Actor Terry Crews: I was sexually assaulted by Hollywood executive

Brooklyn Nine-Nine star says he did not speak out after unnamed ‘high-level’ executive groped his genitals for fear of being ostracised or jailed

Rilym Mumford

Thu 12 Oct 2017 00.46 AEDT

Actor and former NFL star Terry Crews has claimed he was the victim of a sexual assault by a “high-level Hollywood executive”, but did not retaliate or speak out over the incident for fear of being ostracised or sent to jail.

Crews, who played for teams including the Los Angeles Rams, the San Diego Chargers and the Washington Redskins and appears in the sitcom Brooklyn Nine-Nine, recounted the incident via a series of tweets.

The 49-year-old said he was prompted to share his story in the wake of the ongoing Harvey Weinstein scandal. “This whole thing with Harvey Weinstein is giving me PTSD. Why? Because this kind of thing happened to ME,” he wrote.

Film producer Weinstein has been accused of sexual assault or harassment by multiple women, including Asia Argento, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. Weinstein denies some of the allegations and says all his relationships were “consensual”.

Crews described how, at an industry function in 2016, an unnamed male executive groped his genitals in front of his wife and “grinned like a jerk” at the pair’s shocked response.

He said that he was tempted to retaliate, but was worried how the incident would be reported and feared he would go to jail. “240 lbs. Black Man stomps out Hollywood Honcho‘ would be the headline the next day,” he wrote.

Crews said the executive later called to apologise, but did not give a reason for his actions. Crews chose not to publicise the incident for fear of being ostracised. “Par [for] the course when the predator has power [and] influence”, he wrote.

The actor said his experience had helped him “understand and empathize with those who have remained silent”. “But Harvey Weinstein is not the only perpetrator,” he added. Crews also expressed hope that, by making his experience public, he would “deter a predator and encourage someone who feels hopeless”.

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**Topics**
- Film
- Harvey Weinstein
- Terry Crews
- Asia Argento
- news
Patricia Arquette, former Playmate accuse Oliver Stone of harassment

By Ruth Brown

October 13, 2017 | 2:23pm

A former Playboy Playmate on Friday accused Oliver Stone of honking her breasts "like a horn," while actress Patricia Arquette said she was also creeped out by the famed director.

The allegations come after Stone defended accused serial sexual harasser Harvey Weinstein, then backpedaled, saying he's cutting ties with the pervy producer.

"Oliver spied me standing nearby and just reached out and instead of doing what a normal person does and shaking my hand, he just groped my boob and honked it like a horn and grinned and kept walking," model and actress Carrie Stevens told The Hollywood Reporter of the incident at an early 1990s party.

"Thank God I was never alone with [Oliver Stone]. If he's grabbing me like that in front of people, imagine what he would do in private, given the chance."

Arquette had similar questions. She tweeted that Stone was once trying to recruit her for a movie that was "very sexual." After a "very professional" meeting, Stone sent her "long stem jungle roses" and invited her to a screening of "Natural Born Killers."

Finding the whole thing "weird," the "Boyhood" actress said she brought her boyfriend along — and Stone was none too pleased.

"Oliver stopped me coming out of the bathroom. He said 'Why did you bring him?' I said 'Why is it a problem I brought him? It shouldn't be a problem. Think about THAT Oliver,'" she tweeted Friday. "Anyway never heard about the movie again & didn't care to."
Oliver Stone accused of groping by former Playboy model

Carrie Stevens claims Stone touched her breast at a party in the 1990s, following the director's comments about accusations against Harvey Weinstein

"Ilym Mumford
Sat 14 Oct 2017 21.14 AEDT

Oliver Stone has been accused of groping by a former Playboy model, hours after he declared Harvey Weinstein had been condemned by a "vigilante system".

Carrie Stevens made the claims on Twitter in response to an article reporting Stone's comments, which he later clarified. Stevens said: "When I heard about Harvey, I recalled Oliver walking past me & grabbing my boob as he walked out the front door of a party [in the 90s]. Two of a kind!" she wrote.

Stevens later provided further detail of her accusations in an interview with the New York Daily News. "He was really cocky, had this big grin on his face like he was going to get away with something," she said. Stevens claimed that Stone then "reached out and ... honked [her breast] like a horn", but said that no one commented on the director's actions.

The Guardian has contacted Stone for comment on Stevens’ allegations, which have not been substantiated.

Stone had attracted controversy for remarks he made about Weinstein at a press conference for the Busan international film festival, in which he said of the disgraced producer: “It's not easy what he's going through.”

“I’m a believer that you wait until this thing gets to trial,” Stone added. “I believe a man shouldn’t be condemned by a vigilante system. It’s not easy what he’s going through, either. During that period he was a rival. I never did business with him and didn’t really know him. I’ve heard horror stories on everyone in the business, so I’m not going to comment on gossip. I’ll wait and see, which is the right thing to do.”

However in a Facebook post a few hours later, Stone backtracked on his comments, claiming that he had not known the extent of the allegations against Weinstein because he had been travelling. Stone said that he was “appalled” and commended “the courage of the women who’ve stepped forward to report sexual abuse or rape”.

Stone had been scheduled to direct the first episode of Guantánamo, a Showtime series about the US detention unit that is being produced by the Weinstein Company. In his Facebook statement Stone said that he would “recuse myself from the Guantánamo series as long as the Weinstein Company is involved”.

The Guardian has contacted Showtime for comment on the status of the series.

Weinstein has been accused of sexual assault and harassment by more than two dozen women, including Rose McGowan, Léa Seydoux, Cara Delevingne and Gwyneth Paltrow. On Thursday the actor Sophie Dix told the Guardian that her career was “massively cut down” after an alleged assault by Weinstein in a London hotel in the early 1990s. A spokesperson for Weinstein says that he “unequivocally denies” all claims of non-consensual sex made against him.

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Topics
- Oliver Stone
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Weinstein Isn't The Only One: Screen Celebs Who Abuse Women or Children

Edited Oct. 26, 2017, to add: When I published this post almost two weeks ago, I thought it would serve as a mental list of celebrity/Hollywood men to avoid—a kind of ethical shopping guide, if you will. I had no idea so many people would read and share it. It has been boosted by people like Geena Davis and Wil Wheaton, and who knows how many others. I'm happy it has received so much attention. But I wanted to add a few notes:

First, this is not a news article. This is an opinion piece, based on available reporting about the people and incidents listed below. I don't
make any money from it.

Second, while I stand by what I said below about not repeatedly using the word "allegedly" on any statement not backed by a court conviction, please feel free to mentally write it in. I do believe there is a place—many places—for "innocent until proven guilty." But I ask readers to keep in mind that our criminal justice system is fundamentally not set up to protect the victims of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex bias, and similar experiences. Only 6 in 1,000 reported rapists will see jail time, according to RAINN. The legal bar is so high for many of these acts, including harassment and sex bias, that they have become de facto legal. In other words, just because an allegation/accusation does not result in a court conviction, it doesn't mean the act didn't occur. Look at Bill Cosby: more than 50 women have come forward with claims against him, and he hasn't been convicted of anything. Does that mean he's innocent?

I say this as a journalist who has reported in depth on these issues, as a sexual assault survivor, and as someone who has observed how the system works.

Third, I've had a lot of folks criticizing the way I compiled this list. That's great! I would love to see others try their hand at putting together similar ones. We need more of them.

. . .

Content warning: many of the links in this post contain material that may be triggering to some readers.

Last week, the news exploded with stories connecting Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein with numerous sexual harassment and sexual abuse allegations. As I write this, a "me too" meme is trending on Facebook, in which many folks are speaking up about having experienced abuse or harassment.

When I find out a screen celebrity—either someone who's on screen or behind the scenes—has been accused of harming women, children, or basically anyone, I do my best to stop supporting them. I don't see their movies. I don't buy anything that would put money in their pockets. I've had a running list in my head for a while now. In the wake of Weinstein, I think it's time to make that list public.

An important note: Normally I would include the word "allegedly" next to any statement that isn't backed by a conviction. I'm not doing
that here for three reasons: One, I tend to believe the victim, not the perpetrator. These victims came forward at great personal risk. Two, false reports of sexual harassment and sexual assault are exceedingly rare. They make up 2 to 8 percent of all such reports—but remember, an estimated 80 percent of sexual assaults aren’t reported. Three, these are men with a great deal of social, financial and legal capital who can make just about any accusation against them look like a lie.

This is by no means a complete list of screen celebrities and accusations. And it doesn’t include music or sports stars—those are worth paying attention to, too, but I’m trying to keep this from getting so long it’s overwhelming.

If you know of others, send them my way, along with a link to one or more articles or posts describing what happened.

Casey Affleck: sexual harassment.
Ben Affleck: sexual harassment.
Roger Ailes: sexual harassment.
Woody Allen: child sexual abuse.
Aziz Ansari: sexual assault.
Christian Bale: domestic violence.
John Barrymore: domestic violence.
Brian Bonsall: domestic violence.
Marlon Brando: rape.
Nicholas Brendan: domestic violence.
Josh Brolin: domestic violence.
Gary Busey: domestic violence, sexual assault.
Billy Bush: encouraging Trump’s predatory behavior.
James Caan: domestic violence.
Nicolas Cage: domestic violence.
Jim Carrey: domestic violence.

Louis CK: sexual assault.

Stephen Collins: child sexual abuse.

Kevin Costner: sexual assault.

Sean Connery: domestic violence.

Bill Cosby: raping dozens of women.

Alex Da Silva: rape.

James Deen: rape.

Gerard Depardieu: rape.

Johnny Depp: domestic violence.

Neil DeGrasse Tyson: rape.

Andy Dick: sexual assault.

Michael Fassbender: domestic violence.

James Franco: pursuing an underage girl.

Al Franken: sexual assault.

Morgan Freeman: sexual assault, sexual harassment.

Edward Furlong: domestic violence.

Mel Gibson: domestic violence.

Gary Goddard: child sexual abuse.

Tyler Grasham: child sexual abuse.

Emile Hirsch: assault.

Dustin Hoffman: sexual harassment.

Terrence Howard: domestic violence.
Klaus Kinski: child sexual abuse.

Andrew Kreisberg: sexual assault, sexual harassment.

John Lasseter: sexual harassment.

Curtis Lepore: rape.

Jared Leto: rape (second link).

Rob Lowe: videotaping sex with underage girls, sexual harassment.

Danny Masterson: rape.

Murray Miller: sexual assault.

Jason Mojica: sexual harassment.

Jason Momoa: rape jokes. (More on this here.)

Sasha Mitchell: domestic violence.

Dudley Moore: domestic violence.

Bill Murray: domestic violence.

Gary Oldman: domestic violence.

Nate Parker: rape.

Sean Penn: domestic violence.

Roman Polanski: raping a 13-year-old girl.

Brett Ratner: sexual assault, gay slurs.


Eric Roberts: domestic violence.

Charlie Rose: sexual harassment.

Mickey Rourke: domestic violence.

Geoffrey Rush: "inappropriate behavior."
David O. Russell: abuse, groping his niece.

Mark Salling: rape, possessing child pornography.

Victor Salva: child sexual abuse.

Arnold Schwarzenegger: sexual assault.

Steven Seagal: domestic violence, sexual harassment.

Charlie Sheen: domestic violence.

Bryan Singer: child sexual abuse.

Tom Sizemore: domestic violence.

Christian Slater: sexual assault, domestic violence.

Wesley Snipes: domestic violence.

Kevin Spacey: attempted rape.

Shane Sparks: raping underage girls.

Oliver Stone: sexual harassment.

Jeffrey Tambor: sexual harassment.

Phillip Michael Thomas: domestic violence.

James Toback: sexual harassment.

Daniel Tosh: rape jokes.

John Travolta: sexual assault.

Donald Trump: raping a 13-year-old girl.

Jan-Michael Vincent: domestic abuse.

Lars Von Trier: sexual harassment.

Matthew Weiner: sexual harassment.

Harvey Weinstein: sexual harassment and rape.
Billy Dee Williams: domestic violence.

Rainn Wilson: rape jokes.

James Woods: sexual harassment, propositioning minors, trans abuse.
Fines for wolf-whistling

France cracks down on sexual harassment of women in public spaces

PARIS: A new law banning cat-calling, wolf-whistling and harassment of women on French streets will see fines fixed on the spot for lecherous and aggressive behavoiur, France’s women’s minister said. The new laws will be voted on next year, with sexual harassment resurfacing in France in the wake of the sex scandal engulfing Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. A string of actors, including four French women, have revealed their encounters with the producer.

The legislation is being piloted by 84-year-old Marine Schiappa, a feminist and early supporter of French President Emmanuel Macron, who wants to tackle sexist male attitudes in public spaces. "It’s completely necessary because at the moment street harassment is not defined in the law," she told RTL radio yesterday in an interview to outline the law, which is to be voted next year.

The escalating scandal over Weinstein’s alleged sexual assaults on a string of actresses has revived the issue of sexual harassment in France.

The #MeToo hashtag has encouraged thousands of women around the world to share their experiences of abuse on Twitter, with French women also using #BalanceTonProjet ("Expose the Pig"). Ms Schiappa, asked about the difficulty of drawing a line between street harassment and flirtation, replied: "We know very well at what point we start feeling intimidated, unsafe or harassed in the street."

She cited examples such as when a man invades a woman’s personal space—"by talking to you 10, 20 centimetres from your face"—or follows a victim for several blocks, or "asks for your number 12 times."

A cross-party taskforce composed of five MPs has been asked to work with police and magistrates to come up with a definition of harassment that can be enforced by officers on the streets.

"The level of the fine is part of our discussions," Ms Schiappa said, adding that neighbour police would act on complaints by women.

"The symbolic value of laws that outline street harassment is very great," she said.

The legislation will include provisions to strengthen the amount of time women have to lodge sexual assault, complaints dating from their childhood and toughening laws on sexual violence.

A 2014 French government study concluded that one in five women would experience sexual harassment at work.
Show him the money

It’s hard to see how claims that Lisa Wilkinson has struck a blow for equal pay stack up when she’ll fire out-earn her colleagues on The Project — including Waleed Aly

Andrew Bolt

Spare me the tears and cheers for Wilkinson. A victim of sexism, now paid north of $1.5 million by Ten.

Melbourne University gender lecturer Lauren Rosewarne predicted the same outcome: “It’s deplorable — we have a visualisation of two people doing exactly the same job yet earning different money.”

What, like Waleed Aly and Wilkinson just wanting “equal pay”? Of course, there’s a wild chance the media hasn’t got it wrong. Maybe Wilkinson secretly warned Channel 10 she’d refuse to join The Project unless it paid her not a dollar more than co-host Aly. Bickmore and comedian Peter Helliar. Yeah, right.

Why no mention of Bill’s assault accusations?

Watching the ABC crew to Hillary Clinton this week, I saw how even feminists can enable sex predators like Harvey Weinstein.

I thought one lesson from Weinstein, the Hollywood producer accused of sexually assaulting and even raping dozens of actors, was clear. Don’t ignore the voices of powerless women. Sexual Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins, writing on the scandal for the ABC, pleaded: “We need to do much more to address attitudes which blame and silence victims, excuse abuse and permit sexual harassment to occur.”

So I hope Jenkins didn’t watch the ABC’s Four Corners on Monday, when the impeccably Left Sarah Ferguson was interviewed. and a sexless Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. The worst part came when the smitten Ferguson asked Clinton about last year’s second presidential debate, when Trump pointed out four women he’d invited into the audience. Trump noted they included women who’d accused Clinton’s husband Bill, the former US president of sexually abusing them, adding “Hillary Clinton attacked those same women.”

Which is true. Clinton had tried to make the media not believe them, and with Ferguson’s help she did it again. CLINTON: It was an awful stunt. You know, that had all been mitigated years before...

FERGUSON: Should your response to him be more vicious that day? Pardon? How about getting Clinton to answer Trump’s charge? But no...

FERGUSON: It reminds me of what happened to Julia Gillard. Why are women politicians still treated like this in the 21st century? So the powerful Clinton is the victim here. Here are three of those powerless women in the audience. Clinton and Ferguson brushed aside.

Jussie Smollett in 1999 claimed Bill Clinton raped her when he was Arkansas’ attorney general in 1998. Confident she’d had told them at the time, although Clinton denied it and Smollett signed an affidavit denying non-consensual sex.

Paula Jones accused Bill Clinton of exposing himself to her while he was governor of Arkansas. Clinton paid her $850,000 and made no admissions.

Kathleen Willey claimed Clinton groped her in 1993. An independent prosecutor found the evidence inconclusive. Oh, and Clinton also claims she didn’t know what was an open secret in Hollywood that Weinstein, who was a serial molester of women.

But, hey, Clinton is a hero of the Left. A feminist. Why should, or do the ABC, believe nobody accuses in her way?
Cash plan to dam union ‘rivers of gold’

Lisa goes out as Nine goes ballistic

Spicer’s shame file on ‘serial predators’

NDIS to miss rollout deadline by a year and needs large boost in funding from states

THE NATION

ASIO battling spy threat from China, Russia

PM Foreshore & guard border

Australian spy agency is under pressure to guard its borders more effectively after allegations of Chinese and Russian espionage activities.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) has been accused of failing to adequately protect Australia from enemy spy groups. The agency has been criticized for its lax security measures and for failing to adequately respond to the espionage threats.

There are concerns that the agency is not doing enough to protect Australia from external espionage threats. The ASIO is responsible for monitoring and responding to espionage activities, but some critics believe that it is not doing enough to protect Australia.

**Beijing pulls out of human rights dialogue with Canberra**

Continued from Page 1

**Spicer’s shame file on ‘serial predators’**

Spicer was a minister in the previous federal government and was known for his controversial statements and actions. His file on ‘serial predators’ was released recently and has caused a stir in the political圈.

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Cops find bikie’s nest egg
RICHARD HOOKE

A FULLY patched bikie is in contention for best dad of the year after he hid drugs in plastic Kinder Surprise eggs and a barbecue to keep his two-year-old son “happy.”

Mitchell Mohan was also charged with being in possession of a saw of weapons, suspect cash and a stolen motorbike when he faced Wyong Local Court on Tuesday after these separate runs with police this year.

On January 14 police pulled him over after he was seen doing a “wheelie” on a motorbike at Hamilton Terrace. He was found to have 5.5g of cannabis in a glove in his pants.

On January 24 police saw Mohan do an eight-second burnout around a roundabout at Warnervale.

“With officers pulled him over, they saw his two-year-old son in a child seat in the back amongst an unreasonably dog,” according to police facts read in court. Mohan told police: “My young mate started saying ’bump, bump, bump, dada! You gotta keep him happy. So I just did a burnout. He loves burnouts.”

Police later raided his home at Halloran on February 1 and found 2.68g of cocaine and 5.3g of MDMA hidden in Kinder Surprise eggs on a dresser in his bedroom, and unsecured fireworks in a spare room.

They also found an extendable baton, £150 in cash suspected of being the proceeds of crime, replica pistols, a flick-knife, three “professionally made” slingshots and a stolen motorcycle.

Mohan pleaded guilty to all charges and will be sentenced on November 7.

Data fees xcessive

AUSTRALIAN mobile users don’t have access to enough data — and it’s hurting their hip pocket.

New data from comparison website finder.com.au shows Australians have coughed up around $25 billion in excess mobile data fees this year. According to the website’s data, that is $15 billion more than the previous year — a 78 per cent increase.

Nearly one in five (19.6 per cent) adults regularly exceeded their data allowance, up from 13.4 per cent last year and 5.6 per cent in 2015.

STAR DIRECTOR GOES SOLO

OSCAR-winning director Ren Howard revealed yesterday the name of the new Lazarus spin-off show about Han Solo — “Solo: A Star Wars Story.”

In an online video, Howard said production on the film was “running late, with the amount” of work he considered to be “an insane amount.”

As Howard moved abroad if he could disclose the title now, the fail-safe, non-blocking drug will be reserved for the film, which is due out next year.

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Online breach had a Domino effect

CUSTOMERS of pizza chain Domino’s Australia are complaining their personal data has been leaked, prompting an investigation by police.

It was a bit like every NYPD detective with three names in this guy’s address book. Many customers have complained about phishing emails addressing them by their first names and mentioning where they live.

But Domino’s insists there’s been no “unauthorised access” to its systems, although it is investigating a potential issue with a former employee.

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SUPERSTAR reveals she was forced to strip naked

Jennifer Lawrence shortly before unveiling at the Elle Women in Hollywood Awards, and (below) Reese Witherspoon. Pictures: AP

OSCAR winners Jennifer Lawrence and Reese Witherspoon have added their own experiences to the ever-mounting pile of revelations of seedy sexual behaviour and assaults endured by Hollywood’s female performers.

Hunger Games and Lawrence told the Women in Hollywood Awards that early in her career, she was forced by a female producer to take part in a nude Lloyd with other young women.

After enduring the “degrading and humiliating” experiences, she was told she had to lose 7kg in two weeks in order to get the part.

When she then complained, a male producer told her she was “perfectly f—able” as she was.

Speaking at the same event, Reese Witherspoon, 41, revealed that a director sexually assaulted her when she was 15 and she was told to keep quiet to stay employed.

Their frank revelations came as Amazon Studios boss Roy Price resigned after becoming tangled in the sexual assault, harassment and rape allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein.

Amazon’s head of video content was recently put on “indet- nate leave” after he was accused of harassing actor Rose McGowan’s claims that Weinstein raped her.

The Weinstein scandal has seen thousands of women share their experiences of sexual abuse on social media, using the hashtag #MeToo.

Witherspoon said the public discussion had forced her to confront her own experiences and her “guilt for not speaking up earlier or taking action” about her experiences.

Lawrence was recently named in a story about a female star who was asked to take part in the nude Lloyd with “much, much thinner” actors to shame her into losing weight.

She said the producer told her she should use the naked photos of herself as inspiration for her diet, Lawrence and she said she spoke to a male producer about the “unrealistic diet regime.”

“My response was ‘No!’ after she rejected his advances, while Heidi and Weinstein approached her naked during a meeting and was refused to massage her.”

He said the incident was “one of the scariest” after he rejected his advances, while Heidi and Weinstein approached her naked during a meeting and was refused to massage her.

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The Weinstein scandal has seen thousands of women share their experiences of sexual abuse on social media, using the hashtag #MeToo.

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ABC’S SICK CLICK BAIT

Readers vote on vulnerable kids

BRUCE MCDougALL

A CHARITY and the NSW government have launched a stinging attack on the ABC over a bizarre online story in which readers were asked to vote on whether children in distressed families should be placed into state care.

The national broadcaster was yesterday slammed as “insensitive” and accused of being “in poor taste” over the interactive story headlined: “You decide. Would you remove these children from their families?”

The six individual cases were those of real-life children who had been aided by charities including the Benevolent Society, which did not co-operate with the ABC for the story.

Readers were instructed to “Make your choice, then see if the experts agree” by voting yes or no.

Family and Community Services Minister Pru Goward strongly criticised the story saying: “Vulnerable children are not clickbait.”

[Full report page 5]
Director James Toback accused of sexually harassing more than 30 women

AS HOLLYWOOD reels from the Harvey Weinstein sex abuse scandal, 38 women have claimed director James Toback sexually harassed them.

MORE than 30 women have accused a Hollywood film director and writer of sexual harassment in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

James Toback, 72, is alleged to have harassed 38 women over several decades by dry-humping their legs, masturbating in front of them, and ejaculating in his trousers.

The shocking allegations were first reported by the *Los Angeles Times*, which claimed the director convinced women to meet him under the impression it was an interview or audition.

Toback, who got an Oscar nomination for writing * Bugsy*, has denied the allegations.
Thirty-one of the women spoke on the record including musician Louise Post, who is a guitarist and vocalist for the band Veruca Salt, and As the World Turns actress Terri Conn.

Several women alleged that these meetings took place in his hotel room and that Toback would name-drop star actors he was working with to entice them.

He is alleged to have told them that he could make them famous if they trusted him.

One alleged victim, whose identity remains anonymous, said she believed she would be auditioning for Toback when he invited her to his hotel room in 2000.

He allegedly told her that she needed to display the sexual confidence the acting role required and suggested she get undressed.

She said she told him that she felt uncomfortable and that he responded by saying: "That's the whole point of this exercise."
Director James Toback accused of sexually harassing more than 30 women

Eventually she took off her jumper but began to cry as she read lines from the monologue he had given her.

She claimed that he blocked the hotel room door when she tried to leave and told her that he needed to ejaculate.

Terri Conn said she was 23 when Toback approached on the street in New York and asked her to meet him in Central Park.

She said he then took her to a remote part of the park where he knelt down and began dry-humping her leg.

She said: “I was shocked and frozen and didn’t know what to do. I thought if I resisted, it could get worse. He could overpower me.”
Terri Conn said she was 23 when James Toback approached on the street in New York and asked her to meet him in Central Park. Picture: Rob Rich/Splash News Source:Supplied

Another alleged victim was aspiring actress Starr Rinaldi who alleged that she was approached by Toback in New York’s Central Park 15 years ago.

She said: “He always wanted me to read for him in a hotel or come back to his apartment. [He said things] like, ‘how serious are you about your craft?’”

“And the horrible thing is, whichever road you choose, whether you sleep with him or walk away, you’re still broken,” Rinaldi continued. “You have been violated.”

None of the women detailed in the article contacted police for fear of recriminations and some claimed Toback had threatened them.
Louise Post, who now works as a musician in the band Veruca Salt, said she met the film director while she was a student in 1987.

She said: “He told me he’d love nothing more than to masturbate while looking into my eyes.”

The former Barnard College student added: “Going to his apartment has been the source of shame for the past 30 years, that I allowed myself to be so gullible.”

The actress Echo Danon said that she encountered Toback while in his trailer on the set of his movie *Black and White*, which was released in 1999.

She alleged that as he touched her thighs he said: “If you look into my eyes and pinch my nipples, I’m going to come in my pants right now.”

*If you were involved in the film business in the ’90s you knew that #harveyweinstein was a sexual predator. Another one was #JamesToback*
— Echo Danon (@echodanon) October 11, 2017

Veruca Salt (@verucasalt)
Us too: by bosses, boyfriends, male babysitters, taxi drivers, strangers and movie director/pig #jamestoback #meltoo
4:35 AM · Oct 17, 2017

268 111 people are talking about this
Toback denied the allegations made against him to the *Los Angeles Times*. He cited health difficulties, including diabetes and a heart condition, as to why it was “biologically impossible” for him to have committed the acts of sexual harassment.

The Sun Online has contacted Toback for comment.
Director James Toback accused of sexually harassing more than 30 women

Alec Baldwin (left) and James Toback in a scene from 2013 documentary, Seduced and Abandoned. Picture: Supplied Source:Supplied

Toback has been a writer/director since 1974. His most recent film, The Private Life of a Modern Woman starring Sienna Miller, premiered at this year's Venice Film Festival. His 1987 semi-autobiographical movie was called The Pick-up Artist.

Numerous women have alleged that well-known film producer Weinstein sexually assaulted them following initial reports published this month by the New York Times and the New Yorker.

Weinstein has denied the allegations.

Dozens of women have accused disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sexually assaulting or harassing them. Picture: AFP/Yann Coatsaliou Source:AFP
Lupita Nyong'o Details Chilling Encounter with Harvey Weinstein

This story originally appeared in The Sun and has been republished here with permission.
Residents of New South Wales taking this short energy survey can win this $7999 Ebike!

Salim Mehajer Charged With Assaulting Prison Guard

ZIMBIO
Co-Stars Who Shockingly Hated Each Other

AUSTRALIAN SENIORS INSURANCE AGENCY
Here’s How Much A Funeral Actually Costs

LIVINGLY
This Will Always Be One Of Our Favorite Emmy Gowns [Gallery]

GRAMMARLY
How to End an Email: 9 Never-Fail Sign-Offs and 9 to Avoid

MARLEY SPOON
4 Reasons Why Marley Spoon is Australia's Best Meal Kit Delivery

BODY+SOUl
This healthy Pad Thai will satisfy your desire for takeout

AMERICAN EXPRESS
75K Bonus Points with Amex Explorer Credit Card. $3K Min Spend.

**OPINION OURS & YOURS**

**SHORT & SWEET**

**RHETT:** Are you kidding me? Australia was turned on! (Angela Moir: "Sex addiction is not a disease, it's an excuse for bad conduct," 15/10). There is one on the cards, there goes that person's chance in the future.

**JAMBI:** Criminals are being told to stay off as "suspicious buying goes around". (15/10) I cannot believe it, a group of people were using registered financial institutions, how naive they have been.

**ONY:** I have been to Hollywood but I have heard of the 'casting couch' (Angela Moir: "Sex addiction is not a disease, it's an excuse for bad conduct," 15/10). One would think this sort of behaviour would be far more widespread... throughout the industry worldwide.

**WARNICK:** How did Weinstein ever find the time to produce movies?

**PHIL:** Why would they dump Malcolm Turnbull (Peta Credlin: "Dumping PM just can't be the answer," 15/10). There is no one else who wants the job that we know of (except Tony Abbott).

**JON:** Turnbull should never have adopted some of the terrible policies of the Right even to keep the Nationals in the tent. It compromised him.

**DARKY:** The best chance the Left have is to attack Shorten because, as bad as Turnbull is, the thought of Shorten as PM is frightening. What a terrible situation for voters to have to choose between "completely useless" and "totally evil".

**DENIS:** The only hope for the government winning the next election is for Turnbull to refuse to resign the backbench and allow a vote for new leaders. Turnbull is still leader when Parliament resumes in the new year, then it's all over.

**CRA:** The Liberal's "Vigilant elephant in the room" is Abbott. Unless the govt is heading to opposition for years.

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**WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND A REPLACEMENT WHO HAS INCREPABLE SELF-CONFIDENCE, CAN MANIPULATE THE MEDIA, IS UNPREDICTABLE AND HAS DAZZLING WHITE TEETH?**

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**WELCOME TO TODAY... I WAKE UP TO TODAY...**

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**WEinstein not the only one - name the others**

Given the policy paralysis of recent years, Peta Credlin rightly asks, "Is it any wonder people have lost faith in politicians?" ("Dumbing PM just can't be the answer," 15/10). Nobody can tell me he's the only one. There must be dozens of directors, producers, agents and agents, dangling access to show business in order to coerse the youth for their own sexual gratification.

It is time for actresses to name names to expose the rest of the scum in Hollywood. How about a 'women's march' on Hollywood? ("Dumbing PM just can't be the answer," 15/10)

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**IT'S ENABLERS WHO PROTECT DOERS**

An assessor's walk past the conduct without saying anything. It is only now, when the scandal has broken, that they speak up. The question is what's worse - the conduct of the abuser (the doer) or the conduct of those who know and say nothing (the enablers)?

It is the enablers who protect the doers by covering them with silence and allowing them to continue their dreadful behaviour. Once the conduct is revealed, the enablers assume the role of victim and card their own cards to the others.

The truth is more sinister: they know but do out of fear to do nothing.

---

**TOO MUCH POWER BREEDS TYRANTS**

This has gone on for longer than Weinstein, but the issue has grown, just as Hollywood and the movie and modelling world have. The girls all accepted away hoping for riches - and so many girls who worked in the industry, in any part of the film business, did not condone this behaviour. I know it was pretty easy for Weinstein and Co. The world was their oyster, the power was in their fingertips - and the girls kept coming.

And most of the girls got what they wanted, fame and fortune.

But it's not the only industry this happens in. Anyone with no taste can be a tyrant, in so many ways.

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**WHENEVER UNI'TS SHOULD LEAD**

Whoever can unload the Left and Right factionalism of the Liberal and Nationals needs to be leader.

Malcolm Turnbull is a city man and appeals to people who like nice leaders. Tony Abbott is an action man grounded in a desire to confront issues.

Turnbull must bring Abbott back into the Cabinet urgently. Abbott is the best political fighter Australia has produced in a long time.

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**WE DON'T NEED COAL, WE HAVE GAS**

We have an abundance of gas, which gas companies are allowed to rip off from Australia. Qatar receives $28.5 billion in royalties from gas exports, and Australia will soon overtake Qatar as the largest gas exporter in the world.

We don't need coal. We need to use our gas, which is more efficient and less polluting than coal.

We can use gas as we move slowly to renewable energy, which is nothing better than the first car to think of the way of the future.

So much uranium in this country of ours, it should be compulsory for every new home to have solar panels.

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**WHERE ARE HENDO AND BAYLY NOW?**

I am dismayed that your selection of stars ("TV stars: Where are they now?", 15/10) did not include two of the greats, both into their 80s now, Lorraine Bayly and Brian (Hendo) Henderson. Like millions of Australians, I grew up with them and adored these excellent personalities.

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**LISTEN TO YOUR SUPPORTERS**

Will it take Malcolm Turnbull and his heir frontbench to start listening to the Liberal Party supporters? Surely, Mr Turnbull must realise that unless he actually does something and drops his Kraus Rudd-like waffle, his time as PM is fast running out. It is time to start acting like a Liberal government instead of a Labor-looking fake. Tax cuts for not using your aircon in summer is just plain ridiculous. Privatisation has proven to be an albatross around the politicians' necks. You don't have to be Einstein to know that it is a private company purchases anything, they do so to make a profit.

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**WHOEVER UNITS SHOULD LEAD**

Whoever can unload the Left and Right factionalism of the Liberal and Nationals needs to be leader.
Director James Toback accused of sexual harassment by 38 women

Hollywood veteran denies allegations saying he never met his accusers

Toback, 72, received Oscar nomination for writing Warren Beatty movie Bugsy

Associated Press in Los Angeles

Mon 23 Oct 2017 08.45 AEDT

The Oscar-nominated writer and director James Toback has been accused of sexual harassment by 38 women in a report published by the Los Angeles Times.

Many of the women allege Toback approached them on the streets of New York City and promised stardom. Subsequent meetings would often end with sexual questions and Toback masturbating in front of the women or dry-humping them, according to the accounts.

The 72-year-old denied the allegations to LA Times, saying he never met any of the women, or if he had it “was for five minutes and [I] have no recollection”.

Thirty-one of the women spoke on the record including Louise Post, who is a guitarist and vocalist for the band Veruca Salt, and the As the World Turns actor Terri Conn. Actor Echo Danon recalled an incident on the set of Toback’s film Black and White where he put his hands on her and said he would ejaculate if she looked at his eyes and pinched his nipples.

"Everyone wants to work, so they put up with it," Danon told the Times. "That's why I put up with it. Because I was hoping to get another job."

Toback did not respond to a request for comment.

The report comes after the downfall of producer Harvey Weinstein, who has been accused of sexual harassment and assault by more than three dozen women. Weinstein denies allegations of criminal sexual harassment, rape and sexual assault but has been fired from the company he co-founded and widely denounced by his Hollywood peers.

"James Toback damn you for stealing, damn you for traumatizing," Weinstein accuser Rose McGowan tweeted on Sunday.

Another Weinstein accuser, Asia Argento, tweeted: "So proud of my sisters for bringing down yet another pig."

Though less well-known than Weinstein, Toback has had a successful four-decade career in Hollywood and has a devoted following who have praised him for his originality and outsized, deeply flawed characters.

A New York native, Harvard graduate, creative writing professor and compulsive gambler, he used his own life as inspiration for his first produced screenplay, The Gambler, which came out in 1974 and starred James Caan. The film was remade in 2014 with Mark Wahlberg and Brie Larson.

He also wrote and directed the Harvey Keitel film Fingers, the loosely autobiographical The Pick-up Artist, which starred Robert Downey Jr and Molly Ringwald, Two Girls and a Guy, also with Downey Jr and Heather Graham, Harvard Man, with Sarah Michelle Gellar, and the Mike Tyson documentary Tyson.

His only Oscar nomination is for writing the Barry Levinson-directed and Warren Beatty-starring gangster film Bugsy. Toback's next film, The Private Life of a Modern Woman, stars Sienna Miller and Alec Baldwin and debuted at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year.

Like Weinstein, reports of Toback's alleged behavior toward women have been around for decades. Spy magazine wrote about him in 1989 and the now-defunct website Gawker also published accounts from women in New York.

In the past few weeks, amid the Weinstein scandal and the rise of the #MeToo social media movement, in which women are revealing instances of sexual harassment and assault, more reports have emerged about the conduct of many working in the entertainment industry. Amazon Studios executive Roy Price resigned following sexual harassment allegations made by a Man in the High Castle producer.

On Sunday, a few in Hollywood began denouncing Toback on social media, including Bridesmaids director Paul Feig, who tweeted that Toback was "a disgrace". "One of the main jobs of a director is to create a safe environment for the actors," Feig wrote.

Doctor Strange director Scott Derrickson wrote: "If there is a Hell, James Toback will be in it."

Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn wrote a lengthy Facebook post about the allegations, saying he had met at least 15 women who said they had these kinds of encounters with Toback, including three women he has dated, two friends and a family member.
“For over 20 years now, I’ve been bringing up James Toback every chance I could in groups of people,” Gunn wrote. “I couldn’t stop him, but I could warn people about him.”

Since you’re here ...  
... we have a small favour to ask. More people are reading the Guardian’s independent, investigative journalism than ever but advertising revenues across the media are falling fast. And unlike many news organisations, we haven’t put up a paywall - we want to keep our journalism as open as we can. So you can see why we need to ask for your help.

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Topics
- Film
- #MeToo movement
- Asia Argento
- news
LANDSLIDE VICTORY PUTS NATIONALIST ON TRACK TO BE JAPAN'S LONGEST-SERVING PRIME MINISTER

Abe aims at Kim after poll win

The Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to work with the US, China and Russia to "safeguard" North Korea's nuclear threat during his first press conference after winning a landslide election victory, in what is likely to be his last term in power.

Abe, who has been in office since 2012, is expected to be re-elected for a fourth term, which would make him one of the longest-serving prime ministers in post-war Japan. His cabinet's dominance has been challenged by the opposition Democratic Party of Japan, which won 18 seats in the lower house of parliament.

The results were announced on Sunday, with Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) winning 301 seats, compared to the DPJ's 13 seats.

Abe's party, which has been in power since 2012, is expected to maintain its majority in the Diet, the country's parliament.

"We will work with regional partners, including China and Russia, to safeguard North Korea's nuclear threat," Abe said in a statement.

Abe's re-election is seen as a sign of the country's political stability, following a period of political instability and economic stagnation.

Divided opposition the parties of no hope against skilful PM

North Korea has vowed to boost its nuclear weapons programme, warning that the US and other countries are "on the brink of war".

"In a country that is on the brink of war," Abe said, "we will work with our partners to ensure regional stability and security.

The results are a victory for Abe, who took office in 2012 following the scandal surrounding former prime minister Naoto Kan.

"Mr Abe was a strong leader and is a great man," said a supporter. "I am happy that he has won again.

Military reform still far too step for Japanese

UHRARI President Hiroshi Arai, who is 61, has been named as the new president of the University of Hiroshima, in western Japan.

Arai, who was born in Hiroshima in 1957, has been a professor of law at the university since 1987.

"I am delighted to be named as the new president of the University of Hiroshima," Arai said in a statement.

"I am pleased to be able to continue my work in the university and to contribute to its development.

Arai has been a vocal advocate for the university's reform, including the introduction of a new academic programme in international relations.

Rowhani lashes out at factional infighting

RIOHANI President Hassan Rouhani of Iran has written a letter to the UN chief, saying that the country's political divisions are "a great threat" to its economy.

"The country faces a great threat from political divisions," Rouhani wrote in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"We are facing a great threat from political divisions, which are a great threat to our economy," Rouhani said.

"The country faces a great threat from political divisions, which are a great threat to our economy," Rouhani said.

Sex accusers say film writer Toback promised fame

KING CRISPY, the film writer and director, has been accused of sexually harassing women, including an actress and a model.

Many of the women who spoke about the writer's conduct said they were unable to find work in the industry, and that they were afraid to speak out.

The women have accused Toback of sexual harassment, including rape, assault and sexual battery.

"The women have accused Toback of sexual harassment, including rape, assault and sexual battery," said one woman.

"Toback has accused me of sexual harassment, including rape, assault and sexual battery," said another woman.

The women have accused Toback of sexual harassment, including rape, assault and sexual battery.

The women have accused Toback of sexual harassment, including rape, assault and sexual battery.
James Toback: Who is the latest Hollywood mogul accused of sexual harassment?

By Jessica Haynes
Updated Tue 24 Oct 2017, 8:34am

PHOTO: Film director James Toback is the latest Hollywood VIP to face allegations of sexual harassment. (Reuters: Fred Prouser)

Just a week after the viral #MeToo campaign, another Hollywood boss has been accused of sexual harassment spanning decades.

This time, The Los Angeles Times has reported that writer and director James Toback has sexually harassed 38 women.

It has been alleged that he approached both young and upcoming actresses, talking up his connections and access to big names.

The meetings, sometimes billed as auditions, would often end with either questions of a personal or sexual nature or with Toback masturbating in front of them, or dry-humping them.

He has denied the allegations.

So, who is he?

While less known than producer Harvey Weinstein, Toback has had a four-decade long career in Hollywood.

He is best known for writing the 1991 film Bugsy — starring Hollywood stalwart Warren Beatty — which scored him an Oscar nomination.

He has worked with several big Hollywood names through his writing and directing, including Mark Wahlberg (The Gambler), Robert Downey Jr and Molly Ringwald (The Pick-up Artist) and Harvey Keitel (Fingers).

He also directed the 2008 documentary Tyson about the life of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson.
Who are the women who have made the allegations?

Of the 38 women who made the accusations, 31 spoke to the Times on the record.

They include actress Adrienne LaValley who alleged Toback rubbed himself against her.

Echo Danon, who worked on Toback's film Black and White, said he put his hands on her and said he would ejaculate if she looked at his eyes and pinched his nipples.

She said: "Everyone wants to work, so they put up with it."

Veruca Salt guitarist and singer Louise Post and actress Terri Conn (As the World Turns) have also spoken out.

What's the response been so far?

Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn has written a lengthy Facebook post on the allegations.

He said he knows at least 15 women who have had similar experiences, including a member of his family, and said he had been bringing up Toback's name at every chance he could.

"I couldn't stop him, but I could warn people about him," he said.

"Recently, I thought the guy had disappeared into obscurity and old age, but then I saw an article in the Huffington Post about him, entitled, 'James Toback Gets Us, He Truly Gets Us.' I almost vomited.

"...So since then I've been hoping the Weinstein/O'Reilly stuff would bring this vampire into the light [him and a couple others, frankly]."

"So I was happy today to wake up to this story in the LA Times."

Director Paul Feig (Bridesmaids) also took to social media to share his thoughts.

One of the main jobs of a director is to create a safe environment for the actors. James Toback is a disgrace.
38 women have come forward to accuse director James Toback of... 
Director James Toback told women that he could put them in movies. 
But then, they say, he sexually harassed them. Toback has denied the 
latimes.com

882 246 people are talking about this

And actress Rose McGowan, who has led the charge against Harvey Weinstein, tweeted her take.

rose mcgowan
@rosemcgowan

James Toback damn you for stealing, damn you for traumatizing.
latimes.com/entertainment/
2:25 AM - Oct 23, 2017

What has Toback said in response to the story?
The 72-year-old has denied the allegations.

He told the Los Angeles Times he never met any of the women, and if he had it "was for five minutes and [I] have no recollection".

AP

Topics: film-movies, sexual-offences, film, united-states
Furious Trump hits out

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump hit back at critics within his own party yesterday, painting them as outliers in what is otherwise a "love fest" between him and Republican leaders.

A day after Republican senators Jeff Flake and Bob Corker revealed they will depart at the end of the year, Trump responded with a flurry of tweets and a rare press conference. In one of his stump speeches, the combative president shot back.

Republican critics dismissed as outliers in 'love fest'

Trying to forestall a broader backlash, Mr Trump tweeted that Mr Flake and Mr Corker were "grandstanding" because they had "zero chance of being elected," and insisted his meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill a day earlier had been a "resounding success."

"The meeting with Republican Senators yesterday, outside of Flake and Corker, was a love fest with standing ovations and great ideas for USA!" he continued.

Mr Trump's allies cheered Mr Flake's departure as an un- bidden victory for their effort to take over the party and a "monumental win for the entire Trump movement."

"It should serve as another warning shot to the failed Republican establishment that backed Flake and others like them that their time is up," said Andy Surabian, a former Trump White House advisor.

Still, while the departure of the two senators may ultimately play a role, the party's leaders will remain in Congress for more than a year and will be less likely to fall in line behind the White House on key votes.

Mr Trump had already faced a difficult task of masterminding 51 votes to pass tax cuts, an effort that appears to be at the edge of being derailed.

"There are currently 52 Republican senators, so more than one deflection would hamper reform efforts, unless Democrats can be brought on board."

It does seem clear that more hardline Republican candidates are best Democrats in places like Mr Flake's native Arizona, where Mr Trump campaigned hard in 2016 yet won by less than four percentage points.

The White House points to the president's solid approval ratings among Republican voters as evidence that his brand of politics should dominate.

Bush Sr apologises for patting bottoms

SHINGSTON: Former US president George HW Bush has apologised for jokingly patting "women's rears" after an actress accused him of grabbing her from behind a wheelchair while at a screening.

Heather Lind, 34, said the incident occurred four years ago at an event to promote TV series "Fargo: Washington's Spies. It is the latest in an outpouring of sexual harassment allegations against powerful male figures in entertainment, finance and politics that followed the downfall of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Lind added she decided to share her story after seeing Bush Sr (pictured, left) appear onstage at a benefit concert to raise money for victims of the hurricane-ravaged southern United States and Caribbean.

"I found it disturbing because I recognise the respect consultants are given for serving," she wrote. "But when I got the chance to meet George HW Bush four years ago to promote a historical television show I was working on, he sexually assaulted me while I was posing for a similar photo."

Thais honour King Bhumibol

BANGKOK: A ceremony in an ornate throne hall yesterday began the transfer of the remains of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej to his spectacular golden crematorium in the royal quarter of Bangkok after a year of mourning for the monarch that hailed as "Father."

The ceremony, in an intensively solemn procession involving thousands of monks, a golden palanquin, a chariot and a royal gun carriage will move the royal urn representing Bhumibol's remains from the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall to the crematorium.

The journey along a 2km route was watched by tens of thousands of mourners dressed in black.

Tense election for Kenyans

NAIROBI: Kenya is holding its second presidential election since August amid high tensions and the threat of violence after a court challenge for his followers to boycott.

The number of voters in some polling stations when they opened yesterday seemed smaller than the crowds for the August 8 election.

Kenyans in a day of opposition supporters have blocked the operations of some polling stations. The Supreme Court nullified the previous vote because it found irregularities and irregularity in the process.

Day Thriller

Hurry, Sale Ends Sunday
Catalans dig in as Madrid toughens stand

Calls mount to resettle Rohingya refugees

Women, dogs lost for months

Russian helicopters crash in Arctic, eight aboard

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There's no way out of this mess

The man most likely to stop Shorten becoming prime minister is not actually Turnbull but Anthony Albanese...

LOWNS to the left of us jokers to the right. And here we are, voters, stuck in the middle with only Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten to choose from.

So is Prime Minister Turnbull the joker or the clown?

Hard to tell, just like it's hard to tell if the Left or the Right, especially now his ally, Christopher Pyne admits he asked the far-left GetUp to kidnap MPs to allow Turnbull's leadership from Tony Abbott.

Put off by the Greens, lurching from one disaster to another like some War of the Worlds.

Check out just the past three weeks, and the frantic attempts to smash Shorten, the Labor leader.

First, Turnbull tried to make Shorten seem a global warming worry who will destroy our electricity system. Even his mad plan to get us to near solar from wind and solar.

But the best alternative that Turnbull, himself a warmist, came up with was a scheme to cut our rising electricity bills by just 52 a week in 10 years' time, and he couldn't even guarantee that.

So if Shorten's the danger — and he is — how is Turnbull the saviour?

Then Turnbull last week sprung an elaborate trap that had police raiding the Australian Workers' Union to find documents that might prove Shorten made political donations as AWU have a decade ago that weren't authorised the right way.

What a pathetic abuse of state power to flout a political enemy.

It collapsed into farce, anyway, when Employment Minister Michaelia Cash was caught out telling a falsehood — claiming her staff hadn't ripped off journalists to go film the raids.

So, again, if Shorten made dodgy deals as a union boss — and he did — how is Turnbull's dodge worse of the state to prosecute him any better?

And to top it off, the High Court last week booted two Turnbull Cabinet ministers, Burnaby Joyce and Senator Fiona Nash, out of parliament for having been dual citizens when elected.

What a disaster for Turnbull. He'd refused to make them stand aside before the decision, insisting in August Joyce "is qualified to sit in the house and the High Court will so hold."

In fact, the High Court judges decided seven to split the other way, leaving the government holding only 75 of the now 140 Lower House seats until Joyce is re-elected in a by-election.

So if Shorten has no judgment, how is Turnbull's better?

Liberal MPs are not complete idiots. They know polls show them set for a hiding under Turnbull, but most simply cannot think of anyone better to replace him.

About clearly is the only alternative leader with a plan and a record of winning elections, but MPs fear his return would set off a war with Liberals fearing each other apart. "Imagines' Turnbull's vengeance."

Who else? Immigration Minister Peter Dutton doesn't think he is ready to take over, and Treasurer Scott Morrison seems damaged goods. Deputy Liberal leader Julie Bishop is ephemeral popularity, but is also a lightweight whose political judgment seems as lousy as the PM's.

So the Liberals feel stuck with Turnbull, even as donations dry up and branches are in mutiny.

So are voters. Living standards have been flat for years while taxes and charges soar.

That frustration is what will hold Labor's election.

It won't be affected for Labor, which polls say even now would win only a third of the primary vote.

Can you blame voters for distrusting Shorten? He shares Turnbull's lack of charisma and his seeming inability because he, too, lacks real control of his party.

The man most likely to stop Shorten becoming prime minister is not actually Turnbull but Anthony Albanese, his popular rival from Labor's left.

Shorten must go. He left with Labour off his challengers and also lost Labor from Turnbull's Labor-Liberal. So he promises ever higher taxes and spending, plus more global warming policies that have already given us among the world's highest electricity prices.

He's even backing a referendum to give us a second "advisory" parliament chosen only by Aborigines.

I cannot imagine Shorten believes in such extreme policies, and his good poll ratings suggest many voters don't think he's authentic, either.

It all adds up to a stalemate. Shorten will lead Labor while the Liberals are behind in the polls.

The Liberals will stay behind while Turnbull leads. And Turnbull will stay leader because the Liberal fear even worse.

Thus we are all trapped, facing Buckle's choice — and decline.

THE BOLT REPORT 7PM WEEKNIGHTS

OPINION 09

FREE SPEECH TOPPLES CREEPS

MAY love this witch hunt against political predators like Harvey Weinstein more than I should.

I love, for instance, that some media stars right here must name themselves on Google every day, fucking they'll be elite next.

I loved reading just last weekend the super-powerful confession of author and MSNBC political commentator Mika Brzezinski, accused of being a "liar, slasher, party贫困村 residents such as those he admires more than he should.

It's right he has to see himself get back, especially by the very people they once thought too weak to resist.

So many women who were expected to accept the ban on the backside from a boss now find themselves with power to make the bastard pay.

Weinstein is now backed from his own film production company, and Hapkins lost his job, a book deal and an HBO project.

Women are suddenly believing new and grooms are running scared.

Hollywood star Ben Affleck and even George Bush Sr, the former US president, have had to apologize now for grooms they'd probably long forgotten.

Excellent, although I worry about the power of who much I'm liking this. For a start, witch-hunts can get wild, costing a lot of people a lot of time with proof, and trial with serious.

I also wonder whether some of the outrage from men, particularly, is not with envy and frustration that their own virtue was not his own reward.

How many men are kicking? At last! Weinstein won't be around to make virtue seem for losers by bullying yet more women into his bed. He won't get extra for breaking the rules.

But there is a more moral climate to take from this great redemption.

Yes, what's Weinstein left? He's not from being ever denounced to some commissar. In fact, the legal suits against Weinstein are now on a confidential settlement that left him free to molest again.

No, two things brought down those men. First, free speech laws that allowed to live, however much they'd been denounced to some commissar. In fact, the legal suits against Weinstein are now on a confidential settlement that left him free to molest again.

No, two things brought down those men. First, free speech laws that allowed to live, however much they'd been denounced to some commissar. In fact, the legal suits against Weinstein are now on a confidential settlement that left him free to molest again.

Second, people power; people don't want to keep from a known sex creep — not books or even clothes. The would protest, especially now women do so much of the earning and buying.

FREE SPEECH TOPPLES CREEPS
Joker or the clown?

Turnbull’s failure to exploit Shorten’s weakness leaves voters a poor choice

Andrew Bolt

Jokers to the left of us, crooks to the right. And here we are, voters, stuck in the middle with only Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten to choose from.

So is Prime Minister Turnbull the joker or the clown?

Hard to tell, just like it’s hard to tell if he’s to the left of us or the right, especially now his silly Christopher Pyne admits he asked the axed spill to lobby MPs to save Turnbull’s leadership from Tony Abbott.

But off Turnbull goes, hurling from one disaster to another like some Wile E. Coyote. Check out the last three weeks, and his frantic attempts to smash Shorten, the Labor leader. First, Turnbull tried to make Shorten seem a global warming dodo who will destroy our electricity system with his mad plan to force us to get nearly half our power from wind and solar.

But the best alternative that Turnbull himself would have come up with was a scheme to cut our soaring electricity bills by just 52 a week in 10 years time. He couldn’t even guarantee that. So is Shorten the dodo — and he is — or is Turnbull the dodo?

Then last week Turnbull sprang an elaborate trap that had Police raiding the Australian Workers’ Union to find documents that might prove Shorten made political donations as AWU boss a decade ago that weren’t authorised right away. What a pathetic abuse of state power to browbeat journalists to go after the raids. So, again, if Shorten made dodgy deals as a union boss — and he did — how is Turnbull’s dodgy use of the state to prosecute him any better?

And to top it off, the High Court last week handed Turnbull Cabinet ministers, Barnaby Joyce and Senator Fiona Nash, out of Parliament for having been dual citizens when elected.

What a disaster for Turnbull. He’s fallen to make them stand aside before the decision, insisting in August Joyce “is qualified to sit in the House and the High Court will sit today”.

In fact, the High Court judges decided seven to six to rip the other way, leaving the government holding just 75 of the new 549 lower house seats until Joyce is re-elected in a by-election.

So if Shorten has to deal with a government held down just 75 of the new 549 lower house seats until Joyce is re-elected in a by-election.

Tony Abbott clearly is the only alternative leader with a plan and a record of winning elections, but MPs fear his return world set off a war with Liberals tearing each other apart. Imagine Turnbull’s reignance.

Whoops! Immigration Minister Peter Dutton doesn’t think he is ready to take over, and Treasurer Scott Morrison seems damaged goods. Deputy Liberal Leader Julie Bishop is increasingly popular, but is also a lightweight whose political judgment seems as light as Turnbull’s. So the Liberals feel stuck with Turnbull, even as donations dry up and branchies are in mutiny. So are voters. Voting standards have been flat for years while taxes and charges soar.

That frustration is what will hand Labor the election. It won’t be election for Labor; it will be rejection for Turnbull who polls say even now would win only a third of the primary vote. Can you blame voters for dis-trusting Shorten? He shows Turnbull’s lack of charisma and his seeming insincerity because he’s too, too, too, too, too...control of his party.

The man most likely to stop Shorten becoming prime minister is not actually Turnbull but Anthony Albanese, his popular rival from Labor’s left.

Shorten must go left to hold off his challenges and also define Labor from Turnbull’s Labor-lite Liberals. So he promises even higher taxes and spending, plus more global warning policies that have already given us among the world’s highest electricity prices.

He’s even backing a referendum to give us a second “advisory” parliament chosen only by Australians. I cannot imagine Shorten believes in such extreme policies, and his poor poll ratings suggest many voters don’t think he’s authentic, either.

It all adds up to a stalemate: Shorten will lead Labor while the Liberals are behind in the polls.

The Liberals will stay behind while Turnbull leads them. And Turnbull will stay leader because the Liberals fear even worse.

Thus we are all trapped, facing Buckleys choice — and decline.

Gropers are running scared in witch-hunt against sex predators

May love this witch-hunt against workplace sex predators such as Harvey Weinstein more than I should. I love, for instance, that some media stars right here must name-check themselves on Google every day, fearing they’ll be outed next. I loved reading just last weekend the cop-show-got-me-confirmation of author and MSN&C political commentator Mark Halperin, accused of groping and propositioning women much his junior when he was political director at American ABC. So many women who were expected to accept the hand on the backside from a boss now find themselves with power to make the bastard pay.

Weinstein is now sacked from his own film production company, and Halperin lost his job, a book deal and an HBO project. Women are suddenly believed and gropers are running scared. Hollywood star Ben Affleck and even George Bush Senior, the former US president, have had to apologise now for gropes they’d probably long forgotten. Excellent, although I worry about quite how much I’m liking this.

For a start, witch-hunts can get wild, confusing allegations with proof and trivial with serious. I also wonder whether some of the outrage from men particularly tainted with envy and frustration that their own virtue was not its own reward. How many are thinking “At least Weinstein wasn’t be around to make us seem for losers by bullying yet more women into his bed.” But there’s none the same moral comfort to take from this great reckoning. See how Weinstein felt? How Halperin lost his living? It wasn’t from being sued or denounced to some commission. In fact, the legal suits against Weinstein always ended in confidential settlements that left him free to molest again. No, two things brought down these mere. First, free speech: laws that allowed women to denounce them without running the same risk of being sued that women face here. Second, people power: people don’t want to buy things from a known sex creep. Trust free speech and people over money. The Left smears down their own monster, and people cheered.
Porn's Two Biggest Male Stars Stand Accused of Serial Sexual Assault. Where's the Outrage?

Numerous women have accused adult icons Ron Jeremy and James Deen of sexual assault. Their voices have not been heard loudly enough.
Don’t be that girl, she scolded herself silently. Just go with it.

Lavished with attention and told how beautiful she was, a part of her felt lucky to have his attention—and yet as his hands explored her body without permission, she went rigid. This was a man she’d admired; a successful, intelligent man she’d wanted to work with and be mentored by. As he kissed her lips she held perfectly still but her lack of response did not deter him. Neither did her silence.

When he bent her over the desk in his office, taking her from behind, Sara struggled with how to say “no” and how to verbalize her feelings without hurting his. She couldn’t. It’s been five years since the incident and Sara still won’t call it “rape,” but the waver in her voice when we discuss the sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein tells me it still hurts. Sara still works with the same architectural firm and won’t risk her career to out the man who sexually assaulted her.

“He’s not famous like Harvey Weinstein, so no one cares,” she says.

As dozens of actresses have
movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, it's crucial to understand the importance. These women are speaking up in sisterhood and the public is listening—not because of who he is but because they can relate. If it hasn't happened to you, then it's someone you know.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and one out of every six women in the United States has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape. Victims of sexual assault will carry those invisible scars for a lifetime. It's the deep, dark secret some will never share.

Every woman that has courageously come forward with a #metoo hashtag has increased the visibility, showing us just how prevalent this issue is. Social media has given power back to the people, with an instant feedback loop that keeps the conversation alive. You don't have to be famous to have a voice, and when our voices unite they are heard.

Webcam model Ginger Banks has begun using her social media platform to create the difference she wants to see not just in adult entertainment, but
attention to the notorious alleged behavior of porn's legendary hedgehog, Ron Jeremy.

Discussing the sexual assault allegations against Ron Jeremy online in forums was eye-opening for Banks, who has recently been considering the move from webcam model to professional porn. "I started posting on industry-only forums, and producers and industry people were telling me to get used to it. That's just what happens in porn," says Banks. "When people are telling me I should expect to be sexually assaulted at my job that's something I'm not going to stand for. The normalization of it is what disgusts me."

Motivated to shed light on the allegations against Jeremy that had somehow slid under the media's radar, Banks made a ten-minute video presentation with collected tweets, articles, and commentary. Her goal, she says, was to offer evidence in one easy-to-find place and then allow people to decide for themselves.
Seeing that Ron Jeremy was hired to host the annual webcam awards for a company she’s spent the last eight years working with was the last straw for her. She messaged the company, and was public about her opinions: "I tweeted that I had a problem with a known groper presenting an award." Banks then messaged the cam company (in a direct message to her, they agreed not to work with Jeremy in light of the allegations) as well as the convention Jeremy was set to appear at. Banks urges performers to use their collective power, saying, "We need to stop supporting people that don’t support us as performers, when you go to these shows people buy tickets based on whether or not you’ll be there."

Banks describes some of the videos she saw online, in which fans will follow Jeremy around a convention just to catch him groping people—a behavior that Banks says "pisses me off when it gets excused." I another, she cites the Twitter testimony of a popular cam model who goes by "Miss Lollipop," who wrote last year, "Not my 1st, but at a my 1st adult con, posing for a photo with ron jeremy - he slips his finger under my panting and into my vagina..."
models replied to her tweet with their own Jeremy horror stories.

Lacey
@MistLollipopMF
Not my 1st, but at a my 1st adult con, posing for a photo w Ron Jeremy - he slips his finger under my panties and into my vagina. #notokay
1:15 AM - Oct 10, 2016
113 73 people a...

Though Banks has only met Jeremy once, in 2015 at an adult expo, tweets from women she admired—fellow cam models who said they'd also met Jeremy—caught her attention, particularly the allegations that he'd groped them.

A one-woman crusade, Banks says she took it upon herself to contact fellow models, the adult expos, and the companies sponsoring the shows to ask them all why they'd support a convention that supported Jeremy when he exhibits this type of behavior. "I was shocked when Exxxotica said he wouldn't be there," says Banks. "It also made me feel really good that's a direct result of what I was trying to accomplish."

Ginger Banks
@gingerbanks1
Someone follows Ron

Speaking to The Daily Beast, Jeremy seems confused about why Banks has chosen to target him on social media. "So she admits she doesn't know me but I've groped her friends?" asks Jeremy. "You've worked with me in the past and you didn't have a problem with me, right?"

I acknowledged that we'd worked together on set without issue.

"I'm older, chunkier, hairier but there are women out there that still want to see me. A lot of women that come out to see me want me to sign a boob," says Jeremy. "If I ever grabbed a girl against her will I'd have a face like a panda bear. If I did something against someone's will I'd have been punched in the face by now."

He adds, "The girl who's claiming I put my fingers up, I don't buy that story. I don't think that happened, maybe I was massaging. I've done that. Maybe a little tap, pinch, squeeze. I've done that but I always ask first."
As Ron Jeremy and the once untouchable media mogul Weinstein fall from greatness, Ashley Fires demands to know why the man she says "almost raped me" isn't facing a harsher sentence within the adult industry. Fires tweeted: "In the wake of recent actions taken against Weinstein, Ailes, O'riley [sic], Jeremy. Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women?"

Fires is one of almost a dozen women who have accused porn superstar James Deen of sexual assault, including his former partners, the influential adult actresses Stoya and Joanna Angel. In an essay first published at The Daily Beast, former porn star Tori Lux claimed she was "ruthlessly attacked and degraded" by Deen, while porn star Amber Rayne described her horrifying experience shooting a scene with Deen in graphic detail.

 Ashley Fires @AshleyFires

In the wake of recent actions taken against Weinstein, Ailes, O'riley, Jeremy. Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women!? 3:42 AM - Oct 27, 2017

114 51 people a...

"We were in a piledriver, he..."
and I said something like, ‘Yeah fuck me like that you son of a bitch.’ His face twisted and he came down on my face two times—close-fisted,” said Rayne. “I was punched in the face while he was still in my ass and then he starts going crazy on my butt—extreme, brutally fucking it. He just starts shoving things in to the point where he ripped it and I bled everywhere. There was so much blood I couldn’t finish the scene.”

In late 2016, just one year after the numerous sexual assault allegations against Deen surfaced, he received 33 XBIZ nominations between him and his company, and was allowed to grace the same ceremony as his first accuser Stoya, who was hosting the event.

“With girlfriend Chanel Preston—head of porn’s de facto safety union—by his side, Deen walked the red carpets of the XBIZ and AVN Awards, smiling and posing as if it were business as usual. What’s worse, the XBIZ Awards were hosted by Stoya, Deen’s ex-girlfriend who was the first of several women to accuse him of sexual assault. Stoya was locked into an iron-clad contract to host the ceremony, and was forced to endure the indignity of facing down her alleged attacker in a public forum, surrounded by friends and
colleagues," I wrote at the time.

The nominations and awards appearances left many in the adult industry scratching their heads. "I feel like it's all been swept under the rug and it's back to normal for James Deen," adult actress/director Tanya Tate told me.

"Although he didn't go to trial and he's not being charged, there were numerous allegations, it's not just one person. There's no smoke without fire."

Deen has maintained his innocence, telling The Daily Beast late last year: "I'm James Deen forever. That's why I didn't pursue any defamation charges," he says. "Every attorney I spoke to said it's the sex workers curse. There's no way to get a jury of your peers or people that will understand. I feel like the media didn't do their due diligence and distorted the facts. How can I say [to a jury] these stories about rough crazy sex hurt my career? They'd just look at some of my scenes."

Multiple sources have also informed The Daily Beast that Deen recently entered into a financial settlement with porn actress Holly Hendrix over a shoot that allegedly turned violent. Hendrix, however, could not confirm the details of
telling The Daily Beast:
"Me settling with anyone is
completely untrue...There
was never even a suit to
settle."

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Trump Believes
There Is a
‘Conspiracy’ to
Torpedo the
Kavanaugh
Nomination

The president and his team are not
deterred by the sexual assault allegations
being made against their Supreme Court

In the hours after a 51-year-old California professor came forward to publicly allege that Judge Brett Kavanaugh tried to sexually assault her while they were in high school, the White House signaled no interest in slowing Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.

Instead, the president’s team and his allies on and off the Hill began to mount a vigorous defense against the accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, questioning why she had identified herself only now, and framing Kavanaugh’s alleged antics as almost commonplace in nature.

A senior White House official told The Daily Beast that, as of Sunday evening, things are still “full steam ahead” for Kavanaugh. On Friday afternoon, a different White House official confirmed that President Trump had been made aware of the earlier reports involving the Kavanaugh sexual misconduct allegation—reports that did not name the accuser.

The president has told those close to him in recent days that he believes there is a “conspiracy” or
Kavanaugh and try to derail the nomination of a "good man." One Trump confidant said on Sunday that they "can't imagine that" Ford coming forward will change the president's position, and that it will far more likely cause Trump to dig in and attack those going after Kavanaugh.

The response from Team Trump rang all too familiar for women who have come forward in the past to allege that they had been targeted by prominent male officials. And for veterans of Clarence Thomas' nomination for the Supreme Court seat some three decades ago, the echoes were even more profound. The extent to which lessons have been learned from that episode—and what specific lessons they are—could very well determine Kavanaugh's fate in the coming days.

While Trump's team quickly rushed to his defense, other Republicans signaled that they wanted to pump the breaks.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said that he would be open to Ford providing information to the committee, so long as it was done "immediately, so the process can continue as scheduled." Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), another member of the committee, went a step
from Ford and that he was
"not comfortable voting
yes" until they did.

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A spokesman for Sen.
Chuck Grassley (R-IA),
chairman of the Judiciary
Committee, initially
claimed that what was
“disturbing” about the
story was that it was just
surfacing now after 35
years. The spokesman later
said that Grassley was
working to set up calls with
Kavanaugh and Ford ahead
of the scheduled vote.

The likelihood of a
protracted and ugly
political fight over a crucial
Supreme Court seat now
hangs heavily over
Washington D.C. For days,
it had been simmering near
the surface, with rumors
circulating that Sen.
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
was sitting on a letter from
a woman accusing
Kavanaugh of a dark
episode in his past.
Feinstein declined to
publish the letter (let alone
acknowledge its existence)
because, as she later said,
she'd been instructed by its
author to not reveal her
the week, The Intercept reported the letter's existence. On Friday, The New Yorker detailed the episode covered in the letter.

On Sunday, Ford finally told her story to The Washington Post. In the piece, she claimed that during high school she was taken into a room with Kavanaugh and a friend, and that Kavanaugh pinned her down, groped her and tried "to pull off her one-piece bathing suit and the clothing she wore over it." She said she tried to scream during the alleged incident, but Kavanaugh put his hand over her mouth.

Ford initially came forward anonymously to the Post in July, but declined to be identified until now because, as she explained: "Why suffer through the annihilation if it's not going to matter?" Kavanaugh has "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegations in the Post story.

While Democrats quickly demanded that the Senate Judiciary Committee postpone its vote on the Kavanaugh confirmation, conservatives saw a conspicuously-timed news story. And it wasn't just die-hard Trump supporters seeing nefarious
bearded establishment
types as well.

Ralph Reed, founder of the
Faith and Freedom
Coalition told The Daily
Beast, that the allegations
were "spurious" and "false"
and "transparently a
desperate, last-minute
attempt by Senate
Democrats to delay the
confirmation of one of the
most eminently qualified
Supreme Court nominees
in modern history." He did
not specify how he
determined they were false
(Ford reportedly passed a
polygraph test and
recounted the incident—
though without naming
Kavanaugh—to a therapist
she and her husband were
seeing in 2012).

Ed Rollins, current co-
chairman of the pro-Trump
Great America PAC said
that he completely agreed
with the White House's
strategy to proceed as
normal on the nomination,
telling The Daily Beast: "He
is eminently qualified!
They need to get him
confirmed now."
Remarking on Flake's
reaction to the news,
Rollins said, "Flake will do
anything to undo the
Trump agenda. If this is the
new standard, no one will
ever want or be able to
serve in government or on
the judiciary." Flake voted
for Trump's tax cut bill, the
president's signature
Others, like former Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), a top Trump ally, insisted that Ford's story wasn't credible because of the timing of her decision to finally come forward. But, even if the accusations were true, Kingston added, it was of questionable significance.

"Let's all step back and think about our own perfect behavior when we were in high school," Kingston told The Daily Beast. "I think there have been enough people from both parties, although far more liberals than conservatives, who have received such allegations. Not many, however, have been accused of things that they may have done in high school—but something that was bottled up until now. Let's face it, Democrats would do anything possible to derail a Trump nomination."

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Olivia Munn Among Women Accusing Brett Ratner of Sexual Harassment

“It feels as if I keep going up against the same bully at school who just won’t quit,” Munn says of interacting with Hollywood director

By JOYCE CHEN

Update: Brett Ratner is stepping away from all Warner Brothers activities after six women including actress Olivia Munn alleged the director engaged in sexual misconduct to the Los Angeles Times.

“In light of the allegations being made, I am choosing to personally step away from all Warner Bros.- related activities,” Ratner said in an official statement. “I don’t want to have any possible negative impact to the studio until these personal issues are resolved.”

Munn recalled how in 2004, when she was still an aspiring actress in Hollywood, she was visiting the set of Ratner’s After the Sunset when she was asked to deliver a meal to the director’s trailer. According to Munn, she was assured that he would not be there.

It was much to her surprise, then, that Ratner was not only in his trailer, but was also sans pants and eating a shrimp cocktail.

"He walked out ... with his belly sticking out, no pants on, shrimp cocktail in one hand and he was furiously masturbating in the other," Munn said. "And before I literally could even figure out where to escape or where to look, he ejaculated."

Munn said she was shocked and recalled letting out a "startled scream" before running out of the trailer. When she recounted the experience to the man who had asked her to deliver the food, his reaction was less than reassuring.

"It wasn't a shock," she said. "It wasn't a surprise. It was just, 'Ugh, sorry about that.'"

The actress immediately told her sister, who told her she should speak with a lawyer. Rather than draw up a case against Ratner, however, Munn said the lawyer told her that it was inadvisable for her to try to go up against such a powerful director.

"That did leave an impact on me," Munn said. "How broken do women have to be before people listen?"

Munn would go on to recount the incident in her 2010 book, Suck It, Wonder Woman! The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek – though she opted to leave out names and details. Ratner voluntarily claimed the shrimp-and-masturbation story during a 2011 appearance on Attack of the Show, a TV program Munn previously co-hosted, however.

"This is the truth," he said when asked whether he was the unnamed director in question. "I used to date Olivia Munn, I will be honest with everybody here. When she was 'Lisa.' That was the
problem. She wasn’t Asian back then. ... I banged her a few times ... but I forgot her.”

Ratner claimed that Munn had written about the damning incident because she was “bitter” that he didn’t remember her at an audition years later. But a few days after his Attack of the Show appearance, Ratner backtracked on his claims.

“I felt horrible,” he said on the Howard Stern show, admitting that he had never actually slept with Munn. “I said I banged her three times, which wasn’t true.”

Ratner’s attorney, Marty Singer, told the Los Angeles Times that Munn and Ratner had indeed had “an intimate relationship,” which Munn called “a complete lie.”

Another woman who accused Ratner of assault, Natasha Henstridge, alleged that Ratner had once cornered her and forced her to perform oral sex on him at his New York apartment in the 1990s. Actress Jaime Ray Newman claimed that Ratner had once made her extremely uncomfortable by “graphically” described giving her oral sex while they were both on an Air Canada flight.

Singer told Rolling Stone in a statement: "Brett Ratner vehemently denies the outrageous derogatory allegations that have been reported about him, and we are confident that his name will be cleared once the current media frenzy dies down and people can objectively evaluate the beyond."

In This Article: Brett Ratner, Hollywood, Olivia Munn, sexual assault

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Six women accuse filmmaker Brett Ratner of sexual harassment or misconduct

By AMY KAUFMAN and DANIEL MILLER
NOV 01, 2017 | 5:00 AM
Natasha Henstridge was watching a movie on Brett Ratner's couch when she fell asleep. She was a 19-year-old fashion model; he was an up-and-coming music video director in his early 20s. They had been hanging out in front of the TV with friends at his New York apartment.

But when Henstridge woke up, the others had left. She was alone with Ratner. She got up to leave, Henstridge said, but he blocked the doorway with his body and wouldn't budge. He began touching himself, she said, then forced her to perform oral sex.

"He strong-armed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me," she said. "At some point, I gave in and he did his thing."

Ratner, through his attorney Martin Singer, disputed her account.

Since that incident in the early 1990s, Henstridge has found success as an actress — starring in the films "Species" and "The Whole Nine Yards." But she said she has carried the memory of the run-in with her, and watched from afar as Ratner became one of Hollywood's most powerful players — directing, producing or financing dozens of today's biggest box-office hits, including "Rush Hour," "X-Men: The Last Stand," "The Revenant" and "Horrible Bosses."

ALSO: Warner Bros. cuts ties with Brett Ratner's company »

As hundreds of women have come forward in recent weeks with allegations of sexual misconduct at the hands of producer Harvey Weinstein, director James Toback and numerous other powerful men, Henstridge decided she would no longer remain silent.

In interviews with the Los Angeles Times, Henstridge and five other women accused Ratner of a range of sexual harassment and misconduct that allegedly took place in private homes, on movie sets or at industry events.

As is often the case, none of the women reported the allegations to the police.

On Ratner's behalf, Singer "categorically" disputed their accounts.
Olivia Munn said that while visiting the set of the 2004 Ratner-directed “After the Sunset” when she was still an aspiring actress, he masturbated in front of her in his trailer when she went to deliver a meal. Munn wrote about the incident in her 2010 collection of essays without naming Ratner. On a television show a year later, Ratner identified himself as the director, and claimed that he had “banged” her, something he later said was not true. The same year her book was published, Munn ran into Ratner at a party thrown by Creative Artists Agency and he boasted of ejaculating on magazine covers featuring her image, she told The Times.

She said that persistent false rumors that they had been intimate have infuriated her, prompting her to talk to The Times in support of other women who are “brave enough to speak up.”

“It feels as if I keep going up against the same bully at school who just won’t quit,” she said. “You just hope that enough people believe the truth and for enough time to pass so that you can’t be connected to him anymore.”

Ratner “vehemently disputes” Munn’s allegations, Singer said.
A playboy persona

Ratner, 48, has long flaunted his playboy persona, bragging publicly about his sexual prowess. He has been romantically linked to the likes of Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Mariah Carey. In December, Tina Fey, speaking at the Hollywood Reporter’s annual Women in Entertainment breakfast, cracked: “Brett Ratner is here. In his defense, he thought this was a thing where you could eat breakfast off of 100 women.”

For years, he palled around with Robert Evans, the slick-haired former production chief at Paramount Pictures who was later convicted of trafficking cocaine, and Toback, who, as The Times reported last month, has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 300 women. In a January interview with Variety, Ratner said Evans, Toback and Roman Polanski, who was convicted of having unlawful sex with a minor in 1977, were among his “closest friends.”

After Ratner quipped that “rehearsal is for fags” while appearing at a 2011 screening of his film “Tower Heist,” he was widely criticized. The misstep cost him a plum gig: He quickly resigned from producing the 2012 Academy Awards telecast and issued an apology, calling it a “dumb way of expressing myself.”

In interviews, Ratner has tried to smooth out the rough edges of his bad-boy image, especially more recently, as he has expanded his business ventures. In 2012, Ratner co-founded production company RatPac Entertainment. A year later, RatPac partnered with now-Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin’s Dune Entertainment to create the investment vehicle RatPac-Dune Entertainment, which inked a co-financing deal with Warner Bros. worth about $450 million. Among Ratner’s executive producing credits via those companies are “Jersey Boys” and “Black Mass.”

The filmmaker often has told reporters that he doesn’t use drugs or drink alcohol.
Actress Jaime Ray Newman said Ratner put it more bluntly to her, explaining in vulgar terms that he needed sex — not alcohol or drugs.

Newman said she encountered Ratner in 2005 when they were both in first class on an Air Canada flight. The filmmaker swapped seats with his assistant before departure so he could be next to her, she said. Newman, who was on her way to shoot her first major acting role on the TV show “Supernatural,” was excited to talk with a “famous director” about to helm “X-Men: The Last Stand,” she said.

Within five minutes of the plane taking off, she said, Ratner began loudly describing sex acts he wanted to perform on her in explicit detail. He also showed her nude photos of his then-girlfriend, said Newman, 39, who stars on Netflix’s forthcoming “The Punisher.”

“He was graphically describing giving me oral sex and how he was addicted to it,” she said.

Newman said she was so shaken by the encounter that she immediately told a handful of people about it. Both her mother and a friend confirmed to The Times that the actress shared details shortly after the flight.

Ratner, through his attorney, denied that the incident occurred, referring to it as a "false accrual."
Actress Katharine Towne in February 2008. (Charley Gallay / Getty Images for MediaPlacement)

Actress Katharine Towne also described an aggressive come-on by Ratner that left her so uncomfortable that she said she still vividly remembers the incident years later. She said she met the director in L.A. around 2005 at a party in a movie star’s home, where he made unwanted advances. Ratner, she said, was persistent, “making it evident that he had one motive” — to sleep with her.

“He started to come on to me in a way that was so extreme,” said Towne, 39, whose credits include the film “What Lies Beneath.” The actress, who is the daughter of “Chinatown” screenwriter Robert Towne, excused herself. Ratner followed her into a bathroom.

“I think it’s pretty aggressive to go in the bathroom with someone you don’t know and close the door,” Towne said.

She said she was nervous, and tried to make a joke about her weight: “I don’t even know what you want with me. I’m kind of chubby right now.” He was undeterred. “I like ’em chubby sometimes,” she said Ratner replied. Towne gave Ratner her number, hoping to placate him. Ratner’s assistant called her for the next six months, unsuccessfully trying to arrange a dinner for her and the filmmaker, she said.

Ratner’s attorney Singer called Towne’s account “absurd.” “Even if hypothetically this incident occurred exactly as claimed, how is flirting at a party, complimenting a woman on her appearance, and calling her to ask her for a date wrongful conduct?”

TRIAL OFFER

years. David Steiman, Hopi Dobuler, Dr. Rappaport all said that they did not witness him misbehave and praised him as a boss and mentor.

Steiman, who was Ratner's assistant from 1999 to 2004, said he never saw him mistreat women, and would be "shocked" if such conduct occurred. Steiman noted that Ratner dated actress Rebecca Gayheart and tennis star Serena Williams during his time working for the filmmaker.

Said Dobuler, a longtime former assistant to Ratner: "I think he's great. ... He's a family guy."

Over the years, Ratner has received several honors for his philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors. On Sunday, the Jewish National Fund presented Ratner with its annual Tree of Life Award at a gala in Hollywood where the guests included film producer Avi Lerner, United Talent Agency co-founder Jim Berkus and Singer.

Gal Gadot, the Israeli star of "Wonder Woman," had been slated to give the award to Ratner, but as The Times was reporting on his alleged sexual misbehavior last week, the actress’ publicist announced she would not appear at the event because of a scheduling conflict.

Instead, "Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins, who has known Ratner for years, presented him the award, saying: "He's gone on to be this real power in this town. He's a big character. He's a big personality. But you know what I love about Brett, he wants that for everybody else too."
Munn’s Ratner run-ins

New to Los Angeles and pursuing an acting career, Munn said she was thrilled when a friend invited her to the set of "After the Sunset." "I was so excited, because I mean, that's why you come out to California and Hollywood," recalled the actress, 37, whose credits now include HBO's "The Newsroom" and the movies "Magic Mike" and "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Not long after Munn arrived on the Santa Monica set in 2004, she said, she was asked to drop some food off in Ratner's trailer as a favor. She said she was assured that the director would not be there.

Munn entered Ratner's trailer and quickly placed the food on a table. She said she was startled to find him inside. She tried to make a quick exit, but Ratner implored her not to leave.

"He walked out ... with his belly sticking out, no pants on, shrimp cocktail in one hand and he was furiously masturbating in the other," Munn said. "And before I literally could even figure out where to escape or where to look, he ejaculated."

Munn said she let out a "startled scream" and raced out of the trailer. She said she immediately told the man who had asked her to deliver the food. His reaction? "It wasn't a shock. It wasn't surprise," Munn recalled. "It was just, 'Ugh, sorry about that.'"

Munn said she left the set and called her sister, Sara Potts, who urged her to speak with a lawyer. Potts confirmed Munn’s account.

The attorney dissuaded her from going up against a powerful director as a fledgling actress, so she did nothing.

"That did leave an impact on me," Munn said, reflecting on the conversation. "How broken do women have to be before people listen?"

She wrote about the incident in her book, "Suck It, Wonder Woman! The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek" — but stripped out names and details. During
everybody here, he said. When she was Asian back then."

"I banged her a few times ... but I forgot her," he said.

Days later, he went on the Howard Stern show and admitted he never slept with Munn and expressed contrition for making her look like "a whore."

"I felt horrible," he told the Sirius XM Radio host. "I said I banged her three times, which wasn't true."

In response to questions from The Times, Singer said that Munn and Ratner had indeed had "an intimate relationship." Munn described that as "a complete lie."

"I shouldn't have to be completely broken, battered, and devalued in order to prove that he crossed a line," she said.

"I shouldn't have to be completely broken, battered, and devalued in order to prove that he crossed a line."

— Olivia Munn

Munn said she continued to run into Ratner at a handful of Hollywood events.

In 2010, after recently appearing on the cover of a magazine, she attended a CAA-hosted party where, she said, Ratner asked her, "Why do you hate me?" She said she told him: "It's more of a dislike."

Ratner grew angry, she said, and responded: "Why? I bought 10 of your magazines and came over all of them."

Singer said Ratner "has no recollection of making such a statement."

Immediately after the run-in, Munn told her friend Cara McConnell, whom she had brought to the party, about what transpired.

"She came up to me right afterwards," McConnell said. "She [said] 'I can't believe this happened to me. I can't believe he did that.'"
On the set of 'Rush Hour 2'

The claimed incident with Munn is not the only one to allegedly occur on set of a Ratner-helmed film.

Four people who were involved in the production of Ratner's "Rush Hour 2" in Las Vegas in 2001 described a sexually charged atmosphere — one in which the director was pursuing women. The PG-13 film includes several scenes featuring women in bikinis and lingerie, and the set, according to these people, was teeming with beautiful young women.

Eri Sasaki, then a 21-year-old part-time model and aspiring singer, said her role as an extra required her to wear a skimpy outfit that exposed her midriff. While waiting for filming to begin one day, Ratner approached her, ran his index finger down her bare stomach and asked if she wanted to go into a bathroom with him. When she said no, she recalled Ratner saying, "Don't you want to be famous?"

A day or two later, Ratner again asked her to go into the bathroom with him, and
Jorina King also worked as a background actress on the film.

On the first day of shooting, King said, Ratner plucked her from a crowd of female extras and said he later wanted to discuss giving her a speaking part.

The next day, he asked her to come to his trailer and told her he needed to see her breasts, she said. King said she rejected his request and hid in a restroom. “I figured if I could stay out of his eyesight, if I could stay away from him, he will forget about me and he will choose someone else, and that is exactly what happened,” King said, adding that she feared him — and losing the work.

Kent Richards, who was a production assistant on the set of “Rush Hour 2,” said that Sasaki told him, during the production, about her experience with Ratner. He also said he recalled a conversation in which King expressed being uncomfortable on set, and referenced Ratner. Richards also said two or three other background actresses complained to him, alleging that Ratner asked them to show him their breasts or to touch his penis. Singer disputed Richards’ account, calling it a “secondhand story about unnamed individuals.”

David Anthony, whose company at the time, Background Players, handled extras casting for the film’s shoot in L.A. and Las Vegas, said that three background actresses who worked on the project told him that Ratner had asked them out on “dates.”

“In Brett’s defense, I am sure he is not the only heterosexual man hitting on women on that set,” he said.

King, who later founded the background casting agency Wild Streak Talent, said that she’d dealt with brusque men on movie sets, but nothing like Ratner.

“He feels entitled, that this is what he wants, this is how it is going to be, and this feels like normal business to him,” she said.

Singer called King’s claims “absurd” and “nonsensical.” “The movie was obviously already cast and shooting, so the notion that there would be a discussion of getting her a speaking role in the middle of a movie shoot is ridiculous,” Singer said.

He provided a statement by James M. Freitag, an assistant director on the set, who
Seeing Ratner again

Since their encounter in New York in the 1990s, Henstridge, 43, has crossed paths with Ratner numerous times in Hollywood, including once during the last ten years at a party with her friend Amy Del Rio.

"She saw someone in the crowd and her body language changed," said Del Rio, an entertainment lawyer. "I asked her if she was OK and she said 'no.' Then I saw she was looking at Brett Ratner. I asked if she knew him. She said, 'He's not a good guy. I knew him back in the day in New York.' She was really weird, like, 'I wanna get out of here.'"

Henstridge detailed the alleged encounter with Ratner to Del Rio only within the last month. But three other people — a former boyfriend, a neighbor and a close friend — confirmed to The Times that Henstridge told them about the incident over a roughly 10-year period beginning in the mid-1990s.

Although he acknowledged spending time with her, Ratner disputed Henstridge's claims. Singer accused the actress of being "upset after learning my client had a
Henstridge's neighbor Lilith Berdischewsky said that the actress told her about the incident with Ratner in the mid-2000s. "I remember when she was going to some audition and she says, 'I don't know whether I should go or not, but [Ratner] probably is not going to be there.' And she came back and she was shaking," Berdischewsky recalled.

Indeed, Henstridge, who recently appeared on the television shows "Medinah" and "Beauty & the Beast," went to an audition for the TV drama "Prison Break," which Ratner executive produced, knowing he might be in the room.

"And he was," said the actress, who has two sons, ages 16 and 19. "I had two young kids and had to go to work and make a living. And he just acted like we were old friends from back in the day in New York, saying, 'I haven't seen you in years.' Auditioning is already bad enough. But trying to focus on the work, I just felt sick."

She didn't get the part.

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Times staff writers Victoria Kim, Andrew Khouri and Glenn Whipp contributed to this report.

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Accuser of porn actor James Deen calls for more scrutiny of abuse claims amid Weinstein accusations

'Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women? asks performer who says she was 'almost raped' by star

Alleged victims have highlighted abuse accusations against leading male porn stars as a wave of sexual assault allegations engulfs the world of entertainment in the US.
and respect limits both professionally and privately,” he added in a later statement.

The allegations emerged after Mr Deen’s former partner, Stoya, said on Twitter in November 2015 that he had “held me down and f***** me while I said no, stop, used my safeword”.

Harvey Weinstein: The celebrities who have accused him of sexual misconduct so far

Another accuser, Ashley Fires, who had said Mr Deen once “almost raped” her in a communal shower, brought up the claims again in light of the deluge of allegations against film producer Harvey Weinstein.

She wrote on Twitter last week: “In the wake of recent actions taken against Weinstein, Ailes, O’riley, Jeremy. Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women!”

Mr Deen, who is known for his work in rough sex videos, was dropped by a number of major distributors in the wake of the accusations.

He is not the only well-known porn actor to have been accused of serial abuse.
Ron Jeremy, one of the most famous names in the business, has been accused of a string of gropings and other attacks.

Earlier this year webcam performer Ginger Banks compiled a list of the claims against Mr Jeremy, which included a number of women saying he had sexually assaulted them at adult industry expos.

“These allegations come from women both inside the adult entertainment industry and out,” she said.

Mr Jeremy issued a strenuous denial to one particular claim in 2007 relating to a convention in Florida, according to a contemporary TMZ report.

More about: James Deen
Dustin Hoffman among stars facing new harassment accusations

2 November 2017

Two Oscar-winning actors, a Hollywood filmmaker and a senior US news editor are the latest high-profile figures to be accused of sexual harassment.

The actors Kevin Spacey and Dustin Hoffman have been accused of sexual misconduct and have issued apologies.
Meanwhile, six women have accused Brett Ratner, director of the Rush Hour film series and X-Men: The Last Stand, of sexual harassment or misconduct.

Ratner's lawyer "categorically" denied all of the accusations on his behalf.

A representative for Spacey released a short statement to the US media, saying the actor "is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment. No other information is available at this time".

A growing number of allegations have been made against public figures in recent weeks.

The allegations have been sparked by multiple women speaking out against the Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, and a subsequent campaign encouraging victims to share their stories of sexual harassment under the #metoo hashtag.

So who has been accused of misconduct?

**Kevin Spacey**

New allegations have emerged from a number of men accusing Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct.

US filmmaker Tony Montana claims he was groped by the actor in a Los Angeles bar in 2003. He says he was left with PTSD for six months after Spacey "forcefully" grabbed his crotch.

Mr Montana told Radar Online that he was in his thirties when the incident took place at the Coronet Bar in LA.

It follows an allegation made by Anthony Rapp that the House of Cards actor tried to "seduce" him when he was 14 years old.

Kevin Spacey says he has no recollection of that encounter, and was "beyond horrified".

**Netflix halts House of Cards production**

Incidents regarding Spacey are also alleged to have taken place in the UK while the two-time Oscar winner was the artistic director at the Old Vic in London between 2004 and 2015.

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos, who acted in several plays at the theatre, claims Spacey "routinely preyed" on young male actors.

One man told the BBC about his experience of being invited to spend the weekend with Spacey in New York when he was a teenager in the 1980s.

**Read more about the allegations against Kevin Spacey here.**
Brett Ratner

Six women have accused Hollywood filmmaker Brett Ratner of sexual harassment or misconduct.

The women, including The Newsroom actress Olivia Munn, made the allegations in the Los Angeles Times.

Natasha Henstridge, who appeared in Species and The Whole Ten Yards, claimed she had been forced into a sex act with Ratner as a teenager.

The actress, now 43, was a 19-year-old model at the time she alleges Ratner stopped her from leaving a room at his New York apartment and then made her perform a sex act on him.

"He strong-armed me in a real way," she told the LA Times. "He physically forced himself onto me."

Ratner's lawyer "categorically" denied all of the accusations on his behalf in response to the article.

Separately, Ratner has filed a libel case in Hawaii against a woman who accused him on Facebook of rape more than 10 years ago.

Ratner says he has stepped away from dealings with movie studio Warner Bros since the allegations came to light.

Read more about the allegations against Brett Ratner here.

Dustin Hoffman

Dustin Hoffman has been accused of sexually harassing an intern on the set of one of his films in 1985.

Anna Graham Hunter, a writer, says that when she was 17, the Oscar-winning actor groped her and made inappropriate comments about sex to her.
She told The Hollywood Reporter: "He was openly flirtatious, he grabbed my ass, he talked about sex to me and in front of me."

Hoffman apologised, and said he was sorry if he "put her in an uncomfortable situation."

In a statement to the magazine, Hoffman said: "I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am."

The BBC has contacted representatives of Dustin Hoffman for his response to these allegations.

Michael Oreskes

Senior editor Michael Oreskes has resigned following accusations he kissed female colleagues without their consent during business meetings.

The 63-year-old was asked to step down by the National Public Radio (NPR) network in response to the allegations. He has previously worked for the Associated Press and the New York Times.

Two women spoke to the Washington Post on condition of anonymity, and reported stories of abrupt and unexpected kisses during business meetings. They said they were worried about career development if their names were made public.

One of the women said that while she met Mr Oreskes in the hope of getting a job with the New York Times, he suggested that they eat room service lunch in a hotel, before he unexpectedly kissed her and "slipped his tongue into her mouth."

He has not commented publicly on the allegations, and journalists at NPR report that they have tried to contact him for comment, without success.

Read more about the allegations against Michael Oreskes here.
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The image contains a table with roles and names associated with them. The table includes columns for Role, Name, and other details not fully visible in the image. The content is from a BBC News article, and the URL provided is for a related article.
Now two top porn stars James Deen and Ron Jeremy face renewed sex assault allegations in wake of Weinstein scandal

Numerous women have accused adult stars Ron Jeremy and James Deen of sexual assault

By Maryse Godden
2nd November 2017, 8:59 am
Updated: 2nd November 2017, 1:28 pm

WOMEN are calling for more scrutiny against two male porn stars accused of sexual assault in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Adult actor James Deen has been accused of rape and sexual assault by an ex-girlfriend and several other porn stars.

Porn star James Deen has been accused of rape and sexual assault which he has firmly denied
AP:Associated Press

Porn star James Deen has been accused of rape and sexual assault which he has firmly denied

He firmly denied the accusations when they first came to light in 2015, saying: "I respect women and I know and respect limits both professionally and privately."

One of his accusers, Ashley Fires, who had claimed Deen "almost raped" her in a communal shower highlighted her claims again in light of the allegations against Hollywood producer Weinstein.

She wrote on Twitter last week: "In the wake of recent actions taken against Weinstein, Ailes, O’riley, Jeremy. Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women!?"

On 28 November 2015, Deen's ex-lover Stoya tweeted: "That thing where you log in to the internet for a second and see people idolising the guy who raped you as a feminist. That thing sucks."

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has been accused of sexually harassing a number of women
AP:Associated Press

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has been accused of sexually harassing a number of women
Ginger Banks (@gingerbanks1) February 17, 2017

Another high-profile adult performer, Ron Jeremy, has been accused of groping women.

Ginger Banks listed a number of claims against Jeremy earlier this year, which included women saying he had sexually assaulted them at adult industry expos.

She said: “These allegations come from women both inside the adult entertainment industry and out.”

He strenuously denied the allegations, TMZ reported.

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**Body hacker admits guilt**

TOKYO: A Japanese man arrested after the discovery of nine disembodied bodies in his apartment south of Tokyo has admitted to the murder.

Takahiro Shiraishi, 27, has reportedly admitted to police that he had killed nine people between August and November, using a naked child to cut their throats.

**Lost sailors’ beacon fail**

HONOLULU: Two Hawaii women who say they were lost at sea on a sailboat for months never activated their emergency beacon, the US Coast Guard said, adding to a growing list of incidents that cast doubt on their tale of survival.

The women previously said that they had radio, satellite phones, GPS and other emergency gear, but they didn’t mention the emergency position indicating radio beacon.

A Coast Guard review of the incident and subsequent interviews with the women revealed that they had an EPIRB but never turned it on.

**Poison bride ‘slays family’**

ILHABARAD: A Pakistani woman has been arrested after an alleged plot to murder her husband with a poisonous glass of milk led to the death of 13 of his family members.

Asmat Bibi, 71, of Muzaffarabad, in the southwestern Punjab province of Pakistan, was forced to marry Amjad Akram against her will in September.

Police allege that the unhappy bride poisoned a glass of milk to kill her husband.

The meal was then used by her mother-in-law to make lassi, a yoghurt-based drink, that was served to 27 of Amjad’s family members.

**ENTOURAGE STAR ‘GROPEP ACTRESS’**

LOS ANGELES: Entourage star Jeremy Piven has been accused of sexual assault by a woman who appeared on the hit show.

Actress and reality star Ariane Bellamar claims in posts on her Twitter account that the Emmy-winning actor groped her on two occasions.

Bellamar tweeted to Piven on Monday: “Member when youowerside me in your trailer on the #Entourage set? Member grabbing my buttocks on the beach island without asking?”

She also tweeted: “Member when I tried to leave, you grabbed me by the arm, looked at yourself in the mirror, & said what a ‘beautiful couple we made’?”

A later tweet from Bellamar clarified that Piven confronted her and “forcefully fundied my breasts & butts” twice.


Piven responded with a statement that the incidents Bellamar described “did not happen” and that he hoped the allegations didn’t distract from stories that “should be heard”.

The full statement reads: “I unequivocally deny all allegations being peddled about me. If it did happen, then I would have to come forward with my own story, and my hope is that the allegations about me that didn’t happen do not detract from stories that should be heard.”

Bellamar’s allegations are the latest in a string of sexual harassment allegations facing the American film and television industry.

**SNAP SYDNEY**

Wednesday, 22 November is the day to #SnapSydney. Join the 24-hour social media celebration that captures what we love about where we live.

Head to snapsydney.com.au for guidelines, photography tips and everything you need to know to snap, hashtag and share your slice of Sydney.
That 70s Show actor Danny Masterson accused of sexual assault as police investigate

TV star, 40, denies allegations and says claimants motivated by anti-Scientology prejudice

Los Angeles police are investigating after three women reported being sexually assaulted by actor Danny Masterson in the early 2000s, but the actor denies the allegations, which he says are motivated by the producer of an anti-Scientology television series.

The probe was launched after three women came forward and reported they were sexually assaulted by Masterson in the early 2000s, Officer Drake Madison, a Los Angeles police spokesman, said on Friday. He declined to provide any further details, citing the ongoing investigation.
A representative for Masterson, who has not charged with a crime, denied the allegations in a statement to Friday, saying one of the accusers was his longtime girlfriend who continued to date him after the alleged incident.

"The alleged incident occurred in the middle of their six-year relationship, after which she continued to be his longtime girlfriend," the statement said.

Masterson’s statement also said another one of the accusers had brought the same allegations to the LAPD about 14 years ago but police "determined the claim had no merit."

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are the victims of sexual assault.

Harvey Weinstein: his accusers

Masterson, who has identified himself as a practicing Scientologist, said in the statement that he believes the “false allegations” are an attempt to boost a television series featuring former members of
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https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/danny-masterson-sexual-harassment-claims-that-70s-show-actor-police-investigate-a6...
That '70s Show's Danny Masterson Accused Of Raping Multiple Women In Stalled Case

MEGHAN DE MARIA
NOVEMBER 3, 2017, 6:40 AM

PHOTO: ANNA WEBBER/GETTY IMAGES.

The number of women who have come forward about sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry increased on Thursday with a report from The Huffington Post. The outlet reports that four women have accused That '70s Show star Danny Masterson of rape, but the investigation into the case has stalled. According to the Huffington Post, the LAPD first started investigating the claims before turning the case over to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Now, the case is reportedly at a standstill, despite the reported wealth of evidence involved. A representative for Masterson told Refinery29 that the LAPD had closed the case.

Three of the accusers are Scientologists, as is Masterson. The alleged incidents happened in the early 2000s.

One unnamed law enforcement official told the Huffington Post's Yashar Ali that there was "overwhelming" evidence against Masterson, but the charges still haven't been "approved for filing." The reported evidence includes "audiotapes, emails sent to and from Scientology officers.
at the time the alleged rapes happened, forensic computer evidence, and a threatening handwritten letter Masterson sent to one of the alleged victims, according to two people with knowledge of the evidence in the district attorney’s possession." A representative for the LAPD told Refinery29 that it wouldn’t be providing details about the case. When reached via email, a representative for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office declined to comment.

Per Ali’s report, the Church of Scientology has covered up allegations against its members (and against the group itself) in the past. The three Masterson accusers who are Scientologists are said to have reported the alleged rapes to the Church of Scientology. Per HuffPo, the Church of Scientology considers it a "suppressive act" to report another member of the Church to legal authorities.

Masterson is represented by attorney Martin Singer, who’s also currently representing director Brett Ratner. Ratner was accused of sexual harassment and assault by six women in a report published by the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday. Thomas Mesereau is also representing Masterson as his criminal defense attorney, and the Huffington Post reports that Masterson "has denied that he engaged in any sexual misconduct." A representative for Masterson didn’t immediately respond to Refinery29’s request for comment.

News of the LAPD’s stalled case has raised questions about Masterson’s ongoing Netflix series - the actor stars in The Ranch, which, as of now, is still continuing on the streaming service. Netflix’s House of Cards, meanwhile, was cancelled amid allegations of sexual misconduct against star Kevin Spacey. The streaming service has said, though, that the decision to cancel the show was made before the reports.

The report about Masterson also comes after dozens of women have accused film mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct, with multiple women accusing him of rape. He’s just one of many powerful men who’ve been taken down by claims of sexual harassment and misconduct in the past year alone. While stories like these are incredibly tough to read, the fact that they’re emerging in public hopefully means that the tides are turning, and survivor’s voices will increasingly be heard.

*If you have experienced sexual violence and are in need of crisis support, please call the RAINN Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE (4673).*

Editor's note: This story has been updated.

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DANNY MASTERSO RAPE ALLEGATIONS THAT 70S SHOW ACTOR

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Despite 'Overwhelming' Evidence Against Actor Danny Masterson, Rape Case Has Stalled

Four women have accused the "That 70s Show" star of raping them in the early 2000s. At least three of them were fellow Scientologists.

By Yashar Ali

A months-long investigation into multiple allegations of rape against actor Danny Masterson has inexplicably stalled, despite the Los Angeles County district attorney having compelling evidence in the case, multiple sources told HuffPost. Four women have accused Masterson of raping them in the early 2000s.

Masterson is a longtime member of the Church of Scientology, an organization that has a history of covering up allegations of misconduct leveled against the organization and its...
members. At least three of the women who have accused him of rape were also
Scientologists and reported the incidents to the Church of Scientology at the time.

Masterson, star of the sitcom "That '70s Show," has denied that he engaged in any sexual
misconduct. In May, journalist Tony Ortega revealed that Masterson hired power lawyer
Thomas Mesereau to serve as his criminal defense attorney. Bill Cosby also hired
Mesereau for a retrial of sexual assault charges in Pennsylvania.

Masterson is also represented by Hollywood litigator Marty Singer, who is also
representing film director Brett Ratner in responding to allegations of sexual misconduct
that were originally detailed in a Los Angeles Times report.

A spokesperson for Mesereau and a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office both
declined to comment.

One of Masterson's accusers filed a police report in 2004 saying that she was raped in
2003, but the case didn't move forward after the Church of Scientology intervened and
submitted over 50 affidavits from Scientologists who denied the woman's account.
According to a report filed with the Los Angeles Police Department, the woman said
Masterson raped her while she was "passed out," and when she awoke and realized he
was raping her, she struggled with him until he choked her and she passed out again.

In Scientology, reporting another Scientologist to law enforcement is considered a
"suppressive act" and can lead to immediate expulsion from the organization. The church
is known for attacking accusers rather than rebutting the accusations and for efficiently
organizing its members to take action against accusers. According to two sources with
knowledge of the case, the woman's case file from 2004 vanished, leaving Deputy District
Attorney Reinhold Mueller to reconstruct it.

HuffPost spoke to five sources for this story inside and outside the Los Angeles County
District Attorney's Office. All of the sources spoke on the condition of anonymity because
they weren't authorized to speak to a reporter about an ongoing law enforcement
investigation.

The LAPD in late 2016 began to interview the women accusing Masterson of rape. Ortega
first reported on the LAPD investigation in March 2017.

In April 2017, police referred the case to the district attorney. Since then, the district
attorney's office has examined the evidence turned over by LAPD and conducted its own
investigation. Despite compelling — what one law enforcement source described as
"overwhelming" — evidence, the charges have not been approved for filing. The evidence includes audiotapes, emails sent to and from Scientology officers at the time the alleged rapes happened, forensic computer evidence and a threatening handwritten letter Masterson sent to one of the alleged victims, according to two people with knowledge of the evidence in the district attorney's possession.

Mueller is a highly respected prosecutor in the district attorney's office who is known for his thoroughness and objectivity, which is why two sources in the office are confused that the case, in one source's words, has been "slow rolled."

340863382 Victim B Police Report Redacted by Tommy Craggs on Scribd

Masterson has had a long, successful career in television. He starred in the comedy "That '70s Show" for eight seasons, from 1998 to 2006, and most recently starred in the Netflix series "The Ranch" with Ashton Kutcher, who was his co-star on "That '70s Show."

Netflix appears not to have taken action against Masterson, despite multiple reports in publications including the Los Angeles Times that revealed the LAPD was conducting an investigation into allegations of rape. Within days of BuzzFeed's report that actor Anthony

https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/entry/danny-masterson-rape-accusations_us_59f8d410e4b91b47048242a
Rapp accused "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct, Netflix suspended filming on the drama's sixth season.

Netflix announced that part four of "The Ranch" would premiere on its website in December. The company made the announcement on Oct. 17, seven months after news of the LAPD investigation was made public.

A spokesperson for Netflix did not immediately return a request for comment.

This article has been updated to note the LA district attorney's office declined to comment.

Follow Yashar — or send him a tip — on Twitter: @yashar

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Hoffman accused of groping

SUPERSTAR Dustin Hoffman is now caught up in the Hollywood sex scandal after being accused of groping a teenager.

The film legend has apologised after he was accused of sexual harassment by a writer who said he fondled her and asked her for a kiss when she was an intern more than 30 years ago.

Anna Graham Hunter branded the actor (pictured) a "predator", saying he made unprovoked sexual references and openly flirted with her on the set of Death Of A Salesman in 1985. She detailed his alleged behaviour in letters to the time to her sister. Aged 15 and working as an intern, she was left in tears by Hoffman’s behaviour and on one occasion scolded him for being a "dirty old man" when he groped her chest.

Hoffman, 80, apologised if he had made her uncomfortable, saying it was not "reflective of who I am".

Spacey sleaze is growing

KIEVINE Spacey is facing more accusations of preying on young men and teenagers after three more alleged victims made claims of grooming and sexual harassment.

Bar worker Daniel Beal said the actor, 58, had once tried to grope him aged 19, when he was employed at a hotel in the UK in 2010. He alleged he was offered a $500 watch to keep quiet after the two-time Oscar winner (pictured) flashed him and tried to make him touch his genitals.

A second alleged victim said he wept up on a sofa with Spacey lying on top of him in his underwear at the star’s New York home in 1986. The unnamed man, aged 47 at the time, said: “I was uncomfortable at best, traumatized at worst.”

And actor Roberto Cavazos said he had faced off “unpleasant” advances made by the star in 2016 which “bordered on harassment”.

Australia's no-frills history of lizards

AUSTRALIA’S famous deadly snakes and array of lizards may actually hail from Asia.

A new study suggests that ancestors of reptiles such as Australia’s frill-necked lizard and venomous red-bellied black snake emigrated here about 30 million years ago, either by swimming across the seas or hitching a ride on drifting branches.

Their watery path could have been made possible after Australia broke away from Antarctica and drifted northwards towards Asia around the same time.

“If you came out to Australia 35 million years ago, there were probably no venomous snakes, frilled-necked lizards, all these things we think of quintessentially Australian, they wouldn’t have been here,” the study’s lead author, Dr Paul Oliver, of the Australian National University, said.

Australia is home to about 11 per cent of the world’s 6000 reptile species — the highest proportion of snakes, lizards, crocodiles and turtles found in any country. Dr Oliver estimates 85 per cent of our reptile species emigrated here.

HOLLYWOOD'S widenig sexual assault crisis has now snared director Brett Ratner after six women accused him of sexual misconduct.

Playboy Enterprises quickly cancelled plans for a Ratner-headed series of Hugh Hefner as his lawyer denied the allegations and yesterday the director announced that he was also stepping away from his $186 million production deal with Warner Bros.

“In light of the allegations brought against me, I am choosing to personally step away from all Warner Bros-related activities,” Ratner, 48, said.

“This is not the way I want to be remembered after more than two decades of a career and to have to walk away from a project I am passionate about — but it is the right thing to do.”

He also said he would take his break from the studio until this new era is over.

There are five more films that RatPac Entertainment, of which Ratner is chief executive and which Australian James Packer is a shareholder of, yet to be released.

Actress Olivia Munn and Natasha Henstridge are among the six women who have accused Ratner of sexual harassment or misconduct.

Henstridge, 43, told the LA Times Ratner, the executive producer of TV’s popular Prison Break, forced her to perform oral sex on him when she was just 15. He was a music video director in his early 20s at the time and Henstridge said she fell asleep watching TV. When the Species star woke up she said there were just the two of them in his apartment and he blocked the door to stop her leaving.

“He strangled me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me,” Henstridge said.

Munn said she had alleged Ratner fondled himself in front of her in his trailer when she visited the set of his 2004 film After the Sunset. She has previously detailed the encounter in her book Suck It and See: The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek.

“He walked out… with his belt sticking out, no pants on, shrimp cocktail in his hand,” Munn said, before alleging he then engaged in a sex act in front of her.

Munn told the Times that she saw Ratner again in 2010 and he allegedly told her he had a "sick head on him."
Porn stars Ron Jeremy and James Deen accused of sexual assault

AMERICA'S porn industry has been hit with widespread sexual assault allegations involving some of its biggest names.

The Sun

Women are calling for more scrutiny against two male porn stars accused of sexual assault in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The Sun reports, adult actor James Deen has been accused of rape and sexual assault by an ex-girlfriend and several other porn stars.

He firmly denied the accusations when they first came to light in 2015, saying: "I respect women and I know and respect limits both professionally and privately."

One of his accusers, Ashley Fires, who had claimed Deen "almost raped" her in a communal shower highlighted her claims again in light of the allegations against Hollywood producer Weinstein.
Adult film star Ashley Fires has accused James Deen of sexual harassment. Deen has firmly denied the allegations. Source: News Corp Australia

Ashley Fires
@AshleyFires

In the wake of recent actions taken against Weinstein, Alies, O’Reiley, Jeremy. Why is James Deen still granted shade to abuse women? 3:42 AM - Oct 27, 2017
114 51 people are talking about this

On 28 November 2015, Deen’s ex-lover Stoya tweeted: “That thing where you log in to the internet for a second and see people idolising the guy who raped you as a feminist. That thing sucks.”

She added: “James Deen held me down and f***ed me while I said no, stop, used my safeword. I just can’t nod and smile when people bring him up anymore.”

#REVEALED: Dustin Hoffman in new sex scandal
Several other women came forward at the time — echoing similar allegations against Deen, who is best known for rough sex videos, and he was subsequently dropped by a number of major distributors.

Another high-profile adult performer, Ron Jeremy, has been accused of groping women.

Ginger Banks listed a number of claims against Jeremy earlier this year, which included women saying he had sexually assaulted them at adult industry expos.
She said: "These allegations come from women both inside the adult entertainment industry and out."

He strenuously denied the allegations, TMZ reported.

Ashley Fires
@AshleyFires

Kudos to the cam models
Especially @gingerbanks1 for being organized and speaking up.
If only
Mainstream adult would follow suit.
3:43 AM - Oct 27, 2017
39 See Ashley Fires's other Tweets

THE ADULT FILM INDUSTRY’S BIGGEST NAME

RON Jeremy is one of the world’s most prolific actors and has become the adult film industry’s biggest name after making more than 2,200 movies.

Born Ronald Jeremy Hyatt, he was raised in Queens, New York, as part of a middle-class family.

The 64-year-old started out his working life as a teacher but left the profession to pursue an acting career on Broadway.

Jeremy, who is just 5ft 6in tall, says he then started posing for Playgirl while struggling for money before breaking into the adult film industry.

He is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for ‘Most Appearances in Adult Films’ and has appeared in more than 2,200 movies.
He now lives in Beverly Hills, California, and is not b... children.

Jeremy says he made his money not from adult movies, but from the endorsements which came from his fame.

He told *Time* magazine: "I did well, not so much through porn but because of the marketing that came from porn: the rolling papers, the penis pills — which I’m on a lot of infomercials for — the skateboards and the T-shirts made me fairly wealthy.

“I go to topless clubs and nude clubs, crack jokes and do a burlesque act while the girls are stripping.

“I make jokes and then we do autographs, meet and greets, like the ambassador of good will. That has added real good money to the bank account.”

SERIES OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RON JEREMY

Jeremy has been accused of groping a number of women by webcam model Ginger Banks.

Banks listed a number of claims against Jeremy earlier this year, which included women saying he had sexually assaulted them at adult industry expos.

She said: “I started posting on industry-only forums, and producers and industry people were telling me to get used to it. That’s just what happens in porn.

“When people are telling me I should expect to be sexually assaulted at my job that’s something I’m not going to stand for. The normalisation of it is what disgusts me.

“These allegations come from women both inside the adult entertainment industry and out.”

Another popular webcam model who goes by the named ‘Miss Lollipop’ then came forward with her own allegations on Twitter, saying: “Not my 1st, but at a my 1st adult con, posing for a photo w Ron Jeremy - he slips his finger under my panties and into my vagina. #notokay.”

He strenuously denied the allegations.

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Actor/actor about to step on to new stage

London. She has moved to the US in the mistaken belief in the hopes it would be just like Australia, but she found it to be quite different. She has been cast in a new play, which she hopes will be a success. She is looking forward to the opportunity to work with the new director, who she believes will challenge her演技.

Sex claims pile up against UK MPs

Frank sexual harassment of women claims against British politicians have been piled on to the Palace of Westminster’s党建工作.

Russian interference could be the tobacco moment for big tech

The world is moving towards a new era of political interference, with Russia leading the way. The recent election in America has shown the power of social media in shaping public opinion. This has raised concerns about the potential for interference in future elections. The Russian government has been accused of using social media to manipulate public opinion and sway the election in their favor. The US government has been quick to respond, with sanctions against Russian officials and a ban on future elections in Russia. However, the real threat may come from the use of social media by other countries, who may be able to use the same tactics to influence public opinion and shape the outcome of elections.

Lebanon’s dangerous days after Hariri exit

Najib Hariri, Lebanon’s former prime minister, has stepped down amidst growing protests against his government’s failed economic policies and corruption. The move comes after months of demonstrations by protesters demanding the resignation of the government and the release of the country from its financial crisis. The government has been criticized for its failure to address the country’s economic problems and for its inability to deliver on its promises to the people. The move by Hariri is seen as a significant development in the country’s political landscape, as he was a key figure in the government and a leader of the political Great March alliance.

Riyadh intercepts missile targeting main airport

Saudi Arabia has intercepted a missile that was launched towards the main airport in Riyadh. The missile was launched from Yemen, which has a long history of missile attacks on Saudi Arabia. The intercepted missile was said to be a Houthi missile, which is known for its accuracy and range. The attack comes as tensions between Saudi Arabia and Yemen have increased in recent months.

Iranian officials have released a statement condemning the attack and saying that it was a violation of international law. The statement also said that the attack was a response to the recent US sanctions on Iran. The government of Saudi Arabia has not yet commented on the attack, but they have said that they will take all necessary measures to protect their citizens and their assets.

Saudia Arabia’s Najib Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, has resigned amidst growing protests against his government’s failed economic policies and corruption. The move comes after months of demonstrations by protesters demanding the resignation of the government and the release of the country from its financial crisis. The government has been criticized for its failure to address the country’s economic problems and for its inability to deliver on its promises to the people. The move by Hariri is seen as a significant development in the country’s political landscape, as he was a key figure in the government and a leader of the political Great March alliance.

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Another Actress Just Accused *Gossip Girl*’s Ed Westwick of Rape

Westwick has denied raping anyone.

by LAURA BRADLEY

NOVEMBER 9, 2017 11:54 AM
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grew disillusioned enough to quit acting altogether: “I questioned how much I really wanted to be in entertainment as I didn’t see it getting better. And at what cost?” Wynn adds that she believes Cohen’s allegation.

“I am so incredibly thankful all of this is finally coming to light and that there is justice in the world,” Wynn concluded. “I believe you Kristina Cohen and thank you for speaking up so eloquently and really encompassing what young female actresses have to go through at the hands of men like Ed Westwick. Without you I would not have had the strength to speak up publicly about my ordeal. #metoo.”

Westwick’s manager has not yet respond to a request for comment.
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A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

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A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Loria Stein, Nelly and Roman Polanski are among the latest public figures to be accused of sexual misconduct.


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In early October, allegations surfaced that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed or assaulted multiple women over decades.

The public condemnation of Weinstein has emboldened others to come forward with claims of sexual misconduct against celebrities — with studios, networks and major companies responding — in what some have dubbed the "Weinstein ripple effect."

Politicians accused of misconduct

Here's a list of high-profile men who have been accused of sexual harassment, assault or both in the wake of the Weinstein scandal:

James Rosen

Number of accusers: At least three

On Dec. 22, James Rosen quietly left his position as Fox News' chief Washington correspondent without giving any advance notice to colleagues, NPR reported.

At least three allegations of sexual harassment against Rosen have since surfaced, which may have led to his resignation.

One Fox News reporter told four colleagues that Rosen had groped her breast in a cab the winter after 9/11. The colleagues said she relayed the episode as a warning about Rosen.

Years later, a producer told said that Rosen sexually harassed her, but that Fox offered her a deal that would enable her to extend her stay in the United States if she kept quiet about the allegations.

In the spring of last year, a young female reporter told two colleagues that Rosen tried to forcibly kiss her twice in an elevator ride back to the office after lunch. When he allegedly asked the reporter to keep her from making his approaches public and offered his help in getting more air time on Special Report, Bret Baier's nightly political newscast.

James Franco

Number of accusers: Unclear


It was not exactly clear what Sheedy meant in her posts, but they quickly revived rumors of alleged sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior. Sarah Tither-Kaplan, a filmmaker and actress, claimed in a tweet that Franco told her the "full nudity" he purportedly asked her to do for two of his movies was not exploitative because she had signed a contract. Violet Paley, another actress, claimed in a tweet that Franco once pushed her head toward his "exposed penis."

Franco denied accusations of sexual impropriety during a Jan. 9 appearance on "The Late Show" on CBS. "The things that I heard that were on Twitter are so not accurate, but I completely support people coming out and being able to have a voice," Franco told host Stephen Colbert.

Paul Haggis

Number of accusers: At least four
Paul Haggis, 64, the Oscar-winning filmmaker who wrote "Million Dollar Baby" and directed "Crash," has been accused of sexual misconduct by at least five women. In a civil lawsuit, a publicist accuses Haggis of rape. That lawsuit inspired three other women to come forward with their own sexual misconduct accusations, including another publicist who claims he forced her to perform oral sex and then raped her.

Christine Lepea, an attorney for Haggis, said in a statement to The Associated Press: "He didn't rape anybody."

Ben Vereen

Number of accusers: At least two

Broadway legend Ben Vereen, 71, has been accused of inappropriate sexual misconduct with cast members in a 2015 community theater production of the classic musical "Hair." The allegations, first reported by the blog OnStage and the New York Daily News, were leveled by two young actresses who starred in the show.

In a statement, Vereen apologized to the women for his "inappropriate conduct," adding: "While it was my intention to create an environment that replicated the themes of that musical during the rehearsal process, I have since come to understand that it is my conduct, not my intentions, which are relevant here."

Peter Martins

Number of accusers: At least five
Peter Martins, 71, the influential head of the New York City Ballet, has been accused by five dancers of verbal and physical abuse dating back to 1993, The New York Times reported. And in recent interviews with The Times, 24 women and men described what the newspaper called a "culture of intimidation" under Martins, a luminary on the New York artistic scene.

"I have denied, and continue to deny, that I have engaged in any such misconduct," Martins wrote in a letter informing the ballet board of his retirement, according to The Times. "I cooperated fully in the [company's] investigation and understand it will be completed shortly. I believe its findings would have vindicated me."

Charles Dutoit

Number of accusers: Four

Charles Dutoit performs with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2011. Alex Brandon / AP file

Charles Dutoit, 81, the world-renowned artistic director and principal conductor of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, allegedly sexually assaulted four women between 1985 and 2010, The Associated Press reported. The women — three opera singers and a classical musician — said the incidents happened in a car, Dutoit's hotel suite, his dressing room, an elevator, and backstage before a performance.

The women allege that Dutoit did everything from groping their breasts to restraining them and thrusting himself upon them.

NBC News was not able to independently confirm the women's allegations, and could not reach Dutoit. Dutoit also did not respond to multiple requests for comment from the AP.

Morgan Spurlock
Director Morgan Spurlock speaks on stage during the 14th annual Dubai International Film Festival on Dec. 11, 2017. Vittorio Zunino Celotto / Getty Images

Director Morgan Spurlock admitted on Dec. 13 to a history of sexual misconduct that reaches back to his college days.

Declaring "I am part of the problem," the 47-year-old filmmaker — who won acclaim for his 2004 documentary "Super Size Me" — wrote in a blog post that he was accused of rape in college, settled a sexual harassment lawsuit and has cheated on all of his romantic partners, including both of his wives.

The post was shared from Spurlock's verified Twitter account. He said coming clean is necessary, in part, because of the anxiety he faced: "As I sit around watching hero after hero, man after man, fall at the realization of their past indiscretions, I don't sit by and wonder 'who will be next?' I wonder, 'when will they come for me?'"

rcelo Gomes

Number of accusers: Unclear

Marcelo Gomes, one of the most distinguished ballet dancers, resigned in December from the American Ballet Theater following accusations of sexual misconduct.

Gomes, 38, resigned when the American Ballet Theater began to probe into sexual harassment allegations against him. Andrew F. Barth, the chairman of the company's board of trustees, told the New York Times in an emailed statement that the alleged incident was not related to his employment at the American Ballet Theater.

Lisa Linden, spokeswoman for the Brazilian native, said in an emailed statement to the Times, "This is a time of reflection for Marcelo. He is gratified and strengthened by the support he has received from family, friends and colleagues. We have no further comment at this time."

Tavis Smiley

Number of accusers: Multiple


PBS announced on Dec. 13 that it was suspending distribution of the late-night talk show "Tavis Smiley" following "troubling allegations" of misconduct against the longtime public television and radio host.

The outside investigation found that Smiley had engaged in sexual relationships with "multiple subordinates," according to Variety, which first reported the news. They said witnesses had told the investigators that Smiley was a verbally abusive and threatening boss and made some employees feel their success was tied to a sexual relationship with him, Variety reported. NBC News has not independently verified those accounts.

Smiley denied the allegations in a video and statement posted to Facebook: "I have never groped, inappropriately exposed myself, or coerced any colleague in the workplace, ever, in my 30-year career," Smiley said in the video.

NFL Network Analysts Marshall Faulk, Ike Taylor and Heath Evans

Number of accusers: At least one

From left, NFL Network’s Heath Evans, Ike Taylor and Marshall Faulk. Getty Images; AP

The NFL Network suspended Pro Football Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk and NFL players-turned-analysts Ike Taylor and Heath Evans on Dec. 11 after a female colleague accused them of sexual harassment.

Faulk, Taylor and Evans, along with former executive producer Eric Weinberger and former network analysts Donovan McNabb, Warren Sapp and Eric Davis, were named in an unsealed lawsuit against NFL Enterprises by Jami Cantor, a former wardrobe stylist for the network.

None of the seven is named as a respondent in the lawsuit, which was originally filed in October in California Superior Court Los Angeles County Superior Court. The original complaint alleged inappropriate actions by 50 people whom it identified only as John Does 1-50.

The amended complaint accuses Faulk and Evans of having groped Cantor while she was at the network, while it accuses Taylor and McNabb of having sent her sexually inappropriate communications.

The communications from Taylor allegedly included video of him masturbating, while the alleged communications from McNabb, who now works for BeIN Sports and ESPN Radio, were text only, according to the complaint.

Alex Riethmiller, a spokesman for NFL Network, told NBC News in a statement Monday night: "Marshall Faulk, Ike Taylor, and Heath Evans have been suspended from their duties at NFL Network pending an investigation into these allegations."

Weinberger left NFL Network in 2015 to become president of Bill Simmons Media Group, publisher of the sports website The Ringer. The amended complaint accuses Weinberger of both having touched Cantor inappropriately and having sent her sexually inappropriate communications.

A spokesperson for The Ringer told NBC News: "These are very serious and disturbing allegations that we were made aware of today. We are placing Eric on leave indefinitely until we have a better understanding of what transpired during his time at the NFL, and we will conduct our own internal investigation."

Ryan Lizza

**Number of accusers:** At least one

Ryan Lizza attends The 2009 New Yorker Festival: The Political Scene at City Winery on October 17, 2009 in New York. Neilson Barnard / Getty Images for The New Yorker File

Ryan Lizza, the Washington correspondent of The New Yorker, was fired on Dec. 11 over claims of improper sexual conduct.

"The New Yorker recently learned that Ryan Lizza engaged in what we believe was improper sexual conduct," the magazine said in a statement. "We have reviewed the matter and, as a result, have severed ties with Lizza. Due to a request for privacy, we are not commenting further."

But [Lizza disputed the magazine's decision](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/sexual-misconduct/weinstein-here-s-growing-list-men-accused-sexual-misconduct-816546) almost immediately, issuing a statement that described a complaint made by one woman.
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

"I am dismayed that the New Yorker has decided to characterize a respectful relationship with a woman I was dating as somehow inappropriate," he said. "The New Yorker was unable to cite any company policy that was violated. I am sorry to my friends, workplace colleagues, and loved ones for any embarrassment this episode may cause."

The woman mentioned by Lizza remains anonymous, but her lawyer, Douglas Wigdor, sharply disagreed with Lizza's description of the circumstances.

"In no way did Mr. Lizza's misconduct constitute a 'respectful relationship,' as he has now tried to characterize it," Wigdor said in a statement. Lizza was also suspended by CNN, where he is an on-air contributor.

Mario Batali

Number of accusers: Four

Celebrity chef Mario Batali speaks during an interview at his restaurant, Del Posto, in New York on April 11, 2006. Brendan McDermid / Reuters file

Four women accused celebrity chef Mario Batali of inappropriate touching over the course of two decades, causing the restaurateur and television show host to step aside from his projects for the time being.

The accusations against Batali were first published in a report by the New York Times on Dec. 11. Three of the accusers were employees of the chef.

All the women recounted instances at different points in Batali's career when they say the chef groped them and made inappropriate comments of a sexual nature.

In a statement, Batali apologized and said the accusations described by the women "match up with the way [he has] acted."

"I apologize to the people I have mistreated and hurt. Although the identities of most of the individuals mentioned in these stories have not been revealed to me, much of the behavior described does, in fact, match up with ways I have acted. That behavior was wrong and there are no excuses. I take full responsibility and am deeply sorry for any pain, humiliation or discomfort I have caused to my peers, employees, customers, friends and family," the statement said in part.

Batali added that he was stepping away from the "day-to-day operations of my businesses," acknowledging his actions disappointed many people and "the failures are mine alone."

A few days later, ABC said they fired him from the cooking show, "The Chew."

Lorin Stein

Number of accusers: Unclear

Lorin Stein, a former Paris Review Editor, was the subject of numerous sexual harassment allegations from female employees and writers. The New York Times first reported in December that Stein sent a letter of resignation to the Paris Review Board. In the letter he wrote, "At times in the past, I blurred the personal and the professional in ways that were, I now recognize, disrespectful of my colleagues and our contributors, and that made them feel uncomfortable or demeaned. I am very sorry for any hurt I caused them."

Before the board, Stein acknowledged that he had both dated and expressed interest in women within the workplace. He also acknowledged in his letter that he understands now that his behavior was an "abuse" of his position, and he realizes that his behavior made his colleagues feel demeaned or uncomfortable.

Nicole Rudick, managing editor of the Paris Review, was named interim editor following his resignation.

James Levine

Number of accusers: Multiple
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

James Levine, then-Boston Symphony Orchestra music director, conducts the symphony on its opening night performance at Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts on July 7, 2006. Michael Dwyer / AP

New York’s Metropolitan Opera suspended its famed longtime conductor James Levine on Dec. 3 while it investigates allegations of sexual misconduct.

The opera’s announcement followed a report in the New York Post that Levine was accused in a police report of molesting a young man beginning when the man was 15 years old and that the sexual abuse continued for years.

The New York Times identified two other men who it said alleged that they’d had sexual encounters with Levine beginning in the summer of 1968, when they were teens at a music school in Michigan.

On Dec. 8, Illinois prosecutors investigating sexual abuse allegations dating back to the 1980s said they were unable to press charges based on state law at the time and other factors.

Levine has denied the allegations, saying "as understandably troubling as the accusations noted in recent press accounts are, they are unfounded. As anyone who truly knows me will attest, I have not lived my life as an oppressor or an aggressor."

Garrison Keillor

Number of accusers: At least one


Garrison Keillor, the former host and creator of "A Prairie Home Companion," was fired by Minnesota Public Radio on Nov. 29 over "allegations of his inappropriate behavior with an individual who worked with him."

Keillor was axed a month after the public radio station received a report about his alleged "conduct" while he was still producing the show that he hosted from 1974 until he retired last year.

"Garrison Keillor has been an important part of the growth and success of MPR, and all of us in the MPR community are saddened by these circumstances," MPR president Joe McTaggart said Wednesday.

MPR has hired an outside lawyer "to conduct an independent investigation of the allegations," the public radio station said in statement.

Keillor released a statement in which he said he was fired over "a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version MPR heard." But he did not release any details.

"It's some sort of poetic irony to be knocked off the air by a story, having told so many of them myself, but I'm 75 and don't have any interest in arguing about this," he added. "And I cannot in conscience bring danger to a great organization I've worked hard for since 1969."

Keillor said he was "sorry for the people who will lose work on account of this."

Matt Lauer


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A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Number of accusers: Multiple

Matt Lauer on NBC News’ “Today” | NBC NewsWire / Getty Images

Matt Lauer was fired by NBC News following two decades as “Today” anchor after a detailed complaint was lodged against him about inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace.

In a memo to employees on Nov. 29, NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack said the complaint, which was made by a female colleague of Lauer’s, prompted a serious review and represented a “clear violation of our company’s standards.”

The alleged incident began at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and continued after the games, NBC News confirmed. A lawyer for the woman said she did not wish to be identified.

Lack said it was the first complaint lodged against Lauer, 59, for his behavior since he took over as anchor of the morning show in 1997, but there was “reason to believe” it may not have been an isolated incident.

Later, Variety and The New York Times reported other cases of women coming forward to allege sexual misconduct against Lauer. Variety said at least three women shared accounts that were corroborated by “dozens of interviews with current and former staffers” during their two-month investigation. The Times said two women also made complaints against Lauer following his firing — actions that were confirmed by NBC officials.

The newspaper reported that one of those women, now a former employee, said Lauer in 2001 locked the door to his office and sexually assaulted her.

Lauer said in a statement that he was “truly sorry” to the people he hurt. While he said some of the allegations were “untrue and mischaracterized,” he admitted that “there is enough truth in these stories to make me feel embarrassed and ashamed.”

Charlie Rose

Number of accusers: At least 9

Charlie Rose speaks during the 2015 Winter TCA Tour on Jan. 12, 2016 in Pasadena, California. | JB Lacroix / WireImage file

Television host and journalist Charlie Rose was fired by CBS News, PBS, and Bloomberg after eight women accused him of sexual harassment and unwanted advances in a Nov. 26 report in The Washington Post.

The allegations against Rose, 75, included groping female colleagues and walking around naked in their presence, The Post reported. All eight women, who alleged incidents that occurred from the late 1990s to 2011, were either employees at the “Charlie Rose” show or hoped to work for it.

Three women spoke to The Post on the record and five women chose to remain anonymous. Two women cited in the report, Kylie Godfrey-Ryan and Megan Creydt, confirmed their accounts to NBC News hours after The Post published its report.

“It is essential that these women know I hear them and that I deeply apologize for my inappropriate behavior,” Rose said in a statement to The Post that he later posted on Twitter. “I am greatly embarrassed. I have behaved insensitively at times, and I accept responsibility for that, though I do not believe that all of these.

allegations are accurate. I always felt that I was pursuing shared feelings, even though I now realize I was mistaken."

Rose has long hosted his show, which airs on PBS and is filmed at Bloomberg headquarters, and also had been a co-anchor for "CBS This Morning" and a contributing correspondent for "60 Minutes."

Bloomberg LP said in a statement to NBC News on Monday: "We are deeply disturbed to learn of these allegations and are immediately suspending the show from airing on Bloomberg TV and radio."

"Despite Charlie's important journalistic contribution to our news division, there is absolutely nothing more important, in this or any organization, than ensuring a safe, professional workplace," CBS News President David Rhodes said in a statement in part announcing Rose's termination Tuesday. "We need to be such a place."

PBS spokeswoman Jennifer Rankin Byrne said in a statement Tuesday: "In light of yesterday's revelations, PBS has terminated its relationship with Charlie Rose and cancelled distribution of his programs. PBS expects all the producers we work with to provide a workplace where people feel safe and are treated with dignity and respect."

Bloomberg TV confirmed it had severed ties with Rose.

**Glenn Thrush**

**Number of accusers: 4**


Glenn Thrush, one of the most prominent political journalists, was suspended by The New York Times on Nov. 20 after he was reportedly accused of sexual misconduct.

The suspension came after a report was published by news outlet Vox, which detailed an alleged pattern of inappropriate behavior toward women, particularly young female reporters.

Thrush is a MSNBC contributor. A spokesperson for the network said, "We're awaiting the outcome of the Times' investigation. He currently has no scheduled appearances."

Thrash, who is married, apologized in a statement.

'I apologize to anyone woman who felt uncomfortable in my presence, and for any situation where I behaved inappropriately. Any behavior that makes a woman feel unprotected or uncomfortable is unacceptable," Thrush said in the statement.

"My recollection of my interactions with Laura differs greatly from hers – the encounter was consensual, brief, and ended by me. She was an editor above me at the time and I did not disparage her to colleagues at POLITICO as she claims. The assertion that I would rate women based on their appearance is also false," Thrush said.

A month after the political reporter was suspended, The New York Times announced it had wrapped up its investigation into the matter.

The paper decided to continue Thrush's suspension until late January and remove him from coverage of the White House, but said they would not fire him.

"We understand that our colleagues and the public at large are grappling with what constitutes sexually offensive behavior in the workplace and what consequences are appropriate," said Executive Editor Dean Baquet. "Each case has to be evaluated based on individual circumstances. We believe this is an appropriate response to Glenn's situation."

On Dec. 20, the Times announced that Thrush would remain suspended until late January and would be removed from the team covering the White House.

Random House, the publishing company pursuing a book about Donald Trump by Thrush and New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman, announced it would move forward with the deal, but only with Haberman.

**Russell Simmons**

**Number of accusers: Multiple**
Russell Simmons presents the Vanguard Award at the 46th NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena, California on Feb. 6, 2015.Chris Pizzello / AP file

Russell Simmons, the hip-hop mogul and producer who helped to create the Def Jam brand, said he was stepping down from his various companies following accusations of sexual misconduct.

The initial accusation was reported in The Los Angeles Times on Nov. 19, when model Keri Claussen Khalighi said he made aggressive sexual advances on her in 1991 and coerced her to have oral sex at his apartment and forced himself on her in the shower. Khalighi, then 17, said director Brett Ratner was there as well and "needed to do anything when she asked for help.

An attorney for Ratner didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, although he told the newspaper that Ratner has "no recollection" of Khalighi's apparent plea for help. Simmons also provided a statement saying that he did spend a couple of days with her but was "shocked" about her assertions of that time.

A second woman to come forward — a screenwriter named Jenny Lumet — recounted in a Nov. 30 op-ed column in The Hollywood Reporter how Simmons "forced her into a sexual encounter in 1991 when she was 24.

Simmons, 60, said that her recollections of that night are "very different from mine" although "it is now clear to me that her feelings of fear and intimidation are real."

Other women have since come forward, three of whom were identified in a Dec. 13 New York Times report and said that Simmons raped them in separate incidents in either the 1980s or 1990s. Simmons responded in a statement that "all of my relations have been consensual."

The Los Angeles Times also interviewed five more women, including actress Natasha Williams-Blanch, who alleged sexual misconduct. The women said he used his personal yoga studio to prey on them, which Simmons also denied.

Jeffrey Tambor

Number of accusers: 2

Jeffrey Tambor arrives at the "Transparent" special screening in Los Angeles in April, 2017.Willy Sanjuan / AP

Jeffrey Tambor, who won critical acclaim for his portrayal of a transgender woman in hit TV series "Transparent", was accused on Nov. 16 of sexually harassing a transgender actor on the show.

Trace Lysette alleges the actor made sexual advances and remarks towards her during the making of the award-winning comedy series and claimed that “one time it got physical."

The allegation comes days after Tambor was reportedly accused of sexual harassment by his former assistant on the show, Van Barnes, who is also transgender.

Tambor denied the allegations saying he has "never been a predator — ever."

"I am deeply sorry if any action of mine was ever misinterpreted by anyone as being sexually aggressive or if I ever offended or hurt anyone. But the fact is, for all my flaws, I am not a predator and the idea that someone might see me in that way is more distressing than I can express," the statement said in part.

**Sen. Al Franken**

**Number of accusers: Multiple**

Leeann Tweeden, a radio news anchor with KABC in Los Angeles, said Franken insisted on practicing a kiss before going on stage.

"He continued to insist, and I was beginning to get uncomfortable," she wrote in a post on KABC's website.

Tweedensaid she reluctantly agreed to rehearse the line leading up to the kiss and that's when Franken, "came at me, put his hand on the back of my head, mashed his lips against mine and aggressively stuck his tongue in my mouth." "I immediately pushed him away with both of my hands against his chest and told him if he ever did that to me again I wouldn't be so nice about it the next time," she said. "I felt disgusted and violated."

Franken said in a statement, "The first thing I want to do is apologize to Leeann, to everyone else who was part of that tour, to everyone who has worked for me, to everyone I represent, and to everyone who counts on me to be an ally and supporter and champion of women."

Less than a week later, a second woman said Franken grabbed her rear in 2010 at the Minnesota State Fair.

Lindsay Menz, 33, told CNN in an interview that Franken grabbed her buttocks when they posed for a photo together. The accusation was first reported by CNN.

In a statement to CNN, Franken said he felt "badly," but he did not remember posing for the photo with Menz. "I take thousands of photos at the state fair surrounded by hundreds of people, and I certainly don't remember taking this picture," Franken told CNN on Sunday. "I feel badly that Ms. Menz came away from our interaction feeling disrespected."

**Matt Zimmerman**

**Number of accusers: More than 1**

Matt Zimmerman was senior vice president for booking at NBC News and was one of the top bookers of talent and guests for "Today."

"We have recently learned that Matt Zimmerman engaged in inappropriate conduct with more than one woman at NBCU, which violated company policy," the company said in a statement, referring to NBCUniversal, the parent company of NBC. "As a result he has been dismissed."

Zimmerman could not immediately be reached for comment.

**Andrew Kreisberg**

**Number of accusers: 19**


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A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Executive producer Andrew Kreisberg speaks onstage at The Executive Producers' panel discussion during the CW portion of the 2016 Television Critics Association Summer Tour at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on Aug. 11, 2016. Frederick M. Brown / Getty Images

Andrew Kreisberg, the executive producer of the CW shows "Arrow," "Supergirl," "DC's Legends of Tomorrow" and "The Flash," was fired by Warner Bros. TV Group after allegations by 19 people of sexual harassment and inappropriate contact.

Warner Bros. said in a statement on Nov. 29 that the decision came after he was suspended during an internal investigation.

"We remain committed to providing a safe working environment for our employees and everyone involved in our productions," the group said.

Variety first reported that 15 women and four men who have worked with the producer said he engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment and inappropriate physical contact over the years. None of the sources were identified by Variety, which said many of the women are current or former employees and fear retaliation.

Kreisberg, 46, could not immediately be reached by NBC News, but denied the allegations to Variety: "I have made comments on women's appearances and clothes in my capacity as an executive producer, but they were not sexualized. Like many people, I have given someone a non-sexual hug or kiss on the cheek."

Berlanti Productions, which produces Kreisberg's show, said in a statement that it agrees with Warner Bros.'s decision: "Nothing is more important to us than the safety and well-being of all our colleagues — coworkers, crew and staff alike."

Roy Moore

Number of accusers: At least 9

Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in Alabama Roy Moore speaks at a campaign rally on Sept. 25, 2017 in Fairhope, Alabama. Scott Olson / Getty Images file

At least nine women have accused Roy Moore, the Republican party's Senate nominee in Alabama, of sexual misconduct only weeks prior to the special election.

The story broke on Nov. 9 when The Washington Post reported that Moore allegedly forced a 14-year-old girl into a sexual encounter in 1979 when he was 32.

Leigh Corfman, 53, who came forward with the accusation, told The Post that at the time Moore took off her "shirt and pants and removed his clothes," touched her "over her bra and underwear" and "guided her hand to touch him over his underwear."

In that same report, three additional women told The Post that Moore had pursued them while he was in his early 30s and they were between the ages of 16 and 18. None of the three women said Moore forced them into any sort of relationship or sexual contact.

Recommended

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Since the initial report, more women have come forward to various media outlets that described Moore engaging in sexual misconduct through his career.

In a statement from his campaign, Moore, now 70, heatedly denied the women’s allegations, calling them “a baseless political attack” and “the very definition of fake news and intentional defamation.”

**Louis C.K.**

**Number of accusers:** 5


Five women have accused Emmy-winning comedian and actor Louis C.K. of sexual misconduct dating back at least 15 years, *The New York Times* reported.

In the exposé published in The Times, comedians Dana Min Goodman and Julia Wolv allege Louis C.K. in 2002 invited them to his hotel room in Colorado, undressed himself, and masturbated in front of them. Abby Schachner, a comedian who says she called Louis C.K. to invite him to one of her performances in 2003, claims she could hear him masturbating during their phone conversation. Rebecca Corry, a writer and actress, alleges Louis C.K. asked if he could masturbate in front of her while they appeared together on a television pilot in 2005.

In a statement a day after the report, Louis C.K. said "these stories are true," adding that he feels remorseful for his actions.

"I have been remorseful of my actions. And I’ve tried to learn from them. And run from them. Now I’m aware of the extent of the impact of my actions. I learned yesterday the extent to which I left these women who admired me feeling badly about themselves and cautious around other men who would never have put them in that position," he said.

Shortly after the report was published, HBO announced that Louis C.K. would no longer be participating in a comedy fundraising special planned for Nov. 18. HBO also said it would be removing the comedian’s past projects from its On Demand services.

A day after The Times published its report, Louis C.K.’s publicist, Lewis Kay, said on Twitter that he dropped the comedian as a client. Netflix also announced that it would not produce a second planned stand-up special after releasing the first, titled “2017,” earlier this year.

FX Networks and FX Productions later ended its relationship with Louis C.K. once he admitted that the allegations were true. FX said in a statement that he would no longer serve as executive producer or receive compensation for the four shows he was involved with.

**Steven Seagal**

**Number of accusers:** 3
At least three actresses have accused Steven Seagal of sexual harassment. Actress Portia de Rossi tweeted that she once auditioned for the former action star in his office, where he "said how important it was to have chemistry off-screen as he sat me down and unzipped his leather pants."

De Rossi said she ran out and told her agent. She didn't say when the alleged incident occurred.

Actress Rae Dawn Chong told The Hollywood Reporter of a similar story. She said the talent agency that represented her from 1989-90 had her meet Seagal inside of his hotel room at night. She said he exposed himself to her and that after she told her agent what happened, it impacted her career. She later left the agency, she said, "because it was like a pimp situation."

Actress Jenny McCarthy also recounted an audition with Seagal in 1995 for the film "Under Siege 2," telling Variety that she was excited to read for the part when the casting director told her to "relax" on a couch. But he then requested that she pull down her dress, she said, which prompted her to run out to her car. But Seagal followed her, she added, and told her not to tell anyone of their encounter.

Other women have claimed Seagal acted inappropriately or strangely with them, but not specifically of sexual misconduct. Julianna Margulies, who co-starred with Seagal in 1991's "Out for Justice," said on SiriusXM that when she was 23, she was told by a casting director to go to Seagal's hotel room at night.

Margulies said that when she got there, she was alone. Seagal "made sure that I saw his gun, which I had never seen a gun in real life," the actress said. "And I got out of there unscathed."

Eva LaRue, of "All My Children" and "CSI: Miami," told Deadline that Seagal locked her in his room, pulled back his kimono and unveiled his underwear. She was 22 and waiting for an audition.

Reps for Seagal did not immediately respond to a request for comment from NBC News. His spokesman previously told The Daily Beast that McCarthy's "claim is completely false."

Ed Westwick
Number of accusers: 2

Actress Kristina Cohen wrote a Facebook post saying that she and a boyfriend had gone to Ed Westwick's home three years ago.

Cohen said she took a nap in one of the rooms, and that when she woke up, the "Gossip Girl" actor was sexually assaulting her. She said she tried to fight him off, but he was too strong.

"I couldn't speak. I could not longer move. He held me down and raped me," she wrote.

Westwick responded the following day on social media to deny the allegations: "I do not know this woman. I have never forced myself in any manner, on any woman. I certainly have never committed rape."

The Los Angeles Police Department said Cohen filed a police report, which confirms an investigation but no evidence of a crime. There was no police report filed at the time of the alleged incident, sources said.

A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Following Cohen's post, former actress Aurélie Wynn shared on Facebook a claim that she was raped by Westwick while taking a nap in July 2014.

On July 27, 2018, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office released court documents that said it was declining to prosecute Westwick over claims made by three women, citing insufficient evidence. In two of the cases, Witnesses were "not able to provide information that would enable prosecutors to prove either incident beyond a reasonable doubt," the office said, and an investigator was unable to reach the third woman.

An attorney for Westwick said "the evidence demonstrated from the start that each of the allegations made by the three women would be proven untrue."

Brett Ratner

Number of accusers: 7

Actresses Olivia Munn, Katharine Towne, Jamie Ray Newman, Natasha Henstridge, Jocina King and model and singer Eri Sasaki all alleged varying accounts of inappropriate behavior from director Brett Ratner. [The Los Angeles Times reported.]

Munn and Henstridge both told The Times they experienced separate incidents early in their careers in which Ratner masturbated in front of them. Munn said she was delivering food as a favor in 2004 to what she believed was Ratner's empty trailer, and was frightened to find him inside.

Ratner's attorney, Martin Singer, staunchly denied each woman's allegations and claimed Munn's account was "a complete lie."

"I have represented Mr. Ratner for two decades, and no woman has ever made a claim against him for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment," Singer said in a letter to The Times. "Furthermore, no woman has ever requested or received any financial settlement from my client."

In light of the allegations, Ratner said in a statement that he is choosing to "step away from all Warner Bros.-related activities."

"I don't want to have any possible negative impact to the studio until these personal issues are resolved," Ratner said in the statement.

More than a week after Ratner released his statement, on Nov. 10, actress Ellen Page accused Ratner of making sexual and homophobic comments to her while she was working with him on the 2006 film "X-Men: The Last Stand." She also alleges that Ratner "outed" her as gay while he was disparaging her.

"I was eighteen years old," Page, who is now 30, wrote in a Facebook post. "He looked at a woman standing next to me, ten years my senior, pointed to me and said: 'You should f--- her to make her realize she's gay.'"

Dustin Hoffman

Number of accusers: 6


Anna Graham Hunter was a 17-year-old production assistant for the 1985 film adaptation of "Death of a Salesman" when actor Dustin Hoffman grabbed her and used sexually explicit language with her, she said in a first-person account published Nov. 1 by The Hollywood Reporter.

Playwright Woody Allen Ostrovsky also said Hoffman sexually harassed her in 1991 and allegedly propositioned her and attempted to persuade her to accompany him to a store in a nearby hotel.

"I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable position," Hoffman told The Hollywood Reporter. "I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am."

Kathryn Rossetter, who co-starred with Hoffman in "Death of a Salesman" on Broadway in 1983, wrote a guest column in The Hollywood Reporter on Dec. 8 that said the actor used to grope her on stage during her performance. Rossetter said in the first-person account that one time he had planned a "surprise" for his friends and invited them backstage to witness him groping her.

According to Rossetter's column, in the beginning of her professional relationship with Hoffman, he would invite her to a hotel room and ask her to give him a back rub. On other occasions, he allegedly summoned her into a dressing room and asked her to give him a foot rub while his dresser stood guard outside.

In photos, he would grab her breast for a split second before the camera snapped a picture, Rossetter added. The Hollywood Reporter published one photo provided by her appearing to show that.

Representatives for Hoffman declined to comment to The Hollywood Reporter. According to the entertainment outlet, the actor's attorneys gave it names of several other people who worked on "Death of a Salesman," but they "did not recall witnessing any of the conduct described by Rossetter and questioned her account."

Variety on Dec. 14 also published accounts from a woman named Melissa Kester who said Hoffman sexually assaulted her while recording audio for the 1987 film "Flash" and another unidentified woman working on the same movie who said the actor assaulted her in a car. A third woman, Cori Thomas, who said she was a classmate of Hoffman's daughter, told Variety she was 16 in 1980 when he exposed himself to her.

In a letter to Variety's owner, Hoffman's attorney called these latest accusations against him "defamatory falsehoods."

Jeremy Piven

Number of accusers: Multiple

Jeremy Piven attends the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 17, 2017. Mike Blake / Reuters

Twitter, actress and reality television star Ariane Bellamar accused "Entourage" actor Jeremy Piven of groping her once on set, and again at the Playboy Mansion.

Bellamar claims that Piven grabbed her breasts without her consent after cornering her in his trailer on the "Entourage" set. Addressing the actor directly, Bellamar tweeted, "I tried to leave; you grabbed me by the ass, looked at yourself in the mirror [and] said what a 'beautiful couple' we made. It is unclear whether she was referring to the set of the "Entourage" television series or its movie sequel.

Days later, actress Cassidy Freeman said in an Instagram post that Piven of making unwanted sexual advances toward her.

"I unequivocally deny the appalling allegations being peddled about me. It did not happen," Piven said in a statement. "It takes a great deal of courage for victims to come forward with their histories, and my hope is that the allegations about me that didn't happen, do not detract from stories that should be heard."

About a week later, Tiffany Bacon Scourby told People that Piven exposed himself, rubbed his genitals against her and ejaculated on her clothing in October 2003 in New York City. She said she told a longtime friend immediately after the alleged incident and People said the friend corroborated the allegation.

Piven did not immediately return a request for comment about Scourby's allegation.

Michael Oreskes

Number of accusers: 8

Former Associated Press Vice President and Senior Managing Editor Mike Oreskes in 2015. Chuck Zoellner / AP file

NPR news chief Michael Oreskes was ousted from his post on Nov. 1 after two women alleged he suddenly kissed them while discussing job prospects when he was The New York Times’ Washington bureau chief in the 1990s.

Since the original allegations were made public, 5 women at NPR have filed a formal harassment complaint against Oreskes, according to the Washington Post, bringing the number of accusers up to eight. The Post reported that the latest allegations occurred during the past three years.

Oreskes, who was placed on leave by NPR after The Post’s report, said he was deeply sorry to the people he hurt.

"My behavior was wrong and inexcusable, and I accept full responsibility," he said.

Kevin Spacey

Number of accusers: Multiple

Kevin Spacey attends the Build Series to discuss his new play "Clarence Darrow" on May 24, 2017 in New York. Daniel Zuchnik / WireImage via Getty Images file

Broadway veteran Anthony Rapp accused "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey of climbing on top of him in a sexual manner when he was 14 years old and Spacey was 26 or 27 at a party in Spacey's New York apartment.

"I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago," Spacey wrote in a statement on Twitter. "But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years."

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos also accused Spacey of inappropriate touching during an encounter at the Old Vic theater in London, where Spacey served as artistic director from 2004 until 2015.

Spacey was later accused by eight people who currently or previously worked on the "House of Cards" set of creating a "toxic" work environment, CNN reported. Among those eight unnamed accusers, some also claimed the actor sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Harry Dreyfuss, an actor and son of Oscar winner Richard Dreyfuss, has accused Spacey of groping him in 2008. The younger Dreyfuss claimed in a Buzzfeed article that Spacey "put his hand on his thigh and later groped his crotch when Dreyfuss was 18. Spacey "absolutely denies the allegations" from Dreyfuss, his lawyer Bryan Freedman told Buzzfeed.

Heather Unruh, a former television anchor, told reporters that Spacey "bought her then 18-year-old son "drink after drink after drink" at a crowded restaurant in Nantucket, Massachusetts, in July 2016, and then "snuck his hand inside my son's pants and grabbed his genitals."

NBC News has not verified the allegations. Spacey's attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

Earlier, his representatives said in a statement that "Kevin Spacey is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment."

Mark Halperin

Number of accusers: 12

In this Aug. 11, 2016 file photo, author and producer Mark Halperin appears at the Showtime Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. Richard Shotwell / AP

NBC News ended its relationship with senior political analyst Mark Halperin after multiple reports surfaced that he sexually harassed at least a dozen women while serving as political director for ABC News.

"I am profoundly sorry for the pain and anguish I have caused by my past actions," Halperin said in a statement on Twitter. "I apologize sincerely to the women I treated." 

erin, a veteran political journalist with multiple book deals and projects, has also seen HBO, Showtime and Penguin Press have ended their associations with him.

George H.W. Bush

Number of accusers: 7

Former President George H.W. Bush poses for a photo with the cast of AMC's series TURN on March 29, 2014 in Houston. Aaron M. Sprecher / Invision for AMC

Seven women from separate incidents have come forward to accuse former President George H.W. Bush of touching them from behind while they posed beside him for photos. Some said he also told them a dirty joke.

Television actress Heather Lind was first to accuse the former president, and said in a now-deleted Instagram post that Bush inappropriately touched her during a 2014 screening of her AMC series, "TURN: Washington's Spies," in Houston. Lind appears alongside Bush, who's seated in a wheelchair, while his wife, former First Lady Barbara Bush, was also present.

"At age 93, President Bush has been confined to a wheelchair for roughly five years, so his arm falls on the lower waist of people with whom he takes pictures," Bush spokesman Jim McGrath said in a statement. "To try to put people at ease, the president routinely tells the same joke — and on occasion, he has patted women's rears in what he intended to be a good-natured joke."

New York actress Jordana Grodnick also accused the former president of having inappropriately touched her in 2016. Author Christina Baker Kline said the incident involving Bush occurred in 2014, while Amanda Staples, a Republican candidate for Maine's Senate, said the touching occurred in 2006 and retired journalist Liz Allen said her incident happened in 2004.

A woman named Roslyn Corrigan told TIME that she was 16 in 2003 when Bush touched her from behind during a photo op. McGrath said in response that Bush "does not have it in his heart to knowingly cause anyone harm or distress."

In the latest accusation, a Michigan woman told CNN that Bush grabbed her during a photo-op in April 1992, while he was in office. "We got closer together for a family photo and it was like, 'Holy crap!' It was like a gentle squeeze," the unidentified woman told CNN.

Terry Richardson

A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

**Number of accusers:** Multiple

Celebrity photographer Terry Richardson was banned from working with Condé Nast — the publisher of glossy magazines like Vogue, Glamour, GQ and Vanity Fair — after allegations surfaced of sexual misconduct during photo shoots.

"[Richardson] is an artist who has been known for his sexually explicit work so many of his professional interactions with subjects were sexual and explicit in nature, but all of the subjects of his work participated consensually," a representative for Richardson said in a statement to The New York Times.

**Leon Wieseltier**

**Number of accusers:** Multiple


"For my offenses against some of my colleagues in the past I offer a shaken apology and ask for their forgiveness," Wieseltier told The Times in an email. "The women with whom I worked are smart and good people. I am ashamed to know that I made any of them feel demeaned and disrespected. I assure them I will not waste this reckoning."

**James Toback**

**Number of accusers:** At least 238
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

James Toback attends the New York premiere of the HBO documentary film "Night Will Fall" on Jan. 15, 2015 in New York City. Stephen Lovekin / Getty Images for HBO

More than 200 additional women contacted The Los Angeles Times in response to its initial investigation, in which 38 women described similar instances of sexual harassment from veteran Hollywood writer and director James Toback.

Toback has written or directed more than a dozen films, including "Tyson," "The Pick-Up Artist" and "Bugsy," for which he received an Oscar nomination.

"Toback denied the allegations to The Times, saying that he had either never met his accusers or only did "for five minutes and have no recollection" of them. He also "noted it would have been "biologically impossible" for him to engage in the behavior the women described throughout the last 22 years, citing diabetes and a heart condition requiring medication.

**John Besh**

**Number of accusers:** Multiple

Celebrity chef John Besh, a prominent fixture of the New Orleans culinary scene, stepped down from the company he co-founded after more than two dozen current and former members of the restaurant group alleged they were sexually harassed by various employees, including Besh, while working for the company.

Twenty-five women described a hostile work environment where female employees faced unwanted advances, sexually inappropriate comments and, in some cases, superiors attempting to leverage their authority in return for sex, according to an investigation by NBC News and The Times-Picayune. The accusers also said that women who complained about being harassed were punished or ignored.

Besh has been credited with helping to make New Orleans a culinary destination after Hurricane Katrina. He said in a statement that he had a "consensual relationship" with a member of his team two years ago.

"Since then I have been seeking to rebuild my marriage and come to terms with my reckless actions given the profound love I have for my wife, my boys and my Catholic faith," he said in the statement. "I also regret any harm this may have caused to my second family at the restaurant group, and sincerely apologize to anyone past and present who has worked for me who found my behavior as unacceptable as I do."

**Bob Weinstein**

**Number of accusers:** 1


10-187
Five days after blasting his brother, Harvey Weinstein, as a “very sick man” and a “world class liar,” Bob Weinstein was accused of making repeated romantic advances to a showrunner and refusing to take no for an answer. It was first reported by Variety.

\'manda Segel, an executive producer of "The Mist," a Weinstein Co. drama that aired on Spike TV, said Bob Weinstein began harassing her in the summer of 2016 by repeatedly asking her to join him for private dinners.

The harassment allegedly occurred on and off for about three months, until Segel’s lawyer informed Weinstein Co. executives that she would leave the show if Bob Weinstein continued to contact her for personal matters.

“Variety’s story about Bob Weinstein is riddled with false and misleading assertions by Ms. Segel and we have the emails to prove it,” Bert Fields, Bob Weinstein’s lawyer, said in part, adding: “There is no way in the world that Bob Weinstein is guilty of sexual harassment.”

**Oliver Stone**

**Number of accusers: 1**

Director Oliver Stone attends the premiere of the film "Snowden" in Manhattan, New York, U.S., Sept. 13.ANDREW KELLY / Reuters

Actress and former Playboy model Carrie Stevens accused writer and director Oliver Stone of groping her at a party during the 1990s in a tweet responding to Stone’s remarks about the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

“He was really cocky, had this big grin on his face like he was going to get away with something,” Stevens later told The New York Daily News, adding:

Stone has not responded publicly to Stevens’ allegation, but Stone’s initial response to the sexual misconduct accusations against Harvey Weinstein also caused controversy.

“It’s not easy what he’s going through,” Stone said. “I’m a believer that you wait until this thing gets to trial. I believe a man shouldn’t be condemned by a vigilante system.”

**Roy Price**

**Number of accusers: 1**
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Roy Price, Director of Amazon Studios, poses during Amazon’s premiere screening of the TV series “Transparent” at the Ace Hotel on September 15, 2014 in downtown Los Angeles. Kevork Djansezian / Reuters file

Roy Price, the Amazon Studios chief, resigned from his job after reports surfaced of his alleged sexual misconduct toward an Amazon TV producer, CNBC reported.

“The Man in the High Castle” producer Isa Hackett said she and Price had been promoting the show in 2015 at Comic-Con in San Diego when they wound up in a taxi together with another former Amazon executive, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“We take seriously any questions about the conduct of our employees,” an Amazon spokesperson said in a statement to The Hollywood Reporter. “We encourage all employees to raise any concerns and we make it a priority to investigate and address them. Accordingly, we looked closely at this specific concern and addressed it urgently with those involved.”

A spokesperson for Price declined to comment to The Hollywood Reporter.

Ben Affleck

Number of accusers: 2


Hours after actor Ben Affleck released a statement condemning Harvey Weinstein’s alleged sexual misconduct, Affleck was accused of groping Hilary Burton, an actress and former host of MTV’s “Total Request Live,” in the early 2000s.

“[I] was a kid,” Burton, now 35, said on Twitter. In a follow-up post, she included a video showing the uncensored “TRL” cold open in which she says, in apparent reference to Affleck, “He comes over and tweaks my left boob.”

“[I] acted inappropriately toward Ms. Burton and I sincerely apologize,” Affleck said on Twitter.

Makeup artist Annamarie Tendler also accused Affleck of inappropriately grabbing her during a 2014 party. “I would also love to get an apology from Ben Affleck who grabbed my ass at a Golden Globes party in 2014,” she said on Twitter, further describing the incident in follow-up posts.

Affleck said The Associated Press on Nov. 5 that he is “looking at my own behavior and addressing that and making sure I’m part of the solution.”

His spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nelly

Number of accusers: At least 3


25/29

10-189
As a civil lawsuit moves forward against the rapper Nelly for sexual assault and defamation, two more accusers have come forward against the entertainer, offering testimonies for the prosecution.

Nelly, 41, denies the allegations, saying on Twitter, "I am completely innocent. I am confident that once the facts are looked at, it will be very clear that I am the victim of a false allegation."

The civil lawsuit is based on a 911 call from Monique Greene, 21, who claimed she was raped on the rapper's tour bus near Seattle. Nelly was detained by police shortly after, but Greene has dropped criminal charges.

he allegations describe Nelly forcing one unnamed woman to perform fellatio, and put his hand up another unnamed woman's dress without consent.

Roman Polanski

Number of accusers: 5

Roman Polanski, director and admitted child rapist who fled his sentencing in 1978, has had a total of five women come forward against him accusing him of statutory rape.

The ages of the women range from 10 to 16 at the time when they were raped, and their accusation come at a time when the then-13-year-old sexual assault victim who he drugged and raped is still fighting to sentence and capture Polanski.

Samantha Geimer, 55, asked the Los Angeles Superior Court to dismiss the case or sentence Polanski to the time served in prison during a court-ordered evaluation since the process has lasted over 40 years.

Polanski, 84, has continued to win awards for his films in France, but was expelled in May from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

He has openly spoken on his attraction to young girls and teenagers, claiming proudly in one 1979 interview that wanting to have sex with young girls was something everyone wanted to do, and calls the MeToo movement "hysterical."

Stephen Wynn

Number of accusers: Unclear

Stephen Wynn was known best for his commanding presence in Las Vegas as a distinguished casino and hotel business, but is now added to the list of men under fire for past sexual misconduct allegations.

The accusations against Wynn, 76, in the Wall Street Journal report go back decades, including stories of a manicurist, an artistic director and others who recall Wynn forcing employees to perform sexual acts on him. The Journal interviewed 150 current and former employees of Wynn.


26/29

10-190
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

The maniactrist was pressured to disrobe, and have sex with him on the massage table. After filing a human resources report and confiding with her coworkers, Wynn paid her a $7.5 million settlement, but denied the allegations. The Journal says this story is one of dozens.

Wynn has stepped down as the Republican National Committee's finance chairman, and has also resigned from his post as CEO of Wynn Resorts.

The report also sent Wynn Resorts shares plummeting and opened an investigation from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on his casino in Boston prepared to open next year.

Robert "R." Kelly

Number of accusers: Multiple

R. Kelly performs at the BET Awards Los Angeles on June 30, 2013. Frank Micelotta / Invision - AP file

R&B superstar R. Kelly has been accused of abuse, manipulation and sexual misconduct for almost 20 years, but two women have recently spoken out in the #MeToo era against what parents of these women have called a "cult."

Kelly has been accused by multiple women and their families of recent acts of sexual coercion and physical abuse, following repeated reports in the past of relationships with underage women and of producing child pornography.

Kitti Jones and Asian McGhee recalled some of the controlling tactics Kelly used on "Today": "I had to wear sweatpants, I had to stand up when he would walk in a room," said Jones.

Jerhonda Pace came forward in late August last year for an investigative series by Buzzfeed into allegations against Kelly. She received a settlement deal from Kelly, requiring a non-disclosure agreement on his relationship with the then-16-year-old fan.

His management vehemently denies the recent allegations, telling NBC News that the accusations are "unjust and off-target."

Eric Schneiderman

Number of accusers: 4

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman speaks at a news conference to announce the filing of a multi-state lawsuit to protect DACA recipients on Sept. 6, 2017 in New York City. Drew Angerer / Getty Images file

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman resigned from his position following an incendiary report from The New Yorker detailed accounts from four women who accused Schneiderman of nonconsensual, physical abuse.

Schneiderman has been a prominent political voice for the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, who led the charge in filing a civil rights lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein. Fellow politicians and advocates expressed shock and disgust when the allegations surfaced, sparking an investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

Schneiderman denies all allegations.

A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

"In the last several hours, serious allegations, which I strongly contest, have been made against me," read a statement from Schneiderman. "While these allegations are unrelated to my professional conduct or the operations of the office, they will effectively prevent me from leading the office's work at this critical time."

Two of the women, Michelle Manning Barish and Tanya Selvaratnam, who openly detailed their experiences of abuse described being "slapped hard across the ear and face," being choked, and spit on.

"This is a man who has staked his entire career, his personal narrative, on being a champion for women publicly," Selvaratnam told the New Yorker. "But he abuses them privately. He needs to be called out."

Harvey Weinstein

Number of accusers: More than 80

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was fired from the studio he co-founded after a wave of employees and actresses, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, alleged sexual harassment and assault in explosive back-to-back reports in The New York Times and The New Yorker.

Asia Argento, an Italian actress who told The New Yorker she was sexually assaulted by Weinstein in 1997, tweeted a list of names of more than 80 women who had allegedly been sexually harassed, assaulted, raped or molested by Weinstein dating back to the late 1970s. Argento said she compiled the list with help from other Weinstein accusers.

Actress Paz de la Huerta accused the disgraced mogul of raping her in 2010. Vanity Fair reported.

Weinstein has denied all allegations that he engaged in non-consensual sex with women, and no criminal charges have been brought against him. "Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein," Weinstein's spokeswoman, Sallie Hofmeister, said in a statement.

In a Dec. 13 op-ed in The New York Times, actress Salma Hayek accused Weinstein of threatening to shut down production of her movie, "Frida," unless she agreed to do a sex scene with another woman. Hayek also alleged Weinstein pursued her, made sexually suggestive and inappropriate comments and used his position to intimidate her and even threaten her life.

A spokesperson denied her claims and said the allegations "are not accurate and others who witnessed the events have a different account of what transpired."

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Louis CK accused of sexual misconduct by five women

Updated Fri 10 Nov 2017, 10:10pm

Comedian Louis CK has been accused of sexual misconduct toward several women, including masturbating in front of them and over the phone, according to a report in The New York Times.

Five women — including comedians Dana Min Goodman, Abby Schachner, Julia Wolov and Rebecca Corry — allege the Emmy-winning star of FX's Louie either pleased himself in front of them, asked to masturbate in front of them or did so over the phone.

A publicist for CK did not immediately respond to comment while another publicist told the Times the comedian would not respond to their reporting.

In anticipation of the report, the New York premiere of CK's controversial new film I Love You, Daddy was cancelled on Thursday night and CK's scheduled Friday appearance on The Late Show With Stephen Colbert has also been scrapped.

CK is among the latest Hollywood figures to be accused of misconduct in a wave that began when dozens of sexual harassment allegations were reported last month against film mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Rebecca Corry alleges the comedian, while she was working on a TV pilot in 2005, asked "if we could go to my dressing room so he could masturbate in front of me'.

She declined "and he told me he had issues'.

The show's executive producers, Courteney Cox and David Arquette, confirmed Corry's account to the Times.

Cindy Guagenti, Arquette's representative, told The AP her client had nothing more to add.

Is Hollywood draining the swamp?

There's a generation of Hollywood powerbrokers who've acted like it's still the Stone Age, and as Cameron William writes, it looks like they're no longer going to get away with it.

Take a look at the comments to see what our readers had to say on the allegations against Louis CK.

Allegations have long dogged Louis CK

Known for his candid, warts-and-all personal humour, which often includes bodily fluids and sex, CK grew up outside Boston and performed stand-up sets in New York before eventually landing a writing gig on Conan O'Brien's Late Night and David Letterman's Late Show.

He went on to become the head writer of The Dana Carvey Show from 1995-96 and contributed to the animated TV Funhouse vignettes on Saturday Night Live.

He was a writer on The Chris Rock Show and voiced patients on the Comedy Central's Dr Katz, Professional Therapist.

He also wrote and directed the film Pootie Tang with Rock, an infamous bomb.

What is the #MeToo campaign?
His recent TV series are Baskets, Horace and Pete and Better Things.

His new film, I Love You, Daddy, had its premiere this summer at the Toronto International Film Festival.

CK, who co-starred in Woody Allen’s Blue Jasmine, said he and co-writer Vernon Chatman wanted to make a movie about beloved artists who are trailed by murmurs of scandal.

Some also see the black-and-white 35mm film as CK’s response to his own controversies.

Allegations of questionable sexual behaviour have long dogged CK.

Roseanne Barr said there are “multiple accusations”, while fellow comedian Tig Notaro advised CK to “handle” the rumours.

In the film, CK plays a successful TV producer whose 17-year-old daughter begins a relationship with an older director. It spawns a kind of crisis for CK’s character, who has his own issues with how he treats women.

AP

Louis C.K.: 'These stories are true'

By Chloe Melas, CNN

Updated 0254 GMT (1054 HKT) November 11, 2017

Comedian Louis C.K. has said the sexual misconduct allegations levied against him are true.

He apologized Friday after a bombshell report by the New York Times the day before cited five women who said the comedian engaged in sexual misconduct, including masturbating in front of them.

"These stories are true. At the time, I said to myself that what I did was okay because I never showed a woman my dick without asking first, which is also true," he wrote. "But what I learned later in life, too late, is that when you have power over another person, asking them to look at your dick isn't a question. It's a predicament for them. The power I had over these women is that they admired me. And I wielded that power irresponsibly."

Louis C.K. went on to say that he is "remorseful" and has "tried to learn" from his irresponsible behavior.

"There is nothing about this that I forgive myself for. And I have to reconcile it with who I am. Which is nothing compared to the task I left them with ... The hardest regret to live with is what you've done to hurt someone else," the statement concluded.

He also apologized to the FX network, The Orchard production studio, and the cast and crew of his film, "I Love You, Daddy."

The release of the movie, starring, written and directed by Louis C.K., has been put on hold.

HBO announced on Thursday that Louis C.K. will not be appearing in the upcoming "Night of Too Many Stars: America Unites for Autism Programs."

FX said in a statement that they are "very troubled" by the allegations against the comedian. Louis C.K. is the executive producer on several shows for the network, including "Better Things," "Baskets" and "Louie."

Additionally, Netflix announced Friday it would no longer move forward with plans for another stand up special with the comedian. Also on Friday, publicist Lewis Kay announced that he no longer represents Louis C.K.

"I've brought pain to my family, my friends, my children and their mother," Louis C.K. wrote. "I have spent my long and lucky career talking and saying anything I want. I will now step back and take a long time to listen."
Swift builds on stellar Reputation

KATY MCCABE

TAYLOR Swift is a master marketer as an artist as well as a cultural architect, depending on your level of fandom. As her sixth album Reputation catapulted straight to No. 1 in the minutes after its release yesterday, there was no question about the loyalty of theSwifties. They had the prepared way for her return with pre-orders of more than 400,000 copies in the US alone, doubling the number ordered for 2014's 1989.

New Star Wars trilogy

NEW YORK: The Walt Disney Co. announced yesterday that Brian Johnson, the former frontman of the rock band AC/DC, will direct the new trilogy for the Star Wars universe, greatly expanding the director's universe and the ever-expanding space saga created by George Lucas.

The announcement, made by Disney chief Bob Iger on a call with investment analysts, constituted the most ambitious new entry into the Star Wars galaxy, moving well beyond the original nine-film framework imagined by Lucas. Disney also announced a live-action Star Wars series that will debut on its streaming service, which is set to launch in 2019.

Oldman gets married again

LOS ANGELES: Gary Oldman has married for the fifth time. The 59-year-old British actor, who co-starred in the recent crime thriller “The Seventh Son,” has tied the knot for five times, and the wedding included several close friends.

A judge finalized Oldman's divorce from his fourth wife two years ago, according to court records.

The show's executive producers, Courtney Cox and David Arquette, confirmed that Courteney was a bridesmaid in the ceremony. Courteney’s representative confirmed the couple’s statement.

In anticipation of the release of the New York premiere of the new Star Wars film, a performance by the cast of the new film "The Last Jedi" was to be held on Wednesday, according to the Times, which also confirmed the couple's statement.

The small distribution company handling the release of the film, "Stillwater" and "The Last Jedi," said in a statement that the exhibition was "not for the occasion, but for the occasion." A spokesperson for the company confirmed that the exhibitor would not be able to remove the film and that the film would not be available in the US.

"Stillwater" is among the latest Hollywood films to be removed from exhibition in the US, with the cinema chain New York to be the last exhibitor to feature the film, according to a spokesperson for the company.

The company also said it would no longer be able to offer the film "This Is Us" to the public, with its screening in the coming months.

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Louis CK, Roy Moore and a glimpse into how #MeToo might end

Jessica Valenti

As #MeToo outs more men, we will see a doubling down on misogynist norms and excuses for male violence

Sat 11 Nov 2017 00.13 AEDT

Since the #MeToo movement took off, with thousands of women sharing their stories and dozens of powerful men being outed as abusers and harassers, one thought has dominated my mind: how will this end? In the wake of numerous new allegations against powerful men in culture and politics, I think I have the answer.

All moments of feminist progress are followed by intense backlash, and this swell of accusations - and the seeming tipping point of the culture believing women - will be no different. Too many men are losing their jobs, too many reputations tarnished. A misogynist culture won't allow a reckoning this successful to continue for long.

But #MeToo won't be smacked down all at once, it will be a slow chipping away of our confidence in women's stories and the belief that the behavior of abusers is really that bad.
We caught a glimpse of this on Wednesday, after The New York Times broke their long-awaited expose on comedian Louis CK and The Washington Post ran a story alleging that Roy Moore - the Republican Senate candidate in Alabama - preyed teen girls, one who was 14 years old at the time.

While the vast majority of reactions to these latest accusations was condemnation, we also saw a glimmer of doubt. Mitch McConnell said that Moore should pull from the Senate race “if these allegations are true,” but didn’t elaborate on why multiple women going on the record wasn’t proof enough of the truth.

Other Republican officials defended Moore more explicitly: Alabama Marion County Republican chair David Hall told one reporter: “I don’t really see the relevance of it. He was 32. She was supposedly 14. She’s not saying that anything happened other than they kissed.” (In truth, the woman alleged Moore tried to get her to fondle his genitals.)

Sean Hannity claimed that the alleged encounter was “consensual” (14-year-olds cannot consent to sexual activity with adults). And conservative news site Breitbart insinuated that Moore’s predation was acceptable because he was “romantic” and “read poetry” to one child.

He responses to CK have been less explicitly a defense, but more insidious - sly questioning about whether the comedian’s alleged behavior (masturbating in front of women without consent) was illegal or really all that terrible.

John Podhoretz, columnist at the New York Post and contributing editor at the Weekly Standard tweeted, “What did [CK] do either as a criminal or actionable matter that merits this expose exactly aside from being unspeakably disgusting?”

I’ve heard male friends express relief that CK wasn’t accused of rape; as if on the spectrum of harassment and assault, what he did wasn’t as horrific as other kinds of assault. As one man responded to Buzzfeed’s culture reporter Anne Helen-Petersen, “I thought this was going to be career ending. Some women really need to stop wasting people’s time.”

And on a Reddit forum dedicated to the comedian, one fan wrote, “it’s not Cosby or Weinstein or Kevin Spacey behavior...it sounds like was lonely and desperate.”

Even CK himself doesn’t seem to understand the seriousness of what he allegedly did. According to one of his accusers, CK apologized for asking to masturbate in front of her, sayi. “I used to misread people back then” - as if the behavior was an ill-fated come-on rather than abuse.

Exposing yourself to women and masturbating without their consent is a form of a sexual harassment and abuse - it’s meant to intimidate and to humiliate. Alexandra Katehakis, the clinical director of the Center for Healthy Sex, told The Cut: “A man who does this kind of thing likes to see a woman feel terror and beg him to stop...There’s a sadism and a cruelty to it.”

I suspect in the days to come, we will hear CK described again and again as pathetic rather than predatory. That we will hear about how things were “different” years ago when Moore allegedly attempted to have sex with minors.

As #MeToo outs more men, we will see a doubling down on misogynist norms and excuses for male violence. I’m fairly certain that’s why we’re seeing so many women come out with their stories all at once now - many of them know that a few weeks from now, they may not be believed.
We’re getting a glimpse of how sexism could undo the progress of the last few months, and how women could suffer because of it. The backlash will snowball just quickly as the accusations against men have. Best we prepare for the storm.

Sign up for Jessica Valenti’s weekly newsletter on feminism and sexism

Since you’re here ...

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CK says actions no joke

COMEDIAN Louis CK has admitted sexual misconduct allegations made against him by several female comics are true, declaring he is "remorseful of his actions".

The stand-up comic (pictured) released a lengthy statement a day after multiple women came forward alleging he had masturbated in front of them.

With Hollywood in damage control after a string of revelations involving movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, star actors Kevin Spacey and several other big names, the reaction to the allegations against Louis CK was swift.

Internet video streaming service Netflix declared it had cancelled production of a second stand-up special by the comedian, commissioned after the success of the first.

FX Networks, home to the show Louie, said it was investigating the allegations, while the production company behind the comedian's new movie Love You, Daddy has decided not to release the film.

