downfall noted that the candidate had a reputation for litigiousness with reporters and said Trump had bragged to him nearly 40 years ago about “breaking reporters”. Barrett noted that, at the time, “there hadn’t been anything written negative about Donald”.

Trump went on to sue author Tim O’Brien for reporting that the Republican nominee had exaggerated his wealth in what Barrett described as an “attempt to wreck O’Brien”. ( The suit was dismissed[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/that-time-trump-sued-over-the-size-of-hiswallet/2016/03/08/785dee3e-e4c2-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7\_story.html].) Barrett added that Trump’s approach with the press had always been, “from the very beginning, to threaten, browbeat, seduce them”.

The Daily Mail article also contained allegations that Melania Trump came to New York a year earlier than she has claimed, raising issues about her **immigration**status. Trump denied[https://twitter.com/MELANIATRUMP/status/761212858944421888?lang=en] a story in Politico in which questions about her **immigration**status were first reported.

The lawsuit noted that while the article in question had been removed from the Daily Mail’s website, the newspaper had yet to apologize or formally retract it. The Mail included a retraction of the story in its Friday UK print edition.

“We did not intend to state or suggest that these allegations are true,” the newspaper said, “nor did we intend to state or suggest that Mrs Trump ever worked as an ‘escort’ or in the ‘sex business’.” It added that its article had included denials from a Trump spokesperson and the owner of the modelling agency in question, and said it regretted “any such misinterpretation”.

The retraction was also posted online[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3769798/Melania-Trump-retraction.html]. “The Daily Mail newspaper and MailOnline/DailyMail.com have entirely separate editors and journalistic teams,” it added. “In so far as MailOnline/DailyMail.com published the same article it wholeheartedly also retracts the above and also regrets any such misinterpretation.”

Asked if the retraction would affect the suit, Harder replied: “It does not.”

Tarpley’s blogpost, which has been retracted[http://tarpley.net/formal-retraction-of-factual-assertions-and-innunendos-regarding-melania-trump/], claimed, per the suit, that “it is widely known Melania was not a working model but rather a high-end escort” and that she had a “mental breakdown” after a plagiarism controversy[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/19/melania-trump-plagiarism-scandal-michelle-obama] over her speech to the Republican national convention in Cleveland in July.

Harder is best known for representing Hulk Hogan in the lawsuit that bankrupted Gawker Media[https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jun/10/gawker-media-bankruptcy-auction-hulk-hogan-lawsuit] and forced its sale to Univision last month. That suit was funded by the Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel, a vocal Trump supporter.

Steve Klepper[http://www.kramonandgraham.com/steven-klepper], an appellate lawyer for the Baltimore law firm Kramon & Graham, said the inclusion of a blogger in the suit indicated legal maneuvering.

He told the Guardian: “Any time you have a filing that adds a minor in-state defendant, it’s a flag that they were joined to prevent removal to federal court. And as we know, Donald Trump has not been having been the best luck in federal court recently.”

Klepper pointed to a Maryland defamation statute[http://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2010/courts-and-judicial-proceedings/title-3/subtitle-5/3-502] that might provide a basis for Melania Trump’s suit. It reads: “A single or married woman whose character or reputation for chastity is defamed by any person may maintain an action against that person.”

He added, however: “Montgomery County has possibly the highest-percentage college education jury pool in the whole country and I cannot see how the jury pool would be good for [Melania Trump].”

News of the lawsuit came 68 days before the election, on the day Donald Trump pledged to promote “ patriotism[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-american-patriotism-schools-immigration] ” in schools and a day after he gave a hardline **immigration**policy[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] speech, hours after striking conciliatory notes on the topic in a meeting[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-pena-nieto-immigration-arizona] with the Mexican president, Enrique Peña Nieto.

The Republican nominee, who has consistently trailed Hillary Clinton in the polls, has developed a combative relationship with the media, blacklisting a number of news outlets and pledging to pass stricter libel laws[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/26/trump-pledges-curb-press-freedom-libel-laws-first-amendment] if elected.

A Trump campaign spokesperson told the Guardian: “We do not have anything in addition to the Harder statement.”

The Daily Mail responded to a request for comment by pointing to its online and print retractions.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Fear of Mexican culture overrunning America runs deep among Trump supporters like Marco Gutierrez. It makes absolutely no sense

The taco, in both its bowl and its corner truck form, is having a political moment.

On Thursday, Marco Gutierrez, a Mexican-born founder of the Latinos for Trump group (yikes), said on MSNBC[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/09/latinos-for-trump-founder-taco-trucks-marco-gutierrez-227667] that if Donald Trump loses in November, there would be “Taco trucks on every corner”.

I must spell out that he meant this as a negative thing and not, as it might seem on the face of it, a great reason to vote for Hillary.

“My culture is a very dominant culture,” he told[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/09/latinos-for-trump-founder-taco-trucks-marco-gutierrez-227667] a horrified Joy Reid, who was filling in for Chris Hayes. “It is imposing and it’s causing problems. If you don’t do something about it, you’re going to have taco trucks on every corner.”

“I don’t even know what that means,” Joy Reid said, speaking for all of us. “And I’m afraid to ask.”

The comments earned Gutierrez rightful mockery on social media. Isn’t an America with a taco truck on every corner is the utopia we deserve? To suggest otherwise gives us insight into the depravity of the average Trump supporter.

Joking aside, Gutierrez is everything the Trump campaign could want in a surrogate. He apparently possesses enough self-loathing enough to deliver the talking points of white supremacy from a nonwhite mouth. He reassures Trump supporters that their racist views couldn’t possibly be racist because, see? He agrees with us!

But Gutierrez, whether he knows it or not, is feeding the dangerous racial anxieties that have plagued America since its inception: the idea that Mexicans and Latinos are lesser, dirty somehow; they are diluting America’s purity, which Trump supporters would call “culture,” but I would call “whiteness.”

In times of economic strife, these anxieties tend to intensify. I’m reminded of the mass deportations of people of Mexican descent in the 30s and 40s when 2 million people, over half of whom were US citizens, were rounded up and forced out of the country[http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/09/08/437579834/mass-deportation-may-sound-unlikely-but-its-happened-before].

Today, we have a demagogue whipping white Americans into a frenzy about Mexican **immigrants** and threatening to send them “home”. The parallels are alarming. It’s sad, because the people who blame their economic struggles on Mexicans really ought to redirect that anger at people like Trump, magnates born with silver spoons in their mouths whose wealth relies on the toil of others.

But it’s also hypocritical. Because the American Dream, if indeed it exists at all, looks very much like that humble corner taco truck. Just ask a Republican.

“My father stood behind a small portable bar in the back of a room for all those years so that I could stand behind this podium in the front of this room,” Marco Rubio said, referencing his Cuban-born father at the kickoff of his presidential campaign. “That journey, from behind that bar to behind this podium, is the essence of the American Dream.”

Rubio isn’t alone in touting his meager beginnings. Ted Cruz, also the son of a Cuban **immigrant**, said his father “came to Austin penniless, seeking freedom.

“The reason I’m running is simple,” Cruz continued. “He fled oppression once. And you have my word that I’ll fight every day to protect freedom here, so that none of us have to flee oppression a second time.”

This rhetoric isn’t unique to politicians with **immigrant** families. During the primaries, John Kasich emphasized that his father was a mailman. Indeed, politicians of all stripes love to tout the adversity their parents overcame so that their children could be successful and live comfortably.

And yet, they shame the **immigrant** parents and families who are trying to do the same for their children today. They actively pursue policies that, had they been applied to their own parents, would have made the privileged lives they live impossible.

Donald Trump is only here because his grandfather emigrated from Germany. It has been frequently pointed out that his wife, Melania, is an **immigrant** from Slovenia (at the time, part of Yugoslavia). None of this matters to many Trump supporters, of course, whose worldview is built on white nationalism, but the fact remains: Unless you’re Native American, you came from somewhere else.

Gutierrez, Trump, and the Republicans who share the view that Mexican **immigrants** are the cause of America’s decline have turned their backs on the one thing that’s supposed to make America special.

So today, go out and celebrate the corner taco truck. In an America where wealth continues to accumulate at the very top, and where cynicism permeates the political landscape, the taco truck remains a pure expression of hope, a humble affirmation of America itself.

Also, the tacos are probably delicious, and undoubtedly more authentic than the hipster joint with the zigzag taco holders and $12 margaritas.

Buen provecho!

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**‘No amnesty’: Trump vows to deport millions during ‘first hour in office’Analysis: In Arizona we saw the Donald Trump we already knewUS vice-president Joe Biden to stump for Clinton today in Ohio

block-time published-time 2.00am BST

Trump: 'We're going to sit back' and 'assess' future of undocumented **immigrants** In an interview on Fox News, Donald Trump has given more conditions for the legalization of undocumented **immigrants** currently residing in the United States, an issue around which he has not-so-delicately tiptoed in his alternate hardening and softening and hardening of his **immigration** platform.

“We are going to strengthen the border, make it really, really strong,” Trump told Fox News anchor Eric Bolling. “We are going to build the wall. We are going to get rid of all of the bad players that are here, the gang members, the gang leaders, the drug dealers, all of the cartel people. We are going to get them out of our country because they are causing tremendous damage and crime. And other things. And getting the drugs spread all over the place. They will be gone.”

