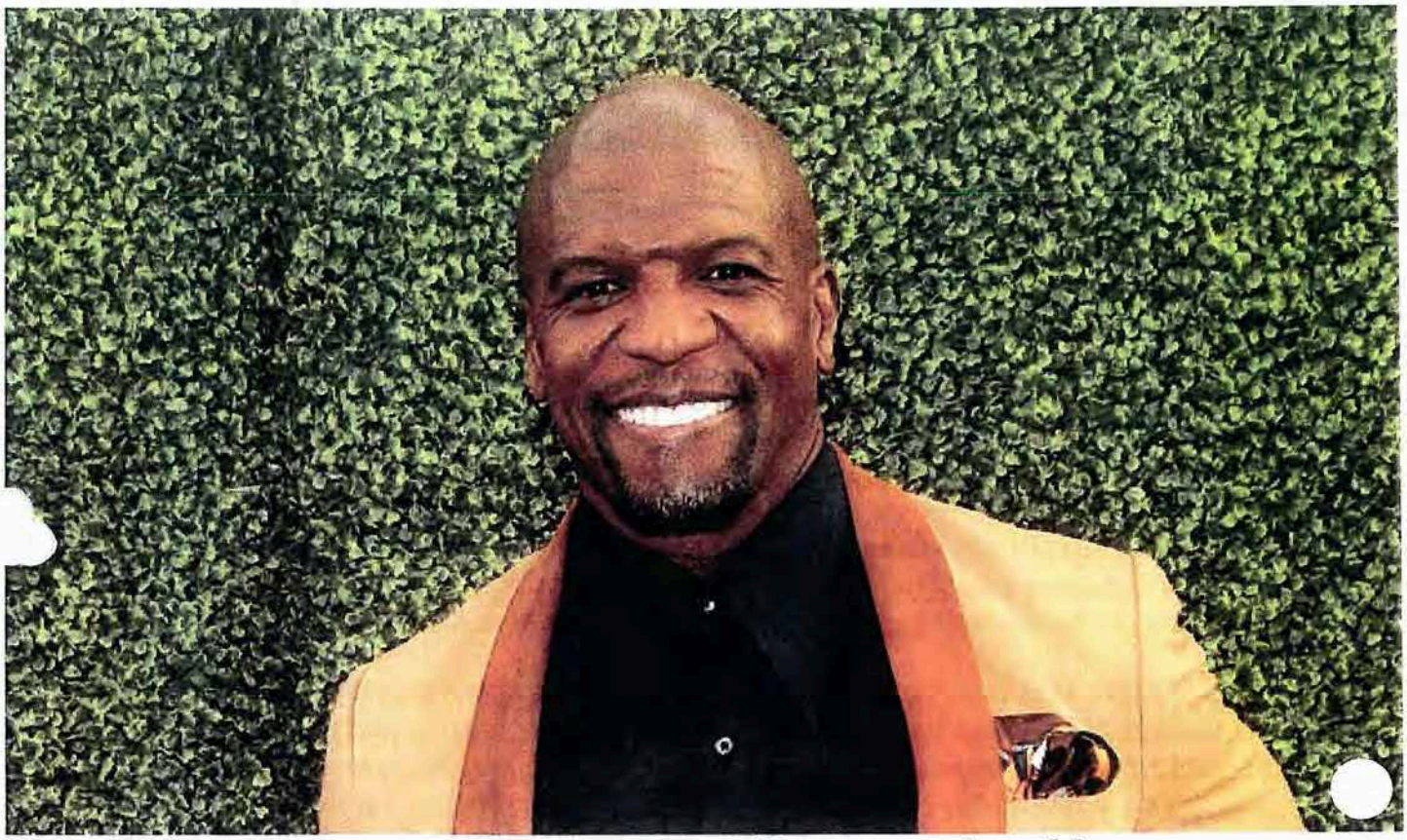
The Guardian



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

'ilym 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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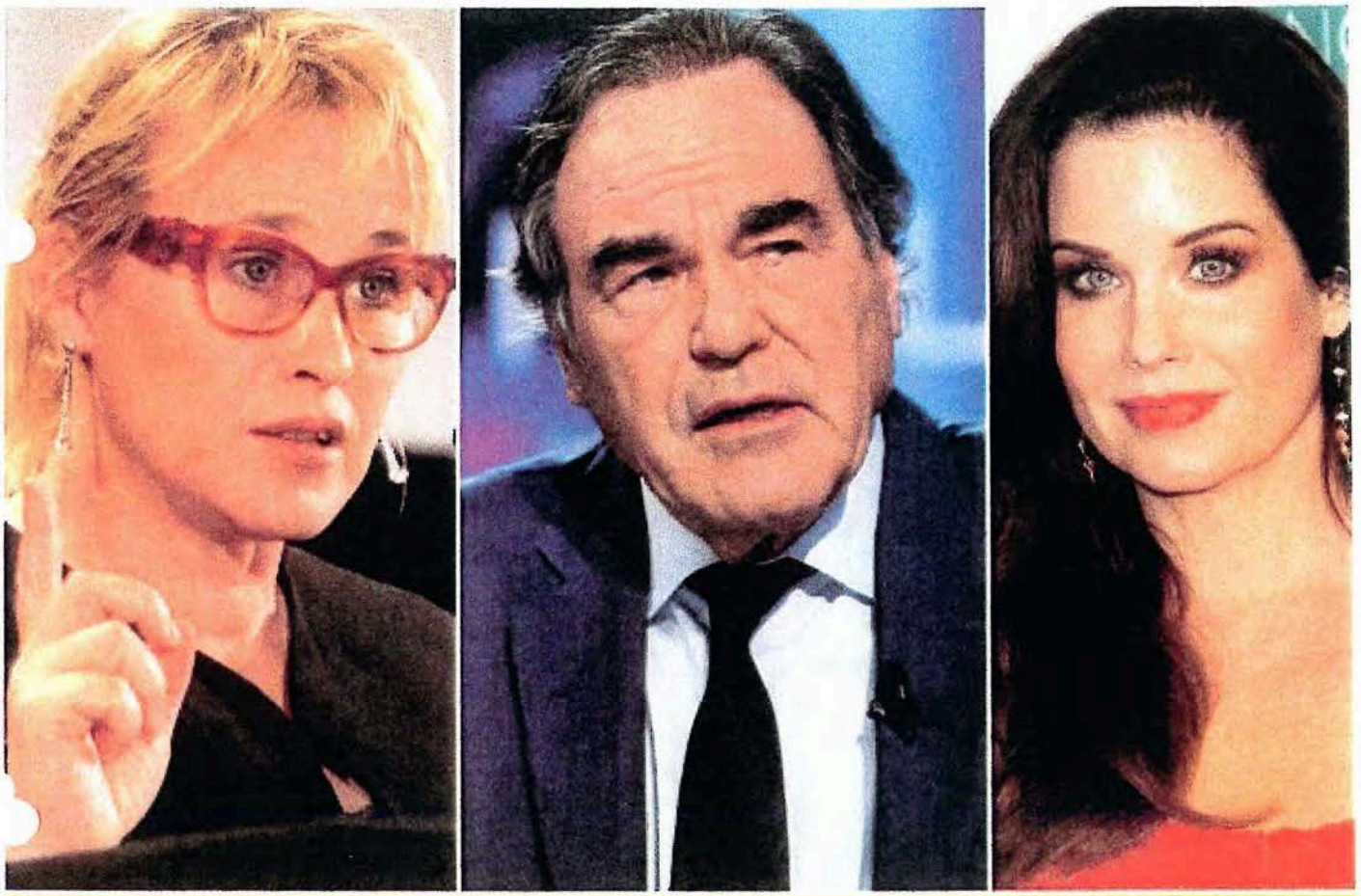
Patricia Arquette, former Playmate accuse Oliver Stone of harassment