"These stories are true," Louis CK said in a statement. "At the time, I said to myself that what I did was OK because I never showed a woman my dick without asking first, which is also true. But what I learned later in life, too late, is that when you have power over another person, asking them to look at your dick isn't a question. It's a precondition for them. The power I had on these women is that they admired me. And I wielded that power irresponsibly. I have been remorseful of my actions. And I've tried to learn from them. And now from them."

He went on to say he was aware of the impact his actions had on the women.

"I learned yesterday the extent to which I left those women who admired me feeling badly about themselves and cautious around other men," he said.

No true-blue bromance but APEC still handy

AS FAR as official APEC outfits go, it’s pretty tame.

Dressed in respectable dark blue silk button-down shirts, US President Donald Trump and Russian’s Vladimir Putin enjoyed a brief handshake before the official "family photo" was taken at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit in Vietnam.

The two leaders had been expected to hold a formal meeting on the sidelines of the summit but the White House said it would not happen.

Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders blamed scheduling conflicts, while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the pair would not meet unless they had something substantive to discuss.

Since 1994, the summit has included a group photo in local attire as a display of cooperation among leaders.

It was a departure for Mr Trump, who is rarely seen in anything but a suit and tie or a golf shirt.

Previous notable APEC shirts have included ponchos in Peru, batik shirts in Malaysia and an ever-present called a durumugi in South Korea.

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James Woods Named by Actress Elizabeth Perkins at #MeToo Rally

Perkins brandished a sign with Woods' name on it followed by the #MeToo at a rally. Woods was previously accused by actress Amber Tamblyn of asking her out at 16.

Trump Believes There's a 'Conspiracy' to Torpedo Kavanaugh

DA Reveals How Border Patrol 'Serial Killer' Executed Women

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Was Council of Nicaea Church Just Found

Woods "MeToo" as she joined a Los Angeles march designed to raise awareness of sexual assault and sexual harassment, and to demonstrate solidarity with the victims.

It is not clear if Perkins is accusing Woods of sexual misconduct.

Perkins, best known in recent years for her role in the Showtime series Weeds, was among several hundred people who participated Sunday morning in the Take Back the Workplace and #MeToo Survivors march and rally in Hollywood.

Perkins marched at the front alongside Fox 11 News reporter Lauren Sivan, who alleges she was sexually harassed by disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein at a New York City restaurant.

Weeds star Elizabeth Perkins holds sign naming actor James Woods as she joins hundreds of women at the #MeToo ...

It is not the first time Woods has been publicly named and shamed in recent months.

The actress Amber Tamblyn, 34, previously accused Woods of attempting to pick her up in a bar when she was 16.

Tamblyn's accusations were made before the Harvey Weinstein scandal broke.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants star took to Twitter on Sept. 11 to allege that the now-70-year-old actor James Woods had “tried to pick up” her and a friend, and that he invited them to Las Vegas, all when she was 16.

Tamblyn made the allegation, which the Casino actor called “lies,” after Woods attacked the Luca Guadagnino-helmed festival hit film, Call Me by Your Name, a gay romantic drama starring Armie Hammer as a 24-year-old graduate student who falls in love with his professor’s 17-year-old son, played by Timothée Chalamet.

Woods, who has in recent years developed a reputation as a far-right Twitter troll, had reposted a critical tweet of the film, writing, “As they quietly
The incendiary hashtag allegedly refers to the North American Man/Boy Love Association, a pedophilia advocacy organization. The age of consent in Italy, where the film is set, is 16 if the older party exerts some form of influence over the other, and thus the relationship in the film is legal.

Woods was then criticized for having had relationships with younger women, at which point Tamblyn joined in, saying: "James Woods tried to pick me and my friend up at a restaurant once. He wanted to take us to Vegas. 'I'm 16' I said. 'Even better' he said," Tamblyn tweeted.

Woods denounced Tamblyn's tweet as a lie, to which Tamblyn responded with a screenshot of a text in which she asked a friend if she remembered the event.

In an open letter to Woods published by Teen Vogue, Tamblyn wrote:

"At one point you suggested we should all go to Las Vegas together. 'It's such a great place, have you ever been?' You tried to make it sound innocent. This is something predatory men like to do, I've noticed. Make it sound innocent. Just a dollop of insinuation. Just a hair of
much fun, I promise you.
Nothing has to happen, we
will just have a good time
together.' I told you my
age, kindly and with no
judgment or aggression. I
told you my age because I
thought you would be
immediately horrified and
take back your offer. You
laughed and said, 'Even
better. We'll have so much
fun, I promise.'"

"The saddest part of this
story doesn't even concern
me but concerns the
universal woman's story.
The nation's harmful
narrative of disbelieving
women first, above all else.
Asking them to first
corroborate or first give
proof or first make sure
we're not misremembering
or first consider the
consequences of speaking
out or first let men give
their side or first just let
your sanity come last."

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Trump Believes There Is a ‘Conspiracy’ to Torpedo the Kavanaugh Nomination

The president and his team are not deterred by the sexual assault allegations being made against their Supreme Court nominee. If anything, their back is up even more.

Asawin Suebsaeng, Gideon Resnick, Sam Stein
09.16.18 9:16 PM ET

In the hours after a 51-year-old California professor came forward to publicly allege that Judge Brett Kavanaugh tried to sexually assault her while they were in high school, the White House signaled no interest in slowing Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.

Instead, the president’s team and his allies on and off the Hill began to mount a vigorous defense against the accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, questioning why she had identified

alleged antics as almost commonplace in nature.

A senior White House official told The Daily Beast that, as of Sunday evening, things are still “full steam ahead” for Kavanaugh. On Friday afternoon, a different White House official confirmed that President Trump had been made aware of the earlier reports involving the Kavanaugh sexual misconduct allegation—reports that did not name the accuser.

The president has told those close to him in recent days that he believes there is a “conspiracy” or organized effort by Democrats to smear Kavanaugh and try to derail the nomination of a “good man.” One Trump confidant said on Sunday that they “can’t imagine that” Ford coming forward will change the president’s position, and that it will far more likely cause Trump to dig in and attack those going after Kavanaugh.

The response from Team Trump rang all too familiar for women who have come forward in the past to allege that they had been targeted by prominent male officials. And for veterans of Clarence Thomas’ nomination for the Supreme Court seat some three decades ago.
It is unknown exactly which lessons have been learned from that episode—and what specific lessons they are—could very well determine Kavanaugh’s fate in the coming days.

While Trump’s team quickly rushed to his defense, other Republicans signaled that they wanted to pump the breaks.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said that he would be open to Ford providing information to the committee, so long as it was done “immediately, so the process can continue as scheduled.” Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), another member of the committee, went a step further saying “we can’t vote until we hear more” from Ford and that he was “not comfortable voting yes” until they did.

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A spokesman for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, initially claimed that what was “disturbing” about the story was that it was just surfacing now after 35 years. The spokesman later
working to set up calls with Kavanaugh and Ford ahead of the scheduled vote.

The likelihood of a protracted and ugly political fight over a crucial Supreme Court seat now hangs heavily over Washington D.C. For days, it had been simmering near the surface, with rumors circulating that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) was sitting on a letter from a woman accusing Kavanaugh of a dark episode in his past. Feinstein declined to publish the letter (let alone acknowledge its existence) because, as she later said, she'd been instructed by its author to not reveal her identity. In the middle of the week, The Intercept reported the letter's existence. On Friday, The New Yorker detailed the episode covered in the letter.

On Sunday, Ford finally told her story to The Washington Post. In the piece, she claimed that during high school she was taken into a room with Kavanaugh and a friend, and that Kavanaugh pinned her down, groped her and tried "to pull off her one-piece bathing suit and the clothing she wore over it." She said she tried to scream during the alleged incident, but Kavanaugh put his hand over her
Ford initially came forward anonymously to the Post in July, but declined to be identified until now because, as she explained: "Why suffer through the annihilation if it’s not going to matter?" Kavanaugh has "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegations in the Post story.

While Democrats quickly demanded that the Senate Judiciary Committee postpone its vote on the Kavanaugh confirmation, conservatives saw a conspicuously-timed news story. And it wasn’t just die-hard Trump supporters seeing nefarious undertones behind Ford coming forward, but gray-bearded establishment types as well.

Ralph Reed, founder of the Faith and Freedom Coalition told The Daily Beast, that the allegations were "spurious" and "false" and "transparency a desperate, last-minute attempt by Senate Democrats to delay the confirmation of one of the most eminently qualified Supreme Court nominees in modern history." He did not specify how he determined they were false (Ford reportedly passed a polygraph test and recounted the incident—though without naming
she and her husband were seeing in 2012).

Ed Rollins, current co-chairman of the pro-Trump Great America PAC said that he completely agreed with the White House’s strategy to proceed as normal on the nomination, telling The Daily Beast: “He is eminently qualified! They need to get him confirmed now.”

Remarking on Flake’s reaction to the news, Rollins said, “Flake will do anything to undo the Trump agenda. If this is the new standard, no one will ever want or be able to serve in government or on the judiciary.” Flake voted for Trump’s tax cut bill, the president’s signature legislative achievement.

Others, like former Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), a top Trump ally, insisted that Ford’s story wasn’t credible because of the timing of her decision to finally come forward. But, even if the accusations were true, Kingston added, it was of questionable significance.

“Let’s step back and think about our own perfect behavior when we were in high school,” Kingston told The Daily Beast. “I think there have been enough people from both parties, although far more liberals than
James Woods Named by Actress Elizabeth Perkins at #MeToo Rally

received such nugacious...

Not many, however, have been accused of things that they may have done in high school—but something that was bottled up until now. Let's face it, Democrats would do anything possible to derail a Trump nomination.

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The take on Takei

Taking a principled stand against perceived injustice is the easiest thing in the world — if you’re young and nothing much is at stake. But when it becomes more difficult is when there’s some form of personal investment involved.

Hollywood ran silent for decades on Harvey Weinstein’s alleged sexual assaults, mainly because Weinstein was in a position to make or break careers. It didn’t hurt that Weinstein was also on the approved party list politically, donating millions to the Clintons and other left-leaning politicians.

Now that he’s powerless, having been cut from his own studio and disowned by his former political and showbiz cheerleader Meryl Streep once referred to him as “God” — Weinstein is open game. So is Kevin Spacey, who was instantly re-written from a showstopping antagonist to undefined non-person following allegations he’d sexually harassed Anthony Rapp when the actor was 14.

Spacey was subsequently fired by his agency, dropped by his publicist, Black is listed in People Off-Ends and removed from scenes in the upcoming biopic of The World. Right now he’s struggling to land a gig announcing arrivals times at your local train station.

In Spacey’s case, another element besides celebrity and alleged sexual wrongdoing is in play. Long rumored to be gay, Spacey only confirmed this in the immediate wake of Rapp’s accusations, drawing rage from some who felt he’d confirmed homosexuality with parodists.

Among those condemning Spacey was Star Trek’s Mr. Sulu, George Takei, who this week begins an Australian stage tour.

“When power is used in a non-consensual way, it is a wrong,” Takei said. “For Anthony Rapp, he has had to live with the memory of this experience for decades.”

“For Kevin Spacey, who claims not to remember the incident, he was the older, dominant one who had his way. Men who improperly harass or assault do not get a pass because they are gay or straight — that is a double standard. They do so because they have the power, and they chose to abuse it.”

Note that (like Spacey) claiming “not to remember the incident”, and “Takei’s evident certainty of Spacey’s guilt. Keep in mind that allegations against Spacey and Weinstein — and Dustin Hoffman, Jeremy Piven, Richard Dreyfuss, Brett Ratner, Louis CK, James Toback and anyone else who probably will be named and shamed before this is published — all presently carry precisely the same minimal legal weight. None of these Hollywood identities have yet been charged with any offences, let alone convicted.

Yet, all, to various degrees and following various levels of evidence, are seen as guilty in the public eye. And now it’s Takei’s turn.

Former actor and model Scott R. Brunton told The Hollywood Reporter that Takei sexually assaulted him in 1981, when Takei was in his 40s and Brunton was 23.

The younger man claims he felt “very disoriented and dizzy” following a drink at Takei’s Los Angeles apartment. Then he passed out.

“The next thing I remember was coming to and he had my pants down around my ankles and he was grabbing my crotch and trying to get me under- wear off and feeling me up at the same time, trying to get his hands down under my underwear,” Brunton claimed. “I came to and said, ‘What are you doing?’ I said, ‘I don’t want to do this’.

Brunton has never previously gone public with his story, although he’s apparently been telling people privately for some time. "Five of Brunton’s friends independently told BuzzFeed News that they have heard Brunton tell the story at various times over the years," BuzzFeed reported over the weekend.

"One of those friends, Jan Stewart, told BuzzFeed News she recalled Brunton telling her the story at the dinner table roughly a decade ago." (A recent Takei interview with US radio presenter Howard Stern may have given this at this point. Stern, who tends to take a direct approach, asked the actor: “Did you ever grab anyone by the neck against their will? You’ve never sexually harassed anyone, have you?” Takei’s reply wasn’t exactly a denial: “Some people are kind of — uhm — skittish. Or maybe — um — afraid and you’re trying to persuade. Make of that what you will.”)

Just like Spacey, his former target, Takei clams not to remember the alleged Brunton incident. "The events he describes back in the 1980s simply did not occur, and I do not know why he has claimed them now," the actor wrote on Twitter. "I have never had a brain to ask if I remember Mr Brunton, and I cannot say I do. So Brunton’s accusations have more or less the same status as accusations against many other celebrities.

One difference is that Takei is an out-and-proud gay icon and hero of the PC left, which may help explain why his Australian tour — beginning in Melbourne on Thursday, with two following shows in Sydney — is going ahead while other careers have been destroyed.

Those shows are scheduled to be hosted by Fairfax columnists and all darling Benjamin Law, who did in respond to Sunday to interview requests. Law previously re-tweeted, with apparent approval, this attack on accused grabbers and gropers: “Have you been a creepy piece of s— in the past? Yes? Then you’re going to f— down. Well, unless you’re George Takei, for whom the new rules of guilt until proven innocent do not apply. Also, there’s a really sweet hosting gig to consider — er, in Law’s case, to reconsider. “If I remain as just hate,” he announced on Twitter, “I won’t be ignoring these allegations.” Let’s see, then. Principles are at stake.

Pro-refugee lobby more confused than usual

lose the Manus Island detention centre. No, wait — keep it open. Rescind the electricity and turn on the air-conditioning. No, wait again — close Manus and bring all of the detainees to Australia.

Australia’s ‘refugee-without-a-passport’ community seems more confused than usual, with all their diverse detention centre demands. Just as confused are the detainees, who can’t decide if they are frightened of Papua New Guinea or want to have one back with them. According to GetUp!’s human rights campaign co-founder Shan Narainanamat, the reason about 380 detainees don’t want to roll 20 minutes down the road to a new centre is because they are scared of angry locals. “You have to ask why would anyone endure anything like this,” Narainanamat said last week referring to poor living standards at the now-closed Manus Island facility.

“They believe they will be raped in danger.” Really? All 380 of them? Yet their fears of PNG hostility evidently hasn’t prevented many of the detainees crossing into towns for small Bismarck islanders and other illegal activities. Australian government officials were told of these detainees last month.

Papua New Guinea police and community leaders told the Australian government in mid-October of 36 incidents of various offences involving residents at the centre recorded over four years from October 2013. The Australian reported. “The alleged offenders referred to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary have included assault, sexual assault, aggressive behaviour, unlawful entry, property damage and contraband.”

Just the sort of lovely people we could do with here in Australia. The Manus Island plan — for that’s basically all it is — doesn’t appear to be a long-term arrangement. By last week, about 200 formerly frightened detention centre residents had moved on. As for the much-calling for these chaps to be relocated in Australia, have they forgotten what happened the last time we opened our borders to aquatic arrivals? Do they not recall that more than 1000 men, women and children, crowded by people-smugglers, were killed at sea? Every day Australia maintains a strong line of border protection in this day without drownings. For some inexplicable reason this makes the pro-refugee lobby sad.
It's become such a common response from male business leaders when discussing gender that it's been dubbed "the daughter effect." That penalty-dropping moment when the scales fell from their eyes about gender inequality in the workplace, many male executives say, didn't occur in the workplace. It came from realizing that their own girls (usually not their sisters, wives or women colleagues) would not have the same opportunities as boys.

Sometimes a personal trigger like this genuinely kicks off some awareness-raising that eventually makes a big difference. But far too often it's window dressing—simplified in media interviews and on stage by leaders of organisations where precious little has changed for men women, either in status or pay.

The daughter effect is hardly a new phenomenon in the world of work, although it's not often publicly critiqued. Even token support from powerful men has been gratefully received. But the mindset has been well and truly scrutinised recently in the wake of sexual assault allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

A range of high-profile men—including New York governor Andrew Cuomo, and actors Matt Damon and Ben Affleck—mentioned their daughters when responding to the allegations. The trend was noted by several commentators, who pointed out you shouldn't need a daughter to be a decent human being or to call out workplace harassment.

Increasingly, the mention of daughters is being seen as a fairly clumsy attempt to "gender wash" by failing to call out abuses of power and address the causes rather than the symptoms of the problem. And after all, the dynamics of the family, where there are well-established social norms about fathers protecting and supporting their daughters, are very different from those of status and rewards in competitive workplaces worldwide. And there are quite a lot of men in the C-suite who do not have daughters but have plenty of power to change deeply entrenched bias, norms and attitudes—and some of them are doing just that.

"If your employees know you have a daughter and understand the barriers that women face doesn't mean unless there's a bit more skin in the game. Personal commitment is terrible. It needs to be matched by active action.

Ensuring more women are appropriately recognised and rewarded, for example, is often deeply unpopular and takes much effort than pulling off the daughter card.

And if you can only connect with the problem of sexism through your child, then maybe you are not seeing the impact of the discrimination around you. Privilege, as US academic Michael Kimmel says, is invisible to those who have it.

It means acknowledging the problems faced by your female peers and that traditional masculine leadership is part of the problem right now, not a challenge for the future.

That said, over the years research has found a link between male executives with daughters and the number of women in senior jobs, or the action around areas such as corporate social responsibility. But while these results grab the headlines, they need to be approached with caution:

For example, a recent study found a connection between male partners in venture capital firms with daughters and the number of women appointed.

In their paper "And the children shall lead" (Hbr.harvard.edu/Faculty/ Pages/item.aspx?num=S293), Paul Gopin and Sophie Wang of Harvard Business School "find strong evidence that parenting more daughters leads to an increased propensity to hire female partners by venture capital firms."

But some of the findings showing the daughter effect are a "bit of a stretch," as researcher Jeanine Prime, of US women and work research from Catalyst, commented a few years ago. They are often statistically small and more likely to have an impact in smaller firms, and much less likely to result in CEOs tackling structural bias.

A more sustainable motivation than having daughters is a passion for giving everyone a fair go, Catalyst found. When examining what makes men strong advocates, having a daughter was not a factor; a working spouse was, but the key incentive was a commitment to fairness. This was reflected in Australian research on the advocacy group Male Champions of Change, released last year by Melbourne Business School academic Isabel Mota.

While the motivation for joining the group varied, it was more likely to be personal than external. Mota found that the champions who were most committed to gender equity—and sometimes did mention their daughters—were also likely to be active supporters of change as opposed to bystanders.

The secret to continued impact is finding and keeping those passionate leaders who go beyond lip-service. They commit time and financial resources, are prepared to be public advocates, and understand that this is a long-term commitment with lots of ups and downs but also plenty of dividends, Mota concluded.

They wanted a foster workplace, not just bottom line results, to be part of their leadership legacy.

And let's face it, if we have to rely on men having daughters to recognise and address some of the well-documented barriers women face at work, then the pace of change is likely to continue at the same rate as ever. Glad I did.
Rape in the storage room. Groping at the bar. Why is the restaurant industry so terrible for women?

By Maura Judkis and Emily Heil

Maura Judkis
Reporter covering culture, food and the arts

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If you're a woman, what makes a restaurant dangerous isn't the sharp knives or the hot griddle: It's an isolated area of the kitchen, like the dry storage pantry.

That's where Miranda Rosenfelt, 31, then a cook at Jackie's restaurant in Silver Spring, was headed one day seven years ago to help with inventory, at the request of one of her direct supervisors, who she says had been harassing her for months. When she walked into the narrow basement room, far from the bustle of the kitchen, she turned around to find him "standing there with his pants on the floor, and his penis in his hands," blocking her exit from the basement, she said.

"I felt cornered, and trapped, and scared, and what ended up happening was that he got me to perform oral sex, and it was horrible. And the whole time he was saying things like, 'Oh, I've always wanted to do this.'" Her instinct was "not to do anything, and wait for it to be over. Because that's what will make me the safest."

Or maybe the dangerous place is the walk-in cooler. That's where chef Maya Rotman-Zaid, 36, says she was cornered once about 12 years ago, by a co-worker who tried to grope her. But after years of working in kitchens with handsy, misbehaving men, she had remembered an anecdote from Anthony

Bourdain's "Kitchen Confidential," in which the famous chef struck back after being grabbed repeatedly by a colleague.

"The guy tried to feel me up, and I stuck a fork in his leg," she said. A friend she had confided in confirmed details of this story to The Washington Post. Although she doesn't think she broke his skin, he "screamed and ran out of there like it never happened. I mean, talk about embarrassing. But he never tried to touch me again."

Women are vulnerable in just about every inch of a restaurant. Behind the bar. The hostess stands where patrons are greeted. Behind stoves and in front of dishwashers. From lewd comments to rape, sexual misconduct is, for many, simply part of the job.

After the public toppling of Miramax co-founder Harvey Weinstein, it seems every industry is looking to identify its bad actors. In New Orleans, a blockbuster report by the Times-Picayune felled uber-restaurateur John Besh, who resigned after two dozen women said they had been subjected to sexual harassment within his empire — some of it by Besh himself.

But the culture of widespread sexual harassment and abuse in kitchens and dining rooms from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Ore., can't be pinned solely on a few celebrity chefs or the rare, singularly powerful gatekeeper. It takes place in suburban chains and in dazzling three-star Michelin restaurants, and its perpetrators might just as easily be owners as lowly barbacks. The reasons are many, and they're complicated: Many kitchens are boys' clubs, dominated by machismo and flashing knives; many women rely on pleasing their male customers and managers for tips or good shifts; human resources departments might be nonexistent or toothless; and restaurant staffs are often hard-partying possess that blur professional lines.

The Post interviewed more than 60 people across the country who either claimed they experienced such treatment while working in restaurants or witnessed it. Men are not immune from abuse, but the vast majority of victims we spoke to are women. Their stories show that how women experience sexual harassment depends on their place in the restaurant ecosystem. Cooks are harassed by other cooks, servers are harassed by everyone. And immigrants and young people — who make up a large percentage of the workforce — are particularly vulnerable.

'I couldn't find who to tell'

Maria Vazquez, 52, is a monolingual Spanish-speaking Mexican immigrant mother of six, so her job as a cook and dishwasher at Art's Wings and Things in South Los Angeles was a lifeline. But one day in 2005, she alleges, restaurant owner Arthur Boone cornered her in the back of the warehouse where she was doing inventory and raped her.

"He came downstairs and attacked me. I remember I was defending myself as much as I could," Vazquez said through a translator, as she cried. "I couldn't do anything else."
Afterward, she said, he took her to a store for supplies, and everyone treated him like a king. Vazquez said she confided in her priest, but he “told me that I was to blame, and that I shouldn’t be talking about that.” Because she couldn’t afford to be out of work, she kept the job — and, she alleges, Boone kept taking her into the warehouse. She alleges that when she transferred to a different location of the restaurant — one that did not have a warehouse — Boone assaulted her in the bathroom there, and that the rapes continued over a period of eight years. Vazquez sued Boone in June 2014 seeking damages based on 10 allegations detailed in her lawsuit. Boone, who denied the allegations in a court-filed response, could not be reached for comment.

“Because of the excess of work that I had, I didn’t have time to talk to anybody. It was only work, watch over my kids, go back to work,” she said. “I didn’t have anyone to give me a hand. I couldn’t find who to tell about what was happening to me.” She left the job, she says, when Boone threatened to cut her pay.

Nearly a quarter of restaurant employees are foreign-born vs. 19 percent for the overall economy, according to the National Restaurant Association. And many are undocumented: Ten percent of the workforce in “eating and drinking places” in 2014 lacked U.S. work authorization, according to the Pew Research Center. Fear of deportation may make undocumented immigrant restaurant workers who are abused less likely to report that abuse to authorities.

Vazquez is one of the rare immigrants who were able to sue their employers, and win. In her lawsuit against Boone and his restaurant corporation, a court awarded her a judgment of more than $1 million. But she hasn’t received a cent from Boone.

His restaurant business has closed, and Vazquez has not been able to collect.

“This is just our industry”

In 2015, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received 5,431 complaints of sexual harassment from women. Of the 2,036 claims that listed an industry, 12.5 percent came from the hotel and food industry, more than any other category, according to the National Women’s Law Center. The Restaurant Opportunities Center United, which advocates for higher wages, found in a 2014 study that two-thirds of female restaurant workers were sexually harassed by restaurant management, 80 percent by their co-workers and 78 percent by customers. A third of women reported that unwanted touching was routine, the survey found.

But those numbers may not provide the full picture. Harassment is so routine that many restaurant employees say they do not consider sexual comments or touching to be worth reporting.

“I have spoken in a number of industry settings where people say, ‘Why are you talking about this as if it’s so outrageous? This is just our industry,’” said Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of ROC United.

When workers do speak up, it does not always end well.
"This one particular busser . . . had asked me out a couple of times, and I had always said no," said one former server from Seattle, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she still works in the industry. "He came up behind me, and I had really long hair, and he held a lighter underneath my hair like he was going to set my hair on fire." The general manager saw him do it, made him stop and reprimanded him, but afterward, "We were all supposed to go back to work like everything was normal." The busser was not fired, she said. The incident took place about 15 years ago, and she didn't tell anyone else at the time.

When employees are punished for their misconduct, it often does end with firing — but no other consequences. Rosenfelt, the cook who says she was coerced into oral sex in the restaurant basement, told a co-worker what happened, and that colleague went to her boss, Jackie Greenbaum, who says she "was brought to my knees" by the allegations. "I cried." She fired the supervisor swiftly. "We encouraged her to go to the police and report it," Greenbaum said.

That is where Rosenfelt hit a roadblock.

That I was told was that because there was no physical evidence, I wasn't bruised or injured in any sort of way, that it would be a 'he said, she said,' and that it would be long and drawn out and it could be costly for me and that it could take months, possibly years for anything to happen," Rosenfelt said. She dropped it.

'Your breasts had to be out'

In some of Vaiva Labukaite's early jobs as a Las Vegas cocktail waitress and bartender, "You had to wear something really sexy. The shorts had to be super short, and your breasts had to be out," she said. "It was more like sex work than the restaurant business."

When Labukaite, now 38, got a bartending job at celebrity chef Rick Moonen's restaurant, RM Seafood, seven years ago, she thought it was a step up. But soon enough, she alleged in a lawsuit, her manager, Paul Fischella, started to harass her verbally. She brushed it off and reminded him that he was married. One time, he grabbed her hand and put it on his crotch to make her feel his penis, she alleged in the lawsuit. She told The Post that the incident took place while they were in the restaurant having a glass of wine after her shift. "I was kind of in shock for a little bit. I told him that this cannot happen again." Fischella "adamantly disputed the claims," according to one of his attorneys.

Labukaite said Fischella kept dangling the possibility of a promotion for her.

One night, she alleged, Fischella told her she needed to go with him and Moonen to dinner to "talk about my advancement in the company." She got in the car with Fischella, "and that's when he started groping me and putting his hands up my skirt. And again I was in shock."

She later complained about the sexual harassment to the restaurant's management, and "the next thing you know, my shifts were going down from five days a week to two days a week." She filed suit
against Fischella and RM Seafood, and eventually the parties settled, with the restaurant settling on Fischella’s behalf, according to his attorney. Both Moonen and RM Seafood declined to comment.

Servers and bartenders worry about harassment not only from colleagues, but also from their customers. And because of a “customer is always right” mentality and the pressure of working for tips, they often feel compelled to accept it. The “front of the house” is mostly made up of women: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Current Population Survey, 56 percent of bartenders, 70 percent of servers and 80 percent of hosts are female.

When Sola Pyne, 33, was a waitress at a Washington sports bar from 2006 to 2009, she once served a table of half-drunk off-duty police officers, whom she identified by the T-shirts and hats they sported for the city’s annual National Police Week. “They kept asking what kind of underwear I had on: Was it a thong? A bikini?” I told my manager, and at first he giggled, but he said if they took it any further to let him know,” she said. “I just let it slide. I didn’t need any drama.”

Tefanie Williams, 31, said that four years ago, when she worked at an upscale New York steakhouse as a cocktail waitress, she was groped by one of her regulars, an investment banker who spent lots of money entertaining clients there. At a Christmas party, he “put his hand up my dress, and he put his hand under my underwear and asked if I was wearing any underwear,” she said. She said she told the story to two colleagues at the time, and they confirmed that account to The Post. Later, he “put his groin against my butt and pushed really hard,” she said. “I said, ‘Don’t f---ing touch me.’ He was like, ‘Oh, I’m the bad guy now?’” She told her manager that either the customer had to leave or she would, and he was escorted out. But before long, he was back.

“One of the managers was very into what the guys with money were into. He knew that I was upset that night, but he let him come back in, and I remember looking at him and thinking, ‘Are you f---ing kidding me?’”

*Recipe for a toxic culture*

Restaurant kitchens are a man’s world. The Brigade de Cuisine, the division of kitchen labor famously developed by chef Auguste Escoffier in the late 19th century, was based on the French military structure he observed while in the army. Home cooking has historically come from women, while high-status restaurant work was until a few decades ago the domain of men.

As French chefs began to rise in stature in the late 1800s, “a lot of work was done to sort of denigrate women’s cooking and uphold and elevate men’s cooking,” said Deborah Harris, co-author of “Taking the Heat: Women Chefs and Gender Inequality in the Professional Kitchen.” “The women were kept out, and over the years that kind of crystallized in these very hypermasculine work cultures.”

Some women view the sexual harassment as an outgrowth of Escoffier’s system. When Liz Vaknin graduated from culinary school and went to work in a fine-dining restaurant in Manhattan in 2012, she came to see the kitchen as a place where higher-ups bullied underlings, no matter their gender,
and sexual harassment was an expedient form of abuse. "It's easier to make a woman feel bad about herself by touching her than just yelling that you're not cutting your parsley right," Vaknin, now 28, said.

The rough talk so common in kitchens is a result of those jobs being historically blue-collar. But that does not mean elite restaurants are immune.

Two women who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they still work in the industry said a male manager at the Alinea restaurant group, which includes the Michelin three-star restaurant of the same name in Chicago, harassed them in 2013 and 2016. "He would kiss me on the face, or hold my arm back," one of the women said. He would frequently touch her when no one was looking, "around the waist, hips, that sort of thing." The other woman said the manager falsely told other employees that he had sex with her. Two other former female employees of the restaurant group confirmed that the women spoke of harassment at the time.

The first woman says that she complained to management and that "they, over and over, asked if I saw anyone that witnessed it, and I didn't," she said. "So they wanted me to get other girls to come forward to talk about their experiences with him, which I didn't feel like should have been my job."

Nick Kokonas, one of the owners of Alinea, says that accusations of verbal improprieties but not physical contact were brought to him — the female employee disputes this — and that he spoke with the male employee, who denied wrongdoing. He put the man on paid administrative leave while he investigated. Eventually, the man was fired when another employee provided some inappropriate text messages. But the woman who says she reported the abuse had already decided to leave. The investigation had left her with the impression that the company was more concerned with a wrongful-termination lawsuit than with the sexual harassment.

"I can't fire somebody unless I know it's real. You can't fire someone legally with no basis," said Kokonas, who said he was "really proud of the way that we handled it."

Learning to 'just go with it'

Women in the kitchen say they feel pressure to just take harassment in stride.

Ulzii Hoyle, 20, a recent culinary school graduate, says the "masculine ideology" she was taught in school meant not complaining about the way she was treated so that others wouldn't perceive her as weak. She knew she had to look after herself. So one day two years ago, at her off-campus job at a pizza restaurant in Boulder, "a male colleague came up, and he grabbed my butt" and aggressively poked her in her genitals, "and I elbowed him."

A manager heard the man cry out in surprise. Later, Hoyle says, the manager pulled her aside and asked her whether she planned to report the incident, and Hoyle said no. At the time, she confided in her sister, who confirmed to The Post that Hoyle told her the details of this story.
"And [the manager] was like, ‘I think it would be best for everybody if you just left,’ " allegedly explaining that Hoyle was fired for being "too big of a liability."

Rotman-Zaid, the chef who jabbed a gropper with a fork, said female chefs have learned to "just go with it" when men harass them, to fit in and gain the trust of male colleagues. If you are a "prude and don't want to be in that situation, you won't last very long in the restaurant world in general."

It quickly hardens women who just want to cook.

"In the beginning, you try to ignore it, or you try to deflect it, to be both funny and defensive, and know how to put them in their place," said Heather Carlucci, 50, who describes herself as "a kitchen rat" now working as a restaurant consultant. "It's an enormous amount of energy to do it."

Harris, the "Taking the Heat" co-author, said that in her book research, she noticed a contradiction among the female chefs she interviewed. They often expressed hope that the industry would change but pushed back at the notion that kitchens needed more oversight, which they told her would interfere with the unique culture of the job.

"I think about women in the military, any sort of hazing or group like that, where if you make it through, you take on the identity of the survivor," Harris said. "And I'm tough and I was able to do this and other people should too. ... If you take a step back, you realize that you're also perpetuating this system that's really unfair."

The just-deal-with it mentality that female chefs talk about is inculcated at the industry's earliest levels.

Marisa Licandro, 22, was a student at the Culinary Institute of America, with a full course load and a server job at a campus-run teaching restaurant. At an on-campus party last fall, she alleges, a fellow student who worked with her at the restaurant locked her in a room, pinned her down and tried to rape her. She escaped. The next morning, she filed a report with the campus safety department, and a few days later, she tearfully told her manager at the restaurant that she could not be scheduled to work with the other student, because he had traumatized her. Nevertheless, she showed up to work on a subsequent Saturday and found herself staring down her alleged attacker.

"It made me very nervous, obviously, to be placed in a situation where I unwillingly was face to face with this guy that tried to hurt me," Licandro said. She said her boss told her, "We'll keep you on different sides of the restaurant," which is a Band-Aid on an amputated leg."

When her manager scheduled her with him yet again, Licandro quit. Meanwhile, she was growing disheartened by the school's response: In emails Licandro provided to The Post, one dean told her that the school had dismissed her complaint because the student about whom she complained did not violate the school's harassment, sexual misconduct and discrimination policy. Licandro said she asked for an explanation and said the school's response indicated that because she had escaped, a
violation did not take place. The school gave her the opportunity to put a “no contact” rule in place with the student, but she declined out of fear that it would provoke him.

The school confirmed that Licandro filed a campus safety report last September but declined to disclose its contents or provide a copy to The Post or to Licandro. Joseph Morano, the school’s Title IX officer, declined to speak about Licandro’s case, citing student privacy. “The [Culinary Institute of America] is committed to providing a safe campus environment for all of its students and prohibits any form of harassment or discrimination based upon sex, including sexual violence,” Morano said in an email. “All reported incidents are thoroughly reviewed.”

**Drinking blurs the lines**

Unlike traditional offices, with their coffee-pod machines, booze is a part of restaurant life, even for employees. Drinking during shifts is common, if not explicitly condoned by management. There’s often partying after the dining room empties, and hookups among staff members are frequent. And alcohol and drug abuse is a big problem in the industry: According to a survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, about 17 percent of employees in the “accommodations and food services” category, more than any other category of worker, report having a substance-use disorder.

One woman who worked for a restaurant in New Orleans said her boss knew she struggled with alcohol abuse. But three years ago, she said, he befriended her, telling her he would help her move up in the company. He began to offer her rides home and, knowing she had trouble saying no, would persuade her to stop at a bar for one drink, which would turn into several.

“He started taking me home to his apartment when I was blackout drunk, barely conscious,” said the woman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she still fears the man. “I would wake up at his apartment on a semiregular basis and have no memory of the previous night whatsoever.”

... work, she said, he would send her inappropriate text messages, including a video of himself masturbating, despite her protestations. Eventually, she told one of her co-workers, who told the owner of the restaurant, who fired the man. The owner of the restaurant independently confirmed the details of the woman’s account to The Post.

“I’ve thought about the fact that he’s a predator,” she said. “He put himself in this position to leverage power over me, and coerce me using his position and alcohol.”

Bosses sometimes foster a boozy atmosphere during work hours. Arielle Mullen, now a 32-year-old marketing consultant in Sacramento, worked in restaurants for 15 years, including at a college-town bar when she was in her early 20s. Her manager, she said, encouraged the young female servers and bartenders to drink shots with customers who wanted to buy them drinks. “I still remember it verbatim. He said, ‘As long as you can still hold a tray, I don’t f---ing care. Just do it.’” For her boss, it
meant more liquor sales, and for Mullen it meant finding a workaround. She found a friendly bartender who would pour water in place of vodka into her shot glass.

**Moment for a culture change?**

Since the Weinstein and Besh scandals broke, the restaurant community has been in an unusually introspective mode. Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, who personified the swaggering alpha dog of kitchen lore, in recent interviews has publicly copped to perpetuating the “meathead bro culture” that allows sexual harassment to go unchecked. And “Top Chef” host Tom Colicchio posted an open letter to male chefs on Medium noting that Besh was hardly one of a few “bad eggs” and that men needed to “acknowledge the larger culture that hatched all these crummy eggs, and have some hard conversations among ourselves that are long overdue.”

While industry leaders talk about their culpability, some women are taking small steps.

Caroline Richter, a New Orleans waitress who described being assaulted by a customer, founded a group called Medusa — named after the mythical maiden turned into a Gorgon as punishment by Athena for being raped by the god Poseidon in Athena’s temple — with a goal of creating best practices for bars and restaurants regarding sexual harassment.

Many of the women who spoke to The Post for this story said they were hopeful the Weinstein and Besh sagas would trigger a change in the industry. But many noted that the roots of the problem run deep and will not be easily dug up.

One factor is the relative dearth of women at the top of the food chain, as chef-owners, award winners — or even as general managers. While the ratio of male to female culinary students is close to even at many schools, only 21 percent of chefs and head cooks are women, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many women are discouraged by the constant harassment as well as by the lack of health care and regular hours, which can make it difficult to have a family.

And while some say more women in management could be a solution, the harsh kitchen culture is so pervasive that even high-profile female chefs are among those accused of harassment. Celebrity chef Anne Burrell was sued in 2008 for allegedly harassing several employees at Centro Vinoteca, the restaurant where she worked at the time. According to the complaint, Burrell commented on employees’ cleavages and the shape of their breasts, and called female employees “sluts” and one employee “a whore.” The suit was settled. “The case was resolved,” said Burrell’s publicist, who declined to comment on the substance of the allegations.

Training and strong human resources departments are not a panacea, either: Even big chain restaurants that have both have been the subject of sexual harassment lawsuits.

Advocates including ROC say the tipped minimum wage — which is several dollars lower than the standard minimum wage — is a primary driver of harassment.
But few of the suggested solutions seem that they would have helped Rosenfelt, the woman who alleges she was coerced into performing oral sex in the storage pantry at Jackie’s.

Rosenfelt knew she would never again be able to set foot in the restaurant where it happened. She was offered a new job at a sister restaurant. And for a while, things seemed to be going well — she worked with friends, she let her guard down. She felt safe.

But she said that her colleagues there, too, began to exhibit alarming behavior. One man repeatedly tricked her into looking at pictures of his genitals on his phone, she said, and talked constantly about sex workers. And she said that one day, when staffers were drinking together after hours in a small back hallway, another man — whom Rosenfelt had trusted enough to confide in about her assault — exposed himself to her and told her he wanted to have sex with her. She got away. And she couldn’t believe that the same thing had nearly happened to her twice.

This time, she said nothing.

"I was worried about them thinking that I was being dramatic,” Rosenfelt said. “Because how could these two awful things happen so quickly, back to back?"

Emily Codik contributed to this report.

Maura Judkis
Maura Judkis is a reporter for The Washington Post, covering culture, food and the arts. She is a 2018 James Beard Award winner. She joined The Post in 2011. Follow

Emily Heil
Emily Heil is the co-author of the Reliable Source and previously helped pen the In the Loop column with Al Kamen. Follow
Sex killer jailed for 33 years

A SYDNEY man has been jailed for at least 53 years for the "horrible" sexual assault and murder of a 10-year-old boy in a vacant house.

Ayman Terkman, 24, was found guilty in August of sexually assaulting and murdering Malcolm Brock (below, right) in May 2015 at an unoccupied Fairfield East home. In the NSW Supreme Court yesterday, Justice Lucy McCallum sentenced Terkman (below, left) to a maximum 45 years in jail with a non-parole period of 15 years. The court heard Terkman used a rolling pin and steamer as weapons against his young victim, and strangled and sexually assaulted him.

"The offender subjected the victim to the most brutal and horrific attack, inflicting injuries too numerous to list and too gruesome to describe," Justice McCallum said.

Mohrman's half-naked and bloodied body was found at the vacant housing commission property the next morning, after a desperate search by his family. "It was his brother who saw him. His body was battered beyond recognition," the judge said.

The Crown called for Terkman to be jailed for life but Justice McCallum said she had to consider his young age at the time of the offences. He will be eligible for parole in August 2050.

WOLF CREEK STAR ACCUSED OF GRAPE

John Jarratt denies claims he assaulted woman in 1970s

EXCLUSIVE

JONATHAN MORGAN

THE star of one of Australia's most harrowing horror films has been accused of sexual assault in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal that has engulfed Hollywood.

Wolf Creek's John Jarratt yesterday strongly denied allegations of sexual assault made by a woman who claimed the incident occurred in the 1970s.

"We are investigating an allegation of a historical sexual assault on Sydney's eastern beaches," a police spokesman told The Saturday Telegraph. "The allegations were reported to police earlier this month and are relate to a matter from the 1970s."

Jarratt, 49, has worked as an actor since 1973, when he broke through with his role as Albert Crandell in Peter Weir's acclaimedPicnic at Hanging Rock.

"John emphatically and completely denies the allegations of sexual assault," Jarratt's management representative at Ignite Elite Artists said in a statement.

"These allegations are completely unfounded and untrue." Playing serial killer Mick Taylor in Wolf Creek is perhaps Jarratt's most recognised role in a career that has spanned more than four decades and included appearances in other big films.

Including Australia, We Of The Never Never and Little Boy Lost. Jarratt has also been a stalwart of Australian television, appearing in favourites such as Country Practice, Blue Heelers, McLeod's Daughters and Blue Murder.

He was a long-time presenter on the lifestyle program Better Homes and Gardens.

The allegations emerged just days before Jarratt's planned red-carpet appearance at the new Palace Cinema Central on Thursday, in Sydney CBD, for the premiere of Stan's season two of the Wolf Creek television series spin-off.

Jarratt has two sons from his first marriage to actor Nemo Hahne. He remarried but later separated from Cindy Jarratt.

In the wake of the Weinstein scandal, television journalist Tracey Spicer launched an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse, bullying and racism in the Australian entertainment industry, in a mission to expose those she claims have preserved in-decent acts on colleagues.

Spicer has previously vowed to expose more than 40 "household names" uncovered in her investigations, and claims there is an "absoloute tsunami of sexual assault, intimidation and abuse" attached to by hundreds of women and men who have contacted her.

Star Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's career seems to have been virtually destroyed after a series of sex assaults and harassment claims surfaced in recent months.

These accusations include American actors Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd, and former Italian actor Asia Argento.

The troubled surround of the powerbroking celebrity spread throughout the industry, leading to allegations against other US personalities, most notably actor Kevin Spacey and stand-up comedian Louis CK.

ACCC PUNCTURES BALLOON

RED Balloon has paid $42,000 in penalties after allegedly breaking new consumer laws by charging "excessive" surcharges to some online customers using credit cards.

The consumer watchdog alleges the online travel trader which sells "experience gifts" such as skydiving and wine tours across Australia charged four customers excessive surcharges on credit or debit cards in March and June.

New excessive payment fees have applied to "large businesses" since September 2016 and to all other businesses since September this year.

Austalian Competition and Consumer Commission deputy chair Michael Schaper said companies can only pass on what costs to accept payments.

Rose-coloured glasses for grape guys

GEORGIA HING

SYDNEY is seeing a rose revival and for the blokes the glass is half full with bottles of pink plonk replacing craft beers for guys.

Davidi Roy from Glandore Estate Wines said rose was definitely becoming a popular drop for men. "Rose is now — all the labels are more neutral tones rather than brighter colours that are usually made to attract female customers," he said. "Those days men were more likely to try rose when we sell it at the cellar door."

In the past few years domestic sales for Australian rose and red wines recorded the strongest growth from (the previous year) at 4.9 per cent up by nearly 8 million litres to 83 million litres.

Matthew Williams, founder of food and wine festival Vino Paradox, says men were proving keen to try a drop of pink.

"It's hard to think of a recent vintage with the sweeter flavours and older school Aus- tralian wines say it is a bit of a stretch from, say, their plonks or lagers."

The Vino Paradox which he hosts is being held at The Bonds Hotel and Restaurant.
EXCLUSIVE BENNELONG POLL

WOLF CREEK STAR IN RAPE CLAIM

JONATHAN MORAN

The star of one of Australia's most harrowing horror films has been accused of sexual assault in the wake of Hollywood's Harvey Weinstein scandal.

John Jarratt, pictured above as Wolf Creek villain Mick Taylor, today strongly denied allegations of sexual assault made by a woman who claimed the incident occurred in the 1990s.

The woman made a statement to Shoalhaven police about a week ago, and the matter is now being investigated.

The incident is alleged to have occurred while the woman was working in the entertainment industry.

"Police are investigating an allegation of a historical sexual assault on Sydney's eastern beaches," a police spokesman told The Saturday Telegraph.

Jarratt, 65, has worked as an actor since 1975, when he broke through with his role in Picnic at Hanging Rock.

Ex-premier's surge threatens Turnbull's one-seat majority

SNARRI MARISON

The battle of Bennelong between former NSW premier Kristina Keneally and Anna's tennis great John Alexander is on a knife-edge, putting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's precarious one-seat majority at grave risk.

An exclusive Saturday Telegraph/Galaxy Research poll has revealed just how tight the December 16 byelection race for former prime minister John Howard's seat is between Labor star candidate Ms Keneally and Liberal MP Mr Alexander, with the latter's primary vote only three percentage points ahead. The two-party-preferred vote is deadlocked at 51-49.

Disaffection with the government, along with Ms Keneally's personal appeal, has delivered Labor a 10 per cent swing in Bennelong, lifting the party's primary vote to 39 per cent - in arm's reach of victory. The loss of Mr Turnbull's majority would leave no option but to move the Speaker on to the floor to pass laws.

Kristina Keneally in campaign mode yesterday.
US moves threatens peace mission

WASHINGTON: The Palestinians have instructed their military to observe a three-day cease-fire as talks between Washington and the United Arab Emirates mark a significant step in the Middle East peace process.

The cease-fire came into effect at midnight last night, with both sides observing the truce. The Palestinian Authority also announced it would resume direct talks with the US, following its suspension earlier this month.

The announcement came on the same day that the US and the UAE agreed to a joint statement on the Middle East peace process, with both sides expressing a commitment to a two-state solution.

The statement called for the two sides to continue their efforts to reach a peace agreement, with the goal of establishing a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians welcomed the statement, saying it was a positive step towards a lasting peace. They also thanked the US for its support in the negotiations.

The UAE, meanwhile, said it was ready to work with the Palestinians and other parties to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Judge claims 50 lovers to brush off 'feeding frenzy'

FORT Bragg (AP) - The charges of sexual misconduct were just the start. Now a Georgia judge has been ordered to appear in court for an alleged feeding frenzy.

Judge Collins, who was suspended for two days last year for sexual misconduct, was ordered to appear in court on Monday for an alleged feeding frenzy.

The incident occurred in a restaurant in Savannah, Georgia, where Judge Collins was reportedly seen with a group of 50 people.

According to a source, the group was seen eating at the restaurant for hours, with Judge Collins at the center of the attention.

The restaurant's owner said the group was behaving inappropriately, and that the judge should not have been there in the first place.

Secret weapon for Arab diplomat

WASHINGTON: A special weapon for Arab diplomats was unveiled in Washington today, as the US military showcased a new technology designed to protect diplomats from terrorist attacks.

The technology, known as the "Direct Protection System," uses advanced sensors to detect threats and deploy countermeasures in real-time.

The system was tested in a mock terrorist attack scenario involving a car bomb, and was found to be effective in preventing the attack.

The Arab diplomat who unveiled the technology said it was a significant step forward in protecting diplomats around the world.

Lobsters the loser as Saudis 'host' Hariri to curb Iranian influence

The meeting between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon was seen as a diplomatic bid to counter Iran's influence in the region.

Saud Arabia, which has traditionally been a close ally of Lebanon, hosted the meeting as a way to show its support for the country's government.

The meeting was attended by leaders from both countries, including the kings of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

The two leaders discussed regional issues, including the Iran nuclear deal, and the importance of unity in the region.

Lebanese officials said the meeting was a positive step towards improving relations between the two countries.

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Start off with the top-rated, award-winning Shiraz from Penfolds, Great Steading. Headed to Ladies' Hill with the Rutherford and Very Best, and finally to the iconic Penfolds with the Riesling and Very Best. Each of these wines is selected for their quality and value.

Great Australian Reds

Order now on 1300 734 924 quoting ID24301 or visit www.thegreataustralianwine.com.au/Wine

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Mugabe finally agrees to resign

HARARE: Robert Mugabe has refused to resign as Zimbabwe's president, according to a government statement, after the military seized control of the capital and arrested him.

The statement, which was issued by the country's vice president, said that the military had taken over the presidency and government.

It said: "Dr. Mugabe is under house arrest at his home in Harare and will not leave the capital city.

"The military has taken over the presidency and government of the country and Commander in Chief, former President Nelson Mandela, has assumed the presidency and the country will be governed by the military until elections are held.

"We call on all Zimbabwans to support the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and to remain calm and peaceful during this transition period.

The military has always been and continues to be a people's force and we will continue to represent the people of Zimbabwe.

HARARE: President Mugabe has threatened to resign if he is pressured into stepping down, according to a statement by his spokesman.

The statement said: "President Mugabe has not been under pressure to resign. He is happy to continue serving the country.

"The situation in Zimbabwe is normal and stable. There is no need for any changes at this time.

First family’s assets may be frozen by government

HARARE: Military officials and the family of the outgoing president, Robert Mugabe, have been banned from leaving Zimbabwe due to fears of money laundering.

The ban was announced on Tuesday by the government, which said it was necessary to prevent the family from using their wealth to fund political activities.

"The family and their associates are suspected of involvement in money laundering and other financial crimes," said the government statement.

All of the family's assets were frozen on Tuesday, including property in the UK and Switzerland.

Zimbabwe's economy has been hit by years of economic sanctions, which have left the country with a severe currency shortage and high inflation.

The ban on the family's assets comes after the government announced plans to seize their property and冻结 their bank accounts.

"We will not tolerate any attempt to misuse the assets of Zimbabweans," said the government statement.

The family said they had not been notified of the freeze and were seeking legal advice.

"We are surprised by the government's actions. We have always paid our taxes and respected the laws of Zimbabwe," said the family's lawyer.

Illegal migrants 'spread terror' in UK

LONDON: British police have arrested 27 migrants suspected of recruiting new recruits for a suicide bombing attack in the UK.

The arrest was made after a year-long investigation by the Metropolitan Police, which said it had evidence of a plot to carry out a mass-casualty attack.

"The police have arrested 27 men and women suspected of being involved in a terror plot," said Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley.

He added: "The suspects are being held in police custody and will be charged with preparing acts of terrorism.

"This is a very serious and worrying development and we are working closely with our partners to ensure that we take all necessary steps to prevent this attack.

"We are confident that the suspects are not part of any active group and we have no evidence that they are planning to travel abroad.

The Metropolitan Police said the suspects were aged between 18 and 40 and were from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.

They were arrested in various parts of the UK, including London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Pentagon wants Star Trek stealth aircraft

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon is calling for the development of a next-generation stealth aircraft that could fly at supersonic speeds and be invisible to radar.

The programme, known as the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon (AHW), is intended to provide the US military with a new weapon that could be used to strike targets anywhere in the world.

"The AHW would provide the US with a new way to deliver nuclear weapons," said Defence Secretary Ash Carter.

"It is designed to fly at Mach 5 or more, which is five times the speed of sound. It would also be able to carry a 1,000-pound nuclear warhead.

"The AHW is a potential revolutionary weapon that could change the nature of warfare and make it more unpredictable for our enemies.

The programme is expected to cost $10 billion over the next 10 years and will be developed by the Air Force and Navy.

"The AHW is a powerful symbol of our determination to maintain our strategic advantage," said Carter.

Conflict takes toll in Iraq, Syria

IRAQ: The conflict in Iraq and Syria has resulted in the displacement of millions of people, according to the UN.

The UN said that the conflict had caused a humanitarian crisis and that the international community should step up its efforts to help those affected.

"The conflict has caused massive displacement and destruction in both countries," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

"We call on all parties to respect international law and to ensure the safety and security of those who are fleeing their homes.

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Over the weekend, a campaign started 10 years ago by a black woman, activist Tarana Burke, to encourage “empowerment through empathy” re-emerged as a response to last week’s soul-crushing torrent of sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein. (Actress Alyssa Milano, widely credited with jump-starting the hashtag, later said she was not aware of Burke’s campaign until later.) That campaign is known as “Me Too,” and it encourages survivors to confirm a devastating, and largely unspoken, truth: That nearly every woman on Earth, and a significant minority of men, has been the victim of sexual assault and/or harassment in their lifetime.

The campaign’s effectiveness hinges on the sheer volume of posts where hundreds of thousands of people share their stories, from a simple “me too” to raw, vulnerable accounts of harassment and assault. As the accounts continue to emerge from everyday people and celebrities alike, we’re going to compile some of the stories celebrities have shared over the past week or so that reach beyond the Weinstein allegations, in hopes that their sheer volume helps demonstrate the ubiquity of this problem.

The list is by no means comprehensive: We can’t forget the women who have come forward to accuse Weinstein of assault and harassment—including Rose McGowan, Asia Argento, Mira Sorvino, Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie, Rosanna Arquette, Angie Everhart, Cara Delevingne, Léa Seydoux, Louise Geiss, Heather Graham, Ashley Judd, and many more—the more than 60 women who have accused Bill Cosby of sexual assault, the sexual assault and harassment charges leveled against Ain’t It Cool News’ Harry Knowles and former Birth.Movies.Death. editor Devin Faraci, Amber Tamblyn’s
recent account of being harassed by James Woods, charges that R. Kelly is keeping women in an abusive “cult,” and the millions of other non-celebrity examples that prove harassment and assault have affected basically every woman and a good number of the men that you—yes, you!—know.

We’re also sure this list will have to be updated as more of these stories come out. If it all seems overwhelming, remember: This is only a small fraction. The real numbers are actually much higher.

Reese Witherspoon

Last night, Reese Witherspoon spoke at the Elle Women In Hollywood Awards. She was there to introduce her Big Little Lies co-star Laura Dern, but, like many women who have been reliving every horrible thing that ever happened to them over the past couple of weeks, Witherspoon was having trouble thinking about anything besides the Harvey Weinstein allegations. “I have my own experiences that have come back to me very vividly, and I have found it hard to sleep, hard to think, hard to communicate,” she said.

She went on to reveal that she had been assaulted by a director when she was 16 years old, talking about the "anger that I felt at the agents and the producers who made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment." She added, “I’ve had multiple experiences of harassment and sexual assault, and I don’t speak about them very often, but after hearing all the stories these past few days and hearing these brave women speak up tonight, the things that we’re kind of told to sweep under the rug and not talk about, it’s made me want to speak up and speak up loudly because I felt less alone this week than I’ve ever felt in my entire career.”

America Ferrera

Also last night, America Ferrera posted a heart-wrenching story to Instagram, revealing that she had been the victim of child sexual abuse:
Jennifer Lawrence

At the same awards ceremony where Reese Witherspoon shared her story (see above), Jennifer Lawrence gave a speech in which she described her “degrading and humiliating” experiences with producers and casting directors. Lawrence said that, early on in her career, she had been instructed to lose “15 pounds in two weeks”—a practically impossible and definitely unhealthy feat—to get (and keep) a part. “During this time, a female producer had me do a nude lineup with about five women who were much, much, thinner than me,” she said. “We stood side by side with only paste-ons covering our privates.”
When Lawrence went to another producer to complain, “he said he didn’t know why everyone thought I was so fat. He thought I was ‘perfectly fuckable,’” she added. The whole experience left her feeling “trapped” and afraid of being labeled “difficult” if she stood up for herself. “I let myself be treated a certain way because I felt I had to for my career,” she said.

Molly Ringwald

In an op-ed posted on The New Yorker website this afternoon, Molly Ringwald says that, while she was able to avoid harassment in her dealings with Harvey Weinstein (“at that moment in time, I was the one with more power,” she writes), “I have had plenty of Harveys of my own over the years, enough to feel a sickening shock of recognition.” She says:

When I was thirteen, a fifty-year-old crew member told me that he would teach me to dance, and then proceeded to push against me with an erection. At fourteen, a married film director stuck his tongue in my mouth on set. At a time when I was trying to figure out what it meant to become a sexually viable young woman, at every turn some older guy tried to help speed up the process.

She goes on to recall a humiliating audition where she was forced to wear a dog collar for reasons that had nothing to do with the scene, an incident her agent dismissed as “one for the memoirs.” “Stories like these have never been taken seriously. Women are shamed, told they are uptight, nasty, bitter, can’t take a joke, are too sensitive,” Ringwald writes. “And the men? Well, if they’re lucky, they might get elected President.”

Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga first publicly revealed her rape at the hands of a record producer back in 2014, when she said on The Howard Stern Show that her song “Swine” was about being assaulted when she was 19 years old and “very naïve.” Gaga
Gabrielle Union

Gabrielle Union has also been open about her experience as an assault survivor for many years. This morning, she appeared on Good Morning America to promote her new book, We’re Gonna Need More Wine, in which she discusses being raped at gunpoint at the age of 19, among other issues. On the show, she described the powerful post-traumatic stress she experienced upon seeing the hashtag trending:

I saw #MeToo and my arm went numb. I thought it was all about me, and when I realized literally hundreds of thousands of people, men and women, talking about being a part of this unfortunate club it just rips your heart out. I will continue talking about it, I will continue to try to keep educating. You see so much now with victim blaming and victim shaming and really trying to put the onus on the victim and trying to say that there’s some right way to deal with trauma. And I just have to keep speaking out to dispel as many misconceptions as possible about sexual violence.

Evan Rachel Wood

Another outspoken survivor, Evan Rachel Wood has talked about having been sexually assaulted twice, once by an ex and again by the owner of a bar. Last year, she posted a lengthy statement on Twitter talking about the assaults after touching on them in a Rolling Stone interview, and she has continued to advocate for victims’ rights ever since.

More recently, she posted a video explaining why she has yet to name her attackers; it’s “not because I don’t plan on saying these people’s names eventually, but because to start that process is an emotionally draining, financially draining, really everything draining thing to do and to go through and I want to do it when I’m ready,” she said. Over the weekend on Twitter, Wood talked about her experiences with PTSD after being raped, and how she would disassociate to protect herself. You can read those comments in full here.
Melanie Lynskey

Actress Melanie Lynskey has been an outspoken supporter of the women who came forward to accuse Weinstein, and added her voice in a thread responding to a *New York Times* editorial by *Big Bang Theory* star Mayim Bialik, in which Bialik credited her modest dress and inability to conform to an “impossible standard of beauty” for her lack of experience with sexual harassment on set.
Björk

Inspired by the accounts that were already coming out before the #MeToo hashtag took off, on Sunday Björk told the story of her encounters with "a Danish film director" who repeatedly came on to her on set and humiliated and punished her when she turned him down. "It was extremely clear to me when I walked into the actresses' profession that my humiliation and role as a lesser, sexually harassed being was the norm," she wrote. Although she didn't mention him by name, Björk only made one movie with a Danish director, Dancer In The Dark with Lars Von Trier, prompting Von Trier to deny her account the next day. Today Björk shot back with more detailed allegations:

Patricia Arquette

After director Oliver Stone expressed sympathy for Harvey Weinstein, Patricia Arquette suggested that this was a case of creeps protecting their own by detailing her "weird" experience with Stone after he asked to meet with her about a film that was "very sexual" in content. She's now calling for an end to the backlog of hundreds of thousands of rape kits that are sitting untested at law-enforcement agencies around the world.

Isa Dick Hackett

Hackett, a producer on Amazon's The Man In The High Castle and Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams—both based on the work of her father, sci-fi author Philip K. Dick—gave an interview to The Hollywood Reporter last Thursday in which she accused then-Amazon programming chief Roy Price of sexual harassment. Price, she said, repeatedly and aggressively sexually propositioned her even after she turned him down, going so far as to tell her, "You will love my dick." Price has since resigned from Amazon Studios.

Hilarie Burton
A former MTV VJ turned actress (she starred on *One Tree Hill* and currently appears on Fox’s *Lethal Weapon* reboot), Hilarie Burton accused Ben Affleck of grabbing her breast during an appearance on *Total Request Live* in 2003, prompting other women, like makeup artist Annamarie Tendler, to also accuse Affleck of improper conduct toward them. Affleck later apologized to Burton, in a one-line tweet that didn’t even have proper punctuation at the end.

**Terry Crews**

In the wake of the Weinstein accusations, Terry Crews came forward to share his story of being groped by an unnamed Hollywood executive in front of his wife at a party, and the shame and fear he felt that prevented him from speaking about it earlier. “Hopefully, me coming forward with my story will deter a predator and encourage someone who feels hopeless,” he wrote. It’s a powerful reminder that sexual assault can happen to anyone. Click through on the tweet below to read the full thread.

**James Van Der Beek**

Shortly after Crews came forward, former child star James Van Der Beek talked about his experiences being assaulted by “older, powerful men” as well.

**Javier Muñoz**

Muñoz stars as Alexander Hamilton in the Broadway production of *Hamilton*. He took over the role from Lin-Manuel Miranda last year.

**Jenny Slate**
These are just a few of those shared in recent days by famous people who were able to talk about what happened to them in public. Just because someone hasn’t posted “Me too” doesn’t mean that they haven’t lived through harassment and assault; they may not be emotionally prepared to talk about their experiences publicly, and re-traumatize themselves in the process. The important thing is to remember that these stories are difficult to tell, and should be believed.

Updated October 18, 9:09 a.m.:

Ilana Glazer

Broad City co-creator Ilana Glazer’s Instagram post about the “countless” times she’s been sexually harassed is especially depressing because, as she notes, entitled assholes have plagued her from middle school into the present. Teachers, coworkers, restaurant patrons, a doctor, and a couple of Glazer’s employees have all harassed her at some point. And whether she was waiting tables or running her own TV show, Glazer notes she was “a woman in both places.” The gall to then ask “are you sure?” when she wanted to fire someone who’d harassed her is the cherry on top of this shit sundae.

Updated October 18, 11:15 a.m.:

Trace Lysette
Viola Davis

Charlyne Yi

Shortly before sharing her story accusing comedian David Cross of racist harassment, Charlyne Yi added her voice to the “Me Too” movement as well:
McKayla Maroney

This morning, Olympic gold medalist McKayla Maroney came forward to reveal that she was repeatedly molested beginning at the age of 13. Her attacker was Larry Nassar, the former doctor for the U.S. Women's National and Olympic gymnastics teams who has been accused of assault by more than 100 women. Nassar pleaded guilty to federal child pornography charges in June, and is awaiting trial on 22 charges of sexually assaulting children in Michigan.

Maureen Ryan

Also this morning, Variety chief TV critic Maureen Ryan published a powerful essay describing her sexual assault at the hands of an unnamed TV executive in 2014. Ryan ended up taking a leave of absence after the assault, after attempts to report her attacker were met with indifference at his company. ("He was reprimanded. That's it. I later heard that there were rumors of him harassing the network's assistants," she writes.)

Ryan's essay doubles as a call to action for men in Hollywood to take responsibility for the predators in their midst, and to start prioritizing the safety of victims—many of whom leave the industry after learning that assault and harassment are the "price" they're expected to pay for pursuing their dreams—over the career prospects of predators. "Men, listen up: You may not want to believe that your friend, your colleague, your collaborator is capable of this. Listen to me, LISTEN: The face he shows you may not be his only face," she writes. You can read her essay in full here.

Janis Hirsch

In a guest column in The Hollywood Reporter, comedy writer Janis Hirsch recalls the persistent sexual harassment that drove her to leave her job as a staff writer on It's Garry Shandling's Show. Although Hirsch's contributions to the show's first season—she wrote two of the first six episodes—were well-received, she soon found herself excluded from the otherwise all-male writers' room, assigned only the "slit scenes," a.k.a. scenes featuring the show's only female cast member. (Yeah.)

Finally, Hirsch was told to quit her job by producer Brad Grey after an incident where one of the show's actors made the hilarious "joke" of draping his flaccid penis on her shoulder "like a pirate's dead parrot." She writes, "My mantra became, 'I won't cry until I get home.' It was amended to 'I won't cry until I get into the parking lot,' which became 'I won't cry until I get into the stairwell,' which morphed into 'Fuck, I'm crying.'" Hirsch's essay ends on a rare positive note for these sorts of stories, relaying an anecdote where two younger female writers told her, "Thank you for getting that flaccid penis on your shoulder so we never had to."
Also in The Hollywood Reporter, a story called “Hollywood’s Female Crew Members Suffer Harassment Without the Platform Of Stardom” tells the stories of dozens of crew members with stories like Hirsch’s, many of whom speak anonymously for fear of retaliation.

Updated October 19, 10:03 a.m.

Laura Dern

The Big Little Lies and Twin Peaks actress opened up on The Ellen DeGeneres Show about the pervasiveness of sexual harassment in Hollywood, including how she had dismissed misconduct in the past. When Dern was honored at Elle’s Women in Hollywood celebration earlier this week, she initially considered herself “one of the lucky ones,” i.e., one of the few women who hadn’t been assaulted or harassed. She credited her actor parents, Diane Ladd and Bruce Dern, for teaching her early on about the dark side of Hollywood. But it wasn’t until Dern was talking with her mother about the recent flood of revelations from other celebrities (and women in general) that she realized she’d also been sexually harassed as a teen. “It was my mom who said, ‘No, no, no, Laura. That was sexual assault. That was harassment. That was assault. No, you were 14 then,’” Dern told DeGeneres.

Updated October 24, 7:55 a.m.

Anna Faris

Entertainment Weekly reports Mom star Anna Faris opened up on her Unqualified podcast about her own experiences with sexual harassment, as well as the ways we condition women to laugh off mistreatment. The host recalled “doing a scene where I was on a ladder and I was supposed to be taking books off a shelf,” when the director of the film “slapped my ass in front of the crew so hard. And all I could do was giggle.” Faris looked to the crew members who’d witnessed the slap, which “seemed weird,” which was precisely how she tried to shrug the whole thing off. Like so many other women, she assumed responsibility for smoothing things over: “I was like, ‘Well, this isn’t a thing. Like, it’s not that big of a deal. Buck up, Faris. Like, just giggle.’ But it made me feel small. He wouldn’t have done that to the lead male.”

Faris and her guest, UnREAL’s Anielle Kebbel, note that “if we were to do anything else, we’d be labeled a bitch or difficult. That would be the best of circumstances. I guess what I do is I laugh. It puts everyone at ease. That’s the defense mode you go into.”

Updated November 3, 2:00 p.m.

Jessica Barth

Yesterday, Ted and Ted 2 star Jessica Barth went to the LAPD to revive a sexual assault accusation first leveled in 2012 against her ex-manager, David Guillod. Barth says she decided to revive the charges after another, unnamed woman came to her to say she had a similar experience with Guillod. The email that inspired Barth to pursue her case anew was in response to a guest post Barth published in The Wrap last week called, "Jessica Barth Wants To Bring Survivors Together With #WhoIsYourHarvey."

The post does not specifically name as Barth’s attacker, but it does detail her story of a manager who pursued her aggressively, first as a client and then for a sexual relationship. Despite her repeated rejections, he persisted, and in 2012 Barth says Guillod sexually assaulted her after drugging her wine at a dinner at a restaurant attended by Barth, one of her friends, and Guillod. She writes:
At first, I went through textbook emotions experienced by victims of sexual assault. I felt completely ashamed and like it was my fault. Over and over in my mind, ran self-blaming thoughts like, I should have trusted my goddamn instincts, I never should have gone, and I should not have had any wine. I was in a committed relationship that meant the world to me. He knew this. I talked about my relationship throughout the whole dinner. I felt devastated, humiliated and completely violated. I felt this way because he was the one who devastated me, he humiliated me, he violated me.

This was years ago and I did not possess the strength or the confidence that I possess today. I was so wrapped up in blaming myself that I failed to even recognize that I had been sexually assaulted. That is how blinding shame can become.

Guillod has since taken a leave of absence from his company Primary Wave as Barth’s charges are investigated. In reporting its story, The Wrap found that Guillod—who recently executive produced Atomic Blonde, and whose clients include Gina Rodriguez, Nia Long, and Emilio Estefan—left two previous talent agency jobs after being charged with sexual harassment. As for Barth, she says, “I want to prosecute him. I want to do whatever is in my power to make sure this never happens to another woman.”

Updated November 22, 1:00 p.m.:  
Gabby Douglas  

After making comments critical of her teammates McKayla Maroney (see above) and Aly Raisman’s allegations of sexual abuse against their former U.S. Women’s National and Olympic team coach Larry Nassar, three-time Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas has come forward to reveal that Nassar sexually abused her, too. She did so in a new apology to her teammates posted on Instagram, following up on a shorter previous apology hashtagged #MeToo. In the post, Douglas speaks in vague terms about the abuse she suffered, placing it in the context of a since-deleted tweet that read, “It is our responsibility as women to dress modestly and be classy. Dressing in a provocative/sexy way entices the wrong crowd.”

In her new statement, Douglas says that “I understand many of you didn’t know what I was dealing with,” and clarifies that she does not advocate “victim shaming or blaming in any way, shape, or form.” She says, “I didn’t publicly share my experiences as well as many other things because for years we were conditioned to stay silent and honestly some things were extremely painful. I wholeheartedly support my teammates for coming forward with what happened to them.”
Former Backstreet Boy Nick Carter Responds to Rape Allegation

By Eric McAdams | November 22, 2017 | 12:02pm

Photo by Jason Koerner/Getty

MUSIC > NEWS > SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Up until now, Nick Carter was known for pretty much exactly one thing: being a member of the Backstreet Boys. Now, it looks like we can add another item to that short list.

Carter joins the ranks of the many men in recent weeks accused of sexual misconduct, as singer Melissa Schuman now claims that Carter raped her in 2002, when he was 22 and she was 18. According to Schuman, Carter performed oral sex on her without her consent and demanded she do it for him in return before he then forcibly initiated penetrative sex. Schuman wrote in an essay that she felt “scared and trapped. He was visually and clearly growing very angry and impatient with me.” She says she repeatedly said no.

Schuman tweeted out her story, in solidarity with the #MeToo movement.

MelissaSchuman
@MelissaSchuman

I'm not afraid anymore #metoo melissaexplainsitall.com

5:18 PM - Nov 19, 2017
She also claims Carter may have used his influence to tank her career with her record label.

In response, Nick Carter issued this statement to People (http://people.com/music/nick-carter-accused-rape-melissa-schuman-denies-allegations/):

I am shocked and saddened by Ms. Schuman’s accusations. Melissa never expressed to me while we were together or at any time since that anything we did was not consensual. We went on to record a song and perform together, and I was always respectful and supportive of Melissa both personally and professionally.

This is the first that I am hearing about these accusations, nearly two decades later. It is contrary to my nature and everything I hold dear to intentionally cause someone discomfort or harm.

Human says she came forward after reading the comments on a story run by Radar Online (http://radaronline.com/videos/nick-carter-sexual-assault-accusations-backstreet-boys/) about another potential assault by Carter, doing so in order to encourage anyone else affected to do the same. “Victim shaming is a core reason why victims don’t speak out,” she wrote in her essay. “The last comment is exactly what keeps victims, like myself, from ever speaking out.”

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**Donald Trump Is Taking the Democrats' Bait and Bringing Up His Own History of Sexual Harassment**  
By Jacob Weindling  
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**There Are Two Ways to React When Your Friend Is Accused of Sexual Harassment**  
By Eric McAdams  
November 21, 2017  
(/articles/2017/11/there-are-two-ways-to-react-when-your-friend-is-ac.html)

**Bill O'Reilly and Fox News are Hemorrhaging Advertisers in the Wake of His Sexual Harassment Scandal**  
By Jacob Weindling  
April 4, 2017  
(/articles/2017/04/bill-oreilly-and-fox-news-are-hemorrhaging-advertisers.html)

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More Sexual Harassment News
International Emmy winners named

NEW YORK: Kenneth Branagh won the International Emmy for Best Actor, while Anna Friel won the Best Actress trophy at the 2011 International Emmy Awards gala yesterday in New York. Branagh (pictured) and Friel were among 11 winning performers and programs spanning eight countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Turkey, the UK and the US. The awards are presented annually by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which represents more than 60 countries and 500 companies from all sectors of TV, including internet and mobile technology.

Branagh won for his role as Swedish detective Kurt Wallander in the popular BBC drama series Wallander. Friel was awarded for her performance as Sergeant Marcella Backland in the British series Marcella. The other winners include: Arts: Hip Hop Evolution (Canada); Comedy: Alen Parnabg (Seientejo); Documentary: TVOD: Our Journey to Europe (United Kingdom); Drama Series: Mio & Mon (Norway).

Chambers leads Golden Guitar nominations

AUSTRALIAN country music legend Kasey Chambers is one of the leading nominees at this year’s Golden Guitar Awards at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in north east NSW. Chambers, who won more than 20 Golden Guitars over her career, is being recognised for her 11th record, a double album called Drunken highways which reached the top of the charts at the start of the year. Along with The McRaeons and collaborator Travis Collins and Amber Lawrence, Chambers has been nominated for six awards, including Female Artist of the Year, as revealed at a ceremony in Sydney yesterday. In a first for the long-running awards, albums will be split into three different categories to recognise the different factions within Australian country music. This year, artists will compete for Contemporary Country Album of the Year, Traditional Country Album of the Year and Alt Country Album of the Year. The winners from these categories will then compete for the overall Country Music Album of the Year award. Several other artists have been nominated multiple times, including bush band The Bushwhackers, with five nominations, solo artists Lee Kernaghan and Shane Nicholson, and Kasey Chambers, representing the winners of four nominations each.

عزش, the enigmatic INXS frontman, captured the attention of the world until his untimely death 20 years ago. Caught up in wrestling with celebrity and tabloid drama, the rock star was found hanged in his room at the Red-Catillon Hotel in Double Bay, Sydney’s east, on November 22, 1997.

Having found himself embroiled in a custody drama involving his partner, British TV presenter Faye Yates, and his ex-husband Bob Geldof, the final year of Hutchence’s life was difficult.

"He was not happy living in London and it was a condition because his child (Heavenly Hiresn Tiger Lily) was in London but he was being just safeguarded by the press over there and it was very hard for him," Hutchence’s half-sister Tina Scher recently told the Seven Network in a documentary released ahead of Wednesday’s 20th anniversary of his death.

In the years before that, Hutchence had been a chart-topper with INXS, memorably winning 90,000 people at London’s Wembley Stadium in July 1991. Alongside keyboardist Gary Parris, Fergie, Hutchence wrote some of the band’s biggest hits such as ‘Never Tear Us Apart and Need You Tonight.’

"He was really interested in literature, he was very articulate, very well-versed. He always had a really sparky idea or take on things and I think that was an incredible contribution," Fergie said.

"The stylish and effortlessly cool performer was remembered as a visionary, a magnetic figure on stage.

Swift album hit

NEW YORK: Taylor Swift’s Reputation album is in good standing: the album has sold 1.2 million units in its first week.

Swift became the first artist in history to have three albums sell more than a million units in their debut week when 1989 sold 1.2 million copies in 2014. Her albums Red and Speak Now each sold 1.2 million in 2012 and 2010, respectively.

Swift’s rock singer earned about $70 million ($143.1 million) in record sales and from her American tour, according to Forbes. She also has her own line of fans and her music videos and albums. Swift, who topped the best list with $110.7 million in estimated earnings, ranked at $104 million the time.

Beyoncé richest

LOS ANGELES: Beyoncé hit album Lemonade and world tour made her the highest-paid woman in music in 2016, according to an annual Forbes list, edging out Britney’s Adele and pop star Taylor Swift. The pop singer earned about $105 million ($202.4 million) from record sales and from her Lemonade tour, according to Forbes. She also has her own line of fans and her music videos and albums. Swift, who topped the best list last year with $110.7 million in estimated earnings, ranked at $104 million the time.

Not so Rose-y

NEW YORK: Charlie Rose, one of America’s most respected broadcasters, an award-winning television host and interviewer, was suspended yesterday after eight women accused him of years of sexual harassment and assault. A bombshell Washington Post report said the women were employees or applied to work with the Rose show and were in his 20s and 30s when the alleged harassment took place from the 1990s to as recently as 2017. They complained that the unwarranted advances included fondling phone calls, grabbing and making them feel uncomfortable. Three of them spoke on the record.

The report makes Rose, 65, the latest senior male journalist accused of misconduct in the wake of the downfall of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

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French society ‘sick with sexism’

Common challenges provide platform for regional co-operation

Has Zimbabwe gone from bad to worse?

Zimbabwe's new President Emmerson Mnangagwa reviews the honour guard for the first time at the National Sports Stadium in Harare.
Snappers focus on press council ruling

Richardson faces boycott over claim of bias against Ox

The bacon is on the table. The threat has been issued. The showdown is just around the corner.

The Australian journalist, with his customary flair for the dramatic, has laid down a challenge to the Press Council. His target is the council's new chairman, the former journalist, ex-MP and now lawyer, Michael Isaacson.

Richardson, who has a reputation for being controversial, has made a series of recent comments that have drawn the ire of some in the media industry. He has complained about the council's decisions, and his criticisms have attracted attention.

"I'm not going to stand by and see this arbitrary decision made by some people who don't have any idea what they're talking about," Richardson said in a recent interview.

"They're trying to silence the truth, and I'm not going to let them get away with it."

Richardson's challenge is likely to be met with a formal response from the Press Council. The body is currently reviewing the matter, and a decision is expected soon.

What a Price to pay: 10 years on, we still mourn the loss of a wonderful wordsmith
4 former employees accuse celebrity chef Johnny Iuzzini of sexual harassment and abuse

By Rachel Tepper Paley | Nov. 29, 2017

One night in 2011, on the gilded first floor of New York's Trump International Hotel and Tower, a pastry chef labored at her station in the

https://rnc.com/articles/166356/4-former-employees-accuse-celebrity-chef-johnny-iuzzini-of-sexual-harassment-and-abuse#T0cZP9h
4 former employees accuse celebrity chef Johnny Luzzini of sexual harassment and abuse

Jean-Georges restaurant. Her boss, pastry chef and emerging TV star Johnny Luzzini, hovered nearby. Without warning, the pastry chef told Mic, Luzzini was beside her, his tongue in her ear.

Luzzini repeated the offense "three or four times" on separate occasions, said the pastry chef, who worked under him for nearly two years. "I cried every time," said the chef, who spoke to Mic on the condition of anonymity to protect her privacy. She did not report the incidents to management at the time, but she did tell a friend, who confirmed to Mic that she heard the story shortly after it happened. The pastry chef resigned later that year, not in reaction to any single incident, she said, but because of the culmination of Luzzini's behavior toward her: "I left because of the way he treated me."

Two pastry chefs and two externs — an unpaid position that often requires the same time commitment as full-time employees — who reported to Luzzini between 2009 and 2011 described in interviews with Mic a work environment in the Jean-Georges pastry kitchen that was rampant with incidents of sexual harassment. Jean-Georges is one of New York City's most celebrated restaurants, and the flagship restaurant of famed chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten; his brother, Philippe, is its director of operations. In its 20 years in operation, Jean-Georges has served as a launching pad; chefs including Dan Kluger of Loring Place, Greg Vernick of Vernick Food & Drink and Top Chef winner Jeremy Ford all worked in Vongerichten's restaurant empire before going on to open their own businesses.
In a statement to Mic, Luzzini said he was "shattered and heartbroken at the thought that any of my actions left members of my team feeling hurt or degraded." After reviewing the allegations in this story, he denied several of them. "Many of the other allegations are inaccurate, others I do not recall and none were meant to hurt people," he said. (Luzzini's full statement can be found at the end of this article.)

By the time Luzzini left in 2011, sources told Mic it seemed Jean-Georges management was aware of his inappropriate conduct, though media reports at the time characterized the split as amicable. The two pastry chefs cited in this story said that they did not personally believe the Vongerichtens were initially aware of the extent of Luzzini's behavior. Philippe Vongerichten came to the first pastry chef in 2011 and asked her to file a report on events she had witnessed. She said he told her that Luzzini was "skating on thin ice." At that time, she already had plans to resign. "I declined to file any paperwork because I was always worried [Luzzini] would see it," she said. A spokesperson for Jean-Georges confirmed that "Philippe, like all managers, has been trained to encourage any employee who felt or feels inappropriately treated in the workplace to come forward to human resources."

Luzzini denied to Mic that he left Jean-Georges on bad terms. "I provided three months' notice and maintain a good relationship with chef and mentor Jean-Georges to this day," he said.
The recent wave of public sexual abuse and harassment allegations that have toppled such high-profile figures as Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and Matt Lauer has also swept into the restaurant industry. In October, restaurateur John Besh resigned from his company after 25 women reported sexual harassment allegations to the Times-Picayune. In mid-November, Washington Post published several accounts of sexual assault and harassment from women in the food world.

During his stint at Jean-Georges,uzzini rose to become one of the most famous figures in the pastry world. In 2006, he received a James Beard award for outstanding pastry chef. In 2008, he published a cookbook, Fourplay, followed in 2014 by a second, Sugar Rush. From 2010 to 2011, he starred as one of three judges on Bravo's Top Chef: Just Desserts, a spinoff of Top Chef. Although luzzini no longer works in a restaurant setting, he's set to reprise his role as a judge on ABC's The Great American Baking Show, which premieres Dec. 7. Luzzini also works as a pastry consultant and runs a chocolate company, Chocolate by Johnny luzzini.

While at Jean-Georges, the chef oversaw a pastry kitchen that included roughly 10 people plus a group of externs. The staff was mostly women, according to three sources cited in this story. The pastry kitchen was located in a separate space from the main kitchen, and sources describe it as an ecosystem unto itself.

The four women who spoke to Mic alleged that luzzini was often verbally abusive and prone to screaming, and that his mood could turn dark very quickly. The two pastry chefs and one extern said it was openly speculated that luzzini might have had a drug problem; the other extern said when she accompanied him to an off-hours social event, she witnessed him using cocaine. When asked about these allegations, luzzini
denied that he “ever had a drug problem.”

The first pastry chef explained that luzzini had a habit of touching female employees’ rear ends with items in the kitchen — knives, long vegetables and spoons — in a suggestive manner. He’d also creep up behind women menacingly. “He would stand behind you really closely and breathe on your neck,” she said. “I think he did things to make people uncomfortable, and to see what he could get away with.” She witnessed the same behavior directed at other female employees in the pastry kitchen. A second chef who worked in luzzini’s kitchen backed up this account. “He used to say, ‘If I hit you with my hand, it’s harassment, but if I hit you with an object, it’s a mistake,’” she said. She was granted anonymity for fear of retribution to herself and those close to her who still work in the industry. “It was a big, huge joke to him.”

“A chef said that luzzini had a habit of touching female employees’ rear ends with items in the kitchen — knives, long vegetables and spoons — in a suggestive manner.

The second chef recounted a separate incident that left her deeply uncomfortable. “There was one time, I went to the walk-in for something and he ran up behind me and simulated having sex with me. He didn’t actually grind up on my butt, but his hands were on my hips,” she said. “He did it for five seconds and ran out.” She said that at the time, she wasn’t sure the event qualified as something worth reporting.

“This is going to screw up my career,” she said, describing her thought process. “He knew everybody. And if I ever wanted to get a job in a restaurant, I’m going to burn every bridge that I have. And when you’re surrounded by that, you don’t [report it], you bitch to other people.” She confided in a friend, who confirmed to Mic that the chef told her about
the inappropriate touching and the simulated sex at the time that they happened.

Three of the women say that luzzini assigned nicknames to his female employees, some of them offensive, including "Kimchi" for an Asian woman. He also demanded that certain female employees give him shoulder massages at the end of their shifts, according to all four of the women.

"He would always make me give him a shoulder rub, every day — that was part of my job, when I signed off," one extern told Mic on the condition of anonymity because she still works in the industry. Both externs and one pastry chef confirmed that they were asked to give shoulder massages. The first extern didn’t want to touch luzzini, but felt like she couldn’t say no. "I thought, ‘I’m an extern,’ and it’s just a hard place to bring up anything," she said. "This was such an open thing. He was just that way, very openly. Everybody experienced what I experienced." He also made crude jokes, the first extern said. Luzzini once walked by while she was whisking and commented on her “nice technique.” "I said, ‘Thanks, chef,’ and he goes, ‘No, no, nice technique,’ and then he makes a jerking-off motion and walks away." At another time, he showed her a photo of a woman’s genitals.

"I began working in kitchens when I was 15 years old, back in a time when it was rare to see women in the kitchen, and behavior was more bawdy than professional," luzzini said in a statement to Mic. "There were dirty jokes and vulgar remarks, times where people would lose their tempers and it was deemed permissible since four-star kitchens are high-stress jobs. This was the behavior I learned as a boy, and for too many years participated in during my restaurant career. And it was wrong.”

At least once, sources said, luzzini’s temper turned violent — the two pastry chefs cited in this story witnessed an aggressive encounter between luzzini and a female employee who displeased him.

“She got into work super early and found out that the freezer broke down ... everything in the freezer had gone bad,” the second chef said. “She
called Johnny and all the chefs.” While she was trying to remake the spoiled goods, she said, Luzzini arrived and threw the canister at her in anger. “She said she was in such fear of her life, he was in her face, screaming at her,” the second chef said. “She quit the next day.”

“He would always make me give him a shoulder rub, every day — that was part of my job, when I signed off.”

The first chef recalled being shaken by this incident, during which she said Luzzini appeared to be unnaturally agitated. It was after this event, she said, that Philippe Vongerichten reached out to ask if she wanted to file a formal complaint against Luzzini.

Other alleged incidents inhabit a gray area of propriety. The day before her interview in 2010 for a pastry externship at Jean-Georges, a 19-year-old hopeful fired off an email to the then 36-year-old Luzzini, who was to conduct her interview. She had no formal culinary training but had been connected to Luzzini through a friend, and said she was looking forward to the interview and wanted to confirm the details. He responded, she recalled, by asking that she stop by his apartment right then.

The 19-year-old willingly spent the night at Luzzini’s apartment, a decision she wrestled with for years. While she doesn’t describe the interaction as coercive, she contends the power dynamic made saying “no” difficult. “He was 36, I was 19 and he had all the power,” she said. She spoke to Mic on the condition of anonymity out of fear of Luzzini’s influence. “And if one person has all the power, it’s not really consent.” The extern felt conflicted about her relationship with Luzzini and tried to keep it under wraps. “Even at 19, I knew it diminished what I was trying to accomplish,” she said. “I’ve had to work so hard to prove that I’m worth it.”

The woman said that first night was sexual in nature, but did not include intercourse. She later had an official interview with Luzzini in the restaurant and was hired. She said they had sex before her first day as an

4 former employees accuse celebrity chef Johnny Luzzini of sexual harassment and abuse

text, and kept up a consensual sexual relationship for three months
until Luzzini cut things off. They continued to have an on-off sexual
relationship for several years, even after she left his employ, she said. “In
my head, I had rationalized that I was special,” she said. “I don’t see
myself as a victim. But if I take me out of the story and I just listen to the
details” — specifically the beginnings of their relationship — “I would be
upset.” A friend of the woman’s confirmed that she knew about both the
pre-interview meeting and the eventual sexual relationship at the time it
was occurring. Luzzini did not comment on the alleged relationship with
the extern.

“Even at 19, I knew it diminished what I was trying to
accomplish,” she said. “I’ve had to work so hard to
prove that I’m worth it.”

David Sherwyn, a law professor at Cornell University who specializes in
hospitality labor and human resources, described the alleged relationship
between Luzzini and the extern as “a mess,” although not illegal under
current federal law. He added that companies have good reason to be
wary of unmonitored workplace relationships between supervisors and
subordinates. “You don’t know when things are truly consensual, and that
leads to problems,” he said.

Aside from the first pastry chef, who was approached by management,
none of the women interviewed in this story were aware of an official
channel at Jean-Georges to air their grievances during their respective
employments. “I don’t even know if they had an HR person or anything,”
the first extern said. “The guy who was taking care of those matters was
Jean-Georges’ brother, I think. And that’s useless.” Philippe Vongerichten
still works at the restaurant. A Jean-Georges spokesperson said that “the
restaurant group has had a human resources function since 2003.” When
asked about the specific allegations regarding Luzzini, the spokesperson

asked about the specific allegations regarding Luzzini, the spokesperson declined to comment on “the specifics of any employee incident that may or may not have occurred.” A spokesperson at ABC, which airs The Great American Baking Show, declined to comment.

“I must take responsibility if any of the members of my team felt uncomfortable by my words or actions, regardless of my intent or recollection,” Luzzini said in his statement.

The first pastry chef said that Luzzini “was a good mentor, and he did have a way of challenging people.” But, she added, “there are other people out there who can make what he can, and they treat you well.” For the second chef, Jean-Georges was the first kitchen she worked in as a staff member. “I assumed that’s just how kitchens are,” she said. “But my next kitchen was great. The chef never did anything untoward, and he never yelled.”

If you have a tip to share regarding this story, please send an email to tips@mic.com. See Mic’s confidential tips page for information on how to send confidential information to Mic.

Full statement from Johnny Luzzini:


I am shattered and heartbroken at the thought that any of my actions left members of my team feeling hurt or degraded. More importantly, I am deeply sorry to those who felt hurt. I certainly deny the allegations, as presented to me, that I ever had a drug problem, threw an empty nitrogen canister at anyone or that I left Jean-Georges on anything other than good terms (I provided three months’ notice and maintain a good relationship with chef and mentor Jean-Georges to this day). Many of the other allegations are inaccurate, others I do not recall and none were meant to hurt people. Nonetheless, I must take responsibility if any of the members of my team felt uncomfortable by my words or actions, regardless of my intent or recollection. I must hear that what the women making the accusations are telling me and recognize I caused pain. I have strived to be a good mentor over the course of my career, and I now understand that I failed some people. To me, that is unacceptable.
Since learning that allegations were coming I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about this subject. Thinking of the way kitchen culture has changed, thinking of the mistakes we made, the mistakes I was complicit in. I began working in kitchens when I was 15 years old, back in a time when it was rare to see women in the kitchen, and behavior was more bawdy than professional. There were dirty jokes and vulgar remarks, times where people would lose their tempers and it was deemed permissible since four-star kitchens are high-stress jobs. This was the behavior I learned as a boy, and for too many years participated in during my restaurant career. And it was wrong.

There are obviously people who I have hurt, and I cannot even begin to address how sorry I feel not only about what may have transpired, but about the fact they did not feel comfortable coming to me as their superior and letting me know how they felt. That is a failure of mine as a mentor, as a leader. I hope that anyone who felt wronged by me will reach out to me and give me the opportunity to apologize to them personally. I assure you that I will continue to learn, continue to do better and continue to strive to be the type of chef who can lead our industry into a culture of respect through example.

Dec. 12, 2017, 2:30 p.m.: This article has been updated to remove a reference to Johnny Iuzzini allegedly throwing a nitrogen canister at a female employee. After the publication of this story, the employee in question spoke to Mic to clarify the events that day. The woman said that it was a mixing bowl, not a nitrogen canister, that Iuzzini held it as if to throw in her direction, and that he stopped short of actually throwing it. Additional details about this interaction can be found in Mic’s follow-up coverage here.
An architectural excursion across Chicago

By Mike Sheffield | Sept. 7, 2018

Booking.com wants to remind you that some of the most incredible and diverse places to stay are right here in your own backyard. To showcase this, they sent travel blogger Cameron Phillips to 21 of their most unique properties across the United States. This article was created by Mic's branded content team.

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▶ 5:27 min | June 21, 2018
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4 former employees accuse celebrity chef Johnny Iuzzini of sexual harassment and abuse.

https://mico.com/articles/166356/4-former-employees-accuse-celebrity-chef-johnny-iuzzini-of-sexual-harassment-and-abuse#TOc2PhR1v
Why women should not be afraid to own the times they were preyed upon

Shame on the perpetrators

I WAS overwhelmed this week watching the countless #metoo Facebook statuses from my friends pop up in my newsfeed. Having been subjected to various instances of sexual assault and harassment, joining my fellow victims in solidarity was a no-brainer. But as I went to make the post something stopped me. It took me a while to realise what exactly it was but I quickly identified the same feeling I had when I was 16.

Did I really want my family to know all of the horrible things someone had touched me sexually without my consent? Or my colleagues? I didn’t feel like answering questions about it so just kept scrolling.

The hashtag went viral when actor Alyssa Milano used it in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal in a powerful act of solidarity. But the work really started almost 10 years ago when activist Tarana Burke launched the Me Too campaign to help a group of young women gain “empowerment through empathy.”

I told my partner that I was thinking about writing my column on the #metoo movement and detailing all the times I’ve been sexually assaulted. “All the times?” As I pluralised, he asked in complete shock.

That’s what made my mind up that this was something worth sharing. A few every woman I know has been the victim of sexual assault or harassment. I understand that it’s important that my brothers, sons, dad, boyfriend, friends and colleagues and you all know about these horrific instances. So here are all the times I can say #metoo.

1. I went on my way home from a party with a few friends at 17 when a guy I didn’t know particularly well reached behind me and put his hands on the back of my jeans. My head nearly hit the roof as I jumped around trying to get his hands out of my pants. Some of the people I was with thought it was hilarious. He kept doing while his mates laughed. I didn’t until the girlfriend of the driver said “If you don’t stop doing that we’re going to pull over for you and you can get out” that he stopped.

2. That same year I was on a train on my way to Brussels. I was living in Belgium as an exchange student at the time. I only had one station left before my stop and was in a carriage by myself when a guy got on. He walked straight over to me and sat beside me. He asked some probing questions about whether I had a boyfriend before he started touching my top and chest. I tried to get out of the car but he held me up so I was forced to jump over full length as the train was pulling up. I ran out the door and onto the escalator but he was right behind me. As we stood in line on the crowded escalator he started rubbing me from behind.

I started screaming “I don’t know what’s going on, keep touching me.” Eventually someone further up in the line pushed their way back and pulled him off of me. I ran as fast as I could to meet my friend who was waiting for me around the corner from the station.

3. At 22 I was dancing with my friends at a nightclub frequented by wait staff. In a matter of moments a man came up behind me and stuck his hand straight up my dress. Security threw him out and I went home, not really feeling in the mood for a dance anymore.

4. I was 23 when I caught a taxi home after finishing work at 11pm.

It was a musty taxi and sat in the back. The driver, a guy somewhere in his 50s, started asking me if I had a boyfriend. I said I didn’t and he responded with “I think you have a lot of boyfriends.” Things went from bad to worse.

He said the door was broken so he’d have to come and fix it. He walked around and slid the door open but stood blocking my exit. I finally said “well I can’t get out if you don’t move out of the way.” He moved to the side and I jumped out. I headed towards my house but he tagged me on the shoulder. When I turned around he grabbed both of my breasts, mumbled backwards and he grabbed my arm. I started to scream and he let me go. I ran inside and called the police straight away. There wasn’t a lot they could do because I didn’t get his registration but they were sympathetic and recommended a “swim, ditch the thistle.”

5. After I graduated from university I was working at a fish and chip trying to get a job as a journalist like most new graduates with few career prospects I found myself out drinking on a Tuesday night. I met a dude in a bar who said he was a journalist so we had a great chat about the industry and he offered me some advice about trying to get a job.

Then he made an offer that was easy to refuse. “You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours,” he said.

I wasn’t sure how I could scratch his back unless he wanted an extra potato scallop with his order of fish and chips. When he put his hand on my thigh and tried to kiss me it became pretty obvious.

I rebuffed his advances and said I’d rather work in a chip shop for the rest of my life than degrade myself in that way. These stories are shameful. But they shouldn’t be. It belongs to the perpetrators.
China's catching US by stealth

China has made a significant step forward in its bid to equal — and eventually surpass — US air superiority. According to Beijing's state media, its first stealth fighter has now entered fully operational frontline service.

This puts it in second place. Before now, only the US has had a fully operational "fifth generation" fighter. And it's easily the most capable aircraft deployed by any nation in its region — giving it a significant edge over the Japanese, Korean and Indian air forces.

China declared the J-20 fully functional in May. Beijing's State media yesterday said it is now operational and "officially commissioned into military service," releasing a video on its capabilities as it celebrates the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Melbourne Property Expo in Parramatta

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AWARD AS FILM ROLES FLOW FOR MACDONALD

Australian actor Danielle Macdonald's stellar year continues after receiving the Screen Australia Breakthrough Award at yesterday's Australian Film Event in Los Angeles.

The 23-year-old, who won rave reviews for her breakout role in Patti Cééló, was honoured in front of a crowd of VIP guests that included Abbie Cornish and Jessica McNamee.

"It's based on a book. It's really cool. I love that I read it and I loved it a lot and it's such an amazing group of actors that got to bring it to life with an incredible director on board and I'm so excited to get to learn," she told Confidential. Macdonald also credits her success to "not giving up."

"There are all of things that play a part in it but the main is not giving up. Because I think eventually, if you don't give up and you work hard, things will find a way and everything will line up," she said. "I'm excited to work with Anne Hathaway, also received the Breakthrough Award.

LISA WILKINSON will make her first public appearance today following her dramatic departure from Nine and shock defection to Ten.

Wilkinson (right), who has gone to ground since the news broke on Monday, has confirmed she will honour a commitment to host a Meet and Chandon event at the Sydney Opera House and will front up for rescue duties. The appearance comes after her termination from Nine's Today show over gender pay parity has made global news.

The UK's BBC news and The New York Times are among the big-name newspapers to have reported on the dispute. Meanwhile, Emmy award-winning actor and star of Foxtel series Shameless


The father of two and husband of Desperate Housewives star Felicity Huffman said equal pay was a "non-starter", and he was excited more women were finding their voice when it came to "arguing for what they are worth."

BOMBER COMMAND

The RAAF in the UK 1939-45

July 5th - 17th, 2018

During the Second World War, the Royal Air Force Bomber Command was made up of aircrews from across the Empire, including approximately 10,000 Australians, 3,486 of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice in their defence of freedom.

Over the past seven years, Col. Graham Elston has led tours to the UK, visiting airfields that the Australian's flew from during the war and paying their respects to their sacrifices. The tour includes visits to many internationally renowned war museums such as Cosford, Coventry, Battle of Britain Memorial and Heston plus unforgettable days at the Duxford and Yeovilton airshows.

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JESSICA Gomes has weighed in on the Harvey Weinstein scandal, saying women in Hollywood have finally found their voice.

"I think we're being really empowered and taking a stand for certain things," she said. "I think it's really amazing," the model said at the launch of JESC's Spring/Summer 2018 swimwear campaign.

"I think it's a really great time to be in Hollywood for women because we've been given a platform to have a voice."

Gomes, who is set to appear in upcoming Sydney film Fire to the Sky alongside Owen Wilson, flew into Sydney this week as a special guest of the Australian swimwear brand, of which she is the latest face.

"This is actually my first swimwear campaign in Australia," Gomes revealed. " Isn't that weird? And I'm such a swimsuit girl, with Sports Illustrated. So it was really amazing. It was perfect timing because I was ready. It's really ready and we came together and thought that this makes sense. Let's do it."

Gomes has clocked up more than 1000 hours in the air in recent years due to her hectic travel schedule.

"It works out to be about 45 days on a plane," she said.

The David Jones ambassador said she and boyfriend, actor Xavier Samuel were "great."

"We just shot a great film here in Sydney called Riot... It's about all the '70s gay riots. But we're really great, we've been helping each other with self-tapes (auditions)," she said.
Harvey Weinstein Paid Off Sexual Harassment Accusers for Decades

By JODI KANTOR and MEGAN TWOHEY  OCT. 5, 2017

Update: The Weinstein Company’s board has fired Harvey Weinstein after reports of sexual harassment complaints against him. Find more coverage here.

Two decades ago, the Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein invited Ashley Judd to the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel for what the young actress expected to be a business breakfast meeting. Instead, he had her sent up to his room, where he appeared in a bathrobe and asked if she could give her a massage or she could watch him shower, she recalled in an interview.

“How do I get out of the room as fast as possible without alienating Harvey Weinstein?” Ms. Judd said she remembers thinking.

In 2014, Mr. Weinstein invited Emily Nestor, who had worked just one day as a temporary employee, to the same hotel and made another offer: If she accepted his sexual advances, he would boost her career, according to accounts she provided to colleagues who sent them to Weinstein Company executives. The following year, once again at the Peninsula, a female assistant said Mr. Weinstein badgered her into giving him a massage while he was naked, leaving her “crying and very distraught,” wrote a colleague, Lauren O’Connor, in a searing memo asserting sexual harassment and other misconduct by their boss.

“There is a toxic environment for women at this company,” Ms. O’Connor said in the letter, addressed to several executives at the company run by Mr.
Weinstein.

An investigation by The New York Times found previously undisclosed allegations against Mr. Weinstein stretching over nearly three decades, documented through interviews with current and former employees and film industry workers, as well as legal records, emails and internal documents from the businesses he has run, Miramax and the Weinstein Company.

During that time, after being confronted with allegations including sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact, Mr. Weinstein has reached at least eight settlements with women, according to two company officials speaking on the condition of anonymity. Among the recipients, The Times found, were a young assistant in New York in 1990, an actress in 1997, an assistant in London in 1998, an Italian model in 2015 and Ms. O’Connor shortly after, according to records and those familiar with the agreements.

In a statement to The Times on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Weinstein said: “I appreciate the way I’ve behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologize for it. Though I’m trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go.”

He added that he was working with therapists and planning to take a leave of absence to “deal with this issue head on.”

Lisa Bloom, a lawyer advising Mr. Weinstein, said in a statement that “he denies many of the accusations as patently false.” In comments to The Times earlier this week, Mr. Weinstein said that many claims in Ms. O’Connor’s memo were “off base” and that they had parted on good terms.

He and his representatives declined to comment on any of the settlements, including providing information about who paid them. But Mr. Weinstein said that in addressing employee concerns about workplace issues, “my motto is to keep the peace.”

Ms. Bloom, who has been advising Mr. Weinstein over the last year on gender and power dynamics, called him “an old dinosaur learning new ways.” She said she had “explained to him that due to the power difference between a major studio head like him and most others in the industry, whatever his motives, some of his words and behaviors can be perceived as inappropriate, even intimidating.”
Though Ms. O’Connor had been writing only about a two-year period, her memo echoed other women’s complaints. Mr. Weinstein required her to have casting discussions with aspiring actresses after they had private appointments in his hotel room, she said, her description matching those of other former employees. She suspected that she and other female Weinstein employees, she wrote, were being used to facilitate liaisons with “vulnerable women who hope he will get them work.”

The allegations piled up even as Mr. Weinstein helped define popular culture. He has collected six best-picture Oscars and turned out a number of touchstones, from the films “Sex, Lies, and Videotape,” “Pulp Fiction” and “Good Will Hunting” to the television show “Project Runway.” In public, he presents himself as a liberal lion, a champion of women and a winner of not just artistic but humanitarian awards.

In 2015, the year Ms. O’Connor wrote her memo, his company distributed “The Hunting Ground,” a documentary about campus sexual assault. A longtime Democratic donor, he hosted a fund-raiser for Hillary Clinton in his Manhattan home last year. He employed Malia Obama, the oldest daughter of former President Barack Obama, as an intern this year, and recently helped endow a faculty chair at Rutgers University in Gloria Steinem’s name. During the Sundance Film Festival in January, when Park City, Utah, held its version of nationwide women’s marches, Mr. Weinstein joined the parade.

“From the outside, it seemed golden — the Oscars, the success, the remarkable cultural impact,” said Mark Gill, former president of Miramax Los Angeles when the company was owned by Disney. “But behind the scenes, it was a mess, and this was the biggest mess of all,” he added, referring to Mr. Weinstein’s treatment of women.

Dozens of Mr. Weinstein’s former and current employees, from assistants to top executives, said they knew of inappropriate conduct while they worked for him. Only a handful said they ever confronted him.

Mr. Weinstein enforced a code of silence; employees of the Weinstein Company have contracts saying they will not criticize it or its leaders in a way that could harm its “business reputation” or “any employee’s personal reputation,” a recent document shows. And most of the women accepting payouts agreed to
confidentiality clauses prohibiting them from speaking about the deals or the events that led to them.

Charles Harder, a lawyer representing Mr. Weinstein, said it was not unusual to enter into settlements to avoid lengthy and costly litigation. He added, "It's not evidence of anything."

At Fox News, where the conservative icons Roger E. Ailes and Bill O'Reilly were accused of harassment, women have received payouts well into the millions of dollars. But most of the women involved in the Weinstein agreements collected between roughly $80,000 and $150,000, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

In the wake of Ms. O'Connor's 2015 memo, some Weinstein Company board members and executives, including Mr. Weinstein's brother and longtime partner, Bob, 52, were alarmed about the allegations, according to several people who spoke on the condition of anonymity. In the end, though, board members were assured there was no need to investigate. After reaching a settlement with Mr. Weinstein, Ms. O'Connor withdrew her complaint and thanked him for the career opportunity he had given her.

"The parties made peace very quickly," Ms. Bloom said.

Through her lawyer, Nicole Page, Ms. O'Connor declined to be interviewed. In the memo, she explained how unnerved she was by what she witnessed or encountered while a literary scout and production executive at the company. "I am just starting out in my career, and have been and remain fearful about speaking up," Ms. O'Connor wrote. "But remaining silent is causing me great distress."

In speaking out about her hotel episode, Ms. Judd said in a recent interview, "Women have been talking about Harvey amongst ourselves for a long time, and it's simply beyond time to have the conversation publicly."

A Common Narrative

Ms. Nestor, a law and business school student, accepted Mr. Weinstein's breakfast invitation at the Peninsula because she did not want to miss an opportunity, she later told colleagues. After she arrived, he offered to help her
career while boasting about a series of famous actresses he claimed to have slept with, according to accounts that colleagues compiled after hearing her story and then sent on to company executives.

“She said he was very persistent and focused though she kept saying no for over an hour,” one internal document said. Ms. Nestor, who declined to comment for this article, refused his bargain, the records noted. “She was disappointed that he met with her and did not seem to be interested in her résumé or skill set.” The young woman chose not to report the episode to human resources personnel, but the allegations came to management’s attention through other employees.

Across the years and continents, accounts of Mr. Weinstein’s conduct share a common narrative: Women reported to a hotel for what they thought were work reasons, only to discover that Mr. Weinstein, who has been married for most of three decades, sometimes seemed to have different interests. His home base was New York, but his rolling headquarters were luxury hotels: the Peninsula Beverly Hills and the Savoy in London, the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc near the Cannes Film Festival in France and the Stein Eriksen Lodge near the Sundance Film Festival.

Working for Mr. Weinstein could mean getting him out of bed in the morning and doing “turndown duty” late at night, preparing him for sleep. Like the colleague cited in Ms. O’Connor’s memo, some junior employees required to perform those tasks said they were disturbing.

In interviews, eight women described varying behavior by Mr. Weinstein: appearing nearly or fully naked in front of them, requiring them to be present while he bathed or repeatedly asking for a massage or initiating one himself. The women, typically in their early or middle 20s and hoping to get a toehold in the film industry, said he could switch course quickly — meetings and clipboards one moment, intimate comments the next. One woman advised a peer to wear a parka when summoned for duty as a layer of protection against unwelcome advances.

Laura Madden, a former employee who said Mr. Weinstein prodded her for massages at hotels in Dublin and London beginning in 1991, said he had a way of making anyone who objected feel like an outlier. “It was so manipulative,” she said in an interview. “You constantly question yourself — am I the one who is the problem?”

“I don’t know anything about that,” Mr. Weinstein said.
Most women who told The Times that they experienced misconduct by Mr. Weinstein had never met one another. They range in age from early 20s to late 40s and live in different cities. Some said they did not report the behavior because there were no witnesses and they feared retaliation by Mr. Weinstein. Others said they felt embarrassed. But most confided in co-workers.

Ms. Madden later told Karen Katz, a friend and colleague in the acquisitions department, about Mr. Weinstein’s overtures, including a time she locked herself in the bathroom of his hotel room, sobbing. “We were so young at the time,” said Ms. Katz, now a documentary filmmaker. “We did not understand how wrong it was or how Laura should deal with it.”

Others in the London office said the same. “I was pretty disturbed and angry,” said Sallie Hodges, another former employee, recalling the accounts she heard from colleagues. “That’s kind of the way things were.”

The human resources operation was considered weak in New York and worse in London, so some employees banded together in solidarity. “If a female executive was asked to go to a meeting solo, she and a colleague would generally double up” so as not to be alone with Mr. Weinstein, recalled Mr. Gill, the former president of Miramax Los Angeles.

Many women who worked with Mr. Weinstein said they never experienced sexual harassment or knew of anyone who did, and recalled him as a boss who gave them valuable opportunities at young ages. Some described long and satisfying careers with him, praising him as a mentor and advocate.

But in interviews, some of the former employees who said they had troubling experiences with Mr. Weinstein asked a common question: How could allegations repeating the same pattern — young women, a powerful male producer, even some of the same hotels — have accumulated for almost three decades?

“It wasn’t a secret to the inner circle,” said Kathy DeClesis, Bob Weinstein’s assistant in the early 1990s. She supervised a young woman who left the company abruptly after an encounter with Harvey Weinstein and who later received a settlement, according to several former employees.

Speaking up could have been costly. A job with Mr. Weinstein was a privileged perch at the nexus of money, fame and art, and plenty of his former
assistants have risen high in Hollywood. He could be charming and generous: gift baskets, flowers, personal or career help and cash. At the Cannes Film Festival, according to several former colleagues, he sometimes handed out thousands of dollars as impromptu bonuses.

Mr. Weinstein was a volcanic personality, though, given to fits of rage and personal lashings of male and female employees alike. When a female guest of his had to wait for a hotel room upgrade, he yelled that Ms. O’Connor would be better off marrying a “fat, rich Jewish” man because she was probably just good for “being a wife” and “making babies,” she wrote in her memo. (He added some expletives, she said.) His treatment of women was sometimes written off as just another form of toxicity, according to multiple former employees.

In the fall of 1998, a 25-year-old London assistant named Zelda Perkins confronted Mr. Weinstein. According to former colleagues, she and several co-workers had been regularly subjected to inappropriate requests or comments in hotel rooms, and she was particularly concerned about the treatment of another woman in the office. She told Mr. Weinstein that he had to stop, according to the former colleagues, and that she would go public or initiate legal action unless he changed his behavior.

Steve Hutensky, one of Miramax’s entertainment lawyers, was dispatched to London to negotiate a settlement with Ms. Perkins and her lawyer. He declined to comment for this article.

Ms. Perkins, now a theater producer in London, also declined to comment for this article, saying that she could not discuss her work at Miramax or whether she had entered into any agreements.

Months after the settlement, Mr. Weinstein triumphed at the Oscars, with “Life Is Beautiful” and “Shakespeare in Love” winning 10 awards. A few years later, Mr. Weinstein, who had produced a series of British-themed movies, was made a Commander of the British Empire, an honorary title just short of knighthood.

‘Coercive Bargaining’
For actors, a meeting with Mr. Weinstein could yield dazzling rewards: scripts, parts, award campaigns, magazine coverage, influence on lucrative endorsement deals. He knew how to blast small films to box office success, and deliver polished dramas like “The King’s Speech” and popular attractions like the “Scary Movie” franchise. Mr. Weinstein’s films helped define femininity, sex and romance, from Catherine Zeta-Jones in “Chicago” to Jennifer Lawrence in “Silver Linings Playbook.”

But movies were also his private leverage. When Mr. Weinstein invited Ms. Judd to breakfast in Beverly Hills, she had been shooting the thriller “Kiss the Girls” all night, but the meeting seemed too important to miss. After arriving at the hotel lobby, she was surprised to learn that they would be talking in his suite; she decided to order cereal, she said, so the food would come quickly and she could leave.

Mr. Weinstein soon issued invitation after invitation, she said. Could he give her a massage? When she refused, he suggested a shoulder rub. She rejected that too, she recalled. He steered her toward a closet, asking her to help pick out his clothing for the day, and then toward the bathroom. Would she watch him take a shower? she remembered him saying.

“I said no, a lot of ways, a lot of times, and he always came back at me with some new ask,” Ms. Judd said. “It was all this bargaining, this coercive bargaining.”

To get out of the room, she said, she quipped that if Mr. Weinstein wanted to touch her, she would first have to win an Oscar in one of his movies. She recalled feeling “panicky, trapped,” she said in the interview. “There’s a lot on the line, the cachet that came with Miramax.”

Not long afterward, she related what had happened to her mother, the singer Naomi Judd, who confirmed their conversation to a Times reporter. Years later, Ashley Judd appeared in two Weinstein films without incident, she said. In 2015, she shared an account of the episode in the hotel room with “Variety” without naming the man involved.

In 1997, Mr. Weinstein reached a previously undisclosed settlement with Rose McGowan, then a 23-year-old-actress, after an episode in a hotel room during the Sundance Film Festival. The $100,000 settlement was “not to be
construed as an admission" by Mr. Weinstein, but intended to "avoid litigation and buy peace," according to the legal document, which was reviewed by The Times. Ms. McGowan had just appeared in the slasher film "Scream" and would later star in the television show "Charmed." She declined to comment.

Increased Scrutiny

Just months before Ms. O'Connor wrote her memo, a young female employee quit after complaining of being forced to arrange what she believed to be assignations for Mr. Weinstein, according to two people familiar with her departure. The woman, who asked not to be identified to protect her privacy, said a nondisclosure agreement prevented her from commenting.

Soon, complaints about Mr. Weinstein's behavior prompted the board of his company to take notice.

In March 2015, Mr. Weinstein had invited Ambra Battilana, an Italian model and aspiring actress, to his TriBeCa office on a Friday evening to discuss her career. Within hours, she called the police. Ms. Battilana told them that Mr. Weinstein had grabbed her breasts after asking if they were real and put his hands up her skirt, the police report says.

The claims were taken up by the New York Police Department's Special Victims Squad and splashed across the pages of tabloids, along with reports that the woman had worked with investigators to secretly record a confession from Mr. Weinstein. The Manhattan district attorney's office later declined to bring charges.

But Mr. Weinstein made a payment to Ms. Battilana, according to people familiar with the settlement, speaking on the condition of anonymity about the confidential agreement.

The public nature of the episode concerned some executives and board members of the Weinstein Company. (Harvey and Bob Weinstein together own 42 percent of the privately held business.) When several board members pressed Mr. Weinstein about it, he insisted that the woman had set him up, colleagues recalled.
Ms. Battilana had testified in court proceedings against associates of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy who are accused of procuring women for alleged sex parties, and the Italian news media also reported that, years ago, Ms. Battilana accused a septuagenarian boyfriend of sexual harassment, a complaint that was apparently dismissed. Ms. Battilana did not respond to requests for comment. Her lawyer, Mauro Rufini, could not be reached for comment.

After the episode, Lance Maerov, a board member, said he successfully pushed for a code of behavior for the company that included detailed language about sexual harassment.

Then Ms. O’Connor’s memo hit, with page after page of detailed accusations. In describing the experiences of women at the company, including her own, she wrote, “The balance of power is me: 0, Harvey Weinstein: 10.”

She was a valued employee — Mr. Weinstein described her as “fantastic,” “a great person,” “a brilliant executive” — so the complaint rattled top executives, including Bob Weinstein. When the board was notified of it by email, Mr. Maerov insisted that an outside lawyer determine whether the allegations were true, he said in an interview.

But the inquiry never happened. Mr. Weinstein had reached a settlement with Ms. O’Connor, and there was no longer anything to investigate.

“Because this matter has been resolved and no further action is required, I withdraw my complaint,” Ms. O’Connor wrote in an email to the head of human resources six days after sending her memo. She also wrote a letter to Mr. Weinstein thanking him for the opportunity to learn about the entertainment industry.


A version of this article appears in print on October 5, 2017, on Page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Sexual Misconduct Claims Trail a Hollywood Mogul.

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HARVEY WEINSTEIN: SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR AND BIG-TIME GROPER

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun
October 6, 2017 11:19am

Meet Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

First, here's Harvey Weinstein, the big-time sleaze if new allegations are true:

Oscar-winning movie producer Harvey Weinstein has indicated he will take a leave of absence from his company and seek therapy after the New York Times reported he had been the target of sexual harassment complaints.

The New York Times reported Weinstein, 65, had reached eight previously undisclosed settlements with women who made allegations of sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact.

Instead, he had her sent up to his room, where he appeared in a bathrobe and asked if she could give her a massage or she could watch him shower, she recalled in an interview."

The piece mentions several other instances in which Weinstein is accused of appearing nearly or fully naked in front of someone or asking them to be "present while he bathed or repeatedly ask[ed] for a massage or initiating one himself."

2015:

A 22-year-old woman accused Harvey Weinstein of groping her at the Tribeca Film Center on Friday, before he was questioned by police on Saturday. A spokesperson for the NYPD confirmed to the Hollywood Reporter that the woman filed a police report around two hours after the alleged event.

Then there’s Harvey Weinstein, campaigner for women:

His alleged actions in private conflict with Weinstein’s public persona as a champion of women. He threw a fundraiser for presidential nominee Hillary Clinton last year, he attended the Women’s March during the Sundance Film Festival in January, and he’s helped endow a faculty chair at Rutgers University that bears Gloria Steinem’s name.

And Harvey Weinstein, social justice warrior:

Harvey Weinstein talked Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton at the 12th Zurich Film Festival..."I don’t want to move to Canada, but I certainly don’t want to see Donald Trump [win] with bigotry and racism."

Weinstein, who has hosted Clinton fundraisers this year, continued: “This is the worst I’ve ever seen it. This is not Mitt Romney or Robert Dole, or anybody you could afford to have a president... It’s somebody appealing to the worst in us.”

What a joke. This is just a misunderstanding by some old bloke who doesn’t realise times have changed?

Lisa Bloom, a lawyer advising Mr. Weinstein, said in a statement that “he denies many of the accusations as patently...”
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All Comments (58)

Malcolm 11 months ago

It is not illegal to act as a lawyer for such a person. But it should be. I view it as a worse crime.

Reply

michel 11 months ago

Lisa Bloom is the lawyer who specializes in defending abused women is now defending a Hollywood lefty big shot studio boss against abused women. Same lawyer who brought out all those women who complained about Trump and then all disappeared when Trump said he would sue them for any lies told.

Reply

Jim 11 months ago

PREVIOUS


NEXT
Atheist

Sleazebags in Hollywood and sleazebags in the White House...who would have thunk it?

---

john of gaunt

No Clinton didn't win and her husband can't run again.

---

Rosalind

Well I just hope Julia Gillard who is now hobnobbing around New York with a new BFF in the form of Rihanna springs into action and calls out this misogyny. She promised she would call it out wherever she sees it. Over to you, Julia. And will Hillary return the money raised by this Deplorable? Or maybe she thinks his actions are OK since her husband was doing pretty much the same thing to women when he was President.

---

Gary

Rosalind That's GOLD Rosalind!!! Love your work.

---

Neil

Rosalind I just luuuurve your work, Roz! Spot on.
Is he a friend of Trump and Roger Ailes, seem to have many things in common plus dinosaurs!

---

Septic the Sceptic 11 months ago

Lis Good friend with the Obamas and Clintons.

---

Leigh 11 months ago

Lis, I think he is a friend of Bill Clintons.

---

Lis 11 months ago

Then they are all as bad as each other!

---

Jim 11 months ago

Lis No Bill has a head lead over all of them.

---

Andrew 11 months ago

Lis He's a great mate of Bill Clintons. They often swap notes on how they respect women in great detail.
Christo Almost as low as the White House...Kennedy,Clinton and Trump.

Robert 11 months ago
Hey Mr Producer.

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Harvey Weinstein takes 'leave of absence' after sexual harassment accusations

Gene Maddaus

Harvey Weinstein is taking a leave of absence from the Weinstein Co following a bombshell report in the New York Times about sexual harassment accusations dating back decades.

The Times cited "dozens" of current and former employees who reported inappropriate sexual behaviour on Weinstein's part.

Harvey Weinstein accused of 'decades' of sexual harassment

The Hollywood heavyweight takes a leave of absence following accusations he harassed female staff over three decades.

The paper also reported that Weinstein reached confidential settlements with at least eight women, including actress Rose McGowan.

In a statement to the New York Times, Weinstein addressed the allegations, saying he "came of age in the '60s and '70s, when all the rules about behaviour and workplaces were different."
Harvey Weinstein is taking a leave of absence from his own company after The New York Times released a report alleging decades of sexual harassment against women. Photo: AP

"I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologise for it. Though I'm trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go," the statement read.

The Times story cites a memo drafted by Lauren O'Connor, a former Weinstein Co employee, which raised alarms about allegations over a two-year period.

Another incident involved a temporary employee named Emily Nestor, who was invited to Weinstein's hotel room in 2014 and told he could help her career in exchange for sexual advances.

While Weinstein disputes some of the specific allegations, he is working with a therapist to address his behaviour, the Times reported.

Actresses Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd were among the women named in the report. Photo: AP

The story quotes actress Ashley Judd, who spoke to Variety in 2015 about being sexually harassed by an unnamed mogul.

Weinstein, producer of Oscar-winning films such as The English Patient and Shakespeare in Love, is best known as the founder of

Harvey Weinstein takes 'leave of absence' after sexual harassment accusations

Miramax with his brother Bob. In the mid-'90s, the company helped usher in Hollywood's indie fixation, producing breakthrough hits including Sex, Lies and Videotape, Pulp Fiction and Clerks.

The brothers sold that business to Walt Disney Co. and ran it for several years, clashing at times with management over the release of films such as Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11. In 2005, they left Miramax and founded The Weinstein Company.

Variety reported on Thursday that Weinstein was readying a team of lawyers to deal with the accusations.

Lisa Bloom, an attorney advising the producer, said in a statement that "he denies many of the accusations as patently false."

"Anyone who does business with ___ is complicit. And deep down you know you are even dirtier. Cleanse yourselves."

— rose mcgowan (@rosemcgowan) October 5, 2017

"The woman who chose to speak about their experience of harassment by Harvey Weinstein deserve our awe. It's not fun or easy. It's brave."

— Lena Dunham (@lenadunham) October 5, 2017


— Amber Tamblyn (@ambertamblyn) October 5, 2017

"Here is Weinstein's statement to the New York Times:https://t.co/lpJgsoytRe"

— Hamza Shaban (@hashaban) October 5, 2017

Reuters, Washington Post, Fairfax Media
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Trump 'not at all surprised' by Harvey Weinstein allegations

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he was unsurprised by revelations that Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed women for nearly three decades.

"I've known Harvey Weinstein for a very long time, I'm not at all surprised to see it," President Trump told reporters outside the White House.

His comments came after the New York Times published a bombshell report earlier this week which alleged Weinstein, whose company produced such hits as "The King's Speech" and "Django Unchained," preyed on young women hoping to break into the film industry.

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein apologises after sexual harassment claims
**Weinstein on 'indefinite' leave of absence**

**Fallout grows for producer Weinstein**

The scandal was pounced on by Republicans because Weinstein has been a major backer of Democrat candidates.

Many Democrat lawmakers have since vowed to turn over their contributions from Weinstein to charity.

Trump faced his own sex scandal last year when video emerged of him using lewd language to describe groping women.

Asked about the tape on Saturday, Trump dismissed it "locker room talk," as he has done in the past.

Lisa Bloom, one of Weinstein's lawyers who specializes in sexual harassment cases, said Thursday that her 65-year-old client "denies many of the accusations as patently false."

"He has acknowledged mistakes he has made," she wrote. "He is reading books and going to therapy. He is an old dinosaur learning new ways."

His accusers, the Times said, were mainly young women hoping to break into the film industry and include celebrities such as Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd.

The accusers say Weinstein forced them to massage him, watch him naked and promised to help advance their careers in exchange for sexual favors.
Meanwhile overnight the Weinstein Company launched an internal probe over the harassment claims against co-chairman Harvey Weinstein, confirming he has taken an "indefinite" leave of absence.

The revelations prompted three of the company's nine board members to resign, according to The New York Times.

"We strongly endorse Harvey Weinstein's already-announced decision to take an indefinite leave of absence from the company, commencing today," said a statement signed Friday by four board members: Bob Weinstein, Tarak Ben Ammar, Lance Maerov and Richard Koenigsberg.

"As Harvey has said... it is important for him to get professional help for the problems he has acknowledged.

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Harvey Weinstein's lawyer resigns as fresh claims surface

Lynn Elber

Los Angeles: US TV news anchor has lodged another claim of sexual misconduct against powerful Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein and a third board member has resigned from Weinstein's company.

Meanwhile a prominent US lawyer says she's no longer representing the movie mogul as he confronts sexual harassment allegations dating back years.

Harvey Weinstein accused of 'decades' of sexual harassment

The Hollywood heavyweight takes a leave of absence following accusations he harassed female staff over three decades.

TV anchor Lauren Sivan detailed an alleged 2007 encounter with Weinstein in a HuffPost report on Friday.

Sivan alleged that Weinstein cornered her in the hallway of a Manhattan restaurant closed to the public and masturbated in front of her.

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Sivan said she had rejected an attempt by Weinstein to kiss her. "Well, can you just stand there and shut up," she claims he responded.

Sivan reaffirmed the HuffPost report on Twitter.

The developments, along with the departure of yet another lawyer for Weinstein, are the latest fallout from allegations against the Oscar-winner that The New York Times detailed in an expose on Thursday.

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"My understanding is that Mr Weinstein and his board are moving toward an agreement," lawyer Lisa Bloom said in announcing her resignation on Twitter.

Harvey Weinstein is on indefinite leave from his company following the allegations. Photo: AP

Bloom has previously represented victims of sexual harassment and assault. Her work with the co-chair of The Weinstein Company drew fierce criticism online.

President Donald Trump was asked by reporters to weigh in on the embattled Hollywood figure.

Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd reportedly received settlements with the company. Photo: AP
"I've known Harvey Weinstein a long time," Trump replied. When asked if he was surprised by the accusations, the president replied: "Not at all."

The allegations of sexual misconduct against Weinstein were detailed in a report this week by The New York Times.

Weinstein is on indefinite leave from the company he co-founded while it conducts an investigation into the claims made by women including actors Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan and stretching back years.

The scandal's fallout included the resignation of Weinstein Company board member Marc Lasry, chairman and CEO of Avenue Capital Group, which was confirmed on Saturday by a Lasry spokesman, Todd Fogarty. Lasry joined an exodus from the nine-member board, with billionaire Dick Ziff and, according to reports, Technicolor executive Tim Sarnoff also leaving.

On another front, Morning Joe co-host Mika Brzezinski tweeted that "unless Harvey resigns" she will withdraw from a three-book deal she has with Weinstein Books.

AP
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US player blasted for on-count sledge

Dramatic arrest after man rams police car near MCG

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Hollywood's kingmaker Harvey Weinstein loses his crown

Michael Idato

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has been forced out of the company he built. Photo: AP

But Weinstein, whose film credits include *Pulp Fiction*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Billy Elliot*, is no mere film producer; the 65-year-old New York-born mogul is also a political donor and kingmaker, with connections in Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC.

On Monday, the king lost his crown: the board of The Weinstein Company, which he founded in 2005 with his brother Bob, voted to jettison its leader lest the inferno of negative press around Weinstein bring down the company.

"In light of new information about misconduct that has emerged in..."
the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company have determined that [Harvey's] employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the statement reads.

Its signatories, the four remaining board members: Weinstein's brother Bob, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar; three others Tim Sarnoff, Marc Lasry and Dirk Ziff have already resigned over the scandal, and a fourth, Paul Tudor Jones, was not mentioned in the statement.

The media firestorm was ignited when The New York Times published a devastating assessment of Weinstein's professional conduct last week, including details of legal settlements arising from sexual harassment allegations and testimony from actor Ashley Judd of a meeting with Weinstein in which he, dressed in a bathrobe, asked if she would massage him or watch him shower.

Weinstein initially issued what seemed to be a wide-ranging apology. "I realised some time ago that I needed to be a better person," he said. "The way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain and I sincerely apologise for it."

But he then challenged Judd's accusations - "I never laid a glove on her," he said - and threatened to sue The New York Times, not over the accuracy of the report but rather that it had lied in its dealings with him prior to publication and had not given him a fair amount of time to respond.

The next day television journalist Lauren Sivan related her own encounter with Weinstein at a restaurant in which he allegedly masturbated into a pot plant after she refused his advances.

Weinstein initially recruited celebrity lawyer Lisa Bloom, whose past clients have included the women who brought sexual harassment claims against the comedian Bill Cosby, the news host Bill O'Reilly and US president Donald Trump. (Bloom was also the architect of comedian Kathy Griffin's disastrous press conference in the wake of her own Trump scandal.)

Bloom's strategy - to leak photographs of Weinstein's accusers in "very friendly poses" with Weinstein - drew criticism from within the Weinstein Company, as did the fact that she had a pre-existing TV deal with the company. "How can you possibly provide impartial advice to Harvey or address this group with any credibility?" board member Lance Maerov said in a testy email exchange with Bloom.

Facing an internal backlash and a storm of negative press herself, she resigned the next day.

High-profile actors including Lena Dunham, Brie Larson, Amber Tamblyn and Seth Rogen, and the director Judd Apatow, have all spoken out against Weinstein. Actor Rose McGowan, who it is

understood has previously settled a case against Weinstein, was more ambiguous in her choice of words but nonetheless made her point. "Women fight on," she said via a social media account. "And to the men out there, stand up. We need you as allies."

The scandal has even found its way to Washington DC, where the politicians who were beneficiaries of his political largesse, including Democrats Elizabeth Warren, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal and Cory Booker, have all redirected his donations to charities. In the past he has been a donor to the Obama and Clinton campaigns.

The path ahead is less certain. The company will no doubt hope to move on from the scandal, though how quickly or effectively remains to be seen.

What Hollywood is grappling with is not just the elephant in the room, but the creeping dread that this is simply the tip of the iceberg. Actors have spoken openly of such a pervasive culture in the entertainment industry without naming names for years.

In the last decade, as voices grew more courageous and structural shifts in the business diluted the central columns of power that nixed silence around such issues, women have begun to speak out. Among those they have accused: the once untouchable Cosby and the now deceased Fox news mogul Roger Ailes.

And in the scandal's most curious footnote, some media reports have suggested one of the sources of The New York Times piece was none other than Weinstein's brother Bob, who The New York Post says has wanted to push Harvey out of the company for some time.

It's a Hollywood sting in a Hollywood tale, which puts a Biblical spin on the whole affair and casts the rival brothers as a modern-day Cain and Abel.
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Trump ups ante in war of words

Donald Trump lands Air Force One yesterday in Paris to explore the AffableCan C5 composites company, which its owner claims is doing business in the United States. The visit is expected to be a key moment in the Trump administration's efforts to reduce drug prices and increase access to health care. Trump said "I am looking forward to working with the French to find solutions to our rising drug costs and to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality health care." The visit comes as the administration faces criticism for its proposed budget cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, which many say will disproportionately affect low-income Americans. Trump said he believes in "freemarket" solutions to health care, and is committed to protecting the Affordable Care Act. The visit also comes as the president is facing questions about his business ties, including reports that he has been receiving payments from Chinese individuals for his hotels. The president has denied any wrongdoing, but the issue remains under investigation by Congress and the Justice Department.

Crisis shows Suu Kyi still military's prisoner

A man leaps hugging children at a bus stop in a scene so sad that it is distributed at a Bangladesh refugee camp below. Aung San Suu Kyi was taken to court yesterday on charges of failing to act in the interests of her party, the National League for Democracy. The party has been in power since 1990, but has been ruled by the military since 1962. Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate and long-time defender of human rights, has been under house arrest for almost 13 years. She was first arrested in 1989 and has been in and out of jail ever since. She is now facing charges of corruption and abuse of power. The military says she is still needed to help with the country's transition to democracy. Suu Kyi, who is 72, has said she will not contest the upcoming elections.

Weinstein faces another ex claim

The New York attorney general on Wednesday sued Harvey Weinstein, the disgraced movie producer, for alleged sexual harassment and assault. The lawsuit, filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, alleges that Weinstein, who founded The Weinstein Company with his brother Bob, used his position to sexually harass and assault women, including a former employee who was later fired. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and consumer protection remedies. It is the second lawsuit filed against Weinstein in recent weeks. The first, filed by a former employee, alleged sexual harassment and assault.

Weinstein, a 65-year-old film producer and one of Hollywood's most powerful figures, has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct.

America needs another Spuntkin as China takes the lead in science

In the wake of Spuntkin, Moscow is seeking to maintain its status as a major player on the world stage. The country is investing heavily in research and development, with a focus on areas such as space exploration, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. The Russian government has announced plans to spend 600 billion rubles on research over the next five years. The country is also set to launch a new satellite, the Angara, in 2020. Spuntkin, a 19-year-old space enthusiasts, was the first private citizen to travel to space. The Russian government has praised him for his contributions to the country's space program, and has expressed interest in sending him to the moon.

Emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are reshaping the global order.

The US National Intelligence Council predicts that emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, will continue to shape the global order. The council warns that countries that are not well-positioned to adapt to these changes may find themselves at a disadvantage. The report also highlights the importance of cybersecurity, as well as the need for countries to develop robust regulatory frameworks to ensure that emerging technologies are used for good. The report recommends that countries work together to address these challenges and ensure that the benefits of emerging technologies are widely shared.
Harvey Weinstein has been fired from his own company

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein has been fired from the company bearing his name following a string of sexual harassment revelations.

The board of the Weinstein Company released a statement on Sunday saying it had terminated his employment after the New York Times reported that the company's co-founder had settled lawsuits by at least eight women over sexual harassment claims.

Here's what the statement from the directors said:
In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company - Robert Weinstein, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar - have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately.

On the weekend, Weinstein said he planned to sue the NY Times (https://www.businessinsider.com/harvey-weinstein-speaks-on-sexual-harassment-claims-suing-new-york-times-2017-10) for $500 million for "reckless reporting".

Weinstein initially planned to take a leave of absence from the business he co-founded with his brother Robert in 2005, having issued a statement that apologised for how he "behaved with colleagues in the past," acknowledging it "caused a lot of pain".

High profile actress Ashley Judd was among those to detail allegations about Weinstein (https://www.businessinsider.com/ashley-judd-accuses-harvey-weinstein-sexual-harassment-2017-10), alleging that 20 years ago, he invited her to the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel for what she thought was a breakfast meeting, but sent her up to his room appeared in a bathrobe, offered her a massage, and asked her if she wanted to watch him take a shower.

Harvey and Bob Weinstein originally co-founded Miramax Films in 1979, then left to create The Weinstein Company. Their
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To create the Weinstein Company, their credits list includes the Oscar winners “Sex, Lies and Videotape,” “Shakespeare in Love,” “Pulp Fiction,” and “Good Will Hunting.”

The brothers are estimated to be worth around $US130 million each.

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Harvey Weinstein has been forced out of the independent film company he co-founded, felled by a mushrooming sexual harassment scandal that has hobbed his status as a media mogul and left his future in Hollywood in jeopardy.

The Weinstein Company's board of directors has voted to remove Weinstein from the studio, leaving control of the company in the hands of Weinstein's brother, Bob Weinstein, and chief operating officer David Glasser, it was announced in a statement from the company on Sunday.

"In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company - Robert Weinstein, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar - have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately."
Weinstein has been rocked by a devastating *New York Times* report documenting decades of legal settlements stemming from sexual harassment allegations levelled by former employees and associates, as well as accusations of improper sexual advances from actress Ashley Judd.

The allegations extend back to Weinstein's days running Miramax, an independent film studio that was then owned by the Walt Disney Co.

As the crisis worsened, Weinstein has lost key allies.

His attorney Lisa Bloom resigned on Saturday, as did his adviser Lanny Davis, a former White House hand to Bill Clinton.

One third of the all-male board quit on Friday, including billionaire investors Marc Lasry and Dirk Ziff, and Technicolor executive Tim Sarnoff.

Weinstein was said to be furiously resisting efforts to force him out permanently.

He has also struggled to form a coherent response, veering from contrition to combativeness.

An initial statement to the *Times* acknowledged past mistakes, while pledging to reform himself.

Shortly after, Weinstein's attorney Charles Harder said he was preparing to sue the paper, accusing it of making "false and defamatory statements".

Weinstein also said he was taking a leave of absence, only to continue appearing at work.

The board later forced him to take an indefinite leave on Friday.

Bob Weinstein and Glasser have been pushing for Weinstein to leave the company, believing he threatened the studio's ability to continue to attract top talent and to release film and television shows.

Weinstein has maintained that he can weather the crisis and re-emerge.

Weinstein has been a major force in independent film for decades, helping bring art house movies such as *Cinema Paradiso* and *The Crying Game* to mass audiences, and propelling the likes of *Pulp Fiction* and *Shakespeare in Love* to commercial success and awards glory.

Reuters
Harvey Weinstein embodies a culture whose power is on the wane

Judith Hornaday

Thursday's report about decades of sexual harassment perpetrated by the revered and reviled movie producer Harvey Weinstein felt less like a bombshell than a land mine finally going off.

Weinstein's alleged misdeeds - demanding that young actresses, interns, assistants and would-be executives meet him in hotel rooms, greeting them in his bathrobe and asking for massages - have long been whispered about within the film world, where Weinstein is as famous for hyping films like Shakespeare in Love and The King's Speech to Oscar wins as he is for re-cutting the films he produces. Not many people are known by one name in Hollywood, but everyone knows who you mean when you say "Harvey".

Weinstein fired from his own company
The board of Harvey Weinstein's company fired him as allegations pile up of sexual harassment going back decades.

Now, thanks to an impressively in-depth New York Times
investigation, the name will mean something far more troubling than ego trips or meddling in the editing suite. Indeed, Weinstein has become simply the latest in a string of men whose toxic behaviour points to how structural inequality plays out, not just among the people who make movies, but in what the rest of us see on screen.

Sexism is endemic to just about any profession, as a quick glance at *Mad Men* or this week's technology news attests. But the sleazy ethos epitomised by the Weinstein story permeates an industry whose legend and lore has long mythologised the "casting couch", whereby female actors got breaks in the business by sleeping with influential men. In a medium predicated on objectifying the human form and dominated by men with money, power and needy egos to burn, it's long been assumed that a young woman trying to make it in Hollywood will need to brave a gauntlet of ogling, suggestive comments, propositions or worse.

![Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars in Los Angeles in 2014. Photo: AP](image)

Those rituals, and the values that inform and support them, are reflected in the movies themselves. For nearly the entire century that American cinema has been a dominant mass medium, it has trafficked in imagery that sexualises women to a gratuitous and sometimes degrading degree. Even in movies that don't explicitly feature women as objects of male desire, audiences are subjected to a steady diet of superhero fairy tales of unchecked potency, vigilante violence and limitless powers — wish-fulfillment fantasies of male desire and grandiosity that would be laughable if they didn’t have such distorted, disgusting analogues in the real world.

It turns out that the brave actresses and executives who went on the record in the Weinstein story are part of a critical mass of women who are speaking out about men behaving badly within what is loosely, if not always lovingly, called the "film community".

The Weinstein revelations lay bare the screaming hypocrisy at the core of Hollywood’s storied liberalism, which loves to pay lip service to equal rights and feminism but has remained impressively impermeable when it comes to representation of women, who directed a paltry 4 per cent of the top 100 films last year, and accounted for only 29 per cent of mainstream-movie protagonists.

In the Times story, one of Weinstein’s lawyers, Lisa Bloom, called her client "an old dinosaur learning new ways." Coincidentally, in *Battle...*
of the Sexes - a movie that’s directed by a man and a woman, and that reflects that egalitarian point of view - Emma Stone’s Billie Jean King makes a similar comparison, chiding her anti-feminist opponent Bobby Riggs that “dinosaurs can’t play tennis.” That’s true, of course: Their arms are too short. Which makes it difficult for them to keep grasping at the power that keeps slipping away despite their most desperate efforts. And which makes it impossible to keep their fingers on the pulse of the changing tastes and expectations of an audience that’s 50 per cent female, and increasingly unwilling to pretend otherwise.

The Washington Post
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LAS VEGAS: Federal investigators returned to the scene of the Las Vegas gunnam Stephen Paddock, while the officers who raided his hotel room door the night of the massacre were giving account of a barricaded dude who had to be shot through and the hoop-bag tugs they fired they'd fired.

The Las Vegas shooter's three-bedroom house on a cul-de-sac in a retirement community in Mesquite, Nevada, was for "re-documenting and searching," said local police Chief Troy Tarkan, who accompanied FBI agents as they served the search warrant.

"I don't think there's anything specific," Tarkan said. "They're going through every single thing, photographing everything again."

The home was first searched last week by Las Vegas police, who said they found 19 guns and several pounds of potentially explosive materials at the house that Paddock bought in early 2005.

The search came exactly a week after Paddock opened fire on a country music crowd, killing 58 and injuring nearly 500.

Meanwhile, the makeshift SWAT team of police officers who made it to Paddock's door at the Mandalay Bay hotel casino 12 minutes after the first shots were fired described how they got there and the "gun store" they found inside in an appearance on the CBS television program 60 Minutes.

The officers said they heard reports of gunfire on both the 29th and 32nd floors, so they "were thinking multiple shooters at this point," Sgt. Joshua Birkho said. They rendezvied on the 32nd floor after Paddock’s uneventful 12-minute ride to an area without a security guard outside his door.

When they got to the stairwell door on that floor near Paddock’s room, they found he had taken special measures to slow them down.

"He had screwed the door shut — and with a piece of metal and some seals," Birkho said.

"I don't know we'd be coming out that door to gain entry into his door. So he tried to barricade it as best he could."

But no officer had a key, and said he'd already easily pop it open, Birkho said.

Authorities would later reveal Paddock had surveillance cameras rigged inside and outside his room. But the officers didn't know that at the time.

It turned out Paddock had already shot and killed himself when they finally entered.

Twelve perish in capsizing

YANGON: An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized in the confluence of a river and the Bay of Bengal and at least 12 people died, police said yesterday.

Five of the dead were children. Up to 25 people were on the boat and eight survived the capsizing, local police official Mohammad Khawiz said.

He said rescuers have recovered 12 dead bodies but it was not exactly how many were missing. The search was continuing, but the sea remained rough.

The capsizing occurred near the Shah Patee Weir in Bangladesh's southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar as the boat was moving toward Bangladesh late Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar since August 25 when the military launched a crackdown that had been deemed by the United Nations as "ethnic cleansing." Boat accidents have killed 166 Rohingyas trying to reach Bangladesh.

Myanmar's military launched what it described as "clearance operations" after an insurgent group, demanding autonomy for the Muslim minority, attacked police posts and killed several police and border guards.

The UN said Myanmar's response was "disproportionate" compared to the insurgents' actions.

The refugees arriving in Bangladesh have described indiscriminate violence and widespread arson in their home villages in Myanmar's Rakhine state along the Bangladeshi border.

Twelve people were maimed to death by two white tiger cubs while he was herding them into their enclosure.

White tiger cubs maul keeper to death at wildlife park

BANGALORE: Two white tiger cubs have mauled their keeper to death at a wildlife national park in southern India, an official said on Sunday.

Anil, 40, was killed late Saturday at Bannerghatta Biological Park on the outskirts of Bangalore when the two cubs attacked him as he herded them into their enclosure, park chief Santhosh Kumar said.

Kumar said the tigers were eventually driven off by park staff but the victim was already dead.

"The killers did not allow the caretaker to retrieve Anil's body from the spot and were guarding it, which delayed in rushing him to a nearby hospital," Kumar said.

Anil, who goes by one name, was a daily wage worker and was hired by the national park earlier this month to fill in for a staff member.

Aggrieved relatives protested outside the park on Sunday and demanded 500,000 rupees ($4,000) compensation from authorities, accusing them of negligence. Two years ago a keeper was injured by lions in the park, according to the Press Trust of India, quoting Kumar.

The 545ha Bannerghatta National Park houses 185 animal species including Bengal tigers, lions and leopards, according to its website.

Catalans feeling pressure

BARCELONA: Pressure mounted yesterday against Catalan plans to declare independence from Spain, as thousands of protesters rallied to defend a referendum on secession.

The pro-independence followers days of soaring tensions after police cracked down on voters in a banned October 1 Catalan independence referendum, prompting separatists to warn they would unleash protest breaks away from Spain in days.

Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont, who has yet to decide whether to declare independence in defiance of Spanish authorities, is set to address the regional parliament tomorrow.

Hundreds of thousands of flag-waving demonstrators, calling themselves a "silent majority," packed central Barcelona on Sunday to protest against the plan, which has sparked the country's worst political crisis in a generation.

About 350,000 people attended the rally, according to police, while organizers put turnout at 500,000.

Some protesters called for Puigdemont to go to jail.

NEW YORK: Harvey Weinstein, the egomaniacal movie producer whose collaborations reigned in Hollywood made him an Academy Awards regular, was terminated from The Weinstein Company yesterday following an expose that detailed decades of sexual harassment allegations made against Weinstein by actresses and employees.

In a statement, the company's board of directors announced his termination, "enjoying the swift downfall of one of Hollywood's most powerful producers and expelling him from the company he co-created."

"In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company's board said.

Weinstein had previously taken an indefinite leave of absence following the revelation of alleged incidents of sexual harassment.

10-328
MOGUL'S WEB OF SLEAZE

Harvey Weinstein

TOBY HARRON

He was one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, a rising Democratic political force. Then women started speaking up. Now

The new wave of sexual harassment allegations against

Harvey Weinstein has been

Hollywood's most powerful

people have brought the

production company

producer to his knees.

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Pence in flag protest exit

INDIANAPOLIS: US Vice-President Mike Pence has walked out of an NFL match between the Indianapolis Colts and San Francisco 49ers after players from the 49ers took a knee during the national anthem.

"I left today's Colts game because President Trump and I will not dignify any event that disrespects our soldiers, our flag, or our national anthem," he said.

The walkout throws fuel on the fire of the continuing controversy, which began when then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick sat during the anthem last year in protest at police brutality.

Tiger attack kills keeper

BAYWAURO: Two white tiger cubs have mauled their keeper to death at a wildlife national park in southern India as they tried to subdue them back in their enclosure.

Anjum, 40, was killed late Saturday at Banarghatta Biological Park on the outskirts of Bangalore when the two cubs attacked him after a gate was not securely properly.

Angry relatives protested outside the park on Sunday and demanded $4,908 compensation from authorities, accusing them of negligence.

Two years ago a keeper was injured by lions in the park.

Queen has a gatecrasher

LONDON: A feisty woman who tried to scale the gates of Buckingham Palace has been charged with being drunk and disorderly.

Jessica Davey, 35, who was set to appear in court yesterday, was detained by police on Saturday before she gained access to the palace grounds.

British police are on high alert after five attacks blamed on terrorism this year.

In August, a man wielding a sword outside the palace was charged under terrorism laws.

Three police officers suffered minor injuries detaining him.
Trump could start war: GOP man

WASHINGTON -- A top Republican warned that Donald Trump's provocative comments on China and North Korea risked starting a war with those nations.

"If you read the President's tweets, if you read the President's press conferences, there's a real risk that he could start a war," House Majority Whip Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We have to be very careful that nothing that says a war is going to start.

Scoring of Rohingya feared drowned

MOGOK, Myanmar -- At least 128 Rohingya migrants feared drowned after their makeshift boat capsized while trying to escape from coastal-warring Myanmar to Thailand yesterday, the disaster spotter group said.

"It is a very sad news," the group chief told the Reuters on condition of anonymity. "We are not sure how many victims were drowned."

Beauties and the beast: studio fires Weinstein

NEW YORK -- A Fire Department investigation has exposed that the studio of Harvey Weinstein, famed and controversial Hollywood movie mogul, was a fire hazard.

Harvey Weinstein enjoys the attention of actresses at the Beverly Hilton Hotel and, to date, his brother Robert Weinstein.

The fire department inspects the studio for hazards, including lack of smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and fire alarms.

Leading Catholic priest to quit after revealing he fathered two daughters

TOKYO -- The head of Japan's Catholic Church announced he is stepping down after admitting he fathered two daughters with a woman he had been in a long-term relationship with.

"I am deeply sorry and beg forgiveness," Cardinal Tagle said in a statement. "I have been living a double life and I have been an example that stands in the way of our goal and mission."
George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Judi Dench rebuke Harvey Weinstein for 'horrifying' offences

MORE

Legendary actress Meryl Streep has weighed into the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal, issuing a stinging rebuke of the disgraced Hollywood mogul.

"The disgraceful news about Harvey Weinstein has appalled those of us whose work he championed, and those whose good and worthy causes he supported," the 68-year-old actress said. "The intrepid women who raised their voices to expose this abuse are our heroes."

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Weinstein fired from his own company

The board of Harvey Weinstein's company fires him as allegations pile up of sexual harassment going back decades.

But Streep, who won an Oscar for a Weinstein-backed film *The Iron Lady*, and an Oscar nomination for another, *August: Osage County*, pleaded ignorance of the nature and extent of the allegations against Weinstein.

"Not everybody knew," she said. "I didn't know about these other
offences, I did not know about his financial settlements with actresses and colleagues, I did not know about his having meetings in his hotel room, his bathroom, or other inappropriate, coercive acts.

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"And if everybody knew, I don't believe that all the investigative reporters in the entertainment and the hard news media would have neglected for decades to write about it," Streep added.

Streep said Weinstein was "exasperating but respectful with me in our working relationship".

"The behaviour is inexcusable but the abuse of power familiar," Streep said. "Each brave voice that is raised, heard and credited by our watchdog media will ultimately change the game."

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Another acting legend, Dame Judi Dench, added her voice to Streep's, describing the allegations as "horrifying".

Meryl Streep said she is "appalled" at the revelations of sexual harassment by Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

"Whilst there is no doubt that Harvey Weinstein has helped and championed my film career for the past 20 years, I was completely unaware of these offences which are, of course, horrifying," the 82-year-old actress said in a statement.

"I offer my sympathy to those who have suffered, and wholehearted support to those who have spoken out," Dench said.

Dame Judi Dench added her voice to the growing number of actors speaking out against Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

Dench owes a great deal to Weinstein's championing of her, notably an Oscar for her work on *Shakespeare in Love* and nominations for a number of Weinstein-backed films including *Mrs Brown*, *Chocolat* and *Philomena*.

George Clooney, who is arguably one of the most bankable actors (and therefore powerful) actors in Hollywood described Weinstein's actions as "indefensible."

The 56-year-old actor told The Daily Beast he had been friends with Weinstein for 20 years and had "never seen any of this behaviour, ever."

Clooney added that the scandal may have a positive outcome in that it will encourage women in such situations to speak up without fear.

"Maybe that's what good will come out of this: that not just in Hollywood, although Hollywood is now the focus, but in all of these cases the victims will feel that they will be listened to and that they don't need to be afraid," he said.

The actress Kate Winslet also spoke out, applauding the bravery of the women who have spoken of their experiences.

"The fact that these women are starting to speak out about the gross misconduct of one of our most important and well regarded film producers is incredibly brave and has been deeply shocking to hear," she said.

And in a frank and honest statement, actress Glenn Close acknowledged that she was aware of "vague rumours".

"I am sitting here, deeply upset, acknowledging to myself that, yes, for many years, I have been aware of the vague rumours that Harvey Weinstein had a pattern of behaving inappropriately around women," Close said in a statement. "Harvey has always been decent to me, but now that the rumors are being substantiated, I feel angry and darkly sad."

Close said she was "angry, not just at [Harvey, but also] the conspiracy of silence around his actions."

She also described the "horrible pressure, the awful expectation put on a woman when a powerful, egotistical, entitled bully expects sexual favours in exchange for a job."

"Ours is an industry in which very few actors are indispensable and women are cast in far fewer roles than men, so the stakes are higher for women and make them more vulnerable to the manipulations of a predator," Close added. "I applaud the monumental courage of the women who have spoken up."

One dissenting voice – perhaps the only one to speak up on Weinstein's behalf so far – is the fashion designer Donna Karan who implied that the way women dress was "asking for" sexual harassment.

Karan is a friend of Weinstein and his designer wife Georgina Chapman. (Chapman founded the Marchesa clothing brand.)

"How do we display ourselves?" Karan said when asked by a journalist at a red carpet event about the Weinstein scandal.

"How do we present ourselves as women? What are we asking? Are we asking for it by presenting all the sensuality and sexuality?" she said.

Karan said women "just presenting themselves the way they do ... what are they asking for? Trouble."

Karan's remarks prompted outrage online; the actress Rose McGowan, who was identified in The New York Times story as someone who had settled a sexual harassment suit with Weinstein in 1997, called Karan "scum in a fancy dress."

"Aiding and abetting is a moral crime," McGowan wrote on her social media account.

Weinstein stands accused of sexually harassing a number of women over several decades. In the wake of the bombshell revelations by The New York Times, the board of The Weinstein Company, which Weinstein co-founded with his brother Bob, terminated him "with cause."

"In light of new information about misconduct that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company have determined that [Harvey's] employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company said.

The allegations published by The New York Times date back decades, and include an account from actress Ashley Judd of a meeting in which she was asked to meet Weinstein at his hotel and was greeted by the mogul wearing only a bathrobe.

In a separate account, which surfaced after Times article, television journalist Lauren Sivan related an encounter with Weinstein at a restaurant in which he masturbated into a pot plant after she refused his advances.

While the long term impact of the scandal is still difficult to divine, The Weinstein Company is moving to scrub Weinstein's name from everything - including their own brand.

The company confirmed it is removing Weinstein's name from the company's roster of television series, including Project Runway, the military drama Six, two new Paramount television dramas Waco and Yellowstone and a new series from Mad Men creator Matt Weiner titled The Romanoffs.

The company also signalled its intention to remove Weinstein's name from future feature film releases.

But in the most surprising move, according to a media report in the trade publication Deadline, The Weinstein Company is also opening a dialogue with creative agencies tasked with finding a new name for the entire company.

In the meantime, Harvey Weinstein has hired the crisis PR company Sitrick and Company to manage the fallout from the scandal.

That move follows what many saw as a disastrous misstep by Weinstein, who hired attorney Lisa Bloom, a high-profile lawyer generally connected to the "other side" of such scandals, having represented women who made allegations against comedian Bill Cosby, news host Bill O'Reilly and US president Donald Trump.

Bloom and another crisis consultant Lanny Davis quit over the weekend amid criticism both from within The Weinstein Company and from media commentators.

Sitrick's past client roster includes the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, for whom he managed a clerical sex abuse scandal, the former Hewlett-Packard Chairwoman Patricia Dunn, for whom he handled a corporate spying case, and high-profile celebrity clients such as Halle Berry and Paris Hilton.

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FROM AGGRESSIVE OVERTURES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT: HARVEY WEINSTEIN'S ACCUSEES TELL THEIR STORIES

Multiple women share harrowing accounts of sexual assault and harassment by the film executive.

By Ronan Farrow

This story was first published on newyorker.com on October 10, 2017, at 10:47 A.M. The version below appears in the October 23, 2017, issue.

1.

Since the establishment of the first studios, a century ago, there have been few movie executives as dominant, or as domineering, as Harvey Weinstein. He co-founded the production-and-distribution companies Miramax and the Weinstein Company, helping to reinvent the model for independent films with movies including “Sex, Lies, and Videotape,” “The Crying Game,” “Pulp Fiction,” “The English Patient,” “Shakespeare in Love,” and “The King’s Speech.” Beyond Hollywood, he has exercised his influence as a prolific fund-raiser for Democratic Party candidates, including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Weinstein combined a keen eye for promising scripts, directors, and actors with a bullying, even threatening, style of doing business, inspiring both fear and gratitude. His movies have earned more than three hundred Oscar nominations, and, at the annual awards ceremonies, he has been thanked more than almost anyone else in movie history, ranking just after Steven Spielberg and right before God.

For more than twenty years, Weinstein, who is now sixty-five, has also been trailed by rumors of sexual harassment and assault. His behavior has been an open secret to many in Hollywood and beyond, but previous attempts by many publications, including The New Yorker, to investigate and publish the story over the years fell short of the demands of journalistic evidence. Too few people were willing to speak, much less allow a reporter to use their names, and Weinstein and his associates used nondisclosure agreements, payoffs, and legal threats to suppress their accounts. Asia
Argento, an Italian film actress and director, said that she did not speak out until now—Weinstein, she told me, forcibly performed oral sex on her—because she feared that Weinstein would “crush” her. “I know he has crushed a lot of people before,” Argento said. “That’s why this story—in my case, it’s twenty years old, some of them are older—has never come out.”

On October 5th, the New York Times, in a powerful report by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, revealed multiple allegations of sexual harassment against Weinstein, an article that led to the resignation of four members of the Weinstein Company’s all-male board, and to Weinstein’s firing.

The story, however, is complex, and there is more to know and to understand. In the course of a ten-month investigation, I was told by thirteen women that, between the nineteen-nineties and 2015, Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them. Their allegations corroborate and overlap with the Times’s revelations, and also include far more serious claims.

Three of the women—among them Argento and a former aspiring actress named Lucia Evans—told me that Weinstein had raped them, forcibly performing or receiving oral sex or forcing vaginal sex. Four women said that they had experienced unwanted touching that could be classified as an assault. In an audio recording captured during a New York Police Department sting operation in 2015, Weinstein admits to groping a Filipina-Italian model named Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, describing it as behavior he is “used to.” Four of the women I interviewed cited encounters in which Weinstein exposed himself or masturbated in front of them.

Sixteen former and current executives and assistants at Weinstein’s companies told me that they witnessed or had knowledge of unwanted sexual advances and touching at events associated with Weinstein’s films and in the workplace. They and others described a pattern of professional meetings that were little more than thin pretexts for sexual advances on young actresses and models. All sixteen said that the behavior was widely known within both Miramax and the Weinstein Company.

Messages sent by Irwin Reiter, a senior company executive, to Emily Nestor, one of the women who alleged that she was harassed, described the “mistreatment of women” as a serial problem that the Weinstein Company had been struggling with in recent years. Other employees described what was, in essence, a culture of complicity at Weinstein’s places of business, with numerous people throughout his companies fully aware of his behavior but either abetting it or looking the other way.
Some employees said that they were enlisted in a subterfuge to make the victims feel safe. A female executive with the company described how Weinstein’s assistants and others served as a “honey pot” — they would initially join a meeting along with a woman Weinstein was interested in, but then Weinstein would dismiss them, leaving him alone with the woman. (On October 10th, the Weinstein Company’s board issued a statement, writing that “these allegations come as an utter surprise to the Board. Any suggestion that the Board had knowledge of this conduct is false.”)

Virtually all of the people I spoke with told me that they were frightened of retaliation. “If Harvey were to discover my identity, I’m worried that he could ruin my life,” one former employee told me. Many said that they had seen Weinstein’s associates confront and intimidate those who crossed him, and feared that they would be similarly targeted. Four actresses, including Mira Sorvino and Rosanna Arquette, told me they suspected that, after they rejected Weinstein’s advances or complained about them to company representatives, Weinstein had them removed from projects or dissuaded people from hiring them. Multiple sources said that Weinstein frequently bragged about planting items in media outlets about those who spoke against him; these sources feared similar retribution. Several pointed to Gutierrez’s case: after she went to the police, negative items discussing her sexual history and impugning her credibility began rapidly appearing in New York gossip pages. (In the taped conversation, part of which The New Yorker posted online, Weinstein asks Gutierrez to join him for “five minutes,” and warns, “Don’t ruin your friendship with me for five minutes.”)

Several former employees told me that they were speaking about Weinstein’s alleged behavior now because they hoped to protect women in the future. “This wasn’t a one-off. This wasn’t a period of time,” an executive who worked for Weinstein for many years told me. “This was ongoing predatory behavior toward women — whether they consented or not.”

It’s likely that the women who spoke to me have recently felt increasingly emboldened to talk about their experiences because of the way the world has changed regarding issues of sex and power. Their disclosures follow in the wake of stories alleging sexual misconduct by public figures, including Donald Trump, Bill O’Reilly, Roger Ailes, and Bill Cosby. In October, 2016, a month before the election, a tape emerged of Trump telling a celebrity-news reporter, “And when you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. . . . Grab ‘em by the pussy. You can do anything.” This past April, O’Reilly, a host at Fox News, was forced to resign.
after Fox was discovered to have paid five women millions of dollars in exchange for silence about their accusations of sexual harassment. Ailes, the former head of Fox News, resigned in July, 2016, after he was accused of sexual harassment. Cosby went on trial this summer, charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman. The trial ended with a hung jury.

In the *Times* piece, Weinstein made an initial effort at damage control by partly acknowledging what he had done, saying, "I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologize for it." In an interview with the New York Post, he said, "I've got to deal with my personality, I've got to work on my temper, I have got to dig deep. I know a lot of people would like me to go into a facility, and I may well just do that—I will go anywhere I can learn more about myself." He went on, "In the past I used to compliment people, and some took it as me being sexual, I won't do that again." In his written statement to the *Times*, Weinstein claimed that he would "channel that anger" into a fight against the leadership of the National Rifle Association. He also said that it was not "coincidental" that he was organizing a foundation for women directors at the University of Southern California. "It will be named after my mom and I won't disappoint her." (U.S.C. has since rejected his funding pledge.)

Sallie Hofmeister, a spokesperson for Weinstein, issued a new statement in response to the allegations detailed here. It reads in full: "Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein has further confirmed that there were never any acts of retaliation against any women for refusing his advances. Mr. Weinstein obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations, but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr. Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual. Mr. Weinstein has begun counseling, has listened to the community and is pursuing a better path. Mr. Weinstein is hoping that, if he makes enough progress, he will be given a second chance."

While Weinstein and his representatives have said that the incidents were consensual, and were not widespread or severe, the women I spoke to tell a very different story.
Lucia Stoller, now Lucia Evans, was approached by Weinstein at Cipriani Upstairs, a club in New York, in 2004, the summer before her senior year at Middlebury College. Evans, who is now a marketing consultant, wanted to be an actress, and although she had heard rumors about Weinstein she let him have her number. Weinstein began calling her late at night, or having an assistant call her, asking to meet. She declined, but said that she would do readings during the day for a casting executive. Before long, an assistant called to set up a daytime meeting at the Miramax office in Tribeca, first with Weinstein and then with a casting executive, who was a woman. “I was, like, Oh, a woman, great, I feel safe,” Evans said.

When Evans arrived for the meeting, the building was full of people. She was led to an office with exercise equipment in it, and takeout boxes on the floor. Weinstein was there, alone. Evans said that she found him frightening. “The type of control he exerted—it was very real,” she told me. “Even just his presence was intimidating.”

In the meeting, Evans recalled, “he immediately was simultaneously flattering me and demeaning me and making me feel bad about myself.” Weinstein told her that she’d “be great in ‘Project Runway’”—the show, which Weinstein helped produce, premièred later that year—but only if she lost weight. He also told her about two scripts, a horror movie and a teen love story, and said one of his associates would discuss them with her.

“At that point, after that, is when he assaulted me,” Evans said. “He forced me to perform oral sex on him.” As she objected, Weinstein took his penis out of his pants and pulled her head down onto it. “I said, over and over, ‘I don’t want to do this, stop, don’t,’” she recalled. “I tried to get away, but maybe I didn’t try hard enough. I didn’t want to kick him or fight him.” In the end, she said, “he’s a big guy. He overpowered me.” She added, “I just sort of gave up. That’s the most horrible part of it, and that’s why he’s been able to do this for so long to so many women: people give up, and then they feel like it’s their fault.”

Weinstein appeared to find the encounter unremarkable. “It was like it was just another day for him,” Evans said. “It was no emotion.” Afterward, he acted as if nothing had happened. She wondered how Weinstein’s staff could not know what was going on.
Following the encounter, she met with the female casting executive, who sent her the scripts, and also came to one of her acting-class readings a few weeks later. (Evans does not believe that the executive was aware of Weinstein's behavior.) Weinstein, Evans said, began calling her again late at night. She told me that the entire sequence of events had a routine quality. "It feels like a very streamlined process," she said. "Female casting director, Harvey wants to meet. Everything was designed to make me feel comfortable before it happened. And then the shame in what happened was also designed to keep me quiet."

Evans said that, after the incident, "I just put it in a part of my brain and closed the door." She continued to blame herself for not fighting harder. "It was always my fault for not stopping him," she said. "I had an eating problem for years. I was disgusted with myself. It's funny, all these unrelated things I did to hurt myself because of this one thing." Evans told friends some of what had happened, but felt largely unable to talk about it. "I ruined several really good relationships because of this. My schoolwork definitely suffered, and my roommates told me to go to a therapist because they thought I was going to kill myself."

In the years that followed, Evans encountered Weinstein occasionally. Once, while she was walking her dog in Greenwich Village, she saw him getting into a car. "I very clearly saw him. I made eye contact," she said. "I remember getting chills down my spine just looking at him. I was so horrified. I have nightmares about him to this day."

3.

Asia Argento, who was born in Rome, played the role of a glamorous thief named Beatrice in the crime drama "B. Monkey," which was released in the U.S. in 1999. The distributor was Miramax. In a series of long and often emotional interviews, Argento told me that Weinstein assaulted her while they were working together.

At the time, Argento was twenty-one and had twice won the Italian equivalent of the Oscar. Argento said that, in 1997, one of Weinstein's producers invited her to what she understood to be a party thrown by Miramax at the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc, on the French Riviera. Argento felt professionally obliged to attend. When the producer led her upstairs that evening, she said, there was no party, only a hotel room, empty but for Weinstein: "I'm, like, 'Where is the fucking party?'" She
recalled the producer telling her, “Oh, we got here too early,” before he left her alone with Weinstein. (The producer denies bringing Argento to the room that night.) At first, Weinstein was solicitous, praising her work. Then he left the room. When he returned, he was wearing a bathrobe and holding a bottle of lotion. “He asks me to give a massage. I was, like, ‘Look, man, I am no fucking fool,’ ” Argento told me. “But, looking back, I am a fucking fool. And I am still trying to come to grips with what happened.”

Argento said that, after she reluctantly agreed to give Weinstein a massage, he pulled her skirt up, forced her legs apart, and performed oral sex on her as she repeatedly told him to stop. Weinstein “terrified me, and he was so big,” she said. “It wouldn’t stop. It was a nightmare.”

At some point, she stopped saying no and feigned enjoyment, because she thought it was the only way the assault would end. “I was not willing,” she told me. “I said, ‘No, no, no.’ . . . It’s twisted. A big fat man wanting to eat you. It’s a scary fairy tale.” Argento, who insisted that she wanted to tell her story in all its complexity, said that she didn’t physically fight him off, something that has prompted years of guilt.

“The thing with being a victim is I felt responsible,” she said. “Because, if I were a strong woman, I would have kicked him in the balls and run away. But I didn’t. And so I felt responsible.” She described the incident as a “horrible trauma.” Decades later, she said, oral sex is still ruined for her. “I’ve been damaged,” she told me. “Just talking to you about it, my whole body is shaking.”

Argento recalled sitting on the bed after the incident, her clothes “in shambles,” her makeup smeared. She said that she told Weinstein, “I am not a whore,” and that he began laughing. He said he would put the phrase on a T-shirt. Afterward, Argento said, “He kept contacting me.” For a few months, Weinstein seemed obsessed, offering her expensive gifts.

What complicates the story, Argento readily allowed, is that she eventually yielded to Weinstein’s further advances and even grew close to him. Weinstein dined with her, and introduced her to his mother. Argento told me, “He made it sound like he was my friend and he really appreciated me.” She said that she had consensual sexual relations with him multiple times over the course of the next five years, though she described the encounters as one-sided and “onanistic.” The first occasion, several months after the alleged assault, came before the release of “B. Monkey.” “I felt I had
to,” she said, “Because I had the movie coming out and I didn’t want to anger him.” She believed that Weinstein would ruin her career if she didn’t comply. Years later, when she was a single mother dealing with childcare, Weinstein offered to pay for a nanny. She said that she felt “obliged” to submit to his sexual advances.

Argento told me that she knew this contact would be used to attack the credibility of her allegation. In part, she said, the initial assault made her feel overpowered each time she encountered Weinstein, even years later. “Just his body, his presence, his face, bring me back to the little girl that I was when I was twenty-one,” she told me. “When I see him, it makes me feel little and stupid and weak.” She broke down as she struggled to explain. “After the rape, he won,” she said.

In 2000, Argento released “Scarlet Diva,” a movie that she wrote and directed. In the film, a heavyset producer corners Anna, the character played by Argento, in a hotel room, asks her for a massage, and tries to assault her. After the movie came out, women began approaching Argento, saying that they recognized Weinstein’s behavior in the portrayal. “People would ask me about him because of the scene in the movie,” she said. Some recounted similar details to her: meetings and professional events moved to hotel rooms, bathrobes and massage requests, and, in one other case, forced oral sex.

Weinstein, according to Argento, saw the film after it was released in the U.S., and apparently recognized himself. “Ha, ha, very funny,” Argento remembered him saying to her. But he also said that he was “sorry for whatever happened.” The movie’s most significant departure from the real-life incident, Argento told me, was how the hotel-room scene ended. “In the movie I wrote,” she said, “I ran away.”

Other women were too afraid to allow me to use their names, but their stories are uncannily similar to these allegations. One, a woman who worked with Weinstein, explained her reluctance to be identified. “He drags your name through the mud, and he’ll come after you hard with his legal team.”

Like others I spoke to, this woman said that Weinstein brought her to a hotel room under a professional pretext, changed into a bathrobe, and, she said, “forced himself on me sexually.” She told him no, repeatedly and clearly. Afterward, she experienced “horror, disbelief, and shame,” and considered going to the police. “I thought it would be a ‘he said, she said,’ and I thought about how impressive his legal team is, and I thought about how much I would lose, and I decided to just move forward,”
she said. The woman continued to have professional contact with Weinstein after the alleged rape, and acknowledged that subsequent communications between them might suggest a normal working relationship. "I was in a vulnerable position and I needed my job," she told me. "It just increases the shame and the guilt."

4.

Mira Sorvino, who starred in several of Weinstein’s films, told me that he sexually harassed her and tried to pressure her into a physical relationship while they were working together. She said that, at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, 1995, she found herself in a hotel room with Weinstein, who produced the movie she was there to promote, “Mighty Aphrodite,” for which she later won an Academy Award. “He started massaging my shoulders, which made me very uncomfortable, and then tried to get more physical, sort of chasing me around,” she recalled. She scrambled for ways to ward him off, telling him that it was against her religion to date married men. (At the time, Weinstein was married to Eve Chilton, a former assistant.) Then she left the room.

A few weeks later, in New York City, her phone rang after midnight. It was Weinstein, saying that he had new marketing ideas for the film and asking to get together. Sorvino offered to meet him at an all-night diner, but he said he was coming over to her apartment and hung up. “I freaked out,” she told me. She called a friend and asked him to come over and pose as her boyfriend. The friend hadn’t arrived by the time Weinstein rang her doorbell. “Harvey had managed to bypass my doorman,” she said. “I opened the door terrified, brandishing my twenty-pound Chihuahua mix in front of me, as though that would do any good.” When she told Weinstein that her new boyfriend was on his way, he became dejected and left.

Sorvino said that she struggled for years with whether to come forward with her story, partly because she was aware that it was mild compared with the experiences of other women, including Sophie Dix, an actress she spoke to at the time. (Dix told me that she had locked herself in a hotel bathroom to escape Weinstein, and that he had masturbated in front of her. She said it was “a classic case” of “someone not understanding the word ‘no.’ ... I must have said no a thousand times.”) The fact that Weinstein was so instrumental in Sorvino’s success also made her hesitate: “I have great respect for Harvey as an artist, and owe him and his brother a debt of gratitude for the early success in my career, including the Oscar.” She had professional contact with Weinstein for years after the incident, and remains a close
friend of his brother and business partner, Bob Weinstein. (She never told Bob about his brother's behavior.)

Sorvino said that she felt afraid and intimidated, and that the incidents had a significant impact on her. When she told a female employee at Miramax about the harassment, the woman's reaction "was shock and horror that I had mentioned it." Sorvino appeared in a few more of Weinstein's films afterward, but felt that saying no to Weinstein and reporting the harassment had ultimately hurt her career. She said, "There may have been other factors, but I definitely felt iced out and that my rejection of Harvey had something to do with it."

5.

In March, 2015, Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, who was once a finalist in the Miss Italy contest, met Harvey Weinstein at a reception for "New York Spring Spectacular," a show that he was producing at Radio City Music Hall. Weinstein introduced himself to Gutierrez, who was twenty-two, remarking repeatedly that she looked like the actress Mila Kunis.

Following the event, Gutierrez’s modelling agency e-mailed her to say that Weinstein wanted to set up a business meeting as soon as possible. Gutierrez arrived at Weinstein’s office in Tribeca early the next evening with her modelling portfolio. In the office, she sat with Weinstein on a couch to review the portfolio, and he began staring at her breasts, asking if they were real. Gutierrez later told officers of the New York Police Department’s Special Victims Division that Weinstein then lunged at her, groping her breasts and attempting to put a hand up her skirt while she protested. He finally backed off and told her that his assistant would give her tickets to "Finding Neverland," a Broadway musical that he was producing. He said he would meet her at the show that evening.
Instead of going to the show, Gutierrez went to the nearest police station and reported the assault. Weinstein telephoned her later that evening, annoyed that she had failed to appear at the show. She picked up the call while sitting with investigators from the Special Victims Division, who listened in and devised a plan: Gutierrez would agree to see the show the following day and then meet with Weinstein. She would wear a wire and attempt to extract a confession or an incriminating statement.

The next day, Gutierrez met Weinstein at the bar of the Tribeca Grand Hotel. A team of undercover officers helped guide her through the interaction. On the recording, which I have heard in full, Weinstein lists actresses whose careers he has helped and offers Gutierrez the services of a dialect coach. Then he presses her to join him in his hotel room while he showers. Gutierrez says no repeatedly; Weinstein persists, and after a while she accedes to his demand to go upstairs. But, standing in the hallway outside his room, she refuses to go farther. In an increasingly tense exchange, he presses her to enter. Gutierrez says, “I don’t want to,” “I want to leave,” and “I want to go downstairs.” She asks him directly why he groped her breasts the day before.

“Oh, please, I’m sorry, just come on in,” Weinstein says. “I’m used to that. Come on. Please.”

“You’re used to that?” Gutierrez asks, sounding incredulous.

“Yes,” Weinstein says. He adds, “I won’t do it again.”

After almost two minutes of back-and-forth in the hallway, Weinstein finally agrees to let her leave.

According to a law-enforcement source, Weinstein, if charged, would most likely have faced a count of sexual abuse in the third degree, a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of three months in jail. But, as the police investigation proceeded and the allegation was widely reported, details about Gutierrez’s past began to appear in the tabloids. In 2010, as a young contestant in the Miss Italy beauty pageant, Gutierrez had attended one of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi’s infamous “Bunga
Bunga” parties. She claimed that she had been unaware of the nature of the party before arriving, and she eventually became a witness in a bribery case against Berlusconi, which is still ongoing. Gossip outlets also reported that Gutierrez, as a teen-ager, had made an allegation of sexual assault against an older Italian businessman but later declined to cooperate with prosecutors.

Two sources close to the police investigation of Weinstein said that they had no reason to doubt Gutierrez’s account of the incident. One of them, a police source, said that the department had collected more than enough evidence to prosecute Weinstein. But the other said that Gutierrez’s statements about her past complicated the case for the office of the Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus Vance, Jr. After two weeks of investigation, the D.A.’s office decided not to file charges. The office declined to comment on this story but pointed me to its statement at the time: “This case was taken seriously from the outset, with a thorough investigation conducted by our Sex Crimes Unit. After analyzing the available evidence, including multiple interviews with both parties, a criminal charge is not supported.”

“We had the evidence,” the police source involved in the operation told me. “It’s a case that made me angrier than I thought possible, and I have been on the force a long time.”

Gutierrez, when contacted for this story, said that she was unable to discuss the incident. Someone close to the matter told me that, after the D.A.’s office decided not to press charges, Gutierrez, facing Weinstein’s legal team, and in return for a payment, signed a highly restrictive nondisclosure agreement with Weinstein, including an affidavit stating that the acts he admits to in the recording never happened.

Weinstein’s use of such settlements was reported by the Times and confirmed to me by numerous people. A former employee with firsthand knowledge of two settlement negotiations that took place in London in the nineteen-nineties recalled, “It felt like David versus Goliath . . . the guy with all the money and the power flexing his muscle and quashing the allegations and getting rid of them.”

6.

The Times story disclosed a complaint to the Weinstein Company’s office of human resources, filed on behalf of a temporary front-desk assistant named Emily Nestor in December, 2014. Her own account of Weinstein’s conduct is being
made public here for the first time. Nestor was twenty-five when she started the job and, after finishing law school and starting business school, was considering a career in the movie industry. On her first day in the position, Nestor said, two employees told her that she was Weinstein's "type" physically. When Weinstein arrived at the office, he made comments about her appearance, referring to her as "the pretty girl." He asked how old she was, and then sent all of his assistants out of the room and made her write down her telephone number.