“After that takes place - which will be a process, and it won’t go that quickly but it’s going to go as quickly as any human being can do it - after that takes place, we’re going to sit back, we’re going to assess the situation,” Trump continued.

“We’re going to see where we are because we’ll have people in the country that, you know, that have come in illegally. We’re going to sit back. We’re going to assess the situation. We’re going to make a decision at that time. I want to see, before we do anything further, I want to see how it shapes up when we have strong, and you know, I use the word ‘impenetrable’ borders but how it shapes up and I think we are getting really tremendous reviews on the plan.”

block-time published-time 1.53am BST

Donald Trump told Fox News host Eric Bolling that a Latino journalist who has been critical of his stance on **immigration** only voices his criticisms because Trump has never appeared on his show.

“I think Jorge is actually a nice guy but I just don’t do his show,” Trump said of Univision anchor Jorge Ramos. “So, you know, if I did his show, I’m sure he would be very happy.”

block-time published-time 1.37am BST

In a conversation with Fox News host Eric Bolling, Donald Trump told the host that his trip to Mexico was more highly covered than any presidential trip, and critiqued Hillary Clinton as being unable to merit nearly as much media attention through her tenure as secretary of state.

“I think we had a great meeting,” Trump said. “It was well-covered by, I guess, as much as anybody has ever been covered in one of those meetings. And, you know, I’m not even a president. I guess it was pretty unusual, because as a president you get this kind of coverage. Although they didn’t get as much.”

Of Clinton’s tweeted remark[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/771156031401521153] that “diplomacy isn’t as easy as it seems,” as Bolling put it, (actually “as easy as it looks”), Trump was dismissive.

“As far as Hillary is concerned, learning, how has she done in Libya? How has she done in Iraq? How has she done with the Iran deal and all of the other things like she started - that horrible Iran deal that’s now blowing up all over the place, one of the worst deals ever negotiated?” Trump asked rhetorically.

“I mean, for her to be saying that and that’s just a sound bite given to her by her handlers. You know, she has got handlers. And that’s just a sound bite. No, we had an amazing day and I have been given great credit by almost everybody that’s fair. You know, I mean, the fair people give credit. The ones that aren’t and I know what’s good and bad. In other words, Eric, I will tell you if something wasn’t good. you know that. You know me.”

block-time published-time 1.15am BST

The Obama administration[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/obama-administration] has denied claims by a Washington thinktank that Iran has secretly been granted exemptions to a multilateral nuclear agreement signed last July in Vienna.

Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif. Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/AFP/Getty Images A report[http://file///Downloads/Internet%20Downloads/JCPOA%20Exemptions%20Revealed\_1Sept2016\_Final1.pdf] by the Institute for Science and International Security alleged that a joint commission set up to implement the Vienna deal had allowed Iran to keep more than the agreed maximum of 300 kg of low enriched uranium (LEU) by excluding waste material in Iran’s nuclear facilities. If enriched further, LEU could be used in a nuclear warhead.

The institute’s director and co-author of the report, David Albright, said that this and other exemptions were granted by the commission in secret.

“One of the biggest problems is we are being denied information in these cases,” Albright said. “If the joint commission has so many powers to change this deal, shouldn’t we know what they’re doing?”

The state department denied that the 300 kg LEU limit set down in the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Programme of Action (JCPOA), had been breached.

“There’s been no loosening of the commitments and Iran has not and will not under the JCPOA be allowed to exceed the limits that are spelled out in the JCPOA,” spokesman John Kirby said. He added the only violation of the terms of the deal had been a temporary surplus in Iran’s export of heavy water (which can be used in nuclear reactors to produce plutonium), but that had been corrected. Kirby also said the secrecy of the work of the joint commission, which represents all parties to the deal, was stipulated in last year’s deal, signed by six world powers (the US, UK, France, Germany, Russia and China), the EU and Iran[https://www.theguardian.com/world/iran].

“This is in compliance with the JCPOA which says the commission’s work should be confidential unless all parties agree otherwise,” Kirby said.

Related: Obama administration denies secret exemptions in Iran nuclear agreement[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/01/obama-secret-iran-nuclear-deal]

block-time published-time 1.14am BST

From Joe Biden’s remarks during Hillary Clinton’s rally in Cleveland:

enltr“My friend died,” an Iraq war heckler interrupts Joe Biden at a Clinton rally in Cleveland. “So did my son" shoots back Joe. Instant silence

— Dan Roberts (@RobertsDan) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/RobertsDan/status/771491225211899904]block-time published-time 12.48am BST

Donald Trump’s campaign manager is laying on the age- and health-oriented attacks on Hillary Clinton quite thick:

enltrIn the last 24 hours @realDonaldTrump[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump] has been to Mexico, AZ, OH and NY. Hillary's taking the day off, again. #tiredhillary[https://twitter.com/hashtag/tiredhillary?src=hash]

— Kellyanne Conway (@KellyannePolls) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/KellyannePolls/status/771471655482851328]block-time published-time 11.53pm BST

Donald Trump has hired an old nemesis of the Clinton family as his deputy campaign manager, the Washington Post reports[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/09/01/trump-enlists-veteran-operative-david-bossie-as-deputy-campaign-manager/?postshare=8581472768973983&tid=ss\_tw].

David Bossie, who investigated Bill and Hillary Clinton’s finances in the 1990s as a congressional staffer, was described by Trump to the Washington Post as “a friend of mine for many years. Solid. Smart. Loves politics, knows how to win.”

Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway told the Washington Post that Bossie, who until this week served as president of anti-Obama advocacy group Citizens United, is “a battle-tested warrior and a brilliant strategist”.

“He’s a nuts-and-bolts tactician as well, who’s going to help us fully integrate our ground game and data operations, and help with overall strategy as my deputy.”

Bossie investigated the Clintons as part of his work for a special senate committee on the Whitewater controversy, which investigated real estate investments by the Clintons and their associates in the Whitewater Development Corporation, a failed vacation-home development corporation.

block-time published-time 11.47pm BST

The Daily Mail has printed a retraction of its story[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3769798/Melania-Trump-retraction.html] detailing “troubling questions” about Melania Trump’s past.

“To the extent that anything in the Daily Mail’s article was interpreted as stating or suggesting that Mrs. Trump worked as an ‘escort’ or in the ‘sex business,’ that she had a ‘composite or presentation card for the sex business,’ or that either of the modeling agencies referenced in the article were engaged in these businesses, it is hereby retracted, and the Daily Mail newspaper regrets any such misinterpretation,” the retraction states.

Earlier today, lawyers for Trump filed suit against the Daily Mail in Maryland state court for publishing what Trump’s lawyer, Charles Harder, called “lies... that Mrs. Trump supposedly was an ‘escort’ in the 1990s before she met her husband.” Harder said in a statement to reporters that these “actions are so egregious, malicious and harmful to Mrs. Trump that her damages are estimated at $150 million dollars”.

The suit, filed in Montgomery County in suburban Washington DC, was filed in response to articles published in August by the Daily Mail which reported rumors that Melania Trump worked as an escort in the 1990s. In first announcing[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/22/melania-trump-lawsuit-daily-mail] that she was considering a suit, Trump’s lawyer called those rumors “100% false”.

block-time published-time 11.32pm BST

Leaked script: Donald Trump advised to tell African Americans US should 'reduce' issue of race A leaked script of a question-and-answer session with the pastor of a predominantly African American church this weekend, obtained by the New York Times[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/02/us/politics/donald-trump-black-voters-wayne-jackson.html?smid=tw-share&\_r=0], shows that Donald Trump’s campaign is taking little chance on letting the famously unscripted candidate put his foot in his mouth, writing suggested answers to questions on race in America provided to the campaign in advance.

When asked about his vision for black Americans, the script suggests that Mr. Trump stay positive, advising that he use lines such as ‘If we are to make America great again, we must reduce, rather than highlight, issues of race in this country’ and ‘I want to make race disappear as a factor in government and governance.’

To a question submitted by Bishop Jackson about whether his campaign is racist, the script suggests that Mr. Trump avoid repeating the word, and instead speak about improving education and getting people off welfare and back to work. ‘The proof, as they say, will be in the pudding,’ Mr. Trump is advised to say. ‘Coming into a community is meaningless unless we offer an alternative to the horrible progressive agenda that has perpetuated a permanent underclass in America.’

Trump is also directed in the script to tell skeptical African American voters that his support is “up to 8% and climbing.”

block-time published-time 11.10pm BST

Alfonso Aguilar, president of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, has officially un-endorsed Donald Trump’s presidential bid after what he characterized as Trump’s “very scary speech” on **immigration** in Phoenix last night.

“I was critical of Mr Trump throughout the primary,” Aguilar told CNN’s Jake Tapper in an interview[http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2016/09/01/aguilar-dropping-support-donald-trump-immigration-lead-tapper-intv.cnn], but moved to support Trump because he felt that, “along with other Latino conservative leaders, that we could help Mr. Trump move towards the center.”

But after last night’s draconian address on **immigration**, in which Trump not only called for a “deportation task force” to hunt down undocumented **immigrants**but called for restrictions on legal **immigration** not seen in more than half a century, Aguilar feels “misled”.