By Ruth Brown

October 13, 2017 | 2:23pm



Patricia Arquette, Oliver Stone and Carrie Stevens
Getty Images

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 grab[bing] 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, **PATRICIA ARQUETTE**, **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

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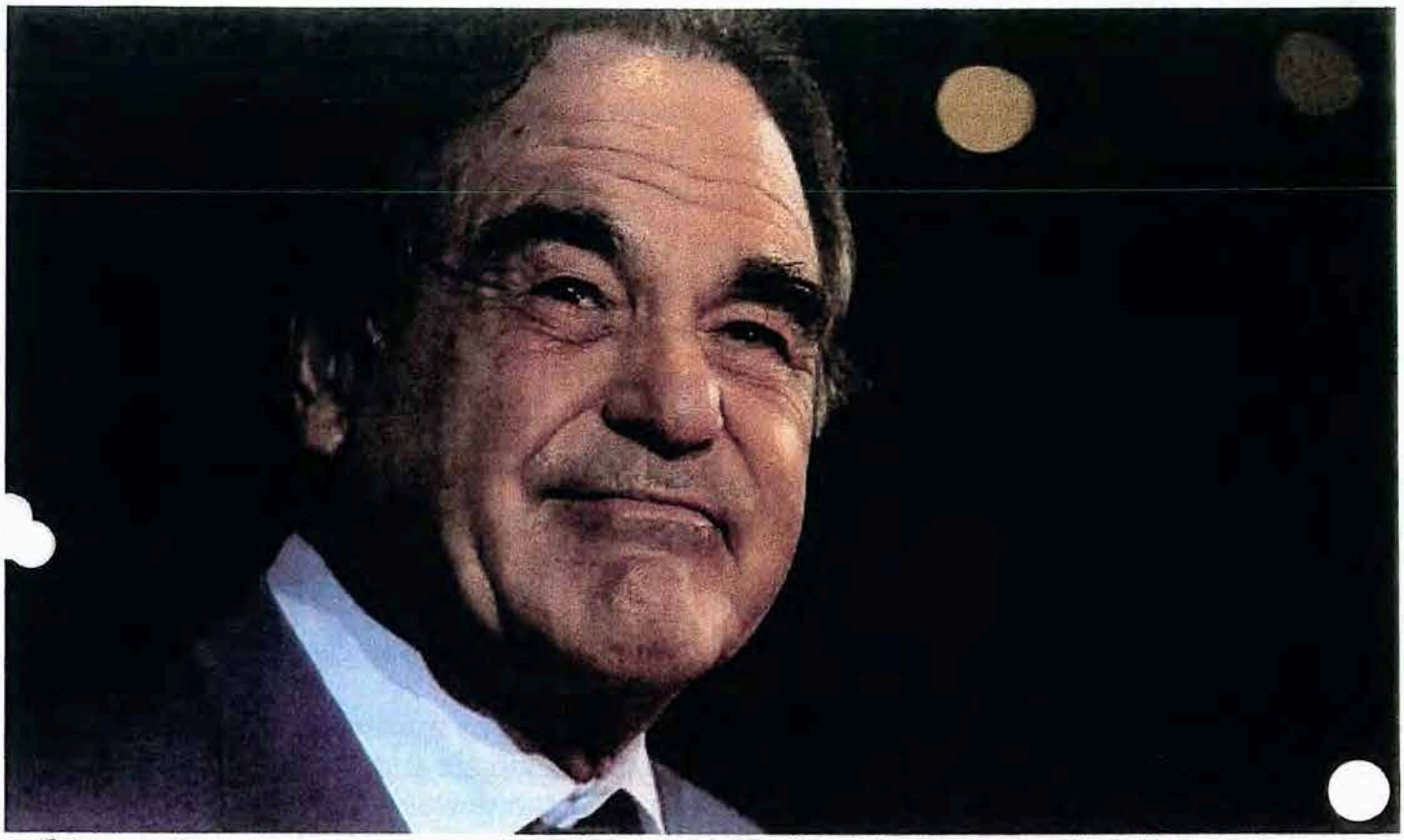

Oliver Stone accused of groping by former Playboy model

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.

"That's what's going on in Hollywood," she said. "That's why things have to change. He's Oliver Stone. Nobody's going to say anything."

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 Guantanamo, a Showtime series about ıe US detention unit that is being produced by the Weinstein Company. In his Facebook statement Stone said that he would "recuse myself from the Guantanamo series as long as th. 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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Oct 15, 2017 · 5 min read



Johnny Depp.

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 Brendon: 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.

Jonathan Rhys-Meyers: domestic violence.

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.

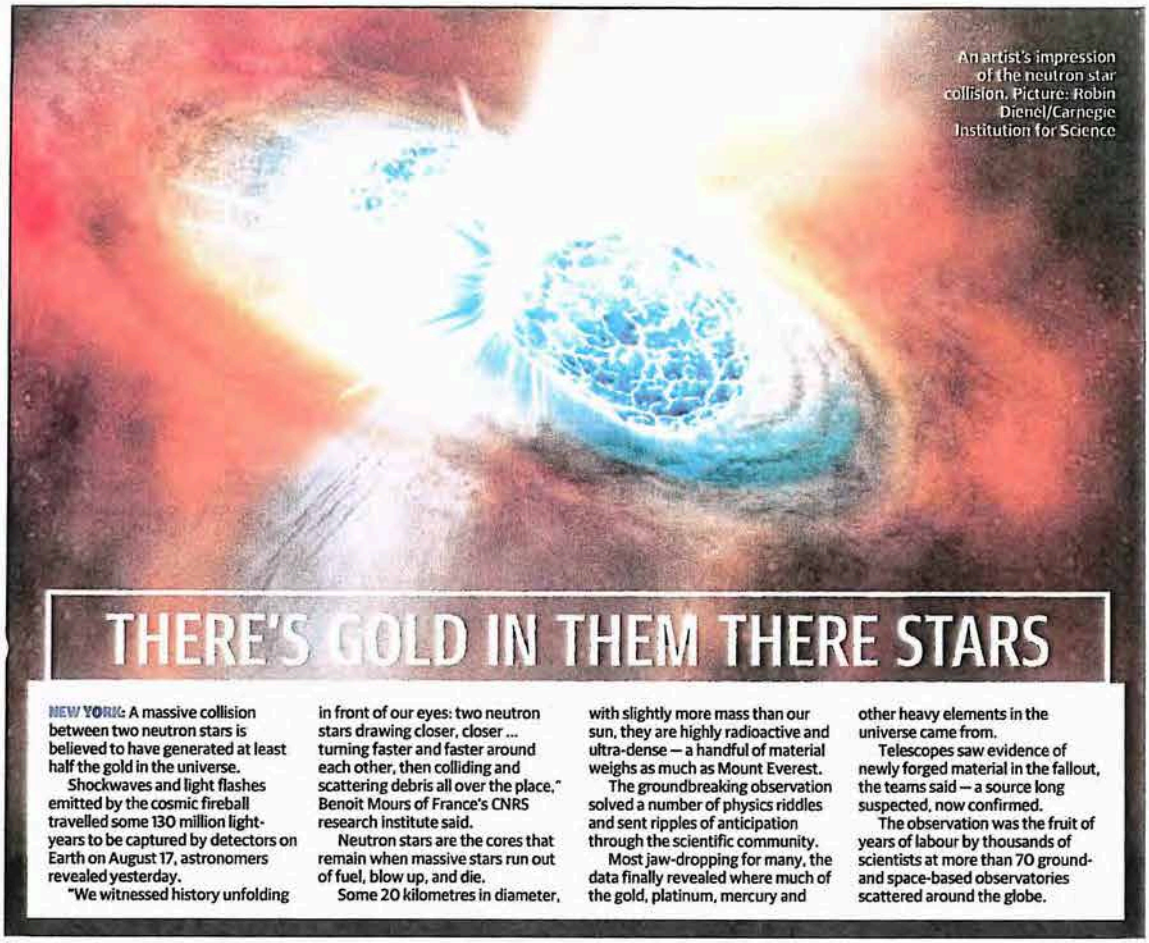
Matthew Weiner: sexual harassment.