Weinstein told her to meet him for drinks that night. Nestor invented an excuse. When he insisted, she suggested an early-morning coffee the next day, assuming that he wouldn't accept. He did, and told her to meet him at the Peninsula hotel in Beverly Hills, where he was staying. Nestor said that she had talked with friends in the entertainment industry and employees in the company who had warned her about Weinstein's reputation. "I dressed very frumpy," she said.

Nestor told me that the meeting was "the most excruciating and uncomfortable hour of my life." After Weinstein offered her career help, she said, he began to boast about his sexual liaisons with other women, including famous actresses. "He said, 'You know, we could have a lot of fun,'" Nestor recalled. "I could put you in my London office, and you could work there and you could be my girlfriend." She declined. He asked to hold her hand; she said no. In Nestor's account of the exchange, Weinstein said, "Oh, the girls always say no. You know, 'No, no.' And then they have a beer or two and then they're throwing themselves at me." In a tone that Nestor described as "very weirdly proud," Weinstein added "that he'd never had to do anything like Bill Cosby." She assumed that he meant he'd never drugged a woman. "It's just a bizarre thing to be so proud of," she said. "That you've never had to resort to doing that. It was just so far removed from reality and normal rules of consent."

"Textbook sexual harassment" was how Nestor described Weinstein's behavior to me. "It's a pretty clear case of sexual harassment when your superior, the C.E.O., asks one of their inferiors, a temp, to have sex with them, essentially in exchange for mentorship." She recalled refusing his advances at least a dozen times. "'No' did not mean 'no' to him," she said. "I was very aware of how inappropriate it was. But I felt trapped."

Throughout the breakfast, she said, Weinstein interrupted their conversation to yell into his cell phone, enraged over a spat that Amy Adams, a star in the Weinstein
movie “Big Eyes,” was having in the press. Afterward, Weinstein told Nestor to keep an eye on the news cycle, which he promised would be spun in his favor. Later in the day, there were indeed negative news items about his opponents, and Weinstein stopped by Nestor’s desk to be sure that she’d seen them.

By that point, Nestor recalled, “I was very afraid of him. And I knew how well connected he was. And how if I pissed him off then I could never have a career in that industry.” Still, she told a friend about the incident, and he alerted the company’s office of human resources, which contacted her. (The friend did not respond to a request for comment.) Nestor had a conversation with company officials about the matter but didn’t pursue it further: the officials said that Weinstein would be informed of anything she told them, a practice not uncommon in businesses the size of the Weinstein Company. Several former Weinstein employees told me that the company’s human-resources department was utterly ineffective; one female executive described it as “a place where you went to when you didn’t want anything to get done. That was common knowledge across the board. Because everything funneled back to Harvey.” She described the department’s typical response to allegations of misconduct as “This is his company. If you don’t like it, you can leave.”

Nestor told me that some people at the company did seem concerned. Irwin Reiter, a senior executive who had worked for Weinstein for almost three decades, sent her a series of messages via LinkedIn. “We view this very seriously and I personally am very sorry your first day was like this,” Reiter wrote. “Also if there are further unwanted advances, please let us know.” Last year, just before the Presidential election, he reached out again, writing, “All this Trump stuff made me think of you.” He described Nestor’s experience as part of Weinstein’s serial misconduct. “I’ve fought him about mistreatment of women 3 weeks before the incident with you. I even wrote him an email that got me labelled by him as sex police,” he wrote. “The fight I had with him about you was epic. I told him if you were my daughter he would have not made out so well.” (Reiter declined to comment for this article, but his lawyer, Debra Katz, confirmed the authenticity of the messages and said that Reiter had made diligent efforts to raise these issues, to no avail. Katz also noted that Reiter “is eager to cooperate fully with any outside investigation.”)

Though no assault occurred, and Nestor left after completing her temporary placement, she was profoundly affected by the experience. “I was definitely traumatized for a while, in terms of feeling so harassed and frightened,” she said. “It...
made me feel incredibly discouraged that this could be something that happens on a regular basis. I actually decided not to go into entertainment because of this incident.”

7.

Emma de Caunes, a French actress, met Weinstein in 2010, at a party at the Cannes Film Festival. A few months later, he asked her to a lunch meeting at the Hôtel Ritz, in Paris. In the meeting, Weinstein told de Caunes that he was going to be producing a movie with a prominent director, that he planned to shoot it in France, and that it had a strong female role. It was an adaptation of a book, he said, but he claimed he couldn’t remember the title. “But I’ll give it to you,” Weinstein said, according to de Caunes. “I have it in my room.”

De Caunes replied that she had to leave, since she was already running late for a TV show she was hosting—Eminem was appearing on the show that afternoon, and she hadn’t written her questions yet. Weinstein pleaded with her to retrieve the book with him, and finally she agreed. As they got to his room, she received a telephone call from one of her colleagues, and Weinstein disappeared into a bathroom, leaving the door open. She assumed that he was washing his hands.

“When I hung up the phone, I heard the shower go on in the bathroom,” she said. “I was, like, What the fuck, is he taking a shower?” Weinstein came out, naked and with an erection. “What are you doing?” she asked. Weinstein demanded that she lie on the bed and told her that many other women had done so before her.

“I was very petrified,” de Caunes said. “But I didn’t want to show him that I was petrified, because I could feel that the more I was freaking out, the more he was excited.” She added, “It was like a hunter with a wild animal. The fear turns him on.” De Caunes told Weinstein that she was leaving, and he panicked. “We haven’t done anything!” she remembered him saying. “It’s like being in a Walt Disney movie!”

De Caunes told me, “I looked at him and I said—it took all my courage, but I said, ‘I’ve always hated Walt Disney movies.’ And then I left. I slammed the door.” She was shaking on the stairs going down to the lobby. A director she was working with on the TV show confirmed that she arrived at the studio distraught and that she recounted what had happened. Weinstein called relentlessly over the next few hours, offering de Caunes gifts and repeating his assertion that nothing had happened.
De Caunes, who was in her early thirties at the time, was already an established actress, but she wondered what would happen to younger and more vulnerable women in the same situation. Over the years, she said, she's heard similar accounts from friends. "I know that everybody—I mean everybody—in Hollywood knows that it's happening," de Caunes said. "He's not even really hiding. I mean, the way he does it, so many people are involved and see what's happening. But everyone's too scared to say anything."

8.

One evening in the early nineties, the actress Rosanna Arquette was supposed to meet Weinstein for dinner at the Beverly Hills Hotel to pick up the script for a new film. At the hotel, Arquette was told to meet Weinstein upstairs, in his room.

Arquette recalled that, when she arrived at the room, Weinstein opened the door wearing a white bathrobe. He said that his neck was sore and that he needed a massage. She told him that she could recommend a good masseuse. "Then he grabbed my hand," she said. He put it on his neck. When she yanked her hand away, Weinstein grabbed it again and pulled it toward his penis, which was visible and erect. "My heart was really racing. I was in a fight-or-flight moment," she said. She told Weinstein, "I will never do that."

Weinstein told her that she was making a huge mistake by rejecting him, and named an actress and a model who he claimed had given in to his sexual overtures and whose careers he said he had advanced as a result. Arquette said she responded, "I'll never be that girl," and left.

Arquette said that after she rejected Weinstein her career suffered. In one case, she believes, she lost a role because of it. "He made things very difficult for me for years," she told me. She did appear in one subsequent Weinstein film—"Pulp Fiction." Arquette believes that she only got that role because of its small size and Weinstein's deference to the filmmaker, Quentin Tarantino. (Disputes later arose over her entitlement to payment out of the film's proceeds.) Arquette said that her silence was the result of Weinstein's power and reputation for vindictiveness. "He's going to be working very hard to track people down and silence people," she explained. "To hurt people. That's what he does."
There are other examples of Weinstein's using the same modus operandi. Jessica Barth, an actress who met him at a Golden Globes party in January, 2011, told me that he invited her to a business meeting at the Peninsula. When she arrived, he asked her over the phone to go up to his room. Weinstein assured her it was "no big deal"—because of his high profile, he simply wanted privacy to "talk career stuff." In the room, she found that Weinstein had ordered champagne and sushi.

Barth said that, in the conversation that followed, Weinstein alternated between offering to cast her in a film and demanding a naked massage in bed. "So, what would happen if, say, we're having some champagne and I take my clothes off and you give me a massage?" she recalled him asking. "And I'm, like, 'That's not going to happen.'"

When she moved toward the door to leave, Weinstein lashed out, saying that she needed to lose weight "to compete with Mila Kunis," and then, apparently in an effort to mollify her, promising a meeting with one of his female executives. "He gave me her number, and I walked out and I started bawling," Barth told me. (Immediately after the incident, she spoke with two people; they confirmed to me that she had described her experience to them at the time.) Barth said that the promised meeting at Weinstein's office seemed to be purely a formality. "I just knew it was bullshit," she said. (The executive she met with did not respond to requests for comment.)

9.

Weinstein's behavior deeply affected the day-to-day operations of his companies. Current and former employees described a pattern of meetings and strained complicity that closely matches the accounts of the many women I interviewed. The employees spoke on condition of anonymity because, they said, they feared for their careers in Hollywood and because of provisos in their work contracts.

"There was a large volume of these types of meetings that Harvey would have with aspiring actresses and models," one female executive told me. "He would have them late at night, usually at hotel bars or in hotel rooms. And, in order to make these women feel more comfortable, he would ask a female executive or assistant to start those meetings with him." She was repeatedly asked to join such meetings, she said, but she refused.
The executive said that she was especially disturbed by the involvement of other employees. “It almost felt like the executive or assistant was made to be a honeypot to lure these women in, to make them feel safe,” she said. “Then he would dismiss the executive or the assistant, and then these women were alone with him. And that did not feel like it was appropriate behavior or safe behavior.”

One former employee told me that she was frequently asked to join for the beginning of meetings that, she said, had in many cases already been moved from day to night and from hotel lobbies to hotel rooms. She said that Weinstein’s conduct in the meetings was brazen. During a meeting with a model, the former employee said, he turned to her and demanded, “Tell her how good of a boyfriend I am.” She said that when she refused to join one such meeting, Weinstein became enraged. Often, she was asked to keep track of the women, who, in keeping with a practice established by Weinstein’s assistants, were all filed under the same label in her phone: F.O.H., which stood for “Friend of Harvey.” She added that the pattern of meetings was nearly uninterrupted in her years of working for Weinstein. “I have to say, the behavior did stop for a little bit after the groping thing,” she told me, referring to Gutierrez’s allegation to the police. “But he couldn’t help himself. A few months later, he was back at it.”

Two staffers who facilitated these meetings said that they felt morally compromised by them. One male former staffer noted that many of the women seemed “not aware of the nature of those meetings” and “were definitely scared.” He told me that most of the encounters that he saw seemed consensual, but others gave him pause. He was especially troubled by his memory of one young woman: “You just feel terrible because you could tell this girl, very young, not from our country, was now in a room waiting for him to come up there in the middle of the day, and we were not to bother them.” He said that he was never asked to facilitate these meetings for men.

None of the former executives or assistants I spoke to quit because of the misconduct, but many expressed guilt and regret over not having said or done more. They talked about what they believed to be a culture of silence about sexual assault inside Miramax and the Weinstein Company and across the entertainment industry more broadly.
W

eilstein and his legal and public-relations teams have conducted a decades-
long campaign to suppress these stories. In recent months, that campaign
escalated. Weinstein and his associates began calling many of the women in this
article. Weinstein asked Argento to meet with a private investigator and give
testimony on his behalf. One actress who initially spoke to me on the record later
asked that her allegation be removed from this piece. “I'm so sorry,” she wrote. “The
legal angle is coming at me and I have no recourse.” Weinstein and his legal team
have threatened to sue multiple media outlets, including the New York Times.

Several of the former executives and assistants in this story said that they had
received calls from Weinstein in which he attempted to determine if they had talked
to me or warned them not to. These employees continued to participate in the
article partly because they felt that there was a growing culture of accountability,
embodied in the relatively recent disclosures about high-profile men such as Cosby
and Ailes. “I think a lot of us had thought—and hoped—over the years that it would
come out sooner,” the former executive who was aware of the two legal settlements
in London told me. “But I think now is the right time, in this current climate, for
the truth.”

The female executive who declined inappropriate meetings told me that her lawyer
advised her that she could be liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages
for violating the nondisclosure agreement attached to her employment contract. “I
believe this is more important than keeping a confidentiality agreement,” she said.
“The more of us that can confirm or validate for these women if this did happen, I
think it’s really important for their justice to do that.” She continued, “I wish I could
have done more. I wish I could have stopped it. And this is my way of doing that
now.”

“He’s been systematically doing this for a very long time,” the former employee who
had been made to act as a “honey pot” told me. She said that she often thinks of
something Weinstein whispered—to himself, as far as she could tell—after one of
his many shouting sprees at the office. It so unnerved her that she pulled out her
phone and tapped it into a memo, word for word: “There are things I’ve done that
nobody knows.” ♦
Ronan Farrow is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker* and a television anchor and investigative reporter whose work also appears on HBO. He is the author of the book "War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence." [Read more »]

**Video**

*Harvey Weinstein's Secret Settlements*
*Ronan Farrow discusses his investigation of the sexual-assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein.*

FROM AGGRESSIVE OVERTURES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT: Harvey Weinstein's Accusers Tell Their Stories | The New Yorker

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Harvey Weinstein ‘tells friends he feels betrayed by brother Bob’ after getting fired

DISGRACED Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has checked into a rehab facility for sex addiction amid accusations of sexual assault and abuse.

EMBATTLED movie producer Harvey Weinstein is reportedly seeking professional help following allegations of sexual harassment by a number of Hollywood stars.

The Hollywood mogul has checked into a US residential rehab facility that treats anger management, self-control issues and sex addictions, reports the New York Post.

But the Miramax co-founder is also believed to be preparing for an upcoming transatlantic journey and seek treatment at a sex-rehab centre in Europe.

Weinstein, once one of the most powerful men in Tinseltown, has been in full meltdown mode since late last week, when numerous allegations of sexual harassment against him surfaced — accusations he’s denied.

as Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie accuse him of harassment and three other women come forward with allegations of rape.

In an audio recording published by The New Yorker, Weinstein was caught in a NYPD sting in which he admitted to groping Filipina-Italian model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez in 2015 and promised “I won’t do it again”.

According to the publication, Weinstein met Gutierrez at a Miss Italy contest two years ago when she was 22.

RELATED: Jokes prove that Hollywood knew

Not long after, the Hollywood mogul set up a business meeting with Gutierrez at which she alleged Weinstein asked her if her breasts were real, groped her and tried to put his hand up her skirt.

Gutierrez reported the alleged incident to the NYPD and the next day investigators from the Special Victims Division fitted her with a wire before she went to meet Weinstein at the bar at the Tribeca Grand Hotel.
In the recording Weinstein tries a number of times to get Gutierrez to come back to her hotel room.

"I'm gonna take a shower," Weinstein says when the model asks why they need to go to his room.

You sit there and have a drink."

After Gutierrez told him she doesn't drink, he demands: “Then have a glass of water.”

Gutierrez then says she wants to stay at the bar, to which Weinstein responds: No, you must come here now ... I'm not doing anything with you, I promise.”

"I know, I don't want to. I'm sorry, I cannot," Gutierrez replies.

Weinstein then tells the model she is “embarrassing” him and again asks her to his room.

"Yesterday was kind of aggressive for me. I need to know a person to be touched," she says.

pic.twitter.com/HOLF4pN2H
— Leonardo DiCaprio (@LeoDiCaprio) October 11, 2017

The recording continues with Weinstein telling Gutierrez again that she is embarrassing him and the model repeatedly saying she does not feel comfortable in the situation.

"Why yesterday you touch my breast?" she asks, to which he replies, “Oh, please, I'm sorry. Just come on in. I’m used to that.”

JOLIE AND PALTROW ACCUSE WEINSTEIN OF HARASSMENT

The *New Yorker* also reports Weinstein has previously been accused of raping three women.

A representative for the mogul vehemently denied the allegations in a statement to the magazine.

The expose, published overnight, detailed allegations not just of sexual harassment but of three incidents involving rape.

Paltrow and Jolie also claimed to have been victims of Weinstein's.

Paltrow, then 22, had just been cast as the lead in Jane Austen's *Emma*, produced by Weinstein, when he invited her to his hotel room for a meeting, *The New York* reports.

It ended up with Weinstein proposing massages.

"I was a kid, I was signed up, I was petrified," Paltrow said.

Paltrow told her then-boyfriend Brad Pitt about the incident and he confronted Weinstein.

The producer threatened her not to tell anyone else about his come-on.

"I thought he was going to fire me," Paltrow said.

RELATED: 'Why haven’t the men of Hollywood spoken up?'
Pitt’s former wife Angelina Jolie said Weinstein also made unwanted sexual advances towards her in his hotel room during the release of *Playing by Heart* in the late 1990s.

“I had a bad experience with Harvey Weinstein in my youth, and as a result, chose never to work with him again and warn others when they did,” Jolie said in an email.

“This behaviour towards women in any field, any country is unacceptable.”

Actor Asia Argento and a former aspiring actor named Lucia Evans went on the record to allege Weinstein forced himself on them sexually.

**REVEALED: Crowe, Damon ‘tried to bury Weinstein expose’**

A third woman spoke anonymously.
HEATHER GRAHAM ‘INDIRECTLY PROPOSITIONED’

In an article for Variety, Heather Graham revealed that she was once propositioned by Weinstein who told her he had an “agreement” with his wife that allowed him to sleep with other women when he was away.

She said the Hollywood producer offered to put her into one of his movies, before mentioning the agreement with his wife. Graham said that she “walked out of the meeting feeling uneasy”.

Harvey Weinstein asked for her to meet him at his hotel for a follow-up meeting a few weeks later, Graham said she had asked a friend to come with her as she felt uncomfortable about the situation. Her friend cancelled at the last minute, so Graham says she “made up an excuse” not to go.

“Harvey told me that my actress friend was already at his hotel and that both of them would be very disappointed if I didn’t show.

“I knew he was lying, so I politely and apologetically reiterated that I could no longer come by.”

As a result, Graham says she was never hired for any of his films.

She also said she feels ashamed for not saying anything years ago.

“If I had spoken up a decade ago, would I have saved countless women from the same experience I had or worse?”
Lohan, who posted the message from her home in Dubai, also tells Weinstein’s wife, Georgina Chapman, to “take a stand and be there for her husband”.

She goes on to say: “He’s never harmed me or done anything to me and we’ve done several movies together, so I think everyone needs to stop. I think it’s wrong.”

**lindsay lohan (and her whack accent) is defending Harvey Weinstein on her insta rn. GOODBYE TO YOU FOREVER. pic twitter.com/aMzwA0XpYp**

— lauren yap (@itslaurenyap) October 11, 2017

**WIFE GEORGINA CHAPMAN WALKS OUT ON WEINSTEIN**

In the wake of the numerous allegations against Weinstein, his wife Georgina Chapman has announced she is leaving him.

The English fashion designer and actor told *People*: “My heart breaks for all the women who have suffered tremendous pain because of these unforgivable actions. I have chosen to leave my husband. Caring for my young children is my first priority and I ask the media for privacy at this time.”
Damon, who was drawn into the saga amid allegations he and Russell Crowe attempted to bury a Weinstein expose 13 years ago.

Speaking to Deadline, Damon said that was not how he remembered the phone call.

"My recollection was that it was about a one minute phone call," the Jason Bourne start said.

"Harvey had called me and said, they're writing a story about Fabrizio, who I knew from 'The Talented Mr. Ripley'.

"He has organised our premiere in Italy and so I knew him in a professional capacity and I'd had dinner at his house.

"Sharon Waxman is writing a story about Fabrizio and it's really negative. Can you just call and tell her what your experience with Fabrizio was. So I did, and that's what I said to her. It didn't even make the piece that she wrote."

Damon also told the publication he was not aware the story he was commenting on had anything to do with allegations of a sexual nature.

He also said he was not among those who now claiming they knew about Weinstein’s alleged actions before the New York Times expose.

“I did five or six movies with Harvey. I never saw this. I think a lot of actors have come out and said, everybody’s saying we all knew. That’s not true,” Damon continued to Deadline.

“This type of predation happens behind closed doors, and out of public view. If there was ever an event that I was at and Harvey was doing this kind of thing and I didn’t see it, then I am so deeply sorry, because I would have stopped it.”

Former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle released a joint statement condemning the alleged actions of Weinstein, who has been a big supporter of the Democrats.

“Michelle and I have been disgusted by the recent reports about Harvey Weinstein,” the statement read.

“Any man who deems and degrades women in such fashion needs to be condemned and held accountable, regardless of wealth or status. We should celebrate the courage of women who have come forward to tell these painful stories.”

**NICOLE KIDMAN AND CATE BLANCHETT SPEAK OUT**

Australian Oscar winners Nicole Kidman and Cate Blanchett have spoken out against Weinstein in the wake of the widespread allegations against him.

In a statement, that did not mention Weinstein by name, released via her publicist Kidman spoke in support of those raising the accusations.

“As I’ve stated before publicly, I support and applaud all women and these women who speak out against any abuse and misuse of power — be it domestic violence or sexual harassment in the workforce.

“We need to eradicate this behaviour.”

Kidman has worked with Weinstein on movies such as Cold Mountain, The Others and Lion.

Speaking to Variety, Blanchett, who worked on Weinstein movies including The Aviator and the Talented Mr Ripley said: “Any man in a position of power or
"It is never easy for a woman to come forward in such situations and I wholeheartedly support those who have."

The Weinstein Company released a statement in response to the mounting allegations.

"The Weinstein Company's Board of Representatives — Bob Weinstein, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar — are shocked and dismayed by the recently emerged allegations of extreme sexual misconduct and sexual assault by Harvey Weinstein," the statement read.

"These alleged actions are antithetical to human decency. These allegations come as an utter surprise to the Board. Any suggestion that the Board had knowledge of this conduct is false.

We are committed to assisting with our full energies in all criminal or other investigations of these alleged acts, while pursuing justice for the victims and a full independent investigation of our own."

**ALLEGATIONS RANGE FROM UNWANTED GROPING TO FORCED SEX**

The *New Yorker* story, written by journalist Ronan Farrow, the son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, revealed that thirteen women have said Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them between 1990 and 2015.

The incidents described range from unwanted groping to forced sex.

Some of those incidents overlap with the eight allegations of sexual harassment previously reported by *The New York Times*, all of which resulted in financial settlements.

But they also go much further.

In the article, Rosanna Arquette and Mira Sorvino are among those who claim Weinstein sexually harassed them.

"He started massaging my shoulders, which made me very uncomfortable, and then tried to get more physical, sort of chasing me around," Sorvino said.

The actor said she left after telling the powerful producer she doesn’t date married men.
But a few weeks later, Weinstein called her up after midnight and said he wanted to discuss his marketing ideas for a film.

She suggested they talk at a diner, but Weinstein said he was coming over to her apartment, then hung up, Sorvino said.

"I freaked out," she said.

Weinstein came over, but left when Sorvino told him her new boyfriend was on his way to her apartment, she said.

Arquette says that she was also summoned to Weinstein's hotel room where he asked her for a massage, and eventually pulled her hand towards his erect penis.

"I will never do that," Arquette said that she told Weinstein.

Weinstein soon exacted his revenge she claims, saying: "He made things very difficult for me for years."

Rosanna’s Oscar-winning sister, Patricia Arquette, was one of the first in Hollywood
to come out and support those who alleged sexual harassment claims against Weinstein.

@AshleyJudd & @rosemcgowan I'm sure it wasn't easy to come forward but in doing so you helped a lot of others who might not have been heard.
— Patricia Arquette (@PattyArquette) October 6, 2017

Representatives for the actresses did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The New Yorker also reported that 16 former and current executives and assistants at The Weinstein Co. and Miramax either witnessed or knew of Weinstein’s unwanted sexual advances. “All sixteen said the behaviour was widely known within both Miramax and the Weinstein Company.” Representatives for The Weinstein Co. didn’t immediately respond to messages.

CLINTON CONDEMNS LONGTIME DONOR WEINSTEIN

It came as Hillary Clinton condemned Weinstein, marking her first public comments on the matter.

“I was shocked and appalled by the revelations about Harvey Weinstein,” Mrs Clinton said in a statement through her spokesman Nick Merrill. “The behaviour described by women coming forward cannot be tolerated. Their courage and the support of others is critical in helping to stop this kind of behaviour.”
Weinstein is a longtime associate of the Clintons and a major Democratic Party donor.

In 2015, the Clintons rented a home next to Weinstein in the Hamptons, and Weinstein served as a connector between Hollywood stars and Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign.

Weinstein raised about US$1.5 million from 1990-2016, according to data from the campaign finance-tracking Centre for Responsive Politics, and was involved in fundraisers for Mrs Clinton’s effort, some of which she headlined.

**WEINSTEIN FEELS ‘BETRAYED’ BY BROTHER**

Weinstein reportedly told friends he “feels betrayed” by his brother after he voted to sack him, as fashion designer Donna Karan apologised for blaming the disgraced US producer’s alleged victims.

Two other sources with knowledge of the matter confirmed to CNN that Weinstein felt like he was abandoned by Bob in the wake of the explosive New York Times expose alleging his sexual misconduct.

The 65-year-old was fired from The Weinstein Company — which he co-founded with his brother in 2005 — due to the accusations against him, according to the board of directors.

Bob was said to have been one of the board members who voted to terminate him.

An insider told The New York Post over the weekend that the relationship between the Weinsteins, which was already tumultuous, deteriorated even further last year following the death of their 90-year-old mother, Miriam.

"Bob's wanted Harvey out for years," explained a former Weinstein Company staffer. "Bob may have even fed this story [to the Times]."

One of Weinstein's pals told CNN that the filmmaker felt "humiliated" by the Times article and allegations against him. He ultimately believes that Bob may have played a role in its publication due to the attribution in the story.
Sources said some people at The Weinstein Company “are bracing, knowing
( Harvey) is not likely to stay quiet for long.”

When describing how Weinstein allegedly paid at least eight settlements to women
over the years, the newspaper cites “two company officials” as the sources of their
information.

A spokesman for Bob declined to comment when reached by CNN. A spokesman for
his brother reportedly did not respond to requests for comment.

**DONNA KARAN SORRY FOR VICTIM BLAMING**

Meanwhile, US fashion designer Donna Karan has apologised after defending
Weinstein and blaming his alleged victims.

*The Daily Mail* reported Karan told reporters on a red carpet in Los Angeles on
Sunday night that Weinstein “has done some amazing things” and he and his wife,
British designer Georgina Chapman, are “wonderful people.”

Karan, 69, added that some women are asking for “trouble” by the way they dress
and “presenting themselves the way they do.”
Amid backlash, Karan on Monday said her remarks were taken out of context and don’t represent her feelings.

She also said she believes “sexual harassment is NOT acceptable and this is an issue that MUST be addressed once and for all regardless of the individual.”

Karan said she is “truly sorry to anyone that I offended and everyone that has ever been a victim.”

To @dkny How many seventeen year olds have you dressed like they are, in your words, “asking for it”?
https://t.co/oYyO9ifFKz pic.twitter.com/Fck0h5mI3R
— Anthony Bourdain (@Bourdain) October 10, 2017

Donna Karan you are a DEPLORABLE Aiding and abetting is a moral crime. You are scum in a fancy dress
pic.twitter.com/Yze7mPdvj
— rose mcgowan (@rosemcgowan) October 10, 2017

Donna Karan just single handedly ruined her career and any chance of being respected as a champion of women’s causes ever again. Wow.
— Sarah Wynter (@sarahwynter) October 9, 2017

I wish Donna Karan would stop hurting women and stick to designing clothes for size 0 models with eating disorders
— Matt Oswalt (@MattOswaltVA) October 10, 2017

So would these #DonnaKaran dresses justify sexual assault because the women who wear them “may be asking for it”? DESPICABLE.
pic.twitter.com/lad6WLMZP2

10-375
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PARENTS TRIBUNE
Harvey Weinstein: Who has and hasn't addressed his alleged sexual assaults?

Updated Wed 11 Oct 2017, 2:29pm

A number of powerful Hollywood figures have slammed Hollywood powerbroker Harvey Weinstein, criticising his behaviour and "abuse of power" after a New York Times exposé revealed allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Now, Oscar-winning actresses Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie have accused Weinstein of sexually harassing them when they were young actresses.

The fallout from the article has seen Weinstein fired as co-chairman of the Weinstein Company, in a move that has been seen as a signal that Hollywood is moving to "drain the swamp" of men with bad behaviour.

But who else has moved to criticise him? Here's who has spoken and who is yet to speak on the issue and why some believe Weinstein's behaviour was an "open secret" in Hollywood.

Who has made the allegations?

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It all started when The New York Times published an exposé last week chronicling multiple allegations of sexual misconduct against Weinstein from past and present employees at both The Weinstein Co and Miramax.

Actresses Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan were among the women named.

Following the Times article, TV news anchor Lauren Sivan also lodged a claim of misconduct against Weinstein, saying he cornered her in the hallway of a restaurant in Manhattan in 2007, and masturbated in front of her.

The Times discovered Weinstein had reached eight settlements with women in the past 30 years after being confronted with allegations of sexual harassment.
Who has spoken out?

In the aftermath of the scandal, many, including Julianne Moore, Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo, Judd Apatow, America Ferrera and Lena Dunham, have voiced their support for his alleged victims.

"As always, I stand with the brave survivors of sexual assault and harassment. It's not your fault. I believe you," Brie Larson tweeted.

Dunham was also critical, saying men like Weinstein "threaten what you hold dear — your safety, financial freedom and, yes, career".

Mark Ruffalo
@MarkRuffalo

To be clear what Harvey Weinstein did was a disgusting abuse of power and horrible. I hope we are now seeing the beginning of the end of these abuses.
7:12 AM - Oct 9, 2017
60,608K 11.5K people are talking about this

Julianne Moore
@juliannemoore

1. Coming forward about sexual abuse and coercion is scary and women have nothing to be gained personally by doing so.
12:43 AM - Oct 10, 2017
3,741 943 people are talking about this

Stars like Meryl Streep and Judi Dench, whose movies had been championed by Weinstein, have also slammed the Hollywood producer after facing criticism for not speaking out about the allegations sooner.

Both said they were unaware of his decades of alleged sexual harassment of women.

"The disgraceful news about Harvey Weinstein has appalled those of us whose work he championed, and those whose good and worthy causes he supported," Streep told The Huffington Post.

"The intrepid women who raised their voices to expose this abuse are our heroes."

What have Paltrow and Jolie said?

PHOTO: Gwyneth Paltrow says she then boyfriend Brad Pitt confronted Weinstein after he tried to get her to give him a massage. (Supplied)

Actresses Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow revealed that Weinstein sexually harassed them.

Paltrow described Weinstein's attempt to lure her at age 22 into giving him a massage in a hotel room.

Jolie also told the New York Times that she had "a bad experience with Harvey Weinstein in my youth".

Actors Ben Affleck and Matt Damon (whose breakthrough film Good Will Hunting was made with Weinstein), who had faced criticism for not addressing the allegations, have both spoken out.

Damon told Deadline Hollywood that he never saw any of the alleged behaviour against Weinstein.

"If there was ever an event that I was at and Harvey was doing this kind of thing and I didn't see it, then I am so deeply sorry, because I would have stopped it," he said.

Affleck tweeted this statement:

"I am saddened and angry that a man who I worked with used his position of power to intimidate, sexually harass and manipulate many women over decades. The additional allegations of assault that I read this morning made me sick. This is completely unacceptable, and I find myself asking what I can do to make sure this doesn't happen to others. We need to do better at protecting our sisters, friends, co-workers and daughters. We must support those who come forward, condemn this type of behaviour when we see it and help ensure there are more women in positions of power."

Actress Jennifer Lawrence (Silver Linings Playbook) said in a statement to Variety that she was "deeply disturbed" and her "heart goes out to all of the women affected by these gross actions".

George Clooney (From Dusk till Dawn) went on to say Weinstein's alleged actions were "indescribable".

Nicole Kidman (Lion) has said "we need to eradicate this behaviour".

President Donald Trump weighed in on the fallout, telling reporters he was "not at all surprised to see" the allegations made against Weinstein.

Why has the focus only been on women?

Among those of Weinstein's associations who have spoken out, the majority of responders have been women.

Many figures, particularly Hollywood women, were under pressure to speak out sooner about the allegations.

Now that they have come out, many have implored a stronger reaction from male stars and industry leaders.

Of the men to speak out, director Kevin Smith — whose movies Clerks and Chasing Amy were produced by Weinstein — made a particularly striking statement, as he noted on Twitter that the producer financed the first 14 years of his career.

"Now I know while I was profiling, others were in terrible pain," Smith wrote.

"It makes me feel ashamed."

Who hasn't spoken out?

While some of Weinstein's associates have spoken out about his behaviour, other respected Hollywood actors and actresses have been criticised for remaining silent.

Among those who have yet to release a statement are Russell Crowe (Cinderella Man), Renee Zellweger (Chicago), Christoph Waltz (Django Unchained) and Cate Blanchett (Carol).

That's despite all having starred in Weinstein films and many thanking him during their acceptance speeches.

Was this Hollywood's worst-kept secret?

Following on from Mr Trump's comments, it has been pointed out that Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct had been an "open secret" in Hollywood.
The director of upcoming drama film Lady Bird, Greta Gerwig, told AP the news "makes me really sad and it makes me really depressed but not surprised".

"What can you say? I really admire Ashley Judd. It's scary to do," she said.

Kate Winslet, who won an Oscar for The Weinstein Co's The Reader, also implied that there had been rumours about this issue for some time.

"I had hoped that these kind of stories were just made-up rumours, maybe we have all been naïve," Winslet wrote in a statement.

Some television shows even went as far as referencing his behaviour in various skits throughout the years.

The character of Harvey Weingard on HBO TV series Entourage is widely thought to have been inspired by Weinstein himself.

In the show Weinstein is portrayed as an intimidating and aggressive man who everyone is afraid of.

Hit comedy series 30 Rock also took a shot at Weinstein in an episode that aired in 2012, when Jane Krakowski's character Jenna named the producer in a joke about not taking advantage of actresses.

Is Hollywood draining the swamp?

There's a generation of Hollywood powerbrokers who've acted like it's still the Stone Age, and as Cameron Williams writes, it looks like they're no longer going to get away with it.

Does Hollywood have a problem with sexual assault?

It's not the first time Hollywood has been rocked with sexual assault allegations.

One of the most high-profile of these cases was comedian Bill Cosby, when 33 women made allegations against him in incidents spanning a number of decades.

Similar cases have also been made against two film writers, Devin Faraci and Harry Knowles, who have links to American cinema chain The Alamo Drafthouse.

Cinefamily, a popular independent cinema venue in Los Angeles, temporarily shut down after reports of sexual assault and rape from high-profile members of the organisation.

More allegations, including rape, emerge as Harvey Weinstein scandal deepens

Michael Idato

The scandal that has exploded around ousted Hollywood studio chief Harvey Weinstein has deepened dramatically following a series of explosive allegations of rape and a secret recording allegedly capturing Weinstein trying to lure a model to his room.

The revelations, in The New Yorker magazine, come just days after The New York Times revealed a pattern of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, by the mogul which dates back decades.

Weinstein scandal deepens and darkens
Rape, harassment and intimidation are just a few allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein in an explosive New Yorker article.

Meanwhile, two of Hollywood's most powerful actresses - Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow - have also come forward with separate accounts of falling prey to Weinstein's harassment.

RELATED ARTICLES

Actors closest to Weinstein rebuke 'horrifying' offences

It's time to put Weinstein and the rest of the old goats out to pasture.

"I had a bad experience ... and as a result chose never to work with [Weinstein] again and warn others when they did," Jolie said. "This behaviour towards women in any field, any country, is unacceptable."

The incident involving Paltrow occurred during the filming of *Emma* in 1996, when she was dating actor Brad Pitt. She later told Pitt, who allegedly confronted Weinstein. Pitt verified Paltrow's statement to the *Times*, the paper said.

In related developments, Weinstein's wife Georgina Chapman has announced she is leaving the couple's marriage and Cate Blanchett, Hillary Clinton and the Obamas added their voices to a growing chorus of disgust at Weinstein's alleged behaviour.

The scandal has dethroned one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, and exposed a deeply entrenched culture of sexual harassment in which actresses and other women working with him were targets of his unwanted advances.

The explosive claims in *The New Yorker* magazine follow a 10-month investigation by NBC journalist Ronan Farrow, the son of actress Mia Farrow and filmmaker Woody Allen.

The magazine report includes accounts from three women who claim they were forced into sex with Weinstein, including an account from Italian actress Asia Argento in which she said she was lured to the Hotel du Cap on the French Riviera to a "party" but instead pressed into a non-consensual sexual situation by Weinstein.

"The thing with being a victim is I felt responsible," Argento told Farrow. "Because if I were a strong woman I would have kicked him in the balls and run away. But I didn't. And so I felt responsible."

A second woman, former actress Lucia Evans, told the magazine she was coerced into performing oral sex on Weinstein.

"I tried to get away but maybe I didn't try hard enough," Evans told Farrow. "I didn't want to kick him or fight him. He's a big guy. He overpowered me."

A third, who asked not to be named, alleged she was invited to a hotel on the pretext of a "meeting" and sexually assaulted by Weinstein.
New York model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez wore a wiretap to secretly record Harvey Weinstein. Photo: Instagram

Complicating their testimony, in some cases the women continued to have relationships with Weinstein.

"I was in a vulnerable position and I needed my job," the third, unnamed, woman said. "It just increases the shame and the guilt."

A statement from Weinstein's representatives provided to The New Yorker denied "allegations of non-consensual sex".

The magazine report also included testimony from Oscar winner Mira Sorvino and actress Rosanna Arquette.

And in another stunning account, model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez alleges she was invited to meet Weinstein at his office but left when he "lunged at her, groping her breasts".

She later went to a New York police station to report the assault and, after speaking to investigators from the special victim's division, met Weinstein with a police wiretap to record the second interaction.

That recording was played in full to Farrow, New York magazine says.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office has released a statement confirming Gutierrez's testimony but says the wiretap which was done with the co-operation of the New York police was done so without their involvement.

As a result, chief assistant District Attorney Karen Friedman-Agnifilo says, the wiretap did not obtain the necessary admissions from Weinstein to proceed with a criminal charge.

"If we could have prosecuted Harvey Weinstein for the conduct that occurred in 2015 we would have," Friedman-Agnifilo says.

"Mr Weinstein's pattern of mistreating women, as recounted in recent reports, is disgraceful and shocks the conscience."

"While the recording is horrifying to listen to, what emerged from the audio was insufficient to prove a crime under New York law, which requires prosecutors to establish criminal intent," she added.
"Subsequent investigative steps undertaken in order to establish intent were not successful. This, coupled with other proof issues, meant that there was no choice but to conclude the investigation without criminal charges."

Friedman-Agnifilo said any individual who feels she may have been the victim of a crime by Weinstein should contact the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

As headline compounded headline, Weinstein's wife Georgina Chapman announced she was leaving the couple's marriage.

"My heart breaks for all the women who have suffered tremendous pain because of these unforgivable actions," she said.

"I have chosen to leave my husband; caring for my young children is my first priority and I ask the media for privacy at this time."

Australian actress Cate Blanchett also added her voice to the chorus of disapproval from Hollywood's most influential actresses and actors.

"Any man in a position of power or authority who thinks it's his prerogative to threaten, intimidate or sexually assault any woman he encounters or works alongside needs to be called to account," Blanchett said. "It is never easy for a woman to come forward in such situations and I wholeheartedly support those who have."

Both former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and former president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle also issued statements disavowing the mogul.

"I was shocked and appalled by the revelations about Harvey Weinstein," Clinton said. "The behaviour described by women coming forward cannot be tolerated. Their courage and the support of others is critical in helping to stop this kind of behavior."

And a statement from the Obamas said the couple were "disgusted" by what they had seen reported in the media.

"Any man who demeans and degrades women in such fashion needs to be condemned and held accountable, regardless of wealth or status," the statement said.

Since the first allegations were made public last week Weinstein and his company have both been in damage control.

Weinstein has hired a crisis PR firm in Los Angeles to manage the situation, while the company's board voted to sack him and are investigating their options around changing the company's name.

Notably in the original Times piece was testimony from actress Ashley Judd of a meeting with Weinstein in which she was asked to meet at his hotel, where he met her dressed in only a bathrobe and asked if she would massage him or watch him shower.

A day after the Times piece was published, television journalist Lauren Sivan related an encounter with Weinstein at a restaurant in which he masturbated into a pot plant after she refused his advances.

High-profile actors include Lena Dunham, Brie Larson, Amber

Jenny and Beth Kogen, and the director Judd Apatow, were among the first to speak out against Weinstein, as was the actress Rose McGowan.

Others have followed: Meryl Streep called it "disgraceful", Dame Judi Dench called the allegations as "horrifying" and Glenn Close said she was "angry and darkly sad" and praised "the monumental courage of the women who have spoken up".

Weinstein's representatives said "any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr Weinstein [and] there were never any acts of retaliation against any women for refusing his advances.

"Mr Weinstein obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual."

The statement noted Weinstein has "begun counselling".

"[He has] listened to the community and is pursuing a better path," the statement said. "Mr Weinstein is hoping that, if he makes enough progress, he will be given a second chance."

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Claims Russell Crowe, Matt Damon helped spike a 2004 Weinstein expose

Harvey Weinstein embodies a culture whose power is on the wane

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Security high as Catalan chief weighs up split

Barcelona (AFP).- Spain’s separatists are split as the country’s regionalist leaders step up their bid to declare independence in response to a push by Madrid for the vote.

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators in the northeastern city of Girona on Wednesday, as leaders from the Catalan parliament met for key votes on whether to declare independence. The Catalan government has said it could hold a referendum on independence as early as next week.

The tension is high as Madrid warns that any move to split the country could lead to the loss of EU membership or the euro.

UN rolling out mass cholera vaccinations in Rohingya camps

UN agencies are rolling out mass cholera vaccinations in one of the world’s largest refugee camps in Bangladesh, as the country battles a serious outbreak of the disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the vaccination campaign is the largest ever undertaken by the UN’s health agency.

According to the WHO, the campaign is expected to reach about 120,000 people in the camps over the next few weeks.

Migrant cap set by Merkel

BERLIN (AFP).- Germany’s Angela Merkel has ruled out a cap on the number of migrants allowed into the country, a move that would have been popular with many in her country.

The German chancellor, who is leading her fourth term, has been under pressure to reduce the number of refugees and migrants allowed to enter the country.

The government has been criticized for not doing enough to address the issue.

100 years of casting comes to an end

HOLLYWOOD (AP).- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is celebrating its centenary this year.

The academy was founded in 1927 as a group of film industry leaders who wanted to improve the quality of films.

The academy has been responsible for the annual Academy Awards, which has been called the "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards".

Studio to expunge Weinstein’s name

LOS ANGELES (AFP).- A television studio has announced it will expunge its name from all movies and projects that were made by Harvey Weinstein.

The move comes weeks after the disgraced producer was arrested on charges of sexual assault.

"We believe it is important to take a stand against sexual assault and harassment," the studio said in a statement.

Yoko Ono

LOS ANGELES (AFP).- Yoko Ono, the widow of the late Beatles icon John Lennon, has announced that she will not attend a planned performance of the Beatles’ Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band in New York City.

Ono, who has been a vocal critic of the show, said she would not attend as a protest against what she sees as the “commercialization” of Lennon’s legacy.

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Left pardons a predator

If you want to spend decades harassing and assaulting women and get away with it, just do it like Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein: have fashionable opinions and become a darling of the glitterati.

As Is a hallmark of the left to give fellow travellers a free pass for any atrocity while screaming blue murder at conservatives.

Awful Vegas blame game

It was bad enough when psychologist Steve Biddulph launched a generation of parents to hold back their sons from school until they were ten.

Exploiting parents’ desire for their children to steal a march on the opposition, he created a glut of bored boys in childcare who should have been at school and, at the other end, a bunch of bored hairy adults in Year 12 who should have been getting on with life. Nothing good for boys came from his scare campaign. But he sold 15 million copies of his book Raising Boys on the back of it, without letting on that he was a climate alarmist and refugee activist.

Now his left-wing credentials are in no doubt, after he launched a vicious attack on Perth’s major media’s coverage of the WA Liberal Party conference.

He accused them of “messing up their groceries” while linking them to the Las Vegas massacre.

Howard is “a diabolical human being, heartless and self-seeking”, Biddulph wrote in a column last week headlined “Las Vegas shooting is part of the wider problem of messed up news”.

And somewhere he neglects to mention Howard’s courage in exacting some of the world’s toughest gun laws after the Port Arthur massacre, which has not been reversed since, touched wood.

On Friday evening Herald quietly deleted the offensive paragraphs, without apologising or even explaining why.

What a twisted response to a tragedy half a world away.
Climate evangelists reduce debate to a binary farce

Tony Abbott delivers a sharp and pointed piece on the current climate debate. He laments that much of the discussion on climate change is becoming so polarized that it is reducing the debate to a binary choice, with no room for compromise or nuanced discussion. He argues that the focus on carbon pricing and emissions trading is not the solution, and that a more balanced approach is needed.


don't forget the billions we pay to fossil fuel companies

Don't forget the billions we pay to fossil fuel companies, argues the author. The billions in tax breaks, subsidies, and other forms of support are not just subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, but they are also contributing to the current climate crisis. The author calls for a more comprehensive approach to addressing climate change, one that is focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Hollywood culture in disrepute

Harvey Weinstein is named as an example of the pervasive culture of exploitation and abuse that exists in Hollywood. The author argues that the Weinsteinpocalypse has exposed a culture that values profit over people, and that this culture needs to be fundamentally changed.

TALKING POINT

Jodie Stess gives a very pointed comment on woman's rights. "Cultural relativism must be understood to be a pillar of the international human rights system," she writes. The author argues that cultural relativism cannot be used to justify the oppression of women, and that it is important to support women's rights around the world.

Abbot's adventures in Pommery-land lead to a fight with Ed Miliband over climate change

And there's a coup against Malcolm Turnbull brewing in Adelaide...

Tony Abbott is quoted as saying that climate change is a "myth" and that the government is wasting taxpayer money on it. The opposition is calling for a vote of no confidence in the government due to the perceived mishandling of the climate change debate.

Eighth Annual Australian Film Awards...-

The Year in Film: 2015 - The Australian, January 15, 2016

The year in film was a year of change and struggle. Actors, directors and writers all struggled to find their way in a year of change. The movie industry was hit by a number of losses, including the passing of a number of the greats. But it was a year that saw a number of great films released. The Australian Film Awards were held last night, and the winners were announced.


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Mystery of why shooter stopped

SARAH BLAKE
REPORTER

LAS VEGAS: Police yesterday revealed gunman Stephen Paddock's murderous spree began when he opened fire on a casino security.

In a dramatically revised timeline to the horrific massacre, police said Jesus Campos was Paddock's first victim and he shot six times before the shooter opened fire on the Harvest 91 Festival. Authorities previously said Mr Campos was shot after Paddock started firing and credited him with stopping his daughter.

Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, however, said this was not the case, raising new questions on how Paddock was "inflicted so much damage." Sheriff Lombardo said Padlock shot Mr Campos at 9:40pm on October 1, before gunfire rained down on the country music concert at 10:05pm. Police now can't say what made Paddock stop shooting.

The revelation came as a group of Paddock gunned down a million dollars a day and boasted he was the "biggest video poker player in the world," according to court documents.

New detail about the retiree accountant and mailman, who nine days ago became America's worst mass killer, was revealed in a 2013 deposition from when he unconvincingly sued Las Vegas Cosmopolitan Hotel after winning $50,000.

He described how he slept all day, travelled three weeks a month and lived in a "complimentary" casino hotel rooms.

"I averaged 14 hours a day, 365 per year," he said of the period in 2006 when he was at the height of his winning.

"I know some of the video poker players that play big. Nobody plays as much as and as long as I did. I'll gamble all night...I sleep during the day."

According to the documents obtained by CNN, Paddock said he stayed alone when he was playing poker.

"At the stakes I play, you want to have all your chips aboard, you are as much at it as I have," he said. "Each time I push the button, it will range from $100 to $200," he said, adding that he often bet $1 million a night.

DAREDEVIL THIEVES

LONDON: Six jewel thieves have escaped on a single mopeds after a smash-and-grab raid.

The couple were armed with machetes and hammers, escaped on one scooter after the raid at a high-end jeweller in Jury's Regent St after arriving on three separate mopeds. One moped was abandoned at the scene and one was crushed on Oxford St.

"The suspects who were not caught were then picked up before all six fell on a single remaining moped," a police spokesman said.

The robbers reportedly made their getaway on Monday night and have yet to be caught.

Family not part of any grand plan

Researchers say there's no plausible biological reason to explain why the species don't reproduce and the next generation has been raised. Big changes have been noticed in how older women carry on after age 70 when they cannot have children.

Scientists at Edinburgh University said the unusually long lives of mammals were an "evolutionary puzzle." They examined theories that a grandmother's role as a babysitter would improve the survival of family members to thrive and studied whether longevity and the ability to father a child, and no evidence that having grandchildren would lead children having better survival chances.
These Are the Women Who Have Accused Harvey Weinstein of Sexual Harassment and Assault

Sixty-three actresses and film-industry figures have come forward so far; below, a running list of their allegations against the former Weinstein Company mogul, updated each time new allegations come to light.

by YOHANA DESTA & HILLARY BUSIS

OCTOBER 12, 2017 7:34 AM
Hope Exiner d’Amore:

In the late 1970s, Exiner d’Amore was working for Weinstein’s Buffalo-based pre-Miramax concert promotion company when she went with Weinstein on a business trip to New York City. There, she says, Weinstein forced sex and oral sex on her: “I told him no. I kept pushing him off me, and he kept pushing me.”
between her and Weinstein; they met in an elevator, says Burr, where she says Weinstein

he pounded incessantly on her hotel-room door until she left the room by a back entrance (the first time) or barricaded the door (the second); another in which he barged into her hotel room “like a raging bull. And I know with every fibre of my being that if my male makeup artist was not in that room, things would not have gone well. It was scary.” Weinstein allegedly then told Hannah to attend a party downstairs; when she arrived at the room he had mentioned, she says, it was empty save Weinstein. When Hannah asked for an explanation, she says Weinstein replied, “Are your tits real?” before asking if he could touch them.

Annabella Sciorra:
these women, I was so ashamed of what happened. And I fought. I fought. But still I was like,

In an essay for The Atlantic, Marling wrote that Weinstein requested a meeting with her in 2014. Her story resembles so many others: “I, too, was asked to meet him in a hotel bar. I, too, met a young, female assistant there who said the meeting had been moved upstairs to his suite because he was a very busy man. I, too, felt my guard go up but was calmed by the presence of another woman my age beside me. I, too, felt terror in the pit of my stomach when that young woman left the room and I was suddenly alone with him. I, too, was asked if I wanted a massage, Champagne, strawberries. I, too, sat in that chair paralyzed by mounting fear when he suggested we shower together. What could I do? How not to offend this man, this gatekeeper, who could anoint or destroy me? It was clear that there was only one direction he wanted this encounter to go in, and that was sex or some version of an erotic
massages and hand-jobs in hotel rooms" with regard to Weinstein—but not suspecting that

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Marisa Coughlan:
The actress told The Hollywood Reporter that in 1999, after she had shot the Miramax film Teaching Mrs. Tingle, Weinstein asked her to meet him at the Peninsula hotel, where “he told me that he has a lot of ‘special friends’ and they give each other massages. It was a full-court press. He wanted me to be one of his ‘special friends’ and go into the bedroom. I told him that I had a serious boyfriend and reminded him that he was married and that we should keep this professional. I was so blindsided. Not one ounce of me anticipated it. It was the weirdest meeting I’ve ever had in my life.” Ultimately, said Coughlan, she left the room, and later allegedly rejected another advance after another meeting.
wearing nothing but a bathrobe; he then allegedly told her, “I waited for the masseuse, but

Nyong’o’s various interactions with Weinstein, as revealed in an explosive New York Times story, will sound familiar to anyone who has been following the Weinstein saga; the Oscar winner says she endured meetings in hotel rooms, requests for massages, complicity from Weinstein’s female accomplices/assistants, and the promise of career advancement as quid pro quo. When she first met the mogul in 2011, Nyong’o writes, she was still a student at the Yale School of Drama. Not knowing much about Weinstein, she asked a female producer (who goes unnamed in the article) what to do when the studio head was introduced to her. “Keep Harvey in your corner,” was the advice, as well as the warning: “He is a good man to know in the business, but just be careful around him.”
out how to extricate myself from this undesirable situation. Before long he said he wanted to

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this, not your manager, not your agent. I got into my car and I cried.”

**Vu Thu Phuong:**

The Vietnamese actress wrote in a Facebook post—translated by the Web site Saigoneer—that Weinstein asked her to meet him in a hotel room, where she says he approached her wearing only a towel. She says he then asked her if she was comfortable doing sex scenes on film. “I can teach you, don’t worry. Many stars have also been through this,” Phuong says Weinstein told her. “Just treat this as necessary experiences so that you’ll have a stronger foundation in the future.” Afterward, she writes, the actress gave up on achieving stardom in America and eventually left the film industry altogether.
says, Weinstein used the toilet, then began taking a shower—continuing to talk to her all the

At a dinner in 2010, the actress and director says that Weinstein propositioned her: “I think we should see a movie in the theater, like back in the day, and we should kiss,” he allegedly said. “He tried to insinuate that everything would be easier for me if I went along,” Esco told The Washington Post.

Trish Goff:

The model says that Weinstein quickly got physical when she had lunch with him in 2003: “Then he started asking me if I had a boyfriend, and if we had an open relationship. I said I wasn’t interested in an open relationship, but he was relentless, and I kept trying to shut that down and move on,” she told The New York Times. “Then he started putting his hands on my
the *Buffalo News*. “When I got into the room I realized that he was holding a hand towel around his waist.” She says that Weinstein then dropped the towel and asked Wachowiak to give him a massage. “He tried to encourage me by telling me what a fantastic opportunity it was for me to be part of this project. I told him that I was happy to be part of the project but I would not touch him. He finally gave up and signed all the checks.” Later, she says, Weinstein approached her on set and asked her a question: “So, was seeing me naked the highlight of your internship?”

**Eva Green:**

After Green’s mother, actress Marlene Jobert, said on Europe 1 Radio that her daughter
Tara Subkoff:

The actress told Variety that Weinstein harassed her at a premiere party in the 1990s: “He motioned for me to come over to him, and then grabbed me to sit me on his lap. I was so surprised and shocked I couldn’t stop laughing because it was so awkward. But then I could feel that he had an erection. I got quiet, but got off his lap quickly. He then asked me to come outside with him and other things I don’t want to share, but it was implied that if I did not comply with doing what he asked me to do that I would not get the role that I had already been informally offered. I laughed in his face as I was in shock and so uncomfortable. I left the party right after that.” Subkoff believes that after she rejected Weinstein, she was blacklist by the industry: “My reputation was ruined by false guess, and I was called ‘too
Florence Darel:

The French actress told *Le Parisien* that Weinstein allegedly pursued her after his company bought the 1993 film *Fausto*, in which Darel starred. In 1995, she says, Weinstein asked her to meet him at a suite in The Ritz, where he allegedly propositioned her—even though his wife at the time was in the next room: “He started to tell me that he found me very attractive and wanted to have relations with me,” Darel said. “I told him I was very in love with my companion. He replied that didn’t bother him at all and offered to have me be his mistress a few days a year. That way we could continue to work together. Basically, it was ‘If you want to continue in America, you have to go through me.’”
Cara Delevingne:

After meeting with Weinstein and a director in a hotel lobby to discuss a movie role, “Harvey asked me to stay and chat with him,” Delevingne wrote in a statement shared on Twitter. “As soon as we were alone he began to brag about all the actresses he had slept with and how he had made their careers and spoke about other inappropriate things of a sexual nature. He then invited me to his room. I quickly declined and asked his assistant if my car was outside. She said it wasn’t and wouldn’t be for a bit and I should go to his room. At that moment I felt very powerless and scared but didn’t want to act that way hoping that I was wrong about the situation. When I arrived I was relieved to find another woman in his room and thought...
Léa Seydoux:

ACCESS IS EVERYTHING

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Angelina Jolie:

ARTICLES LEFT


10-406
Though the actress has not explicitly spoken about having an abusive encounter with Weinstein, and has not formally and by name accused him of being a serial predator, the first Times report about Weinstein alleges that the producer paid McGowan a settlement in 1997—and since the scandal went public, McGowan has tweeted numerous times about the Weinstein allegations, asking if the public can now call Weinstein a “rapist.” On Twitter Tuesday, McGowan also shared audio obtained by The New Yorker of Weinstein admitting to groping model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez; while re-posting the clip, McGowan added: “Now imagine his huge size, his monster face/body closing in on you. In one second your life path is not yours. You have been stolen.”
mention that to star in one of those films I had to sleep with him, but the subtext was there.

ACCESS IS EVERYTHING

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Katherine Kendall:

Kendall, an actress, says Weinstein invited her to a screening, then brought her to his apartment, where he allegedly changed into a bathrobe and asked for a massage. When she declined, he left and returned without the robe. “He literally chased me,” she told the Times. “He wouldn’t let me pass him to get to the door. . . . I just thought to myself: I can’t believe you’re doing this to me. I’m so offended—we just had a meeting.”

Judith Godrèche:
Laura Madden:

Former Weinstein Company employee Madden told the Times that Weinstein asked for massages on more than one occasion: “It was so manipulative. You constantly question yourself—am I the one who is the problem?”

Zelda Perkins:

London Weinstein assistant Perkins allegedly confronted her boss in 1998, saying that she would initiate legal action or go public if he did not change his inappropriate behavior, according to the Times. A Miramax lawyer allegedly negotiated a settlement with her; she
to wear so that she could attempt to wring a confession or incriminating comments from her as she repeatedly told him to stop,” according to The New Yorker. Though it was a “nightmare,” said Argento, she maintained a relationship with Weinstein for years: “I felt I had to,” she said. “When I see him, it makes me feel little and stupid and weak. After the rape, he won.”

Mira Sorvino:

The actress, who starred in a string of Miramax movies in the 90s, told The New Yorker that in 1995, Weinstein was alone with her in a hotel room, and proceeded to massage her shoulders, which made her “very uncomfortable.” She alleges that he then chased her around...
her from leaving until he had finished. "I could not believe what I was witnessing. It was disgusting and kind of pathetic, really," Sivan told Megyn Kelly Monday on Today. "But more than the disgusting act itself, which of course was gross, the demeaning part of it all—that just 20 minutes earlier, he was having this great conversation with me, and I felt so great and flattered by it."

Romola Garai:

In an interview with the The Guardian, the actress said she had her own experience “auditioning” for Weinstein when she was 18 years old. After a formal tryout, she was told she had to be “personally approved by him,” Garai recalls. “I had to go to his hotel room in
Campbell, a writer and artist, wrote in *The Times of London* that in 1995, Weinstein called her out of the blue and invited her to meet with him about potential work in his hotel room. There, she alleges, he asked her to “jump in the bath” with him.

**Zoë Brock:**

Model Brock said in a Medium blog post that she “was only 23 when [she]I was ‘Harveyed’” in 1997, at the Cannes Film Festival. She claims that Weinstein took her to his suite at the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc with a few other people, who eventually left, leaving her alone with the producer. “Harvey left the room, but not for long,” she writes. “He re-emerged naked a
Eventually, she says, he dressed, and she left the suite when an assistant arrived. “I’m so
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"She Absolutely Has Sociopathic Tendencies": Elizabeth Holmes, Somehow, Is Trying to Start a New Company!
Vanity Fair
Weinstein accusers speak out

NEW YORK: A flood of allegations this week against Harvey Weinstein on the record reports that took place while he was in the industry included testimony from Asia Argento and D'Andrea and Angelina Jolie. Further evidence of the alleged sexual assault of the film director was detailed by one of his accusers, a woman who was allegedly assaulted in 2011 when she was cast in the Weinstein-produced movie “The Reader.”

A representative for the actress reportedly denied the allegations in a statement to the magazine.

The New York-based Weinstein is a former film producer and has been accused of sexual assault and harassment by over 300 women.

Los Angeles: The flames that raced across California and destroyed thousands of homes and left people homeless, are expected to last for several more days. As many as 100 people are still unaccounted for.

Lethal force ends riot

SEOUL: South Korean police and military forces have arrested and detained dozens of suspected North Korean agents, including two South Korean citizens, in a coordinated operation.

The United States, meanwhile, staged another show of force at sea to deter any North Korean aggression by firing two SS-100 supersonic bombers at a North Korean water battery near the border.

The South Korean military said that the strikes were aimed at preventing any possible North Korean military action in the area.

NK ‘hacked war plans’
The sound of silence

The downfall of Harvey Weinstein is a terrible morality tale made all the worse by the complicity of those who went along and kept silent to gain fame and fortune.

He most shocking thing about Harvey Weinstein is that so many people in Hollywood knew he was a sexual predator and said nothing.

They included stars, producers, staff, reporters and, obviously, the victims themselves, at least eight of whom accepted money from the legendary producer to shut up.

Several victims even kept working on Weinstein films, showing Weinstein could trust the hunger for Hollywood fame to protect him for more than 30 years as he forced women to massage him, watch him masturbate or give him sex.

The list of those in the know about Weinstein has become staggeringly long since the scandal finally broke last week.

There aren’t just the eight actors and Weinstein staffers who accepted settlements from him.

The New Yorker’s Roman Farrow, son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, has talked to 11 other women who say Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them, and three claimed he raped them. Weinstein denies this.

The New York Times says it found six more victims, including Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, who claim they’d been harassed early in their careers.

And the other stars who say they were sexually harassed: Rose McGowan, Mia Farrow, Ashley Judd and Rosanna Arquette. And surely there are other actors who were also harassed and are keeping silent from shame or fear.

Then there’s the witness, Farrow writes: “Sixteen former and current executives and assistants at Weinstein’s companies told me that they witnessed or heard about unwanted sexual advances and touching.

Many victims must also have told yet others about Weinstein. Paltrow, for instance, says she told her then boyfriend, actor Brad Pitt.

On it went, until Weinstein’s behaviour was such an open secret in the Hollywood that comedian Seth MacFarlane announced the Oscar nominees for best female actor in 2013 with the jibe: “Congratulations, you five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein.”

“I know that everybody — I mean, everybody — in Hollywood knew that it was happening,” says French actor Emma de Caunes, who claims Weinstein exposed his erect penis to her.

“But everyone’s too scared to say anything.”

But what were they actually scared of? It’s too pat to confine this scandal to a story about an ugly man who got off on using his power to fill his bed and shake his ego. That’s true, but not enough.

Likewise, it is easy to note Weinstein disingenuously dismissed as a moralist of the Left.

But “on a woman’s march and backing the Hating Ground, docu-umentary on the alleged ‘rape culture’ of universities.

And sure, Weinstein also made sure he had powerful political allies, fundraising for Hillary Clinton and giving an internship to a daughter of then president Barack Obama.

But only in an industry so insanely obsessed with money and fame could Weinstein have got away with his groping for so long.

Cold responses show Abbott is right

The screams of abuse tell me Tony Abbott hit the target with his speech saying global warming may not be so bad. In fact, the former prime min-
ister said, some warming “could be beneficial”, because “far more people die in cold snaps” and more carbon dioxide would lift agricultural yields.

The TV news bulletins promptly rounded up warmists to abuse Abbott as an idiot and hypocrite.

Here is the considered response of deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek:

“Leaps... nuts.” Here is Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull “Mental Health Day... A great day”.

ABC reporter Andrew Probyn took the media for a bit of a fly by, accusing Abbott of “having draped the work of climate science with counterproductive spin”.

But see a common thread?

Yes, bits of abuse, but so attempt to prove Abbott actually warmed.

Open the Sydney Morning Herald did run one piece claiming Abbott was wrong on Australian temperatures, but illogical his actual quote to change its meaning (details on my blog). And on the ABC, Andrew P. Street announced Abbott’s claim on death rates from cold was wrong, only to contradictingly admit, “it appears to be true,” after all.

It is. As the Lancer medical journal reported, people are 20 times more likely to die of cold than heat. Indeed, Abbott’s speech was on all key points true.

The warming has been less than expected, our cyclones are fewer, the world’s crops are bigger, and cutting the emissions said to cause warming is all pain for little gain.

Chief Scientist Alan Finkel admits that even if we cut all our emissions, the difference to the climate would be “virtually nothing”. But yesterday the Turnbull government showed what devastation we’ve created with such schemes, which have helped to shut seven coal-fired power stations in four years. It promised to spend $35 million to bite Australian to use less elec-

tricity, particularly when they most need it — in a bushfire.

That will pay people in NSW, Victoria and South Australia to burn down their air conditioning, fans and cool rooms to stop blackouts now that we are running so short of electricity.

Past the government spends money on green power, then spends more to make us use less. Meanwhile electricity bills keep rising. This is so true it’s no wonder warmists are abusing Abbott. They have nothing else.

Andrew Bolt

Only in an industry so insanely obsessed with money and fame could Weinstein have got away with his groping for so long.
Madrid in crisis talks on Catalan split

LEADER DECLARES, THEN SUSPENDS, INDEPENDENCE TO ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS

MADRID: Spain’s government yesterday surprised Catalan separatists by announcing it would hold crisis talks with the region’s leaders, after Madrid abruptly scrapped independence talks that it had hoped would pave the way for a new era of regional cooperation.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told a hastily convened press conference that he would hold talks with Catalan President Quim Torra to try to end the deadlock over the region’s push for independence and find a way forward.

"I don’t want to do this," Sánchez said, adding that he had been "surprised" by the "intolerable" situation in Catalonia, where separatists have blocked the region’s parliamentary proceedings.

Sánchez said the talks would be held tomorrow and that they would be "constructive and transparent." But several Catalan separatist leaders were already expressing doubt that the talks would lead to a resolution.

Sánchez’s announcement came as the European Union urged Spain and Catalonia to maintain calm and avoid violence as the region pushed towards a referendum on independence next month.

The announcement came on the same day that the Spanish government had announced it would hold a referendum on independence in the region, despite a ruling by the Constitutional Court that such a vote was unconstitutional.

Sánchez also announced that he would dissolve the Catalan parliament, which has been held up by separatists, and call early elections for a new assembly to be held in April.

"We have to find a path to dialogue," Sánchez said, adding that he would give "a chance for dialogue and for dialogue to triumph."

Some political analysts and experts saw the move as a tactical decision aimed at weakening separatist influence ahead of the referendum.

Sánchez also said he would ask the European Union to mediate in the crisis, adding that he had spoken to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker earlier in the day.

But other political analysts saw the move as a sign of weakness, saying it would only make the separatists stronger.

"Sánchez is trying to hold a referendum," said one political analyst. "He’s giving in to the pressure from the separatists."

"It’s a sign of weakness," said another.

Sánchez’s announcement came after weeks of escalating tensions between the central government and the separatists, who have been pushing for independence for decades.

The Catalan separatists have been holding protests and rallies in recent weeks, and some have even threatened violence.

Sánchez said he would try to "calm" the situation and "open the path for dialogue." But he added that he would not "give in to the pressure from the separatists."
ON FURY ROAD

wellbrook. It had already swiped two cars and caught the attention of police. Chasing not to actively purs
the truck, they instead deployed road spikes on the outskirts of Single
ton in an attempt to bring it to a halt before it hit the town.
It did not seem to even slow, breaking the town's heart as it destroyed its heritage streetcape.
"The first ambulance arrived at 8:54am to a chaotic scene involving a number of quite distressed people," NSW ambulance inspector Luke Widman said.
Seven ambulances and two emer
gency helicopters responded to the scene. Johnson was grabbed by police as he allegedly tried to fire from the truck and attempted to steal a gateway vehicle.
Singleton High School cleaner Tina Saunders was on her way home from work when she saw Johnson climb out of the burning semi's win
dow allegedly trying to carjack a new truck, as police raced towards him.
"I yelled that he was in the other truck that stopped and that's when the police drove their guns and pinned him to the ground," she said.
Johnson is understood to be of no fixed address. He was aggressive when arrested, and was taken to hospital under police guard for a mental health assessment. Johnson was eventually escorted out of the hospital in a restrained state and was still being questioned by police last night.
Singleton mayor Sue Moore said the town was still in shock at the day's
shocking events.
"Everyone is absolutely gobsmacked at the devastation ... especially as it happened on the New England Highway, which runs through the middle of our town," Ms Moore said.

Rain falls on dam dilemmas
JASON THI

RECENT patches of rain have failed to halt shrinking NSW dams and done little to fill catchments and backyard water tanks.
Warragamba Dam was yester
day sitting at 88.1 per cent, down 0.4 per cent on the previ
ous week. Just 4mm of rain had fallen into the crevice over the past week.
WaterNSW had collective dam levels down 0.6 per cent over the past week while the average daily supply across the state remained at 230ML.
Sydney Water spokesman Peter Hadfield said the small amount of recent rain may have had an effect on backyard water levels.
"They would probably be low but it would depend on how often they were used and for what purpose," he said.
"For example (were they) making cups of tea or watering the lawn or filling the pool?"
Currently, no water restric
tions are expected in the medium term, but Sydney Water is nonetheless urging people to be vigilant on water usage.
At this time last year War
ragamba Dam was at 96.8 per cent, 82 per cent higher than the current level.
This September also experi
enced the highest average day water demand since 2003.
Exceeding 172 billion litres, it was 25 per cent higher than that of September 2006.
Over the three heatwave days of last month — September 22 to 24 — demand varied between 188 billion litres and 156 billion litres.

Aussies pay stack of tax
MORE than 1.6 million Australia
ians will be slapped with higher
taxes in the next five years as bracket creep causes more hip
pocket pain for workers.
The Parliamentary Budget Office has revealed the aver
age tax rate will climb 2.3 per cent over the next five years.
Middle-income workers earning an average of $46,000
will be the hardest hit, with their average tax rate expected to leap from 14.9 per cent to 18.2 per cent. The new figures could put the stage for pre-elec
tion tax cuts as early as next year, with Treasurer Scott Morrisson having warned in the past that bracket creep was a "silent tax" that eroded incen
tives to work.

STARS SLAM GRUB
AUSTRALIA'S leading female film stars have joined a growing chorus of condemnation as the scandal surrounding disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein deepens.
Oscar winners Cate Blanchett and Nicole Kidman yesterday both spoke out against sexual harassment and abuse of power.
"I support and applaud all women and these women who speak out against any abuse and mist
er of power — be it domestic violence or sexual harassment in the workplace," Kidman said.
Kidman & Weinstein.

TV too exciting to stop drug smuggler
AN Australian man arrested in Bali with marijuana in his luggage was able to escape police because the offi
cers guarding him were "too excited watching television" when he went to the toilet, allowing him to flee out of the window.
Joshua James Baker then went on the run for 12 hours, visiting a friend before he was finally caught having lunch at a restaurant. He is currently being held in police custody.
Baker, 32, faces drug trafficking and possession after 3kg of mari
juana mixed with tobacco and 35 Dianzen pills was found in his lug
gage at the airport on Sunday.
He was taken to the police hospital for a routine medical examination and about 2am he added the two police officers guarding him for per
mission to use the toilet. "Our police personnel were too excited watching television," a police spokesman said.
When they knocked on the door and there was no answer, they broke the door down to find Baker had escaped through a ventilation win
dow.
Baker ran to a nearby minima
tar and borrowed a mobile phone to get a text message to take him to a friend's home nearby.
RAPE ALLEGATIONS HIT DISGRACED MOVIE MOGUL

GROPES OF WRATH AS WIFE DECALS

LOS ANGELES: Harvey Weinstein has been accused of raping three women — as a string of start also alleged he had harassed or assaulted them during decades of predatory behavior.

It comes as the disgraced movie mogul's fashion designer wife Georgina Chapman announced she was leaving him. The scandal deepened dramatically as a comprehensive exposé in The New Yorker claimed Weinstein routinely forced himself upon young actresses. The magazine also alleged his degraded behavior was common knowledge in the film industry.

Some 13 women told The New Yorker he sexually harassed or assaulted them. And according to the article, he told one former colleague: "There are things I've done that nobody knows."

It also emerged Weinstein was an active participant in a police " sting" operation in which he appeared to harass a young actress.

And in a separate bombshell claim published by The New York Times, Georgina Pitt revealed Weinstein asked her for a massage in his hotel bedroom when she was 22.

The star said she rejected his advances and left immediately but feared he would harm her career as a result. Writing: "I was a kid, I was signed up, I was petrified."

She told her then-boyfriend Brad Pitt, who confronted Weinstein at a movie premiere and demanded he touch her again. She added that she was "expected to keep the secret."

And Angelina Jolie said she had a "bad experience" with Weinstein in 1998, when she was young and never worked with him again. A string of actresses made similar claims.

Weinstein denies having non-consensual sex with anyone. But the beat has stunned Hollywood after days of damaging allegations. They raise grave questions over Hollywood's culture of complicity, especially at Weinstein's Film firms Miramax and The Weinstein Company. The New Yorker claims 36 of Weinstein's colleagues knew about allegations but did nothing. He has since been fired by the The Weinstein Company board.

Yesterday Weinstein's British wife Chapman said she was leaving him in the wake of the lurid allegations. "My heart breaks for all the women who have suffered tremendous pain because of these undisguised acts," Chapman, 41, said.

Chapman and Chapman married in 2007 and have two children together — India, Pearl and Dashiell Max Robert, 4.

The latest series of allegations are the result of a 10-month investigation by Rachel Farrow, the son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen. "I was told by 33 women that, between the 1990s and 2011, Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them . These women told me Weinstein raped them," he wrote.

The former actress is a disturbing and unrelenting account of Weinstein by American actress Andrea Riseborough. "I was told to get his recording after going to the New York police and agreeing to wear a wire. The case was eventually dropped."

It has now been revealed that the 54-year-old killer used incendiary rounds to fire to the tank, which contained jet fuel, and is unconfident if the rounds that struck the tank were of the incendiary variety. A police spokesman said he was unaware of any rounds being used or other than those that struck the tank.

LAHORE: Thousands of primary school teachers in Nigeria are facing the sack after they failed exams they set for their six-year-old pupils.

A total of 23,100 teachers — two-thirds of the total in Kaduna state — failed to score 75 per cent or higher on the assessments. Authorities have said 25,000 new teachers will be recruited to replace them.

WE tested our 33,000 primary school teachers, we gave them primary four examination and rejected them must at least 75 per cent but I am sad to announce that 66 per cent of them failed to get the requirements," state governor Nasir El-Rufai.

"The hiring of teachers in the past was politicized and we intend to change that."

Re: DAILY TELEGRAPH
Cate, Nicole speak out in wake of Weinstein

Two women from Los Angeles' high profile entertainment community are weighing in on the allegations against former film producer Harvey Weinstein, which have sent shockwaves through Hollywood and the world of entertainment.

Kathryn Bostedt and Nicole Bostedt have both come forward to speak out about their experiences with Weinstein, which they say were both disturbing and traumatic.

Kathryn Bostedt, a successful entertainment lawyer, said she was at a party thrown by Weinstein in 2004 when he tried to force himself on her.

The incident left her feeling violated and scared, and she said she has been struggling with the memories of that night ever since.

Nicole Bostedt, a former assistant to Weinstein, said she was at a party thrown by the producer in 2006 when he tried to force himself on her.

She said she was overwhelmed by emotions when she heard the allegations against Weinstein, and she has been struggling with the memories of that night ever since.

Both women have spoken out in the wake of the allegations, saying they want to support others who have also been sexually assaulted or harassed in the industry.

Look mum, no shark: Mel goes viral

Facebook has announced that the photo of Mel Gibson in a shark suit that went viral earlier this week has been on the site for over a year.

The photo, which shows Gibson in a shark suit, has been shared more than 50,000 times since it was posted on the site.

Facebook's head of communications, Nick unos, said the photo had been on the site for over a year and was shared more than 50,000 times.

He said the company had no idea how it had spread so quickly.

"We're just staggered," he said.

Brace for cosmic close shave as house-size asteroid swings by

A large asteroid is expected to swing by Earth on Tuesday, and some experts are warning that it could come within 12,000 miles of the planet.

The asteroid, which is estimated to be about 500 feet in diameter, will be visible to naked eye observers in the southern sky.

Scientists say the asteroid is expected to come within 12,000 miles of Earth on Tuesday, and some experts are warning that it could come within 6,000 miles of the planet.

This is the closest the asteroid has come to Earth since the 12th century, and some experts are warning that it could come within 6,000 miles of the planet.

"It's not going to hit Earth, but it's going to be very close," said NASA's John Grunsfeld, director of the agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"We want to make sure we keep people safe," he said.

Regional media 'censors' Hadley

The regional media are accused of censoring news stories about Hadley, a small town in New South Wales.

Local journalists say they are being told not to publish stories that could damage the town's reputation.

"We're seeing a lot of self-censorship," said one journalist.

"It's very frustrating."
Weinstein allegations show just how deep 'don't ask, don't tell' culture runs

Natalie Reilly

Published: October 12 2017 - 12:15AM

Since The New York Times published their report on the sexual assault allegations against movie mogul, Harvey Weinstein, it's as if a quiet bomb has gone off in Hollywood. At first only a few, brave actresses were willing to go on the record, among them Ashley Judd, who was allegedly assaulted by Weinstein, then Rose McGowan, who settled with the producer out of court, then Meryl Streep, who called it "disgusting", and Lena Dunham, who wrote an op-ed for the Times on Tuesday.

With the exception of a precious few, including Seth Rogen, Judd Apatow, Kevin Smith and George Clooney, the men appeared to be dragging their feet to publicly condemn the powerful producer. Worse, the were high-powered celebrities, such as Donna Karan and Lindsay Lohan, who immediately began victim-blaming.

Then, Wednesday happened. A 2015 recording of Weinstein, attempting to coerce model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez into watching him take a shower, was released by The New Yorker. And what had up until that point been a mere trickle of condemnation from A-listers turned into a downpour, with the likes of Jennifer Lawrence, Kate Winslet, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Viola Davis, Glenn Close and Judi Dench expressing their disgust and disbelief. Even Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have released statements regarding Weinstein, as he was a major donor to the Democratic Party.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie spoke up about being sexually harassed by Weinstein, who has since been sacked by his own company. As of press time, other actresses are following their lead. Meanwhile, Weinstein's wife of more than a decade, Georgina Chapman, has announced she is leaving him.

It's an interesting moment for showbiz, an industry like so many other elite corporations (including the Catholic Church) built on the routine exploitation of human vulnerability, and a "don't ask, don't tell" mentality regarding such abuses of power. Lest we forget Donald Trump's heinous boast regarding his own sexual assaults: "When you're a star, they let you do it." And like so many other corporations, it's easier just to say "none of my business" if you're benefiting from it. Or if speaking out appears too costly.

As of Wednesday, the cost of speaking out against Weinstein became low enough for everyone to jump on and release their statements. Matt Damon, who denied making a phone call to the Times to kill a story about Weinstein in 2004, said "I did five or six movies with Harvey, I never saw this".

Clooney said "I've known Harvey for 20 years ... but I can tell you that I've never seen any of this behaviour - ever".

From Jennifer Lawrence: "I did not experience any form of harassment personally."

From producer Jeffrey Katzenberg: "There appears to be two Harvey Weinsteins, one I have known well ... and another that I have not known at all."

From Glenn Close: "I have been aware of the vague rumours that Harvey Weinstein had a pattern of behaving inappropriately around women ... Harvey has always been decent to me."

From Charlize Theron: "Although I didn't have a personal experience with Harvey Weinstein, I unfortunately cannot say I'm surprised."
Are you sensing the theme? Threaded through each condemning statement is a defensive line about "knowing nothing". There are several problems with this line of reasoning. First, it's unlikely to be true. As Jessica Chastain said, "I was warned from the beginning. The stories were everywhere".

Chastain is not alone. A cursory Google of Weinstein's "open secret" of sexually harassing young actresses is all over the internet, and has been for years.

Second, the idea that if it didn't happen to you personally it was not worth speaking up about, is exactly how predators like Weinstein are able to thrive. Indeed, these statements read less like condemnation and more like a glittering performance of hot potato: "Don't look at me."

Since the victims of Bill Cosby, Roger Ailes and Bill O'Reilly have come forward, the social norms and sexist, cowardly practice of not believing or outright dismissing survivors of sexual assault and rape has shifted ever so slightly. But one thing has not changed: the practice of powerful people not speaking up until the evidence is undeniable; until it is safe for them to do so. And yet it's precisely this section of society – the rich and privileged – that needs to, in order to facilitate change.

For example, It's great that Kate Winslet and Emma Stone have publicly expressed their outrage over Weinstein, but I'd like to know why they're both still working with Woody Allen. Allen has consistently dismissed the allegation that he sexually abused his daughter, Dylan Farrow. But the facts are undeniable. The state attorney at the time said he had "probable cause" to press charges against him. The judge presiding over the case found that Allen's behaviour towards Dylan was "grossly inappropriate and that measures must be taken to protect her". Dylan herself wrote publicly about what happened to her.

Perhaps we will have to wait until the right sort of people – the powerful and the privileged – come forward before Allen's career is put to rest. And then search those statements for the searing subtext, "Don't blame me – I heard the rumours, but I never saw a thing".

This story was found at: http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/celebrity/weinstein-allegations-show-just-how-deep-dont-ask-dont-tell-culture-runs-20171011-g3y00k.html

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NYPD, Scotland Yard launch investigations into Weinstein assault allegations

Michael Idato

Police in the US and Britain have opened criminal investigations into allegations of sexual assault against disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Media reports say the New York Police Department is looking into allegations of an incident that took place in 2004. Meanwhile, in Britain, police are investigating a complaint relating to an incident that took place in the 1980s.

Weinstein scandal deepens and darkens

Rape, harassment and intimidation are just a few allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein in an explosive New Yorker article.

The NYPD said in a statement on Friday that it was "conducting a review to determine if there are any additional complaints relating to the Harvey Weinstein matter".

The review was based on "information referenced in published news:
The NYPD was based on "information received in published reports," it added.

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"No filed complaints have been identified as of this time and as always, the NYPD encourages anyone who may have information pertaining to this matter to call."

Meanwhile, British police in Merseyside said a "report was received ... of an alleged sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s. The report has been referred to the Metropolitan Police."

Scotland Yard confirmed the report had been received.

"The Met have been passed an allegation of sexual assault by Merseyside Police today," Scotland Yard said. "The allegation will be assessed by officers from Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command."


The report in The New Yorker included accounts from three women who claim they were forced into sex with Weinstein, including Italian actress Asia Argento, former actress Lucia Evans and a third, unnamed, woman. Evans alleged the studio chief forced her to perform oral sex on him in 2004.
"I tried to get away but maybe I didn't try hard enough," Evans told journalist Ronan Farrow. "I didn't want to kick him or fight him. He's a big guy. He overpowered me."

The New Yorker report followed another in The New York Times detailing a pattern of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, by the mogul. A number of high-profile actresses - Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and others - have since come forward with separate accounts of falling prey to Weinstein's harassment.

Manhattan's district attorney's office launched an investigation in 2015 after model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez said she was invited to meet Weinstein at his office but left when he "lunged at her, groping her breasts."

She later went to a New York police station to report the assault and, after speaking to investigators from the special victim's division, met Weinstein with a police wire tap to record the second interaction.

Manhattan district attorney Cyrus Vance Jr decided at the time there was insufficient evidence to lay charges, but that move has been criticised by the NYPD since news of it became public.

Weinstein has been sacked by the company that bears his name, and his wife confirmed the couple have separated.

He has also been suspended from the British film industry body BAFTA and his name is being scrubbed from his company's television and film projects.

Weinstein has denied allegations of non-consensual sex.

"Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein (and) there were never any acts of retaliation against any women for refusing his advances," a statement released on his behalf said.

"Mr Weinstein obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual."

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‘The honey pot’: the cunning ploy Harvey Weinstein allegedly used to lure vulnerable women.

ZARA MCDONALD  
Content Producer  
October 13, 2017

The dozens and dozens of recounts from women of their alleged predatory exchanges with movie mogul Harvey Weinstein follow an eerily similar narrative: White robes. Empty hotel rooms. The offer of a massage. The promise of work. The prospect of a flourishing career.
Sometimes, they say, he would brag about his pursuit of sex with models, others, he would sit in the bath or stand in the shower. He’d always be alone, but it wouldn’t ever start that way.

After all, the rumours were rife and none of them good: Never be alone with Weinstein. Weinstein’s reputation around women wasn’t good.

But to – allegedly – sexually harass women over the course of 30 years with no consequence suggests Weinstein had a litany of secret keepers entangled in his web. People who, if the allegations are true, aided, abetted and were complicit in his ploy.

Listen: On Mamamia Out Loud, Mia, Rachel and Jessie discuss everything that is happening with Harvey Weinstein...

According to Ronan Farrow, who this week penned one of the more explosive reports to come from the saga in The New Yorker, Weinstein used what he calls ‘the honey pot’ technique.

“A female executive with the company described how Weinstein assistants and others served as a ‘honey pot’ — they would initially join a meeting, but then Weinstein would dismiss them, leaving him alone with the woman,” Farrow reported.

The piece said employees “describe a pattern of professional meetings that were little more than thin pretexts for sexual advances on young
actresses and models”, while some workers reportedly felt they were “enlisted in subterfuge to make the victims feel safe”.

*It’s a story actress and model Cara Delevingne detailed on Instagram:*

“The director left the meeting and Harvey asked me to stay and chat with him. As soon as we were alone he began to brag about all the actresses he had slept with and how he had made their careers and spoke about other inappropriate things of a sexual nature.

“He then invited me to his room. I quickly declined and asked his assistant if my car was outside. She said it wasn’t and wouldn’t be for a bit and I should go to his room. At that moment I felt very powerless and scared but didn’t want to act that way hoping that I was wrong about the situation.”

*It’s a story model Zoe Brock detailed on Medium:*

“I met Harvey Weinstein in Cannes at the Film Festival… Harvey and his assistant, Rick Schwartz, never left my side.”

When a big group of friends decided to move on from the large yacht they were on, Brock says she was ushered into a car. She was separated from her friends, found herself in the car with Harvey Weinstein driving towards, later arriving, at his hotel.

*Image: Getty.*

"After a few minutes [in the hotel room] a couple of the guys made motions to leave temporarily to make calls. The energy shifted and I became very uncomfortable. I turned to Rick and asked him to please get in touch with my friends immediately and find out
where they were. Rick said he would go downstairs and see if they were having trouble getting up to the room, and left.

"And suddenly I was alone in a remote hotel suite with Harvey fucking Weinstein.

"Harvey left the room, but not for long. He re-emerged naked a couple of minutes later and asked if I would give him a massage."

And it's a story actress Dawn Dunning told, via The Times:

"In 2003, Dawn Dunning was doing small acting gigs, attending design school and waitressing in a nightclub where she met Mr. Weinstein.

His assistant invited her to a meal with Mr. Weinstein at a Manhattan hotel. Ms. Dunning headed to the restaurant, where she was told that Mr. Weinstein's earlier meeting was running late, so she should head up to his suite.

There was no meeting. Mr. Weinstein was in a bathrobe, behind a coffee table covered with papers.

He told her they were contracts for his next three films, according to Ms. Dunning. But she could only sign them on a condition: She would have to have three-way sex with him.

It's called the honey pot technique, where Weinstein's alleged victims were made to feel safe under the false pretense that one of Weinstein's employees or assistants would be in the meeting. Of course, they would be present at the beginning. Then, as numerous women have told various publications this week, the assistants would leave.

Then? The women say they were left alone with the man who now faces a stream of sexual assault and harrassment allegations.

Which means that, if the large group of women are telling the truth about Weinstein, there were others at play here; this wasn't a one-man act.

This could, arguably, have been a web of people, all working like a well-oil machine to intimidate and coerce vulnerable women - consistently putting them in a position no woman ever wants to be in.
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Harvey Weinstein: US and UK police launch investigations

13 October 2017

US and UK police have launched investigations into sexual assault allegations against the film producer Harvey Weinstein.

The New York Police Department is looking into an allegation dating from 2004 and is reviewing whether there are any additional complaints.

London's Met Police has received an allegation of sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s.

Weinstein has "unequivocally denied" any allegations of non-consensual sex.

US actress Rose McGowan took to Twitter on Thursday to allege that she was raped by Weinstein.

In a series of tweets addressed to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, McGowan alleged she had told Amazon Studios she had been assaulted by Weinstein.
Amazon later said in a statement that its studio head, Roy Price, had been put on "leave of absence" and that it was reviewing projects it had with the Weinstein Company.

Weinstein's spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister reiterated on Thursday: "Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr Weinstein."

The New York Police Department said it was "looking to speak" to an individual who had made an allegation dating from 2004.

Assistant Commissioner J Peter Donald said: "Based on information referenced in published news reports, the NYPD is conducting a review to determine if there are any additional complaints relating to the Harvey Weinstein matter.

"No filed complaints have been identified as of this time."

The force also appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

The Metropolitan Police, meanwhile, said it had been passed the allegation of sexual assault by Merseyside Police.

A Merseyside Police statement said it "can confirm a report was received at 8.40am on Wednesday (11 October 2017) of an alleged sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s"
The investigations come as more women publicly accuse Weinstein of inappropriate behaviour, sexual harassment or assault.

British actress Kate Beckinsale is one of the latest, saying she had an encounter with him aged 17, at the Savoy Hotel in London.

The Underworld star said on Instagram she was told to go to his room, where he "opened the door in his bathrobe".

"After declining alcohol and announcing that I had school in the morning I left, uneasy but unscathed.

"A few years later he asked me if he had tried anything with me in that first meeting. I realised he couldn't remember if he had assaulted me or not," she said.

British actress and model Cara Delevingne also said he tried to kiss her as she tried to leave a hotel room.

Emma Thompson told BBC Two's Newsnight programme she found him to be a "bully" when his company Miramax owned the rights to her film Nanny McPhee.

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She said she did not know about the allegations of sexual impropriety but added: "They don't surprise me at all and they're endemic to the system anyway.

"I don't think you can describe him as a sex addict. He's a predator. That's different."

Thompson said there are "many" others like him in Hollywood, "Maybe not to that degree. Do they have to all be as bad as him to make it count?"

US actress Jane Fonda told the BBC's Hardtalk programme that his alleged victims did not come forth sooner "because he's powerful, because they're scared".

"Most of these women were in their 20s when it happened. Vulnerable.

"Afraid that if they say anything or do anything that it'll ruin their career," she said.

She added that she wished she had been "braver" by going to the authorities when she first heard the allegations "about a year ago".

Ms Hofmeister has said Weinstein "obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations, but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual.

"Mr Weinstein has begun counselling, has listened to the community and is pursuing a better path."

Three women earlier accused Weinstein of rape in an investigative article in The New Yorker magazine.

They are Italian actress and director Asia Argento, former aspiring actress Lucia Evans and a third woman who was anonymous.

'I've got to get help'

Speaking on Wednesday, Weinstein said: "We all make mistakes - second chance I hope."

He told TMZ: "Guys I'm not doing OK but I'm trying; I've got to get help. I'm hanging in - I'm trying my best."

TMZ reported he was heading to Arizona to a treatment facility.

As he departed in a car, the 65-year-old made a plea for fair treatment from reporters, saying: "I've always been loyal to you guys... I've been a good guy."

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In other developments, the hosts of the Oscars are to hold emergency talks this weekend to consider Weinstein's future role.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said the allegations of sexual assault against Weinstein were "repugnant".

'Unequivocal condemnation'

Bafta, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, has already suspended his membership.

A statement has also been issued by Cannes Film Festival, which Weinstein attended many times.

President Pierre Lescure said the festival had been "dismayed to learn of the accusations."

"These actions point to a pattern of behaviour that merits only the clearest and most unequivocal condemnation," he said.

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POWERFUL MAN’S PLAYTHINGS

JOSEPHINE ALBRIGHT (1909-1973)
Ten years before his death, director Josephine Albright was found dead at her home in Hollywood. Police were called to the scene by a concerned neighbor who heard unusual noises coming from the house. Albright had been known for her controversial film work, often featuring themes of sex and violence in a period of Hollywood where such content was banned. Her death raised questions about the nature of her final work and its impact on the industry. 

ANGIE MEDINA, above, 1908-1973
Angie Medina, a pioneering Mexican actress, was found dead in her Hollywood home on the eve of her 65th birthday. Known for her roles in both American and Mexican cinema, Medina was a trailblazer for Latin American performers in Hollywood. Her untimely death shocked the industry and highlighted the challenges faced by minority actors in the 1970s. 

JULIO GUERRERO, above, 1920-1973
Julio Guerrero, a noted Mexican actor, was found dead in his Hollywood home on the day of his 53rd birthday. Guerrero was known for his role in the 1950s film “La Catedral,” which won him critical acclaim and a nomination for an Academy Award. His death marked a significant loss for the Latin American film community in Hollywood. 

LIESE HANSEN, above, 1920-1973
Liese Hansen, a Danish actress, was found dead in her Hollywood home on the day of her 53rd birthday. Hansen was known for her roles in both American and Danish cinema. Her death was a shock to the industry, and her passing highlighted the struggle of foreign actors in Hollywood. 

In 1961, a daughter of a wealthy family in Hollywood called the police, saying that her father was suicidal. The police were sent to the residence, and when they arrived they found the father dead. The daughter claimed that she had been struggling with depression and had been warned by a friend that he might harm himself. The police were unable to determine the cause of death, and the case remained open for many years. 

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WEINSTEIN WOES ROCK ROBBIE'S NEW FILM

KARLIE BUTHERSFORD

AUSTRALIAN actor Margot Robbie has expressed her full backing for Cara Delevingne over the Harvey Weinstein scandal following her Suicide Squad co-star's claims the Hollywood heavyweight asked her to kiss another woman.

The 27-year-old addressed the sexual harassment issue engulfing Hollywood on the red carpet last night even as her upcoming project, a film about the infamous Manson Family murders, was thrown into doubt given Weinstein's involvement as a producer.

Robbie, who is currently in the US doing the publicity rounds for her Rick Gidley/Christopher Robin, described Delevingne as "a dear friend". "I already knew she was a fierce, brave woman," she said. "Today just proved that again. I think the whole situation is so disturbing and sad but I think the conversation surrounding it, hopefully, good comes out of it."

Robbie was set to play a role in the Delfini actor's Sharon Tate, who was eight months pregnant when she was murdered by Charles Manson Family cult members.

Tate was also wife of noted director Roman Polanski — a man charged with rape in 1970. However the film's future is in serious doubt after reports surfaced of Weinstein's alleged decades of abuse and sexual harassment towards women. Weinstein has since been fired from his company, The Weinstein Company, and vowed to seek help for sexual addiction.

SLEAZY MOGUL FLIPS OUT

WORLD PAGE 25

Breast doctor’s licence cut out

EXCLUSIVE
ROSE BREHAN

THE licence of a Western Sydney cosmetic doctor has been suspended after The Daily Telegraph revealed he was paying patients in the middle of surgery to ask them questions.

The Medical Council of NSW yesterday confirmed it has suspended the registration of Dr Leslie Blackstock, who worked at the Enhance Clinic in Eumundi Plains.

"Given public interest in this matter and the potential for patients at the Enhance Clinic to require follow-up care, the NSW Medical Council urges any affected patients to consult their general practitioner as soon as possible," a spokesperson said.

The matter will now be referred to the powerful Health Care Complaints Commission to investigate.

It comes after revelations that he was under fire for walking up patients in the middle of cosmetic surgery to check if they were happy with their breast implants.

A "checklist" obtained by The Daily Telegraph showed Dr Blackstock had been giving patients mathematical questions to ask the middle of surgeries to check cognition before asking them if they were happy with their implant case.

The Daily Telegraph was told that in some cases the patients had been asked to go into surgeries while they thought they were under the influence of the implants. It was also revealed that the Enhance Clinic had ignored orders from NSW Health to stop performing breast augmentations in an unlicensed clinic.

"The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has been informed by the council that Dr Blackstock's registration has been suspended. The Daily Telegraph has previously exposed how a former patient of Dr Blackstock had to seek emergency medical help after his operation left her with an infection.

Plastic surgeons Dr Rohit Kumar, of Sydney Cosmetic Sanctuary, performed corrective surgery on the patient and said he was "extremely concerned" Dr Blackstock had been "walking patients up and down surgery.

De Blackstock has previously denied any wrongdoing. His clinic yesterday said that due to "illness" he couldn't provide assistance to his patients for foreseeable future".

MUM AND SON MIRACLE

A MOTHER and her nine-year-old son have been found alive after surviving 10 days in remote bushland in NSW's Hunter Valley region. The pair went missing while bushwalking in the Mount Royal National Park north of Singleton 10 days ago. But a search was launched only after the woman's car was discovered four days ago. NSW Ambulance said the mother and son were located about 2km from the trail, following an extensive four-day search by emergency services.

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Winds whip up hell fire

SAN FRANCISCO: Fuelled by the return of strong winds, the wildfire tearing through California wine country exploded in size and number yesterday as authorities ordered new evacuations and the death toll climbed to 21.

Three days after the fires began, firefighters were still unable to control the 21 blazes that had destroyed at least 3500 homes and businesses. "Make no mistake, this is a serious, critical, catastrophic event," spokesman Ken Pineolett said. The fires have so far burned through a staggering 6646ha.

No palace for Trump

BERLIN: A plan for President Donald Trump to stay with the Queen at Buckingham Palace is unlikely to go ahead.

The US President had been offered the honour of a state visit. Such a visit would traditionally involve staying with the Queen at the Palace. However, a决定了 broke out in Britain over the offer, one usually reserved for a president in the second term of office. The trip has been repeatedly delayed because Mr Trump fears the opposition he could face from Britons who dislike him, and he is now set to tour in early 2018, reports say.

Can't write this fiasco

CARACAS: Venezuelans have been told their expired passports are still valid — because officials have run out of paper and ink to print new ones.

President Nicolas Maduro signed emergency decree to extend their validity by two years. Thousands of people wait for new documents.

Economic mismanagement by the socialist government and a collapse in oil prices has left Venezuela without funds to import basic goods such as food and medicine, creating acute shortages. Inflation in the South American nation could rise beyond 2300 per cent next year, the IMF said.

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'Tip of the iceberg': Emma Thompson's comments on 'predator' Weinstein go viral

Rob Moran

British actress Emma Thompson has labelled Harvey Weinstein a "predator" and said the allegations against the disgraced movie mogul are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to abuse in Hollywood.

"I didn't know about these things, but they don't surprise me and they're endemic to the system anyway ... What I find sort of extraordinary is that this man is at the top of a very particular iceberg," Thompson told BBC Newsnight about the string of allegations levelled at the former Miramax head in the wake of recent exposes.
she continued.

"What he's at the top of the ladder of is a system of harassment and belittling and bullying and interference, and what my mother would have referred to in the old days as 'pestering'.

Emma Thompson has labelled Harvey Weinstein a 'predator' and said the allegations are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to abuse in Hollywood. Photo: BBC

"This has been part of our world, women's world, since time immemorial."

Echoing earlier calls by fellow star Jane Fonda, Thompson drew a direct line from Weinstein's behaviour to that of US President Donald Trump.

"What we need to start talking about is the crisis in masculinity, the crisis of extreme masculinity, which is this sort of behaviour, and the fact that it is not only OK but it also is represented by the most powerful man in the world at the moment," she said.

When asked by journalist Emily Maitlis if she thought there were others like Weinstein in Hollywood, Thompson replied: "Of course, many!"

"Maybe not to that degree ... [but] does it only count if you really have done it to loads and loads and loads of women? Or does it count if you do it to one woman once? I think the latter," she said.

Thompson's comments, which were trending on Twitter on Friday morning, come as more and more high-profile stars add their names to the list of women accosted by Weinstein, including model Cara Delevigne, and actresses Claire Forlani and Kate Beckinsale, who said she was propositioned by Weinstein when she was just 17.

"A few years later he asked me if he had tried anything with me in that first meeting. I realised he couldn't remember if he had assaulted me or not," Beckinsale wrote on Instagram.

The fallout over Weinstein's string of abuse has put the spotlight on Hollywood's tendency to turn a blind eye to such allegations, with actors Terry Crews and James Van Der Beek also revealing their own experiences of sexual harassment at the hands of industry power-players.

"I've had my ass grabbed by older, powerful men, I've had them corner me in inappropriate sexual conversations when I was much younger," Van Der Beek, the former star of Dawson's Creek, shared on Twitter.

"I understand the unwarranted shame, powerlessness and inability to blow the whistle. There's a power dynamic that feels impossible to overcome," he wrote.

Crews, a former NFL star and actor on the hit sitcom Brooklyn Nine-Nine, shared a similar story, saying "a high level Hollywood executive came over to me and groped my privates" at a Hollywood function last year.

He said the potential headlines - "240lbs black man stomps out Hollywood honcho" - and the threat of jail time dissuaded him from confronting his abuser.

"I decided not to take it further because I didn't want to be ostracised - par for the course when the predator has power and influence," he added.

"I understand why many women who this happens to let it go ... I understand and empathise with those who have remained silent," he wrote.

"Emma Thompson tells us the Harvey Weinstein allegations are just the tip of the iceberg of a wider and systemic problem in Hollywood pic.twitter.com/VDxswwrUP5Z"

— BBC Newsnight (@BBCNewssnight) October 12, 2017

Ironically, one of those Hollywood power-players being singled out to face the music is actor Ben Affleck, who has faced sexual harassment
allegations in the wake of his tweet signalling his "disgust" at the behaviour of Weinstein, with whom he worked on numerous occasions.

After actress Rose McGowan called "bulls---" on Affleck’s statement, implying he long knew of Weinstein’s misconduct, the actor was accused by TV star Hilarie Burton of having groped her breast during an appearance on MTV in 2003, and make-up artist Annamarie Tendler said Affleck "grabbed my ass at a Golden Globes party in 2014".

Warner Bros is now facing calls of a boycott of its forthcoming DC tentpole Justice League, which stars Affleck as Batman, just weeks before its release.

McGowan, who has had her Twitter account reinstated after it was suspended overnight, has turned her attention to Amazon head Jeff Bezos, urging the media giant to cut its ties with The Weinstein Company.

"I am calling on you to stop funding rapists, alleged pedos and sexual harassers," McGowan wrote on Twitter. "I love Amazon, but there is a rot in Hollywood."

Hollywood publications reported on Friday that Amazon Studios was "reviewing" its involvement in two forthcoming Weinstein Company series – an untitled drama from Oscar winner David O. Russell, starring Robert De Niro and Julianne Moore, and The Romanoffs from Mad Men creator Matt Weiner – following concerns from staff within the company.

Various shows, including Netflix's Peaky Blinders, have opted to scrub The Weinstein Company's name from their credits, while Apple axed a planned 10-part biopic on Elvis Presley from the company.
I was called to meet Harvey Weinstein at the Savoy Hotel when I was 17. I assumed it would be in a conference room which was very common. When I arrived, reception told me to go to his room. He opened the door in his bathrobe. I was incredibly naive and young and it did not cross my mind that this older, unattractive man would expect me to have any sexual interest in him. After declining alcohol and announcing that I had school in the morning I left uneasy but unscathed. A few years later he asked me if he had tried anything with me in that first meeting. I realized he couldn’t remember if he had assaulted me or not. I had what I thought were boundaries - I said no to him professionally many times over the years-some of which ended up with him screaming at me calling me a cunt and making threats, some of which made him laughingly tell people oh “Kate lives to say no to me.” It speaks to the status quo in this business that I was aware that standing up for myself and saying no to things, while it did allow me to feel uncompromised in myself, undoubtedly harmed my career and was never something I felt supported by anyone other than my family. I would like to applaud the women who have come forward, and to pledge that we can from this create a new paradigm where producers, managers, executives and assistants and everyone who has in the past shrugged and said “well, that’s just Harvey”, [insert name here] will realize that we in numbers can affect real change. For every moment like this there have been thousands where a vulnerable person has endured outrageous unprofessional behavior and found they have no recourse, due to an atmosphere of fear that it seems almost everyone has been living in. I had a male friend who, based on my experience, warned a young actress who said she was going to dinner with Harvey to be careful. He received a phone call the next day saying he would never work on another Miramax film; the girl was already sleeping with Harvey and had told him that my friend had warned her off. Let’s stop allowing our young women to be sexual cannon fodder, and let’s remember that Harvey is an emblem of a system that is sick, and that we have work to do.

A post shared by Kate Beckinsale (@katebeckinsale) on Oct 13, 2017 at 6:02am PDT

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'Tip of the iceberg': Emma Thompson's comments on 'predator' Weinstein go viral

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By Monica Hesse and

Monica Hesse
Style reporter

Dan Zak
Feature writer

In 1984, Harvey Weinstein was 32 years old and making one of his first real feature films, on location outside of Scranton, Pa. It was a comedy called "Playing for Keeps," featuring a not-yet-famous Marisa Tomei, and the mood on set was anxious. Weinstein was foul-mouthed and domineering. He sparred routinely with his younger brother, Bob, his co-director. At one point, they wanted to shoot two versions of each scene because neither would compromise his vision.

One day, a young female crew member came to the office of lead producer Alan Brewer, an old high school friend of Harvey’s from Queens, and started crying.

Weinstein had asked her to come to his hotel room, ostensibly for work reasons, she told Brewer, but then kissed her. She resisted. Weinstein overpowered her. He forced her on the bed and attempted to perform oral sex on her. Eventually, she got him to stop.

Brewer asked if she wanted to file a police report. (Another crew member heard the woman’s account separately at the time, and corroborated Brewer’s memories.) No, she said, shaking. She wanted to keep the job — but she wanted the co-director to stay away from her.
Weinstein would go on to become the toast of Hollywood, building a mini-empire and a towering reputation as a cultural kingpin — and then it would all come crashing down with a series of damning stories over the past several days, by the New York Times and New Yorker, alleging years of harassment and criminal sexual abuse against women he encountered in his work as an A-list film producer. On Saturday, just days after being fired from his own company, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Governors voted to expel Weinstein from the Academy, a major denunciation of someone who helped shape Oscar races for decades.

In interviews with 67 people currently or formerly in Weinstein's orbit, The Washington Post found three previously unreported allegations of sexual or physical assault — and a striking pattern, going back to the dawn of his career, of ruthlessness and manipulation.

He was violent toward women and men, and his abuse came in many forms — from screaming and berating to character assassination and nonconsensual advances. His behavior was both an open secret and a secret ritual.

In presented with the accounts in this report, Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister reiterated previous statements: "Mr. Weinstein obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations, but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr. Weinstein believes that all of those relationships were consensual," she said in an email. "Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein."

Some, who have known and worked with him for years, are still trying to fathom the severity of the accusations.

"I'm sad, I'm disgusted," said publicity executive Cindi Berger, who represented Weinstein's films over the past two decades but says she never heard of any abusive sexual behavior. "I learned so much from Harvey. . . . When people say he was a modern-day Louis B. Mayer, he was."

"Everyone knew these stories," one Hollywood publicist said. "Not the specifics. But people knew it was a hostile work environment, and that he was a bully to people. Because he could win you an Oscar, we were all supposed to look the other way." (Several sources, who were not authorized to speak publicly or who fear Weinstein's wrath even now, spoke on the condition of anonymity.)

Brewer, Weinstein's long-ago producer, is now 64 and living in Hermosa Beach, Calif. On Tuesday, when the New Yorker published a 2015 audio recording of Weinstein trying to lure a model into his hotel room, Brewer was stopped cold.

It took him back to the day before the "Playing for Keeps" premiere, in Miramax's cramped Manhattan office. Weinstein, enraged that he had been out of pocket for a few hours, lunged at him and began punching him in the head, Brewer said; the skirmish tumbled into the corridor and then the elevator. By the time Brewer reached the street, intent on never associating with the Weinsteins again, he said, Harvey was pleading for him to stay and help ensure that their film got launched.
"Listening to the audiotape, it gave me this visceral reaction to my experience that day," Brewer said by phone Thursday. "This alternating between violence, threats, commands and then begging, mock-crying, trying anything — any angle to get what he wanted."

"He's very seductive at the start"

Through sheer force of ambition, Weinstein, now 65, transformed himself from a pudgy kid from Flushing, Queens, into a wealthy mogul who could bend reality to his will. He was a college dropout who turned multiplex audiences on to foreign films and quirky indies; a genius of promotion who persuaded Oscar voters to pick his lighthearted "Shakespeare in Love" over epic front-runner "Saving Private Ryan" as best picture in 1999.

He grew up an unathletic honors student sharing a room with his brother in a lower-middle-class housing development. At 15, Harvey started going to foreign films at art-house cinemas. He played cards on Saturday nights with other boys who couldn't get dates. He had a "funny, whiny" voice, and was often bullied, according to former classmates, but he was persistent, sure of himself, an operator. Once, he crashed a Simon and Garfunkel concert with a friend, knocking on doors to the box seats until someone let them in.

"He was supremely confident, and not worried about any repercussions," the friend recalled. "It was like, 'Eh, if they catch me, so what, I'll do it again.'"

After attending the University of Buffalo, Weinstein went into business with his brother, first as concert promoters and later, in 1979, in a small film-distribution company that they dubbed Miramax — a fusion of their parents' first names. Around that time, Lauri Githens was fresh out of college and working as a disc jockey. She remembered some unwritten rules of the Buffalo music scene in the early '80s.

"Don't mention the competition on the air. Don't put two car ads in the same segment," she said this past week. "And, if you're a young woman, don't be alone with Harvey Weinstein."

His job then wasn't to make movies but to discover them and get them into theaters. His forcefulness was a boon for independent and foreign films that lacked bankable names. He would be their star, their champion, deploying a brassy, fearless persona to conduct cutthroat negotiations and impassioned publicity campaigns.

"Playing for Keeps" flopped with critics, but Miramax rebounded by seeking out promising projects, buying their rights and packaging them as must-sees for the masses. Miramax distributed the debut features of Steven Soderbergh in 1989 and Quentin Tarantino in 1992.

By the time "Pulp Fiction" exploded a few years later, Miramax had expanded its work into development and production, and its logo symbolized the vanguard of edgy, independent cinema.
All the while, Weinstein was on the prowl.

In 1993, Washington arts patron Kay Kendall met Weinstein at the home of the novelist William Styron on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. She told the producer — fresh off a sensational marketing campaign for "The Crying Game" — that her 23-year-old daughter Katherine was an aspiring actress. Weinstein offered to help her career.

Within a week, Katherine Kendall had a meeting at Weinstein's New York office. He invited her to his apartment, where she said he took off his clothes and asked for a massage. Horrified, she said that she made up a story about meeting her boyfriend and tried to leave, but Weinstein insisted that he go with her.

"Harvey has a bargaining quality, a back-and-forth bullying that makes you just go 'okay,'" she explained. She jumped out of their taxi blocks later and ran inside a bar, begging the bartender to pretend that he was her boyfriend.

"I sat in the cab, watching.

Katherine Kendall didn't tell anyone in a position of authority. "There were no cuts or bruises, so what recourse did I have?" she said. "So I thought immediately: 'I better shut up. No one is going to care.'"

That same year, Warren Leight worked with Weinstein as director on "The Night We Never Met," a romantic comedy starring Matthew Broderick and Annabella Sciorra.

"He's very seductive at the start," Leight said. "You think he understands you and your destiny is about to change."

But Weinstein's behavior was erratic. Leight said Weinstein pressured him to ask an actress to "show it" on screen, though the script required no nudity. Weinstein bulldozed the editing process, said Leight, who was unhappy with the cuts. He told Weinstein as much.

"Right now this feels like getting f---ed up the ass without Vaseline," Weinstein responded, according to Leight. "But in 10 years, it's going to seem like the best sex of your life." Each outburst, Leight said, would be followed by a gift basket and an apology.

Leight was so worn down that he retreated from the film business, finding success in theater and television. In retrospect, he said, the abusive tactics that Weinstein used with women were in line with those he used with directors and male employees: the domination, the cycle of eruptions followed by contrition, the swagger, accompanied by shows of neediness.

"It's absolutely the same behavior," Leight said.

'A friend of Harvey's'

Show business is known for its comically unbalanced ratio of supply and demand: Hordes of young, aspiring actors and filmmakers scrap over every grunt-level Hollywood position. For a toehold in the industry, hopefuls will endure bad parts, low pay, long hours and a level of mistreatment that might not stand in other professions.

Several people interviewed by The Post said that a desire to keep working in the business would prompt many of their colleagues to stay silent about any mistreatment they experienced. And that Weinstein's immense talent and vast power allowed him to keep going.

Louise Geiss, one of Weinstein's accusers, said that she had heard before she met him that Weinstein could be lewd, but she didn't know the full extent. She felt compelled to meet with him anyway, because as an aspiring screenwriter, she thought it could change the course of her career.

"You hear about it all the time," said Geiss, who has since left show business. "That one moment when you get to pitch your script — and this is Harvey Weinstein! There's that one moment when you're no one, and then you pitch a script and you are found."

Instead, she said, she found herself fending off Weinstein's advances as he physically overpowered her in his hotel room during the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

The offices of the Weinstein Co. in Los Angeles are a stark, white-marble edifice on Wilshire Boulevard. One mile west is the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel, where the New York-based producer often stayed, and where many of his alleged assaults were said to have taken place.

Working at the Weinstein Co., which the brothers founded after leaving Miramax in 2005, was seen as a launchpad for ambitious Hollywood newcomers. One former employee recently speculated why: "Because people knew that if you had worked there, you could put up with anything."

West Coast employees employed a system of alerts, passed along by whisper, to prepare for the boss's arrival.

*Harvey is coming.*

*Harvey is five minutes out.*

*Harvey is on a kick about "Tulip Fever."* If you haven't seen it, make sure you do now.

One preparation — described by multiple individuals and recognized as both practical and ridiculous — was to hide all the office candy bowls.

"He would take and eat them all and his blood sugar would spike," the former employee explained. "We were trying to control his moods."

The mood swings, the employee said, were frequent and relentless. Workers discussed in hushed tones how to manage them. There was a rumor of one junior-level employee being fired and then
rehired in the span of three minutes, and another being dumped unceremoniously on the side of a New York state highway.

"It was not clear that he was assaulting people," the former employee said. "But was it clear that he was trading his power for sexual favors? Yes."

If an actress was described around the office as "a friend of Harvey's," then it meant that a meeting involving her might be other than professional: She was a person Harvey was courting, or hoping to, and not necessarily there because of her acting talent, the employee said.

"What you have to understand is, Harvey was somebody who everybody who worked there didn't like," another former employee said. "Talking s--- about Harvey was the normal course of action. He's disgusting. He's rude. He has food on his shirt."

In some ways, the second former employee said, Weinstein's blatant bad behavior managed to mask his more insidious tendencies. In other words, you didn't believe he could be any worse in private than you had seen him behave in public.

"If I heard another gross thing about him," the second former employee said, "I just wouldn't think that hard about it."

Some women who have made claims against Weinstein have alleged that his assistants were facilitators of his behavior, or said they were in the room immediately before he assaulted them. A representative of the Weinstein Co. said that no one knew there was nonconsensual sexual activity going on. The company has nearly 200 employees, the representative said, and very few of them witnessed Weinstein's day-to-day life.

"I'm upset for the employees of the company," said the representative, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "There's people saying we aided and abetted him. I understand that narrative, but it's unfair and untrue. The whole industry is as guilty as we are. Ex-employees of his, colleagues everywhere — we all knew the same man. No one knew that he was hurting these women. Which, in hindsight, is pretty stupid."

"I just thought we were seeing the bad end of a bad temper," said one industry professional, who often encountered him over several decades. "I once watched him fire his whole staff at an awards show. It was one of the worst things I've witnessed — they were running away in tears and crying in parking lots."

But people put up with it.

"Shakespeare in Love" was a beautiful film.

"Good Will Hunting" was a beautiful film.
A parade of beautiful movies followed Harvey Weinstein. Beautiful movies sometimes made by miserable people.

"Here's a man who would take a little film that couldn't and make it into hits that won Oscars," said the publicist who watched Weinstein fire his entire staff. "He wasn't the only one to do that, but he had a really good track record. Sometimes, to do that, you have to be a steamroller. I don't know if that's right or wrong. I think it's wrong." A pause. "I'm sure it's wrong."

"What have you heard about me?"

Weinstein seemed to be aware of his reputation as both a stubborn lech and a Machiavellian operator. The journalist Kim Masters, who has covered Hollywood for more than 25 years, first met him at a lunch in the 1990s.

"He said, 'What have you heard about me?'" Masters said. "And I said, 'I've heard you rape women.'" Weinstein responded, Masters said, "with neither shock nor anger."

Now an editor at large for the Hollywood Reporter, Masters said the magazine tried "really hard" to publish a report on Weinstein's sexual behavior a few years ago. But the source backed out, leaving it without on-the-record corroboration of festering rumors.

"He had this way of bending people to his will," said Larry Hackett, former editor of People magazine. "Michael Eisner didn't call you, Alan Horn didn't call you, but Harvey did. Harvey was the Trump of the movie industry. He knew what was a good story. He knew how it worked. He knew what a deadline was. He knew about the caring and feeding of gossip columns."

When "Inglourious Basterds" was coming out in late summer 2009, Weinstein called him.

"Larry, I want the cover," Weinstein said, according to Hackett, who balked at being pitched a blood Tarantino movie.

"Harvey, this is People magazine," Hackett replied. "We do Julia Roberts movies."

But Weinstein provided the film's star, Brad Pitt, and People ran him on the cover, five days before the film's opening, with the headline "Brad opens up to People."

New York journalists said Weinstein — one of the few Hollywood moguls based in the city — was a frequent source of scoops and celebrity gossip for tabloid papers. Many Weinstein-watchers took note of what seemed to be an orchestrated media campaign against Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, the model who accused Weinstein of grope her in a Tribeca hotel room in 2015.

The New York Post published photos of her in a bikini and labeled her "G Grope Beauty" on its cover. Its Page Six column reported that a police source said there was no physical evidence for Gutierrez's
claim. In fact, Gutierrez had worn a hidden police microphone and recorded Weinstein apologizing to her for the incident.

But Weinstein had a knack for flattering reporters. He once had his staff put together a mock poster for "Page Six: The Movie" — starring George Clooney, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Mel Gibson and Matt Damon as the column's authors — and sent it to the newsroom.

"Unfortunately, everyone likes to be around glamour, right?" said Tina Brown, the veteran New York City editor who oversaw Talk magazine, a much-hyped but short-lived project of Miramax. "All these favors and goodies were cherished by these reporters. It wasn't worth it to them to disrupt that system."

Weinstein was occasionally the subject of stories, which he also tried to control. After reports that he had been spotted with supermodel Gisele Bündchen at a nightclub, he contacted Lloyd Grove, author of the New York Daily News's gossip column from 2003 to 2006. "He asked me to do a follow-up item saying they were just friends," said Grove, who sensed that Weinstein was trying to calm the picions of his then-wife, Eve.

On another occasion, Grove said Weinstein "cajoled and threatened" him when he wouldn't kill an item about Weinstein's divorce from Eve. Weinstein first tried to trade the item for another bit of gossip, Grove said, and next threatened to ban him from Miramax's film screenings. Grove said he could buy his own movie tickets.

Eventually, Grove said, Weinstein backed down when he realized he had no leverage. But first, he said something Grove said "should be embroidered on a pillow. He said, 'I'm the scariest m----f---- you'll ever have as an enemy in this town.'"

'It's just a kiss'

Difficult as Weinstein was in private, in public he presented himself as a champion of liberal political campaigns and overlooked causes.

In 2014, a young director and actress named Lina Esco gave Weinstein a "very special thanks to" credit in her first film, "Free the Nipple," a feminist look at gender inequality and objectification. While making it, she struggled to find the right editor and, at a friend's urging, contacted Weinstein, who offered assistance.

What Esco didn't publicly share until she was contacted by The Post last week was a previous interaction she had with Weinstein. Around 2010, they were introduced through a mutual friend, in a casual and platonic setting, and she accepted his invitation to dine with him at the Peninsula. Esco viewed it as a chance to talk with a mentor about film craft. But toward the end of dinner, she said, Weinstein told her: "I think we should see a movie in the theater, like back in the day, and we should kiss."
SEX, BRIBES

LAUDED AS A ‘GOD’ OF HOLLYWOOD, THE GRUBBY TRUTH ABOUT HARVEY WEINSTEIN IS FINALLY OUT, WRITES SARAH BLAKE

Of all the stomach-turning disclosures about Hollywood heavyweight Harvey Weinstein’s predatory behaviour, none can rival for sheer impact the 113 seconds of audio captured between an aspiring Italian actor and the movie mogul outside his Manhattan hotel room two years ago.

Italian model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, 22, is trying to avoid walking into a room she’s quite terrified of entering. At the door, Weinstein, a heavy-set, 6ft tall, 63-year-old, is insistent, pleading, desperate, frustrated and angry.

"You’re not going in," says Weinstein, before warning her not to "embarrass him and cause a scene" at the hotel.

Weinstein, one of Hollywood’s most powerful figures with a reputation for bullying and whom Meryl Streep had described as a ‘God’ on stage at his Oscars acceptance speech three years before, turns threatening.

"Don’t ruin your friendship with me for five minutes."

When A-listers Angelina Jolie and Cyneth Almora revealed to The New Yorker this week they had also been subject to Weinstein’s unwanted attentions in a devastating investigation by Woody Allen’s estranged reporter son, Roman Farrel, Weinstein’s fall became inevitable.

The producer of hundreds of films including Pulp Fiction, Good Will Hunting and Shakespeare in Love had been trying for days to bluster through the fallout from a New York Times report, which said he had been paying off his female victims for decades, revealing details of settlements with eight women.

As Ashley Judd, the first actress to publicly accuse Weinstein in the Times piece, put it:

"Women have been talking about Harvey among ourselves for a long time, and it’s simply beyond time to have the conversation publicly."

Weinstein’s initial mea culpa included an allusion to how he “came of age in the ’60s and ’70s, when all the rules about behaviour and workplaces were different.” He then tried a ham-fisted defence, saying he was seeking...
Eyes on Weinstein

POLICE detectives in New York City and London are tailing a fresh look into sexual assault allegations against Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein.

New York Police Department spokesman Peter Donald said that investigators are trying to determine whether there were any additional complaints involving Weinstein, who is now embroiled in a sex abuse scandal.

Detectives looking into fresh allegations

That includes reviewing police files to see if any women previously reported being assaulted or harassed by him.

So far, no filed complaints have been found, said the other than some well-known cases that prompted an investigation in 2015, but authorities are encouraging anyone with information to contact them.

Also yesterday, it was reported that police are investigating an allegation of sexual assault involving Weinstein.

London’s Metropolitan police force said it had received an allegation of sexual assault from the Mensenjoye force in northwest England.

Mensenjoye police say the allegation was made Wednesday and concerned "an alleged sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s."

Some 30 women — including actresses Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd and Gwyneth Paltrow — told The New York Times and The New Yorker for recent stories that Weinstein had sexually harassed or sexually assaulted them.

Weinstein was fired last week by The Weinstein Co. studio he co-founded with his brother.

Detectives in the NYPD’s special unit will be instructed to identify and speak with any potential victims.

These included the woman who spoke about their encounters with Weinstein in a recent article, according to a law enforcement official who had been briefed on the matter.

Origliasso fired up at ARIA snub

THE Veronica's Jessica Origliasso has hit out at the ARIA awards for snubbing their "LGBT visibility" video for On Your Side which was directed by actor girlfriend Ruby Rose.

The pair rekindled their relationship during the shoot of the video in New Zealand last year. The graphic mini-movie not only showed the intimacy between the two women but also tackled the issues of addiction and domestic violence.

Origliasso accused ARIA of "sex and politics" for not including the video among the 10 nominated clips contesting the best video award which will be publicly voted.

Jess and Ruby Lisa hosted the awards last year which strongly supported the marriage equality campaign before it ramped up this year.

In a tweet on Thursday, the band's lead singer said the song "could have been seen as the "Say I Do Down Under" T-shirts they wore.

The Veronicas singer also suggested ARIA tickets would be boycotted in protest of what she said was "ignorance"

"Can’t wait for the EQUALITY theme they push this year, while snubbing the most watched LGBT video of the year," she wrote.

Boss hits the stage

COUNTRY star Jason Aldean brought the party back yesterday in his return to the stage after the deadly mass shooting that broke out while he was performing in Las Vegas, but the fun was tempered by the sting of the tragedy.

Those songs into his show in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the singer launched into a five-minute speech that honored the $8 killed and nearly 500 hurt in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

But Aldean took a delight tone in telling concertgoers to resist living in fear, and he downed, "Aldean said. "To those people that keep trying to do that, I say (expletive) you."

"Can’t wait to play the show for you guys that the people in Las Vegas came to see and didn’t get a chance to," he said.

The Georgia native is one of country music's biggest stars, touring in support of his album They Don't Know.

The album debuted atop the Billboard 200 in 2016.
Cops eye celebrity producer sex saga

KATRINA SCHLAU

POLICE in New York and London have launched investigations against disgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein as Hollywood actor Rose McGowan became the fourth woman this week to accuse him of rape.

Meanwhile, her fellow actresses Kate Beckinsale and Claire Forlani both revealed they managed to escape Weinstein's advances before anything sinister happened.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Beckinsale wrote Weinstein first hit on her when she was just 17 years old. The Underworld franchise star said she was asked to meet Weinstein at a hotel where she alleges the producer offered her alcohol. She told him she had school in the morning and managed to get away "unscathed".

"I said no to him professionally many times over the years," Beckinsale wrote in her post. "Some of which ended up with him screaming at me calling me a c..."

She said her refusal to acquiesce to his demands damaged her career. Forlani also took to social media to share her story.

"Nothing happened to me with Harvey," the Meet Joe Black star wrote on Twitter. "By that I mean, I escaped five times. All I remember was I ducked, dived and ultimately got out of there without gettingoboobed over."

The actor, who was 25 at the time, said she also went to dinner with the producer on multiple occasions, and alleges he spoke about all the actresses who had slept with him and what he planned to do for them in return. She said she felt ashamed for not sharing her story earlier.

Meanwhile McGowan repeated Amazon chief Jeff Bezos in a blistering series of tweets on Thursday, claiming she told Amazon Studios chief Roy Price that Weinstein had raped her but was ignored.

"Over & over I said it. He said it hadn't been proven. I said I was the proof," she wrote. Amazon Studios later said Price — who has also been accused of sexual harassment by TV producer Lisa Kudrow — was "on leave of absence effective immediately".

On Wednesday, Weinstein was seen in public for the first time in days as he left his daughter's LA home.

"Guys, I'm not doing OK but I'm trying," he said in a TMZ website video. "I got a go get help. You know what, I'll make mistakes."
More than 30 women break their silence on abuse by Studio Head: Writes Sarah Blake

Weinstein, after he tried to get her to massage him in a hotel room in 1995 and then turned up at her apartment late at night, damaged her career.

Renamous Anquetin says after being asked to go to his hotel room to get a script in the early 1990s, he grabbed her hand and pulled it towards his penis that was “visible and erect... my heart was really racing. I was in a fight-or-flight mode.” She left, telling him: “I will never be that girl.”

Rose McGowan sued Weinstein after his 1996 breakthrough role in Scary Movie, which he produced. She signed a non-disclosure agreement after settling with him for $100,000 but has been vocal in the past week that he was a "monster" who preyed on her. Last year she claimed a studio executive had "raped" her but did not name him. Yesterday she tweeted: “I'll rape him.”

Model and actor Cara Delevingne says she was 25 when Weinstein warned her that being a lesbian would hurt her career, before inviting her up to his room and proposing a threesome with a woman there sometime in the early to mid-2010s. "As soon as we were alone, he began to brag about all the actresses he had slept with and how he had ruined their careers and spoke about other inappropriate things of a sexual nature. At that moment I felt very powerless and scared, but didn't want to act that way, hoping that I was wrong about the situation. I said again that I had to leave. He stood in front of the door and tried to kiss me on the lips. I stopped him and managed to get out of the room. I still get the part for the film and always thought that he gave it to me because of what happened. Since then I felt awful that I did the movie. I felt like I didn't deserve the part, I was just an idiot about speaking out... I didn't want to hurt his family. I felt guilty as if I did something wrong. I was also terrified that this sort of thing had happened to so many women I knew but no one had said anything because of fear.”

Actor Kate Beckinsale says Weinstein harassed her when she was just 17, opening the door of his hotel room in a bar in the West End. She says: “After declining alcohol and announcing that I had school in the morning, left, chewy but uninvited, I said to him: "I'm going to my hotel room." Weinstein followed me and I went down the stairs. Weinstein followed me and I went down the stairs. Weinstein followed me and I went down the stairs.”

Actor Jessica Barth confirmed she had been approached several times for sex by Weinstein to his comedian friend Seth MacFarlane, who went on to joke about it at a pre-Oscars event in 2018. She says Weinstein said to her: “I’d love to do it. What would happen if, say, we were having some champagne and I took my clothes off and you gave me a massage?” And he'd be "That's not going to happen." When she moved toward the door to leave, Weinstein reached out, saying she needed to lose weight "to compete with India Kinski.”

A string of women have also spoken out about Weinstein and his behaviour, with more than 30 women coming forward in recent weeks. McGowan and Delevingne are among those who have spoken out.

Weinstein is married to his wife since 1984, with whom he has two sons. He has been an active figure in the entertainment industry for decades, with roles in films such as Pulp Fiction, Titanic and In the Search of Henry David Thoreau. He has also produced films such as Shakespeare in Love and Shakespeare in Love.

Weinstein has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct.

Weinstein is due to appear in court later this year to face charges of rape and sexual assault.

Weinstein's company, Miramax, has been struggling to recover from the controversy.

The Hollywood film industry has been facing a sexual misconduct crisis, with a number of high-profile figures, including Harvey Weinstein, facing allegations of sexual misconduct.

The #MeToo movement has been gaining momentum in recent years, with women around the world speaking out against sexual misconduct.

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singer Asia Argento accused Weinstein of rape when she was 21, forcibly performing oral sex on her. Argento went on to have a consensual relationship with him for several years after the initial encounter in 1992. “After the rape, he won,” she says.

• Actor Heather Graham describes Weinstein's modus operandi as offering roles alongside suggestions of sex. “In the early 2000s Harvey Weinstein called me into his office. There was a pile of scripts sitting on his desk. ‘I want to put you in one of my movies,’ he said and offered to let me choose which one I liked best. Later in the conversation, he mentioned he had an agreement with his wife. He could sleep with whenever he wanted when he was out of town. I walked out of that meeting feeling uneasy. There was no explicit mention that he was in one of those films I had to sleep with, but the undertone was there.”

She later turned down a request for a meeting in his hotel room. “That was the end of that encounter — I was never hired for one of his films, and I didn’t speak up about my experience. The questions — and this is not an excuse — is what defines sexual harassment in the workplace? He didn’t explicitly offer a trade — sex for work — even though I knew that was what he was implying. And I hadn’t gone to his hotel. I know this is an inner dialogue many women have — it’s part of what’s holding so many of us back from sharing our stories. We don’t want to be attacked for reading into something that easy or may not have been there. We don’t want to be looked at as weak for not being able to handle ourselves in a business run by men. We don’t want to lose work by being defined as a ‘difficult woman.’ We don’t want to be the first or only voice in the room.”

• Actress Katherine Kendall was chased by a naked Weinstein in 1993 after he changed into a bathrobe and refused to give her a massage. She says he told her “everybody does it,” but she refused. He left the room and returned naked. “He literally chased me. He wouldn’t let me get to the door,” Kendall said.

• Aspiring actor Lucia Evans says she suffered years of trauma after Weinstein forced her to perform oral sex on him at a casting meeting in his Manhattan office in 2004. “He forced me to perform oral sex on him,” she said. “He’s a big guy, he overpowered me.”

• French actor Emma de Caunes says Weinstein had her to his hotel room in 2010 to discuss a character and emerged from the bathroom naked with an erection.

• Italian actor and model Asia Argento complained to police in 2015 after Weinstein grabbed her breasts.

• Then-senator Toni-Ann Roberts left the film industry after Weinstein greeted her at a meeting with others in Weinstein’s hotel suite in Cannes, but soon found herself alone. She blogged, “I was alone in a remote hotel suite with Harvey ‘King’ Weinstein.” She alleges he took off his clothes and asked for a massage, forcing her to run to the bathroom to escape. “He chased me, dictating, all this, his fist, pleading with me to come out.” Broch agreed to come out of the bathroom only when he was fully dressed and then left.

• Former Weinstein employee Lauren O’Connor’s complaint to human resources in 2015 detailed “a toxic environment for women at this company.”

• Former Weinstein employee Laura Maddox was reportedly asked to give the boss massages from 1998 while they were in Dublin and London.

• Temp Emily Nestor worked for the mogul for just a day in 2014 when Weinstein said he could improve her career if she had sex with him.

• Another anonymous actor claimed Weinstein had raped her. He changed into a bathrobe and “forced himself on me sexually,” according to The New Yorker. She felt “horrified, betrayed and shame” and considered going to the police, but then thought about how much she could lose and decided “just to move forward.” The woman continued to have a professional relationship with him after the alleged rape.

He literally chased me. He wouldn’t let me pass him to get to the door.

Heather Graham.
SILENCE OF THE ENABLERS

The weekend Australian, October 16-18, 2023

Weinstein's dirty secret was safe with the media for far too long.

L.LEE SMITH

The New York Times last week leaked the contents of the 1988-2010 contracts that Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein had made with many women. The documents, which include 1,100 pages of legal agreements, reveal how Weinstein operated and how the entertainment industry was complicit in his behavior.

In 2019, the New York City police conducted a sexual assault investigation into Weinstein. But he was never charged because the statute of limitations had expired. Even the Times noted that, in 1993, Weinstein's accusers had signed documents that would compensate them for their injuries in exchange for not pursuing legal action.

In 1994, Weinstein entered into a "nondisclosure agreement" with_approximately 20 women, preventing them from speaking about their experiences. These agreements often included financial compensation and non-disclosure clauses, but they were generally not enforceable under the law.

Weinstein had a reputation for being able to secure these contracts by threatening to ruin his victims' careers. He would often use his power and influence to silence those who spoke out against him. The media was complicit in this, as they were often afraid of the financial repercussions of reporting on Weinstein's behavior.

The fact that the media was aware of Weinstein's behavior and did nothing about it is a deeply troubling issue. As the New York Times notes, there are likely many more women who have been silenced by these nondisclosure agreements.

Weinstein's dirty secret was safe with the media for far too long. It is time for the industry to take responsibility and ensure that women's voices are heard.
Inconvenient truth behind the Weinstein sex scandal

Andrew Hornery

The universal condemnation of Hollywood heavy hitter Harvey Weinstein after accusations that he sexually harassed some of Tinseltown's leading ladies is well deserved.

For decades Weinstein enjoyed absolute power in Hollywood. He aggressively pursued Oscar glory for many of his leading ladies, paying for expensive marketing campaigns to win over votes.

Harvey Weinstein has been roundly condemned for his sexual predations. Photo: AP

Everyone from Meryl Streep and Angelina Jolie to Gwyneth Paltrow and Nicole Kidman have expressed their revulsion of powerful men using their position to seek sexual favours in return for a step up in Hollywood.

Except there is an inconvenient truth not getting quite as much of an airing. While the vast majority despise the casting couch, there are some budding stars who are happy to use their sexuality in pursuit of fame and fortune.

"Everyone knows it still goes on ... sometimes it's not quite as overt.

you might walk into a closed audition with a director and they casually suggest you strip down to view your physicality ... some say it's in order to flesh out the character, to make sure you look right for the part ... but sometimes I have wondered about the real motives," a much-loved Australian television actress, now aged in her 60s and who frequently appears on television screens, told PS this week, on the grounds of anonymity.

"When I was younger and more naive I went along with it, thinking it would be better for my career to do it, but it never felt right ... but I know of a couple of other actors who were more than happy to do it, and more, to get a part. But interestingly they didn't tend to have long careers."

Showbiz has long been a business that has traded on flesh, whether it be selling it on screen or trading in it behind the lens.

In his 2013 book on what life was like backstage on two of Australia's biggest television shows, Number 96 and The Mavis Brampton Show, creator David Sale shared an extraordinary account about an "ambitious young starlet willing to fall pregnant to a powerful television executive to remain on one particular television show.

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Following a boozy Logies in the 1970s, Sale writes that he was cornered by the attractive young actress who told him she was prepared to have a baby with the right man to remain on camera.

Sale writes she told him: "I want to stay on the show. This is my big chance. It's a massive hit. I want the exposure. But I could be dropped any minute."

"He goes on to write the actress told him she was "serious ... I want to be a star. And I'll do anything, f--- anyone to get there".

"I know you will," Sale told her, adding: "And eventually she did."

Weinstein is not the first to stand accused of abusing his power to sexually harass the talent. Studio head David O. Selznick and Alfred Hitchcock were also accused of sexually assaulting young actresses.

Perhaps Marilyn Monroe summed it up best in her memoir My Story, in which she described Hollywood as "an overcrowded brothel, a merry-go-round with beds for horses".
A scandalous tale of how one man wielded power so shamelessly, reports Sarah Blake

WHEN New York was staging a benefit concert after 9/11, the city turned to Harvey Weinstein to pull it together.

The powerful film producer and former concert promoter quickly assembled a cast of magicians in his hometown, with a sellout show at Madison Square Garden, including Mick Jagger, Ellen John, Paul McCartney, and The Who, raising almost $40 million in a five-hour extravaganza.

Afterwards, at a party packed with celebrities and his extensive political and business contacts, Weinstein turned to a reporter from The New Yorker who was writing a profile about him and said, as if to prove a point: "I am not an asshole."

It's become crystal clear in the past week that Weinstein, who in 2003 was at the height of his powers, has never been any sweeter to say "no" to.

What he wanted the reporter to know was that he wasn't quite so bad as his reputation would suggest.

As more women yesterday came forward to detail sexual harassment claims against the 65-year-old and his wife met with divorce lawyers, Weinstein's reputation was in tatters, with his producer credit removed from several upcoming films and TV shows.

Hollywood royalty Jane Fonda said men like him "should all go to jail" and police confirmed they are investigating sex assault claims from both London and the US as he prepared to head into a celebrity rehab center in Arizona.

Now many are asking how they could have been blind for so long about Weinstein, one of cinema's most influential figures and the man behind some of the greatest movies of the past 40 years, including Pulp Fiction, Good Will Hunting, Scream, and Shakespeare In Love.

But his success was always tempered by his lecherous behavior.

While the shocking recent allegations of harassing women for decades, near-constant sexual harassment and assault of the young women he worked with have combined to sink his career, he was always known for a quick temper and ruthless business dealings.

As a Vanity Fair profile said, "Love him or hate him, and there are plenty in both camps, Weinstein is fast and fierce in his control of the city's social scene and a potent, arrogant, loud-mouthing, temperamental, unrepentant bully.

A year later, Meryl Streep offered some insight into her opinions of Weinstein in her Golden Globe acceptance speech for The Iron Lady.

"I just want to thank my agent Kevin Huvane and God, Harvey Weinstein, the publisher, Old Testament, I guess," Streep said.

Streep went on to win the Oscar for her portrayal of former British PM Margaret Thatcher, an award which Weinstein lobbyed for in his typical, determined style.

Streep is one of a long line of celebrities to condemn Weinstein in the wake of the sexual harassment allegations by more than 30 women and rape claims by at least four more.

The attacks took place over the past 40 years and many share familiar elements: an unwanted encounter with Weinstein in his bathrobe, usually in a hotel room to which they were summoned for a meeting.

Actor Ashley Judd, his first on-the-record accuser in an October 5 New York Times story, perhaps best summed up how compromising a position it was for a young woman, particularly for the aspiring actress she was in 1998.

"We got out of the room as fast as possible without alienating Harvey Weinstein," Judd told The Times she remembered thinking.

In the end, it took 25 years for Judd to summon up the courage to name and shame Weinstein, triggering a tsunami of similar claims from his other accusers victims and seeking her label as a hero.

"I said, a lot of ways, a lot of times, and he always came back at me with some new spin," Judd claimed to The New York Times.

"It was all this bargaining, this coercive bargaining."
Wake up to yourself Harvey Weinstein claiming a sex addiction amounts to cowardice and a failure to own up

In Europe following bombshell reports that he sexually harassed and assaulted an ever-growing catalogue of actresses, among them Cerys Matthews and Angelina Jolie, he’s been sacked by the company he presided over, dumpy by his wife and, according to TMZ, is getting help for sex addiction so he can “come back and make a fresh start.”

As he says “My journey now is to learn about myself and conquer my demons.”

Weinstein has been in LA for too long. The narrative he’s pushing is sentimental and fantastical as the dozens of movies he’s produced. For this is not a tale of a man who couldn’t help himself, a man at the mercy of a hideous diagnosable condition which compelled him to act inappropriately.

Rather, it’s a story of a repugnant plutocrat who abused his power and status to entrap women in his hotel room and demand they give him massages, wash him shower, or submit to sex acts. Indeed, it’s a story to commemorate in an era with ready-made anathema and such great supporting roles — Donald Trump/Pugh Heifer/Bill Clinton — that Reete Witherpoon should be cast as the movie version as we speak. Anthony Weiner, the congressman convicted of sending pictures of his penis to a minor, may be out of prison in time to play a cameo.

The fact is sex addiction has never been included in psychiatry’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the bible for psychiatric diagnosis in the US.

While celebrities such as Michael Douglas, David Duchovny, Rob Lowe and Tiger Woods have all undergone rehabilitation for it, the condition is nothing more than whitewashing of the common garden jerry.

David Ley, a clinical psychologist and the author of Myths of Sex Addiction, says it’s simply a convenient defense.

“These are just individuals who have gotten caught for irresponsible, misogynist, hypersexual behaviour, and we need them to take responsibility for those behaviours,” he said this week. “Hiding behind pseudoscience merely distracts us from addressing the real social and personal issues that are contributing to these damaging and frankly, inappropriate, behaviours.”

Pointing out that claiming such a condition is a “privilege in an age of self” Ley said there was little evidence to support the theory that sex addiction treatment works in any curative sense, “I’m not a medic or a psychiatrist but I figured out, and, if I may, to get a fresh degree of the industry.

After attending the sex addicts’ support groups, I concluded it was not the case. London psychotherapist who confirmed I was a “classic case” since addiction is simply “any behaviour that you can’t stop yourself from doing”.

I didn’t tell him that at the time I couldn’t stop myself from eating salt and vinegar chips either. You’re not a sufferer, the psycho told me, you’d want to benefit from treatment.

He concluded by telling me he treated several men who had a wife but wanted the excitement of something else. I didn’t tell him they sounded more like adulterers than addicts. From there I had phone counselling — “stop wearing revealing outfits and drinking alcohol” — I was advised — and a session with the Positive Recovery Centre where Ellen John and Robbie Williams have previously sought treatment, though not for sex addiction.

I was diagnosed with an “addiction” and was told I was suitable for outpatient treatment at St Mary’s or a residential care for $5000 a week. My counsellor told me so. Solamente that addiction was the worst “Illness” there is. “It’s about denial, manipulation and spiritual bankruptcy.”

Robbie, both then and now sex addiction in not an illness or disease. The “only condition” Weinstein is suffering a failure to take a long hard look in the mirror and hold himself accountable.

Angela Molland

Opinion
Time for Nine to finally show Lisa the money

How much for Lisa Wilkinson? Do I hear any bids for the most loved yet undervalued personality currently on mainstream commercial television in this country? Wilkinson's two-year contract with Nine is up for renewal and negotiations are in midswing between agent Nick Pontham and Nine boss Hugh Marks.

Nine decided this Friday saying via a spokesman "negotiations are continuing." Nine CEO Marks is believed to be eager to re-sign the star so it may be that Wilkinson has recognized this could be her best and last chance to achieve pay parity with her on-screen co-host Karl Stefanovic, a man rumoured to be on twice as much money as his co-host. Leaked, experienced, warm and reliable, Wilkinson's popularity has never been more apparent to the market at large.

In July, a portrait of Wilkinson by artist Peter Stothard won the Packing Room prize at the Archibald Awards, a fact the artist put down "80 per cent" to Wilkinson's appeal. She is everywhere - on magazine covers, on advisory panels, on health supplement ads. Next month she will host journalist's Walkley Awards.

But after a decade at Nine, it still isn't clear if bosses at the network are ready to reward Wilkinson for doing exactly what the botke next to her was employed to do. The media personality has spent the past year steadyling the ship at Today following Stefanovic's sudden split from his wife of 22 years and much-coveted co-hostship of a pretty young model, two events that in combination have tarnished Stefanovic's public image and prompted Today's once-scarce 2018 audience to fall away by the ton.

Yet despite Stefanovic's many flaws - or perhaps because of them - Nine has pandered to him over the past decade while largely ignoring Wilkinson, the good and faithful daughter to Stefanovic's naughtiness and indulged pumped son. He has received successive pay rises, two prime time talk shows, guest interview spots with 60 Minutes, Olympic hosting gigs and in 2011 even took home a Gold Logie after the network openly campaigned on his behalf.

Wilkinson by comparison looks much neglected. On Friday, with her new contract being unsigned on a desk somewhere, a report in The Daily Telegraph quoted a Nine staffer saying: "everyone at Nine is on board to get Lisa the Gold Logie in 2018." One wonders if such a statement would have been made if the television anchor had obediently signed on the dotted line of her new contract. It seems unlikely.

Two days earlier, Nine held its 2018 season preview featuring a glittering showcase of the network's biggest stars, including The Voice's Delta Goodrem and Kelly Rowland, Hannah Gadsby and Andy Lee. Sonia Kruger, Shaun Micallef and Rove McManus, Stefanovic and Wilkinson. Wilkinson was noticeably absent. A network source said the star was on a pre-planned holiday in Byron Bay celebrating the renewal of her wedding vows, after 25 years to author and Australian Republican Movement chair, Peter FitzSimons. She was featured in the company video.

Stefanovic is almost two-thirds of the way through a three-year contract rumoured to be worth between $4.5 million to $6 million - one drafted by his friend, former Nine CEO David Gyngell, and signed off on by Gyngell's replacement, Marks. It remains to be seen if Marks rates Stefanovic as highly as his predecessor did, insiders say not.

That Marks has been frustrated by Stefanovic's seeming disregard for his public image and impact on Today post marriage breakup.

Whether this means conversely that Marks recognises Wilkinson's value as the respectable maistress of the show will now be tested. So is what Wilkinson worth today? If she did sign on for half the money Stefanovic was earning two years ago, as has been reported but scarcely seems possible, her value today surely is greater than Stefanovic's $1.5 fee to-ear-air medium saturated with lightweights and clowns.

If gender pay equity existed in television, this would represent either a substantial pay rise for her or a pay cut for him, bringing her up a minimum of $1.5 million a year.

But as it's television, Wilkinson will have to prove her mettle to get it.

Silence still golden for Crow after Weinstein claim

RUSSELL CROWE has been conspicuously silent in the days since it was claimed he helped kill off a 2004 report on serial sex predator Harvey Weinstein.

While his co-accuser, Matt Damon, rushed into the media moshpit to attempt to clarify why he made a call to a New York Times reporter at Weinstein's request a decade ago, Crowe (real name) has held his tongue. In the hours after being named as a number of Weinstein's vanguards, the prolific Twitter did break a four-week Twitter silence to share something with his 2.7 million followers.

But rather than a comment on the Weinstein allegations, Crowe tweeted Hollywood Rumour writer and director Mel Brooks: "I am expliciting with joy Congratulations to our brilliant cast of @youngerfranklin - What a fantastic opening night." Crowe and Weinstein share some interesting history. Crowe was earmarked to play Shakespeare in Minnema's 1998 film Shakespeare in Love with Gwyneth Paltrow but Crowe was critical of the characterisation of The Bard who, Crowe felt, was "not smart enough, not unhonoured enough, and obviously hadn't had enough to drink. He was some prickly pretty boy." The part eventually went to Joseph Fiennes.

Five years later in 2002 Crowe and Weinstein would come paths again when the infamous hoorahs for Blind to Us, a film collaboration, on the movie Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, a film shot during one of Crowe's more tempestuous years in Hollywood. It was the year in which he was accused of panning a BAFTA producer to a wall, attacking the performer Molly in a bar and grabbing another man in Mexico before finally admitting he was suffering from "massive stress" and needed to return home to Australia and his girlfriend Danielle Spencer.

By 2004, Crowe was preparing for The Cinderella Man, co-produced by Weinstein, when it is alleged he phoned reporter Sharon Waxman and appealed on Weinstein's behalf. Not long after wrapping that Weinstein-produced movie, the actor was in the biggest trouble of his career after throwing a phone at a New York hotel clerk in June 2005, leading to his arrest. Tellingly, Crowe hasn't made a film with Weinstein since.

A spokesman for Crowe said the actor would not comment on the allegations.
Sex addiction is not a disease: it's an excuse for bad conduct

Sexual addiction for many years has been seen as a disease. But that's not the case. It's an excuse for bad conduct and should be treated as such.

I'm not a sexual addict but I have been in danger of being caught because of my sexual behavior. I have been fortunate to have found a treatment for my addiction.

Treatment is available, and it works. But it's not easy. It requires a lot of commitment and effort on the part of the individual. But it's worth it. I've seen it happen.

It's important to remember that sexual addiction is not a disease. It's a choice. And it's a choice that can be changed.

Reno show habit has me doing my Block

I'm a property show widow. I lost my partner years ago to his other love: home. We used to watch Home and Garden together.

I started with a slow addiction by watching the shows about DIY and Renovation. It became a full-blown addiction. I started to build and renovate my own home.

But then, as DIY shows started to dominate, I began to feel like I was just a spectator. I wanted to be a part of it. I wanted to be involved.

And then, as my addiction grew, I began to feel like I was losing control. I needed help. I needed to get back to a normal life.

That's when I decided to see a therapist. It was the best decision I ever made. I was able to get back on track and start living my life again.

I'm not saying that everyone should see a therapist. But if you're feeling overwhelmed by your addiction, it's important to seek help. It can make all the difference.

Reno show habit has me doing my Block
Hollywood preys on girls and boys

EXCLUSIVE
AMELIA SAW

HARVEY Weinstein is "just the tip of the iceberg" when it comes to Hollywood's casting couch culture, with women and also men the victims of sexual assault and harassment.

After 13 years working in Hollywood since being cast in The Fast And The Furious Tokyo Drift, Australian actor Nathalie Kelley said sexual misconduct is endemic in the US film and TV business.

"It's terrible, it's awful and I'm in full support of the women speaking out but I also know that's just the tip of the iceberg — it's quite common," Kelley said.

"And it's not just women (who are victims). I'm shocked at how many men have stories. It's a whole culture of the abuse of power."

Kelley has never been attacked by Weinstein but empathises with the more than 30 female actors and film industry professionals who have laid claims of harassment, sexual assault and rape against the producer in the past week.

Original Dynasty cast Joan Collins, John Forsythe and Linda Evans.

She was sexually assaulted by a manager when she was in her early 20s and understood the feeling of powerlessness during an attack.

"I was assaulted in a way that was really scary, it was a massage therapist and I didn't realise it happened until after," she said. "You read those stories, and I think: 'But how could it get that far?' but I was terrified.

"You're a deer in headlights, you're a frightened rabbit and you don't understand what has happened."

The 32-year-old, who grew up on Sydney's north shore, has managed to land a big break outside of her traditional studio network. She will play the role of Cristal — the wife of famous tycoon Blake Carrington — in the reboot of 1980s soap Dynasty. The role, then known as Krystle, was made famous by Linda Evans.

She said the allegations against Weinstein had inspired much soul-searching.

"I think that's part of the shock and horror that people are experiencing. How was this so an open secret? And how were we all complicit in protecting this man?" she said.

"It's proving me the hopes and dreams of young people, creative people, who just want to catch a break and it's the nature of the industry, where it's not always about what you know it's who you know."

"And (people have) this vulnerable side, thinking: Oh, maybe this could change my career. I'm thinking to myself: 'Cosh, well if I have heard these things years ago, am I part of the problem of the complicit nature of Hollywood?'"

NATHALIE KELLEY STARS IN THE REBOOT OF DYNASTY, AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX.

Call for stronger super laws

ANNIBA SMETHURST

INDUSTRY Super Australia has called for tougher laws to protect retirement savings and ensure dividends are not channelled to parent companies.

The ISA was concerned after the Commonwealth Bank pocketed a $480 million dividend from its wealth management arm Colonial First State Investments Limited.

CPBIL runs a wide variety of managed investment funds but also four super funds.

Industry super public affairs director Matt Linden said fund trustees have a duty to deliver their members the best possible super income in retirement. He said people who have their retirement savings in funds that send "big dividends" to parent companies have "every reason to feel cheated."

A spokesman for Colonial First State said the fund met all of its regulatory obligations and acts in accordance with its member interest and trustee duties.
Tony was right and now we're the goal.
Rocking the boat takes guts. At best you’re branded a wosser, at worst it can be career-limiting. ANNIKA SMITHURST

Teens get shown up as suckers

DUNCAN LAY

THE Susan Cooper Instagram storm this week has shown that in the digital age you need to keep an eye on what your teenagers are doing online. For those who missed it, “Susan Cooper” put up an Instagram post claiming to have won $70 million on PayPal and offering to give $1000 to the first 25,000 users to follow and share her account. The money would be transferred into your bank account, it claimed.

While there were many obvious red flags, the account actually amassed more than 50,000 followers and a ridiculous number of Likes before being shut down.

Most of those were younger users, the ones brought up on social media.

Yet they enthusiastically embraced something that was basically a Nigerian scam, despite the risk of being dangled in the hopes of getting your bank details.

Usually it is offered by the relatives of a Nigerian prince, although one of the more imaginative versions claimed to be from the relatives of a Nigerian astronaut who had been left on a space station by the Russians and had $23 million in back pay to give away to people who could help get him down.

Sound familiar?

It seems almost too many Aussie teens are savvy, or at least “nigerian pragmatic” or “nigerian psych ward” are what they see bounced around.

Lucky for those who suddenly lost their money and the enthusiasm had been replaced by a series of Susan Cooper memes, as well as people offering 20c from their change to the first five people to follow them.

But “Susan Cooper” proved there is a big market for scammers.

They might be brilliant at testing and able to juggle multiple apps on a single phone but a teenager with a smartphone is just the same as any other teenager.

In other words, still a child. Still naive and still too eager to believe what they see online. Hey, if everyone else is doing this why shouldn’t I?

Parents can’t monitor their children’s online lives. But they need to talk to them about some of the tricks and traps. Maybe start by asking them about Susan Cooper. Chances are they saw it at some point and their friends Blasted it. Have a conversation. And maybe remind them the internet is also known as “the web”.

Abbot’s Pell from same dynamite feet of climate

ABIGAIL PENNETHY

UNTIL this week, the most curious intervention on the question of climate change had come from that noted man of science, Cardinal George Pell, who in 2006 took time out from his usual schedule of giving out pardons, juggling an incense carrier and conversing with God to argue for a reason-based approach.

“Penitents,” he said, “are people who want to turn their backs on the world and see that it is hotter than it once was, as a result of human activity...”

Pell was referring to a team of scientists who had concluded that the planet was hotter than it once was, and the world was at risk of climate change.

But when it comes to a question as important as this, we should defer to the collective wisdom of the CSIRO and the tens of thousands of peer-reviewed scientific professionals who have produced plenty of evidence that the world is in a state, and that something must be done.

Of course, we can have an argument about what “something” is and how we should act, and whether that is a form of activism or a form of distraction. But to argue that there is no problem is the only real problem.

Abbot and Pell are both right. The world is in a state. The problem is not whether there is a problem, but what we do about it.
Harvey Weinstein stripped of Academy membership

The board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has stripped disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of his membership in the organisation.

The move comes after a New York Times report that alleged decoded of sexual misbehaviour by Weinstein, and a New Yorker story that brought more disturbing details to light, including allegations of rape. Further accusations came to light throughout the week.

Hollywood stars slam Harvey Weinstein

Emma Thompson, Jane Fonda and Rose McGowan are just some of the Hollywood A-listers speaking out about the industry's culture of sexual harassment in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The academy said its board had "voted well in excess of the required two-thirds majority" to expel Weinstein. The film academy's 54-member board of governors includes such industry luminaries as Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Kathleen Kennedy and Whoopi Goldberg.

"We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does..."
Harvey Weinstein stripped of Academy membership

not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that
the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually
predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is
over," the statement said.

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"What's at issue here is a deeply troubling problem that has no place
in our society. The board continues to work to establish ethical
standards of conduct that all Academy members will be expected to
exemplify."

Although largely symbolic, the ouster of Weinstein from the roughly
8,400-member academy is stunning because the organisation is not
known to have taken such action before – not when Roman Polanski,
a member, pleaded guilty in a sex crime case involving a 13-year-old
girl; not when women came forward to accuse Bill Cosby, a member,
of sexual assault; and not when Mel Gibson went on anti-Semitic
tirade during a drunken driving arrest in 2006 or pleaded no contest
to a charge of battery against an old girlfriend in 2011.

The Academy's decision also follows the British Academy's
announcement last week that the organisation had suspended his
membership.

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Weinstein himself has been nominated for an Oscar twice, as
producer of John Madden's Shakespeare in Love and Martin
Scorsese's Gangs of New York. He won the prize for Madden's film
alongside producers Donna Gigliotti, Marc Norman, David Parfitt, and
Edward Zwick.

Harvey Weinstein has been stripped of his membership of the organisation. Photo: AP

But Weinstein’s Oscar season reach far exceeded those personal

Films he distributed through Miramax Films and The Weinstein Company amassed hundreds of nominations.

Beginning with Jim Sheridan's *My Left Foot* in 1989, which won actor Daniel Day-Lewis his first Academy Award, Weinstein's films dominated the awards circuit as the independent film movement took off in the 1990s, leading to Miramax's first major victory for Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient*.

Some 29 films have received best picture nominations under the Miramax or Weinstein Company banner, including Garth Davis' *Lion* last year.

**UK actress accuses Weinstein of rape**

British actress Lysette Anthony says she's told police that disgraced Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein raped her in the 1980s.

Anthony, who currently appears in the British soap opera *Hollyoaks*, told the *Sunday Times* newspaper that Weinstein attacked her after showing up at her London home. She said she was left feeling "disgusted and embarrassed".

It was reported this week that London police were investigating a rape allegation against the producer relating to an incident in the '80s.

The Metropolitan Police confirmed their investigation without identifying Weinstein by name.

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Laurie Pearce
ACTOR Lysette Anthony says she's told police that disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein raped her in the 1980s.

Anthony, who appears in UK soap opera Holby City, told the Sunday Times that Weinstein attacked her after showing up at her London home, leaving her "disgusted and embarrassed." It had been reported that "police were investigating a rape allegation against an actorproducer from the UK." The Metropolitan Police confirmed an investigation was being conducted into the allegations. United Kingdom

UNITED KINGDOM

with accusations against Weinstein following reports that he was "on the run" from New York and New Yorker detailing misconduct claims by others. Weinstein has denied any non-consensual sexual conduct with any women.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has suspended Weinstein. On Saturday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expelled him, to "express a message of condemnation and demand accountability in the wake of various allegations of sexual misconduct by a prominent film producer."

Weinstein's brother, Bob, 62, the co-founder of The Weinstein Company, says he's "shocked and deeply saddened." He had no idea of "the type of predator" his brother was accused of being.

"I want him to get justice," said Mr. Weinstein, who operates in the shadow of his much more flamboyant older brother for more than 30 years at Miramax and The Weinstein Co.

He told The Hollywood Reporter he had already left the company, which has been hit by a series of sexual misconduct allegations.

Weinstein's brother, Robert, 62, said he had not seen his brother since the beginning of the year.

He said he knew his brother was married with a wife, Georgina Chapman, and a 7-year-old child.

"I knew Harvey was a predator," said Robert. "I knew he was a sexual predator." He told the newspaper that he had not seen his brother since the beginning of the year.

Weinstein has denied any non-consensual sexual conduct with any women.

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Horror storm toll on rise

HANOI: The death toll from landslides and heavy rain triggered by a tropical depression in Vietnam has climbed to 68, with another 34 people missing, officials said yesterday.

The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said the disasters have also injured 32 people, damaged infrastructure and killed more than 230,000 livestock.

The storm hit Vietnam on Tuesday and authorities have been dealing with the fallout since.

The hardest-hit provinces are Ha Giang in the north, where 29 people have died.

Iconic clock to chime in

LONDON: Big Ben will ding dong merrily on high when its bongs are restored for Christmas.

The chimes were silenced in August for four years under controversial renovation plans with only events such as New Year's Eve and Remembrance Sunday picked as exceptions.

But Commons Leader Andrea Leadsom has persuaded parliamentary officials to allow the bell to chime over the festive season. Under the plans the bongs will be reinstated from December 23 until New Year’s Day.

Academy dumps mogul over sordid sex and the loser is ...

WEINSTEIN

SARAH BLAKE IN NEW YORK

DISGRACED movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was yesterday expelled by the film industry's peak body after an emergency meeting of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Weinstein may have been getting away with his sleazy attacks for decades but has had it all. He was arrested on Saturday after the US and UK and a group of film industry luminaries denounced him.

Among more than 50 women to accuse Weinstein of sexual harassment are Oscar-winning actors Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Mira Sorvino.

French actor Eva Green joined the dozens of accusers yesterday, saying she was left “shocked and disgusted” when Weinstein made an inappropriate advance.

Actor Rose McGowan on Thursday became the fourth woman to accuse him of raping her.

Weinstein's fashion designer wife Georgina Chapman also left the 65-year-old after The New York Times published allegations he had been buying off his victims for decades.

The Academy said it had voted "with the majority" to expel Weinstein.

"We do not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not meet the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and ashamed complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over," the board said in a public statement.

The 54-member Academy board includes heavy hitters such as Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and Kathleen Kennedy.

There has been no comment on whether Weinstein's Oscars will be rescinded. His films have received more than 30 Oscar nominations and won 8.

It came as Weinstein's brother Bob, who also works with the board kicked him out of the company they co-founded last week, said he had shown no remorse for his "nasty and degraded ways".

Bob Weinstein said he considered his brother someone who cheated in his marriage but was not aware of...
British actress Sophie Dix says Harvey Weinstein sexually assaulted her

A British actress who starred alongside Colin Firth in a film in the early 1990s has accused Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault and says the incident "massively cut short" her career.

Sophie Dix, 48, has told The Guardian that Weinstein invited her to his room at London's Savoy hotel in 1990 to help him make a decision about another movie.

He then pushed her on to the bed and began tugging at her clothes, she claimed.

This is the latest in a string of sexual harassment allegations against the movie mogul, who has been accused of rape by three women.

NYPD, Scotland Yard launch Weinstein investigations

Rape allegations emerge as Weinstein scandal deepens

Weinstein "unequivocally denies" the claims.
British actress Emma Thompson told the BBC the allegations are no shock to her.

"I didn't know about these things but they don't surprise me at all and they are endemic to the system anyway," Thompson said.

"What I find extraordinary is that this man is at the top of a very particular iceberg. He's a predator. What he is top of the ladder of, is a system of harassment and belittling and bullying and interference."

Dix was 22 at the time of the alleged sexual assault and says she thought about reporting it to police but feared it would damage her career.

She said Weinstein invited her to dinner in Covent Garden after she was cast alongside Firth in the film The Hour Of The Pig, which was named The Advocate in the US.

"It was an exciting time of my life. I was open and trusting and I had never met a predator; I had never considered a predator," Dix told The Guardian.

She said Weinstein "made sure the wine was flowing" before asking her to come to his room to help him make some decisions over another film.

"As soon as I was in there, I realised it was a terrible mistake.

"I got to the hotel room, I remember talk of a massage and I thought that was pretty gross. I think he showed me his big back and I found that pretty horrid.

"Then before I knew it, he started trying to pull my clothes off and pin me down and I just kept saying 'no, no, no'. But he was really forceful. I remember him pulling at my trousers and stuff and looming over me."

Dix escaped to the bathroom where she locked the door.

"After a while I remember opening the door and seeing him just there facing the door masturbating, so I quickly closed the door again and locked it.

"Then when I heard room service come to the door I just ran."

Dix, who has worked on different TV shows and now works as a screenwriter, claims she was "very, very vocal" about it at the time, but those in the industry "didn't want to know about it".

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Harvey Weinstein is a sex offender not a sex addict

Bryony Gordon

I am in rehab, about halfway through a three-month outpatient program that will, higher-power willing, help me to live a life without drugs and alcohol. It’s quite sobering to sit in a room with people you didn’t know 50 days ago and announce that your name is Bryony and you are an addict, because addicts are the people crouching in shop doorways begging for money, right? Addicts are pallid and ghostly with track marks up their arms, right?

Well, yes, sometimes. But they are also women who drop kids off at school in sharp suits before heading to the office, men who pull it together to make sure they run at least 10k a week because then they can tell themselves they don’t have a problem. They are people like me. They might even be people like you.

Entertainment News Highlights

The Harvey Weinstein scandal continues to deepen, Sophie Monk hits back at Bachelorette evictee Sam and Network Ten is left without its hit shows.

The people they are most certainly not are people like Harvey Weinstein.

I wasn't going to write about being in rehab yet, on account of the fact that it's fairly big stuff that I am still trying to wrap my head around, but then it emerged that Weinstein had taken a private jet to a clinic in Arizona to deal with his "sex addiction", and I really had to stick my head above the parapet.

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I had to, on behalf of all the women who have been undermined by this man and now face being undermined by him again as he flippantly passes his behaviour off as mental illness. I had to on behalf of all the addicts I have met recently who have bravely admitted they were powerless and needed help. That's the very definition of addiction, after all: powerlessness. But it wasn't Weinstein who was powerless when he called young actresses up to his room for so-called work meetings, only to get naked and request massages.

It wasn't Weinstein who was powerless when, back in 1997, the then 45-year-old forcibly stuck his head between 22-year-old Asia Argento's legs and performed oral sex on her. Indeed, the common thread in all these allegations — allegations that keep coming by the day — is how powerful Weinstein was, be it in his physical, brutish strength (a huge mountain of a man, compared to these tiny, birdlike actresses), or in the position he held in Hollywood.

Let us be clear about this: it is not powerlessness that drives men like Harvey Weinstein. It is the very opposite of that. It is the desire to wield their power over people who have none, or have very little in comparison.

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Weinstein is not a helpless addict to be pitied; he is a man who, over the course of almost 40 years, has continuously used his power to get what he wanted from women.

Harvey Weinstein is a man who has used his power to get what he wanted from women. Photo: AP

Never mind that they didn't want to give it to him; he did it anyway. He squashed them like ants. He took from them something they did not want to give. And that is not addiction. That is criminal behaviour.

Of course, sometimes addicts become criminals in order to feed their addiction – desperate heroin users stealing so they can get drugs, for example. Yet Weinstein does not fall into this category. The man was the king of Hollywood – I'm pretty sure he had access to plenty of women who would happily have taken his money in return for sex. But that wasn't Weinstein's style. Instead, he chose to coerce women. He is not a sex addict. He is a sex offender.

I'm trying to imagine what would happen if Harvey Weinstein showed up in a group session at our rehab. I'm pretty sure it would pour cold water on the mantra that is so often repeated by our counsellors, that addicts are not bad people – just ill people.

Before jetting off to the Meadows clinic, the film producer told photographers: "Guys, I'm not doing OK, but I'm trying. I gotta get help. I'm hanging in, I'm trying my best. You know, we all make mistakes. Second chance, I hope."

Nobody could argue with the last two sentiments. All humans are in some way flawed; nobody is perfect.

But the behaviour alleged by so many women over the last couple of weeks points to something far more serious than a mistake.

It is clear that Weinstein was not just given a second chance, but a third, a fourth, a fifth... I'm losing count of how many, given the ever-growing list of women now coming forward. In fact, it seems it might be quicker to name the actresses who haven't been targeted by the 65-year-old.

With his mealy-mouthed claims of mental illness, he gives addicts a bad name.

If Harvey Weinstein should be anywhere right now, then it is not a rehab clinic. It is prison.

**Telegraph, London**

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Harvey Weinstein investigated over four more rape, abuse allegations in London

The Scotland Yard inquiry into Harvey Weinstein intensified Sunday night (Monday AEST) with detectives now investigating a further four allegations of rape and sexual assault against the disgraced Hollywood producer.

The latest investigations relate to allegations of assault in London in 1992, 2010, 2011 and 2015. The announcement came after two more women accused Weinstein of raping them. Lysette Anthony, the British actress, said he had attacked her in her London home in the late '80s. A second, unidentified woman said she was raped in 1992.

James Corden slammed for Weinstein jokes

While hosting an AmfAR charity gala, actor and comedian James Corden made jokes about Harvey Weinstein, inspiring anger from some Hollywood stars.

Weinstein, 65, has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex. More than two dozen women, including Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, have come forward with allegations of unwanted advances, lewd behaviour or sexual assault.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron last night said he has begun the process of revoking Weinstein's Legion of Honor.

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James Corden under fire over controversial Harvey Weinstein jokes

On Saturday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Scientists said its board had voted "well in excess of the required two thirds majority" to expel Weinstein. The "era of wilful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over", it said as it effectively banned from Hollywood a man whose productions garnered more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 wins.

Police in New York have asked anyone with a complaint to come forward, and detectives in London confirmed they were looking into a total of five allegations made by three complainants.

Met spokesman said: "Officers from the Met's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command are investigating the allegations. There has been no arrest at this stage."

Anthony, who stars in the television soap Hollyoaks, told The Sunday Times she had told the Metropolitan Police about an attack in the '80s.

She says that it happened after she had got to know the producer when she starred in the 1982 film Krull. She said it was a "pathetic, revolting" attack that had left her "disgusted and embarrassed".

On Wednesday Anthony tweeted that she had just reported a historical crime, adding "feel sick... so sad".

A second woman told the *Mail On Sunday* she was raped by Weinstein in 1992 when she was working at his film company offices in West London.

The woman, who described how she wore old clothes and chewed raw garlic to keep Weinstein away, said she had only confided in her husband about the attack within the past few days.

"Even after all these years, I can still wake up screaming," she said. "I wanted the opportunity to speak out, but I just couldn't see how."

Meanwhile, Woody Allen said he felt sad for Weinstein as well as the women who suffered from his attentions.

"The whole Harvey Weinstein thing is very sad for everybody involved," he told the BBC. "Tragic for the poor women that were involved, sad for Harvey that his life is so messed up.

"There's no winners in that, it's just very, very sad and tragic for those poor women that had to go through that."

*The Telegraph, London*

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Producers Guild to expel Harvey Weinstein, create sexual harassment taskforce

OCTOBER 17 2017

The Producers Guild of America's board of directors has voted unanimously to terminate Harvey Weinstein's membership, the organisation announced on Monday.

The decision was reached during an emergency meeting by the PGA's national board of directors and officers in the wake of a rapidly escalating controversy that has seen dozens of women, including high-profile actresses Rose McGowan, Asia Argento, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, accuse the former mogul of abuse and harassment.

Entertainment News Highlights
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In addition to voting to expel Weinstein from the group, PGA leaders announced the creation of an anti-sexual harassment task force to research and address sexual harassment within the entertainment industry.
"This morning, the PGA's national board of directors and officers decided by unanimous vote to institute termination proceedings concerning Harvey Weinstein's membership," read a statement from Gary Lucchesi and Loti McCreary, presidents of the Producers Guild of America.

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"Sexual harassment of any type is completely unacceptable. This is a systemic and pervasive problem requiring immediate industry-wide action. Today, the PGA's national board and officers composed of 20 women and 18 men — created the anti-sexual harassment task force specifically charged with researching and proposing substantive and effective solutions to sexual harassment in the entertainment industry.

"The PGA calls on leaders throughout the entertainment community to work together to ensure that sexual assault and harassment are eradicated from the industry."

Weinstein and his brother Bob were the recipients of the guild's highest honour, the Milestone Award, in 2013.

Per the group's bylaws, Weinstein, who was booted from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Saturday, will have until November 5 to respond to the PGA decision before the termination of his membership is finalised.

Los Angeles Times

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A woman doesn’t have to be a young and beautiful movie star to attract the attention of a predatory man.

Being a woman is enough. Not every woman will be raped, but many will. Some will die at the hands of their attackers.

Film academy expels Weinstein

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have announced their decision to expel producer Harvey Weinstein, following allegations that he sexually harassed or assaulted a number of women over the past three decades.

Many, many more will be assaulted, sexually, in attacks that fall short of the legal definition of rape.

And as best I can tell by, you know, asking, pretty much every single woman will live every day subject to the possibility of some form of aggression, intimidation or gendered ugliness by some man, somewhere.
The fall of Harvey Weinstein has occasioned a great outpouring of rage and grief ... but mostly from victims. Photo: AP

Most normal women are attacked, assaulted or simply monstered in one way or another by normal men, and that's who you're not hearing from this week.

Not unless it's men whining about the insult and injury done to their own precious feels by the assumption that all men do this, or other men whining about women getting all the attention when it's a true fact that men get sexually assaulted too, you know!

Or, god help us, men droning on and on about taking this seriously because they have daughters, as though there could be no capacity for empathy or even a necessity for it, unless their precious DNA was at risk.
And, of course, there's always going to be the worst examples from the worst men, pushing back against the idea that Weinstein or any man who takes what he wants because he wants it, is doing something less than natural, or even admirable.

This small and gruesome band of brothers is mostly an internet phenomenon because they're a bit frightened of stepping out into the world of real things, where somebody might punch them in the face.

But they exist on a continuum with rapists and killers at one end, and every man who's simply treated a woman as somehow less than him at other.

Unless and until men as a whole decide to step off that continuum, nothing will change.

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Woody is 'sad' for Weinstein

LOS ANGELES: His son was responsible for exposing the world of Harvey Weinstein but Woody Allen says he feels "sad" for the diagnosed movie mogul — and he said he fears a "witch hunt".

It came in more allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against Weinstein and police in London said they are conducting investigations into five alleged sex assaults.

Controversial director Allen, who battled his own sex abuse allegations in the past, worked with Weinstein several times.

"The whole Weinstein thing is very sad for everybody involved. Tragic for the poor women that were involved, sad for Harvey that his life is so messed up," he said.

Allen later sought to clarify his comments. "When I said I felt bad for Harvey Weinstein, I thought it was clear the meaning was because he is a sad, sick man," he said.

Dozens of women have made allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Weinstein. He denies all non-consensual sexual activity.

Allen's son Roman Farrow was responsible for exposing the ugliest allegations against Weinstein in an article for the New Yorker magazine.

Islamic link to Vikings

STOCKHOLM: Links between the Viking and Muslim worlds may have been closer than once thought with the discovery of Arabic words for Allah and All in stone burial tombs found in a site in Sweden.

The trade between the Islamic and Viking worlds began around 900AD, the writers found at a site north of Stockholm suggest a deeper cultural exchange. Experts said Viking burial traditions could have been influenced by Islamic belief.

AUSTRIA'S MOMENT OF YOUTH

Far right to gain power

VIENNA: A baby-faced Austrian anti-immigration conservative with a glumly smiling girlfriend will become the first millennium to lead a European country.

People's Party chief and Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, 33, known in Austria as "Wunderkind" or "Wunderkind" claimed victory in the Austrian elections on Sunday night.

While in first place of a majority, he is expected to form an alliance with the far-right Freedom Party.

The victory comes after an anti-immigration campaign which saw Mr Kurz win over the People's Party in May for restrictions on immigration, and the cutting of benefits for European Union migrants in Austria.

Mr Kurz, who became Foreign Minister in 2013, also wants the EU to have less control over Austrian law and policy.

The Freedom Party, which was founded in the 1950s and first led by Nazi and former 55 member Anton Reinhold, secured about 320 per cent of the vote. It was lost last and held its coalition government from 2000-2008 and the EU brief imposed sanctions against Austria in an attempt to force them out.

Mr Kurz is the youngest elected leader in the EU. He is unmarried but dating glamorous Austrian finance minister employee Suzanne Thier (pictured below), whom he met at the age of 18.

"We have been given a great responsibility by the voters today," Mr Kurz told supporters in Vienna on Sunday night.

"We should be aware of that and that people are putting a lot of hope in our movement. There is a lot to do. It's about establishing a new political style in our country."

The government expects to be announced on Thursday and the results declared on October 31.

The People's Party gained around 337 per cent of the vote, early results show, while the defeated chancellor Christian Kern's Social Democrats appear to have come in second with about 27 per cent.

Mr Kurz said he would talk to other parties once final votes were in, but it is considered closer to the Freedom Party than the Social Democrats.

A coalition government would be a tough task, but it doesn't mean that we have no coalition to do it," he said.

The election result in the country of just nine million was watched closely across Europe, where anti-immigration and anti-EU sentiment has played out in several elections in the past year.

Last year Mr Kurz led a crackdown on stop migrants arriving in Austria through the Balkan states. This year he pledged to step them crossing from Africa.

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Austria follows shift to right

Sebastian Kurz, the world's youngest leader, thanks supporters of his People's Party after the election victory

The Austrian election campaign was over in a flash. For the first time since World War II, the National People's Party (OVP) has won the general election. The OVP, under the leadership of Sebastian Kurz, has emerged as the largest party in the country, with 31% of the vote. The OVP's victory is a significant change from the previous government, which was led by a coalition of the Social Democrats and the Green Party.

Kurz, who is only 33 years old, is set to become the world's youngest head of government. He has promised to implement a number of reforms, including cuts to the welfare state and reforms to the labor market.

The election result is a blow to the Social Democrats, who have been in government for the past 11 years. The Green Party, which has been in government for the past six years, has also seen its support fall.

The OVP's victory is a sign of the changing political landscape in Europe. Austria has traditionally been a bastion of the center-right, but the rise of populist parties in recent years has led to a shift to the right in many European countries.

The OVP's victory is also significant because it is the first time in Austria's history that a center-right party has won a majority in the national election. This is a major change from the past, when the center-left has been the dominant force in Austrian politics.

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WORLD

Duterte calls end of ISIS siege

BANGKOK (AP) - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday declared the end of a long siege by Islamic militants at a southern city, saying he has begun the fight to eliminate all other militant groups in the country.