“There’s nothing compassionate or human in his speech,” Aguilar said. “Not only did he double down on his proposals, I think they’re even worse.”

Positing that the speech was drafted by “the main anti-**immigration** groups,” Aguilar called the address “a nationalist, nativist speech, the kind of speech we would hear 100 years ago... it was a very scary speech and, again, we thought that he was gonna move to the center. In a way, we fell that we were a little bit misled.”

block-time published-time 10.54pm BST

Melania Trump sues Daily Mail for $150m Lawyers for Melania Trump have filed suit against the Daily Mail in Maryland state court for publishing what Trump’s lawyer, Charles Harder, called “lies... that Mrs. Trump supposedly was an ‘escort’ in the 1990s before she met her husband.” Harder said in a statement to reporters that these “actions are so egregious, malicious and harmful to Mrs. Trump that her damages are estimated at $150 million dollars”.

Melania Trump Photograph: Kena Betancur/AFP/Getty Images The suit, filed in Montgomery County in suburban Washington DC, was filed in response to articles published in August by the Daily Mail which reported rumors that Melania Trump worked as an escort in the 1990s. In first announcing[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/22/melania-trump-lawsuit-daily-mail] that she was considering a suit, Trump’s lawyer called those rumors “100% false”.

The Daily Mail article also contained allegations that Melania Trump came to New York a year earlier than she has claimed, raising issues about her **immigration**status. The lawsuit notes that while the article in question has been removed from the Daily Mail’s website, the newspaper has yet to apologize or formally retract

The Republican nominee’s wife is also suing blogger Webster Tarpley. Tarpley’s blog post, which has since been retracted[http://tarpley.net/formal-retraction-of-factual-assertions-and-innunendos-regarding-melania-trump/], claimed, per the suit, that “it is widely known Melania was not a working model but rather a high-end escort” and that she had a “mental breakdown” after the plagiarism controversy over her speech to the RNC.

Harder is best known for representing Hulk Hogan in the lawsuit that eventually bankrupted Gawker Media and forced the website to be sold in an auction to Univision last month. That suit was notoriously funded by Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel, a vocal Trump supporter.

Steve Klepper, an appellate lawyer for the highly respected Baltimore law firm Kramon & Graham, saw legal maneuvering in the inclusion of the blogger. He told the Guardian “anytime you have a filing that adds a minor in state defendant, it’s a flag that they were joined to prevent removal to federal court. And as we know, Donald Trump has not been having been the best luck in federal court recently.”

He added: “Montgomery County has possibly the highest percentage college education jury pool in the whole country and I cannot see how the jury pool would be good for her.”

The lawsuit comes 68 days before Election Day and at time when Trump is under increased scrutiny after giving a hardline **immigration**policy[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] speech only hours after striking conciliatory notes on the topic in a meeting[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-pena-nieto-immigration-arizona] with Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto. It serves yet another distraction for the Republican nominee’s floundering campaign which has consistently trailed Hillary Clinton in the polls and a reminder of Trump’s combative relationship with the media.

The Republican nominee has blacklisted a number of news outlets and prevented from attending campaign events and has pledged to pass stricter libel laws[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/feb/26/trump-pledges-curb-press-freedom-libel-laws-first-amendment] if elected

A Trump campaign spokesperson told the Guardian “we do not have anything in addition to the Harder statement”.

The Daily Mail did not immediately respond a request for comment

block-time published-time 10.36pm BST

Weakness, and voting for dictators.

enltrToday is the 77th anniversary of Nazi Germany invading Poland and launching World War 2 in Europe. Reminder that weakness is dangerous

— Newt Gingrich (@newtgingrich) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/newtgingrich/status/771261037710422016]block-time published-time 10.20pm BST

John McCain is not betting on a Donald Trump victory: In a video released by his recently victorious campaign for the Republican nomination for US Senate, Arizona senator John McCain tells Grand Canyon State voters that “If Clinton is elected president, Arizona needs a senator who will act as a check.”

“No matter which side of the presidential election you’re on, whether you’re satisfied or dissatisfied with your choices for president, this election is an important one,” McCain intones in the ad. “My opponent, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick, is a good person. But if Hillary Clinton is elected president, Arizona will need a senator who will act as a check - not a rubber stamp.”

The message - echoing a similar stance taken by the Republican party in 1996 in the waning days of the general election that brought Bill Clinton’s landslide victory over Republican nominee Bob Dole - does not speak to much confidence in a Donald Trump victory in the general election.

Trump’s name is not mentioned in the ad.

block-time published-time 9.50pm BST

Pastor Mark Burns is as it again:

enltrIsnt this the TRUTH...!This is what Liberal #MSM[https://twitter.com/hashtag/MSM?src=hash] do for @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton]...Great drawing @afbranco[https://twitter.com/afbranco].. #Trump[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Trump?src=hash] #ccot[https://twitter.com/hashtag/ccot?src=hash] pic.twitter.com/JG0hapWRvz[https://t.co/JG0hapWRvz]

— Pastor Mark Burns (@pastormarkburns) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/pastormarkburns/status/771428063670394880]block-time published-time 9.06pm BST

For years, Mexican politicians have said lax US gun laws help to arm the country’s drug cartels.

Donald Trump with President Enrique Peña Nieto. Photograph: Anadolu Agency/Getty Images At a press conference with Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] on Wednesday in Mexico City, President Enrique Peña Nieto said: “Every year, thousands of weapons and millions of US dollars in cash enter illegally into Mexico from the north, strengthening the cartels and other criminal organizations that create violence in Mexico.”

The National Rifle Association (NRA), one of Trump’s key conservative backers, has long rejected such claims, arguing that guns sold by American dealers and smuggled across the border are not a major driver of crime in Mexico[https://www.theguardian.com/world/mexico].

On Wednesday, however, in a largely conciliatory speech in Mexico City that preceded a more aggressive[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech] address on **immigration** at home in Arizona, Trump did not question Peña Nieto’s comment about guns. Instead, the Republican presidential candidate echoed the Mexican president’s longtime talking points.

“No one wins in either country when human smugglers and drug traffickers prey on innocent people, when cartels commit acts of violence, when illegal weapons and cash flow from the United States into Mexico,” Trump said.

The NRA did not immediately comment. The organization has been one of Trump’s most consistent supporters, endorsing him for president[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/may/20/nra-endorses-donald-trump-convention] in May and investing[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/jul/27/democratic-convention-hillary-clinton-nomination-day-three?page=with:block-579950b0e4b075867609e22e#block-579950b0e4b075867609e22e] in major anti-Hillary Clinton television[http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/09/politics/nra-hillary-clinton-donald-trump-election-2016/] ad campaigns.

Related: Trump echoes Mexican president, says lax US gun laws help arm drug cartels[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-mexico-visit-guns-drug-cartels-nra]

block-time published-time 8.34pm BST

Hillary Clinton raised more than $140m in August Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign has had its best month ever, bringing in more than $143m in August for the campaign, as well as for the Democratic party. The campaign and allied action funds begin September with a more than $152 million war chest, built from donations from more than 2.3m people.

The average donation in August was $50, according to the campaign.

Hillary Clinton Photograph: Josh Edelson/AFP/Getty Images “Thanks to the 2.3 million people who have contributed to our campaign, we are heading into the final two months of the race with the resources we need to organize and mobilize millions of voters across the country,” campaign manager Robby Mook said in a release. “Donald Trump’s divisive rhetoric continues to drive voters away from him and the Republican Party and has created new opportunities for Democrats up and down the ticket. These resources will help us to register and turnout millions of voters to elect progressive candidates across the country.”

Of the $143m pot, a total of $62m was raised for Hillary for America - that is, Clinton’s official campaign - while roughly $81m was raised for the Democratic National Committee, as well as Democratic state parties, through the Hillary Victory Fund and the Hillary Action Fund.

The Clinton campaign starts the month of September with $68m in cash on-hand, with allied victory funds beginning the month with $84m.

Donald Trump’s campaign has not yet reported its August fundraising numbers.

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 8.35pm BST

block-time published-time 8.22pm BST

Peña Nieto seeks Twitter fight with Trump I’ll repeat what I told you in person, Mr Trump: Mexico will never pay for a wall.

– Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto, replying to Donald Trump on Twitter

esltrRepito lo que le dije personalmente, Sr. Trump: México jamás pagaría por un muro. https://t.co/IJNVe0XepY[https://t.co/IJNVe0XepY]

— Enrique Peña Nieto (@EPN) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/EPN/status/771423919978913792]enltrMexico will pay for the wall!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/771294347501461504]block-time published-time 8.16pm BST

With a history of pushing legislation[http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/07/donald-trump-mike-pence-vice-president-abortion-gay] hostile to gay rights, abortion access and non-discrimination before the law, Mike Pence is one of the most polarizing running mate picks in... well, Sarah Palin was just eight years ago.

Anyway, Right Wing Watch[http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/mike-pence-lamented-aids-activists-speaking-gop-convention-published-anti-gay-articles-india] has unearthed further odious content tied to Pence, published in the Indiana Policy Review when his name was on the masthead:

In one item titled “The Pinked Newsroom,” published[http://www.pfaw.org/sites/default/files/images/4336\_001.pdf] in the December 1993 issue, the publication lamented that The Wall Street Journal took part in a job fair for gay journalists. The piece claimed that “gaydom” was a “pathological condition” and argued that LGBT editors and reporters should not keep their sexuality a secret because it might slant their coverage. “[T]he more extreme of the gay movement consider themselves members of a sexual determined political party,” the piece explained.