Harvey Weinstein: sexual harassment and rape.

Billy Dee Williams: domestic violence.

Rainn Wilson: rape jokes.

James Woods: sexual harassment, propositioning minors, trans abuse.



An artist's impression of the neutron star collision. Picture: Robin Dienel/Carnegie Institution for Science

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THERE STARS

NEW YORK: A massive collision between two neutron stars is believed to have generated at least half the gold in the universe.

Shockwaves and light flashes emitted by the cosmic fireball travelled some 130 million light-years to be captured by detectors on Earth on August 17, astronomers revealed yesterday.

"We witnessed history unfolding in front of our eyes: two neutron stars drawing closer, closer ... turning faster and faster around each other, then colliding and scattering debris all over the place," Benoit Mours of France's CNRS research institute said.

Neutron stars are the cores that remain when massive stars run out of fuel, blow up, and die.

Some 20 kilometres in diameter, with slightly more mass than our sun, they are highly radioactive and ultra-dense — a handful of material weighs as much as Mount Everest.

The groundbreaking observation solved a number of physics riddles and sent ripples of anticipation through the scientific community.

Most jaw-dropping for many, the data finally revealed where much of the gold, platinum, mercury and other heavy elements in the universe came from.

Telescopes saw evidence of newly forged material in the fallout, the teams said — a source long suspected, now confirmed.

The observation was the fruit of years of labour by thousands of scientists at more than 70 ground- and space-based observatories scattered around the globe.

Exposer dies in car bomb

VALLETTA: An investigative journalist who exposed Malta's links to offshore tax havens through the leaked Panama Papers has died in a powerful vehicle explosion.

Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed when a bomb blew up her car on the small Mediterranean island.

Ms Galizia, 53, ran a hugely popular blog in which she highlighted cases of alleged high-level corruption.

"There are crooks everywhere you look now. The situation is desperate," she wrote in a blog published just half an hour before the blast.

Chipocalypse looms for NZ

WELLINGTON: New Zealanders are bracing themselves for a chip crisis as farmers warn of a potato shortage.

The imminent "chipoc. lypse" — as it has been dubbed — is because of persistent wet weather hitting production.

The rainfall, which included serious floods in the North and South islands, has wiped out 20 per cent of the annual potato crop. As a result, the price of potatoes has risen by 30 per cent in 12 months.

The Foodstuffs supermarket chain said shortages could last into the new year.

Fines for wolf-whistling

France cracks down on sexual harassment of women in public spaces

PARIS: A new law banning catcalling, wolf-whistling and harassment of women on French streets will see men fined on the spot for lecherous and aggressive behaviour, 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 34-year-old Marlene 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 #balancetonporc ("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 17 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 neighbourhood police would act on complaints by women.

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

The legislation will include provisions such as lengthening the amount of time wom have to lodge sexual assau complaints dating from their childhood and toughening laws on sex with minors.

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



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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 far 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?

What a joke. Lisa Wilkinson is hailed as a crusader for equal pay because she quit Channel 9 for getting less than Today co-host Karl Stefanovic.

But hang on: snapped up by Channel 10 for The Project, she'll now be paid three times more than her new co-host Waleed Aly. Same job, different pay.

Wilkinson will get a reported $1.5 million or more from Channel 10, against Aly's $500,000 or so. Where's the equality there? Should Aly now claim he's a victim of racism? Of Islamophobia?

Actually, no. Wilkinson will also do the same job as Project co-host Carrie Bickmore, yet will be paid staggeringly more than her, too.

So why is the media buying this myth that Wilkinson is the victim of a wicked media company that refused to pay her the same as a bloke doing the same job?

Check the media spin, pushed by sources "close to" Wilkinson.

"I want you guys to close the gender pay gap," she reportedly told Nine, cross that she was getting $1.1 million to Stefanovic's $2 million.

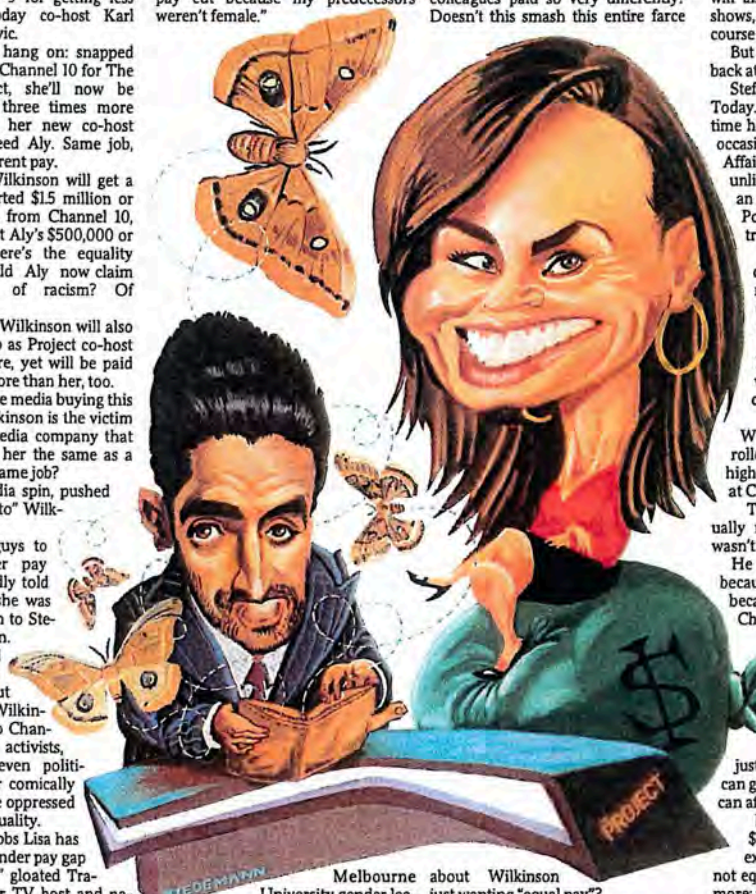
Nine offered another $700,000, but wasn't enough. Wilkinson stormed off to Channel 10, with activists, journalists and even politicians praising her comically as a heroine of the oppressed and warrior for equality.