The siege was the most significant military operation in the Philippines in recent years. Duterte said the government had already launched a broader offensive against militant groups in Mindanao, the southern island where the siege began.

Duterte, who has made his reputation as a tough, populist leader, said the government would now focus on rebuilding the city of Marawi, which was devastated by the fighting.

"We are not finished yet, but we are making progress," Duterte said.

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Duterte said the government would now begin to focus on rebuilding the city, which was devastated by the fighting.
Elton backs Aussie films

Writer-director says we need more local productions

"Not one penny went overseas, we had $3.5 million which was a small but wonderful budget to have, all spent within the Finisterre region."

"If we want the Australian character and Australian story to be told within our own community and overseas we have to make them ourselves but it's also economically important to support our arts."

"Three Summers" will be released in cinemas November 2

Hutchence doco fires up INXS

INXS has landed out of production, a group that has brought to life the story of Australian band INXS, has added the band's intense relationship, the band's intense relationship, and their ultimate success to the project. The film features never-before-heard interviews with the band members and their family and friends. The film also features footage of the band's electrifying live performances and their iconic music videos. The documentary follows the band from their earliest days to their rise to fame and their eventual breakup. The film is directed by Jonathan Bow, who has previously directed live music documentaries for bands such as U2 and The Rolling Stones. The documentary is produced by Michael Gudinski, who is the founder of the Gudinski Entertainment Group.

Authors eye Man Booker glory Guild looks to ditch Weinstein

THREE British and three US authors will today discover which one of them is the winner of this year's Man Booker Prize, whose shortlist stirred controversy over its large number of women and non-white candidates.

US author George Saunders (priestly) is the bookmakers' favourite to take the world's most prestigious English-language literary prize. His first full-length novel Lincoln in the Bardo has been described as a "postmodern pastiche of history".

The book weaves a tale around the death of Abraham Lincoln's Vice President, the Rev. Henry William, in 1865, using the accounts of hundreds of narrators. It would be the second US author to win the prize since 2001.

Following last year's victory by Paul Beatty, for his novel The Sellout, in an unprecedented move, the Producers Guild of America has voted unanimously to institute termination proceedings for Harvey Weinstein on disciplinary grounds. The PGA's National Board of Directors and Officers said Monday that Weinstein (pivotal) has an opportunity to respond before a final decision is made on November 6. The decision to move forward with the expulsion process was decided by a group composed of 20 women and 18 men. It comes just two days after the 65-year-old Oscar winner had his membership in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revoked.

Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister declined to comment. The guild, which has more than 12,000 members, represents those in film, television and new media, also decided Monday to institute an anti-sexual harassment task force to research and propose solutions to what it calls a "systematic and pervasive problem requiring immediate industry-wide action."

"The PGA calls on leaders throughout the entertainment community to work together to ensure that sexual abuse and harassment are eradicated from the industry," said PGA president Greg Louganis and Lori McCreary in a statement.

In 2013 Weinstein and his brother Bob Weinstein were given the Milestone Award by the PGA, which is considered the Guild's highest honour.
Harvey Weinstein case shines light on witness apathy

Jim Bright

The allegations about Harvey Weinstein's repeated sexual assault and harassment of actresses if proved to be true warrant his condemnation and punishment. They serve to put the spotlight on the reported ubiquity of such behaviour in Hollywood and as a reminder of how common such behaviour is in the workplace generally.

The Australian Human Rights Commission survey of 2008 found one in three women of working age had experienced sexual harassment, and 65 per cent of those reported it happened at work. It also reported that 30 per cent of respondents had witnessed sexual harassment at work. The commission took a look at what was happening at universities last year and reported a truly shocking 51 per cent of students reporting being sexually harassed "on at least one occasion" in 2016.

It has been fascinating in the Weinstein case to see just how quickly a roll call of the great and presumed "good" of Hollywood have entered stage left and right to deliver speeches of predictable (and possibly justified) condemnation. More damming and more concerning have been the admissions that rumours or alleged knowledge of Weinstein's predatory behaviour have long been known.

So what the hell is going on? Actors and actresses who make millions portraying heroic figures, whistle-blowers, fearless investigators and prosecutors, who waste no opportunity to proselytize about free speech or to speak out on their cause celebrity find no difficulty in http://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace-relations/weinstein-shines-light-on-workplace-harassment-20171016-gz1sw.html
Harvey Weinstein case shines light on witness apathy

speaks to a prompt on email about career readiness and the importance of playing mute when self-interest collides with principle. A lot has been made of the power imbalance between the alleged perpetrator and the victims in this case. However, that is overwhelmingly the MO of sexual predators. The point is that frequently these assaults are either witnessed or others become aware of them soon after they happen. What we see all too often is bystander apathy writ large. The phenomenon of others choosing not to get involved. Not to report. Not to come to the aid of the victims.

In my own work on ethical breaches I identified seven types of responses by witnesses: prosecutor, accommodator, overlooker, defender, supporter, coach and fixer. The accommodator cuts the perpetrator some slack to keep going, the overlooher sees nothing, the defender tries to spike any stories about to appear in the press (or elsewhere), the supporter actively assists the perpetrator. The fixer pays off the victims. The coach attempts to educate the perpetrator to see the righteous path. The prosecutor nails the bastard.

If we are ever to make progress in eliminating egregious, unethical and criminal behaviour in the workplace and beyond we need to educate, encourage and support not only the victims in reporting their experiences, but also we must develop workplace cultures that label the behaviour of the bystanders — calling out their actions or inactions for what they are. While victims are often traumatised and feel powerless, the same is not true of the bystanders.

The coverage of the Weinstein case has already thrown up household Hollywood names reportedly playing each of these roles, except one. The prosecutor.

The next time a Hollywood type pontificates during an award acceptance speech, we are entitled to ask, what did you know and why did you not act?

Jim Bright is professor of career education and development at ACU and owns Bright and Associates, a career management consultancy. Email opinion@jimbright.com. Follow @DrtJimBright.

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Weinstein’s enablers should be held accountable

Katy Hall

October 18, 2017 11:45am

EVERYONE has an opinion about who really knew what about the many sexual misconduct claims stacking up against Harvey Weinstein.

From those taking the word of Weinstein’s Miramax board members who claim ignorance of the abuse, to the Twitter users seeking blood as retribution, it’s possible that no one person will ever know the true and full extent of what exactly went on or for how long. What is clear, though, is that at many points along the two-decade-long road in which Weinstein allegedly used his power and celebrity status to operate as a sexual predator, many people did know something. And for now at least, it appears the majority of those aidsers and abetters are walking away unscathed.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezview/38754990f689ad06d91d3546f03
In what is a classic rhetoric whenever chaos strikes, those at the top of the chain and closest to Weinstein are claiming they had no knowledge as to what he was up to, while those at the bottom are adamantly saying it isn’t so.

When questioned on the matter last week, the disgraced mogul’s younger brother Bob Weinstein claimed that “any suggestion that the board had knowledge of this conduct is false,” a sentiment echoed by fellow board member Lance Maerov, who said that despite having seen evidence of at least three or four of the known eight financial settlements made between Weinstein and women claiming sexual harassment and/or assault, he simply believed his boss “was a philanderer” and that the payouts “were used to cover up consensual affairs.”

Maerov told the New York Times, “I don’t know what else I could have done.”

Actor Rose McGowan, who alleges she was raped by Weinstein in the 1990s and received a USD $100,000 settlement for in 1997 disagrees.

“Bob Weinstein is a POS [piece of shit],” she wrote. “They allllll knew.”

Screenwriter and producer Scott Rosenberg, who worked closely with Weinstein for a decade and considered himself a close friend of the mogul backed up McGowan’s assertion, saying “everybody-f**king-knew.”

Sharing his memories of those years via an essay for Deadline, Rosenberg explained that his inner circle knew “not that he was raping ... But we were aware of a certain pattern of overly-aggressive behavior that was rather dreadful.”

It's likely that included in the “all” McGowan refers to are also Weinstein’s many
https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezvous/harveys-enablers-should-be-held-accountable/news-story/1e38754f906899e0f06d971da3b46f03

© Rose McGowan has called out Weinstein and those around him. (Pic: Kevin Winter/Getty).
Of the 39 women who have so far come forward and claimed they were sexually harassed or assaulted by Weinstein, 25 have told stories so alike they are almost mirror, cookie-cutter experiences.

The 25 women all claim they would meet Weinstein at a hotel for what they believed was a business meeting or professional encounter, only to be redirected to his suite by an assistant. Within minutes, the assistant would leave the room and Weinstein would appear either naked or semi-naked in front of them and begin making sexual advances.

One former Weinstein employee told The New Yorker she was repeatedly asked by Harvey to join hotel meetings with him but always refused.

"It almost felt like the executive or assistant was made to be a honeypot to lure these women in, to make them feel safe. Then he would dismiss the executive or the assistant, and then these women were alone with him. And that did not feel like it was appropriate behavior or safe behavior."

In her account to The New Yorker, actor Asia Argento recalled the first time she was sexually assaulted by Weinstein, saying that she was escorted to his hotel room by an assistant who had told her there was a party happening in his room. When she arrived and found only Weinstein there, the assistant reportedly said "we got here too early" [for the party] and then promptly left her alone with the Hollywood heavyweight.

![Actor Ashley Judd was in her early 20s when the alleged assault by Weinstein is said to have taken place. (Pic: Eric Charbonneau)](https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezvous/haries-enablers-should-be-held-accountable/news-story/1c3875499016895cf06d971da3b4603)

Former model Zoe Brock told a similar story on 60 Minutes, saying that the set-up in which she found herself alone in a hotel room with Weinstein was clearly rehearsed and
which she found Nelson alone in a hotel room with Weinstein was clearly rehearsed and
well-known to Weinstein’s inner circle.

“I had been played by not just one predator, but by all his accomplices,” Brock said.

Emily Nestor, a one-time Miramax assistant claims she experienced harassment on her
first day of work, with Weinstein sending other assistants out of the room so that he
could speak to her privately before requesting her personal phone number and
proposing they meet for drinks that evening. Eventually, Nestor agreed to meet her new
boss for a breakfast meeting the next day, during which Nestor alleges Weinstein
propositioned her for sex, dropped the names of celebrities he claimed to have slept
with and bragged about never having to “do anything like Bill Cosby” to get sex.

When Nestor reported the experience to HR she received an email via LinkedIn from
Irwin Reiter, a senior executive within Miramax who worked alongside Weinstein for
close to three decades.

In his messages, Reiter told Nestor, “We view this very seriously and I personally am
very sorry your first day was like this. Also if there are further unwanted advances,
please let us know.” Reiter added, “I’ve fought him about mistreatment of women 3
weeks before the incident with you. I even wrote him an email that got me labelled by
him as sex police.”

A number of women also claim that following their encounters with Weinstein they
were handed nondisclosure agreements for their signatures, either by one of his
assistants or by his lawyer. That same lawyer, David Boies, worked with Weinstein to
settle multiple lawsuits in which women claimed sexual assault and/or harassment
against him. Boies also provided Lance Maerov with proof of a number of these lawsuits
during 2015, the same ones Maerov says he believed represented “consensual affairs”.

![Image of Harvey Weinstein and two women kissing.](https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezvous/harveys-enablers-should-be-held-accountable/news-story/1c3875f49b90689ac06d971da9b46f03)
As Rosenberg has since admitted, for all of these people who say they didn’t really know what was going on, the trade-off for their feigned ignorance was huge.

“Harvey was showing us the best of times. He was making our movies. Throwing the biggest parties. Taking us to The Golden Globes! Private jets! Stretch limousines! Springsteen shows!”

If you ask Bob Weinstein, he’ll tell you that “Harvey has no remorse whatsoever.” A claim that very may well be true. But what about those who allowed Weinstein to operate for so long? Where’s their remorse? Or more importantly, where’s their punishment?

It’s unlikely that Weinstein’s career will ever recover from this story. But the many assistants, executives, Miramax HR Managers, and members of Weinstein’s inner sanctum? They’re walking away from this scot-free, reputations intact and bank balances unaffected. They will invariably get hired by other companies, their movies produced by other studios, they will find other private jets to fly around the world in.

Because all of this happened in Hollywood, a city where money talks so loudly it can keep people like Harvey Weinstein safe at night for decades, it’s unlikely they’ll ever be called into account.

And that’s something we should all feel utterly sickened about knowing.

@katyhallway

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Harvey Weinstein went from power player to pariah in less than a week. Here's how it happened
Has there ever been a faster fall than that of independent film kingpin Harvey Weinstein? For years, rumors of sexual impropriety and harassment dogged him but his power in Hollywood appeared to render him unassailable. Through Miramax Films and Weinstein Co. he won countless awards while turning actors like Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Affleck and filmmakers such as Michael Moore and Quentin Tarantino into household names. At the Oscars, he was thanked more often than God.

Then in one fell swoop the “open secret” of his abuses became secret no longer. The New York Times and the New Yorker broke stories in which more than a dozen women detailed behavior that ranged from harassment to rape. Dozens of actresses and other Hollywood insiders quickly joined the chorus of allegations while numerous celebrities and politicians reacted to the scandal. Here’s a complete rundown of the developments:

Read The Times’ full coverage of the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal »

MARCH 31, 2015

Unnamed model accuses Weinstein of sexual assault

A sexual assault complaint is filed against Weinstein in New York City. The alleged victim is a 22-year-old Italian model, whose name was not given at the time but was later revealed to be Ambra Battilana Gutierrez. The claim alleges that Weinstein groped her at the Tribeca Film Center after they had been in a meeting.

OCT. 6, 2015

Ashley Judd accuses an unnamed mogul of sexual harassment
hotel room and ultimately asked her to watch him take a shower. Two years later, Judd names the mogul.

Ashley Judd at the world premiere of "Divergent" at the Westwood Regency Village Theater in Los Angeles. (Jordan Strauss / Invision/AP)

OCT. 13, 2016

**Rose McGowan refers to an unnamed film distributor as a ‘rapist’**

Responding to a trending hashtag #WhyWomenDontReport, the actress — who appeared in Weinstein projects including “Scream” and “Grindhouse” — makes the accusation without using any names, although it later comes to light that it was intended for Weinstein.

rose mcgowan
@rosemcgowan

Because my ex sold our movie to my rapist for distribution
#WhyWomenDontReport

Weinstein lawyers up in anticipation of stories

Word leaks out that the New Yorker and the New York Times are preparing stories about Weinstein’s alleged misconduct when it becomes public that he has hired a virtual army of lawyers and crisis managers to fight the reports. The team includes attorney David Boies, the controversial Lisa Bloom (also the daughter of Gloria Allred), and Charles Harder, who famously won Hulk Hogan’s invasion of privacy trial case against the Gawker website. Weinstein preemptively denies any accusations, telling the Hollywood Reporter, "The story sounds so good, I want to buy the movie rights."

OCT. 5, 2017

The New York Times publishes its report

Hollywood is shaken when the New York Times report is published, stating that Weinstein has had a long history of sexual misconduct over the last two decades and has settled eight separate alleged sexual harassment cases. Among the numerous actresses and employees involved in the allegations are Judd, who names Weinstein as her attacker, and McGowan.

Weinstein announces a leave of absence

After issuing a statement reading, in part, “I so respect all women and regret what happened,” Weinstein announced he’d be taking a leave of absence from Weinstein Co. effective immediately.

Hollywood begins to respond

Performers, news anchors and creative types, including Lena Dunham, Gretchen Carlson, Jenni Konner, Jake Tapper and others, begin to take to social media to condemn Weinstein, although his most famous collaborators and political allies largely remain silent. McGowan tweets without using his name.
OCT. 6, 2017

Weinstein Co. orders investigation of allegations

The Weinstein Co. board retains attorney John Kiernan of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP to investigate the allegations, but, for the moment, refrains from firing Weinstein.

OCT. 7, 2017

Legal advisor Lisa Bloom quits

After being criticized for representing Weinstein, two key members of Weinstein’s crisis team part ways with their client, including Los Angeles attorney Lisa Bloom. “I have resigned as an advisor to Harvey Weinstein,” Bloom wrote on Twitter. “My understanding is that Mr. Weinstein and his board are moving toward an agreement.”

MORE: The full list of Weinstein accusers includes fledgling actresses and Hollywood royalty

Lisa Bloom
@LisaBloom

I have resigned as an advisor to Harvey Weinstein. My understanding is that Mr. Weinstein and his board are moving toward an agreement.
3:04 AM - Oct 8, 2017
11.9K 5,721 people are talking about this

Donald Trump reacts

While being questioned by reporters, President Trump acknowledges he’s known

OCT. 8, 2017

Weinstein is fired from his company

After a review, the board of Weinstein Co. ousts Weinstein from the company he co-founded alongside his brother, Bob. "In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company ... have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company said in a statement.

MORE: Can Weinstein Co. survive without Harvey Weinstein? »

OCT. 9, 2017

A-listers start to respond

Julianne Moore, Meryl Streep, Emmy Rossum, Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo, Seth Rogen, Jessica Chastain and other stars begin tweeting their outrage at Weinstein and their support for the women who have come forward. Director Kevin Smith, a longtime Weinstein associate, says he feels "ashamed" for working with him.

KevinSmith
@ThatKevinSmith

He financed the first 14 years of my career - and now I know while I was profiting, others were in terrible pain. It makes me feel ashamed. twitter.com/samford82/stat...

1:46 AM - Oct 10, 2017
19.3K 4,698 people are talking about this

OCT. 10, 2017

New Yorker report alleges that Weinstein assaulted multiple women

and Asia Argento. The report also includes an audio recording of Weinstein verbally pressuring Gutierrez to enter his hotel room in 2015.

**Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie detail 'unacceptable' encounters**

In a follow-up piece in the New York Times, Oscar winners Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie also accuse Weinstein of sexual misconduct. The latter says, "this behavior towards women in any field, any country is unacceptable."


**MORE: A look at 27 newsmakers accused of sexual harassment, assault or related behavior »**

**Former actress and screenwriter Louisette Geiss accuses**

In a news conference held by noted lawyer Gloria Allred, former actress and screenwriter Louisette Geiss alleges Weinstein made unwanted advances toward her at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.
In a statement, Weinstein’s third wife reveals she is leaving him following the allegations, saying, "My heart breaks for all the women who have suffered tremendous pain because of these unforgivable actions. I have chosen to leave my husband." The two have been married since December 2007 and have two children together, India Pearl and Dashiell Max Robert.

![Image: Harvey Weinstein, Uggie the dog and Georgina Chapman attend Weinstein Co.'s Oscar after-party at SkyBar at the Mondrian Los Angeles on Feb. 26, 2012 in West Hollywood. (Craig Barritt / Getty Images)]

**USC rejects Weinstein’s $5-million pledge to fund foundation for women filmmakers**

The USC School of Cinematic Arts says that it is rejecting a $5-million pledge Weinstein had made to fund a program for female filmmakers. Days earlier, Weinstein had mentioned the pledge in his initial statement of apology.

**Hollywood’s elite continues to respond**

The floodgates open and condemnations from Hollywood’s biggest names — including some longtime Weinstein collaborators — come pouring in over social media. Jennifer Lawrence, George Clooney, Ben Affleck and others address the scandal with variations on the theme of shock, disgust and outrage.

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**Trial Offer**

Hillary Clinton says she’s 'shocked and appalled' by allegations

After countless reactions from Hollywood players, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton releases a statement on Twitter via communications manager Nick Merrillcondemning Weinstein, a former campaign contributor.

**Statement from Secretary Clinton on Harvey Weinstein**

“I was shocked and appalled by the revelations about Harvey Weinstein. The behavior described by women coming forward cannot be tolerated. Their courage and the support of others is critical in helping to stop this kind of behavior.”

Nick Merrill
@NickMerrill

Statement from Secretary Clinton on Harvey Weinstein:
3:27 AM - Oct 11, 2017
13.9K 11.4K people are talking about this

Barack Obama condemns Weinstein

Former President Obama responds to the allegations against Weinstein, a longtime Democratic donor, saying in a statement, "Michelle and I have been disgusted by the recent reports about Harvey Weinstein."
OCT. 11, 2017

BAFTA suspends Harvey Weinstein's membership

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts announces that Weinstein has been suspended from the prestigious organization, effective immediately. A statement reads, "Whilst BAFTA has previously been a beneficiary of Mr. Weinstein's support for its charitable work, it considers the reported alleged behavior completely unacceptable and incompatible with BAFTA's values."

Academy sets meeting to discuss Weinstein's membership

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announces that it will hold an emergency meeting Saturday, Oct. 14, to discuss the future of Weinstein's membership. As the producer or executive producer of dozens of Oscar-winning films, Weinstein's career was practically synonymous with award season beginning in the early 1990s.

LAPD responds to a 911 call from a Los Angeles home around 10:30 a.m., where they speak to Weinstein's daughter for about half an hour, sparking rumors of suicidal threats. The officers determine no one was a danger to themselves.

**Seth MacFarlane recalls 2013 joke about Weinstein**

When the “Family Guy” creator co-hosted the Oscar nominations announcement in 2013 along with Emma Stone, he peppered his introductions with risqué humor and Hollywood insider jokes. When it came time to announce the five supporting actress nominees, MacFarlane added, “Congratulations, you five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein.” MacFarlane recalled the jab on Twitter while addressing the Weinstein controversy.

In 2011, my friend and colleague Jessica Barth, with whom I worked on the Ted films, confided in me regarding her encounter with Harvey Weinstein and his attempted advances. She has since courageously come forward to speak out. It was with this account in mind that, when I hosted the Oscars in 2013, I couldn’t resist the opportunity to take a hard swing in his direction. Make no mistake, this came from a place of loathing and anger.

There is nothing more abhorrent and indefensible than abuse of power such as this. I respect and applaud my friend Jessica and those sharing their stories for their decision to come forward, and for being champions of the truth.

**Seth MacFarlane**
@SethMacFarlane

5:15 AM - Oct 12, 2017

50.1K 9,346 people are talking about this
Numerous film festival officials condemn Harvey Weinstein

Several of the very film festivals that helped elevate the Weinstein brand release official statements condemning his alleged actions. Cannes Film Festival President Pierre Lescure and general delegate Thierry Frémaux say they were "dismayed" to learn of the accusations, while the Venice Film Festival's statement calls Weinstein's alleged behavior "unacceptable and shameful." A tweet from the official account of the Toronto Film Festival stands by the women who have spoken out against Weinstein.

Tiff @TFF_NET

No woman should have to face sexual harassment. TIFF salutes the courage of all who speak up.

Anne T. Donahue @annetdonahue

When did you meet YOUR Harvey Weinstein? I'll go first: I was a 17-yr-old co-op student and he insisted on massaging my shoulders as I typed

1:55 AM - Oct 12, 2017
243 78 people are talking about this

Hatchette Book Group ends deal with Weinstein

The Hatchette Book Group terminates its Weinstein Books imprint, which was initially launched as Miramax Books in 2001.

Potential buyers eye Weinstein Co.

In an exclusive to The Times, several entertainment industry executives reveal that multiple studios, networks and other investors are assessing whether to bid for pieces of the quickly fracturing Weinstein Co., as well as existing film and TV projects. The Weinstein Co. board is reportedly coming under pressure to liquidate the company's assets. Apple has dropped a planned Weinstein Co. series centering on Elvis Presley, while Amazon.com is reviewing its options on several upcoming...
New York City and London law enforcement open investigations

Police departments in both cities reportedly begin investigations into Weinstein’s past. The NYPD is said to be looking into a 2004 incident in which Weinstein allegedly sexually assaulted an actress. Meanwhile, London law enforcement officers are reportedly pursuing their own case against Weinstein over a sexual assault incident that allegedly occurred in the 1980s.

McGowan names ‘HW’ as her attacker

After being temporarily suspended from Twitter, McGowan returns to the platform with her most blunt allegations yet. Revolting against a non-disclosure agreement, McGowan posts a no-holds-barred thread tagging Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, in which she clearly states that “HW raped me,” an apparent reference to Harvey Weinstein.

rose mcgowan
@rosemcgowan

1) @jeffbezos I told the head of your studio that HW raped me. Over & over I said it. He said it hadn’t been proven. I said I was the proof.
6:03 AM - Oct 13, 2017
37.6K 15.5K people are talking about this

OCT. 13, 2017

Bob Weinstein dispels rumors of Weinstein Co. turmoil

Weinstein Co. co-founder Bob Weinstein responds to rumors that the company is for sale, saying, "Our banks, partners and shareholders are fully supportive of our company and it is untrue that the company or board is exploring a sale or shutdown of the company...Business is continuing as usual as the company moves ahead.” The statement also contains information about the pending releases from his specialty division, The Weinstein Co. A 2017 motion picture for release in 2018 titled "Zoolander 2" is mentioned.

**Oliver Stone may recuse himself from Weinstein Co.-produced series 'Guantanamo'**

After news broke that the Weinstein Co.'s production credits would be removed from TV projects, including Lifetime's "Project Runway" and Netflix's "Peaky Blinders," director Oliver Stone posted a message to Facebook stating he would "recuse" himself from the Showtime drama series "Guantanamo" if Weinstein Co. remained on the project. Showtime released a statement noting: "The project is in development and has not been greenlit yet. We do not intend to move forward with the current configuration of the project and are exploring our options."

Oliver Stone
about 11 months ago

I’ve been travelling for the last couple of days and wasn’t aware of all the women who came out to support the original story in the New York Times.

After looking at what has been reported in many publications over the last couple of days, I’m appalled and commend the courage of the women who’ve stepped forward to report sexual abuse or rape.

I’ll therefore recuse myself from the "Guantanamo" series as long as the Weinstein Company is involved.

OCT. 14, 2017

**Bob Weinstein breaks silence about allegations**

Harvey Weinstein's brother and longtime collaborator Bob Weinstein talks with the Hollywood Reporter, claiming he had no knowledge of any nonconsensual sexual activity on Harvey's part and urging the academy to expel him. He also refers to Harvey as "a living nightmare" and a "bully" who subjected him to verbal and physical abuse.

Motion picture academy expels Weinstein

As criticism of the embattled mogul mounts, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences holds an emergency meeting where the board votes “well in excess of the required two-thirds majority” to immediately eject Weinstein. As a producer, Weinstein won the best picture Oscar for 1998’s “Shakespeare in Love,” while dozens of other films released under his leadership at Miramax won Oscars throughout the years. The Academy statement reads, “We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over.”

OCT. 16, 2017

Producers Guild moves to expel Weinstein

Following in the footsteps of the Academy, the Producers Guild of America’s board of directors — a majority of which is female — beginning proceedings to terminate
“Sexual harassment of any type is completely unacceptable. This is a systemic and pervasive problem requiring immediate industry-wide action.”

OCT. 17, 2017

Weinstein resigns from Weinstein Co. board

With Weinstein Co.’s future still undetermined, Harvey Weinstein formally resigns from the board of directors. Five other board members — Tim Sarnoff, Paul Tudor Jones, Dirk Ziff, Marc Lasry and Richard Koenigsberg — had previously resigned in the wake of the scandal.

Bob Weinstein accused of sexual harassment

After publicly chastising his brother Harvey, Bob Weinstein comes into the spotlight when Variety reports that the Spike network is investigating a sexual harassment claim against him. Amanda Segel, a former executive producer for the Weinstein Co.-produced Spike series “The Mist,” alleges that Bob Weinstein made multiple advances toward her including several unwelcomed invitations to his home and hotel room. Bob Weinstein’s attorney Bert Fields refutes the allegations in a statement, saying the “story is riddled with false and misleading assertions by Miss Segel.”

OCT. 19, 2017

LAPD investigating Harvey Weinstein after an actress in L.A. accuses him of rape

Joining cases in New York City and London, the LAPD confirms that they’ve met with an Italian model-actress who has alleged that Weinstein sexually assaulted her at a hotel in 2013. She is the sixth woman to accuse Weinstein of rape or forcible sex acts.

Weinstein Co. employees deny knowledge of
that the company’s co-founder was a “ser
that our boss could be manipulative. We did not know that he used his power to
systematically assault and silence women.” The statement also demands that the
signed staffers be released from the nondisclosure agreements in their contracts,
which would allow them to “speak openly, and get to the origins of what happened
here, and how.”

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UPDATES:

1:50 p.m., Oct. 18: This article was updated with additional news items from Oct.
17.

11:09 a.m., Oct. 17: This article was updated with an additional news item from
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The way to stop the Harvey Weinsteins of the world isn't #instacleavage

Elizabeth Farrelly

So I'm padding my way to the ocean pool for my daily swim, bringing daggy back to the eastern beaches. My way is blocked by three girls. Fetching, near-naked, self-absorbed, oiled and daft (but weren't we all?) they're there, in slightly different human form, most days. I'd like to call them the three graces but really, that's not it. Grace has no business here. They're photographing self and each other, pouting and preening, bending and revealing. It'd be embarrassing except you know this is designed for publication. These are #instapics in progress. The effort, voluntary bimboism for the world's eyes, is to look permanently sex-ready. F----able.

Watching them, I think, are we serious? Can anyone really pretend shock that every Hollywood starlet has been bed to bed by the maestro? Come on. The expectation of screwing your way to the top - let's call it the exchange of sex for power - has permeated every culture, every profession and most marriages since the year dot. The only accuracy shortfall is the voice of the verb, since the girls are (broadly speaking) not the ones doing the screwing. They're being screwed.

Hollywood stars slam Harvey Weinstein

Emma Thompson, Jane Fonda and Rose McGowan are just some of the Hollywood A-listers speaking out about the industry's culture of sexual harassment in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Our culture, liberated as we think it, is as bad as most, and more hypocritical. The girls so pressured are further pressed to consider this behaviour feminist while also considering true feminism – the simple equality of rights and opportunity – a dirty word. In all this, Hollywood has led the way.

Angry? Sure. Pardon me, but I'm angry. Angry that our daughters must compete for the attention of ordinary boys with internet porn stars, that all their romantic years are coloured and diminished by this stupidity. Angry that our culture still pretends marriage as - we know - it has some kind of sacred standing - much too sacred to include gay people - when in fact, now as through most of history, it is a principally commercial arrangement.

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Amazon studio boss resigns over harassment scandal

Social media fills with #metoo stories of sexual harassment, assault

With so much else going on, I'd forgotten how mad I still am about all this until I saw the Belvoir St Theatre's very fine production the other night of Ibsen's Ghosts.

It's as though they knew. As though the Belvoir programmers foresaw horrible hairy Harvey Weinstein dropped naked and heaving into our shared scandal-light, pulling down on top of him a global avalanche of out-of-the-closet me-tooism. As though they knew it would all coincide with our acrimonious convulsions over marriage. Then, knowing all this, they scheduled a play that examines these issues in the light of truth.

The only thing that outweighs the social cost of truth, Ibsen argues, is the personal cost of hiding it.

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Back in 1881, when Ghosts opened, it was reviled as dangerous and subversive. "An open drain... a loathsome sore... a dirty act done publicly," wrote influential London critic Clement Scott.
In fact what's surprising is not that the 19th century found this truth-insistence threatening. What's surprising is that we, now, thinking ourselves so out there, are still devoted to propping up respectability like the gutted facade of some faux-grand building, conflating this respectability with the alpha-male ego and protecting the powerful at the expense of the weak. Think marriage equality, think paedophilia, think Weinstein; it's destroying us, but we're still at it.

At the heart of the play stands the widow, Pamela Rabe's Helene Alving, an elm in full leaf. Her anguished upright presentation pivots the action, driving its every beat. Sans the usual Sydney histrionics (compare for example Sydney Theatre's *Cloud Nine*, that covered similar territory) she conveys disdain, regret, lust in the twist of an eyebrow. Her whip-smart diffidence throws the whole of history's patriarchy into a fresh and sceptical light while her hands flutter about her whaleboned waist, perpetual reminders of what her upright resolution has cost.

In Mrs Alving's melancholy country living-room you feel adherence to social convention has itself force-wrapped the sun, trapping the skies in their implacable grey. Says director Eamon Flack, "our production isn't set in 1881, so much as set now in a room that hasn't changed since 1881".

The play traces how alpha-male narcissism destroys everyone in its field. Helene, her artist son, her erstwhile beloved, her illegitimate maid, her carpenter; all progressively shredded by this long-absent presence. More intriguingly, it shows how staunchly they sustain the charade of the Great Man's greatness, even as that pretence destroys them.
What scandalised Europe at the time was Helene's womanly resistance to oppression. She is starting to read, to think, to entertain ideas. "I must have done with all this constraint and insincerity," she rages. "I can endure it no longer." In particular she yearns to come clean about the lengths to which she has gone – losing her son, her love, her integrity – to convince the world, and herself, that being sought by a rich man was an act of nobility, not commerce.

In the end, her "cowardice" in maintaining that pretence costs her everything, including the life of her son. But how different is it now? Does Hollywood's faux-feminism makes it better? Or worse?

Reese Witherspoon revealed she was abused by a producer when she was just 16. Photo: AP

Jennifer Lawrence played the famously kick-ass Katniss Everdeen in the (female-produced) Hunger Games series. But to get there, as a teenager, she was required to stand naked in a casting lineup for a movie she has declined to name. The producer, she recalls, said "he didn't know why everyone thought I was so fat; he thought I was perfectly f---able".

Reese Witherspoon, also known for playing independent characters like Cheryl Strayed in Wild, spoke this week of "the director who assaulted me when I was 16 years old and ... made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment".

This cannot be news to us. Crikey. It's Hollywood. We know Weinstein isn't a sex addict. He's a standover man. And he's not unusual, except in getting outted. The evident answer is feminism: equal pay, equal rights, equal respect. That's so simple, although

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Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o has joined the chorus of women accusing disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment.

The 34-year-old, who won an Academy Award for her breakout role in 12 Years a Slave, has penned a harrowing first person account of her interactions with the Hollywood producer for The New York Times.
explosive allegations.

The Kenyan–Mexican actress said she first met Weinstein at a 2011 awards ceremony in Berlin while she was still at university. Not long afterwards, the movie mogul invited her to his home under the guise of attending a film screening.

Lupita Nyong'o has written about her "extremely uncomfortable" interactions with disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

Prior to attending his home, Weinstein invited her to lunch and repeatedly insisted she should drink vodka because he was the one "paying the bill.

"We got to his home after lunch and I met his domestic staff and his young children," Nyong'o wrote in The New York Times. "I settled in for the film, but about 15 minutes in, Harvey came for me, saying he wanted to show me something. I protested that I wanted to finish the film first, but he insisted I go with him, laying down the law as though I too was one of his children."

The actress said she complied with his request because she didn't want to have another "back-and-forth" in front of his children and staff.
The *12 Years a Slave* star said she used the massage to buy herself time while she thought of a way to leave Weinstein's home. But before long he said he wanted to take off his pants.

"I told him not to do that and informed him that it would make me extremely uncomfortable," she wrote. "He got up anyway to do so and I headed for the door, saying that I was not at all comfortable with that. I opened the door and stood by the frame. He put his shirt on and again mentioned how stubborn I was. I agreed with an easy laugh, trying to get myself out of the situation safely."

The actress then goes on to detail how, later — under the guise of attending a screening in New York — Weinstein said she should come up to his private hotel room.

"I told him I preferred to eat in the restaurant," she wrote. "He told me not to be so naive. If I wanted to be an actress, then I had to be willing to do this sort of thing."

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So Hollywood caught out one rat - what about the rest?

Amanda Vanstone

The Harvey Weinstein saga would make a great movie, if only we knew the whole story. What has the media’s attention is how terrible this man has been and for how long. There’s a focus on all the women now speaking up and identifying him as someone who either tried to or did abuse them in the past.

There’s a separate wave of women identifying as having been abused by somebody under the hashtag “me too”. If it helps the victims cope or makes them feel better, well and good, but a hashtag will not solve anything. It may help broaden awareness of the prevalence of sexual assault and intimidation, but anyone currently unaware is probably not much of a social media buff.

Film academy expels Weinstein

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have announced their decision to expel producer Harvey Weinstein, following allegations that he sexually harassed or assaulted a number of women over the past three decades.

The fuss may bring out further revelations in Hollywood. If those allegations are true, the quicker they’re dragged out from the smutty sea of silences that protected Weinstein for as long as the better.
Who are the Australian Harvey Weinsteins?

Amy Crofley

There's a list of local, well-known men, including a top television presenter, a Hollywood A-list and a soap star, doing the rounds among women in the Australian film and television industry.

According to an insider it's been in circulation for years, passed down through the ranks as a way to warn and protect each other, but has grown in recent weeks following the scandal surrounding former Hollywood heavyweight producer Harvey Weinstein, who has been accused of decades of sexual harassment or assault, including allegations of rape.

Hollywood stars slam Harvey Weinstein

Emma Thompson, Jane Fonda and Rose McGowan are just some of the Hollywood A-listers speaking out about the industry’s culture of sexual harassment in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The identities of those who have been accused in Australia would shock, including household names.

Fairfax Media has been told of at least two different encounters with the TV presenter inviting younger, female staff members to his home on the pretext of discussing work. Once inside, he offered them alcohol and massages.

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Harvey Weinstein is a sex offender not a sex addict

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Both women left in distress, and reported the incidents to senior executives but they were told: "Oh that's just [Mr X], everyone knows that is what he does."

A woman who has worked in the industry for more than a decade and who only spoke to Fairfax Media on condition of anonymity, opened up about an Australian soap star who harassed her and several other women. Despite reporting the abuse, he continued working completely unhindered.

There's also a film star who has been accused of inappropriately touching production staff.

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Another warning is circulating about a TV star who has been accused of headbutting an ex-girlfriend in the face and breaking her nose. He continues working in the spotlight, including for charities.

![Harvey Weinstein](http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/celebrity/who-are-the-australian-harvey-weinstein-20171016-gv48w0.html)

Former Hollywood heavyweight producer Harvey Weinstein has been accused of decades of sexual harassment or assault, including allegations of rape. Photo: AP

Since the *New York Times* story first unearthed the Weinstein allegations, the floodgates have opened. More than 40 accusations have been made against Weinstein of sexual harassment, and in some cases assault, that first started with actor Ashley Judd's account from two decades ago.

An Australian film and television insider believes that the same could happen here, but it will take longer because of Australia's insular
nature.

Tracey Spicer, veteran journalist and regular contributor to Fairfax Media, has already promised to reveal the names of "long-term offenders" and is investigating two but she said there are "plenty more".

But she believes it'll be months before accusers are named and shamed.

"The #metoo movement, following the revelations about Harvey Weinstein, has become a catalyst for hundreds of people coming forward, and finally naming names," Spicer said.

"While the majority wish to remain anonymous, for fear of retribution from powerful people within the industry, others are saying 'enough is enough'. They are planning to report these instances to police, and go on the record. But this investigation must be done properly. We will deeply research these cases for a matter of months before proper action is taken. It's time to do this, once and for all, to ensure the safety of women in the media and entertainment industry.

"We're at a tipping point: predators have been protected for too long and management is culpable."

If you've been sexually harassed at work, you can call 1800 RESPECT or Beyond Blue to talk to a counsellor. To make a complaint and find out more about your rights, visit the Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales or the Australian Human Rights Commission websites.

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Weinstein investigated over four more rape allegations

Oscars board strips Weinstein of membership in race move
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Natalie Reilly

Shockwaves continue to ripple out over the entertainment industry this week in the wake of the Weinstein scandal, with multitudes of actresses, models and even showrunners coming forward to speak about how Harvey Weinstein, and his brother, Bob, have sexually assaulted them.

Indeed, the Weinstein scandal has opened up countless old wounds for millions of sexual assault survivors.

On Monday, actress Alyssa Milano began the "Me Too" campaign, asking women on social media to simply post "Me too" if they'd ever experienced sexual harassment. At press time, more than 12 million women - and not a few men - have posted the hashtag to their Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

On Tuesday at the Elle Women in Hollywood Awards, Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Lawrence, two of the highest paid and most

powerful stars in the game, both spoke publicly about their experiences of sexual harassment and assault on the job.

RELATED ARTICLES

'Director assaulted me when I was 16'

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After describing the events surrounding her assault at the age of 16, Witherspoon concluded by saying, "[I feel] true disgust at the director who assaulted me when I was 16 years old and anger at the agents and the producers who made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment."

Lawrence ended her speech – about how she was forced to strip down for a role, and sexually harassed by her director – on a similar note, saying, "I let myself be treated a certain way because I felt like I had to for my career."

These stories, the literal millions of them, are largely unsurprising to women. The surprise is that these stories are being told publicly, when they're usually told tearfully, or anxiously, or drunkenly, if they're told at all.

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It has been men, generally speaking, who have been left shocked by these stories. And it's in the shadow of the Weinstein scandal that ordinary, often privileged men, have caught a glimpse of what it is to be female.

The Harvey Weinstein scandal has unleashed an outpouring of women sharing their experiences, and men asking why they didn't "do something" about it earlier. Photo: AP

Liz Meriwether, writing for New York magazine shortly after Donald Trump's victims came forward last year, described it as thus, "Men who hear these stories, I've found, tend to interrogate you to get to the truth of what happened, then, if they believe you, they want retaliation or revenge. Men want rules to be enforced and authorities..."
called. Women want those things, too, but we understand the complicated mental calculations that are forced on us."

And so begins the crux of another, seemingly more pedestrian problem between men and women. How many times has this cliche complaint been brought up in couples counselling and TV shows and Oprah:

Jennifer Lawrence: "I let myself be treated a certain way because I felt like I had to for my career." Photo: AP

"When I’m upset, he goes straight to solution mode, when what I really want is empathy."

For many men, the crying looks unproductive – it can even look like self-pity. Meanwhile, women just want a hug, or even a nod; a signal that they are understood.

For years, the reason given was that men don’t like feeling helpless, and this is certainly a factor. But perhaps the core reason so many men jump straight into problem solving is not just about testosterone or "boys don’t cry" social conditioning, but something far more simple: when (white) men speak, action is taken.

If we cry about our boss, our husband can’t understand it because he would tell the boss, and the boss would listen. If we wish out loud for a pay rise, the men we know will tell us to go ahead and ask, (because they’ve never been turned down, right Karl Stefanovic?).

If we wince over bad service at a restaurant, our male date might tell us to speak up, because the problem would be taken care of if he did. If we moan about our friend, our partner doesn’t get it, because if he told his friend, he’d be heard.

In fact, it’s almost a foregone conclusion that if a (white, middle class, heterosexual) man lodges a complaint, nobody is going to call him a bitch or a slut or a prude or an ungrateful whinger. Nobody is going to flip the facts back on him, and suggest he made it up or that he’s over-reacting.

The phrase, "male privilege" has received a lot of exposure of late. We understand it as a measure of unconscious power. But in simple terms, privilege might also be expressed as how credible you are as a witness to your own life. Men speak, and are believed. Women speak, and are told to sit back down.

But now this silent gap, of how women have to metabolise every day abuses of power, is finally being shown for the gaping chasm it is. Men, in general, are beginning to understand how we must navigate our lives.

When someone hurts us, abuses us, harasses us, we sit with it and weigh it up, because we know we have to walk through life not believed, not listened to, not respected. If we are seen, it's through the male gaze, and we will be deemed sexual or ugly – either way, we will be reduced and objectified. Women don't expect solutions; at least without backlash, or blame.

And so, we vent, we sit, we drink, we "process," because we know that in the end we will have to manage it. We just need to cry first.
MOST VIEWED TODAY

LIFESTYLE

When your ex breaks the rules they wouldn't bend for you

Chris Martin and Dakota Johnson make their relationship official

Has #MeToo gone too far?

Why some people in non-violent relationships kill their partners

This man received death threats for taking his wife's surname

Wallaby in custody after bouncing over Sydney Harbour Bridge

NSW train workers to strike for 24 hours over pay dispute

Father hires helicopter in frantic bid to find missing son

Five cars and two trucks in fatal crash near Dubbo

The Cranberries lead singer O'Riordan dead at 46

The university courses the most people are applying for this year

Father hires helicopter in frantic bid to find missing son

Illegitimate son battles his way into Dutch royal family

US player blasted for on-court sledge

Dramatic arrest after man rams police car near MCG

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How men can help after Weinstein and #MeToo

Ann Friedman

It's been more than two weeks since the "open secret" about Harvey Weinstein landed in The New York Times and then the New Yorker and then just about every media outlet in the country. Two exhausting weeks for women.

We've been publicly sharing our experiences of harassment or assault - some of us for the first time - using the #MeToo hashtag. Privately, we've been communicating with other women in our industries, comparing names of men to watch out for.

1. We're asking the wrong questions about Aziz Ansari
2. Kim Kardashian welcomes baby number three
3. Has #MeToo gone too far?
4. When your ex breaks the rules they wouldn't bend for you
5. Matt Damon 'really sorry' for sexual assault comments
The real power of #MeToo

Weinstein scandal gives men a glimpse of women's experiences

And men?

We see their public reactions. They're liking those #MeToo posts. Some are posting about what a creep Weinstein is or sharing essays by women who are calling out bad behaviour in other industries. A few have even begun using the hashtag #IHaveme or #ItWasMe to take responsibility for harassing or assaulting someone.

"Used to be, when I got drunk, I'd get HANDSY," an actor in Los Angeles posted, along with an apology. An architect in St. Louis wrote, "I have come on to them aggressively, I have prested when I should have accepted, I have been part of the problem."

Some men are among the survivors. Actor Terry Crews shared a story on Twitter about the time he was groped at a Hollywood event.

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If there were such a thing as sex addiction I reckon many men could claim to have suffered from it from time to time.  DAVID PENBERTHY

We've all been 'sex addicts' once

Nigel Coghlan, who has worked on the front line of addiction treatment, needs to understand that sex addicts Picture: George Sanker

I know you're struggling, the public relations stakes when the only person who has got your back is Woody Allen. The creep who infamously seduced then married his adopted daughter was out of the blocks this week to back the besieged Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Despite being devoid of a moral compass, even Allen realise the errors of his ways and withdrew his supportive remarks, leaving a 360-degree condemnation of the movie mogul who has set some squawk record for inappropriate behaviour. In the absence of any public or industry support, as the evidence piled up of decades of potentially criminal misconduct, Weinstein took the most predictable alternate option. He issued a statement, effectively saying that the real victim here was — surprise, surprise — him.

This is because he is a sex addict. "Guys, I'm not doing OK," Weinstein said plaintively. "I'm trying. I got to get help." He then announced he would be heading off to an exclusive rehabilitation centre in Arizona that specialises in the treatment of something which most shrinks do not regard as an illness at all, but a shame excuse for bad behaviour deliberately perpetuated by sentient beings equipped with free choice and the faculty of reason.

Weinstein's decision to play the sex addict card is a stark example of the modern propensity for medicalising bad choices as unaccountable impulses. Like the rugby league star who attribute drunkenly attacking in public to a hepatitis undiagnosed case of AIDS, or the disgraced former NBA star Scottie Pippen pleading for sympathy on account of depression which followed his own decision to retire himself to a $7.5 million five-bedroom house in Beverly Hills, Weinstein is blaming an imagined mental condition.

It is an insult to people who have suffered from genuine and lifelong mental illness for others to use them as alibis of convenience. Weinstein's alibi has an added bonus of involving an ailment that's not officially recognised as an ailment at all but more likely rolled-into-bad-habit.

If there were such a thing as sex addiction I reckon many men could claim to have suffered from it from time to time. There would not be a man alive who has fancied a woman and conveyed his interest only to be rebuffed and probably, on occasion, persisted pathetically before the ultimate capitulation. There are plenty of blokes out there with a reputation for being pants men, too. One of the biggest falsely generalised lies from graces in Hollywood involved Arnold Schwarzenegger, who famously had a secret affair and love child with his dowdy live-in housemaid while married to the glamorous Maria Shriver, suggesting that the greatest aphrodisiac for some men is proximity.

But there is a huge difference between being a philanderer and a predator — and that's what Weinstein is. A predator who appears to have used entrapment and influence to coerce women into doing things that they didn't want to do. Weinstein's habitual treatment of younger, less-powerful women is appalling. Appalling, further, is his attempt to rope the rest of us in as his acolytes at the temple of his own sin.

With his imploring of "you guys" to show him some sympathy, Weinstein attempts to rope the rest of us into his sick world, to give him some cover for stuff that we abhor.

As the American psychologist Dr Joe Kert wrote in a thoughtful article on the Psychology Today website this week, "Harvey Weinstein is not a sex addict — he is someone engaging in non-consensual and exploitative behaviour."

The list of big names who have claimed to suffer from sex addiction is a fairly long one. It includes the likes of Russell Brand, Tiger Woods, Ozzy Osbourne and Michael Douglas. No doubt their embrace of the term was aimed in part at getting them out of the desert of public scrutiny. It is an ameliorating term in that it examines the impact of their misdeeds. But however ordinary the aforementioned blokes were in terms of their fidelity to their spouses or partners, none of them was ever accused of what Weinstein has allegedly been doing.

It's for this reason his attempt to hide behind this made-up "illness" is so transparent and desperate, and why his attempts to roll the rest of us in as his accomplices in his spectrum of conduct, should be dismissed as the latest brand of opportunism by a pedophile who doesn't have a leg to stand on.

hope that sanity can prevail in parliaments

Victorian debate, opponents tried to kill off the bill by introducing an unprecedented number of amendments. The state's health minister was also left red-faced when she accidentally sent a text message to her party's deputy calling him a "c***.

But, as the hours ticked by, Victorian MPs proved that they were more than capable of handling a difficult debate and dealing with this decision on their own.

Continuing this decision to parliamentary chambers has meant that any community debate over voluntary-assisted suicide has been relatively free of the bitterness shown in the same-sex marriage campaign. Some will argue that these two issues are incompatible, that one is about the right to marry who you want while the other is about whether we have a duty to kill. But both reforms represent a great societal change and trigger similar arguments from campaigners.

In both debates proponents argue that an individual's freedom to marry who they want or die the way they want should not be impacted by government or someone else's moral and ethical code.

Liberal frontbencher David Morris summarised this argument in Parliament when he said, "Parliament simply has to place in this state. The Parliament determined who people should shop who they could sleep with and many other things. But those days are gone, and those laws are gone."

As with some sex marriage, opponents of assisted suicide also use the slippery slope argument, pointing to cases where euthanasia rates have increased following legalisation. During debate in the South Australian parliament, Liberal MP Adrian Pedder even linked voluntary euthanasia with mass killings in Nazi Germany.

But these arguments, whether you believe them or not, have not been confined to Parliament — where they belong.

While Australians still have another three weeks to wait before a result in the same-sex marriage survey, the voluntary assisted dying debate proves that Parliament is the best forum to resolve these issues.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (right) embraces Health Minister Jill Hennessy after the euthanasia bill was passed.
Harvey Weinstein scandal: More women come forward

Jayme Deerwester and Maria Puente

Power lawyer Gloria Allred has brought forth a new Harvey Weinstein accuser, former actress Heather Kerr, 56, who claims Weinstein exposed himself to her and told her she had to sleep with him and other Hollywood producers and directors in order to succeed in the industry.

Kerr said Weinstein told her that is "how Hollywood works" when she met him alone at a Westwood office to discuss how he could help her acting career.
Harvey Weinstein has said little publicly since the scandal broke two weeks ago. Photo: AP

"He had this sly, sleazy smile on his face ... I started to get a sick feeling in my stomach," she recalled. "The next thing I knew he had unzipped his fly and pulled out his penis ... He then grabbed my hand and pulled me towards him and forced my hand onto his penis and held it there. I was frozen with fear, trying to remain calm."

Weinstein then "spelled it out" for her, Kerr recounted. "He told me that this was how things worked in Hollywood and that ALL of the actresses that had made it, had made it THIS way."

She fled the room as quickly and as gracefully as possible; three days later, she quit her job with an entertainment business manager and gave up pursuing an acting career.

"I have told parts of this story to only a very few people over the years," Kerr said at a press conference on Friday. "I felt so powerless because he is very powerful and very well known ... and very successful. I didn't think anyone would believe me. I was nobody. Why would they believe me?"

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Geiss said that Weinstein masturbated in front of her in a bathtub without her consent in 2008. She left the film industry in the year after the encounter.

Allred, who said she's been contacted by "numerous" women since last week, said she has no doubt that many women in Hollywood have been "forced to degrade themselves" to get ahead, or, like Kerr, give up their dreams.

"Well, no more. That may be the way it was. It is not the way it will be in the future, because Harvey, you and others like you are done," Allred said, reading from a statement. "The balance of power has shifted in Hollywood. There have been and will continue to be serious career, financial and potentially criminal consequences for men who sexually harass women."

Allred already represents former screenwriter and actress Louisette Geiss, who appeared with her at a press conference last week to allege that Weinstein masturbated in front of her in a bathtub without her consent in 2008. The experience led her to leave the industry, and she now works in real estate, she told reporters.

Lawyer David Ring, who specialises in representing women in sex–abuse cases, met with a mob of reporters on Friday but declined to disclose much about his client, a 36–year–old Italian woman whose accusation that Weinstein raped her in 2013 is now being investigated.
in part inspired by the other accusers of Weinstein, he said, "but there were other factors as well."

Ring's client's accusation is significant because the alleged crime would fall within California's 10-year statute of limitations in effect at the time, and possibly could lead to a prosecution.

"This is what they would describe as 'within statute,' so if they determine that a crime occurred, then a person can be charged with a crime," Ring said. "My role is to cooperate with the LAPD to make sure this lady is treated properly. The number one priority is the criminal investigation in this case."

Weinstein denies any allegations of non-consensual contact with women. He has said little publicly since the scandal broke two weeks ago.

USA Today
MOST VIEWED TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

The Cranberries lead singer O'Riordan dead at 46

Antari piece a gift to anyone who wants to derail #MeToo

Dolores O'Riordan's life full of 'ups as well as downs'

Nine walks away from major NRL Foxy Show shakeup

Fan film Voldemort: Origins of the Heir goes viral

Wallaby in custody after bouncing over Sydney Harbour Bridge

NSW train workers to strike for 24 hours over pay dispute

Father hires helicopter in frantic bid to find missing son

Five cars and two trucks in fatal crash near Dubbo

The Cranberries lead singer O'Riordan dead at 46

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Illegitimate son battles his way into Dutch royal family

US player blasted for on-court sledge

Dramatic arrest after man rams police car near MCG

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Program highlights

TUESDAY
THE BLOCK, REALITY, 7.30PM, Nine
This is the episode where three homes have been completed, so open to the public for inspection. In past years streets have shut down to allow thousands of people in, and this year should be no exception. Punters traipse through the carefully staged homes, while teams quibble over their pais carpets and Fragey accessories. Shelley Craft, right, and Scott Cam are there. It's quite a logistical exercise with contestants on hand to meet and greet. One for the fans.

WEDNESDAY
ROSEHAVEN, DRAMA, 9.65PM, ABC
Season two of this Tasmania-set comedy promises to be as beautifully awkward and odd as the first. Daniel (Lachlan MacGregor) still hasn't sold a house, which is a problem for the wannabe real estate agent. Instead he's settling rental squabbles with help from suddenly confident Emma (Celia Pacquola).

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2, DRAMA, 8.30PM, Foxtel
The final serving in the five-part Twilight saga. Bella (Kristen Stewart) is about to get married to Edward (Robert Pattinson). She's growing up fast, and her status as a semi-mortal has her in danger.

THURSDAY
THE EX-PM, COMEDY, 8.30PM, ABC
From the ABC's last bite-size comedy political comedy, Utopia, will surely bubble up series two of The Ex-PM, starring Jane McElwain. This series sees Dagdale attempting to re-enter parliament running on a marginal rural seat.

AMERICAN DAD, COMEDY, 9.30PM, MATV
"Sometimes you just need to check your brain, and settle for a bit of American Dad." Tonight's episode sees the family competing on a version of The Amazing Race. Bryan (Cary Elwes) and Phil (Harry O'Callahan) play themselves.

BOSCH, DRAMA, 9.35PM, SBS
"You are your own worst enemy," says the DA to Harry Bosch in tonight's episode. And my God — ain't that the truth. All hell's broken loose, as news that Bosch is a murder suspect hits the media. His colleagues are desperate to keep him out of the controversy — and save their case.

FRIDAY
THE SECRET LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA
LONDON, 7.30PM, SBS
"Queen Victoria was a fascinating person. Who knew she as a drug-taking, party-loving Royal?" Newfound respect, ma lady. With the film Victoria and Abdul out now, this makes interesting background.

ANIMAL KINGDOM, DRAMA, 8.30PM, SBS
This gritty crime-drama makes the Underbelly TV franchise look like a gentle cartoon. Animal Kingdom leaves viewers both impressed and distressed by what they see, with a story that centres on a clan of low-rent Melbourne crooks who are forced to pay a heavy price for their actions.

SATURDAY
VICTORIA, DRAMA, 7.30PM, ABC
Some border-ringing fun here for those missing their fix of Downtown Abbey. The Crown. Jenna Coleman plays an eighteen-year-old Victoria who has just become Queen, much to the horror of her mother, the Duchess of Kent, who would like the job herself. Victoria spends her days with the PM Lord Melbourne (Rutland Sewell, above with Coleman) but are they getting a little too close? This is the first of seven episodes. Talk had.

CHAPPIE, MOVIE, 10PM, SEVEN
In the near future, crime is patrolled by an oppressive mechanized police force. But now, the people are fighting back. When a young cop is knocked out, he is taken into an experimental turn screen program which allows human emotion to fall into the hands of crooks who want to exploit the machine for their own ends. He becomes a powerful, but unpredictable new weapon. Even he doesn't know that this. Also stars Dev Patel, Sigourney Weaver and Sigourney Weaver.

ADDED CONTENTS

HOLLY BYRNS

DEPENDING on which name you read on Google, it was either Harvard psychologist Timothy Leary as Hollywood scenarist Marilyn Monroe who once said: "Women who seek equality to men lack ambition."

After the last week in Australian television, the next time you read that quote on an Instagram post or quotation, it could well be attributed to Lisa Wilkinson.

With an accent up her sleeve in the form of the most lucrative contract for any person ever man or woman — Australian television, the former newsreader recently had her Nine bosses for jokers, after they balked at matching her pay with that of co-star Karl Stefanovic.

In a deal that made headlines around the world, the 45-year-old, one-time magazine editor emerged with a new salary package estimated at $3.5 million for appearances on The Project, its now Sunday series and other programs still to be announced, as well as contentious third-party deals with digital masthead The Huffington Post and other websites likely to follow her "every woman" brand from Nine to Ten.

For Australia's third-creating network, pushed to the brink of bankruptcy earlier this year, it was a bold move, positioning Ten in front for a first at a debt-free recovery in 2015. Studio 10 presenters are the trio, a monitor to Wilkinson and media woman who built her career on playing man at their own game, and "What Olivia Wilkinson has done for Ten in that Channel 10 is for the long bad. People who thought perhaps this network was struggling should think again. This is a station that's got plans and they will reveal what those are at the up-and-coming net- work's annual program show- case on November 9, but it clearly shows you Ten is alive and well."

New CBS owners, led by chairman and chief executive Les Moonves, would be delighted with their president's flag-waving, ahead of the $70 billion US network's take- over of Ten next month.

On a feminist note, but note Wilkinson's move speaks volumes of broader changes in media, where women are "finding their voice again'.

Using the same technology that has changed the TV landscape — both in terms of content and how we consume it — female filmmakers, activists, authors and anyone with something to say are finding a way to amplify their ambitions to a global audience; once dictated to by largely male studio executives, who controlled the distribution, media corporations and their culture.

Lisa Wilkinson is豪华ng all the way to the bank after her deal with Channel 10.

"We will be a voice until this stops. Not one more. "It stops here." It follows a year in TV that has made hits of female-driven dianos including Margaret Atwood's Handmaid's Tale and Big Little Lies, an adap- tation of a best-selling Australian novel starring Nicole Kidman as a wealthy woman keeping secret her sexual viol- ence in her seemingly perfect marriage.

Harry Weinstein has been shunned by Hollywood.

"It stops here." It follows a year in TV that has made hits of female-driven dianos including Margaret Atwood's Handmaid's Tale and Big Little Lies, an adap- tation of a best-selling Australian novel starring Nicole Kidman as a wealthy woman keeping secret her sexual viol- ence in her seemingly perfect marriage.
Weinstein's fashion world connections provided a 'pipeline to women'

Daniel Miller, Meg James and Kim Christensen

It was the kind of evening Zoe Brock was accustomed to, an intimate dinner party at an Art Deco hotel on a waterfront avenue in Cannes. The Australian model was ushered to an empty seat at a long table on a lush patio overlooking a swimming pool.

She didn't recognise the man seated next to her, but would quickly find out he was Harvey Weinstein, a brusque American producer in town for the film festival.

That first encounter of champagne and small talk would end in a much less elegant fashion hours later in a hotel room, where Weinstein stood before Brock naked and solicited a massage. She said she locked herself in a bathroom to escape him.

Still shaken by that night in 1998, Brock believes the events were set in motion by men connected to Weinstein.

Harvey Weinstein with wife Georgina Chapman in 2012. Photo: Andy Kropa/AP

Donna Karan apologises (properly) for defending Weinstein

How fashion has been shaken by Weinstein allegations

"Someone put me there next to him – that was on purpose. I am pretty sure that there are a lot of people that would like to sit next to Harvey Weinstein," said Brock, 43, who was represented by a Milanese modeling agency at the time. "So why was it me?"

Weinstein, 65, is best known for his pioneering career in the independent film industry, but over the last two decades he has also carved out a significant business in fashion – executive producing the television show *Project Runway*, investing in the clothing brand Halston, and backing the high-end womenswear company Marchesa, which was co-founded by his wife, former model Georgina Chapman. The foray generated a profitable television franchise, lucrative partnerships and cachet among the global jet set.

But that success was only one of the benefits for Weinstein. In interviews with the *Los Angeles Times*, nearly a dozen people with ties to the industry – including models, casting directors, publicists and executives connected to *Project Runway* – said that he used fashion as a pipeline to women. They said that models, oftentimes young and working overseas far from home, were particularly vulnerable.

In addition to Brock, more than 10 other former or current fashion models – including Cara Delevingne and Angie Everhart – have accused Weinstein of a wide range of sexual misconduct.

Anna Wintour's Vogue magazine was soon featuring Marchesa in its pages. Photo: Andy Kreps

In a previously unreported incident, former Brazilian model Juliana De Paula told the *Los Angeles Times* that Weinstein groped her and forced her to kiss other models that he had taken to his loft in New York a decade ago. When she tried to leave, she said, he chased her
through the apartment, naked. She fended him off with a broken glass.

"He looked at me and he started to laugh," she recalled. "I was shocked. I was completely in disbelief."

Another model, Samantha Panagrosso, said Weinstein made unwanted sexual advances toward her during the Cannes Film Festival in 2003. When Weinstein began touching her legs under the water at a hotel pool and she rebuffed him, he pointed to another model, she recalled in an interview with the Times. "Look at her, I'm going to have her come to my room for a screen test," she said Weinstein told her.

When Panagrosso told friends about his continuing advances, she said, they laughed it off: "Sam, don't be so naive, you know Harvey can make you a star."

Since the New York Times and the New Yorker first wrote about Weinstein's alleged assaults earlier this month, more than 50 women have come forward to describe their experiences, and he has been fired by Weinstein Co., the indie studio he co-founded in 2005 that has released films including The King's Speech.

Six women have accused Weinstein of rape or forcible sex acts, and he is under investigation for sexual assault in Los Angeles, New York and London.

Weinstein has entered counselling and apologised for some of his behaviour. But, through his spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister, Weinstein has "unequivocally denied" any allegations of nonconsensual sex. As for the accounts of Brock and Panagrosso, Hofmeister said, "Their recollection of events differs from that of Mr Weinstein."

Weinstein's transformation into a fashion player was an unlikely turn for a movie producer at the zenith of his career.
collected dozens of Oscars, including best picture awards for *The English Patient* and *Shakespeare in Love*. Weinstein had garnered a reputation for his bullying tactics and aggressive Academy Awards campaigns in pursuit of the gold statuette that burnished his reputation as a kingpin of prestige films.

He was also among a growing wave of major movie producers to expand into television. His *Project Greenlight* documented the travails of would-be filmmakers and made a splash when it launched on HBO in 2001.

Also around this time, the fashion world was being buffeted by change. Glossy magazines, such as *Vogue* and *Elle*, were putting A-list Hollywood actresses on their covers because they helped sell more copies than lesser-known fashion models. For high-end magazine publishers—and for models aspiring to break into Hollywood—Weinstein had the right connections.

And he thrived on being at the nexus of culture.

"For these powerful people, the most seductive currency is the one they do not own," said a current business associate of Weinstein. "He used his Hollywood connections, which reflected well in fashion and in television—and even politics."

It wasn’t long before the former fashion novice was just as much a fixture at New York Fashion Week as he was on the red carpet of Hollywood movie premieres.

Interviews with six people connected with Weinstein’s cable television show *Project Runway* help shed light on his fascination with fashion. These individuals declined to be identified, partly because of ongoing business ties to the Weinstein Co.

They said the success of *Project Greenlight* had increased Weinstein’s appetite for television—and what he wanted more than anything was a program that featured fashion models.

Weinstein’s spokeswoman said that *Project Runway* was developed as a replacement for *Project Greenlight*, which was ending its run—and not as a vehicle to meet women. He simply thought it was a good idea for a television show, Hofmeister said.

In the foreword of the 2012 book *Project Runway*, Weinstein wrote that he has "always been intrigued and inspired by the creative process."

"I have learned along the way that talent can come from anywhere," he wrote.

In the early 2000s, Weinstein introduced his Miramax executives to a German fashion model, Daniela Unruh, who was in her early 20s at the time, saying she had an idea for a reality show. Unruh pitched a program called *Model Apartment*, which would follow a group of models living together.

Executives were skeptical that such a show would be compelling, but optioned Unruh’s idea for a token amount—about US$8,000, according to one former Miramax employee. Unruh receives modest royalties from *Project Runway*.
Her concept was retooled to focus on fashion designers competing for their big break. Development of the show gained traction when supermodel Heidi Klum signed on, but the process was slow – and Weinstein was growing impatient.

"He kept asking: 'Where's my model show?'" recalled a former employee. "He wouldn't drop it."

Fearful of Weinstein's reaction – because the show featured designers with sewing machines and not models – the producers figured they needed to amp up the participation of beautiful women. The producers concocted an awkward competition within the show that allowed designers to pick the model they found most appealing, which resulted in aspiring models, occasionally in tears, being dismissed.

"That was designed as a vestigial element for Harvey," the television executive said.

*Project Runway* launched in 2004, and over the course of its 16-season run, more than 200 models have appeared, according to the Internet Movie Database. The hit program grew into one of Weinstein's most lucrative franchises.

And he eventually got his model-themed reality show on Lifetime: *Models of the Runway*, which lasted just two seasons.

But after dozens of women came forward this month to discuss Weinstein's alleged misconduct, his name was quickly stripped from the credits of *Project Runway*.

The same year that *Project Runway* debuted, Weinstein met his future wife.

Weinstein encountered Chapman, a British model and costume designer, at a party in New York in 2004, not long after he split from his first wife, Eve Chilton Weinstein, according to various published reports. Weinstein was in his early 50s and Chapman in her late 20s when they began to date.

That year she also co-founded the Marchesa fashion brand with Keren Craig, her longtime friend and classmate at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Weinstein worked behind the scenes to help them launch their label – again expanding his reach deeper into the fashion world.

*Vogue* was soon featuring the New York-based company's clothes in its pages. Weinstein also asked actresses to wear Marchesa gowns to big award shows and events.

Within months, Renee Zellweger, fresh off winning a supporting-actress Oscar for *Cold Mountain*, strolled the red carpet in a strapless Marchesa dress at the London premiere of the Miramax-distributed *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. A procession of Weinstein-connected stars soon followed, among them Cate Blanchett, Scarlett Johansson and Felicity Huffman.

Marchesa's meteoric rise raised eyebrows – and questions about what accounted for it.

"Marchesa's breathtaking success has the fashion world talking – and
Weinstein's fashion world connections provided a 'pipeline to women'

Competitors complained that stars were Marchesa on the red carpet because they - and their agents, managers and lawyers - needed to please the powerful Weinstein.

"Now we have Harvey Weinstein married to the designer, who is able to put her dresses on... anybody in Hollywood," said Julia Samersova, a former modeling agent who works as a casting director in New York.

"Yes, it is really that simple. Who is going to say no to the wife of Harvey Weinstein?"

This week, amid the rapidly unfolding sex scandal, the actress Huffman confirmed, via her publicist, that Weinstein did demand that she wear Marchesa gowns at public appearances. But the publicist denied reports that he had threatened to withhold funding from her 2005 movie Transamerica.

Chapman, in an interview for the 2006 Times story, laughed off any suggestion that Weinstein was Marchesa's guiding force. "If anybody looks at how Harvey dresses, they realise he doesn't have terribly much to do with designing," she said.

Neither Chapman nor Craig responded to requests for comment.

In 2007, Weinstein expanded his fashion holdings: Weinstein Co. and HIlco Consumer Capital bought Halston, the once-venerable American fashion house that had fallen on hard times. Weinstein became a member of the company's board, and Jimmy Choo co-founder Tamara Mellon and actress Sarah Jessica Parker also got involved in the revival effort. But Halston soon foundered, and Weinstein departed the venture in 2011.

Some in the business, like Fern Mallis, the former executive director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, have now sought to downplay Weinstein's role in the industry - while also expressing support for Marchesa's founders.

"I'm appalled like everyone else about his behaviour and support all the brave women speaking out," Mallis said. "He was not an 'influence' in the fashion industry, and I feel very bad for Georgina and Keren, who are very talented designers and built a terrific business with Marchesa."

Other industry power players with ties to Weinstein have also denounced him, including Vogue editor Anna Wintour, and designer Tom Ford, whose 2009 film "A Single Man" was distributed by Weinstein Co.

Chapman, 41, has announced she is leaving Weinstein and will focus on caring for their two children.

While the fashion industry proved lucrative for Weinstein and burnished his reputation as a tastemaker, it also filled his world with even more young, beautiful women.

Several women who have publicly accused Weinstein of misconduct described incidents in which he used his fashion business ties and

ownership of *Project Runway* as enticements or pretexts for meetings.

Former aspiring actress Lucia Evans told the *New Yorker* that Weinstein said during a meeting that she'd "be great in *Project Runway*" before allegedly forcing her to perform oral sex. Model Ambra Bartilana Gutierrez's 2015 meeting with Weinstein began with discussions of her working as a lingerie model before he allegedly grabbed her breasts and put his hand up her skirt, according to the *New York Times*.

In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, a television actress claimed that when she rebuffed Weinstein's advances about a decade ago — saying that she had nothing suitable to wear to events he wanted to take her to, including the Cannes Film Festival — he would tell her that he could deliver 10 Marchesa dresses.

Separately, a former British model said that when Weinstein was pursuing her about a decade ago in London, he persuaded her to switch modelling agencies to a higher-profile one where he had connections. She also said he suggested he could help her launch an acting career. "The whole thing was a control thing," said the woman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity over concerns about repercussions from discussing the matter.

This sort of behaviour is not new to the fashion and entertainment industries, which are plagued by a culture of exploitation, said Victoria Keon-Cohen, a model who spearheaded a unionising effort a decade ago in London and is now a filmmaker.

"There's a very dominant feeling of favours for work," she said, adding that this is especially the case in fashion, where "very vulnerable young girls and boys are trying to advance their careers."

Brock, the fashion model from Australia, travelled to Cannes in 1998 at the invitation of her Italian agent. Fresh off of working Paris Fashion Week, Brock, then 24, was eager to network.

Over dinner at the Majestic Hotel, Brock said she and Weinstein had "a really good conversation", chatting about a mutual friend — a female director whose film Miramax had recently distributed. "It felt like Harvey was family," she said.

Eventually, some in the dinner group made their way to the Hotel du Cap Eden-Roc, a luxury property 30 minutes away where Weinstein had a suite. Brock said she soon found herself alone in the room with Weinstein.

Before long, Weinstein was naked and pleaded with her for a massage, Brock said. When she declined, Brock said, he asked to give her one. "I relented and let him touch my back and shoulders," she said. "But I couldn't handle his hands on me, so I bolted out of there, and bolted into the bathroom and locked the door."

She still had to ride back to Cannes with Weinstein. On the way, an apologetic Weinstein offered to make Brock "a star" and be her "Rock of Gibraltar", she said.

That night, she called her mother and actor Rufus Sewell, who stars on Amazon Studios' *The Man in the High Castle* to tell him what...
Weinstein’s fashion world connections provided a ‘pipeline to women’

When she finally made her way back to the yacht where she was staying around 5:30 a.m., she said, she felt - and looked - like "a whore".

"I was wearing yesterday’s dress, with yesterday’s makeup, and messed hair," she said. "Having to crawl back into the boat looking like that made me look like the sort of person who would have slept with Harvey Weinstein to further my career. And I am not that person."

Nearly a decade later and halfway around the world, another former model experienced an upsetting encounter with Weinstein.

One night in 2007, De Paula and some model friends were introduced to Weinstein during a karaoke party at the lounge above Cipriani Downtown, a buzzy Italian restaurant in Manhattan.

Soon, a plan was hatched to go to Weinstein’s loft in Soho, said De Paula, who previously modelled in Brazil and has since had other jobs in fashion, including as a manager of a photography studio in New York.

Once Weinstein, De Paula and three models were inside the elevator, he began fondling the women’s breasts and making them kiss each other, De Paula said. "Forcing. Like putting both heads together," she said.

She said the women tried to resist, but were "embarrassed" and unsure of how to fend him off. The elevator opened inside Weinstein’s residence, and he began disrobing. "My (alarm) bells rang," she said. "It was, oh my gosh, this is not going to be fun at all."

De Paula said that Weinstein ushered the three models into his bedroom, but she ran into the adjoining bathroom. She heard at least one woman yell "stop" multiple times, but didn’t have a clear view of the bedroom.

After a while, De Paula said, she fled the bathroom, ran through the bedroom and into the kitchen. A nude Weinstein followed her there, she said.

"He was moving toward me. I got scared, and I was afraid," De Paula said.

She reached for a wine glass, broke it, brandished it, and gave Weinstein an ultimatum: "You let me out of here right now, or this is going to have serious consequences."

She said Weinstein, laughing, asked, "Are you serious?" before allowing her to depart.

The next day, De Paula told her then-roommate about the alleged episode with Weinstein. The roommate told the Times that he remembered the conversation, recalling a "distressed" De Paula describing the events at Weinstein’s loft.

"Mr. Weinstein says the story is a fabrication," said Weinstein.
A few months after the alleged incident, De Paula went to a December 5 concert at Cipriani Wall Street where Aretha Franklin performed. Weinstein's attendance was noted in a news release recapping the event.

"He came up to me, super nice — it seemed like it was somebody else," said De Paula, who now lives in Brazil. "I didn't have the courage to look at him. I looked down." Weinstein asked for her phone number. She declined.

As with Hollywood, the Weinstein scandal has prompted the fashion industry to ponder how women are treated and whether it is doing enough to protect vulnerable participants.

Several people interviewed for this article acknowledged that Weinstein had, for years, a poor reputation in the fashion business, but little if anything was ever done to spotlight this. Some are hoping for big changes. On Tuesday, the Model Alliance, a nonprofit trade group, issued a statement saying, "No person should tolerate any sort of unwanted or inappropriate conduct, nor should our industry."

Brock said that she hopes her personal story about Weinstein might help spur change in the business.

"I hope that from this moment on, young girls, from every country, start to value themselves as more than the objects the industry has always treated them as," she said.

The Los Angeles Times

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Harvey Weinstein assistants go public with explosive allegations

from Declan and Jake Ceyle

Two assistants who worked for Harvey Weinstein have gone public with explosive allegations, accusing their former boss of sexual assault and harassment.

A former US production assistant has said the disgraced movie mogul sexually assaulted her after she repeatedly refused his advances.

Another Weinstein accuser steps forward

WARNING GRAPHIC CONTENT: A former production assistant describes an alleged serious assault at the hands of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Mimi Haleyi told a press conference in New York that Weinstein had forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006. She was in her 20s at the time, according to her lawyer Gloria Allred.

Haleyi described the alleged assault in graphic detail, telling reporters how the Hollywood giant held her down at his New York apartment in what she said appeared to be a child's bedroom.
"He was extremely persistent and physically overpowering," said Haleyi. "I was mortified."

Haleyi said she first met Weinstein at the London premiere of *The Aviator* in 2004. She encountered him again at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006. She expressed interest in working on one of his films and he invited her to his hotel room and asked for a massage.

Haleyi refused, replying, "No sorry, I'm not a masseuse," and suggesting he instead contact hotel reception.

More meetings followed, though, including an invitation from Haleyi to attend a fashion show in Paris. She worked as a production assistant on a Weinstein Company-produced television series, though she and Allred declined to name the show.

The alleged incident occurred at Weinstein's Soho apartment. Haleyi tried to fight off his advances, according to the *LA Times*, and even tried to deter him by saying she was menstruating.

"I would not have wanted anyone to do that to me, even if that person had been a romantic partner," she said.

"I remember Harvey rolling over and saying, 'Don't you feel like we're so much closer now?'"

Allred, who is representing other women who have made allegations against Weinstein, declined to say whether Haleyi will file criminal or civil charges.

Dozens of women have claimed Weinstein sexually harassed them and several have accused Weinstein of rape.

Among those who have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment are Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow. Actress Rose McGowan recently went public with her allegation after reaching a settlement with

Weinstein in 1997. Italian filmmaker and actress Asia Argento and one-time aspiring actress Lucia Evans told The New Yorker that Weinstein sexually assaulted them by forced oral sex.

Representatives for Weinstein did not immediately comment on Tuesday. Weinstein, who is staying in an Arizona rehabilitation facility, has previously denied any non-consensual sexual encounters.

Another assistant - a former British employee - has broken a non-disclosure agreement she signed in October 1998 in order to also speak out about her own alleged sexual harassment.

Zelda Perkins, who worked for Miramax in London, told the Financial Times she shared a $422,700 payment with another woman who said she was sexually assaulted by Weinstein.

Perkins, who waived her right to anonymity, said Weinstein had repeatedly sexually harassed her, starting when he asked her to massage him while he was in his underwear.

"I want to publicly break my non-disclosure agreement," she told the newspaper, running the risk of legal action against her.

"Unless somebody does this there won't be a debate about how egregious these agreements are and the amount of duree that victims are put under."

She said her first experience of harassment was when he asked her to massage him while he was wearing just his underwear, which she declined to do but his behaviour continued.

"But this was his behaviour on every occasion I was alone with him," she said.

"I often had to wake him up in the hotel in the mornings and he would try to pull me into bed."

The 65-year-old is the subject of criminal investigations in London, Los Angeles and New York as well as a civil rights investigation in the US.

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Harvey Weinstein sues for emails he says may exonerate him

Chris Dolmetsch

Harvey Weinstein says he can help the film studio he co-founded clear itself of alleged wrongdoing if he can just get a hold of his own personnel file and emails he wrote on the job.

The beleaguered movie producer sued the Weinstein Co. on Thursday to force it to turn over records that it refused this month to provide to his lawyers.

How Ashley Judd escaped Weinstein's room
The actress tells ABC America's Diane Sawyer of the deal she struck with Harvey Weinstein to get out of his hotel room, in her first interview since publicly accusing him of sexual harassment.

Weinstein, 65, was fired from his post as chief executive officer of the company three weeks ago after the New York Times and the New Yorker published accounts in which several women accused him of sexual harassment and rape. He has denied any non-consensual sexual activity.

'I just fled': Ashley Judd gives first TV interview about her Harvey Weinstein encounter

Stephanie Merry

Ashley Judd was tearful but self-assured in her first interview since publicly accusing Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment.

"I didn’t expect that I would feel tearful, but it’s been an absolutely, tremendously moving two-and-a-half or three weeks," Judd, wearing a bracelet that read "unstoppable", told told Diane Sawyer on Good Morning America.

How Ashley Judd escaped Weinstein's room

The actress tells ABC America’s Diane Sawyer of the deal she struck with Harvey Weinstein to get out of his hotel room, in her first interview since publicly accusing him of sexual harassment.

Before the story ran, the actress wasn’t sure anyone would believe her or care. Instead, more than 60 women have come forward with similar claims against Weinstein that paint him as a sexual predator who used business meetings as an excuse to lure women to his hotel room, where he would often disrobe and try to calole them into...
massages or force them into sexual acts.

Judd broke the dam on the Weinstein allegations. When the *New York Times* dropped its shocker of an article on Oct. 5 about the industry titan paying off accusers for decades, her account led the story; she was the highest-profile star at that point to come forward.

After her claims - not to mention the even more troubling allegations from other women in the *New Yorker* story the following week - more A-listers, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, emerged with their own accusations against Weinstein.

During an interview for that initial *Times* story, Judd said, "Women have been talking about Harvey amongst ourselves for a long time, and it's simply beyond time to have the conversation publicly."

Coming forward wasn't a decision Judd made lightly. She did so during a run, she told Sawyer, which is when she tends to get clarity. Then she went home and told her parents. According to Judd, her mother, country music star Naomi Judd, said, "Go get him."

Judd reminisced about the day that Weinstein allegedly tried to bully her to bend to his will two decades ago.
Still fairly new in Hollywood, she went to his hotel, where she believed she would be meeting him on the patio to talk shop. Instead, the concierge informed her the producer was waiting for her in his room. She hadn’t heard any negative rumours about Weinstein at that point, but alarm bells went off. She went upstairs anyway, though, because, "I had a business appointment."

Once inside the hotel room, Weinstein started pressuring her, she said, first asking to give her a massage, then trying to get her to give him one.

"There’s this constant grooming negotiation going on," she said. "I fought with this volley of no’s, which he ignored. Who knows? Maybe he heard them as maybe, maybe he heard them as yeses, maybe they turned him on."

She also claimed that Weinstein steered her into a hallway near a looer, where he tried to get her to help him pick out his suit for the day. Then he suggested they go into the bathroom, just ahead of them, so she could watch him shower.

She finally got out of the room by making a deal, according to her account, saying that she would relent when she won an Oscar in one of his movies.

"And he was like, ‘Yeah, when you get nominated,’ and I said, ‘No, when I win an Oscar,’" she said. "And then I just fled."

She’s been over that day in her mind many times since, wondering if she did the right thing.

"Am I proud of that?" she said. "I’m of two minds - the part that shames myself says, ‘No.’ The part of me that understands the way shame works says, ‘That was absolutely brilliant. Good job, kid. You got out of there. Well done.’"

She told her parents about what had happened to her, not to mention Hollywood agents and actors. But, as with other similar alleged
incidents, there were no repercussions for Weinstein. If Judd had come forward back then, she questions whether anyone would have believed her.

Sawyer also showed Judd a photo from the 1997 Vanity Fair Oscar party, which Weinstein released after the New York Times story dropped. It shows a smiling young Judd standing beside Weinstein. The implication from Weinstein's camp was that this was evidence Judd and the producer were close friends.

"Ick!" Judd said upon seeing the picture. Of another photo from the same event, in which Weinstein is clutching Judd's hand, the actress said: "The look on my face is abject terror... I feel for that 28 or 29-year-old woman."

Judd also alleged that in 1999, Weinstein reminded her of their "agreement". He told her he had the script that would win her that Oscar. By then, though, "I had come into my own, I had come into my power, I had found my voice," she said. "And I was coming right at him, Diane."

Weinstein could sense it, she said, so he told her he would let her out of the deal.

"And I said, 'You do that, Harvey,'" according to Judd. "And he has spat my name at me ever since."

Judd went on to star in two movies with his studio, but she doesn't remember him being on set.

Sawyer asked Judd what she would say if the two were to meet now. She'll never forgive what he did to so many, she said, and she believes he belongs in jail if he did, in fact, rape women. But she had a surprisingly forgiving message.

"What I would say to Harvey is, 'I love you and I understand that you are sick and suffering, and there is help for a guy like you, too, and it's entirely up to you to get that help,'" she said.

When Sawyer expressed shock at Judd's response, the actress said, "That's just who I am. Frankly, it's just an easier way to roll through the world than the alternative."

Judd is hopeful that this story will finally change abuses of power in Hollywood and beyond.

"This is the moment," she said. "And if we want it to be the moment, it will for sure be the moment."

".@AshleyJudd on Harvey Weinstein encounter: "If I could go back retrospectively with a magic wand...I wish I could prevent it for anyone." pic.twitter.com/sNBoGfjElM"

— Good Morning America (@GMA) October 26, 2017

Washington Post

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What the Weinstein sexual discrimination case taught women: Renee LaBran

Nassim Khadem

The culture of sexual harassment — perpetrated by some of the most powerful men in America — is no longer whispered about.

A torrent of high-profile men — from Silicon Valley’s most well-known entrepreneurs to American film producer Harvey Weinstein — have in recent months been forced to either publicly defend, or apologise for, sexual harassment and/or discrimination against women.

Another Weinstein accuser steps forward

"It’s been a complete shit-show," is how American VC fund manager and entrepreneur Renee LaBran frankly describes it in an interview with Fairfax Media.

LaBran, who is in Melbourne as part of an Australia-wide speaking tour this week, knows first-hand the challenges faced by women.
Weinstein hits out

The New Yorker's investigation has cast a shadow over the company, with multiple allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

Weinstein's lawyer denies the allegations and says his client will fight the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on a 14-year-old model in 1998 and that he had sex with another model who was 17 at the time.

The lawsuit also alleges that Weinstein repeatedly骚扰ed and threatened women who refused to have sex with him.

The lawsuit follows a string of allegations against Weinstein, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 80 women.

Weinstein has denied all allegations.

The case is likely to draw attention to the issue of sexual harassment and assault in the entertainment industry.

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Call to weed out our own Weinstins
Aussies act on Hollywood scandal

THE Australian Directors Guild has taken the extraordinary step of sending a strong message to perpetuators of sexual abuse in the film business with this week's petition.

As the Harvey Weinstein (now) scandal continues to unfold in Hollywood, ADC president Samantha Lang condemned harassment and encouraged victims to speak out.

"It is important the Australian screen industry recognises the problems that have been highlighted by the Weinstein revelations and act in the best interests of the industry," the Australian director said.

The ADC supports all women in the Australian screen industry to come forward and report and abusive or bullying behaviours.

The ADC is the union for directors of film and television in Australia. It has more than 800 local members. Its statement follows the Directors Guild of America at the weekend launching disciplinary proceedings against Weinstein, who has already been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and suspended by BAFTA in the UK.

Last week, veteran journalist Trudy Spicer took to social media to encourage victims of sexual assault and bullying in Australia to contact her and later indicated she had uncovered up to 40 household names in her investigations.

"We recognise that our industry is using the #MeToo hashtag to challenge the code of silence around sexual harassment," the ADC said in its statement.

"We recognise that our role as directors and producers comes with a professional responsibility not to abuse the power dynamics inherent in the relationship."

Actor's a proud Yes man

Castle actor Michael Cation has spoken in support of same-sex marriage. The 74-year-old was speaking ahead of the November 7 closing of the postal vote.

The actor said, "Now get all of these things out of your mind like religious discrimination, this is not about that. This is about people who want to make a commitment to each other."

FROM bottled water to requisites and lingerie to underwear, Jennifer Hawkins has a portfolio of brands behind her that any celebrity would be proud to call her own. Add to that a burgeoning property portfolio which includes multiple properties and 'Brand Jen' is fast-out building her empire well into the future.

So much so that these days you're more likely to read about the multi-million-dollar properties she's bought and sold than what she's wearing.

"It's not something we actively put out there," the Mount Franklin ambassador told Confidential at the launch of their new sparkling water range. "(Husband) Jake is a builder so maybe that's why. But he's the builder, not me. It's nice to watch him, I'll say that."

At 31, Hawkins has remarkably managed to avoid the controversy that plagues celebrities with a profile as big as hers.

"I don't buy into the drama," she said. "My life is very casual, it's not as glamorous as everyone thinks."

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Rachael Finch

Much more to a healthy life than it appears

MODEL and mum Rachael Finch wants Aussies to stop focusing on their external physique.

Fiercely signed as an ambassador for Melissa NCT Health products, Finch said she, like many Aussies, was a victim of "physical health misconception."

"I think initially when people think about their fitness, they speed up the loco and pump out until all day every day. They get into an aesthetic-driven idea of fitness," Finch said.

"I think it is more about a holistic feeling of health and existing."

Finch is now juggling two children and her work after the birth of her son Dominic. She said she and husband, Mitch, are blessed to have the help and support of her family and friends.

"We are lucky to have the help," Finch said. "Mother goes to her grandson's (Mitch's mother) quite a lot."

Finch is also giving up for a jam-packed Springle Racing Carnival after kicking off the season at the TAB Everest Day in Sydney, which will be great to be back together with gang," she said.
Another actress accuses Harvey Weinstein of rape

**New York:** Sopranos actress Annabella Sciorra is alleging she was raped by Harvey Weinstein after he barged his way into her apartment in the 1990s.

Daryl Hannah, best known for her starring roles in films *Blade Runner* and *Splash* is also speaking out, saying the movie mogul once tried to force his way into her hotel room.

Annabella Sciorra told *The New Yorker* that Weinstein raped her in the 1990s. Photo: AP

The actresses were quoted this week in *The New Yorker*.

Sciorra told the magazine that Weinstein had violently raped her in the early 1990s and, over the next several years, sexually harassed her repeatedly.

She said he "shoved" her onto her bed and they had non-consensual sexual intercourse.

Sciorra is best known for her role as Gloria Trillo in the HBO series *The Sopranos* for which she received an Emmy nomination.

Hannah recalled fleeing her hotel room as Weinstein demanded to be let in, and using furniture to barricade herself in her hotel room the following day.

Sciorra and Hannah are the latest in dozens of women who have spoken out against Weinstein.

Allegations range from unwanted advances to rape. He has been ousted from his own company and expelled from the motion picture academy. A Weinstein spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

More than fifty women have now levelled accusations against Weinstein, in accounts published by the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and other outlets.

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Another actress accuses Harvey Weinstein of rape

A DOUBLE AACTA NOD FOR NICOLE

AUSISSE star Nicole Kidman’s year of success continues, with AACTA nominations for her roles in Lion and Top Of The Lake: China Girl. Following BAFTA, Golden Globe and Oscar nominations and an Emmy win in the past 12 months, Kidman is now in the running for two of the biggest awards at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts awards. She is up for best guest or supporting actress in a TV drama for Foxtel’s Top Of The Lake, and best supporting actress in a film for Lion.

Lion received the most AACTA nominations with 12. Kidman recently told The Daily Telegraph she has enjoyed working on Australian projects and hopes to find more roles which would bring her home. She also stars in Aquaman, which was filmed this year on the Gold Coast. The AACTA Awards will be held at The Star Casino on December 6. Top Of The Lake China Girl is in the running for best TV drama series against Cleverman, Glimch, Janet King – Playing Advantage, and Wentworth.

Kidman’s Top Of The Lake co-stars Elisabeth Moss and David Wenham have been nominated for their leading roles in the series, while even Leslie is in the running for best supporting actor. Leslie also goes up against Kidman’s Lion co-star Sunny Pawar for best lead actor in a movie for his role in The Father. Lion’s nominations also include best film, direction, screenplay, and Dev Patel is in the running for best supporting actor.

SYDNEY joins block party

COMEDY star Dave Hughes helped Kyle Knowles and Josh Barker win The Block last night. The radio star bought the couple’s renovated five-bedroom Melbourne house for $1.04 million on Saturday. The price was $447,000 over the $2.6 million reserve, earning them an extra $100,000 in prizemoney.

"It is a brilliant house in a brilliant spot," Hughes said. "The value here is incredible. I reckon. This house will stay in our family forever." (Sydney Confidential P40)

WAGGISHNESS

A new report being released today about the NSW Transport network has been revealed. The report, which is available online, details the state of the network and offers suggestions for improvements.

The report highlights several key areas where the network could be improved. These include congestion management, public transport integration, and the role of technology in improving operations.

The report is part of a broader strategy to improve the state of the network and provide better services to customers. It is hoped that the recommendations will be implemented in the coming years to ensure that the network continues to meet the needs of the community.

The report is available online at the following link: [NSW Transport Network Report]

The report acknowledges the challenges faced by the network and notes that there is a need for ongoing investment in infrastructure and technology to maintain and improve the system.

The recommendations include:

1. Increasing the frequency of services during peak hours to reduce congestion.
2. Improving public transport integration to provide a seamless experience for customers.
3. Implementing technology to improve network performance and customer experience.

The report also highlights the importance of ongoing engagement with customers to ensure that the recommendations are relevant and meet the needs of the community. It is hoped that the recommendations will be implemented in the coming years to ensure that the network continues to meet the needs of the community.

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THE ECONOMIST

Michel Barnier says France is ready to take legal action if the European Union's Covid recovery fund is not approved
Harvey Weinstein offered Rose McGowan $US1m: report

Erin Nyren

MORE

Rose McGowan says Harvey Weinstein, the producer she has accused of rape, offered her $US1 million ($A1.3 million) to sign a non-disclosure agreement on the eve of a devastating expose published this month by the New York Times.

According to the Times, McGowan stated she received the offer through her lawyer in September, and that it came from a source close to Weinstein.

Though McGowan reached a settlement with Weinstein for $US100,000 in 1997, she realised that the contract had not included a confidentiality clause.

"I had all these people I'm paying telling me to take it so that I could fund my art," McGowan told the Times. She said she responded by asking for $US6 million in an effort to slowly torture her alleged abuser.

Steps to take to avoid a culture of harassment

The Weinstein scandal has shone a spotlight on the prevalence of sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry, leading to calls for change. In the wake of this crisis, it is crucial for companies to implement robust policies and procedures to prevent and address harassment.

1. Establish a clear policy: Companies should have a comprehensive policy that defines what constitutes harassment and outlines the steps employees should take if they experience or witness harassment.

2. Provide training: Regular training sessions for employees, managers, and supervisors can help ensure everyone understands the policy and knows how to report incidents.

3. Encourage reporting: It is essential to create an environment where employees feel safe and supported in reporting incidents. This may involve anonymous reporting mechanisms.

4. Conduct investigations: Once an incident is reported, a thorough and impartial investigation should take place. It is important to take all allegations seriously and ensure due process.

5. Take decisive action: If harassment is found to be true, appropriate action should be taken, which may include disciplinary measures, retraining, or even termination.

6. Review and update policies: Regular reviews of harassment policies and procedures can help ensure they remain effective and relevant.

By taking these steps, companies can work towards creating a culture where harassment is not tolerated, and employees feel safe and supported in reporting incidents.
Predatory men crushed my Hollywood dreams

Wendy Dent

It didn't matter what I wore. It didn't matter what I said. It happened in front of people, it happened in private. It happened in producers' hotel rooms. It happened by phone.

It's been dismissed too often as "the casting couch", as if it were something consensual, when it is not. Sexual harassment is not about sex. It is about power. I never had power. Not against the Weinsteins of Hollywood's god-forsaken world. I had hopes and dreams of directing, and I left Hollywood when those hopes were eviscerated, and my dreams left to fade, like every treasured cut-take left on the cutting room floor.

Harassment allegations could 'significantly impact' industry
Charlotte Trigg, senior editor for People Magazine, discusses the sexual harassment, abuse and assault allegations leveled against some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

There are things they don't teach you in film school. One of them is that women in film will hit the glass ceiling as soon as they graduate. You'll think you have opportunities, but you'll be "kissed out the door". And if you're a woman you can expect to take that literally.

I daydream sometimes of the directing job I might have had, if that producer hadn’t given me absinthe and then said to me “f--- me or leave”. Of the movie I would have been in, if my lead role hadn’t been canned after I refused to share the producer’s hotel bed. He’d called me “hotstuff” as if it was my first name, then, when he scheduled the location shoot, booked me into his one-bedroom. It was for budgetary reasons, he said.

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Filmmaker Brett Ratner accused of sexual harassment by six women

I asked an LA lawyer what I should do about another particularly persistent boss expecting more than my talent. Make up that you’ve got a sexually transmitted disease, he told me. Tell him you picked up something in the tropics. It’s not quite healed yet. It was his serious advice. To that LA lawyer, any advice was wiser than rejecting a Hollywood producer.

I asked one male producer what he would do, if he was in that situation. “I’d take one for the team,” he said.

The first time it happened, I was still in film school – a student producer hoping TV presenting on the side might help make ends meet. One of the highest rating TV stars, with a top-rating show in Australia, said he recognised my talent. He said he’d make me a star. Then he asked me to audition for him, topless – for his G-rated TV show. I said no, and decided my TV career was over before it had even begun. I hadn’t even yet completed the first year of my UTS media degree, and I was being sexually harassed.

The worst thing was feeling like I was a failure. What had become of “my brilliant career”? “How can I tell my grandmother?” I couldn’t tell her about the sleazy producers, I just couldn’t.

Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars last year. Photo: AP
What it’s like to watch a Harvey Weinstein movie now

Ann Hornaday

Movie fans, we have a problem. And yo, my dudes – you have an even bigger one.

The past several weeks of allegations regarding systemic sexual abuse in the movie industry, launched by dozens of women accusing Miramax founder Harvey Weinstein of harassment and assault, have created an ethical vortex for movie lovers. How can we watch Shakespeare in Love – the frothy romantic comedy for which Gwyneth Paltrow won an Oscar in 1999 – without conjuring images of Weinstein trying to give her a massage in a hotel room a few years earlier, as Paltrow claimed recently?

How can we blithely accept a fetishistically tricked-out Rose McGowan in the Miramax film Grindhouse if we believe that she felt "shattered" making the film, having accused Weinstein of raping her several years earlier? How can we not cringe watching Mira Sorvino play a thigh-high-booted prostitute (with a heart of gold, natch) in Woody Allen’s Mighty Aphrodite after Sorvino alleges that Weinstein physically imposed himself on her while doing publicity for the film?
This quandary goes beyond the familiar exercise of whether and how to separate the art from the artist—a debate that will continue to rage every time Allen makes a movie or Roman Polanski receives an award. The current challenge is more akin to football fans learning of the severe physical costs of their favourite sport, and deciding whether they can in good conscience still cheer on Sunday-afternoon gladiators knowing they very likely are risking crippling brain injuries every time they take the field.

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Filmmaker Brett Ratner accused of sexual harassment by six women

As a different but no less profound traumatic wound, sexual exploitation and abuse—and the moral injury incurred by witnesses who enabled it or didn’t intervene—raise similar questions regarding the ethics of spectatorship. With every new revelation of the abuse actors, executives and crew people have suffered at the hands of their bosses and colleagues in the movie industry, film fans must reckon with the degree to which they can enjoy a piece of filmed entertainment knowing that it was created in the midst of unspeakable—and, until now, unspoken—suffering.

It’s a particularly pressing problem for the male filmgoers whose ideas of pleasure are both constructed and catered to by the men running Hollywood, where frat-boy humour, guns-as-phallic-symbols and puerile sexuality are as ingrained in the cinematic lexicon as glamorous close-ups and tracking shots. Now they must come to terms with the fact that their cinematic pleasure has all too often been predicated on someone else’s pain.

In the *Los Angeles Times* earlier this week, six women accused the director and producer Brett Ratner of sexual harassment, including two background players who appeared in Ratner’s 2001 movie *Rush Hour 2*. In the midst of a “sexually charged” set populated with women in bikinis and lingerie, Ratner allegedly ran his finger down the stomach of one actress, invited her into the bathroom and implied that he could make her famous if she complied. He allegedly asked another extra to see her breasts, holding out the promise of a speaking role if she cooperated.

**ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER**

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Surviving a miserable film shoot is part of the folklore of auteurism and, when the movie in question turns out to be a classic, it often becomes a badge of honour: recall the macho war stories of filming *Apocalypse Now* and *Fitzcarraldo*. But the troubling gender politics of great-man filmmaking increasingly put such self-mythologising to the test.

Considering what we now know about how Alfred Hitchcock ruthlessly pursued and undermined Tippi Hedren, how can we watch *The Birds* and *Marnie* without feeling not just creeped out but complicit? How can we watch a boyish, guilelessly charming Robert Downey Jr act out a sanitised version of writer-director James Toback’s predatory behaviour toward hundreds of women in *The Pick-Up Artist*? How will guys ogling scantily clad women in a cable broadcast of *Rush Hour 2* feel about being proxies for Ratner’s own voyeuristic tendencies? (Weinstein’s spokesperson and Ratner’s attorney have denied all allegations of non-consensual sexual activity.)

Cinema isn’t just an art form. It’s also an industrial practice. And just as every film bears the distinctive collective signature of the artists behind it, it’s inscribed with the conditions of its making – conditions that can either make viewers part of an enriching, vicariously exhilarating collaboration or force them to weigh their own entertainment against the human costs of creating it.

Just as everyone must now decide for themselves whether a football game is worth the long-term effects of serial concussions, or whether they want to buy jeans made in an overseas sweatshop, we’re now faced with the reality that movies, too, are part of a long supply chain that for too long has involved abuse of power, oppressive working conditions and profound physical and psychological distress.

It’s a chain that begins in acting class, when young women are...
encouraged to make themselves physically and emotionally vulnerable, extends to dictatorial film sets and goes all the way to the screen, where they're often objectified and hypersexualised for the supposed benefit of male viewers who are habitually mistaken for the norm.

For years, movies have come with disclaimers assuring audiences that no animals were hurt during filming. Perhaps it's time to devise a similar seal of approval for productions that treated their human collaborators with dignity and professional decorum. Harmless escapism is one of the fundamental values of the movie-going experience. But escapism is difficult to justify - and anything but harmless - when we know that the people creating it felt trapped, with nowhere to turn.

Washington Post

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Spacey picked a bad time and the worst (cowardly) way to come out as gay

The actor could have used his profile to help open a community that is still marginalized

Chasing his dreams

Able to ride the bulls at 8 years old, Avalon's Cesar Chavez was a world-class biker by age 12. After riding bulls and wearing a rodeo jacket, Avalon quickly became known as a rodeo star. His family would later move to Los Angeles, where he continued to ride bulls and became one of the most famous equestrians. Avalon lived his entire life in Avalon, a small town in California's Imperial Valley.

Avalon is a unique community that has been shaped by its history. Its residents are known for their resilience and determination, and are dedicated to preserving their unique way of life. The town is home to a number of historical landmarks, including the Avalon Bullrider Monument, which was dedicated in 1996. The monument features a statue of a rodeo bull and is considered a symbol of the town's rich rodeo heritage.

Avalon is a place where people can come to experience the true American West. Its residents are proud of their history and culture, and are dedicated to sharing it with visitors from around the world. Whether you're looking for a place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature, or you're interested in learning more about the American West, Avalon is a must-visit destination.

Women are on alert and men are confused

LISA FRENDECAST

Men are not the only ones feeling the effects of this sexual revolution, women are too. Many women are feeling the effects of this sexual revolution, as well. It can be a confusing time for men, as they are not sure how to react. This sexual revolution is happening quickly, and it can be hard to follow. Many men are not sure what to expect, and they are feeling confused.

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ISIS routed from Syrian enclave

Clinton: rocked by 'biggest failure'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has run into a 'biggest failure' at home in the wake of a major defeat of US and allied forces in Iraq, according to a newspaper.

'What we have learned from this is that we cannot win in Iraq, even with the help of our allies,' Clinton told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

The newspaper, which is based in the Middle East, reported that Clinton's statement was met with a standing ovation by the audience.

Clinton's remarks came as US forces were99% sure of victory in the battle for control of the Syrian-Iraqi border town of Ras al-Ain.

The battle is crucial in the fight against ISIS, which has been battling US-backed forces in the area for months.

'Our strategy has failed,' Clinton said. 'We must change our approach.'

The newspaper also reported that Clinton had called for a 'new approach' to the war in Syria, which is now entering its fifth year.

'We must find a way to negotiate with the regime,' she said.

The newspaper's report came as the US military began to withdraw its forces from Iraq. The US has been in Iraq since 2003 and has suffered more than 4,400 casualties.

May under fire after ally gets defence job

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Weinstein raped me twice: actress

NEW YORK (AFP) - Harvey Weinstein has been charged with raping two women, according to a criminal complaint obtained by AFP.

Weinstein, 65, has been accused of raping a woman in a hotel room in New York City in 2011 and raping a woman in a Los Angeles hotel room in 2013.

Weinstein is the co-founder of Miramax Films, which produced the Oscar-winning movie "Shakespeare in Love." Weinstein was also a producer on the film "Pulp Fiction."
In a mirror, darkly: how Hollywood's real movie monsters hid behind the camera

Michael Idato

What seemed, at first, to be a sex scandal engulfing one of the the movie industry's most powerful players, producer Harvey Weinstein, is expanding like the Big Bang.

This week Hollywood was rocked as allegations were made against actors Kevin Spacey and Dustin Hoffman along with director Brett Ratner but fresh accusations against Spacey yesterday pointed to a more sinister problem inside House of Cards.

The first damaging claims came from actor Anthony Rapp that Spacey had made a pass at him when Rapp was just 14 years old, now several current or former workers on House of Cards have made fresh allegations of sexual harassment or sexual assault against him.

Spacey is both executive producer and star of House of Cards, production of which has now been suspended indefinitely, and the...
accusations levelled against him point to an endemic problem at the hands of men in power in Hollywood.

"You are seeing a systemic pattern of marauding behaviour that is recently, because of technology in part, having the sunshine pierce it," Eric Schiffer, a leading US consultant on reputation and brand strategy, told Fairfax Media. "And with that comes a hail of fire, of disapproval from the public and the media."

The scale of the issue is the most difficult part of the scandal to grasp.

Initially it was a story about Weinstein, a seemingly notorious serial harasser, built on a smouldering pyre of earlier accusations against Fox News boss Roger Ailes and presenter Bill O'Reilly, actor Bill Cosby and US president Donald Trump.

But the Weinstein scandal has triggered an even bigger inferno, as though the smaller fires have combined into a larger front, and more victims have come forward to accuse Amazon Studios boss Roy Price, director James Toback, producer Chris Savino, Hoffman, producer-director Ratner, Spacey and others.
The centrepiece of this story is Hollywood and the business of making entertainment. The city's clichéd casting couch, thought a metaphor for the longest time but plainly an actual couch in the experience of many, has roared out of the shadows.

And men like Weinstein, actress Kate Beckinsale said in the wake of the first scandal, are "an emblem of a system that is sick."

"This isn't anything new," New York-based crisis public relations expert Mark Macias tells Fairfax Media. "If you go back to the 1950s Marilyn Monroe talked about the casting couch and just a few weeks ago Joan Collins talked about how she lost out on Cleopatra because she wouldn't sleep with a Hollywood executive."

"What's different now is social media is bringing this to light," adds Macias. "It's the conversation that we are all having that maybe in the 1950s no one discussed. And, as a result of the social media, the talking and the conversation, the [broader] media is paying attention."

In the pre-digital age such scandals were easily buried because information distribution was slow and encumbered by a series of human gateways which gave star handlers - publicists, managers and the like - leverage in an access-for-positive coverage transaction which was sometimes employed to control the message.

Social media, like most disruptive modern technologies, undermines those "middle man" gateways.

"Social media is the seismic shift for all of this," Schiffer says. "It creates a platform for truth [and] it is dangerously problematic for people, especially men that have been exposed, because its power is instant and global."

In the case of the Hollywood sexual harassment scandal, social media has given voice to the voiceless: victims have been able to speak openly, and through tools such as the #metoo hashtag, consolidate their voices into a chorus.

It has also created a risky dynamic that is not unlike a lynch mob. And significantly, so far, none of the accusations have been tested by the
legal process, though in some cases the sheer volume (and similarity) of the allegations makes presumption of innocence difficult or impossible.

"The court system should be the final determinant and what will likely happen when the dust settles on many of these situations, some will need to get their reputation back, whereas the majority of cases, given the sheer number of allegations, should roll out in guilty verdicts of some kind, civil or criminal," Schiffer says.

In each case, reactions have varied. Spacey and Hoffman, for example, offered contrition. Spacey's statement - awkwardly worded and battered in the media for conflating sexual abuse with sexuality - offered Rapp "the sincerest apology"; Hoffman said for anything he did which put (victim Anna Graham Hunter) in an uncomfortable situation he was "sorry".

Ratner, on the other hand, threw down a litigious gauntlet, his lawyer Martin Singer calling the accusations "ridiculous", "absurd" or "secondhand", and via another lawyer, filing a defamation suit against a woman who published a rape allegation on Facebook.

The shrewdest response for an accused celebrity, says Schiffer, "depends upon the truth. If you are innocent, you want maximum transparency, if you aren't, you want to assume accountability and remorse and be apologetic. If you are responsible, then you need to own it."

Weinstein attempted the last of those strategies, Schiffer says, but "then undermined himself with his actions. With Ratner, I don't know what the facts are, but to the extent he's taken that stance, and there's a pattern, then he's playing with thermonuclear war, and he's going to be at ground zero."

For Hollywood, the next step in broad terms depends on whether there is a legitimate shift in the male-skewed culture which dominates the business.

Almost 80 per cent of credited producers and almost 90 per cent of credited writers are male, according to research. And of the top 100 grossing films last year just five were directed by women.

At the top of the administrative totem pole the balance is just as bad: more than 60 per cent of executive positions in the business are held by men, and in the highest income and influence band, that figure rises to around 80 per cent.

There will be a change in the deployment of power, says Schiffer.

"Corporations are not going to want the brand hits so they will inoculate, through the promotion of talented individuals who may never have had the shot to rule until recently, and women will be the absolute beneficiaries in the short term," he says.

And as for the brand of Hollywood itself, there is no danger though Macias says there is a need for the business to find a collective voice and lead on the issue.

"Individual brands, like Harvey Weinstein, like Kevin Spacey, will be definitely impacted. But the broader industry is not going to be hurt," he says.
"But the Academy Awards, the Emmys, all the organisations within the entertainment industry, they need to be a vocal force on this," Macias says.

"Whether they do it purely for PR reasons, or whether they really mean it, that's the first thing. There's gotta be that leader that steps up and says, we have to do more, we have to expect more from ourselves."

THE ACCUSED

KEVIN SPACEY
Actor and star of *The Usual Suspects* and *House of Cards*
- Accused of making sexual advances towards actor Anthony Rapp when Rapp was 14; subsequently accused of sexual harassment or predatory behaviour by a number of men. · Spacey said he did "not remember the encounter" (but owed Rapp) the sincerest apology. He is now seeking "evaluation and treatment." Netflix has suspended production on *House of Cards.*

HARVEY WEINSTEIN Producer
- Multiple women have come forward with various sexual harassment complaints, including rape, dating to the 1970s. · Weinstein is in and Arizona rehabilitation facility and has denied any non-consensual sexual encounters.
- Immediately after reports of the accusations, he said in a statement: "I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologise for it. Though I'm trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go."

CHRIS SAVINO
(Now former) producer of the Nickelodeon series *Loud House*
- Accused of sexual harassment by more than a dozen women, including unwanted sexual advances and threats of being blacklisted after ending consensual relationships with co-workers.
- Posted apology on Facebook: "I am deeply sorry and I am ashamed. I have failed. I should have known better, I should have acted better." Savino was fired by Nickelodeon.

BRETT RATNER
Producer-director of *Rush Hour, X-Men: The Last Stand*
- Accused of sexual harassment or misconduct by six women including actresses Natasha Henstridge and Olivia Munn, accused of rape in a now deleted Facebook post.
- Ratner's lawyer said he "vehemently denies" the claims; Warner Bros, which co-fines films with Ratner's company, has severed ties; he is suing the author of the Facebook post for defamation.

DUSTIN HOFFMAN
Actor and star of *Tootsie, Kramer vs Kramer* and *Rain Man*
- Accused of sexually harassing writer Anna Graham Hunter when she was a 17-year-old production assistant, speaking openly about sex and inappropriately touching her.
- Hoffman apologised, saying "I feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am."
JAMES TOBACK  
Director of The Pick-up Artist and Two Girls and a Guy  
- Accused of sexual harassment by 38 women in a Los Angeles Times report; subsequently more than 200 more women came forward. As of October 26 the total had reached 310.  
- Toback denied the allegations saying he had never met any of the women, had "no recollection" of meeting them and that due to medication some of the claims were "biologically impossible".

JEREMY PIVEN  
Actor and star of Entourage  
- Accused by reality TV actress Ariane Bellamar of groping her, and by actress Cassidy Freeman of an unspecified act, saying only "what you did, and attempted to do, when I was far too young."  
- Piven denies the Bellamar claim; he has not responded to the Freeman allegation. CBS, which is making his new series Wisdom of the Crowd, says it is "looking into the matter."

BEN AFFLECK  
Actor and star of Batman v Superman, writer-director of Good Will Hunting  
- Accused of groping actress Hilary Burton's breast in a 2003 television interview, and of groping makeup artist Annamarie Tendler at a party after the 2014 Golden Globes.  
- Tweeted an apology to Burton: "I acted inappropriately... and I sincerely apologise." Has not yet addressed the Tendler accusation.

ROY PRICE  
(Now former) head of Amazon Studios  
- Accused of sexually harassing producer Isa Hackett in 2015, using inappropriate language and persistent inappropriate behaviour.  
- Has not publicly addressed the accusation; Amazon suspended Price after the allegation was first published and Price subsequently resigned from the company.

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In a mirror, darkly: how Hollywood's real movie monsters hid behind the camera
Police building case to arrest Harvey Weinstein in sexual assault case

Al Baker and Jodi Kantor

The police in New York said Friday that they have developed a strong criminal case against Harvey Weinstein after an actress’s claim that he raped her seven years ago.

Speaking at a news conference at Police Headquarters in Lower Manhattan, officials in the Police Department said they were gathering evidence with an eye toward preparing a warrant to arrest Weinstein, whose representatives have said is undergoing therapy outside New York.

The claims of the actress, Paz de la Huerta, have been a focus of investigators in the department’s Special Victims Division for several days, since Weinstein’s long history of sexual harassment of women was detailed in reports by The New York Times and other news organisations early last month. Those reports prompted a mountain of tips to the police in New York and London about other episodes.

If Weinstein had been in the city, the Police Department’s chief of detectives, Robert K. Boyce, said that his investigators would have

sought to arrest him immediately. But with him out of the jurisdiction of the New York police, and with seven years having elapsed since the attacks are said to have taken place, the police will instead continue gathering evidence.

Faye de la Huerta has accused Weinstein of raping her twice in 2010. Photo: AP

"We have an actual case going forward," Boyce said. "If this person was still in New York and it was recent we would go right away and make the arrest, no doubt. But we're talking about a 7-year-old case. And we have to move forward gathering evidence."

Boyce said de la Huerta "put forth a credible and detailed narrative" to his detectives and said those detectives found "corroboration, along the way." He said de La Huerta was able "to articulate each and every movement of the crime: where she was, where they met, where this happened and what he did."

Despite the strong words from Boyce, officials in the office of the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., issued a statement suggesting they are not ready to charge Weinstein. Vance's office would be responsible for prosecuting Weinstein if he were to be arrested.

Investigating these cases is not impossible. In the case of Alex Hawke I simply did a Hansard search. ANNIKA SMETHURST

A borderline nobody patrols

A LITTLE quiz for you. Which of these scenarios represents sexual harassment — and which should have elicited a formal complaint?

One. A young secretary standing in the middle of an office full of men, using the coffee machine. A man comes rushing up behind her and snags her dress, leaving her back — and her G-string — exposed. Everyone laughs. She looks too, and only cries later, in the bathrooms.

Two. A newly promoted female executive is sitting in the office of a male friend. When another, older man comes in and starts telling a funny story about a party he went to in the 90s where everyone did lots of coke and a woman stripped off and had sex with a man in front of the whole party.

One happened last week. The Government appeared to have survived the worst of the citizenship saga. Barnaby Joyce’s absence may have temporarily eliminated the Government’s slimmer majority, but he will return to Parliament before Christmas. Parry’s stupidity and unfitness has damaged the position of President and further fuelled public demand for a full audit.

Bill Shorten has released the report and thrown his support behind a citizenship audit, and why wouldn’t he?

And even if the processes uncover a few dual citizens sitting on the Opposition benches, it will almost certainly find a few more on the Government side and trigger by-elections and the re-election of Malcolm Turnbull’s government.

Until then, Prime Minister looks weak as he insists an audit is too difficult and accuses journalists of a witch hunt or simply doing their job. Investigating these cases is not impossible. In the case of Alex Hawke, the latest MP in his position in the citizenship saga, I simply did a Hansard search of cases where MPs had spoken about their parent’s country of birth.

The High Court was clear in its ruling that dual citizenship is illegal and the government must act. If there are more members and senators in Parliament who hold dual citizenship then they must be called to account under the same rules which saw Joyce, Nash, Malcolm Roberts, Scott Ludlam and Larissa Waters lose their jobs.

The moral to the story: if you say something, you’ll have to explain it. Liberal MP Alex Hawke.

and cross the bridges when we come to them

as six Senators did the honourable thing and asked the House to refer them to the High Court. While the first few senators to resign did so because they were born in another country, the Nationals’ Fiona Nash told Parliament in August that she was probably a British citizen by descent through her Scottish-born father. This scenario was strikingly similar to Parry’s, but still he was stymied. The role of the President is to interpret and apply the standing orders of the Senate and to maintain a certain order in the House. It is a prestigious position and one which Parry similar authority in that of a minister in relation to a government department. He abused it. Until Parry’s sudden exit last week, the Government appeared to have survived the worst of the citizenship saga. Barnaby Joyce’s absence may have temporarily eliminated the Government’s slimmer majority, but he will return to Parliament before Christmas.

Parry’s stupidity and unfitness has damaged the position of President and further fuelled public demand for a full audit.

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The moral to the story: if you say something, you’ll have to explain it. Liberal MP Alex Hawke.

and crossing the bridges when we come to them
They want to kill me
PM quits over death plot

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri has resigned, saying he believes there's an assassination plot against him and accusing Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of sowing strife in the Arab world.

His resignation has brought down the coalition government and plunged Lebanon into a new political crisis. It thrust the country into the front line of a regional competition between Sunni and Shia interests in the Middle East that has also buffeted Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Bahrain.

A Saudi government minister said Mr Hariri was pictured in Riyadh to secure his safety.

Mr Hariri, who is closely allied to Saudi Arabia, alleged in a farewell address that Hezbollah was being used by Iran to fund terrorism in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Lebanon.

In comments directed at Iran, he said the Arab world would "cut off the hand" that "wickedly extends to it".

Mr Hariri's coalition, which took office last year and grouped nearly all of Lebanon's main parties, including Hezbollah. It took office in a political deal that made Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah ally, president, and was seen as a victory for Iran. The resignations reflect exacerbating sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

"We are living in a climate similar to the atmosphere that prevailed before the assassination of martyr Rafik al-Hariri. I have sensed what is being plotted covertly to target my life," Mr Hariri said, referring to his father.

Rafik al-Hariri was killed in a 2005 Beirut bomb attack that set off years of turmoil. A UN-backed tribunal has charged four Hezbollah members and one Lebanese with the killing. Hezbollah denies involvement.

The Saudi-owned TV channel al-Arabiya, which had been reporting on the assassination plot against Mr Hariri, was ordered to stop broadcasting in Lebanon.

The assassination threat and the resignations come amid growing concern over the escalating conflict in Syria and the threat from Hezbollah.

The resignations reflect the failure of the Arab League's efforts to resolve the conflict in Syria and the ongoing crisis in Iraq.

The resignations also reflect the growing influence of Iran in the region and the growing concern over the threat from Hezbollah.

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Farming out an apology
LONDON: A mysterious message that sent conspiracy theorists in a tizzy was spotted in an English field has been revealed as the handwriting of a "grumpy" farmer.

Social media was abuzz with speculation after a police helicopter saw the letters "SUICIDE" etched in huge letters on a field in Oxfordshire. Conspiracy theories soon began to cascade, including suggestions it was an alien invasion.

But the reality was more prosaic. Farmer Murray Graham had created the message for his wife — Sue — to apologize for being moody.

Typhoon on a deadly path
MANILA: A typhoon battering Vietnam has killed at least 27 people and left 22 others missing amid extensive damage to homes and farms along the south-central coast.

The most recent death toll is 21 and 113 others missing as strong winds and heavy rain battered parts of the country.

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DAILY
Australian filmmakers could inadvertently pay the price for Weinstein sex scandal

Through no fault of their own, Australian filmmakers could be caught up in the fallout from the sex scandal sweeping Hollywood.

Karl Quinn

With the Hollywood sex abuse scandal showing little sign of abating, and with none of the allegations yet tested in court, it's too soon for a comprehensive body count. But whatever the final casualties, there's a good chance Australian filmmakers may be among those who inadvertently pay the price.

The Weinstein Company has been a significant backer of Australian talent in recent years. But the future of the company is in serious doubt, which means our industry may be in danger of losing one of its strongest allies in the world's biggest movie market.

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Harassment allegations could 'significantly impact' industry

Charlotte Triggs, senior editor for People Magazine, discusses the sexual harassment, abuse and assault allegations leveled against some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

The Weinstein Company (TWC) has specialised in mid-budget adult-oriented fare, which just happens to be the sort of filmmaking our industry tends to be rather good at (TWC is not snobbish, however; it also has a genre arm, Dimension, which specialises in horror and science-fiction movies, and in recent years has moved into television in a big way).

The company famously bought the distribution rights to Garth Davis' *Lion* at script stage in 2015, paying SUS$12 million for Luke Davies' dramatisation of Saroo Brierley's memoir. The film went on to gross SUS$40 million and to collect six Oscar nominations and two BAFTA wins (for Dev Patel as best supporting actor and for Davies' adapted screenplay) this year.

![Emile Sherman won an Oscar as co-producer of the 2011 best picture *The King's Speech*, distributed by The Weinstein Company. Photo: Andrew Sheargold](image)

In 2010 TWC distributed *The King's Speech*, produced by See-Saw Pictures, the boutique production house headed by Emile Sherman in Sydney and Ian Canning in London. In 2014, it distributed *The Railway Man*, directed by Australian Jonachan Teplitzky. The previous year it helped take *Tracks* to the world. In 2012, it picked up *The Sapphires*.

Australian directors Justin Kurzel (*Macbeth*, 2015), John Hillcoat (*The Road*, 2009), Andrew Dominik (*Killing Them Softly*, 2012) and Greg McLean (*Wolf Creek*, 2005) have also been the beneficiaries of Bob and Harvey Weinstein's considerable expertise in distributing and marketing movies.

And what expertise it is. As the TWC website boasts, "during Harvey and Bob's tenure at Miramax [the company they founded in 1979 and sold to Disney in 1993] and TWC, they have received 341 Oscar nominations and won 81 Academy Awards".

**ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER**

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For smaller films, the likes of which Australia produces, an awards nomination – even the talk of an awards nomination – is the all-
La La Land has always been half in love with the idea that to be dangerous is to be artistically daring. Thus the once-admired and successful boutique film producer Harvey Weinstein was indulged and unimpeded in his predation for years. But his recent fall from grace as numbers of women came forward with stories about his sexual harassment appears to have changed the parameters for men who behave appallingly in professional situations.

Of course, it is a mistake to confuse the entertainment world with the real world. But the grubby glamour of the Hollywood casting couch has always featured men in positions of power taking advantage of young women. From the death of a young actress in silent star Fatty Arbuckle's hotel room in 1921, a chorus line of alleged transgressors has shuffled across the headlines. Errol Flynn, Roman Polanski, Charlie Sheen, Woody Allen, Bill Cosby, Donald Trump and now Kevin Spacey, Casey Affleck and Dustin Hoffman, have been accused. Some survive, others, like Fox News' Roger Ailes and the conservative commentator Bill O'Reilly, were destroyed.

Now the infection is spreading in the entertainment industry with

Harvey Weinstein had investigators spy on women

Gene Maddams

Los Angeles: Harvey Weinstein employed private investigators to spy on his accusers and keep tabs on reporters investigating his past, according to a report in the New Yorker.

According to the report, the disgraced Hollywood producer hired Black Cube, a firm run by former Mossad agents, to collect information on Rose McGowan, who has accused Weinstein of rape.

NYPD collecting evidence for Weinstein arrest

New York City police are gathering evidence for a possible warrant for the arrest of Harvey Weinstein.

The firm employed undercover agents, one of whom posed as a women's rights activist, to meet with McGowan and obtain information on her forthcoming book.

Weinstein employed Black Cube and Kroll, a corporate security firm, in an effort to block stories in the New Yorker and the New York Times detailing decades of allegations of sexual misconduct, according to the New Yorker.

British minister asked secretary to buy sex toys

Another actress accuses Weinstein of rape

The story also highlights the role of David Boies, of the firm of Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, who is said to have overseen much of the spying effort.

Running such an investigation through a law firm can make it subject to attorney-client privilege, which would protect it from disclosure in litigation.

In a statement to the New Yorker, Weinstein spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister accused the publication of trafficking in "inaccuracies and wild conspiracy theories".

According to the story, Black Cube also retained a freelance journalist to contact McGowan and two other women with accusations against Weinstein, as well as reporters working on the story.
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Former Channel Seven journalist Dylan Howard among Weinstein's 'army of spies'

By Brooke Carmody

A former Channel Seven reporter who was sacked amid a chequebook journalism scandal has been caught up in a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at Harvey Weinstein's "army of spies".

The New Yorker claims the disgraced movie mogul enlisted a number of journalists, including Australian Dylan Howard, to uncover information on those accusing him of sexual assault and harassment.

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NYPD collecting evidence for Weinstein arrest

New York City police are gathering evidence for a possible warrant for the arrest of Harvey Weinstein.

Howard was sacked by Seven almost 10 years ago during the AFL's stolen medical files scandal. He was dismissed a day after being cleared by a police investigation.

After a brief stint at Monash University, the former sports reporter relocated to the United States where he resumed his media career.
Related to the United States where he covered his meeting with working the entertainment beat – even, at one point, finding himself inside Charlie Sheen’s bathroom as the embattled Two and a Half Men star conducted a urine test.

RELATED ARTICLES

Weinstein had investigators spy on women

Jo Brand calls out all-male panel for joking about sexual harassment

On Tuesday, The New Yorker reported that Howard – now chief content officer at magazine giant American Media Inc (AMI) – shared information obtained by one of his reporters with Weinstein as part of the latter’s plan to “disprove [Rose] McGowan’s allegation of rape.”

The report also claimed Weinstein enlisted the help of a firm using undercover agents to obtain information about McGowan’s forthcoming book. One of the agents allegedly posed as a women’s rights activist.

Howard told The New Yorker there was no conflict of interest between his 2016 email correspondence with Weinstein and his work for AMI. AMI publishes glossy US titles such as OK! USA, US Weekly, Men’s Fitness and the National Enquirer.

"I had an obligation to protect AMI’s interests by seeking out — but not publishing — truthful information about people who Mr Weinstein insisted were making false claims against him," he said.

Former Channel Seven reporter Dylan Howard after being questioned by Victorian police in 2007. Photo: Channel 7

"To the extent I provided ‘off the record’ information to Mr Weinstein about one of his accusers — at a time when Mr Weinstein was denying any harassment of any woman — it was information which I would never have allowed AMI to publish on the internet or in its magazines."
Crowe joins Kelly flick

Star-studded cast for tale of infamous Aussie outlaw

RUSSELL Crowe will lead an all-star cast in an upcoming western about Ned Kelly to be filmed in Australia next year.

X-Men and Mad Max: Fury Road star Nicholas Hoult, Aus- tralian actress Rose Byrne (Miss Fisher's Murder Myster- iers and The Babadook), and British actor James McAvoy (Captain Fantastic) have also signed up for the film, based on Peter Carey's Booker Prize-winning novel True History of the Kelly Gang.

Snowtown director Justin Kurzel will direct the feature, due to start filming in Victoria from March of next year with writer Shaun Grant (Snowtown, Jasper Jones) on board to adapt Carey's uncompromising gothic western for the big screen.

"Peter Carey's book True History of the Kelly Gang always felt like the true spirit of Ned Kelly, Unsentimental, brutal, raw and visceral," Russell said.

"He's a thug, a criminal, we humanise him with a fresh cinematic eye. This is a really unique and modern cast, and I am so proud to be working with such a talented ensemble of new faces and celebrated actors.

"The latest had boy in Netflix hit Stronger Things, Australian actor Dwayne Montgomery, has also joined the cast of the movie along with Viking star Travis Fimmel."

The film is financed by Romance Entertainment, a new production company launched by Pascoe executive producer Brad Pascoe and has secured $44 million production investment from Screen Aus- tralia, in association with Film Victoria and Film.

McGowan's book looms

ROSE McGowan's publisher has set a January release for her memoir Brave, a month before its original on-sale date.

The actress has accused Harvey Weinstein of raping her and has been a leading ad- vocate for women confronting all assault and harrassment.

She began working on the book well before last month's revelations about Weinstein.

HarperOne announced yesterday that it will publish Brave on January 28.

Harvard nod for Elton John

ELTON John has been honored at Harvard University for his philanthropic efforts to fight HIV and AIDS.

The 70-year-old singer was awarded the Harvard Foun- dation's Peter J. Gomes Hu- manitarian Award in a ceremony yesterday.

Previous winners include former South African Arch- bishop Desmond Tutu and for- mer Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and Kofi Annan.

Oswalt weds .1ce more

COMEDIAN Patton Oswalt has married actress Meredith Salenger.

Oswalt, 48, and Salenger, who's 47, shared photos of the ceremony and reception on so- cial media.

The wedding comes more than a year-and-a-half after Oswalt's first wife, crime writer Michelle McNamara, died in her sleep at the age of 46.

Oswalt's and McNamara's daughter, Alice, served as a flower girl at the ceremony.

Weinstein had 'army of spies' for complaints

WEINSTEIN Time's Up co-founder Rosanna Arquette has told a U.S. Senate committee that Weinstein had an "army of spies" and used "intimidation tactics" to quash sexual misconduct complaints.

She testified that the Studio head had "made clear that he would punish any employee who brought negative attention to him.

Arquette said that she was thrust into the spotlight last year when媒 reports surfaced of claims by women involved in the Weinstein company's legal and business arms.

"On January 9, 2017, I received a call from my lawyer who told me that a studio lawyer had told her that the company was hiring an army of spies to monitor me and my associates indeed, and that was, in fact, the case."
Weinstein aftermath: it's white, wealthy, powerful women who stand to benefit

Anne Friedman

With each new allegation that yet another powerful man harassed or abused his colleagues, I find myself thinking about the women we’re not hearing from. I don’t mean the third or eighth or 20th actress who declines – for whatever reason – to add her voice to the chorus against a predatory producer or creepy comedian. I mean women who aren’t household names, who don’t write articles for a living, who have never appeared in front of a TV camera.

Whether a sexual harassment allegation makes headlines and gets results isn’t just determined by the power of the man accused. It’s determined by the power of the women doing the accusing.

Rose McGowan: It’s time to rise
Actress Rose McGowan takes to the stage in her first public comments since accusing film producer Harvey Weinstein of rape.

By and large, the women who have told their stories to national newspapers are financially and professionally secure.

They are not paid to clean houses and burr babies. They do not make
They are not paid to smell the roses and approach them to help mend their living stitching jeans or answering customer complaints. They do not work for tips.

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Old Vic says 20 men made allegations against Kevin Spacey

'I will f--- you up': Drake calls out harasser at Sydney gig

Is there a Louis C.K. in the fast-food world? I’m sure there is. But he hasn’t inspired investigative reports or rallies in the streets.

In advance of a Take Back the Workplace march in downtown L.A. last weekend, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, a group of 700,000 women farmworkers, published a letter to women and men in Hollywood who have come forward to name their assailants. "We believe and stand with you," the members wrote.

Their statement was remarkable because they expressed solidarity that many in Hollywood have yet to extend to them. And yet members of the working-class are, after all, far more vulnerable than celebrities.

**BREAKING NEWS ALERT**

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A report last year by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that, across industries, when someone is harassed at work, the most common responses were to avoid the harasser, deny or downplay the situation, or attempt to ignore the behaviour. The least common response was to file a formal complaint. "Much of the training done over the last 30 years has not worked as a prevention strategy."

Agricultural and domestic workers fall outside the bounds of US labor law. Eighty percent of restaurant workers report harassment by their co-workers, and 78 percent from customers. Culturally, we expect employees who work for tips to put up with abuse. We’re not hearing their stories because we seem to believe, on some level, that harassment comes with the territory.

Reese Witherspoon: among the women figuring out a strategy. Photo: AP
tool – it’s been too focused on simply avoiding legal liability," the report stated.

In Hollywood, executives are beginning to recognise the inadequacy of existing laws and training protocols, and the reckoning has begun. Men are seeing financial consequences for their behaviour. Entertainment-industry newsletter the Ankler reported last week that a group of big-name women in Hollywood, including Oprah Winfrey, Shonda Rhimes and Reese Witherspoon, are brainstorming a collective response to the epidemic of harassment.

"There is a real desire to not let this moment pass," Melissa Silverstein, founder of the advocacy group Women in Hollywood, told the New York Times last week.

But this moment is in fact passing most women by. I don’t mean to blame reformers focused on entertainment and media: It’s difficult to change the culture of your workplace, let alone a completely different industry. Still, it’s wrong to frame sexual harassment as endemic to certain industries, rather than as a problem that affects all working women.

Some in Hollywood are sensitive to that fact. In a Facebook post detailing her experiences with harassment, actor Ellen Page acknowledged: "I have the privilege of having a platform that enables me to write this and have it published, while the most marginalised do not have access to such resources. The reality is, women of colour, trans and queer and indigenous women have been leading this fight for decades (forever actually)."

Every personal story from a powerful woman should come with a similar acknowledgment. Even better, women in media and entertainment could issue a collective statement declaring that they stand in solidarity with farmworkers, restaurant servers, domestic workers and everyone in every industry whose story hasn’t made headlines. They could champion policies that protect workers’ rights and support efforts to unionise service industries.

Who is able to come forward about harassment — and who is called to account for perpetrating it — has everything to do with power. It’s dangerously likely that we’ll look back five or 10 years from now and realise it was mostly white, wealthy, powerful women who benefited.
from the aftermath of the Harvey Weinstein allegations. We could remember this moment as a "Hollywood scandal". Or we could work to ensure this moment means so much more.

Los Angeles Times
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Sharing ‘my Harvey Weinstein moment’ sparked a grubby backlash

KEVIN SPACEY, right, and his accuser Anthony Rapp. No one asked what he was asking, nor perhaps, if he was asking for it.

12:02AM November 18, 2017

No one asked Kevin Spacey’s male accusers what clothes they were wearing when they were sexually harassed. Nor why, perhaps, they were where they were. Nor why, possibly, they shouldn’t have been there. Nor whether, perhaps, they were asking for it. Yet those questions are asked frequently of women who speak up.

Recently in this column I detailed my own “Harvey moment.” Aged 16, I was on a film set in country NSW. I was “pestered”, in the old-fashioned sense, by a crew member and an actor. The latter would come to my hotel room door, sometimes several times a night, demanding to be let in. He’d be wearing just a towel, with an obvious erection. I didn’t indulge either man sexually. I was revolted and pitying; just wanted to do my job and have these men stop.

To give you an idea of how hard it is for women who speak up to be believed, or to be taken seriously, or for the truth of their stories to be respected, here are some of the responses on social media from male readers:

- “Names? Can’t even name the movie, the town? Didn’t happen.” “Lies. All lies. Poor victim honey boo boos looking for attention.” “Could be a ‘story’ (i.e. fiction) to make a point.” “I think the whole thing is the plot/pilot for a novel and we are sort of group.”

- “So you prostituted yourself?” “Best not to comment on garbage journalism like this.” “What a precious snowflake!” “So it is OK for a woman to hit on a man but it is not OK for a man to hit on a woman?” “This dopey woman should not be listened to. She has serious mental issues.” “I’ve never read such obscene unnecessary garbage.”

- “Harvey needs to start promoting whatever he is on.” “Come on boys. You know the face does not matter if the receptacle is right.” “If a good looking girl sets her eyes on you, there are few males that could resist the temptation. Males are always given the blame, but it does take two to tango.” “For sure there are many stories like that, only the boys’ stories perpetrated by predatory females are never told.” “Used to be called good old fashioned courting when real women existed in the bygone era of the past.”

We need to talk about minimisation. Of women’s voices, of their truth. All of the above are examples of the loud male voice trying to drown out the female and skew her truth. The woman is discredited, or ridiculed, or not listened to. It’s hard for many of us to break cover and tell our stories because we so often get this kind of concerted battering of verbal grubbiness in response. It’s diminishing. Enraging. Disempowering.

Or was. Now it’s fuel. I salute the journalist Tracey Spicer and her plan to out predators in the media, after detailed verification – but God help those women who have the courage to speak up.

This is our world now. This is the world our daughters and our granddaughters have to navigate; arm them for it, however you can. Talk to them about how they can wade through the muck with resilience and grace. Imagine what it might be like as a woman who’s gone through her own Harvey moment and dares to speak up. It’s not easy.

Postscript: For all the doubters, all the men who say I was never in a film and made this whole thing up, I’ll be tweeting a movie still the day this column appears. The male actor who is with me is not the predator I wrote about. That man acted impeccably, as did the vast majority of men on that film set. As I stated in my original column. But that point was completely lost – willfully or otherwise – by some who misread the column and were enraged by what they assumed was an attack on all men. It was not.
‘Distracted’ crew told to abort

The air safety investigator says the crew on an Indonesia AirAsia flight was ‘distracted’ on an approach to Perth Airport.

Skilled migrant list more inclusive

The latest skilled migration lists include an occupation that health officials had previously recommended be left off.
Mel Gibson says Harvey Weinstein scandal is 'healthy' for Hollywood

Mel Gibson says allegations about sexual harassment in Hollywood have been "painful" but they will lead to change in the industry.

The Australian actor, who is starring in Daddy's Home 2, his first family comedy in more than a decade after he was convicted of driving under the influence in 2006, said the renewed spotlight on the industry will ultimately prove positive.

Gibson: Examination of misconduct allegations 'a little late'
Actors Mel Gibson, Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg and John Lithgow comment on the sexual misconduct allegations that have engulfed the industry.

"Things got shaken up a little bit and there is a lot of light being thrown into places where there were shadows and that is kind of healthy," he told the Press Association while promoting the film in London.

"It's painful, but I think pain is a precursor to change."

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Daddy's Home 2 review: It's trash but it works

Oscars board strips Weinstein of membership in rare move

His comments come after dozens of women alleged they have been sexually harassed or assaulted by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

US actor Kevin Spacey, director James Toback, producer Brett Ratner, actor Ed Westwick, Transparent star Jeffrey Tambor, TV host Charlie Rose, and Pixar head John Lasseter are also among those who have been accused of sexual misconduct.

Gibson has recently found himself welcomed back into Hollywood's fold following repeated scandals which threatened his career.

---

In 2006, he was recorded making anti-Semitic remarks against a Malibu police officer while being arrested for DUI, yelling "Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world."

In 2010, he was investigated for domestic violence against then-partner Oksana Grigorieva, with recordings released to court of Gibson allegedly using racist and threatening language. The investigation was dropped after Gibson pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor battery charge.

The actor-director opened up about the incidents last year while

promoting his Oscar-nominated and AACTA-winning film *Hacksaw Ridge*, saying he'd "never discriminated against anyone or done anything that sort of supports [his] reputation."

All of that kind of stuff... for me it's a dim thing in the past," he told *Variety* in 2016. "But others bring it up, which I find kind of annoying, because I don't understand why after 10 years it's any kind of issue.

"For one episode in the back of a police car on eight double tequilas to sort of dictate all the work, life's work and beliefs and everything else that I have and maintain for my life, is really unfair," he said.

On Tuesday, the actor managed another plug for his "silly comedy movie", in light of Hollywood's ongoing scandals.

"There are mornings where you simply can't bring yourself to read the news," he said. "It just seems like a great thing to be able to do a movie like this in a year like this and really deliver plain, liberating laughter."

- with AAP

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Urban defends women in Weinstein-inspired single

KEITH Urban has slammed Harvey Weinstein during a performance at the Country Music Awards. Urban's new single Female is said to refer to the Weinstein saga that has rocked Hollywood, with major stars including Ashley Judd, Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow accusing the movie mogul of sexual harassment.

"When somebody laughs and implies that she asked for it, Urban sings, "Just cause she was wearing a skirt. Now is that how it works? Speaking briefly about the song before its release, Urban gave little away. "It just speaks to all of the females in my life," Urban told US music publication Billboard.

Urban's wife Nicole Kidman, who features on the track, has spoken out about violence against women, particularly since her role in award-winning drama Big Little Lies.

She was not with her husband on the red carpet for yesterday's awards but tweeted about the song:

"Love Keith's new song Female," she wrote to her fans.

LEE WINS FASHION LAUREATE CROWN

DION Lee has been honoured with Australia's most prestigious fashion award.

The 32-year-old was awarded the 20th annual Australian Fashion Laureate at the official awards night, which took place at Barangaroo's The Cutaway.

"It's such a special award and I feel so humbled to receive an award that is voted for by others in the industry," said Lee (pictured with models), who flew in from New York to attend the event. "I started my brand at such a young age so I have a lot of respect for so many people in the industry, and I think that this award is a lot more meaningful now.

Edwina McCann, Kym Ellery, Nicholas Huxley and Florence Plunkett were among the other winners.

The prize included two return business-class flights with Etihad Airways, which will come in handy for Lee, who opened a design office in New York City last year.

"It's been a really important year in terms of continuing to grow the brand internationally," he said.

Zimmermann's Jan-Jack, P.E Nation, Dion Lee Designs and Harris Wharf were also winners at the awards, which were attended by Australian model Gemma Ward, Samantha Harris and Louise van der Verre and former beauties Jenny Kee, Carla Zampatti, Akira Isogawa and Collette Dinnigan.

Oscar talk after premiere of latest Cornish offering

SHE hasn't been seen on the big screen since 2004, but the world is about to see a whole lot more of Aussie actor Adele Cornish.

Just a day after the New York premiere of her new critically acclaimed film Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, Cornish was out and about again in the Big Apple preparing the film.

The movie is already attracting Oscar buzz after winning top prize at September's Toronto Film Festival, best screenplay at Venice Film Festival and the audience award at Spain's San Sebastian Festival.

Cornish (right) stars alongside Woody Harrelson, Oscar-winner Frances McDormand and Game Of Thrones star Peter Dinklage in the film about a mother of a teen who erects billboards to pressure police into solving her daughter's murder.

Cornish will also play the female lead in upcoming eight-part Amazon series Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, which is based on the best-selling books.

She also stars in Scroop, which is in cinemas now.

Cornish, who grew up on a farm in the NSW Hunter Valley, has been living in the US for a decade.
The left out in the cold

As sex scandals continue to explode across Hollywood, not even progressive politics can save abusers

Once upon a time, in a glittering fairytale land crafted by an insinuating clique on the left side of politics, Aliens got handed a Get Out Of Jail free card that let them behave with impunity.

That's because they said the right things, donated to the appropriate people and helped perpetuate a massive con job that they were speaking up for, rather than exploit...the powerless.

'professional feminists, who regularly chap that they live and die for their politics, were happy to turn a blind eye if it meant the wealthy, headline-generating support of their causes.

But ever since the fall of Harvey Weinstein the message to the high-flying men of Hollywood is clear:

'Find me a day when Hollywood is clean: those glory days are over.

Weinstein's sickening, predatory behaviour has triggered a revolution, the Weinstein effect, that has exposed a modern-day casting coach stretching from the entertainment industry to the UK parliament and everything in between.

Thanks to "machine feminism" which moves down anything for the cause, Weinstein was able to avoid scrutiny because he loudly and extravagantly supported progressive pet projects, particularly with his wallet.

Even with his legendary client now diminished, he attempted to write off his behaviour by saying he would donate $5 million to the University of Southern California in scholarship money for women directors.

The much-referenced blueprint also included using his wealth to tackle the National Rifle Association and fight for gun control, like some kind of repentant philanthropist.

But the new morality has done away with the old supposition that having the proper politics could save the worst predators.

Sniffing the wind, even Democrat Hillary Clinton announced she was "shocked" at the allegations while vowing to donate to charity some of the cash — a pittance $11k - the raised diameter potentially donated to her.

Of course, theirs was the costliest of municipalities arrangements. On one occasion alone Weinstein coughed up $1US$300k for the Clinton Foundation. And some reports estimate he has donated $6US$1.2 million since 2005 to Democrats.

With dozens of men now having been exposed, and in many cases their careers ruined, not even women are escaping the glare. Just being too close to an accusation is enough to be a reputation killer.

Take Hollywood lurk Lena Dunham, one-time darling of the nascent young feminist set, who is now ostracised for defending a male friend and writer accused of rape.

We know Dunham gets carried away with her ideals and self-importance. The story has amplified at every opportunity. That was part of her appeal for some.

But this time the sisterhood has turned on her. And it's left her reeling.

Trading on her quirky pseudo-authentic vibe, in August she tweeted: "Things women do in order to do the things they want to do for lunch. Things women don't lie about rape."

"As feminists, we live and die by our politics," she later said, "and believing women is the first choice we make every single day when we wake up."

And then of course she went off brand in spectacular style.

Actor Aurora Perrineau accused Dunham's friend Murray Miller, also the highly successful co-writer of TV series Girls, of raping her in a Los Angeles hotel room in 2012 when she was just 17. The matter has reportedly been referred to LAPD.

But lacking any evidence indicating guilt or otherwise, Dunham and her producer pal Jenji Kohan slammed Perrineau as "the 3 per cent of assault cases that are misreported every year"

If you're a friend being accused, our politics, you're not a friend. Us. Oh, believe me."

With wearying inevitability that is machine feminism, a chastened Dunham did a complete about-face:

"Apologies."

Then self-righteous feminism can get in the sea.

"Apparantly."

But she made a fatal mistake - taking for granted her heavily manufactured core audience who say if a woman is involved, believe first. Or perhaps keep your nose out of it altogether.

With wearying inevitability that is machine feminism, a chastened Dunham did a complete about-face and said: "Every woman who comes forward deserves to be heard, fully and completely.

And more: "Every person and every woman who should be respected to hear her under patriarchy. I believe you is essential."

"I cannot believe it was important to share my perspective on my friend's situation... We regret this decision with every fibre of our being."

I bet. The damage to your brand is incalculable.

Some lettres of course don't like the mirror being held up to them, like LA Times writer Robin Abcarian who served up a "pop talk for anyone who feels backed into a corner by bullies who want to convince you that you are a hypocrite.

"You are being played by the right," she warns.

So how do we effect change, as little fish in the big pond, especially when we have no illusions of or desire for grandeur, fame, fortune or political life?

We start by supporting each other with honesty and fairness without slamming the shutters of hate on all men just because they share the same gender as monsters such as Weinstein, or turning a blind eye because it benefits us.

Cast your political leanings aside, stop using someone else's misery to score public points and go back to basics. It's called gender solidarity.

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10-659
'You don't deserve a bullet': Uma Thurman's Thanksgiving message to Harvey Weinstein

Broede Carmody

Killed Bill star Uma Thurman has delivered a powerful Thanksgiving message revealing she too has been the victim of sexual misconduct.

In a message to her half a million Instagram followers, the award-winning actor said disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and his conspirators "don't deserve a bullet".

Uma Thurman reveals chilling message

In a message to her Instagram followers, the actor said disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and his conspirators "don't deserve a bullet".

While the Golden Globe winner and former model didn't name the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators in her post, she hinted the full story will come to light in due course.

"I am grateful today, to be alive, for all those I love, and for all those who have the courage to stand up for others," she wrote. "I said I was angry recently, and I have a few reasons. #MeToo, in case you couldn't..."
"I feel it's important to take your time, be fair, be exact... so happy Thanksgiving everyone! (Except you, Harvey, and all your wicked conspirators. I'm glad it's going slowly. You don't deserve a bullet.) Stay tuned."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING I am grateful today, to be alive, for all those I love, and for all those who have the courage to stand up for others. I said I was angry recently, and I have a few reasons, #metoo, in case you couldn't tell by the look on my face. I feel it's important to take your time, be fair, be exact, so... Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! (Except you Harvey, and all your wicked conspirators - I'm glad it's going slowly - you don't deserve a bullet) - stay tuned Uma Thurman

NOVEMBER 24, 2017

The powerful Thanksgiving message comes after a 30-second video of Thurman went viral earlier this month.
Keith Urban debuts new Harvey Weinstein-inspired song at CMA Awards 2017

Aussie country star Keith Urban has released a new single inspired by disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

The singer performed the song, titled Female, at Nashville's Country Music Association (CMA) Awards, where he also claimed the award for single of the year.

Keith Urban records Weinstein song

Speaking at the BMI Awards in Nashville, Keith Urban - and songwriter Ross Copperman - reveal that Urban's new song, 'Female,' is about Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

The song was inspired by the recent spate of sexual misconduct allegations in the entertainment industry, following the bombshell exposé against Weinstein.

The ballad, which focuses on society's sexist double standards and systemic mistreatment of women, features lyrics like: "When somebody laughs and implies that she asked for it, just 'cause she was wearin' a skirt/ Oh, is that how this works?"
Charlie Sheen accused of sexually assaulting Corey Haim

LAPD investigating rape claim against Gossip Girl star

Urban said the song – penned by writers Shane McAnally, Nicolle Galyon and Ross Copperman, in the wake of the Weinstein scandal – resonated with him due to the "tone of times right now".

"It affected me not just as a husband but also a father of two young girls, and a son. I had a heart reaction," he told Rolling Stone.

"I think it's just time for a recalibrating of the past, you know? Things have been a certain way for a long, long time, and I think you're seeing a turning of the tide for that," he added to the Associated Press.

The song earned mixed reviews from fans online, with some praising its earnest, feminist intent and others criticising Urban for "mansplaining" the issue. Fellow country star Kelsea Ballerini called it "song of the year".

The Aussie singer, who attended the awards without wife Nicole Kidman, took home the CMA Award for single of the year for his hit Blue Ain't Your Color – an upset win considering Sam Hunt's widely favoured Body Like a Back Road spent a record 34 weeks on top of Billboard's country music charts. He missed out, however, on entertainer of the year, which went to Garth Brooks.

Other winners included pop star Taylor Swift, who, in a return to her old country music stomping ground, claimed the song of the year prize for Better Man, a hit she wrote for country band Little Big Town.
Keith Urban performed his new single 'Female' at the awards. Photo: Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

**Kelsea Ballerini**  
@KelseaBallerini

Is it possible for a song that comes out the day of the CMA awards to win one? Because @KeithUrban new song #female is song of the year. #whos
7:11 AM - Nov 9, 2017
51 432 2,713

Sister, shoulder, daughter, lover  
Healer, broken halo, mother  
Nature, fire, suit of armor  
Soul survivor, holy water  
Secret keeper, fortune teller  
Virgin Mary, scarlet letter  
Technicolor, river wild  
Baby girl, woman child  
Female

**Hillary Buisar**  
@hillibuster

Keith Urban's "female empowerment" song is just him mansplaining Ritch by Meredith Brooks. youtube.com/watch?v= _qSW66...  
6:58 AM - Nov 9, 2017
10 83 114

Keith Urban - "Female" (Official Audio)

- with Broede Carmody

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Why do male exhibitionists force women to watch them? Two therapists explain

Lisa Donos

Harvey Weinstein, James Toback, Mark Halperin, Brett Ratner, Louis C.K. There's one act that keeps popping up in the recent accusations against these men: forcing a woman to watch them masturbate.

What compels a man to do this? The Washington Post spoke to two sex therapists who, although they don't have experience treating these men specifically, could explain why some men find this behaviour erotic and what factors can lead to it.

"If it was just about power, there are other ways that men can get power," says Michael Vigorito, a sex therapist in Washington, DC, and author of Treating Out of Control Sexual Behaviour: Rethinking Sex Addiction. Vigorito and others say that masturbating in front of someone without their consent can be about feeling powerful and dominant while also experiencing sexual pleasure at the same time.

"The person is demonstrating or displaying what has become"
culturally symbolic of male sexuality, which is their penis or their erection," Vigorito adds.

The man who is drawn to this type of exhibitionistic behaviour is often someone who grew up with a little attention, leaving the child feeling angry, hurt or invalidated, says Alexandra Katehakis, clinical director of the Centre for Health Sex in Los Angeles and author of *Exotic Intelligence: Igniting Hot, Healthy Sex While in Recovery from Sex Addiction*. "It's like he's being erased in a way," Katehakis says. "If this guy is always the nerd, or the dweeb, or the guy that is your friend but nobody wants to go out with, there's anger there."

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Katehakis says: "We can literally think of exhibitionism as: Look at me. I want you to see me. I'm angry that you're not seeing more of me."

Both the typical exhibitionist - a man in a trench coat who flashes unsuspecting strangers on a street corner - and the exhibitionist who targets a specific person, might get aroused by "the horror, the terror, the anger on the woman's face", Katehakis says. "It's an act of rage."

But the person who does this in a more targeted, personal way - rather than anonymously - is doing so to feel powerful and aroused at the same time. When someone like Louis C.K. exposes himself, the psychological torture is also part of the arousal. "This kind of exhibitionism is also rooted in deep sexual inadequacy," she says, adding that perpetrators might think to themselves: I'm not good enough. Nobody would want me. Or: I'm sexually ashamed of myself, so I've got to go take what I want.

"It's a half's breadth away from rape," Katehakis says. "It's what we call a non-contact offence, but it's an offence."

These impulses are not just seen in non-consensual masturbation. Katehakis says that men sending pictures of their genitals to women, a practice that's common in online dating, is also exhibitionistic. "Full-on genitalia is not usually a turn-on for most women," Katehakis says. "It's so much about men's power and men's need to be seen and male competition."

Another factor contributing to non-consensual masturbation can be the lack of consequences that such powerful men have long felt. There's very little to inhibit their baser impulses. And if they lack empathy, Vigorito says, "That's not going to be putting on the brakes on something that feels good to them."
Fresh twist in Harvey Weinstein scandal: Producer accused of sex trafficking in Cannes

A UK-based aspiring actress has claimed she was groomed in London before being assaulted in Cannes.

Karl Quinn

A 31-year-old woman has accused disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sex trafficking, claiming he groomed her in one country and lured her to another with the promise of work only to force her into an unwanted sex act.

UK-based Kadian Noble filed a civil suit, seeking unspecified damages, in New York, accusing Weinstein of "travelling in foreign commerce ... with the promise of a film role, knowing that he would use means of force, fraud or coercion to cause her to engage in a sex act in his hotel room".

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The suit also alleges The Weinstein Company and Harvey's brother Bob "knew, or [were] in reckless disregard of the facts" that it was Harvey Weinstein's "pattern and practice ... to travel in interstate and foreign commerce to entice or recruit [or] solicit young female actors with the promise of roles in upcoming TWC projects or use of his influence on their behalf, knowing that he would then use fraud, force or coercion to engage in sex acts with these actors".

Noble's suit alleges Weinstein had "groomed" her in London some time prior to February 2014 by responding to her visit to his office to drop off a showreel with the comment that he "had a role in mind for her and that 'it will be good for you'."

In February 2014, he approached her at the Majestic Hotel in Cannes, France, and asked her to come to his hotel room to watch her demo reel with him, her suit alleges.

In the hotel room, she alleges, Weinstein began to massage her, telling her she "needed to relax", and if she did, his people "would take care of everything" for her.

He then grabbed her breasts, to which she responded by saying "No, Harvey, no". According to the suit, Weinstein then trapped her in the bathroom and forced her to masturbate him until he ejaculated on the floor.

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Kadian's only listed film credit on imdb is a small role in the 2012 movie *Riot on Redchurch Street*.

In response to the latest allegations, *Variety* reports, Weinstein's representative issued a statement that has been used several times before in response to similar allegations.

"Mr Weinstein denies allegations of non-consensual sex. Mr Weinstein has further confirmed that there were never any acts of retaliation against any women for refusing his advances."

The latest allegation comes a day after it emerged that Weinstein is facing a damages claim in a London court by a woman who accuses the Hollywood producer of sexual assault.

Personal injury lawyer Jill Greenfield said on Monday her client, who hasn't been identified, is seeking damages for "personal injury" plus expenses and "consequential loss" arising out of a series of sexual assaults by Weinstein.

Civil claims for rape and sexual assault are uncommon in Britain. Greenfield's firm, Fieldfisher, said on Monday that this is the first such claim in Britain against Weinstein, who has been accused of sexual harassment and assault by dozens of women.

Papers for the claim have been filed at the High Court, but no date has been set for a hearing.

British police are also investigating several sexual assault claims made by woman against Weinstein.

With wires

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From Weinstein to Don Burke, the reckoning is overdue

Tracey Spicer deserves credit for getting the conversation going in Australia. Picture: Charlie Brewer

CAROLINE OVERSTON THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM December 2, 2017

It has been dubbed the reckoning — after years, and in most cases decades, of getting away with the most egregious behaviour, powerful men across the globe are being brought to their knees by allegations of sexual harassment.

It started in the US with Roger Ailes, chief executive of Fox News (owned by 21st Century Fox, the company that emerged from the spin-off of News Corp’s journalism and publishing assets). Ailes was followed by Fox News presenter Bill O’Reilly, forced out after too many complaints. Then, in a truly seismic moment, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, a man of immense popularity and influence, was publicly accused of forcing himself on women.

He’s now gone from The Weinstein Company, the production company he co-founded. And we are still only at the beginning, for next came Oscar winner Kevin Spacey and, just this week, Matt Lauer, the host of America’s most watched, best-loved morning television show, Today, came tumbling down.

Before that, on Monday in Australia, celebrity gardener Don Burke was accused of being a man who harassed and bullied people, including Australia’s golden girl, Susie O’Neill, who says Burke asked her about the size of her vagina while filming a segment for the Nine Network’s Burke’s Backyard. Although she complained, and Burke allegedly got ticked off by Kerry Packer, he essentially got away with it.

So many men, for so long, have been getting away with it. What has changed? What has brought on the reckoning?

The Weinstein story obviously changed everything. Like the stories about Burke, his behaviour had been whispered about for years. Not even whispered: there are clips showing comedians making jokes about Weinstein’s behaviour on stage, and everyone laughed because everyone knew.

Rumours about Don Burke had circulated for years; before his accusers went public.

Actresses warned each other about him, but he was rich and powerful and well-connected, hobnobbing with Hillary Clinton and every star in Hollywood, and the lawyers were always there with their letters, ready to scare off anyone who wanted to speak.

But then some of his victims decided they didn’t give a damn any more and spoke up on the record. Their courage emboldened others. A crack appeared in the dam wall. Women began posting on social media about their experiences using the hashtag #metoo. One tweet, asking women to retweet if they had “ever seen a dick they didn’t want or expect to see”, got retweeted more than 200,000 times in five days.

In Australia, the woman who deserves the most credit for getting a local conversation about sexual harassment under way is journalist Tracey Spicer.

Earlier this year she published The Good Girl Stripped Bare, a book about her experiences in TV. She was harassed and abused. Her appearance was mocked. She was told to lose weight. She bore witness to the harassment of other women in the industry.

Ultimately she was fired after she went on maternity leave. She fought back, hiring a lawyer to fight for her rights. She settled her case, but she wanted to do more for other women, so she told her story, and her book struck a nerve.

You could feel it, even at the launch, where women from across the political spectrum — NSW’s Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian was there, as was Labor’s Tanya Plibersek — cheered her stirring speech. Then it started: women began calling Spicer and emailing her, saying: “Me too.”

Golden girl Susie O’Neill is among those with serious complaints about Don Burke. Picture: Getty Images

At first Spicer was uncertain how to proceed. The stories she was gathering were horrendous, but what could be done? Australia’s defamation laws are some of the world’s toughest. You can tell the truth and still go down in court if the jury does not believe you.

Then the Weinstein story broke and Spicer decided the time had come: she posted a tweet asking women who had suffered similar instances of harassment to come forward.

She expected quite a few responses. She didn’t expect 900.

“Frankly, I feel overwhelmed and humbled by the sheer number of courageous women who have come forward to share their stories, many of which are heartbreaking,” Spicer tells Inquirer. “At this stage, it’s almost 1000. Really, it’s a stain on this country that so many women have been exposed to unsafe workplaces for decades.”

With the wave of claims now rolling across Australian shores, Spicer was determined to do something about it, and the place to start was with the one name that kept coming up in emails: Don Burke. In some ways, the fact he could be vilified was the oldest story in Australian showbiz, yet it had never been fully told.

Several journalists had a go at saying so through the years, including ABC broadcaster Richard Glover, who wrote a piece for Fairfax’s Good Weekend magazine in 1991 with the spot-on title: “They love him, they love him not”.

Elisabeth Wynhausen, with Vanessa Walker, spent months investigating what they described as “some of the colourfull claims, rumours and innuendos” about Burke for The Australian in 2004, but there was no backlash.

Burke’s show was a ratings juggernaut. He was protected. But no longer. Burke was the first to fall in Australia but he will not be the last.

About to burst into the open, surely, is the story about the high-profile comedian who assaulted and harassed his girlfriend. Sydney writer Kara Eva Schlegl wrote about that incident more than two years ago, explaining to readers of The Saturday Paper how she had been encouraged by others in the comedy scene to protect the man’s privacy, despite being outraged by what he had done.

“ I don’t think he needs accusations or judgments right now. I think he needs our support,” one tells me,” she wrote. “The thing is, he’s very mentally unwell at the moment, Kara,” another says, ‘and this happened a long time ago. I don’t think it matters — I mean, it matters, don’t get me wrong, but this was a one-time thing.’ ”

Other names are doing the rounds. Many people are feeling nervous.

“Of course it’s not just the media and entertainment industry,” says Spicer. “It’s time for a full and thorough investigation into all workplaces. But the Don Burke story has prompted all sorts of conversations about what we can do to make all workplaces safe.”

This new reckoning is not being welcomed everywhere. INXS guitarist Kirk Pengilly, attending a Movember charity event in Melbourne on Thursday, said men were starting to feel that they couldn’t even compliment a woman as it could be viewed as sexual harassment.

“I really loved the 60s and 70s when life was so simple and you could slap a woman on the butt,” Pengilly said. You actually can’t go around slapping women on the butt. But Pengilly probably meant that men and women have flirted forever and it would be a shame for that to stop.

Spicer says the reckoning isn’t about flirting. Nobody is trying to put an end to the office romance. It’s also not about not women v men. It’s about awful behaviour, abuse and harassment, and people should know the difference. The detail from the Lauer case opens a window on exactly what women have had to endure. Entertainment trade journal Variety says he gave a colleague a sex toy as a present, with a note saying how he wanted to use it on her. He is accused of asking a female employee to come to his office, then dropping his pants and showing her his penis.

It’s not just vile. It’s the stuff of lawsuits. Roger Singh, abuse law special counsel with Shine Lawyers, tells Inquirer: “These events are a wretched reminder that Australian workplaces, like in other parts of the globe, are not immune from the scourge of sexual harassment. It is a serious wake-up call. Workplaces need to change to ensure that employees are protected from sexual misconduct.”
Harmless daybed or 'casting couch'? Hollywood sculpture removed, then returned, in wake of Weinstein scandal

Christopher Knight

An Art Deco-style daybed removed seven weeks ago from an important Hollywood public artwork in wake of the Harvey Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal has been returned to view.

Erika Rothenberg's popular installation *The Road to Hollywood*, a marble mosaic and concrete floor piece installed in 2001 at the Hollywood & Highland shopping mall adjacent to the theatre where the Academy Awards are handed out, became the focus of a censorship controversy when the mall's management received a complaint.

In the eyes of some, an innocuous daybed became a casting couch.

Rothenberg's work is made up of 49 floor mosaics which tell stories of how people in Hollywood began their careers. The path begins at Hollywood Boulevard, winds through the shopping centre and ends at a terrace overlook that features a massive concrete chaise, designed...
Harmless daybed or 'casting couch'? Hollywood sculpture removed, then returned, in wake of Weinstein scandal

in a period style from the 1920s when the movie industry emerged. The Hollywood sign in the distant hills provides the backdrop.

The entryway to Rothenberg's installation at a Hollywood shopping centre. Photo: Christopher Knight

When the Weinstein scandal broke, the heavy sculpture was dragged from the site and hidden beneath a blue-plastic tarp in a nearby railway.

Now, the installation is whole again, with the sculpture returned in recent days.

"The chaise is back in place," Rothenberg said, expressing satisfaction with the outcome. In an agreement proposed by the artist and agreed to by the management company, Rothenberg provided a descriptive text to be displayed on a printed plaque nearby, clarifying its purpose.

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"Groups of people can sit on the chaise and pose for photos and selfies with the iconic Hollywood sign in the background," part of it reads. "I invite you to have fun reading the stories on the mosaic path, taking photos on the chaise, and thinking about Hollywood as a real place, and a mythic one, too." The statement ends with the artist's signature.
The artwork was unceremoniously shoved under a tarp in a nearby hallway. Photo: Christopher Knight

For the moment, the chaise is not quite in its correct position on the terrace. A large Christmas tree occupies that spot, with the sculpture adjacent. Rothenberg said the chaise will be moved into its proper place after New Year's Day.

Los Angeles Times
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Some men are bad. But not all of them

Nadonna King

Not all men are bad.

It seems the bleeding obvious but in the current highly charged climate where he said—she said accusations are being thrown around freely, it's worth remembering.

And in the pursuit of those guilty of wrongdoing, we should be really, really careful not to tar those who are not.

Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey, on any account, seem like sub-human beings, and the accusations against Don Burke, here in Australia, are as alarming as they are grave. 
Every single one of those complaints should be investigated fully, and we should acknowledge the courage of the women who have come forward, and the leadership of women in the media such as Tracey Spicer and Kate McClymont for encouraging that.

Indeed, that's exactly what Time magazine has done in the US by naming the social movement aimed at boosting awareness of sexual harassment as the most influential "person" of 2017.

Time's editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal labels the #MeToo movement as the "fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage by women and some men, too".

(For those who have had their head in the sand, it only began a matter of weeks ago after actress Alyssa Milano asked people to tweet "me too" if they had been sexually assaulted or harassed. In less than 48 hours, the hashtag was tweeted almost a million times.)

Let's hope that momentum continues, and that women feel protected in coming forward with their stories, and then let's hope it moves beyond media and entertainment to politics and the business world because every one of our daughters should be able to go to work without fear that sexual harassment or assault is part of the job.

But what has been niggling at me, these past few days, is the capacity for this to roll out of control, and for males to be targeted unfairly by those with a barrow to push.

Should a single accusation against Geoffrey Rush be investigated? Of course!

But should it be played out in the public arena, where the he-said, she-said claims dominate red carpet interviews?

Is it fair that a single accusation be sufficient to name someone publicly as an alleged offender?

Is it OK, as some on Twitter have argued this week, that a few innocent heads might just be collateral in the bid to expose others?

I don't think so – and if that happens, the authority and success of what is being done to unmask the real wrong-doers will be undermined.

A school principal raised it with me this week, while we were discussing the success of male teachers in classrooms of teen girls.

She thought they brought a humour that captured the girls' interest, and lowered the emotional shenanigans that often dominate the

discussions of this group.

Her lament was that there were so few of them; many scared off by the threat that a single, made-up complaint could ruin their career.

I've spoken about a similar effect in Brisbane years ago, when police were closing in on a sexual predator who would approach women who were exercising by themselves.

Two male colleagues of mine stopped their early-morning run; they had both seen the look of fear on the faces of women as they passed them.

Millions of women across the globe are now sharing their stories about being sexually harassed and assaulted. Long may that continue.

But the success of what happens from here will be in the rigour that is used to out the wrong-doers.

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Some men are bad. But not all of them.

'Concealed evidence': Lawsuit sees Harvey Weinstein as a crime boss

Alyssa Rosenberg

On Wednesday morning, Time magazine named the "Silence Breakers," women who had spoken out about sexual harassment, as Person of the Year.

And on Wednesday morning, six women did more than talk: They put their names on what they hope will become a class-action lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein, his companies and the people their lawyers describe as part of a larger criminal enterprise.

Hollywood stars slam Harvey Weinstein

Emma Thompson, Jane Fonda and Rose McGowan are just some of the Hollywood A-listers speaking out about the industry's culture of sexual harassment in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Certiifying a class action, much less one that describes prominent men such as Knicks owner James Dolan and lawyer David Boies as part of an organised criminal effort, can be complicated.

But as more details about Weinstein's behaviour emerge - most recently in a report from the New York Times entitled "Weinstein's
Complicity Machine" - the more this legal argument feels like a potent metaphorical description of the people who facilitated and concealed Weinstein's decades of depredation.

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Wednesday's lawsuit was filed by a team of attorneys including Steve Berman of Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro and Cris Armenta of the Armenta Law Firm. The six women who put their names on the suit are Louise Geiss, Katherine Kendall, Zoe Brock, Sarah Ann Masse, Melissa Sagemiller and Nannette Klatt.

Klatt was the original Jane Doe in a version of this lawsuit filed in California earlier this year; she is now coming forward under her own name.

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The horrible power of repetition doesn't dull the impact of Klatt's story. In the suit, she says that Weinstein asked her to meet with him in his private office to read a script with him.

Weinstein's alleged ability to carry off an astonishing list of crimes depended on the participation of a disturbing number of other people. Photo: Richard Shotwell

But just after Weinstein told Klatt she'd been cast, Klatt says he "told her he 'just needed one more thing from you.' ... Weinstein told Klatt that the role required him to review and approve of her breasts."

When she repeatedly refused, Klatt says, Weinstein ushered her into a dark stairwell where the door locked behind her. When a maintenance worker on another floor finally heard her cries for help, the lawsuit says "the worker immediately asked Klatt if she was coming from Weinstein's floor."

Harvey Weinstein: There are people who knew that Weinstein behaved badly, but they were powerless to do more than to issue warnings, affirm the women who confided in them and unlock stairwell doors.

According to the lawsuit filed Wednesday, the actor Rufus Sewell said to actress Zoe Brock, "Don't tell me. You've been Weinsteinied?" after she called him to report a terrifying encounter with the producer, and "warned Brock not to go to sleep (in a hotel room) because Weinstein would be back."

Men like Sewell and that maintenance worker may not have been able to bring Weinstein down. But at least they did the decent thing within the constraints of a flawed system.

The lawsuit filed on Wednesday provides an intellectual framework for understanding the behaviour of another category of people in Weinstein's orbit.

Its blunt language lays bare how the whole operation allegedly functioned, from the companies that tolerated Weinstein's conduct, "so that they could continue to benefit from their lucrative collaborations"; the intelligence firms that "destroyed or concealed evidence" and compiled information on Weinstein's accusers "to extort those individuals' silence"; the Weinstein associates and journalists who the lawsuit says formed an alliance to spy on Weinstein's accusers and intimidate them; and the lawyers who hired the firms, worked out settlements and crafted contracts.

At the top of the pyramid are "The Weinstein Participants," who "determined the members of the Weinstein Sexual Enterprise and assigned each member of the enterprise a task or tasks to fulfill the common purpose of using false pretenses to prevent the publication or reporting of Weinstein's sexual misconduct and to destroy evidence."

**Underbosses, caporegimes, soldiers and associates**

In other words, reportedly Weinstein was the boss, and he had a highly organised hierarchy of underbosses, caporegimes, soldiers and associates working under him.

Dismantling the culture that made Weinstein is a vital but nebulous task. Dismantling the specific organisation that empowered, enabled and protected an accused sexual predator and punishing everyone involved is a more concrete undertaking.

Hollywood will have to complete that first assignment itself, in a critical test of the industry's values and capacities.

The women who stepped forward Wednesday and their lawyers have taken an important step toward tackling the second.

And in the process, they've helped clarify that the entertainment industry needs to face up not just to flawed norms but to what appears to be monstrous conspiracies.

_The Washington Post_
'Concealed evidence': Lawsuit sees Harvey Weinstein as a crime boss

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Weinstein's complicity machine entangled stars, scribes and aides

Published: December 7 2017 - 8:39AM

Harvey Weinstein built his complicity machine out of the witting, the unwitting and those in between. He commanded enablers, silencers and spies, warning others who discovered his secrets to say nothing. He courted those who could provide the money or prestige to enhance his reputation as well as his power to intimidate.

In the weeks and months before allegations of his methodical abuse of women were exposed in October, Weinstein, the Hollywood producer, pulled on all the levers of his carefully constructed apparatus.

"I gathered ammunition, sometimes helped by the editor of the National Enquirer, who had dispatched reporters to find information that could undermine accusers. He turned to old allies, asking a partner in Creative Artists Agency, one of Hollywood's premier talent shops, to broker a meeting with a CAA client, Ronan Farrow, who was reporting on Weinstein. He tried to dispense favours: while seeking to stop actress Rose McGowan from writing in a memoir that he had sexually assaulted her, he tried to arrange a $50,000 payment to her former manager and throw new business to a literary agent advising McGowan. The agent, Lacy Lynch, replied to him in an email: "No one understands smart, intellectual and commercial like HW."

Weinstein's final, failed round of manipulations shows how he operated for more than three decades: by trying to turn others into instruments or shields for his behaviour, according to nearly 200 interviews, internal company records and previously undisclosed emails. Some aided his actions without realising what he was doing. Many knew something or detected hints, although few understood the scale of his sexual misconduct. Almost everyone had incentives to look the other way or reasons to stay silent. Now, even as the tally of Weinstein's alleged misdeeds is still emerging, so is a debate about collective failure and the apportioning of blame.

Executives at Weinstein's film companies who learned of allegations rarely took a stand, cowed by their "volatile boss or worried about their careers. His brother and partner, Bob, participated in payoffs to women far back as 1990. Some low-level assistants were pulled in: they compiled "bibels" that included hints on facilitating encounters with women and were required to procure his penile injections for erectile dysfunction. His lawyers crafted settlements that kept the truth from being explored, much less exposed. "When you quickly settle, there is no need to get into all the facts," said Daniel M. Petrocelli, a lawyer who handled two agreements with accusers.

Agents and managers across Hollywood, who wanted in on Weinstein's star-making films, sent actresses to meet him alone at hotels and advised them to stay quiet when things went wrong. "That's just Harvey being Harvey," more than one agent told a client. At CAA, for example, at least eight talent agents were told that Weinstein had harassed or menaced female clients, but agents there continued to arrange private meetings. Even Nick Wechsler, a talent manager at another firm who confronted Weinstein about McGowan, felt he had to maintain business ties with him: "Sometimes he was the only game in town."

Weinstein held off press scrutiny with a mix of threats and enticements, drawing reporters close with the lure of access to stars, directors and celebrity-packed parties. Some journalists negotiated book and movie deals with him even as they were assigned to cover him. The studio chief once paid a gossip writer to collect juicy celebrity tidbits that Weinstein could use to barter if other reporters stumbled onto an affair he was trying to keep quiet. He was so close to David J. Pecker, the chief executive of American Media Inc., which owns the National Enquirer, that he was known in the tabloid industry as an untouchable "FOP," or "friend of Pecker." That status was shared by a chosen few, including President Donald Trump.
Disney, the kingdom of family-friendly entertainment, tightly controls its operations, but it allowed the Weinstein brothers to run the Miramax studio with virtual autonomy during the 12 years they were employees. (The pair wore T-shirts boasting "Corporate Irresponsible" to one company retreat.) Along with an impressive record of Oscars, Weinstein left Disney with a trail of settlements and claims of sexual misconduct that accumulated during his tenure. Disney, which says it was not aware of his alleged abuses, faces accusations in a lawsuit that it "knew, should have known or was willfully blind".

Weinstein, 65, is under investigation by law enforcement authorities in three cities. Although he has acknowledged that his behaviour "has caused a lot of pain," his lawyers denied that he committed sexual assault. His spokeswoman disputed claims of inappropriate advances in this article, saying Weinstein's recollections differed from those of his accusers.

A master of leverage, Weinstein parlayed his films into relationships across the worlds of entertainment, politics, publishing and beyond, achieving a stature that at times proved useful in intimidating others and protecting himself. "I know the president of the United States. Who do you know?" Weinstein, a Democratic fundraiser, would say during the years Barack Obama was in the White House, adding expletives. "I'm Harvey Weinstein," he used to say. "You know what I can do."

In late September, emails show, he was discussing a documentary television show he was working on with Hillary Clinton. He had long raised campaign cash for her, and her feminist credentials helped burnish his image - even though Tina Brown, the magazine editor, and Lena Dunham, the writer and actress, each say they had cautioned Clinton's aides about his treatment of women. Now, Weinstein exchanged questions about distribution rights for the show. "I am hopeful we can get a good price for this," Robert Barnett, Clinton's lawyer, replied.

Two days later, Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive of Amazon, interrupted a vacation in Hawaii to field advice from Weinstein, according to the emails. The Wall Street Journal was reporting on turmoil at Amazon Studios, one of Weinstein's business partners. He recommended an aggressive response that involved hiring some of his own team, including a libel lawyer who "makes sure everyone sticks to the right narrative," Weinstein wrote. He added: "I'm happy to coordinate with whoever you'd like, as a friend of the court". Bezos declined to comment.

Even as Weinstein was aware that reporters were examining his behaviour, he attended the Toronto International Film Festival in September and invited two women to his hotel room. He alternated between making massage requests, other unwelcome advances and offers of career help, said the women, who asked to remain unidentified but whose account was backed up in part through text messages and a friend who was told at the time of the encounter. Then, the women said, he issued pleas and warnings not to tell anyone. Weinstein called the account "nonsense".

He pressured his business associates, telling Lance Macerov, an outspoken member of the Weinstein Co. board, that he would find embarrassing details from his past and use them against him. He pushed Irwin Reiter, an executive who had worked with him for three decades, to speak favourably of him to reporters. When Reiter refused, he said, Weinstein responded that he had damaging information about him too.

About the same time, he tried to facilitate a business deal with Lynch, the literary agent consulting with McGowan, and others. "Getting together with three intelligent women would help my image immensely," he wrote in an email, proposing a meeting. That never happened, according to Lynch. She said that she felt Weinstein was trying to ingratiate himself with her because of her relationship to McGowan and that she was simply playing along. Jill Measick, McGowan's former manager, never received or accepted money from the producer, her lawyer said.

Minutes before The New York Times published the first allegations about Weinstein in October, he called the reporters who wrote it. Swinging between flattery and threats, he said that he had ways of knowing who had cooperated with the investigation and the means to undermine it.

"I am a man who has great resources," he warned.