A few months earlier, in August 1993, the journal, with Pence on the masthead, published a piece[http://www.pfaw.org/sites/default/files/images/4335\_001.pdf] objecting to the idea of gay people serving in the military.

Read further[http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/mike-pence-lamented-aids-activists-speaking-gop-convention-published-anti-gay-articles-india].

block-time published-time 7.50pm BST

enltrTim Kaine, apple picking pic.twitter.com/REJwXPgMXW[https://t.co/REJwXPgMXW]

— Ruby Cramer (@rubycramer) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/rubycramer/status/771418152047706112]After Apple-Picking

By Robert Frost

My long two-pointed ladder’s sticking through a tree

Toward heaven still,

And there’s a barrel that I didn’t fill

Beside it, and there may be two or three

Apples I didn’t pick upon some bough.

But I am done with apple-picking now.

Essence of winter sleep is on the night,

The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.

I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight

I got from looking through a pane of glass

I skimmed this morning from the drinking trough

And held against the world of hoary grass.

It melted, and I let it fall and break.

But I was well

Upon my way to sleep before it fell,

And I could tell

What form my dreaming was about to take.

Magnified apples appear and disappear,

Stem end and blossom end,

And every fleck of russet showing clear.

My instep arch not only keeps the ache,

It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.

I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend.

And I keep hearing from the cellar bin

The rumbling sound

Of load on load of apples coming in.

For I have had too much

Of apple-picking: I am overtired

Of the great harvest I myself desired.

There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,

Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.

For all

That struck the earth,

No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,

Went surely to the cider-apple heap

As of no worth.

One can see what will trouble

This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.

Were he not gone,

The woodchuck could say whether it’s like his

Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,

Or just some human sleep.

block-time published-time 7.44pm BST

Trump has one field office in Florida. Clinton has 51 The Tampa Bay Times reports[http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/while-hillary-clinton-touts-51-florida-field-offices-donald-trump-still/2291861] that the Donald Trump campaign still has only one office open in the essential battleground state of Florida, despite a vow on 8 August by the campaign that it would open two dozen additional offices within two weeks:

The Republican nominee only has a Sarasota statewide headquarters open in the state he absolutely must win to be elected president, while the Democratic nominee has 51 offices even though she has multiple paths to winning that don’t require Florida’s 29 electoral votes.

Read further[http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/while-hillary-clinton-touts-51-florida-field-offices-donald-trump-still/2291861]. A Trump advisor told the paper that those offices are on their way – in the next two weeks:

Karen Giorno, a Florida-based senior adviser to the Trump campaign, noted that they have 67 “county CEOs” helping identify and mobilize Trump supporters, 70,000 active volunteers, and three RVs working as “mobile field offices” criss-crossing the state and stopping at local festivals, gun shows and other functions to help organize Trump voters. Two dozen field offices are poised to open during the week of Sept. 5, she said.

block-time published-time 7.14pm BST

McCain warns of Clinton victory in case for reelection After easily dispatching with his Republican primary challenger, Arizona senator John McCain has turned toward the general election with a five-minute video in which he plays on the expectations of most voters (61%, in the Suffolk poll[http://www.suffolk.edu/documents/SUPRC/9\_1\_2016\_updated\_marginals.pdf] ) that Clinton will win the presidency:

My opponent, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick, is a good person. But if Hillary Clinton is elected president, Arizona will need a senator who will act as a check, not a rubber stamp, for the White House.

McCain also alludes to the deep unpopularity of both presidential candidates:

No matter which side of the presidential election you’re on – whether you’re satisfied or dissatisfied with your choices for president – this election is an important one.

McCain appears to be a few points ahead of Kirkpatrick, in polling averages[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-arizona-senate-mccain-vs-kirkpatrick], but the consensus is that Kirkpatrick is a formidable challenger, especially with Donald Trump at the top of the Republican ticket.

enltrOn Sept. 1! https://t.co/ubeRuW34lk[https://t.co/ubeRuW34lk]

— Eli Stokols (@EliStokols) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/EliStokols/status/771406372588183552]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 7.15pm BST

block-time published-time 6.54pm BST

Here’s some analysis to go with that inert pile of numbers[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2016/sep/01/trump-immigration-speech-clinton-biden-campaign-live?page=with:block-57c86619e4b06b4ac1748a47#block-57c86619e4b06b4ac1748a47] we threw at you a couple blocks ago.

Has the presidential race tightened? FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver thinks so:

The race between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump has tightened. Clinton, whose lead over Trump exceeded 8 percentage points at her peak following the Democratic convention, is ahead by 4 or 5 percentage points today, according to our polls-only forecast[http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/].

The tighter margins in the polls, which reflect a loss of support for Clinton along with a modest improvement for Trump, have come gradually over the past few weeks. [...]

Silver warns Clinton supporters that the electoral college won’t necessarily protect her if the national race tightens further:

But what if the race continues to tighten? I’ve often heard Democrats express a belief that Clinton’s position in the swing states will protect her in the Electoral College even if the race draws to a dead heat overall. But this is potentially mistaken. Although it’s plausible that Clinton’s superior field operation[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/trump-campaign-has-ground-game-problem/] will eventually pay dividends, so far her swing state results have ebbed and flowed with her national numbers.

Read further here[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/election-update-as-the-race-tightens-dont-assume-the-electoral-college-will-save-clinton/?platform=hootsuite].

block-time published-time 6.43pm BST

Sanders to campaign for Clinton Bernie Sanders will hit the campaign trail in New Hampshire on Labor Day for Clinton, according to a highly reliable local:

enltrBREAKING: @BernieSanders[https://twitter.com/BernieSanders] to campaign for @HillaryClinton[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton] at Lebanon High School on Labor Day afternoon #nhpolitics[https://twitter.com/hashtag/nhpolitics?src=hash] #WMUR[https://twitter.com/hashtag/WMUR?src=hash]

— John DiStaso (@jdistaso) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/jdistaso/status/771400019694018561]block-time published-time 6.40pm BST

Clinton holds leads of varying sizes in new national polls HuffPost Pollster has recently added four new polls to its average. Clinton leads them all, but the margins vary. Here they are (note that these margins are all for head-to-head races, excluding the Libertarian and Green candidates):

Suffolk / USA Today:[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/polls/suffolk-usa-today-25319] Clinton +7

Ipsos / Reuters:[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/polls/ipsos-reuters-25305] Clinton +1

UPI / CVOTER:[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/polls/upi-cvoter-25320] Clinton +3

Fox:[http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/polls/fox-25306] Clinton +6

Pollster’s overall average depicts a six-point race:

enltrPollster estimate for 2016 President: Trump vs. Clinton: Clinton 48%, Trump 42% https://t.co/oRPJt9i883[https://t.co/oRPJt9i883]

— Tom McCarthy (@TeeMcSee) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/TeeMcSee/status/771401553467023362]block-time published-time 6.31pm BST

Majority of voters 'alarmed'; 44% think 'Donald Trump is a racist' A new USA Today/ Suffolk University poll[http://www.suffolk.edu/documents/SUPRC/9\_1\_2016\_updated\_marginals.pdf] of likely voters has Clinton up 48-41 in a head-to-head race with Trump and up 42-35 in a four-way race. Those margins are in line with the averages.

The poll probes some interesting opinions apart from presidential preference. For example, asked “Just your own view, do you think Donald Trump is a racist?” 47% said no – but 44% said yes. 83% of African American voters surveyed said yes, while 61% of Hispanic voters said yes.

78% of respondents think Trump ought to release his tax returns. Only 31% think Clinton is “honest and trustworthy,” and as few – 30% – think Trump boasts those qualities.

enltrBig 78-14 majority in Suffolk poll of likely voters think Trump should release tax returns. Clinton honest? 31% yes pic.twitter.com/yIUYSf1TOc[https://t.co/yIUYSf1TOc]

— Tom McCarthy (@TeeMcSee) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/TeeMcSee/status/771394388564017153]How do Americans feel about the election? For 52%, the answer is “alarmed.”

enltrNot sure I've seen a polling question like this, nor this majority response. pic.twitter.com/hEyFrOvNbz[https://t.co/hEyFrOvNbz]

— Austin Barbour (@Austin\_Barbour) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/Austin\_Barbour/status/771390265651175425]If you want to go into the demographic breakdowns, check out these charts[http://www.suffolk.edu/documents/SUPRC/9\_1\_2016\_updated\_tables.pdf]. The National Review’s Liam Donovan points out that Trump appears to be underperforming with white voter s:

enltrBiggest thing that jumps out is Trump not doing nearly well enough among whites (49/41.) At that point AA/Hisp moot. pic.twitter.com/9HincNMRh5[https://t.co/9HincNMRh5]

— Liam Donovan (@LPDonovan) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/LPDonovan/status/771392566604488705]The survey has Clinton at +88 with African American voters and +41 with Hispanic voters, in a head-to-head matchup with Trump. 56% of Hispanics in the poll said they would be “scared” if Donald Trump were to be elected, and an additional 22% said they would be dissatisfied (12% said they would be satisfied; 10% said they would be “enthusiastic”).

block-time published-time 6.01pm BST

That does sound uncomfortable...

enltrBiden: “This is a guy who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth that now he’s choking on because his foot’s in his mouth—with the spoon"

— Matt Viser (@mviser) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/mviser/status/771377987656650754]block-time published-time 5.47pm BST

Trump predicts Ohio win To chants of “USA, USA, USA”, Trump took his nationalist message back to rustbelt later on Thursday at a lunchtime rally in Wilmington, Ohio.