"By changing jobs Lisa has highlighted the gender pay gap like never before," gloated Tracey Spicer, former TV host and national convener of Women in Media.

Federal Labor leader Bill Shorten agreed: "(She) put the national spotlight on the gender pay gap ..."

It got even crazier. In Fairfax media, management consultant Kasey Edwards praised Wilkinson as a woman who " fought for equal pay".

Yes, yes, echoed Gladys Berejiklian, herself so oppressed that she's forced to work as Premier of NSW: "That would be akin to me getting a pay cut because my predecessors weren't female."



Melbourne University gender lecturer Lauren Rosewarne peddled the same fake line:

"It's deplorable — we have a visual encapsulation of two people doing exactly the same job yet earning different money."

We do?

What, like Waleed Aly and Wilkinson? Those two co-hosts, you mean, Lauren — both doing the same job but on different money?

Or Bickmore and Wilkinson, also colleagues paid so very differently? Doesn't this smash this entire farce about Wilkinson just wanting "equal pay"?

Of course, there's a wild chance the media has got it all wrong.

Maybe Wilkinson secretly warned Channel 10 she'd refuse to join The Project unless it paid her not a dollar more than co-hosts Aly, Bickmore and comedian Peter Hellier.

Yeah, right.

Of course, Wilkinson's defenders will say she'll do more for Ten than host The Project on Sundays and appear on the panel on weekdays. She will also reportedly host two other shows, as yet unannounced, which of course means she deserves more pay.

But it was exactly the same story back at Channel 9.

Stefanovic doesn't just co-host Today. He has also hosted a prime-time hit, Same Time Next Year, and occasionally filled in at A Current Affair and filed for 60 Minutes. And, unlike Wilkinson, he didn't have an outside deal with Huffington Post that stopped him from contributing to Nine's digital media.

What's more, he's a proven drawcard — or was, before his messy divorce. But there's little evidence that Wilkinson is also prime-time talent.

Nor is it at all clear that Nine is a network that pays women less than men just because it's sexist.

Anyone remember Jana Wendt? The "Perfumed Steamroller" was reputedly Australia's highest paid television star — and at Channel 9.

True, Stefanovic was paid unusually more than Wilkinson, but it wasn't because he was a man.

He was paid more not only because he did more work, but because he was set to defect to Channel Seven. Nine back then — before Stefanovic's divorce — paid as much as it had to keep a talent it thought too commercially important to lose and too hard to replace.

Wilkinson has herself just discovered just how much you can get if you threaten to quit — and can afford to.

Nine offered her another $700,000, yet she wanted an extra $500,000 on top, giving her not equality with Stefanovic but a lot more: a total package of $2.2 million.

So spare me the tears and cheers for Wilkinson. A victim of sexism, now paid north of $1.5 million by Ten? A woman paid three times more than her co-hosts?

Until she's paid as little as poor Waleed Aly, I'm calling bull on this martyr for equality.

Why no mention of Bill's assault accusations?

Watching the ABC crawl 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. Sex 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 interviewed failed 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 litigated years before ...

FERGUSON: Should your response to him have been more visceral 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.

Juanita Broaddrick in 1999 claimed Bill Clinton raped her when he was Arkansas' attorney-general in 1978. Confidantes confirmed she'd had told them at the time, although Clinton denied it and Broaddrick 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, her friend and donor, was a serial molester of women.

But, hey, Clinton is a hero of the Left. A feminist. Why should she, or the ABC, believe nobody accusers in her way?

THE BOLT REPORT | 7PM WEEKNIGHTS sky NEWS LIVE

ASIO battling spy threat from China, Russia

PRIMROSE RIORDAN

Australia's peak spy agency is struggling to cope with the rise of foreign interference in Australia, with security analysts highlighting China and Russia as ongoing threats.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has revealed that foreign governments were undertaking activities aimed at ethnic and religious communities "designed to diminish their criticism of foreign governments".

"These activities ... represent a threat to our sovereignty, the integrity of our national institutions and the exercise of our citizens' rights," ASIO said in its annual report.

It said it was "overextended" in dealing with this "significant threat" to national security.

"The heightened terrorist threat this past decade, which has been further elevated in Australia since 2014, has limited our scope to redirect resources towards counter-espionage and foreign interference," the agency said.

ASIO's update comes amid a debate about Chinese government influence in Australia and after a warning from former Defence Department head Dennis Richardson about espionage operations in the country. He said China was not the only country undertaking such operations.

Neil Fergus, the chief executive of international consultancy Intelligent Risk, said there was a "fine line" between legitimate acts of soft diplomacy and foreign interference, and he believed that had been crossed by China in its activities in Australia.

"(The government is) putting pressure on individuals and to the extent it's been alleged that family members of some individuals have been threatened back in mainland China," Mr Fergus told *The Australian*.

> 'There are some Asian countries that monitor Australian citizens who came from their countries'
>
> NEIL FERGUS
> CONSULTANT

He said the Russian government's activities related more to "disinformation" campaigns, and other smaller countries were also threatening Australians.

"There are some Asian countries that monitor Australian citizens who came from their countries," Mr Fergus said.

A spokesman for Attorney-General George Brandis, who oversees ASIO, said he had previously warned about the threat of interference from foreign intelligence and undertaken a comprehensive review of Australia's espionage and foreign interference laws.

Labor MP Anthony Byrne, who is deputy chairman of the parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security, said the report was a wake-up call to the public and policymakers.

"The government (is planning) counter-espionage laws and foreign interference laws ... I think it's in the government's interests to fast-track this legislation," he said.

Opposition legal affairs spokesman Mark Dreyfus said Labor would consider any request for more resources to help ASIO.

Australian National University professor John Blaxland said foreign state interference in Australia was unprecedented.

"Because of the nature of Australian society it's easier to hide," he said.

"I don't think the government wants to point-blame but anecdotally it would appear that (Russia and China) are the stand-out lead performers in that field; they are at it hammer and tongs," he said.

Professor Blaxland said while it was legitimate to consider increasing resources to ASIO, it would not solve the problem.

"It's dealing with the symptoms not the cause — it's about addressing a deeper societal response and it's not something ASIO can do," he said.

Beijing pulls out of human rights dialogue with Canberra

Continued from Page 1

told Sky News. "We are concerned to ensure China remains a free trading nation."