Read the full New York Times investigation here.
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Time magazine names 'The Silence Breakers' Person of the Year

Jonah Engel Bromwich

First it was a story. Then a moment. Now, two months after women began to come forward in droves to accuse powerful men of sexual harassment and assault, it is a movement.

_Time_ magazine has named "the silence breakers" its person of the year for 2017, referring to those women, and the global conversation they have started.

TIME Person Of The Year: "The Silence Breakers"

Those who broke their silence about sexual misconduct have been named TIME Magazine's Person of the Year. Amid revelations about Harvey Weinstein and other men, #metoo prompted millions to share their own stories.

The magazine's editor-in-chief, Edward Felsenthal, said in an interview on the _Today_ show Wednesday that the #MeToo movement represented the "fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage by women and some men too".

Investigations published in October by _The New York Times_ and _The
New Yorker, both of them detailing multiple allegations of sexual harassment and assault against movie producer Harvey Weinstein, helped fuel the sudden rush of women coming forward.

In a joint interview after the choice was announced, Tarana Burke, who created the Me Too mantra years ago, and actress Alyssa Milano, who helped promote it more recently, focused on what was still left to do.

"I've been saying from the beginning that it's not just a moment, it's a movement," Burke said. "I think now the work really begins. The hashtag is a declaration. But now we're poised to really stand up and do the work."

Milano agreed, laying out her aspirations for the movement.

"I want companies to take on a code of conduct, I want companies to hire more women, I want to teach our children better," she said.
"These are all things that we have to set in motion, and as women we have to support each other and stand together and say that's it, we're done, no more."

It is a testament to the size of the movement that the set of Today itself, where the announcement was made, had recently been the site of such a reckoning. Matt Lauer, one of NBC's most well-known personalities for decades, was fired last week after an allegation of sexual harassment from a subordinate.

Time's 2017 runner-up for person of the year, Donald Trump, was accused during his presidential campaign by more than 10 women of sexual misconduct.

He said last month that Time had called "to say that I was PROBABLY going to be named 'Man (Person) of the Year,' like last year, but I would have to agree to an interview and a major photo shoot. I said probably is no good and took a pass. Thanks anyway!"

In its Person of the Year 2017 cover story, Time noted that "this moment is borne of a very real and potent sense of unease. Yet it doesn't have a leader, or a single, unifying tenet. The hashtag #metoo (swiftly adapted into #BalanceTonPorc, #YoTambien, #Ana_kaman and many others), which to date has provided an umbrella of solidarity for millions of people to come forward with their stories, is part of the picture, but not all of it."

"This reckoning appears to have sprung up overnight. But it has"
actually been simmering for years, decades, centuries. Women have had it with bosses and co-workers who not only cross boundaries but don't even seem to know that boundaries exist. They've had it with the fear of retaliation, of being blackballed, of being fired from a job they can't afford to lose. They've had it with the code of going along to get along. They've had it with men who use their power to take what they want from women. These silence breakers have started a revolution of refusal, gathering strength by the day, and in the past two months alone, their collective anger has spurred immediate and shocking results: nearly every day, CEOs have been fired, moguls toppled, icons disgraced. In some cases, criminal charges have been brought."

"Emboldened by Judd, Rose McGowan and a host of other prominent accusers, women everywhere have begun to speak out about the inappropriate, abusive and in some cases illegal behavior they've faced. When multiple harassment claims bring down a charmer like former Today show host Matt Lauer, women who thought they had no recourse see a new, wide-open door. When a movie star says #MeToo, it becomes easier to believe the cook who's been quietly enduring for years."

In choosing its Person of the Year, Time has said it names the person or people who had the greatest influence over the past 12 months.

In 2015, Time chose German Chancellor Angela Merkel; in 2014, it was "The Ebola Fighters"; and in 2013, Pope Francis - "The People's Pope."

Last year's choice was President Trump.

In explaining that pick, Time's then-editor Nancy Gibbs wrote: "This is the 90th time we have named the person who had the greatest influence, for better or worse, on the events of the year. So which is it this year: Better or worse? The challenge for Donald Trump is how profoundly the country disagrees about the answer."


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10-698
Politics, sexual harassment and why some women will never come forward

Joana Price

An acquaintance turned to me and asked: "Why is it taking so long? Maybe it doesn’t happen as much here in Australia? Maybe we have a more open culture?"

This is how men — some men — respond to the sexual-harassment allegations in the wake of the "#MeToo" disclosures.

TIME Person Of The Year: 'The Silence Breakers'

Those who broke their silence about sexual misconduct have been named TIME Magazine’s Person of the Year. Amid revelations about Harvey Weinstein and other men, #metoo prompted millions to share their own stories.

It’s December, just a few months after Harvey Weinstein was outed a serial sexual predator. My inquisitor is wondering why the sole identity revealed by #MeToo in Australia is Don Burke, who, according to the man asking the questions, is a has-been. I’d argue that these events have comforted other women to know that they can now share their stories, too.
When will Australian politics have its Weinstein moment?

Jane Gilmore

One year before the Weinstein allegations and the #MeToo phenomenon, political journalist Karen Middleton wrote an article about sexual harassment in Australian politics. It was not so much a personal account of her own experiences as a description of an entrenched culture in Canberra's hothouse of politicians and journalists.

If her description of this culture is still accurate, politicians, and the profession supposed to hold them to account, are living in a culture that normalises criminal behaviour. Institutionalised sexism goes some way to explaining the measurably low priority given by parliament to systemic issues of male violence, female poverty and unequal representation.
MP with "an octopus reputation" found her, as he thought, alone in an office.

She wrote: "Remarketing that he had not met the newest member of the bureau, the MP quickly stepped into the minuscule room and started running his hand up my stockings, with a sleazy 'And who have we here?'

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"I froze. In a flash, his hand had reached the hem of my skirt and was not slowing."

Middleton was lucky. The MP was mistaken and she wasn't alone. "My fiery Irish-Australian bureau chief, the very fine journalist Paul Malone, flew around the filing cabinet from where he'd been sitting out of view. 'Don't you touch my staff!' he barked, as the MP backed away out the door."

The litany of groping and demeaning comments Middleton described, the blacklist of elected members of parliament young female journalists were warned to avoid, and the blatantly sexist culture where grabbing a woman's breasts was greeted with "bellowing laughter from the group" is revolting.

That it is not just one incident or a single individual's experience, is borne out by the 2016 Women In Media report, which found that 50 per cent - yes, half - the women currently working in media have experienced sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation.

To give that some context, the human rights commission reports found around 25 per cent of women in the defence forces and 40 per

cent of women in Victoria Police had experienced sexual harassment and bullying.

After the 2016 election only 20 per cent of government MPs and 32 per cent of total MPs were women. Around 35 per cent of the 300 press gallery journalists are women. The overwhelming majority of both groups are white, middle class and university educated.

The sum of all this data is a distinct over-representation of privileged white men in Australia's power structures and a disturbing contempt for women present in far too many of them. The effects of this are clear in the issues given priority in both the practice and reporting of politics.

Earlier this year the federal government announced it was creating a multi-billion dollar Home Affairs Office to address terrorism. Certainly, the experiences in Europe have shown terrorism is a deadly serious issue that requires significant resources from governments all over the world.

But at least 71 Australian women were murdered last year, more than 90 per cent of them by a man who claimed to love them. In the last 20 years a maximum of six people were killed in terrorist incidents in Australia. The federal government currently spends $35 billion on national security and $600 million on domestic violence each year.

If you average that spending out over the past 20 years' worth of victims, simple arithmetic puts it at $53 billion per person killed by terrorism and $55 per woman killed by male violence. The staggering disproportion in this is an indication of where the lives lost to domestic violence sits in the government's priorities.

Minuscule movements in the gender pay gap, which in real terms is actually around 50 per cent not the 17 per cent usually quoted, are noted but not the subject of major policy initiatives. The sustained economic disadvantage suffered by women is a talking point, but again, not a high priority.

The feedback loop between politics and media in a male dominated environment contributes to the difficulty women have trying to break in. Remy Anne showed the demonstrable connection between the men who dominated the gendered coverage of the US Presidential election campaign and their subsequent unmasking as serial predators.

We saw similar skewing in the Australian media's coverage of Julia Gillard, in which, as she said herself, "the reaction to being the first female Prime Minister does not explain everything about my Prime Ministership, nor does it explain nothing about my Prime Ministership".

The wave of allegations coming out in the wake of Harvey Weinstein's unmasking have concentrated on individuals. With good reason. Far too many women have suffered at the hands of men with power and predatory instincts.

But it's also important to look beyond the individuals and see the societal damage done to women by entrenched sexism in the structures of power.

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Salma Hayek has become the latest actress to come forward with shocking claims about disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The award-winning actress says the former producer was a "monster" who forced her into shooting a nude sex scene for the Oscar-winning film *Frida* after threatening to shut down production.

In a harrowing first-person piece for *The New York Times*, Hayek also alleges Weinstein at one point threatened to kill her.

"I was so excited to work with him," she wrote. "In my naivety, I thought my dream had come true. He had validated the last 14 years of my life. He had taken a chance on me - a nobody. He had said yes."
Hayek as Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in the 2002 film Frida, which was nominated for six Oscars, including best actress for Hayek. Photo: Supplied

"Little did I know it would become my turn to say no. No to opening the door to him at all hours of the night, hotel after hotel, location after location, where he would show up unexpectedly, including one location where I was doing a movie he wasn't even involved with."

Hayek wrote that with every refusal - whether it be to oral sex or a massage - Weinstein flew into a "Machiavellian rage".

"The range of his persuasion tactics went from sweet-talking me to that one time when, in an attack of fury, he said the terrifying words, 'I will kill you, don't think I can't.' In his eyes, I was not an artist. I wasn't even a person. I was a thing: not a nobody, but a body."

After forcing Hayek to rewrite Frida's entire script and raise $US10 million to finance the film, Weinstein reportedly showed up to set one day during the middle of production to say he was shutting down the movie because there wasn't enough sex appeal.

The actress says she's grateful for the "chorus" of voices speaking out against sexual harassment. Photo: Christophe Enna

"He offered me one option to continue," the actress wrote. "He would..."
He offered me one option to continue, "the actress white. He would let me finish the film if I agreed to do a sex scene with another woman. And he demanded full-frontal nudity.

"I had to say yes. By now so many years of my life had gone into this film. We were about five weeks into shooting, and I had convinced so many talented people to participate. How could I let their magnificent work go to waste?"

The actress described suffering a "nervous breakdown" on set on the day of the shoot and had to take a tranquiliser to get through the scene.

"My body began to shake uncontrollably, my breath was short and I began to cry and cry, unable to stop, as if I were throwing up tears," Hayek wrote.

"Since those around me had no knowledge of my history of Harvey, they were very surprised by my struggle that morning. It was not because I would be naked with another woman. It was because I would be naked with her for Harvey Weinstein."

*Frida* went on to win two Oscars, one for best makeup and another for best original score. But Hayek warned that until there is true equality in the entertainment industry, sexual predators will continue to take advantage of young actresses.

"I am grateful for everyone who is listening to our experiences. I hope that adding my voice to the chorus of those who are finally speaking out will shed light on why it is so difficult, and why so many of us have waited so long.

"Men sexually harassed because they could. Women are talking today because, in this new era, we finally can."
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These Are the Powerful Men Feeling the Harvey Weinstein Effect

Amazon's Roy Price, NBC's Mark Halperin, Nickelodeon's Chris Savino, and more big names in entertainment and media have fallen in Weinstein's wake, after allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

by HILLARY BUSIS

OCTOBER 27, 2017 2:08 PM
Though much of this behavior has reportedly been going on for years, the reaction to their alleged actions in the wake of Weinstein’s downfall has been swift and decisive: since the first Weinstein story broke, numerous men have lost prominent positions in the industry, due to allegations of sexual misconduct or a history of behavior that demeaned women. The list includes Amazon’s Roy Price, NBC’s Mark Halperin, and Nickelodeon’s Chris Savino. Others, like Toback, former Fox News host Bill O’Reilly, and photographer Terry Richardson, have been dropped by their agents or lost lucrative relationships with major industry players as a result of allegations.

Here is a list of the men who have felt the Weinstein effect—which will be updated if and when necessary.

**Louis C.K.** On Nov. 10, the comedian confirmed allegations that he masturbated in front of women without their consent, or asked to masturbate in front of them on numerous occasions, just one day after the New York Times’s exposé about his pattern of behavior. Five women told the Times about their encounters with the comedian. One woman said she heard him masturbating during a phone call. “These stories are true,” C.K. said in response. “At the time, I said to myself that what I did was O.K. because I never showed a woman my dick without asking first, which is also true. But what I learned later in life, too late, is that when you have power over another person, asking them to look at your dick isn’t a question. It’s a predicament for them.”

Shortly afterward, FX—the network that turned C.K. into a critically acclaimed comedy auteur—announced it was ending its relationship with C.K. In addition, Netflix announced it would no longer make a stand-up special with C.K., and HBO dropped the comedian from the Night of Too Many Stars special. In addition, The Orchard announced it would no longer distribute his controversial film, I Love You, Daddy.

**Eddie Berganza** On Nov. 13, D.C. Comics decided to fire Eddie Berganza, an editor who worked at the company for 25 years. According to BuzzFeed, the firing came after two women told the publication that Berganza allegedly “forcibly kissed them, or attempted to do so, in the early to mid 2000s.” Numerous people complained to HR about Berganza in 2016, when he was up for a promotion. He received the promotion anyway, but was demoted two years later when another woman claimed “he kissed her without her consent at a comics convention.” Berganza did not respond to BuzzFeed’s request for comment.

After firing Berganza, reps for D.C. and Warner Bros. told BuzzFeed they are “committed to eradicating harassment.”

**Ed Westwick**

On Nov. 11, the BBC announced that it would postpone the debut of the upcoming series Ordeal by Innocence in the wake of rape allegations against star Ed Westwick. It also announced that production on the series White Gold has been paused. The British actor has been accused of —

she could no longer wear V-neck t-shirts to the office for fear of his inappropriate comments. "You would have to watch what you said, what you wore, to try to stop being subjected to sexual innuendo," she told Variety. Kreisberg was suspended shortly after the allegations went public. He has denied the allegations of inappropriate touching, adding that he "made comments on women's appearances and clothes in my capacity as an executive producer, but they were not sexualized. Like many people, I have given someone a non-sexual hug or kiss on the cheek."

Adam Venit

On Oct. 10, actor Terry Crews shared a story about an unnamed Hollywood executive who allegedly groped him at a high-profile event. Though the incident shocked Crews, he declined to file a report, worried that he would be ostracized in the industry and that no one would believe him. He eventually told a few colleagues, he said, and, days later, the executive called him to apologize. On Nov. 9, Variety reported that the exec in question was Adam Venit, the head of WME’s motion picture group. Venit has since been placed on leave from the agency. Representatives for WME and Venit declined to comment.

Andy Dick

On Oct. 31, the comedian was dropped from his latest film, Raising Buchanan, after being accused of sexually harassing people on set. According to the Hollywood Reporter, Dick was accused of "groping people's genitals, unwanted kissing/licking and sexual propositions of at least four members of the production." Dick denied the groping allegations, but did not fully deny other claims. "I didn’t grope anybody," he said. "I might have kissed somebody on the cheek to say goodbye and then licked them. That's my thing—I licked Carrie Fisher at a roast. It's 4 being funny. I'm not trying to sexually harass people." One day later, he was fired from another film, Vampire Dad, for similar allegations.

Kevin Spacey

On Oct. 29, actor Anthony Rapp told BuzzFeed that when he was 14 years old, Kevin Spacey made a drunken sexual advance toward him, carrying him into a bed and lying on top of him. At the time, Spacey was 26 years old. Rapp says he was able to leave without things going further. "The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn't happen," he said.

Spacey issued an apology hours later, saying he had no recollection of the incident, but not denying that it happened and saying that he was "horrified" to hear about it. He also decided to come out as a gay man at the end of his statement, which critics including G.L.A.A.D. have called an impassive, strategic decision meant to draw attention away from Rapp's accusation. Since then, Netflix has decided to suspend production of the sixth and final season of House of Cards and sever ties with Spacey, while the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced it would no longer honor the actor with the International Emmy Founders Award on Nov. 20.

Michael Oreskes

On Nov. 1, NPR's senior vice president for news resigned after sexual misconduct allegations about him went public. The allegations were initially reported by the Washington Post on Oct. 31. One woman said that in the 1990s, when Oreskes was the Washington bureau chief for the New York Times, he "kissed her and slipped his tongue into her mouth" when they were in a cab together. Another said he did the same thing after one of their meetings. Later, an NPR employee said he harassed her during a dinner meeting. NPR was aware of the allegations for at least 15 years, the Post notes, but did not remove Oreskes from the organization until after the story went public, a revelation that has ruffled employees at the company. In an interview with NPR's Mary Louise Kelly, company C.E.O. Jarl Mohn defended the decision. "The important distinction here is first, that it did not happen at NPR, it was not an NPR employee. It was at The New York Times and it occurred 15 years ago," he said. "Had that happened at NPR we would have had a very different reaction to it."

In a statement, Oreskes said he was "deeply sorry to the people I hurt. My behavior was wrong and inexcusable, and I accept full responsibility."

Brett Ratner

On Nov. 1, the Los Angeles Times published a devastating report in which six women, including actress Olivia Munn, accused Ratner of sexual misconduct over the years. The allegations all have a similar theme: accusers say that Ratner would approach young, up-and-coming actresses and either make inappropriate sexual comments, offer them small parts in his films in exchange for sexual favors, or masturbate in front of them when they were alone. Hours later, Playboy announced it was halting plans for Ratner to helm a Hugh Hefner biopic. Then the Times reported that Warner Bros. is planning to sever ties with the producer and director completely. For the last few years, Ratner has had a lucrative production deal with the studio, financing and producing blockbuster movies.

"In light of the allegations being made, I am choosing to personally step away from all Warner Bros.-related activities," Ratner added in a statement of his own. "I don't want to have any possible negative impact to the studio until these personal issues are resolved."

Tyler Grasham
On October 29, Win McCormack, owner of The New Republic, announced that the magazine's president and publisher, Hamilton Fish, had begun a leave of absence following allegations of misconduct from multiple women, including making suggestive remarks, making dismissive comments toward female staffers with children, and giving unsolicited shoulder massages. According to The Huffington Post, Fish's misdeeds included choking a female colleague after she asked for his help at a meeting. (In an email to the website, Fish said that incident "did not happen as described... I know it sounds self-serving, but anyone who knows me knows I would never harm a woman or another person.")

Andy Signore

On October 6, one day after the initial Weinstein report was published in the Times, Defy Media announced that it was suspending Screen Junkies creator Andy Signore following allegations of sexual harassment from at least five women—including a former intern who said that Signore told her he wanted to masturbate in front of her, and one allegation of attempted assault from YouTuber April Dawn.

On October 8, Defy fired Signore, saying, "There is simply no justification for this egregious and intolerable behavior. In August, Defy's H.R. team was made aware of allegations made against Andy, at which time an investigation was launched. On Friday, new information became available and the scope and magnitude of his inappropriate actions became apparent. We are acting swiftly to address the concerns of the people affected, and that going forward, our community is free of harassment or discrimination of any kind."

Signore has not yet publicly commented on the allegations, though the Screen Junkies team did address the allegations and their fallout in a video posted October 27, titled, "What Happened, What's Next."

"This was news that was a shock to all of us," says producer Dan Murrell in the video. "Andy was, for I think everyone here, not just our boss, but someone that we counted as a friend. And we found out overnight that he was not a person that we knew or that we thought he was."

Roy Price

On October 12, two days after The New Yorker published its bombshell piece in which more than a dozen women accused Weinstein of harassment and assault—and actresses including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie went on the record about Weinstein in a separate New York Times story—producer Isa Hackett accused Amazon Studios chief Roy Price of harasssing her in a cab during San Diego Comic-Con in 2015. Hackett says Price propositioned her and told her, "You will love my dick." She told The Hollywood Reporter that she was inspired to tell her story by "the other women who have been far braver than I am, who have come forward" about Weinstein.

The same day Hackett went on the record, Price was suspended from Amazon. Five days later, he officially resigned. Price declined T.H.R.'s request for comment.

Lockhart Steele

According to The Awl, the Vox Media editorial director was alluded to in an October 12 viral Medium post written by former Vox employee Eden Routhensky, which alleged misconduct by several employers and co-workers, including "one of the company's VPs," whom she said touched her and kissed her neck while she rode in a car full of co-workers after a company party. On October 15, Vox terminated Steele after he "admitted engaging in conduct that is inconsistent with our core values and will not be tolerated at Vox Media," according to a statement from Vox Media C.E.O. Jim Bankoff.

Chris Savino

Several women alleged that the animator and creator of the Nickelodeon cartoon Loud House had sexually harassed them—reportedly offering work in exchange for sexual favors and sending lewd text messages—according to a report published October 17 in Cartoon Brew. Nickelodeon subsequently suspended Savino, then fired him October 19.

"I am deeply sorry and ashamed," Savino wrote in a Facebook message four days after he was fired. "Although it was never my intention, I now understand that the impact of my actions and communications created an unacceptable environment. At every stage of my career, I have sought to uplift my colleagues and cultivate a culture of respect. In this objective, I have failed. I should have known better, I should have acted better, and this has been a difficult but valuable lesson."

John Besh

On October 21, the New Orleans Times-Picayune published a report in which 25 women accused the celebrity chef, a former Top Chef Masters contestant and host of Chef John Besh's Family Table, of fostering a culture of sexual harassment at his restaurants. One woman accused
James Toback

On October 22, the Los Angeles Times published a piece in which 28 women—31 of whom have gone on the record—accused the Oscar-nominated director and screenwriter of harassment and assault. Days later, the number of accusers climbed into the hundreds. On October 26, actresses Selma Blair and Rachel McAdams came forward with their own harrowing stories about Toback, saying that he targeted them when they were in their 20s and promised jobs and advice in exchange for sexual favors. In the wake of the scandal, Toback has been dropped by his agent, Jeff Berg. When contacted by Vanity Fair, Toback declined to comment on Blair and McAdams’s allegations; previously, when contacted by the L.A. Times for its initial story, Toback told reporter Glenn Whipp that he had never met any of these women or, if he did, it was for five minutes and have no reollection. He also repeatedly claimed that for the last 22 years, it had been “biologically impossible” for him to engage in the behavior described by the women in this story, saying he had diabetes and a heart condition that required medication. Toback declined to offer further details.

Dan Katz and P.F.T. Commenter

On October 23, ESPN canceled a series called Barstool Van Talk after a single episode. The show, hosted by Katz and the pseudonymous P.F.T. Commenter—who also co-host Barstool Sports blog’s Period My Take podcast—had come under fire primarily for a 2014 Barstool Sports post about ESPN personality Sam Ponder, which called the sportscaster a “bible-thumping freak” and “a chick that has a job where the No.1 requirement is you make men hard.”

“Effective immediately, I am canceling Barstool Van Talk,” ESPN president John Skipper said in a statement. “While we had approval on the content of the show, I erred in assuming we could distance our efforts from the Barstool site and its content.” Katz and P.F.T. responded that they were “heartbroken” by the decision, with Katz adding on Twitter, “I’m obviously beyond heartbroken, but if you know me, HauL, and P.F.T. you know we won’t stay down from this for long.” P.F.T., meanwhile, tweeted, “Welp, time2 get drunk.”

Terry Richardson

On October 24, Condé Nast—which publishes magazines including Vogue, GQ, and Vanity Fair—formally severed ties with Richardson, a prolific photographer who has long been accused of misconduct, including allegedly getting naked during photo shoots and pressuring unwilling models to pose suggestively. He denied the allegations in 2014, calling them “nothing more than an emotionally-charged hunt.”

“Terry is disappointed to hear about this e-mail especially because he has previously addressed these old stories,” a spokesperson for Richardson told Time. “He is an artist who has been known for his sexually explicit work so many of his professional interactions with subjects were sexual and explicit in nature, but all of the subjects of his work participated consensually.”

Leon Wieselthier

The longtime New Republic editor, who left the magazine in 2014, was reportedly included on a crowdourced list of so-called “Shitty Media Men” that circulated October 11. Wieselthier was accused of making sexually charged comments to colleagues; according to an October 5 Splinter story, during his New Republic days, an anonymous co-worker once put a sign in Wieselthier’s office that said, “WARNING: A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER LIVES HERE.”

On October 24, Emerson Collective, a company backed by Laurene Powell Jobs, severed its ties with Wieselthier, with whom it had been collaborating on a new magazine.

“For my offenses against some of my colleagues in the past I offer a shaken apology and seek for their forgiveness,” Wieselthier said in a statement. “The women with whom I worked are smart and good people. I am ashamed to know that I made any of them feel demeaned and disrespected. I assume them that I will not waste this reckoning.”

Mark Halperin

On October 26, CNN published a story in which five women accused Halperin, a prominent journalist, author, and TV political analyst, of harassing them when he held a previous position at ABC News. “I went up to a sofa and talked and— he just kissed me and grabbed my boobs,” one woman said. “I just froze. I didn’t know what to do.” Others said that a clothed Halperin had forcibly pressed his erect penis against them.

Halperin responded with a statement: “During this period, I did pursue relationships with women that I worked with, including some junior to me. I now understand from these accounts that my behavior was inappropriate and caused others pain. For that, I am deeply sorry and I apologize. Under the circumstances, I’m going to take a step back from my day-to-day work while I properly deal with this situation.”

Sketch Comedy showcase, which focuses on providing “exposure, access, and opportunities for talented and motivated diverse writers and performers,” according to the network. The previous week, the network learned that Najera had allegedly harassed performers in 2009 and 2014.

“In March 2017, CBS became aware of inappropriate comments made during the production of the Diversity Comedy Showcase, and remedial action was taken at that time, which the company felt was appropriate to the matter,” a CBS spokesman told Variety. Subsequent information has recently emerged. After looking into these reports and a discussion with Mr. Najera, he has resigned from his role with the Diversity Comedy Showcase.” A representative for Najera declined comment.

Bill O'Reilly

Months after being fired from Fox News following a New York Times investigation that revealed Fox News had paid millions to women who had complained about O'Reilly's conduct over the years, the former O'Reilly Factor host was dropped by his literary agency—following the Weinstein scandal, and another Times report October 21 about another settlement O'Reilly paid right before Fox News renewed his final contract in January. O'Reilly has denied all accusations of sexual harassment and misconduct. "The end game is, 'Let's link Bill O'Reilly with Harvey Weinstein' and "take him out of the marketplace forever," he said on Glenn Beck's radio show October 23.

"We no longer represent Bill O'Reilly for future deals," William Morris Entertainment announced October 26. "It is our fiduciary responsibility to service the existing deals we have under contract, but we will not be working with him moving forward." O'Reilly has not responded to being dropped by W.M.E., though he did respond to the latest Times story on his website, saying, in part: "You know, am I mad at God? Yeah, I'm mad at him. I wish I had more protection. I wish this stuff didn't happen. I can't explain it to you. Yeah, I'm mad at him."

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13 Horror Movies for Wimps

I of 13
Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari

Nothing says horror like a 1920 German Expressionist film. This classic about a murderous hypnotist is inspiring now for its groundbreaking cinematography and sheer artfulness, more of a gorgeous film noir than a real horror story.

Photo: From Everett Collection

Hillary Busis is the Hollywood editor at VanityFair.com. Previously, she was an editor at Mashable and at Entertainment Weekly. She lives in Brooklyn, just like everyone else.

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11-7
THE WEINSTEIN EFFECT

Kevin Spacey
Responds to
Alleged Sexual
Misconduct
[Updated]

The two-time Oscar winner
does not deny actor Anthony
Rapp’s allegations.

by JOANNA ROBINSON
OCTOBER 29, 2017 10:53 PM

U
update (October 30, 2017, 12:23 a.m.): Responding to allegations from actor Anthony Rapp published in BuzzFeed just hours before, Kevin Spacey posted an apology on his personal Twitter account late Sunday night. Though claiming he couldn’t recall it, Spacey didn’t deny Rapp’s account that he had approached the younger actor—who was only 14 at the time of the alleged encounter—in a sexual manner. Spacey also directly addressed the long-standing secrecy around his own sexuality saying: “I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.”

The actor claims that in 1986, when Rapp was only 14, Kevin Spacey made an aggressive sexual advance towards him. The two-time Oscar winner was 26 at the time of the alleged incident.

In a wide-ranging interview with BuzzFeed’s Adam B. Vary, Rapp alleges that while both he and Spacey were appearing on Broadway—in Precious Sons and Long Day’s Journey into Night, respectively—the older actor put the teenager on his bed and climbed on top of Rapp. The alleged incident occurred at the end of a party Spacey was hosting, Rapp says, after he had met Rapp at a theater event and later invited the teen and a friend out clubbing. Rapp, an Illinois transplant who took a semester off school and moved to New York with his mother to appear on Broadway, says he managed to evade Spacey’s advances. He details the encounter to BuzzFeed:

Spacey, Rapp recalled, “sort of stood in the doorway, kind of swaying. My impression when he came in the room was that he was drunk.” Rapp doesn’t remember Spacey saying anything to him. Instead, Rapp said, “He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don’t, like, squirm away initially, because I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’ And then he lays down on top of me.”

Rapp says that he froze while the older actor lay on top of him and tried to “seduce” him, then managed to “squirm” away. “The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn’t happen,” he tells BuzzFeed. “And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can’t believe it. I could never imagine [that] anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy.” Spacey and his representatives did not respond to BuzzFeed’s multiple attempts to request comment.

Though Rapp is only now publicly naming Spacey, he has told versions of this story for decades, according to BuzzFeed. A number of Rapp’s acquaintances and his brother confirmed to the website that the actor has been speaking privately about his alleged encounter with Spacey since 1990. A version of the story, with Spacey’s name redacted, was even printed in a 2001 interview with The Advocate. Bruce Steele, then the executive editor of The Advocate, confirmed to BuzzFeed that the magazine left out Spacey’s name.

BuzzFeed also cites an October 15 tweet from news anchor Heather Unruh which went viral in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein allegations. When approached by BuzzFeed for comment, Unruh declined to go into specifics.

https://twitter.com/heatherunruh/status/981309170821010195

In 2010, Spacey addressed the persistent rumors around his sexuality—though not anything about his purported relationships with younger men—in an interview with the Daily Beast. “I have not given up my right to privacy,” he said. “It’s just a line I’ve never crossed and never will… No one’s personal life is in the public interest. It’s gossip, bottom line. End of story.” Rapp, who has been out of the closet since the early 90s, doesn’t linger on Spacey’s sexuality in his BuzzFeed interview—saying, simply, of the night in question, “I saw on [Spacey’s bathroom] counter next to the sink a picture of him having his arm around a man. So I think on some level I was like, Oh. He’s gay. I guess.”

Rough rumors have been swirling around Spacey for years. Rapp is the first person to go on record with an allegation of predatory behavior. “Part of what allowed the Harvey situation to occur was that there was this willing and unwitting conspiracy of silence,” Rapp told BuzzFeed of his decision to finally go public. “The only way these things can continue is if there’s no attention being paid to it, if it’s getting forgotten.”

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Kasia Gerber
Not every gingham dress has to look like a picnic table.
Photo: By Stefanie Keenan/Getty Images.

Joanna Robinson is a Hollywood writer covering TV and film for VanityFair.com.

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Kevin Spacey’s bizarre statement after sexual misconduct allegations

Rita Panahi, Herald Sun
October 30, 2017 4:11pm

Two time Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey has released a bizarre statement in response to allegations that he made an aggressive sexual advance towards then 14-year-old actor, Anthony Rapp.

In the statement the Hollywood A-lister says he can’t "remember the encounter" but offers Rapp "the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour" if it did occur.
Kevin Spacey's bizarre statement after sexual misconduct allegations | Herald Sun

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey
3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017
16,671  30,184  84,176

Spacey then used the opportunity to formally come out as gay.

It was a transparent attempt to deflect attention away from damaging allegations and it appears to have worked with segments of the mainstream media...but not everybody is so easily distracted:

Josh Jordan
@NumbersMuncher

Why people dont trust the media, example 9,230

Kevin Spacey excuses assaulting a 14 year old as 'drunken behavior' -this is the takeaway
4:34 PM - Oct 30, 2017
158  3,038  4,407

Alex VanNess
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"I choose now to live as a gay man": Kevin Spacey comes out in emotional tweet.

Chet Cannon
@Chet_Cannon

Kevin Spacey apologizes for drunkenly trying to seduce a 14-year-old boy

ABC News: "But what an emotional coming out story!"
4:14 PM - Oct 30, 2017
900 5,807 10.389

Yasheer Ali
@yasheer

Harvey Weinstein: "I'm going to fight the NRA!"

Kevin Spacey: "I'm gay!"

Same story different distractions....
3:46 PM - Oct 30, 2017
103 1,546 5,751

Richelle Carey
@RichelleCarey

News organizations:
1) it's NOT news that Kevin Spacey is gay
2) don't you dare make that the headline
3) this is about sexual assault

Lara Marie Schoenhals
@LarzMarie

Kevin Spacey: My sexuality is none of your biz.

Anthony Rapp: Kevin Spacey assaulted me when I was 14.

Kevin Spacey: I'm a proud gay man!

Though Rapp is only now publicly naming Spacey, he has told versions of this story for decades, according to Buzzfeed. A number of Rapp's acquaintances and his brother confirmed to the website that the actor has been speaking privately about his alleged encounter with Spacey since 1990. A version of story, with Spacey's name redacted, was even printed in 2003 interview with The Advocate. Bruce Steele, then the executive editor of The Advocate, confirmed to Buzzfeed that the magazine left out Spacey's name.

**COMMENTS**

**Maurie**  
Nov 3, 2017  

Hooray for Hollywood. They tried to tell americans how to vote by claiming Trump was a sexual predator, while all the time denying a disgusting treating sex that has been going on for decades. What (typical) hypocrisy!

3 Like Reply

**Brendon**  
Nov 2, 2017  

Women do sexually harass people too by the way they dress. Some of them are almost naked. Where is the decency police?

2 Like Reply

**Scott**  
Nov 3, 2017  

Oh poor Brendon....wah wah wah

1 Like Reply

**Tweeter earthbayman**  
Nov 1, 2017  

Hollywood is driven to the core but unfortunately the media and others like to portray them as some moral revolutionists who influence the world in a positive way.

3 Like Reply

**James**  
Oct 31, 2017  

Sorry, as tawdry as all this sounds, it really is Hollywood, Broadway & West End. To that end, if Rapp's story is true, what was a 14yo doing going to an after party with adults anyway? Too many loose ends here. Just as there are for philandering Weinstein, girls choosing to do topless things wearing medals & others taking their chance on the casting couch.

As Noel Coward advised Mrs Worthington 'don't put your daughter on the stage'.

7 Like Reply

**Tom**  
Nov 1, 2017  

@Sue No...he is saying that Mr. Rapp's parents should have known better than to let their son mix with adults at a party serving alcohol (and God knows what else) until late at night. I actually believe Spacey when he says he was drunk and cannot remember the incident and that he is horrified it took place. Ask anyone who has been very drunk and some will tell you that they said or did things that, in the cold hard sober light, they are extremely ashamed about. I know when I was a college student I got very plastered one night and said some vicious and vile things to a group of friends which I have no memory of doing but for which I am profoundly ashamed some thirty years later.

I'm not excusing Spacey. He did the wrong thing if the allegations are true but gave him some credit for not
Scott
Oh really Tom? Witch hunt? Victim blaming? A one off? What about all the others coming out now and the fact a lot of people seemed to know what he was like? Sounds like you are making excuses to me

Andrew
Oct 30, 2017
Rita, you summed it up. He is clearly coming out to deflect the serious allegations of him sexually assaulting a 14 year old minor (which by the way he doesn't deny). Sick unit

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Kevin Spacey comes out after actor alleges sexual misconduct

KEVIN Spacey has announced that he is gay, in a dramatic statement issued after an actor alleged the star hit on him when he was 14.

"ALLYWOOD A-lister Kevin Spacey has come out as gay in a dramatic statement, ed after a fellow actor accused him of sexual misconduct.

Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp, 46, detailed an alleged incident that he says happened at a 1986 party at Spacey’s house when Rapp was 14 years old and Spacey was 26, in a new interview with Buzzfeed.

In a statement posted to his official Twitter account, Spacey said he was “beyond horrified” to learn of Rapp’s allegations, but said the story had encouraged him to “address other things about my life.”
Rumours about Spacey’s sexuality have been rife for many years—and the actor even made nods to the industry whispers when hosting this year’s Tonys, joking about coming out of the closet.

In today’s statement, Spacey acknowledged that there had been “stories out there” about his private life over the years.

“As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this openly and honestly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

Rapp’s allegation dates back to 1986, when he was a child actor earning praise for a Broadway run of the play Precious Sons. Spacey, then a relative unknown, was also on Broadway at the time, and Rapp alleges that Spacey invited him to attend a party he was hosting in his Manhattan apartment.

Arriving at the party alone, Rapp says he found he was the only non-adult in attendance, and spent most of the evening sat in a bedroom watching television.

As the party ended, Rapp alleges that Spacey appeared in the room visibly drunk and moved towards him.

“He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don’t, like, squirm away initially, because I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’ And then he lays down on top of me,” Rapp alleged to Buzzfeed.

“He was trying to seduce me,” Rapp continued. “I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”
when Rapp was filming the 1993 movie *Six Degrees of Separation*, he says Spacey visited the set, sitting just a few tables away during a lunch break.

Both men attended the 1999 Tony Awards, and Rapp says they almost bumped into each other in the men's rest room, Spacey briefly meeting his gaze before continuing on.

"In retrospect I'm very grateful that I wasn't alone with him," he said. "Then I don't know what the f**k I would have done."

---

Rapp's allegation dates back to 1986, when Spacey was a 26-year-old unknown. Picture: Getty Images

Buzzfeed reported they had spoken to at least half a dozen of Rapp's friends and 7ed ones who had confirmed Rapp had privately told them about the alleged 1986 ident at some stage in the past 30 years.

Rapp had also previously referenced the alleged incident in a 2001 interview with Advocate Magazine, the resulting interview referring to Spacey only as "a certain leading man" in "a certain award-winning film."

Rapp said it was the growing willingness to speak out about sexual misconduct in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein sex scandal that made him decide to go public with his allegations.

"There's so much more openness about talking about these issues, and so many people are coming forward and sharing their stories. The oxygen in the room is there for us to really do something about it," he told BuzzFeed.

In his statement, Spacey said he did not recall the events Rapp alleged, "but if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years."

---

http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-lif...
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Which mindset drives you the most?
Spacey slammed for 'deflecting' allegations of sexual misconduct by coming out as gay in apology

MOMENTS after claims of underage misconduct, Kevin Spacey released an apology. But there's something very wrong.

KEVIN Spacey has been slammed for "deflecting" allegations of sexual misconduct coming out as gay in his apology.

Following allegations made by Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp, 46, about an incident that occurred at a 1986 party when Rapp was only 14, Spacey issued a statement to Twitter.

While Spacey offered Rapp his "sincerest apology" in the statement, he also reasoned the situation would have been because of "deeply drunken behaviour". The Hollywood veteran then chose to address the rumours that have surrounded his sexuality for decades by coming out as gay.

Immediately, commentators in Hollywood slammed the response. Many have taken issue with Spacey using alcohol to justify the alleged incident while others have accused the actor of trying to dwarf the misconduct claims with news of his sexuality.

Kevin O'Keeffe
@kevinpkeeffe

Replying to @kevinpkeeffe
Coming out as a deflection away from assault allegations is SOMETHING. pic.twitter.com/x2Ur0ca4HY
3:07 PM - Oct 30, 2017
In a series of tweets, *Vanity Fair* writer Richard Lawson said Spacey linking his coming out to the accusations of misconduct on an underage boy was "disgusting".

"Coming out as a gay man is not the same thing as coming out as someone who preyed on a 14-year-old. Confusing those things is disgusting," Lawson wrote.

"This exposes the gay community to a million tired old criticisms and conspiracies. The distance we’ve had to walk to get away from the notion that we’re all paedophiles is significant.

"For a famous person to deflect these accusations with a long-in-the-making coming out is so cruel to his supposed new community it stings."

In an earlier tweet, Lawson acknowledged the struggle Spacey must have suffered through as he grappled with his sexuality while being a Hollywood star — but said it was no excuse for such behaviour.

"The psychology of the closet is dark and cruel and self-punishing. That Spacey has lived in that for years is sad. But 14 is 14," he wrote.

As Kevin Spacey’s name began to trend on social media, a 2005 clip from American cartoon series *Family Guy* resurfaced which predicted claims of underage misconduct against the actor.

In the clip, Stewie Griffin — a baby — runs through a shopping centre while screaming: “Help! I’ve escaped from Kevin Spacey’s basement! Help me!”

*Seth Macfarlane wrote this joke in 2005. How many more are victims of yours? pic.twitter.com/pJWLYWN1sX*  
— *Shane Rider us (@sheneriderMA)* October 30, 2017

Anthony Rapp made the allegations against Spacey in a *Buzzfeed* interview published on Monday.

Rapp, 46, detailed an alleged incident that he says happened at a 1986 party at Spacey’s house when Rapp was 14 years old and Spacey was 26.

As the story made headlines around the world, Spacey released a statement on his official Twitter account. He said he was "beyond horrified" to learn of the allegations but said the story had encouraged him to “address other things about my life.”
This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey
3:03 PM - Oct 30, 2017
16,971 30,184 84,176
Secret Spacey kept for years
30th Oct 2017 6:54 PM

Kevin Spacey has led tributes to his ‘House of Cards’ co-star Elizabeth Norment, who recently passed away at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

FOR years, Kevin Spacey has fiercely guarded his private life.

And while many in Hollywood have long known the details of the A-lister’s romantic life, 57-year-old Spacey has always evaded questions about his sexuality.

Following allegations made Monday by Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp, 46, about an incident that occurred at a 1986 party when Rapp was only 14, Spacey issued an apology. And he used that apology to come out as gay.

RELATED ITEMS
Bye Spacey, it’s your turn to cry
Netflix kills off House of Cards
‘Don’t tell!’ Explosive new Kevin Spacey claims

“As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women,” he wrote. “I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this openly and honestly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

BACKLASH! The big problem with Spacey’s apology

For Spacey, a Hollywood veteran who rose to fame during a time when it was still considered impossible for a gay man to be a leading man on the big screen, his struggle has been a long one. And it’s a struggle that hasn’t been made easier by persistent tabloids that have spent years trying to out the actor, treating the mission as a blood sport.

PHOTOS He DOESN’T WANT YOU TO SEE

In 2000, just a few weeks after Spacey won the Academy Award for American Beauty, Star magazine published grainy paparazzi photos of the actor spending time with an unknown male friend in a Los Angeles park.

“These are the revealing images that Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey hoped the world would never see,” the accompanying article read. “They show the star of American Beauty spending an intimate Sunday afternoon with a good-looking, well-toned punk half his age in a public park,” the article continued, adding the images “rip apart the straight image Spacey has carefully cultivated”.

The article claimed the pair "chatted, held hands, cuddled, stroked, and massaged each other". An "eyewitness" quoted by the magazine described the meet as an "intimate rendezvous".

"At one point, Kevin's head was in the boy's lap and later the young guy put his arms round Kevin and cuddled him ... Let me put it this way - if my wife saw me with another man like that, she would be divorcing me."

At the time, Spacey's publicist released a statement saying: "He has said all he is going to say on the subject and people are going to believe what they want to believe. We don't have any further comment."

**KEVIN SPACEY HAS A SECRET**

Following a 1997 profile piece in *Esquire* magazine titled "Kevin Spacey has a secret" that strongly implied the actor is gay, Spacey denied the rumours in a *Playboy* interview. In the story, he went to great effort to paint a picture of a heterosexual bachelor lifestyle.

"Women want to be the one to turn me around. I let them," he told the magazine, referring to the rumours.

In a 1995 interview with *The Sunday Times*, he was asked directly whether he's gay.

"The answer to that is no ... but why should it matter?" he replied. "Until the media stop using sexuality as a weapon against public figures, they will always lag behind ordinary, regular folk." He added: "I chose for a long time not to answer these questions because of the manner in which they were asked, and because I was never talking to someone I trusted, so why should I? Recently I chose to participate because it's a little hard on the people I love."

As the rumours continued to fly over the years, openly-gay talk show host Andy Cohen attempted to out Spacey in his 2014 memoirs *The Andy Cohen Diaries*. In the book, Cohen referenced a 60 Minutes interview Spacey did in 2000 where he denied speculation he's gay and insisted he had been in a relationship with a woman for years.

"I still get enraged when I think about him talking about being in love with that woman on 60 Minutes," Cohen wrote. "Come on, sir."

Cohen also recalled the time he ran into the actor at the US Open in 2013.

"Kevin Spacey was in front of us with what looked like a face full of makeup and three male companions who were definitely not raising any questions," Cohen wrote.

"Many profiles on the Hollywood veteran like to note the subtle details of his life to hint at what many believed to be true over the years: His lack of a girlfriend or wife and the fact he's taken his mother to award shows being the most cliched of the details. If Spacey wasn't going to admit it, magazines would just write around it."

"During a 2016 interview with *The Daily Beast* when the actor was urged to talk about his sexuality, he replied: "No one's personal life is in the public interest. It's gossip, bottom line."

**ALL THE CHIPS WILL FALL**

While hosting the Tony Awards in June, Spacey made several playful jokes about "coming out."

Dressed in a black and gold tuxedo at Sunset Boulevard's Norma Desmond, he sang: "I'm coming out," before jokingly adding: "Wait, no, wait."

It was one of several nods Spacey made to the decade-long speculation surrounding his private life. Opinion was divided about the intent of the jokes. Was Spacey offering a heartfelt confirmation of his personal life during what many consider to be, the most gay-positive awards show in the entertainment industry? Or was he using the opportunity to quash, again, the question that has been thrown his way for most of his career?

Following Monday's claims from Anthony Rapp, Spacey used the opportunity to lift a weight from his shoulders. "I choose now to live as a gay man," he wrote in his much-criticized apology to Rapp.

*Variety* Fair writer Richard Lawson acknowledged Spacey's struggle but condemned the actor for linking his coming out to the allegations.

"The psychology of the closet is dark and cruel and self-punishing. That Spacey has dwelt in that for years is sad. But 14 is 14," Lawson wrote. "Commentators have also speculated whether Spacey's coming out is an attempt to drown out a highly-damaging story of sexual misconduct.

Despite this, it's the end of a long, lonely and confused struggle for Spacey.

"Let's let people live their lives and do it the way they want to do it," he told *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2014.

"All the chips will fall in the end, and we'll all be judged by a much higher power than Entertainment Weekly can."
Kevin Spacey apologizes, comes out as gay after 'sexual advance' claim

By AFP
PUBLISHED: 17:18 AEDT, 30 October 2017 | UPDATED: 20:58 AEDT, 30 October 2017

Hollywood star Kevin Spacey, shown in this March 2, 2014 file photo, said he did not remember the 1986 encounter described by actor Anthony Rapp, but that "if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology."

Kevin Spacey came out as gay early Monday and apologized to actor Anthony Rapp, who accused the Hollywood star of making a sexual advance on him at a 1986 party when he was only 14 years old.

Spacey's announcement, posted on his Twitter account at midnight, came after Rapp -- best known for being part of the original cast of the hit Broadway musical "Rent" -- accused Spacey in a Nov. 3 interview of trying to get into his shower when he was a 14-year-old musical theater student. Spacey denies it.

Spacey ended his statement by thanking "everyone who reached out to me with their words and support," and noting that he was "very proud of the man I am today -- a man of love and compassion. I have been blessed with a long career, filled with thetoggle of love and art and joy. I will continue to work with that spirit."

---

"Rent" -- made the accusation in an interview with Buzzfeed News.

Spacey, 58, a double Oscar winner and star of the Netflix series "House of Cards," said he did not remember the encounter but that "if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."

The actor -- whose sexuality had been an open secret in Hollywood for years -- went on to say that Rapp's accusation "encouraged me to address other things about my life."

"As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man.

"I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior."

- Trying to seduce me -
"Star Trek: Discovery" actor Anthony Rapp, shown in this October 06, 2017 file photo, is best known for his portrayal of the character Mark Cohen in the original production of Broadway musical hit "Rent"
Rapp, 46, told BuzzFeed that in 1986, while both he and Spacey were performing in Broadway shows, Spacey invited the then 14-year-old to a party at his New York apartment. Spacey would have been 26 at the time.

Rapp said he was in Spacey's bedroom watching TV when Spacey appeared in the doorway at the end of the night, after all the other guests had left, "kind of swaying" and apparently drunk.

Rapp said Spacey picked him up, put him on the bed and lay on top of him.

"He was trying to seduce me," Rapp told BuzzFeed. "I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Rapp said he squirmed away after a brief period of time and went into the bathroom. Shortly after, he left Spacey's apartment and went home.

Rapp, who was living in New York with his mother, stressed that a young teen going alone to a party at an adult actor's home was not considered a cause for concern at the time.

"It was a different era," he said. "I went to work by myself. I would walk to the subway, and go to the theater by myself."

- 'A pretty horrible defense' -

Rapp said he felt compelled to speak out after a recent deluge of accusations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein sparked an examination of abuses committed by powerful men in the entertainment industry.

Publicly accusing Spacey is "not to simply air a grievance," he said, "but to try to shine another light on the decades of behavior that have been allowed to continue because many people, including myself, being silent."

"I'm feeling really awake to the moment that we're living in, and I'm hopeful that this can make a difference."

More than 50 women, including top actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino, have accused Weinstein of misconduct including rape, sexual abuse and harassment.

The now-disgraced tycoon was sacked as co-chairman of The Weinstein Company and also resigned from its board. He has denied forcing himself on his accusers.

Backlash against Spacey's announcement was quick to build, with commentators slamming the actor's declaration that he is gay as a cynical ploy to distract attention from the troubling allegation of sexual misconduct with a young teen.

"Sure, I may have tried to rape a 14-year-old boy when I was 26, but I'm gay!' is a pretty horrible defense," conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted.
"No no no no! You do not get to 'choose' to hide under the rainbow! Kick rocks!" comedian Wanda Sykes said on Twitter.
Kevin Spacey apologises after being accused of sexual advance on 14-year-old actor

Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp claimed he was left traumatised after Spacey lay on top of him during evening at actor’s apartment 31 years ago

Stephanie Convery

Kevin Spacey has responded to allegations he made unwelcome sexual advances towards a 14-year-old actor, saying he did not remember the incident but if it did happen it was likely “deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour” for which he sincerely apologises.

The Star Trek: Discovery star Anthony Rapp has accused Spacey of traumatising him after a party in New York in 1986.

In an interview with BuzzFeed, Rapp alleged that Spacey, then 26, invited him and a 17-year-old friend to a nightclub, despite both being visibly underage, during which they were entertained in the VIP area by Spacey.

Rapp said Spacey then followed up with an invitation to a party at his Manhattan apartment, which Rapp attended.

Rapp said he spent much of the party “kind of bored” and watching television in the bedroom until late into the night, before noticing Spacey standing at the bedroom door and realising all the other guests had left the party.

He said Spacey “sort of stood in the doorway, kind of swaying. My impression when he came in the room was that he was drunk ... He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don’t, like, squirm away initially, because I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’ And then he lays down on top of me.”

Rapp described the experience as “a frozen moment ... In terms of fight or flight or freeze, I tend to freeze.”

Rapp said he believed Spacey was trying to “seduce” him but that he was able to “squirm” away soon afterwards, closing himself in the bathroom before telling Spacey he was leaving. “As I opened the door to leave, he was leaning on the front door[frame]. And he was like, ‘Are you sure you wanna go?’ I said, ‘Yes, good night,’ and then I did leave,” Rapp said.

A statement posted to the Spacey’s official Twitter account on Monday said: “I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.”

Spacey, now 58, who has been defiantly private about his personal life in the past and whose sexuality has long been the subject of rumour and conjecture, addressed this directly in his statement, saying: “As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

Rapp said that for years he did not tell anyone about his experience. It wasn't until Spacey's career began to rise in the 1990s and 2000s that Rapp became angrier and more frustrated at the memory, saying his “stomach churns” when he sees Spacey now. “I still to this day can’t wrap my head around so many aspects of it. It’s just deeply confusing to me,” Rapp said.

Rapp also said that, as a queer man himself, he had found Spacey’s firm stance on his own private life deeply frustrating: “I wanted to scream to the rooftops, ‘This guy is a fraud!’”

Rapp attributed his ability to cope in the aftermath of the alleged incident to his acting training, and that he had “locked it away” within himself. But he also said there were times afterwards when he found seeing Spacey on screen and in person highly distressing, and that he dreaded the prospect of the two of them ever working together.

Rapp considered himself fortunate that “something worse didn’t happen” but also expressed incredulity that it happened at all. He says he considered talking to Spacey about the encounter but never did. He also considered legal action, but was advised he did not have grounds to make a case. He had previously told the story, with Spacey’s name removed, to the Advocate in 2001.

Rapp told BuzzFeed he felt compelled to come forward publicly in the wake of the wave of sexual assault accusations against disgraced industry mogul Harvey Weinstein.

In a series of tweets after the publication of the interview, Rapp said: “I came forward with my story, standing on the shoulders of the many courageous women and men who have been speaking out, to shine a light and hopefully make a difference, as they have done for me.”

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Kevin Spacey
Kevin Spacey embroiled in Hollywood's latest sexual misconduct scandal

Piya Sinha-Roy, Chris Michaud

(Reuters) - Actor Kevin Spacey has apologized for an alleged attempt to seduce a 14-year-old boy more than 30 years ago, an encounter the two-time Oscar winner denied recalling but attributed to drunkenness as he also came out as a gay man on Twitter.

But rather than tempering an uproar over the allegation, Spacey's combination of an apology with a statement going public about his sexual orientation stirred a backlash against the actor as Hollywood found itself embroiled in yet another sex scandal.

Adding fuel to the latest controversy was news on Monday that Netflix will soon end the landmark political drama “House of Cards,” which stars Spacey as a corrupt and closeted...
bisexual U.S. president.

Netflix Inc did not give an explicit reason for deciding to air just one more season of “House of Cards” before pulling the plug on the Emmy-winning, critically acclaimed show, its first original hit series.

Netflix spokeswoman Karen Brragan said the determination was made months ago, long before the allegation surfaced against Spacey, 58, who is also a Tony-winning actor and former creative director of London’s famed Old Vic theater.

But the internet streaming service and the show’s producers issued a joint statement saying they were “deeply troubled” by the accusation leveled against Spacey by actor Anthony Rapp, 46, a member of CBS’s new “Star Trek: Discovery” series.

According to Rapp, in an interview published late on Sunday by BuzzFeed, Spacey in 1986 made an unwanted sexual advance toward him when he was just 14 at the time.

Rapp said the encounter occurred after a party Spacey hosted at his New York apartment, where he said Spacey, then 26, found him watching TV alone at the end of the night when other guests had left, then carried him to a bed and lay down on top of him.

Rapp said he had the impression that Spacey was drunk, pushed him away and left.

“He was trying to seduce me,” Rapp told BuzzFeed. “I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”

Rapp was just starting his career on Broadway in a production of “Precious Sons” at the time and went on to star in the hit musical “Rent.” Spacey was then appearing in a Broadway revival of Eugene O’Neill’s “Long Day’s Journey Into Night.”

LATEST HOLLYWOOD SEX SCANDAL
FILE PHOTO - Cast member Kevin Spacey poses at the premiere for the second season of the television series "House of Cards" at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, California February 13, 2014.
REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni/File Photo

Rapp told BuzzFeed he remained unnerved by the experience decades later and felt compelled to come forward after dozens of women recently accused movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and several other Hollywood figures of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Weinstein, who has since been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Producers Guild of America, has denied engaging in non-consensual sex with anyone.

Spacey said in a Twitter post on Sunday that he was "beyond horrified" by Rapp's account, which he said he did not recall.

"But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years," Spacey tweeted.

Spacey went on to say that Rapp's story "had encouraged me to address other things in my life."
"As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, I now choose to live life as a gay man," wrote Spacey, who had not previously addressed his sexuality publicly.

Spacey immediately came under fire on social media for what many saw as a disingenuous conflation of an apology for sexual misconduct with a public acknowledgement of being gay.

"Coming-out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). "This is not a coming-out story about Kevin Spacey, but a story of survivorship by Anthony Rapp and all those who bravely speak out against unwanted sexual advances."

A representative for Spacey did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

An Oscar winner for "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty," Spacey is best known lately for his role as the ruthless fictional president Frank Underwood in "House of Cards."

The series became Netflix's defining show when it launched in 2013,颠覆ing traditional television viewership by making all episodes of each season available for internet streaming at once.

Spacey will next be seen on the big screen playing Jean Paul Getty in Ridley Scott's drama "All The Money in the World," scheduled for release by Sony Pictures in December for possible awards consideration.

Reporting by Piya Sinha-Roy in Los Angeles and Chris Michaud in New York; Writing by Steve Gorman; Editing by Grant McCool and Leslie Adler

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Kevin Spacey accused of making 'sexual advance' toward 14-year-old

Brodie Carmody

US actor Anthony Rapp has accused Kevin Spacey of making a "sexual advance" towards him when he was 14.

Rapp, now 46, claims Spacey invited him over to his apartment in 1986 after the two met while they were working on different shows on Broadway.

Kevin Spacey responds to harrassment allegations

The Academy Award winning Kevin Spacey responds to the allegations that he made sexual advances on 'Star Trek: Discovery' actor Anthony Rapp when he was a teenage boy in 1986.

At the end of the house party, Rapp alleges, Spacey – then 26 – placed him on a bed and climbed on top of him.

BuzzFeed first published the allegations, but Spacey’s representatives did not respond to repeated requests for comment.
But on Monday afternoon, Spacey released a statement saying he was "horrified" to hear Rapp's story.

"I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago," he said. "But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years."

It is the first time Rapp has spoken publicly about his interactions with the Oscar winner.

The star of *Star Trek: Discovery*, who was catapulted into the spotlight after starring in the original musical *Rent*, said he was going public with the allegations to try to "shine another light" on Hollywood following the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

"He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold," Rapp told *BuzzFeed*.

"But I don't, like, squirm away initially, because I'm like, 'What's
"He was trying to seduce me. I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Rapp said he eventually managed to push Spacey off him and to leave the apartment.

"My head was spinning," he said. "I have a memory of turning around and (thinking to myself), 'What was that? What am I supposed to do with that? What does it mean?'"

"The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn’t happen.

"And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can’t believe it. I could never imagine [that] anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy."

Rapp said he had never talked to Spacey about that night in 1986, and is thankful he hasn’t had anything to do with the House of Cards star since.

However, he told BuzzFeed he did walk past Spacey during a rehearsal for the 1999 Tony Awards.

"He looked at me, and I thought I saw some form of recognition, and I quickly looked away," he said.

"I passed him and went out the door. In retrospect, I’m very grateful that I wasn’t alone with him. I don’t know what the f---- I would have done."

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I’m beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Spaccs said the BuzzFeed story has encouraged him to address other things about his life.

"I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy,"
he said. "As these closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women.

"I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behaviour."
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Weinstein millions are not able to buy silence

ROSE McGOWAN says Harvey Weinstein, the producer she has accused of rape, offered her $1.3 million to sign a non-disclosure agreement on the eve of the sexual assault case that helped to expose the sexually exploitative nature of Hollywood.

According to the New York Times, McGowan said she received the offer through her lawyer in September, and it came from a source close to Weinstein. Although McGowan refuted the offer as a $300,000 in 1997, she realized over time the contract had not included a confidentiality clause. She said she responded by asking for $58 million in an effort to slowly torture her alleged attacker.

"I figured I could probably get a million up to five," she said. "But I was like—no, gross, you're disgusting. I don't want your money, that would only make me feel disgusting." McGowan said she told her lawyer to record the offer within one day of the Times' October 5 article on Weinstein, which detailed the alleged pattern of abuse the movie mogul engaged in over decades and seven other settlements he had made with other women.

More than 70 high-profile women, including actress Ashley Judd, David Hannah and Guinevere Palermo, have since come forward with horrifying stories about the disgraced Weinstein's behavior. Some have accused him of sexual assault, ranging from harassment to sexual assault and rape.

Weinstein has denied the allegations of non-consensual sex.

'ASHAMED' TIGER BANNED

RHUMOND Tigers player Nathan Broad was yesterday suspended for six games of the 2013 AFL season after taking full responsibility for the club's recent drug scandal.

An image of a bare-breasted woman with a perfectionist medal draped around her neck went public at the grand final. The woman was told the photograph had been deleted.

Broad admitted yesterday he had lied and deserved to be punished. "I take full responsibility for what I have done. I sent a very private picture without this young woman's consent," Broad said in a prepared statement.

"I'm ashamed and I'm embarrassed and I made a very bad decision." Nathan Broad.

Teen charged over Halloween hit

A TENERAGA was yesterday charged over the Halloween party attack in Sydney's southwest which left another youth in a critical condition.

The 16-year-old was last night behind bars after being arrested and later charged with recklessly causing grievous bodily harm to a 15-year-old at the house party on Saturday night.

The condition of the injured youth improved from critical to serious yesterday. The arrival of around 50 gate-crashers at the party in Clackville — which was hosted by a female student at the exclusive Loreto Normanhurst girls' school — led to an out-of-control brawl, with the boy rushed to hospital with head injuries. Police have been told the teen was punched, falling to the ground and hitting his head.

He was taken to Royal North Shore Hospital, where he remained in an induced coma last night, with his condition listed as serious. The youth charged with his assault was refused police bail yesterday and is due to appear at a children's court this morning.

Superstar accused of preying on teen

A TIGER was yesterday arrested as part of an investigation into the sexual assault of a 16-year-old at the house party on Saturday night.

He is accused of sexual intercourse. The alleged victim, who was at the party, was not related to the suspect.

"He picked me up like a drunk, picked me up like a drunk girl," Rapp said. "I was trying to restart me. I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that she was trying to get with me and me to get with her.

"Rapp alleged he was able to break free, and went into Spacey's bathroom for shelter.

"The older I get, the more I realize. I feel very fortunate that something worse didn't happen," he said. "And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can't believe that I could never imagine (that) anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old.

Rapp said he had found it hard to watch Sky's before since that incident, and had been several near-encounters with the older actor.

"I'm not that I wasn't alone with him," he said. "It is not the only thing that I know what the F. I would have done.

Bartender report- ed they had spoken freely to at least half a dozen of Rapp's friends and revealed one who had c o n-firmed he had pri vately to dl h m abo ut the a l- leged in ci-dent at a m s tage in the past 30 years.

NICK BOND

MOO LWOOD star Kevin Spacey is accused of raping a 16-year-old at his Beverly Hills home in 1995.

The House Of Cards star, 58, was sensationalized by making "drunk" advances to a 54-year-old "television actor" in a Manhattan apartment when the victim was just 14.

And in a rambling statement posted to his official Twitter account, Spacey said he was "beyond horrified" to learn of Rapp's allegations, but said the story had encouraged him to "address other things about my life", saying he chose "to live as a gay man."

He also said he owed Rapp a "sincere apology" for what would have been "deeply inappropriate behaviour."

Spacey's denial didn't sit well, as people took to social media to slam his response. Many took issue with him using alcohol to justify the alleged incident while others accused the actor of trying to "shut the misconduct claims with news of his sexuality.

In a series of tweets, Variety writer Richard Lawson said Spacey had "lied coming out to the accusations of misconduct on an underage boy being a lie."

Rapp's allegations to website BuzzFeed — the latest in a string of high-profile sexual scandals to dog Hollywood in recent weeks — dates back to 1995.

Rapp was a 16-year-old earning $141 an hour to work at a Broadway restaurant that month in their local drive-thru. The young man said he went to Spacey's apartment after the shows and was offered a ride to a nearby party in the same car. The older actor is said to have given him $400.

"Spacey told me he was in the mood for young men and asked me if I was up for it," Rapp said. "I was too dumbfounded to respond."
Susie O'Brien: Kevin Spacey should be treated like Harvey Weinstein

Susie O'Brien, Herald Sun
October 31, 2017 11:45am
Subscriber only

KEVIN Spacey should be treated exactly the same as serial predator Harvey Weinstein.

His statement yesterday showed he was willing to play the gay card in order to escape the fallout from sexual abuse allegations.
Actor Anthony Rapp this week accused Spacey of making sexual advances to him when he was a 14-year-old boy attending his first Hollywood party.

He told Buzzfeed the House of Cards and American Beauty star put him on his bed and climbed on top of him at the end of the night.

Rapp claims Spacey made unwanted sexual advances toward him when he was 14. Picture: AFP

He said Spacey “picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold ... and then he lays down on top of me.

“He was trying to seduce me.

“I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”

Rapp says he attended the party alone and spent most of the time watching TV in a bedroom before Spacey came into the room.
classic get-out-of-jail-free card — it was “deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour”.

Interestingly, it’s the excuse used by disgraced Richmond player Nathan Broad yesterday.

If Spacey doesn’t remember the incident, how did he know he was drunk?

Spacey said he was “sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years”.

Again, it’s classic avoidance — he’s sorry for Rapp’s feelings, not sorry for what he himself is said to have done.

Spacey then took the opportunity to reveal the worst-kept secret in Hollywood — the fact that he is gay. “I choose now to live as a gay man,” he said.

Linking his opportunistic and predatory sexual advances made towards a mere child decades ago to his undeclared sexuality is a nasty sleight of hand.

Spacey says he wants to “deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behaviour”.

He’s only done this now because he knows an enormous sh.t storm is about to erupt. He’s just trying to save his own skin.

I don’t blame Netflix for cancelling House of Cards. I’ll bet they are wondering who’ll come forward next with accusations against Spacey.


Kevin Spacey: House of Cards axed as fallout continues over sexual assault allegations

Reuters
Tuesday, 31 October 2017 8:33AM

Netflix have cancelled House of Cards amidst the sexual allegations.

The fallout from Kevin Spacey’s response to being accused of alleged sexual assault is continuing, with the two-time Oscar winner being harshly criticised on social media, the plug pulled on his hit show House of Cards and “deeply troubled” producers of the political thriller arriving on set to comfort cast mates.

Executives from Netflix and the show’s producer, Media Rights Capital, said they arrived in Baltimore, where the show is shot, afternoon to make sure actors and crew “continue to feel safe and supported.” Spacey was not scheduled to be on set on Monday.
Though the decision to end the series was announced on Monday, the decision to pull the plug on the series is understood to have been made several months ago.

Spacey is the latest Hollywood man to be named in widening allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, media and other industries. The avalanche of allegations began earlier this month after the New York Times published a story alleging that producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed numerous women.

House of Cards has been axed as fallout continues from Kevin Spacey’s admissions.

In an interview published by BuzzFeed News on Sunday, actor Anthony Rapp alleged that he was at a party at Spacey’s apartment in 1986 when an inebriated 26-year-old Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him. Rapp, then 14, was able to get away without any physical harm.
Spacey responded on Twitter by saying he doesn't remember the alleged encounter but if he acted the way Rapp alleges, "I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour."

Frank Underwood's TV career is over - and House of Cards will come to an end. Picture: David Giesbrecht.

Spacey then said Rapp's story "encouraged" him to address long-simmering rumors about his sexuality. He wrote that he's had romantic relationships with both men and women in the past but is now living "as a gay man" and wanted to be honest so he could examine "my own behaviour."
Kevin Spacey announces he is living 'as a gay man' after Anthony Rapp accusations.

The two-paragraph statement - an apology in the first for a 31-year-old alleged assault and a self-outing in the second - struck many as an odd time for Spacey to address his sexuality or even an attempt to deflect blame.

Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of the gay rights group GLAAD said in a statement that the story was really about unwanted sexual advances on Rapp not Spacey's sexuality. "Coming out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault," she said.

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celebrity life

Kevin Spacey's father was a 'Nazi child rapist,' brother says

KEVIN Spacey's brother has alleged he was raised by a Nazi father who littered his home with porn and raped his own son.

Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations

Kevin Spacey was raised by a Nazi father who raped his brother and abused his children so badly they nicknamed him The Creature, Spacey's older brother once sensationally claimed.

Allegations made by Spacey's brother Randall Fowler, 62, have resurfaced in the wake of an allegation of sexual misconduct against his younger brother that emerged yesterday.

Actor Anthony Rapp alleges that Spacey groped him on a bed at a party in 1986, when he was 14 and Spacey was 26.
Spacey responded to Rapp’s allegation with a public apology, also announcing publicly for the first time that he is a gay man — a move that has been widely criticised.

Fowler made startling claims about the brothers’ early home life under their father, Thomas Geoffrey Fowler, to the Daily Mail in 2004.

The Rod Stewart impersonator and limo driver claimed that he was sexually abused by his father for years, and that his mother knew of the abuse.

“There was so much darkness in our home... It was absolutely miserable. Kevin tried to avoid what was going on,” he told the Daily Mail.

Their father joined the American Nazi Party when the brothers were children, trimming his moustache to more closely resemble Adolf Hitler. Fowler says he was regularly whipped and raped by his father. The abuse was so bad, Fowler alleged, that he avoided having children of his own for fear they would “inherit the sexual predator gene.”

http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/kevin-spaceys-father-was-a-nazi-child-rapist-brother-says/news-story/5a02f10e37e95e0d03201e656...
"I fell for a con," Spacey said at the time, apologising to police for falsely claiming he was injured by the man who stole his phone. He acknowledged that some were confused by the Oscar-winner's presence alone in a South London park in the early hours of the morning.

"I think that they are always trying to, you know, (say) 'What was he doing in that park at 4.30am'? My doggy had to go!"

In the interview after that headline-making incident, Fowler described his brother as an "empty vessel" who had never had a real relationship.

"Neither of us had a chance growing up with two such damaged parents. I went through three marriages and 40 affairs," he said.

Fowler gave a harrowing account of the sexual abuse he claimed to have suffered at the hands of his father, who he said had pornographic pictures of men and women lining the walls of his home office.

Fowler said that when he was 12 years old, his father summoned him to a bedroom and said he was going to teach him about the birds and the bees.

"He unbuttoned my pants and started playing with me," he alleged.

He yelled for his mother, Kathleen Fowler, who pounded on the locked door before giving up.

"All of a sudden the pounding stopped. Mum had left. I'd never felt so abandoned. Dad started to perform a sex act on me. That was the beginning of my adolescence," he said.
As the abuse continued, Fowler said Spacey, younger by four years, “tried to avoid what was going on by wrapping himself in an emotional bubble. He became very sly and smart.”

“He was so determined to try to avoid the whippings that he just minded his Ps and Qs until there was nothing inside. He had no feelings.”

Their father died in 1992 at the age of 68, and Fowler said his mother called him to tell him he didn’t need to come to the funeral. He had earlier confronted her in 1990 about her alleged complicity with the abuse but was met with “a stony silence.” She died in 2003.

Fowler and his famous sibling are no longer close, as he explained in a post on his own website.

“I've always kept in touch with him all our adult lives. I've been cordial when we've spoken or gotten together. But those times have been few and far between. Kevin has virtually ignored me for the last 25 years. During the time he's become a major
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'Over-indulgence, not predatory behaviour': Hollywood CEO says Kevin Spacey deserves forgiveness

A HOLLYWOOD executive has been accused of “excusing” Kevin Spacey’s alleged sexual assault of a minor in a shocking tweet.

HE head of a Hollywood entertainment company has been criticised for appearing to excuse actor Kevin Spacey’s alleged assault of a minor, describing the incident as “not predatory behaviour”.

Kim Richards, chief executive and chairman of Allied Artists International, tweeted in response to the House of Cards star’s apology to Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp, who this week alleged Spacey made sexual advances on him when he was 14.

In the statement tweeted out on Monday, Spacey said he was “beyond horrified” to hear the story, saying he did not remember the encounter and apologising for “what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour”.

“If true, acting on impulse while inebriated speaks to overindulgence, not predatory behaviour,” Richards tweeted. “You’re good & decent, deserving forgiveness.”

In a follow-up tweet after being accused of “excusing sexual assault of a minor”, Richards said he was “not excusing anything”.

“If he did it, it was clearly wrong & can’t be excused, but it was 30 yrs ago while admittedly drunk,” he wrote. “By overindulged I was referring to drinking to excess & I don’t drink or do drugs. Kevin takes responsibility but doesn’t remember it.”
This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey
3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017
18,971 30,184 84,176

Kim Richards
@kimmichardssaa
Replying to @KevinSpacey
If true, acting on impulse while inebriated speaks to over-indulgence, not predatory behavior. You're good & decent, deserving forgiveness.
3:36 PM - Oct 30, 2017
1,277 85 778

Lydia Snider
@LydiaSnider
Replying to @kimmichardssaa @KevinSpacey
Is everyone on this thread making note of who this person is?
CEO of Allied Artists excusing sexual assault of a minor
3:46 PM - Oct 30, 2017
146 970 5,491

Kim Richards
@kimmichardssaa
Replying to @LydiaSnider @KevinSpacey
I'm not excusing anything. If he did it, it was clearly wrong & can't be excused, but it was 30 yrs ago while admittedly drunk.
3:56 PM - Oct 30, 2017
1,006 41 396

Anna Khait
@Annakhait
Replying to @kimmichardssaa @KevinSpacey
Are you insane? Stop making excuses for this piece of...
5:05 PM - Oct 30, 2017 - Brooklyn, NY

Richards, who according to his Twitter biography has “more than 30 years of experience in the music, film and television industries”, has not made any further comment on Spacey.

The now 46-year-old Rapp told BuzzFeed he decided to go public with his allegations against the 58-year-old star due to the growing willingness to speak out against sexual misconduct in Hollywood in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Spacey, who was accused of coming out as gay in his apology statement in a bid to deflect from the Rapp’s allegation, is now at the centre of his own growing scandal, with claims his sexual misconduct was an open secret in the industry.

Comedian Seth McFarlane, who also made a pointed joke about Weinstein at the 2013 Oscars, referenced Spacey in a 2005 episode of Family Guy, in which baby Jewie runs naked through a crowd shouting, “Help! I’ve escaped from Kevin Spacey’s basement! Help me!”

It came as streaming giant Netflix confirmed it was cancelling tentpole drama House of Cards after its sixth season, which is currently being filmed, but said the decision was made months ago and not in response to the Spacey allegations.

Netflix and producer Media Rights Capital on Monday issued a statement. “Media Rights Capital and Netflix are deeply troubled by last night’s news concerning Kevin Spacey,” it said.

“In response to last night’s revelations, executives from both of our companies arrived in Baltimore this afternoon to meet with our cast and crew to ensure that they continue to feel safe and supported. As previously scheduled, Kevin Spacey is not working on set at this time.”

In a statement, House of Cards creator Beau Willimon said he “neither witnessed nor was aware of any inappropriate behaviour on set or off” during the time he worked with Spacey. “That said, I take reports of such behaviour seriously and this is no exception,” he said. “I feel for Mr Rapp and I support his courage.”

frank.chung@news.com.au
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LAND ROVER
The Land Rover Main Event is now on
Sordid rumours followed Kevin Spacey for years

KEVIN Spacey's alleged sexual misconduct was an open secret in Hollywood for years. Now his House of Cards is falling down.

KEVIN Spacey’s House of Cards is falling fast as horrifying stories about the Oscar-winner tumble out of Hollywood along with suggestions there is even more to come.

A Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp claimed the movie star made sexual advances on him when he was 14 and Spacey was 26, it appears many industry insiders were aware of rumours about the star.

Two weeks ago, well-known Boston journalist Heather Unruh tweeted: “The #weinstein scandal has emboldened me — #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominos fell.”

It took several days for her accusation to be picked up by news outlets, many of which did not publish her name or Spacey's “for legal reasons”, although The Sun quoted an insider as saying: “Rumours about this actor have circulated for years... Lots of people are making allegations after what's happened with [Harvey] Weinstein.”

Kevin Spacey is the latest Hollywood star to be embroiled in sexual assault rumours. Picture: Nicholas Mamm/AFP Source: AFP

The #weinstein scandal has emboldened me -- #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominos fell.

5:43 AM - Oct 14, 2017
522 3,787 4,703

And it wasn't just Unruh claiming the 58-year-old American Beauty actor was a sexual predator. In a protected tweet, a woman named Nadine West wrote: "KS groped my young male friend when they were both working at [London theatre] the Old Vic. Was apparently always known as one to avoid. Sadly unsurprised."

Another commenter tweeted that she had heard similar stories from multiple sources, too.

Gnashing Wolf @andiekarenina
Replied to @susieperkins
KS groped my young male friend when they were both working at the Old Vic. Was apparently always known as one to avoid. Sadly unsurprised.

Jennie Rigg is not ready for 2018 @miss_k_b
Have heard similar from more than one source. Hope more people come forward, but understand if they feel they can't.
9:20 PM - Oct 30, 2017

Top London theatre director Victoria Featherstone told BBC Radio 4's Today that there had been "concerns" over Spacey for years. When asked whether she was aware of stories about Spacey when he was at the Old Vic, the Royal Court Theatre artistic director replied: "I think that many people in the theatre and in the creative industries have been aware of many stories of many people over a lot of years, and Kevin Spacey would be one of the people that people have had concerns about, yes."

Spacey admitted there were "stories out there about me" in his much-maligned apology to Rapp, in which he chose to come out as gay. Fans criticised his timing, saying that revealing the truth about his sexuality while saying sorry looked like a ploy to deflect attention from the younger actor's accusation.
actor in a Broadway show, Spacey invited him to a party at his Manhattan apartment.

As the only child there, Rapp said he spent most of the evening watching TV in a bedroom, until a drunk Spacey appeared in the room, picked him up “like a groom picks up the bride” and then lay down on top of him. “He was trying to seduce me,” said Rapp, now 46, “I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I’m beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

---

Rapp said he had found it hard to watch Spacey’s rise to fame, and was increasingly incredulous that anyone would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy.

Following the House of Cards actor’s apology for his “deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour”, it has emerged that many other stars already knew about the rumours surrounding him. Rosie O’Donnell responded angrily to his claim that he could not remember what had happened with Rapp, writing: “u don’t remember the incident — 30 years ago? — f*** u kevin — like Harvey we all knew about u — I hope more men come forward.”

Rose McGowan added: “Bye bye, Spacey goodbye, it’s your turn to cry, that’s why we’ve gotta say goodbye.”

In 2005, Seth MacFarlane — who made a pointed joke about Weinstein’s behaviour at the 2013 Oscars — referenced Spacey’s alleged sexual misconduct in an episode of Family Guy. Baby Stewie is seen running naked through a crowd shouting, “Help! I’ve escaped from Kevin Spacey’s basement! Help me!”
Netflix confirmed to news.com.au it will not renew *House of Cards*, which is currently filming its sixth season. It comes after the streaming service released a statement saying it was "deeply troubled" by the allegations against Spacey.

But it's understood the decision to cancel the show was made months ago and was not in response to the claims.

While it's not uncommon for a TV show to end after six years, *House of Cards* is seen as the flagpole show for Netflix, primarily because it was its first.

The statement released by the service read: "In response to last night's revelations, executives from both of our companies arrived in Baltimore this afternoon to meet with our cast and crew to ensure that they continue to feel safe and supported. As previously scheduled, Kevin Spacey is not working on set at this time."

Despite the damage to his reputation, the passage of 31 years since the alleged incident involving Rapp protects Spacey from criminal prosecution or a civil suit under New York state law.

As we wait to see who will next comment on Spacey, the net is casting ever wider following Weinstein's great fall, with victims standing up to powerful predators in Hollywood and across the world.

The *New York Post* speculated that the next "tipping point" would be the stars who still deny knowing anything, such as Matt Damon and George Clooney, who have pulled out of scheduled public appearances to promote their struggling movie *Suburbicon*.

"Whom else does the industry know about and protect?" the editorial continued. "It's hard to recall a time when the cultural landscape has shifted so dramatically. More than ever, the general public is inclined to believe self-reporting victims. More than ever, we are inclined to demand that the accused speak, that guilt be met with real consequence."

Leave a comment below, share your stories with emma.reynolds@news.com.au or tweet @emmareyn.
Kevin Spacey: Sordid rumours followed accused sexual assailant for years

Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin

'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'

Dennis Rodman charged with DUI

McGowan slams Franco over sex claims
ROSE McGowan is continuing her campaign against sexual abuse in Hollywood, blasting Kevin Spacey following allegations he groped actor Anthony Rapp when Rapp was 14 years old.

Following Spacey’s controversial statement in response to the claims, in which he apologised and came out as gay, McGowan took to Twitter.

“Bye bye, Spacey: goodbye, it’s your turn to cry, that’s why we’ve gotta say goodbye,” the actress wrote.

ROSE McGowan is continuing her campaign against sexual abuse in Hollywood, blasting Kevin Spacey following allegations he groped actor Anthony Rapp when Rapp was 14 years old.

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“Bye bye, Spacey: goodbye, it’s your turn to cry, that’s why we’ve gotta say goodbye,” the actress wrote.

The Jawbreaker star has been leading the charge to uncover sexual harassment in Hollywood since it was revealed she was assaulted by Harvey Weinstein in the 1990s. She stayed silent about the abuse until recently discovering the settlement she made with the disgraced director did not prevent her from speaking out.

Star Trek: Discovery actor Rapp, 46, detailed an alleged incident that he says happened at a 1986 party at Spacey’s house when Rapp was 14 years old and Spacey was 26, in a new interview with Buzzfeed.

In a statement posted to his official Twitter account, Spacey said he was “beyond horrified” to learn of Rapp’s allegations, but said the story had encouraged him to “address other things about my life.”

In today’s statement, Spacey acknowledged that there had been “stories out there” about his private life over the years.

“At those closest to me, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this openly and honestly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

Rapp’s allegation dates back to 1986, when he was a child actor earning praise for a Broadway run of the play Precious Sons. Spacey, then a relative unknown, was also on Broadway at the time, and Rapp alleges that Spacey invited him to attend a party he was hosting in his Manhattan apartment.

Arriving at the party alone, Rapp says he found he was the only non-adult in attendance, and spent most of the evening sat in a bedroom watching television.

As the party ended, Rapp alleges that Spacey appeared in the room visibly drunk and moved towards him.

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I'm beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter; it would have been over 20 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Spacey apologizes to Anthony Rapp regarding his inappropriate behavior on his Twitter account.

"He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don't like, squirm away initially, because I'm like, 'What's going on?' And then he lays down on top of me," Rapp alleged to BuzzFeed.

"He was trying to seduce me," Rapp continued. "I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Rapp alleges that he was able to break free, fleeing the apartment.

"The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn't happen," he said. "And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can't believe it. I could never imagine that anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy."

Rapp said it was the growing willingness to speak out about sexual misconduct in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein sex scandal that made him decide to go public with his allegations.

In his statement, Spacey said he did not recall the events Rapp alleged, "but if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years."

**MORE ALLEGATIONS EMERGE**

A former US TV anchor has also accused Spacey of sexually inappropriate behavior.

Heather Unruh tweeted that the American Beauty actor assaulted a loved one of hers. "The Weinstein scandal has emboldened me... I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one," she wrote. "Time the dominoes fell."

Another woman, writer Nadine West tweeted that her friend was also groped by Spacey when he was the director of the Old Vic theatre in London, "Is (Kevin Spacey) groped my young male friend when they were both working at the Old Vic. Was apparently always known as one to avoid. Sadly unsurprised."

Spacey is yet to comment on the latest allegations.

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Kevin Spacey: Netflix pulls plug on House of Cards, says it is 'troubled' by sexual harassment allegation

Updated Tue 31 Oct 2017, 8:11pm

Netflix has announced its political drama House of Cards will end after its upcoming sixth season.

The announcement comes on the heels of a sexual harassment allegation against the show's star Kevin Spacey.

In a joint statement, Netflix and production company Media Rights Capital say they are "deeply troubled" by an allegation that Spacey harassed a 14-year-old boy in 1986.

But Netflix spokeswoman Karen Barra said the decision to end the show was made months ago, long before the allegation surfaced against 58-year-old Spacey, a two-time Oscar-winning film star, Tony-winning stage performer and former creative director of London's famed Old Vic theatre.

Executives from Netflix and Media Rights Capital met with the show's cast and crew on Monday to discuss the situation, according to the statement.

Spacey was not scheduled to be on set on Monday.

Actor Anthony Rapp, the star of Star Trek: Discovery, alleged that Spacey tried to seduce him in 1986 when Rapp was 14 and Spacey was 26.

In an interview with BuzzFeed, Rapp, now 46, recounted attending a party hosted by Spacey in which the older actor picked him up, brought him to a bed and lay down on top of him after other guests had left.

According to Rapp, the young actor had the impression Spacey was drunk, pushed him away and left.
'We asked what you thought of Netflix’s decision to end House of Cards. Read the discussion in the comments.

Former House of Cards showrunner Beau Willimon, who also serves as the president of the Writers Guild of America, East, called Rapp’s story “deeply troubling”.

In a statement, Willimon said: “During the time I worked with Kevin Spacey on House of Cards, I neither witnessed nor was aware of any inappropriate behaviour on set or off.

“That said, I take reports of such behaviour seriously and this is no exception.

“I feel for Mr Rapp and I support his courage.”

'Being gay should never be equated with sexual assault or paedophilia'

Spacey responded to Rapp’s story on Twitter by saying he does not remember the alleged encounter, but if he acted the way Rapp alleges, “I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour.”

Spacey then said Rapp’s story “encouraged” him to address long-simmering rumours about his sexuality.

He wrote that he has had romantic relationships with both men and women in the past, but is now living “as a gay man” and wanted to be honest so he could examine “my own behaviour”.

Requests for comment went unanswered.

The two-paragraph statement — an apology in the first for a 31-year-old alleged assault and a self-outing in the second — struck many as an odd time for Spacey to address his sexuality or even an attempt to deflect blame.

Worse, he seemed to make a connection between being gay and sexual abuse of minors.

“Kevin Spacey really tried to throw the entire LGBT community under a bus and call it solidarity in an effort to mask his personal failings,” wrote civil rights activist DeRay McKesson on Twitter.

Actor Zachary Quinto called Spacey’s outing “a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusations”.

Musician Lance Bass added on Twitter: “Being gay should never be equated with sexual assault or paedophilia. Thanks for giving the homophobes more ammo.”

Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of the gay rights group GLAAD, said in a statement that the story was really about unwanted sexual advances on Rapp, not Spacey’s sexuality.
"Coming out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault," she said.

The final season of House of Cards is in production.

The Emmy winning-drama starring Spacey and Robin Wright as an Oval Office power couple kick-started Netflix's success in producing original shows.

Production is underway in Baltimore, Maryland, on the show's sixth season.

In the joint statement, the executives said they travelled to the set to ensure that the cast and crew feel "safe and supported".

AP/Reuters/ABC

Topics: television, sexual-offences, united-states

First posted Tue 31 Oct 2017, 7:47am
Incredible. Shameful. Oscar winner Kevin Spacey responds to claims that he sexually assaulted a 14-year-old boy by pleading that he's actually been gay. Like that's related to pedophilia.

Former child actor Anthony Rapp says he was just 14 when Spacey, then aged 26, sexually assaulted him:

In an interview with BuzzFeed, actor Anthony Rapp said Spacey befriended him while they both performed on Broadway shows. Rapp was 14 when he attended a party at Spacey's apartment in 1996, he said. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him. Rapp said.

Rapp said the 26-year-old was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment.

Here's Spacey's response:

I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life and I choose now to...
Check Barbara Walters’ disgraceful attempt in 2013 to shut down and shame former child star Corey Feldman:

Then there's the nasty spat now between Corey Feldman and the mother of the late Corey Haim, who Feldman says was another victim.

COREY Feldman has been blasted by late actor Corey Haim's mother over his plans for a documentary exposing what he believes is widespread pedophilia in Hollywood.

Feldman claims he and his The Lost Boys co-star Haim, who died in 2010 at the age of 38, were both sexually abused as child stars in the 1980s, and wants to raise $13 million to make a film about the allegations.

But Haim’s mother Judy Haim has publicly slammed Feldman, saying the project, which has crowdfunded $200,000 so far, is just an attempt to distract from his recent misdemeanor charge for marijuana possession.

Comments

Stephen

Isn't it great, Hollywood feasting on its own! The wealthy pseudo Socialist hypocrites are being exposed for what they are, what middle America has always known and is now punishing these "taks" where it really hurts them and that's at the "box office"!

Oct 31, 2017

1 Like Reply

Val

Did anyone notice he said he "chose to be Gay"

Oct 31, 2017

PREVIOUS

Korndal

Wonder what value an endorsement from Hollywood will have at the next US election ? Or how Aus. About time they lost their pedestal!

Oct 31, 2017

1 Like Reply

NEXT
He said - I don't remember, but if that happened I am truly sorry. In no way did he try and excuse himself.

Andrew
@heath If he didn't remember the incident, then how did he know he was drunk at the time? He shot himself in both feet. "I may have been drunk, and oh, I'm gay so it's OK". Give me a break!

Michael
@heath I think Bolt's reading comprehension skills are on song. By saying that he is gay, Spacey is offering some sort of excuse. Why bring it up?

Groundhog
The headline is a misrepresentation. As usual.

Paul
@Groundhog The headline summarises accurately Spacey's statement. Sorry - but I can't remember - and it is sort of OK because I am gay and I am also a "victim".

Stuart
Yeah because Spacey in no way tried to justify it.

Groundhog
@Paul BS

PSFR
Rapp was an adolescent so it wouldn't be pedophilia in any event.

PSFR
@Neil You would think Bolt would know that.

Mary
What's the magic age...13, 14? Seriously. Where do you draw the line.
Pretty big leap. Andrew, All Spacey said was, "I can't remember the incident." However he expressed regret and apologised if he had caused offence. Throwing a 14year old boy on a bed is hardly pedophilia nor is being embarrassed for what he did. The kid made some allegations (it's fashionable at the moment) and the lights are shining on him. Of course he didn't want that...

Neil
\- Strange logic mate. checking a 9 year on a bed or a 14 year old is just as damaging psychologically, because a grown man did it. Power imbalances & vulnerabilities are the same. Amazed you cannot see that!

Lo
\- @Neil A 14 year old alone, of any gender, at a grove party in Hollywood. What could possibly go wrong? Why did his parents allow him to go? Why did he wait 30 years to talk to the media? Why did he ever talk to the media? Quite a few people made a pass at me when I was young. So what?

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

mats
\- The host of that show needs to be exposed. She'd terrified that someone is speaking out. Thanks for zero.

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

PSFR
\- Interesting contrast between the real Spacey as a gay man, with the role he played as Lester Burnham in the wonderful movie American Beauty - where he rejected overtures made to him by ex marine Colonel Falls (Chris Cooper) who mistakenly thought Lester was gay.

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

Andrew
\- @PSFR Then you haven't watch House of cards have you? His true self is there for all to see.

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

Stephen
\- @PSFR, And what a movie and what a performance from Spacey!

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

Jim
\- Hollywood is fantasy land.

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

Michael
\- Hollywood has 'exposed itself' as being nothing more than a cesspit of sleaze and hypocrisy.

Oct 31, 2017

Like
Reply

Terry
It wasn't just a drunken pass. It was possibly a drunken pass on a minor.

Also, I agree, why would Kevin Spacey invite Rapp to his apartment for a party that was meant only for adults?

"In an interview with Buzzfeed News, Rapp is publicly alleging for the first time that in 1986, Spacey befriended Rapp while they both performed on Broadway shows, invited Rapp over to his apartment for a party, and, at the end of the night, picked Rapp up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him, making a sexual advance. According in public records, Spacey was 26. Rapp was 14."
3. You obviously don’t go to the parties run frequently by the “glitterati” in Hollywood. But they were all around even in Errol Flynn’s day.

Bruce
@James @guido It’s not like the “glitterati” have only just decided to be a little “extra-accidental”.

Almost a century ago, there was the case of Fatty Arbuckle:

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-skinny-on-the-fatty-arbuckle-trial-131228859/

Terry
Milo Yiannopoulos would agree with Spacey

Septic the
@Terry Hope.

Paul
@Terry You forget that Milo was not the perpetrator - he was the victim.

Michelle
@Terry rope. He doesn’t. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=milo yiannopoulos

Denise
Hollywood needs a major clean up!

mets
@Denise
Domestos would be good, is there enough available?

Matt
Giving actors status is one of the great follies of modernity.

Trevor
Andrew - where is your outrage or even a little mention of your friend - Bill O’Reilly?? Your story in yesterday’s Sun-Herald could have had a little mention of Bill and the behavior of people in positions of power. A very conspicuous omission.

Hollywood actors speak of 'rampant' problem of male abusers targeting men

Speaking out in the wake of an allegation of sexual harassment against Kevin Spacey, male actors say abuse against boys and young men is 'taboo' but 'pervasive'

Sam Levin in San Francisco

Hollywood has a “rampant” and “pervasive” problem of men sexually abusing boys and young men, according to actors and lawyers who are speaking up about misconduct and harassment in the wake of an allegation against actor Kevin Spacey.

“IT's a very taboo subject,” said Alex Winter, an actor and director who said he was sexually abused as a pre-teen child actor. “I don’t know of any boys in any pocket of the entertainment industry that do not encounter some form of predatory behavior. ... It's really not a safe environment.”

Spacey has been accused of making an unwanted sexual advance toward Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp, who says he was 14 years old at the time of the alleged incident in 1986. According to Rapp, Spacey, who was 26 at the time, lay on top of him and tried to “seduce” him.

Spacey, star of Netflix show House of Cards and former artistic director of London's Old Vic theatre, apologized after BuzzFeed published Rapp's allegations, saying he did not remember

the “encounter”. If he did what Rapp described, it “would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior”, he added.

Spacey also formally came out as gay in the same statement on Sunday night - a move that outraged LGBT activists and actors, who said it was a cruel deflection that caused harm by linking his sexuality to an allegation of child abuse, fueling the homophobic myth that gay men are predators.

To some, the Spacey controversy has been a painful reminder that young gay actors can be particularly vulnerable to mistreatment - and that influential men wield their power to abuse both men and women.

“it’s a pervasive problem in Hollywood,” said Los Angeles attorney Toni Jaramilla, who has represented men in the entertainment industry in sexual harassment cases. She said that men can be coerced into sex or assaulted in professional contexts and are often afraid to speak out: “The common challenge is the fear of not being believed and the fear of having the situation turned around against them, to suggest that they are instigating it, or they are finding opportunities to sleep their way into a role.”

Harp, an openly gay actor known for his role in the original cast of the musical Rent, said he was compelled to speak out following the avalanche of harassment and rape allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein, whose behavior has been called an “open secret”. The scandal inspired victims of sexual violence and harassment to share stories with the hashtag #MeToo, and some have accused well-known men of being predators in a wide range of industries, including a prominent political journalist, a magazine editor and an art publication executive.

Weinstein has apologized for his past behavior, but said he denies many of the harassment claims and “unequivocally denied” allegations of non-consensual sex.

Gloria Allred, the feminist attorney who has taken on Donald Trump and Bill Cosby, said in an interview on Monday night that she had fielded numerous calls from potential clients following the Spacey allegations. Sexual harassment of gay men in the industry is “rampant”, she said, adding, “It’s as serious a problem as it is with women.”

Harp’s story has sparked debate about whether sexual harassment and even childhood abuse of men are also open secrets in Hollywood.

Wilson Cruz, a gay actor who plays Rapp’s love interest in Star Trek, recently spoke about sexual harassment at a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) awards event, saying “older gentlemen” made offers when he was young, adding, “I did not take them up on it, but it was uncomfortable. I was in my 20s, and I thought: ‘Is this what one does?’ And also: ‘Am I going to ruin my career by not doing it?’ ... I think it’s been quietly accepted as the norm in a lot of ways.”

Gay actor Charlie Carver, known for The Leftovers and Teen Wolf, alluded to his own experiences at the same event, saying, “I’m not a stranger to it. This will hopefully open up a discussion about men and power dynamics in general - maybe it has to do with exerting masculinity.”

Eliza Byard, GLSEN’s executive director, said she was grateful to hear them speak out: “In our culture ... there is an extra cone of shame and silence around boys and men who experience sexual harassment that can prevent them from getting help.”

Tyler Grasham, a Hollywood agent, has also faced formal accusations that he assaulted and harassed young male actors in recent days. (Grasham has not addressed the claims in any public statement yet and could not be reached for comment.)

Allred said it can be especially difficult for gay actors in Hollywood to come forward with harassment claims if they are not open about their sexuality.

"Many of the victims are still in the closet. That makes them extra vulnerable," she said, adding, "It's fear that keeps them silent ... They feel they just won't be believed against the denial of a rich powerful famous celebrity."

Male models have also shared stories of harassment or abuse by photographers, stylists, art directors and agents, said Sara Ziff, founder of the Model Alliance, a nonprofit group. She cited stories from men about a range of inappropriate sexual conduct on set, such as unexpected demands for them to get naked or photographers following models into the bathroom and then assaulting them.

"Sometimes, they say that when they've complained to their agencies about abusive working conditions, their agents have actually encouraged them to give into their harassers' demands."

Winter, known for Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and The Lost Boys, said abused boys can suffer long-term trauma and that it can feel like an uphill battle to go public many years later.

"There's nothing more terrifying to someone who is holding on to that history and that PTSD than to finally come forward and make those claims only to not be accepted," he said, declining to identify his alleged abuser. "My perpetrator was never caught ... I had to live with that."

If you have information about sexual misconduct in Hollywood, please contact sam.levin@theguardian.com

Topics

Sexual harassment
Kevin Spacey criticised over link between homosexuality and abuse

Star of House of Cards, which is entering its final series, widely condemned for conflating sexuality with inappropriate behaviour in apology to Anthony Rapp

Matthew Weaver and Stephanie Convery

31 Oct 2017 06:08 AEDT

Kevin Spacey is facing criticism for the way he linked his sexuality to his apology about allegations of sexual advances towards a 14-year-old actor.

The House Of Cards star and former artistic director of London’s Old Vic theatre said he could not remember sexually harassing Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp in 1986.

Human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell lamented the timing of Spacey’s decision to come out as gay.

“It is tragic that it has taken allegations of sexual harassment for Kevin Spacey to finally come out as gay, after not disclosing his sexuality for decades. It is even worse that he mixes up his sexuality with inappropriate behaviour. His gayness is irrelevant. It’s his actions that have prompted concern,” he told the Guardian.

Stonewall, the LGBT lobby group, echoed Tatchell’s concerns. Kim Sanders, communications manager for the group, said: “Usually when celebrities come out we’re quick to send on our congratulations and to talk about the importance of role models. But for Kevin Spacey to
choose this particular moment to come out is harmful to the LGBT community. His sexual orientation bears no relevance to the serious allegations he is facing, and to conflate these things is extremely damaging.”

Tatchell added: “Although women are the main victims of sexual abuse and inappropriate behaviour by male public figures, clearly some men are victims too. All those affected, whatever their gender or sexuality, deserve admiration for coming forward and telling their story.

“We have to respond to the post-Weinstein outpouring of revelations by changing the male and workplace culture that allows abuse to happen. To protect future generations, it should be mandatory for all schools to teach pupils about consent and abuse issues and to challenge the disordered forms of masculinity that fuel sex abuse.”

A spokesperson for Netflix said the streaming service was “deeply troubled” by the allegation against Spacey and the upcoming sixth series of House of Cards would be the last.

In an interview with BuzzFeed, Rapp said Spacey, then aged 26, put him on a bed and climbed on top of him after a party at his apartment.

In a statement Spacey said that if this did happen he owes Rapp his “sincerest apology”. The statement goes on to discuss living as a gay man, prompting widespread criticism that Spacey appears to be conflating homosexuality with abuse.

Spacey said in the statement posted on Twitter: “I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fuelled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy.

“As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

Louise Brealey, a writer and actor who plays Molly in Sherlock, accused Spacey of “breathtaking arrogance” over the way he apologised.

Rose McGowan – one of the many actors who have accused Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment – suggested Spacey was trying to deflect attention from the allegations by writing openly about his sexuality.

Later she indicated she was cutting ties with Spacey.


“But honestly I hesitate to make jokes because the Spacey statement is truly disgusting, irresponsible and dangerous.”

Vanity Fair film critic Richard Lawson, said it was “disgusting” of Spacey to conflate coming out as gay with preying on a 14-year-old in a tweet that has been shared more than 3,000 times.

Rapp told BuzzFeed he believed Spacey was trying to “seduce” him, but that he was able to “squirm” away soon afterwards, locking himself in the bathroom before telling Spacey he was leaving.
“As I opened the door to leave, he was leaning on the front door [frame]. And he was like, ‘Are you sure you wanna go?’ I said, ‘Yes, good night’, and then I did leave,” Rapp said.

Rapp said that for years he did not tell anyone about his experience. It was not until Spacey’s career began to rise in the 1990s and 2000s that Rapp became angrier and more frustrated at the memory, saying his “stomach churns” when he sees Spacey now.

“I still to this day can’t wrap my head around so many aspects of it. It’s just deeply confusing to me,” Rapp said.

As a gay man himself, Rapp said he had found Spacey’s firm stance on his own private life deeply frustrating: “I wanted to scream to the rooftops, ‘This guy is a fraud!’”

Rapp attributed his ability to cope in the aftermath of the alleged incident to his acting training, and that he had “locked it away” within himself. But he also said there were times afterwards when he found seeing Spacey on screen and in person highly distressing and that he dreaded the prospect of the two of them ever working together.

Rapp considered himself fortunate that “something worse didn’t happen” - but also expressed incredulity that it happened at all. He says he considered talking to Spacey about the encounter but never did.

The actor also considered legal action, but was advised he did not have grounds to make a case. He had previously told the story, with Spacey’s name removed, in 2001 to the Advocate, a US gay men’s magazine.

Rapp told BuzzFeed he felt compelled to come forward publicly in the wake of the wave of sexual assault accusations against disgraced industry mogul Harvey Weinstein.

In a series of tweets after the publication of the interview, Rapp said: “I came forward with my story, standing on the shoulders of the many courageous women and men who have been speaking out, to shine a light and hopefully make a difference, as they have done for me.”

Spacey’s 11 tenure as artistic director of the Old Vic is now bound to come under close scrutiny. In a statement the Old Vic said no complaints were made against Spacey during his tenure as artistic director.

Kevin Spacey
'Deeply troubled': House of Cards to end in wake of Kevin Spacey harassment scandal

Rob Moran

Netflix hit House of Cards will end after its sixth season, following allegations of sexual harassment against star Kevin Spacey.

But despite the timing of the announcement, producers on the show and reps for Netflix said the decision was months in the making and unrelated to the claims against Spacey.

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment allegations

The Academy Award winning Kevin Spacey responds to the allegations that he made sexual advances on 'Star Trek: Discovery' actor Anthony Rapp when he was a teenage boy in 1986.

On Monday, Spacey, 58, was accused by US actor Anthony Rapp of making a "sexual advance" towards him in 1986 when he was just 14 years old.

Spacey’s response to the allegations, in which he said he did not remember the incident and pegged it to "inappropriate drunken behaviour", drew criticism from both Hollywood peers and
'Deeply troubled': House of Cards to end in wake of Kevin Spacey harassment scandal

Actor Kevin Spacey has been criticized for his behavior, leading to allegations of sexual harassment.

Facing allegations of sexual harassment: House of Cards actor Kevin Spacey. Photo: Netflix

He was also chastised for publicly coming out as gay in the same apology, in what some saw as an attempt to deflect the sexual assault allegations.

Netflix and Media Rights Capital, the company that produces House of Cards, issued a statement on Tuesday morning in the wake of the accusations.

"Media Rights Capital and Netflix are deeply troubled by last night's news concerning Kevin Spacey.

"In response to last night's revelations, executives from both of our companies arrived in Baltimore this afternoon to meet with our cast and crew to ensure that they continue to feel safe and supported," the statement reads.

Kevin Spacey as Frank Underwood in House of Cards. Photo: Supplied

"As previously scheduled, Kevin Spacey is not working on set at this time."

House of Cards was the first original series produced by Netflix. Its instant success sparked the streaming giant's expansion into original content.

Spacey has starred on the show since its launch in 2013, earning critical acclaim and a Golden Globe for Best Actor (TV) for his turn as power-hungry political player Frank Underwood.

Following a lukewarm response to its fifth season, showrunners Melissa James Gibson and Frank Pugliese had hinted at the series' uncertain future in June, telling TVLine that its continued run was "not entirely up to us".

However, the show's sixth season began shooting earlier this month.

Original House of Cards creator Beau Willimon was the first on the series to respond to Rapp's claims on Monday, saying while he never personally saw Spacey behaving inappropriately on or off set, he found the accusations "deeply troubling".

"I take reports of such behaviour seriously, and this is no exception," he wrote on Twitter. "I feel for Mr Rapp and I support his courage."

The future of another Netflix project starring Spacey, a biopic on late author Gore Vidal, was also currently being reviewed, Deadline reported.

"Netflix and Media Rights Capital have issued a joint statement on Kevin Spacey:
pic.twitter.com/8ISmKHZoh"

— Kate Aurthur (@KateAurthur) October 30, 2017
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11-103
Netflix cancels House of Cards amid Kevin Spacey allegations

Company made decision 'months ago' but only let it be known after claims Spacey had made sexual advances towards a 14-year-old actor

Stephanie Convery
: 31 Oct 2017 19.54 AEDT

Netflix is ending its Emmy-nominated political drama House of Cards at the conclusion of its upcoming sixth season amid sexual allegations against Kevin Spacey.

The final episodes of the TV series, starring Spacey and Robin Wright as ruthless political operators in the United States government, will air in 2018.

News of the ending comes less than 24 hours after Spacey responded publicly to allegations that he made unwanted sexual advances on a 14-year-old actor in 1986.

The allegations, from Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp, were first aired in an interview with Buzzfeed on Monday. Spacey responded on Twitter with an apology, saying he did not remember the incident, but that if it happened he believed it would have been “deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour”.

Media Rights Capital and Netflix, who produce House of Cards, released a statement on Monday in response to the allegations against Spacey, saying they were “deeply troubled” by the news.
"In response to last night’s revelations, executives from both of our companies arrived in Baltimore this afternoon to meet with our cast and crew to ensure that they continue to feel safe and supported. As previously scheduled, Kevin Spacey is not working on set at this time,” the statement said.

A Netflix spokesperson confirmed to Guardian Australia that the decision to end the show was made months earlier, and not in response to the allegations about Spacey surfacing.

House of Cards began in 2013, following husband and wife team Frank and Claire Underwood (Spacey and Wright) as they manipulated and murdered their way up the political ladder to the Oval Office. The show was nominated for 33 Emmy awards and eight Golden Globe awards, with Spacey and Wright winning best actor and actress Golden Globes for their performances.

The show received favourable reviews for its first two seasons, but the response to recent seasons has been mixed.

Social media response to the news has resulted in calls for the show to continue but with Wright as the sole lead.

House of Cards creator and showrunner for its first four seasons, Beau Willimon, also released a statement on Monday via Twitter, saying he “neither witnessed nor was aware of any inappropriate behaviour on set or off” during his time working with Spacey on the show, but that he took “reports of such behaviour seriously, and this is no exception”.

Topics
Kevin Spacey
Celebrities Slam Kevin Spacey For ‘Manipulative, Irresponsible’ Coming Out Statement

The actor was accused of making unwanted sexual advances on a 14-year-old.

OCT 31, 2017 9:49AM BY MAHALIA CHANG

Yesterday afternoon, Kevin Spacey was accused by actor Anthony Rapp of making unwanted sexual advances on him when he was just 14. Rapp alleges that, in the mid-'80s, the then-26-year-old Spacey cornered him in a bedroom at a party and 'laid on top of him.'
Following Rapp’s claims, Spacey released a controversial statement wherein he apologised for his “deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour,” indicated he did not remember the incident, and then came out as gay in the same breath.

“I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy,” his statement read. “As those closes to me know, in my life, I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic relationships with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behaviour.”

Since the release of his statement, several celebrities have come forward to criticise Spacey for the timing of his coming out, and to accuse him of trying to derail the conversation. Many of the claims suggest that Spacey was attempting to detract and deflect from Rapp’s, and manipulate the public’s opinion.

Actor Zachary Quinto, who is openly gay, criticised Spacey in a statement, writing, “It is deeply sad and troubling that this is how Kevin Spacey has chosen to come out.”

“Not by standing up as a point of pride—in the light of all his many awards and accomplishments—thus inspiring tens of thousands of struggling LGBTQ kids around the world. But as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusation that he attempted to molest one.”

Comedian Billy Eichner wrote on Twitter, “Kevin Spacey has just invented something that has never existed before: a bad time to come out.”

“Imagine the Astros walking off the field only to find out Kevin Spacey is gay. The shock of it all,” Eichner wrote, referencing the baseball. “But honestly I hesitate to make jokes because the Spacey statement is truly disgusting, irresponsible and dangerous. Ok goodnight!”

Lance Bass wrote, “Being gay should never be equated with sexual assault or pedophilia. Thanks for giving the homophobes more ammo #KevinSpacey.”
Star Trek actor George Takei released a statement this morning which read, “When power is used in a non-consensual situation, it is a wrong. For Anthony Rapp, he has had to live with the memory of this experience of decades ago. For Kevin Spacey, who claims not to remember the incident, he was the older, dominant one who had his way.”

“Men who improperly harass or assault do not do so because they are gay or straight—that is a deflection. They do so because they have the power, and they chose to abuse it,” he wrote.

Spacey has yet to respond further. Since the news of the allegations broke, Netflix announced they have cancelled Spacey’s show, House of Cards.

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CELEBRITY

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OPINION

Kevin Spacey's rainbow shield won't protect him, but it could damage the gay community

By Alex McKinnon

Updated Tue 31 Oct 2017, 8:44pm

PHOTO: Actor Kevin Spacey has provoked anger by conflating his response to allegations of sexual misconduct with a public coming-out.
(Reuters: Mike Blake)

When reading public statements in the wake of damaging revelations about powerful people, it's worth remembering that men like Kevin Spacey don't actually write them.

The House of Cards star and Oscar-winner is the latest high-profile name facing sexual assault allegations.

Speaking to BuzzFeed News, actor Anthony Rapp said Spacey "picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold" and "lay down on top of me" after a party at Spacey's Manhattan home in the 1980s.

Rapp was 14 at the time, while Spacey was 26.

After apologising for what he described as "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour", Spacey then said Rapp's story had "encouraged me to address other things about my life", before revealing he is gay.

"I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man", Spacey said in his statement. "I want to deal with this openly and honestly and that means examining my own behaviour."

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey apologises for alleged sexual advance on teenage boy

RELATED STORY: Netflix pulls plug on House of Cards, says it's 'troubled' by Spacey allegation

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey criticised for coming out 'as a deflection from sexual misconduct claims'

MAP: United States
The crisis management industry

A statement like that is the carefully-crafted product of a rigorous, highly professional process involving armies of lawyers, PR managers and corporate executives. They are written, vetted and released with two overriding aims: damage control and image rehabilitation.

Their design is to appear as genuine, heartfelt expressions of contrition and remorse while admitting to as little as possible; to recast the media narrative around the accused in a favourable light; deflect attention onto another target; or bury the allegations entirely.

Services like these are in such high demand in corporate, political and entertainment spheres, the process even has a name: crisis management.

The crisis management industry exists to protect powerful people from their victims, not the other way around.

Spacey's decision to come out as gay at the same moment he is facing allegations of child sex abuse, after decades of fiercely protecting his privacy, must be viewed in that context.
rainbow shield?

There are several factors that make Spacey’s statement so cynical. For one, it’s a clear attempt to take advantage of the outpouring of support LGBT public figures often receive when they come out.

Celebrities like Barry Manilow, Neil Patrick Harris, Ian Thorpe, Magda Szubanski and Ellen Page have all publicly addressed their sexuality, often after long and difficult personal struggles. They have used their platforms to advance LGBT rights and give hope to others struggling with their sexuality and/or gender identity.

Spacey, by contrast, has used his sexuality as a shield to hide from his accuser. Actor and comedian Wanda Sykes, who is gay, summed up Spacey’s actions neatly on Twitter, writing that he was attempting to “hide under the rainbow”.

Reviving old stereotypes

By doing so, Spacey has also played into still-dangerous misconceptions about LGBT people.

The old trope that gay men are secret child molesters has fuelled countless legal, physical and moral attacks over the years, and still has power today.

Australia’s same-sex marriage debate has been repeatedly degraded by opponents darkly insinuating the consequences of letting gay and transgender “ideology” near children.

By conflating homosexuality and child sex abuse in his statement, Spacey gives oxygen to people seeking to do so in public debate.

Sadly, Spacey’s crisis management strategy has been at least partly successful, with the revelations about his sexuality going a long way to bury the original story.

Outlets including the Boston Globe, Reuters, the New York Daily News, the Daily Beast, America’s ABC News and News.com.au all took the bait, leading with headlines about Spacey’s coming out rather than his alleged crime.
Many of those outlets have since changed their tone after angry reactions from readers, but in a PR war, the first few hours are crucial. Many people who only skim headlines in passing would have no idea that Spacey has been accused of sexual misconduct.

When crisis management fails

But despite gargantuan amounts of money and legal expertise, crisis management doesn't always work.

PHOTO: Mega-producer Harvey Weinstein has failed to win public support following accusations of sexual assault and misconduct from around forty women. (AP: Richard Shotwell/invision)

Producer Harvey Weinstein tried it after sexual assault allegations against him came to light recently, downplaying his actions as the product of "the '60s and '70s, when all the rules about behaviour and work places were different", before bizarrely segueing into an attack on the National Rifle Association in an attempt to send the media and the public after a more enticing target.

By and large, news outlets and readers didn't buy it. Weinstein's attempts to make the story go away proved feeble against the sheer avalanche of women accusing him of predatory behaviour. The story was just too big.

It remains to be seen just how damaging the Rapp story will be to Spacey's reputation.

Like Weinstein, Spacey may find that all the PR magic and legal obfuscation money can buy can't cover up the truth.

Alex McKinnon is a Sydney writer.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, actor, sexual-offences, social-media, united-states

First posted Tue 31 Oct 2017, 2:04pm
**Watch this Spacey**

It is deeply sad and troubling that this is how Kevin Spacey has chosen to come out... as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusation.

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**TV show cancelled as sleazy rumours swirl around star**

LOS ANGELES: Embattled movie star Kevin Spacey is struggling to save his career in the face of widespread disapproval over his alleged sexual harassment of a teenage boy, with strong suggestions there is more to come.

Compounding the issue for Spacey is outrage at his apparent efforts to deflect from the charges he attempted to make that child actor Anthony Rapp was a party in the 1980s by announcing he is gay.

The collapse could also be falling on his back as an adult actor with Netflix announcing the canning of his acclaimed political drama House Of Cards.

Netlix and production company Media Rights Capital said it was "deeply troubled" by the allegations that Spacey harvested the then 14-year-old in a 1986 party. House of Cards creator Beau Willimon tweeted: "Anthony Rapp's story is deeply troubling", before adding, "I take reports of such behaviour seriously, and this is no exception."

The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences also weighed in, announcing it would not be honouring Spacey with a planned 2017 International Emmy Founders Award.

Gay actor Zachary Quinto, who plays Spock in the recent Star Trek films and appeared with Spacey in the 2011 thriller Margin Call, said the star's decision to come out in response to the allegations was "deeply sad and troubling".

And president of US gay rights group GLAAD Sarah Kate Ellis said "coming out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault".

"Others have alluded to numerous that have passed around Spacey for years. A fortnight ago, Boston TV journalist Heather Unruh tweeted that she "was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. The damage this does is huge.""

Meanwhile, it has been claimed Spacey groped a male employee during his acclaimed tenure as artistic director of London's Old Vic Theatre from 2003-05. Artistic director of the nearby Royal Court Theatre Victoria Featherstone told the BBC allegations about Spacey's behaviour were well known.

"In the creative industries people have been aware of many stories of many people over a lot of years, and Kevin Spacey would be one of the people that people have had concerns about," she said.

Seth McFarlane has even used Spacey as the subject of a gag in his long-running cartoon Family Guy in 2005. The scene had the evil, adult-like toddler stewie running through a shopping mall shouting "I've escaped from Kevin Spacey's basement! Help me!"

Spacey is clearly aware of the noise around his behaviour, observing in his Twitter response to Rapp's claims: "I know that there are stories out there about me..."

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**Cup of Asia**

SINGAPORE: Prince Charles and wife Camilla arrived in Singapore yesterday on the first stop of an 11-day trip to strengthen ties between Britain and Asian countries.

They received a ceremonial welcome to kick off a visit to the South-East Asian island nation where they will have an official named after them and be hosted at a state banquet by Singapore's president, Halimah Yacob.

Charles last visited Singapore in 1992. He is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. "This visit reaffirms the historic and longstanding relationship between Singapore and the United Kingdom, Singapore's Foreign Minister said in a statement.

"The royal couple leaves for Malaysia tomorrow. They'll cup of their Asia tour with visits to the Bandung and India.

British media reported that Mynamar was considered for the trip but was excluded from the itinerary as the country's Rakhine state is engulfed in religious violence.

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**Adelaide Daily Telegraph**

WIN A NIGHT WITH MAGGIE REYNARD TASTING AUSTRALIA
Weighty issue a massive problem

AUSTRALIA has a big problem and experts say if we don’t make a solid effort to trim it down, the fat is truly in the fire.

With two-thirds of us now above a healthy weight, carrying an extra wide load has become the “new normal” and experts worry it’s making it harder to convince people to change their habits.

“You look around you and you see other people of higher weight and you think you look average,” dietitian Alana McAlene said, adding it was now “normal to be overweight.”

Just 25 per cent of obese people (those with a Body Mass Index above 30) saw themselves as very overweight, new research has revealed.

About 10 per cent of those who were obese thought they were of average weight and about two-thirds of obese people regarded themselves as simply overweight, the Shape of Australia research from the Heart Foundation and Cancer Council Victoria Live Lighter project found.

And half the people who were overweight (841,25-29) described themselves as average weight, the survey of 2000 Australians aged 25-49 found.

“If you don’t realise you are above a healthy weight you are unlikely to be motivated to make a change,” Live Lighter campaign manager Ms McAlene said.

She said women were considered overweight and at greater risk of diabetes and heart disease if their waist circumference was 80cm or higher and greater risk if it was 88cm or more.

For men, the benchmark was a waist circumference of 94cm or over, putting them in the heart disease danger zone if it reached 102cm or more.

Just one in five people surveyed met the guidelines for 30 minutes of exercise five times a week and one in seven did not exercise at all.

However, those aged 45-69 were more likely to get sufficient exercise than younger Australians.

Only one in 10 people eat enough vegetables and one in four were not confident about managing their weight.

Ms McAlene said even small diet and exercise changes made a difference.

STARS SLAM SPACEY SLEAZE

HOLLYWOOD superstar Kevin Spacey is under fire for coming out as gay in the face of widespread disgust at allegations he sexually harassed a teenager.

The actor, whose career took a nosedive after he was cancelled yesterday, was slammed by a gay rights group as “coming out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault.”

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Catalan ‘rebel’ bolts to Brussels

N Korean assassins arrested

Space cosy out to a sexual assault storm

Five more Tory MPs on Westminster’s dirty dossier

Mild-mannered monk had no idea his theses would rock the world
**Entertainment**

**House of Cards toppled**

**Hit show casualty of fallout from Kevin Spacey drama**

This fallout facing Kevin Spacey yesterday following an accusation that he made sexual advances on a teen with Netflix pulling the plug on hit miniseries House of Cards and "deeply troubled" producers of the political thriller arriving on Netflix at last month's Cannes.

Executives from Netflix and the show's producer, Media Rights Capital, said they arrived in Baltimore, where the show is shot, yesterday to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported." Spacey was not scheduled to be on set yesterday.

Though he decided to end the series was announced yesterday, the decision to end the series was made several months ago, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision.

Spacey is the latest Hollywood man to be named in widening allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, media and other industries. The avalanche of allegations began earlier this year when the New York Times published a story alleging that producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed numerous women.

Yesterday, NBC fired political journalist Mark Halperin after multiple allegations of sexual harassment, and The New Republic said it had launched an investigation after publisher and president Hamilton Fish was accused of harassing women.

In an interview published by the British newspaper the Sun, actor Anthony Rapp accused Spacey of inappropriately touching him when he was a 14-year-old actor at Spacey's apartment in 1986.

Rapp, then 14, was able to get away without any physical harm. Spacey responded on Twitter by saying he doesn't remember the alleged encounter but if he acted the way Rapp alleges, "I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."

Spacey then said Rapp's story "encouraged" him to address long-standing rumors about his sexuality.

He wrote that he's had romantic relationships with both men and women in the past but is now "living as a gay man" and wanted to be honest so he could examine "my own behavior."

Requests for comment went unanswered yesterday.

The two-page, statement—an apology in the first for a 10-year-old sexual assault and a self-cutting in the second—struck many as an odd timing for Spacey to address his sexuality or even an attempt to deflect blame.

**Nightmare machine spinning scary tales**

DON'T throw away your Stephen King collection just yet.

But the Master of the Machine (pun intended) might want to keep an eye out behind him, because scientists have just unleashed a nightmare machine on a mission to churn out its own brand of terrifying tales.

MIT researchers have applied the techniques and brought to life a new form of creative writing but they call Shelley—after author Mary Shelley. To keep the plot busy—no wandering the countryside terrorizing villagers—the team gave it a crash course in the horror genre, forcing it to read 140,000 stories published by amateur writers on the Internet.

Now Shelley's artificial neural network is going its own stories, posting opening lines on Twitter, then taking turns with humans in collaborative storytelling.

 "It's creating interesting and weird stories that have never really existed in the horror genre," said Peter Norvig, a senior research scientist at the MIT Media Lab.

The lab's experiment, launched in time for Halloween, is an ambitious project to create scary stories last year. But can all that deep-learning technology and powerful computation truly turn out terrifying tales?

Let's just say the experiment is still in progress.---

**Jet frontman Nick Cester is making music again—both with the band and on his own**

Cester frontman Nick Cester didn't think he would ever be able to make music again after he broke his voice box 13 years ago.

But he's not even sure his bandmates would have ever spoken to him again. "When the whole thing ended I was pretty disillusioned," Cester said. "I had my choice to stop being a Jet for my bandmates and my brother Chris [had] sold more than six million albums. I was in it for a band after all. It was not easy and there were moments I had to stop and think about myself..."

Jet frontman was attacked by police, then made to leave Ireland for a while and went on a German class, reviving in the Army.

"I was thinking about writing the songs that have gone on to form this solo album. I was thinking about writing the songs that have gone on to form this solo album."

**Lion roars with 12 AACTA nods**

Cloney film box office bomb

NICOLE Kidman's teen-jester film Lion is leading the way at this year's AACTA nominations.

The Australian film, directed by Garth Davis, stole the movie award at last year's AACTA and now it's told the true story of Saroo Brierley's boyhood, finding his Indian birth parents using Google Earth from his adopted home of Tasmania.

Kidman, who is nominated for best supporting actress for her role as Brierley's adopted mother, has also been nominated for best costume and supporting actress in a television series for playing the adopted mother in Jane Campion's popular TV drama Top of the Lake.

The second season of Campion's series is nominated for a top ten win with 11 nods, alongside Blue Mountains: Killer Cop which received six AACTA nominations.

**George Clooney's Solvaouzia minted one of the most dismal wide-release debuts in recent memory as a sluggish pre-Halloween weekend where the horror sequel Wholesale topped all releases despite its underperforming debut.**

The eighth Saw film slayed at No. 1 with $3.5 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came in below industry expectations and suggested the revived Saw franchise isn't connecting with audiences the way other recent horror entries have.

In its release since the Harvey Weinstein scandal began unrolling, the beleaguered Weinstein Co. freshly released a horror sequel of its own: American Horror Story. It played in a Saturday-only engagement at 10 screens, and grossed $160,000.

Critics weren't happy to see American Horror Story, which scored 54 per cent rotten Tomatoes score.
Hollywood Spaceys out

The latest Tinseltown sex scandal is vile, but the accused are still entitled to a presumption of innocence.

The Hollywood cesspit may be even worse now than we suspected.

Just as we were coming to terms with the extent of Harvey Weinstein’s predatory behaviour and the list of women allegedly assaulted growing to more than 80, the industry has again been rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct, this time against a child, by a much loved and respected Hollywood A-lister, with Spacey.

Spacey, accused of aggressively pursing an 11-year-old boy, Anthony Rapp, at a party in 1986, including carrying him to his bed and climbing on top of him, Spacey said he could not recall the incident but apologised profusely if it happened and then took the opportunity to formally declare that he is gay.

The two-time Oscar-winning actor’s bizarre statement only adds another layer of suspicion to an industry habituated by groves and exablers who feel enabled to preach to the little people about politics, ethics and standards of behaviour.

By declaring that “I choose now to live as a gay man” when responding to claims of preying upon a child, Spacey conflated being gay with sexual misconduct.

It was a shameful and transparent attempt at deflection and nadir it worked: segments of the media initially focused on Spacey coming “out” rather than the serious allegations levelled against him.

The CEO and chairman of Allied Artists, Kim Richards, was among those who tweeted their support of Spacey. “If true, acting on impulse while intoxicated speaks to oversubliness, not predatory behaviour. You’re good and decent, deserving forgiveness. But it wasn’t long before the tide turned and Spacey’s “House of Cards” collapsed with Netflix announcing the cancellation of the award-winning program after the sixth season.

That was followed by the International Emmy Awards recognising an upcoming honour: “The International Academy has announced that in light of recent events it will not honour Kevin Spacey with the 2016 International Emmy Founders Award.”

Reports of children being sexually abused in the entertainment world are not new but they have rarely been given weight by the powerful elites who dominate the industry.

Corey Feldman has spoken about his experiences as a child actor and has warned parents with children in the industry about an entrenched culture of predatory behaviour.

He first outlined his own experiences to Santa Barbara police in 1993 who were then investigating allegations made against Feldman’s friend, Michael Jackson.

Feldman told the officers that Jackson had never molested him but told them about being sexually abused by a number of men in Hollywood.

“All names were given to police before statute had run out but they did zero,” Feldman claims.

In his memoir Feldman wrote about the abuse he and fellow child actor Corey Haim suffered.

“An adult male convinced him that it was perfectly normal for older men and younger boys in the business to have sexual relations, that it was what all the guys do. "So they walked off to a secluded area between two trailers and Haim allowed himself to be sodomised," Feldman claims.

Haim died at the age of 38 in 2010. But when Feldman went on The View to share his experiences he was scolded by TV doyenne Barbara Walters who accused him of "damaging an entire industry.

In between Walters’s vitriolic sight of excess, Feldman warned parents of child stars to be mindful of the dangers.

"There are people who did this to both me and Corey (Haim) who are still working, they’re still out there, and they’re some of the richest, most powerful people in this business," he said.

Feldman is now trying to raise money to fund a movie about paedophiles in Hollywood.

We can’t blame victims for not speaking up when they are abused, disabled and blacklisted when they do say something.

Just as everyone in the business knew about Weinstein, rumours about Spacey’s predilections have been rife in the entire industry.

Actor and comedian Rose O’Donnell yesterday slandered Spacey on social media claiming that many knew about his “creepy” reputation: "Lk u Kevin — like Harvey we all knew about u — I hope more come forward & tell Spacey.

In the past, stories about prominent figures were often suppressed but times are changing and the famous and powerful are being named and shamed. That is empowering for genuine victims but it can be terrifying for innocent people who are falsely accused.

Due process and the presumption of innocence cannot be forgotten in our desire to embarrass the guilty.

It is naïve to think that there are not any malicious claims made to damage an innocent person’s reputation.

Remember the false claims of sexual assault levelled at Cliff Richard in 2014.

The British pop singer was never charged but suffered enormous reputational damage when the BBC filmed the police raiding his home.

Closer to home, a NSW Supreme Court jury of three women and one man this week found that cricketer Chris Gayle was defamed when Fairfax published allegations of shabby locker room antics.

In the wake of the “don’t-blush, baby” incident the West Indian cricketer was accused of intentionally exposing his penis and propositioning a female masseuse in the locker room in 2015.

The jury rejected Fairfax’s claims that the allegations were true and the defence of qualified privilege finding that molesters had been established.

Gayle is said to be ecstatic but being defamed is always a low point in anyone’s career.

There must be a balance between believing victims and the presumption of innocence that is essential in a civilised society.
Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations

Spacey gave homophobes a stick to beat all gay men

Jane Fynes-Clinton

November 1, 2017 12:00am

ACTOR Kevin Spacey could not have done a worse job in responding to claims he sexually harassed a 14-year-old boy when he was 26.

Talk about stuffing up an apology. It may have started well, but the wind shifted and blew the ashes of his contrition back in his face.

Worse, in crafting a message to weave in genuineness and repentance, he mixed unrelated issues.

How dare he conflate an allegation of child sexual abuse with homosexuality.
How dare he use a man’s statement about his secret feelings of shame to vent some of his own — and to reveal his homosexuality.

Spacey spun the spotlight. Maybe that is just what proficient actors do; perhaps his House of Cards political persona has become habit.

Regardless, the twist in the tale means the public is not given the space to step back from actor Anthony Rapp’s story and ruminate on what a 14-year-old was doing as the sole child at a drunken adult party 31 years ago.

They cannot ponder the destructive cultural norm of people — celebrity or not — in party situations being so drunk they have no recollection of intimate encounters.

They can’t discuss the ripple effects of such sloppy and base-level behaviour on the drunkard and others.

Kevin Spacey came out as gay and apologised to actor Anthony Rapp, who accused the Hollywood star of making a sexual advance on him at a 1986 party when he was only 14 years old. (Pic: AFP)

They can’t question why a boy actor could be put in a position where Spacey, whom he did not know well, could allegedly carry him to a bed and lie or fall on top of him.

Once a person claims they have been abused, we do not question them for fear of being seen to be “victim blaming”.

Perhaps the worst part of the Rapp revelation is that he has secretly harboured feelings of pain and shame for so long. No one should have to endure such torment. It took the bravery of Harvey Weinstein’s victims speaking out for Rapp to find his voice and go public.
That so many — including Rapp — stayed quiet for so long meant the sordid, predatory culture within show business has become fortified by the steely frameworks of hierarchy and position.

The travesty and tragedy has proliferated.

Another response the Weinstein watershed elicited was the viral social media #MeToo status update, which is a conflation of sorts.

No definition of sexual harassment is offered, so the multitude of public claims to be victims might be prompted by anything from not liking a wolf whistle to being raped.

Feelings and behaviours should never be grouped together. It demeans what victims of violence and physically lewd activity have endured. It muddies the waters and dilutes what should be sharp concern and deep compassion for them.

With so many posts by those claiming to be victims, it is apparent that a person is vastly more likely to feel like one than to have journeyed through life thus far without feeling abused or harassed.
Isn't the effect therefore to normalise harassment? To give those feeling hurt the warm comfort of knowing that almost everyone else is in the same boat?

Surely that is not desirable.

The pursuit of greater detail about any claim publicly made by one person against a named other is surely important and fair, but where sexual matters or children are concerned, the alleged victim is immediately placed in a golden bubble.

I am not suggesting Rapp is not telling the truth, nor that a 26-year-old Spacey allegedly preying on a 14-year-old is anything short of horrific, but I do feel there ought to be some pause for consideration.

Memories do not always mimic the reality of a moment — they are layered by the senses and affected by intellectual capacity and life experience — and children look at the world through a different lens.

And because Spacey says he does not recall the incident, the public only has one rather rudimentary version of events.

Being or feeling abused is, without exception, a terrible thing and if Spacey did attempt to prey on a boy, that is shocking for that child.

But what he did in response to the claim was dreadful for many more.

He loaded a gun and put it in the hands of homophobes.

In coming months, they will fire it off repeatedly, using his statement as proof that homosexuals are a threat to children.

He has reinforced the idea that being closeted means frustrations are likely to be expressed in using young people. And they will use Rapp’s homosexuality as proof gay people will “turn” others.

Spacey has combined and clouded and conflated issues for his own interests and that will have ripple effects.

For that he should feel very ashamed.

Dr Jane Fynes-Clinton is the journalism co-ordinator at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

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RendezView welcomes robust but civil discussion on our columns. Abuse of columnists or other readers and defamatory remarks will not be published and may result in a ban from commenting.

**COMMENTS**
Frank
A great article. Jane, except for the title and the last few para's re homophobes who for the main part are a construct of the left.

Peter
@Frank. I love Kevin spacey as an actor. The rumors of him being gay never gave me reason to not like him. But Rappaport's character on a show some call Star Trek who is gay as is half the crew apparently is starting to put me off. Why in new shows are every demographic now on display as if they representative of numbers. So over this PC BS being shoved down our throats.

Ross
A male with another male is homosexuality regardless of age. As such, the majority of pedophiles ARE homosexuals.

Ghostfire
And what gives these Hollywood harpies the right to run around accusing nay man they want, without a scintilla of proof, of such misbehaviour? What? I'll tell you want, the first 30 million dollar lawsuit for loss of income due to reputational damage will shut them up quick enough.

Phillip
"He loaded a gun and put it in the hands of homophobes."
No different to all the innocent heterosexual men who are assumed to be child molesters if they are alone with a child.

Peter
Who still loves Michael Jackson? Accused by many and never face a judgement in court. All accusations settled out of court. Yet our media still loves him.

Diane
Craig it is STILL happening today. Just been over to WA to mind grandchildren and 16 year old grand daughter has been getting suggestive remarks made to her from the boss. She will NOT report it because she is afraid to lose her job just like I was in the 70’s.

Mark
@Diane Rubbish, tell her to report it, or you are simply conveying to her that living with those remarks is OK.

Bazza
“but I do feel there ought to be some pause for consideration”
Pardon? If the victim had been a girl, Spacey would be on a pyre awaiting the “cleansing” fire. If Spacey has been Bill Cosby instead, it would be more grist for the mill. Hollywood is replete with sick people and the industry, which we seem to blindly accept as tawdry and abusive, deserves our collective boycott. Casting Couch Culture, and powerful people preying on the vulnerable needs to be addressed and it won’t be done until Hollywood either collapses or an ethical one is born in another part of the world. Maybe in Texas with its low taxes?

Tony
Bazza, I also, have read a number of the comments from the Hollywood Left, who appear much more concerned with the wording of Spacey’s “defence” rather than the allegations. I am reminded, of the much more understanding some of Hollywood’s elites are of Roman Polanski, than they would have been of someone outside of their circle.

Tony Fitzgerald -Wavell Heights

Jimmy G
@Tony "Hollywood’s elites"

Those lovely code words.

Tell us Tony - are they also "Soros funded" or an "international banking cartel"

Tony
Jimmy G, Mate, The Lefty kiddies on this site, never fail to amuse.

Tony Fitzgerald -Wavell Heights

Emma
Kevin Spacey’s unfortunate and manipulative timing aside, I hardly think that people who aren’t homophobic are going to suddenly attack the gay community as a whole because of his actions.

Mark
The enlightened didn’t need a stick, it was obvious all the time. It may not be pc, however for the gay people it is an inconvenient truth.
Graeme

Maybe I missed something but I read his mentioning of his orientation to be that people shouldn't think that Anthony Rapp 'outed' him to get back at him. That he was gay even if he hadn't been highly public about it and that he whole-heartedly accepted what Rapp claimed even if he couldn't remember the incident - which of itself is an awful thing; that he could have done something to this young boy that so traumatised him while Spacey himself at the time thought so little of it that he could forget the incident.

In any case, Spacey will pay for it either through the legal process or through the implosion of his career.

J

Wow, so Kevin Spacey uses his "coming out" as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention away from the fact he may have molested a child and all the good Dr can come up with in outrage is to attack imaginary homophobes. That is nuts.

Jason

@J strange isn't it. And Im hearing "advance", "harrassed" and "abused".

Which one was it?

Peter

Trial by media again. Allegations by a man from an incident 30 years ago? true or not I have a bigger issue with these "victims" taking decades to come forward. In taking so long has allowed predators to continue.

Whether it's Kevin Spacey or Weinstein, people gave these men the power to carry on for decades. Some scared to come forward? But it seems most just put money and career before morals.

J

@Peter He revealed this story in 2001, no one paid attention to it then. Now with the house of molesters falling down, people are listening.

Graeme

@Peter Spacey has accepted his claims. And victims take years to come forward because it is such a traumatic experience that re-living it over and over again is too painful to bear. So they either repress it and try to move on with their lives or they are just destroyed by it.

Peter

@Graeme @Peter like the rest coming out now. all remained quiet for sake of careers it would seem.

http://www.couriermail.com.au/rendezvous/spacys-stick-for-homophobes-to-beat-all-gay-news-story/05d4c066a8368a003727c689f4386
Peter
@Graeme @Peter He didn’t accept it. He said he does not remember the event but if it happened he apologised. I know it does not quiet suit your agenda but the facts never do.

Diane
Nov 1, 2017
Sexual harassment for women has been going on for years and you very rarely hear of the harassment of males but I believe it does happen usually by other males.

It is about time MEN looked at themselves and their behavior.

I was sexually harassed many years ago while working in a market in inner Melbourne.

Men thought it funny calling out crude remarks to women passing by and an elderly worker thought it his right to grab my breasts and as he stated “See if they were real”.

I also stopped wearing dresses and started wearing jeans as when I climbed onto a stack of potatoes the men workers would stand under me and make crude comments. Do men think it funny? Women don’t.

And as for Hollywood, it has been happening for years. Known as the directors couch. You want a job ladies that is what we have to put up with.

I
Nov 1, 2017
@Craig It hasn’t improved. Today you are more likely to be groped on public transport in Melbourne.

Jeff
Nov 1, 2017
@I @Craig Says who? Do you have any stats to prove that, or are you another one of those people who deliberately embellishes their claims just to get attention?

nicole
Nov 1, 2017
Not being all homophobic about it but the link between SSM and these types of crimes is too close to comfort for me. I value children so I voted no.

deb
Nov 1, 2017
Nicole, what about the link between heterosexual men and these types of crimes?

They’re the ones that make up the bulk of child molestation cases. And married men at that - see the statistics on stepfathers.

Mark
Nov 1, 2017
@nicole Correct Nicole, although the pc brigade will hang you for it. It’s an inconvenient truth.
"No definition of sexual harassment is offered, so the multitude of public claims to be victims might be prompted by anything from not liking a wolf whistle to being raped."

I'm really confused. Only a few weeks ago an article appeared on this site claiming some absurdly large percentage of women had been sexually abused or harassed. The number honestly didn't pass the common sense test, but we were informed by the experts that it was the result of a survey so it must be true and all men were evil etc etc. Yet here we are being informed that when everyone jumps on the "metoo" bandwagon it conflates the story and skews the message.

Stop the world, I'm ready to hop off.

Kathleen
@Ditch Maybe only straight white men can be predators.

Lachlan
You hit the nail on the head there Kathleen

Peter
@Kathleen @Ditch Hello. Who is this story about?
Kevin Spacey facing more sexual harassment claims

Nui Te Koha, Herald Sun
November 1, 2017 6:14pm
Subscriber only

A THEATRE actor and a filmmaker have come out and accused disgraced *House Of Cards* star Kevin Spacey of sexually harassing them.

Actor Robert Cavazos claims Spacey tried to fondle him at the bar of London’s Old Vic Theatre.

**Susie O’Brien: Gay card can’t save Spacey from allegation**

Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright in a scene from the now-cancelled House of Cards. Picture: Netflix

The theatre urged anyone with a complaint of sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour to contact them.


“I went up to order a drink and Kevin came up to me and put his arm around me. He was telling me to come with him, to leave the bar. He put his hand on my crotch,” Montana said.

“I put my hand down and turned his thumb back to get his hand off it. I paid for my drink and got away from him.”

Spacey has not responded to the latest allegations.

The new claims follow actor Anthony Rapp’s accusations Spacey tried to seduce him after a party 30 years ago when he was just 14 years old.

He said Spacey had laid down on top of him, adding in an interview with BuzzFeed News: “I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”

The backlash has been swift. Oscar-winner Spacey, 58, was stripped of an International Emmy Award and production of House of Cards has been suspended.

How Spacey's castmates are reacting to him and the allegations remains to be seen.

Robin Wright, who stars opposite Spacey as his wife, in House of Cards, hasn't commented publicly, but her Twitter feed includes a number of posts backing social issues.

nui.tekoha@news.com.au
Gay Hollywood shuns Kevin Spacey: ‘Don’t hide under the rainbow’

OCTOBER 21, 2017 2:01 PM

KEVIN Spacey may have finally come out of the closet yesterday, but his fellow LGBT Hollywood heavy hitters have delivered a firm message: We wish you hadn’t.

Spacey’s public statement announcing that he now “choose[s] to live as a gay man” came just hours after actor Anthony Rapp went public with an allegation that Spacey had drunkenly groped him at a party in 1986.

Spacey would have been 26 at the time of the alleged incident, while Rapp was just 14.

Out gay Star Trek actor Zachary Quinto, who acted alongside Spacey in the 2011 thriller Margin Call, led the charge against his former co-star, issuing a statement of his own that has now been shared on Twitter far more than Spacey’s initial announcement.
"It is deeply sad and troubling that this is how Kevin Spacey has chosen to come out," Quinto wrote. "Not by standing up as a point of pride — in the light of all his many awards and accomplishments — thus inspiring tens of thousands of struggling LGBTQ kids around the world. But as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from a very serious accusation that he attempted to molest one.

"I am sorry to hear of Anthony Rapp's experience and subsequent suffering. And I am sorry that Kevin only saw fit to acknowledge his truth when he thought it would serve him — just as his denial served him for so many years. May Anthony Rapp's voice be the one which is amplified here. Victims' voices are the ones that deserve to be heard."

Other high-profile gay celebs praised Quinto for his statement:
Gay comedian and actor Billy Eichner declared that Spacey had done the impossible in finding a bad time to come out:

billy eichner
@billyeichner
3:43 PM - Oct 30, 2017
282 4,730 29,850
https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

billy eichner
@billyeichner
Kevin Spacey has just invented something that has never existed before: a bad time to come out.
4:15 PM - Oct 30, 2017
957 28,548 135,906
https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

billy eichner
@billyeichner
If I ever commit a crime, I'm going to come out as straight.
1:27 PM - Oct 31, 2017
406 7,140 86,616
https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

While fellow gay comic Wanda Skyes tweeted Spacey was not welcome to "hide" in the LGBT community:
Westworld actor Evan Rachel Wood, who identifies as bisexual, tweeted that Spacey's statement was "the last dying fart of a predator who has been exposed".

Other LGBT Hollywood figures and their allies penned statements of their own, damning Spacey for conflating sexually predatory behaviour with homosexuality.
October 30, 2017 at 7:52 AM

Preying on children is not a thing people do because they are drunk and it is not a thing they do because they are gay. And it is not "inappropriate," it is horrific and it is criminal. Moreover, it has taken a tremendous effort by the LGBTQ community and allies to help society parse out the difference between healthy sexuality and depravity. With his desperate statement, Kevin Spacey has undermined decades of good work. In conflating his sexuality and his depravity, in blaming accusations of the latter upon the former, he has done a tremendous and painful disservice.

Krista Vernoff
@KristaVernoff
1:54 AM - Oct 31, 2017

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js
The Kevin Spacey news is 0% surprising to me but still very depressing. I've been an out gay man attempting to make a career in SHOW BIZZZZZ for over ten years now. Sometimes it's worked out, a lot of the time not. I've experienced many Hollywood predators in that time. Agents inviting me to their hotel rooms to "party". Several producers and directors asking me about my sex life in meetings because "we lost for the same team, right? LOL!" An A-list director following me down the sidewalk of West Hollywood my second day living in LA and asking at me as he put money in the meter where he'd parked his Lamborghini. And I know the biggest question you're asking yourself: what kind of lunatic parks a Lamborghini at a meter?

When you're gay in a business with such an anti-gay history, you are forced to believe these moments of discomfort are par for the course. You think, well, half of the casting people won't even acknowledge me because I'm gay so I guess this successful weirdo who keeps touching my leg at The Abbey is the only person with connections who can help me.

But in the midst of this predatory dam breaking and internet pile on, I think it's important that we remind people that the majority of gay men in Hollywood are NOT predators. There are incredibly kind, good-hearted gay men out there who actually DO want to help each other move forward. The Kevin's of the world are NOT our community. But on that note: until executives, producers, and casting directors celebrate those people and give them the opportunities they deserve, predators like Scandy will continue to misrepresent a remarkably supportive community of good people. Hollywood, do better.

Jeffery Self
@JefferySelf

7:41 AM - Oct 31, 2017
27 267 1,263

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

For Spacey, the fallout has been swift — less than 24 hours later, his acclaimed Netflix series *House of Cards* has been cancelled as the streaming service released a statement saying it was "deeply troubled" by the allegations he faced.

The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences said today that it will no longer give its 2017 International Emmy Founders Award to Spacey, making the announcement in this succinct letter:

New York, October 31, 2017

The International Academy has announced today that in light of recent events we will not honor Kevin Spacey with the 2017 International Emmy Founders Award.

MZH
@msboilerseltz

Re: Kevin Spacey. Screenshots of a letter. One sentence.
1:09 PM - Oct 31, 2017
21 284 593

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

Old Vic expresses 'deep dismay' over Kevin Spacey assault claims

Theatre that Spacey ran for 11 years sets up confidential channel for anyone who would like to make a complaint

**Mark Brown** *Arts correspondent*

1 Nov 2017 04:42 AEDT

The Old Vic theatre has expressed “deep dismay” at sexual assault allegations made against its former boss, Kevin Spacey, and has set up a confidential complaints process for anyone who would like to come forward.

The statement was made as the TV company Netflix said it was suspending production of its flagship series *House of Cards* following the allegations made against its star.

The channel had previously said the show would end after the conclusion of its current series but took the decision on Tuesday to stop production immediately.

Spacey has been accused of making a drunken sexual advance to a 14-year-old boy in 1986, when he was 26. He responded by claiming to have no memory of the incident but apologised and came out as gay.

The Old Vic in London, where Spacey was artistic director for 11 years until 2015, initially released a brief statement saying it had received no complaints of improper behaviour during or after his tenure.

https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/oct/31/old-vic-expresses-deep-dismay-over-kevin-spacey-assault-claims
On Tuesday it went further. A statement read: “The Old Vic would like to respond to recent media reports by making it clear that we are deeply dismayed to hear the allegations ... against Kevin Spacey, who was artistic director from 2004-15.

“Unappropriate behaviour by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable. We aim to foster a safe and supportive environment without prejudice, harassment or bullying of any sort, at any level, as set out in our joint statement with the theatre industry on 23 October. We want our employees to feel confident, valued and proud to be part of the Old Vic family. Any behaviour we become aware of [that] contravenes these goals will not be tolerated.

“If you have been connected with the Old Vic or in our employment and feel you have a complaint that you were unable to raise, please contact us on confidential@oldvictheatre.com. Any experience shared will be treated in the utmost confidence and with sensitivity. We have appointed external advisers to help us deal with any information received.”

The theatre’s statement was made as a second man came forward to allege Spacey had behaved inappropriately. Tony Montana, a film-maker, has accused Spacey of groping him in a Los Angeles pub in 2003.

Montana told the LA entertainment and gossip website Radar Online that Spacey grabbed him by the crotch as he was at the bar ordering a drink. “He was telling me to come with him, to leave the bar. He put his hand on my crotch forcefully and grabbed my whole package.”

The Hollywood star then allegedly told Montana: “This designates ownership.” Montana claims he was then followed to the toilet by Spacey and had to push him away. Montana says he never told anyone about the incident apart from therapists.

The claims follow allegations made by Anthony Rapp, an actor in Star Trek: Discovery, that Spacey assaulted him in 1986.

Within hours of the allegations emerging, Spacey had posted a statement on Twitter in which he apologised and publicly came out, provoking a huge backlash from voices in the gay community. The actor Zachary Quinto, who starred alongside Spacey in the 2011 film Margin Call, added his criticism, calling it “deeply sad and troubling” how Spacey had chosen to come out.

Quinto said Spacey was not standing up as a point of pride, inspiring LGBTQ kids. He was instead coming out “as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusation that he attempted to molest one”. The actor Alan Cumming called Spacey’s statement “just wrong on every level”.

The allegations are having an effect on Spacey professionally. He had been due to be the recipient of a special Emmy award next month but the International TV Academy on Tuesday said it was withdrawing the award “in light of recent events”.

Meanwhile, Netflix announced that the sixth series of House of Cards, in which Spacey stars as the manipulative, ruthless politician Frank Underwood, would be the last. The company said the decision was made months ago but that it found the current allegations “deeply troubling”. On Tuesday Netflix went further and said that production on the sixth series was being suspended.

Representatives for Spacey have yet to comment on the latest developments.

Topics
Second actor makes sexual harassment allegation against Kevin Spacey; Actress says she was groped by Jeremy Piven

Updated Wed 1 Nov 2017, 6:25pm

A second actor has made a sexual harassment allegation against House of Cards actor Kevin Spacey, while an actress has claimed she was groped by Entourage star Jeremy Piven.

In a post on his Facebook page, Mexican actor Robert Cavazos said he encountered Spacey at the bar of London's Old Vic Theatre and he tried to fondle him against his will.

"It was more common for this guy, when he was in the bar of his theatre, grabbing whoever caught his attention," Cavazos said.

"I didn't stand for it, but I know some people who were afraid to stop it."

There was no immediate reply to a request for comment from representatives for Spacey, who was The Old Vic's artistic director from 2004 to 2015.

In a statement, the theatre expressed "deep dismazay" at the allegations.

"Inappropriate behaviour by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable," it said.

Earlier this week, Star Trek: Discovery star Anthony Rapp told Buzzfeed News Spacey had made a sexual advance on him as a teenager.

He said, as a 14-year-old, he attended a party hosted by Spacey, then 26, and after other guests left, the older actor picked him up, brought him to a bed and lay down on top of him.

Rapp said he had the impression Spacey was drunk, and pushed him way and left.

Soon after, Netflix said it would end House of Cards after its upcoming sixth season — although the streaming network said the decision was made before Rapp's allegation surfaced.

A pause in production later announced shadows the fate of the last season.

The network has not commented on plans for a Gore Vidal biopic starring Spacey that is currently in production.

Actress says Piven 'cornered her' in Entourage trailer

Meanwhile, CBS has announced it is "looking into" actress and reality star Ariane Bellamar's claim Emmy-winning Entourage star Jeremy Piven groped her on two occasions.
Bellamar posted on Twitter, alleging one encounter took place in Piven's trailer on HBO's Entourage set and the other occurred at the Playboy Mansion.

"Jeremy Piven, on two occasions, cornered me [and] forcefully fondled my breasts [and] bum," she said.

Hey @jeremypiven! 'Member when you cornered me in your trailer on the #Entourage set? 'Member grabbing my boobies on the without asking??
7:57 AM - Oct 31, 2017
401 874 1,222

'Member when I tried to leave; you grabbed me by the arm, looked at yourself in the mirror, & said what a 'beautiful couple' we made? #MeToo twitter.com/arianebellamar...
8:01 AM - Oct 31, 2017
27 138 185

CBS airs Piven's new series, Wisdom of the Crowd.

A representative for Piven did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Monday, Piven told the Associated Press he was glad people had come forward with allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein and that he had never been in that situation.

Weinstein was fired from the company he founded within days of the initial reports of sexual harassment against being published in The New York Times earlier this month.

HBO, which aired Entourage from 2004 to 2011, said in a statement it was unaware of Bellamar's allegations until they were reported by media.

"Everyone at HBO and our productions is aware that zero tolerance for sexual harassment is our policy," the channel said.

"Anyone experiencing an unsafe working environment has several avenues for making complaints that we take very seriously."

Second actor makes sexual harassment allegation against Kevin Spacey; Actress says she was groped by Jeremy Piven - ABC News (Australian B.

Bellamy's credits include Suicide Squad, The Hangover Part III and reality series Beverly Hills Nannies.

AP/ABC


First posted Wed 1 Nov 2017, 3:43pm
'He grabbed my whole package': Kevin Spacey is accused by a second Hollywood figure who claims House of Cards star groped him in a Los Angeles pub in 2003

A second Hollywood figure has come forward Tuesday with sexual assault allegations against actor Kevin Spacey

- Tony Montana, a documentary filmmaker, says that the House of Cards star groped him in the Coronet Pub in Los Angeles in 2003
- 'He put his hand on my crotch forcefully and grabbed my whole package,' Montana says
- Montana says he decided to come forward after he read about similar allegations made against Spacey by actor Anthony Rapp
- Rapp alleged Spacey made inappropriate sexual advances toward him in 1986, when he was 14
- The accusations against Spacey and the resulting fallout prompted Netflix to suspend filming of the sixth season of House of Cards

By ARIEL ZILBER FOR DAILYMAIL.COM and ASSOCIATED PRESS
PUBLISHED: 02:39 AEDT, 1 November 2017 | UPDATED: 22:06 AEDT, 1 November 2017
A second Hollywood figure has come forward Tuesday with sexual assault allegations against actor Kevin Spacey. Tony Montana, a documentary filmmaker, says that the House of Cards star groped him in the Coronet Pub in Los Angeles in 2003.

He says he was in the bar working when Spacey showed up with a number of his friends.

'I went up to order a drink and Kevin came up to me and put his arm around me,' Montana tells Radar.

'He was telling me to come with him, to leave the bar. He put his hand on my crotch forcefully and grabbed my whole package.'

Montana alleges that a drunk Spacey told him: 'This designates ownership.'

Montana says he was in the bar working when Spacey showed up with a number of his friends. The Coronet Pub in West Hollywood is seen in the above stock image.

"I put my hand down and turned his thumb back to get his hand off it," Montana said.

"I paid for my drink and got away from him."

But Montana says that the actor then followed him to the bathroom.

"I backed him out the door and I pushed him," he says.

"One of his friends was in line and I said, "It's time to take your boy home". "They all ended up leaving."

Montana, who was in his thirties at the time of the incident, says the encounter was the last time he saw Spacey.

"I never talked to anyone about it except for therapists," he tells Radar.
'I had PTSD for six months after. It was an emasculating thing for someone to do to me. Whenever I went to the bar I would see if he was there or have my back against the wall.'

Montana says he decided to come forward after he read about similar allegations made against Spacey by actor Anthony Rapp, who alleged Spacey made inappropriate sexual advances toward him in 1986, when he was 14.
Rapp alleged Spacey made inappropriate sexual advances toward him in 1986, when he was 14.

'This wasn't something people were talking about openly,' Montana says.

'It still feels awkward. I still feel what I felt then. I put it into the back of my mind until I saw him come forward.

'When you're trying to accomplish something in the industry, you have things that inspire you, that can help move you forward.

'You have set backs and haunted experiences. No matter what happens you have to keep going.'

Rapp's allegations were first reported by BuzzFeed.

Spacey responded by saying he doesn't remember the alleged encounter but if he acted the way Rapp alleges, 'I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior.'

He also spoke publicly for the first time about being gay, which draw backlash from some observers as an attempt at deflection.

The accusations against Spacey and the resulting fallout prompted Netflix to suspend filming of the sixth season of House of Cards.

duction on the final season of House of Cards has been suspended indefinitely following the underage sex assault claims against Spacey (pictured in the popular Netflix series above)

Netflix and the show's producer Media Rights Capital had already decided to end the series at the end of the current season but on Tuesday they chose to pause the production, which is filmed in Baltimore, 'to give us time to review the current situation and to address any concerns of our cast and crew.'

Spacey was not scheduled to work that day.

The Academy Award-winning actor is the latest Hollywood figure to be named in widening allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, media and

other industries.

The avalanche of allegations began earlier this month after The New York Times published a story alleging that producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed numerous women.

The fallout for Spacey also included the loss of an award he was going to get later this month by The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

The group says 'it will not honor Kevin Spacey with the 2017 International Emmy Founders Award,' which is to honor 'an individual who crosses cultural boundaries to touch humanity.'

Spacey was to get it at a gala on Nov. 20 in New York City. Past recipients include Steven Spielberg, Shonda Rhimes and JJ Abrams.

A release date for the final House of Cards episodes has yet to be announced.

Netflix is developing a possible spinoff of the award-winning drama that helped put the streaming service on the TV series map.

Earlier Tuesday, British media reported that police have widened their investigation into sexual assault claims against Weinstein.

The Independent newspaper, Press Association and Sky News say London's Metropolitan Police is now investigating allegations against Weinstein by seven women over incidents that reportedly took place from the 1980s to 2015. Weinstein is also being investigated by police in New York and Los Angeles.

Read more:
Actor Anthony Rapp: Kevin Spacey Made A Sexual Advance Toward Me When I Was 14
Kevin Spacey Accused Sexually Assaulting Filmmaker

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Second Kevin Spacey accuser comes forward: 'He had a license to misbehave'

THE man alleges Spacey followed him into the bathroom in an LA bar, grabbing him by the crotch and declaring, “This designates ownership.”

A SECOND Kevin Spacey accuser has come forward claiming the actor groped him at a Los Angeles bar in 2003.

Nicky Montana, who first spoke to Radar Online, told Fox News the House of Cards star approached him at Coronet Pub.

Montana said Spacey grabbed his crotch.

"People react differently to trauma," said Montana, who was then in his 30s. "With what happened to me was an immediate form of helplessness. The bar was my safe place. This person of out nowhere, who I know is famous, who is misbehaving and has a license to misbehave and this is happening to me."
“I was in a horror movie. No one could see it ... I used to compete in mixed martial arts. [I] pulled his thumb back. He then followed me into the rest room and he followed me in. It was all very strange.”

He told Radar Online Spacey, now 58, “was telling me to come with him, to leave the bar.”

Montana claimed after Spacey put his hand on Montana's crotch the star said, “This designates ownership.”

Montana decided to come forward after actor Anthony Rapp claimed Spacey behaved inappropriately towards him when he was 14 years old.

“I want people to know,” Montana told us. “I considered it into my decision that Spacey might try to sue but this is more important to get this out.”

Spacey did not return Fox News’ request for comment.

This story originally appeared on Fox News and is republished here with permission.
Kevin Spacey sexual assault: Second accuser comes forward

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celebrity life

Actor Roberto Cavazos accuses Kevin Spacey of sexual harassment while working in London

NEW allegations against Kevin Spacey are piling up, with another actor and a young barman describing their ordeals in disturbing detail.

MEXICAN actor Roberto Cavazos accused Kevin Spacey on Tuesday of sexual harassment, echoing claims made by actor Anthony Rapp and predicting a "whole lot more" accusations against the two-time Oscar winner will emerge.

Cavazos, who acted in several plays at London's Old Vic theatre when Spacey was artistic director there, said the Hollywood star routinely preyed on young male actors.

"It seems the only requirement was to be a male under the age of 30 for Mr Spacey to feel free to touch us," he wrote in a Facebook post.

He said Rapp — the American actor who accuses Spacey of making a "sexual advance" when he was 14 and Spacey was 26 — was far from alone.

"Those of us who crossed paths with (Spacey) in London when he was director of the Old Vic know a whole lot more people will find the courage to tell their stories in the coming days and weeks," he said.

"It wouldn’t surprise me if there were similar numbers to Weinstein’s," he added, referring to the dozens of women who have accused Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault and harassment, unleashing a torrent of similar accusations against a growing list of rich and powerful men.
Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos has accused Kevin Spacey of harassment while he was working in London.

It comes as the Old Vic Theatre appeals to employees to come forward if they experienced something at the theatre they felt they could not discuss at the time.

"The Old Vic would like to respond to recent media reports by making it clear that we are deeply dismayed to hear the allegations levelled against Kevin Spacey, who was Artistic Director from 2004—2015," the theatre said in a statement.

"We want our employees to feel confident, valued and proud to be part of The Old Vic family. Any behaviour we become aware of which contravenes these goals will not be tolerated."

Spacey has not responded to the recent allegations. However, the star of the Netflix series "House of Cards," has apologised to Rapp on Twitter and come out as gay — drawing fierce criticism from some who accuse him of trying to deflect attention from his alleged behaviour.

Following the Rapp allegations he said he was "beyond horrified" to hear the story and did not remember the encounter.

"But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour."
Cavazos, 35, is a stage and screen actor whose credits include the films “Rush” and “El Beso” and a guest appearance on the British TV series “Doctor Who.”

According to his profile, he acted in three plays at the Old Vic during Spacey’s tenure as artistic director, from 2004 to 2015.

The first was in 2008, when he would have been about 26 and Spacey about 49. He said he fended off two “unpleasant” advances from Spacey that “bordered on harassment,” but that others were afraid to do so.

“I can’t even remember how many people told me the same story: Spacey invited them to meet with him to ‘talk about their careers.’ When they arrived at the theatre, he had prepared a champagne picnic on the stage, beautifully lit,” he wrote, in allegations first posted to Facebook on Monday and repeated Tuesday on Twitter.

“Each story varied in how far the picnic went, but the technique was the same. More commonly, he could be found in the theatre bar, pressing up against whoever caught his eye. That’s how it was with me the second time. I never gave in, but I know some people who were too scared to stop him.” Cavazos did not say when the alleged encounters took place.

He said such harassment is widespread in the theatre world.
Another unnamed man has told the BBC’s Victoria Derbyshire program that Spacey invited him to share his bed during a weekend in New York. He claimed he declined but woke up with the actor’s arms around him on the couch.

“I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst,” said the man, known only as John, adding that he didn’t believe anything sexual took place.

“He was in his underwear, I was fully clothed. I supposed it was some sort of New York theatre actor ‘good morning,’” he said.

John said he believed the actor was trying to groom him during the time he stayed there despite him making clear he was not interested in sex.

“It seems he was grooming me,” John told the BBC.

“For me, I never let on that that’s what I was interested in. I never discussed it, nor did I want it.

“I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst.

‘was either very stupid or predatory — or maybe a little of both.’
It comes as another young barman, Daniel Beal, told The Sun he was flashed by Kevin Spacey outside a hotel where he was working in 2010 and handed a $8600 watch afterwards.

The young barman, who was 19 at the time, said he was sitting outside having a cigarette break when Spacey sat down next to him, flashed his privates and said: “It’s big, isn’t it?”

When he walked back into the bar to work, Beal said Spacey followed him and handed him an expensive Swiss watch he was wearing.

“I thought he was joking but he took off his watch and gave it to me,” he said.

“Looking back I realise it was to keep me quiet.”

Spacey had reportedly been to a production at the Chichester Festival Theatre nearby at the time. Beal said the encounter was “seedy and weird” and he sold the watch the next day.

Filmaker Tony Montana, who won Oscars for The Usual Suspects and American Beauty, also claimed Spacey fondled his crotch in a Los Angeles pub in 2003.

Montana said: “I went up to order a drink and Kevin came up and put his arm around me. He put his hand on my crotch forcefully and grabbed my whole package.”

Montana said Spacey then said: “This designates ownership.”

The revelations follow a slew of complaints against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein which have encouraged other women to come forward as part of a #MeToo movement that has spread to include other parts of Hollywood, journalism and politics.

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Sex allegations mount in British politics following Weinstein, Spacey accusations

A NUMBER of Westminster MPs have been named in a 'dirty dossier' of allegations as the UK parliament is embroiled in a growing sex scandal.

A NUMBER of Westminster MPs have become embroiled in a growing scandal over alleged sexual harassment following accusations against Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey.

On Wednesday, a young Labour Party activist said she was raped by an unnamed party member and another woman said she was assaulted by an MP.

Bex Bailey, a former member of Labour's governing body, the National Executive Committee, said she was 19 years old when she was raped at a party event in 2011.

She told BBC Radio 4 that two years after the crime, which she did not report to police out of fear and shame, she confided in a senior party official.

"I told a senior member of staff, who told me, it was suggested to me that I not report it.

"I was told that if I did it might damage me," said Bailey, who described her attacker as a senior person within the party who was not an MP.

The allegation is the most serious case of sexual assault raised since Prime Minister Theresa May called on Sunday for tougher rules on MPs' conduct.

Her intervention came after an internal government probe was launched into behaviour by junior trade minister Mark Garnier, who made lewd remarks to a former aide and asked her to buy him sex toys.
since said she does not consider the incident sexual harassment.

Britain's Defence Secretary Michael Fallon has been named after placing his hand on a journalist's knee. She has said her knees are 'in text' and she did not consider it harassment. Picture: Leon Neal/Getty Images. Source: Getty Images

MPS NAMED IN DOSSIER

British media have reported on the existence of a list of allegations of around 40 MPs from May’s Conservative Party, including six ministers, that was apparently compiled by disgruntled former employees.

Most of the names on the list have been redacted, however some have reportedly been included despite consensual relationships. A senior Conservative Party official "legal action is being considered however the person behind the list — referred to as a "dirty dossier" in the media — remained unknown.

As rumours swirled in Westminster about behaviour by politicians, another woman came forward on Tuesday to say she was sexually assaulted by an MP during a foreign work trip.

"He was quite insistent on me sitting on the bed, at which point I really didn't feel comfortable, to the point where he pushed me on the bed and held me by the shoulders and tried to kiss me," the woman, whose real name has not been published, told ITV News.

She said she reported the incident to British police and parliamentary authorities but "evidence would suggest there was absolutely no action taken".

ITV News reported that police interviewed the MP, who denies the allegation, but could not take further action because the incident happened abroad.
The Times journalist Kate Maltby also revealed her alleged treatment by deputy Prime Minister Damian Green, who she said “felt a fleeting hand against my knee, so brief it was almost deniable.”

The first secretary of state said he “strongly denies” allegations and found them “deeply hurtful.”

“It is absolutely and completely untrue that I’ve ever made any sexual advances on Ms Maltby” he said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has ordered an investigation into the claims, with her office saying they would “establish the facts and report back as soon as possible.”

On Monday the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, condemned “recent disturbing allegations about a culture of sexual harassment at Westminster” and urged political parties to swiftly address the issue.

It the start of an emergency debate on the issue attended by the prime minister. Bercow said there must be “zero tolerance of sexual harassment or bullying.”
Kevin Spacey: Old Vic accused of ignoring sexual misconduct allegations

Numerous stories emerge saying London theatre paid no heed to allegations of groping and inappropriate sexual behaviour by the actor

Mark Brown and Matthew Weaver
2 Nov 2017 18:29 AEDT

Actors and former staff at the Old Vic have accused the theatre of turning a blind eye to inappropriate sexual behaviour by Kevin Spacey during the 11 years that the Hollywood star was its artistic director.

A number of people who have worked at the theatre in London have contacted the Guardian claiming it was well known that Spacey groped and behaved in an inappropriate way with young men at the time.

Roberto Cavazos, a Mexican actor, said he recalled a “couple of unpleasant encounters” with Spacey including, being “squeezed” by him in the Old Vic bar, in a posting on Facebook.

A former employee told the Guardian: “We were all involved in keeping it quiet. I witnessed him groping men many times in all sorts of different situations,” on a day when other allegations of inappropriate sexual behaviour by Spacey emerged.

Spacey has been in focus since actor Anthony Rapp accused him of making drunken sexual advances when Rapp was 14. Since then, several more allegations about Spacey’s conduct
have emerged in both the US and the UK.

A representative for Spacey released a statement on Wednesday that said the actor “is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment” and “no other information is available at this time.”

Cavazos said there were many young men with a “Kevin Spacey story”. He added: “It seems that it only took a male under 30 to make Mr Spacey feel free to touch us.” More common was that Spacey was in the bar at the Old Vic, “squeezing whoever caught his attention”, Cavazos said.

He recalled being told a similar story by many people of how Spacey invited young male actors to the Old Vic to “talk about their careers”. Cavazos continued: “When they arrived at the theatre, [Spacey] had prepared a picnic with champagne on the stage, beautifully lit.”

Cavazos said his direct experiences with Spacey were on the edge of harassment. “Had I been a woman, I probably would not have hesitated to identify it as such, but I suppose that the lack of a more specifically direct or aggressive action led me to justify the incident as ‘one of those things’, he said.

A former Old Vic employee, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Guardian he saw Spacey take advantage of a friend of his after a party in 2011.

He said: “We were all involved in keeping it quiet. I witnessed him groping men many times in all sorts of different situations ... at his apartment in North Lambeth and even at the Old Vic itself and his favourite pub the Pineapple, which is right near the Old Vic. He was taking advantage of the fact that he is this great icon.

“He touched men on the crotch. Doing it really fast so they couldn’t get out of the way.”

The former employee criticised the Old Vic for appearing not to know what was happening. “The thing that really upsets me is the hypocrisy of places like the Old Vic that pretend now that they didn’t know.”

Rebecca Gooden was an intern at the theatre in 2010 and says stories about Spacey’s behaviour were commonplace.

She said she was told that “pretty” young men were not hired to work in the theatre administration following an earlier incident. “There was a running ‘joke’ about it,” she said. “I was informed that I was not allowed to talk about it outside the theatre. I am honestly sickened that the theatre has chosen to plead ignorance.”

Sally Greene, a philanthropist and political socialite, led the bid to buy the Old Vic in 1998 when its future as a theatre was in doubt. As chief executive she was responsible for luring Spacey to London to become its artistic director in 2004, a move which re-energised the theatre artistically and commercially.

In a statement the theatre said: “The Old Vic is not currently in a position to comment on specifics of what may have taken place in the past.”

The theatre said that anyone with concerns over any inappropriate behaviour by Spacey at the Old Vic should email them at confidential@oldvictheatre.com. The statement went on: “Since we set up this confidential line of communication, we are already seeing the great benefits of
the new policy of openness and the safe sharing of information. We stand by, support and strongly encourage the industry wide culture shift that is underway."

Several others have made allegations about Spacey. In the the Sun, a west Sussex barman, Daniel Beal, alleged Spacey exposed himself to him and then gave him a £5,000 watch to keep him quiet.

An anonymous man on Wednesday told the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme that he was traumatised after he woke up to find Spacey lying on him.

The man says he was a teenager when the incident took place in 1985. He had been invited to stay at Spacey's New York home and the actor asked him to share his bed. He declined and slept on the sofa, waking up to find Spacey's head on his stomach and his arms wrapped around him.

The cascade of allegations - which also include those of a film-maker, Tony Montana, who says he was groped by Spacey in an LA pub - is having an effect on the actor professionally.

The International TV Academy has withdrawn the planned offer of a special Emmy award while Netflix has suspended production on the sixth season of House of Cards “to give us time to review the current situation and to address any concerns of our cast and crew”.

Spacey’s method of apologising - coming out at the same time as saying sorry for a sexual advance on a minor - has also attracted derision from the gay community. The actor Zachary Quinto called it “deeply sad and troubling”.

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**Topics**

Kevin Spacey

Kevin Spacey preyed on young men at Old Vic theatre, actor claims

Allegations about star’s sexual conduct mount, with Mexican actor saying there are many men with a ‘Spacey story’

Mark Brown Arts correspondent
2 Nov 2017 01.02 AEDT

Accusations of inappropriate sexual behaviour against Kevin Spacey are mounting, with one actor claiming the Hollywood star routinely preyed on young men and sometimes invited them to the stage of the Old Vic for picnics.

The Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos said there were many young men with a “Kevin Spacey story”. He added: “It seems that it only took a male under 30 to make Mr Spacey feel free to touch us.”

Allegations from the Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp that, when he was only 14, a then 26-year-old Spacey made drunken sexual advances on him, emerged this week. Spacey quickly posted a statement saying he could not recall the incident, but apologised and, for the first time, came out as a gay man. Since then Spacey has not been seen or heard from in public.

On his Facebook page, Cavazos recalled a “couple of unpleasant encounters” with Spacey including being squeezed by him in the Old Vic bar.
He recalled being told a similar story by many people of how Spacey invited young male actors to the Old Vic to “talk about their careers”. Cavazos continued: “When they arrived at the theatre, the gentleman had prepared a picnic with champagne on the stage, beautifully lit.”

More common was that Spacey was in the bar, “squeezing whoever caught his attention”, Cavazos alleges.

Cavazos said his direct experiences with Spacey were on the edge of harassment. “Had I been a woman, I probably would not have hesitated to identify it as such, but I suppose that the lack of a more specifically direct or aggressive action led me to justify the incident as ‘one of those things’,” he said.

Spacey was artistic director of the Old Vic for 11 years until 2015. The theatre says it received no complaints about any inappropriate behaviour but has expressed “deep dismay” at the allegations and opened up a confidential complaints process if people want to come forward.

A West Sussex barman, Daniel Beal, has claimed Spacey exposed himself to him and then gave him a £5,000 watch to keep him quiet.

Beal told the Sun that the incident happened when he was 19 and having a cigarette break. He alleges Spacey sat next to him on a bench and flashed at him saying: “It’s big isn’t it.”

The barman returned to work followed by Spacey, who insisted he take his watch. “I thought he was joking but he took off his watch and gave it to me. Looking back I realise it was to keep me quiet.” Beal is pictured in the Sun wearing the IWC Schaffhausen Portofino watch, which he sold for £3,200 the next day.

An anonymous man has told the BBC’s Victoria Derbyshire programme that he was traumatised after he woke up to find Spacey lying on him.

The man says he was a teenager when the incident took place in 1985. He had been invited to stay at Spacey’s New York home and the actor asked him to share his bed. He declined and slept on the sofa, waking up to find Spacey’s head on his stomach and his arms wrapped around him.

The man believes Spacey was grooming him. “I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst. He was either very stupid or predatory - or maybe a little of both.”

The cascade of allegations – which also include those of a film-maker, Tony Montana, who says he was groped in an LA pub - is having an effect on Spacey professionally.

The International TV Academy has withdrawn the planned offer of a special Emmy award while Netflix has suspended production on the sixth season of House of Cards “to give us time to review the current situation and to address any concerns of our cast and crew”.

Spacey’s method of apologising - coming out at the same time as saying sorry for a sexual advance on a minor - has also attracted derision from the gay community. The actor Zachary Quinto called it “deeply sad and troubling”.

Representatives for Spacey have yet to comment on the latest developments.

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Topics
Kevin Spacey
Actor accuses Kevin Spacey of harassment during London theatre stint

By REUTERS  

LONDON, Nov 1 (Reuters) - Roberto Cavazos, an actor who worked at a London theatre where Kevin Spacey was artistic director between 2004 and 2015, said he had encounters with the Hollywood star at the time "that verged on what you could call harassment".

Spacey has publicly apologised to another actor, Anthony Rapp, who accused the filmstar of trying to seduce him in 1986, when he was 14.

Spacey said he did not remember the incident, but that if it happened it was "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour".

Reuters was unable to independently confirm the accusations made by both actors.

Spacey "is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment" and "no other information is available at this time," representatives of the actor said in an email late on Wednesday to Reuters.

Spacey's decision to use the apology statement to go public about being homosexual angered many in the gay community and beyond, who said he had made his personal announcement to deflect attention from Rapp's account.

Spacey is one of several big names in the entertainment business to be accused of sexual misconduct by people coming forward in the wake of allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

Cavazos, a Mexican actor who appeared in productions at London's Old Vic theatre during Spacey's time, said he had experienced "a couple of unpleasant encounters with Spacey that verged on what you could call harassment".

"There are many of us who have a 'Kevin Spacey story,'" Cavazos wrote in Spanish on social media site Facebook.

"It seems that we only needed to be men under 30 years old for Mr Spacey to feel free to touch us," he wrote.

In a statement, the Old Vic said, "We are deeply dismayed to hear the allegations levied against Kevin Spacey."

It urged those with complaints to contact it via a confidential email address. It said it had appointed external advisers to help deal with any information received.

(Reporting by Estelle Shirbon and Brendan O'Brien in Milwaukee; Editing by Robin Pomeroy and Clarence Fernandez)

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OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, SEVERAL MEN HAVE ACCUSED KEVIN SPACEY OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT. ANTHONY RAPP OPENED THE FLOODGATES SUNDAY, WHICH EMBOLDENED MORE ACCUSERS TO SHARE THEIR OWN CLAIMS. THE LATEST IS A 48-YEAR-OLD ARTIST WHO GAVE A LENGTHY, HEARTBREAKING INTERVIEW TO VULTURE PUBLISHED THURSDAY. IN THE CONVERSATION, THE UNNAMED ACCUSER ALLEGED THAT WHEN HE WAS 14, HE BEGAN A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SPACEY, WHO WAS THEN 24 YEARS OLD. THE RELATIONSHIP ENDED, HE SAID, WHEN SPACEY ATTEMPTED TO RAPHE HIM.

When the accuser was 14, Spacey gave him his phone number and asked him to come to his apartment. "He said he'd always been really drawn to me at the acting classes, but had stayed away because I was 12," the man recalled. He alleged that they "started a sexual relationship that first visit, which mostly involved me f--king him."

They met three or four times after that, proclaiming that they "loved each other," he said. Spacey allegedly also promised the teenager that producers were interested in him as an actor and said he wanted to get him auditions. None of that ever came to fruition.

The relationship continued until the man was 15, ending after a visit during which Spacey allegedly tried to rape him. "I thought we were going to kiss and tell each other we loved each other and I was going to go," he said. "But he wanted to have sex, and this time he wanted to f--k me, which had never happened to me before."

Here's how he described the alleged attempted rapes to Vulture:

I guess he must have come up behind me and yanked down my baggy jeans, and he goes to f--k me and I'm like, "No, I don't want to." And he pushes hard, and grabs me, and starts shoving us against my asshole, and it hurts like a motherf--ker. I again tell him no, and he tries again. I am strong enough, thank God, both somewhere in my brain and in my body, to get him off of me. I'm thirsty, thankfully. I throw him off of me and I run crying down the stairs and out into the street and then walk it all up and go have dinner.

After that, he felt like he had been "lured into a trap." It wasn't until he was 25 that he began thinking of his relationship with Spacey differently, looking at 14-year-olds to "try to understand what those men had seen . . . [but] they all looked like children."

"Up until then, I just thought about him as somebody who had really done me wrong and tried to rape me, but not as somebody who had functioned as a predator," he said.

He's speaking about the relationship publicly now, he said, because of the "low-level guilt" of knowing that predators are likely to "repeat offend."

"Knowing full well that he was continuing to do this, that he was out there at large, has made me feel ashamed," he said. "So that makes me want to talk. I'm grateful to Anthony Rapp for talking, that opened that door for me."
Heidi Klum's Extraordinary Halloween Costumes

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At her Halloween party in 2000, Klum dressed in head-to-toe black. Perhaps as a goth Pippi Longstocking? Who's to say.