The state has been hit hard by a decline in manufacturing jobs and the campaign seeks to weave together economic uncertainty with the uncompromising message on **immigration**.

“We will treat everyone with compassion but our greatest compassion will be for the American citizen,” Trump told the almost entirely white audience.

“No state has suffered more from bad trade deals,” he claimed. “Ohio has lost nearly one in three of its manufacturing jobs since Nafta and one in four since China entered the WTO [World Trade Organisation].”

National polls have begun to narrow again in recent days and although Clinton is still ahead here on average[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/oh/ohio\_trump\_vs\_clinton-5634.html], the latest survey shows[http://media.wix.com/ugd/3bebb2\_865ec63b1c494be78da4af7d7834766c.pdf] the candidates currently tied in Ohio.

“A new era of American greatness is going to begin a little earlier than scheduled on November 8 th,” boasted Trump to wild cheers. “I think we’re going to win Ohio, big league.”

block-time published-time 5.10pm BST

Annnd... Trump’s done. Was that his shortest speech yet?

Update:

enltrTrump didn't mention Wilmington, Ohio (or its economic woes) by name once

— Jeremy Pelzer (@jpelzer) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/jpelzer/status/771379684521218048]enltrTo be clear, this is the reason politicians typically would go to Wilmington. To talk about this. 8,000 jobs lost. https://t.co/zrLgJ3cRlY[https://t.co/zrLgJ3cRlY]

— Chrissie Thompson (@CThompsonENQ) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/CThompsonENQ/status/771380531665760256]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 5.33pm BST

block-time published-time 5.07pm BST

Donald Trump is delivering remarks in Wilmington, Ohio. He has already begun. Sorry to be a bit slow with supplying the video stream – he began on time!

block-time published-time 4.50pm BST

Biden is onstage in Warren, Ohio, and he’s talking, of course, about kitchen tables. He’s boosting for senate candidate Ted Strickland, who’s behind in the polls to popular Republican incumbent Rob Portman, who so far seems to have shaken the purported Donald Trump Drag.

block-time published-time 4.36pm BST

Roll Call writer and CBS News contributor Leslie Sanchez reports that there may be a wider defection under way from Trump’s Hispanic advisory board. Developing...

enltrHispanic leader who advises Trump camp telling me half of Trump's Hispanic advisory board is ready to resign today (15 of 30)

— Leslie Sanchez (@LeslieSanchez) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/LeslieSanchez/status/771362138011103232]block-time published-time 4.24pm BST

Vice president Joe Biden is scheduled to pop up momentarily in Warren, Ohio, on behalf of Hillary Clinton. Here’s a live video stream:

enltrFun (?) fact: Warren, Ohio - where VP Biden is holding an campaign for Hillary Clinton - is the hometown of Roger Ailes.

— Elyse PG (@elysepg) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/elysepg/status/771359480839802882]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.28pm BST

block-time published-time 4.21pm BST

Trump’s Mexico trip is not playing well for president Enrique Peña Nieto at home. “President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico’s decision to meet with possibly his country’s most-disliked man is turning into a public relations disaster for him, with social media posters and politicians calling it a national humiliation likely to lower the president’s already historically low popularity ratings,” runs an AP report:

Not only did Peña Nieto not demand that Donald Trump apologize for calling Mexican migrants rapists and criminals, but he stood silently by in their joint press conference while the Republican candidate repeated his promise to build a border wall[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] between the countries.

Related: Trump meeting is public relations disaster for Mexico's Enrique Peña Nieto[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/01/enrique-pena-nieto-donald-trump-public-relations-disaster]

Trump has suffered some internal damage from yesterday’s manic adventures, too, including the loss of two top backers from the Latino community who have hit EJECT:

enltrThis is how I feel: disappointed and misled https://t.co/7wqVBFwEjB[https://t.co/7wqVBFwEjB]

— Alfonso Aguilar (@amigoaguilar) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/amigoaguilar/status/771206610672689152]enltrHere's a Trump Latino advisor Jacob Monty now rebuking Trump: "He must want to lose. He can do that without me." pic.twitter.com/5QznNFfyje[https://t.co/5QznNFfyje]

— Teddy Schleifer (@teddyschleifer) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/teddyschleifer/status/771317766246830081]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.22pm BST

block-time published-time 4.09pm BST

Trump promises Legion crowd 'to help to strengthen respect for our flag' American schoolchildren will be taught greater respect for patriotic values, Donald Trump promised on Thursday, as he followed a key anti-**immigration** speech by stepping up his appeal to “Americanism”, writes Guardian Washington bureau chief Dan Roberts:

“We will stop apologising for America, and we will start celebrating America,” the Republican presidential candidate told an enthusiastic audience at the American Legion convention in Cincinnati.

A Trump administration, he said, would consult with the military veterans group to promote “pride and patriotism” in schools – “teaching respect” for the US flag and pledge of allegiance.

“That flag deserves respect, and I will work with American Legion to help to strengthen respect for our flag,” said Trump. “You see what’s happening. It’s very, very sad. And, by the way, we want young Americans to recite the pledge of allegiance.”

“One country, under one constitution, saluting one American Flag.. always saluting,” he added. “In a Trump administration, I plan to work directly with the American Legion to uphold our common values and to help ensure they are taught to America’s children. We want our kids to learn the incredible achievements of America’s history, its institutions, and its heroes.”

The call to “advance the cause of americanism – not globalism” came as Trump doubled down on the anti-**immigration** message at the heart of his campaign.

Further to come...

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.26pm BST

block-time published-time 4.00pm BST

Kaine tells press Clinton doesn't talk to that Clinton talks to them Hillary Clinton running mate Tim Kaine has told CBS News that “Hillary takes questions from reporters every day,” “she talks to the press everywhere she goes,” and “she did a press conference”:

enltr. @timkaine[https://twitter.com/timkaine], pressed by @NorahODonnell[https://twitter.com/NorahODonnell], says Clinton talks to the press "everywhere she goes" pic.twitter.com/oRSV1j06gh[https://t.co/oRSV1j06gh]

— Betsy Klein (@betsy\_klein) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/betsy\_klein/status/771314905785901056]It’s been 270-plus days since Clinton held a press conference. She appeared at an American Legion convention in Ohio yesterday without taking questions from the press. She has not permitted press access to her fundraisers including multiple events last weekend in the Hamptons. A week ago, after her speech on Trump’s “long history of racial discrimination,” Clinton declined to take questions from reporters, instead offering them chocolate[https://twitter.com/ABCLiz/status/768910474196901889]. The Clinton campaign, in an unusual move, has barred reporters from her plane:

enltrA @jeneps[https://twitter.com/jeneps] tweetstorm on Clinton's press practices https://t.co/zdM8LRLzKv[https://t.co/zdM8LRLzKv] pic.twitter.com/cUBpTe1QnD[https://t.co/cUBpTe1QnD]

— Shane Goldmacher (@ShaneGoldmacher) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/ShaneGoldmacher/status/771349400656502784] What might reporters ask Clinton? She might be asked how her staff handled requests from the Clinton foundation when she was secretary of state. She might be asked about the seemingly continuous discovery of work-related emails she did not turn over to the state department after she said she turned over all her work-related emails. She might be asked about her false assertion that FBI director James Comey had called her statements about her email “truthful,” about her subsequent explanation that she “short-circuited” when she said that and about other possible short-circuits.

It’s plain why Clinton might not prefer to do a news conference. She might be asked, after all, about Anthony Weiner. And maybe her campaign calculates that it would look bad for her to answer questions about potential pay-for-play through the Clinton foundation, even if her answers are perfect. The whole exercise might just stir up whatever thoughts and feelings people have about Clinton that caused 60% of responding registered voters to tell Washington Post pollsters last month that they do not think she is trustworthy[https://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2016/08/07/National-Politics/Polling/question\_16679.xml?uuid=xgZ1nlxTEeaLSAyzRCIRMQ].

block-time updated-timeUpdated at 4.13pm BST

block-time published-time 3.26pm BST

Trump: 'there's softening' “I think you’re going to see there’s really quite a bit of softening,” Trump tells conservative radio host Laura Ingraham this morning, vis-à-vis his **immigration** policy platform.

enltrAfter an **immigration** speech last night devoid of softness, Trump maintains still "oh, there's softening." pic.twitter.com/KeRvw5l9XD[https://t.co/KeRvw5l9XD]

— Ali Vitali (@alivitali) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/alivitali/status/771347480709623808]While we do not wish to punt on whether Trump’s current stance represents a “softening” from his previous stance, our evaluation of the question is hampered by having only his words to go on. And what are words? “What can be said at all can be said clearly; and whereof one cannot speak thereof one must be silent.” Here’s a link to the full text of the Tractatus[http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5740/5740-pdf.pdf] with an intro by Bertrand Russell.

enltrWow. This doesn't sound like "softening." GO, TRUMP!!!