Earlier this week, Ms Bishop was attacked by China's hawkish *Global Times* after she said she did not want to see "freedom of speech curbed in any way involving foreign students or foreign academics". Her comments were criticised by the *Global Times*, which editorialised that it was time for Chinese students to reconsider studying in Australia.

The Coalition government has been trying since early 2014 to get Beijing to commit to the next meeting of the Human Rights Dialogue. The dialogue was led on the Chinese side by a vice-minister and on the Australian side by a deputy secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In 2014 Gillian Triggs, then president of the Human Rights Commission, and a couple of Australian politicians, attended. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Li Baodong and the Australian delegation by Gillian Bird, then a DFAT deputy secretary and now Australia's ambassador to the UN.

The Chinese leadership, under the more assertive and nationalist direction of Mr Xi, has moved decisively away from this dialogue with Australia. Through the first half of 2015 Canberra pro-



Bishop

posed dates for the next dialogue meeting to be held in Australia, but the Chinese would never agree to a specific date.

Late in 2015 Beijing informed Canberra the dialogue could continue only if it were downgraded several levels and conducted on the Chinese side by a deputy director-general in the Foreign Ministry. This is a vastly more junior position in the Chinese system than vice-minister. The Canberra equivalent would be assistant secretary. The Chinese also no longer wanted Australian politicians or representatives from Australian agencies other than DFAT to attend.

Under Ms Bishop's direction, Canberra refused the downgrading of the dialogue, because it continued to regard human rights as important, and offered to send a DFAT deputy secretary to Beijing to discuss human rights generally and also the future of the Human Rights Dialogue. Beijing refused.

Early this year Ms Bishop wrote to her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, pursuing a suggestion that the formal vice-minister-level dialogue continue once every three years but that annual "intersessional" talks at deputy director-general go ahead.

This was viewed in Canberra as a substantial compromise. *The Australian* has seen this correspondence, which was never formally answered by the Chinese.

Ms Bishop discussed the matter with Mr Wang when he visited Canberra early this year and thought she had secured his agreement to hold a high-level dialogue every three years and a lower officials' dialogue annually.

However, when DFAT tried to tie down Beijing to a date, the Chinese Foreign Ministry insisted that the lower-level talks were the full human rights dialogue and there was no prospect of restoring talks at the vice-minister level.

Ms Bishop unsuccessfully lobbied her Chinese counterpart again when she met him in Manila in August.

The Chinese have now refused point-blank to continue the dialogue at the vice-minister level. The Turnbull government holds out some hope that Australia's election to the UN Human Rights Council will encourage Beijing to resume the Dialogue.

In his speech yesterday, Mr Xi declared: "We will comprehensively push China as a great nation and continue to increase China's influence."

Cash plan to dam union 'rivers of gold'

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

Employment Minister Michaelia Cash will introduce new laws today imposing tight regulatory controls on worker entitlement funds under a move that could deny unions $25 million a year.

The Proper Use of Worker Benefits Bill seeks to deny unions access to millions of dollars in so-called "rivers of gold" the Coalition claims flows from redundancy and income protection funds controlled by unions and employers.

Senator Cash said last night the bill, the latest in a series of Coalition legislative moves aimed at weakening unions, would be introduced into the House of Representatives today.

"Evidence uncovered at the trade union royal commission showed extensive misuse of worker entitlement funds (and) the government's legislation will protect workers' money and ensure it is used for them," she said.

"Unfortunately, certain unions seem to think that making large profits by skimming from these funds is more important than ensuring that the money is actually used for the benefits of members."

But the fate of a separate bill designed to kill off the merger between the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and the Maritime Union of Australia is uncertain, with the Coalition yet to secure crossbench support.

The Ensuring Integrity bill was due to be considered by the Senate this week but the government has delayed bringing it on for debate. Crossbenchers Nick Xenophon and David Leyonhjelm have expressed concern about the bill which is opposed by Labor and the Greens.

The crossbench combined with Labor senators earlier this week to defeat a Coalition bid to increase maximum penalties for breaches of secondary boycotts provisions, or "sympathy strikes" from $750,000 to $10 million.

Under the Proper Use of Worker Benefits bill, redundancy and income protection funds would be prevented from making payments to unions and employers, with surplus funds either retained and used to benefit employees or returned to employers who made the contributions.

Disclosures to the Australian Electoral Commission show, in the past five years, an average of $25m a year has been paid to 14 unions from the interest earnings of employee entitlements funds, which combined have an estimated value of more than $2 billion.

Meanwhile, Labor says it will, if elected, consider changing federal workplace laws to give increased powers to the Fair Work Commission to address the gender pay gap.

Opposition workplace relations spokesman Brendan O'Connor said the resignation of TV presenter Lisa Wilkinson had elevated gender inequality debate, and Labor was examining laws to potentially allow the commission to play a "more proactive" role.

Lisa goes out as Nine goes ballistic



Former *Today* show host Lisa Wilkinson uses her time away from television to pay a visit to the local bottle shop DIIMEX

DANA McCAULEY
STEPHEN BROOK

Lisa Wilkinson spent her second day of freedom from breakfast television dodging paparazzi and visiting her local bottleshop, as an angry bust-up between the TV star's agent Nick Fordham and Nine soured relations between the network and its main point of contact for high-profile stars.

The well-known celebrity agent — who also represents his brother Ben Fordham, the host of Nine's hit show *Australian Ninja Warrior*, and potential Wilkinson replacement on *Today* Sylvia Jeffreys — has denied claims he or his client leaked details of her salary talks with Nine to the press, sparking the breakdown of negotiations and her defection to Ten.

Mr Fordham dismissed as "complete bullshit" any suggestion that he or Wilkinson was the source of a column that appeared in *The Sunday Telegraph* at the weekend claiming that Nine's talks had stalled with Australia's "most loved yet undervalued personality", and criticising the disparity of her pay with that of co-host Karl Stefanovic.

The hard-bargaining agent has some of the nation's best-known media personalities on his books, and provides Nine with on-air talent including cricket commentators Mark Taylor and Ian



Chappell, news reporter Julie Snook and news presenter and NRL commentator Wally Lewis.

So incensed was he by the suggestion that he copied in Nine's public relations boss in his response to emailed questions from *The Australian*, after venting his fury over the phone at the damaging suggestions.

"No" was the blunt response given by Mr Fordham, when asked if he or Wilkinson had any involvement.

He said negotiations had broken down because his client and Nine were simply "unable to reach an agreement".

It is understood Wilkinson rejected an offer to increase her $1.1m salary to $1.8m, which fell short of the $2.3m package she had demanded.

Wilkinson's departure delivered a ratings boost to the *Today* show on Tuesday as viewers tuned in to catch Karl Stefanovic's reaction to the news and see who would be sitting on the sofa, which turned out to be Nine colleague Deborah Knight.

The morning show attracted an audience of 301,000 metropolitan viewers, up from 274,000 on Monday and last week's average of 254,000.

Carrie Bickmore and Waleed Aly, Wilkinson's new colleagues on Ten's *The Project*, welcomed the journalist on air on Tuesday night, but behind the scenes it was said to be a different story.