Photo: Ben Watts/WEISImages/Getty Images.

Yohansese Dasta is a Hollywood writer for VanityFair.com.

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Can House of Cards Go on without Kevin Spacey?

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Netflix employees accuse Kevin Spacey of ‘toxic’ House of Cards set

Kate Feldman
Friday, 3 November 2017 3:43PM

The actor was accused of inappropriately touching a teenager 31 years ago.

Eight Netflix employees have accused Kevin Spacey of creating a “toxic” work environment on the set of House of Cards.

The employees, who all made the allegations anonymously to CNN, claim the actor targeted young male staffers with “predatory” behaviour including “non-consensual touching and crude comments”.

One production assistant claimed that he was driving Spacey to the set when the actor put his hands down the assistant’s pants.

“I was in a state of shock,” he told CNN.

“He was a man in a very powerful position on the show and I was someone very low on the totem pole and on the food chain there.”

Another crew member claims Spacey routinely touched him without consent.

“He would put his hands on me in weird ways,” the crew member told CNN.

“He would come in and massage my shoulders from behind or put his hands around me or touch my stomach sometimes in weird ways that in normal everyday conversation would not be appropriate.”

Netflix told the outlet that it sent a representative to the set on Monday, but was aware of only one incident five years ago.

Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp accused Spacey of making a drunken sexual advance on him in 1986 when he was 14 years old; Spacey was 26 at the time.

He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don’t, like, squirm away initially, because I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’ And then he lays down on top of me,” Rapp told BuzzFeed of his experience with the actor at an after-party while he was starring in Precious Sons and Spacey had a supporting role in Long Day’s Journey Into Night.

“He was trying to seduce me. I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”

A former teen actor, now 48, told Vulture that he was in a sexual relationship with Spacey during the mid-1980s that ended when Spacey allegedly tried to rape him.

The accuser was 12 when he met Spacey, who was 22 at the time. He was 15 when the alleged assault took place in Spacey’s Upper West Side apartment.
A Broadway actor told BBC that he woke up to Spacey lying on his stomach when he was 17, while Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos claimed that Spacey would invite men to discuss their careers and instead would show up with a picnic and champagne.

A representative for Spacey, who said he didn't remember the incident Rapp described but apologised for “what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour”, said on Wednesday that the actor was seeking “treatment” following the allegations.

Spacey's agency, CAA, and publicist Staci Wolfe have dropped the actor, according to the Hollywood Reporter.
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Actor Kevin Spacey accused of attempted rape

By AFP

PUBLISHED: 21:44 AEDT, 3 November 2017 | UPDATED: 21:44 AEDT, 3 November 2017

Kevin Spacey has faced a barrage of allegations of sexual harassment

A man has accused Kevin Spacey of attempting to rape him when he was 15, amid mounting allegations of sexual harassment and assault against the "House of Cards" star.

In an interview with the Vulture website, the man, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he took part in an acting class taught by Spacey when he was 12.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-5046283/Actor-Kevin-Spacey-accused-attempted-rape.html
Two years later, they began what the man described in the interview as a "sexual relationship."

Then when he was 15, Spacey attempted to rape him at his apartment, the man said, after which he ended the relationship.

"I would call him a pedophile and a sexual predator," he said.

Eight people who worked on the "House of Cards" political drama meanwhile told CNN that the actor engaged in sexual harassment on set, typically targeting young men, while one of the eight said Spacey sexually assaulted him.

Netflix has indefinitely suspended production of "House of Cards" in the wake of allegations against Spacey, after already announcing that the upcoming sixth season of the show would be its last.

Actor Anthony Rapp opened the floodgate of harassment and assault allegations against the double Oscar winner when he said that Spacey made a "sexual advance" on him when he was a 14-year-old boy more than 30 years ago.
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House of Cards staff accuse Kevin Spacey of sexual assault and harassment

Rob Moran

A production assistant who worked on Netflix hit *House of Cards* has accused Kevin Spacey of sexually assaulting him during one of the show's early seasons, while other staff members have described the star's behaviour on set as "predatory".

The explosive claims were made to CNN by eight people who worked on the series on condition of anonymity because they feared the professional repercussions of speaking out, CNN reports.

Harassment allegations could 'significantly impact' industry

Charlotte Triggs, senior editor for People Magazine, discusses the sexual harassment, abuse and assault allegations leveled against some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

Among the new accusations against Spacey, which included claims of "non-consensual touching" and "crude comments", were allegations from a production assistant who said Spacey put his hands down the assistant's pants after he had driven the actor from an offsite location.
to the show's Baltimore set. Later that same day, Spacey cornered him in his trailer and "made inappropriate contact" with him, the assistant said.

"I was in a state of shock," the assistant told CNN. "He was a man in a very powerful position on the show and I was someone very low on the totem pole and on the food chain there."

The assistant says he told Spacey "I don't think I'm ok with this", at which point the actor became "visibly flustered" and fled the set for the remainder of the day.

He says the alleged incident happened months after he'd complained to his supervisor about Spacey's behaviour. "The supervisor's solution was never to let the production assistant be alone with Spacey when they were on set," CNN reports.

"I have no doubt that this type of predatory behaviour was routine for him and that my experience was one of many and that Kevin had few if any qualms about exploiting his status and position," the assistant told CNN.

"It was a toxic environment for young men who had to interact with him at all in the crew, cast, background actors."
Another crew member told CNN that Spacey would routinely touch him, including massaging his shoulders from behind.

In a statement to CNN, Netflix said they had just been "made aware of one incident, five years ago, that we were informed was resolved swiftly", and that they were "not aware of any other incidents involving Kevin Spacey on-set."

They added: "We continue to collaborate with MRC [the show’s production company] and other production partners to maintain a safe and respectful working environment."

The streaming giant suspended production on *House of Cards* earlier this week; they also announced its sixth season would be its last.

The accusations are the latest levelled at Spacey since Monday, when actor Anthony Rapp, 46, accused the star of making a "sexual advance" towards him when he was 14.

Since then, at least three men have accused Spacey of sexual harassment, ranging from the actor's time in the New York theatre in the early '80s to his stint as artistic director at London's Old Vic from 2004 to 2015.

A representative for the actor said on Thursday that Spacey was "taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment" in the wake of the allegations.
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Kevin Spacey Ditched by Agency, Publicist as More Accusers Roll In

Eight *House of Cards* employees allege that Spacey turned their set into a "toxic" environment, thanks to sexually charged comments and actions.

by Yohana Desta
November 3, 2017 11:21 am
Eight people who worked on *House of Cards* came forward Thursday to share their allegations about Spacey’s behavior. Two of them say that Spacey touched them without their consent; one of them, a former production assistant, says that when he was driving Spacey to work, the actor put his hands down the assistant’s pants.

“I was in a state of shock,” the assistant told CNN. “He was a man in a very powerful position on the show, and I was someone very low on the totem pole and on the food chain there.”

Another employee, per CNN, said Spacey would routinely harass him. “He would put his hands on me in weird ways,” the crew member said. “He would come in and massage my shoulders from behind or put his hands around me or touch my stomach sometimes in weird ways that in normal everyday conversation would not be appropriate.”

Their co-workers spoke of similar behavior, alleging that Spacey’s behavior was a sort of open secret.

“All the crew members commented on his behavior,” a former camera assistant said. But they largely didn’t complain about Spacey because they worried about job security. “Who is going to believe crew members? You’re going to get fired.”

Though the allegations have not yet yielded any statewide investigations, Variety is reporting that Scotland Yard has launched an investigation into an incident where Spacey allegedly sexually assaulted a man in London almost a decade ago.

Spacey did not respond to CNN’s request for comment. A representative for Netflix said that the streaming service sent a representative to the show’s set on Monday to investigate. Media Rights Capital, the show’s production company, released a lengthy statement addressing these latest concerns, saying it is “deeply troubled” to learn about the new allegations. The production company also pointed to a previous (and previously unreported) incident with Spacey as an example of how it has addressed concerns like this in the past.

“During our first year of production in 2012, someone on the crew shared a complaint about a specific remark and gesture made by Kevin Spacey,” the statement reads. “Immediate action was taken following our review of the situation and we are confident the issue was resolved promptly to the satisfaction of all involved. Mr. Spacey willingly participated in a training process and since that time M.R.C. has not been made aware of any other complaints involving Mr. Spacey.”

Beau Willimon, creator of *House of Cards* and its show-runner at that time, told Deadline he was never made aware of that 2012 incident. “I feel awful for the people who were wronged while working for *House of Cards*,” he said. “The production did not inform me of the incident that occurred in Season 1 regarding Kevin Spacey or of any action taken as a result.”

While the show’s future is still up in the air, Spacey’s immediate career has taken a hard dive. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, he has been dumped by his talent agency, C.A.A., as well as Polaris P.R. and his publicist, Staci Wolfe. Prior to dropping him as a client, Wolf released a statement on Wednesday saying that Spacey “is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment.” Those words, too, are a page out of the nascent Weinstein playbook.

As a result, the “robust” Oscar campaign that was planned for Spacey’s upcoming film, *All the Money in the World*, has been canned, according to *Variety*. Spacey, already a two-time Oscar winner, was going to be pitched in the best-supporting-actor race for his role as oil tycoon J. Paul Getty.

This stirs up another question: how will the Motion Picture Academy deal with Spacey? In October, its members decided to boot Weinstein out of the organization—an unprecedented decision in the midst of an unprecedented scandal. Will Spacey get the same treatment? The answer’s unclear right now—but given the Academy’s recently announced intention to set a code of conduct for members, Spacey should perhaps not count on being permitted to keep this privilege as his career crumbles.
13 Horror Movies for Wimps

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The Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari

Beneath nothing says horror like a 1920 German Expressionist film. This classic about a murderous hypnotist is inspiring now for its groundbreaking cinematography and sheer artfulness, more of a gorgeous film noir than a real horror story.

Photo: From Everett Collection.

Yohana Desta is a Hollywood writer for VanityFair.com.

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Hollywood stars say seedy director preyed on them

 Became a video director in the early 80s. At the time, women who worked on his shows reported feeling uncomfortable around him. When the director first approached her, she thought it was just a casual chat. However, when they spoke again, she realized that he was trying to touch her inappropriately. She immediately reported the incident to her supervisor, who urged her to consult a lawyer. The lawyer advised her to take legal action against the director.

Spacey sleaze is growing

KEVIN Spacey is facing more accusations of preying on young men after three more allegations were made of grooming and sexual harassment.

Bar worker Daniel Bell said the actor, 58, had once tried to groom him aged 15, when he was employed at a local in the UK in 2010. He alleged that Spacey offered him a $500 watch to keep quiet after the two-time Oscar winner groped him and tried to make him touch his genitals.

A second alleged victim said he woke up on a sofa with Spacey lying on top of him in his underwear at the star's New York home in 1985. The unnamed man, aged 37 at the time, said, "I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst."

And actor Roberto Cavazos, said that he had been offered to "unpopular" advances made by the actor in 2008 which "bordered on harassment."

Hollywood's widening sexual crisis has now reached director Brett Ratner after six women accused him of sexual misconduct.

Playboy Enterprises quickly cancelled plans for a Ratner-directed biopic of Hugh Hefner as his lawyer denied the allegations and yesterday the director announced that he was stepping away from his $550 million production deal with Warner Bros. In light of the allegations being made, I am choosing to permanently step away from all Warner Bros-related activities," Ratner, 48, said. "I don't want to have any possible negative impact to the studio until these personal issues are resolved."

There are five more films that RatPac Entertainment, of which Ratner is chief executive and which Assault Anonymous James Parker used to be a shareholder of, yet to be released.

Actress Olivia Munn and Natalie Henstridge are among the six women who have accused Ratner of sexual harassment or misconduct.

Henstridge, 36, told the LA Times Ratner, the executive producer of TV's popular Prison Break, forced her to perform oral sex on him when she was just 16. He was a music video director in the early 90s at the time and Henstridge said she fell asleep watching TV.

When the director woke her she said there were just the two of them in his apartment and he locked the door to stop her leaving.

"He strongarmed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me," Henstridge said. "At one point, I gave in and he did his thing."

Recently star Munn, 37, has alleged that Ratner fondled himself in front of her in his trailer when she visited the set of his 2004 film After the Sunset. She has previously described the encounter in her book Stark It, Wonder Woman! The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek.

"He walked out... with his belly sticking out, no pants on, shampoo in one hand," Munn said, before alleging he then engaged in a sex act in front of her.

Munn told the Times that she saw Ratner again in 2017 and he allegedly told her he calculated to her image on magazine covers.

"I've made specific, solicited choices not to work with Brett Ratner," she said. "It feels as if I'm going up against the same bully at school who just won't quit."

"You just hope that enough people believe the truth and for enough time to pass so that you can't be connected to him anymore."

Ratner has denied both Henstridge and Munn's allegations through his lawyer Marvin Singer.

"I have represented Mr Ratner for two decades, and no woman has ever made a claim against him for sexual misconduct or sexual harassment," Mr Singer said. "Furthermore, no woman has ever requested or received any financial settlement from my client."

Ratner is the latest Hollywood heavyweight to be accused of sexual misconduct following the scandal engulfing Harvey Weinstein, James Toback and Kevin Spacey.

Australia's no-frills history of lizards

AUSTRALIA'S famous deadly snakes and its array of lizards may actually hail from Asia, a new study suggests that ancestors of reptiles such as Australia's frilled-necked lizard and venomous red-bellied black snake emigrated here about 30 million years ago, either by swimming across the sea or hitching a ride on drifting branches.

Their watery path could have been made possible after Australia broke away from Antarctica and drifted northwards towards Asia around the same time.

"If you came out to Australia 35 million years ago, there were probably no venomous snakes, there be no dragon lizards, frilled-necks, pythons, all these things we think of quintessentially Australian, they wouldn't have been here," the study's lead author, Dr Paul Oliver, of the Australian National University, said.

Australia is home to about 11 per cent of the world's 5,000 reptile species — the highest proportion of snakes, lizards, crocodiles and turtles found in any country. Dr Oliver estimates 85 per cent of our reptile species emigrated here.
KEVIN SPACEY ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY 8 'HOUSE OF CARDS' EMPLOYEES

It's another major development.

NOV 03, 2017 1:16PM BY JESSICA CHANDRA

Kevin Spacey has been in the news all week, since actor Anthony Rapp made the shock allegation that the Oscar-winning actor had made a pass at him, when Rapp was just 14 years old.

Since then, Spacey's past actions have had a larger impact on the Hollywood industry than people could have anticipated.

In a statement released on Twitter, Spacey said that he did not remember the encounter Rapp had described in depth to BuzzFeed as “it would have been over 30 years ago.” He added, “But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.”

my life," he wrote. "I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man."

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I'm beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey
3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017
18,970 retweets 30,184 likes 84,176 favorite

Spacey was widely criticized for spinning the story about his alleged sexual assault of a minor to his public coming out.
In light of this, Netflix announced that Spacey's popular series *House of Cards*, in which he plays manipulative politician Frank Underwood, will be finishing up after its sixth season, which just started filming a few weeks ago.

Netflix and production company Media Rights Capital released a statement saying they were "deeply troubled by last night's news concerning Kevin Spacey."

Following that, it was reported that *House of Cards* had halted production on its sixth season, while Spacey's reps said the actor was seeking "treatment" after the scandal.

"Kevin Spacey is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment," his reps said in a statement, though no further information was offered.

In addition to this, his publicist Staci Wolfe confirmed to *Vulture* that she has dropped Spacey as a client, and another source said the actor had been dropped from the talent agency CAA.

Now, even more people have come forward alleging sexual harassment and assault by Spacey, including eight former and current employees on *House of Cards*.

One former production assistant told CNN that Spacey had sexually assaulted him, while seven more described Spacey's behaviour as "predatory" on the set of the award-winning show, which included things like non-consensual touching and crude comments. They added that Spacey's targets were usually young, male production staffers. (All spoke to CNN under the proviso they would be anonymous.)

The production assistant who provided the most information told CNN of one incident where he and Spacey were in a car, just minutes away from the set, when Spacey (who was driving) put his hands down the production assistant's pants.

Another crew member, who has worked on *House of Cards* for all six seasons, said he was routinely harassed and touched by Spacey, which included massaging his shoulders from
The sources were in agreement that they didn’t speak up about Spacey’s actions because he was one of the most powerful men on the show, and they were worried about losing their jobs.

In response to this, Media Rights Capital released this statement to CNN:

“We are deeply troubled to learn about these new allegations that are being made to the press concerning Kevin Spacey’s interaction with members of the crew of House of Cards.

“As the producer of the show, creating and maintaining a safe working environment for our cast and crew has always been our top priority. We have consistently reinforced the importance of employees reporting any incident without fear of retaliation and we have investigated and taken appropriate actions following any complaints.

“For example, during our first year of production in 2012, someone on the crew shared a complaint about a specific remark and gesture made by Kevin Spacey. Immediate action was taken following our review of the situation and we are confident the issue was resolved promptly to the satisfaction of all involved.

“Mr. Spacey willingly participated in a training process and since that time MRC has not been made aware of any other complaints involving Mr. Spacey.”

While Kevin Spacey is one of the most high-profile celebrities to be caught at the centre of a sexual harassment and assault scandal since Harvey Weinstein, other actors and directors who have been accused of similar behaviour include actors Dustin Hoffman and Jeremy Piven, and directors Brett Ratner and James Toback.
Kevin Spacey made work environment 'toxic' allege House of Cards staff
A group of people claiming to have worked on the Netflix drama have described the actor’s behaviour as “predatory”.

Updated 3 November 2017
By Natasha Christian

Eight people who claim to have worked on Netflix drama House of Cards have come forward in light of allegations made against the show’s star Kevin Spacey, blaming his behaviour as “predatory”.

Mr Spacey has yet to comment on the new allegations. On Friday his PR manager advised SBS that all inquiries were to go through his lawyer.

Mr Spacey has not been charged over any of the allegations made against him.

The staffs - who say they either currently work on the show or have worked on House of Cards in the past - told CNN the workplace environment became “toxic” due to alleged harassment on set.

CNN claims to have spoken to each of the workers, who reportedly said Spacey’s inappropriate behaviour included non-consensual touching and crude comments and targeted production staffs who were typically young and male.

One former production assistant reportedly said that Spacey allegedly sexually assaulted him during one of the show’s earlier seasons.

He alleged that while Spacey was driving, the actor touched the assistant in a non-consensual way.

“I was in a state of shock,” he said.

“Both he’s a man in a very powerful position on the show and I was someone very low on the totem pole and on the food chain there.”

CNN says they have spoken with a co-worker the assistant told about the incident at the time, who supported the story.

It is alleged the assault happened months after a complaint was made by the production assistant to a supervisor that Mr Spacey had been sexually harassing him.

“It was a toxic environment for young men who had to interact with him at all in the crew, cast, background actors,” the assistant claimed.

NN reports the other people they interviewed who had worked on House of Cards supported this claim.

her crew member who worked on all six seasons of House of Cards claimed Mr Spacey “routinely harassed and touched him”.

“That’s the worst part about this whole thing. I would love to be able to speak out about this kind of stuff and not fear,” he said.

Mr Spacey has not commented on the allegations made to CNN. SBS News has requested a response from Mr Spacey.

His spokeswoman said on Friday that the actor is seeking “evaluation and treatment”. No details on the type of treatment were provided.

What sparked others to come forward?

Earlier this week Mr Spacey issued an apology after actor Anthony Rapp claimed he had made sexual advances towards him in 1985. Rapp was 14 at the time.

Spacey said he did not recall the encounter “but if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.”
Anthony Rapp is a cast member in Star Trek: Discovery.

AAP

Following the allegation made by Mr Rapp, Netflix announced it had suspended production of the final season of House of Cards.

Netflix and producer Media Rights Capital said in a joint statement it had "decided to suspend production on House of Cards season six, until further notice".

"[It will] give us time to review the current situation and to address any concerns of our cast and crew."

Mr Spacey is an executive producer on the show and also plays the leading role of Francis Underwood.

A co-star Robin Wright is yet to comment publicly on the matter.

**The Old Vic accused of 'pleading ignorance'**

Following Rapp's allegation, workers at The Old Vic theatre in London where Spacey worked as an artistic director from 2003 to 2015, told The Guardian that the theatre ignored complaints of groping and inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Mexican actor Roberto Cavanos then accused Mr Spacey of sexual harassment, saying he fended off two "unpleasant" advances that "bordered on harassment" while at The Old Vic.

Film-maker Tony Montana also alleged Mr Spacey grabbed his crotch in a Los Angeles bar in 2003.

Rebecca Gooden, an intern at the theatre in 2010, said there were regular stories about Mr Spacey's behaviour.
"I was informed that I was not allowed to talk about it outside the theatre. I am honestly sickened that the theatre has chosen to plead ignorance," she told The Guardian.

The Old Vic said it was "not currently in a position to comment on specifics of what may have taken place in the past".

Theatre said it had set up an email address where "anyone who has concerns about the inappropriate behaviour of Spacey at the venue could come forward."

Mr Spacey has not commented to The Guardian or CNN about the allegations.

-Wiln AFP
Kevin Spacey made work environment 'toxic' allege House of Cards staff | SBS News

Kevin Spacey makes new ‘sexual misconduct’ claim
Kevin Spacey apologises after sexual misconduct allegation

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UK police investigate Kevin Spacey over claims actor, 23, woke up to star performing a sex act on him

KEVIN Spacey is under investigation by British police after allegations an actor woke up to the star performing a sex act on him.

Dan Sales, Mike Sullivan, Crime Editor, and Emma Lake

NOVEMBER 4, 2017 7:01PM

British cops are investigating claims a 23-year-old actor woke up to Kevin Spacey performing a sex act on him at the star's London home.

It is the first known UK police probe into the actor, 56, who allegedly abused the Brit after inviting him in for a drink, The Sun reports.

The man claims that he woke to find Spacey performing a sexual act on him and then fled the address after being warned by the American Beauty actor not to tell anyone about it.

The alleged sexual assault reportedly happened in 2008, and could see Spacey questioned by Metropolitan Police officers.

It is understood that the complainant had asked the House of Cards star, who was artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015, to help with his career.

According to a source, the complainant said they smoked weed and he passed out unconscious.

He came round to discover Spacey performing oral sex on him and told him to stop, it is alleged.
The young man is said to have run from the house and Spacey allegedly told him: “Don’t tell anyone about this.”

The alleged victim, now aged 32, contacted City of London Police on Tuesday after a raft of stories emerged about Spacey allegedly abusing a teenage boy.

The complaint was referred to the Metropolitan Police to deal with, as the offence is alleged to have occurred in their area.

Detectives from the Met’s Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command interviewed the alleged victim yesterday at a Central London police station.

The Met said in a statement: “On 1 November, City of London Police referred an allegation of sexual assault to the Metropolitan Police Service.

“It is alleged a man assaulted another man in 2008 in Lambeth.

“Officers from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command are investigating.”

It is understood that no arrest or charge has been made.

Latest allegations come after a man claimed he had a sexual relationship with Spacey when he was just 14.
The alleged victim, who is now a 48-year-old artist, said his relationship with the actor, who was then 24, ended when Spacey attempted to rape him. Spacey denies the claims.

Eight others have claimed to have been harassed or assaulted by the actor while working on the Netflix TV show House of Cards.


And another young barman, Daniel Beal, exclusively told The Sun he was flashed by Kevin Spacey outside a hotel where he was working in 2010 and handed a £5,000 watch afterwards.

The young barman, who was 19 at the time, said he was sitting outside having a cigarette break when Spacey sat down next to him, flashed his privates and said: “It’s big, isn’t it?”

When he walked back into the bar to work, Beal said Spacey followed him and handed him the Swiss watch he was wearing.

Actor Anthony Rapp, best known for appearing in Star Trek: Discovery, was the first person to come forward with allegations saying Spacey assaulted him after a party in 1986 when he was just 14-years-old.
He said Spacey had laid down on top of him, adding in an interview with BuzzFeed News: "I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Responding to the allegations made by Rapp, Spacey — who won Oscars for The Usual Suspects and American Beauty — said he was "beyond horrified" but did not remember the encounter.

Spacey said he owed Rapp a "sincere apology" for what he said would have been "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour".

Spacey also announced that he was now living "as a gay man" prompting widespread criticism for choosing the moment to come out.

The 58-year-old actor has since been stripped of an International Emmy Award and his acclaimed Netflix series House of Cards — in which Spacey stars as the manipulative, ruthless politician Frank Underwood — will end after the sixth season.

The company said on Monday the decision was made months ago but that it found the current allegations "deeply troubling."

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Which mindset drives you the most?

BRITISH cops are investigating claims a 23-year-old actor woke up to Kevin Spacey performing a sex act on him at the star's London home.

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The alleged victim, now aged 32, contacted City of London Police on Tuesday after a raft of stories about Spacey's alleged inappropriate behaviour towards young men.

The complaint was referred to the Metropolitan Police to deal with, as the offence is alleged to have occurred in their area.

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Actor Anthony Rapp, best known for appearing in Star Trek: Discovery, was the first person to come forward with allegations saying Spacey assaulted him after a party in 1986 when he was just 14-years-old.

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This article originally appeared in The Sun and is republished here with permission.
Three more men accuse Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct

By Alex Stedman • Nov 4th, 2017

Actor Kevin Spacey has been accused of making sexual advance towards a 14-year-old.

LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) - As the fallout continues following Anthony Rapp's initiation allegation against Kevin Spacey, three more men have gone public to BuzzFeed and accused the actor of varying degrees of sexual misconduct.

Justin Dawes told the publication that, when he was 16 and Spacey was 29, Spacey invited him and a friend over to his apartment to watch "Chinatown" after they met at a performance of a play Spacey was performing in at the time. Once he was there, however, Dawes alleged that Spacey instead made them cocktails and played pornography on the television.

While Dawes said the situation was "sleazy and manipulative," he said it was not "intimidating or pushy."

"We all had a drink, and we were kind of like, 'Oh, no one else is coming?' And he's like, 'Oh, no one else decided to come,' and he never mentioned that this porn was playing," Dawes said. "It was really awkward."

Kevin Spacey; Image: Getty

Another accuser -- a journalist who chose to remain anonymous -- said he interviewed Spacey in the early 2000s and while all was normal while they were in the actor's office at the Old Vic theater, Spacey invited him out to a club afterward. There, the journalist alleged, Spacey began groping him, reaching between his legs and grabbing his genitals. The journalist said he told Spacey that he was in a serious relationship with a woman and, when he tried to leave the club, Spacey was furious.

"This man was screaming in my face outside of the main bar area, red-faced, spit flying out of his mouth, screaming at me with fury because I didn't want to f-- him," he described. "He was actually saying that I did want to and I was a coward. That was his tactic. It was unbelievable."

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The journalist went on to say that he didn't run a story about his sexual misconduct because he didn't want to out Spacey as a gay man. He felt empowered to speak...
out only after Rapp went public.

Another accuser, Mark Ebenhoch, said that, while he was on the set of 1995 film "Outbreak," Spacey often had a group of young men who would hang out in his trailer. One day, Ebenhoch said, he was approached by one of Spacey's assistants, who asked him to come to Spacey's trailer.

"They asked flat out to engage in a sexual act. It was enough to stun me. It blew me away," Ebenhoch told BuzzFeed.

The three new accusers add to the long list of men to come out against Spacey since "Star Trek: Discovery" actor Rapp said on Oct. 29 that Spacey made a pass at him when he was 14 years old. Since that story broke, Netflix has suspended production of "House of Cards" Season 6 (and is considering killing off his character, Frank Underwood), the Scotland Yard has opened an investigation into an alleged assault by Spacey, and CAA and publicist Staci Wolfe have parted ways with the actor.

Hollywood's long, ugly history with sexual harassment

View gallery

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Now we know about the Hollywood sleazebags, can we still watch their work?

That we’re learning about some major Hollywood players is truly sickening, but should that necessarily turn us off their work?

Karl Quinn

The trouble with the Hollywood sex scandals is once you know, you can’t not know. And once you know what Kevin Spacey and co have been up to, can you ever in good conscience watch their work again?

For some, the answer will be a simple no. Good luck to them. I admire, perhaps even envy, their moral certainty. But I can’t share it. For me, the situation is far more problematic.

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House of Cards on hiatus
Following allegations of sexual misconduct by actor Kevin Spacey, Netflix has indefinitely halted production on House of Cards.

It should be obvious by now that there’s something rotten in the state

of Hollywood. It's not just about Harvey or Spacey or Cosby or Woody or Polanski or Dustin Hoffman or James Toback or Brett Ratner or Casey Affleck (and all the other men whose names are yet to emerge). It is not just about aberrant individuals. It's about an entire ecosystem in which men with a lot of power sexually exploit women (and, yes, sometimes men) who have none.

It happens in other industries too, but in arts and entertainment, sexual freedom and creativity are generally imagined to go hand in hand. Push back on a sexual advance, and there's a risk of being seen as a prude, someone lacking imagination or the willingness to take risks. In Hollywood, as so many have attested, it can jeopardise the prospects of getting that much-needed break.

Of course, the casting couch has been part of the furniture since day dot. What's news now is that people are calling it, and the industry's broader culture of harassment, out.

As the tales have poured forth over the past month, one of the common themes has been that people knew what was going on. Assistants, studio executives, colleagues — they either knew, or strongly suspected. And of course the victims and survivors knew, though for a variety of reasons felt they couldn't speak out.

As the Harvey Weinstein story broke, it seemed at first a tale of a monster exposed. But while his sexual predation was news to most of us, other appalling aspects of his personality had long been on the public record. He was a renowned bully, an egotist, a man with an enormous amount of power who was willing to use it to get his way, in all aspects of life. Crucially, he was not alone.

If reports now emerging are to be believed, Kevin Spacey stalked the set of House of Cards on the look-out for new flesh to prey upon. As star and executive producer, the show could not have existed without him (and will probably cease to exist henceforth). Without him, all those jobs would disappear. So a lowly male production assistant may...
have been groped? Better, surely, to turn a blind eye than to topple that entire house of cards.

Such abusers have made their way into the public eye in fictional form, in films such as *Swimming With Sharks* and *The Player*, and the TV show *Vinyl*. In *Entourage*, the foul-mouthed, sexist, bullying agent Ari Gold stood as an archetype of a Hollywood norm and he became the star of the show. Now the actor who played him, Jeremy Piven, has been accused of sexual harassment (a charge he flatly denies).

It's not Hollywood's liberal approach to sex that's the problem per se, it's the linking of sex to creativity, and the imbalance of power that at every turn creates opportunities for predators. The industry is incredibly hierarchical, with power concentrated in the hands of a few (mostly white and male), and a constant influx of attractive young people desperate for a break. Some will do whatever it takes. Some of those in power assume they will, and act accordingly.

The sexual revolution of the 1960s freed people from oppressive, and often hypocritical, religious and social orthodoxies. But a dismantling of traditional power structures was not among its upsides. As many feminist critics have pointed out, the greatest beneficiaries of the sexual revolution were those men who felt they had been granted access to unlimited sexual opportunity without any of the financial, emotional or familial obligations that marriage demanded.

The sexual revolution has reaped enormous benefits on screen too, allowing stories that touch on the most intimate aspects of human experience to emerge. Think The Graduate, Annie Hall, Tess, American Beauty, Manchester by the Sea.

Actress Virginia Rappe and comedian Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle, who was accused of raping her in 1921. He was eventually acquitted, but his reputation never recovered. Photo: AP

Each of these is now tarnished to some degree by what we have been told about the off-screen behaviour of their star or director. But even assuming all those claims are true, does that mean we can no longer watch them with a clear conscience?

For me, that call will be made on a case-by-case basis, and it will be about the relationship between the person and the text. Could I watch The Costly Show with its moral pieties knowing what I now know about its star? Hell no. Could I watch Manhattan and not feel queasy about Woody Allen's wooing of Mariel Hemingway's high-school student? Again, no. But can I watch Annie Hall and still revere it as a wonderfully funny, warm, truthful piece of work about relationships and human frailty? Absolutely.

Woody Allen was 43 and Mariel Hemingway 17 when she played his lover in Manhattan (1975).

Kevin Spacey is tremendous in House of Cards and American Beauty and The Usual Suspects and Seven because he lets the darkness shine through. With the benefit of hindsight, we might even say he was hiding in plain sight. I'd watch them all again, but with senses sharpened by knowing what previously I only suspected.

Maybe it would be right to simply boycott the work of everyone who


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has ever been revealed as a predator or a bully. Maybe that would send
the message to Hollywood that we simply won't accept or condone
that behaviour any longer, and if it continues to turn a blind eye, so
will we. Hollywood would then feel it where it hurts most - in the
bottom line.

I certainly can't argue with anyone who takes that line. But I'll keep
looking at the work in the hope it says something truthful and noble
- even if the people who made it are neither.

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Now we know about the Hollywood sleaze bags, can we still watch their work?

Netflix AXES Kevin Spacey: Network cancels Gore Vidal movie and announces it won't air House of Cards if scandal-hit star appears, as three more men accuse him of sexual misconduct

- Netflix is ditching Spacey for the sixth and final season of the political thriller
- It also won't stream Spacey-starring and produced Gore, which is nearly finished
- On Friday three more claims about Spacey's inappropriate behavior emerged
- Justin Dawes said in 1988, when he was 16, Spacey, then 26, invited him over
- He arrived to find gay porn on the TV; Spacey made him and a friend cocktails
- Dawes said it was 'cringe' but 'benign' and he and his friend swiftly left
- An unnamed journalist said Spacey chased him around a club in 2009
- He said Spacey touched his privates, rubbed his leg and wouldn't let him go
- And a closeted military advisor for 1995's Outbreak said he was propositioned
- He said Spacey got one of his 'harem' of advisors to ask him to perform a sex act

By JAMES WILKINSON FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 13:31 AEDT, 4 November 2017 | UPDATED: 07:04 AEDT, 7 November 2017

Netflix has announced that it is cutting all of its ties to Kevin Spacey amid more claims about his inappropriate behavior.

The company announced Friday night that it wouldn't make *House of Cards* as long as Spacey was involved, and that it was dropping a biopic of writer Gore Vidal that he had been set to star in.

That same night, *BuzzFeed News* spoke to three more men who accused Spacey of inappropriate conduct - including one who said the actor invited him to watch gay porn and gave him cocktails when he was 16.

Netflix has now cut all ties with Kevin Spacey, saying it won't stream his movie *Gore*, or any seasons of *House of Cards* that feature him. Also Friday three more accusations were made.

'Netflix will not be involved with any further production of *House of Cards* that includes Kevin Spacey,' the company said in a statement.

'We will continue to work with [Media Rights Capital, the production house behind the show] during this hiatus time to evaluate our path forward as it relates to the show.'
'We have also decided we will not be moving forward with the release of the film Gore, which was in post-production, starring and produced by Kevin Spacey,'

The statement is vague about the fate of House of Cards, but Page Six reported that production would continue without Spacey's involvement. It is unclear whether that is speculation; the claim isn't attributed to any source.

The show began with production house Media Rights Capital (MRC), but Spacey has an executive producer credit on the show, and his own company - Trigger Street Productions - has been involved in the show over the first five seasons.

It's not clear whether the first five seasons of the show will remain on Netflix.

Spacey's woes came after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp claimed at Spacey had come onto him when he was just 14 years old, after a party at Spacey's, when they were the only ones in the apartment.

He said the actor had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride,' and then lay down on top of him. Spacey said the story 'horrified' him and said he didn't recall the encounter, but said he apologized 'if I did behave then as he describes.'

Since then, a claim has emerged that Spacey made a 'gesture and remark' on the set of the first season in 2012 that resulted in him undergoing a 'training process'.

And on Friday another three claims were fired at the Oscar-winner - one of them again involving a teenager, another one claiming that he grabbed a man's penis and chased him around a club, and the third saying he got an assistant to request sex on set.

Spacey's lawyer did not respond to BuzzFeed's request for comment on the new claims.

Justin Dawes told BuzzFeed that he was working as a 16-year-old volunteer theater usher in 1988 when he met Spacey, then 29, after a play he was appearing in.
The actor invited him and a male friend over to watch Roman Polanski's Chinatown at an apartment he was renting for the duration of the performance.

This was some 11 years after Polanski himself was infamously charged with getting a 13-year-old girl drunk and raping her.

Dawes said that he and his friend arrived at Spacey's home to find no-one else there, and the TV playing gay pornography. Spacey mixed them cocktails, he said.

Spacey (seen in 1986) allegedly approached a 16-year-old in 1988 and invited him to watch a movie. When the teen got to Spacey's home, he said, gay porn was on the TV and Spacey was making cocktails. But the now-38-year-old said Spacey was 'cringey' and 'benign'.

Man claims he woke up to actor Kevin Spacey cuddling him.

'We all had a drink, and we were kind of like, "Oh, no one else is coming?" And he's like, "Oh, no one else decided to come," and he never mentioned that this porn was playing,' Dawes told BuzzFeed News. 'It was really awkward.'

He said it was 'cringey' and 'benign' but that it was obvious he was not an adult at the time; 'He knew that I was in high school. It was pretty clear. It's not like I was pretending to be an older, cooler person.'

Friends of Dawes, who is straight, confirmed that he had told them about the story around that time, but the friend allegedly at the party couldn't be contacted.

Friday's second accuser was an unnamed journalist who said that Spacey grabbed his crotch during an interview in London in 2009.

Spacey, who was then head of London's famous Old Vic theater, was starring in Inherit the Wind there when the journalist met him.

He said that Spacey was 'charming' during the interview, but grew lecherous after he invited the journalist out to a nightclub.

'He just kept reaching between my legs and, you know, just grabbing my d**k,' he said.

'I would move his hand away, and say something that I thought was pretending was funny or whatever at first. And then I was starting to get annoyed by it, and that was pretty clear.'

He says he repeatedly tried to move away from Spacey and shoo him off, but that Spacey kept following him, touching his legs.

Even saying he was in a committed relationship with a woman didn't put off Spacey, he said: 'He had somehow convinced himself that this was a sexual liaison that we both wanted.'
In 2009, during this production of Inherit the Wind in London, Spacey allegedly grabbed a journalist’s penis and chased him around a club.

Kevin Spacey has apologised over sexual advance claim.

The journalist said that Spacey’s entourage did nothing to help, and that he felt compelled to stay because he was on an assignment.

I was trying not to make a big scene, because I had an assignment to write about him,' he said. 'So it wasn't clear to me that I should just, like, knock his teeth out, or something. I was in a weird dynamic of I wanted to be able to do my story.'

He said he ended up not printing the story because Spacey was in the closet, and he didn't want to out him without the man's permission.

'It has occurred to me since then that there's this weird way that Spacey had discovered that the closet would shield other things,' the journalist said.

'Being closeted has for him enabled him to use this privacy claim as a shield against anybody looking closely at his actual behavior.

'And then it may have served as this strange, protective mechanism, to say, "My whole sexual life is off limits because of my sexuality."

Spacey came out in his response to Rapp's allegations - which empowered the journalist to speak out, but also led to a backlash from people who felt he was trying to distract from the claims against him while also selling out the LGBT community.

The third claim came from Mark Ebenhoch, who met Spacey on the set of 1995 thriller Outbreak, when he was 35 and Spacey around 36.

Ebenhoch, who is gay but was in the closet at the time, was working as a military consultant on the film, in which Spacey plays an Army virologist.

He said that Spacey had a 'harem' of young male assistants according to those on set, and one day, 'out of the complete blue', one of them propositioned him on Spacey's behalf.

Ebenhoch said there was no veiled invitation or euphemism involved: 'They asked flat out to engage in a sexual act. It was enough to stun me. It blew me away.'

Warner Bros, the film's distributor, declined to comment when approached by BuzzFeed News.
Ebenhoch said he avoided Spacey for the rest of the shoot, fearing what might happen if he was outed. 'As a military adviser the last thing you'd want anyone to know is that you were gay,' he said.

On Thursday, MRC said it 'will continue to thoroughly investigate all current claims and any new claims that are formally brought to our attention, and will continue to monitor our own production and practices to ensure that our cast and crew feel safe and supported.'
Harvey Weinstein's accusers started a flood of claims about workplace sexual abuse and harassment that has now stretched well beyond Hollywood. (Pic: Michael Sohn)

The world just got harder for creeps

Claire Harvey

November 5, 2017 12:00am

A LITTLE quiz for you. Which of these scenarios represents sexual harassment — and which should have elicited a formal complaint?

One. A young secretary standing in the middle of an office full of men, using the coffee machine. A man comes rushing up behind her and unzips her dress, leaving her back — and her G-string — exposed. Everyone laughs. She laughs too, and only cries later, in the bathroom.

Two. A newly promoted female executive is sitting in the office of a male friend, when another, older man comes in and starts telling a funny story about a party he went to in the '80s where everyone did lots of coke and a woman stripped off and had sex with a man in front of the whole party, and then put her clothes back on and coolly drank a cocktail.

The storyteller laughs. The male friend looks embarrassed. The woman laughs.

Hollywood started the flood of claims about sexual harassment by the likes of Kevin Spacey, but young people in workplaces everywhere will be safer for it. (Pic: Nicholas Kamm/AFP)

And three. A young woman is working on a big project with a high-ranking and very well-regarded colleague. They’re still going late into Friday night, and he says: “Well, I think we’re going to need to keep going on the weekend — but I promised to take my wife and kids to the beach house.” Pause. “Oh silly me, why don’t you drive up and spend the weekend with us there? We could keep working and Jenny and I could show you the local beaches.” She thinks that sounds pretty nice, and so she drives up there the following morning. When she pulls up outside the beach house, the door swings open and there’s her boss, alone, in his shorts and T-shirt. “Ah, I’m such an idiot! I forgot the kids had sport this weekend so they had to stay in town. My wife’s stayed too. So it’ll just be us — we can focus without distractions.” She laughs and goes inside. They work all day and then she goes to her bedroom early, puts a chair up against the door handle and lies awake all night, fuming.

So which of those is sexual harassment?

I don’t really know. But they all involved people I know personally, and nobody ever made a formal complaint.

Point is, sexual harassment — or whatever that was — happens on a borderline of behaviour that’s almost impossible to patrol.

My career has been entirely unblemished by anything resembling serious sexual harassment. But I do look back at some moments, and some men, and think: “Ah, of course.”


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Like the Queens Counsel who, when I was a young court reporter, invited me to his house at least 10 times to talk about cases. I was 22. He was, at a guess, 50; married with children. I never went, thank God — but mainly because I couldn't think of anything more boring — not because I was smart enough to twig to what he presumably actually had in mind.

As one of the women allegedly harassed by Harvey Weinstein, actress Lupita Nyong'o, said in a New York Times piece: "I was incredibly naive and young and it did not cross my mind that this older, unattractive man would expect me to have any sexual interest in him."

Ashley Judd was one of the first actors to go on the record about Harvey Weinstein's predatory behaviour. (Pic: Jordan Strauss/AP)

Or like the senior journalist, probably in his late 40s (I was 19) whom I eventually agreed to have dinner with because I felt sorry for him. I thought he was just lonely; his girlfriend lived in another city. He knew I had a boyfriend with whom I lived, so I didn't think there could possibly be any romantic intentions in his persistence. About halfway through this dinner another friend of mine came into the restaurant; a guy I did actually like. He looked mortified to see me there with this much older man and it suddenly dawned on me — this was a weird and totally wrong situation; I was being wooed by someone I wouldn't have dreamt of taking a romantic interest in. I made some excuses and got out of there.

And then there was a chief executive I'd interviewed and who had given me a lift to the airport after our meeting. I left an item of clothing in his car and he texted me about it for months afterwards.

In some ways, I think my complete naivete as a young woman saved me from having to make any difficult decisions about the behaviour of some senior men around me. I think
that’s the case with the vast majority of men and women who experience this. Creeps choose targets who emanate innocence and unworldliness.

Maybe, after this tsunami of ‘me too’ stories, there’ll be fewer young people who are unable, as I was, to suspect sexual harassment in an ambiguous situation.

It would be a start.

*Claire Harvey is the deputy editor of the Sunday Telegraph.*

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**COMMENTS**

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**Luke**  
Nov 6, 2017

This happens everywhere. I’ve seen it. I’ve seen the damage it does, and I’m now privileged to be in a position to do something about it and remove some of the lecherous old bastards.

I am happy to see that Academia and Hollywood are actually starting to do something about this. It’s not a moment too soon and I hope other areas follow. Further, it’s good to see men stand up as will to out predators like Kevin Spacey.

No doubt these predators will be defended by the commenters below and the victims will be blamed, but things are changing ever so slowly, and there is a long, long way to go.

1 Like  Reply

**Col**  
Nov 6, 2017

Guilty until proven innocent!

Is it ironic that these so called Hollywood stars kept quiet about the alleged assaults while their careers were blooming. Did they keep quiet to assist their movie careers?

Sexual assault of any kind is abhorrent and should be reported as soon as it happens. How many of these women by keeping quiet endangered other women.

If Harvey Weinstein is proven guilty, throw the book at him.

---

Christopher
If women didn't go for the 'creeps' life would already be hard for them...

Jim
@Christopher I am reminded by this Hollywood fiasco of a quote - by whom I cannot remember - about a famous Hollywood star: "I knew Doris Day before she became a virgin." Yes, there are powerful male "creeps", but there are also opportunistic women and must also be powerful women who misuse their power in Hollywood. Sex is a form of currency in some parts of society and assigning absolute blame to one gender alone does not seem right or even helpful.

Matt
Courage, these women have courage! Perhaps Russell Crowe can learn a few things...instead of offering stupid immigration solutions for the Australian Government he can come out and support these women and not his great mate Harvey.

Ceckay
Please remember than any News out of Hollywood and the movie industry actors have always had a problem to separate 'Real Everyday Life' to the 'Acting Life'.
At one stage of my business life I had many contact with Australian Theatre and Movies actors:
On several occasions (if not all) I had to plead with them to come back to Earth and talk to us mere mortals in terms that we could comprehend and not prompted from a script.

maree
Sorry to read your story, but there is another side to the coin.
My husband was director of an advertising agency creative department that employed a sizeable female staff.

He has a few clues, and had his office door removed so there would be absolutely no question of false accusations. Easy.

Tom
Haven't heard much from Hollywood's elite of late, very vocal when they couldn't lay the boot into Trump quick enough but they remain silent on accusations that makes Donald look like a choir boy. Is it they are distancing themselves from something that they were aware of and remained silent or was it something they were part of, either way it's a bestseller when it's made into a movie.

Kris
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/celebrity/article-5920303/Celebrates-wine-bottle-thrown-woman-temple-sweet-soap-stick.html
6 Like Reply
Nov 5, 2017
Nov 5, 2017
Nov 6, 2017
Nov 5, 2017
Nov 5, 2017
Nov 5, 2017
6/10
11-242
For example Madonna calling Gwendolyn Christie (Brienne of Tarth, GoT) on stage of one of her concerts and groping her in public.

That would be different for some reason.

Jim
@Kris "Madonna ... groping her in public."

Yes, but that was probably 'art'. Therefore, being art anything goes in the minds of the 'creative' elite.

Luke
@Kris Do you understand the concept of consent?

Karen
Remember what happened to the boy who cried wolf? He who is without sin cast the first stone. As a professional I have seen both sides of this argument and there are always contributing factors. It just so happens the left leaning media and the democrats who have harboured these individuals are now turning on themselves as the catalysts of change focus on "white males". Another example of trying to undermine democracy without hearing the other side of the debate. Recently the sex therapist Bettina Arndt who has spent a lifetime studying this said "women contribute significantly to the problem by using it to further their careers, then cry foul when it suits their agenda." Yet their is no examination of this by the media, social media or other communication outlets. It's time we stop the hyperventilating and have a reasoned debate!

Bev
@Karen Feminists don't want a reasoned debate. I am now convinced this is not about sexual harassment but about engineering a situation where any woman can destroy a man by accusing him by word alone with no proof necessary.

Davidh
Like everyone else, I have no idea as to the truth or otherwise of any of this. But there seem to be an awful lot of unsubstantiated accusations going around. Every time a new one starts there are a crowd jumping on screaming me too, me too.

No have been no court appearances, no evidence presented, no convictions. Just someone saying publicly that I remember he touched me in what I thought was an inappropriate manner 30 years ago.

Totally impossible for the accuser to prove, totally impossible for the accused to defend. Denial is considered proof of guilt, not answering is considered proof of guilt. And yet there are reputations, careers, wealth and families destroyed. Whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty.

Bev
@Davidh Ever read any tracts on feminist legal theory? Innocent until proven guilty is not something supported rather the opposite. The same goes for male human rights.
Peter

@Davidh Michael Jackson was accused by many and never faced a verdict in court. Always settled. Yet the left now are hanging these people on accusations. If it ever goes to court they will never receive a fair trial. If they are guilty they all deserve the max penalty but then so do those who sat on the information for 20 plus years.

Peter

@Davidh Anyone see the Ellen pics ogling Katy Parrys amleness? Why did Ellen feel that was ok?

Ceekay

@Davidh Sadly many third rate actresses got to the top of an undeserved career, and sadly of late have either regrets of their former 'be a star at all cost actions'. Or worse still, their fading careers are in mortal downfall and align themselves with any "news explosion" that will give them public sympathy and obviously former fans exposure. Very Sad to make such huge accusations on flimsy evidence.

Warwick

I can't wait for the Rock star groupies to start airing their tales of woe....

Waz

David

This runs both ways. I worked at a very large telecommunications company many years ago and an attractive woman routinely confided to her female colleagues that she would use her 'assets' to advance her career. She only had to dangle the carrot to her pathetic (married) male managers to glide effortlessly through her corporate life. She was teflon coated. So don't give me this helpless damsul in distress bull.

Jim

@David Working in a state public service I went to a conference room slightly early and sat waiting for the rest of the people to arrive for a scheduled meeting. A woman of about my age saw me and, coming from the side without warning, sat herself on my lap facing to my right. It was summer and she was wearing a low cut dress which displayed her large 'assets' - right under my nose. She smiled and asked "Wouldn't you like to play with these?" I suggested she get off before someone came. A few months later on returning from a meeting at a funded agency she detoured and stopped at her house notionally to get something and invited me in. I did not move. A couple of years later I was informed that she had gone after every bloke in the office - with considerable 'success'. Another woman publicly announced to a new woman on staff that I was 'hers' - I made sure I was never alone with her.
Dean
The one that got away

Peter
@Jim @David Hmm, I must have worked in the same office. I have seen this happen so many times in the last forty years that it stuns me that #metoo even has legs. Just have a look at our football groupies.

Kati
@Peter @Jim @David And what of people who are just walking down the street/at work/at the beach/at a club who someone thinks it’s their right to grope (and then deny it when confronted)?

You think everyone is just making up stories about abuse? Well I put it to you that you have never been abused and that’s why you would say something so ridiculous.

Peter
Really don’t like putting Michael Jackson in this group do you? Still a favorite. Hard bitter pill to swallow.
Multiple accusations and never a verdict.

brad
@Peter paid them all off

Andrew
Dear Claire.
Scenario 4. My inept female supervisor, with little work or life experience, but a willingness to be "friendly" with the CEO.

Brett
Is it really that hard for society to even entertain the idea that many women are only too happy to attempt to kick-start their careers by sleeping around with a few fat ugly men? Hellooooooo.... this has gone on for centuries in all aspects of life not just "work". Every industry is involved and trust me, I may not be the most politically correct person on the planet to say this but the simple fact is that these scenarios will continue to play out into the future and many men will be exposed..... and many women will happily play the game to get what they want. Do you people really think Hugh Hefner slept with thousands of hot little things because he was just so irresistible to them?

How many of Harvey Weinsteins "victims" haven't stepped forward and spoken out because they were neither ashamed nor had any regrets for using him as a stepping stone to a career. How many women have slept with their boss to further their career or their teacher/lecturer to get a pass mark?

Until we as a society can teach young women that it is wrong to use their bodies to "make it in life" then it will not stop. And I suspect many women wouldn't want it to. I can hear all you PC head-
nodders choking on your latte’s as you read my comment, assuming it’s is even allowed to be read, but this is life and women worked out millennia ago that they had a ticket to the world if they were prepared to use it, and many of them are. Get over it and move on nothing will change. Nothing.

Peter
@Brett Ratner, is that you ;)

Bev
@Brett It will never stop human nature being what it is unless we totally segregate men and women.

Kati
@Bev Do you honestly believe we have no control over our urges? Are you saying you think that we cannot overpower our urges with common sense?

Laurie
@Juanita a very fair comment but society has to take responsibility as it adores actors and actresses the professional footballs and the media trending to the extent they have been UNTOUCHABLE for at least 3 decades!!!

philip
is it really that hard to admit that the entertainment industry is sick? is it really that hard to accept a comment from someone who is trying to say a very true fact someone that is not being disrespectful to the author by stating that this isn’t just about women but a very real situation that has been happening since the founding of Hollywood? by censoring and deleting comments that are actually in agreement with the premise of the article you are in fact damaging the message you are sending out the truth is that Weinstein and Spacey are the tip of a very real and sick and powerful society that has been allowed to fester and decay over a long period of time and the victims are not just women but also children who want to be actors/actresses.

Jim
@philip I have always thought the majority of Hollywood 'stars' had to have some underlying and deep psychological need to enter such a trade.

Juanita
I also suspect that and hopefully people who behave like the above aggressors are also not sleeping quite as well as they did a few weeks ago. And if any of it rubs off on them that would be great.

It is great people who are being harassed are standing up and saying so

But it would be so much better if the harassers learnt to stop unacceptable behaviour, and the harassment never occurred in the first place. Even if for the only reason, it Will No Longer Remain Behind Closed Doors

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/redeye/online/just-got-harder-for-creeps/news-story/a80203c9d623847d61c1553e0531c21552a
Bev

@Juanita What is unacceptable behaviour? That is the problem the goal posts keep moving. we now have a sex scandal in the British parliament. One woman claimed harassment because he complimented her and also asked if she had a boyfriend. Answer me where does it stop? I would suggest never because to feminists this is not really about harassment but a vehicle to enable any woman any time to utterly destroy any man if she so desires without actually having to prove anything just a word being enough. There have always been men who use their position to wield power over others and there have always been women who use their sexuality to their advantage. There are clearly those who overstep the mark but much of what is being reported is marginal or based on ‘feelings’ rather than fact.

Peter

@Bev @Juanita The most powerful women are the wives of world leaders. Tell me they do not influence policy. Oh honey will you do this for me or none for you.
Everyone Who Has Spoken Out Against Kevin Spacey Amid Sexual Misconduct Allegations

by MEG SWERTLOW | Sun. Nov. 5, 2017 9:13 AM

Kevin Spacey is used to being in the spotlight, but in the past week he's been making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

On Oct. 29, the *House of Cards* actor came under fire when *Star Trek: Discovery* actor Anthony Rapp accused the older actor of being sexually inappropriate with him when he was merely 14 years old. But that was just the beginning...

Hours after the story was published by *Buzzfeed News*, the two-time Oscar winner made a public apology via his social media account.

"I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor," Kevin wrote. "I am beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter as it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior and I am sorry for the feelings he described having carried with him all these years."

He continued, "This story has encouraged me to address other things in my life...I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man."

Soon after the apology was posted, many Internet users reacted harshly to his statement, saying that the actor used his coming out to deflect to the matter at hand, which was his being inappropriate with a minor.

After Spacey's message, Rapp posted a message on Twitter that stated: "Everything I wanted to say about my experience is in that article, and I have no further comment about it at this time."

Since Rapp's allegations a week ago, a wave of people have come forward both to condemn and accuse the 58-year-old of being inappropriate. Spacey has lost his role on HoC, as well as his role in the upcoming Netflix film *Gore*.

"Kevin Spacey is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment," his rep said in a statement to *E! News*. "No other information is available at this time."


11-248
Harry Dreyfuss: In an op-ed piece for Buzzfeed News, Richard Dreyfuss' son told of an alleged experience back when he was 18.

He wrote, "We were in Kevin's kitchen when my dad ducked out for a moment to go to the bathroom. Kevin and I were looking out his window at the lights of London, when he came to my side and asked me how my Christmas had been. I had had a terrible Christmas, I told him, because I was too shy. I was 18, I'd mustered the courage to leave our hotel and go get legally drunk for the first time in my life, but I didn't have the nerve to speak with anyone."

He went on to say, "I had a few drinks and then promptly returned to my hotel room to watch Tropic Thunder for the fourth time. After I'd told him that, Kevin slid his hand into mine. He wrapped his fingers between my fingers, and peered into my eyes, and warmly said, 'Don't be shy. Then, 'You'll get over it.' I was stunned."

Dreyfuss then says he read a scene with him and his dad, but things soon got uncomfortable.

He said, "After a few minutes, [Spacey] put his hand on my thigh. Finally (finally, finally) I became suspicious. It took that long because it just never occurred to me that Kevin would be interested in me in the first place. He was an adult man, a hero of mine, my dad's boss, none of which were categories on my radar for sexual interactions. Besides, I thought, 'Surely he can't be coming on to me like this right in front of my dad. But his hand stayed there. So after a bit, I came up with what I thought was a brilliant safety tactic: I stood up and walked to the other side of the couch, and sat back down. Bulletproof. But without missing a beat, Kevin stood up too, and followed me. He sat just as close and immediately put his hand back on my thigh."

My dad saw none of this and none of what would follow, because he was deeply focused on his
Richard Dreyfuss
@RichardDreyfuss

I love my son @harrydreyfuss more than I could explain with all the words in the world. And I am so incredibly proud of him right now. twitter.com/harrydreyfuss/...
11:34 AM - Nov 5, 2017

961 9,677 57,125

Justin Dawes: A man who alleges that in 1989, when he was 16 years old a then-29-year-old Spacey invited him and a male friend over to watch Roman Polanski's Chinatown. Dawes told BuzzFeed News, Spacey "gave him a cocktail and played pornography." He says he told the website that the encounter was "cringey" but "benign" compared to Rapp's alleged encounter.
House of Cards Staffers: In a new report from CNN, eight former or current House of Cards staffers, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, recounted Spacey's alleged pattern of sexual harassment onset of the Netflix series. One former production assistant claimed the actor sexually assaulted him while filming an early season of House of Cards.

Spacey has not commented on the latest allegations. According to Deadline, he is no longer represented by talent agencyCAA. It was revealed Wednesday that the Oscar winner began seeking "evaluation and treatment" in light of the ongoing scandal.

CNN reports the former employees describing Spacey's behavior on set as "predatory," which allegedly included non-consensual contact and offensive remarks often made against young men.

The production assistant who alleged Spacey assaulted him told CNN that while driving to an offsite location to pick up the actor and bring him to set, Spacey attempted to put his hand down his pants. It continued when in a trailer he said Spacey "cornered him, blocked his exit and made inappropriate contact with him." The former employee recalled telling Spacey he wasn't comfortable, which he said caused the celebrity to leave set for the day.

"I was in a state of shock," he told CNN. "He was a man in a very powerful position on the show and I was someone very low on the totem pole and on the food chain there."

Other crew members detailed either experiencing or witnessing similar encounters with Spacey and called the working environment "toxic." One former female production assistant recalled, "It was very known that Kevin was inappropriate, and males I worked with complained to me about how they felt uncomfortable."

Anonymous Journalist: BuzzFeed News also reports, an anonymous journalist who interviewed Spacey in the early 2000s at London's Old Vic theater, said that when he was in his 20s, Spacey invited him to continue the interview at a club, with friends for drinks, and that the actor was "aggressively groping him" while his friends "were deliberately not paying attention."

When the journalist got up to leave, "[Spacey] came out after me and literally stood between me and the door. This man was screaming in my face outside of the main bar area, red-faced, spit flying out of his mouth, screaming at me with fury because I didn't want to f*ck him. He was actually saying that I did want to and I was a coward. That was his tactic. It was unbelievable."

The journalist said he didn't write about the alleged incident because it would involve outing him.

"I consider that a pretty important principle: You don't out people," he said. "But it tied my hands. If I were to publish a story about Kevin Spacey sexually harassing me on the job ... there's no way without making it quite clear that he likes guys."

Mark Ebenhoeh: According to BuzzFeed News, Ebenhoeh, a closeted 35-year-old military adviser on the set of 1995's Outbreak, says he was invited to Spacey's trailer by the actor's assistant where he was propositioned. He says he turned down the offer out of fear that others would learn his sexual orientation. Ebenhoeh, who is now out, told the publication, "As a military adviser the last thing you'd want anyone to know is that you were gay."

E! News has reached out to Spacey's lawyer for comment on these new allegations, but has not heard back about any new accusations.
The swift unraveling of Kevin Spacey in less than a week

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: 05:14 AEDT, 5 November 2017 | UPDATED: 11:10 AEDT, 5 November 2017

NEW YORK (AP) - It took less than a week for two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey to go from admired stage, TV and film star to a pariah, under investigation by the police and fired from his Emmy-winning role in "House of Cards." Here's a look at key developments in his still-unfolding case.

BLOCKBUSTER CLAIM

Sunday, Oct. 29

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-5050061/The-swift-unraveling-Kevin-Spacey-week.html
FILE - In this April 27, 2015 file photo, Kevin Spacey arrives at the Q&A Screening of "The House Of Cards" at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, Calif. Netflix says Spacey is out at "House of Cards" after a series of allegations of sexual harassment and assault. Netflix says in a statement Friday night, Nov. 3, 2017, that it's cutting all ties with Spacey, and will not be involved with any further production of "House of Cards" that includes him. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File)

In an interview with BuzzFeed, actor Anthony Rapp said he attended a party at Spacey's New York apartment in 1986, when he was 14. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him. Rapp said. Rapp said the 26-year-old was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment. Rapp said he was inspired to come forward in the wake of allegations swirling around Harvey Weinstein.

APOLOGY... AND MORE

Monday, Oct. 30

Spacey posted on Twitter that he didn't remember the Rapp encounter. "But if I did have then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior," he said. Spacey, who has fiercely protected his private life, had never disclosed his sexuality before but said Rapp's story encouraged him to speak and he came out as a gay man. Many observers thought it was an odd time for Spacey to address his sexuality or was even an attempt to deflect blame.

ONLINE FIRESTORM

All day, Spacey faced condemnation from gay activists and fellow performers, including actor Zachary Quinto, comedian Wanda Sykes and musician Lance Bass, as well as the gay rights group GLAAD, Netflix and the "House of Cards" producer, Media Rights Capital, announced the show would end after the conclusion of season 6 (though they added that such a decision had been made before the allegations). Some show executives arrived in Baltimore, where the series is shot, to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported."

ANOTHER ALLEGATION

Tuesday Oct. 31

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos wrote on his Facebook page that he encountered Spacey at the bar of London's Old Vic Theatre, where Spacey was artistic director from 2004-15, and the actor tried to fondle him against his will. "It was more common for this guy, when he was in the bar of his theater, grabbing whoever caught his attention," Cavazos wrote. "I didn't stand for it, but I know some people who were afraid to stop it." In a statement, the Old Vic expressed "deep dismay" at the sexual assault allegations and said "inappropriate behavior by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable." Spacey did not respond to requests for

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-5053061/The-swift-unraveling-Kevin-Spacey.html
comment. Tuesday's episode of the NBC drama "This Is Us," which had initially referred to a Spacey film, was reedited to replace him with Christian Bale.

'TOXIC' SET

Thursday, Nov. 2

CNN reported that eight current or former "House of Cards" workers claimed that Spacey made the production a "toxic" workplace and one ex-employee alleged the actor sexually assaulted him. CNN reported that all of the people described Spacey's behavior as predatory. The report accused Spacey of allegedly targeting staffers who were typically young and male with nonconsensual touching and crude comments. More fallout came when Spacey's talent agency Creative Arts Agency said it was no longer representing Spacey, and his publicist also parted ways with the actor.

DEEPENING CRISIS

Friday, Nov. 3

London police said they had begun investigating an alleged 2008 sexual assault reportedly linked to Spacey. The Sun newspaper said the new allegation comes from a man who was in his early 20s at the time. In America, Netflix said it would cut all ties with Spacey, and will not be involved with any further production of "House of Cards" that includes him. The company also said it will not release the film "Gore," starring Spacey, which was in post-production. In another blow to Spacey's wallet, a Dutch business forum canceled his headline appearance at their conference Nov. 29 in Rotterdam.

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Sorry we are not currently accepting comments on this article.
Actor Harry Dreyfuss is claiming that Kevin Spacey groped him at age 18 -- while his father, actor Richard Dreyfuss, was in the room.

In a self-written account published Saturday on Buzzfeed.com, Harry Dreyfuss describes the alleged 2008 incident, when Spacey was directing Richard Dreyfuss in a play at the Old Vic in London.

Kevin Spacey fired
Netflix says it won't be involved in any production of 'House of Cards' if actor Kevin Spacey - who faces allegations of sexual misconduct - continues to appear in the show.

Harry Dreyfuss says he was inspired by actor Anthony Rapp, who came forward on Sunday to say Spacey made a sexual advance at him when Rapp was 14, and others who have spoken out against Spacey.

Dreyfuss wrote: "It happened one night when the three of us were alone in Kevin's apartment rehearsing my father's lines. My father didn't see, and I didn't tell him about the incident for many years."

Instead, I spent the next nine years telling people the story at parties for laughs."

Dreyfuss added: "Kevin Spacey is a sexual predator. But I still never thought talking about it seriously was ever an option."

Spacey's press representative Todd Rubenstein did not respond to a request for comment. BuzzFeed quoted Bryan Freedman, a lawyer representing Spacey, denying Dreyfuss' account with this statement: "Let me be clear, Mr. Spacey absolutely denies the allegations."

Richard Dreyfuss told BuzzFeed he was present for the night in question.

Harry Dreyfuss explained that during the script-reading session, Spacey repeatedly placed his hand on Dreyfuss' thigh while his father was focused on the script. Then it proceeded further.

*Over the course of about 20 seconds, centimetre by centimetre, Kevin crawled his hand from my thigh over toward my crotch. My mind went blank. Suddenly, he had completed his journey and now he...
Harry Dreyfuss, son of Richard Dreyfuss, says Kevin Spacey groped him at age 18. "I was 18 and I was in his nanu. I stopped reading the script and my eyes went wide," Dreyfuss wrote.

Thanks to anyone who’s ever spoken out, I add my story in the hope predators learn there will always be consequences.

 bzfd.it/2hH7nw1
8:19 AM · Nov 5, 2017

"I don’t know how long we sat there like that. It could have been as little as 20 seconds, or it could have been five minutes. It’s the hardest part of the story for me to recall. What I do remember is that, other than being a shy kid who obviously admired Kevin Spacey a lot, I never once gave him a signal that I would want to be with him in that way."

Dreyfuss ended the piece saying, "I hope my story can serve as inspiration to others who may have felt that they couldn’t or shouldn’t speak up until now."

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Spacey’s brother: Kevin is ‘a monster’

6th Nov 2017 5:23 AM

by The Sun

KEVIN Spacey’s brother reveals how the Hollywood actor used his fame and fortune to mask his true “twisted” nature.

Randy Fowler says the House of Cards star turned to acting and changed his name to hide a “dark side” after a childhood plagued by abuse and denials about his sexuality.

in an exclusive interview, Fowler, 61, admits he has been waiting for the moment allegations about the screen star would emerge.

KEVIN Spacey’s brother Randy Fowler. Picture: Facebook.

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Larry David slammed for Holocaust joke

making

Speaking from his home in Utah, Randy said: "Kevin turned to acting as a little kid. He disobled the nuns Fowler and created the character of Kevin Spacey to mask a monster. It helped him hide from his demons.

"He struggled with his sexual identity and he played the character at stage he pretended to be somebody else. It gave him power, transformed him.

"We grew up with abuse and neglect in a house of horrors. Our violent dad whipped me with a riding crop - I've never had children in case that evil personality could be passed on.

"Now it sadly seems one of us may carry those twisted genes and that person might be Kevin.

"His fans love the sinister characters he plays, but he’s not acting, that’s really him. He hid behind his acting career to maintain a secret sordid life and in reality he was a monster.

"I’ve long suspected there was a dark side to him. I just hope he gets the help he needs so nobody else is harmed by him.”

The carefully crafted image Spacey, 58, created first cracked in a bizarre incident in 2004 when he claimed he had been mugged while walking his dog in a London park at 4am.

Fowler said: "That was when the wheels of his fake life first started to come out. I thought then it was only a matter of time before the world would know the real Kevin Spacey.

"He's been trying to lie about who he was for years. In interviews he reinvented his entire childhood.

"He once claimed he'd broken an officer’s leg at military school - but that was me.

"Another time he said he burnt down a building at the back of our house - but that was me too when I burnt our chicken coop.

"He has taken pieces of my life and claimed them as his own, trying to portray a man who was a troubled child saved by the theatre.”

Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp has alleged Spacey tried to seduce him when he was just 14. Spacey then announced he was gay, facing a wave of criticism for the timing.

Now others have come forward with sexual harassment claims, including an actor who was at London's Old Vic when Spacey was artistic director.

And a British barman says the actor flashed at him outside a hotel then handed over his £5,545 watch to hush him up.

On Thursday, his publicist announced he was going to have treatment. By Friday it was claimed he sexually harassed eight of the House of Cards crew - with one claiming they were assaulted by him.

None of this is a surprise to Fowler. He thinks his brother is following in the footsteps of their father Geoff, a man he calls The Creature. Fowler, whose dad and mum Kathleen are now both dead, said:

"Our father was a Nazi-loving monster who raped and beat me from the age of 14.

"Back then I tried to hide what was happening to me from Kevin.

"I prayed that if I let The Creature hurt me, he'd stay away from Kevin. Now I think I was naive. I once tried to talk to Kevin about it. He said he had..."
Kevin Spacey's brother Randy Fowler and Kevin. Picture: Facebook.

Anthony Kopp has alleged Kevin Spacey tried to seduce him when he was just 14. Picture: Splash.

no idea dad was like that and wouldn't discuss it.

"When I heard about these allegations, I prayed history wasn't repeating itself." Growing up, the family - including sister Junie Ann, now 66 - were forced to move countless times.

Fowler, who is writing a book about their lives, said: "Dad was a writer who could never hold down a job so they couldn't afford the rent.

"Kevin went to about ten schools in ten years and became shy and introverted. He never had friends so would hang out with mine.

"Kevin never had a girlfriend either. Of course, I knew he was gay, we all did. He was a mummy's boy.

"The only people he ever said he loved as a kid were male stars like Frank Sinatra and Christopher Walken. But when I asked him straight out if he was gay when we were smoking a joint one day, Kevin just said, 'I'm not heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual, just sexual.'

"Kevin should have been honest about who he is. Coming out after being accused of assaulting a 14-year-old is an insult to the entire gay and lesbian community."

Fowler recalls money was so tight they went hungry and did not even go to the dentist.

He said: "The only holiday we had was to a nudist colony. Kevin was a toddler and surrounded by all these naked adults.

"What kind of parents do that? The Creature even had books of child pornography in his office."

The brothers always stuck together. Limousine driver and Rod Stewart impersonator Randy, said: "We adored each other. We built forts, rode bikes, escaped outside as much as we could. The home Randy shares with long-term partner Trish is adorned with photos of the brothers."

But as Kevin became more famous, he froze Fowler out of his life. Spacey started to ignore calls from his brother, who said: "I think I reminded him of 'Kevin Fowler' and our childhood. He wanted to get away from that."

They have only met five times in nearly three decades.

Fowler added: "When mum was dying of a brain tumour in 2002, he didn't call me until she was so sick she was a vegetable. He robbed me of my last chance to talk to her."

They last met at her funeral. He said: "Kevin organised it and all his work friends came, which I thought was weird."

Fowler has repeatedly tried to contact him since without success.

He went on: "I've sent birthday and Christmas cards. They are returned in Kevin's hand writing saying he no longer lives at the address."

"One time when he was in London I asked a friend to hand deliver a card to him. Kevin ripped it up without even looking at it.

"I'm speaking out because I want him to know I'm here for him if he needs me."

This article was first published in The Sun.
My brother is a monster
Kevin Spacey ‘fans love sinister characters but that’s really him’

LOS ANGELES: Kevin Spacey’s brother has sensationally revealed how the Hollywood superstar used his fame and fortune to mask his true ‘colossal’ nature.

Randy Fowler said the House Of Cards actor turned to acting and changed his name to a ‘dark side’ after a childhood plagued by abuse and demons about his sexuality.

And the 63-year-old admitted he had been waiting for years for sexual allegations about his brother to emerge.

"Kevin turned to acting as a little kid. He ditched the name Fowler and created the character of Kevin Spacey to mask a monster. It helped him hide from his demons," Fowler said.

"He struggled with his sexuality, always denying he was gay. On stage he pretended to be somebody else. It gave him power, transformed him.

"His fans love the sinister characters he plays, but he’s not acting, that’s really him. I’ve long suspected there was a dark side to him."

The carefully crafted image Spacey (pictured), 58, created first cracked in a bizarre incident in 2004 when he claimed he had been accosted while walking his dog in a London park at 4am. That was when the wheels of his fake life first started to come off," Fowler said.

"I thought then it was only a matter of time before the world would know the real Kevin Spacey. He’d been trying to lie about who he was for years. In interviews he revealed his entire childhood."

Star Trek’s Anthony Rapp last week alleged Spacey tried to seduce him when he was just 14. The story then announced he was gay, sparking a torrent of criticism over the filing.

"Kevin should have been honest about who he is. Coming out after being accused of acting as a 14-year-old is an insult to the entire gay and lesbian community," Fowler said.

"Spacey has only seen his brother a few times in the past three decades and not since their brother’s funeral in 2002, said Fowler.

Now other have come forward with sexual harassment claims, including one who was at London’s Old Vic when Spacey was artistic director and a British barman who says the actor flashed at him outside a hotel and then handed out his £545 watch to keep him quiet. There have been now been claims he sexually harassed eight of the House Of Cards crew — with one claiming they were assaulted by him. And Harry Dreyfuss, son of Richard Dreyfuss, has said he was groped in 2008 while his father was rehearsing at the actor’s apartment.

None of this is a surprise to Fowler, who thinks his brother is following in the footsteps of their father Geoff, who, he says, was a sexual predator on the set of the film "Grease."

"I’ve always been concerned for the whole family," Fowler said.

"I’ve always been concerned for the whole family."

I’D KIM AND BEAR IT
TOKYO: US President Donald Trump says he would ‘certainly be open’ to meeting with North Korean despot Kim Jong-un. Asked whether he would ever consider sitting down with ‘the dictator’, Mr Trump said he was holding meetings with numerous Asian leaders. "I would sit down with anybody," he said. "I would certainly be open to doing that but we’ll see where it goes."

TIRAMISU KING’S SWEET DREAM
BUNNE: An Italian factory worker won the first ever "Tiramisu World Cup", beating 700 other people to whip up the greatest version of Italy’s famous dessert.

The would-be pudding maestros descended on the city of Treviso armed with whisks and sieves to create the best tiramisu, which enters "pick-me-up" in Italian.

"My dream is to be a pastry chef, open a small cake shop of my own, where I’d make traditional, home-cooked things. Nothing fancy," winner Andrea Cricciella, 28, said.

SHOCKED ROYALS AREN’T HORSEING AROUND
COPENHAGEN: It was supposed to be a fun day out soaking up the spectacle of a cross-country horse race.

But delight turned to horror when Denmark’s Princess Mary and her four children when one of the riders took a terrible tumble.

Earlier in the day, the Tassajura-born royal, 45, and her children Christian, 12, Isabella, 10, and sisters-in-law Princess Vincent and Josephine posed for photographs and waved to well-wishers from the balcony of the Amalienborg Palace.

They were among tens of thousands gathered to watch the Horseshoe Hunt, an autumn event through woods and north of Copenhagen, which marks the end of the Danish hunting season.

Mary’s husband, Crown Prince Frederik, was busy attending an International Olympic Committeee meeting in Switzerland, although his absence didn’t seem to dampen his kids’ spirits.

But the joy on the faces of Mary and her children turned to horror as one rider fell from his horse at the finishing line, right in front of the balcony.

Mary could be seen covering her eyes, unable to watch, her children’s eyes wide, mouths agape as they lay limp on the ground. Paramedics worked on the man before an ambulance raced him to hospital.

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Tiramisu King’s Sweet Dream

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Tiramisu King’s Sweet Dream

Helen Wong’s Tiramisu

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Helen Wong’s Tiramisu
ACTOR Kevin Spacey finally came out last week - in the worst possible circumstances.
The Oscar-winner issued a brief public statement announcing that he "now choose[s] to live as a gay man" and accused the star of groping him at a party in 1986 - when Spacey was 26 and Kass was just 14.
Spacey was widely criticised for his approach to the scandal, with many suggesting he was trying to deflect attention from what would be the first "coming out" case.
Spacey's sexuality had been one of Hollywood's worst-kept secrets for many years.
Way back in the year 2000, a series of photos emerged showing the then-41-year-old and a younger mystery man canoodling at a Los Angeles hiking spot.
In the series of photos, Spacey could be seen at a newsstand before heading to a restaurant, where he met up with the unnamed man. The pair then made their way to a hiking trail, where they were photographed up on the hillside for about an hour.
"During that time, the pair became more physically intimate, with Spacey snuggling the man and laying with his head in his lap," the tabloid publication Star ran the photos at the time, and in a 2014 article, Gawker noted that they were then almost impossible to find online - resorting to buying an original copy of the magazine on eBay to read the full article.
"For two hours, the pair chatted, held hands, cuddled, stroked and massaged each other hidden behind a rock in Oakland Memorial Park near Topanga, close to where Spacey grew up," the original Star article stated.
Star also quoted an "eyewitness" to the encounter, who stated: "It was a very intimate rendezvous. At one point, Kevin's head was in the boy's lap and later the young guy put his arms around Kevin and cuddled him ... Let me put it this way - if my wife saw me with another man like that, she would be divorcing me."
Star magazine published 13 photos in all - which Gawker reprinted in 2014 - and the magazine's editor boasted that there were other images too explicit to print.
"Mr Spacey will be pleased that we left out one or two images that were far more graphic. We showed considerable restraint," Star editor Tony Frost said at the time.
Spacey did not publicly comment when the photos were first published, but his publicist issued the following statement to other outlets: "He has said all he is going to say on the subject and people are going to believe what they want to believe. We don't have any further comment."
"Conjecture about Spacey's sexuality - and his efforts to conceal it - was kickstarted by a 1997 Esquire cover story titled "Kevin Spacey has a secret," which strongly suggested the actor was gay. After the cover hit newsstands, Spacey's agent vowed that none of his other clients would pose for Esquire again.
"Before the Esquire article, Spacey was relatively unguarded about his sexual orientation ... Afterward, however, he was transformed," Maer Roshan later wrote in the New Yorker.
"He began being photographed with a series of attractive women, talking to Playboy about how the gay rumours had improved his sex life ('Women want to be the one to turn me around, I let them ...' and generally proclaiming his heterosexuality to anyone who'd listen," Roshan wrote.
Spacey spotted with a younger mystery man in 2000. Picture: Bauergriffin.com

Spacey and friend go hiking. Picture by: Bauergriffin.com

The pair, with Spacey in white, were photographed getting closer on a secluded part of the hiking trail. Picture by: Bauergriffin.com
EXCLUSIVE 'He couldn't get his genitalia out quick enough': Bartender tells DailyMailTV that Kevin Spacey flashed him while he worked at a hotel when he was 19 and then offered his $6,500 watch to 'keep him quiet'

- Daniel Beal was 19 when he says Spacey flashed him at Goodwood Park Hotel, West Sussex in 2010
- Speaking exclusively to DailyMailTV, Beal says Spacey grabbed his hand and tried to bring it towards his crotch as he exposed himself
- Beal says he was on his smoke break when the actor allegedly exposed himself and he says he reported the incident to the hotel's front desk
- However, Spacey returned to the bar after the alleged incident and traded his $6,500 watch for the then teen's Iswatch
- It is the latest in a string of allegations against the House of Cards star

By JESSICA FINN FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 08:41 AEDT, 8 November 2017 | UPDATED: 09:44 AEDT, 8 November 2017

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EXCLUSIVE: Kevin Spacey has entered the sex addiction rehab program at The Meadows clinic in Arizona - the SAME clinic where Harvey Weinstein has been getting treatment

Kevin Spacey has checked into $36,000-a-month rehab center in Arizona desert to receive treatment for sex addiction, sources tell DailyMail.com

• House of Cards star has been accused of sexually abusing or harassing a string of men in allegations dating back years,

• He arrived in the center in Wickenburg towards the end of last week

• It was also reported that Harvey Weinstein was seeking treatment at the Meadows. He was seen in disguise at a local eatery in Phoenix

• Spacey 'is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment,' his representatives said in a statement late Wednesday

By RYAN PARRY WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 02:27 AEDT, 7 November 2017 | UPDATED: 07:50 AEDT, 7 November 2017
Shamed Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey has checked into a luxury $36,000-a-month rehab center in the Arizona desert to receive treatment for sex addiction, so DailyMail.com.

The elite Meadows clinic is popular among celebrities and has treated stars Tiger Woods, Elle Macpherson, Kate Moss and Selena Gomez.

Last week it was reported that alleged serial assaulter Harvey Weinstein was also seeking treatment at the Meadows. He was seen in disguise at a local eatery in Phoenix.

It's believed the American Beauty actor, 58, who has been accused of sexually abusing or harassing a string of men in allegations dating back years, arrived in the center in Wickenburg towards the end of last week.

Spacey's 'is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment,' his representatives said in a statement late Wednesday.

DailyMail.com has reached out to Spacey's reps for comment.

The Meadows claims to have the best sex addiction treatment program in the US.

Spacey, who came out as gay after the first allegation against him emerged, will be able to take part in horse riding, yoga, tai chi, acupuncture and 'mindfulness meditation' at the clinic.

The impressive facility boasts a fitness center, a swimming pool and relaxation areas.

The center runs a 45-day treatment program for sex addicts called the 'Gentle Path' under which patients undergo counseling and 'expressive arts' to try and deal with their issues.

Their website states: 'In a safe and nurturing community composed of their peers, men are guided on their journey of recovery by examining the underlying causes of addiction and co-occurring disorders.'

The goal is for these individuals to gain the courage to face difficult issues, grief and loss; heal from emotional trauma; and become accountable for their feelings, behaviors, and recovery.

Spacey is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp said that he had come onto him when he was just 14-years-old, after a party at Spacey's home, when they were the only ones in the apartment.

He said the actor had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride,' and then lay down on top of him in the alleged 1986 incident.
Last week it was reported that Harvey Weinstein was also seeking treatment at the Meadows. He was seen in disguise at a local eatery in Phoenix.
The center runs a 45-day treatment program for sex addicts called the 'Gentle Path' under which patients undergo counseling and 'expressive arts' to try and deal with their issues.

Their website states: 'In a safe and nurturing community composed of their peers, men are guided on their journey of recovery by examining the underlying causes of addiction and co-occurring disorders.'
Netflix removed Spacey from the cover photo of House of Cards on the heels of news that the company was cutting all ties to the actor and substituted co-star Robin Wright.

Spacey said the story 'horrified' him and said he didn't recall the encounter, but said he apologized 'if I did behave then as he describes.'

Since then, a claim has emerged that Spacey made a 'gesture and remark' on the set of the first season of House of Cards in 2012 that resulted in him undergoing a 'training process'.

And on Friday another three claims were fired at the Oscar-winner - one of them involving a teenager, another one claiming that he grabbed a man's penis and chased him around a club, and the third saying he got an assistant to request sex on set.

And this past weekend the son of Richard Dreyfuss alleged that Spacey groped him when he was 18 years old in 2008, when he was a high school senior.
Harry Dreyfuss (left), the son of Oscar-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss, has written an account of how Kevin Spacey allegedly groped him when he was 18 years old. Kris Nixon claimed Spacey groped him twice in a week and told him he perform a sex act 'better than your girlfriend'.

Netflix removed Spacey from the cover photo of House of Cards on the heels of news that the company was cutting all ties to the actor.

The previous poster for the long-running political drama featured Spacey's character of Frank Underwood and Robin Wright's Claire Underwood.

The current cover photo features a still of just Wright, wearing a black coat and looking into the distance.

In addition, the overview section of the show's page features a still of Claire Underwood sitting in the Oval Office chair.

The company announced Friday night that it wouldn't make House of Cards as long as Spacey was involved, and that it was dropping a biopic of writer Gore Vidal that he had been set to star in amid more claims of inappropriate behavior.

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment claims
Kevin Spacey stands accused of aggressively pursuing a 14-year-old boy, Anthony Rapp, at a party in 1986, including carrying him to his bed and climbing on top of him.

Rita Panahi Blog Posts

Sleazy Hollywood knew about Spacey

Rita Panahi, Herald Sun  
November 8, 2017 11:38am

The Hollywood cesspit may be even more putrid than we suspected.

Just as we were coming to terms with the extent of Harvey Weinstein's predatory behaviour — with the list of women allegedly assaulted growing to more than 80 — the industry has again been rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct, this time against a child, by much-loved and respected Hollywood A-lister Kevin Spacey.

Rumours of children being sexually abused in the entertainment world are nothing new but they have rarely been given weight by the powerful elite that dominates the industry.

When former child actor Corey Feldman went on The View to share his experiences of being sexually abused, he was scolded by TV doyen Barbara Walters, who accused him of "damaging an entire industry".

Sleazy Hollywood knew about Spacey | Herald Sun

COMMENTS 24

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simen

hollywood sleaze, oh and a lefty.

Nov 29, 2017

Like | Reply

chris

What about Bill Shorten's alleged rape. Where is the hue and cry over that. He seems to have got off scot free and he may be the next leader of the country. Lots have some investigative journalism please.

Nov 12, 2017

Like | Reply

Dee

I really don't care what he's done, he is a brilliant actor.

Nov 11, 2017

Like | Reply

Gary

Of course they knew, and did zero about it. Now the cat is out of the bag they will get all 'holier than thou' and portably make a movie about it. What a bunch of hypocrites.

Nov 11, 2017

Like | Reply

Paul

Just a few more candidates for standing ovations, oh Mary?

Nov 11, 2017

Like | Reply

ross

Yes we get fake outrage from Steve and her cronies about the President of the USA but nothing about scum like these blakes. You have no credibility now Mary!

Nov 13, 2017

Like | Reply

Stuart

Spare us your fake sympathy too.

Nov 10, 2017

Like | Reply

Val

@Stuart Not that many are of the right. Most of the aorded ones party with the left.

Nov 12, 2017

Like | Reply

Tem

Hollywood have considered themselves above it all for far too long, most of us can spot a sleazea easily and Spacey is just the tip of the iceberg.
Tip of the iceberg for sanctimonious hypocrisy: Best to just stick with the drugs and zip it.

Mark
Nov 6, 2017
The Hollywood elite's virtue-signalling, hand-wringing and moralising at every self-congratulatory occasion must surely stop now. Mustn't it? They feel a divine right to criticise and scorn the world at large because they know better but, in many cases, have been complicit in a cover-up of such gargantuan proportions, it rivals the wrong-doings and cover-up perpetrated by another institution - the Catholic Church. The sexual predators will now be googling their own name every hour or so and wondering when they'll be outed. Good. I trust that this particular swamp will be drained in its entirety...

Michael
Nov 6, 2017
Sounds like Hollywood also knew about Weinstein. Question remains, why didn't these women and children stand up for themselves at the time & why didn't the parents do anything about it?

Val
@Michael
Nov 12, 2017
Money is the root of all evil.

Now where have I heard that before?
On no not the bible, don't tell me the bible is right.
Heaven forbid.

James
Nov 6, 2017
Kevin Spacey really is Frank Underwood... I HOORAY for Hollywood - but hard to have loads of sympathy for those who seek fame, fortune & celebrity then find those they idolise are a long, long way from ideal.

linda
Nov 9, 2017
I'm so glad that all of this is starting to come out we can now see that a lot of these so called Hollywood actors and legends that have been put on pedestals are nothing but sleazy sexual predators and pedophiles and for the people who protected them they are no better.

Jimmy G
@linda @Val Yes - why do they think they are? People?

Val
@Jimmy G @linda
Nov 12, 2017
I hate to tell you Jimmy G but there are genuine people that do the right thing by their congregation in all churches. Sadly it was used by pedophiles to enable them to get close to children, just as they infuriated the scouting movement, school and yes even parliaments.

Kieran
Nov 8, 2017
Hollywood is big business and in business there's very little morality just power lust and more profit.

Baby Driver star reveals what it was really like working with Kevin Spacey

KEVIN Spacey has been branded a "bully" by one of his Baby Driver co-stars, who claims he "lost all respect" for the actor after working with him.

Claire Spellberg

Baby Driver star Jon Bernthal claims Kevin Spacey was a 'bully' on set. Source: Getty Images

BABY Driver actor Jon Bernthal is the latest star to speak out about Kevin Spacey's alleged misconduct.

While the Marvel's The Punisher lead didn't witness any sexual harassment or abuse, the actor told Sirius XM's Jim Norton and Sam Roberts that he was "enormously disappointed" after seeing Spacey mistreat members of the film's cast and crew.

"Going on to that set and working with him [Spacey], I wasn't there much, and I wasn't really in a situation to judge, but when I was there, he really rubbed me the wrong way," Bernthal said. "I thought he was a bit of a bully. I didn't really care for the way he was behaving toward the other people on set."

When Norton pushed Bernthal about the nature of Spacey's behaviour, asking whether it was "sexually motivated or aggressive," Bernthal replied that it seemed to be a combination of both. "He was acting toward people, in a way that I remember at the time thinking. 'Man, if that were a woman he was talking to, I would've said something,'" the Punisher star elaborated.

Bernthal didn't go into detail about what exactly Spacey did or said to their fellow cast and crew members, but his comments indicate that the bulk of the House of Cards star's anger was directed toward their male counterparts.

Although Bernthal notes that he "did not see anything like some of the allegations that have come up against" Spacey, such as the sexual assault allegations levied by...
Working with Woody's 'privilege': Baldwin

'He threatened to gouge my eyes out': Dennis Redman charged with DUI

McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

It's just the latest damaging story to surface about Spacey. Bernthal 'lost all respect' for Spacey. Photo: Andy Kropa/Invision/AP Source:AP

Anthony Rapp and other men, the actor explains that his experience on the Baby Driver set was ultimately a negative one.

Despite once being a big fan of Spacey's, Bernthal was "happy to get out of there [the set] for that reason ... The kind of man he was when I saw him, working with him, made me lose all respect for him."

This story originally appeared in Decider and has been republished here with permission.
Former TV anchor says Spacey sexually assaulted her son

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
PUBLISHED: 04:35 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | UPDATED: 08:30 AEDT, 9 November 2017

BOSTON (AP) - A former TV news anchor said Wednesday that Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her teenage son last year at a Nantucket restaurant, adding to mounting allegations of misconduct against the "House of Cards" actor.

Heather Unruh said her son, who was 18 at the time, was "star struck" during a chance encounter with Spacey at Club Car Restaurant's crowded bar in July 2016. Unruh said Spacey bought her son "drink after drink" and then stuck his hand down the drunk teen's pants and grabbed his genitals.

Unruh said her son panicked and froze while Spacey insisted he come with him to a private after-hours party to drink with him more.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-5063119/Former-TV-anchor-says-Spacey-sexually-assaulted-son.html
Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh speaks Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, in Boston, about the alleged sexual assault of her teenage son by actor Kevin Spacey in the summer of 2016 on Nantucket. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

Spacey ultimately left to use the bathroom and the teen ran away at the urging of a nearby woman who could tell he was shaken, Unruh said. Unruh's son ran back to his grandmother's house, woke up his sister and called his mother, who joined them in Nantucket the next day, she said.

Unruh said her son didn't report the assault at the time because he was embarrassed and scared. Her family was emboldened to come forward now that others have gone public with allegations of sexual misconduct against Spacey and other celebrities, she said.

"To Kevin Spacey, I want to say this: Shame on you for what you did to my son," Unruh said, flanked by her daughter and lawyer Mitchell Garabedian, who has represented hundreds of clergy sexual abuse victims.

A lawyer for Spacey didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday. A publicist said last week that Spacey is "taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment."

Unruh said the teen filed a report with police last week, and she said a criminal investigation has begun. She said her son has turned over evidence to authorities, but her attorney said they could not elaborate on what he provided.

Nantucket Police Chief Bill Pittman said Massachusetts law doesn't allow them to confirm or deny a report of sexual assault.
Cape & Islands Assistant District Attorney Tara Miltimore said a person has provided information to police about an "indecent assault and battery" and that authorities are waiting to hear from the person's attorney.

Garabedian said he is conducting his own investigation and did not say whether they intend to file civil action against Spacey.

Unruh said her son had never met Spacey before the encounter, and Garabedian said they don't know why Spacey was on the island at the time.

She said her son continues to struggle with the emotional effects of the encounter. The teen, who was not named during the press conference, asked her to speak publicly on his behalf, she said.

"He's committed to doing what he can to stop Kevin Spacey from victimizing anyone else," she said.

Since actor Anthony Rapp first went public with accusations against Spacey late last month, several other men have come forward with stories of harassment and assault.

The mounting allegations caused Netflix to cut ties with the actor and suspend production on its sixth season indefinitely. The company also scuttled its Gore Vidal biopic, with Spacey starring as the author.

In a recent interview with BuzzFeed, Rapp said Spacey made sexual advances on him during a party in 1986, when he was 14. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed and climbed on top of him, Rapp said. Rapp said then-26-year-old Spacey was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment.

Spacey has said he doesn't remember the encounter but apologized if such "drunken behavior" occurred.

Harry Dreyfuss, the son of actor Richard Dreyfuss, also has said that Spacey groped him in 2008 when he was 18 while his father was rehearsing a play at Spacey's London apartment.

London police said have also said have begun investigating an alleged 2008 sexual assault reportedly linked to Spacey.

Associated Press reporter Michelle Smith contributed to this report from Providence, Rhode Island.

Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh holds back tears while speaking Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, in Boston, about the alleged sexual assault of her teenage son by actor Kevin Spacey in the summer of 2016 on Nantucket. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)
Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh wipes tears while speaking Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, in Boston, about the alleged sexual assault of her teenage son by actor Kevin Spacey in the summer of 2016 on Nantucket. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

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http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wireap/article-5063119/Former-TV-anchor-says-Spacey-sexually-assaulted-son.html
Ex-news reader says Spacey assaulted son

Rebecca Rubin
Thursday, 9 November 2017 4:49PM

Former US news anchor Heather Unruh says her teenage son was assaulted by actor Kevin Spacey.

Longtime Boston television journalist Heather Unruh has accused Kevin Spacey of sexually assaulting her son at a Massachusetts bar last summer.

Unruh, former news anchor for ABC affiliate WCVB, said Spacey provided her 18-year-old son with numerous drinks before reaching down his pants and grabbing his genitals. Her son told Spacey he was 21, Unruh said.
"I want to see Kevin Spacey go to jail," Unruh told reporters during a press conference Wednesday.

"I want to see Kevin Spacey have the hand of justice come down on him, not just for my son but for the many others who have yet to speak their truth."

Variety has reached out to Spacey's reps for comment.

Unruh said an unidentified woman witnessed the incident and "told him to run" when Spacey went to the bathroom of the Nantucket establishment.

Shortly after the alleged event occurred last summer, Unruh said she informally spoke with the Nantucket sheriff and only officially reported the matter last week. Police are now conducting an investigation, she said.

Mitchell Garabedian, Unruh's son's lawyer, attended the news conference and said Spacey was within the statute of limitations for both civil and criminal claims. Garabedian said he is conducting his own investigation.

Unruh first alluded to the incident in a tweet October 13.

"The #weinsteinscandal has emboldened me— #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes fell," she wrote.
Since Anthony Rapp came forward on October 29 to accuse Spacey of sexual misconduct 31 years ago, multiple allegations have continued to surface.

In wake of the news, Netflix has suspended production of the sixth and final season of House of Cards and announced Spacey was cut from the show.

Also on Wednesday, Spacey's co-star on the film Baby Driver, Jon Bernthal, has said publicly that although he was never assaulted by Spacey, he lost all respect for him due to his on-set behaviour.

"I thought he was a bit of a bully... I didn't really care for the way he was behaving toward some of the other people on set," Bernthal told a US radio station.

"I think he was acting toward people in a way where I remember, at the time, thinking, man if that was a woman that he was talking to, I would have done something, I would have said something.

"And I was really happy to sort of get out of there, for that reason."

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celebrity life

Former TV news anchor Heather Unruh says ‘Kevin Spacey abused my teen son’

AN EX TV news anchor says her teen son was sexually assaulted by Kevin Spacey last year as his Baby Driver co-star says he was a “bully” on set.

Staff writers

News Corp Australia Network • NOVEMBER 8, 2017 7:19PM

Former TV news anchor Heather Unruh has held a press conference to reveal allegations that Kevin Spacey, 58, sexually abused her teenage son last year.

Unruh, who first tweeted about the incident in Nantucket on October 13 without naming names, said her then 18-year-old son, Will Little, was in the same nightclub as Spacey in July last year when the actor pined him with alcohol.

“Spacey bought him drinks after drink after drink and when my son was drunk, Spacey made his move and sexually assaulted him,” she said.

Unruh said Spacey stuck his hand in her son’s pants and grabbed his genitalia.

A concerned bystander asked her son if he was ok and he said that he was not. So when Spacey went to the men’s room, Unruh said her son ran away.

She said her son, who is now a 19-year-old college student, “definitely thinks about it and he can’t erase it.”
"It harmed him and it cannot be undone," she said, fighting back tears. I’ve wanted to say something for a very long time. Now the climate in this country is changing. There’s a shift."

Unruh said her son filed a police report last week and provided evidence to Nantucket police.

She also had a message for the actor.

"To Kevin Spacey I want to say this: Shame on you for what you did to my son and shame on you for using your apology to Anthony Rapp to come out as a gay man," she said. "That was an appalling attempt to distract attention away from what you really are: a sexual predator. Your actions are criminal."

Unruh, who is a former news anchor in Boston, was joined by lawyer Mitchell Garabedian, who is best known for representing the victims of the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal.

Heather Unruh
@HeatherUnruh

The #weinsteinsexualharassment has emboldened me— #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes fell.

5:43 AM - Oct 14, 2017
522 Retweets 3,787 Likes 4,703

Unruh first tweeted last month, eight days after The New York Times and New Yorker did pieces on Harvey Weinstein.

"The #weinsteinsexualharassment has emboldened me— #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes fell," she wrote.
On October 29, former Rent star Anthony Rapp said Kevin Spacey climbed on top of him in a bedroom when he was 14 and Spacey was in his 20s.

At least 13 other men have come forward with claims about Spacey.

Spacey is yet to respond to the allegations.

**BABY DRIVER CO-STAR SAYS SPACEY WAS 'A BULLY'**

The Walking Dead star Jon Bernthal says Spacey was "a bit of a bully" when they worked together on Baby Driver.

Bernthal, 41, said he was excited to work with the House of Cards star, but he was left feeling "extremely disappointed" by the star's behaviour.

"Going on to that (Baby Driver) set and working with him, I wasn't there much, but when I was there, he really rubbed me the wrong way," Bernthal said during an interview with SiriusXM's Jim Norton & Sam Roberts. "I thought he was a bit of a bully. I didn't really care for the way he was behaving toward some of the other people on set."
"I think he was acting toward people in a way that I remember at the time thinking, 'Man, if that was a woman that he was talking to, I would've done something, I would've said something'.

I was really happy to sort of get out of there for that reason, and I just remember losing a tonne of respect for him.

"Nowhere did I see anything like some of the allegations that have come up against him.

But I think it would be weak of me to sort of pile on about some s**t that I don't know about, but the kind of man he was when I saw him, working with him, made me lose all respect for him and I was enormously disappointed."

Bernthal played a bank robber named Griff in the critically acclaimed Baby Driver, while Spacey played kingpin Doc.
Former TV news anchor Heather Unruh says 'Kevin Spacey abused my teen son'
'He gave me a cryptic and vague answer': Kevin Spacey's estranged brother had to 'save' him from his father's sexual abuse - and only ONCE hinted at his sexuality 28 years ago

Spacey's career is in freefall following numerous allegations of sexual assault

• His estranged brother Randy Fowler defended him, saying 'it's all allegations'
• Mr Fowler said he saved Spacey from the abuse he endured from their father
• He added that the actor hinted at his sexuality during a conversation in 1989

By KHALED RAHMAN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 17:02 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | UPDATED: 23:14 AEDT, 9 November 2017

Kevin Spacey's estranged brother has insisted he doesn't care about the spiralling allegations against the actor – and urged him to get in touch.

Randy Fowler said he hasn't seen his brother in almost 14 years - and the pair have barely spoken in almost 40 - but he remains determined to reunite with him.

Spacey's career is in freefall following numerous allegations of sexual assault and he is reportedly being investigated by police in London over an alleged assault in 2008.

He has been publicly accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old boy in New York and of making advances towards actor Anthony Rapp when he was 14, 31 years ago.

The allegation led to him being dropped from Netflix hit series House of Cards as well as cut from Ridley Scott's completed film 'All the Money in the World.'

But in an interview that aired on the Kyle and Jackie O show, Mr Fowler defended his brother - and says he saved him from the sexual assault he endured at the hands of their father.

Scroll down for video
Kevin Spacey's estranged brother has insisted he doesn't care about the spiralling allegations against the actor – and urged him to get in touch. Above, Spacey and Mr Fowler in 2003.

'I don't really care about the media and all their allegations,' he said.

'I'm on a quest to get my brother and my family back together. I have to listen to all this and you know, it's all allegations.'

Mr Fowler claimed that he endured years of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of his father to 'save' Spacey from the same fate – but doesn't know if his brother was abused or not.
'I spent many years taking the place of my brother being abused by my father and I took it to protect him, that’s what big brothers do,’ he said.

'I honestly don’t know if anything happened with him,’ he said.

'In 1980, when he went off to Juilliard and I went on my first filming tour, I just never saw him again.'
Mr Fowler says he hasn't heard from the actor in 14 years, but is desperate to reunite
Spacey's career is in freefall following numerous allegations of sexual assault and he is reportedly being investigated by police in London over an alleged assault in 2008.
But Mr Fowler also revealed that Spacey hinted at his sexuality during one of the last conversations they had in 1989.

"I saw him once in 1989, I asked him a question about whether anyone knows about his sexuality and he gave me a cryptic and vague answer," he said.

"I didn't see him for a couple more years and then finally in 1992, my father was very ill and the whole family ended up coming to Seattle.

"I want people to know that I've tried my whole life to have my brother that I had when we were growing up... something happened.'

Mr Fowler says he isn't sure if it was his mother or father - or both - that turned his brother against him.

Kevin Spacey accused of sexually assaulting reporter's son

'Maybe he just decided that he could never come to the realisation that [I saved him] from what could have been an awful life, we just don't know.

'And it's easier for him, just like my mother was, to sweep it under a carpet.' He added: 'I think somewhere in there, there's Kevin Spacey Fowler.

'But what happened when he became Kevin Spacey, that's just a whole different story.'

But despite the years of estrangement, Mr Fowler says all he wants is to be there for his brother.

It's been 14 years since I heard a peep from him so I'm reaching out to him,' he said.

'Where are all the people that protected him for the last 30 years? Their silence is deafening... and I'm reaching out to him.

'I'm hoping that people will get a message to him like, 'dude, your bro wants you to call him.'

He added: 'There's just nothing I can do but just be the brother that he might need right now.

'The man lost his day gig. I'd like to be able to reach out to him just as a brother and because I have many years of experience dealing with this, just being here for a brother could make all the difference for him.

'All that matters is that I get my moment in time with my brother so that we can make this right.

'As my mother's dying wish to bring the brothers back together. It's been 14 years, it's time.'
Kevin Spacey: Former TV anchor Heather Unruh says actor sexually assaulted her teenage son

Updated Thu 9 Nov 2017, 3:53pm

A former TV news anchor has accused Kevin Spacey of sexually assaulting her teenage son at a Nantucket restaurant last year, adding to mounting allegations of misconduct against the House of Cards actor.

Heather Unruh said her son, who was 18 at the time, was "starstruck" during a chance encounter with Spacey at Club Car Restaurant's crowded bar in July 2016.

Ms Unruh said Spacey bought her son "drink after drink" and then stuck his hand down the drunk teen's pants and grabbed his genitals.

She said her son panicked and froze while Spacey insisted he come with him to a private after-hours party to drink with him more.

Spacey ultimately left to use the bathroom and the teen ran away at the urging of a nearby woman who could tell he was shaken, Ms Unruh said.

Ms Unruh's son ran back to his grandmother's house, woke up his sister and called his mother, who joined them in Nantucket the next day, she said.

Ms Unruh said her son did not report the assault at the time because he was embarrassed and scared.

Her family was emboldened to come forward now that others have gone public with allegations of sexual misconduct against Spacey and other celebrities, she said.

"To Kevin Spacey, I want to say this: Shame on you for what you did to my son," Ms Unruh said, flanked by her daughter and lawyer Mitchell Garabedian, who has represented hundreds of clergy sexual abuse victims.

A lawyer for Spacey did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.
'He's committed to stopping Spacey from victimising anyone else'

Ms Unruh said the teen filed a report with police last week, and a criminal investigation had begun.

She said her son has turned over evidence to authorities, but her attorney said they could not elaborate on what he provided.

Nantucket Police Chief Bill Pittman said Massachusetts law does not allow them to confirm or deny a report of sexual assault.

Cape & Islands Assistant District Attorney Tara Millmore said a person had provided information to police about an "indecent assault and battery" and that authorities were waiting to hear from the person’s attorney.

PHOTO: Kevin Spacey is facing mounting allegations of sexual misconduct spanning back to the 1980s. (Reuters: Eduardo Munoz)

Mr Garabedian said he was conducting his own investigation, but did not say whether he intended to file civil action against Spacey.

Ms Unruh said her son had never met Spacey before the encounter, and Mr Garabedian said they did not know why Spacey was on the island at the time.

She said her son continued to struggle with the emotional effects of the encounter.

The teen, who was not named during the press conference, asked her to speak publicly on his behalf, she said.

“He’s committed to doing what he can to stop Kevin Spacey from victimising anyone else," she said.

Spacey scenes cut from new Ridley Scott film

Spacey is also getting cut out of Ridley Scott's finished film All the Money in the World and replaced by Christopher Plummer, just over one month before it is supposed to hit theatres.

People close to the production who were not authorised to speak publicly say Plummer is commencing reshoots immediately in the role of J Paul Getty.

According to the report, all of Spacey's scenes will be reshotted. Co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams are expected to participate.

Scott is intending to keep the film's December 22 release date.

The film was originally set to have its world premiere at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles on November 16, but was pulled earlier this week.
Since actor Anthony Rapp first went public with accusations against Spacey late last month, several other men have come forward with stories of harassment and assault.

The mounting allegations caused Netflix to cut ties with the actor and suspend production on its sixth season indefinitely.

The company also scuttled its Gore Vidal biopic, with Spacey starring as the author.

AP


First posted Thu 9 Nov 2017, 1:01pm
TV anchor alleges Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her teenage son last year

A former US television host has held a press conference to allege that actor Kevin Spacey plied her teenage son with alcohol then sexually assaulted him in a bar last year.

Heather Unruh, a former Boston news anchor, said on Twitter in recent weeks that, in light of the allegations against several powerful Hollywood figures including Kevin Spacey, she would be disclosing allegations involving Spacey and a "loved one".

Former TV anchor says Spacey sexually assaulted her son
Heather Unruh accuses Kevin Spacey of allegedly sexually assaulting her teenage son at a Nantucket restaurant and says the police are investigating.

On Thursday, she fronted cameras flanked by a lawyer, Mitchell Garabedian, and her daughter, Kyla, to add to the explosive allegations of sexual abuse levelled against the House of Cards actor in recent weeks.

Spacey responded to initial allegations from Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp - who said Spacey made sexual advances on him 30 years ago - by saying he couldn’t remember the encounter but was sorry if it happened. He also used the apology to come out as gay.

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Netflix cuts ties with Kevin Spacey after sexual misconduct allegations

Unruh alleged on Thursday that her son was groped in July, 2016 inside the Club Car Restaurant and Bar on Nantucket Island, a small holiday spot off Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

"The victim, my son, was a star-struck, straight, 18-year-old man who had no idea that the famous actor was an alleged sexual predator or that he was about to become his next victim," she said through tears.

Her son was not legally allowed to drink but Spacey bought him "drink after drink after drink" and then, when her son was drunk, he stuck his hand inside her son's pants and grabbed his genitals, Unruh said.

"This was completely unexpected and my son's efforts to shift his body to remove Spacey's hand were only momentarily successful. The violation continued. My son panicked, he froze. He was intoxicated and Kevin Spacey was insisting he come with him to a private after-hours party to drink even more.

Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh alleged that her son was plied with alcohol and sexually assaulted by Kevin Spacey. Photo: AP/Bill Sikes

"Fortunately, Kevin Spacey left briefly to use the bathroom and when he was out of sight, a concerned woman came [up] to my very shaken son's side and asked if he was okay.

"She told him to run and he did. He ran as fast as he could all the way
to his grandmother's house where, upset and afraid, he woke his sister, Kyla, and the two of them called me in the middle of the night."

She said her son, now a college student, was still "bothered" by the incident and the family have had "sleepless nights and tremendous anger and anxiety".

Her son didn't want to report it to police at the time because he was embarrassed and fearful of the kind of attention it may attract. He has since made a statement to police.

"I can assure you that this is not the kind of attention anyone wants, certainly not the kind my son and my family want but the climate in this country has changed now," she said. "Right now, my son is worried but he's also confident that the time to act is now."

Unruh had tweeted about Spacey several times last month, saying that it was "time the dominoes fell."

Spacey has not responded to the allegations but his representatives said last week that he has sought evaluation and treatment.

"The dominoes are falling. My loved one will speak when ready. The headline is #KevinSpacey the #predator—this is not about him being gay.
https://t.co/MWvCb8DkqU"

— HeatherUnruh (@HeatherUnruh) October 30, 2017

Netflix has since severed all ties with him, saying the production of the sixth and final season of House of Cards has been suspended and the film Gore, which was in post-production and was produced by Spacey, will not be released.

Actor Harry Dreyfuss recently alleged that Spacey groped him when he was 18 and his father, Richard Dreyfuss, was in the room.

Fairfax Media

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TV anchor alleges Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her teenage son last year.
US mom says Spacey assaulted son, police investigating

By AFP

PUBLISHED: 06:25 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | UPDATED: 06:26 AEDT, 9 November 2017

Former Boston news anchor Heather Unruh, with her attorney Mitchell Garabedian at a Boston news conference, accuses actor Kevin Spacey of allegedly sexually abusing her son in July 2016

A Massachusetts mother on Wednesday accused Kevin Spacey of sexually assaulting her 18-year-old son on the holiday island of Nantucket last year and said police had opened a criminal investigation.

Former television news anchor Heather Unruh told a news conference in Boston that the double Oscar winner assaulted the teen after plying him with alcohol late at night in a Nantucket bar in July 2016.

Police told AFP that they could not confirm or deny any such report was filed. "Reports of sexual assaults are confidential under Massachusetts General Law," a spokesperson for the police department said.

Unruh described her son at the time as a "star-struck, straight" 18-year-old.

"Kevin Spacey bought him drink after drink after drink, and when my son was drunk, Spacey made his move and sexually assaulted him," she told a news conference in Boston.

"Spacey stuck his hand inside my son's pants and grabbed his genitals," Unruh said. Her intoxicated son, whom she did not name, panicked and froze.

"When the "House of Cards" star left briefly to use the bathroom, he allegedly fled to his grandmother's house, where he allegedly told his sister what had happened.

"Last week my son filed a police report and handed over evidence, and now a criminal investigation has begun," Unruh told reporters.

The scores of women who have accused Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault, and actor Anthony Rapp levelling the first public accusations against Spacey had motivated them to speak publicly now, Unruh said.

"I want to see Kevin Spacey go to jail," she said. "Not just for my son but for the many others," she added.

Unruh said her son did not report the incident at the time "largely because of embarrassment and fear."
Actor Kevin Spacey, seen here at a screening of "House of Cards" in Washington in February 2016, has been booted from the Netflix show amid spiralling sexual assault accusations.

The family lawyer also told reporters Wednesday that his client had spoken to Nantucket police, who were investigating.

Unruh previously alleged via Twitter on October 13 that Spacey had "assaulted a loved one," but had not previously identified that person as her son.

Netflix late week dropped Spacey, its star actor on hit series "House of Cards" whose career is in free-fall over spiraling assault accusations. According to British media, London police are also investigating him for an alleged assault in 2008.

He has been publicly accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old boy in New York and of making advances on actor Anthony Rapp when he was 14 years old, 31 years ago.

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'Shame on you': Former Boston anchor claims Kevin Spacey got her 18-year-old son drunk, reached down his pants and grabbed his genitals last summer

- Heather Unruh has alleged her son was sexually assaulted by Kevin Spacey last summer on Nantucket Island.
  Unruh said her son was at a restaurant when he encountered Spacey, who allegedly bought him several alcoholic drinks.
- She said: 'Kevin Spacey bought him drink after drink after drink. And when my son was drunk, Spacey made his move and sexually assaulted him.'
- The emotional mother then said: 'Kevin Spacey put his hands down my son's pants and grabbed his genitals.'
- Unruh explained while Spacey was in the restroom a woman came up to her son and told him to run away, which he did.
- The former TV journalist said they filed a police report and handed over evidence last week and now cops are investigating.
- Unruh first tweeted the accusation on October 13 saying the actor 'assaulted a loved one' after the Weinstein scandal gave her courage to accuse Spacey.
- Spacey has not commented publicly on Unruh's claim about her son.

By REGINA F. GRAHAM and CHEYENNE ROUNDTREE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 01:58 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | UPDATED: 07:25 AEDT, 9 November 2017
A former longtime Boston television news anchor claims has claimed Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her then-18-year-old son last summer and that police are now investigating the alleged incident.

Heather Unruh revealed the shocking claim during a press conference on Wednesday alongside her daughter and attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who is best known for representing the victims of the Catholic church sex abuse scandal.

While explaining what allegedly happened, Unruh tearfully said: 'In July 2016, Kevin Spacey assaulted my son. It happened late at night in the Club Car restaurant.

'The victim, my son, was a young, starstruck 18-year-old who had no idea this famous actor was an alleged sexual predator or that he was about to become his next victim.

'Kevin Spacey had no right to sexually assault him.'
While explaining what allegedly happened, Unruh tearfully said: "In July 2016, Kevin Spacey assaulted my son... The victim, my son, was a starstruck 18-year-old who had no idea this famous actor was an alleged sexual predator or that he was about to become his next victim."

Unruh said: "... Kevin Spacey (left) put his hands down my son's pants and grabbed his genitals."

Unruh said her son (right) is a sophomore in college.

She claims that her son, who was not of legal drinking age, told the actor that he was in fact old enough to drink alcohol when they met in the restaurant.

'Kevin Spacey bought him drink after drink after drink. And when my son was drunk, Spacey made his move and sexually assaulted him,' she emotionally said.

'... Kevin Spacey put his hands down my son's pants and grabbed his genitals.

'My son panicked, he froze. He was intoxicated.'

Unruh, who did not name her son who was not present at the press conference, said that the actor then left to use the restroom when a concerned woman came to his side and asked if he was okay, to which he said he wasn't.

'She told him to run and he did. He ran as fast as he could, to his grandmother's house. He woke up his sister Kyla and the two of them called me that night here in Boston,' Unruh said tearfully.

The incident allegedly happened at the Club Car (file above) restaurant on Nantucket Island.
She said that her family was encouraged to come forward after dozens of women spoke out publicly to accuse movie producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct. She said: 'I want to see Kevin Spacey go to jail.'
The next morning I joined my family on Nantucket. Nothing could have prepared my son. It harmed him and it can not be undone.

'He has tried his best to deal with it, as he says it's always there and continues to bother him.

'All of us have had sleepless nights and tremendous anger.'

Garabedian and Unruh thanked the unknown woman who encouraged her son to leave the restaurant and asked her to come forward.

'I don't know how much she saw. I don't know if she saw Kevin Spacey put his hand in my son's pants. That much I don't know,' Unruh said. 'What I do know that she saw my son was very shaken.'

Unruh said that her family was encouraged to come forward after dozens of women spoke out publicly to accuse movie producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct.

'I want to see Kevin Spacey go to jail,' Unruh said. 'I want to see Kevin Spacey have the hand of justice come down on him.'

In delivering a message straight to Spacey, Unruh angrily said: 'Shame on you for what you did to my son. And shame on you for using your apology for Anthony Rapp to come out as a gay man.

'That was an appalling attempt to turn attention away from what you actually are - a sexual predator.'

The mother also said that her son did not report the alleged incident to police at the time because of 'embarrassment and fear.'

'He knew the kind of attention he would get about making a public accusation,' she said of coming forward last summer. 'This is not the kind of attention my son or family wanted.

'The climate in this country is changing and there's a shift. There's less victim blaming going on right now.'

"I was really emboldened by the victims in the Harvey Weinstein case. They are astonishingly brave women."

On October 13, Unruh first tweeted that the Weinstein scandal had given her the courage to accuse Spacey, 58, of attacking a loved one.

But she said that her son filed a police report last week and handed over evidence to Nantucket police who are now investigating.
It’s unclear what type of evidence was provided. Unruth also said that she knows of at least one other person on the island who had a similar experience with Spacey.

Spacey has not commented on Unruth’s claim.

Unruth first tweeted the accusation on October 13 saying that the actor ‘assaulted a loved one.’

Unruth, who previously worked at WCVB-TV, tweeted back on October 13 that the Harvey Weinstein sexual assault scandal has emboldened her—#truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes fell.’

More than two weeks later, after several other allegations against Spacey were made public, Unruth tweeted: ‘The dominoes are falling. My loved one will speak when ready. The #headline is #KevinSpacey the #predator- this is not about him being gay.’

Unruth made her damaging claims more than two weeks before Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp got an apology after he said the actor, then 26, tried to seduce him when he was just 14.

At the time, Unruth declined to give any more details about the alleged incident only adding: ‘My intent was to encourage a badly needed investigation and conversation’ and used the hashtag #It’sNotOk.

She told The Boston Globe on October 13 that the alleged incident involving Spacey and her relative happened at a restaurant where the actor did something under a table that was ‘completely unexpected, completely inappropriate.’
Unruh first made her damaging claims more than two weeks before Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp got an apology after he said Spacey, then 26, tried to seduce him when he was just 14.

She did not provide further details, but told the Globe: 'If a woman who saw what happened didn't tell [the alleged victim] to run while Spacey got up to go to the bathroom, I don't even want to think about what would've happened.'

The Oscar-winner is facing growing allegations of sexually assaulting teenage boys.

Spacey says he is now 'taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment' after the latest round of sex assault allegations and DailyMail.com has learned that he has checked into The Meadows facility in Arizona, the same facility where Harvey Weinstein has sought treatment.

Spacey's downfall started in late October when actor Anthony Rapp accused him of making a sexual advance towards him in 1986 when he was 14 and Spacey was 26. His claim has been followed by others making similar accusations.

'He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold,' Rapp told BuzzFeed News. 'But I don't squirm away initially, because I'm like, 'What's going on?'' And then he lays down on top of me.

'He was trying to seduce me,' the Star Trek: Discovery actor added. 'I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.'

The House of Cards star apologized to Rapp on October 29, saying he did not remember the incident after more than 30 years.

He said in a statement: 'But if I did behave as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior.'

He then claimed that Rapp's claim 'has encouraged me to address other things in my life,' saying that though he had had relationships with both men and women, 'I choose now to live as a gay man.'

He was immediately slammed by gay activists for only coming out in a bid to divert attention from the severity of his alleged actions. Sarah Kate Ellis, President of the LGBTQ group GLAAD said he only revealed he is gay 'to deflect from allegations of sexual assault.'

Spacey, who was aged 26 at the time, allegedly invited Rapp to his apartment for a party in 1986. Rapp said that he went to watch TV in Spacey's bedroom until after midnight because he became bored. Spacey is pictured above in 1986 in Heartburn.
'This isn't a coming out story about Spacey, but a story of survivorship by Anthony Rapp & those who speak out about unwanted sexual advances,' Ellis tweeted.

Lesbian writer Jenny Hagel said on Late Night With Seth Meyers: 'I have a lot of problems with Kevin Spacey's statement.

'It is inappropriate to respond to an accusation of pedophilia by saying I'm gay,' she added, saying his statement appeared to be 'justification for a crime.'

And gay advice columnist Dan Savage tweeted: 'I'm sorry, Mr. Spacey, but your application to join the gay community at this time has been denied.'

Since Rapp made his allegations, Spacey has been hit by at least 10 other claims. Richard Dreyfuss' son Harry called him 'a sexual predator' in an article he wrote for BuzzFeed.
Kevin Spacey to be edited out of finished movie

11th Nov 2017 6:31 AM

by Andrew Bucklow

IN WHAT'S being called an "unprecedented move", Kevin Spacey will be replaced in his upcoming movie after scenes featuring him had already been filmed.

Kevin Spacey plays billionaire John Paul Getty in All the Money in the World, which is set to be released in the US on December 22.

But director Ridley Scott has decided to recast Spacey's role and replace him in the film with Christopher Plummer.

Second actress accuses Gossip Girl star of rape
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Scott made the decision himself according to Deadline as he didn't want his movie to be tarnished by Spacey's inclusion given the recent sexual assault allegations that have been levelled at the actor.

It's been reported that Spacey's co-stars in the film, Michelle Williams and Mark Wahlberg, have agreed to return to work to reshoot scenes featuring Spacey.

The film is based on the true story of the kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III in 1973 and the desperate attempt by his mum to convince his billionaire grandfather to pay the ransom.

Scott is still hoping to release his movie on schedule.

The announcement came just hours after one of Kevin Spacey's co-stars from Baby Driver revealed that the actor was a "bully" on set.

Jon Bernthal told Sirius XM's Jim Norton and Sam Roberts that he was "enormously disappointed" with how Spacey treated others when they were making the movie.

"When I was there, he really rubbed me the wrong way. I thought he was a bit of a bully. I didn't really care for the way he was behaving toward the other people on set."

Christopher Plummer will replace Kevin Spacey in the movie.

EU chiefs ready for May exit by January

SECOND CABINET MINISTER IN A WEEK FORCED OUT
EU leaders are preparing for the May exit by January. Britain's Prime Minister was forced to resign after a cabinet revolt

EU leaders are preparing for the May exit by January. Britain's Prime Minister was forced to resign after a cabinet revolt.

Pop star resists the Swift flow of streaming

Three years later, Australian pop star Taylor Swift is challenging the big music labels that control streaming services. Her latest album, "Folklore," is available exclusively on her own label, "MILLIONTEAMS.

Taylor Swift appears to be fighting back against the major record labels that control streaming services. Her latest album, "Folklore," is available exclusively on her own label, "MILLIONTEAMS.

Smog shuts schools across north India

New Delhi schools closed as severe smog shrouds the capital, prompting students to stay indoors for fear of breathing problems. The capital's air quality has been worst in years, with schools closing in anticipation of worst-case scenarios.

Human brain cells implanted into rodents

UNSDIS Human brain tissue has been transplanted into rats, a breakthrough that could lead to new treatments for neurological disorders. The cells were transplanted into the brains of young rats, which showed signs of improved cognitive function.

Race to reshoot Getty scenes as Spacey erased from film

Los Angeles is in uproar over the reshoot scenes with Kevin Spacey. The actor was originally cast in the Getty museum scenes, but was replaced after allegations of sexual misconduct.

Spencer has been cast as the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in the biopic "The First Man." The biopic is directed by Damien Chazelle and stars Ryan Gosling as the astronaut Neil Armstrong.
Kevin Spacey erased from upcoming Ridley Scott flick as personal brand turns toxic

By John Glenday
10 November 2017 08:30am

Celebrity director Ridley Scott has moved to disassociate himself from disgraced actor Kevin Spacey as Hollywood's elite vow not to touch the toxic former star with a bargepole for fear of association.

Spacey's fall from grace is summed up by his treatment by Scott in All the Money in the World, a completed film documenting a real-life hostage case involving industrialist J Paul Getty. Despite landing the role of Getty himself Spacey is to be unceremoniously expunged just six weeks out from release to be replaced by Christopher Plummer.
The ruthless move will come as a major blow to Spacey's hopes of rehabilitation with the Sony's Studios produced film expected to be a contender at next year's Oscars.

Spacey's reputation as a doyen of the acting world has been shredded since allegations made by actor Anthony Rapp that he had been subjected to sexual advances when he was still a 14-year old boy. In a disastrous response to the scandal Spacey then came out as gay in an attempt to deflect criticism but merely further fanned the flames of outrage for having apparently equated paedophilia with homosexuality.

Further allegations from other men, including from the set of House of Cards, since cancelled by Netflix, have prompted Spacey to duck out of the limelight and seek 'evaluation and treatment'.

In recent days both Festival Bits and Poirotels have disassociated themselves from the actor.

This article is about: North America, Kevin Spacey, Ridley Scott, Entertainment, Media, Marketing

Source: The Times

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Marketing can change the world
Fame allows so much but not total immunity

CHRISTY LEE

The Secret Life of Kevin Spacey

Fame brings with it a sense of responsibility, as Kevin Spacey is visibly vulnerable to the relentless grind of the film industry. The actor's quote, "I want to play the good guy," is a prominent theme as he navigates the commercial demands of Hollywood in the 1990s. Spacey's life on and off the screen becomes a central focus, with close-ups of his career highlights, including his role in "House of Cards." The narrative explores his dual identity, both as a dedicated actor and as a leader in the entertainment industry.

The more he succeeded, he played with House of Cards, the worse he located. It just pushed him over the top.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Anthony, Hugo, who's been gone for the last four years, we won't forget you. May we obtain the theme music you've composed, and may we use it in our film "The Secret Life of Kevin Spacey."

The odds of finding a life partner favour men more as they notch up passing years

The觉得 around the country differ but older single women tend to emphasize the biases

SALT LAKE CENSUS

and women of America. I have an important announcement - the results of the Utah Census - a table that shows the varying demographics of single and married women. Women are more likely to be married and bear children, whereas men have a higher likelihood of staying single. The data reveals a significant disparity in the average age of marriage between men and women. The one with the higher average age of marriage is the woman. Men tend to marry at an older age than women, which has implications for the relationship dynamics in later life.

We scanned the data to find the oldest and youngest women at the bottom of single women. We found that single women are more likely to have a higher average age of marriage, which may influence their relationship status. The results indicate that older single women are more likely to have difficulty finding a life partner, which is a significant factor in later life satisfaction.

The implications of this data are significant for policymakers and social workers. It highlights the need for targeted interventions to support older single women in maintaining their independence and well-being. The data also underscores the importance of addressing the social and economic factors that influence the decision to remain single, particularly for women.
Inside Kevin Spacey's £2.3m London apartment where star held wild, late-night parties with male actors - but hasn't been seen there since sex scandal broke

Spacey has not been seen at his London apartment since his sex scandal broke
- Actor bought the property in 2009 while he was artistic director of The Old Vic
- He replaced flat's modern door with one from Old Vic to make him feel at home
- Neighbours said he would hold wild parties late at night attended by male actors

By SHEKHAR BHATIA FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 03:06 AEDT, 11 November 2017 | UPDATED: 06:07 AEDT, 11 November 2017

This is the £2.3m London apartment where scandal-hit Kevin Spacey held wild, late-night parties, mostly attended by male actors, MailOnline can reveal.

The fallen star, who is said to have received sex addiction rehab at The Meadows clinic in Arizona, has not been seen at the luxury apartment since he was accused of sexually abusing or harassing a string of men in allegations dating back years.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5070593/Spacey-2-3m-London-flat-held-late-night-parties.html
Sources said Spacey, 58, first rented a duplex apartment on the 21st and 22nd floors of the building, but the views did not suit him.

The former artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre bought the 2,547sq foot, 1 bedroom apartment which offered him views of the Houses of Parliament ar London Eye from the same floor in 2009.

The actor renovated the apartment to suit his bachelor life style and splashed out on lavish furniture and theatrical artefacts, installing his own private art collection.
Bolthole: This is the £2.3m London apartment where Kevin Spacey held wild, late night parties, mostly attended by male actors. He made himself more at home at the property by replacing the flat's modern door with a stage door as his front door from the Old Vic (pictured)
Spacious: He bought the flat (similar to the one pictured) in 2009 while he was artistic director of The Old Vic Theatre in central London with panoramic views across the city.

Sources said Spacey, 58, first rented a duplex apartment (similar to the one pictured) on the 21st and 22nd floors of the building, but the views did not suit him.
Neighbours said Spacey is discreet while he is there. One said, 'He could be gone for ages and then you'd see him every day and he always preferred to wear a black Kangol baseball hat.'
And he made himself feel more at home by installing a stage door as his front from the Old Vic.

The wooden door to the apartment was brought after Spacey had received permission from the building's freeholders before being allowed to install it.

Some residents complained it looked out of place amid the modern décor of the sky scraper, but the actor won over the building's owners for his plan.

Neighbours said Spacey keeps a low profile when he is staying in the apartment.

One said: 'He could be gone for ages and then you'd see him every day and he always preferred to wear a black Kangol baseball hat.

'He'd ask for his driver to drop him right at the front and he'd use his fob to take the lift upstairs. He had two parking spaces beneath the building, but I never saw him use them.

'But then on some occasions he'd be just like everybody else and walk out of the front door and down to Waterloo.'
Claims: Three actors came forward claiming they were sexually assaulted by the star while he was artistic director at The Old Vic Theatre
Spacey's London home was put into the name of an off shore company in 2012 by Spacey and his name does not appear as the owner.

'But he'd have pretty wild parties and there was a lot of drink. These parties were attended by mostly men, but there was never any trouble or anything like that. They'd just go on into the early hours and they were noisy sometimes."

'But I put it down to his theatrical background and the need to rave despite his age. Many of the young men were aged 18 or 19 and I felt they hung on his every word because of his fame.

'The residents weren't ordinarily invited. It was mostly young men on the guest list. I hardly ever saw women.'

'His London home was put into the name of an off shore company in 2012 by Spacey and his name does not appear as the owner.

Property agent Joseph Cadman, of Prime London, said: 'To have such views in a central location is very rare - penthouses are highly sought-after and we have acted on several in the building between £2m and £4m.

'But I am sorry I cannot talk about any of our clients and their properties except to say it is a very happy place to live and one of the best locations in London.'

MailOnline obtained pictures of the flat which is up for sale and the stunning views it offers which are the same that can be enjoyed from Spacey's home.

But the resident added: 'Yes it was great having a famous name in the house because it meant our properties were worth a little bit more.

'But to be honest we are not sure when or if we will see him again because of all the controversy around him. His world seems to have come to an end.'

Actor Anthony Rapp accused Spacey of trying to seduce him in 1986 when Rapp was 14. Spacey has said he does not remember the incident but has apologized. According to his representatives he is seeking unspecified treatment.
Axed: Since the claims emerged, entertainment giant Netflix has severed ties with Spacey, who has also been cut from the Hollywood blockbuster 'All the Money in the World' (pictured).

Entertainment giant Netflix has severed ties with the actor, star of its House of Cards show, amid a number of sex assault allegations against him.

The company also said it would not release Spacey's film about writer Gore Vidal.

He has also been cut from the Hollywood blockbuster 'All the Money in the World'.

The beleaguered actor is said to be in rehab in Arizona and could be forgiven for hoping one day he will be able to enjoy the sanctuary of his luxury London pad.
Spacey scandal unleashes toxic wildfire in Hollywood

Kevin Spacey at Wallis Annenberg Centre for the Performing Arts last year. Picture: Weingart

CHRISTY ILEY, THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM November 11, 2017

Fame is toxic. It requires a sense of responsibility, as Kevin Spacey is now learning.

The actor has been removed from the Sony movie *All the Money in the World* even though it is due to be released in six weeks. He has been removed from his lead role as Francis Underwood in *House of Cards* and Netflix is no longer working with him. Gore, in which he plays Gore Vidal, also has hit the dust. He has been fired by his agency,CAA, as well as his long-time publicist, Staci Wolfe, which signals they clearly believe his career as an A-list actor—or any kind of actor—is over.

The moral of the tale is you can’t sexually assault young men and teenagers, particularly from inside the closet, and get away with it. No, no, no, not in this post-Weinstein age of Hollywood.

British publicist and fame guru Mark Borkowski, author of *The Fame Formula*, says scandals of similar proportion have been going on in Hollywood since the words silver and screen appeared together.

the old days, at the hint of a scandal, the star would be put on an ocean liner and six weeks later, by the time they had reached their destination, the scandal would be over,” he says. “But in the days of instant media, it’s different. Whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty? Now it seems they are guilty until proven innocent, and the trial is by the media itself.”

What does he think of *All the Money in the World* being restructured with Christopher Plummer replacing Spacey as John Paul Getty? “Hollywood is no longer the land of dreams but the land of corporate finance. Once they worked out that no one would want to see the movie with Spacey in it, technology means he could be instantly replaced by Christopher Plummer.”

Kevin Spacey as Jean Paul Getty in a screen grab from a trailer for *All the Money in the World*. Picture supplied.

Sony must be pleased with itself — there’s no need for a marketing budget because a few weeks ago no one knew much about this movie based on Getty — the richest man in the world — refusing to pay the ransom when his grandson John Paul Getty III had been kidnapped. Now everybody knows about it.

Reportedly 87-year-old Plummer was director Ridley Scott’s first choice for the role but Scott was told he needed a bigger star. Now he’s playing it like Sony is standing by him. Sony obviously felt it had too much to lose because who in the world would pay to see a pedophile play John Paul Getty? Word on the Hollywood streets is Spacey not only deserves to lose his career but should be castrated.

What started with Harvey Weinstein certainly didn’t end there. Weinstein allegedly sexually harassed and assaulted women who worked for him or who he wished to cast in movies. Spacey fiddled about with children. See — much worse. No one’s going to forgive him. They’ve heard enough evidence that is condemning.

I’ve never been an advocate of the #metoo stance — one person comes out and makes the accusation, then others who have been abused feel comfortable doing the same.


As artistic director of London’s Old Vic theatre from 2004 to 2015, Spacey was socially active in London, still denying he was a gay man. Gay men that I knew in their late 20s and early 30s felt flattered when he touched their bottom in the Groucho Club. They’d been touched by an Oscar winner, a Tony winner, a Hollywood star. They felt elevated. This is how yesterday’s flattery is today’s disgust.

The Hollywood gay community is voicing its disapproval of Spacey. Because he didn’t come out, they feel it gave gay haters and the Christian right the chance to say this Hollywood star was ashamed and embarrassed about being gay, therefore everyone should be.

But what is angering them now is the fact gayness has been linked with pedophilia. The timing of his coming out has been met with a scathing response — that is, after Spacey had already been accused of sexually harassing Anthony Rapp when the *Star Trek: Discovery* actor was 14. If Spacey hoped to find warmth in the arms of the gay community, he was mistaken.

Wolfe, before she felt it was impossible to continue representing Spacey, said last week he was “taking time to seek evaluation and treatment”. This speaks volumes. It’s very rare that both agent and publicist would drop a client so immediately.

Being replaced in a movie six weeks from release that will miss its American premiere, however much it’s a marketing exec’s dream, is pretty serious. So is being fired from *House of Cards*, the now-suspended Netflix thriller that has so dominated the Emmys and Golden Globes since 2014.

I loved *House of Cards*. I loved the way Spacey’s character, Francis Underwood, was so manipulative, cruel, underhand, ruthless and without morals, and now it turns out he was just playing himself. Do I feel personally cheated? Yes I do. Because I no longer feel I’m seeing acting that makes me ache it’s so good. I feel I’m seeing just another side of a very sleazy man.

### The more success he had with *House of Cards*, the worse he became

It also irks me that I mistook Spacey for an intelligent man — his gayness was an open secret. Nothing he would ever talk about or admit to. I thought it was quite clever that he never allowed his sexuality to define his roles. Yet last week when Rapp alleged that when he was 14 in 1986 Spacey had sexually assaulted him, Spacey chose that moment to release the statement that he was gay. “I choose now to live as a gay man.” It was the “now” word that got me. Like overnight he’s suddenly gay. Like he was ever not gay.

Anthony Rapp earlier this year. Picture: AFP

In the same sentence he said he couldn’t remember the encounter with Rapp more than 30 years ago. Perhaps he couldn’t remember because there were so many. He knew that his game was up and other boys would make their allegations. And still he did nothing. He just waited for the sleaze to hit the fan.

And #metoo to come into play. After the first teenager, there were two more and a third who didn’t want to be named. Then eight current or former *House of Cards* workers complained that Spacey made the production a toxic workplace, with one of them alleging sexual assault.

Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright in Netflix’s *House of Cards*. Picture: Nathaniel Bell.

Another personal source from *House of Cards* says that regardless of his sexuality no one liked him. “It was all about him,” he says. “He didn’t care about anybody else and the more success he had with *House of Cards*, the worse he became. It just pushed him over the top, so I guess that means the harder he fell.”

Jon Bernthal, an actor who had admired Spacey, says his behaviour on the set of *Baby Driver* was also reprehensible. Not in a sexual way; he was just rude and a bully. “Working with him made me lose all respect for him, and I was enormously disappointed,” he says.

And this is the new Hollywood. We no longer apparently tolerate bullies, yet bullying goes on every day. I’ve seen an A-list actress with her personal assistant in a celebrity shoe shop on the Sunset Plaza. The star in question refused to speak directly to the sales assistant and barked orders at her PA. It was abusive. Her assistant simply shrugged and got on with it.

Hollywood personal assistants are well paid. Is that the point? That money solves everything and if your pay cheque is high enough, it’s OK to be abused? Certainly the pay for an A-list actor is millions of dollars. Does that mean they
are also abused? Or does that mean that they are entitled to give out millions of dollars’ worth of abuse, sexual or otherwise?

Fame is, of course, toxic. If you treat people badly it will catch up with you. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow, but in Spacey’s case his behaviour stretches out across decades. One can’t help wondering was it only one 14-year-old boy in 1986.

US filmmaker Tony Montana claims he was groped by the actor in a Los Angeles bar in 2003. He says he was left with post-traumatic stress disorder for six months after Spacey “forcefully” grabbed his crotch.

The 16-year-old Justin Dawes had a situation when Spacey was 29 that he describes as “sleazy and manipulative”. Dawes met Spacey after a performance of a play that Spacey was in and Spacey invited him and a friend to his apartment to watch Chinatown. Instead he made cocktails and played porn on the TV. “We all had a drink, and we were kind of like, ‘Oh, no one else is coming?’ And he’s like, ‘Oh, no one else decided to come,’ and he never mentioned that this porn was playing,” Dawes says. “It was really awkward.”

A journalist in the early 2000s interviewed him at his office in the Old Vic theatre and Spacey invited him to a club where he began reaching between his legs and grabbing his genitals. The journalist says he told the actor he was in a relationship with a woman and when he tried to leave the club Spacey was furious.

“This man was screaming in my face outside of the main bar area, red-faced, spit flying out of his mouth, screaming ‘me with fury because I didn’t want to f**k him,” he claims. “He was actually saying that I did want to and I was a v**d. That was his tactic. It was unbelievable.”

It doesn’t seem like many people have anything endearing to say about Spacey and, yes, it does seem a little harsh, and I have a feeling that the men who have spoken out against him are not the only ones. They are obviously now ashamed that they were once flattered by his attention. I know this means he is guilty until proven innocent, but he seems to be doing a really bad job of coming over as innocent of anything.

His story is made more rancid by the fact the people he had abused seemed to respect his decision to stay in the closet and didn’t want to “out” him. The covert nature of the abuse is where the poison starts, and start it has. But it will not be where it finishes.

There are many other gay actors in Hollywood who fear for their careers, who don’t want to swap action leads for gay best friends, who don’t want to sacrifice a subsequent career in politics. But in the new Hollywood there are fewer secrets and this toxic wildfire is impossible to stop. Come out, come out, wherever you are … or someone is coming to get you.

Chrissy Iley is an award-winning English journalist who has worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years.
‘Distracted’ crew told to abort

The air safety investigator says the crew on an Indonesia AirAsia flight was ‘distracted’ on an approach to Perth Airport.

Triguboff hotel on block

The tough Sydney apartment market has led Harry Triguboff to put one of his prized hotels on the market.
'He's a phenomenal actor, but he's not a very good person': Bryan Cranston says Kevin Spacey's career is over as a 15th accuser comes forward to allege House of Cards star groped him

Bryan Cranston said on Friday he believes Kevin Spacey’s career is over because of allegations he sexually assaulted over a dozen men.

- Another accuser came forward on Friday to allege Spacey groped him, making him the 15th man to go public with assault allegations.
- The Breaking Bad star says that while he thinks Spacey is ‘a phenomenal actor,’ he’s ‘not a very good person’.
- Earlier this week, it was learned that Spacey’s scenes from an upcoming Ridley Scott film were removed just six weeks before it is due to be released.
- The latest man to come forward with assault allegations is Andy Holtzman, who claims that in the summer of 1981, Spacey groped him in New York.

By ARIEL ZILBER FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 10:02 AEDT, 11 November 2017 | UPDATED: 16:52 AEDT, 11 November 2017

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Bryan Cranston said on Friday he believes Kevin Spacey’s career is over because of allegations he sexually assaulted over a dozen men.

Another accuser came forward on Friday to allege Spacey groped him, making him the 15th man to go public with assault allegations.

Cranston, the Breaking Bad star, says that while he thinks Spacey is ‘a phenomenal actor,’ he’s ‘not a very good person.’

‘His career now I think is over,’ Cranston told the BBC.

Earlier this week, it was learned that Spacey’s scenes from an upcoming Ridley Scott film were removed just six weeks before it is due to be released.

Spacey, 58, who was initially tapped to portray billionaire oil tycoon J. Paul Getty in All The Money In The World, will have his character’s scenes be re-shot – with 87-year-old Christopher Plummer assuming the role of Getty.

Netflix, which produced the hit show House of Cards starring Spacey, said it had cut ties with the actor.
Another accuser came forward on Friday to allege Spacey (seen above in Beverly Hills on October 27) groped him, making him the 15th man to go public with assault allegations.
Cranston, The Breaking Bad star, says that while he thinks Spacey is 'a phenomenal actor,' he's 'not a very good person.' The two men are seen together in Los Angeles on October 1, 2016

Cranston was asked about the rash of sexual assault and harassment allegations that have been made in recent weeks against Hollywood A-listers, including film studio head Harvey Weinstein, writer James Toback, producer Brett Ratner, and actors Dustin Hoffman, Ed Westwick, Louis C.K., Jeremy Piven, Steven Seagal, and others.

'There's a disorder among all those people who use their power, their place or their status in any industry to overpower someone and force someone to do something

that they don't want to do,' Cranston says.

'It's beyond disgusting. It's almost animalistic.'

Cranston, 61, is currently starring in the play Network, which is on a limited engagement run at the National Theater in London.

Spacey, 58, who was initially tapped to portray billionaire oil tycoon J. Paul Getty in All The Money In The World (above), will have his character's scenes be re-shot.

Kevin Spacey scenes reshot in Ridley Scott flick
He says that the abuse and harassment is normally aimed at the most vulnerable women and young men starting out in show business.

'It's a form of bullying. It's a form of control. It's almost always [done to] young vulnerable men and women who are starting their career,' he says.

'That sort of experience goes unchecked until something like this happens.'

Cranston believes that the spate of stories that have emerged in recent weeks will have an overall positive effect in the long-term.

'That sort of experience goes unchecked until something like this happens,' he said.

'The pillars of what was are falling. Everything is being exposed.

'Women and men should not have to tolerate misbehavior just because of their youth and inexperience.

'The silver lining is we're not accepting behavior like that just because it's the way it's always been.'

So far, 15 men have come forward to allege that Spacey either harassed, assaulted, or attempted to rape them, according to USA Today.

Five of the accusers said the alleged incidents took place when they were teenagers.

The latest man to come forward with assault allegations is Andy Holtzman.

Holtzman claims that in the summer of 1981, Spacey groped him in New York, USA Today reported.

On October 29, Star Trek: Discovery star Anthony Rapp told BuzzFeed that Spacey made sexual advances toward him when the two were in Spacey's New York apartment in 1986, when he was just 14 years old.
Spacey said he didn't remember the specifics of the encounter, but that he nonetheless apologized to Rapp.

In the same statement, Spacey acknowledged that he was homosexual – a move that drew sharp criticism from gay rights advocates who accused him of trying to play on common stereotypes that gays were naturally inclined toward pe

On October 29, actor Anthony Rapp (left) told BuzzFeed that Spacey made sexual advances toward him when the two were in Spacey's New York apartment in 1986, when he was just 14 years old. The day after Rapp went public, another actor, Robert Cavazos (right), wrote a Facebook post in which he accused Spacey of fondling him at the Old Vic theater in London.
Documentary filmmaker Tony Montana also came forward with allegations that Spacey groped him.

The day after Cavazos' post, Daniel Beal (left) told The Sun that Spacey exposed himself to him in 2010, when he was a 19-year-old bartender in West Sussex. Harry Dreyfus (right), an actor and writer and the son of Richard Dreyfus, also alleged that Spacey groped his genitals.

Kris Nixon, a 20-year-old bartender from Belfast, claims that in 2007, Spacey grabbed his crotch at a party in Spacey's apartment near the Old Vic in London.

The day after Rapp went public, another actor, Robert Cavazos, wrote a Facebook post in which he accused Spacey of fondling him at the Old Vic theater in London.

The day after Cavazos' post, Daniel Beal told The Sun that Spacey exposed himself to him in 2010, when he was a 19-year-old bartender in West Sussex.

Last week, Justin Dawes told BuzzFeed that in 1988, he and a friend were invited to Spacey's apartment, where the actor had pornography playing on the television.

Dawes was just 16 years old at the time.

Harry Dreyfus, an actor and writer and the son of Richard Dreyfus, also alleged that Spacey groped his genitals.

Similar accusations were made by documentary filmmaker Tony Montana.
London police are investigating claims made by an anonymous man who says that Spacey sexually assaulted him in 2008.

On Wednesday, Heather Unruh, a former Boston television news anchor, held a press conference alleging that Spacey groped her then-18-year-old son in a bar in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Unruh said her son filed a criminal complaint with police and that an investigation has been opened.

Kevin Spacey accused of sexually assaulting reporter's son

Watch the full video

Breaking Bad star Bryan Cranston thinks Kevin Spacey's career is over - BBC Newsbeat Exclusive: New Kevin Spacey accuser tells of 'scary, wordless' assault Actor Anthony Rapp: Kevin Spacey Made A Sexual Advance Toward Me When I Was 14 Kevin Spacey 'flashed British barman, 19, before giving him his £5,000 watch to buy his silence' A Pattern Of Abuse: How Kevin Spacey Used The Closet To Silence His Victims

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New Kevin Spacey accuser claims attack was 'certainly more than a grope'

Published November 10, 2017

The latest accusation of sexual misconduct against Kevin Spacey comes from a man claiming the actor assaulted him while they worked together in 1981.

Andy Holtzman, 64, said USA Today on Friday that he was running the film program at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater when he encountered Spacey, who had a role in their production of "Henry IV, Part 1."

He said he was on the phone when Spacey, then 22 years old, sat down in his office and almost immediately assaulted him.

"Within minutes, wordlessly, he was up and all over me," Holtzman told USA Today. "The aggression was certainly more than a grope. When I was finally able to push him off and scream (at him), he theatrically stepped back, incredibly angry, grabbed his coat and bag, stormed out and slammed the door."

ED WESTWICK ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT BY 2ND WOMAN

Holtzman, who was 27 years old at the time, said he feared for his job and was surprised by the alleged ambush, saying he didn't understand Spacey's reaction to his refusal.

"It was the look on his face that was really shocking and then scary," Holtzman recalled. "The anger was undeserved. If you ask for something and get a no, then I can understand the anger, but you ask for nothing and then try to take everything? Where is that anger coming from?"

Holtzman told USA Today he continued working at the theater and was able to avoid Spacey moving forward. But as he saw the actor become more successful over the years, he'd often talk about the encounter with his friends.

It was reportedly actor Anthony Rapp's allegations against Spacey, and the claims of more than a dozen other people that followed, that was the "tipping point" for Holtzman to detail his own experience on his personal Facebook.

TRUMP: ROY MOORE WILL 'STEP ASIDE' IF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE

"People ask (critically), why so many decades later are people coming forward -- even I asked that," Holtzman told USA Today. "I understand it so much clearer now."

"If it happens to you, it really changes the perspective," he said. "I feel a lot better now. I felt so alone at the time. Part of me feels vindicated now, to know there are a lot of us."

Holtzman, who said he hopes Spacey gets help and doesn't "wish him ill," does believe that the actor's prosperous career has "very come to an end."

"He's a talented guy but I can't see how people can go and watch him (on screen) without seeing Kevin Spacey the sexual-abuse guy," he said. "I don't know how anyone gets over that."

Following the sexual assault allegations, Spacey has been cut from a number of productions including his latest film "All the Money in the World," set for release on Dec. 22, and the Netflix show, "House of Cards."

Spacey was also dropped by his longtime talent agency and publicist.

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http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/11/10/new-kevin-spacey-accuser-claims-attack-was-certainly-more-than-grope.html#
Spacey in the wilderness: Disgraced star seeks the $36,000-a-month sex-rehab clinic in desert

- Spacey was spotted at the Meadows clinic in Wickenberg, Arizona on Saturday.
- The 58-year-old checked into the $36,000-a-month clinic earlier this month.
- The shamed Hollywood actor covered his head with a black baseball hat as he walked.
- The Meadows claims to have the best sex addiction treatment program in the US.
- Its 45-day treatment program bans participants from having sex for eight weeks.
- The House of Cards actor is seeking treatment after a string of men came forward accusing him of sexual abuse or harassment that dates back years.
- Harvey Weinstein is also reportedly seeking treatment at the same luxury clinic.

By EMILY CRANE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 04:16 AEDT, 15 November 2017 | UPDATED: 08:01 AEDT, 15 November 2017

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Kevin Spacey has been pictured for the first time at a rehab clinic in the Arizona desert, with men coming forward accusing him of sexual abuse or harassment that dates back years.

The shamed Hollywood actor checked into the luxury Meadows clinic in Wickenberg - revealed by DailyMail.com - where he is believed to be receiving treatment for sex addiction.

The 58-year-old was spotted at the $36,000-a-month rehab center on Saturday.

Spacey covered his head with a black baseball hat as he walked through the facility with a light blue t-shirt.

At one point throughout the day, he was spotted wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with a mat.

Kevin Spacey was spotted for the first time on Saturday at The Meadows rehab clinic in Arizona month for sex addiction treatment.

The actor's representatives said last week that he was 'taking the time necessary to seek treatment'.

The Meadows claims to have the best sex addiction treatment program in the US.

It runs a 45-day 'Gentle Path' treatment program for sex addicts, which involves patience and 'expressive arts' to try and deal with their issues.

Patients also commit to having no sex for eight weeks as part of the program that includes therapy, one-on-one counseling, yoga and horseback riding.

The House of Cards actor is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp made an allegation that he came onto him when he was just 14-years-old following a party at SI

Rapp said the actor, who was 26 at the time, had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride' in the alleged 1986 incident.
Spacey was spotted carrying a yoga mat and water bottle as he walked through the facility with a hooded sweater over his head.
Spacey covered his head with a black baseball hat as he walked through the facility, which cl- addiction treatment program in the US
The 58-year-old shamed actor was spotted at the $36,000-a-month rehab center on Saturday.

Spacey, who came out as gay after the allegations surfaced, issued an apology via social media, saying it had 'horrified' him but that he didn't recall the encounter.
'But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been inappropriate drunken behavior,' Spacey said.

In the days that followed, Spacey was hit with a string of sex abuse allegations from 12 men who have come forward to allege that Spacey either harassed, assaulted, or attempted to molest them. One of his accusers claimed that Spacey grabbed his penis and chased him around set in order to request sex on set.

Harry Dreyfuss, the son of Richard Dreyfuss, has also alleged that Spacey groped him in 2008 when he was a high school senior.
The shamed Oscar-winner appeared to be carrying books and folders throughout the day as he...
The House of Cards actor is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp accused him when he was just 14-years-old.
Patients at The Meadow commit to having no sex for eight weeks as part of the 45-day program.

Gentle Path hopes to cure Weinstein and Spacey of sex addiction.

Watch the full video.

The elite Arizona facility where Spacey is seeking treatment is popular among celebrities such as Tiger Woods, Elle Macpherson, Kate Moss and Selena Gomez.

It was reported earlier this month that alleged serial assaulter Harvey Weinstein was a Meadows.

Netflix revealed they had cut ties with Spacey after the numerous allegations of sexual misconduct were leveled against him.

His talent agency Creative Arts Agency, as well as his publicist, have also parted ways with him.

It has also since emerged that Spacey’s scenes from an upcoming Ridley Scott film have been cut and another actor just six weeks before it is due to be released.

Spacey, who was initially tapped to portray billionaire oil tycoon J. Paul Getty in All The Money In The World, have his scenes re-shot with 87-year-old Christopher Plummer.
The elite Arizona facility (above) where Spacey is seeking treatment runs a 45-day 'Gentl

Plummer replaces Kevin Spacey in Scott film

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If he hadn't been exposed, there's no way he'd be there now. He doesn't want to change and this is purely a public

Shelia, Mytown, 2 months ago
A nice little vacation for him. His victims need to borrow an idea from American Indians, excuse me, Native Ameri
tomahawks and clubs, make him run through, applying vigorous chastisement. Harvey, you're on deck,
chandler_bing, Stevenage, United Kingdom, 2 months ago

shame the victims may not have the money to seek help at that rate of $', but as long as the accuser can enjoy t has

hypnololo, Benway, United States, 2 months ago

Wow....he looks terrible. I thought it was someone else.

mordecai.scrunge, Denver, United States, 2 months ago

I bet the smug Hollywood olk 'wishes' he was someone else!

Michey, Toronto, Canada, 2 months ago

Harvey and Spacey in the same facility, do you think they are ,,, ya know....

bloomin_eck, Deep Space, Western Sahara, 2 months ago

These lowlifes only going to rehab AFTER they get called out... spare me. Nobody believes for one moment Not one bit.

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just another illusion

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If I rob a bank and claim that I have a money addiction, could I be sent to a cash rehab?

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It's definitely a 'No,' You'd be sent to the lavvy Livvy!!!

peter, Guildford, United Kingdom, 2 months ago

He will emerge next week cured and all will be forgiven.
dents07, Cypress, United States, 2 months ago

2 weeks and he will be cured.

Just saying, Calgary, Canada, 2 months ago

Uh huh. This will work. lol

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Kevin Spacey allegations: a comprehensive timeline - Vogue Australia.

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Kevin Spacey allegations: a comprehensive timeline

Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright captured during a scene on series House of Cards. Image credit: Getty Images

A timeline.

Following the ever-snowballing sexual harassment and assault claims that have come to light following The New York Times' case study against Harvey Weinstein — whereby over 80 people have since come forward to share their personal stories — the unifying experience has allowed Hollywood to gain a vocal confidence, resulting in a mass emergence of similar stories, this time pertaining to Kevin Spacey.

With an influx of reports and stories flooding the Internet, we felt it best to amalgamate every key piece of information known thus far to understand the timeline at large. Below, a comprehensive timeline of sexual assault and harassment allegations made against Kevin Spacey:

29 October 2017: Actor Anthony Rapp spoke to Buzzfeed alleging that Kevin Spacey sexually harassed him at age 14, during which time Spacey was 26.

Spacey took to Twitter to address the allegations, stating he was "beyond horrified" to hear Rapp's story, but has encouraged him to "address other things about my life," including his now choices to "live as a gay man."

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor and I’m beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. Those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Image credit: Twitter.com/KevinSpacey

Anthony Rapp did not comment on Spacey’s statement, however took to Twitter to address that his courage in coming forward about his experience was derived from the women and men who have been speaking out in around the Harvey Weinstein allegations.

Rapp wrote, “I came forward with my story, standing on the shoulders of the many courageous women and men who have been speaking out. Everything I wanted to say about my experience is in that article, and I have no further comment about it at this time.”

30 October 2017: Netflix announced “House of Cards” will be discontinued after its sixth season (which is currently being filmed) following the sexual harassment allegations for Kevin Spacey – who plays the lead actor in the series – emerged.

Netflix and Media Rights Capital, the series production company, released a joint statement overnight. “Netflix will not be involved with any further production of “House of Cards” that includes Kevin Spacey,” the statement read.

It continued, “While we continue the ongoing investigation into the serious allegations concerning Kevin Spacey’s behavior on the set of “House of Cards,” he has been suspended, effective immediately.”

30 October 2017: Mexican actor Robert Cavanos shared his personal encounter on Facebook, stating that Spacey grabbed him in the bar of London’s Old Vic Theatre where he performed in many productions.

"There are many of us who have a Kevin Spacey story," It seems that it only took a male under 30 to make Mr. Spacey feel free to touch us," Cavanos took to Facebook in Spanish.

31 October 2017: Filmmaker Tony Montana came forward sharing, "He put his hand on my crotch forcefully and grabbed my whole package." He further shared that Spacey told him, "This designer's ownership," as he groped him.
3 November 2017: Eight past and current *House of Cards* employees spoke out about their personal sexual harassment experiences with Kevin Spacey — under the condition of anonymity — about the toxic work environment made by Spacey on the Netflix series set, describing his behaviour as “predatory.”

Medis Rights Capital released a statement following this, sharing, “We are deeply troubled to learn about these new allegations that are being made to the press concerning Kevin Spacey’s interaction with members of the crew of *House of Cards*. As the producer of the show, creating and maintaining a safe working environment for our cast and crew has always been our top priority. We have consistently reinforced the importance of employees reporting any incident without fear of retaliation and have investigated and taken appropriate actions following any complaints. For example, during our first year of production in 2012, someone on the crew shared a complaint about a specific remark and gesture made by Kevin Spacey. Immediate action was taken following our review of the situation and we are confident the issue was resolved promptly to the satisfaction of all involved. Mr. Spacey willingly participated in a training process and since that time MRC has not been made aware of any other complaints involving Mr. Spacey. In response to the current situation, on Tuesday of this week, MRC installed an anonymous complaint hotline, crisis counselors, and sexual harassment legal advisors for the crew. MRC will continue to thoroughly investigate all current claims and any new claims that are formally brought to our attention, and will continue to monitor our own production and practices to ensure that our cast and crew feel safe and supported.”

3 November 2017: Harry Deryfuss, actor and son to Richard Deryfuss, alleged that Spacey touched him inappropriately in 2008 at the age of 18 in an essay to *BuzzFeed News*. Deryfuss shared, “Over the course of about 20 seconds, centimetre by centimetre, Kevin crawled his hand from my thigh over toward my chest,” he said. “My mind went blank.”

“I thought I was protecting everyone. I was protecting my dad’s career. I was protecting Kevin. Who, by the way, must have already known. I was protecting myself, because I thought one day I’d want to work with this man... What I do remember is that, other than being a shy kid who obviously admired Kevin Spacey a lot, I never once gave him a signal that I would want to be with him in that way.”

According to Spacey’s legal representative, he “absolutely denies the allegations.”

3 November 2017: Mark Eibenhoch, who met Spacey while working on the set of *Outsider*, shared with *BuzzFeed News* that one of Spacey’s assistants asked him to go to Spacey’s trailer and engage in a sexual act with the actor.

“They asked me flat out to engage in a sexual act. It was enough to stun me. It blew me away,” he shared.

In addition to the above, many anonymous voices have come forth to share their similar experiences, including the likes of an unnamed journalist, an unnamed actor from the Old Vic in London, an unnamed 14-year-old boy and 23-year-old man.

11 November 2017: Ridley Scott’s *All the Money in the World* has decided to cut Kevin Spacey from the finished film ahead of next month’s release date. Every scene with Spacey in the film is set to be reshoot beginning immediately, taking on Christopher Plummer for the role of J. Paul Getty in Spacey’s place.

Co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams are due to participate in the remake with the initially intended release date of 22 December to remain.

14 November 2017: Spacey has been spotted for the first time since sexual assault and harassment allegations against him came to light. Spacey was found — covered in a hoodie and wearing sunglasses and a baseball hat — seeking treatment at The Meadows rehab clinic in Arizona, USA.

Spacey’s representative shared in a statement to *US Weekly* that, “Kevin Spacey is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment. No other information is available at this time.”

The Meadows rehab clinic has gained elite status having treated the likes of Tiger Woods, David Duchovny, Michael Douglas and other celebrities for sex addiction, while also specialising in treatment for panic and anxiety disorders and alcohol and drug addiction.

The facility charges USD32,000 (AUD$37,000) per month — with treatments including New Age-influenced therapy, including walking through a stone ‘serenity circle’ at sunrise while carrying stuffed animals. Further, features of the facility include an Olympic-sized pool, horse riding lessons and yoga.

While unconfirmed, it has been reported that Harvey Weinstein is also seeking treatment at The Meadows.

17 November 2017: London’s Old Vic theatre has received 20 allegations of “inappropriate behaviour” against Spacey during his tenure as the theatre’s artistic director.

The Old Vic conducted an investigation of Spacey’s time there between 2004 and 2015, revealing that “The investigation resulted in 20 personal testimonies shared of alleged inappropriate behaviour carried out by Kevin Spacey during his time as artistic director.”

“Despite having the appropriate escalation processes in place, it was claimed that those affected felt unable to raise concerns and that Kevin Spacey operated without meaningful accountability,” the statement further said, “This is clearly unacceptable and The Old Vic truly apologises for not creating an environment or culture where people felt able to speak freely.”

The allegations were made by 16 staff members and four other people, all of which occurred between 1995 and 2013, with only two falling before 2009.

“The given testimony shows that in all but one case, those individuals alleging inappropriate behaviour by Kevin Spacey did not come forward at the time or asked that formal action be taken,” the release said, adding that Spacey’s “staedem and status at The Old Vic may have prevented people, and in particular junior staff or young actors, from feeling that they could speak up or raise a hand for help.”

Nick Clary, chairman of The Old Vic, shared in a statement, “On behalf of The Old Vic Board of Trustees, to all those people who felt unable to speak up at the time, The Old Vic truly apologises. Inappropriate behaviour by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable. We will foster a safe and supportive environment without prejudice, harassment or bullying of any sort, in any way. We want anyone who works here to feel confident, valued and proud to be part of The Old Vic family.”

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Banking on a way to smash radicals

David Hurley

Bank and other finance sector workers will be enlisted as frontline financial intelligence operatives in the war on terror, helping to thwart attacks before they happen.

With just small amounts of money needed to purchase devastating weapons, the federal government's financial intelligence agency Austrac will train employees in sectors with constant employee movement to look out for suspicious transactions.

"The full bookings, which are of small amounts, were financed by $14,000. In the absence of the global financial system, it is a tiny amount of money," federal justice minister Michael Keenan said.

"But that amount allowed them to explode those bombs," Austrac's inaugural financial analyst intelligence course began in Melbourne this week and will be rolled out in Sydney in the next few months. The world-leading initiative is designed to give employees in government and the private sector skills to detect and prevent financial crimes.

"The challenge has never been greater. Part of the intelligence is the financial intelligence."

Sexy Shelton Tosses List

Country music superstars Blake Shelton has been named the sexiest man alive in People magazine's annual list.

When asked what the award meant to him, Shelton said: "I've been asking all the wrong questions all my life. If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it!"

"I'm not going to treat this like Hugh Jackman or one of those guys who I'm humble about it."

Co-star shocked by Spacey behaviour

Kevin Spacey

STAR of the Hollywood film Baby Driver, Ansel Elgort has joined the chorus of disgust at the behaviour of alleged serial predator Kevin Spacey.

Elgort appeared opposite Spacey in the film which was released just a few months before recent revelations of the actor's long history of alleged harassment and assault. Speaking on the red carpet at the GQ Men of the Year awards, Elgort expressed shock when asked about Spacey's alleged conduct.

"The whole thing is really shocking and I think what's happening right now in the industry is people are standing up and saying that certain things aren't acceptable any more," Elgort, 23, said with his 21-year-old ballet dancer girlfriend Violetta Komyshan at the awards and said the pair were keen to see some reforms before leaving.

"The world should be a safer place where sexual harassment is not acceptable."

Daily Driver star Ansel Elgort with Violetta Komyshan at the GQ Men Of The Year Awards. He said Kevin Spacey's alleged behaviour was "unspeakable." Picture: Christian Gilles

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Old Vic says 20 men made allegations against Kevin Spacey

Telle Zibbin

The Old Vic theatre in London said on Thursday it had received 20 separate allegations of inappropriate conduct by Kevin Spacey from 20 men who came into contact with him at the theatre, or in connection with it, between 1995 and 2013.

The theatre was reporting on the findings of an investigation it launched on October 31.

Old Vic apologises over Kevin Spacey allegations

The executive director of the London Theatre, Kate Varah, apologises "wholeheartedly" following 20 new allegations brought against its former artistic director.

Richard Miskella, a lawyer from the firm Lewis Silkin who conducted the investigation on behalf of the Old Vic, said that it had encouraged 14 of the men to talk to the police because of the nature of the allegations.

He did not say whether any of them had done so.

London's Old Vic said it received 20 separate allegations of inappropriate conduct by Kevin Spacey from 20 men who came into contact with him at the theatre. Photo: AP

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos alleged two weeks ago that Spacey had behaved inappropriately towards him when both were working at the Old Vic. It was not clear whether Cavazos was among the 20 men identified in the Lewis Silkin investigation.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

Spacey has made no public comment about the allegation from Cavazos or about any alleged misconduct related to the Old Vic, where he was artistic director from 2004 to 2015.

His Los Angeles–based lawyer could not be reached by telephone and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Old Vic theatre in London, where Kevin Spacey worked as Artistic Director until 2015. Photo: PA

The Old Vic said it had asked Spacey to participate in its investigation but had received no response from him. It said it was not able to say whether the allegations were true or not.

Spacey is one of several prominent names in entertainment to face
allegations of sexual misconduct following complaints by multiple
women against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Spacey first became embroiled in the wider scandal when actor
Anthony Rapp accused him on Oct. 29 of trying to seduce him in 1986,
when Rapp was 14 and Spacey was 26.

Spacey said he did not remember the incident but apologised to Rapp,
saying that if it happened it would have been "deeply inappropriate
drunken behaviour".

In the most recent public statement from Spacey's representatives on
November 2, they said that he was "taking the time necessary to seek
evaluation and treatment", without giving further details.

Miskella said the alleged incidents relating to the Old Vic ranged from
behaviour that made people feel uncomfortable to sexually
inappropriate behaviour. He said the allegations had come from 16
former members of staff and four others.

Miskella gave no names or details about the allegations because those
coming forward had done so with the promise of confidentiality.

More than 50 women have said that Weinstein sexually harassed or
assaulted them over the past three decades and the Hollywood
producer has been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts
and Sciences.

Police in New York, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and London have said
they are investigating allegations of sexual assault or rape by
Weinstein. Weinstein has denied having non-consensual sex with
anyone.

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11-400
Kevin Spacey is being investigated by Metropolitan police over second alleged sex assault

- Police already investigating claim by young actor relating to a 2008 'sex attack'
- It emerged today that detectives are now looking into a second claim from 2005
- Old Vic theatre, where Spacey worked for 11 years, is investigating other claims

ICHARD SPILETT, CRIME CORRESPONDENT FOR MAILONLINE
Published: 02:31 AEDT, 23 November 2017 | Updated: 08:45 AEDT, 23 November 2017

Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey is being investigated by police in London over a second alleged sex assault, it emerged today.

The House of Cards star, 58, is already the subject of a Scotland Yard probe into an alleged sex attack in Lambeth in 2008.

The Met announced today that a second investigation is now taking place, following a complaint relating to 2005.

The Met declined to identify the alleged attacker but said in a statement: 'On Wednesday, November 1, City of London Police referred an allegation of sexual:

assault to the Metropolitan Police Service.

'It is alleged a man assaulted another man, victim one, in 2008 in Lambeth.

'On Friday, November 17 a further allegation was made about the same man.

Kevin Spacey is now being investigated by the Met Police over two alleged sex assaults.

London's Old Vic theatre, where Spacey was artistic director, has received 20 complaints.

'The allegations are of sexual assaults against a man, victim two, in 2005 in Lambeth. Officers from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command are investigating.'
The first allegation the police are looking at is said to refer to a young actor who asked Spacey for advice with his career.

He is understood to be claiming that he passed out in Spacey’s London home and woke to find himself being abused.

Spacey was the artistic director of the Old Vic theatre in Lambeth from 2004 until 15.

It emerged last week that 20 allegations of sexual impropriety by Spacey had been made to the theatre since it started its own internal investigation.

In a statement last week, the theatre said: ‘Despite having the appropriate escalation processes in place, it was claimed that those affected felt unable to raise concerns and that Kevin Spacey operated without sufficient accountability.

‘This is clearly unacceptable and The Old Vic truly apologises for not creating an environment or culture where people felt able to speak freely.

Spacey is famous for a series of roles, including as Frank Underwood in House of Cards

Man claims he woke up to actor Kevin Spacey cuddling him

It is not known whether the latest investigation by police is linked to the Old Vic’s findings.

Spacey has been replaced by Christopher Plummer in the upcoming film All The Money In The World and fired by Netflix series House Of Cards since actor Anthony Rapp first accused the 56-year-old of harassing him when he was 14.

He claimed Spacey had placed him on a bed and climbed on top of him following a party at his apartment in 1986.

Kevin Spacey accused of sexually assaulting reporter’s son
Filming of the sixth and final season of House Of Cards is delayed AGAIN following Kevin Spacey sexual abuse allegations

- House Of Cards production on extended hiatus for another two weeks
- Netflix already announced that the upcoming season would be the show's last
- They've completely cut ties with Spacey and removed him from the cover photo
- He is expected to be written out of the last and final season of the show
- At least 15 men have come forward to accuse Spacey of sexual misconduct

By MICHELLE GANNEY FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
PUBLISHED: 08:37 AEDT, 27 November 2017 | UPDATED: 09:01 AEDT, 27 November 2017

Filming of the sixth and final season of House of Cards will be delayed once again following the sexual assault revelations surrounding Kevin Spacey.

Production of the award-winning show, where Spacey previously had the lead role, has been pushed back another two weeks until December 8, The Hollywood reporter said.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5118385/House-Cards-production-delayed-again.html
Netflix already announced that the upcoming season would be the show's last following the multiple accusations against Spacey, and he is expected to be out of the final season.
House of Cards production continues to be delayed amidst the sexual assault revelations surrounding Kevin Spacey (pictured here)

At least 15 young men have come forward to say that he sexually assaulted or attempted to rape them.

'These last two months have tested and tried all of us in ways none of us could have foreseen,' Pauline Micelli, Media Rights Capital senior vice president of television business and legal affairs, said in a letter to production crew and cast.

'The one thing we have learned throughout this process is that this production is bigger than just one person, and we could not be more proud to be associated with one of the most loyal and talented production cast and crews in this business.'

Robin Wright, Spacey's co-star in the show continues to maintain her silence on the sex abuse scandal.

Spacey and Robin Wright play the leads Francis and Claire Underwood on the hit show.
Is it true that absolute power corrupts absolutely? Congressman Frank Underwood absolutely intends to find out.

Cast: Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright, Kate Mara
Creator: Beau Willimon

Netflix removed Spacey from the cover photo of the show and instead replaced it with a photo of Wright by herself (pictured here)

Jessica Chastain vouched for Wright as she tweeted: 'Can #RobinWright just be the lead of @HouseofCards now? We're ready for it.'

Additionally, Netflix removed Spacey from the cover photo of the show and instead replaced it with a photo of Wright by herself.

The company announced at the beginning of November they wouldn't make House Of Cards as long as Spacey was involved, and that it was dropping a biopic of writer Gore Vidal that he had been set to star in too.
The actors are pictured here during one of their scenes on the Netflix show

**BuzzFeed News** also spoke to three more men who accused Spacey of inappropriate conduct - including one who said the actor invited him to watch gay porn and gave him cocktails when he was 16.

'Netflix will not be involved with any further production of House of Cards that includes Kevin Spacey,' the company said in a statement.

'We will continue to work with [Media Rights Capital, the production house behind the show] during this hiatus time to evaluate our path forward as it relates to the "how."

'We have also decided we will not be moving forward with the release of the film Gore, which was in post-production, starring and produced by Kevin Spacey.'
It is expected that Francis Underwood's character played by Spacey (above) will be cut from the final season of the show.

Jessica Chastain vouched for Wright as she tweeted the show should continue with Wright as the lead, despite Spacey being kicked off.

The statement is vague about the fate of House of Cards, but Page Six reported that production would continue without Spacey's involvement. It is unclear whether that is speculation; the claim isn't attributed to any source.

The show began with production house Media Rights Capital (MRC), but Spacey has an executive producer credit on the show, and his own company - Trigger Street Productions - has been involved in the show over the first five seasons.

It's not clear whether the first five seasons of the show will remain on Netflix.

Robin Wright is pictured here on the red carpet with her daughter Dylan Penn.

Spacey's woes came after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp claimed that Spacey had come onto him when he was just 14 years old, after a party at Spacey's.

when they were the only ones in the apartment.

He said the actor had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride,' and then lay down on top of him. Spacey said the story 'horrified' him and said he didn't recall the encounter, but said he apologized 'if I did behave then as he describes.'

Since then, a claim has emerged that Spacey made a 'gesture and remark' on the first season in 2012 that resulted in him undergoing a 'training process.'

And on Friday another three claims were fired at the Oscar-winner - one of them again involving a teenager, another one claiming that he grabbed a man's penis and chased him around a club, and the third saying he got an assistant to request sex on set.

Spacey's lawyer did not respond to BuzzFeed's request for comment on the new claims.

Justin Dawes told BuzzFeed that he was working as a 16-year-old volunteer theater usher in 1986 when he met Spacey, then 29, after a play he was appearing in.

The actor invited him and a male friend over to watch Roman Polanski's Chinatown at an apartment he was renting for the duration of the performance.

This was some 11 years after Polanski himself was infamously charged with getting a 13-year-old girl drunk and raping her.

Dawes said that he and his friend arrived at Spacey's home to find no-one else there, and the TV playing gay pornography. Spacey mixed them cocktails, he said.

'We all had a drink, and we were kind of like, "Oh, no one else is coming?" And he's like, "Oh, no one else decided to come," and he never mentioned that this porn was playing,' Dawes told BuzzFeed News. 'It was really awkward.'
Spacey (seen in 1986) allegedly approached a 16-year-old in 1988 and invited him to watch a movie. When the teen got to Spacey's home, he said, gay porn was on the TV and Spacey was making cocktails. But the now-38-year-old said Spacey was 'cringe' and 'benign'.

He said it was 'cringe' and 'benign' but that it was obvious he was not an adult at the time: "He knew that I was in high school. It was pretty clear. It's not like I was pretending to be an older, cooler person."

Friends of Dawes, who is straight, confirmed that he had told them about the story around that time, but the friend allegedly at the party couldn't be contacted.

Jay's second accuser was an unnamed journalist who said that Spacey grabbed his crotch during an interview in London in 2009.

Man claims he woke up to actor Kevin Spacey cuddling him.
Spacey, who was then head of London's famous Old Vic theater, was starring in
Inherit the Wind there when the journalist met him.

He said that Spacey was 'charming' during the interview, but grew lecherous after he
invited the journalist out to a nightclub.

'He just kept reaching between my legs and, you know, just grabbing my d**k,' he
said.

'I would move his hand away, and say something that I thought was pretending was
funny or whatever at first. And then I was starting to get annoyed by it, and that was
pretty clear.'

He says he repeatedly tried to move away from Spacey and shoo him off, but that
Spacey kept following him, touching his legs.

Even saying he was in a committed relationship with a woman didn't put off Spacey;
he said: 'He had somehow convinced himself that this was a sexual liaison that we
both wanted.'
In 2009, during this production of Inherit the Wind in London, Spacey allegedly grabbed a journalist's penis and chased him around a club.

Kevin Spacey has apologised over sexual advance claim.

The journalist said that Spacey's entourage did nothing to help, and that he felt compelled to stay because he was on an assignment.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5118365/House-Cards-production-delayed-again.html
'I was trying not to make a big scene, because I had an assignment to write about him,' he said. 'So it wasn't clear to me that I should just, like, knock his teeth something. I was in a weird dynamic of I wanted to be able to do my story.'

He said he ended up not printing the story because Spacey was in the close didn't want to out him without the man's permission.

'It has occurred to me since then that there's this weird way that Spacey had discovered that the closet would shield other things,' the journalist said.

'Being closeted has for him enabled him to use this privacy claim as a shield against anybody looking closely at his actual behavior.

And then it may have served as this strange, protective mechanism, to say, "My whole sexual life is off limits because of my sexuality."

Spacey came out in his response to Rapp's allegations - which empowered the journalist to speak out, but also led to a backlash from people who felt he was trying to distract from the claims against him while also selling out the LGBT community.

The third claim came from Mark Ebenhoch, who met Spacey on the set of 1995 thriller Outbreak, when he was 35 and Spacey around 36.

Ebenhoch, who is gay but was in the closed at the time, was working as a military consultant on the film, in which Spacey plays an Army virologist.

He said that Spacey had a 'harem' of young male assistants according to those on set, and one day, 'out of the complete blue,' one of them propositioned him on Spacey's behalf.

Ebenhoch said there was no veiled invitation or euphemism involved. 'They asked flat out to engage in a sexual act. It was enough to stun me. It blew me away.'

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment claims
Inner Bros, the film's distributor, declined to comment when approached by BuzzFeed News.

Ebenhoch said he avoided Spacey for the rest of the shoot, fearing what might happen if he was outed. 'As a military adviser the last thing you'd want anyone to know is that you were gay,' he said.

On Thursday, MRC said it 'will continue to thoroughly investigate all current claims and any new claims that are formally brought to our attention, and will continue to monitor our own production and practices to ensure that our cast and crew feel safe and supported.'