— Ann Coulter (@AnnCoulter) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/AnnCoulter/status/771161220267343872]block-time updated-timeUpdated at 3.28pm BST

block-time published-time 1.12pm BST

Hello and welcome to our live-wire coverage of the 2016 race for the White House. Did you catch Donald Trump’s big speech on **immigration** last night? No matter if not; to understand where Trump now stands on **immigration**, you may simply refer in your textbooks to the fall of 2015, when Trump emerged as a scorched-earth, anti-“amnesty”, anti-**immigrant** hardliner.

“There was no pivoting. There was no softening. There was just Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump],” writes[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew] the Guardian’s Ben Jacobs of the speech:

In a much heralded **immigration** speech in Phoenix, the Republican nominee finally put to rest any pretence that he would moderate his views for a general electorate. “There will be no amnesty,” Trump proclaimed to a cheering crowd on Wednesday.

The Guardian’s Rory Carroll was in the room. “ Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] has vowed anew to deport millions of undocumented people and to build a wall on the border with Mexico, defying expectations that he would soften his stance on **immigration**,” he reports:

The Republican presidential candidate doubled down on his hardline stance in a speech on Wednesday night which delighted core supporters and dismayed his few remaining Latino allies who had expected a tack towards moderation.

The speech struck a contrast with Trump’s remarks earlier in the day as he stood in Mexico next to President Enrique Peña Nieto:

Compare and contrast: Trump’s night of changing rhetoric[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2016/sep/01/compare-and-contrast-trumps-night-of-changing-rhetoric-video]Trump began his Thursday by yelling about Mexico on Twitter:

enltrMexico will pay for the wall!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/771294347501461504]Trump did not say that in his appearance with Peña Nieto. Trump claimed the two did not discuss the matter of payment. Peña Nieto did not speak up when the world was watching but later tweeted that he had told Trump flatly that Mexico would not pay for a border wall.

Whatever else it did, the entire exchange elevated the fringe fantasy of a Mexican border wall to the realm of diplomatic debate.

Related: Mexican president contradicts Trump's account of border wall discussion[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration]

enltrTrump just failed his first foreign test. Diplomacy isn't as easy as it looks. -H

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton/status/771156031401521153]enltr #Trump[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Trump?src=hash] takes the stage: 'what a crowd.. So many people.' pic.twitter.com/3YzsUNv9X1[https://t.co/3YzsUNv9X1]

— Rory Carroll (@rorycarroll72) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/rorycarroll72/status/771161654868324353] Biden to campaign for Clinton The vice-president is to speak on Clinton’s behalf at two events in Ohio today. Clinton herself has no scheduled public events until Labor Day.

Trump is to speak to the American Legion in Cincinnati this morning and then at a rally in nearby Wilmington.

Thanks for reading and please join us in the comments.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Nearly a year after Tony Abbott announced the additional humanitarian intake, only 2,000 have been taken in

Australia has resettled 2,000 refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict in almost a year, in the same time as Canada and the US have taken in 30,000 and 10,000 people respectively.

Nearly a year after the former prime minister Tony Abbott announced an additional humanitarian intake of 12,000 Syrian refugees, just 2,000 have been resettled under the program.

A senior department source told the Guardian the figure was “starting to pick up but it’s still only about 2,000”. The vast majority of that figure are understood to have arrived in the past six weeks. The **immigration** minister and his department both refused to answer questions on the program.

Related: Turnbull defends George Christensen's opposition to Syrian refugees in Mackay[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/may/12/turnbull-defends-george-christensens-opposition-to-syrian-refugees-in-mackay]

Six-hundred of those Syrians who have come to Australia under the program have been resettled in New South Wales, the NSW coordinator general for refugee resettlement, Peter Shergold, told the Guardian[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/19/jobs-the-key-to-doubling-refugee-intake-says-resettlement-chief].

Abbott announced the Syrian resettlement scheme – in addition to Australia’s annual humanitarian intake – on 9 September 2015.

Since 4 November 2015, Canada has resettled 30,136 people fleeing the Syrian conflict. The Canadian government has a website, tagged #Welcome Refugees[http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp], which updates details of the progress of the resettlement program.

Barack Obama announced that the US would this week receive its 10,000th Syrian refugee since October 2015[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/29/syrian-refugees-admitted-united-states], ahead of the government’s planned resettlement schedule.

“On behalf of the president and his administration, I extend the warmest of welcomes to each and every one of our Syrian arrivals, as well as the many other refugees resettled this year from all over the world,” the US national security adviser, Susan Rice, said. The US will resettle about 85,000 refugees this year.

Australia has been criticised for moving too slowly to resettle refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and Iraq.

Announcing Australia’s 12,000 additional humanitarian places last September, Abbott said: “Our focus will be on those most in need – the women, children and families of persecuted minorities who have sought refuge from the conflict in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.”

However, he imposed no timeframe for their resettlement.

“We’re not putting a timetable on it because we do have to make all of these important checks – health, security, character – because it is important that we bring in people who are going to be contributors to the Australian community,” he said. “It is important that we don’t bring in anyone from this troubled region who might ultimately be a problem for the Australian community.”

Oxfam has urged Australia to move more swiftly on its resettlement efforts of refugees who have escaped Syria’s now five-year-old civil war.

“The government has an obligation to provide details on meeting its commitment to resettle an additional 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Australia,” Oxfam Australia’s chief executive, Helen Szoke, said. “So far, there has been a lack of transparency as to how many of these refugees have arrived in Australia or any firm commitment as to when the promise – made nearly a year ago – will be met in full.”

The acting chief executive of the Refugee Council of Australia, Tim O’Connor, told the Guardian his organisation welcomed the recent increase in the speed of arrival of Syrians and Iraqis as part of the September 2015 commitment of 12,000 additional refugee resettlement places.

“Australia’s settlement organisations have long been prepared for the scale-up of this refugee intake and are now very busy in bringing their expertise to resettle these people into the Australian community. The expectation is that the majority of the 12,000 will arrive within the next 18 months.”

Australia’s humanitarian refugee intake was 13,750 last year and will remain at that level for the 2016-17 financial year. It is slated to increase[http://www.minister.border.gov.au/peterdutton/2015/Pages/restoring-integrity-to-refugee-intake.aspx] to 18,750 by 2018-19.

Labor has a policy of lifting Australia’s humanitarian intake to 27,000, while the Greens have proposed 50,000.

On September 19, the UN secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, will host a summit in New York “addressing large movements of refugees and migrants”. But a draft declaration document from the summit has already been widely circulated and widely condemned for its failure to commit countries to concrete actions to make refugees’ journeys better or safer. The declaration is also not legally enforceable.

Related: Cory Bernardi’s stance on Syrian refugees is flippant fear-mongering. And it's not working | Kristina Keneally[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/24/cory-bernardis-stance-on-syrian-refugees-is-flippant-fear-mongering-and-its-not-working]

The day after Ban’s summit, the US president is hosting his own “leaders’ summit”, also in NY.

But, unlike the UN event, the US summit has been billed as a “pay-to-play” summit, with Obama offering invitations only to countries who indicate in advance that they are prepared to make concrete commitments to accept more refugees from the growing global pool of displaced people.

The Guardian understands Australia has been invited but has not yet formally accepted as the government considers what, if any, commitments it is prepared to make. Australia would likely be represented by the prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, the foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop, and the **immigration** minister, Peter Dutton.

The UNHCR says more than 65m people are currently forcibly displaced from their homes[http://www.unhcr.org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/statistics/unhcrstats/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html], 24.5m of those outside their own country.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The Republican candidate said he would work with veterans’ group to ‘teach respect’ for the flag and pledge of allegiance during anti-**immigration** speech

American schoolchildren will be taught greater respect for patriotic values, Donald Trump promised on Thursday, as he followed up his surprise trip to Mexico and key anti-**immigration** speech by stepping up his appeal to “Americanism”.

The Republican presidential candidate defied expectations that he would soften his stance on the issue on Wednesday night when he returned to the US from an unusually conciliatory joint press conference with the Mexican president only to give a fiery speech vowing to deport millions of undocumented **immigrants** to a crowd in Arizona.

On Thursday morning he kept up this populist tone, telling an enthusiastic audience at the American Legion convention in Cincinnati: “We will stop apologising for America, and we will start celebrating America.”

A Trump administration, he said, would consult with the military veterans’ group to promote “pride and patriotism” in schools – “teaching respect” for the US flag and pledge of allegiance.

“That flag deserves respect, and I will work with American Legion to help to strengthen respect for our flag,” said Trump. “You see what’s happening. It’s very, very sad. And, by the way, we want young Americans to recite the pledge of allegiance.

One country, under one constitution, saluting one American flag... always saluting

Donald Trump

“One country, under one constitution, saluting one American flag... always saluting,” he added. “In a Trump administration, I plan to work directly with the American Legion to uphold our common values and to help ensure they are taught to America’s children. We want our kids to learn the incredible achievements of America’s history, its institutions and its heroes.”