Both stars, who are said to be on about $500,000 a year, were triumphant as they spoke of Wilkinson's decision to switch allegiances. "Nine's loss is our gain here at Network Ten," Bickmore said on air. "An incredible woman — smart, funny, down to earth. We couldn't be more excited."

Aly said: "That is great. I have always really loved Lisa and it is nice to be able to contractually say it now."

But behind the scenes it was a different story, with Bickmore said to have reacted angrily behind the scenes after failing to learn of Wilkinson's hiring before it was made public.

Relations between Nine and Wilkinson had degenerated over *The Sunday Telegraph* article, which Nine sources accused Wilkinson or her agent of planting. "Clearly some people are writing on behalf of the Lisa camp," a Nine source said.

The article was one factor in the decision by Nine Entertainment's chief executive, Hugh Marks, to withdraw the network's offer.

"It probably didn't help. He wasn't throwing in the towel by any stretch," the source said.

But other sources pin the source of the story from within Nine. Times had changed in the TV industry, a source said. "Huge pay packets for everybody and signing talent even if you don't have jobs for them, that's been gone a long time. Either you roll with that or you don't."

Talks involving Wilkinson, Mr Fordham, Mr Marks and current affairs boss Darren Wick were terminated by Nine the day after the article appeared.

Wilkinson, 57, announced her decision to leave *Today* on Twitter on Monday night, tweeting a statement from Nine revealing that contract negotiations had broken down after six months.

Wilkinson walked away after 10 years at *Today*, having demanded that Mr Marks "close the gender pay gap" between her and Stefanovic.

Spicer's shame file on 'serial predators'

DANA McCAULEY

Tracey Spicer has put Australia's media industry on notice, vowing to "name and shame" alleged perpetrators of sexual harassment and drag them before the courts.

The veteran journalist has received a deluge of messages from women who claim to have been subjected to inappropriate ... ments and physical contact ... male superiors, including se... complaints of indecent assaults.

"These are serial predators who've been enabled by their workplaces," Spicer told *The Australian*. "They deserve to be held to account over the way they have behaved over many decades."

There is a global surge of attention to workplace harassment, after Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was felled by accusations that he allegedly exploited women working under him.

"It's something that women need to get off their chest. We're actually looking at prosecutions, as well as exposing these people." Spicer said.

The gender equality advocate, who detailed her own experience of harassment in her book *The Good Girl Stripped Bare*, revealed a handful of men were the central focus of her investigation. She said the "weight of evidence" implicating the men still employed in senior media positions, had convinced her that the matters should be brought to police attention.

"We're talking about pussy-grabbing stuff in the workplace — and in front of witnesses. It's just ridiculous," she said.

Spicer tweeted an open call for women to contact her with their experiences, following discussion with fellow women about their Weinstein-like encounters.

"I've never seen anything like it and I've never had conversations like this that I've had in the past week, and I think it's just the tip of the iceberg," she said.

Sunday Telegraph national political editor Annika Smethurst ... mitted to being complicit ... "protection racket" surrou... sexual harassment in her pers... and professional life, while revealing in a column published at the weekend details of unwanted attention she had experienced.

Journalist Alison Mau said she was pleased when she heard her old boss had died. "The guy was a creep. He made our lives miserable," Maud wrote in the *Sunday Star Times* in New Zealand. It is understood she was referring to John Sorell, who died in 2009.

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

Continued from Page 1

the NDIS in 2011 has also demanded state and territory governments restore about $30 million in advocacy funding that has been, or is due to be, ripped from their budgets. It has also found the National Disability Insurance Agency, which is in charge of delivering the scheme, has been forced to focus on quantity over quality.

"The reality is that the rollout timetable for participant intake will not be met," the commission says, confirming a report in *The Australian* in May.

"If the trend of delivering about 80 per cent of the bilateral estimates (of people) continues, it will take an additional year before all eligible participants are in the scheme. And this delay could be longer if the scheme falls farther behind."

Social Services Minister Christian Porter said that, despite the finding, the Coalition had no intention of changing the rollout schedule. "To do so would delay people's access to the NDIS and access to the supports and benefits it provides," he said. "The Turnbull government is very pleased the report acknowledges the extraordinary level of commitment to the success and sustainability of the NDIS across all levels of government, participants, families and carers, providers and the community. It is also pleasing that the report properly acknowledges that the schedule originally recommended by the . commission was, with the benefit of hindsight, so ambitious that it was unlikely to have been met."

While the Productivity Commission chips the federal government for capping staff numbers at the agency — and falling behind on targets the commission now says were far too ambitious — its greatest concern is the behaviour of state and territory governments in relation to cost-shifting, control and obfuscation.

"It is important that governments do not prematurely withdraw from services, as any gaps that emerge will place added burdens on people with disability and their families," the report says.

"As the interface issues become clearer, it is important that incentives do not exist for individuals to prefer one system over another. Most critically, the NDIS should not be seen as an oasis of support, surrounded by a desert where little or nothing is available."

The problems have arisen from Gillard-era bilateral agreements that lacked detail. Some were worked out just 10 weeks before trials began and details have still not been clarified.

The Productivity Commission says it is "undeniable" that supply of workers and providers is "less than what will be required to deliver supports to participants" and recommended the federal government "adjust immigration policies where necessary" to provide for the future workforce.

The NDIA pre-empted the release of the report — which excoriates its use of approvals for support packages over the telephone and announced a new pathway for participants to gain access to support.

The move is an attempt at rebooting bad user experiences from the past and will eventually include a tailored pathway for people with severe mental illnesses.

Confirming that telephone planning would be dumped, NDIA chief executive Robert De Luca told *The Australian*: "What we want to do now is put a lot more emphasis on getting the information right early.

"This is very much about getting the quality right for participants and I think this won't have a huge impact on the end-to-end timeframe ... this will be a much more efficient model."

Cost pressures have emerged from multiple angles and although the NDIA knows roughly what impact these will have on the final cost of the NDIS, it is waiting for more data. What the agency has provided to the commission is previously unpublished modelling estimates about total scheme cost over time, taking into account inflation.

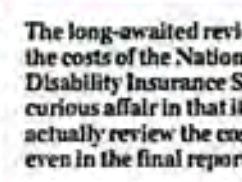
The scheme jumps from $22.3bn a year in 2019-20 to $30.6bn five years later and almost $41bn by 2030. Forecasts beyond are virtually useless, though the agency believes the NDIS will cost $113.6bn a year in 2049-50.

One of the biggest unexpected cost drivers has been the number of children who qualified for the scheme, far and above estimates. The largest single cohort of participants is children aged 14 years and under — 51,000 out of 122,000 clients — and almost half of these children have autism. One in three has an intellectual disability.

Despite the blowout in numbers, the Productivity Commission is incensed that the NDIA has set a "performance indicator target" of fewer than 50 per cent of children from any one provider of early-intervention services gaining access to the scheme. It describes this as an "unacceptable outcome" if children are denied access to the scheme on any measure other than proven need.

The review you have without a review

RICK MORTON
COMMENT



The long-awaited review into the costs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a curious affair in that it doesn't actually review the costs, not even in the final report.