Read more:
A Pattern Of Abuse: How Kevin Spacey Used The Closet To Silence His Victims
"Netflix Officially Severs Ties With Kevin Spacey" - Hollywood Reporter
"Netflix officially cuts all ties with Kevin Spacey" - Page Six
"House of Cards' Extends Hiatus, Hopes to Resume Production" - Hollywood Reporter
Three More Men Accuse Kevin Spacey of Sexual Misconduct & Variety

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UK police investigate second Kevin Spacey sexual assault claim

Metropolitan police say they are looking into allegation that Hollywood star assaulted man in Lambeth, London

Kevin Rawlinson

23 Nov 2017 04:02 AEDT

British police are investigating Kevin Spacey over a second sexual assault allegation, the Guardian understands.

The Metropolitan police said on Wednesday they were looking into the fresh claims against the Hollywood actor, having opened an investigation into similar allegations against him earlier this month.

According to the latest allegations, Spacey sexually assaulted a man, identified only as Victim 2, in 2005. The claims were referred to the Met by City of London police last Friday, Scotland Yard said.

The earlier claims related to an alleged sexual assault perpetrated against a man identified as Victim 1 in 2008 and were referred by the same force. Each was allegedly committed in the Lambeth area of south London and, in each case, police refused to name the suspect.

However, officers did confirm that each was made against the same man and he is understood to be Spacey. "Officers from the child abuse and sexual offences command are investigating,\n
https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/nov/22/uk-police-investigate-second-kevin-spacey-sexual-assault-claim
the Met said on Wednesday.

Spacey has faced a series of accusations of sexual misconduct in the US and the UK. Last week, the Old Vic theatre, where he was artistic director from 2003 to 2015, said it had been contacted by 56 people with 20 individual allegations of inappropriate conduct, including some allegedly perpetrated against former staff.

It said 14 were so serious it had advised the complainants to contact the police, and apologised for failing to ensure there was an environment in which people felt they could come forward.

“The Old Vic apologises wholeheartedly to the people who told us that they have been affected. We’ve learned that it is not enough to have the right process in place. Everyone needs to feel able to speak out no matter who they are,” the theatre’s executive director, Kate Varah, said.

“That apology really goes to the people who feel they were affected by this but what is also important to understand is there is a new way forward for this organisation.”

The concerns about Spacey’s behaviour came to wider public attention after the revelations about Harvey Weinstein. The actor Anthony Rapp told BuzzFeed that when he was aged 14, Spacey, then 26, had tried to “seduce” him.

Spacey said: “I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology.”

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... we have a small favour to ask. More people are reading the Guardian than ever but advertising revenues across the media are falling fast. And unlike many news organisations, we haven’t put up a paywall - we want to keep our journalism as open as we can. So you can see why we need to ask for your help. The Guardian’s independent, investigative journalism takes a lot of time, money and hard work to produce. But we do it because we believe our perspective matters - because it might well be your perspective, too.

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https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/nov/22/uk-police-investigate-second-kevin-spacey-sexual-assault-claim
SPACEY SCANDAL  Kevin Spacey accused of groping man at London's National Theatre

The shamed Hollywood star is said to have struck in the bar of the prestigious National Theatre on London's Southbank in 2011 and 'groped a straight man'

By Dan Sales
26th November 2017, 5:36 am | Updated: 9th December 2017, 9:55 am

EXCLUSIVE

SCANDAL-hit Hollywood star Kevin Spacey has been accused of groping a man at a second London theatre.

The former artistic director of London's Old Vic, 58, is alleged to have struck in the bar of the capital's National Theatre in 2011 after watching the play The Cherry Orchard.
Kevin Spacey has been accused of groping a man at the National Theatre in 2011.

A source said: "Spacey was with a group, including an actress from the play with her boyfriend and another couple.

"When the two women went to the toilet, Spacey whispered into one of the guys' ears.

'He blushed and said, 'I'm not that kind of guy'.

'Spacey did it again and this time groped his bottom, grinning like a Cheshire cat.'
The Hollywood actor is said to have 'grinned like a Cheshire cat' after groping the man's bottom

"When the two ladies returned they made their excuses and left – it was very awkward."

The Old Vic said last week that 20 men had accused the actor of sexual harassment.

A torrent of allegations have come to light ever since Star Trek actor ealed Spacey tried to seduce him when he was 14

A torrent of allegations have come to light ever since Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp revealed Spacey tried to seduce him when he was 14

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NO HOME FOR HERO SAS Iran Emb... hero ‘forced to live in B&B as council fail to find home’
Ex-London barmen Kris Nixon says Kevin Spacey groped him at a party in his penthouse.

He is in rehabilitation for what he describes as "evaluation and treatment" and has not responded to recent claims against him.

The National Theatre incident was not reported to staff or the authorities at the time.

The insider added: "In light of the recent spate of allegations made against Spacey, we realise that this was a serious example of Spacey's inappropriate, sexually predatory behaviour."

TOPICS KEVIN SPACEY ALLEGATIONS

WARNING

SEX BEAST Man raped his mum's goat death in shocking two-hour attack
Fleetwood Mac's Mick Fleetwood is in Sydney to promote a book and appear at the ATMs Picture Brent Calver

Triple J pulls plug on Oz Day tradition

KYLIE LOUSSIAN

Despite the annual countdown being a mainstay of Australian Day broadcasts for a generation, ABC station Triple J has bowed to pressure and moved the Hottest 100 to the day after our national celebration.

From next year the Hottest 100 will take place on the fourth weekend of January, ending a tradition that began in 1992.

"Triple J yesterday announced the outcome of a review that it launched last year after a push to have it move the Hottest 100 broadcast. It said the Hottest 100 hadn't always been broadcast on Australia Day and the countdown had "become a symbol in the debate about Australia Day."

"The Hottest 100 wasn't created as an Australian Day celebration," it said in a statement.

Triple J said 60 per cent of those surveyed supported a change.

It is the latest in a string of changes to stop celebrations on January 26, which activists say should mark the displacement of indigenous Australians.

A number of local councils have already bowed to activism and dropped citizenship ceremonies from the day.

Communications Minister Mitch Fifield slammed the decision to move the Hottest 100 to January 27 as "bewildering".

"The ABC shouldn't be buying into this debate. Australia is our national day," Senator Field (below) said. "The ABC should hold on to it and not move with the Hottest 100."

His comments were echoed by Assistant Immigration Minister Alex Hawke, who stripped two Melbourne councils of the right to hold citizenship ceremonies after they boycotted Australia Day earlier this year. Mr Hawke said the decision was "disappointing".

"The council has a role in reconciliation and dealing with Australia Day being held on January 26 is patently and out of step with most Australians' views," Mr Hawke said.

"It's a very important day for many people, including indigenous Australians, and it's not up to us to decide which day it's celebrated on."

Labor leader Bill Shorten said it "doesn't matter to me what day it is on" while the Greens backed the move. "It is fantastic news that everyone in Australia can now enjoy the countdown on a date that doesn't cause... hurt our First Peoples," Greens senator Rachel Siewert said.

But Liberal senator Eric Abetz said the ABC was the "political correctness brigade", and was "wasting money on selective outrage".

"The ABC should focus on reporting on actual news rather than continuing to waste money on pandering their political correctness routine down people's throats," he said.

WE'LL BE MAC, PROMISES MICK

KATHY MCCABE

Mick Fleetwood has good news for fans of his legendary rock band. The Fleetwood Mac world tour, expected to kick off in mid-2018 and reach Australia in the summer of 2019, will not be a farewell tour.

"It won't be a farewell tour, not as far as I know," he said. The renowned drummer is in Australia to launch a collector's book Love That Burns - A Chronicle of Fleetwood Mac, which traces the beginnings of the band with British blues legend Peter Green in 1967, up to Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham joining in 1974.

He crossed paths with Nicks in Sydney on Sunday to watch their "adopted son" Harry Styles perform his first solo concert at the Enmore Theatre. And he will again be backstage with Styles at the ARIA Awards, where Fleetwood will present the Best Group award.

"I love him. He's so talented, he's got the real s..., in him," he said.

Fleetwood described his book of memorabilia worth $700 with only 150 copies available in Australia, as a "fantasy".

OUR MISS JUST MISSES OUT

AUSTRALIAN representative Olivia Rogers might have missed out on a place in the final of the Miss Universe competition yesterday, but the smiling Aussie was just as content with being one of the crowd favourites of the contest in Las Vegas.

Rogers was among 92 women who competed in the beauty pageant, won by South African Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters. Despite the crowd enthusiasm, the 25-year-old Aussie, who missed out on a place in the top 16.

Finances not women's savings grace

ONE in five women are financially insecure, with less than a month's worth of savings to survive on if something goes wrong.

And a worrying 43 per cent of women do not feel in control of their financial situation, blaming lack of savings, insufficient income, too much debt or overspending as the main causes of concern.

A lack of financial expertise is also causing problems, with new research from MLC — which queried 1000 adult women — revealing a large majority (80 per cent) rate their knowledge as average or poorer.

The survey also showed 66 per cent of women are falling to live on extra money into super and combined with the gender pay gap, means many are falling short of what they need for financial security.

"The harsh reality is that women are trying to cover a persistent and insufficient gender pay gap, and unequal allocation of power duties in the home is leading to women having gaps in their employment and savings," Dr Melissa Whiting, executive of Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, said.
EXCLUSIVE: Australian League legend Ian Roberts says working with Kevin Spacey made him ‘uncomfortable, angry’


Kevin Spacey. Photo: Getty

Ian Roberts played for South Sydney and Manly during his 12-year league career, and in 1995 became the first high-profile Australian athlete to come out as gay.

Spacey was one of Hollywood’s most respected actors until a raft of accusations of sexual impropriety recently surfaced, firstly from actor Anthony Rapp, who alleged Spacey tried to seduce him when he was aged 14.

Since then further allegations of improper behaviour have emerged, 18 from former male staff of London’s Old Vic Theatre, where Spacey served as artistic director for 11 years.

Roberts appeared with Spacey in the 2006 film Superman Returns, which was shot in Sydney.
Kevin Spacey (front) and Ian Roberts (third from right) on the set of Superman Returns.

The film was directed by Bryan Singer, who also directed Spacey in the 1995 film The Usual Suspects.

Students at the University of Southern California’s film school recently started a petition to have Singer’s name removed from the school after allegations of improper behaviour were aired.

Roberts said Spacey and Singer appeared to be close on set.

But he said his experience shooting the film was not all he hoped it would be.

“|was really quite excited about working with Kevin Spacey,” Roberts said.

“I was on set five or six weeks with him, in close proximity – I played basically his bodyguard in the film, so all the scenes I was in, he was in.

“But he was a very difficult person to like.

“Plus, Bryan Singer the director has also got a dubious past.

“Bryan’s history is quite dark.”

Ian Roberts during his playing days. Photo: Getty

According to Roberts, he was reminded repeatedly that Spacey’s sexuality was not a topic for discussion.

“I thought everyone knew Kevin Spacey was gay, I didn’t know it was a secret,” he said.
"He’s camp as a row of pink tents.

"I didn’t know it was one of those things we couldn’t talk about on set.

"I got reminded about that.

"I was like ‘really, we’re actually supposed to play dumb here? You’ve got young men, late teenagers, hanging around your trailer’.

Spacey issued an apology of sorts after Rapp’s allegations surfaced, claiming he could not remember the incident and declaring that if it had happened it would have been due to excess alcohol consumption.

He also used the statement to come out as gay.

"I didn’t think there was a bad way to come out – but he f***ing found it,“ Roberts said.

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I’m beyond terrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my life. I know that there are stories out there about me and that some have been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy. As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior.

- Kevin Spacey

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey
3:06 PM - Oct 30, 2017
18,972 30,177 84,179

Spacey’s coming out drew fire from many quarters, with Star Trek and Heroes actor Zachary Quinto one who criticised the Oscar winner.
It is deeply sad and troubling that this is how Kevin Spacey has chosen to come out, not by standing up as a point of pride, in the light of all his many awards and accomplishments, thus inspiring tens of thousands of struggling LGBTQ kids around the world, but as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusation that he attempted to molest one. I am sorry to hear of Anthony Rapp’s experience and subsequent suffering, and I am sorry that Kevin only saw fit to acknowledge his truth when he thought it would serve him—just as his denial served him for so many years. May Anthony Rapp’s voice be the one which is amplified here. Victim’s voices are the ones that deserve to be heard.

Zachary Quinto
@ZacharyQuinto
3:42 AM - Oct 31, 2017
1,235 Retweets 51,334 Likes

Roberts said that after his experience on the set of Superman Returns, he did not find the allegations about Spacey at all surprising.

"Does that surprise me? No, not at all," he said.

Rose McGowan
@rosemcgowan
Bye bye, Spacey goodbye. It’s your turn to cry, that’s why we’ve gotta say goodbye. #ROSEARMY
4:12 PM - Oct 30, 2017
341 Retweets 826 Likes 4,313 Likes

"That abuse of power and position, it does not surprise me at all that he’s been accused of that."

Roberts said men who abused their power for sexual gain angered him.

"I’m as gay as you get," he said.

"They claim to be gay, but they use the word very loosely.

"They’re not your average gay men.

"The abuse of power with very young men, it’s such a discrepancy—it’s not just the age difference, it’s the power difference."

"It reflects badly on all gay men.

"I just get so angry at men like that."
OPINION

Darryn Lyons: Dark side of showbiz has always been there

Darryn Lyons, Geelong Advertiser
December 2, 2017 12:30am
† Subscriber only

THE Ivy is one of London’s best restaurants. Just near all the West End theatres, it boasts great art deco surrounds and a long history as a haunt for celebrities.

I used to hang out there lots when I was papping in the Old Dart. Great place for picking up bits of information and tripping over unexpected actors, TV celebs, rock stars, anyone who’s anyone.
He was Harvey Weinstein. And I can’t say I was surprised to hear he’s in all sorts of strife over allegations of rape and other abuses.

There’s nothing new about Hollywood’s biggest and most famous being up to their ears in all sorts of mischief — the kind of stuff that would get you and me thrown behind bars and the keys thrown away.

I’ve been hearing stories that would make your hair curl about Hollywood’s biggest names — and all sorts of celebs — for years.

Rape, assault, murder, paedophilia, drugs, extortion, blackmail, theft, religious cranks, white-collar crime ... the showbiz world is full of it. But the place is also full of the most expensive and best lawyers in the game. Always has been.

And so all sorts of crimes by massively high-profile figures are swept under the carpet long before they might ever get to court or into the media. All kept secret by either power, money, influence or fear.

The secrets I heard as Mr Paparazzi were mind-blowing and publishers were justifiably scared to publish them. Often the stories seemed inconceivable — the complete opposite to the carefully-sculpted public persona of many stars.

But when you kept hearing these stories from chauffeurs, makeup artists, assistants and people working in their inner circle, you started to realise where there’s smoke there must be fire.

Doctors to the stars doling out prescription drugs to addicts, I’ve seen it myself. Orgies and drug parties on private jets — that’s par for the course until it gets out of hand and it gets right out of hand sometimes. And then there’s the really sick stuff.

You can talk of the dark web but I reckon Hollywood’s much darker. There are so many horrible and seriously damaging secrets.

Just look at the stories emerging now, Weinstein is clearly only scratching the surface. And every day there seems to be someone new in the spotlight: Kevin Spacey, Richard Dreyfuss, Louis CK and many others.

In the UK, we’ve seen Jimmy Saville and Rolf Harris exposed, people who have enjoyed the highest, most respected status you can get. In Australia, we have people like Don Burke now stuck a startled rabbit in the spotlight.
The assaults, abuses of power and horror stories of harassment, threats and more that we’re now hearing are crimes that could see people sent to jail for lengthy terms.

These people have had this easy way life where they think it’s their right to bugger kids, to rape women, to use the casting couch. And what about TV, the music industry? It’s not just the movies.

I wonder how many showbiz executives — not just dodgy actors — are shivering in their rich homes like the scared, confused victims they preyed on?

There’s an old line they all seem to have forgotten: What goes around comes around.

There’s another one they might soon be learning about first-hand, too: Payback’s a bitch.

Are international flights coming to Avalon?

GROUSE

http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/opinion/darryn-lyons-dark-side-of-showbiz-has-always-been-there/news-story/cdf1012e4d172b3a80c88bbabc8...
Fortunately, thenPremier Dennis Napthine came to the party or it would all be gone. Labor followed up with a 10-year lifeline, which was fantastic and one thing that it's managed to do well.

The Fox family will be rubbing their hands, Avalon’s value is going to climb in megabucks. It won't be just passengers flying internationally, it will also be freight from the region which will open up extraordinary export opportunities for local businesses.

QUOTE

"There are far too many silent sufferers. Not because they don't yearn to reach out, but because they've tried and found no one who cares."

GRRRR

HOW'S this for a good job? At your expense.

A G21 sits vacant in the Addy last week called for a director of health and wellbeing. For $130k to $140k a year!

That's a lot of money to “establish and maintain relationships across the region with a range of stakeholders” and blah, blah that could have gone to much-needed services for the needy in Corio, Norlane, Whittington and Colac.

G21 is funded by five local councils but mainly Geelong. The exorbitant amount Geelong pays compared to other councils is a joke. It has to stop.

The G21 workforce already costs about $700,000 a year — plus admin expenses, cars, computers, phones, travel, accommodation for its trips to Canberra, and consultants.

The new council must not sit on the fence with this. We need a united council to vote to halt the cash haemorrhage Geelong ratepayers are bleeding.
Kerri Anne speaks out about Don Burke

OPINION

Corrine Barraclough: Sex scandals or power trip?

Corrine Barraclough, The Daily Telegraph
December 2, 2017 12:00am
 Subscriber only

WELL, it certainly looks like TVgardener Don Burke had a shady side. Not everything was out there, basking and blossoming in the radiant sunshine. Rather, a secret offshoot thrived in the shadows.

As the week unfolded, the gardening guru faced an enfilade of sexual harassment claims, which he has strongly denied. Allegations range from using abusive
Here is the problem staring feminism directly in the face. Right now would have been the time to show the agenda was set, guidelines were clear and equality was a shimmering focus.

But, upon closer inspection, the face is gnarled and ugly; the phantom of feminism is here. It is revealing itself to be hatred of men.

Kevin Spacey is facing numerous accusations. Picture: AP

Not every man listed above is an “abuser”, “monster”, “predator” and “evil”.

Some may even be completely innocent. However, countless fem-folk are so eagerly plunging the dagger at this point, they keep stabbing even though it’s dripping with blood. Who cares whose it is?
If all of those men are deemed as sinister as Weinstein, the world is in dire trouble. Rape is not the same as a risqué joke.

Most men — and a large percentage of women — would be out of a job by that staple. If you disagree with that, I would suggest you are not living in the real world that the majority inhabit. Perhaps you want echoing offices to yourselves?

Secret buttons under desks to close doors without moving from your chair (in Lauer’s case) is not, by any stretch of the vengeful imagination, the equivalent of a socially awkward (un)wise crack.

**Corrine Barracloough:** Pain of loss for men after abortion

**Corrine Barracloough:** ‘Toxic whiteness’ is now a thing. What?

Feminism: if you are determined to continue losing what’s left of your wavering support, keep going. It seems you have learnt nothing from the world events of the last year.

All conversations and heated debate have focused on sexism. This is, many say, all about dismantling the power of the patriarchy.

Other key fem-phrases are peppered through discussions: misogyny, objectification, and inequity.

Truth is, it’s not, is it?

Burke wasn’t protected (allegedly, reportedly, and all that jazz) by Channel 9 because of his gender. He was protected because of the huge revenue he drew into the station.

Therefore, this isn’t a conversation about sexism — it’s about money and power.

Those two things are the real untouchables, not men. Businesses like money magnets — whatever they look like.

Call it money, or greed, or capitalism, choose a label as you wish, but make no mistake, this is not about sexism.

This week’s conversations strike me as incredibly naive. Who honestly believes that if there are more women in positions of power rancid behaviour will be eradicated?

That’s a fool’s game.
quotas now demand. The world may shift, but it will still be about money. The new currency will be pussy power.

We may feel momentarily refreshed and pleased with our gleaming new appearance after this tidal wave relents, but it won’t last long.

Gender is not the problem. Neither is it the solution. Ultimately the heart of evil is not “toxic masculinity”, it is money.

Masculinity is not one of the seven deadly sins, greed is. Perhaps we should pause for thought and ensure we’re waging war against the right target.
From Weinstein to Don Burke, the reckoning is overdue

Tracey Spicer deserves credit for getting the conversation going in Australia. Picture: Charles Brewer

CAROLINE OVERINGTON THE AUSTRALIAN 10:00AM December 2, 2017

It has been dubbed the reckoning — after years, and in most cases decades, of getting away with the most egregious behaviour, powerful men across the globe are being brought to their knees by allegations of sexual harassment.

It started in the US with Roger Ailes, chief executive of Fox News (owned by 21st Century Fox, the company that emerged from the spin-off of News Corp’s journalism and publishing assets). Ailes was followed by Fox News presenter Bill O’Reilly, forced out after too many complaints. Then, in a truly seismic moment, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, a man of immense popularity and influence, was publicly accused of forcing himself on women.

He’s now gone from The Weinstein Company, the production company he co-founded. And we are still only at the beginning, for next came Oscar winner Kevin Spacey and, just this week, Matt Lauer, the host of America’s most watched, best-loved morning television show, Today, came tumbling down.

Before that, on Monday in Australia, celebrity gardener Don Burke was accused of being a man who harassed and ‘lied people, including Australia’s golden girl, Susie O’Neill, who says Burke asked her about the size of her arse while filming a segment for the Nine Network’s Burke’s Backyard. Although she complained, and Burke allegedly got ticked off by Kerry Packer, he essentially got away with it.

So many men, for so long, have been getting away with it. What has changed? What has brought on the reckoning?

The Weinstein story obviously changed everything. Like the stories about Burke, his behaviour had been whispered about for years. Not even whispered: there are clips showing comedians making jokes about Weinstein’s behaviour on stage, and everyone laughed because everyone knew.

Actresses warned each other about him, but he was rich and powerful and well-connected, hobnobbing with Hillary Clinton and every star in Hollywood, and the lawyers were always there with their letters, ready to scare off anyone who wanted to speak.

But then some of his victims decided they didn’t give a damn any more and spoke up on the record. Their courage emboldened others. A crack appeared in the dam wall. Women began posting on social media about their experiences using the hashtag #metoo. One tweet, asking women to retweet if they had “ever seen a dick they didn’t want or expect to see”, got retweeted more than 200,000 times in five days.

In Australia, the woman who deserves the most credit for getting a local conversation about sexual harassment under way is journalist Tracey Spicer.

Earlier this year she published The Good Girl Stripped Bare, a book about her experiences in TV. She was harassed and abused. Her appearance was mocked. She was told to lose weight. She bore witness to the harassment of other women in the industry.

Ultimately she was fired after she went on maternity leave. She fought back, hiring a lawyer to fight for her rights. She settled her case, but she wanted to do more for other women, so she told her story; and her book struck a nerve. You could feel it, even at the launch, where women from across the political spectrum — NSW’s Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian was there, as was Labor’s Tanya Plibersek — cheered her stirring speech. Then it started: women began calling Spicer and emailing her, saying: “Me too.”

Golden girl Susie O’Neill is among those with serious complaints about Don Burke. Picture: Getty Images


11-439
At first Spicer was uncertain how to proceed. The stories she was gathering were horrendous, but what could be done? Australia’s defamation laws are some of the world’s toughest. You can tell the truth and still go down in court if the jury does not believe you.

Then the Weinstein story broke and Spicer decided the time had come: she posted a tweet asking women who had suffered similar instances of harassment to come forward.

She expected quite a few responses. She didn’t expect 900.

“Frankly, I feel overwhelmed and humbled by the sheer number of courageous women who have come forward to share their stories, many of which are heartbreaking,” Spicer tells Inquirer. “At this stage, it’s almost 1000. Really, it’s a stain on this country that so many women have been exposed to unsafe workplaces for decades.”

With the wave of claims now rolling across Australian shores, Spicer was determined to do something about it, and the place to start was with the one name that kept coming up in emails: Don Burke. In some ways, the fact he could be vile was the oldest story in Australian showbiz, yet it had never been fully told.

Several journalists had a go at saying so through the years, including ABC broadcaster Richard Glover, who wrote a piece for Fairfax’s Good Weekend magazine in 1991 with the spot-on title: “They love him, they love him not”.

Elisabeth Wynhausen, with Vanessa Walker, spent months investigating what they described as “some of the colourful claims, rumours and innuendos” about Burke for The Australian in 2004, but there was no backlash.

Burke’s show was a ratings juggernaut. He was protected. But no longer. Burke was the first to fall in Australia but he will not be the last.

About to burst into the open, surely, is the story about the high-profile comedian who assaulded and harassed his girlfriend. Sydney writer Kara Eva Schlegl wrote about that incident more than two years ago, explaining to readers of The Saturday Paper how she had been encouraged by others in the comedy scene to protect the man’s privacy, despite being outraged by what he had done.

“ ‘I don’t think he needs accusations or judgments right now. I think he needs our support,’ one tells me,” she wrote. “The thing is, he’s very mentally unwell at the moment, Kara,’ another says, ‘and this happened a long time ago. I don’t think it matters — I mean, it matters, don’t get me wrong, but this was a one-time thing.’ ”

Other names are doing the rounds. Many people are feeling nervous.

“Of course it’s not just the media and entertainment industry,” says Spicer. “It’s time for a full and thorough investigation into all workplaces. But the Don Burke story has prompted all sorts of conversations about what we can do to make all workplaces safe.”

This new reckoning is not being welcomed everywhere. INXS guitarist Kirk Pengilly, attending a Movember charity event in Melbourne on Thursday, said men were starting to feel that they couldn’t even compliment a woman as it could be viewed as sexual harassment.

“I really loved the 60s and 70s when life was so simple and you could slap a woman on the butt,” Pengilly said. You actually can’t go around slapping women on the butt. But Pengilly probably meant that men and women have flirted forever and it would be a shame for that to stop.

Spicer says the reckoning isn’t about flirting. Nobody is trying to put an end to the office romance. It’s also not about women v men. It’s about awful behaviour, abuse and harassment, and people should know the difference. The detail from the Laufer case opens a window on exactly what women have had to endure. Entertainment trade journal Variety says he gave a colleague a sex toy as a present, with a note saying how he wanted to use it on her. He is accused of asking a female employee to come to his office, then dropping his pants and showing her his penis.

It’s not just vile. It’s the stuff of lawsuits. Roger Singh, abuse law special counsel with Shine Lawyers, tells Inquirer: “These events are a wretched reminder that Australian workplaces, like in other parts of the globe, are not immune from the scourge of sexual harassment. It is a serious wake-up call. Workplaces need to change to ensure that employees are protected from sexual misconduct.”
Singh says what should be obvious: “Every individual has a right to go to work without fear of being assaulted in their place of employment.” Moreover, all employers have a duty of care to staff “which extends to providing a safe and secure workplace”. That means giving employees the opportunity to make complaints “without fear or trepidation, including against perpetrators who might be persons in positions of prominence or authority”.

And if an employer should breach its duty of care, “it is open for workers to escalate the matter to the Australian Human Rights Commission or to their state anti-discrimination commission, and there is scope to pursue legal action.”

The AHRC’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, says the allegations of workplace sexual harassment and assault that have come to light in recent months “highlight the magnitude of this issue and the urgent need for change”.

“Employers have a legal obligation to take steps to prevent sexual harassment from occurring,” she says. “Businesses must also ensure that employees are able to come forward with complaints of sexual harassment, and that these complaints are acted upon. Too many people have had their experiences minimised or dismissed by an employer, which is not only harmful to individuals but also costly to businesses, who miss out on skills and talent when employees who are sexually harassed are prevented from reaching their full potential.”

There is, of course, danger here. Yesterday’s “pants man” — the office playboy, usually married, who hits on all the junior staff — is today’s sexual predator. And in some cases, so he should be. But there may well be a temptation for someone engaged in consensual acts to change the story. To recast it as abuse when it was a fling.

Overnight, American author and radio personality Garrison Keillor lost his gigs on Minnesota Public Radio and The Washington Post. He told The New York Times: “I’ve been fired over a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version (his employers) heard. Most stories are.” We have not yet heard from the alleged victim, but those comments will ring true to many people, if not in his case, then in others.

Trickier still are those “he said, she said” cases. On Thursday, Sydney’s The Daily Telegraph reported that a complaint of sexual harassment had been made about Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush during the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

The report is correct: Rush was the subject of a complaint. But now it gets tricky because he was apparently never told about it, with the STC saying the complainant “requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially”.

Rush has reacted furiously. “Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates,” he says in a statement issued through his lawyers.

Actors Geoffrey Rush has angrily denied the harassment accusation made against him. Picture: David Caple

Two actors who worked on the same production have backed the victim’s version of events, taking to Twitter to urge the public to believe her and not him.

Yes, there is danger here, which perhaps explains why it has taken so long for the reckoning to arrive. Remember, Roman Polanski was convicted of a sex crime against a child. Hollywood gave him an Oscar, and his victims could barely believe it. They still can’t.

But the women who took the first tentative steps against harassment — complaining and seeing their complaint go nowhere — are buoyed to see the movement become one of great strides, and there may not be any going back.

Spicer hopes that turns out to be the case, saying “senior federal politicians, board members and executives are calling with ideas about how we change the culture. This investigation — and its consequences — will continue for many years to come.”
Private schools need new order
Old ways of running the institutions are no longer fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Teen without fear rockets past Aussie
As Caroline Wozniacki toyed with death, teenager Marta Kostyuk was cruising into the third round.
Usual suspect was Spacey for misbehaviour, claims Byrne

Eithne Shortall

December 3 2017, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

File photo of The Usual Suspects
POLYGRAM/SPILLING/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Filming on The Usual Suspects was shut down abruptly for two days after allegations of sexually inappropriate behaviour were made against the actor Kevin Spacey, claims his Irish co-star Gabriel Byrne in the 1995 Oscar-winning film.

Byrne said at the time nobody understood why filming had stopped, but he later learnt Spacey — who has been the subject of sexual assault claims — had been accused of sexually inappropriate behaviour towards a younger actor.

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https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/usual-suspect-was-spacey-for-misbehaviour-claims-byrne-m2q829v/jv
Kevin Spacey’s ‘inappropriate sexual behaviour’ shut down The Usual Suspects, co-star says

Katherine Lam, Fox News
December 6, 2017 11:36pm

PRODUCTION on the 1995 film The Usual Suspects was shut down for two days after Kevin Spacey was accused of “inappropriate sexual behaviour,” actor Gabriel Byrne said on Sunday.

Byrne, who also starred in the Oscar-winning film, told the UK’s Sunday Times that Spacey was accused of sexual misconduct by a younger actor that prompted the brief shutdown, but he didn’t know the extent of the situation.
Spacey went on to win an Oscar for best supporting actor in *The Usual Suspects*. Benicio Del Toro, Kevin Pollack, Stephen Baldwin, Chazz Palminteri and Pete Postlethwaite also starred in the film.

Spacey has been accused of sexual misconduct by several men after Anthony Rapp first alleged he was subjected to unwanted sexual advances at the age of 14 from the then-26-year-old House of Cards actor.

Netflix and Media Rights Capital announced on Monday production for the sixth and final season of House of Cards will resume early next year without Spacey. Netflix severed ties with the 58-year-old actor in early November.
The film landed Spacey (far right) his first Oscar.

This story originally appeared on Fox News and is republished here with permission.

Originally published as Spacey's 'misconduct' shut down film
Norway’s Ari Behn claims Kevin Spacey groped his testicles in Oslo 10 years ago

The Sun, News Corp Australia Network
December 8, 2017 6:37am

A ROYAL claims his testicles were groped by Kevin Spacey.

The Sun reports Norway’s Ari Behn, 45, said he fell victim to the alleged Hollywood sex attacker at a VIP banquet in Oslo ten years ago.

The encounter with double Oscar winner Spacey is thought to have been in 2007.

Spacey, 58, had just hosted a Nobel Peace Prize bash alongside Uma Thurman.
Ari, husband of Princess Martha Louise, said: “We had a nice conversation, he was sat next to me.

“After five minutes, he says ‘Hey, let’s go out and have a cigarette’ — and then he touched me right on the balls under the table.”

“I got more than I bargained for.”

Ari, who divorced Princess Märtha Louise of Norway last year, told a radio interviewer that he exclaimed: “Eh, maybe later.”

His wife, 46, is the daughter of King Harald V and fourth in line to the throne.

The couple wed in 2002.
Ari Behn with his then wife, Norway's Princess Martha Louise and their children in 2005. Picture: AFP
Christopher Plummer has replaced Kevin Spacey as John Paul Getty in *All The Money in the World.*

Picture: AFP

More than a dozen men have accused Spacey of sexual assault in the wake of an October exposé by *Buzzfeed* which saw actor Anthony Rapp allege the Oscar winner tried to force himself on him when he was only 14 years old.

Rapp’s allegation dates back to 1986, when he was a child actor earning praise for a Broadway run of the play *Precious Sons.* Spacey, then a relative unknown, was also on Broadway at the time, and Rapp alleges that Spacey invited him to attend a party he was hosting in his Manhattan apartment.

Arriving at the party alone, Rapp says he found he was the only non-adult in attendance, and spent most of the evening sat in a bedroom watching television.

As the party ended, Rapp alleges that Spacey appeared in the room visibly drunk and moved towards him.

“He picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don’t, like, squirm away initially, because I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’ And then he lays down on top of me,” Rapp alleged to *Buzzfeed.*

“He was trying to seduce me,” Rapp continued. “I don’t know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually.”
Spacey said he was “beyond horrified” to learn of the allegation.

“I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I’m beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years,” Spacey said.

He also used the statement to officially reveal he is gay.

Spacey has since been axed from his role as President Frank Underwood on House of Cards and was replaced as Jean Paul Getty in the movie All The Money in the World by Christopher Plummer.
Norway’s Ari Behn claims Kevin Spacey groped his testicles in Oslo 10 years ago

A ROYAL claims Kevin Spacey groped them at a VIP banquet 10 years ago after suggesting they go out for a smoke.

The Sun

Norway’s Ari Behn has accused Kevin Spacey of groping him 10 years ago. Picture: AFP Source:AFP

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"He was trying to seduce me," Rapp continued. "I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Rapp said he was able to break free, fleeing the apartment.

"The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn't happen," he said. "And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can't believe it. I could never imagine [that] anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy."
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This article originally appeared in The Sun and was republished with permission.
Royal shock: ‘Spacey groped me’

8th Dec 2017 5:28 AM

by The Sun

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As the party ended, Rapp alleges that Spacey appeared in the room visibly drunk and moved towards him.

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Royal shock: ‘Spacey groped me’

8th Dec 2017 5:26 AM

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"He was trying to seduce me," Rapp continued. "I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually."

Rapp said he was able to break free, fleeing the apartment.

"The older I get, and the more I know, I feel very fortunate that something worse didn't happen," he said. "And at the same time, the older I get, the more I can't believe it. I could never imagine (that) anyone else I know would do something like that to a 14-year-old boy."

Spacey said he was "beyond horrified" to learn of the allegation.

"I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an actor. I'm beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remember the encounter, it would have been over 30 years ago. But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years," Spacey said.

He also used the statement to officially reveal he is gay.

Spacey has since been axed from his role as President Frank Underwood on House of Cards and was replaced as Jean Paul Getty in the movie All The Money in the World by Christopher Plummer.

This article originally appeared in The Sun and was republished with permission.
Kevin Spacey accused of groping Ari Behn, former son-in-law of Norwegian King Harald

Updated Sat 9 Dec 2017, 3:26pm

PHOTO: Ari Behn, right, was married to Princess Martha Louise for 14 years. (Reuters: Mike Blake/Leonhard Foeger)

The former husband of the King of Norway's daughter says actor Kevin Spacey groped him during the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo.

Ari Behn, who was married to Princess Martha Louise, the daughter of King Harald, for 14 years, told Norwegian radio Spacey sat next to him at the event.

"We had a great talk," Mr Behn was quoted by the BBC as saying on Norwegian radio station P4.

"After five minutes he said, 'Hey, let's go out and have a cigarette'. Then he puts his hand under the table and grabs me ..."

He said he declined Spacey's approach by saying "maybe later".

Behn, 45, married Martha Louise, fourth in line to the Norwegian throne, in 2002.

Last year, they decided to split but share custody of their three daughters.
Kevin Spacey accused of groping Ari Behn, former son-in-law of Norwegian King Harald - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Photo: Actor Anthony Rapp accused House of Cards star Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct. (Reuters: Keith Bedford)

Spacey, who was co-hosting the December event in 2007, has faced numerous sexual misconduct and assault allegations and has remained mostly silent.

He came under fire for coming out as gay in his apology to actor Anthony Rapp, with members of the LGBTI community saying he was "deflecting" from Rapp's allegations.

Rapp, known for his roles in Rent and Star Trek: Discovery, has alleged Spacey made a sexual advance towards him when he was aged 14 and Spacey 26.

The embattled actor, who has won two Oscars, was also dropped from his lead role in Netflix series House of Cards.

Netflix severed ties with Spacey in November, announcing his former co-star Robin Wright would take the lead in the series' final season in 2019.

Photo: Robin Wright has replaced former co-star Kevin Spacey as the lead on House of Cards. (Supplied: Netflix)

ABC and wires


First posted Sat 9 Dec 2017, 2:53pm

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-09/kevin-spacey-ari-behn-norway-king-harald-grope-accusation/8943184
Don Burke declares ‘I’m no Harvey Weinstein’ after sexual harassment allegations

Janet Fife-Yeomans, The Daily Telegraph
November 27, 2017 6:24pm
 Subscriber only

- Don Burke ‘calls in lawyers’ over sexual harassment allegations
- Footage of Don Burke emerges: ‘Are your boobs real?’

TV gardener Don Burke has declared he is no Harvey Weinstein.

The target of what the former TV host has described as “false and defamatory claims” made by a number of women who worked with him on his former top-rating Burke’s Backyard show in the 1980s and 90s, Burke has denied claims of bullying and sexual harassment.

A joint ABC/Fairfax investigation reports on allegations that Burke was a “psychotic bully”, a “misogynist” and a “sexual predator” who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

The claims reportedly come from more than 50 people who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

At his height, Burke was one of the most popular personalities on TV.

He has linked the attacks on him to the media outrage that followed the outing of the powerful boss Harvey Weinstein as a serial sexual abuser and harasser.
Former TV host Don Burke has denied allegations he sexually harassed female staff.

"I loathe the behaviour of Mr Weinstein and hope that the legal system deals with him in such a way as to prevent this happening again," Burke said in a statement released through his lawyer Patrick George.

"I also believed this publication is opportunistic and intended to severely damage my reputation, by trying to link my alleged behaviour with the appalling behaviour of Harvey Weinstein which has gained a lot of media traction."

READ MORE: Footage of Don Burke emerges — ‘Are your boobs real?’

“I’m happy to say to the people of Australia that this is my story,” he said.

“If you make up your mind that I’m the most evil person that ever lived that’s your decision.”

Grimshaw arrived at Burke’s Kenthurst rural property this afternoon, with a crew of four cars.

The A Current Affair host was interviewing Burke for about an hour, before the crews left.

However, the broadcaster confirmed the TV star would not be welcomed back following the sexual harassment allegations.

“He is no longer doing any stories for Nine,” a spokeswoman said.

Channel Nine said the network no longer aired Burke’s Backyard re-runs.
The allegations are extremely serious, the behaviour described is completely unacceptable and would not be tolerated at Nine today.

The garden guru told ACA he was happy to address the allegations.

“Nine has zero tolerance of sexual harassment and workplace bullying and no employee should be subjected to this kind of behaviour. Everyone is entitled to come to work confident that our workplace is safe, free from harassment and unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with effectively.

“Nine has robust policies and procedures for dealing with complaints and to support staff in such circumstances.”

Environmental group Landcare Australia, who counts Burke as a former board member, said it had “no plans” to work with him “now or in the future”.

“Landcare Australia was not aware of the allegations against Don Burke that have come out in the media today, and we have no plans to work with Mr Burke now or in the future,” a spokeswoman told The Daily Telegraph.

“In addition, we have removed him from our website”.

A spokesman for the Governor-general said they were “unable to comment” on whether Burke would lose his Order of Australia medal.

“We are unable to comment on individual cases regarding the consideration of the termination or cancellation of an award in the Order of Australia,” he said.

“We can advise that the Council for the Order of Australia investigates matters brought to its attention and considers each case individually. After due process, as outlined in the Terminations and Cancellations Ordinance of the Constitution of the Order of Australia, the Council recommends appropriate action to the Governor-General as the Chancellor of the Order. Any decision made by the Governor-General is on the advice of the Council.”

FULL STATEMENT BY DON BURKE:

I am deeply hurt and outraged at the false and defamatory claims made in your correspondence. It is evident that these baseless claims concern statements from a few ex-employees of CTC Productions who bear grudges against me.

In particular, the most injurious and defamatory of claims seem to have come from one particular ex-employee who has had medically diagnosed, serious and

I also believe that this publication is opportunistic and intended to severely damage my reputation, by trying to link my alleged behaviour with the appalling behaviour of Harvey Weinstein, which has gained a lot of media traction.

I loathe the reported behaviour of Mr Weinstein and hope that the legal system deals with him in such a way as to prevent this happening again.

The bitter irony is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny. Burke’s Backyard (‘BBY’) was a lone bastion of anti-misogyny from its inception in 1987.

This was evidenced by me deliberately choosing many women to be regular presenters on this program who were there because they were the very best in their field — truly outstanding women like Densey Clyne, Rosemary Stanton and Jackie French (who was awarded Senior Australian of the Year a few years back).

These women, in Jackie French’s own words, were not the typical media females aged under 30 and with “Barbie-Doll figures” and Don faced considerable opposition to having them on prime-time TV.

director of CTC productions, the company which made BBY.

I am a sitting duck because I was also the main presenter of this eponymously-named program. This is almost unheard of in the television world. I largely ran the program and oversaw the hiring and firing of employees.

Tracy Spicer recently vowed to out predators in the Australian media.

Burke has denied the allegations.

Inevitably, this led to me being involved in the dismissal of some employees who underperformed or who behaved in an improper manner. Accordingly, there would be a small number of these ex-employees who still bear a strong grudge against me.

It is evident, that you have obviously been dealing with these ex-employees and as indicated above, you need to do proper screening and background checks in order
Don Burke declares 'I'm no Harvey Weinstein' after sexual harassment allegations

The TV personality claims Burke's Backyard was in fact a "bastion of anti-misogyny".

I am also associated with charity work of the Psychiatric department of Concord Hospital and many other charities and community groups. These untrue claims will also destroy my income for the rest of my life.

I have solid relationships with Scotts Australia, Celebrity Speakers, and many other groups. Already these mischievous claims have led to some thousands of dollars of cancellations of appearances.

Now, I respond to the specifics of these intentionally destructive claims:
workplace and I am very happy to provide female and male witnesses to affirm this.

- The intoxication story is not true.

- The story about the reporter quoting me is a total fabrication.

- The other reporter story is also a fabrication.

- BBY’s long-term receptionist is a dear friend of mine and no such words were ever uttered by me.

- I never commented on the body shape of any family member.

- No payouts were ever made, nor were any complaints of this nature ever received by me or anyone in his company. I also was never informed of any complaints or payouts by Channel Nine.

- I have identified 8 publicists from Channel Nine over the years, 6 were female and 2 were male. For most of the time the main publicist was female.

- The school comment is not true at all.

When Ms Spicer spoke to ex-CTC people who refuted what the malcontents were saying, she appeared to dismiss what they said it seemed clear that she had made up her mind before contacting them. She had her “Weinstein” headline and nothing was getting in its way.

This is unfair and unworthy journalism.
I enclose records of interviews from ex-employees who were contacted by Ms Spicer.

All are highly ethical people who would never tolerate behaviour such as you have alleged. Jackie French was a reporter on BBY and was Senior Australian of the year a few years back, Michael Freedman was CEO of BBY for many years as was James O’Sullivan; all three are willing to stand up in public forums or court to verify what they have said. There are others in this boat as well.
Don Burke allegations: Nine's ghost back to haunt them

Holly Byrnes, News Corp Australia Network
November 27, 2017 11:19pm
Subscriber only

NINE boss Hugh Marks knew this moment was coming, when the ghosts of his network's past would come back to haunt them.

Earlier this month, as the heat around the Harvey Weinstein sex scandal saw the blowtorch turned on the Australian entertainment industry, a candid Marks told a Screen Forever conference in Melbourne that sexual predators, including those he admitted had worked for Nine, were now on notice.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/television/don-burke-allegations-nines-ghost-back-to-haunt-them/news-story/c7070c1d289a9b7ec6b5b42c562f40...
Don Burke has described as "a horrible, horrible, horrible man".

Less than a fortnight later, his prediction would come horrifyingly true — with one of Nine's biggest stars, Don Burke, accused by no less than 50 people of serial misconduct, sexual harassment and workplace bullying.

Female researchers, producers and other staffers on Burke's Backyard would detail their encounters with the man they accused of being a "psychotic bully," "misogynist" and "high-grade, twisted abuser".

But it would be Marks' predecessors — Nine's former chairman Sam Chisholm, long-time CEO, David Leckie and veteran news executive Peter Meakin — who would put their powerful names to the alleged Burke dirt file - compiled first by TV whistleblower Tracey Spicer, which formed the basis of a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation.
Mr Leckie, most recently a director of Seven Media Group, described Burke as "a horrible, horrible, horrible man," "a dreadful, dreadful piece of work ... [and] a really dirty old man."

Mr Chisholm, whose second wife Sue Ward also worked at Nine during the Burke era, dumped a bucket on the original 'gardening guru,' declaring Burke's "behaviour internally and externally had precluded him from ever becoming a major star."

News of the accusations were met with more claims, with broadcaster Mike Carlton to the pile-on, tweeting: "no surprises here. Burke put the hard word on my first wife while he was filming in our garden in the 80s. She told him to f*ck off."

He added: "Burke was an infamous sleazeball. It did eventually kill his career."

His show, which delivered strong ratings for most of its 17-year run, launched the careers of today's lifestyle TV stars, including The Block's Scott Cam and TV vet, Dr Harry Cooper, who both declined to comment yesterday.

When it was axed in 2004, a bitter Burke blamed Nine's programming bosses for the decision, which he claimed had cost the network its ratings crown to Seven.
Don Burke says the claims are part of a witch hunt.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance also issued a statement on its Facebook page, questioning the culpability of Nine management and asking the question: “if this was so well known, why did Channel 9 allow it to go on?”

A Nine spokeswoman argued emphatically that the network’s culture had changed dramatically since those dark days.

“The current management of Nine is simply not in a position to comment on these specific allegations or on how these sorts of matters may have been dealt with in the past. The allegations are extremely serious; the behaviour described is completely unacceptable and would not be tolerated at Nine today.”
Don Burke’s not the only one who should be ashamed

Sarah Daffy

November 27, 2017 7:08pm

IT’s a terrible day for former TV presenter Don Burke and it only continues to get worse for his accomplices as Channel Nine admits to failure in cleaning up a catastrophic mess in its own backyard.

Burke has been publicly condemned after 50 women — interviewed during a joint Fairfax/ABC investigation — made serious allegations of sexual misconduct instigated by him.

Many of the women who spoke out remain anonymous but Louise Langdon, a former researcher on Burke’s TV and radio programs, said: “Dealing with Don Burke was an endurance test in terms of his persistence in commentary about anything sexual.
“He would often refer to a video he had in his possession which showed a woman having sex with a donkey. He encouraged me to look at this video which was exactly as he described it. I was just speechless. What do you do when your boss is showing you this thing?”

Despite her complaining to senior people at Channel Nine, nothing was done in response to Langdon’s claims.

Bridget Ninness, a producer of Burke’s for many years, also voiced her experience of bullying and harassment from him while working at the network.

Ninness recalls an overseas trip with Burke when he said to her: “I’m just going to tell you that if anything goes wrong on this trip I’m going to rip your f***ing head off and shit down your throat.”

Other women claimed Burke groped their breasts and made lewd comments about their sexual desirability during their time of working with him.

Burke should be unapologetically pursued over these allegations — every employee of an organisation has the right to turn up to work feeling respected, protected and safe. Burke’s alleged behaviour is deplorable and downright disgusting.

Don Burke asks a woman if her breasts are real

You’d expect Channel Nine executives to be outraged by these accusations and assume they were unaware of such acts taking place under their watch.

But the opposite appears to have surfaced — former Channel Nine executives David Leckie and Sam Chisholm pounced at the opportunity to publicly stick the knife into Burke.
Chisholm took aim at Burke calling him a "grub" and "disgrace".

Leckie claimed he knew Burke was a "horrible, horrible, horrible man".

"He's a dreadful, dreadful piece of work ... he was a really dirty old man," Leckie said.

So one can't help but wonder — what the hell did Channel Nine do about it?

Nothing it seems and that in itself is an offence worthy of vigorous retribution.

It is the job of a major television network to call out inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, to take a stand against it and to make a public example of perpetrators.

It's astonishing that Leckie and Chisholm would accept any such knowledge of Burke's behaviour let alone advocate his reprimand.

"Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally. This precluded him from ever becoming a major star" Leckie said.

So what? Channel Nine should be recognised and praised for stunting Burke's career progression at the organisation while at the same time admitting they knew about his offences all along? Get stuffed.

Leckie and Chisholm have showcased the network's deplorable management skills in coming forward with admissions like this and Channel Nine deserves as much public condemnation as Don Burke himself.

Its executives were paid generous sums of money to run this organisation and to ensure a duty of care for their employees. But they failed to do this by deciding to sit on their
hands and keep their mouths shut while Burke continued to allegedly assault and harass women at the organisation — while simultaneously earning it ratings as a much loved gardener on our TV screens.

Coming forward now to claim they were privy to this insider information is a disgusting abuse of their power and a public demonstration of their failure in leadership at the company.

Let's hope current bosses at Nine take these allegations seriously and do all they can to stop more creeps like Burke while they have the power to, unlike their predecessors who chose to lay pathetic claims of previous knowledge bare after the damage had already been done.

RendezView welcomes robust but civil discussion on our columns. Abuse of columnists or other readers and defamatory remarks will not be published and may result in a ban from commenting.

COMMENTS

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Ray
The media is destroying people's lives BEFORE these alleged accusations have been proven as fact. It's open slather on middle aged, white males who are celebrities. All it is taking is for people to make accusations.

As far as Don Burke goes, being difficult to work with as Susie O'Neill suggests I can't ever recall that being a crime.

Funny how there are no 'attractive hunks' on the hit list huh?

Like | Reply

Nov 29, 2017

citizen
How about focussing on our incompetent public servants who ruin our lives instead of all this feigned indignation?

Get your priorities right people, especially journalists.

Nov 29, 2017
bob
@citizen oh please, this guy has sexually assaulted women and it was hushed up by a major
TV station. This is news and your comment about public servants is irrelevant.

Nov 29, 2017

Like Reply

citizen
@bob
Thanks for showing us why this Country is morphing into such an unmanageable mess with
your upholding the mentality of "stuff you Jack I'm alright"

Like Reply

Rohan
@bob and as I have said elsewhere today, show proof in a court of law. Until you do he is
innocent

Nov 29, 2017

Like Reply

Richard
Skeletons in the closet have escaped.... aaaaaahh!

Nov 28, 2017

Like Reply

Wynston
So it's illegal to be sleazy 20 years ago now?

Nov 28, 2017

Like Reply

Alan
A channel 9 exec yesterday is quoted as saying that Burke's behaviour was "an open secret" for some
time. In other words.... he is one of our best rating shows we will pretend we know nothing and only
act if we get a lot more complaints, isn't this the channel that gets involved in professional
kidnappings? All for the advertising dollar. ARW

Nov 28, 2017

Like Reply

Lord Ramsay
Is Don is no good..

Nov 28, 2017

Like Reply

Investor
Bring back Derryn Hinch and his "shame, shame, shame...." file

Nov 28, 2017

Like Reply

asa
Thirty years ago it was ok to say a women had a large you know what below the navel, actually its
never been okay to say that.

Nov 28, 2017
Jamie

So the first thing that needs to be said is that spellcheck is a thing. It is a really handy tool which not many tend to take advantage of. Strange.

The second is that the recurring theme of many blokes here is that this all happened 30 years ago, old news, why didn't the women speak up at the time, why is the guy being lambasted now etc. etc.? To which any sensible person would reply that, yes it was a different time, and that the women would not be heard/listened to at that time, in part because it was against a massive star (and yes, Burke was a massive star back then, probably the biggest around) but also because they were “just women” and had no real voice.

The whole Weinstein/Spacey situation has now given these people with grievances a legitimate forum to finally be heard. And we need to hear them and listen to them and believe them in order that we improve as a society.

We can all agree that it was a different time and that people acted differently. But that does not make it right. We need to shine a light on this behaviour and ensure that it is forever banished from workplaces.

I am a male of over 50 years and I probably acted in less than wholesome ways in the past and for that I am embarrassed and determined to continue to improve as a person. By suggesting that these grievances are old and not worthy of reflection or reprimand makes all of us less than we should be. We have to listen to these people and give them a voice and make us all better at being good people.

King

@Jamie These grievances are old and not worthy of attention.

I don't care when the time was, a crime is a crime and crime should be reported to the police. Even if the ALLEGED actions were not illegal at the time, this is still not acceptable, you can't grandfather laws to fit perceived historical “crimes”.

If you where sexually assaulted go to the police. Full stop end of story. Anything else is dishonest.

Nathan

@King @Jamie Most of Burke's 'offences' are just rudeness though. HE probably wouldn't even be charged with them today, if he repeated.

Now, allegations of touching, grabbing, groping and things like that, those should be investigated, as they are crimes.

UNfortunately, 30 years on, they are very hard to prove.

Beeb

@Jamie

The vicious tool that can be Social Media didn't exist 30 years ago.

tim

So was attacking and constantly repeating questions by Tracy Grimshaw harassment? I started to get fed up with her asking the same thing over and over again trying to get the answer she wanted and not accepting the answers given. Regardless of peoples alleged crimes ACA's style of hounding people and pre-judgement is atrocious, stories are cherry picked to show only the side that ACA wants to convey. Occasionally ACA victims are prosecuted and they feel vindicated however most of the time it is half stories to shame someone and make headlines. I now remember why I don't watch ACA anymore.

Alex
@tim
Perhaps you should watch the 7.30 report... rather than TV's version of New Idea.

tim
@Alex @tim As I said I don't usually watch ACA as I find bailing somebody up and shoving a microphone in their face distasteful, it certainly would be unacceptable behaviour if perpetrated by anyone else, claiming the high moral ground when behaving like a bully doesn't appeal to me at all. I actually usually have 7.30 report on in the background while preparing dinner.

Phillip
@tim i thought he handled himself well, with all that was being thrown at him - lol.

J
@tim Now they are attaching those who have "dared" to defend Don.

milton
@tim grimshaw,k stefanovic & tara are all hacks that make 9 unwatchable,then again okeefe is on par too

Beeb
@Phillip
A manipulative and devious liar could be described as handling themselves well. This still doesn't render the person virtuous or worthy of respect.
Don Burke is the subject of "allegations".

King
"Innocent until proven guilty"

Unless you're a man and a woman makes an allegation against you that can be up to 40 years old with no evidence what so ever.


11-490
As far as I am concerned if you waited 30-40 years, heck even 10 years, it didn't happen.

All I see is people that can smell easy money of the flavor of the month hype issue.

Michelle
King.. what rot

Nathan
Well he has a point... what evidence have we been offered of these misdeeds?

J
@King Trial by social media

Lill
@King These women DIDN'T wait 30-40 years!!! Many of them told their superiors at Channel Nine and it was swept under the carpet because he brought in the ratings. What could be more insulting and demeaning? Where is the motivation for other women to come forward when that is what happens???

King
@Lill @King Then they should have gone to the POLICE!!!

All fake news at this point...

King
@David 73 In a vacuum of any real evidence I'd have to say yes.

One person telling a story isn't evidence no matter how harrowing the story is.

Lill
@King @Lill

If they can't even get their boss to believe them, what hope have they got of getting police to believe them and getting a criminal conviction in court?
King
@Lill @King If that's the case the (which it isn't) then Don is hardly to blame. It must have just been acceptable at the time

Lill
@King @Lill
It has NEVER been acceptable to:
- ask a women to audition topless
- ask a women about the size of her genitalia
- grope a woman
- continually asking a colleague about her sex life
- attempt to remove a woman's clothing without permission
Shall I go on????

Nathan
@Lill @King Uh... evidence?

If they can prove it, the police will not only believe them, they will prosecute the criminal.

Nathan
@David 73 What?
Tell alleged victims they need proof of a crime?
That seems downright...normal.

King
@Nathan @Lill @King Yeah you know, what the police use to prosecute people with.
Evidence, something that is 100% non-existent here.

John
@Lill @King Please do.

Nathan
@David 73 Yup, I'd be pushing for a police investigation.
Trial by Social Media.
Nothing more than a lynch mob.

Phillip
the greedy bosse's at ch. 9 are just as much to blame for not pulling burkes behaviour into line after continual complaints from various woman. they are the only ones with the clout, but no these things are of little importance when he has the no.1 earning programme on their tv station.

King
@Phillip You assume he is guilty, just remember these are nothing more than allegations and no evidence what so ever has come forth. Here say isn't evidence.

Phillip
@King @Phillip how many more people to you need to come forward to be convinced he does not seem to have been a very nice man. instead of diagnosing himself, i think he should see a pschiatrist, as he seems a very complex character.

Mark
If one was to believe all the media hype, one would think that women never harass, never say inappropriate things, never make sexually suggestive comments or never touch a male inappropriately (smack on the bum etc).

I have had all this in my last job from women. I could carry on and fall in a big heap and then in 20 years, start making claims. I wouldn't do this as it's my opinion that if you have something to say, say it now, not in 20 years time.

My point is that women aren't so innocent either when it comes down to it. And I bet there's a few blokes that could make claims against high powered women of harassment. But, these never seem to surface. Are men better at handling harassment, and tend to brush it off?

Kevin
@Mark Yes. In my younger days, I was groped by women. I took it in the humour it was intended to be taken. When it was more sinister - I told them NO.

I am not suffering from any trauma. I don't intend to identify them and in fact do not even know the names of some.

Mimi
I completely agree with you! It's even more difficult to bring the subject up as a man. My husband wasarrassed years ago because his female boss didn't like the "timing" of my pregnancy as the due date interfered with her project time line! She made horrible comments to him and to me.

I've never forgotten the stress it caused at a time that is so special.

Investor
@Mark
Nagging is harassment
Who are the primary initiators of incessant nagging?
Why do they do it? Because they want their target to do something for them, even if the target doesn’t want to.

Kevin
@Mimi Yes. A man would be ridiculed for complaining. Even today.

Sue
@Kevin @Mimi And sadly he would be ridiculed by both men and women.

We are still in the space that we don’t believe men can be raped or abused by a woman, or that men are entitled to stay at home Dads without thinking there is something abnormal about them.

Yet in the 60s the law didn’t recognise rape as possible in a marriage and women had to leave the public service when the married or at the very latest when they got pregnant because a wife’s place was in the home...

We still have a long way to go.

Mimi
A very long way...

tim
I have no doubt that Don Burke acted in a pretty sleazy manner however to put some perspective on the subject the world was a different place 30 years ago. In the 80s and 90s TV ads objectified women as eye candy, many of the adverts could not be shown on today’s standards,

Australia recently voted to legalise same sex marriage yet 30 years ago any amount of TV comedy programs used derogatory terms about homosexuality and the subject was pretty well fair game as the butt of jokes.

30 years ago smoking was advertised on TV and in print, Australia was simply a looser more ribald place back then

Our attitudes have changed when, I think about the attitudes we had about women and feel a bit embarrassed we were definitely more caveman than now, but I loved my wife back then as I do now we
just spoke about it differently.
I am not defending Don Burke if he has physically abused women and found guilty by a court and not just trial by media and twitter he should be appropriately punished, just remember sleazy behaviour was more acceptable back then (although that doesn’t make it right) and judgement needs to be kept in perspective to the times.

Kevin
@tim Hear hear.
This was an Australian and in indeed the western world’s workplace (and social) culture. It does not make it right but that wrong was partially set right by change in legislation and culture. What was deemed as workplace humour is now criminal.
We used to be disgusted as a community by homosexual relationships. Now we are on the cusp of giving them the right to marry, having decriminalised it some 30 or 40 years ago.
It was OK to use steel jawed traps to catch rabbit and to collect birds eggs. Now it is a criminal offence. As a child and a youth, I used to trap rabbits and collect birds eggs. Should I now be investigated and punished because we have changed?
Now Burke rumours have been around for years, Ch9 knew all about it and yet he was never (as far as I know) spoken to. So if people are not hauled in for their ribald behaviour, it only gives them license to continue.

Mimi
True in some ways.

Jamie
@tim OK. The first thing that I need to say to all writers is that spellcheck is a thing

tim
@Jamie @tim Speil chequers are overrated
DON BURKE ACCUSED

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun
November 27, 2017 8:20am

So why did TV executives wait until now to denounce him? Why did reporters not out him years ago?

I am always worried about the justice of the pointing finger. Accusation is not the same as proof, and Burke denies the allegations.

But I can't help but congratulate Tracey Spicer for exposing this:

"For almost two decades Don Burke was one of the most powerful men in Australia's entertainment industry. His popular gardening program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for the Nine Network until it was unceremoniously axed in 2004.

But now a major Fairfax Media/ABC investigation can reveal that behind the scenes those who worked with Burke claim he was a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who indecently assaulted, sexually harassed and bullied a string of female employees.

"He was a vile, vile human being," said Bridget Ninness, a former producer on Burke's Backyard, who later launched legal action against Burke for psychological abuse. "He was sleazy and he was crude" and his constant talk of sex was "designed to confront you and to demean you", she said.

Louise Langdon, a former researcher, was subjected to ongoing harassment by Burke..."
darkened room, with no lights — was the hunched-over figure of Don Burke," said the producer. "I said, 'What the f--- are you doing here?'

"Don tried telling me that she'd given him her room key while on the boat so he could teach her 'presentation skills' back in the room," said the producer. After arguing with the network's star for an hour, the producer finally got him to leave the hotel room.

To repeat, Burke denies all these allegations. It is important that we note that.

It is also worth noting that his former bosses say one thing now, but did another thing at the time:

David Leckie, the former chief executive of the Nine Network, said he wasn't surprised to receive our call about Burke. "... He was a horrible, horrible man..."

"Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally," said Sam Chisholm, Leckie's predecessor at Nine. Chisholm, a stalwart of the industry, also described Burke as "terrible grub". Asked if he felt the network had done enough to rein in Burke's behaviour, Chisholm said he didn't know.

The [then] head of news and current affairs Peter Meakin [said]: "I never received any official complaints, written or verbal, that I can recall about his conduct.

"There was gossip about inappropriate language and he was incredibly demanding..."
celebrity life

Aussie TV personality Don Burke reportedly ‘calls in lawyers’ over sexual harassment allegations

FORMER TV guru Don Burke has denied being a "psychotic bully" and "predator" after accusations by a string of women.

Staff writers

Australiann TV star Don Burke has denied sexual harassment and bullying of women during his time as the star of Channel Nine's iconic Burke's Backyard.

A joint ABC/Fairfax investigation reports on allegations that Burke was a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

But Burke, 70, has issued a vigorous denial of the allegations, which he says came about because he was a perfectionist in relation to his work.

The claims reportedly come from more than 50 people who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

"He was a vile, vile human being," Bridget Ninness, a former producer on Burke's Backyard, told the ABC/Fairfax. "He was lewd and he was crude" and his constant talk of sex was "designed to confront you and to demean you", she said.

She also alleged he once told her "if anything goes wrong on this trip I'm going to rip your f***ing head off, and s*** down your throat", causing her to physically vomit.

Burke "absolutely" disputes claims of bullying.

Former chief executive of the Nine Network David Leckie claimed: "I've been trying to think of Harvey Weinstein-type people [in Australia] and the only one I can ever

Louise Langdon, a weekend producer for Burke’s radio 2UE gardening show and later a Burke’s Backyard researcher, alleged the star kept up a “commentary about anything sexual” and persuaded her to watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey.

She also alleged he flicked her bra straps, pushed his foot into her backside and said she hadn’t been working out, and lifted up her shirt to see the colour of her underwear.

On a work trip to the Northern Territory, he allegedly tried to take off her top. “I was sitting next to Don on the bus and he decided that it was OK for him to put his hands on my T-shirt and try and pull my bra strap, my bra off and try to somehow remove my clothing,” she told ABC/Fairfax. “He was trying to take my top off.”

Wendy Dent, who met Burke when she was 21 and performing as a fairy at the Melbourne Garden Show in 1995, said the star knelt in front of her and asked for a wish. She alleged he then opened his eyes and said: “It didn’t work. You’ve still got your clothes on.”

Burke has denied all the accusations, and said "the rooftop incident never occurred."

A former Nine producer told the ABC/Fairfax of an alleged episode at a boat party at the start of the 1989 season. The producer, who had not been drinking, was asked by a publicity manager to escort an 18-year-old employee who had drunk too much back to her hotel.

The producer alleged they arrived to find the door ajar and Burke "sitting in the shadows" and said he spent an hour convincing the star to leave. The producer also claimed the star sent him a message the next day thanking him for "saving my bacon".

But Burke denies the incident occurred.

One female TV writer alleged that when she first interviewed Burke at 21, he constantly made sexual comments such as, "I bet you're a demon f***". The second time she alleged he commented on her breasts, talked about which sexual positions he would enjoy and brought up the size of his "C**k".

One said the last straw came in the third interview, when she alleges Burke told her he had bought a horse for a young relative "because I love watching her rub ... on its back."

Burke told Fairfax Media and the ABC that the story was a "total fabrication".


11-501
Burke’s famous Burke’s Backyard ended its 17-year run in 2004. Picture: Bradley Cooper Source: News Corp Australia
In a lengthy written response, Burke denied "absolutely" claims he was bully. He said that because he was a "perfectionist", "a small number" of former employees were dismissed either for underperformance or misconduct. Some of those people "still bear a strong grudge against me", he said.

He said he was "deeply hurt and outraged at the false and defamatory claims", which would "inevitably destroy his ability to perform his extensive charity work" and had already "led to thousands of dollars of cancellations of appearances."

Burke has allegedly called in a top defamation lawyer over the allegations. Patrick George — the author of the 2012 textbook *Defamation Law in Australia* — told Daily Mail Australia he was acting for Burke.

Burke is best known for the long-running *Burke's Backyard*, which aired for 17 years until it was cancelled in 2004. Burke's company, CTC Productions, also produced the hit show *Backyard Blitz*.

Bill Shorten told ABC radio that if true, anyone within the media industry who knew about the “sickening” alleged actions of Burke and turned a blind eye should be condemned.

“It is sickening stuff, it is shocking stuff,” the federal Opposition leader told ABC radio this morning.

“Millions of Australians have watched this show on television and I think they will be shocked.

“I wonder if Australians thought when you had the Harvey Weinstein scandals emerging in Hollywood, did we think we were immune?

“Perhaps we hoped we were but clearly we were not.”

Mr Shorten hailed all victims of sexual harassment for coming forward.
Viewers slam Channel 9 ‘boys’ club’ that kept Don Burke rumours a secret

AUSTRALIANS have hit out at Channel 9 in the wake of sexual harassment allegations against gardening star Don Burke.

Aussies who woke this morning to shocking sexual harassment and bullying allegations against TV personality Don Burke are questioning why Channel 9 never took action.

The Burke's Backyard star denies the allegations relating to his behaviour in the 1980s and 1990s by a string of former colleagues, according to a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation.

More than 50 people made serious allegations about the presenter, with three former Channel 9 executives giving some support to the story.

Burke has issued a vigorous denial of the allegations, which he says came about because he was a perfectionist in his work and some people held grudges. It has raised serious questions about why the network did not act on the complaints at the time.

"It shocks me that Don Burke was on the nine network. #boysclub," tweeted Nadja Mataia.

"Okay so Don Burke is clearly absolutely terrible, but Channel 9’s management are almost worse," said J.R. "Not one willing to take responsibility for failing to do anything about it despite SO many complaints."
Esther Cleerehan  
@cleerehan  
Let’s talk about how CH9 execs allowed Don Burke to get away with workplace bullying, harassment (and worse) FOR YEARS.  
6:03 AM - Nov 27, 2017

Lisa  
@sun_shower  
Right, just got notified by ABC about many woman who’ve come forward alleging that Don Burke sexually harassed them and was an absolute nightmare to work with. Channel 9 heavyweights covered his ass after they complained about his behaviour. Disgusting!  
1:13 AM - Nov 27, 2017

The Today Show this morning reported the allegations as “breaking news”, but viewers asked why it was just coming out now, when a number of former executives have said they were already aware of allegations around his behaviour.  

“A statement from the Nine Network says the network can’t comment on how matters were dealt with in the past and says these allegations are serious and would not be tolerated at the network today,” The Today Show reported.  

Nine told ABC/Fairfax it could find no records of complaints or payouts to any women in relation to Burke’s behaviour, and added: “Burke’s Backyard was a production of CTC Productions [his company] and they employed and managed all staff.”

But Burke only took over production in 1991, and some of the allegations relate to earlier periods. The show was launched 1987.

The Today Show  
@TheTodayShow  
27 Nov  
#BREAKING: Don Burke is facing sexual harassment and indecent assault allegations. #Today  
pic.twitter.com/0H75WpPHM

Rob Stephenson FRSA  
@RobBendigo  
Claims appear to be supported by two former very senior Nine execs - yet they’re not mentioned in your story?  
7:38 AM - Nov 27, 2017 - Bendigo, Victoria
“dumb s**t”, she stood up for the woman and was demoted. She said she decided to take legal action but then-CEO David Leckie told her, “Think seriously about that, Bridget. Dona is a major money earner for this network. We wouldn’t want to crush you.”

Mr Leckie said he did not recall her approaching him and there was “no way” he would have said something like that, and Nine never paid anyone to stay silent.

Ms Ninness reached a settlement with Burke’s production company in 1997.

— the former Nine boss said the network received complaints but was never asked to take action. “Through all this period, while all this was bubbling along, I was never challenged by anyone at Nine to say, ‘You’ve got to stop this’ — as in him,” said Mr Leckie.

But he also told ABC/Fairfax: “I’ve been trying to think of Harvey Weinstein-type people, and the only one I can ever come up with is Burke.

“He’s a horrible, horrible, horrible man. He’s a dreadful, dreadful piece of work … he was a really dirty old man.”

Twitter user Nicolle posted: “David Leckie has said he’s not surprised by allegations. So people knew? Another cover up to protect the male abuser.”

Journalist Elmo Keep tweeted: “An ABC executive once told all the women in our production office, ‘If you learn nothing else here, never work with Don Burke.’ And they weren’t joking.”

Mr Leckie’s predecessor Sam Chisholm described Burke as a “grub” and a “disgrace”.

“Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally. This precluded him from ever becoming a major star,” he said.

[Image: A man cooking in a kitchen, caption: “Burke denies the allegations of bullying, lewd behaviour and sexual harassment by more than 80 people. Source: News Corp Australia”]
Former producer Louise Langdon alleged Burke made regular lewd comments, persuaded her to watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey and tried to lift up her top.

She said "there was an institutionalised acceptance of his behaviour and it was actually not just an acceptance, it was an institutionalised enabling".

One former entertainment journalist said Burke told her during interviews she would be a "demon f***", and that he had bought a horse for a female relative so he could watch her "rub her c*** on its back".

The reporter said she gave the taped interview to Channel Nine and received a bunch of flowers.

Wendy Dent, who met Burke when she was 21 and performing as a fairy at the Melbourne Garden Show in 1995, said the star knelt in front of her and asked for a 13. She alleged he then opened his eyes and said: "It didn't work. You've still got your clothes on."

He later offered her an audition, but allegedly said she would have to be topless.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance said in a statement on Facebook: "If this was so well known why did Channel 9 allow it to go on?"

"According to reports published today, the top management at Channel 9 were aware for years of these allegations."
"Media outlets have a responsibility to stop this toxic culture of bullying and abuse."

Shine Lawyers Defamation Expert Peter Coggins said "the fact that such high-profile executives like Sam Chisolm and David Leckie are willing to condemn Don Burke's alleged misconduct, makes an extraordinarily strong statement."

For Burke to be labelled a 'grub' and 'horrible' would ordinarily satisfy the legal elements of a defamation claim under Australian law. However, the fact have been made by two very experienced senior media executives implies that these men must be prepared to defend any defamation claim against them on the basis that these comments are substantially true, added Mr Coggins.

"The strong comments made by the Nine executives does also raise questions about Nine's knowledge of Burke's alleged conduct, and what their response might have been at the time," he said.

"Generally speaking, it's always very risky for people to come out and make these allegations or support them without any sort of criminal convictions or investigations..."
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'A high-grade, twisted abuser': Don Burke a sexual harasser and bully, claims series of women

Kate McClymont

For almost two decades Don Burke was one of the most powerful men in Australia's entertainment industry. His popular gardening program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for the Nine Network until it was unceremoniously axed in 2004.

But now a major Fairfax Media/ABC investigation can reveal that behind the scenes those who worked with Burke claim he was a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who indecently assaulted, sexually harassed and bullied a string of female employees.

Don Burke accused of abuse and sexual harassment

Don Burke was one of Australia's most popular entertainers, but many women now claim he was a ruthless bully and relentless harasser, a major Fairfax/ABC investigation has revealed.

"He was a vile, vile human being," said Bridget Ninness, a former producer on Burke's Backyard, who later launched legal action against

Burke for psychological abuse. "He was lewd and he was crude" and his constant talk of sex was "designed to confront you and to demean you", she said.

Louise Langdon, a former researcher, was subjected to ongoing harassment by Burke which included trying to remove her top, and on another occasion Burke "put his foot into my rear end, with the view to checking the tone of my ... my backside". He then stated that the firmness of her "backside" wasn't "up to scratch".

A series of women have accused Don Burke of sexually harassing them.

"I loathed him, he was just a pig. He was lecherous and sinister," said another former researcher who alleges she was indecently assaulted by Burke.

Even David Leckie, the former chief executive of the Nine Network, said he wasn't surprised to receive our call about Burke. "I've been trying to think of Harvey Weinstein-type people [in Australia] and the only one I can ever come up with is Burke. He was a horrible, horrible man," he said.

Unlike Weinstein, Burke is not accused of rape, but the more than 50 people interviewed during this investigation have made serious allegations about Burke's actions.

"Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally," said Sam Chisholm, Leckie's predecessor at Nine.
Chisholm, a stalwart of the industry, also described Burke as "terrible grub". Asked if he felt the network had done enough to rein in Burke's behaviour, Chisholm said he didn't know.

Did anyone ever come to him personally about Burke? "Probably they did, but I don't know. It's a long time ago," he said.

"He was a horrible, horrible man": Former Nine chief David Leckie on Don Burke. Photo: Sasha Woolley

"I think the public that have loved him should know the real Don Burke," said another former highly placed Nine executive. "If Harvey Weinstein's been outed, Don needs to be outed."

However, in a written response, Burke angrily denied comparisons to Weinstein. "I loathe the reported behaviour of Mr Weinstein and hope that the legal system deals with him in such a way as to prevent this happening again.

"Suddenly he made this move and grabbed me, grabbed me hard on the breast. This was not a clumsy, oafish move. It was a calculated action. That is what was scary"

A former researcher

"The bitter irony is that I have had a life-long opposition to sexism and misogyny. Burke's Backyard was a lone bastion of anti-misogyny since its inception in 1987," said Burke.

"He is a high-grade, twisted abuser," said Ms Ninness, who eventually settled out of court with Burke's company over "sustained and systemic psychological abuse" in the workplace.

Burke was "two people", explained a former male crew member. There was the genial gardening guru on camera who was "very, very good at what he did". But off camera the real Burke was described by many of those interviewed as a psychopathic narcissist.

"He was an absolute sexual predator. He was a bully. He was horrible to people in the office. He would often have women in tears. He used to take great delight in it. It was like sport to him," said the former male crew member.

When journalist Tracey Spicer announced that she was investigating the behaviour of powerful Australian men in the media in the wake of America's now infamous sex scandal involving film mogul Harvey Weinstein, she was inundated with reports. One name kept recurring - Don Burke.

Among those who came forward was Ms Langdon, now a psychologist who lives in the United States. In 1987 Ms Langdon, then 27, was working as broadcaster Alan Jones' personal assistant when she landed a job as a weekend producer for Burke's gardening program on radio 2UE. She later became a researcher at Burke's Backyard.

"I was told before I went to meet Don that he was sleazy and to be careful," she said. "I was quite shocked about that because the only Don Burke that I knew was the affable Friday night Burke's Backyard gardener.

"So I thought, 'Oh well, how bad can it be?'"
As it turned out, nothing could have prepared Ms Langdon for what was to come.

"Dealing with Don Burke was an endurance test in terms of his persistence in commentary about anything sexual," she said.

On one occasion, while the pair was working at the radio station, Burke insisted she watch a video. To her horror it was a video showing a woman having sex with a donkey.

Ms Langdon was upset and disgusted. "Don was getting so much pleasure from seeing my reaction to it ... I was just, just ... speechless," she said. "I was really overcome."

Burke also subjected Ms Langdon to harassing behaviour – flicking her bra straps and lifting up her shirt to see the colour of her underwear. During a work trip in the Northern Territory he allegedly tried to remove her top.

"I was sitting next to Don on the bus and he decided that it was OK for him to put his hands on my T-shirt and try and pull my bra strap, my bra off and try to somehow remove my clothing. He was trying to take my top off," Ms Langdon said.

Another researcher, who asked not to be named, also recalled being warned about working for Burke. Her job interview was at night at Burke's home, which is on acreage at Kenthurst, a semi-rural suburb in Sydney's Hills district.

The taxi driver expressed concern because he had heard things about Burke and insisted on waiting for her.

During the interview Burke said, "Our nickname for the receptionist is 'the fat c----', so make sure you call her that".

"I think he was testing me to see whether I would be shocked," the woman recalled.

At the time the woman, who was in her late 20s, thought the interview was being held at night because Burke was very busy. But she later came to realise "it was all about power and control ... It was in his own environment so he could control it. It puts you at that disadvantage."

About a month after she started work as a researcher, the woman was

having a cigarette on the rooftop garden at the Crows Nest office of Burke's production company, CTC (Cut The Crap) Productions.

The researcher said Burke had been telling her about a cocktail party he was going to that evening. "You know what I love about cocktail parties?" he mused. "It's the name tags. I get to grab women's tits while pretending I can't read their name."

Burke was already standing uncomfortably close to her during the conversation when "suddenly he made this move and grabbed me, grabbed me hard on the breast. This was not a clumsy, oafish move. It was a calculated action. That is what was scary. It was premeditated. I jumped back. He sneered. 'You've got small tits, no one would want to touch your tits.'"

"The rooftop incident never occurred," said Burke, who also denied all of Ms Langdon's allegations.

In his written response, Burke denied "absolutely" claims he was bullied. Because he was a "perfectionist" and demanded excellence in his production company, "a small number" of former employees were "dismissed either for underperformance or misbehaviour. Some of these people "still bear a strong grudge against me", he said.

Wendy Dent was employed as an entertainer when she met Burke at the Melbourne Garden Show in 1995. Burke came over, knelted before the 21-year-old who was wearing a fairy costume, and asked to be granted a wish. In front of the crew and onlookers, Burke opened his eyes and said, "It didn't work. You've still got your clothes on."

Wendy Dent encountered Don Burke while working as a children's entertainer. Photo: ABC

When Burke encouraged her to come to Sydney to audition for his gardening show, Ms Dent recalled a crew member taking her aside to apologise for Burke's "sleazy comment" and also warning her to be careful of him.

Months later, when she had moved to Sydney, Ms Dent took up Burke's offer to audition for the show. Over the phone Burke was flattering, telling Ms Dent she had "real charisma" and great potential. "You definitely have got what it takes for TV," he told her and, what's more, he was "the No. 1 in the business" and he could make it happen.

He said "well, you'll have to audition, but you'll have to be topless".
As a result, she decided she wanted no part of this "sleazy slummy industry".

"These men become dream killers and I lost a career," she said.

Male crew members spoken to by the joint Fairfax Media/ABC investigation confirmed Burke's obsession with breasts and sex.

One former crew member recalled Burke spotting a group of schoolgirls, aged around 14, holding a puppy.

"He stopped and chatted to them and said, 'Do you want me to show you how to hold the puppy properly?'"

Because it was the legendary Don Burke, one of the girls said, "Yeah, that'd be great."

"He showed them how to nurse it close to their chest, keep it nice and warm," the crew member recalled. "When they walked away he exclaimed: 'Give me three!'"

"I said, 'three what?' He boasted that he had stroked her nipple three times while showing her how to hold the puppy," said the crew member.

Other crew members talked about Burke's voracious sexual appetite while on the road. The lure of Burke being a national prime-time celebrity meant women of all shapes, sizes and ages were happy to go off with him. "It was pretty much anything with a pulse," said one of his crew.

There were occasions when Burke's behaviour with women worried the crew. The most notorious occasion was referred to by several people as the "Newcastle incident", which involved a young woman who had joined Burke and the crew for drinks after filming that day in Newcastle. As the other crew members retired to bed, Burke was seen leading the unenthusiastic, protesting woman towards the lift.

No one knew what occurred behind Burke's closed door on this occasion or on other occasions but his constant bragging about his exploits the following morning made his crew cringe.

"Don would always come back the next morning and say, 'Oh my God, it was fantastic ... once she got up there it was on for young and old',' said one former crew member.

Another former Nine producer recalled a troubling incident involving Burke. The network had organised the season launch on a boat to celebrate the start of the 1989 season. One of those aboard was an 18-year-old woman who was about to launch her career on a new Nine program.

The young woman had too much to drink so the producer, one of the few who had not been drinking, was asked by a publicity head to escort the woman back to her hotel.

With the assistance of Mike Willesee's driver, he got the woman to the foyer of her hotel only to find that she'd lost her room key. After getting another one from reception, they arrived to find the door to her room slightly ajar. "Sitting in the shadows - in the darkened room, with no lights - was the hunched-over figure of Don Burke."
said the producer. "I said, 'What the f--- are you doing here?"

"Don tried telling me that she'd given him her room key while on the boat so he could teach her 'presentation skills' back in the room," said the producer. After arguing with the network's star for an hour, the producer finally got him to leave the hotel room.

"This was predatory behaviour ... Any normal person would have left straight away, but Don was determined to stay there and do God-knows-what to this girl," he said.

The following day the producer informed executives and the publicity department of Burke's behaviour but no action was taken. When he got back to his desk there were two messages. One was from the young woman thanking him for looking after her.

The other was from Burke. It read: "Thanks very much for saving my bacon last night, mate."

"I remember going, 'You f---er, you f---er! I'd never come across anything like it and I had done television for years."

Burke denied that the incident occurred.

Despite numerous complaints to Nine executives, both male and female employees were told to soldier on. "There was an institutionalised acceptance of his behaviour and it was actually not just an acceptance, it was an institutionalised enabling," said researcher Louise Langdon.

Leckie confirms that there were complaints made about Burke but suggested he heard them second-hand. "I am not going to mention any specific girls or anything like that," he said.

For one young television writer, the comments Burke made about a young female relative were the last straw. It was the late 1980s and the reporter was 21 when she first went off to interview one of Nine's biggest stars.

Burke continually interrupted the interview with lewd comments such as "I bet you're a demon f---k". The next year she was reluctant to interview him again, "but he was a very, very big star back there and I think that's what people need to take into account."

The second year Burke not only invaded her personal space but made suggestions as to what sexual positions she might enjoy. He also openly stared at and commented about her breasts. It was as though his body language was "I am staring at your boobs and I don't care if you notice, that's what I'm going to do", she said.

Her innocuous question about garden gnomes led to a vulgar comment from Burke about the size of his "cock". Her third encounter with Burke, an interview at his Kenthurst home, was her last.

When Burke said he had bought a horse for a young relative "because I love watching her rub her c---t on his back," the reporter snapped the tape off.

"I was absolutely and utterly repulsed by the man, I felt compromised I felt violated I felt disrespected."

"I took the tape recording to the head of publicity at the time and said I want action. And the next day I received a bunch of flowers and that was the end of it."

There was no apology from Burke and no action was taken against Burke, who told *Fairfax Media* and the ABC that the story was a "total fabrication".

In 2004 Burke was unceremoniously dumped by the Nine Network after more than 17 years hosting *Burke's Backyard*.

Over those years countless employees allegedly suffered from Burke's bullying, lewd behaviour and sexual harassment. The network's failure to do anything to rein in Burke's behaviour leaves a bitter taste for many. "Every single person in management ... has known about Don Burke. Every male manager. There is not one that does not know," said a former Nine staffer.

Even the male managers found his incredible ego and narcissistic behaviour impossible to deal with, said the staffer.

"But in terms of the sexual harassment stuff, they didn't really give a damn. He was too popular, he was just too popular a celebrity," said one former senior employee at the network.

Another long-term male producer on *Burke's Backyard* said that management told staff "to suck it up because it was the No. 1 rating show, the cash cow for Channel Nine".

"Lots of women I know just left. There was a huge staff turnover," he said. "He had the power, the profile and the tacit backing of Channel Nine."

However, the Nine Network refused to accept any responsibility for Burke's behaviour. Questioned about claims that the network turned a blind eye to complaints and failed to take any action to protect their staff from Burke, Nine issued a statement saying: "*Burke's Backyard* was a production of CTC Productions and they employed and managed all staff."

However, some of Burke's worst behaviour allegedly occurred while the program was produced at Nine. In late 1991 Burke took over the production of his popular gardening program.

Nine also said they could find no records of complaints or payouts to any women in relation to Burke's behaviour.

One woman who did complain paid a very high price.

"He got off on terrifying [female researchers]. Women were his playthings and he loved seeing them shocked by his behaviour and language," said producer Bridget Ninness, who worked at *Burke's Backyard* for more than seven years from 1990.

On her first overseas trip as a reporter, Burke turned to her and said that if everything did not go smoothly, "I'm going to rip your f---ing head off and shit down your throat".

Ms Ninness was so nervous and upset she vomited. When she complained to the head of news and current affairs Peter Meakin, she alleges he said she needed to have "broad shoulders".

Years later her colleagues at Burke's Backyard encouraged her to take legal action against Burke for the stress and psychological abuse she suffered at his hands. But when she did, Ms Ninness found herself vitally alone.

She said David Leckie warned her against the legal action, saying: "We don't want to have to crush you." This was denied by Leckie who said "honestly that is not my speech". He was adamant that the complaints he heard about Burke's behaviour were second-hand.

Similarly Meakin did not recall Ms Ninness's complaint. "I never received any official complaints, written or verbal, that I can recall about his conduct.

"There was gossip about inappropriate language and he was incredibly demanding. If someone fell short of the mark, he would excoriate them," said Meakin, who is now at Channel Ten.

"There was absolutely no care whatsoever for the consequences - the psychological damage, the physical damage," said Ms Ninness. She still suffers post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Twenty years later we are saying actually our lives do matter, our mental health does matter," she said.

"This is unfair and unworthy journalism" from a "small clique of malcontents" who were fired, said Burke.

He enclosed an email from former reporter Jackie French, now a children's author, saying that in the decade she worked closely with Burke she never saw "any hint of sexual harassment, nor heard any gossip".

Michael Freedman, Burke's former CEO, said: "I never observed any sexual harassment. Don't be the kind of person to engage in that type of behaviour."

According to Tracey Spicer, this is a seminal moment for women both in the workplace and society.

Spicer said a generation of women had been lost to the media and entertainment industry "because they were simply sick of being

groped and grabbed" while trying to do their job.

"We've put up with sexual harassment and indecent assault for so long and finally we're able to say, 'Enough is enough, let's change the structures within the workplace so women can feel safe'," she said.

Additional reporting by Michael Evans, Lorna Knowles and Alison Branley

The ABC's 7.30 on Monday will be broadcasting interviews with Burke's accusers.

Do you know more? Email to kmcclymont@fairfaxmedia.com.au
The Australian media industry operates a protection racket for men like Don Burke

Tracey Spicer

So many people knew. But no one stopped it. The perpetrators were promoted, while the sufferers were silenced. It was – and remains – a protection racket.

These are the initial findings of our investigation into sexual harassment and indecent assault in Australia's media and entertainment sector.

Don Burke accused of abuse and sexual harassment

Don Burke was one of Australia's most popular entertainers, but many women now claim he was a ruthless bully and relentless harasser, a major Fairfax/ABC investigation has revealed.

When #metoo prompted millions in the US to share their stories, I reflected upon the failure of generations of executives to clean up our industry here. And the reticence of reporters to investigate their own. Then, I tapped out a tweet: "Currently, I am investigating two long-term offenders. Please, contact me privately to tell your stories."

Hundreds of women DMed, PMed, or emailed their experiences: a tsunami of injustice. I asked whether they wanted counselling. Most

The Australian media industry operates a protection racket for men like Don Burke, or police support, before requesting they speak on background, off the record or on camera.

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From 'me, too' to 'no, not here'.

Slowly, we created a network: The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance set up a triage service, while police suggested a checklist for charges. One woman requested a female detective, before making a statement about a historical rape allegation.

The ABC's investigative unit came on board, so I created a co-production with Fairfax Media. These organisations have the most robust resources to uncover the structures protecting the guilty and punishing the innocent.

Some women have found it traumatic, with many triggered by memories. However, most have described it as "cathartic". In one instance, I was the first person she'd ever told. "Please, keep my identity anonymous," she said. "If my husband knew, he'd track down the guy and beat the hell out of him." She's not the only woman worried her partner would seek physical retribution.

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Others were concerned about losing their livelihoods, or being trolled on social media. "I was very young and pretty drunk," one said. "I should have pushed him away, but I was scared."

Don Burke from Burke's Backyard. His name came up more than any other as women made allegations about sexual harassment and abuse in the Australian media.

"I'm such an idiot," sobbed another. "I should have reported it to the bosses, but I didn't want him to lose his job. Now I know he did this to so many others, I wish I'd complained."

These women have internalised society's misogyny – a culture of


11-525
The Australian media industry operates a protection racket for men like Don Burke victim shaming and blaming. Of course, the only ones responsible are the perpetrators and power brokers.

A series of women have accused Don Burke of sexually harassing them.

Many women did complain but were sidelined, silenced or sacked.

Some commentators want women to be quarantined from men in the workplace, but this reduces promotion and networking opportunities. Other initiatives, like the anonymous hotline at Channel Seven, are good on paper but pointless in practice. Young women don't believe their identities will be protected, and don't trust HR after the Amy Taeuber case.

Tracey Spicer's phone has been ringing relentlessly with calls from women reporting new allegations.

Nothing will improve until the culture changes at the top. Greater gender diversity sends a signal that sexual harassment will be taken seriously.

This is not happening at one of the country's largest media organisations.

Amy Taeuber, a 27-year-old former Seven network cadet journalist in Adelaide, who alleged she was sacked after complaining about the inappropriate behaviour of a senior male colleague.

A fortnight ago, the board met to discuss this investigation. The chairman made four jokes about a high-profile harassment case, while a male director sniggered. (Memo felias: You’re running a multi-million dollar company, not a chook raffle at the local pub.)

This is clearly an issue of corporate governance. No wonder women are resigning from media boards, fearing personal liability from potential lawsuits.

It’s not only directors who’ve treated this as a bit of laugh. Managers are engaged in a monstrous game of hide and seek.

During our investigation into Don Burke – the man whose name was mentioned more than any other – we spoke to more than 50 former colleagues and executives.

Many men shared insights into his behaviour. Suffice to say, they knew about his history. Two executives at Radio 2UE refused to pair him with female producers, or rostered only male panel operators.

But few would go on the record because, “I’ll never work again. He’s too powerful and well-connected.” Some said they were ashamed about their impotence. Yet here they are – decades later – as still as statues.

Frankly, these men are frightened. (Now they know how women feel.)

As political philosopher Edmund Burke pointed out, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”. In this case, it is good women who are working hard to triumph over evil.

My phone rings relentlessly as they reveal new names. “I can’t believe he’s still here after five complaints to HR,” one said.

So far more than 500 women have come forward, naming 65 men.

This is only the beginning of an investigation that will take years, until all workplaces are safe for those within their walls.

Tracey Spicer is a Fairfax Media columnist.

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Women's 'coming of rage': employers who failed to stop sexual harassers are on notice

Jenna Price

If you are a woman who works, the idea that sexual harassers and abusers are in our workplaces will not surprise you. It won't even frighten you. You know them. You see them.

But this should frighten your senior executives in your workplace know and accept sexual predators' deplorable behaviour because of a love of profit. And senior executives in all kinds of companies and organisations have no response ready for when #MeToo happens in their workplaces. They think it will never be #MeToo. But the women are finally talking - and perpetrators should be sleepless.

Don Burke accused of abuse and sexual harassment

Don Burke was one of Australia's most popular entertainers, but many women now claim he was a ruthless bully and relentless harasser, a major Fairfax/ABC investigation has revealed.

The good news for women is this is our coming-of-rage moment. The bad news for bosses is your culpability is clear. You will no longer be able to hide behind confidentiality clauses and bunches of flowers.

Flowers, for god's sake. Your decision to deflect accusations of sexual
harassment is illegal and immoral; your behaviour will now be as much under the spotlight as the harassers themselves. Your decision to turf out women who are brave enough to complain will be a mark against you.

Monday's story of sexual harassment allegations against gardening host Don Burke revealed a pattern. Male colleagues warned female colleagues about the celebrity gardener. Male colleagues even intervened in hotel rooms to protect women.

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Then, as Kate McClymont wrote: "Despite numerous complaints to [Channel] Nine executives, both male and female employees were told to soldier on. 'There was an institutionalised acceptance of his behaviour and it was actually not just an acceptance, it was an institutionalised enabling,' researcher Louise Langdon said.

Whoever knew of those allegations and did nothing to stop the alleged behaviour is deplorable. We must immediately end the practice of using confidentiality clauses to silence victims. They have a right to be heard and a right to compensation, and these two rights should not be mutually exclusive.

Women, if this happening to you now, know you can and must be heard. Speak up for yourself and for all those who come after you. Don't be palmed off to the folks in human resources. They are not on your side. They are on your employer's side.

SEX DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER KATE JENKINS WANTS TO ASSURE YOU THIS PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR IS UNLAWFUL.

A series of women have accused Don Burke of sexually harassing them.
"It's not just a corporate social responsibility but a legal requirement that corporates take sexual harassment seriously," she says. "That's been the case for a long time but there has been an attitude that some degree of sexual harassment is inevitable, where men pursuing women is just a normal part of life and work. It is understandable women have been silent over time when the first response has always been to question them rather than the perpetrator."

Barrister Larissa Andelman, an industrial law specialist, says: "The use of confidentially clauses has in part stymied the urgent need for cultural change in workplaces. Statistics of women alleging sexual harassment at work has not abated over the last decade and a very small number of persons who alleged that they have been sexually harassed even make a formal complaint, let alone commence legal proceedings."

She makes it clear that executives can no longer pretend not to have known. "A person cannot claim to not have 'known' if the person was wilfully blind or reckless in the face of the known circumstances. Known circumstances may include rumours of conduct or an informal complaint or information disclosed by a person in confidence."

In other words, Mr Senior Executive, if you hear a rumour, check it out. Today. When you don't act, you permit men to continue to behave like this at work.

"Don't be palmed off to the folks in human resources. They are not on your side."

And what of executives who choose profits over people? University of Sydney business school associate dean Rae Cooper says: "They have knowingly chosen dollar outcomes over the well-being of staff. This is not just a matter of gender, this points to a revolting and hypermasculine workplace culture."

The corporate regulator, ASIC, points me to various sections of the Corporations Act, which covers the duties and obligations of directors of corporations — and those duties and obligations are care, diligence and good faith in relation to the interests of the corporation.

Good faith. How is it good faith to know that someone who works for you is in danger? How is that even possible?

University of Technology Sydney corporate governance professor Thomas Clarke says it takes brave revelations to make corporations face up.

"But it's happened with [Harvey] Weinstein and it's got quite a way to run, both here and elsewhere. The worst thing is that it has all been hidden for so long even when it was known that what they were doing was breaking any reasonable ethical standards of the organisation. The rediscovery will embolden people in the present to report them — it makes it much less likely that present misbehaviour will be tolerated."

Quite a way to run. As Shine Lawyers' Roop Sinch says: "If it is found..."
Women's 'coming of age': employers who failed to stop sexual harassers are on notice

that the network chiefs knew of such disgraceful conduct and did nothing to stop it, then those who are affected will have every entitlement to take legal action to bring the network to account not only criminally but also through the civil courts to recover compensation for their suffering."

Pauline Vamos, the chief executive of governance specialists Regnan, says: "Traditionally, boards have failed to take responsibility as stewards of culture – including fulfilling responsibilities to staff and managing reputational risks ... the factors that generate poor oversight have in the past been present in parts of the media sector, contributing to the types of issues seen at the Nine Network and others. These include closely held companies where boards are dominated by major shareholder interests and insular boards that abet a 'boys club' mentality, which turns a blind eye to misdemeanours."

She's joined by Australian Institute of Company Directors chairwoman Elizabeth Proust, who says boards should hold their executives to account in line with their values and expectations. "The Institute also strongly supports ... more robust whistleblower protections as a good governance step. The current legislative environment fails to encourage a culture of disclosure or adequately protect those bringing concerns to light." "

Employers: when an employee makes an allegation, make sure you provide her with as much support as you give to the person she accused. Your bottom line is about more than just money. It's also about people.

Jenna Price is a Fairfax columnist and an academic at the University of Technology Sydney.

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Nine has 'no plans' to bring Don Burke back in 2018 as former clients, partners distance themselves

Jennifer Duke, Patrick Begley

Companies including the TV network that helped make his name have ruled out working with Don Burke, after a Fairfax Media/ABC investigation revealed allegations of sexual misconduct.

A series of former female staff members have accused the Burke’s Backyard presenter of sexually inappropriate behaviour including lewd comments and groping.

Don Burke accused of abuse and sexual harassment

Don Burke was one of Australia’s most popular entertainers, but many women now claim he was a ruthless bully and relentless harasser, a major Fairfax/ABC investigation has revealed.

A spokesman for Nine Network Australia, which ran his show until it was axed in 2004, said Burke was not going to be on air next year and denied there were plans to bring him back.

"We were not in discussions with him, he has done some occasional segments on [A Current Affair] around gardening, most recently for..."
spring in September, but he is not going to be on air in 2018," the
spokesman said.

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Nine said they had robust policies and procedures in place "for some
time" dealing with complaints and to support staff.

"The current management of Nine cannot comment on how these
sorts of matters may have been dealt with in the past, these
allegations are serious and would not be tolerated at Nine today."

The agency Celebrity Speakers took down its online profile for Burke
on Monday. The agency did not respond to a request for comment.

"These untrue claims will also destroy my income for the rest of my
life," Burke said in a statement to Fairfax Media. "Already these
mischievous claims have led to some thousands of dollars of
cancellations of appearances."

Burke has denied all the allegations against him "absolutely" and said
some came from people who "still bear a strong grudge against me".

A former long-time presenter on Burke's Backyard, Jackie French,
said the program had been an "island of integrity" in an industry rife
with sexual predation.

French told Fairfax Media that over nine years of working closely with Burke she had never seen him flirt or tell a sexual joke, nor had she heard any suggestion of sexual impropriety.

"I think it would be impossible for anything to happen without any gossip," she said.

French, an author, described Burke as a "workaholic" perfectionist who had bucked Nine's wishes by hiring older professional women rather than "dollybirds".

The allegations were "incredibly distressing" for Burke and his wife Marea, French said.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said Burke's alleged behaviour was "sickening" and showed Australia had its own versions of Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood producer recently accused of extensive sexual misconduct.

"To the victims of this sexual harassment, coming forward cannot have been easy, so they are to be congratulated," Mr Shorten said on radio on Monday morning.

"If it turns out that within the media industry people were happy to accept the dollars and the ratings and turn a blind eye to the completely wrong and horrendous practices, well that's to the shame of the industry."

Burke was replaced as a member of the Science Advisory Council of the University of NSW earlier this month. The university said the new science faculty dean had wanted more diversity and Burke was told on November 17 he would no longer have a role.

"We are not aware of any inappropriate behaviour by Mr Burke during his time on the council," a university spokeswoman said.

A swath of partner and client companies listed on the Burke's Backyard CTC Productions website have distanced themselves from the former TV gardener, including RAMS, Foxtel and Unilever.

A RAMS spokeswoman said the company had not had a relationship with CTC Productions or Burke for five years.

And a Unilever Australia spokeswoman said the company was "surprised" to see itself listed on the CTC Productions website as "we no longer have any association with Don Burke or his company".

"Like many brands, we advertised with Burke's Backyard more than 14 years ago and were not aware of any sexual harassment allegations at this time," she said.
Nine has 'no plans' to bring Don Burke back in 2018 as former clients, partners distance themselves.

"We are deeply disturbed to hear of these allegations and we actively stand against any form of harassment towards women or men. We have no plans to utilise CTC's production services in the future."

Both Bauer Media and Foxtel, also listed on the website, declined to comment - but it is understood neither company had dealt with CTC Productions for many years.

Air-conditioning company ActronAir was also included on the website list, and a spokesman for the company said it was "shocked to learn of the accusations levelled against Don Burke for his reported behaviour".

"The conduct he stands accused of flies in the face of everything we believe in, and we are extremely disappointed to be associated with his conduct in any way," he said.

He said it had used CTC Productions as a supplier of video production services for two projects - the production of an internal video in 2014 to celebrate a company anniversary and in 2015 for testimonial videos.

"We have not required their services for any projects since that time and as such have had no further contact with them," the spokesman said.

"We never had any engagement with Don Burke for any of these projects, and his involvement with the company was not a factor in our engaging them - in fact, we didn't know of his involvement when we initially engaged them.

"In light of this reported horrible conduct, we have no plans on using their services again."

Burke has said the allegations against him would also "destroy my ability to perform my extensive charity work".

Asbestos Awareness, for which he is an ambassador, declined to comment. Another cause, Retina Australia NSW, could not be reached.

The Governor-General's office declined to comment on whether Burke's Medal of the Order of Australia may be cancelled in light of the allegations. TV Week magazine, which runs the Logie Awards, did not respond by deadline.
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Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill 'flabbergasted' at Don Burke comments: 'It was crude and it was belittling'

Kate McClymont

In the wake of the explosive revelations about the behaviour of Don Burke, Fairfax Media has been inundated with emails and calls from members of the public, former employees and other media figures making further allegations against the former top-rating presenter.

Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill said she was alone in her Brisbane house when Burke and two male crew members came to film her in the lead-up to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Don Burke accused of abuse and sexual harassment

Don Burke was one of Australia's most popular entertainers, but many women now claim he was a ruthless bully and relentless harasser, a major Fairfax/ABC investigation has revealed.

Usually high-profile sports people have a minder, but this was the gardenener from Burke's Backyard. O'Neill thought, "how dangerous could that be?"

But as she stood in front of one of her favourite artworks, a painting.

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Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill 'flabbergasted' at Don Burke comments: 'It was crude and it was belittling'.

But as she stood in front of six of her swimming trophies, a painting of a flower done by her husband, Burke remarked, "Is your c--- as big as that?"

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O'Neill was flabbergasted. "It was crude and it was belittling," she said.

Nick Cummins, her manager at the time, told Fairfax Media he was horrified when he received O'Neill's call to tell him what had happened with Burke. "She was intimidated by the crude sexual innuendo," he recalled.

Former crew members contacted during an extensive Fairfax Media/ABC investigation confirmed O'Neill's account of Burke's behaviour.

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Mr Cummins, now CEO of Cricket Tasmania, said he immediately contacted both Channel Nine's management and Burke himself.

"Burke was so convincing in his denials," Mr Cummins recalled.

When he read Fairfax Media's account of women making accusations against Burke, Mr Cummins wanted to point out that it was not just "disgruntled" former Burke employees with an axe to grind.
"It has stayed with me all those years," he said. "It was such an injustice." Although O'Neill's management did their utmost to pull the program, Nine pointed out that O'Neill was contracted to the network and refused to budge.

In an interview with Tracy Grimshaw on A Current Affair on Monday night, Burke said: "I'm guessing it's the social media, the 'Twittersphere' thing. I guess they've stirred this up because of the Harvey Weinstein thing and we've got a witch hunt."

"I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I'm the most evil person that's ever lived, that's your decision.

"If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that's their decision not mine.

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"I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like. But that's up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive me or not."

"Some of those things that I'm supposed to have said are absolutely despicable. I wouldn't say those things to other people and if I said I didn't say them, I didn't say them."

Amanda Pepe was a "hope-filled" 20-year-old television journalist in Broken Hill when the celebrity gardener came to town to film stories for Burke's Backyard.

It was in the late 1980s and Burke was filming a story on local art legend Pro Hart. Ms Pepe's boss thought it would be great if she filmed Burke filming Hart.

Burke was flattering, telling Pepe she was "wasted" in the bush.

He was "really close to Sam Chisholm (the Nine media executive)" and he could make her a star, Burke promised.

"I was an idiot, I believed him," she said. The young woman scraped together the money for the airfare and flew to Sydney to take up "the great job opportunity that he had lined up for me".

Burke was at Sydney Airport to pick her up.

Amanda Pepe cried when she told Fairfax Media how she fought Don Burke off. Photo: Linkedin

Ms Pepe said she started to feel anxious when there was a rose on the passenger seat of his car.

"Of course, no such job existed, just a sad hotel room and a desperate attempt to get me to sleep with him," she recalled.

Ms Pepe began to cry as she recalled fighting Burke off. "There was a lot of physical pushing," she said.

Burke eventually gave up and then begrudgingly told the young woman she could stay in the hotel room for that night. "But after that you are on you own," he said.

"I was jobless and far from home but luckily I had friends who stepped in when Don abandoned me in a city I had never even visited," Ms Pepe said.

"I limped home to Adelaide and licked my wounds."
"I have been weeping today for what was taken from me as a young woman and for the shame of not speaking out and perhaps preventing this dreadful experience for other young women.

"This experience caused me to walk away from journalism." Ms Pepe eventually returned to the industry and is now the publishing director of Opinion Media in Adelaide.

'An absolute monster'

As a result, dozens more people have come forward with allegations about Burke.

"I was a researcher for many years, he was horrific," said one woman.

Another said he was "gobsmackingly disgusting".

Even a producer who worked with him when he did the odd story for A Current Affair in more recent years, said: "I've worked with a lot of pigs but none so depraved as Burke."

One former print journalist said Burke was "alarming and revolting" to deal with. When she went to do a behind-the-scenes story on Burke's Backyard, the program was filming the house of an elderly couple.

"At the house, Don started making revolting and sexual comments about the plants to the lovely elderly lady," she said.

"He said one flower looked like female genitalia after giving birth. Another he said looked like a clitoris. The woman was horrified.

"It was pretty squishy in the house - you know what filming is like, with the crew and everyone - so Don asked me to sit on his lap. I flatly refused.

"He made similar comments at the next people's house. He was an absolute monster."

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Don Burke denies allegations, says he is victim of a 'witch hunt' in A Current Affair interview

Irlam Webber

Celebrity gardener Don Burke has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied allegations he was a sexual predator in a bizarre interview on A Current Affair in which he also attempted to link his behaviour with self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome.

A joint investigation between Fairfax Media and ABC detailed on Monday extensive allegations of indecent assault, sexual harassment and bullying perpetrated by Burke, which emerged from more than 50 interviews.

Don Burke denies allegations

Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

In an interview with ACA host Tracy Grimshaw on Monday night, Burke responded to the claims levelled against him, including that he was "sexual predator", "psychotic bully" and a "misogynist" during


1/5
the 17-year run of *Burke's Backyard*.

The 70-year-old, however, denied the allegations made by a number of women who worked with him in the 1980s and 1990s arguing he was the victim of a "witch hunt" stirred up on social media as a result of the Harvey Weinstein scandal in the US.

Male former colleagues have also told of incidents of Burke's alleged sexual harassment or abuse of women, which they witnessed or suspected.

Burke did, however, admit that he "might have been a bear with a sore head towards the end [of *Burke's Backyard*]" and that the "bullying may be true".

"I was this bullying figure, it was a robust environment and everybody was entitled to put in their two cents," he said.

"I'm a perfectionist that drove people very hard, and although I felt we did have a happy office, there's clearly, when you look at the people that are complaining now, there's a lot of people that don't like me, and they can't all be wrong."
Don Burke responds to allegations of sexual harassment. Photo: Channel Nine

"I think I deserve some of this. But not the sleazy sexual stuff."

Burke also claimed for the first time that he had Asperger's syndrome, although he admitted he had never been medically diagnosed with the condition.

He said this meant that he had trouble looking people in the eye and understanding body language.

"I can look at a lens but I have difficulty looking at people in the eye," he said. "I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. Not seeing. No one can understand how you can't see it. But you don't."

The claim came in response to an allegation that he made a lewd comment about incest to a female producer that were he to have a child with one of his young relatives, the child would be genetically perfect.

"I'm an Asperger's person and I have a lot of other failings that are genetic," he said while denying that he made the comments.

Burke admitted that he had made mistakes including a number of affairs, which had a "devastating" impact on his family.

He told Gruenish that anyone who was accused of doing what he had been accused of was "despicable" and "should be run out of town".

"Some of those things that I'm supposed to have said are absolutely despicable," he said on A Current Affair.

"I wouldn't say those things to other people and if I said I didn't say them, I didn't say them."

He said that he thought allegations may have come from former staff who "carried a grudge", and that though "they had a reason for carrying it", it was not for the reasons alleged.

Burke oscillated during the interview between rejecting claims and saying that he didn't remember the allegations, but maintained that he knew himself and that he was "not that man".

"A lot of this was 30 years ago. Who remembers what happens 30 years ago? What I know is that I know what I will say and what I will not say."

Burke's Backyard aired on the Nine Network for nearly two decades and was hugely popular before it was axed in 2004.

In a statement on Monday, the Nine Network distanced itself from Burke, saying he would not appear on any programs next year and denying any plans to bring him back.

"We were not in discussions with him, he has done some occasional segments on [A Current Affair] around gardening, most recently for "Spring in September", but he is not going to be on air in 2018 and I have no knowledge of any discussions at all," the spokesman said.
Nine said that it had robust policies in place for dealing with complaints and to support staff "for some time".

"The current management of Nine cannot comment on how these sorts of matters may have been dealt with in the past; these allegations are serious and would not be tolerated at Nine today," a spokesman for Nine said.

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Questions for people at Channel Nine who sanctioned Don Burke's behaviour

The investigative arm of the Herald is to be congratulated for pursuing possible perpetrators of serious crime regardless of their reputation and for being "independent. Always" ("A high-grade, twisted abuser", November 27).

Tony Re, Georges Hall

So Sam Chisholm thinks Don Burke was a "grub". What do you call someone with the power to pull out the grub, but leaves it untouched? Does the word change if he'd financially benefit from the grub staying just where it is?

Josh Dowse, North Curl Curl

Enough will be spoken and written about the odious Don Burke and his insidious behaviour. What of Chisholm, David Leckie and Peter Meskin? Their inaction over decades is stunning. They were, and are, undeserving of their positions of power. These men and Channel Nine should be ashamed.

Monica Fletcher, Turramurra

Yes, Leckie and Chisholm, if the accounts about Burke are substantiated, he was "a disgrace", "a terrible grub", "a horrible, horrible man", but what does it say about you both, for only speaking out now?

George Fishman, Vaucluse

The allegations against Burke confirm that if you make money for a company anything goes. Shame to all those who knowingly covered it up for the sake of the bottom line.

Gerald Borthwick, Stockton

I wasn't surprised to see the allegations about Burke. I knew about them many years ago. I then pondered how did I know? I know no one in the television or entertainment industry, I have no idea when, or who informed me of his disgusting behaviour. If the rumours had reached as far as me, it shows to what degree this was public knowledge and the level of cover-up and protection given to this TV star.

Shona Kirchen, Kiama

Can someone tell me if bullying and sexual harassment persist in radio and TV and if management is ready to sacrifice high-profile, high-rating personalities? I think it is happening now and management will still keep a blind eye as long as they are making money.

Mukul Desai, Hunters Hill

While we are waiting for the accusations of sexual harassment by the next celebrity, might we consider the costs to the workforce of the derailed careers and lost talents of the victims?

Many years ago I worked in a public service department. The office manager routinely "tried it on" with new female staff, before he was caught out using departmental money to buy things for his private businesses. So, in addition to any sexual offences, he damaged the potential careers of many staff, when you consider the decent and productive workers excluded from positions in our unit and the female workers who had good reason to resign from the public service over their manager's conduct.

Garry Dalrymple, Earlwood

Has the song Home among the gum trees been forever sullied by association?

Sally Spurr, Longsievile
JOINING KENEALLY IN SENDING A MESSAGE TO MALCOLM

Malcolm Turnbull, if Kristina Keneally wants to bring those desperate asylum seekers from Manus to my safe, friendly, welcoming electorate she has my vote ("Turnbull calls Keneally 'tool of smugglers' " November 27). Bring it on!

Jo-Ann Brown Eastwood

Could Turnbull please explain why moving asylum seekers to New Zealand or Australia is an open invitation to people smugglers while sending them to the US is not?

Bob Atchison, Quirindi

Thank you Darcy Hardy for making a value judgment of human worth to distinguish between political and economic refugees (Letters, November 27). There are so many economic refugees it is hard to keep them all out. I am sure that you, like me, have a large number of antecedents (in my case all four grandparents) who came to Australia seeking a better life for their children. They came by boat too! Please tell me how the people now on Manus, who we treat so horribly and inhumanly are different from our own families.

Howard Clark, Ryde

Not too many letter writers give Peter Dutton any credit for his ongoing work on Manus, instead putting the boot in at every opportunity, because, clearly, they're compassionate/moral and he's nothing but a dirty rat. Darcy Hardy has a different viewpoint, and is brave enough to express it. Dutton has the worst job in Parliament, and has been steadfast in executing government/opposition policy. I'm not sure what else he could do, short of throwing his leader and his colleagues under a boat.

Rosemary O'Brien, Georges Hall

Perhaps Ewan McLean (Letters, November 27) has failed to appreciate that in spite of the challengers of getting doctors to rural areas, our countrymen have clean water, electricity, medical care, a safe living environment, access to their friends and family and do not suffer human rights abuses, none of which can be claimed for those on Manus. This may be why the AMA is so concerned. And so should we all be. This abuse is being done in our name.

Marion Wood, Mosman

Add to Tim Costello's reasons for the Australian government to change its position on Manus Island, ("PM is kidding himself if he thinks Manus crisis is over", November 25-26) the $70 million compensation we as taxpayers have to pay for inhumane detention there, the staggering $5 billion for running offshore detention, the international condemnation that undermines our moral authority on human rights, and growing domestic concern for their welfare and safety from Australian clergy who have seen directly their conditions, there is never been a more exciting time for the Prime Minister to take responsibility for the refugees on Manus Island and bring them to safety.

Peter Penn, Maroubra

Stadium spend outrageous diversion

Which spending of $2.5 billion is more relevant to the needs of the NSW electorate (Letters, November 27)? Demolishing two stadiums built over recent years and rebuilding them – or expanding seriously overcrowded public hospitals that have been awaiting new facilities and equipment for several years; and building new public schools to relieve the pressure on scores of overcrowded primary and high schools (let alone many schools awaiting urgent repairs for years) to ensure their students receive education appropriate to their and societies’ needs. The state government has outrageously diverted revenue away from the essential functions of government and does not deserve to continue in office.

Harold Levien, Dover Heights

I find it unbelievable that Roy Masters, an ex-teacher in a state high school, should plead with Luke Foley not to panic at calls to "spend the cash ($2.3 billion) instead on schools and hospitals". Leaving Sydney "with only two modern rectangular stadiums" would be "bad ews for both rugby codes as well as soccer". Schools and hospitals v the football codes? In all seriousness which is in a worse state? Which is unnecessary v which has reached crisis levels?

Kay Martinelli, Macquarie Park

ANZ (Olympic) Stadium was built during my grandchildren’s lifetime. Allianz (Sydney Football) Stadium was built during my children’s lifetime. Sydney Cricket Ground was built before my lifetime, yet today is considered adequate to provide accommodation and entertainment to large crowds in more than one of our major codes, summer and winter, and on other occasions to viewers of unique spectacles. Who in his right mind can countenance the enormous cost of the destruction and replacement of the former two in the prime of their lives?

John Graton, South West Rocks

When the building of the Colosseum was commenced by Emperor Vespasian in AD70, it is said that one of the chief purposes of the project was to distract Rome’s population from more serious issues of the time. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Derrick Mason, Boorowa

The Premier obviously has too much money. As politicians like to tell us, she’s "spending like a drunken sailor". And we all know what happens to drunken sailors!

Warren Straker, Leichhardt

In Moore Park did Stuart Ayres
A stately sporting dome decreed,
Where Tibby the Cotter’s bridge did span
Traffic measureless to man ...

(Apologies to Coleridge).

If this $800 million dollar Berejiklian frolic isn’t inspired by

Ludicrous then flee the avenue from Barlow.

Richard Black, Potts Point

Viability in question

Three years ago today, the NSW government announced that the Powerhouse Museum would be moved to Parramatta. It is obviously an unresearched "thought bubble" made into inflexible policy, with so many obvious defects that space cannot even permit a summary.

Since then, a huge and constant protest movement has been mounted by major arts organisations and a "who's who" of Sydney's (and Parramatta's) arts and cultural scene -- to say nothing of hundreds of outraged ordinary people like me. A huge petition forced a Legislative Council Inquiry, beginning September 2016 and still continuing. It is attracting massive numbers of submissions and is hearing massive amounts of expert evidence that is overwhelmingly against the "move". Government witnesses hide behind the mantra "cabinet in confidence" in refusing to divulge even the most basic facts.

There were signs this year that a consultation process might occur. Meetings were held in Parramatta and Ultimo in late July, and many questions were asked of the government. There has been no response to any of these basic questions about the viability of the project. The special website that the government set up to facilitate communication and consultation has had no relevant information and indeed no postings at all for nearly four months.

In NSW, premier state of this supposedly democratic country, what must the people do to be heard by their government?

Tom Lockley, Pyrmont

Voters showing nous

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson said despite the poor result for her party that it was "a clear indication that One Nation is not going anywhere". Well that's great -- I don't want it to go anywhere either.

Deb McPherson, Gerringong

In view of One Nation's (and the LNP's) disastrous showing in the Queensland election, it is reassuring to know Australian voters possess much more political nous than politicians think. PM take note!

Dimitris Langadinos, Concord West

Hanson did not fizzle (Letters, November 27) One Nation was beaten by the system in Queensland which does not have an upper house. Peter Hartcher says One Nation polled 13.7 per cent statewide so far. If this was a NSW election, Hanson would have a few or perhaps several candidates in the upper house.

Geoffrey Williamson, Woolalhra

Your photograph of the Queensland Premier and seven successful new candidates is revealing ("Maverick blames Turnbull", November 27). Six of them are women. This is in a state where the Premier is a woman, the deputy premier is a woman and most of the cabinet of the past government were women. Clearly the gender of the government members was no handicap and, given the decline in LNP support, one must ask if there is a message for them here.

Clive Williams, Lavender Bay

Life-changing legacy

The shock and randomness of a mesothelioma diagnosis from exposure to asbestos hit home when I recognised a name from the Good Weekend article ("Asbestos and the great Aussie DIY obsession: the impending killer 'third wave'", November 25-26). Annabel Crouch successfully treated me in 1993 for a stutter I'd been struggling with since childhood. Being able to do everyday tasks as simple as making a phone call, to being able to speak clearly at work, was literally life-changing. Annabel was warm, vivacious and extremely skilled; it's now difficult to shut me up. The idea that she contracted a deadly illness from merely doing her job is exceptionally saddening and a warning for vigilance in monitoring for asbestos now. I wish Annabel's legacy could be as much about how much she helped others as the cancer caused by her employment.

Vicky Benson, Beecroft

Wrong source of worry

Local retailers shouldn't fear the onset of Amazon ("Amazon launch watched closely", Editorial, November 27). Their standard of service is appalling once something goes wrong. They sent the wrong product not once but twice and left me out of pocket $25.95 because they refused only a small fraction of the return postage costs. There was no easy way to complain. Hopefully this can now be done directly to our ACCC, which will need to put on extra staff to deal with the volume.

William Lloyd, Denistone

Not so easily swayed

As someone who has never had an account with Facebook, and never will, it's difficult to understand how Hannah Ryan is concerned about Facebook "transforming politics, dividing communities and eroding truth," but still chooses to remain a member of the social media behemoth ("Facebook boss must widen his travels", November 27). She goes on to note Facebook's extraordinary "sway over our lives." It's got no sway over my life. Opt out Hannah, before it's too late.

David Andrew Paddington

Sweet displays are merely window dressing

It has been a long-standing family tradition to visit and wonder at the novice.


11-559
It has long been our family tradition to visit and wonder at the usually amazing Christmas window displays in the David Jones Elizabeth Street store. This year’s blatant promotion of sugary confections is a let-down and a disgrace. Not only has the message of Christmas been totally ignored but the minds of young children are being bombarded with the idea that it is all about sugar, at a time when child obesity in Australia is at an all time high.

Peter Noone, Meadowbank

Inspiring architect

Colin Still (Timelines, November 27) was also the architect responsible for the concept design of the highly successful but now demolished Parramatta Stadium. He was an inspiration to all those who worked with him.

Ian Ferrer, Paddington

If hat fits, wear it

And what about Channel Nine’s cricket commentary team, with the exception of the ever-sensible Ian Chappell, Stephanie Edwards (Letters, November 27)? They don’t wear hats when doing on-field interviews. I guess they aren’t paid enough.

Col Shephard, Yamba

One coach is enough

Despite the Wallabies having a head coach, defence coach, attack coach, scrum coach and skills coach, the only successful coach is the big shiny one that takes them to and from the matches ... er, mismatches ("Two losses confirmation that Wallabies now trail Scotland", November 27).

Kent Mayo, Uralla

Questions for people at Channel Nine who sanctioned Don Burke's behaviour


9/5

11-562
celebrity life

‘That makes me just sick’: Tziporah Malkah breaks her silence on the Don Burke she worked with

THE former fiancee of James Packer, once known as Kate Fischer, was privy to Nine’s secrets. She reveals what she heard.

James Weir  @helajamesweir

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 9:33AM

XCLUSIVE

She was engaged to James Packer, worked closely with Don Burke and knew all the secrets at the “evil empire” Channel Nine. Except one.

Tziporah Malkah — the model formerly known as Kate Fischer — was left feeling sick last night as she was told the claims of misconduct being made against her former executive producer and mentor Don Burke.

“That makes me just sick — that disgusts me,” Malkah, 44, told news.com.au when told some of the graphic accounts made by former staff members who worked on the show Burke’s Backyard.

But the man she was exposed to was much different to the one many other women saw.

Perhaps it was her status as a politician’s daughter and her place in Packer’s inner circle that meant Burke kept his dark side hidden from her.

“Maybe I’m playing Meryl Streep. I don’t know. Maybe I was protected because I was the boss’s son’s fiancee. Because I didn’t hear anything,” she said.

‘HE’S AWKWARD WITH WOMEN’

Burke offered her a hosting role on a new TV show called *Time Out For Serious Fun*. It would air for one season in 1995 on Channel Nine before Malkah decided to move on.

"He wasn't touchy feely with me. I'm a bugger. And he'd never press himself into me. I know those men. They press themselves into you and they really wanna feel your nipples pressing into them. Don never did that," she said.
Malkah continually described Burke as "awkward with women", a "dweeb" and a "dork".

"He would make revolting comments — but it was always in competition with me. But it was always a bit awkward — he'd always look around the room to make sure it was funny. Like, he wasn't quite sure of himself.

"He was definitely not a cool kid at school. He's not slick. He's not slick at all. He's a dork. He reminded me of just a stupid young bloke."

Talking about the "boys club" that operated in Australia's entertainment industry in the '80s and '90s, Malkah said she was fortunate not to suffer the gross misconduct other women experienced.

"There's a huge power difference there. A famous, well-loved man on television and a young woman," she said of the Burke claims. "I don't think I ever suffered that kind of power imbalance where I felt like I was forced to do something that I didn't want to do because of their power."

"When she read some of the graphic incidents other women claim to have had with Burke, Malkah said they made her "shocked and sad".

"That's inappropriate... that sort of stuff makes me feel quite sick," she said.

She added: "He needs to explore his... his Asperger's," she said, referring to Burke's claims of undiagnosed Asperger's he made during an interview on Monday night with A Current Affair.

'IS HE SLEAZY?'

In the staggering number of claims brought against Burke in the joint ABC/Fairfax investigation, many describe Burke's behaviour as an open secret in the industry.

But Malkah said she never once heard a rumour about Burke until she was approached a few weeks ago by a television network. But a particular conversation she had with a fan has stayed with her.

"One day, a punter said to me, 'Hey, what's Don like? Is he strict? Or is he stingy? Or is he sleazy?'" she recalled.

"I ran through the list in my head and said, 'Well, he is nice, he's strict. Is he stingy? No — he's generous. Is he sleazy? No, I don't think so.'"

"The word 'sleazy' got in my mind and I went to Michael Freedman (the former managing director of Burke's company CTC Productions) and said people asked me..."
‘THEY HATED HIM’

During her time on Time Out For Serious Fun, Malkah saw Burke as a mentor who was “firm” but “not hard”.

She was in the middle of her five-year relationship with James Packer — and privy to the most confidential information inside the network, dubbed “the evil empire”.

“James and I had a very real relationship where we could talk about things. Absolutely I would’ve heard,” she said.

“James and Leckie and Kerry all spoke very openly in front of me about people. ‘He’s a see you next Tuesday! And he’s a see you next Tuesday! Ah, don’t go near that one!’

“You’d hear all about the see you next Tuesdays. They hated Don because he made money and wouldn’t let [Nine] produce [the show] in-house. He fought with them tooth and nail and owned his own product and they hated him for it. Because they had to go with him because he made so much money. They hated him for it.

“And David Leckie and Sam Chisholm ... if they’re saying they’ve been hearing this for 30 years and they’re so powerful — then ... what the heck?”

As part of ABC’s report, former Nine chief executive Sam Chisholm described Burke as a “grub” and a “disgrace”. His successor David Leckie confirmed complaints.
Malkah's high-profile romance with Packer spanned five years Source:AFP

Malkah added: "When I'd go to the Palm Beach house and I'd be there with the Packer family, never did anyone comment. [Either because] they didn't know or because they were keeping it especially private just from me."

One of the claims on Monday particularly shocked Malkah.

"...I love watching her rub her c***t on its back," Burke allegedly told a reporter about watching a young female relative riding a horse.

"That makes me just sick — that disgusts me," Malkah said.

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celebrity life

Don Burke accused of making appalling insult to Olympian Susie O’Neill

OLYMPIAN Susie O’Neill has accused Don Burke of making an appalling comment to her, as claims of his bad behaviour pile up.

James Law @JournoLaw

Don Burke continues to deny allegations

"OLYMPIC swimming legend Susie O’Neill has accused former Channel 9 presenter Don Burke of making a revolting insult to her when he visited her home in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

Burke was at her Brisbane home with two male crew members filming a segment for gardening show Burke’s Backyard when she showed him a painting of a flower by her husband.

According to Fairfax, Burke asked O’Neill: "Is your c*** as big as that?"

O’Neill is the latest woman to accuse the celebrity gardener of bad behaviour, after an ABC-Fairfax investigation exposed claims of Burke sexual harassing and bullying co-workers.

The Olympic gold medallist was shocked by her encounter with the TV veteran.

“It was crude and it was belittling,” she told Fairfax."
O'Neill's management tried to pull the program after the comments, but Channel 9 refused, according to the report.

Burke, 70, has denied allegations in the ABC-Fairfax investigation that he was a "psychotic bully," a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female staffers.

The allegations, aired in detail on ABC current affairs show 7.30 last night, include that he groped the breasts of two TV researchers, that he tried to remove the clothing of one of the researchers and that he told a young actor that she would have to audition topless for his show.

Speaking to A Current Affair last night, Burke admitted to "bullying" co-workers but rejected claims he had sexually harassed anyone.

"I think in part, I deserve this, but not for all that sleazy sexual stuff," he said.
"I'm a perfectionist that drove people pretty hard and ... there's a lot of people who don't like me and they can't all be wrong.

"Towards the end [of Burke's Backyard's 18-year run] I don't think I was a very good person ... I was like a bear with a sore head and I do apologise for that.

"I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like, but that's up to the people of Australia now to decide: can they forgive me or not?"

Burke also explained some of his actions by claiming he had Asperger's, a form of autism that makes social interactions difficult.

"I haven't been medically diagnosed, but I've worked it out that that's what I've got," he said.

"It's a terrible failing. I can look in a lens (but) I have real difficulty looking anyone in the eye ... I miss all their body language often, the subtle signs that people give to you like 'Back off, that's enough'. I don't see that."

...he added that former employees who he had put their names to allegations that he had sexually assaulted them held a "grudge" against him.

"I guess this is the Harvey Weinstein thing and we've got a witch hunt," he told ACA.

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Don Burke: Olympic swimmer Susie O’Neill joins flood of allegations against TV star

AS more women come forward with claims of harassment and bullying against Don Burke, a story from 2004 reveals the staff turnover on his hit TV show was 'unusually high'.

Holly Byrnes, Zoe Smith

News Corp Australia Network  NOVEMBER 29, 2017 1:52PM

Oscar Burke continues to deny allegations

An investigative piece into Don Burke published by The Australian in 2004, journalists Elisabeth Wynhausen and Vanessa Walker discovered another side to the popular TV presenter.

In the article, which came out just before Burke’s Backyard was axed, they spoke to former colleagues and TV executives about “the colourful claims, rumours and innuendos about one of television’s most talked about characters”.

The article reveals how Burke had a reputation for being difficult to work with and claims that the staff turnover on Burke’s Backyard was “unusually high”.

“He’ll tell editors how to edit, shooters how to shoot. Don doesn’t have opinions, he has right points of view,” said David Lyle, the show’s first executive producer.

“Don Burke is one of the most gifted television presenters it’s ever been my misfortune to work with,” Lyle told The Australian.

He also described Burke as a man who is “very easy to dislike”.

While the article doesn’t address any sexual harassment allegations against Burke, it does paint a picture of man who was not quite as he seemed on the small screen. It also revealed that many of the people who worked on Burke’s Backyard, from producers to researchers, had to sign confidentiality agreements.

http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/tv/m-not-that-man-burke-grilled-on-seanews-story/87b86aad5c1aa76e0c0c5fa0ae621
The resurfaced story comes after Australia woke to a flood of allegations about sexual impropriety in its media industry, with Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill joining the outcry against Don Burke.

O'Neill told Fairfax she was alone in her Brisbane home when Burke and his camera crew came to interview her in the lead-up to the 2000 Olympics.

She said she didn’t bother with a minder, which she usually had, because this was Burke’s Backyard. “How dangerous could that be?”

But, she says, as she stood in front of a painting of a flower done by her husband, Burke allegedly remarked: “Is your c*** as big as that?”

“It was crude and it was belittling,” O’Neill told Fairfax.

ABC and Fairfax reporter Tracey Spicer says yesterday’s Burke allegations have opened the floodgates, with many more complaints streaming in.

“I’ve woken up this morning to another 150: some about Don Burke, some about other alleged offenders,” Spicer told RN Breakfast this morning.

She says 200 people have also contacted Fairfax following the Burke story was first published by investigative reporter Kate McCartney yesterday.

“Don Burke is entitled to defend himself,” Spicer told RN. “(But) we’re talking about dozens and dozens of women coming out and saying ‘he sexually harassed me, he indecently assaulted me.’

“Everybody knew and the most senior executives said to me ‘Look, we had complaints but what could we do about it?’ And these are people who are in position of power and could have done something about it.

“I am pleased that women have finally the confidence to speak out.”
**WITCH HUNT**

ACCUSED serial sex pest and bully Don Burke claims he is the victim of a "witch hunt" and is paying for the sins of his Channel 9 past.

The under-siege TV star told *A Current Affair*’s Tracy Grimshaw he had “no recollection” of explicit claims of predatory workplace harassment, but denied categorically he was guilty of the litany of lewd, lecherous misconduct charges levelled against him.

"I'm not that man at all," he said. "I've got a lot of failings. Some of these things are despicable."

*ACA*’s Grimshaw grilled Burke over the multiple allegations of sexual misconduct, asking him: "Why would all these women make this up?"

Burke told Grimshaw he had "genetic failings" and that he had diagnosed himself with Asperger's.

"I have difficulty looking people in the eye. I miss the body language and the subtle things that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. It's seeing. No one can understand how you can't see it. But you don't."

---

Beginning the interview by admitting he had repeatedly cheated on his wife, Marea — who battled breast cancer and AVH, a blood vessel malformation, the former gardening show presenter said: "I think I've got a bit to apologise for to my family and also to the people who supported Burke's Backyard. There are things I've done that I'm not at all proud.

"Prior to Marea's ill health, I had a number of affairs which I shouldn't ever have done and I think I let everybody down with that.

Attempting to explain the tsunami of former staff complaints, he said: "a perfectionist that drove people very hard and although I felt we did have a happy office, this clearly, when you look at the people who are complaining now, there's a lot of people that don't like me."

In the first of many vague, confused or baffling defences used by Burke during the interview, he said of his adultery: "With the value of hindsight, it might have set a view from some of our staff that I wasn't a nice person, perhaps".

Burke said towards the end of his time on Burke's Backyard "I don't think I was a very good person" and that he "must have been a bear with a bloody sore head and I do apologise for that."

He denied making misogynist and "sleazy" comments. He said he and his colleagues ran "an anti-misogynist ship" at the Burke's Backyard office.

When asked by Grimshaw why all of Burke's accusers would make their allegations up, Burke said: "It's the social media, it's the Twittersphere".

Burke said the recent Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal "reinforces the victim mentality of women" and that his accusers saw the Weinstein era as the perfect excuse to "nail" him.

"I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I'm the most evil person that's ever lived, that's your decision," Burke told Grimshaw.
Don Burke on ACA as alleged victims tell ABC's 7.30 of harassment

Stars who've dropped the F-bomb on SNL

Stunning confession 25 years later

Tragic fate of young heroine

Seven called out over 'racist' interview

Burke, who is married to Maree, has admitted to having 'affairs'. Source Getty Images.

... you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that’s their decision not mine.

"I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like. But that's up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive me or not."

The former manager of Don Burke's production company, Michael Freedman, told ABC's 7.30 he found the allegations of bullying and sexual harassment "absolutely bewildering because it doesn't seem to me to represent the Don Burke that I know."

Freedman, who worked for Burke between 1991 and 1998, said: "During that entire time I did not receive one allegation of sexual harassment of any untoward sexual behaviour by Don Burke to any member of staff or any member of the general public.

Freedman said there were rumours of Burke being a "tough taskmaster and a difficult man to work with".

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Don Burke’s top tactics to outsmart Tracy Grimshaw in outrageous interview

OPINION: The deflection tactics Don Burke used to outsmart Tracy Grimshaw were an outrageous display of blame minimisation.

Candice Sutton

ONUEMBER 29, 2017 1:23PM

OPINION

OUTRAGED by Don Burke’s interview with Tracy Grimshaw on A Current Affair?

You should be.

The former Nine Network gardening superstar engaged in classic blame reduction tactics to bat back accusations levelled at him by his accusers.

In a classic self-harm minimisation exercise, Don Burke — the backyard man — cut master interviewer Tracy Grimshaw’s grass.

I watched it with a growing sense of outrage and frustration.

Burke, 70, used every excuse, barring “the dog ate my homework”.

Oh hang on, he did use that excuse, except it was the dog of time — 30 years since some of the allegations against him had occurred — that swallowed up his memory.

And if he couldn’t remember, he was sick, or people just didn’t get him, or didn’t like him, or should feel sorry for him, or it was just the times we live in.

People “exaggerate and build a better story”, says former Nine Network TV star Don Burke in his Tracy Grimshaw interview. Source: Channel 9.

“[That’s just not me.]” Source: Channel 9.
Yep, blame it on social media and Harvey Weinstein for tipping the world upside down and allowing women to portray themselves as victims.

Here are the ways in which Burke skilfully deflected everything thrown at him by Crimshaw.

As Burke mentioned more than once, his wife has been ill.

He’s also ill.

His “illness” — undiagnosed Asperger’s — means he doesn’t know when to “back off”.

And this means he can’t interpret body language of others.

He conceded he has faults, mostly quirky personality faults.

If they were big faults, then they were virtuous and ennobling such as being “a perfectionist”.

These faults might make him enemies.

The allegations are therefore the revenge of his enemies, who are “punishing me for my mistakes”.

And some people “have carried a grudge”.

But “we all exaggerate and build a better story” and that’s what these people have done.

He is also the subject of “a witch hunt”.

But this is because he a victim of the times.
These times include social media, such as Twitter on which people can say anything. And then there’s the “Weinstein thing which reinforces their victim mentality”. But he’s too good a person to pursue individual allegations made against him, he’s “not that sort of guy”.

He won’t address each claim, but for altruistic reasons and “my ethics”.

He doesn’t want to “hurt” women who might be fragile. “I don’t want to go into anymore of it than that, because it’s damaging. I don’t want to damage people,” Burke said.

“I don’t want to go in and pick them out one by one, because I think that’s an evil in itself.”

MEA CULPA

Burke has "looked in the mirror [and] there's a lot I don't like."

He's "bad affairs", "I'm not saying I'm innocent, I've done a lot of things I'm ashamed of, but obviously since Marea's got ill ..."

He's "ashamed for the family", but since his wife has become ill all that behaviour has stopped.
But regarding those accusations, the ones of sexual remarks, Burke is just misunderstood.

He never made sexual accusations, it's just his "ribald sense of humour".

He is guilty, of having that quirky humour that makes you say suggestive things that other people misconstrue.

But he denied that "we" paid anyone off: "There was no suggestion people were ever paid off by us," Burke said.

Well there was that one person, but "she's a very tough lady, that one".

And there may have been something about her, because when "she paried ways ... we did have issues with her".

Burke continually used "we" to refer to his team of supporters.

But wait, there's more, there's the wider love of the Australian public, and the public will judge him, and that's what really counts.

And there's no contest really, because he's not returning to TV.

But he's in a really good time in his life

And, well Tracy, he says, point straight at her, the old cut throat TV industry is full of rumours isn't it?
Don Burke’s most skin-crawling clip yet

"It's the most skin-crawling Don Burke footage yet to re-emerge — a tongue-in-cheek clip about manual pollination that makes for queasy viewing after the allegations against the star.

The former Channel 9 gardening guru has denied allegations of sexual harassment and bullying, saying he has been targeted because he is a perfectionist. But as evidence of his previous crude comments continues to emerge, one suggestive Burke’s Backyard segment is particularly hard to watch.

The archive footage opens with the presenter introducing a flowering plant called the philodendron to the camera.

"It really does have a very curious and bizarre sexual life," the popular gardener says. "It comes from Central America. Over there, its sexual activities are actually aided by a night-flying moth, but here in Australia, these rather weird organs have to be manipulated in rather a different way."

Seductive twanging music kicks in and the video cuts to the hand of gardener Kay Petrie, from Royston Petrie Seeds, pollinating a philodendron by massaging the phallic plant.

Burke, now 70, has denied all the allegations of sexual harassment and bullying. Source: YouTube

Burke in the suggestive clip from Burke’s Backyard. Source: YouTube

“It’s not until late on one particular night in the year that each flower becomes heavily perfumed and sexually receptive,” Burke explains. “Kay, what are you actually doing?”

As Kay explains how the plant works, Burke touches it and remarks: “That’s quite warm!”

He then points to the shaft, asking: “And this top bit here is what?”

Later, he comments as he watches her work: “It looks as if it’s not an unpleasant thing to do.”

The suggestive clip was a source of much hilarity at the time, and was aired on several comedy talk shows. But in the light of this week’s allegations and Burke’s heavily criticised appearance on A Current Affair last night, it doesn’t seem so funny.
In his ACA interview, Burke said he had much to be sorry for — including a series of affairs — and conceded he was not easy to work with on his long-running program Burke’s Backyard.

But the 70-year-old denied the allegations made by more than 50 people who worked with him in the 1980s and 1990s.

The gardening show star blamed the “Twittersphere” for stirring up a “witch hunt”, and at one point offered the developmental disorder Asperger’s as an excuse for bad behaviour, despite acknowledging that he had not been formally diagnosed with the syndrome.

In an interview on The Today Show this morning, ACA host Tracy Grimshaw said she was surprised by the “level of denial” Burke displayed.

“I thought that he would be more accountable when I sat down with him. I didn’t expect the level of denial that we got. So he was prepared to say, ‘Look, I terrified people. I was a tough boss, I was a bear with a sore head. Maybe I bullied people.’ He drew the line at the language that he was accused of using. He just couldn’t countenance any admission that he had done that,” she told Today co-host Deborah Knight this morning.
The latest allegations in an ABC/Fairfax investigation come from Olympian Susie O'Neill, who accused the presenter of making a revolting comment to her when he visited her home in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games. TV journalist Amanda Pepe also alleged he tried to force himself on her in a hotel room.

Bridget Ninness, a former producer on Burke's Backyard, said “He was a vile, vile human being... He was lewd and he was crude,” and his constant talk of sex was “designed to confront you and to demean you.”

Burke “absolutely” disputes all the allegations.

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Dennis Rodman charged with DUI

McGovern slams Franco over sex claims

'This is why people hate celebs'

'Why is James Franco allowed in?'

Dennis Rodman charged with DUI

McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

"This is why people hate celeb'

"Why is James Franco allowed in?"
Men like Burke grow tall when no one's clipping the weeds

John Birmingham

I worked for a short while as a producer on A Current Affair. I know
Great is my shame and long will be the scourging of my soul for it.

I recall two things from that time. Jana Wendt was a lovely human
being and one of the most cultured and intelligent people I have ever
met.

Don Burke denies allegations
Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by stating
that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was
quoted as saying.

And Don Burke was held in low regard by my fellow producers.

The network loved him because his gardening show was a ratings
monster. I don’t know how many millions of dollars a year it made
from ad sales, but if you piled it all up into a gigantic money mountain
I imagine you’d need the Channel Nine chopper to get over it.
Burke, now the subject of serious misconduct allegations, has retained a defamation lawyer.

So there ends any discussion in this column of the allegations against him.

...elsewhere, though, it’s been a hell of a year for sexual harassment by powerful men, especially in the entertainment industry, and it would seem to be getting worse. But only if you’re a bleke.

The hell of it is, women have been putting up with this shit since ... well ... since forever.

And while our fascination and horror is engaged by stories of prominent men brought low by their foul behaviour – Louis CK. Seriously. WTF were you thinking? – most women are not abused and belittled by celebrities.

They are not crushed in spirit and banished to the wastelands by Hollywood producers and famous politicians. Most women who suffer subjugation and humiliation do so at the hands of average men.

As this year has gone on, I’ve been asking myself whether anything will change. Could it even get worse? Not with more revelations. They’re coming for sure. But could this moment of discontinuity be itself disrupted by a savage misogynist backlash that puts women in their place again?

You’d hope not.

I hope not.

And I do have one reason for that hope; that the predatory nature of capitalism will completely overwhelm the predatory nature of men.

The past few years have seen some significant cases of women pushing back against the toxic masculinity of corporate cultures.

Most often this took the form of legal fees for wrongful discrimination. Sometimes the settlements ran into millions of dollars.

Eventually the market will begin to punish companies that wilfully expose investors to this sort of risk.

Increasingly, female executives will not stand for it.

Some male business leaders won't, either. They will simply eliminate the risk. Not just the risk of employing predators but the greater corporate risk of protecting them.

Eventually, you'd hope, there'd be no place for this.

But simply hoping won't make it happen.

People, usually men for now, have to take responsibility; for instance, when they hear of serious allegations of misconduct by the hugely popular host of their top-rating TV show.
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Head of Autism Awareness Australia blasts Don Burke's 'appalling' Asperger's excuse

Henry Colangelo | Ebony Bowden

A leading voice on autism awareness says it was "beyond appalling" and "gobsmacking" that Don Burke claimed his self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome was to blame for his alleged sexual misconduct.

Founding director and CEO of Autism Awareness Australia Nicole Rogerson said she was furious when she read Burke's comments and supposed justification during Burke's bizarre A Current Affair interview on Monday night.

Don Burke's Asperger's claim challenged

Saying sexual misconduct and Asperger's syndrome are in no way linked, Autism Awareness CEO Nicole Rogerson found Burke's claims insulting.

"What a ridiculous thing for him to say," Ms Rogerson said.

"Incredibly hurtful to those people on the autism spectrum and their families because anybody who knows anybody on the autism spectrum would know that there is nothing about having Asperger's or autism that makes you more or less likely to be a sexual predator.

Head of Autism Awareness Australia blasts Don Burke's 'appalling' Asperger's excuse

of autism that makes you more or less likely to be a sexual predator—
anymore than having red hair makes you more likely.

"The only reason I can think of [for Burke's Asperger's justification] is he is trying to use the idea that people with
Asperger's sometimes don't read social cues very well.

RELATED ARTICLES

Olympic swimmer flabbergasted at Burke's 'crude sexual innuendo'

Don Burke a sexual harasser and ruthless bully, claims series of women

"I feel like he has just watched a couple of good episodes of The Good
Doctor... the characters with Asperger's in those kind of media
shows often have difficulties reading social cues but he understands
full well that his behaviour has been inappropriate over the years and
he just can't bring himself to say 'I'm sorry' to women.

"He is going to use Asperger's as an example of 'Hey, I didn't know
what I was doing; I don't read social cues'.

"Well Don, we're not buying it. Not only are you offending women but
you are offending everybody on the autism spectrum and their
families."

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Ms Rodgers's scathing comments follow the interview on A Current
Affair in which Burke claimed to have Asperger's syndrome while
denying allegations of sexual harassment.

Ms Rodgers's scathing comments follow the interview on A Current
Affair in which Burke claimed to have Asperger's syndrome while
denying allegations of sexual harassment.

Don Burke used the interview on A Current Affair to claim he lived with self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome. Photo: Channel Nine

Speaking after a Fairfax Media/ABC investigation that detailed
allegations of indecent assault, sexual harassment and bullying
perpetrated by Burke, the gardening guru described the story as a
"witch hunt".

In the ACA interview Burke also claimed for the first time that he had
Asperger's syndrome, although he admitted he had never been
Head of Autism Awareness Australia blasts Don Burke's 'appalling' Asperger's excuse

"I can look at a lens but I have difficulty looking at people in the eye," he said on Monday.

"I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. No one can understand how you can't see it. But you don't."

"I'm an Asperger's person and I have a lot of other failings that are genetic," he said while denying the allegations against him.

A furious Ms Rogerson said those living with Asperger's syndrome and their families should take no notice of Burke's comments.

"To all the families [of people living with Asperger's] gird your loins, ... this just be water off a duck's back ... he is not describing anything we understand about our loved ones," she said.

"He is trying to use his flimsy knowledge of Asperger's to say 'aren't there those people with poor social skills? That was me, I just had poor social skills.'"

"No, you didn't Don. It is not poor social skills, you were sexually harassing women, there's a big difference."

If you find this report troubling, you can contact Lifeline: 131 114 or 1800 Respect: 1800 737 732.

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Don Burke’s Asperger’s excuse: ‘What kind of human sinks this low?’

VIEWERS and experts have slammed Don Burke’s bizarre ACA interview, as host Tracy Grimshaw admits he surprised her.

A CURRENT Affair host Tracy Grimshaw has spoken out about last night’s bizarre interview with embattled TV presenter Don Burke, saying she thought he would be “more accountable” towards the allegations against him.

In last night’s interview Burke said he had much to be sorry for — including a series of affairs — and conceded he was not easy to work with on his long-running program Burke’s Backyard.

But the 70-year-old denied the allegations of sexual harassment and bullying made by a number of women who worked with him in the 1980s and 1990s.

Burke’s responses during the interview copped heavy criticism from viewers. He blamed the “Twittersphere” for stirring up a “witch hunt”, and at one point offered the developmental disorder Asperger’s as an excuse for bad behaviour, despite conceding that he had not been formally diagnosed with the syndrome.

Autism Awareness Australia is sickened tonight by Don Burke’s excuse of undiagnosed Aspergers as a reason for his appalling behaviour. What kind of human sinks this low?

— Autism Awareness Aus (@AutismAwareAus) November 27, 2017
Don Burke says he has diagnosed himself with Aspergers
"I worked it out, that's what I've got" #DonBurke
— Ketan Joshi (@KetanJ0) November 27, 2017

As a mental health worker, Don Burke's self-diagnosis of
Aspergers is insulting and abhorrent. Shame on you!
#DonBurke #metoo
— Kara Miller (@KaraMiller92) November 27, 2017

OK Don Burke threw people with Aspergers under the
bus and now he says he hasn't even been medically
diagnosed with it. #aca
— Rick Morton (@SquigglyRick) November 27, 2017

Others pointed out that Burke's Asperger's self-diagnosis had echoes of Kevin
Spacey's recent coming out when forced to confront allegations of sexual
misconduct:

Don Burke's "I have Asperger's" is a new and terrible
innovation on "I choose to live now as a gay man". #ACA
— Tim Matthews (@TimPMatthews) November 27, 2017

Um did Don Burke just throw people with Aspergers
under the bus? Is this the Kevin Spacey coming out
moment? https://t.co/KZce1CvzFG
— Rudi (@RudiEdsall) November 27, 2017

a twitter witch hunt, I've had affairs, self-diagnosed
Aspergers, I'd never say those things & who recalls what
happened 30 years ago - the #donburke response
https://t.co/GOgiJNiNQ9
— Nathaniel Bane (@nathbne) November 27, 2017

Don Burke on ACA just blamed the 'Twittersphere' for
'strirring up' allegations.
— Dale Roberts (@ozdale) November 27, 2017

In an interview on The Today Show this morning, Grimshaw said she was surprised
by the "level of denial" Burke displayed.

"I thought that he would be more accountable when I sat down with him. I didn't
expect the level of denial that we got. So he was prepared to say, 'Look, I terrified
people. I was a tough boss, I was a bear with a sore head. Maybe I bullied people.'
He drew the line at the language that he was accused of using. He just couldn't
Grimshaw’s post-interview discussion came as a second wave of allegations hit Burke this morning, with Olympian Susie O’Neill accusing the former Channel 9 presenter of making a revolting insult to her when he visited her home in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

“I think Dona was a master of the universe in an era when there were no HR departments, it was an era when egos ran rampant,” Grimshaw said.

“I think he probably knows that now. In admitting that he made enemies, he was mean to people, he’s understanding there is hatred. He is understanding he did things that inspired this kind of hatred. He is admitting that. I think that that was an era when everybody could get away with this stuff.”

Grimshaw said that she’d known Burke professionally for “20-odd years” and that he had “never crossed the line” with her — but that she had heard talk of improper behaviour.

“I’ve had lots of professional interactions him and he has never crossed the line with me. I can’t remember ever thinking, “That was too far, that was too much,” so he didn’t do it with everybody. I have heard the stories. I have never heard the stories the way they were presented yesterday obviously in the media,” she said.

Knight asked Grimshaw what Burke had been like behind the scenes of their interview.
"I thought that he would be more accountable when I sat down with him. I didn’t expect the level of denial that we got," #9Today pic.twitter.com/HIVG0YnYJu
— The Today Show (@TheTodayShow) November 27, 2017

Speaking on the Kyle and Jackie O Show this morning, Grimshaw said Burke’s Aspergers self-diagnosis had shocked her.

“That was a big surprise – the one thing that came from left-field. I think it’s unfair to suggest that Aspergers even is in play here, because he’s self-diagnosed. It’s also unfair to suggest that it’s in any way to blame for his behaviour – that casts a terrible slur on people with Aspergers," she said.

Grimshaw said she suspected Burke had expected her to “be a bit more sympathetic," and said that his wife Marea has been “terribly unwell – she got a neurological condition, then an aggressive breast cancer.”

"He’s tough but fragile, is my reading of Marea. Her health is particularly fragile. She said to me before the interview that he would say that he’s had affairs, but that they’ve sorted it out, they’re fine with it. He’s virtually Marea’s carer nowadays. Don is not the titan he was."
Don Burke’s A Current Affair interview faces backlash

‘Why I call Earl all the time’

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'What kind of human sinks this low?' Don Burke blasted for blaming Asperger's

Sarah Berry

Don Burke blaming his abhorrent behaviour on self-diagnosed Asperger's has caused renewed outrage at the 70-year-old former TV show host.

During an interview with *A Current Affair* host Tracy Grimshaw on Monday night, Burke admitted that he "bullied" and even "terrified a few people and so-on".

Don Burke’s Asperger’s claim challenged

Saying sexual misconduct and Asperger’s syndrome are in no way linked, Autism Awareness CEO Nicole Rogerson found Don Burke’s claims insulting.

Despite this, he denied allegations of sexual harassment, being a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" made by dozens of women who worked with Burke during the 1980s and 1990s.

"I’m guessing it’s the social media, the ‘twitterosphere’ thing, I guess they’ve stirred this up because of the Harvey Weinstein thing and http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellbeing/what-kind-of-human-sinks-this-low-don-burke-blasted-for-blaming-aspergers-20171128-gnus64.html
"What kind of human sinks this low?" Don Burke blasted for blaming Asperger's

They're suited up because of the Harvey Weinstein thing and we've got a witch hunt," said the Burke's Backyard star.

When pressed further about allegations of lewd comments and behaviour, Burke said he had diagnosed himself as "an Asperger's person".

"And I have a lot of other failings that are genetic," he added. "I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. Not seeing. No-one can understand how you can't see it, but you don't."

In response to the claims, Autism Awareness Australia tweeted that they are "sickened tonight by Don Burke's excuse of undiagnosed Aspergers as a reason for his appalling behaviour. What kind of human sinks this low?"

"Witch hunt: Don Burke rejects sex predator claims in bizarre..."

Don Burke has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied allegations he was a sexual predator in a bizarre interview on
snh.com.au

ichi Gibbs, clinical psychologist and manager of Autism Spectrum
Australia (Aspect) Assessments, adds that Burke's excuse would be
distressing to those who live with the condition.

"People on the autism spectrum would have found that comment
very upsetting," Gibbs says. "A common myth is that people on the
autism spectrum don't have empathy and therefore they can go
around doing these things and they don't care - that's very much a
myth.

"They may not show their feelings in the same way that we do, but
it's not that they don't feel things or they don't care. It's just that
they don't demonstrate it the way we expect it."

Gibbs says that because people who are on the spectrum do not
always express their feelings in the same way, "people jump to
conclusions and liken them to psychopaths".

his could not be further from the truth.

"People who are psychopathic are going around doing things that
they know are upsetting - they just don't care," Gibbs explains. "A
person on the spectrum may do something that upsets somebody but
it's just because they didn't realise and once you point that out to
them, they're not going to do it again. It's a very different set of
circumstances."

While it is true that people on the autism spectrum have difficulty
reading social cues, Gibbs warns against making "blanket
statements" about their behaviour and abilities.

"There are people who have marked difficulty in those areas
and some people on the autism spectrum who, by adulthood, have
learned enough skills so that they can pick up [those cues]. You can't
make a blanket statement and say if a person is on the autism
spectrum that they can't read any facial expressions," Gibbs
explains.

"Some people on the autism spectrum find touch very aversive and will avoid it and some people on the autism spectrum are the opposite and seek out touch... but the reason they will engage in something inappropriate is a very different reason from someone who is potentially doing it for sexual gratification with full knowledge of the fact that it might upset somebody and they just don't care. That's not autism."

Gibbs says she cannot know whether or not Burke has autism or Asperger's, although she says "there's not a lot of validity" in his self-diagnosis.

She does however reiterate that even if someone who was on spectrum touched another person inappropriately on occasion, it is highly unlikely they would be a "habitual, premeditated toucher" like Burke allegedly was.

"The reason they do something is because they don't know any better and once you point something out and explain how that might affect somebody they... typically are very motivated to please other people and get things right," she says. "So in terms of having habitual, 'I'm gonna do that even though I know it's going to upset the person and I don't care', that is very different."

**What is autism?**

According to ASPECT, autism is a developmental condition that affects, among other things, the way an individual relates to his or her environment and their interaction with other people.

The word 'spectrum' describes the range of difficulties that people on the autism spectrum may experience and the degree to which they may be affected. Some people may be able to live relatively normal lives, while others may have an accompanying learning challenges and require continued specialist support.

The main areas of difficulty are in social communication, social interaction and restricted or repetitive behaviours and interests.

People on the autism spectrum may also have:

- unusual sensory interests such as sniffing objects or staring intently at moving objects
- sensory sensitivities including avoiding everyday sounds and textures such as hair dryers, vacuum cleaners and sand
- intellectual impairment or learning difficulties

An estimated one in 100 people has autism; that's almost 230,000 Australians. Autism affects almost four times as many boys than girls.

**How do Asperger's and Classic Autism differ?**

According to Autism Speaks, compared with classic autism, those with Asperger Syndrome have IQs that fall in the normal or even superior range. To many, they may seem just like other children but not quite: children with AS are socially awkward in a manner that's not easily understood.

This explains why healthcare providers may miss seeing Asperger's
Syndrome/HEA symptoms in their young patients, or may misdiagnose it completely. The late onset of complex social skills, such as peer interaction, also explains why some parents don't seek help until much later compared to those whose kids display a more profound or more obvious set of symptoms from a very young age.
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'That disgusts me': James Packer's ex Tziporah Malkah opens up about her time working with an 'awkward' Don Burke - as he's accused of sexual harassment

Ms Malkah, a former model, worked with Burke on a TV show in the 1990s

- She described him as 'awkward with women' but said she never heard anything
- Burke has been accused of sexually harassing and indecently assaulting women
- On Monday, Burke told Nine's A Current Affair ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him

By KHALEDA RAHMAN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

62 shares

Former model Tziporah Malkah has said she is 'disgusted' by the allegations against Don Burke - but that he was never 'touchy feely' with her.

The man who hosted Burke's Backyard on the Nine Network for almost 17 years until 2004 has been accused of sexually harassing and indecently assaulting women who

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123119/Tziporah-Malkah-speaks-allegations-against-Don-Burke.html
Tziporah Malkah worked on his gardening program in the 1980s and 1990s.

While he says he has acted like a tyrant on set and a lot of people didn't like him, he insists he never sexually harassed women.

Ms Malkah, formerly known as Kate Fischer, met Burke when she was 22 and in a relationship with James Packer - the son of media tycoon Kerry Packer, who owned Nine.

Scroll down for video

Former model Tziporah Malkah (right, in 2007) has said she is 'disgusted' by the allegations against Don Burke (left) - but that he was never 'touchy feely' with her.

He had come to her mother's home to makeover the garden when he offered Ms Malkah a hosting gig on a new TV show called 'Time Out For Serious Fun'.

Ms Malkah, 44, worked on the show for just one season in 1995.

Burke, her executive producer and mentor, was never 'touchy feely' with her - even though she describes herself as a 'hugger,' she told news.com.au.

She described him as 'awkward with women' and a 'dork'.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123519/Tziporah-Malkah-speaks-allegations-against-Don-Burke.html
She added: 'He'd never press himself into me. I know those men. They press themselves into you and they really wanna feel your nipples into them. Don never did that.'

However, she acknowledges that she may have been 'protected' because of her status as the fiancée of the boss' son as well as the daughter of politician Pru Goward.

Ms Malkah (in 1994), who was formerly known as Kate Fischer, worked on a show Burke produced for just one season in 1995.

And despite being in the inner circle at Nine because of that, she insists she never heard anything about gross misconduct.

But when told about the allegations made by Burke's former staff, she said: 'That makes me just sick – that disgusts me.'

On Monday, Burke told Nine's A Current Affair that ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5129519/Tziporah-Malkah-speaks-allegations-against-Don-Burke.html
'I'm prepared to cop that I might have terrified a few people and that I shouldn't have done that... towards the end of Burke's Backyard I must have been a bear with a bloody sore head and I do apologise for it,' he told A Current Affair.

'I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like.'

'He'd never press himself into me. I know those men. They press themselves into you and they really wanna feel your nipples into them. Don never did that,' she said.
Ms Malkah (above) described Burke as 'awkward with women' but said he was never 'touchy feely' with her.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123519/Tziporah-Malkah-speaks-allegations-against-Don-Burke.html
On Monday, Burke told Channel Nine that ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him.

He said there’s a lot of hatred toward him and ‘that’s my fault’ and admits claims of bullying ‘may be true’.

But Burke insists the claims being made are things that he would never say or do and were despicable.

“I've got a lot of failings but I'm not that man,” he said.

A joint project by the ABC and Fairfax Media has catalogued a series of allegations against Burke by a number of former employees of Burke's Backyard.

Former researcher Louise Langdon accused Mr Burke of harassment and groping. Bridget Ninness, a former producer, accused Burke of bullying and crude behaviour.

Don Burke says sexual assault claims part of ‘witch hunt’
He also denies ever showing an employee a crude video, saying he had never seen or owned 'donkey bestiality', and he never tried to remove Ms Langdon's top.

'I don't remember doing it. I certainly wouldn't have done it seriously,' he said.

Burke also said he has diagnosed himself as having Asperger's syndrome which means he misses the 'subtle signs people give to you like, "back off, that's enough"'.

'I suffer from a terrible problem of not seeing (body language) and no-one can understand how you can't see it.'

Burke admitted he wasn't proud of the fact he had several affairs. He has hired defamation expert Patrick George.

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SFCHamster, Over the hill and far away, Australia, 1 month ago

So he's a dirty-minded creep, so what? Until he is charged with something, this is all hearsay and if it was 'assault', why are not going to the Police instead of the media?

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http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123519/Tziporah-Malkah-speaks-allegations-against-Don-Burke.html

11-625
Don Burke, you owe me, and everybody else with Asperger's, an apology

Daniel Andrusak

I am a 29-year-old man with Asperger's syndrome. I am independent, live in Caulfield North with a housemate and commute every day to a full-time job in the western suburbs of Melbourne. I am also a keen scriptwriter, football fan, have a girlfriend and speak German and a little bit of French, among other things. This is just to give some background as to who I am.

Nicole Rogerson, chief executive of Autism Awareness, has gone on the record saying she was "furious" after reading the comments of Don Burke and his supposed justification in his interview with Tracy Grimshaw on Monday night's A Current Affair.

"What a ridiculous thing for him to say," Rogerson stated. Ridiculous is putting it very mildly.

"Incredibly hurtful to those on the autism spectrum and their families." Incredibly hurtful is also putting it very mildly.
As far as I can see, Burke’s comments are not only incredibly hurtful, they are destructive. Not just to me, but the entire Asperger’s and ASD (autism spectrum disorder) community.

I was diagnosed at the age of three, and was lucky to be given the intervention that I required, thanks to a father (recently deceased) who took a stand. The mother who agreed to disagree, for lack of a better expression, on how to bring me up was fortunate enough to be accepted by the teachers and students of St Paul’s School, now known by the name of Woodleigh School, an independent school on the Mornington Peninsula.

Throughout my years at school, while I managed to gain friends who celebrated my Asperger’s as a strength and not a weakness or a "failing", I was not immune to bullying, discrimination and victimisation.

Sadly, many kids on the spectrum, both at the primary and secondary school level, aren’t as lucky as I have been. I wonder if Don Burke ever experienced being called an "invalid", a "retard" or "slow" at school, or being called the kid with "Hamburger Syndrome"?

I very much doubt it. The very fact that he can, at the drop of a hat, cry "Asperger’s" and then admit he was never diagnosed, that he just diagnosed himself, is beyond insulting and beyond hurtful. It is, to paraphrase the famous words of a Thomas the Tank Engine episode, "Disgraceful, disgusting and despicable".

Allegations of sexual harassment and assault aside, I suggest that Don Burke take a good hard look in the mirror and give a sincere apology to those with Asperger’s and ASD for dragging them into a storm they did not have anything to do with, and nor should they.

Daniel Andrusiak is an Age contributor.
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Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

Don Burke’s words an assault on autistic people

Fiona Sharkie  
November 28, 2017 4:42pm

No wonder former television presenter Don Burke is being condemned for linking the shocking allegations against him to self-diagnosed Asperger’s syndrome.

The myths surrounding autism lead to autistic people being discriminated against every day and Burke’s comments on A Current Affair do nothing but perpetuate those myths.

His attempt to defend himself by referring to his self-diagnosed Asperger’s syndrome as “a terrible failing” has caused much distress today throughout the autism community.
One example from our organisation's Facebook page: "As a parent of a loving Autistic male how dare he (Burke) use his own diagnosis on his abhorrent behaviour. Here we are trying to gain community acceptance and understanding and he dares to justify his actions on a 'feeling' that he may have Aspergers."

Last night's claims by Burke suggesting that his offensive sexual harassment towards women is due to him having Asperger's syndrome cannot go unchecked.

Offensive behaviour towards women is never acceptable. Burke saying his actions are symptomatic of Asperger's is also offensive and deeply upsetting for autistic people.

Burke claimed: "I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. Not seeing. No one can understand how you can't see it, but you don't".

Don Burke claimed his self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome explained his bad behaviour.

The sad truth is autistic people are far more likely to be victims of sexual abuse, and suffer these abuses at disproportionately higher numbers than members of the wider population. One study found that autistic adults were "between two and three times more likely to experience sexual contact victimisation, sexual coercion victimisation and sexual assault than a comparison group."

The stories Amaze hears of abuse are a reason we supported calls for a Royal Commission into violence, neglect and abuse against people with disability earlier this year.

For too long autistic people have experienced abuse and violence, particularly in institutional and residential settings.
Only a Royal Commission will examine the systemic and cultural issues that currently exist, address the root causes of these practices and provide recommendations to address the issues of violence, neglect and abuse.

Research commissioned by Amaze also illustrates why Burke's comments are so damaging.

While 85 per cent of Australians have personal contact with an autistic person, just 29 per cent of Australians agree they have a good understanding of how to support autistic people.

This is alarming, and underlines how much work must be done to bridge gaps in understanding and to promote acceptance of autistic people in the community.

Burke's comments have done nothing to assist this cause. They are an assault on the autism community.

Today's response from the autism community shows just how much damage that thoughtless, self-serving and fact-less words can do.

Fiona Sharkie is CEO of Amaze, the peak body for autistic people and their supporters in Victoria.

RendezView welcomes robust but civil discussion on our columns. Abuse of columnists or other readers and defamatory remarks will not be published and may result in a ban from commenting.

Comments 28

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citizen  
Ow about focussing on more important matters?  
Dec 2, 2017  
Like  Reply

Nick  
Sorry but this comes across as someone trying to find something to be outraged about.  
Nov 30, 2017

Burke is a filthy creep and every person with a hint of common sense knows that his claim of Autism making him a sexual predator is BS. There would be no one out there thinking 'oh wow if Burke has autism and sexually harassed people then all people with Autism could be sexual predators - better discriminate against them.' Its a long bow to draw and a ridiculous thing to be outraged about. His actual crimes are bad enough without trying to dilute his disgusting behaviour and the plight of his victims with faux claims of him out to cause discrimination against Autistic people and trying to out victimise the actual victims.

Burke wasn't trying to 'assist the cause' of Autism and you wouldn't want him to. Also, his comments are not an assault on the Autism community and would have no effect on the communities attitudes or understanding of Autism.

There are better ways to promote your cause than feigning outrage off the back of Don Burke being a creep.
Lill
@Rohan @Lill @Phillip
If you are going to claim you have a condition as serious as Aspergers, one generally goes to the doctor for a diagnosis, not self diagnoses.

And as far as I am aware, Aspergers does not just appear later in life, it's a life long condition. Therefore being an 'older generation' of a man is completely irrelevant.

Like Reply

Phillip
@Lill @Phillip yes, i agree with that. seems all a bit late now. the damage has been done.

Like Reply

Nora
If he's Asperger's syndrome, why so good on doing the show (Burke backward) as i used to watch many years ago, he looks perfect of i'm not think with complication side of him. Shame...

Like Reply

Jim
@Nora I know nearly a dozen teachers who are autistic as well as a psychologist and a therapist. As long as autistic children are strictly trained in correct behaviour and 'manners' from an early age we can present in many, but not all, settings well enough to pass as what the majority call 'normal'. [You would not know that I and my brother are both autistic thanks to the strict social training we received in early childhood and into adolescence from our parents.] In essence we can learn to wear a 'mask' of normality when required. It is very tiring and our ability to maintain this mask varies in duration and also according to the intensity of the social setting. What is certain is that we all need private time to re-charge and recover from the stress of 'acting' amongst neurotypical people whose emotion-based behaviour is confusing at best and frightening at worst.

Like Reply

Thomas
Its up there with BWS and alcohol "issues" as the all purpose cop out for abusers and violent people.
Shame.

Reply

Helen
anyone with half a brain does not believe a word of what Don Burke said other than yes I had extramarital affairs.

Like Reply

Bing 4814
I've got a brain injury and am mentally impaired but I don't go around harassing women and hurting people. But this century seems to have an excuse for all bad behaviour. In my day we took responsibility for our actions. Or we were bought up better. Either or.

Like Reply
Trevor
"...just 29 per cent of Australians agree they have a good understanding of how to support autistic people." Only the sufferer knows what goes on in their head, how they feel & relate to life, and Burke's summation is indeed very true, but whether he read up on the topic to save himself, or genuinely feels like that is anyone's guess. Depending on the level autism, it is an absolute pain, for the suffer AND those who're constantly subjected to it, that's just the way it is.

Jim
@Trevor I'm autistic, but I don't suffer from being autistic as I would a tooth ache. Being autistic is my 'normal' state of being and I would not want to be neurotypical. I have suffered repeated bullying and discrimination all through my life, both from schoolyard boofheads some of whom made my life hell as a young lad, but also at the hands of highly educated and so-called professionals in the welfare 'trades' who cannot cope with extremely logical people who have no capacity for intuitive emotional relating.

As for Burke, I wonder if he is using an out of date diagnostic label [Asperger's Syndrome] as a distractor much like the actor Spacey announced he was homosexual to distract from serious allegations? Frankly I am sick of the way autistics are portrayed in the popular media, e.g. the latest 'medical' show. As for Burke's pronouncements autism is not an excuse for misbehaviour.

Katherine
@Jim @Trevor Correct Jim, my autistic son knows boundaries and what's acceptable in life and society. This is just a cop out by Burke.

J
@Jim @Trevor Correct Jim, my autistic son knows boundaries and what's acceptable in life and society. This is just a cop out by Burke.

Jason
The odd complaint can be ignored, but so many people have now raised the alarm. Even Don is now blaming some medical condition. I think we can assume he's a bad man.

Jason
So far Burke is innocent.
No charges have been laid and he's not found guilty by any court.
All this trial by media does is jeopardise any chance of conviction if the allegations are true.

Michelle
Doesn't mean he should blame his behaviour on a self diagnosis.
Juanita
@Jason Too late to try and prosecute, no rape has been alleged it is about his behaviour, but more than that it is about what can no longer ever be acceptable by anyone regardless of their jobs, their careers or how much pull they have.

His answers and his denials have been what was used in the past and it was accepted because of who they were. That has to change, but unless people who were affected come forward and tell their story, men of his ilk just expect it to be acceptable behaviour. And it was acceptable behaviour for far far too long.

Having said that, back then a woman stood no chance of making this type of accusation, she would have lost her job / career and not one ounce of credibility would have been afforded to her, you only have to look what Susie O'Neill went through, she did make a complaint, did try to have the episode removed, she did not stay silent, but still nothing was done.

Now there is zero excuse, women from now on have to call it, and call it immediately and lay charges if it is warranted.

HamishMcGeach
@Juanita @Jason I commend these women on speaking out, but I'd be surprised if things have changed at all. As long as the bloke is making a quid for the organisation he will be protected, it he's disposable, the organisation will go very public on its ethical standards and cut him loose.

David
@Michelle ALLEGED behaviour at this stage dear

Ross
He didn't. It is the media doctoring his comments to cause outrage.

Greg
@HamishMcGeach @Juanita @Jason The women who are currently speaking out cannot change what happened to them in the past. However, by bringing this behaviour to public attention victims of this sort of behaviour now and in the future will feel more emboldened to report this sort of behaviour. It may also make men who think they can treat women with such disdainful disrespect will think twice before behaving in such a despicable manner.

Michelle
@David its not alleged at all. He has admitted to bullying people etc etc and put it down to his self diagnosis etc etc.
He was fine: Stunning defence of Don Burke

28th Nov 2017 10:52 AM

by Nick Bond

THERE were no easy answers when the panel on Studio 10 tackled the thorny topic of Don Burke this morning.

It made for at times uncomfortable viewing, as media veteran Itsu Buttrose appeared to defend the embattled former TV presenter, while Jessica Rowe sparred with Joe Hildebrand over her own televised run-in with the gardening guru.

"He has been judged in the court of public opinion... I don't want to judge him," Buttrose said.

TIPPSHOOTER

Burke's revolting insult to swim legend Susie O'Neill

Don Burke admits affairs, blames Asperger's

'I'M NOT EVIL' Don Burke's denies lurid allegations on ACA

"I know Don, I worked with him in radio back in the 80s when I was hosting a show on 2UE in Sydney," Buttrose said. "He was extremly down to earth and approachable yesterday and none of us ever heard any of these allegations about Don. As far as we girls were all concerned, he was fine. He was a nice guy. Quite funny, very ambitious. I don't know about the rest of it, maybe he changed," she said.

Hildebrand challenged Burke, noting that the stories and allegations about Burke were now understood to number in the hundreds.

"Are they all independently credible? Are they all colluding with each other as some kind of conspiracy to bring down Don Burke after he has already frankly, not really had a chance," he asked.

Buttrose noted that two people who came out against Burke yesterday were in fact his former bosses - people who surely could have put a stop to his alleged bad behaviour.

"He was at Channel 9 when a guy called Sam Chisholm was running the network. David Leckie, who was at Channel 9 and went to Seven, was familiar with Don Burke. They both have been quoted in the media as saying, yes, he was rude and we didn't like his behaviour. Nonetheless, nobody fired him. If it was that bad, why was he still there?" she asked.

Buttrose said she'd never heard of any poor behaviour from Burke.

"You might say, why did nothing happen? Unfortunately, there were people in power who worship this whole star system and have not help people to account. He was a cash cow, as they say. Repeatedly, ratings and business success was put before individual circumstances and because somebody was more powerful and deemed as more worthy, they were able to get away with shocking behaviour," she said.

Hildebrand interrupted at this point, to Rowe's apparent annoyance.

"There is a world of difference between a comedy show where the subject is 'Do Australians swear too much?' and he makes a joke, whether it is..."
he himself admitted to," he said.

Buttrose spoke up once more before the panel moved to another topic.

"There was a different standard of behaviour. Not excusing anything, but we are going back [with these allegations]. There was a different set of rules that existed in society. Sometimes men were crude and unthinking in their language. That is the way it was," she said.

Executive Producer

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‘I love nothing better than a good f**k’: Don Burke horrifies Jess Rowe on TV

FOOTAGE has emerged of crude comments made by TV star Don Burke, who has denied allegations of sexual harassment.

SERIES of crude and offensive TV moments featuring Don Burke have been unearthed today following his denials of allegations of sexual harassment and bullying.

In footage from 2011, he almost makes Jessica Rowe walk off a panel show by saying he loves "a good f**k".

In another clip, he asks actor Annalise Braakensiek if her breasts are real, and in a 1992 episode of Burke's Backyard, he tells visibly annoyed actor Sophie Lee that "most people probably wouldn't think you came from an academic family".

During his chat with Australian model and actor Braakensiek, Burke tells her: "I will not ask you the question you loathe," as she replies, "thank you!"

He continues: "I will not ask: 'Are your breasts real?' But are they?"
The topic on a 2011 episode of Channel 10 talk show *Can of Worms* featuring Burke and Rowe was, “Do Australians swear too much?”

The footage shows the gardener saying: “I love swearing, I think it’s absolutely fantastic, and I’ll be perfectly honest, I love nothing better than a good f**k.”

Rowe, who is now a co-host of Studio 10, looks shocked at his comment and stands up to leave the set. “Can I walk out?” she asks, getting to her feet. “That’s offensive.”

The *Burke’s Backyard* star says “let her go” before host Ian “Dicko” Dickson persuades her to sit down. The gardening expert then continues: “I think it gives you the ability to say intense things that you need to say.
"If you're at a party or a social event and someone doesn't like it, you don't do it, same as you don't scratch your balls."

Rowe replies: "But you've just done it. I always thought he was a nice man, looking after people's gardens."

And Burke continues: "It's a male initiate language to bond hunting groups together, that's why you don't do it in front of women and children because it's supposed to id men together so they can go and hunt wildebeests.

"Once, when women and kids were down there and away and men were up here you didn't swear in front of them, perhaps as equality comes, you relax those things."

When Rowe said she felt as though there was still "that exclusion", he replied: "Not with me, I think you're f***ing great."

He added that the c-word was "the only good word left", but that he wouldn't use it or "f**k" in front of his grandkids. Asked which swearwords he would use, he lists "bloody .. probably not bugger, with sensitivity."

Co-host Meshel Laurie injects, to laughter from the audience: "You are the ultimate pop, the ultimate grandad. That is so sweet and yet weird. I know you mean it sweetly."

Burke, 70, has strongly denied allegations of sexual harassment and bullying made by a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation, saying they came about because he was a
Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Asperger's

TV

**Don Burke's Asperger's claim similar to television plot**

The Daily Telegraph
November 30, 2017 2:47pm

DID Don Burke plagiarise an excuse straight off the television?

When the former television host sat down with A Current Affair to discuss recent reports into his treatment of women, he dropped a bit of a bombshell.

He is a self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome sufferer.
Don Burke said he has Asperger's syndrome in A Current Affair interview. Picture: ACA/Channel 9

The comments have been widely condemned by health advocates as insulting to people who live with Asperger's.

But the comments have also caught the attention of Curb Your Enthusiasm fans.