The call to “advance the cause of Americanism – not globalism” came as Trump reiterated the anti-**immigration** message at the heart of his campaign, which delighted core supporters and dismayed his few remaining Latino allies, who had expected a tack towards moderation.

Despite a whirlwind visit to Mexico on Wednesday and suggestions of a softening in his approach to the issue, the campaign increasingly seems to be emphasizing nationalism as a tactic to defeat Hillary Clinton in November.

“We will be united by our common culture, values and principles – becoming one American nation,” said Trump in Cincinnati, spending half an hour touring the convention floor before heading to another nearby rally in the key swing state of Ohio.

Trump vowed anew to deport millions of undocumented people and to build a wall on the border with Mexico.

Speaking hours after a lightning visit to Mexico[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] , Trump told a rally in Phoenix, Arizona, he was sticking with his plan for a “deportation force” to intercept those crossing the border illegally and hunt down criminal “illegal aliens” already in the US.

“We are going to take our country back,” he said, repeating a mantra from the primary campaign.

Speaking largely from a teleprompter, he also repeated his vow to make Mexico pay for a 2,000-mile wall which, he said, would bristle with sensors, towers and guards. “We will build a great wall along the southern border – and Mexico[https://www.theguardian.com/world/mexico] will pay for the wall, 100%. They don’t know it yet, but they’re going to pay for it.”

Trailing Clinton in the polls with just 69 days to the election, Trump and campaign aides had recently fuelled expectations of a “softening” of **immigration** policy, prompting speculation about a flip-flop.

Instead the speech, which his campaign billed as a major policy address, represented an abrupt reversion to an aggressive tone just hours after an unfamiliar conciliatory timbre in Mexico City, where Trump met President Enrique Peña Nieto.

The GOP nominee roused the crowd in Phoenix with grisly details about murders committed by undocumented **immigrants**. He brought on stage “angel moms” whose children were killed.

He spoke of cancelling an Obama administration programme that gives work permits to about 800,000 young **immigrants** who came to the US as children – a stance likely to slam shut any chance of Latino outreach.

Anybody who entered the US illegally would be subject to deportation and there should be detainers for **immigrants** who committed any crime, not just felonies, he said. “There will be no amnesty.”

Trump also promised ideological tests for would-be visa applicants, a “sunset” on visa laws requiring Congress to rewrite them every few years and a ban on taxpayer funding for cities that don’t deport undocumented **immigrants**.

Asked by conservative radio host Laura Ingraham on Thursday morning whether this represented a “softening”, Trump replied: “Oh, there’s softening. Look, we do it in a very humane way... Obviously I want to get the gang members out, the drug peddlers out, I want to get the drug dealers out... And then we’re going to make a decision at a later date once everything is stabilised. I think you’re going to see there’s really quiet a bit of softening.”

He added: “I feel strongly that we have to stabilise the border... We have to have a strong border, otherwise we don’t have a country.”

Wednesday’s rhetoric trampled over the hopes of Trump’s dwindling band of conservative Latino supporters. “This is how I feel: disappointed and misled,” tweeted Alfonso Aguilar, head of Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles. Jacob Monty, a member of Trump’s National Hispanic advisory council, resigned, Politico reported[http://www.politico.com/story/2016/09/donald-trump-hispanic-leaders-arizona-immigration-227615].

The rightwing columnist Ann Coulter, in contrast, exulted. “Wow. This doesn’t sound like ‘softening’. GO, TRUMP!!!” she tweeted.

Trump did however imply most of the estimated 11 million undocumented **immigrants** would remain untouched while his putative administration focused on deporting two million with alleged criminal records. “We will begin moving them out, day one. My first hour in office, those people are gone.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**After tip-toeing around details of the wall with President Peña Nieto he came home to deliver a hardline anti-**immigrant** speech promising mass deportations

Related: 'No amnesty': Donald Trump vows to deport millions during 'first hour in office'[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/donald-trump-vows-to-deport-millions-during-first-hour-in-office-in-hardline-speech]

Donald Trump went on his first non-golfing foreign travel of the 2016 election and returned a changed man. Gone was the candidate who talked about all those good-hearted illegal **immigrants** who have lived honestly in the US for decades. Gone was all the talk of them paying back taxes to get legal status. Gone was the kinder, gentler Trump.

Instead, the Republican nominee delivered an **immigration** speech on Wednesday night with all the sweetness of the Sex Pistols, the brevity of Fidel Castro and the brains of Archie Bunker.

This was, in the nominee’s words, “a detailed policy address” on **immigration**. Not to be confused with his declarations on the subject in a billion primary debates, TV interviews and midnight tweets.

So in place of “a deportation force” to forcibly remove 11 million undocumented **immigrants**, Trump described a “deportation task force” to merely eject 2 million “criminal **aliens**.”

This feat will take place with remarkable speed on his inauguration day next January. “We will begin moving them out as soon as I take office,” he explained from his teleprompter. “Day one. My first hour in office. Those people are gone … The crime will stop. They will be gone. It will be over.”

Related: In Arizona we saw the real Donald Trump: the one we already knew[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/01/in-arizona-we-saw-the-real-donald-trump-the-one-we-already-knew]

You may scoff at such promises, but this was no hyperbolic overstatement for the sake of a few votes. Trump assured us this speech would be different. “Today, on a very complicated and difficult subject, you will get the truth,” he said.

Now unlike lots of other policy stuff – like whether Russia has invaded Ukraine or whether you can really win a trade war with China – it’s fair to say that Trump knows a thing or two about **immigration**.

His first wife was born in the Czech Republic, and his second wife was born in Slovenia. His own family (original name: Drumpf) came from Germany, settling in the US a little more than a decade before World War One.

And yet, Candidate Trump proposed what he called “ideological certification” of **immigrants** to check their real intent. That was the only way to weed out criminals and terrorists, who somehow blended into one giant **alien** blob in his combed-over cranium.

Trump painted a portrait of a nation overrun by hordes of unassimilated **aliens** stampeding across the southern border, determined to butcher innocent Americans.

Never mind that most undocumented **immigrants** enter the country by plane and overstay their visas. Never mind that President Obama has deported[http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/obamas-deportation-policy-numbers/story?id=41715661] more people than any other president, and more than every president in the 20 th century combined.

The US government apparently knows about all these criminal **aliens**, often detains them, but just keeps on releasing them back into society to wreak their havoc. “We’re like the big bully that keeps getting beat up,” Trump lamented. “Didya ever see that? The big bully that keeps getting beat up.”

No, we’ve never seen that – except in one presidential candidate’s recent trip to Mexico.

Trump thinks of himself as a tough negotiator who knows the art of the deal. So when he travels to Mexico to confront the leader of a country that he thinks is ripping us off with bad trade deals, and sending its bad guys over the non-existent border, we know exactly what to expect.

A polite and friendly conversation that doesn’t discuss his plan to force the Mexicans to pay for the wall he wants to build.

This is clearly a cunning negotiation tactic. He has already confused Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto, who told the world that Mexico would not pay for the Great Wall of Trump. “I made it clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall,” the president said bluntly.

Trump himself had a different take. “We did discuss the wall,” he said. “We didn’t discuss payment of the wall. That will be for a later date. This was a very preliminary meeting. I think it was an excellent meeting.”

Other people hear ‘no’ and think it means ‘no.’ Other people negotiate by trying to move the other side closer to their own price. Other people speak up in a discussion.

Not Trump. He negotiates by saying the discussion never happened. That’s what “very preliminary” means. An “excellent meeting” is one where you lull the opposition into a false sense of victory.

“Today was the first part of the discussion, and a relationship builder between Mr Trump and President Peña Nieto,” said Jason Miller, a senior communications advisor to the nominee. “It was not a negotiation, and that would have been inappropriate.”

More appropriate was what came out of Trump’s mouth when he returned to the land of the free. “We will build a great wall along the southern border,” Trump told his cheering supporters in Phoenix, Arizona. At this point, he walked across the stage and applauded himself.

“And Mexico will pay for the wall. 100%. They don’t know it yet, but they’re going to pay for it.”

No, they clearly don’t know it. But there were some clues left by some Trump staffers. As the candidate finished his speech, the loudspeakers played one track from his carefully curated campaign playlist. The classic Rolling Stones number: You Can’t Always Get What You Want.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Republican candidate tells Phoenix audience there will be no amnesty and lays out vision of a Mexico border wall and mass expulsion of criminal ‘illegal **aliens**’

Donald Trump[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump] has vowed anew to deport millions of undocumented people and to build a wall on the border with Mexico, defying expectations that he would soften his stance on **immigration**.

The Republican presidential candidate doubled down on his hardline stance in a speech on Wednesday night which delighted core supporters and dismayed his few remaining Latino allies who had expected a tack towards moderation.

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Trump did however imply most of the estimated 11 million undocumented **immigrants** would remain untouched while his putative administration focused on deporting 2 million with alleged criminal records. “We will begin moving them out, day one. My first hour in office, those people are gone.”

The ambiguity over the fate of non-criminal undocumented **immigrants** marked a tacit retreat from Trump’s earlier vows to swiftly deport all 11 million people. The lack of clarity allowed supporters and critics to fill in the blanks with their own wishes and anxieties.