Both the agency in charge of the rollout and the Productivity Commission say its too soon to reveal the true cost of the scheme. Make no mistake, the NDIS agency is swimming in data. It knows more about the prevalence of disability than any other outfit in the history of Australia and it knows the likely cost impact of "pressures" it has so far identified.

The rationale for delay is simple, however: wait nine more months and get double the data.

The commission says it agrees with the decision to wait but that by the end of the 2017-18 financial year there is no more reason to delay.

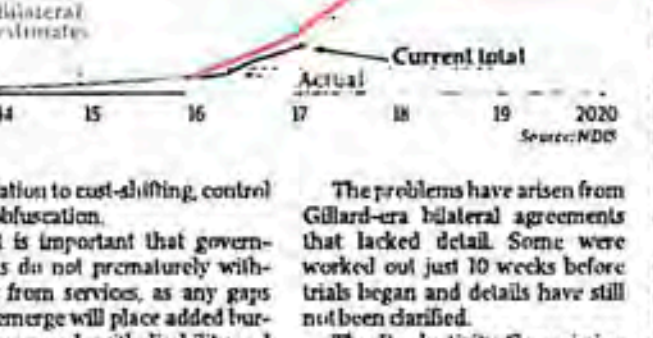
"While the NDIS is sometimes described as an 'uncapped scheme', the ultimate cap — and test of financial sustainability — is taxpayers' continuing willingness to pay for it," the PC says.

The time is fast approaching for the agency to lay its cards on the table, fully inform taxpayers (and for that matter, all governments) of how things are fairing and give everyone a chance to build the best scheme possible.

The pressing reality is that the NDIS was designed for those most in need of support. Cost overruns that result simply from fudging at the borders or from poor process will end up disadvantaging this very group.

The sooner any blowouts are identified, the better.

Number of participants in the NDIS



Cops find bikie's nest egg

RICHARD NOONE

A FULLY patched bikie is in contention for deadbeat dad of the year after he hid drugs in plastic Kinder Surprise eggs and did a burnout to keep his two-year-old son "happy".

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

On January 14 police pulled him over after he was seen doing a "wheelie" on a motorbike at Hamlyn Terrace. He was found to have 56g of cannabis in a glove in his pants.

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

When officers pulled him over they saw his two-year-old son in a child seat in the back beside an unrestrained dog.

According to police facts read in court, Mohan told police: "My young bloke started saying 'burnout, burnout daddy'. 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 12.68g of cocaine and 6.18g of MDMA hidden in Kinder Surprise eggs on a dresser in his bedroom, and unsecured fireworks in a spare room.

They also found an extendible baton, $1155 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 $259 million in excess mobile data fees in the past year. According to the website's data, that is $113 million 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.

Superstar reveals she was forced to strip naked

Dirtbags laid bare by J-Law



Jennifer Lawrence shortly before unleashing 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 sleazy sexual behaviour and assaults endured by Hollywood's female performers.

Hunger Games actor 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 line-up with other young women.

After enduring the "degrading and humiliating" experience 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 16 and she was told to keep quiet to stay employed.

Their frank revelations come 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 "indefinite leave" after he was accused of ignoring 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. She revealed her "true disgust" at the attack she suffered as a teenager and her fury that agents and producers made her feel she had to stay quiet to keep working.

Lawrence, who won an Academy Award for her role in Silver Linings Playbook, recounted how a female producer had forced her to take part in the nude line-up with "much, much thinner" actors to shame her into losing weight.

She said the producer "told me I should use the naked photos of myself as inspiration for my diet". Lawrence said she asked to speak to a male producer about the "unrealistic diet regimen".

"He responded by telling me he didn't know why everyone thought I was so fat, he thought I was perfectly 'f...able'," she said.

Meanwhile, NCIS actor Lauren Holly, 53, and Game Of Thrones star Lena Headey, 44, have become the latest to accuse Weinstein.

Headey said he was "furious" after she rejected his advances, while Holly said Weinstein approached her naked during a meeting and was angry when she refused to massage him.



STAR DIRECTOR GOES SOLO

OSCAR-winning director Ron Howard revealed yesterday the name of the new Lucasfilm spin-off about Han Solo — "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

In an online video, Howard said production on the film had been completed and he thanked the cast and crew for their work on the movie, which is due out next year.

As Howard mused aloud if he could disclose the until now unknown title of the flick, the hairy arms of a Wookiee appeared on screen and handed him a large placard, which Howard turned over to face the camera and spill the big news. The movie, set before the first Star Wars film in the franchise, tells the story of a young Solo, played by Alden Ehrenreich.



Ehrenreich.

Online breach had a Domino effect

CUSTOMERS of pizza chain Domino's Australia are complaining their personal data has been leaked, prompting eerie personalised emails from scammers.

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 supplier.

"It was a bit eery (sic) getting all these spam emails that somehow knew my name and suburb and initially were making it past the spam filter," Mitchell Dale posted on Domino's Facebook page.

In a statement on its website, Domino's Australia said there was no evidence to suggest there had been unauthorised access to its systems, but added: "We are investigating a potential issue with a former supplier's systems that may have led to a number of customer email addresses, names and store suburbs (related to pizza orders) being accessed," it said.

The company insists no financial information was accessed.

The Daily Telegraph
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AUNTY'S ONLINE OUTRAGE

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

SCOOP

DEADBEAT PARENTS FACING A LOCK-OUT

ROSE BRENNAN

THE birth parents of children who have been placed into foster care will have little say in whether the kids are adopted under sweeping law changes.

Under the proposal by the State Government, adoptions of vulnerable children will be fast-tracked and the rights of their deadbeat biological parents to interfere in the process slashed.

Case workers will no longer have to spend years trawling social media and knocking on doors to get consent from a birth parent for the child to be adopted into a loving and stable home. Consent will also no longer have to be given by birth parents who are in jail for an offence against the child.

Those birth parents who repeatedly fail to comply with their "parental duties" will not be able to block adoptions.

FULL REPORT PAGE 3

SCOOP

HOUSEHOLD NAMES AMONG SHAME FILE

JONATHON MORAN

VETERAN TV journalist Tracey Spicer claims she has uncovered up to 40 "household names" guilty of sexual harassment and assault while working in the nation's media industry.

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal in the US, Spicer this week vowed to "name and shame" those in the industry she claims have perpetrated indecent acts on colleagues.

"It is an absolute tsunami of sexual assault, intimidation and abuse. It is absolutely horrific," Spicer told The Daily Telegraph.

"There are 30 to 40 alleged offenders so far and I would say the vast majority of them would have more than one case against them. (Most) are household names, whether that is in a television presenting capacity or as an executive, they are very well-known people."

FULL REPORT PAGE 7


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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.

The Sun News Corp Australia Network OCTOBER 23, 2017 5:52AM

Video Image

MeToo movement inspires women to share their stories

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.





Woody Allen's twisted family past



'How did a reputable magazine publish this?'



Brooklyn posts 'topless' pic of Victoria



Sex Pistols star Johnny Rotten now unrecognisabl

advertisement



Foreign Minister Julie Bishop with directors James Toback (left) and Brett Rattner. Picture: Instagram *Source:Instagram*

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."