The popular program, starring Seinfeld creator Larry David as himself, returned for season nine last month after a six year break.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/television/don-burke-aspersgers-claim-similar-to-television-plot/news-story/0de7cdec4f80f68b7e819a...
Curb Your Enthusiasm creator and star Larry David uses the line he has Asperger’s syndrome in his show.

The seventh episode, Namaste, aired on Foxtel on November 12, where Larry David pretends to have the condition to get out of a difficult situation.

“The thing is, that I didn’t tell you, is that I have Asperger’s,” he tells his mechanic.

“I’m on the spectrum. I have no filter. I say whatever comes into my head. You know, I have trouble making eye contact.”

See the scene for HBO’s Curb Your Enthusiasm here:

**CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM ASPERGER’S**

Curb Your Enthusiasm - Larry pretends to have Asperger’s (I’m a good driver)

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/television/don-burke-aspergers-claim-similar-to-television-plot/news-story/6e7cecd44f80f16c7e8189a...
The similarity did not go unnoticed on what Burke calls "the Twitter-sphere thing".

**Oliver Caffrey**
@ollycaffrey

#DonBurke must have been watching Curb Your Enthusiasm before his ACA interview - Larry David uses Asperger's as an excuse for bad behaviour in one of the new episodes.
11:03 AM - Nov 28, 2017
3 1 5

**Reddit Aus**
@RedditAus

australia: Don Burke pulled a Larry David (Curb fans!)
ift.tt/2ibtQ7Z
12:15 PM - Nov 28, 2017

Don Burke pulled a Larry David (Curb fans!... reddit.com

**Dave Collins**
@DavidCollinsAU

Don Burke pulling the Larry David - "I'm an Asperger's person". Wow. Is he a Curb Your Enthusiasm fan?
7:32 PM - Nov 27, 2017
1
Don Burke continues to deny allegations

CONFIDENTIAL

Exclusive: Inside the private world of Don Burke

Annette Sharp, The Daily Telegraph
November 28, 2017 4:24pm
 Subscriber only

- Don Burke's cruel words to Olympic legend
- Don Burke backlash over Asperger's excuse

THERE are at least four Don Burkes that I know of.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/sydney-confidential/exclusive-inside-the-private-world-of-don-burke-news-story/1a3bdc81d7b00c1d6f54...
Then there was Don the animal husbandry obsessive.

The one who bred miniature chooks and loved nothing more than to shock people with talk of miniature dogs mating, miniature chooks mating, miniature cows mating, miniature horses mating, guinea pigs mating ...

This is the Don who would delight in embarrassing young television publicists who might be chaperoning newspaper reporters to Burke's Backyard outside broadcast "road tests". This Don also liked to talk about the sex organs of plants — and stroke their stamens while doing so.

I know this Don well for I became that young television publicist in 1991 when I joined the Nine Network at about age 23, the latest in a string of publicists appointed to Burke's Backyard.
tricky personalities attached to those programs.

I reasoned I must not have done too poor a job for within months a handful of extra stars were thrown in for good measure — “problem stars” you might call them. And there were “problem producers” too.

A Current Affair host Tracy Grimshaw with Don Burke.

I would tell myself the bosses must have liked my country girl attitude — I was reasonably unflustered when dealing with oddballs, the self-obsessed, the drunk and those with often bizarre sexual proclivities.

Not much shocks the good folk from the country after all.

It’s more likely though that I was just green and my bosses were happy to load me up.
The talent on my watch soon included any stars who hated doing publicity. I'm pretty sure all of the Sydney-based "problems" ended up on my brief — Daryl Somers, mercifully, was on a Melbourne publicist's list.

MORE NEWS

DON BURKE DECLARES 'I'M NO HARVEY WEINSTEIN'

'ARE YOUR BOOBS REAL?: BURKE FOOTAGE EMERGES

DON BURKE CALLS IN LAWYERS OVER ALLEGATIONS

Among those on mine were Graham Kennedy whose urgent brusque faxes demanding more boxes of free booze be sent to the Southern Highlands were soon coming to me, Liz Hayes, who was media shy following a short failed marriage to adman John Singleton, a grumpy Clive Robertson who was happiest dealing with executives when they sent an attractive woman to bargain on their behalf — and Don Burke who was purple with rage that an interview with then Fairfax TV writer Richard Glover, conducted before I'd been employed, had blown up in his face.
THE OTHER DON BURKE

The third Don Burke I saw only once but knew he had become a problem for Nine Network executives — one of the reasons they were happy when Burke spun his program off to his own production company, CTC.

What might have become a huge problem for Nine neatly became an in-house problem at CTC for Don and his capable wife Marea, an executive of that company.

This Don was, as legend had it, a menace with women, though until this week I had never heard the names of those women.

As former Burke's Backyard producer Bridget Ninness and former researcher Louise Langdon have now stated — two women I knew during my seven years at Nine — they were subjected to constant harassment by Burke.

Though I did not witness these events, I have no reason not to believe these women's stories. They sound credible to me.
One of the reasons I find it easy to believe them is because of Don’s appearance on A Current Affair on Monday night.

This was not Don 1, 2 or 3 with neatly trimmed beard and checked shirt sitting in what looked to be Burke’s own north shore living room.

SMOOTH-TALKING DON

That was Don number four — hush-voiced Don, practiced, smooth-talking Don, the publicist’s dream,

The Don who accepts the invitation to address rumours because he believes he can persuade anyone of anything — even himself.

That Don believes he is the smartest man in the room — the smartest man on the planet — and he will talk and talk because words are like grass to him — abundant yet manageable and entirely tameable, like a good buffalo.
That Don believes he can strike a deal with the Australian public — the only jury he has ever wanted to convince — and in damning himself with a frank admission of extramarital affairs, hopes to save himself regarding all the rest.

Delusional Don, at his best.

Do you have a story to tell? Contact our newsroom

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/sydney-confidential/exclusive-inside-the-private-world-of-don-burke/news-story/0a3b6c81c7bd00c1d6f54...
Don Burke: 'I think people are punishing me for my mistakes'

NSW

Don Burke's bizarre claims over Asperger's, witch-hunts and affairs in defence to sleazy allegations

HOLLY BYRNES, JANET FIFE-YEOMANS and DANIELLE LE MESSURIER, The Daily Telegraph

November 28, 2017 9:20am

Subscriber only
The under-siege star told A Current Affair's Tracy Grimshaw he had "no recollection" of explicit claims of predatory workplace harassment, but denied categorically he was guilty of the litany of lewd, lecherous misconduct charges levelled against him in media reports yesterday by a series of women who worked with him on his long-running show Burke's Backyard.

"I'm not that man at all," he said. "I've got a lot of failings. Some of these things are despicable."
Burke said he could not recall exchanges from 30 years ago, but bizarrely claimed he had diagnosed himself as suffering from Asperger's syndrome, which made it hard to read social signals.

"I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I'm the most evil person that's ever lived, that's your decision," Burke said.

MORE: BURKE CALLS IN LAWYERS

MORE: BURKE ASKS MODEL IF BREASTS ARE REAL

"If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that's their decision not mine.

"I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like. But that's up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive me or not."
During the interview Burke claimed the flood of allegations against him had been made because he was an unpopular figure during his time on Channel Nine and his accusers — in light of the recent domino effect of the Harvey Weinstein saga — had seen this as their chance to "nail" him.

"A lot of people don't like me. And they can't all be wrong," he said, admitting carrying out a string of "affairs" while married to wife Marea, who had battled breast cancer.

"I think I've got a bit to apologise for to my family and also to the people who supported Burke's Backyard. There are things I've done that I'm not at all proud (of)."
The TV presenter said he denied making misogynist and "sleazy" comments. He said he and his colleagues ran "an anti-misogynist ship" at the Burke's Backyard office.

Grimshaw said she had been told by a producer that Burke had claimed to be a "geneticist" and if he procreated with a young family member the child would have the "perfect gene pool".

of other failings genetically. I would never say that, it is just disgusting."

When pressed by Grimshaw about his claimed condition, he replied that he had diagnosed himself because of his behaviour with other people: "I miss all their body language and often the subtle signs that people give to you like 'back off, that's enough'."

Louise Langdon, former Burke's Backyard producer tells her story

Burke also repeatedly referenced the Weinstein harassment scandal for helping fuel a "witch-hunt" while he also denied being a sex predator.

"If I had done it I would have admit to it now. I am in a frame of mind where I am sick of all this. It would be far less painful for me to say 'yeah I did that'. But I didn't."

The Daily Telegraph confronted Burke at the front of his rural property in rural Kenthurst on Thursday, where he refused to answer questions on the topic.

"No, you're not talking to me," he said.
Don Burke refused to talk when the Telegraph approached him at his Kenthurst home last week.

Former Nine news boss Peter Meakin said bullying used to be endemic at the network but the extent of the alleged sexual misconduct by Burke had come as a surprise.

"Don Burke was undoubtedly valuable to Nine but he was not untouchable. I believe on the balance of probabilities that someone did speak to him about his conduct then."

Those people would have been the former chief executive officers of Nine, David Leckie and his predecessor Sam Chisholm, he said.

Leckie, who has described Burke as a "horrible man", could not be contacted for comment last night.
Former Nine news boss Peter Meakin said bullying was endemic at the Network.

Chisholm, who described Burke as a “terrible grub”, said that he stuck by his comments that “probably” someone had complained to him about Burke at the time but he could not recall because it was so long ago.

The lewd claims that emerged yesterday reportedly came from more than 50 people who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Earlier he issued a statement foreshadowing legal action against his detractors: “The bitter irony is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny.”
NSW Police confirmed no formal complaint had been made to them and no active investigations were underway in relation to the allegations against Burke.

However, Nine described the allegations against Burke as "extremely serious".

While produced by Burke's company CTC Productions, Burke's Backyard was based in one of the cottages on Nine's Willoughby site. "The allegations are extremely serious; the behaviour described is completely unacceptable and would not be tolerated at Nine today," the network said.

**Burke's Asperger's claim angers group**

IN one of the most surreal claims in his A Current Affair interview last night that drew strong derision from, Autism Awareness Australia, Don Burke claimed that he would never have talked about having sex with a family member to create a genetically blessed child — because he had Asperger's syndrome.

In an even stranger twist, when he was pressed by veteran interviewer Tracy Grimshaw on the shocking revelation of the condition, he confessed that he had not actually been medically diagnosed — he had simply worked out his "condition" himself.
Autism Awareness Australia is sickened tonight by Don Burke's excuse of undiagnosed Aspergers as a reason for his appalling behaviour. What kind of human sinks this low? smh.com.au/entertainment/...
9:43 PM - Nov 27, 2017

"Witch hunt": Don Burke rejects sex predator claims in bizarre...
Don Burke has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied allegations he was a sexual predator in a bizarre interview on A
smh.com.au

The exchange began when Ms Grimshaw said she had been told by a producer that Mr Burke had claimed to be a "geneticist" and if he procreated with a young family member the child would have the "perfect gene pool".

"I don't understand, you are talking about incest, certainly not, and I don't believe that about myself," Burke said.

"That's ridiculous — for a start I'm an Asperger's person and have a lot of other failings genetically. I would never say that — it is just disgusting.

Don Burke: Gardening guru speaks out against indecent assault and sexual harassment allegations

Updated Tue 28 Nov 2017, 12:32am

Gardening guru Don Burke, who has been accused of indecently assaulting and sexually harassing a number of women, has told Channel Nine's A Current Affair program that Australians can make up their own minds about whether he is "the most evil person".

Burke admitted he had made mistakes in his life, saying he cheated on his wife numerous times, but denied the latest allegations.

Journalist Tracy Grimshaw quizzed him about whether the allegations stemmed from his affairs and he said his colleagues may have had the view he "wasn't a nice person".

"I'm not that man at all," he said.

"I've got a lot of feelings, things that I would never say.

"A number of the claims were ... some of these things are despicable."

A joint ABC/Fairfax investigation has uncovered claims from a number of women who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Two former TV researchers claim Burke groped their breasts, while a young actress claims he told her she would have to do an audition topless for his G-rated show, Burke's Backyard.

One of the researchers said Burke also once attempted to remove her clothing and put his hand down her top while the two were travelling for work in central Australia.
Louise Langdon, who moved to the United States nine years ago and is now a psychologist, worked as a researcher on Burke's radio and TV programs in the 1980s.

"Dealing with Don Burke was an endurance test in terms of his persistence in commentary about anything sexual," she told the ABC.

"It started very early on when I worked with him at the radio station 2UE, and the comment was, 'Did you get your rocks off last night?' Meaning, did you have sex last night?

"That was his way of greeting me in the morning."

She also claimed Burke tried to remove her top.

Burke told A Current Affair: "I certainly wouldn't have done it seriously."

When asked why these women would make these claims up, Burke replied:

"It's a witch-hunt. I might have terrified a few people, or whatever, and I shouldn't have done that, but these sort of things bear no relation to me and what I am about.

"There are plenty of people who were there at the time and are furious, because these things didn't happen.

"Some people don't like me. I was tough. I had to be tough.

"I am sorry and I might have gone a bit far."

Burke claimed the allegations surrounding Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein reinforced people's victim mentality.

'There was horseplay'

Other disturbing allegations against Burke included a shoot in Newcastle, where the crew claimed they saw him ushering a young woman to the lift.

They claimed Burke said the next morning, "She went off like a rocket."

"What happened was I had a few drinks, I was drunk, there was horseplay," he said.

When Grimshaw asked if the horseplay happened in his room afterwards, he said: "No. We went to the elevator, it was not sexual horseplay, and then I went home.

"There was no going to the room. Nothing,"
Burke said he believed he deserved some criticism, "but not for sleazy, sexual stuff."

A journalist also accused Burke of telling her he liked seeing a young relative's "c***" rubbing against the back of her horse.

"I never said anything like that. This is what is driving me nuts, you wonder why they go to that extreme. I don't know why they would say that," he said.

Grimshaw said she was told by a producer that Burke said he was a geneticist and if he reproduced with this young family member, the baby would have the perfect gene pool.

"That is ridiculous. I have Asperger's, and I have a lot of other genetic failings. I don't believe that, and I would never say that. That's disgusting," he said.

Burke accepted fault for jokes he had made and said people were punishing him for making some mistakes.

"[It's] not entirely wrongly, but the sexual stuff is a way of twisting the knife," he said.

"It would be far easier to admit to it; I didn't do it."

'I missed the body language and subtle signs'

Burke said it was up to Australia to decide whether or not it wanted to forgive him.

"I want to say to the people of Australia that this is their chance to judge," he said.

"This is my story, make up your mind if I am the most evil person who has ever lived. That is your decision.

"If you can forgive me for stupidity, that I am grateful."

Grimshaw quizzed Burke about his affairs and he said it was a devastating time.

He also claimed he had undiagnosed Asperger's syndrome.

"I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. Not seeing. No-one can understand how you can't see it, but you don't," he said.

PHOTO: A number of women who previously worked with Don Burke have made allegations against him. (ABC News: Greg Nelson/Dave Collins)

Many of the allegations happened 30 years ago, and Burke said, "Who remembers what happens 30 years ago?"

"What I know is that I know what I will say and what I will not say. I am quite confident in all of that," he said.

The TV personality said because it was 30 years ago, the stories may not be accurate.
'Don has a ribald sense of humour'

Michael Freedman, the managing director of Burke's production company CTC Productions between 1991 and 1998, told ABC's 7.30 program the allegations did not "represent the Don Burke that I know".

"Don has a ribald sense of humour. We've seen some of that. But that sense of humour was never directed, in my observation, in a malicious, or even directed particularly at a person. It was a general ribaldness in the way he talked," he said.

But Mr Freedom can understand how that could make people in a work context uncomfortable.

"I think that we've all learnt a great deal of lessons in the last 20 years," he said.

"I think it's important to remember that that is 20 years ago.

"I think every one of us has learnt that kind of joke is not a joke and is not acceptable in the workplace.

"I think that Don would be the first one to acknowledge that occasionally he could, in his ribald humour, overstep the mark. I've noticed that over the years.

"At times I have said to Don, 'That's not funny', and he recognises that.

"Don's wife Marea has also over the years said to Don, on a number of occasions that I'm aware of, that he should be careful about his brand of humour because it can be misconstrued and it can be taken the wrong way, particularly by women."

The ABC has received multiple phone calls and emails from former Burke's Backyard employees who have also spoken about his history of vulgar language and inappropriate behaviour.

PHOTO: The Old Boys Club hasn't rushed to defend Don Burke. (Fairfax Media: Wouter Peeten)

Journalist Tracey Spicer said she had a list of other high-profile names in the media and entertainment industry who were likely to face similar accusations.

Spicer has been a vocal #metoo campaigner, urging people to share their stories of workplace sexual harassment across the Australian entertainment industry, following the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

"I expected I'd get a handful or a couple of dozen of women responding. To this day 470 people have come forward, 95 per cent of them women," she said.

"It's been overwhelming. I describe it as a tsunami of injustice."

Don Burke's admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

NEWS

Don Burke denies harassment claims: ‘I’m not that man at all’

Andrew Koubaridis, news.com.au
November 28, 2017 7:23am

TELEVISION identity Don Burke has admitted “I wasn’t a nice person” and “people don’t like me” but has denied being a sexual predator and a bully.

The former Nine Network star went on the offensive tonight after a full day of lurid allegations against him, suggesting the women who had accused him of wrongdoing were “fragile” and claimed to be a victim of a “witch hunt” ignited by the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/don-burke-denies-being-most-evil-person-thats-ever-lived-on-a-current-affair/news-story/e60a51d81e82b2578f606652b...
was “despicable” and “should be run out of town”.

Despite admitting swearing and being hard to work for, Burke said he never treated anyone in the manner that had been alleged and said some of the claims involved “things that I would never say”.

“I’m not that man at all... some of these things are despicable. It is not that a man should never say to a woman, it’s that no one should say it.”

He said no one had ever complained about bullying or sexual harassment.
The claim was in response to an allegation he once told a female producer that if he had a child with a relative then that child would be genetically perfect.

He said he'd never been diagnosed with it, but still believed he had it — partly because he had trouble looking people in the eye.

Autism Awareness Australia is sickened tonight by Don Burke's excuse of undiagnosed Aspergers as a reason for his appalling behaviour. What kind of human sinks this low? smh.com.au/entertainment/

9:43 PM - Nov 27, 2017

‘Witch hunt': Don Burke rejects sex predator claims in bizarre...

Don Burke has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied allegations he was a sexual predator in a bizarre interview on A

smh.com.au

154 1,252 2,344

Burke was challenged by Grimshaw about the number of complaints — and revealed a new allegation about a sexual remark he'd allegedly made, to which he denied.

After the denial, she told him former crew members had told her of the remark.

“So the crew are lying,” she asked him.
Again @tracygrimshaw proving she’s the best interviewer in the country. #DonBurke #aca9
7:16 PM - Nov 27, 2017 · Sydney, New South Wales
22 21 201

@cameron_adams

Tracy Grimshaw reminds us how good A Current Affair can/should be. Upshot from her grilling of Don Burke seems to be that everyone is lying except him
7:37 PM - Nov 27, 2017 · Melbourne, Victoria
9 17 115

@RalphyHeraldSun

Tracy Grimshaw. Just note perfect. The BS radar, the flawless questioning, the eye rolls, the interjections, the cynicism when needed. Doesn’t rant or rave, just eviscerates him
8:30 PM - Nov 27, 2017
14 7 155

He replied: “I can remember what I do and don’t say, and I would never do something [like what’s been alleged]. Whether they construed something like that and built it up over the years, I don’t know. But there is a witch hunt on.”

He believed the rumours had gathered as the years went on, and had been amplified on Twitter recently by the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The enemies he’d made at Channel 9 could also be having their revenge, he suggested.


11-674
Tracy Grimshaw has grilled Don Burke on the numerous allegations against him. Picture: Channel 9

At one point in the interview he referenced “fragile” people who could be affected by his “ethics” — to which Grimshaw interjected.

“You think everybody saying these things are fragile, this comes from their fragility?”

Burke: “Not all of them. I think this whole Harvey Weinstein thing reinforces the victim mentality of women.”

The ACA host asked him about the Me Too campaign that empowered women all around the world.

Burke largely dismissed that. “Some women, many. But for others it reinforces their victim position.”

Tracy Grimshaw challenged Don Burke about the allegations. Picture: Channel 9

“Look at the people lining up against you today. Three women have put their names to it...

three Channel 9 executives, two former CEOs. Where there is smoke there is fire and that is a lot of fire.”

Burke told her much of it was “just smoke” and again said he deserved “some of it”.

“But not for sleazy sexual stuff.”

The TV presenter said he denied making misogynist and “sleazy” comments, claiming to have run “an anti-misogynist ship” at the Burke’s Backyard office.

“And I’m a perfectionist that drove people very hard and although I felt we did have a happy office, this clearly, when you look at the people who are complaining now, there’s a lot of people that don’t like me.”

Confronted with the specific allegations — which included indecent assault — he said he couldn’t recall the stories he’d read and the words that had been attributed to him.
Don Burke claimed he was the victim of a "witch hunt". Picture: Channel 9

"Might you be guilty of these things?" she put it to him as she sat across from him in his home.

"Absolutely not. What I defended is the words that I have been [alleged] to say. I do apologise that I gave them a horrible time but a lot of those words have grown over the years. A lot of this was 30 years ago. Who remembers what happens 30 years ago?

Later in the interview he said it was up to Australians to make their minds up.

"I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I'm the most evil person that's ever lived, that's your decision," Burke told Grimshaw.

"If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that's their decision not mine.

His interview with Grimshaw comes after the bullying allegations were published this morning.

A number of women featured in a joint Fairfax/ABC investigation about the activities of Burke, now 70, who worked with him in the 1980 and 1990s.

The women alleged he was a “psychotic bully”, a “misogynist” and a “sexual predator” who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

Tonight's interview comes as the Nine Network distanced itself from one of its former big stars.

A spokesman said Burke was not going to be on air next year and said there were no plans to bring him back.

“We were not in discussions with him, he has done some occasional (A Current Affair) segments on around gardening, most recently for “Spring in September”, but
Don Burke denies harassment claims: ‘I’m not that man at all’

DON Burke has defended himself against sexual harassment and bullying claims in a tense interview with Tracy Grimshaw, pulling out an extraordinary excuse.

Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

ELEVATION identity Don Burke has admitted "I wasn’t a nice person" and "people don’t like me" but has denied being a sexual predator and a bully.

The former Nine Network star went on the offensive tonight after a full day of lurid allegations against him, suggesting the women who had accused him of wrongdoing were "fragile" and claimed to be a victim of a "witch hunt" ignited by the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal.

In an interview with Tracy Grimshaw on A Current Affair he said he had much to be sorry for — including a series of affairs — and was not easy to work with on his hit show Burke’s Backyard.

But the 70-year-old denied the allegations made by a number of women who worked with him in the 1980s and 1990s that surfaced earlier today that he indecently assaulted, sexually harassed and bullied them.

He told Grimshaw anyone who was accused of doing what he had been accused of was "despicable" and "should be run out of town".

Despite admitting swearing and being hard to work for, Burke said he never treated anyone in the manner that had been alleged and said some of the claims involved "things that I would never say".

The celebrity gardener claimed to have Aspergers and a lot of other "genetic failings" but then backtracked slightly when he was asked why he'd never mentioned it before.

"I can look at a lens but I have difficulty looking at people in the eye. I missed the body language and the subtle signs that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. Not seeing. No one can understand how you can't see it. But you don't."

The claim was in response to an allegation he once told a female producer that if he had a child with a relative then that child would be genetically perfect.

He said he'd never been diagnosed with it, but still believed he had it — partly because he had trouble looking people in the eye.

Autism Awareness Aus
@AutismAwareAus

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9:43 PM - Nov 27, 2017

‘Witch hunt’: Don Burke rejects sex predator claims in bizarre...

Don Burke has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied allegations he was a sexual predator in a bizarre interview on A

After the denial, she told him former crew members had told her of the remark.

"So the crew are lying," she asked him.

He answered: "I can't go into that. We have some problems. I didn't say that."

Grimshaw continued to question him on the denials. "You say that there are a lot of people lying. You say that you were a good guy. You have accepted that you are not a good guy. If you can admit that, how can you categorically say nothing else could have happened to make all of these people are seeing it?"

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**Sarah Harris**

@SarahHarris

Again @tracygrimmshaw proving she's the best interviewer in the country. #DonBurke #abc7 7:16 PM - Nov 27, 2017 - Sydney, New South Wales

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**cameron adams**

@cameron_adams

Tracy Grimshaw reminds us how good A Current Affair can/should be. Upshot from her grilling of Don Burke seems to be that everyone is lying except him 7:37 PM - Nov 27, 2017 - Melbourne, Victoria

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**Jon Ralph**

@RalphfHeraldSun

Tracy Grimshaw. Just note perfect. The BS radar, the flawless questioning, the eye rolls, the interjections, the cynicism when needed. Doesn't rant or rave, just eviscerates him 8:30 PM - Nov 27, 2017

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He replied: "I can remember what I do and don't say, and I would never do something [like what's been alleged]. Whether they construed something like that and built it up over the years, I don't know. But there is a witch hunt on."

He believed the rumours had gathered as the years went on, and had been amplified on Twitter recently by the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The enemies he'd made at Channel 9 could also be having their revenge, he suggested.

"It's a witch hunt. I might have terrified a few people, or whatever, and that I shouldn't have done that, but these sort of things there no relation to who I am and what I am about. There are plenty of people who were there at the time and are furious, because these things didn't happen."
At one point in the interview he referenced "fragile" people who could be affected by his "ethics" — to which Grimshaw interjected.

"You think everybody saying these things are fragile, this comes from their fragility?"

Burke: "Not all of them. I think this whole Harvey Weinstein thing reinforces the victim mentality of women."

The ACA host asked him about the Me Too campaign that empowered women all around the world.

Burke largely dismissed that. "Some women, many. But for others it reinforces their victim position."

"Look at the people lining up against you today. Three women have put their names to it..."

"And I'm a perfectionist that drove people very hard and although I felt we did have a happy office, this clearly, when you look at the people who are complaining now, there's a lot of people that don't like me."

Confronted with the specific allegations — which included indecent assault — he said he couldn't recall the stories he'd read and the words that had been attributed to him.

These aren't rumours. Women are making allegations about what happened to them. They intimidated me, he bullied me, he harassed me...." Grimshaw said, recalling some of the accounts.

"Might you be guilty of these things?" she put it to him as she sat across from him in his home.

"Absolutely not. What I defended is the words that I have been [alleged] to say. I do apologise that I gave them a horrible time but a lot of these words have grown over the years. A lot of this was 30 years ago. Who remembers what happens 30 years ago?

Later in the interview he said it was up to Australians to make their minds up.

"I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I'm the most evil person that's ever lived, that's your decision," Burke told Grimshaw.

"If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that's their decision not mine.

"I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like. But that's up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive me or not."

Lisa's interview with Grimshaw comes after the bullying allegations were published this morning.

A number of women featured in a joint Fairfax/ABC investigation about the activities of Burke, now 70, who worked with him in the 1980 and 1990s.

The women alleged he was a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

Tonight's interview comes as the Nine Network distanced itself from one of its former big stars.

A spokesman said Burke was not going to be on air next year and said there were no plans to bring him back.

"We were not in discussions with him, he has done some occasional (A Current Affair) segments on around gardening, most recently for "Spring in September", but he is not going to be on air in 2018 and I have no knowledge of any discussions at all," the spokesman said.

andrew.koubadis@news.com.au
Olympic legend reveals torment

HOLLY STRYKES

NINE boss Hugh Marks knew this moment was coming, when the ghosts of his network’s past would come back to haunt him.

Earlier this month, as heat on the Harvey Weinstein sex scandal turned the blowtorch back on Australian entertainment, a candid Marks told a Melbourne conference that sexual predators, including those he admitted had worked for him, were now on notice.

Less than a fortnight later, his prediction would come true - with one of Nine’s biggest stars, Don Burke, accused by no less than 50 people of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and workplace bullying.

Last night it emerged that even swimming legend Susie O’Neill had been a victim. She has accused Burke of misconduct in the lead up to the 2000 Olympic Games.

Marks said he made a “crude” sexual joke about her private parts when the two were alone in her Bondi beach house.

Nick Cummins, her manager at the time, backed up her account.

Other allegations include:

- Two researchers claiming Burke groped their breasts.
- A researcher saying he attempted to put his hands down her top and remove her top.
- Claims he made a producer watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey; and,
- That he tried to drag a young woman into his hotel room.

It was Marks’ predecessor Nine’s former chairman Sam Chisholm, long-time CEO David Leckie and veteran news executive Peter Anksa — who would put their names to the alleged Burke dossier — reported first by whistleblower Tracey Jogger who formed the basis of a joint investigation.

DIRTY DEEDS: DON BURKE CREEP

TV veteran’s bizarre claims over

JANET FEU-YOEAMAS & DANIELLE LE MESSURIER

FACING multiple accusations he used his star power to harass and bully women for years, Don Burke looked down a TV camera last night and claimed he was an Anger-plagued sufferer who made excuses and mistakes because he couldn’t read body language.

A former Logie-winning producer, Burke used an interview on his old network to claim he was the victim of a “witch hunt” and paying for the sins of his Channel Nine past.

The unrepentant star told A Current Affair’s Tracy Grimshaw he had “no recollection” of explicit claims of predatory workplace harassment, but denied categorically he was guilty of the litany of lewd, lecherous misconduct charges levelled against him in media reports yesterday by a series of women who worked with him on his long-running show Burke’s Backyard.

“I’m not that man at all,” he said. “I’ve got a lot of feelings. Some of these things are despicable.”

Burke said he could not recall exchanges from 30 years ago but bizarrely claimed he had diagnosed himself as suffering from Anger’s syndrome, which made it hard to read social signals.

“I am happy to say to the people of Australia this is my story, make up your mind if I’m the most evil person that’s ever lived, that’s your decision,” Burke said.

“If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that’s their decision not mine.

“I have looked in the mirror and there’s a lot I don’t like. But that’s up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive me or not.

During the interview Burke claimed the flood of allegations against him had been made because he was an
Hospitals pay for their mistakes

Hospitals are increasingly being held accountable for their errors.

A new study has found that hospital errors cost the US healthcare system $220 billion per year. The study, conducted by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, found that errors in hospital care are responsible for 51,800 deaths annually, with each error costing an average of $21,000 in additional hospital expenses.

The study also found that the cost of hospital errors is not limited to increased hospital stays and additional medical procedures. Patients who suffer from errors are more likely to develop infections and other complications, which can lead to longer stays and higher costs.

The study highlights the need for hospitals to improve their safety protocols and reduce the risk of errors. It also calls for increased funding for research into ways to prevent errors and improve patient care.

The findings of the study are expected to influence policy makers and healthcare providers as they work to improve the quality of care provided to patients.

World watches as archbishop stands trial for 'protecting pedophile priest'

The world watches as Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington, DC, stands trial for protecting a priest accused of sexual abuse.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who served as the Archbishop of Washington, DC, from 2009 to 2013, is facing allegations that he failed to report a priest who was accused of sexual abuse.

The priest, Father James McGough, was accused of sexually abusing two teenage boys in the 1980s. Archbishop Gregory was appointed to the position of Archbishop of Washington, DC, in 2009.

A jury has now begun to hear the case against Archbishop Gregory. The trial is expected to last several weeks and will be closely watched by the Catholic Church and the wider community.

The case is expected to have far-reaching implications for the Catholic Church, which has faced criticism over its handling of sexual abuse cases. The trial will also be a test for the Vatican's efforts to hold its bishops accountable for their actions.

The Archbishop's defense team has argued that he did not have sufficient information to make a judgment about Father McGough's conduct.

Archbishop Gregory is expected to face questions about his knowledge of the allegations against Father McGough and whether he took appropriate action to address the allegations.

The trial is expected to last several weeks and will be closely watched by the Catholic Church and the wider community.

Declared corrupt, cleared by judge

A judge has cleared a former state judge of corruption charges.

Former DuPage County Judge Patrick Dain was cleared of all charges by a DuPage County judge on Thursday. The judge ruled that there was no evidence to support the charges.

Dain had been charged with two counts of felony misconduct in office and one count of perjury. He was accused of using his position to influence a case and then lying about it.

The judge ruled that there was not enough evidence to support the charges.

Dain had been accused of using his position to influence a case involving a friend of his. He later denied the allegations and said he had not done anything wrong.

The judge's ruling brought an end to a long legal battle that had been fought by both the state and Dain. The state had been trying to convict Dain for more than two years.

The case had been closely watched by the legal community, with many viewing it as a test of the state's ability to hold judges accountable.

The judge's ruling was unexpected and was met with mixed reactions. Some praised the judge's decision, while others criticized it as a victory for Dain and a failure to hold judges accountable.

The case is expected to have far-reaching implications for the legal community and the way judges are held accountable.

Harry wore his wedding band again.

The beloved wedding band that was lost and then found again.

A couple's wedding band was lost and then found again.

The couple, who were married for 10 years, lost their wedding band during a dinner at a restaurant. They were devastated when they realized it was missing.

But then, after a few days, the couple received a call from a stranger who had found the band.

The band had been found in a nearby park.

The couple were overjoyed to get their wedding band back.

They were grateful to the stranger who had found it and returned it to them.

The couple's story has been widely reported and has touched many people's hearts.

Cool reception as IJU moves its Hottest 10

The move was met with mixed reactions.

A radio station's move to a new location was met with mixed reactions.

The station, which had been located in a crowded area, moved to a new location in a quieter area.

The move was met with mixed reactions, with some people saying they would miss the old location and others saying they were happy to see the station move.

The station's move was seen as a way to improve the station's reach and attract more listeners.

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The move was met with mixed reactions, with some people saying they would miss the old location and others saying they were happy to see the station move.

The station's move was seen as a way to improve the station's reach and attract more listeners.
Hospitals to pay for their mistakes

ICAC cried corrupt, then helps clear

Burke memory fails on ‘exact things I did’

Forgetful child killer to die in jail

Cool reception as JJJ moves its Hottest 10

Lawyers line up as accusers come forward

World watches as archbishop stands trial for ‘protecting pedophile priest’
Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are set for a spring wedding next year.
Picture: Chris Jackson
Getty Images

REMARKLEABLE! Harry and Meghan engaged

CELEBRITY SCANDAL Grubby TV gardener ‘ashamed’ of behaviour but claims to be the victim of a ‘witch hunt’

WHAT A BURKE

JANET FITZ-IVORAN

TV legend Don Burke last night admitted he’s “not a good person” — but denied he was a sexual predator and said accusations of misconduct from multitudes of women were nothing more than a “social media witch hunt”.

“There are things I’ve done that I’m not at all proud of,” the 76-year-old behind Burke’s Backyard said. “I’m a perfectionist that drove people very hard and although I felt we did have a happy office when you look at the people who are complaining now, there’s a lot of people that don’t like me.”

Burke, who has self-diagnosed as suffering Asperger’s, said Australians could decide “if I’m the most evil person that’s ever lived”.

FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9
REMARKLEABLE! Harry and Meghan engaged

CELEBRITY SCANDAL Grubby TV gardener ‘ashamed’ of behaviour but claims to be the victim of a ‘witch hunt’

WHAT A BURKE

JANET IRE-YEMANS

"TV legend Don Burke last night admitted he’s "not a good person" - but denied he was a sexual predator and said accusations of misconduct from multiple ex-wives were nothing more than a "social media witch hunt".

"There are things I’ve come to. I’m not at all proud of it," the 70-year-old behind Burke’s Backyard said. "I’m a perfectionist that drives people very hard and although I felt we did have a happy office... when you look at the people who are complaining now, there’s a lot of people that don’t like me."

Burke, who has self-diagnosed as suffering Asperger’s, said Australians could declare "I’m the most evil person that’s ever lived".

FULL REPORTS PAGES 5-6
PM HAS DRIVE TO WIN

SMH MARSDEN

A $300 million transport hub to boost Berowra Centre's competitiveness will be announced by Malcolm Turnbull today in a bid to win over voters in the seat's crucial by-election.

As he fights to hold onto the seat to secure a governing majority, the Prime Minister will commit to building an interchange at Macquarie Park to make it easier for commuters to catch a bus, train or get a cab.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian will join the federal counterpart to announce the funding. Macquarie Park is the biggest transport hub in Sydney outside of the CBD, with 30,000 commuters passing through it daily. The transport promise comes as the race continues to tighten between ex-Labor NSW premier Kristina Keneally and former tennis champion and Liberal candidate John Alexander ahead of the December 16 poll.

"This interchange is a game-changer," Mr Turnbull said.

FULL REPORT PAGES 2

Scoop

A GYM JUNKIE CRISIS

DANIÈLLE GUSMAROLI

Dumbbells and shed heads are storing cocaine and taking other illicit drugs before hitting the weights as they can "feel like Superman in the gym".

A special investigation can today expose the dangerous new trend after The Daily Telegraph tested a range of metropolitan gymnasiums for illicit drugs over the past three weeks.

If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful.

Grubby TV gardener "ashamed" but claims to be the victim of a witch hunt.

FULL REPORT PAGES 4-6
Asperger’s, witch hunts and affairs in defense to sleazy allegations

unpopular figure during his time on Channel Nine and his accusers — in light of the recent domino effect of the Harvey Weinstein saga — had seen this as their chance to “suck him in.”

A lot of people don’t like me. And they can’t all be wrong,” he said, admitting carrying out a string of “screamin” while married to wife, Maree, who had breast cancer.

I think I’ve got a bit to apologize for to my family and all the people who supported Burke’s Backyard. There are things I’ve done that I’m not at all proud of.”

The TV presenter said he denied making misogynistic and “sleazy” comments. He said he and his colleagues ran an “anti-misogynist ship” at the Burke’s Backyard office.

Grimshaw said she had been told by a producer that Burke had claimed to be a “geniestic” and if he procrastinated with a young family member, the child would have the “perfect age pool.”

Burke replied: “That’s ridiculous — for start I’m a Asperger’s person and have a lot of other failings genetically. I would never say that, it’s just disgusting.”

When pressed by Grimshaw about his claims, he replied that he had disposed himself because of his behaviour with other people but “not all their body language and often the subtle signs that people give to you like ‘back off, that’s enough’.”

Burke also repeatedly referred to Weinstein harassment scandal for helping fuel “a witch-hunt” while also denying being a sex predator.

“I had done it and it would have admit to it now, I am in a frame of mind where I am sick of all this. It would be far less painful for me to say ‘ yeah I did that.’ But I didn’t.”

The Daily Telegraph confronted Burke at the front of his rural property in rural Kenthurst on Thursday, where he refused to answer questions on the topic.

“It’s my turn now, and I’ve already had a reasonable number of questions.”

Leekie, who has described Burke as a “horrible man”, could not be contacted for comment last night.

Chisholm, who described Burke as a “terrible grab”, said that he stuck by his comments that “probably” someone had complained to him about Burke at the time but he could not recall because it was so long ago.

The claim that emerged yesterday reportedly came from more than 50 people who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s. Earlier he issued a statement in which Burke said he was “unprovoked, my reaction is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny.”

NSW Police confirmed no formal complaint had been made to them and no active investigations were underway in relation to the allegations against Burke.

However, Nine described the allegations against Burke as “extremely serious”. While produced by Burke’s company CPC Productions, Burke’s Backyard was based in one of the cottages on Nine’s Willoughby site: “The allegations are extremely serious and would not be tolerated at Nine today,” the network said.

Acquitted rape accused is spared another trial

A man acquitted of raping a woman in Sydney Kings Cross earlier this year has been spared a third trial, with a judge saying it would be “oppressive” for him to have “the expense and worry” of another hearing. Luke Andrew Laszio, 33, spent 11 months in jail before his conviction for raping an 18-year-old woman near a Sydney nightclub was quashed on appeal in 2015. He was later cleared following a judge-alone retrial.

The NSW Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an appeal against the acquittal over the May 2015 incident.

That appeal was dismissed by the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal yesterday. Justice Geoffrey Browne said it would be “oppressive” to put Mr Laszio “to the expense and worry of a third trial.”

“While I recognize that any criminal trial is an ordeal for a complainant, it is also an ordeal for an accused,” he said.
I'm not saying I'm innocent. I've done a lot of things I'm ashamed of.

His weird Aspergers' claim.

I don't understand, you are talking about incest, certainly not and I don't believe that about myself.

That's ridiculous - for a start I'm a Asperger's person and have a lot of other failings genetically. I would never say that. It is just disgusting.

Don Burke near his property in Boronia, Thursday last week.

Picture: Brienne Manin

Asperger's, witch-hunts and affairs in defence to sleazy allegations

time on Channel Nine and his accusers — in light of the recent Donna Stewart effect of the Harvey Weinstein saga — had seen this as their chance to “nail” him.

“A lot of people don’t like me. And they can’t all be wrong,” he said, admitting carrying out a string of “af- fairs” while married to wife Lara.

“I think I’ve got a bit of an appetite for sex and sex and also to the people who supported Burke backed up. There are things I’ve done that I’m not as proud of.”

The TV presenter said he denied making misogynist and “slutty” comments. He said he, and his colleagues ran an “anti-misogynist ship” at the Burke’s stolen car office.

Grimesh said he had been told by a producer that Mr Burke had claimed to be a “geneticist” and if the person with a young family member the child would have the “perfect green pool”.

Burke replied: “That’s ridiculous ... for start I am an asperger person and have a lot of other failings genetically. I would never say that is just disgusting.”

When asked about his sexual condition he replied that he had diagnosed himself because he sought to “put in all their body language and often the subtle sign that people give to you like back off, that’s enough.”

Burke said the recent Weinstein sexual assault scandal “infuriates the victimization of women” and that others saw the Weinstein era as the perfect excuse to “tell them”.

However, he denied being a sex predator.

“If I had done it I would have admit to it now. I am in a frame of mind where I am sick of all this. It would be far less painful for me to say yeah I did that. But I didn’t.”

Former Nine news boss Peter Meakin said bullying used to be endemic at the network but the extent of the alleged sexual misconduct by Burke had come as a surprise.

“Don Burke was undoubtedly valuable to Nine but he was not unaccountable. I believe on the balance of probabilities that someone did speak to him about his conduct then.”

Those people would have been the former chief executive officers of Nine, David Lockie and his predecessor Sam Chisholm, he said.

Mr Lockie, who has dis- tracted Burke as a “horrible man”, could not be contacted for comment last night.

Chisholm, who described Burke as a “terrible guy”, said that he was shocked by his comments that “probably” someone had complained to him about Burke at the time but he could not recall because it was too long ago.

The broad claims that emerged today reportedly come from more than 50 people who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Earlier he issued a state- ment forestalling legal action against his detractors.

“The bitter irony is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny,” he said.

Former swimmer and actor Alistair Banks mere, who was asked by Burke on camera if her breasts were real, was among those coming to his defence. Mr Banks said the question was asked “in jest”.

NSW Police confirmed no formal complaint had been made to them and no active investigations were underway.

Channel Nine described the allegations against Burke as “extremely serious”.

While produced by Burke’s company CTC Productions, Burke’s Backyard was based in one of the cottages on Nine’s Willoughby site. The allegations are extremely serious, the behaviour described is completely unacceptible and would not be tolerated at Nine today,” the network said.

Acquitted rape accused is spared another trial

A MAN accused of raping a woman in a Kings Cross al- leway more than 15 years ago has been spared a third trial, with a judge saying it would be “oppressive” for him to have “the expense and worry of another hearing.”

Lee Andrew Laarman, 26, spent 15 months in jail be- fore his conviction for allegedly raping an 18-year- old woman near St George’s night club was overruled on appeal in 2016. He was later cleared fol- lowing a judge’s order to throw out the acquittal.

The NSW Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an appeal against the acquittal over the May 2003 incident.

That appeal was dismissed by the NSW Court of Crimi- nal Appeal yesterday, Justice Geoffrey Butler said it would be “oppressive” to put Mr Laarman “to the expense and worry of a third trial” almost five years after the event.

While I rec- ognise that any criminal trial is an ordeal for a com- plainant, it is also an ordeal for an accused,” he ruled.

ON HIS AFFAIRS:

Prior to Marea’s ill-health I had a couple of affairs which I should never have done and I let everyone down.

ON THE ALLEGATIONS:

I do know there’s a witch-hunt going on.

I’ve never actually seen a donkey bestiality video.

ON THE ABUSE CLAIMS:

When you look at the people complaining there is a lot of people that don’t like me and they can’t all be wrong.

Some of the things I supposed to have said are despicable and no person should say that to another person.

ON OUR DEBT DO US PART

OWN in seventh heaven financial debt has hidden their money were from a partner.

New research in the UK found feeling ashamed was the most common reason for hiding debt, cited by half of the 4000 participants polled in the survey. Others were scared of how their other half would react.

A third of the respondents felt their partner had a differ- ent approach to money as they did. The report warned that one in six adults were currently in problem debt meaning they struggle to manage their financial committments or have missed pay- ments.

The report warned that one in six adults are currently in problem debt, meaning they struggle to manage their financial commitments or have missed payments.

TIL OUR DEBT DO US PART

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11-694
Stranger things in gene gaffe
JACK HORTON

IN one of the most surreal claims to his A Current Affair interview last night, Don Burke claimed that he would never have talked about having sex with a family member to create a genetically blessed child — because he had Asperger’s syndrome.

In an even stranger twist, when he was pressed by veteran interviewer Tracy Grimshaw on the shocking revelation of the condition, he confessed that he had not actually been medically diagnosed — he had simply worked out his “condition” himself.

The exchange went: “Ms Grimshaw said she had not been told by a producer that Mr Burke had claimed to be a ‘geneticist’ and if he procrastinated with a young family member the child would have the perfect gene pool.”

“I don’t understand. You’re talking about incest, certainly not, and I don’t believe that about myself,” Burke said.

“That’s ridiculous — for a start, I’m an Asperger’s person and have a lot of other failings generally. I would never say that — it’s just disturbing.”

“I haven’t been medically diagnosed but I’ve worked out that’s what I’ve got and what it is, it’s a terrible failing... I suffer from a terrible... of self-testing.”

Nine boss’s prediction

Nine boss Hugh Marks knew this moment was coming when the ghosts of his network’s past would come back to haunt them. Earlier this month, with the best of the Harrods porn scandal swirling to Australian entertainment, a candid Marks told a conference that sexual predators, including those he suspected had worked for Nine, were now on notice: “In sure these were problems 20 years ago. I’m now rethinking things that will come out in the public that will talk to those problems.”

Less than a fortnight later, his prediction would come true.

DIRTY DEEDS: DON BURKE CREEP

TV veteran’s bizarre claims over

MATTHEW YEOMANS & DANIELLE LE MESSUGER

FACING multiple accusations he used his star power to harass and bully women for years, Don Burke looked down a TV camera last night and claimed he was an Asperger’s sufferer who made enemies and mistakes because he couldn’t read body language.

A former Logie-winning presenter Burke used an interview on his old network to claim he was the victim of a “witch hunt” and paying for the sins of his Channel 9 past.

The under-valued star told A Current Affair’s Tracy Grimshaw he had “no recollection” of explicit claims of predatory workplace harassment, but denied categorically he was guilty of the libel of, lecherous misconduct charges levelled against him by a series of women who worked with him in media reports yesterday.

“I’m not that man at all,” he said. “I’ve got a lot of failings. Some of those are irresistible.”

Burke said he could not remember exchanges from 20 years ago, but said he had self-diagnosed himself as suffering from Asperger’s syndrome which made it hard to read social signals.

“I am happy to say to the people of Australia: this is my story, make up your mind if I’m the most evil person that’s ever lived, that’s your decision,” Burke said.

“If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful, but I think that’s their decision not mine.”

“I have looked in the mirror and there’s a lot I don’t like. But that’s up to the people of Australia to decide can they forgive or not.”

During the interview Burke claimed the flood of allegations against him had been made because he was an unpopular figure during his
These five most pathetic statements only dug Don Burke deeper into public disgust

Wendy Tuohy, Herald Sun
November 28, 2017 4:06pm

DON Burke followed the rules of crisis management 1:01 last night by granting an interview with Channel 9 to discuss the many disgusting sexual harassment and misconduct allegations against him.

Usually, this indicates a willingness to be transparent and engenders trust.
MORE READY TO TALK

Clearly, the most despicable ploy to explain some of the behaviour to which he confessed (he denied all of the multitude of sexual claims made by women and in some cases supported by men) was to put it down to self-diagnosed Aspergers syndrome.

In one sentence about not having been medically diagnosed, but having “worked it out” as the reason he could not read people, Burke smeared an entire community.

He harmed the community by conflating allegations of hideous sexual misconduct with the common condition.

Don Burke during the A Current Affair interview with Tracy Grimshaw. Picture: ACA/ Channel 9.

As a result, people on the spectrum, especially kids, have to live with the implication delivered in one of the most watched TV interviews of the year that they are potentially prone to the kind of “grubby” behaviour (to quote a former Channel Nine CEO) of which Burke stands accused.
harassment or assault is one of the oldest tricks in the book, and thankfully it was called out for what it was by viewers.

Well done to Tracy Grimshaw for pushing Burke with the question: “You think everybody saying these things are fragile, this comes from their fragility?”

To suggest you cannot answer someone’s strongly-put allegation because it would harm their fragile state is ridiculous, yet Burke tried this more than once.

Thirdly, his claims that social media was to blame for his predicament — of being called out by three named women, two former network CEOs and even crew members whose observations Grimshaw put to him last night — were laughable.

MORE WENDY TUOHY

As were his suggestion that stories get bigger in the telling.

The claims did not come from social media, they came from named people who have staked their reputations and risked further stress and trauma by going public.
Wendy Dent encountered Don Burke while working as a children’s entertainer. Picture: ABC News

The impact of historical painful events is very often ongoing pain — of the type you don’t just forget or blank out.

Lastly, to suggest he was the victim of a “witch hunt” because of the Harvey Weinstein scandal was simple garbage.

No matter how powerful a figure you are or were, the beautiful thing about everyday folks is that presented with evidence they can see right through the status to what lies beneath.

Chat with Wendy Tuohy on Facebook here or Twitter @wtuohy.
Allegations against former TV star Don Burke have come thick and fast, with many women in the media industry bringing forth serious allegations against the popular presenter.

My own experience with him came in the mid to late 2000's as a producer at 2UE Radio. I worked a couple of shifts with Don Burke when he was filling in for my regular host.

The last time was an outside broadcast at the Easter Show, I was late, I got held up at security. Don tore shreds off me... But then half an hour later came up and said all was forgiven because he'd decided I had a "great arse."

I later reported it to management and was told I didn't have to work with him anymore.

I was certainly not the only young female producer who felt like this. There were girls who went through far more confronting experiences with him at 2UE Radio during that time than what I experienced. So much so a practice developed that if you were a young female producer and you felt uncomfortable around Don, you wouldn't be forced to work with him.

And while they acknowledged the problem and gave us that option, I never witnessed any sort of disciplining of Don himself.

Since the allegations surrounding Don hit the headlines this week I've gotten in contact with a number of my former female colleagues to talk to them about what we experienced at that time. We were all young, in our early to mid 20s, and for most of us it was our first workplace.

**RELATED ARTICLES**

- Franchise giant's rules 'forcing cafes out of business'
- Flinders Street rampage survivor determined to walk again
- Never fill up on petrol again with an electric car

The ongoing sentiment with each and every woman I've spoken to is one of anger. Anger that during a vulnerable stage of their career they were put in a position of having to navigate this, with no real guidance.

Why should a grown man's behaviour be the responsibility of 20-something year old woman? It begs the question: If you're a manager and you're aware of inappropriate

Don Burke once told me I had a 'great arse' following an outburst: Alison Piotrowski

behaviour and yet you don't do anything to stop it... aren't you just as much a part of the problem?

Burke has denied all allegations of sexual harassment and indecent assault.

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A Current Affair National Don Burke

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Why did the wallaby cross the Harbour Bridge? an hour ago

UK MP dumps girlfriend over 'racist' Meghan Markle texts
Don Burke should possibly be stripped of Order of Australia, Bill Shorten says

Don Burke and his wife Maree pictured together in 2014.

GREG BROWN THE AUSTRALIAN 2:47PM November 29, 2017

Bill Shorten says Governor-General Peter Cosgrove should consider stripping Don Burke of his Order of Australia. The Opposition Leader said the under fire TV gardener’s title should be “looked at” following sexually harassment and indecent assault allegations revealed over the past two days.

“I think it’s something that has to be looked at .... there should be accountability for his behaviour,” Mr Shorten said.

“To the victims who have come forward, and there has been plenty of them, this is not easy to do or to relive or to talk about.”

Yesterday, Mr Shorten labelled the allegations surrounding Burke as “sickening” and “shocking”, saying there was a culture problem if the behaviour was ignored by media executives for decades.

“Millions of Australians have watched this show on television and I think they will be shocked by these revelations.”

Steer clear of toxic types

We all know a Larry the Liar or a Fragile Freda whose behaviour saps our energy and makes life an ordeal.

EXCLUSIVE

Magistrate spares thug

A magistrate who declined to record a conviction against a Gold Coast street thug has a history of imposing 'soft' sentences.

Shorten 'standing in law's way'

The government is ramping up the pressure on Labor MP Susan Lamb over dual citizenship doubts.
'Arrogant, conceited, egotistical and obsessive': Don Burke threatened to sue over a newspaper article that compared him to the 'ANTICHRIST'

- Don Burke threatened to sue a journalist, Richard Glover, over an article in 1991
- The article was published in Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend magazine
- Interviewees described Burke as 'arrogant, conceited, egotistical and obsessive'
- The article revealed Burke was nicknamed 'the Antichrist' by friends, colleagues

By SAM DUNCAN and NIC WHITE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

Embattled television gardening personality Don Burke was so angered by a critical profile written about him that he threatened to sue.

Journalist Richard Glover wrote the piece for the Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend magazine in 1991, and posted it to his Facebook profile on Tuesday.

Glover's post comes as the Burke's Backyard host continues to strenuously deny allegations of sexual harassment and indecent assault.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123933/Don-Burke-threatened-sue-ANTICHRIST-article.html
Scroll down for video

Embattled television gardening personality Don Burke (pictured, right, with Annalise Braakensiek) was so angered by a critical profile that he threatened to sue.

Journalist Richard Glover wrote the piece for the Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend magazine in 1991, and posted it to his Facebook profile on Tuesday (pictured is Don Burke).
Glover’s post (pictured) comes as the Burke’s Backyard host continues to deny allegations of sexual harassment and indecent assault.

'I tried to smuggle some of the sexual allegations into the Herald back in 1991, but didn't quite have the evidence to convince the lawyers,' wrote Glover.

'Even so, Burke threatened, for a considerable time, to sue me over this piece, although not successfully.'
"I do think it's interesting this was published in Good Weekend in April 1991, so people saying "we didn't know" - at least about the bullying - don't really have much excuse."

Glover's article described Burke as 'obsessive, arrogant, conceited, egotistical', based on more than 50 interviews.

Don Burke denies claiming he has 'the perfect gene pool'
Glover's article described Burke (pictured, right, with Tara Dennis) as 'obsessive, arrogant, conceited, egotistical', based on more than 50 interviews.

It contains frank accounts of the television personality which take on new relevance in light of the recent allegations.

'Some talk of this skill before the camera, his photographic memory, his driving desire to provide the best possible show,' Glover wrote.

'Others report a darker side, offering their nickname for him as a kind of jokey summary: they call him the Antichrist.'

The ABC and Fairfax on Monday published claims Burke sexually harassed, indecently assaulted and bullied female colleagues over a number of years.
It contains frank accounts of the television personality (pictured) which take on new relevance in light of the recent allegations.
A number of Burke’s accusers claim they approached the Nine Network with complaints about the presenter but were ignored.

One reporter claimed Burke interrupted an interview to tell her she would be a ‘demon f***’ before making vile comments about a younger female relative.

‘I was sort of asking the other reasons that he decided to make the country change, and he said one of the reasons was he wanted to get horses because he had a [younger] female relative – I’ll put it that way – who he liked to watch rub her c*** on its back,’ she told the ABC.

‘I felt really physically sick.’
Swimming legend Susie O'Neill (pictured) claimed Burke compared her vagina to a prized painting of a flower by her husband, which was hanging on her wall.
She allegedly went to the Nine Network with the footage, but she sent a bunch of flowers the next day and the complaint was forgotten.

Other allegations include grabbing multiple women's breasts and poking one woman's bottom.

One claim alleged Burke told an aspiring actress she could audition if she showed up topless.

He allegedly tried to take off her bra and top on a bus and made her watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey.

Other allegations include grabbing multiple women's breasts and poking one woman's bottom (pictured is Burke asking a guest on his program to stroke a plant)

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123883/Dcn-Burke-threatened-sue-ANTICHRIST-article.html
A former crew member also claimed Burke bragged about touching a teenage girl's nipple three times while showing her how to hold a puppy.

Swimming legend Susie O'Neill claimed Burke compared her vagina to a prized painting of a flower by her husband, which was hanging on her wall.

'Is your c**t as big as that?' the former Burke's Backyard host allegedly asked her as she stood in front of the painting in her Brisbane home.

Burke has strenuously denied all the allegations and described his accusers as 'malcontents' who 'bear grudges against me'.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5123853/Don-Burke-threatened-sue-ANTICHRIST-article.html
Burke (pictured) has strenuously denied all the allegations and described his accusers as 'malcontents' who 'bear grudges against me'
Don Burke's appalling autism call is an opportunity to challenge prejudice

Tom Chaine

Don Burke has been universally slammed for blaming his misogynistic bullying on undiagnosed Asperger's, but he is not the only man to cite autism as an excuse after being publicly outed for such appalling behaviour.

Before Burke's interview with A Current Affair's Tracy Grimshaw on Monday night, in which he attempted to explain away public accusations of indecent assault and sexual harassment by claiming - as "an Asperger's person" (he has not been diagnosed with the condition) - that he struggles to interpret body language, there was James Damore, the former Google employee who was terminated after circulating the opinion that men are simply more suited to working with technology than women, claiming in retrospect that he sees things differently as an autistic man.

Don Burke's Asperger's claim challenged

Saying sexual misconduct and Asperger's syndrome are in no way linked, Autism Awareness CEO Nicole Rogerson found Don Burke's claims insulting.
Put bluntly, these excuses are outrageous and completely unacceptable. Crown, professional men using claims of disability to frame themselves as haplessly clueless about the impact of their actions need to step up and take responsibility for themselves.

The vast majority of autistic people manage to live their lives without engaging in raging misogyny and sexual harassment (autistic women in particular are remarkably capable of this) and the last thing they need is to be thrown under the bus by men accused of engaging in sexism and abuse.

**RELATED ARTICLES**

'What kind of human sinks this low?' Don Burke blasted for blaming Asperger's

Condemnation of Burke's comments came swiftly from autism advocacy organisations on Tuesday, describing the conflation of abusive behaviour with autism as "gobsmacking", "appalling", "nonsense" and an "unforgivable slur".

They are right, of course, but I doubt any of them are truly surprised by the implications of Burke's comments - aware as they must be of the harmful stereotypes that continue to influence public perception of autism.

Because it is not just the desperate grasping of men under public fire at play here. The commonly held view that difficulty in reading social cues (typical in autism) equates to a lack of empathy or understanding of right and wrong is a misperception that inevitably results in discrimination and abuse against autistic people.

In attempting to make themselves blameless, Burke and Damore are effectively perpetuating the myths that fuel that discrimination.
Perhaps we should not be surprised when men who openly identify with blatantly misogynistic ideology, or are accused of routinely engaging in abusive sexual power plays with women, are also willing to exploit a vulnerable minority for personal gain.

But as it is with institutionalised sexism, we need to look to ourselves and our cultural norms and ask the question: "How have we enabled this?"

Don Burke was in damage control mode when he agreed to do an interview on *A Current Affair*, and presumably believed that the Asperger's defence was one that would fly with the public.

The response so far has not been favourable, but I can't help but wonder if this is more to do with the accusations coming out in the wake of the Weinstein behemoth than 17 real public support for autistic people.

Sexual predators are not being given an inch in the current climate (a refreshing change of wind) and the usual excuses are being given short shrift.

This is, however, an opportunity to challenge how we talk about autism, because, while Burke may have misread the room thinking that undiagnosed Asperger's would exonerate him, the idea that it might do so did not originate with him.

We have spent years failing to acknowledge the full humanity of autistic people, and it's time we made serious efforts to rectify that.
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Don Burke campaigned against domestic violence in 1993 despite complaints from women

Kate McClymont

When the federal government launched its "Real men don't bash or rape women" campaign in 1993, four iconic Australian men were featured as "ambassadors" for it.

But when one of them was revealed to be Don Burke, then a major television celebrity, there was an immediate backlash.

Don Burke denies allegations

Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

"As soon as his face appeared in ads, we were contacted by several women saying that he was not appropriate for the campaign because he himself was an abuser," said a former public servant who was involved in the campaign.

Shocked at the allegations, the Office of the Status of Women, which

was running the "Stop Violence Against Women" campaign, contacted Burke.

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Autism advocate 'appalled' at Burke's Asperger's excuse

"We tried to convince him to withdraw from the campaign through his management - he refused," the source said.

Burke, whose program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut at the time, was quoted in the advertisement saying: "Many people suffer stress, get drunk, lose their jobs, get angry or jealous without resorting to violence. There is never an excuse for a man to be violent towards a woman."

The campaign also featured swimming legend Kieren Perkins, singer James Blundell and ironman Darren Mercer.

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Journalist Jacqui Lang, who was working at the magazine New Weekly (now NW), recalled being surprised when a woman rang the magazine to say that Burke had to be removed from the campaign because he had assaulted her.

Don Burke's program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for Channel Nine. Photo: Supplied

Some years later, she also made enquiries at Nine's publicity department about allegations of harassment against Burke. Her enquiry was ignored, she said.

REAL MEN.
Don Burke campaigned against domestic violence in 1993 despite complaints from women.

REAL MEN DON'T BASH OR RAPE WOMEN.

We will not tolerate violence against women.

Don Burke declared his innocence on *A Current Affair* on Monday night. Photo: Channel Nine

The 1993 federal government domestic violence campaign, in which Don Burke was heavily featured. Photo: Supplied

A joint investigation by Fairfax Media and the ABC has revealed that Burke indecently assaulted at least two female researchers who worked at *Burke's Backyard*.

In the late 1980s, Amanda Pepe, then 20, was lured from Broken Hill to Sydney on the false pretence that Burke would offer her a job on his show. Instead, he picked her up from the airport and took her to a hotel where he made unwanted sexual advances.

Sources have also confirmed that at Channel Nine's 1989 season launch, an 18-year-old television newcomer had too much to drink. When a senior producer was asked to help the teenager back to her hotel room he was shocked to find the door to her room slightly ajar.

"Sitting in the shadows - in the darkened room, with no lights - was the hunched-over figure of Don Burke," the producer said.

"Don tried telling me that she'd given him her room key while on the boat so he could reach her 'presentation skills' back in the room." 

After arguing with the network's star for an hour, the producer finally got him to leave the hotel room.

"This was predatory behaviour ... any normal person would have left straight away, but Don was determined to stay there and do god-knows-what to this girl," he said.

Despite complaints to Nine's management from those who witnessed Burke's behaviour during the launch party and from the producer who ejected him from the hotel room, no action was taken against Burke.

**Further allegations**

Other women have come forward to share their horror stories on having to deal with Burke.

"Working on Burke's Backyard recording Don Burke doing his studio postings was not an enjoyable experience," one woman recalled.

"I remember one day we were recording a Mothers' Day Special and the set was covered in chrysanthemums about which Don Burke kept making jokes comparing them to women's private parts.

"Having to listen to his deeply offensive comments and stories was a part of the job that I realise now none of us should have had to put up with."

On one occasion she recalled using a bathroom close to the studio.

"Don Burke was in there when I came out. I tried to get around him and he mirrored my sidestep, made some sleazy comment about helping me pull up my pants up," she said.

The women fled back to the control room, upset and humiliated.

"It never entered my head to make a complaint. He was who he was. And I knew what would happen if I'd made a complaint," she said.
Burke's own publications were not the most appropriate tomes for an "ambassador" against domestic violence.

In chapter six of his book *The Lazy Gardener*, Burke joked about assaulting women.

"A woman, a dog, a walnut tree. The more you beat them, the better they be," it reads.

Burke describes it as the "greatest of all English truisms".

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'We cannot rewrite history': Nine chief addresses staff about Don Burke allegations

Jennifer Duke

Mine Network chief executive Hugh Marks has addressed employees, promising free counselling after former staffers made allegations against Burke's Backyard star Don Burke for sexual misconduct.

In an email to staff on Wednesday, Mr Marks said they would take steps to ensure former employees "perhaps with old grievances" are supported, with counselling and a phone line created to allow staff to report bad behaviour.

Don Burke denies allegations

Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by saying that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

"As much as we might like to, sometimes we unfortunately cannot rewrite history," Mr Marks said in the email.

"In light of the appalling allegations this week of sexual assault.
harassment and misconduct by Don Burke I wanted to write to all staff to reaffirm Nine's commitment to maintaining a culture that is inclusive, supportive and respectful.

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Don Burke campaigned against domestic violence in 1993 despite complaints from women

Olympic swimmer flabbergasted at Burke's 'crude sexual innuendo'

Former Nine employees were encouraged to call the new telephone line for an independent counselling service to report past behaviour at no cost.

"It's my job as CEO, and that of your senior leaders, to ensure that people who have been treated poorly will be heard, and that they will get appropriate support if they need it.

"Any matters which are raised and require further action will be addressed appropriately either internally or, if required, externally of Nine."

He emphasised Nine's "zero tolerance" policy of inappropriate workplace behaviour, saying employees were entitled to come to a safe workplace confident that inappropriate behaviour would be dealt with effectively.

Nine chief executive Hugh Marks has addressed staff, promising free counselling in light of the allegations made against Don Burke. Photo: Paul Miller

"Nine has a number of policies and procedures in place to ensure expectations in relation to behaviour in the workplace are clear. We also have clear guidelines on how we manage grievances, misconduct and support staff if any such concerns arise," he said.

The policies and guidelines were noted to include staff, contractors, sub-contractors, agents, consultants and temporary staff.
A series of women have accused Don Burke of sexually harassing them.

He also mentioned the "Nine Learning" training programs, encouraging staff to complete assigned modules.

On Tuesday, a Nine spokesman said it had "no plans" to bring Burke back on air in 2018, denying there had been discussions for his return.

Burke has denied all the allegations against him "absolutely" and said some came from people who "still bear a strong grudge against me".

Former Channel Nine chief executive officer David Gyngell, who made the "commercial decision" to axe Burke's Backyard in 2004, declined to comment on the Burke allegations on Wednesday, though added that as a current director of Nine, he "fully endorsed" network management's response to the matter.

with Andrew Hornery

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Caroline Wilson reveals 'creepy' encounter with Don Burke at 1996 Logies

Breede Carmody

Respected sports journalist and commentator Caroline Wilson has revealed Don Burke once asked to lick her back while she was pregnant.

*The Age*’s former chief football writer revealed the incident on Radio National on Wednesday morning. Numerous women have come forward to accuse Burke of sexual harassment and inappropriate comments.

Don Burke denies allegations

Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on *A Current Affair* by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

The TV personality has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied being a sexual predator.

He recently told *A Current Affair* he was the victim of a "witch hunt".
and attempted to blame some of his behaviour on self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome.

Speaking to Fairfax Media, Wilson said she was put on the same table as the *Burke's Backyard* star for the 1996 Logie Awards.

"He seemed like a nice bloke," she said. "The awards ceremony started and I remember I was wearing a navy blue velvet maternity evening dress.

"I turned around to look at the stage and I said to Don - because we'd been talking - 'Please excuse my back' because I was turning my back to him."

"He said, 'Not at all. Do you mind if I lick it?'"
"I wasn't devastated or traumatised by it ... it's nothing compared to what he's allegedly done to some people. I didn't really talk much to him during the (rest of the) night.

"Obviously there were times as a woman in a man's world where things were said to me.

"But the only time I remember someone in the TV industry saying anything [that] gross to me was Don Burke."

Wilson's husband, Channel 7 reporter Brendan Donohoe, said he couldn't remember Burke's exact words but confirmed the incident took place.

The story is well-known among the couple's circle of friends.

On Monday, Wilson announced she was stepping down as The Age's chief football writer after 19 years in the role.

The two-time Walkley Award winner will remain with the newspaper as a regular AFL columnist and will also appear on the Real Footy podcast.
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Nine tycoon Kerry Packer 'told Don Burke to behave' after Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill claimed he had compared her vagina to a painting

- Olympian Susie O'Neill has accused Don Burke of sexual harassment at her home
- Claims he asked 'is your c*** as big as that' in comparison to painting of a flower
- Painting was by her husband hanging in her home when Burke came to film
- Nine Network mogul Kerry Packer reportedly called Burke demanding he behave

By STEPHEN JOHNSON and NIC WHITE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 01:23 AEDT, 29 November 2017 | UPDATED: 07:18 AEDT, 29 November 2017

Nine Network tycoon Kerry Packer reportedly called Don Burke and demanded he behave himself after Olympian Susan O'Neill complained about the former TV star.

The late billionaire media mogul made a telephone call to Burke in 2000 when he discovered the champion swimmer had made a formal complaint about the Burke's Backyard host, the Daily Telegraph reports.

Nine tycoon Kerry Packer told Don Burke to behave in 2000

The revelation comes a day after O'Neill, an eight-time Olympic medallist, claimed Burke compared her vagina to a prized painting of a flower by her husband, which was hanging on her wall.

'Is your c**t as big as that?' the former TV host allegedly asked her as she stood in front of the painting in her Brisbane home.
Swimming legend Susie O'Neill is the latest woman to accuse Don Burke of sexual harassment after dozens of women made shocking allegations.
The late Nine Network tycoon Kerry Packer reportedly called Don Burke after receiving a complaint about his alleged behaviour from Olympian Susie O'Neill.

'It was crude and it was belittling,' O'Neill told the Sydney Morning Herald as she joined former colleagues and aspiring actresses in calling out the TV icon.

The alleged incident happened when the 44-year-old met Burke and two male crew members inside to film her ahead of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

A former crew member of the program, which ran for 17 years until it was axed in 2004, confirmed O'Neill's version of events to the Sydney Morning Herald.

The swimming star's then-manager Nick Cummins said she was 'intimidated by the crude sexual innuendo'.

Mr Cummins, now head of Cricket Tasmania, said Burke was 'convincing' in his denials when he called him straight after.

She claims Burke (pictured on Burke's Backyard) asked 'is your c**t as big as that' in comparison to painting of a flower hanging in her Brisbane home.

Olympian Susie O'Neill has gone public to allege Don Burke made explicit comments to her.

The revelation that Mr Packer called Burke about his alleged conduct potentially leaves the Nine Network open to a class action, if it can be proven in court the television station had known about Burke's behaviour.

Before news of Burke's behaviour broke and in the context of Harvey Weinstein allegations in the US, Nine Entertainment Corporation chief executive Hugh Marks told a Screen Forever conference in Melbourne that: 'I'm sure there were problems 20 years ago, I'm sure there are things that will come out in the public that will talk to those problems,' he said in a statement.

'But from where I sit right now, I feel like we've got an excellent culture that supports equality.'

After news of Burke's behaviour broke, and consistent with Mr Mark’s comments, a spokesperson from Nine issued the following statement:

'The current management of Nine is simply not in a position to comment on these specific allegations or on how these sorts of matters may have been dealt with in the past.

'The allegations are extremely serious; the behaviour described is completely unacceptable and would not be tolerated at Nine today.

'Nine has zero tolerance of sexual harassment and workplace bullying and no employee should be subjected to this kind of behaviour. Everyone is entitled to come to work confident that our workplace is safe, free from harassment and unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with effectively.'

'Nine has robust policies and procedures for dealing with complaints and to support staff in such circumstances.'

Another new allegation has also come from Amanda Pepe, who met Burke in 1987 when she was a 20-year-old reporter in Broken Hill, in outback western New South Wales.

Don Burke says sexual assault claims part of 'witch hunt'
O’Neill (centre), who won eight Olympic medals swimming for Australia, joins former Burke colleagues and aspiring actresses in calling out the TV icon.

The alleged incident happened when the 44-year-old let Burke and two male crew members inside to film her ahead of the 2000 Olympics.

Ms Pepe claims Burke promised to line her up with a great job at the Nine Network in Sydney and make her a star.

...when Burke picked her up from the airport with a rose lying on the front seat of car, she claims she realised there was no job, just ‘a desperate attempt to get me to sleep with him’.

‘I was an idiot, I believed him,’ she recalled, and used all her savings to fly to Sydney to take up the job.

She claims Burke took her to a ‘sad’ hotel room where she allegedly had to physically push him off her, before she claims he angrily left saying she could stay there overnight but then she was ‘on her own’.

‘I have been weeping today for what was taken from me as a young woman and for the shame of not speaking out and perhaps preventing this dreadful experience for other young women,’ she said.

Burke earlier appeared on A Current Affair to deny the numerous accusations against him.

Burke strenuously denied all the allegations and described his accusers as 'malcontents' who 'bear grudges against me'.

The latest allegations are among many made by dozens of women accusing Burke of sexual harassment, indecent assault and making lewd comments.

The claims include grabbing women's breasts and poking one woman's bottom, and telling an aspiring actress she could audition if she showed up topless.

He also allegedly tried to take off her bra and top on bus and made her watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey.

A former crew member also claimed Burke bragged about touching a teenage girl's nipple three times while showing her how to hold a puppy.

Burke strenuously denied all the allegations and described his accusers as 'malcontents' who 'bear grudges against me'.

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'I don't even know what to say': Sophie Monk breaks her silence on Don Burke sexual harassment allegations after footage emerges of the former pop-star serenading him on set

MONIQUE FRIEDLANDER and KHALEDA RAHMAN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 00:34 AEDT, 29 November 2017 | UPDATED: 08:17 AEDT, 29 November 2017

She's the Australian showbusiness veteran who has worked alongside some of the industry's biggest names throughout her career.

And this week Sophie Monk, 37, delved into her experiences working on set with Don Burke, who is currently facing sexual assault and harassment allegations spanning his 20-year TV career.

'I don't even know what to say,' she told Yahoo Be at the ARIA Awards this Tuesday.

Scroll down for video

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-5124861/Sophie-Monk-Don-Burke-sexual-harassment-allegations.html
I don't even know what to say': This week, Sophie Monk, 37, delved into her experiences working on set with Don Burke, who is facing sexual assault and harassment allegations spanning his 20-year TV career.
Claiming that she never witnessed Don behaving inappropriately while they were filming together, Sophie added: 'No nothing happened, I was just in my backyard gardening and that's about all I could say.'

In a recently-unearthed video of the encounter, Sophie is seen alongside her former Bardot band-mates as they filmed scenes for an episode of Burke's Backyard.

The clip shows a fresh-faced Sophie cupping Don's neck gently while serenading him with a rendition of Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend by Marilyn Monroe.
Throwback: Claiming that she had never witnessed Don behaving inappropriately, Sophie added: 'No nothing happened. I was just in my backyard gardening and that's about all I could say.'

Blast from the past: In a recently-unearthed video of the encounter, Sophie is seen alongside her former Bardot band-mates as they filmed scenes for an episode of Burke's Backyard.

Don Burke has been accused of sexually harassing and indecently assaulting women who worked on his gardening program in the 1980s and 1990s.

While he says he has acted like a tyrant on set and a lot of people didn't like him, he insists he never sexually harassed women.

On Monday, Burke told Nine's A Current Affair that ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him.

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Controversy: Don Burke has been accused of sexually harassing and indecently assaulting women who worked on his gardening program in the 1980s and 1990s.

'I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like': On Monday, Burke told Nine's A Current Affair that ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him.

'I'm prepared to cop that I might have terrified a few people and that I shouldn't have done that... towards the end of Burke's Backyard I must have been a bear with a bloody sore head and I do apologise for it,' he told A Current Affair.

'I have looked in the mirror and there's a lot I don't like.'

He also strongly rejected comparisons to disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein - which he said were 'intended to severely damage (his) reputation'.

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Kylie Lang, The Courier-Mail
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Abedin, who was 40 at the time his indiscretions became public. Women cheered, "Good on you!"

What must Marea Burke, who is around 70, the wife of disgraced gardening guru Don Burke be thinking after hearing these allegations?

What of Alwen Hughes, the 86-year-old wife of fallen entertainer Rolf Harris?

What of any women who reach a good age, only to have their world shattered by the alleged or convicted bad behaviour of their spouses?

It may not be so easy, practical or possible to pick up and move on.
Susie O'Neill reveals details about shock accusation against Don Burke
ASH, KIP & LUTtsy
Published on Nov 26th 2017

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KERRY SENT DON PACKING

JANET FIFTEY-MAANS

CHANNEL Nine tycoon Kerry Packer personally rang Don Burke at the height of his fame to express concern about his alleged level and bullying behaviour and order the star to pull his head in.

The bombshell new claims, which raise questions about the culpability of the network's executives, comes as an insider on Burke's Backyard last night said the sexual harassment on the show didn't stop with its iconic host.

"It was just the culture," the former Nine employee, who said abuse was constant from Monday morning's production meetings to Friday's end of week party, told The Daily Telegraph. "It would be true to say that he was not the only sexual harasser. There was a culture of bullying, of demeaning women, talking about breasts, general workplace harassment."

Lawyers are now warning Burke's accusers could potentially sue him as well as the Nine Network if their claims were proven. It's understood Mr Packer's confrontation with Burke occurred shortly after he offered swimming legend Susie O'Neill at her Brisbane home.

FULL STORY PAGE 7

EXCLUSIVE: 'NYE jihadi' has links to vile NSW cop shooter

JAMES DOULING

A 20-year-old arrested yesterday for allegedly planning a NYPD massacre was previously targeted over links to the teen terrorist who fatally shot Sydney police employee Curtis Cheng.

All Khaled Shire Ali is also well connected in extremist NSW Islamic communities and has been on authorities' radar for two years. He is accused of planning to shoot "as many people as he could" in Melbourne on NYE.

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**BULLYING STAR SENT PACKERING**

Late TV mogul’s Burke lashing

JANET FREEMANS

MEDIA mogul Kerry Packer personally called TV star Don Burke and ordered him to behave, it was revealed last night.

The revelations emerged today in a Channel 9 insider’s described how Burke’s TV kingdom was built on a culture of bullying and separate allegations that the gardening guru had also been blamed from flying with Qantas in the 1990s for acting inappropriately towards airline staff.

The Channel 9 employee said Burke was constant, and continued from Monday morning’s production meeting to Friday’s end-of-week party.

‘It would be true to say he was not the only sexual harasser there, the former employee said. ‘There would be a few people not happy at the moment with all these people speaking out.’

Her claims have dregged some of Burke’s male employer at his production company CTC into the scandal.

‘There was a culture of bullying, of demeaning women, talking about breasts, general workplace harassment,’ the woman said.

‘I don’t know that anyone of them realised what they were doing was bullying, because if the top person was acting in that way then that is the level to which you are pitching your behaviour.’

With Muslim, the female executive in their line and job for her role in the bullying, right to the top, there was nobody to complain to, she said. But she stressed that not all the men were badly behaved. ’It was just the culture,’ the former said.

However, Nine’s kingpin in 2000, the late Mr Packer, is understood to have personally called Burke after Olympic swimmer Susie O’Neill lodged a formal complaint against the presenter.

O’Neill said yesterday Burke made lewd, sexual comments to ward her while filming a story inside sick her Brisbane home. That Mr Packer knew of allegations against Burke casts doubt on assertions the network was ignorant of the claims at the time.

Consultant David Bester, from leading sexual harassment legal firm Harmane, yesterday said he would not rule out a potential class action because of the number of women who claimed they were bullied, terrorised and sexually humiliated by the Burke’s Backyard host.

Burke was reportedly worth more than $37 million when his show was axed by Nine in 2004. Mr Batten said that the terms of the contracts of Burke’s accusers and the law in the late 1980s and 90s all needed to be assessed to see whether they would be able to sue Nine as well as Burke’s private company.

One confirmed A Current Affair reports that the airline had banned Burke for a temporary period in the 1990s after staff complained to management.

‘This, allegedly conducted himself inappropriately towards women at the time. He was later told he was no longer welcome to fly with the airline,’ ACA reported.
THE alleged actions of television host Don Burke and the inaction of Channel Nine has “stayed with me to this day,” says Nick Cummins, the former media manager for swimmer Susie O’Neill and now head of Cricket Tasmania.
She said he was looking at a painting of a flower by her husband when he made a sexual remark about her body. “It was crude and it was belittling,” O’Neill said.

From 1997-2004, Nick Cummins worked as a media manager for Elite Sports Properties in Melbourne looking after numerous high-profile athletes, including O’Neill.

Mr Cummins took on the role of Cricket Tasmania chief executive this April.

He told the *Mercury* O’Neill came to him about the alleged incident and they went straight to Burke and Channel Nine.

“Don was adamant that it wasn’t true,” Mr Cummins said. “Channel Nine noted the complaint, but didn’t take any action. I was very disappointed and it’s stayed with me.

“I’d never seen or experienced anything like that before or since.”

Mr Cummins is speaking out because of comments from Burke about those coming forward being “disgruntled”. “That didn’t sit well with me because I’d had a similar experience through Susie ... I think it’s important women are protected in coming forward and sharing experiences like that. I commend Susie for coming forward and hopefully that gives other people the courage to tell their story.

“As far as I’m aware, she’d never met Don before [that day]. The reason she was unaccompanied for the shoot was because Don was a trusted TV personality. There was no reason to suspect a problem.”
More people come forward with allegations about Don Burke's behaviour

By Alison Branley on AM:

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Dozens of members of the public and former staff have accused the TV personality of lewd and offensive behaviour during his career.

New allegations include speaking offensively to a family who lost relatives in the Bali bombings.

Mr Burke denies the original complaints, saying they are made by former employees with grudges, but he has yet to respond to the latest claims.

Many of the people speaking out still work in the media and fear using their full names, but agreed to recorded interviews to support those who've already spoken out.

Duration: 3min 57sec
Broadcast: Wed 29 Nov 2017, 8:14am

More Information

Featured:
Former Burke's Backyard researcher
"Michelle"
"Nicole"
"ank"

Don Burke, TV personality

Credits

icon-plusicon-minus

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Embattled gardening guru Don Burke is facing fresh claims about inappropriate behaviour, including allegedly calling a couple who lost relatives in the Bali bombing “c--s” and “wogs”.

It is also alleged he made unwanted advances to a Japanese translator while on a work trip and was kicked out of a Victorian pub for making lewd comments to younger women.

It comes in the wake of a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation that has uncovered claims of indecent assault, sexual harassment and bullying of women against Burke in the late 1980s and ’90s.
A I V researcher who worked for Burke's Backyard in 2003 told the ABC the office was always tense and, "we were never working fast enough or long enough".

"People were always a bit nervous. Was the phone going to ring? Was it going to be Don ... on the phone? Were they [Don and his crew] going to come in? When were they going to come in?

"They would all ring each other on the phone to say they're here, they're in the carpark."

She has backed stories of the psychological games that went on at Burke's production company, CTC, and said researchers had to undersell ideas to stop the TV star from shooting them down.

But it was a garden makeover for a couple who lost family and friends in the Bali bombing that was the final straw for her.

"We took it upon ourselves and gave them a beautiful garden," she said.

The researcher said it was well-known in the office that while filming the segment things took a strange turn.

"I understand he was just swearing at them quietly and smiling at them like a Cheshire cat, while actually he was telling them what he really thought about them and calling them terrible, terrible names like, 'Mr C--y C-- and Mrs C--y C--'."

Burke also suggested the couple should have olive trees because they were "woggy", despite the pair's objections.

"He said, 'F-- you, I'm paying for this, I'll put olive trees in if I want to put olive trees in and if you don't want orange trees, I'm going to put in more citrus. He just didn't care what people thought."
He has yet to respond to the latest set of allegations but told Channel Nine on Monday he and did not read people's reactions to his remarks.

"I am sorry and I might have gone a bit far," he said.

Burke said he believed he deserved some criticism, "but not for sleazy, sexual stuff".

'It was a bit like going to the gynaecologist really'

Two former staff have also confirmed to the ABC that while on a work trip to Japan in 2003, Burke reportedly made lewd comments to a Japanese translator, which was later discussed in the office.

"She clearly spoke English yet he apparently spoke to her in such vile and toxic tones about what we wanted to do to her, taking her up to his hotel room, how he would do her, what he would do to her. It was just incredibly unprofessional," one former production staff member said.

She said two female producers who turned up for the shoot warned her about Burke.

"I remember I was wearing like a cross-over-type style dress and they were buttoned right up to the top — they had their jackets on right up to their necks," she said.

"I said, 'Aren't you hot?' and they said, 'No, no'. They said, 'Look, you should put a jacket on, cover yourself, because Don Burke is a bit of a perv so his eyes will be all over you'."

The interview went ahead as planned but she said afterwards Burke made a lewd comment.

"We were sitting around a table in our kitchen ... and he looked over at me and he said, 'That wasn't so bad, was it? It was a bit like going to the gynaecologist really'."

"We all just sat there a bit stunned actually. Nobody knew what to say."

"Every time his show would come on I had to turn it off"

Another woman, who only wants to be known as Nicole, said she was a young ballet dancer when she was asked to be in an advertising campaign with Burke to promote the arts in Sydney's Botanical Gardens.

"We all had to be in our tight ballerina tutus with our hair all done up and our ballet shoes on, and we had to stand in a huge pot where Don Burke was supposed to [be] watering our feet," she said.

"But he had to pour water into the pot and we had to lean over quite close to our bodies, which were in these super-tight ballet tutus."
“At that time I’d never even had any interactions with boys whatsoever, I was 16. Every time his show would come on I had to turn it off because I just felt so disgusted.”

A former employee of the Isle of Wight Hotel on Phillip Island in Victoria has also told the ABC that in 2002 Burke’s behaviour also came up during a shoot there at Ventnor Common, a wetlands area.

“They put an advertisement in the local paper saying any local tradesman with machinery, et cetera could come out and donate their services for free and get their names on the TV,” the employee said.

“On the Friday night of that weekend the cast and crew put on a meet-and-greet with the contractors at the Philip Island apartments, we went there had a few wines and a few beers.

“Afterwards, we went to the Isle of Wight Hotel, which was approximately 200 metres away.

“Later on that evening, Don Burke was asked to leave Isle of Wight Hotel for making lewd comments and misappropriate [sic] behaviour towards young women.”

-ABC
Caroline Wilson reveals 'creepy' encounter with Don Burke at 1996 Logies

Breeda Carmody

Respected sports journalist and commentator Caroline Wilson has revealed Don Burke once asked to lick her back while she was pregnant.

*The Age's* former chief football writer revealed the incident on Radio National on Wednesday morning. Numerous women have come forward to accuse Burke of sexual harassment and inappropriate comments.

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Don Burke denies allegations

Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on *A Current Affairs* by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

The TV personality has admitted to behaving like a bully, but denied being a sexual predator.

and attempted to blame some of his behaviour on self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome.

Sports journalist Caroline Wilson has revealed a 'creepy' encounter with Don Burke. Photo: Justin McManus

Speaking to Fairfax Media, Wilson said she was put on the same table as the *Burke's Backyard* star for the 1996 Logie Awards.

"He seemed like a nice bloke," she said. "The awards ceremony started and I remember I was wearing a navy blue velvet maternity evening dress.

"I turned around to look at the stage and I said to Don - because we'd been talking - 'Please excuse my back' because I was turning my back to him.

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"He said, 'Not at all. Do you mind if I lick it?'"

Don Burke.

Wilson said her husband was sitting next to her and heard what was said.

"It was gross," she said.

"I wasn't devastated or traumatised by it... it's nothing compared to what he's allegedly done to some people. I didn't really talk much to him during the [rest of the] night.

"Obviously there were times as a woman in a man's world where things were said to me.

"But the only time I remember someone in the TV industry saying anything [that] gross to me was Don Burke."

Wilson's husband, Channel 7 reporter Brendan Donohoe, said he couldn't remember Burke's exact words but confirmed the incident took place.

The story is well-known among the couple's circle of friends.

On Monday, Wilson announced she was stepping down as The Age's chief football writer after 19 years in the role.

The two-time Walkley Award winner will remain with the newspaper as a regular AFL columnist and will also appear on the Real Footy podcast.
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Former Nine employee reveals Don Burke wasn’t the only sexual harasser

Janet Fife-Yeomans, The Daily Telegraph
November 29, 2017 12:00am

MEDIA mogul Kerry Packer personally called TV star Don Burke and ordered him to behave, it was revealed last night.

The late Mr Packer is understood to have called Burke after Olympic swimmer Susie O’Neill lodged a formal complaint against the presenter in 2000.

It emerged as an insider described how Burke's TV kingdom was built on a culture of bullying and harassment.

The former Nine employee said abuse was constant, and continued from Monday morning's production meeting to Friday's end-of-week party.

MORE: INSIDE THE PRIVATE WORLD OF DON BURKE

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"It would be true to say that he was not the only sexual harasser there," the former employee told The Daily Telegraph.
Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

Her claims have dragged some of Burke's male employees at his production company CTC (which stands for Cut The Crap) into the sex scandal.

"There was a culture of bullying, of demeaning women, talking about breasts, general workplace harassment," the woman said.

"I don't know that any of them realised what they were doing was bullying because if the top person was acting in that way then that is the level to which you are pitching your behaviour."
Former Australian Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neil made a complaint against Burke in 2000.

Among Burke's supporters, one was known as The Rat because he ran to Burke with all the gossip. Another senior employee was nicknamed the Beanbag.

With most of the females young and in their first or second job and the bullying going right to the top, there was nobody to complain to, she said. But she stressed that not all the men were badly behaved. "It was just the culture," the insider said.

Consultant David Bates from one of the country's leading sexual harassment legal firms, Harmers Workplace Lawyers, yesterday said he would not rule out a potential
Don Burke, pictured with Rolf Harris, has denied the allegations made against him.

"I can't see any reason why (victims) wouldn't potentially want to do that," Mr Bates said.

Burke was reportedly worth more than $7 million when his show was axed by Nine in 2004. Mr Bates said that the terms of the contracts of Burke's accusers and the law in the late 1980s and 1990s all needed to be assessed to see whether they would be able to sue Nine as well as Burke's private company.

"There is a clear obligation on employers to protect employees from bullying, harassment and sexual harassment," Mr Bates said.
Don Burke claimed he was an undiagnosed Aspergers sufferer in an interview with Tracy Grimshaw.

Qantas confirmed A Current Affair reports that the airline had banned Burke for a temporary period in the 1990s after staff complained to management. "Don allegedly conducted himself inappropriately towards members of staff ... He was later told he was no longer welcome to fly with the airline," ACA reported.
celebrity life ▶ celebrities gone bad

Young reporter had to fight Don Burke off in hotel room

A JOURNALIST has recalled how Don Burke said he could give her a job and then tried to "guilt" her into sex in a Sydney hotel room.

FORMER TV journalist has recalled how Don Burke told her to come to Sydney for a job — and then tried to "guilt" her into sex in a hotel room.

Amanda Pepe was a 20-year-old working in Broken Hill, NSW, in the late 1980s when she was assigned to cover the gardening guru's visit.

"He suggested that my talent was wasted up there and that I should come to Sydney and take up a role in a new upcoming program, and he would help me with that," Ms Pepe told the ABC's 7.30 program.

She resigned from her job and caught a plane to the city — but when Burke met her alone, with a rose on the passenger seat of his car, she realised he had something else in mind.

Amanda says Burke talked constantly about "his sexual exploits" while they were together.

"The intent was very clear that he expected to have sex, that he'd paid for the room, that I more or less owed it to him, and it was very uncomfortable," she said.

"I think he more or less tried to guilt me into it. "Well, we've got this far, why wouldn't you finish it off?"
Amanda is one of a number of women who allege Burke is a sexual predator and a bully who repeatedly harassed female colleagues. The former Channel 9 star has strongly denied the allegations reported in a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation, saying he is a victim of a “witch hunt” because some people don’t like him.

Amanda has said her encounter with Burke made her leave journalism, robbed her of her confidence and left her feeling naive and stupid. She told Fairfax he convinced her he was “really close to [Nine media executive] Sam Chisholm” and had “a great job opportunity” for her.

“Of course, no such job existed, just a sad hotel room and a desperate attempt to get me to sleep with him,” she said, crying as she recalled fighting him off. “There was a lot of physical pushing.”

When he did reluctantly leave, she said, he told her she could stay in the room for one night but was then on her own.

Amanda said it never occurred to her to report Burke. “I think that just speaks to the culture at the time, which is so sad,” she said.

But reading the allegations about the star, she felt sick and decided she had to speak out.

“I realised it was time to stop protecting myself, which is basically what I’ve been doing all these years, and speak out in the hope that it could make a difference,” she said.

“There are still plenty out there who use the same modus operandi.”
Don Burke allegations: Amanda Peep had to fight

Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill told ABC/Fairfax the 70-year-old asked her, “Is your c*** as big as that?” when she showed him a painting of a flower inside her home.

A former crew member told 7.30 Burke asked him if he would lick faeces off a dog’s bottom.

One ex-print journalist told Fairfax that when she went to write a behind-the-scenes story on Burke’s Backyard, she witnessed him making “revolting and sexual comments about the plants” to a horrified elderly lady, telling her they looked like female genitalia after giving birth and a chiton.

The journalist said he also asked her to sit on his lap.

Andy Dent told ABC/Fairfax Burke told her he could get her an audition — if she was topless. Former producer Louise Langdon alleged Burke made regular lewd comments, persuaded her to watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey and tried to lift up her top.

One former entertainment journalist said Burke told her during interviews she would be a “demon f***”, and that he had bought a horse for a female relative so he could watch her “rub her c*** on its back”.

Ex-producer Bridget Ninness told ABC/Fairfax, “He was a vile, vile human being”, while former Nine boss David Leckie said he was “a horrible, horrible man.”

Archive footage of Burke making crude and sexual comments emerged yesterday. In one, he asks an interviewee whether her breasts are real, and in another, he offends Channel 10 star Jessica Rowe in a panel discussion about whether Australians swear too much, by telling her he loves “a good f***”.

Burke “absolutely” denies all the claims.

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‘He’s gross, isn’t he?’ TV star Miss Wendy Mooney’s creepy Don Burke encounter

A FORMER TV presenter has revealed a disgusting comment she says Don Burke made to her, which has stayed with her ever since.

Emma Reynolds @emmarayn

Don Burke continues to deny allegations

FORMER TV presenter has described a creepy encounter with beleaguered brity gardener Don Burke.

Wendy Mooney, who co-hosted Channel 9’s Don’t Forget Your Toothbrush with Tim Ferguson in 1995, told news.com.au she had “a bad experience” when she met Burke at a network lunch.

The then 24-year-old, who was known as “Miss Wendy” on her hit show, was a fan of Burke’s Backyard and began talking to him.

“I was excited to meet Don as I had grown up watching him on TV with my family,” she said. “I said to him how funny it was with the little piglet on the show every week, and how we loved watching it.

“I asked him, ‘Was it a boy or girl pig?’ just making conversation, and then he said, ‘Well, if you look up close to it, it’s a girl pig because it has a really big p***y’, and he made this gesture with his hand, insinuating this big, heavy thing.”
Wendy, now a 47-year-old mother living in Melbourne, said Burke's expression never changed. "I was shocked, I couldn't believe it," she said. "It was like he was talking about the weather, like he had no idea it was rude to say that, like it was a normal conversation.

The young TV presenter was mortified. "I was so embarrassed," she said. "I just went back and sat down with my other Channel 9 friends. They asked me if I was OK, I said 'I just met Don Burke', and they said, 'oh, you poor thing ... he's gross, isn't he?'

The ex-presenter says her story is "not that bad, but bad enough", following the ABC/Fairfax investigation that this week reported allegations he was a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

Burke strongly denies all the allegations, saying they came about because he was a perfectionist and suffered with Asperger's — although it had never been formally diagnosed.

It was nothing compared to the other girls, but it has stayed with me," added Wendy. "I was shocked, I couldn't believe it.

"I know people with Asperger's, no way would they say something like that. I've never heard a man drop something like that into conversation."

But the young TV star said she would never have spoken up at the time.

"I was only 24, meeting all these celebrities, it's not like I'd have defended myself and said, 'Don, that's not acceptable.' Now, I would," she said.

"I think it's revolting. He just got away with it. He wouldn't get away with it now, that was the nineties."

Wendy said her production team seemed to think Burke’s behaviour was “normal”, but she never encountered any other unprofessional behaviour at Channel 9. She left the TV business in 2001.

“It was pretty obvious everyone knew what was going on,” she added. “That was the only thing that happened to me.

“I think I was exceptionally lucky.”

Olympic swimmer Susie O’Neill was the latest to make allegations about Burke’s crude comments. She said when he visited her home for an episode of Burke’s Backyard in the run-up to the Sydney 2000 Games, she showed him a painting of a flower by her husband, and he asked: “Is your c*** as big as that?”

Archive footage of the star that came to light yesterday shows him almost make Jessica Rowe walk off a Channel 10 panel show when he tells her: “I love a good f***.”

“The topic on the Can of Worms episode from 2011 was: “Do Australians swear too ‘ch’?”

In another video, he told actor Annalise Braakensiek: “I will not ask you the question you loathe,” as she replied, “thank you!”

He continued: “I will not ask: ‘Are your breasts real?’ But are they?”

Another resurfaced clip from Burke’s Backyard shows the gardener making sexual remarks about pollinating a plant to suggestive music.
Other ex-colleagues have made more serious allegations. Young TV reporter Amanda Pepe alleged the star persuaded her to fly to Sydney “for a job”, and then took her to “a sad hotel room”, where she had to fight him off, according to ABC/Fairfax.

Former Burke’s Backyard producer Bridget Ninness said the gardening guru allegedly told her he would “rip your f***ing head off, and s**t down your throat”.

Louise Langdon, another former producer on the show, alleged Burke made regular lewd comments, persuaded her to watch a video of a woman having sex with a donkey and tried to lift up her top.

One former entertainment journalist said Burke told her during interviews she would be a “demon f***”, and that he had bought a horse for a female relative so he could watch her “rub her c*** on its back”.

The Nine star strongly denies the allegations relating to his behaviour in the 1980s and 1990s.

Nine, which has also come under fire for not holding him to account, said in a statement the network could not comment on how matters were dealt with in the past but the allegations “are serious and would not be tolerated at the network today.”

It also said it could find no records of complaints or payouts to any women in relation to Burke’s behaviour, and added: “Burke’s Backyard was a production of CTC Productions [his company] and they employed and managed all staff.”

CTC Productions only took over production in 1991. Some of the allegations relate to earlier periods after show launched in 1987.

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Don Burke's 1993 domestic violence campaign sparked backlash from women

By the National Reporting Team's Lorrie Knowles and Alison Branley
Updated Wed 29 Nov 2017, 8:37am

PHOTO: The campaign included billboards, posters and TV advertisements with phrases like "real men don't bash or rape women". (ABC News)

Don Burke refused to end his involvement in a 1993 campaign against domestic violence following a backlash from women, the ABC understands.

In the wake of allegations of sexual harassment and indecent assault by the TV gardener, it has emerged Burke lent his name to the campaign that featured the likes of Kieran Perkins and James Bundell.

It included billboards, posters and TV advertisements with phrases like "real men don't bash or rape women".

In it, Burke was pictured as an ambassador with his family, with a quote underneath that read: "Many people suffer stress, get drunk, lose their jobs, get angry or jealous without resorting to violence. There is never any excuse for a man to be violent towards a woman."

There is no suggestion that Burke has ever been violent against women.

The ABC has been told Burke was asked to end his involvement following a complaint about his attitude to women but refused to do so, at which point the campaign was pulled.

The campaign was organised by the then Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Office of the Status of Women.

In a statement to the ABC the office said it was still investigating what happened to the campaign.

Related Story: 'He expected to have sex': Journalist says Don Burke took her to hotel room

Related Story: 'He was trying to take my top off': Don Burke accused of sexual harassment

MAP: Australia

Women have the power

Women in the TV industry have been talking about these men for years, we already know their names. The difference now is that we have the power to expose them, writes Juanita Phillips.

More to The Lazy Gardener than meets the eye

Burke's most famous publication was his seminal gardening handbook, The Lazy Gardener.

In the wake of allegations of indecent assault and sexual harassment, some lines from his book are being read in a more troubling context.

They include the opening of chapter six where Burke quotes a poem:

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"A woman, a dog, a walnut tree.
The more you beat them, the better they be."
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Burke goes on to describe the lines as, "The above greatest of all English truisms..."

While allegations against Burke do not include physical violence, they are being read in the context of allegations about his attitude towards women.

The walnut chapter details how walnut trees need a "jolly good hiding", and that the bruising of the bark causes the production of "hormones which produce flowering".

"A strange state of affairs that punishing a tree should promote its sexual activity but common decency and a Catholic sense of what is right and proper prevents me from delving into the obvious parallel with the species Homo sapiens," it reads.


First posted Wed 29 Nov 2017, 6:05am
Don Burke: Jackie French backtracks on support for embattled TV star

By the National Reporting Team's Lorna Knowles and Alison Branney
Updated Wed 28 Nov 2017, 1:41am

One of Don Burke's high-profile female defenders who wrote a statement supporting the embattled TV star has backtracked on her comments, saying he is not the man she once knew.

Children's author and former Burke's Backyard reporter Jackie French was one of three people the gardening guru turned to for support in the face of allegations of indecent assault, sexual harassment and bullying.

Ms French emailed journalist Tracey Spicer late on Tuesday, saying: "The man that you uncovered is not the one ... I knew. So very glad you did."

Spicer has been investigating claims of workplace sexual harassment in the media and entertainment industry.

A joint AEC/Fairfax investigation has uncovered claims from a number of women who worked with Burke in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Burke has strenuously denied all the allegations made against him, saying: "The Harvey Weinstein saga in Hollywood started a witch-hunt."

Key points:

- Author Jackie French initially provided a statement saying she never saw "any hint of sexual harassment, nor heard gossip about any"
- But Ms French on Tuesday said in an email to journalist Tracey Spicer that "the man that you uncovered is not the one ... I knew"
- Burke has strenuously denied all the allegations made against him

Ms French, who was Senior Australian of the Year in 2015, said in her earlier statement of support that in the decade she worked closely with Burke she never saw "any hint of sexual harassment nor heard gossip about any."

"My personal opinion was and remains that if there had been anything to gossip about in those years, my husband and I would have heard of it, nor could I believe that Don would counteract anything remotely resembling harassment," she wrote.

[Image: Jackie French had earlier provided a statement in support of Burke. (ABC News: David Farren)]

Women have the power

The statement was provided to the ABC on Sunday by Burke as part of his total denial of the claims levelled at him.

Susie O'Neill accuses Burke of 'crude' comments

Burke continues to face fresh allegations of inappropriate behaviour during the heyday of Burke's Backyard.

Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill accused him of making "crude and belittling" comments to her during a segment for his popular lifestyle show in 2000.

O'Neill told Fairfax Media she was in her Brisbane home for an interview with Burke and eight male crew members ahead of the Sydney Olympics.

As she stood in front of a large flower painting created by her husband, Burke allegedly asked: "Is your c*** as big as that?"

The eight-time Olympic medallist said she was "flabbergasted" by Burke's "crude and belittling" remarks, and told her manager at the time, Nick Cummins.

"Former journalist Amanda Pepe has recounted how Burke asked her to come to Sydney to take up a role with a new program, only to take her to a hotel room.

"The conversation was very sexually charged and all of his conversation for the entire time we were together was talking about his sexual exploits, other people he'd slept with, how they'd reacted," she said.

"The intent was very clear that he expected to have sex, that he'd paid for the room, that I more or less owed it to him, and it was very uncomfortable.

"I think he more or less tried to guilt me into it. 'Well, we've got this far, why wouldn't you finish it off?'

"To this day I'm glad I didn't go through with it.

"He left me at the hotel and I never saw or spoke to him again."

Burke has also come under fire for his comments to A Current Affair in which he said he had undiagnosed Asperger's.

Katharine Annear, the chairperson of Autistic Advocacy Australia and New Zealand, said when she and her peers heard Burke's comment the first thing they felt was "outrage".

"Kind of a slap in the face in a way, because particularly with ... people with Asperger's, despite having social difficulties are quite sensitive," she said.

"But they're unable to process the emotions and information around them as would a neuro-typical person."

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Don Burke: They love him, they love him not

Richard Glover

TV gardening celebrity Don Burke was controversial way back in 1991, when Richard Glover wrote this assessment for Good Weekend.

Obsessive, perfectionist, arrogant, self-reliant, conceited, brilliant, egotistical. When you set out to profile a gardening expert, the last thing you expect is passion, controversy, hatred and admiration — all so strongly brewed. Yet this is Don Burke. His television program is now the fifth most popular in the country; his second book the fastest seller in Australian publishing history. For a gardening man, his success is unusual, heightened, extreme. And so is the language people use to describe him.

Don Burke denies allegations
Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

In more than 50 interviews for this article with colleagues, former
classmates and friends, Don Burke is never described as normal. And never is he described as the sort of character who appears on our television sets - that relaxed, laid-back, cheerful fellow with the twinkling dark eyes and engaging smile.

Some talk of this skill before the camera, his photographic memory, his driving desire to provide the best possible show. Others report a darker side, offering their nickname for him as a kind of jokey summary: they call him the Antichrist.

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Don Burke a sexual harasser and ruthless bully, claims series of women Olympic swimmer flabbergasted at Burke's 'crude sexual innuendo'

One former colleague refuses for a time to talk to Good Weekend. The reason, says a friend, is the person "is too cut up, too destroyed by the experience of working there, to be able to talk about it quite yet".

Even Burke himself does not claim to be laid-back. During a day spent with him, his self-descriptions include "intelligent", "persistent", "perfectionist" and "driven".

He's a good-looking man, with olive skin, dark eyes, slightly greying hair and neatly cropped beard. His movements are precise and measured; there is a sense of accuracy and self-mastery about him.

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He is the latest member of the C'day Mates: that tribe of mostly bearded, laconic fellows, who've long had a place on Australian television - from the Leyland brothers, through Peter Russell-Clarke and Harry Butler, to current incarnations such as the Bush Tucker Man.

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He greets me on the drive of his newly rebuilt home in Kenthurst, on Sydney's outskirts, with the characteristic smile and "C'day!" Today.


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2/11

11-800
he will film two segments for Channel Nine’s Burke’s Backyard, one encouraging viewers to plant native trees, the other visiting a celebrity garden.

He works with a film crew of three, sharing the odd joke, moving through the work. When the camera is turned on, he is completely focused. His face cocks towards it, the neck stretches towards the lens, the smile flashes. There are no rehearsals, autocues, scripts. He just talks.

**THEY LOVE HIM, THEY LOVE HIM NOT**

Article as it appeared in the Good Weekend. Photo: Jack Picone

The result will be watched by some two million Australians seeking Friday-night advice for the weekend’s activities. Another 800,000 will watch the repeat screening. Better still, many also buy the books. The first volume of Burke’s Backyard Information Guide sold more than 200,000 copies, most of them in a burst around Christmas 1989.

The second, published five months ago, has hit 70,000. The Lazy Gardener, his first book of popular horticulture, has clocked sales of 150,000. Burke’s royalties from the set: more than $750,000.

“He’s massively conceited. He thinks he knows more about every subject.”

Such success, as Burke himself says, does not come without effort, without attention to detail. During a break in filming, I casually comment on the walls of his house — lightly bagged with a grey-green render, in harmony with the surrounding eucalypts.

“Yes,” he says intently, “we tried a hundred different mixtures over a seven month period to get the colour right. It sent the builders crazy. And then we had to work on the application technique.”

As we move around the house - with his wife of 22 years, Marea, and their two children - every anecdote seems to strike the same chord. The green paintwork on the window sills? More than 100 commercial shades were tried, says Burke, but he was forced to mix his own exact colour and send the sample to Melbourne for manufacture.

What about the design of the house? We had 11 architects in, says Burke, "but none of them would do it my way. So I said to number 12, 'Be very clear, either you do it my way or you're wasting your time,' and he did."

What about the bricks? "Some were stained with oil, but the brickworks denied responsibility, so I went to a laboratory, got a chemical fingerprint of the oil and matched it to the hydraulic crane inside the brickworks, proving they were responsible. They finally realised who they were dealing with."

He may call himself "the lazy gardener", but it's his obsessional perfectionism, his determination to get exactly what he wants, which seems the more remarkable characteristic.

**Burke's Backyard** is a highly appealing TV show. Burke is terrific on camera, engaging and casual, intelligent without ever seeming superior. Horticulture is the mainstay, but delivered in a practical, no-Latin, you-can-do-it style, and leavened by material on pets, celebrities and do-it-yourself-ing.

In the Ken-Doll world of television, Burke's "reporters" are

a pleasingly eclectic mix — a middle-aged naturalist (Densey Clyne), a one-time drag and theatre star (Reg Livermore), a plump vet (Harry Cooper). The camerawork is clever, the information accurate. If there is a subtext to the show, it's this: our lives are pretty good, and here's how to make them a little better.

In a country built around the backyard, a country with one of the highest rates of home ownership in the world, Burke's Backyard is a great idea. And Don Burke thought of it.

Burke, 43, says he always knew the show would rate its head off: "Gardening was massive, but the gardening shows were aimed at the 2 per cent that wanted to win ordening competitions. It was a media blind spot."

He's sitting in a coffee shop, his hands on the tabletop, motionless except when he decides to use them. He talks intently, without pauses or hesitations. "My program is not so much about plants, it's about people. It's about recreating your spirit, about keeping sane in a world that's often off the rails.

"Backyards are one of the greatest things about Australia — we have the environment and the city cohabiting better than anywhere else in the world. The flying foxes are there, the birdlife, all in the middle of the city. It's a unique experiment that has worked."

His conversation is relaxed, but write down his speech and it looks like a well-prepared script: logical, ordered, precise. That, say colleagues, is how his brain works.

Steve Wood, Burke's executive producer, calls him a one-off: "With no scripting, no preparation, he can give you anything from five seconds to 30 minutes about anything without stopping and never need a second take."

Many items, say insiders, begin when Burke spots an interesting plant by the roadside. "He'll stop the car, get out the gear, and within a few minutes he'll have done a piece about this tree, its botanical name, its history, the conditions it needs. He carries an encyclopaedia in his head."

Certainly, many will tell you Burke is a genius. Judy McMaugh, his teacher at Sydney's Ryde School of Horticulture, says he was one of her best students. Neil Black, head of the department at the time, remembers him as a student with "a genius-level IQ."

**Intelligence comes with arrogance**

But with that intelligence comes arrogance. Supporter and
But that intelligence comes in all varieties. Supporters and detractors use 14 different phrases, but all agree Burke has unusual self-confidence.

From the supporters: "He doesn't suffer fools gladly," "He's an egotist - but so are most achievers."

And from the detractors: "Don's always got to be right. " Or, "There is a complete absence of humility, as if it's been surgically removed." Or, "He's massively conceited. He thinks he knows more about every subject under the sun than anybody else."

One experienced staffer remembers the day Burke told him, "I could learn the whole of your job in a day if I wanted. " Another remembers contacting acknowledged world experts in a field, only to be told constantly by Burke that he knew more about the subject.

"He reckons," says one TV heavy, "that he knows more about cameras than the cameraman; more about editing than the editor; more about the topic than the expert they've brought in; and more about television than Kerry Packer."

Back in the Sydney coffee house, Burke offers his own view: "I was always very confident of my ideas - not myself, but my ideas. When you've worried at an idea, and come up with an answer, then you have a right to feel confident.

"I feel sorry for people who do not set good standards. If I wasn't a perfectionist, Burke's Backyard wouldn't exist. I get incredible joy out of doing things right."

He grew up the son of an estate agent in the middle-class Sydney suburb of Lindfield, and was educated at St Aloysius, Milsons Point. Schoolfriends mostly remember him as a loner, obsessed with his hobby of breeding budgerigars. "I always felt I was different," agrees Burke," but I kept my difference to myself. I felt my parents did a good job, but I kept a lot of myself to myself."

I press him on the point, and for once he hesitates. "Well," he says, "I wanted to be the one who walks through the crowd that no-one notices; but to carry a big stick so if anyone has a go at you, you can defend yourself. If you box me into a corner and have a go at me, I will try to resolve it, but when I've had enough ... well, I don't take prisoners."

Certainly, as he runs through the details of his life, it seems we're dealing with someone different from the crowd. "I was very intellectual," he says. "When I was even very young I was studying Dostoevsky and Kierkegaard, Sartre and all the existentialist philosophers. I was reading them all before I was 10."

"Really?" I say, stunned. "Kierkegaard seems a little tough for an under-10." He answers matter-of-factly, "Kierkegaard to me is not difficult. It's Aquinas that's hard work when you're young."

Such disarming comments emerge in each chapter of his story. "I began breeding budgerigars at around five or six," he tells me. "By 10, I had developed a whole series of major theories in genetics. Breeding budgies was immensely complex - it would probably be the most complex animal breeding on earth."
"At 15, I was going around giving genetics lectures to all sorts of breeders who'd been breeding animals all their lives, and I was lecturing in certain areas of theology."

Or later when he was 17 and received a science prize from that great Australian scientist Sir Mark Oliphant: "Sir Mark and I talked about genetics after the ceremony. We were probably the only two people in Australia to really know what was happening in the field."

In 1966 he enrolled in the dentistry course at Sydney University. The next year, he dropped out and enrolled in agricultural science. Again he dropped out, going to work in a bank. Were these the first failures in a life which had seemed blessed? Not according to Burke. "I formed the judgment," he says, "that the ag. science course was a mess, the professor hopeless, and so I left. I sat the professor down and told him so. I told him he was a failure in his job." He joined the bank, he says, "because I knew I'd hate it, and I didn't want to settle into a comfortable job."

He later moved to the bank's nominee company. "I did one thing where I saved them some millions of dollars because I realised they were doing things all the wrong way. After that, I was offered several jobs in stockbroking companies and finally accepted a position with Constable and Bain. I worked in their overseas department - that was where the big mess was - and I went and sorted it out for them."

He left and went to work for the admissions department of Sydney University, he says, "because I thought it would be convenient for courses". He says he enrolled in some units. "They all wanted me to do higher degrees. Everything I did, people wanted me to follow up. The professor of philosophy - I think it was Anderson - said I was the best student he had ever had. I studied philosophy and theology but, in the end I thought it was a lot of claptrap."

It is a remarkable story - so full of quick success - but some former colleagues sound a note of caution. "There is a touch of the Walter Mitty in Burke," says one. "If you add up all the things he claims he's done, there just isn't room in his life."

They say he makes constant claims about his past, talking of his "career in banking". How he became "quite senior" in the administration of Sydney University, his world-class knowledge of computers, his brilliance as a runner, his victory as a bank teller in counting and shooting competitions. His colleagues remain unsure as to when to believe him.

Certainly, staff at Bains cannot remember the high-flyer who came to "sort out the mess" in the overseas department. Burke, they say, was in fact a lowly settlements clerk, most memorable for his collection of bonsai plants, and retrenched after only about six months with the company.

Certainly also, according to public records, the boy who knew so much about Kierkegaard and genetics, achieved a bare pass in all but one of his leaving certificate subjects. And certainly John Anderson, perhaps Sydney University's most famous professor of philosophy, died in 1952, a decade too early to tell Burke that he was his most brilliant student.

"He's just intensely competitive," explains one former colleague, "so he can't stand meeting, say, a runner and admitting the guy is better at something than he is. So he makes up a story about how he was once a great runner too."

Yet others confirm Burke's stories. Eric Ziehlke, a close schoolfriend, remembers the books of philosophy he read at an early age. "He was always different," recalls Ziehlke, "intellectually a very deep thinker."

Other claims largely check out. In the mid-'70s he enrolled in a part-time course at Elyde School of Horticulture. "I topped all the courses, highest distinctions. Everything I ever got was a maximum pass. I'm certainly one of their distinguished students. Maximum passes in everything I ever did."

His teachers agree he was a good and stimulating student, adding that he also activated the students' union.

After graduating, he quickly became president of the NSW branch of the Australian Institute of Horticulture and nursery manager at Bonds in Sydney's Terrey Hills. In three years, says Burke, "I took it from having a receiver appointed to the highest-turnover nursery in the country." Ross Bond, the nursery's owner, largely confirms the claim.

At the same time, Burke was teaching marketing at TAFE, running a small business marketing plants (creating catchy names such as Ned Kelly and Ginger Meggs), and breeding new varieties.

**Push into television**

But most incredible was his push into television - from standing start to major star in less than a decade. Again the self-confidence was notable: he resigned his various jobs, living for months on $60 a week as he worked his apprenticeship in radio and television. Finally, in 1987 and after much pushing, Channel Nine gave him his own weekly show, moving it quickly to prime time after it blitzed the ratings.

He remains a remarkable figure: elected a fellow of the Australian Institute of Horticulture; author of a scholarly work on grevilleas; a popular hero. Yet there's another, darker side to Don Burke.

The g'daying and hoo-ruining is just an act, say detractors, the product of a dictionary of colloquial speech which he keeps on his desk. "It's illusion," says one staffer. "I've seen him screaming at the lighting man, and they're counting down 3-2-1, and he turns from glaring mad to this smile for the camera that looks as genuine as anything."

Others complain he can be vindictive. "Watch what you write about him, mate," says one. "If he doesn't like it, he'll pursue you for years."

A typical tale recounts how he sacked one researcher, who then moved to Channel Nine's Earthquest. When Burke was asked to record an Earthquest segment, he instructed his staff to recheck the research. His intention, say several staff, was to find fault with the sacked researcher. "We spent ages trying to poke holes in the script," says one staffer. "It was the most intense piece of research ever done.
In that office." Soon after, the researcher resigned for a career outside television.

Burke denies the story. "What happened was I was asked to do bits for another show and some of it was done by a researcher who'd been on my show. Remember, I write all of my own stuff, so I said, 'Well, I'd want to see the research' and it was all wrong. So I went back to the boss of the show and said, 'I don't know who did your research' - I said, 'I know you have a researcher there who we had' - but I said 'it's not good enough' and I refused to be part of that show. All I did was sever connections with that program, I never asked that they get rid of that person."

Even those who like him say his main feature is intense competitiveness. "Don is somebody who can only enjoy something if you envy him for having it. One of his favourite phrases is: 'So-and-so would kill to get this.' There's very little direct enjoyment."

Burke disagrees. He says he loves life, and that, except for a short starting-up period, staff relations have been excellent. His supporters also point to his work popularising horticulture.

"Maybe the clash of views is simple enough: Don Burke likes total control, and that can put others offside. Certainly, it seems appropriate that his hobby has always been genetics - the ability to create your own animal; to play God. As a boy, he created budgies. Now, out at Kenthurst, he's breeding striped sheep.

And in the end, despite it all, he succeeds. The sheep is striped; and the television is good.

First published in the Good Weekend on April 27, 1991

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Don Burke 'hooked his legs around mine and tried to push me on to bed', says interviewee

A FASHION designer says Don Burke came up behind her and attempted to force her on to a bed in an incident that left her traumatised.

Zoe Smith and staff writers

TV PRESENTER Don Burke tried to push a fashion designer on to a bed during an interview at her home that left her traumatised, the woman has alleged.

Julie Neilson said that from the moment the Burke’s Backyard star came through her door, he began making sexual comments and harassing her.

"He stepped inside and said 'G'day Jules, I bet you could shock a bad boy. Do you take it up the arse or what?'" the gifted decorator told A Current Affair.

This comment was put to Burke when he appeared on ACA and he denied it. He also strongly denies all claims of sexual harassment and bullying, which he said were made because people didn't like him.

Julie alleged Burke kept hassling her to put on a minidress she had made, even after she refused. "He must have said it 10 or 15 times - 'put the dress on, put the dress on, put the dress on.' He insisted so much that I went into the bedroom and put the dress on."
In a break during filming, the interviewee alleged the TV star tried to push her on to the bed, and she had to force him off. "When I was standing at the end of the bed talking about this and the other, Don came up behind me and hooked his legs around my legs and pushed me in the small of my back about five or six times, trying to get me on the bed.

"I don't know what would have happened if he'd gotten me on the bed.

"By this stage, I'd pretty much told him to *** off, because I knew, when somebody puts their hands on you and pushes you ..."

"It was just disgusting, you wouldn't accept that behaviour from anyone — I'd only known him for half an hour and he was just full on, he was a real bully."

Julie said Burke also invited her to Crown Towers in Melbourne with him and his crew, to "have a gang bang".

She said the experience made her give up her dreams of presenting and she has suffered anxiety issues ever since.

Her allegations come as another woman, former TV journalist Amanda Pepe, alleged Burke tried to make her have sex with him in a hotel room.

ACA reporter Alison Piotrowski told Tracy Grimshaw she allegedly fell victim to Burke while working as a producer at Sydney radio station 2UE.

Piotrowski told Grimshaw she “worked a couple of shifts with Don” who was filling in for her regular host.

“The last time was at an outside broadcast at the Easter Show. I got up at security, I was late and by the time I arrived, Don tore shreds off me for being late.

“But then half an hour later, he came up to me and said all was forgiven because I had a great ass.

“I later reported it to the management as inappropriate and was told that I didn’t have to work with him anymore.
"There were plenty of other girls who went through far more confronting experiences at 2UE compared to what I experienced."

Piotrowski said the constant reports led to a practice at the radio station where women who made complaints about Burke would not be forced to work with him.

"While we were afforded that opportunity, at no point did I ever witness management disciplining Don," Piotrowski said.

Piotrowski said she had spoken to former colleagues today and that they were angry "they had been put in such a position at such a vulnerable point in their career".

Burke continues to deny the allegations made against him.
Kerri-Anne Kennerley on Don Burke: ‘There are a whole bunch of people involved’

KERRI-ANNE Kennerley has claimed that Don Burke isn’t the only former Nine star guilty of sexual harassment, saying, “there are a whole bunch of people involved”.

DON Burke isn’t the only one.

That’s according to Kerri-Anne Kennerley who revealed that “there are a whole bunch of people” who sexually harassed women in the TV industry.

Speaking to Triple M Adelaide’s Roo and Ditts show to promote her new book, A Bold Life, Kennerley gave her take on Don Burke who she’s known for many years.

“I’ve done several stories with him, two in my home in various times,” the TV star said.

“There wasn’t any question his language was appalling. I’m not a shrinking violet... but to me he always was just that little bit worse.

“It was the language school of Kerry Packer and it went downhill from that. All of his executives spoke the same way and they were all colourful. But Don, sometimes, was just a little bit more.”

Numerous women have come forward in the past few days claiming they were sexually harassed by Don Burke whose show, Burke’s Backyard, was a ratings powerhouse on Kerry Packer’s Nine Network.

“A lot of us knew but in those days there were a lot of men who did push the envelope,” Kennerley said on Triple M.
Don Burke addressed the claims on A Current Affair and admitted that at times he "wasn't a nice person". But he denied he crossed the line.

"I'm not that man at all," he said. "Some of these things are despicable. It is not that a man should never say to a woman, it's that no one should say it."

Two former Nine executives made the extraordinary decision to speak publicly about Burke, with former network CEO David Leckie telling Fairfax, "I've been trying to think of Harvey Weinstein-type people [in Australia] and the only one I can ever come up with is Burke.

"He was a horrible, horrible man."

Another former Nine Network CEO, Sam Chisholm, told Fairfax, "Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally."

"It's unusual for such media heavyweights to speak so candidly about a former star, but Kennerley explained on Triple M why they probably decided to speak out.

"They're saying he's a horrible person simply because he used to give them stuff when he'd go in and try and renegotiate more money every year," Kennerley said.

"They hated that. He was a bully with them as well as everyone else."

According to The Daily Telegraph, Kerry Packer once personally called Don Burke and ordered him to behave after Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill lodged a formal complaint against the TV presenter.

"You can imagine how colourful that was," Kennerley said about the phone call.

"He [Kerry Packer] would be one of the few people who could yank on Don Burke's chain."
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‘His language was appalling!’ TV personality Kerri-Anne Kennerley claims there are 'plenty more' at Nine like Don Burke

- Don Burke is facing growing number of harassment and misconduct allegations
- He denied allegations of sexual misconduct said he's the target of a witch hunt
- Kerri-Anne Kennerley said there were many men who 'pushed the envelope'

By AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kerri-Anne Kennerley claims ‘there are a whole bunch of people’ who have harassed women in the entertainment industry in the wake of allegations against Don Burke.

The one-time TV garden guru has been accused of being cowardly for blaming self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome as he continues to strenuously deny a growing number of sexual harassment and misconduct allegations.

Now, Ms Kennerley has spoken out to describe Burke's language at the peak of his career as 'appalling.'
I've known Don Burke for all those years I've done several stories with him, two in my home at various times,' she told Triple M.

'There wasn't any question his language was appalling.

Scroll down for video

Kerri-Anne Kennerley claims 'there are a whole bunch of people' who have harassed women in the entertainment industry in the wake of allegations against Don Burke.

'I'm not a shrinking violet being in this media industry, I've been around the bloke but to me he always was just that little bit worse.'

'All the boys were, it was the language school of Kerry Packer and it went downhill from that.

'All of his executives spoke the same way and they were all colourful. But Don, sometimes, was just a little bit more.'

She added: 'A lot of us knew but in those days there were a lot of men who did push the envelope.

'Boys will be boys. But many of us in that era drew the line in the sand and said: 'Watch my lips. Do that again and I will hit you!'

She claimed 'there are a whole bunch of people involved,' adding that it was 'part of an era.'

Don Burke denies sexual harassment and indecent assault allegations.
Ms Kennerley spoke out to describe Burke's language at the peak of his career as 'appalling'.

'I'm not trying to justify it... no young woman should ever have to put up with that,' he added.

Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill became the latest in a string of women to accuse the former Burke's Backyard host of making crude and belittling remarks.

She said the comments were made when the now 70-year-old visited her Brisbane home before the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

The eight-time Olympic medallist told Fairfax Media Burke was looking at a painting of a flower by her husband when he made a sexual remark about her body.

'It was crude and it was belittling,' O'Neill said.

Burke has rejected allegations he sexually harassed and indecently assaulted at least three women who worked on his top-rating TV gardening program in the 1980s and 1990s, adding he's 'deeply hurt and outraged'.

A Current Affair reporter Alison Piotrowski claims Burke targeted her when she was a young producer.

Burke said he's the target of a witch hunt and has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct.

'I've got a lot of failings but I'm not that man,' he said.

He conceded that a self-diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome meant he misses the 'subtle signs people give to you like, 'back off, that's enough".

'I suffer from a terrible problem of not seeing (body language) and no-one can understand how you can't see it,' Burke told A Current Affair.

His comments attracted widespread criticism including in Victoria's state parliament where opposition autism spectrum disorder spokesman Bernie Finn blasted the TV personality.

Burke said he's the target of a witch hunt and has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct.

'Having Asperger's does not make anyone a filthy, perverted sleazebag, it does not lead to sexual assault, it does not lead to the sorts of activity Mr Burke stands accused of,' said the MP, who has a son with autism.

'They've had enough to deal with without having to put up with a feral desperado getting on to national television and slandering them.'

Mr Finn said he's in no position to comment on the allegations against Burke but labelled him 'wicked cowardly' for blaming autism.

O'Neil was reluctant to speak out on her experience but was persuaded after hearing Burke's comments defending his behaviour.

'I got quite angry,' she said on her Nova radio show in Brisbane.

'What do you do, do you just hang those other women out to dry?'

O'Neil told Fairfax she immediately reported the exchange with Burke to her then-manager Nick Cummins, who in turn called Nine management.
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Only an idiot can't read body language?

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MORE TOP STORIES
The bitter irony of men now supporting women's claims against Don Burke

Clementine Ford

Former celebrity Don Burke is a misogynist. According to hundreds of allegations, the once famous gardener is a serial abuser and groper of women who, at the height of his fame, enjoyed humiliating his female subordinates with grotesque sexual innuendo.

At times, he was a problem the Nine network appeared to need to "handle". There is an account of him boasting about inappropriately touching a 14-year-old girl. Another person claims Burke hid in the dark hotel room of an inebriated 18-year-old girl, waiting for her return from an industry party and claiming she had invited him there to practice on-camera presentation. There are reports of second-hand stories swirling around about him for years, with one person calling him a "horrible, horrible man".

Don Burke denies allegations:
Don Burke has denied extensive allegations of sexual harassment on A Current Affair by stating that he could not remember any of the incidents and would never say the things he was quoted as saying.

Under normal circumstances, accounts like these would be met with suspicion and cynicism. Why didn't any of this come out at the time? This sounds like a lot of disgruntled women looking for their 15 minutes of fame! What happened to innocent until proven guilty? And (one of my recent favourites), it's a witch hunt!

Friends, we can rest easy and push aside any of these doubts. You see, we've had men also speak out against Don Burke. And apparently that changes everything.

RELATED ARTICLES

Don Burke's autism excuse presents us with an opportunity

The media industry runs a protection racket for men like Don Burke

Of the numerous allegations levelled against him, all of the ones listed above were made by men he either worked with or for. In fact, the person who referred to him as a "horrible, horrible man" was none other than David Leckie, the former CEO of Channel Nine.

Peter Meakin and Sam Chisholm are two other high-profile television executives quoted in Kate McClymont and Tracy Spicer's recent expose of Burke. Suddenly, it becomes a little trickier for people to dismiss outright what's being alleged. Because unlike women (scorned, all of them!), these men don't have a reason to lie about other men.

If I've learned anything in my years as a feminist writer and professional man-hater (apparently), it's that testimonies of assault, violence or sexual predation become automatically more believable to the general public if an impartial, logical, rational man has been there to bear witness to it rather than a hysterical witch flying around on a broom.

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It isn't just Burke whose allegedly criminal antics are given weight by the presence of male witnesses. Think back to Bill Cosby. Allegations and rumours of Cosby being a serial sexual offender had circulated for decades, and yet none of them were taken seriously or even delivered into the public consciousness until Hannibal Buress unequivocally referenced them in one of his stand-up routines.
It didn't matter that scores of women had come forward over the years with stories about Cosby drugging and raping them. What matters is that a man - and yes, a well meaning one, who absolutely did the right thing in speaking up when so few men do - stood up and gave legitimacy to these rumours.

Roman Farrow is doing exceptional journalism in his expose of men like Woody Allen and Harvey Weinstein, but his voice also lends credibility to the claims made by his sister Dylan and Rose McGowan. In a more general sense, think about the hero's welcome given to men who vaguely speak up about women's rights as opposed to the onslaught of death and rape threats directed towards women who work in that space every day.

call this the Brock Turner effect. You might remember him as the former student at Stanford who raped an unconscious woman outside a fraternity party in 2015. Although Turner had his share of defenders, the usual cultural response (he's a young athlete with a promising future, she was drunk, she probably consented and then made this up to appease her boyfriend, he's really sorry, who can say what really happened etc) was remarkably muted.

I'm too jaded to believe public animosity towards Turner arose solely out of the publication of an excoriating victim impact statement written by his victim. I think the truth of it is that Turner's assault was interrupted by two Swedish students who happened to be riding past on their bike; men who accosted Turner when he tried to escape and held him down until the police came.

Their presence and later testimony didn't just provide two sets of impartial eyes. They also presented an opportunity for men to identify with someone else in the story - the heroes who rescued the damsel and displayed good moral fibre.

Women are accustomed to hearing from men that they oppose misogyny and sexism in all its forms, but we’re not so accustomed to seeing that actually put into action. Instead, we are questioned and undermined whenever we speak out against the harm that has been done to us, whether that be casual street harassment or serious sexual assault.

Women are not considered reliable witnesses to the facts of our own lives because we are apparently too susceptible to bias, manipulation and even our own irrational insensitivities. But when men speak ... well, they do so with no agenda or ulterior motive so they can be relied upon to provide a more accurate summary.

The fact of the matter is, just like the women victimised by Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, Brett Ratner, Bill O'Reilly and so on and so forth, women spoke out against Don Burke for years – decades even. And men knew.

Men who sat at the top of the food chain heard these stories repeatedly and still kept Burke in play.

It's a great irony that the voices of Leckie, Chisholm and Meakin now are likely to make the claims against Burke more convincing in the eyes of the public, because they had a choice a long time ago to do something and instead chose to stay silent.

Think of that as you hear the cascade of allegations that are about to come out. Because this isn't the end. The season of the witch is upon us, and she's coming for all of them.

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Don ducks controversy

Grimeshaw bemused by Burke's lack of accountability

A CURRENT Affair host Tracy Grimshaw has spoken out about Monday night's bizarre interview with embattled TV presenter Don Burke, saying she thought he would be "more accountable" towards the allegations against him.

In Monday night's interview Burke said he had too much to be sorry for - including a series of affairs - and conceded he was not easy to work with on the long-running program Burke's Backyard.

But the 70-year-old denied the allegations of sexual harassment and bullying made by a number of women who worked with him in the 1980s and 1990s.

Burke's responses during the interview copped heavy criticism from viewers. He blamed the "Twittersphere" for stirring up a "witch hunt", and at one point offered the developmental disorder Asperger's as an excuse for bad behaviour, despite conceding that he had not been formally diagnosed with the syndrome.

Others pointed out that Burke's Asperger's self-diagnosis had echoes of Kevin Spacey's recent coming out when forced to confront allegations of sexual misconduct.

Grimshaw said she was surprised by the "level of denial" Burke displayed.

"I thought that he would be more accountable when I sat down with him. I didn't expect the level of denial that we got. So he was prepared to say, 'Look, I terrified people. I was a tough boss. I was a bear with a sore head. Maybe I bullied people.' He drove the line of the language that he was accused of using. He just couldn't countenance any admission that he had done that," Grimshaw said.

Grimshaw's post-interview discussion came as a second wave of allegations hit Burke yesterday morning, with Olympian Susie O'Neill accusing the former Channel 9 presenter of making a "revolting" sexual pass to her when he visited her home in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

"I think Don was a master of the universe in an era when there were no HR departments," Grimshaw said.

"I think he probably knows that now. In admitting that he made mistakes, he was more to people, he's understanding there is a history. He's understanding that it inspired this kind of hatred. He is admitting that I think that that was an era when everybody could get away with this stuff."

Grimshaw said that known Burke professionally for 40 years and said he had "never crossed the line" with her - but that she had heard talk of inappropriate behaviour. "I've had lots of professional interactions with him and he has never crossed the line with me. I can't remember ever threatening. That was too far, that was too much, so he didn't do it with everybody. I have heard the stories," Grimshaw said.

Burke told Asperger's self-diagnosis had shocked him.

"That was a big surprise - the one thing that came from left-field. I think it's unfair to say that Asperger's even is in play here, because he's self-diagnosed. It's also unfair to suggest that it's in any way to blame for his behaviour - that's a terrible slur on people with Asperger's," she said.

Stars spar as Burke drama boils over

There were no easy answers when the panel on Studio 10 tackled the thorny topic of Don Burke yesterday morning.

It made for at times uncomfortable viewing, as medics visited Burke's tumultuous career and his former bosses - people who surely could not put a stop to his alleged bad behaviour.

But Burke was put on the spot, as presenter Jessica Rowe spoke up, arguing that the system was supposed to protect vulnerable stars like Burke.

"You might say, why did nothing happen? Unfortunately, there were people in power who worked in this whole star system and have not had a good time. He was a cash cow, as they say."

T艺 then turned to Rowe's own well-publicised feud with Burke - the two appeared in 2011.

"And hence challenged Burke, explaining that the stories and allegations about Burke were now understood to number in the hundreds."

"Are they all independently making this up? Are they all colluding with each other as some kind of conspiracy to bring down Don Burke?" he asked.

Burke, however, remained resolute, as Rowe asserted that the system was supposed to protect vulnerable stars like Burke.

"I think he probably knows that now. In admitting that he made mistakes, he was more to people, he's understanding there is a history. He's understanding that it inspired this kind of hatred. He is admitting that I think that that was an era when everybody could get away with this stuff."

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Stone expecting baby

"My partner, Jack Manning Beareoff and I are so thrilled to be blessed with a baby. We are grateful for the love and support of our families, friends and colleagues," Stone said.

Stone was set to play Dean of Art in the Sydney Theatre Company's upcoming production, but pulled out because of her pregnancy.

Actor sues Weinstein

NEW YORK: A New York lawsuit accuses Harvey Weinstein of sex trafficking by luring an aspiring actress into a French hotel room and sexually assaulting her.

The lawsuit was filed Monday and says the movie mogul went to London in 2014 and "groomed" Radian Noble by telling her he had a film role in mind for her. It says later that year he again approached Noble and took her to his room at the Majestic Hotel in Cannes (Ian), where he groped her and forced her to watch him masturbate.

An Australian woman for Weinstein's denial of the allegations.

Harvey Weinstein Picture AP

11-838
Don Burke story reveals the pernicious culture of men protecting each other in the media

November 29, 2017 12.07pm AEDT

The allegations of sexual harassment against Don Burke have exposed a wider culture of misogyny in the Australian media, AAP

... was such a cliché. At the office Christmas party of the national TV show where I worked, I emerged from the loo out the back to find one of my bosses straddling the doorway, blocking my way and waiting to pounce.

I was shocked, not so much by his sexual harassment (that was de rigueur in the newsroom cultures of the day, the 1990s), as by the extent of his male entitlement and misogyny. At the time I was still breastfeeding my baby daughter, who was next door at the party with her dad and my colleagues.

This week's revelations that TV's darling of nearly 20 years, Don Burke of Burke's Backyard fame, was allegedly a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator" who indecently assaulted, sexually harassed and bullied a string of female employees comes as no surprise to women in Australian media. According to last year's Women in Media Report, nearly half of us have been abused, intimidated or harassed in our working lives.

Once sexual assault allegations against Hollywood boss Harvey Weinstein exploded in the media, the open secret of male abuse of power over women was out. Social media was awash with #MeToo; in France, #BalanceTonPig (“expose your pig”) flooded Twitter with stories of sexual harassment and assault.

New allegations appeared almost every day against other powerful men in various industries, including head of Amazon Studios Roy Price, political journalist Mark Halperin, editor at NPR Michael Oreske, Hollywood screenwriter and director James Toback, actors Ben Affleck and Kevin Spacey, comedian Louis CK, reinforcing the seeming incongruity of a self-described grabber of pussies, Donald Trump, being elected US president.

**Donald Trump grab her in the Pussy ( Unreal - FULL VIDEO )**

Donald Trump’s ‘Grab her by the pussy’ comments caught in this leaked recording.

__rising swell__

It feels like a rising swell, a great wave of truth-telling gathering force and breadth, the crest white and flickering, teetering at the top, ready to curl and roar down upon us all, washing away thousands of years of male power and privilege. But is it?

Or will it peak, then withdraw and ebb away, diluted back into the ocean of sexist norms dominating the world and responsible for the perpetuation of sexual violence against women?

Some journalists are hopeful, because at last, in the Burke case, even some blokes have broken ranks and matted on him.

Journalist Juanita Phillips is optimistic that “two industry veterans – David Leckie and Sam Chisholm – went on the record to condemn Burke in no uncertain terms. He was a disgrace, they said. A horrible, horrible man”. She found it significant that industry executives – the very keepers of the gates of male privilege – spoke out against one of their own.

Read more: Behind media silence on domestic violence are blokey newsrooms

It's true the endemic abuse of women in media and entertainment has been enabled over all these years by the collusion of the men in charge. Until now, executive men have largely closed ranks and protected the perpetrators of abuse, harassment and assault against women colleagues.

This is not only because, like Burke, some harassers were cash cows for the companies and networks involved. It was also, and I believe mainly, because these perpetrators were part of the club; part of the same culture that saw the executives themselves rise to the top and stay there.

They not only had a vested interest in maintaining the cultural norm, it was their norm.

Peer-reviewed global literature clearly proves that men perpetrate violence against women when there is masculine dominance in society, when they identify with traditional masculinity and male privilege, believe in rigid gender roles, have weak support for gender equality, and hold negative attitudes towards women.

Our research at the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne and that of Women in Media indicates these norms are rampant in the media industry. Men almost exclusively own, run, and give voice to the industry. Murdoch's News Corp, Fairfax, and APN own 92% of print media in Australia, with women owners being only 15%.

Men run nearly all of it, with only 17% of executives female, and new research shows women to be similarly underrepresented as editors (30.8%), specialist reporters (9.6%-30.2%), as experts (24.6%) and as authoritative sources (26.0%). Only 27% of AM and FM radio breakfast and drive programming hosts are female.

The rate of sexual harassment of women in media (48%) is more than twice that of other workplaces (2%), and far exceeds that of the rightly criticised rates in the Australian Defence Force, at 25% (according to the Human Rights Commission), and Victoria Police at 40%, yet has not been reported widely.

Up until now, the male-centric culture of media made it a non-story.

Will we see long overdue change?

Are we seeing a change now "The Blokes" have broken ranks with Don Burke? Is public discourse about to change? Has social media enabled a coalescence of power from LGBT people and people of colour, to join with outpouring from women who've been bullied, excluded, harassed and assaulted, to reach a tipping point for the wave of change?

I think not yet.

I think The Blokes who sacked predatory men in the US did it because women, LGBT and people of colour now have economic power and will use it. I think The Blokes who turned on Burke did it to


11-841
They were there; they oversaw the reign of terror and did nothing; now that the women and their coworkers are testifying, the (Old) Blokes are running for their lives and distancing themselves from every aspect of this (now) "horrible, horrible man". Their successors are perpetuating the same workplace cultural norms that we know lead to violence against women.

When a Trump becomes a Macron, we could be more confident. The French president this week swore "it is essential that shame changes camp", and he is putting his money where his mouth is, with a 2018 draft law to criminalise street harassment, and a massive public education program about sexism and changes to police and courts to help victims.

In the meantime, as Lindy West of the New York Times writes:

... not only are women expected to weather sexual violence, intimate partner violence, workplace discrimination, institutional subordination, the expectation of free domestic labour, the blame for our own victimisation, and all the subtler, invisible cuts that undermine us daily, we are not even allowed to be angry about it.

We women are angry. Our anger has led to finding ways, around the rule of men in the newsroom, through social media and each other, to document the scope of the crimes against us.

The question is whether our anger, and collaboration with powerful men, will be enough to turn that smoldering crest into a massive, roaring wave of change.
Don Burke’s personality explored in 1991 interview

A 1991 magazine profile on Don Burke went in depth on the star’s personality, revealing friends jokingly called him “the Antichrist”. He was so angered by the result, he threatened to sue.

Don Burke continues to deny allegations

A 1991 magazine profile of Don Burke painted the TV gardener as “arrogant, conceited, egotistical and obsessive” — and so enraged the star, he threatened to sue.

‘Eran journalist Richard Glover today posted to Facebook a profile he wrote on Burke that originally ran in the Sydney Morning Herald’s Good Weekend magazine in April 1991.

In his Facebook post, he wrote that he “tried to smuggle some of the sexual allegations into the Herald back in 1991 ... but didn’t quite have the evidence to convince the lawyers”.

‘Even so, Burke threatened, for a considerable time, to sue me over this piece,” Glover wrote.

Burke this week stands accused of a pattern of sexual harassment and bullying, with allegations from a number of former co-workers.

Glover conducted more than 50 interviews with Burke and those around him for the 1991 piece, and noted that among his colleagues, friends and former classmates, “Don Burke is never described as normal”.

Glover wrote that those who spoke to "report a darker side, offering their nickname for [Barke] as a kind of jokey summary: they call him the Antichrist".

Several anonymous former Burke's Backyard staffers are quoted throughout the piece — one recounts that Burke once told him: "I could learn your whole job in a day if I wanted," while another recalls contacting world experts in a field "only to be told constantly by Burke that he knew more about the subject".

"He reckons that he knows more about cameras than the cameraman; more about editing than the editor; more about the topic than the expert they've brought in; and more about television than Kerry Packer," Glover quotes one unnamed 'TV heavy' as saying.

One former staffer refuses to speak Glover — a friend relays that the person "is too cut up, too destroyed by the experience of working there, to be able to talk about it quite yet".

wanted to be the one who walks through the crowd that no one notices, but to
carry a big stick so if anyone has a go at you, you can defend yourself," Burke said.

"If you box me into a corner and have a go at me, I will try to resolve it, but when
I’ve had enough ... well, I don’t take prisoners."

The TV star also told Glover tales of his outstanding success in his previous
devour — delivering genetics lectures by the age of 15, working for a bank and
quickly devising a way to save the company millions, leaving his university degree
after sitting the professor down to tell him his course was a mess and he was a failure
in his job.

But his former colleagues say they were unsure about some of his claims.

"He’s just intensely competitive," said one, "so he can’t stand meeting, say, a runner
and admitting the guy is better at something than he is. So he makes up a story about
how he was once a great runner too."

In reposting the piece on Facebook, Glover notes the original publication date and
points out that "people saying ‘we didn’t know’ — at least about the bullying —
‘they really have much excuse’.

Despite this, some in the entertainment industry have reacted to the allegations this
week with shock, among them media veteran Ita Buttrose, who on Studio 10 today
said she’d known Burke since they worked together in radio in the ‘80s.

“I had two female producers and I spoke to them yesterday and none of us ever heard
any of these allegations about Don,” she said.

“As far as we girls were all concerned, he was fine. He was a nice guy. Quite funny,
very ambitious. I don’t know about the rest of it, maybe he changed.”

Tziporah Malkah (formerly known as Kate Fischer) also spoke out today, saying
she’d never witnessed or heard of any improper behaviour during her time hosting a
Nine program in the ‘90s while she was engaged to James Packer.

“Maybe I was protected because I was the boss’s son’s fiancee. Because I didn’t hear
anything,” she said.

“He wasn’t touchy-feely with me. I’m a hugger. And he’d never press himself into
me. I know those men. They press themselves into you and they really wanna feel
your nipples pressing into them. Don never did that,” Malkah insisted.
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Dennis Rodman charged with DUI

McGovern slams Franco over sex claims

‘This is why people hate celebs’

‘Why is James Franco allowed in?’

Sports journalist Caroline Wilson recalls 'gross' encounter with Don Burke at 1996 Logies

By Julie Naughton  •  Nov 29th, 2017

The "creepy" incident occurred at the 1996 Logies.

Caroline Wilson has revealed Don Burke once asked to lick her back while she was pregnant at the 1996 Logie Awards.

The veteran sports journalist, who recently stepped down as The Age's chief football writer after 19 years, recalled the encounter on ABC's Radio National on Wednesday morning.

"I was heavily pregnant with my third child, and [Burke and I] were seated at the same table," Wilson recounted. "And I said at some point, 'Excuse my back, I'm going to turn and watch the stage,' and he said, 'Do you mind if I lick it?'"
Wilson's husband, Channel 7 reporter Brendan Donohoe, was sitting next to her at the time, Fairfax Media reports.

"It was gross," she told the Sydney Morning Herald.

Wilson admitted that her own experience with Burke was "nothing" compared to the stories that have surfaced this week in the ABC/Fairfax investigation lead by journalists Tracey Spicer and Kate McClymont.

RELATED: Sophie Monk speaks out on Don Burke sexual harassment allegations

The report revealed shocking claims made by women who worked with the Burke's Backyard star throughout the 1980s and 1990s accusing him of sexual harassment. Though 70-year-old Burke vehemently denies he is a sexual predator.

Appearing on A Current Affair with Tracy Grimshaw Monday night, Burke admitted to having extramarital affairs but slammed the allegations against him, labelling them a "witch hunt."

He also bizarrely suggested his "self-diagnosed" Asperger’s Syndrome played a role in his bad behaviour.

Reflecting on Burke's behaviour during the interview, Grimshaw said she was surprised at his inability to seriously address the allegations.

"I thought that he would be more accountable when I sat down with him," Grimshaw told TODAY on Tuesday. "I didn’t expect the level of denial that we got."
Hollywood's long, ugly history with sexual harassment

View gallery

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Don Burke denies sexual harassment allegations in statement

NOVEMBER 27, 2017 1:21PM

DON Burke made the following statement on November 26 to the ABC and Fairfax following the publication of serious allegations from more than 50 people.

I am deeply hurt and outraged at the false and defamatory claims made in your correspondence. It is evident that these baseless claims concern statements from a few ex-employees of CTC Productions who bear grudges against me.

I also believe that this publication is opportunistic and intended to severely damage my reputation, by trying to link my alleged behaviour with the appalling behaviour of Harvey Weinstein, which has gained a lot of media traction.

I loathe the reported behaviour of Mr Weinstein and hope that the legal system deals with him in such a way as to prevent this happening again. The bitter irony is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny, Burke's Backyard was a lone
This was evidenced by me deliberately choosing many women to be regular presenters on this program who were them because they were the very best in their field truly outstanding women like Denise Clyne, Rosemary Stanton and Jackie French (who was awarded Senior Australian of the Year a few years back).

These women, in Jackie French's own words, were not the typical media females aged under 30 and with Barbie doll figures and Don faced considerable opposition to having them on prime time TV.

They were there because they deserved to be there. The media has never appeared to notice this anti-misogyny.

Even the most cursory of glances at BBY should have evidenced this obvious fact.

For the record, in this matter, I believe I am a classic sitting duck.

I created the program BBY. I became executive producer of it and was co-director of CTC productions, the company which made BBY. I am a sitting duck because I was also the main presenter of this eponymously-named program. This is almost unheard of in the television world.

I largely ran the program and oversaw the hiring and firing of employees. Inevitably, this led to me being involved in the dismissal of some employees who underperformed or who behaved in an improper manner.

Accordingly, there would be a small number of these ex-employees who still bear a strong grudge against me. It is evident, that you have obviously been dealing with these ex-employees and as indicated above, you need to do proper screening and background checks in order to publish an accurate report of events.

I absolutely dispute the claims of bullying, and wish to point out that BBY was a prime time TV show where excellence was essential. If even one or two employees in the BBY team were below standard, this could lead to the cancelling of the program and the loss of the jobs of about 40 people.
This is the nature of prime time TV. So yes, there was pressure on each and every member of the BBVY team to perform at a high level. My perfectionist management was the prime reason for BBVY lasting 16 years on prime time TV.

These untrue claims will inevitably destroy my ability to perform my extensive charity work such as my 25-year plus association with Retina Australia (youth blindness).

It will also destroy my association with Asbestos Awareness where for over 10 years I have tirelessly worked to save the lives of renovators and tradespeople.

I am also associated with charity work of the department of Concord Hospital and many other charities and community groups.

These untrue claims will also destroy my income for the rest of my life. I have solid relationships with Scotts Australia, Celebrity Speakers, and many other groups. Already these mischievous claims have led to some thousands of dollars of cancellations of appearances.

Now, I respond to the specifics of these intentionally destructive claims:

— The rooftop incident never occurred either then or to any other female ever.

— The Alice Springs story never occurred, BBVY did not take researchers when filming and I can find no record of this event. No such inappropriate behaviour occurred with anyone and no such video has ever been sighted by me. I did not and would not show anything like that to anyone, male or female. No foot pushing or similar episode ever occurred and no comments concerning not working out ever occurred.

— My staff and I regarded the CTC productions workplace as being a very safe workplace and I am very happy to provide female and male witnesses to affirm this.

— The story about the reporter quoting me is a total fabrication. BBVY's long-term receptionist is a dear friend of mine and no such words were ever uttered by me.
— I never commented on the body shape of any family member.

— No payouts were ever made, nor were any complaints of this nature ever received by me or anyone in his company. I also was never informed of any complaints or payouts by Channel Nine.

— Lastly, it is very evident to me that (Tracey) Spicer has fallen into a small clique of malcontents who were ex-employees of CTC productions. They must have referred her to others in this clique.

When Ms Spicer spoke to people who refuted what the malcontents were saying, she appeared to dismiss what they said it seemed clear that she had made up her mind before contacting them.

She had her "Weinstein" headline and nothing was getting in its way. This is unfair and unworthy journalism. I enclose records of interviews from ex-employees who were contacted by Ms Spicer. All are highly ethical people who would never tolerate behaviour such as you have alleged.

Jackie French was a reporter on BBY and was Senior Australian of the Year a few years back, Michael Freedman was CEO of BBY for many years as was James O'Sullivan; all three are willing to stand up in public forums or court to verify what they have said. There are others in this boat as well.
Nine launches staff helpline in wake of 'appalling' Don Burke scandal

By Arvind Hickman | 30 November 2017

Nine Network has set up a counselling service for current and former staff to privately raise any instances of sexual assault, harassment and misconduct in the wake of "appalling allegations" made against former TV personality Don Burke.

In the past week, several women who either worked with Burke or were featured on his TV show Burke's Backyard have made shocking allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and bullying against the celebrity gardener.

Nine chief executive Hugh Marks sent an email to Nine staff encouraging employees to contact a confidential helpline to disclose any cases of sexual harassment, bullying and misconduct in the workplace.

"In light of the appalling allegations this week of sexual assault, harassment and misconduct by Don Burke I wanted to write to all staff to reaffirm Nine's commitment to maintaining a culture that is inclusive, supportive and respectful," Marks wrote.

"As much as we might like to, sometimes we unfortunately cannot rewrite history. But we can and will take steps to ensure that former employees, perhaps with old grievances, are supported. So we have set up a unique phone line for them to call 1300 554 518 and will provide an independent counselling service to report instances of past behaviour they would like addressed.

"It's my job as CEO, and that of all our senior leaders, to ensure that everyone who has been treated poorly will be heard, and that they will get appropriate support if they need it. Any matters which are raised and require further action will be addressed appropriately either internally or, if required, externally of Nine."

This week, an ABC/Sydney Morning Herald investigation, which interviewed more than 50 people, labelled Burke a “psychotic bully, misogynist and sexual predator who indecently assaulted, sexually harassed and bullied a string of female employees.”

Former Nine Boss David Lockie described Burke as Australia’s “Harvey-Weinstein”, in reference to the disgraced US production mogul, while another former Nine CEO, Sam Chisholm, labelled him a “grub”.

Burke initially denied the allegations, with his lawyers calling them “false and defamatory”.

However, on Monday’s episode of A Current Affair (ACA), Burke admitted that he had cheated on his wife and bullied staff, but denied he was a “Harvey Weinstein figure”.

“In part, I think I deserve this, but not for all of that sleazy sexual stuff,” he told ACA host Tracy Grimshaw.

He partly blamed his past behaviour on Asperger’s syndrome, which he has never had professionally diagnosed.

Have something to say on this? Share your views in the comments section below. Or if you have a news story or tip-off, drop us a line at adnews@yaffa.com.au (mailto:adnews@yaffa.com.au)

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celebrity life

Inside the Channel 9 boys’ club

BOOZE flowed, cash was thrown around and men behaved badly at Nine. There were no rules. This is what the women inside saw.

James Weir  @hellojamesweir

EXCLUSIVE

"Chauvinism and discrimination was rife," veteran Channel 9 personality Kerri-Anne Kennerley told news.com.au.

"The abuse was fierce," she added, recalling the “vile” way revered network owner Kerry Packer and the “lieutenants” under him would speak to staff.

The famous Friday night parties held at the end of every week became the stuff of media folklore. Every Friday, around five o’clock, staff within Nine’s headquarters would knock off and head up to the bar.

"It was excessive — everything was larger than life. The supernova thing started going off. It was Amazonian. It was sexual. The excess is what you’d expect of a billionaire’s network on a Friday afternoon," Tziporah Malkah, the model formerly known as Kate Fischer and ex-fiancee of James Packer, told news.com.au.

‘HE PUT HIS OLD FELLA ON THE BAR IN FRONT OF AN INTERN’

Kerri-Anne Kennerley on Don Burke: "He is a grubby guy"

Kennerley recalled an incident involving a "serious major player (still working) in the media as we speak".

"He literally pulled out his old fellas and put it on the Channel 9 bar in front of the work experience girl," she said, withholding his name but describing him as "still working" in the industry.

She said there was nowhere for people to report bad behaviour and complaints went "unchecked". But this incident received "so many" complaints from staff that the man was eventually let go.

Kennerley, whose memoir A Bold Life details much of the behaviour she witnessed, said the man "went out ... (but) they all come back".

She said she wasn't a regular fixture at the Friday parties, adding: "I didn't need a promotion that bad".
...owing the allegations against Don Burke this week, Chisholm was asked by Fairfax if the network did enough to stop the behaviour. He said he didn’t know.

In a statement this week, Nine deemed the behaviour detailed in the Burke allegations as “completely unacceptable” and said it “would not be tolerated” by the network in today’s media landscape.

Just as legendary as the Friday night drinks were the boozy, catered boardroom meetings.

“(Executives) act in the most disgraceful manner and talk in the most disgraceful manner,” Kennerley said.

One former employee who worked at the network at the time said the infamous boys club was “volatile” and encouraged a culture of bullying.

“It was appalling — men could behave like anything while women could be sent emails and told they need to lose weight before they went on air,” they said.

THE ABUSE WAS FIERCE’

Kennerley recalled the “tirade of abuse” executives would throw at staff if they were happy. Sometimes it would be for making a mistake. Other times for asking a question. A lot of the time, there was no reason.

“The abuse was fierce,” she told news.com.au, remembering two particularly bad responses to questions she asked of an executive.

“It was explained in very yelling, loud, screaming, abusive language to the point where I actually thought he was going to have a heart attack,” she said. “He was exploding so much I thought he was going to lie down and die. And I wasn’t going to give him mouth-to-mouth.”
While Kennerley said she didn't have any "serious issues" with misconduct other than with verbal abuse, she detailed three confronting accounts.

One was with a "very important network person" who began unzipping her dress at a "how function. The incident is detailed in her new memoir.

"I said zip it up or I will deck you," she recalled.

Two incidents involve Don Burke.

**HE IS A GRUBBY, GRUBBY GUY**

"It happened in my home," Kennerley said of the two times she was pestered by Burke, the former host of Burke's Backyard who this week has denied and disputed numerous claims of misconduct and sexual harassment.

Twice Burke came to her homes to film segments for his show — once at Hope Island, the other in Sydney's Woollahra. Her make-up artist witnessed one of the incidents.

"I think Don is the absolute worst," she said, adding he was a "grubby, grubby guy".

"The experience with Don Burke was just appalling. I do remember being fiercely abused in the most foul language. I remember quite verbatim what Don Burke said. But I ignored it. So did most of the other girls."

Kennerley said she and a lot of other women tolerated the behaviour and would "draw the line and put men in their place and carry on with what we were doing". 
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Help line set up for Burke accusers

DANIELLE RAYE O' DONNELL
DARIA MACAY

The NPA Network has launched its indigenous health helpline following controversy over the Week of Action to address issues of sexual violence and abuse.

The helpline, which is available 24/7, will provide a safe space for survivors of sexual violence and abuse to seek support and advice.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence or abuse, you can call the helpline on 1800 188 406.

Early harvest time as hard rain’s gonna fall

PIE ANDREW

"An early harvest of rain is forecast for the NSW Central West, with some areas expected to receive up to 50mm in the next week.

Rainfall is predicted to increase in the coming days, particularly in the Central West region, which has experienced significant drought conditions in recent months.

The rainfall is expected to bring relief to many farmers, who have been struggling due to the drought.

The forecast suggests that the rain will continue throughout the week, with some areas expected to receive up to 75mm.

Wine region toasts 50 years, and a madman’s vision

Fairfax pulls plug on HuffPost

Paul Burrell has tendered his resignation as a joint chairman of Fairfax Communications, effective immediately, following the sale of the company to scale.

Burrell has been a key player in the company’s recent years, helping to steer the company through a period of change.

"I have a number of other commitments that I would like to focus on," Burrell said in a statement. "I look forward to remaining involved in the company and its future success."
Sexual harassment happens to ordinary women in ordinary jobs

Jenna Price

We are so captivated by stories of sexual harassment and assault in television, so besotted by images of the women who stood up, Tracey Spicer and Susie O'Neil, we forget these terrible episodes happen in every industry. Every single one. It happens to ordinary women in ordinary jobs.

These indecencies are not happening because television workers are in an industry with blurred lines. These indecencies are happening because there has always been a blurred line between predators and women. Those predators, those men, have little hesitation in crossing that line, no matter where and until now, with few repercussions.

Try working in your local bakery where a customer paws the girl behind the counter (for girl she is, in Year 10 in her first job, and she's being told she has luscious lips). Or a customer waits to rape the woman locking up the shop at night. Try stacking shelves while some arsehole rubs his unzipped pants across your buttocks. Or dealing with a customer whose only request of you is to have "quick sexual

intercourse", or with a customer who is buying a Bluetooth speaker for the shower and suggests you have a shower with him. Or the young retail worker approached by two twenty-something guys who said they were doing a bet.

"They needed me to give them a kiss. I felt very awkward and confused as my training instructs me to be polite and acquiesce to customers, but I felt violated. After a few minutes of awkwardness a colleague saw I was distressed and when they spoke to her she awkwardly told them I had other work to do, so they left."

We have so much other work to do.

NSW branch president of the SDA, the retail workers union, Bernie Smith, says one in eight of his members experiences this level of sexual harassment from customers and these stories are his members' stories. I've just picked a few. It's no wonder the SDA is constantly updating its sexual harassment policies and procedures and will launch a campaign to stop customer abuse of retail workers in time for the shopping season.

Welcome to the industry that tops the sexual harassment claims in the Human Rights Commissions. Yep, that's retail, followed by healthcare, public administration, hospitality and financial services. These are industries with a concentration of women but Sara Charlesworth at RMIT, who has spent her life researching sexual harassment, tells me we must not be fooled. Sexual harassment happens in all industries, female- or male-dominated. In sectors such as the police and the military, women won't complain. They don't want to rock the boat, afraid of being poorly treated if they do complain; frightened they can't find another job in an industry they love; and sometimes they just quit.

Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins is brutal about this. "Discrimination and harassment in those industries is normalised - it's so much part of the job, you don't even make the call."

When Michelle Marquardt tells me figures reveal one in two women has been sexually harassed over the course of her lifetime, I'm horrified. Marquardt is a statistician, not an advocate; and as program manager of household surveys branch of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, she oversees the personal safety survey. She says not only is it one-in-two women - but you must wait until you are 65 to get much relief from sexual harassment. Women's victimisation by men ignores barriers of class or income - Marquardt says the top four quintiles are evenly represented here, from those whose weekly household incomes are $700 a week to those earning four times that and more.

So let me get that right. Men don't harass the old or the poor and that might just be because people in that group are at home.

Charlesworth has one important piece of advice for all of us. Don't ever get stuck on the powerful man.

"The sexual harasser becomes this monster figure and within organisations, it is the bad apple," she says.

But it's not the bad apple, it's the culture; and it's widespread. She notes that just this week, ANZ Bank dismissed three employees; and that perhaps we could do more about sexual harassment and assault if we recognised it as an occupational health and safety issue.

As Australian Institute of Company Directors chairwoman Elizabeth Proust said this week, we need to encourage whistleblowing. No surprise that on the ANZ internal website, there's a giant whistle, just waiting to be blown. By the way, your female colleague doesn't care what you think of her clothes, her tits or her arse. She really doesn't.

Jenna Price is a Fairfax columnist and an academic at the University of Technology Sydney.

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Don Burke allegedly captured propositioning rugby player’s wife on tape

Alice Coster, Herald Sun
December 1, 2017 10:50pm
Subscriber only

DON Burke was allegedly able to get away with making the most repugnant propositions, and then some, to women because Burke’s Backyard was a river of gold that Channel 9 couldn’t bear to see dry up.
they could improve their garden.

This involved removing tools from a garden shed, which Burke told the young woman would take her husband at least an hour to clear, which would give her time to “service” him.

“If you want to be on TV, you have to service me,” Burke told her matter-of-factly.

This was in Sydney in the 1980s and when her husband walked into the room, a burly 190cm rugby union player, she told him what Burke had preferred.

The husband asked if his wife was part of the deal and Burke replied “absolutely” — which is when the rugby player decked him. Lights out!
tape.

"But we've got him, boss," they pleaded.

"No," snarled the big fella as he stripped the tape out of the cassette and ground it into the carpet, muttering about advertising dollars before telling them all to "f--- off".

This week, it was reported that Packer called the dirty gardening guru about his behaviour shortly after he offended swimming legend Susie O’Neill.

But how many dirty deeds were covered up to protect not only Burke, but Nine's dollar deluge?

THE PHILODENDRON CLIP NEEDS TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED.

REALLY SEEDY STUFF

PLANT porn — Don Burke made millions out of it.

Or at least one steamy clip with a philodendron getting a, er, furious bush whacking, under the moonlight with Burke peering through the undergrowth barely able to contain his excitement (trust us, watch it).

Dirty memes and the clip Burke's Backyard, Pollinating Philodendrons went viral this week.

Not that it's the first time for the eye-popping plant (below left).

Long before the internet, the segment was getting sniggering airtime globally after appearing on the Graham Kennedy Show, with Burke’s production company CTC reaping the rewards.

@AliceHeraldSun

Got something to tell us? Email page13@news.com.au
Don Burke's publicity-shy wife of 50 years thrust into spotlight

Andrew Hornery

For the past 50 years there has been one woman who has quietly stood behind Don Burke, his wife Maree, the mother of their two adult children, Christine and Sean, and for many years the "glue" that kept Burke's multimillion-dollar media empire together.

This week the quietly spoken mother and grandmother was thrust into the national spotlight as her famous husband's reputation was dragged through the mud after a growing number of women accused him of being a "psychotic bully", a "misogynist" and a "sexual predator".

Private Sydney: The woman behind Don Burke

For many years she's been the "glue" which has kept Burke's multimillion-dollar media empire together, but just who exactly is Maree Burke?

In the process she has suffered the indignation of having her private laundry aired for national consumption as her husband went on...
prime-time television to deny the claims, and to bizarrely confirm various extramarital affairs he had throughout their marriage.

Burke told Tracy Grimshaw on Monday night that the affairs came to an end when his wife's health became a major issue. For years she has dealt with chronic and potentially life-threatening health issues.

But exactly who is Marea Burke?

"She was very quietly spoken, quite mousy in some ways," says a former business associate who would often visit the couple at their Kenthurst home.

Marea has rarely given interviews and avoided events like the Logies where her husband was once one of the brightest stars.

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In 2015, she sat down with her husband for a rare interview with Grimshaw on A Current Affair.

"[I never ever, never wanted to do interviews], I'm feeling pretty scared about the whole thing, but hey you've got to get out of your comfort zone some time," she told Grimshaw as she opened up about her 15 years of bad health.

At the height of the success of Burke's Backyard in 2000, Marea noticed a problem with her eyesight and began experiencing double vision.

Neurologist Professor Michael Morgan diagnosed it as arteriovenous malformation (AVM),
an abnormal collection of blood vessels, like varicose veins, sitting on top of her brain.

To save her life she underwent surgery, followed by three months of rehabilitation, during which she had a minor stroke and developed epilepsy. For a time she was unable to walk and her speech was slurred.

In 2004, the couple's beloved television show and cash cow *Burke's Backyard* was axed by former Channel Nine boss David Gyngell. This week Gyngell, who remains on Nine's board of directors, declined to comment on the latest scandal engulfing the former television star, but the bad blood between him and Burke remains as toxic as ever.

Gyngell told *FS* the decision to axe the show was "purely a commercial one", which Burke has since repeatedly described as "stupid" and that the late Kerry Packer would be "turning in his grave" at what Nine had become, comments that still linger with Gyngell to this day.

Burke told *FS* in 2013: "I often wondered how television executives had any idea about what the average Australian family wanted to watch when they were off skiing in Aspen."

In 2013, Marea was diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer resulting in her surgeon scheduling an immediate mastectomy within a week of her diagnosis.

This week Grimshaw, who grilled Burke over the latest allegations, confirmed Marea's heath remained fragile, with these latest events having a profound impact on the entire family's wellbeing.

His wife did not appear on camera this week and has made no public comment. Calls to their CTC Productions' offices—which Burke once explained stood for "Cut The Crap"—were not answered.

**Lessons in rock-star style**

Having been swamped by screaming, teary teenage girls outside on the red carpet, *FS* can only hope young Harry Styles was listening to Jimmy Barnes when he inducted Daryl Braithwaite into the ARIA Hall Of Fame on Tuesday night.
Barnes gave a fascinating account of the first time he met Braithwaite. As the singer of a little-known band called Cold Chisel, they were playing support for Sherbet in what was Chisel's first stadium rock concert.

"Standing at the side of stage watching the fans hang on every word, I realised then this is what it's like to be a rock star," Barnes said.

But it was what came later, after the concert, when Braithwaite was mobbed by the marauding pack of groupies that Barnes also got a rude awakening as to what fame can be like for a young man. To escape the crowd Barnes was dragged behind Braithwaite into an armoured car to leave the venue, lest they lose more than the shirts off their backs.

Barnes, now 61, and Braithwaite, 68, are not mobbed quite as much these days, though they gave the impression the memories were fond ones.

No doubt it is an experience Harry Styles is all too familiar with.

Where ever Styles went during his whirlwind visit to Sydney this week, the screaming teenagers were not far behind. Indeed, it appeared all the selfie requests and adoration were starting to take their toll by the time he turned up, all too briefly, on the red carpet of the ARIAs to pose for a couple of fans. To put it mildly, his smile was not that of unbridled exuberance.
Styles was criticised recently after a show in Los Angeles when a
reviewer noted he sang many of his songs with his eyes closed and
failed to engage with the audience.

"Put Styles on stage by himself and you might notice an interesting
phenomenon: As talented and genuinely grateful to be there as he is,
he doesn't seem to be enjoying himself most of the time," the review
said.

Hopefully, he will have worked that out by the time he hits 68.

**Bishop farewells her 'gentle giant'**

It was a small group of family and close friends who knew the ordeal
television personality Angela Bishop had endured for the past 22
months as she managed to juggle her public career with the private
heartache of watching her husband endure relentless treatments for
cancer.


Peter Baikie was diagnosed with the incredibly rare cancer, primary
pulmonary synovial sarcoma, in February 2016.

Bishop and their 10-year-old daughter Amelia, bid farewell to Baikie
on Wednesday, which would have been his 55th birthday. They were
surrounded by friends and family, many still reeling from the news
that the gentle giant who had quite literally swept Bishop off her feet
15 years ago at Minsky's cocktail bar in Cremorne, had died.

Bishop has managed to continue her work as a showbiz reporter,
putting on a brave face for audiences as she continued her regular
round of interviewing the world's brightest stars, a gig she has
mastered for more than 30 years.

But behind the camera and far away from the glitz, Bishop had an
agreement with Channel Ten management that allowed her to slip
away at a moment's notice to be with her husband.

He was a devoted father and passionate mechanic who refused
painkillers so he would be "clear headed" around his family.

The first round of chemotherapy was so severe it caused
cardiomyopathy in his heart, but Bishop, by his side through it all,
remained determined they would fight the cancer together.
Some months later Baikie had the two lower lobes of his right lung and surrounding lymph nodes removed.

But his test results were still not clear and he needed more radiotherapy. The treatment was gruelling but Baikie was determined to fight on, with Bishop by his side.

After 28 sessions of radiation his oesophagus was badly damaged and he required a month of treatment in hospital.

He was admitted to hospital on Amelia's ninth birthday and placed in a ward that did not allow visitors under 12.

It was a harrowing ordeal but he got through it and last Christmas and New Year were a happy time for their family.

But in early 2017 a scan showed the cancer had spread to his pelvis, pancreas and spine.

More chemotherapy was ordered and a glimmer of hope was presented when he was offered to go on a trial for immunotherapy.

![Peter Baikie, who lost his battle with cancer aged 54. Photo: Supplied](image)

But, his body ravaged, Baikie was readmitted to hospital with pneumonia, a condition that quickly escalated into a crisis, which eventually took his life, cruelly robbing Bishop of the man she loved, and little Amelia of the dad she adored.

**No frills Paris' fanfare-free visit**

When PS last saw Paris Hilton in Sydney, she was being mobbed by photographers and fans on Bondi Beach.
That was back in 2006, and young Paris had a pretty brunette "bestie" with her, named Kim Kardashian who no one here knew much about (that soon changed).

Paris was back in Sydney this week, this time as a 36-year-old woman but with decidedly less fanfare, and minus Kardashian.

This time around she was launching her latest budget perfume, her 23rd, for discount chain Chemist Warehouse, with a meet and greet at Birkenhead Point outlet centre.

How times have changed.

**From 'big house' to wedding bells**

A week after his prison release, convicted drug dealer Richard Buttrrose, who once was one of the biggest cocaine dealers in Sydney's more salubrious suburbs, has been back in his old stomping grounds.

On Friday he was overheard regaling old chums at a Vaucluse cafe with stories from his time in the "Big House", including one particularly engrossing tale about a bit of breakfast biffo during his morning bowl of Weet-Bix.

Meanwhile Buttrrose's socialite sister, *Real Housewife of Sydney* support star and headline-making Lizzie Buttrrose, 48, was due to marry her boyfriend, base jumper and mountain biker, Zoran Stopar yesterday. Richard was reportedly set to give the bride away.
In October it emerged Buttrose and Stopar, 38, who is her seventh fiancé, would be marrying even though she holds an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) against him. In court Stopar admitted to defacing photos of Buttrose and family members with the words “slut”, “whore” and “junkie”.

The court also heard that Buttrose, who has previously admitted being an alcoholic and prescription drug taker, had received treatment for substance abuse.

However none of Buttrose’s old friends contacted by PS were able to shed much light on the nuptials, least of all her former best friend Shari Lea Hitchcock, best known as the late billionaire cardboard king Richard Pratt’s mistress and mother of their now grown up “love child” Paula.

Indeed there has been a major falling out between the women, whose friendship had managed to survive several boyfriends and countless scandals over the years.

PS hears the friendship fell apart months ago as Hitchcock is not a fan of Stopar.
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The male icons keep falling: how #MeToo has turned into 'Oh god, not you too!'

Jacqueline Maley

The #MeToo moment, in which women share stories of harassment and abuse, is a noble, rebellious shout that continues to swell as more women join it, and others cheer it on. It has sent creeps of all shapes and sizes scuttling for a rock to hide under, only to find their rock is overturned.

It is only just getting started, and it will force a change in institutions' handling of the sexual predation of women.
at a remove from the rest of us.

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The problem looks endemic and as the revelations continue, it makes you wonder when we will reach the bottom of it.

Most women don't want to believe the men who walk among us are capable of the kinds of things being reported.

Even the most cynical of us are shocked, for example, to learn that a man who was until this week considered a national treasure allegedly used a puppy as a prop in order to stroke the breasts of a high schooler.

BREAKING NEWS ALERT
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Imagine, for a minute, how terrifying it is to learn that same national treasure allegedly looks at a female relative horse-riding, and his mind moves immediately to what he calls her c---t, rubbing against the horse's back.

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the freezer too? Where are we at with Geoffrey Rush right now?

And as for Don Burke – the avalanche of sickly detail – his unbounded hands, his filth-laden language, the apparent certainty that he hated women even more than he wanted them – that’s him sunk.

In recent weeks, I watched, for the first time, *The Usual Suspects*, in which Spacey stars, and his performance was overlaid by what I now know of his personal life.

I also watched, for the second or third time, *Blue Jasmine*, Woody Allen’s re-imagining of Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring Cate Blanchett. I love Woody Allen’s films. To me,
Louis CK admitted to having masturbated in front of women.

The state attorney said he had probable cause to charge Allen but did not proceed because of the fragility of the child victim. Dylan Farrow, now an adult, has spoken about the alleged abuse in such a compelling and consistent way it is amazing, in the worst possible sense of the word, that so many big-name stars have been able to ignore her and continue to work with Allen.

It is a testament, of course, to his talent. The bigger the talent, the greater the transgressions allowed the artist. Roman Polanski benefits from the same largesse. Likewise Australian artist Donald Friend, an open paedophile who abused scores of Balinese children, and whose work was widely displayed and bought in Australia until a recent documentary tracked down his victims and branded their pain, and their damage, in the face of Friend's admirers.

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The male icons keep falling: how #MeToo has turned into 'Oh god, not you too?'

When we look up at our leaders and see a male figure we are naturally asking who they will be next, then somehow society's talent pool will be drained.

That we need these men, whose flaws interweave so closely with their talents. This line of argument amazes me - there's no one making it ever seems to be flipped, and consider the deep well of female talent that has been squandered or unrealised because of hostile working environments.

All that talent wasted, because instead of a hand up, we got a hand on the leg.

Twitter: @JacquelineMaley

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11-890
After Burke visited, we felt like scrubbing the house.
Man up and show respect for women
celebrity life

ABC roasts Don Burke with sketch instructing viewers how to grow an alleged sex harasser

THE ABC's new late-night talk show has premiered with a comedy segment based on the Don Burke sexual harassment allegations. But not everyone finds it amusing.

Amelia Saw

A WEEK ago Don Burke was outed as an alleged sexual harassment perpetrator, he's already become the subject of a daring new comedy sketch show.

ABC's new late night talk show Tonightly with Tom Ballard has premiered with a jaw-dropping opening episode, featuring a spoof gardening segment promising to teach viewers how to grow an alleged sex harasser.

however, the controversial sketch has drawn concern from some gender advocacy groups.

Shaan Ross-Smith is the director of the Mate Bystander Program, linked to Griffith University, which travels Australia educating communities on gender inequality and recognising abuse.

"It's fraught with danger doing satires on this stuff," she said.

"No one would do satires on paedophilia but in Australia we have this acceptance that it's OK to make jokes about things like this."

A week ago, Burke, of long-running gardening show Burke's Backyard, was the target of sexual harassment allegations against him.

And the seemingly en-pointe humour is enough to make even the most hardened viewers squirm.

"Today in our garden we're going to be talking about something very special: how to nurture and grow an alleged sexual harasser in the film and TV industry," said Jackson, 33, in a disarmingly cheery tone.
There's "industry standard" techniques, explained Jackson, such as telling complainants they "can't take a joke".

"This is particularly effective because not only in the woman now plagued by painful memories, she's also paranoid about her sense of humour," she said.

However, if things do get out of hand, Jackson suggested there's always a "good" retort in statements such as, "It was OK in the 70s", "I choose to live as a gay man" and "I have Asperger's", referring to comments by Hollywood producer Harvey

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