Trump’s policy could in theory yet resemble that of Obama, who has deported millions, and GOP rivals such as Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, whom Trump accused of supporting de facto amnesty.

The speech capped a whirlwind day of political theatre in which Trump, after a year of denigrating Mexican **immigrants**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/16/donald-trump-mexico-presidential-speech-latino-hispanic] as rapists, murderers and drug dealers, met President Peña Nieto in Mexico City, triggering a backlash [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-memes-cartoons-pena-nieto] from Mexicans who denounced the New York businessman as a tyrant, and worse.

Trump emerged from the private meeting at Los Pinos, the presidential residence, heaping praise on Mexican **immigrants**. “They are amazing people, amazing people... Mexicans are just beyond reproach. Spectacular, spectacular and hardworking people.”

He said the hour-long meeting with Peña Nieto was “substantive” and “excellent” but did not touch on his pledge to force Mexico to pay for the wall. “We’re saving that discussion for a later date.”

Mexico’s president however said he did broach the topic[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-president-pena-nieto-immigration] and told Trump Mexico would not pay. In a late evening television interview, an angry-looking Peña Nieto said: “His policy stances could represent a huge threat to Mexico, and I am not prepared to keep my arms crossed and do nothing.

“That risk, that threat, must be confronted. I told him that is not the way to build a mutually beneficial relationship for both nations.”

Hillary Clinton’s campaign, sidelined by another day of Trump drama, seized on the discrepancy: “It turns out Trump didn’t just choke, he got beat in the room and lied about it.”

The unexpected visit – Trump’s first meeting with a head of state since he became a candidate – yielded presidential optics in the form of a podium and marble backdrop in an international setting. Speaking beneath a Mexican flag the casino owner-turned reality TV star sounded restrained and diplomatic.

That evaporated when he bounded onto the podium in Phoenix, 200 miles north of the border, and seemed energised by the crowd, even though the cavernous convention centre was half-empty.

#Trump[https://twitter.com/hashtag/Trump?src=hash] takes the stage: 'what a crowd.. So many people.' pic.twitter.com/3YzsUNv9X1[https://t.co/3YzsUNv9X1] — Rory Carroll (@rorycarroll72) September 1, 2016[https://twitter.com/rorycarroll72/status/771161654868324353]

“There is only one core issue in the **immigration** debate and that is the wellbeing of the American people. Nothing even comes a close second. Our greatest compassion must be for our American citizens.” The audience cheered and chanted “USA”.

Maricopa county sheriff Joe Arpaio, a controversial hunter of suspected undocumented people, New York’s former mayor Rudy Giuliani and Trump’s running mate, Indiana governor Mike Pence, warmed up the crowd before Trump arrived.

Supporters hailed his cross-border foray as evidence he could negotiate with foreign leaders and secure US interests. George Buchanan, 71, a retired flooring installer, said it also showed courage. “It’s dangerous. You’ve got those Mexican people over there, drug lords. The drug lords don’t want him to build the wall.”

Some in the crowd sensed that behind the brash reiteration of mass deportations Trump was in fact edging towards a more moderate, viable, policy. “I think he’s loosening up, becoming more realistic,” said Nancy Lewis, 56, a retired law enforcer. “And I’m OK with that. I have Hispanic friends.”

Michelle Des Marais, 78, appeared willing to forgive Trump if he did end up retreating. “It’s a hard fight but at least he’s trying.”

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Enrique Peña Nieto says he made clear Mexico would not pay for a border wall despite Trump’s statement after the meeting that the two did not discuss it

Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto has insisted that he told Donald Trump that Mexico would not pay for a border wall when the two held a surprise meeting on Wednesday.

Trump had told reporters after the meeting that while the pair had discussed a border wall, the topic of who would pay for it did not come up. “We didn’t discuss payment of the wall. That’ll be for a later date,” Trump said.

Peña Nieto had faced a wave of domestic criticism for inviting Trump to see him at Los Pinos, the residence of the Mexican president. The controversy came just hours after Trump left Mexico City for Arizona, where he was due to hold a major policy speech on **immigration** that same evening.

The two met for an hour and then appeared before reporters to make separate statements about their unusual summit.

Speaking at a podium next to Peña Nieto, Trump did his utmost to appear presidential on his second-ever trip abroad and first meeting with a head of state as a candidate. However, in doing so, Trump seemed to continue the “softening” of his rhetoric[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/31/donald-trump-mexico-pena-nieto-immigration-arizona] on **immigration** in advance of his policy speech on the topic, which he will deliver later on Wednesday night.

Speaking at the podium in restrained and almost subdued tones, Trump described undocumented **immigrants** as those entering the United States “without legal authorization”, praised first-, second- and third-generation Mexican Americans as “beyond reproach” and talked about keeping jobs “in our hemisphere”. This was in addition to Trump’s concession to reporters afterwards that while he had discussed building a border wall with Peña Nieto, he did not even bring up his signature proposal that Mexico would pay for such a wall[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/apr/05/donald-trump-mexico-border-wall-plan-remittances].

This served as a major contrast to Trump’s fiery and often bombastic tone on the campaign trail.

He launched his candidacy in June 2015 by accusing Mexico of deliberately sending criminals and “rapists” to the US and has since claimed that a federal judge, Gustavo Curiel, could not do his job impartially because of his Mexican heritage[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/03/donald-trump-judge-curiel-university-case-biased-mexican]. At almost every campaign rally since then, Trump has held a call and response with his rambunctious crowds, asking: “Who is going to pay for the wall?” The shouted answer has invariably been: “Mexico.”

The Republican nominee has also repeatedly bashed free trade agreements, like Nafta, which he has said allows US workers to lose their jobs to Mexicans; as well as attacking specific companies for shifting their operations to Mexico.

While it was speculated that Peña Nieto, who has a 23% approval rating in his own country, might berate Trump for political gain, the Mexican president took a rather restrained stance speaking before his guest.

He praised Trump for the “open and constructive” conversation they had. The Mexican president also did not directly criticize any of the controversial and racially charged remarks Trump has made since launching his campaign last year. Rather, Peña Nieto rebutted them indirectly by praising Mexican Americans.

“They are honest people, working people – they are people that respect family, they respect the life in the community and they are respective of the law. As such, Mexicans deserve everybody’s respect.” Although Peña Nieto pointedly defended Nafta, a longstanding target of ire for Trump, he concede the free trade agreement “could be improved”.

Mexicans reacted with outrage to Peña Nieto’s perceived deference and refusal to be tough with Trump.

“I can’t recall a time in the last 50 years when a Mexican president was so thoroughly humiliated in his own home,” said Esteban Illades, editor of the intellectual and current affairs magazine Nexos.

“Peña Nieto managed to make Trump look presidential while making himself look incredibly small. He ended up accepting an apology from Trump, even though Trump never even offered a half-hearted one.”

“@EPN reinforced in the US the stereotype of the docile Mexican, who you can insult and mock without consequences. The damage is done,” tweeted[https://twitter.com/jorgesuarezv/status/771090300102184961] author Jorge Suarez-Velez.

Peña Nieto entered the meeting as Mexico’s most unpopular president since polling on presidential approval started in the mid 1990s. Analysts expect the encounter to diminish Peña Nieto’s popularity even further, especially since many Mexicans were expecting a robust response to a presidential candidate whose protectionist policies could cost Mexico economically.

“Peña Nieto claims he is just trying to protect Mexicans. How, by welcoming to Mexico the candidate who has portrayed them as the enemy?” said Carlos Bravo Regidor, a journalism professor at the Centre for Research and Teaching in Economics. “This is more than a diplomatic blunder. This is a mistake of global proportions.”

The event was held just hours before Trump’s scheduled speech on **immigration** in Phoenix, Arizona, and came as the Republican nominee is trying to pivot to appeal to moderate suburban voters that he alienated during his primary campaign.

In recent days, Trump has shifted away from his calls for “a deportation force”[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/27/donald-trump-immigration-policy-deportation] and deporting all 11 million illegal **immigrants**[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/21/donald-trump-deportation-immigration-plan-meeting-latino-leaders] in the US within two years of taking office.

Instead, he has flip-flopped in the past week about a potential path to legal status for undocumented **immigrants** and attacked the media for even focusing on the issue.

“In recent days, the media – as it usually does – has missed the whole point on **immigration**. All the media wants to talk about is the 11 million or more people here illegally,” Trump told voters in Iowa on Saturday.

The campaign heralded Trump’s trip, where he was accompanied by Alabama senator Jeff Sessions and former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani as a sign of Trump’s statesmanship.

In a statement, Republican vice-presidential nominee Mike Pence said: “What the American people are seeing today is the kind of decisive president Donald J Trump will be. This meeting begins a relationship where we can talk about the issues we’ve got to resolve between the United States and Mexico, as well as the issues we have in common.”

John Podesta, the chair of the Clinton campaign, mocked Trump for not pressing for Mexico to pay for the border wall in his meeting with Peña Nieto.

“Donald Trump has made his outlandish policy of forcing Mexico to pay for his giant wall the centerpiece of his campaign,” said Podesta. “But at the first opportunity to make good on his offensive campaign promises, Trump choked. What we saw today from a man who claims to be the ultimate ‘deal maker’ is that he doesn’t have the courage to advocate for his campaign promises when he’s not in front of a friendly crowd.”

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