Former world heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson (left) and director James Toback attend a special screening of 2009 film Tyson in New York. Picture: Supplied *Source:AP*

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.

This Facebook post is no longer available. It may have been removed, or the privacy settings of the post may have changed.

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."

TRENDING IN ENTERTAINMENT



Woody Allen's wife Soon-Yi Previn breaks silence on Mia Farr...

advertisement





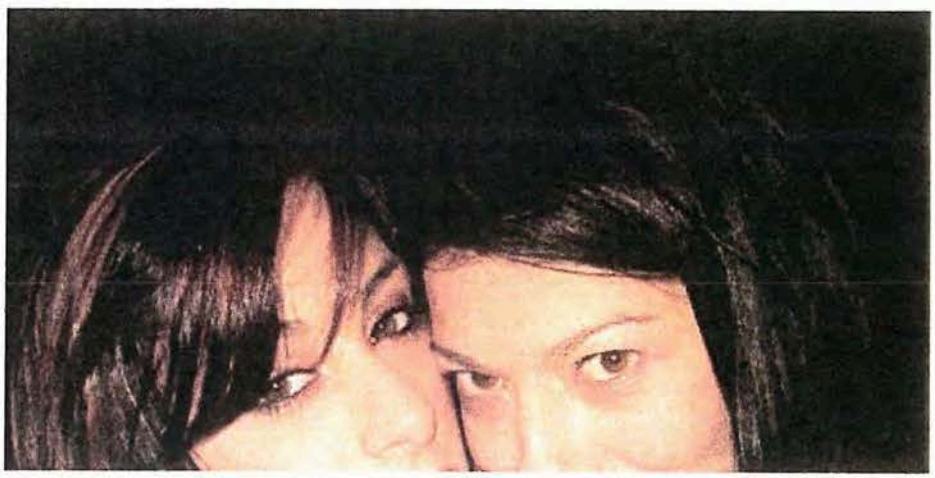
Terri Conn said she was 23 when James Toback approached on the street in New York and asked her to meet him in Central Park. Picture: Rob Rich/Splash News *Source:Supplied*

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.





Rinaldi/Facebook *Source:Supplied*

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."



ıca Salt rocker Louise Post claims she first met James Toback in 1987. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Limited*

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

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 #harveyweinstien 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 #metoo

4:35 AM - Oct 17, 2017

268 111 people are talking about this

Ironic. https://t.co/c5cwNmiCcU
— Selma Blair (@SelmaBlair) October 12, 2017

National World Lifestyle Travel Entertainment Technology Finance Sport

Anthony Bourdain
@Bourdain

Long overdue for this well known sack of shit: latimes.com/la-et-mn-james...

8:11 PM - Oct 22, 2017

10.6K 3,323 people are talking about this

Asia Argento
@AsiaArgento

So proud of my sisters for bringing down yet another pig: James Toback latimes.com/entertainment/...

8:55 PM - Oct 22, 2017

38 women have come forward to accuse director James Toba...
Director James Toback told women that he could put them in movies. But then, they say, he sexually harassed them. Toback has denied
latimes.com

6,702 1,778 people are talking about this

Kelley Raleigh
@kelleyraleigh

I have my own story about #jamestoback from when I was 18. It was vile & disgusting. He was around 50 at the time. That's why I believe her

Amber Tamblyn @ambertamblyn
I have an op-ed in tomorrow's Sunday @nytimes: I'm Done With Not Being Believed by Amber Tamblyn
mobile.nytimes.com/2017/09/16/opi...

2:50 PM - Sep 17, 2017

170 101 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.





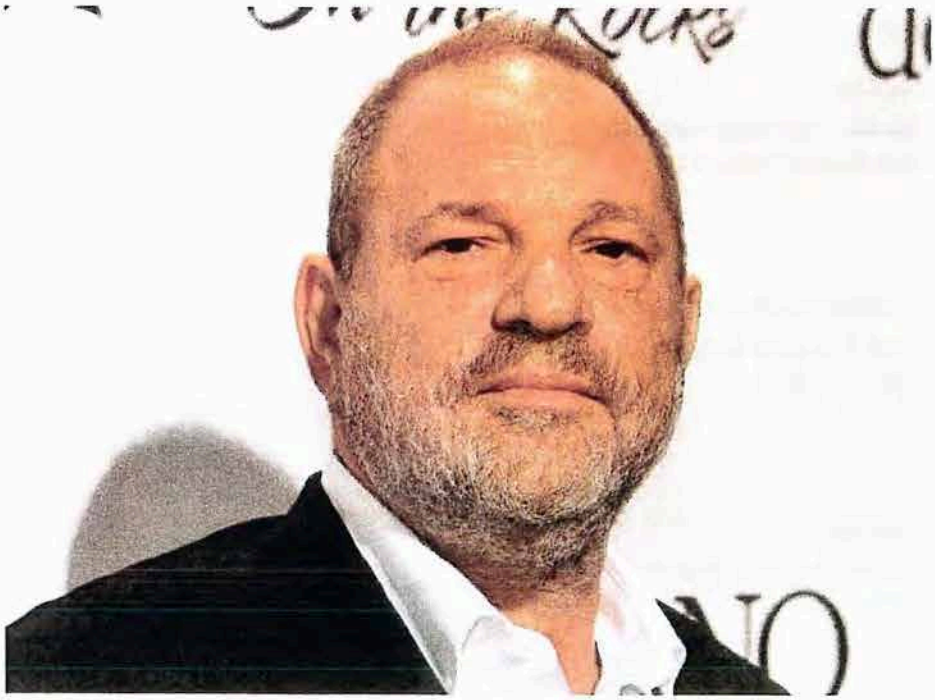


Alec Baldwin (left) and James Toback in a scene from 2013 documentary, Seduced and Abandoned. Picture: Supplied *Source:Supplied*

back 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 or sexually assaulting or harassing them. Picture: AFP/Yann Coatsaliou *Source:AFP*

Lupita Nyong'o Details Chilling Encounter with Harvey Weinstein

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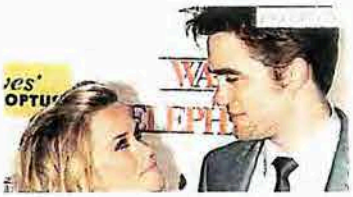

ZIMBIO

Co-Stars Who Shockingly Hated Each Other



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OPINION OURS & YOURS

SHORT & SWEET

RHETT: Are you kidding ("Australia Day dumped on", 15/10)? Citizenship during NAIDOC Week for immigrants and bleeding hearts that find Australia Day offensive? I find that highly offensive. That is un-Australian. Hopefully the government will stop this garbage.

JAMES: Criminals are buying guns on the black market ("Aussies buying guns on dark web", 15/10)? I cannot believe it. I thought they were using registered firearms! Oh, how naive I have been.

TONY: I've never been to Hollywood but I've heard of the "casting couch" (Angela Mollard: "Sex addiction is not a disease, it's an excuse for bad conduct", 15/10). One would think this sort of behaviour would be fairly widespread ... throughout the industry worldwide.

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

PHILLIP: 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). If they get a hiding next election, which is on the cards, there goes that person's chance in the future.

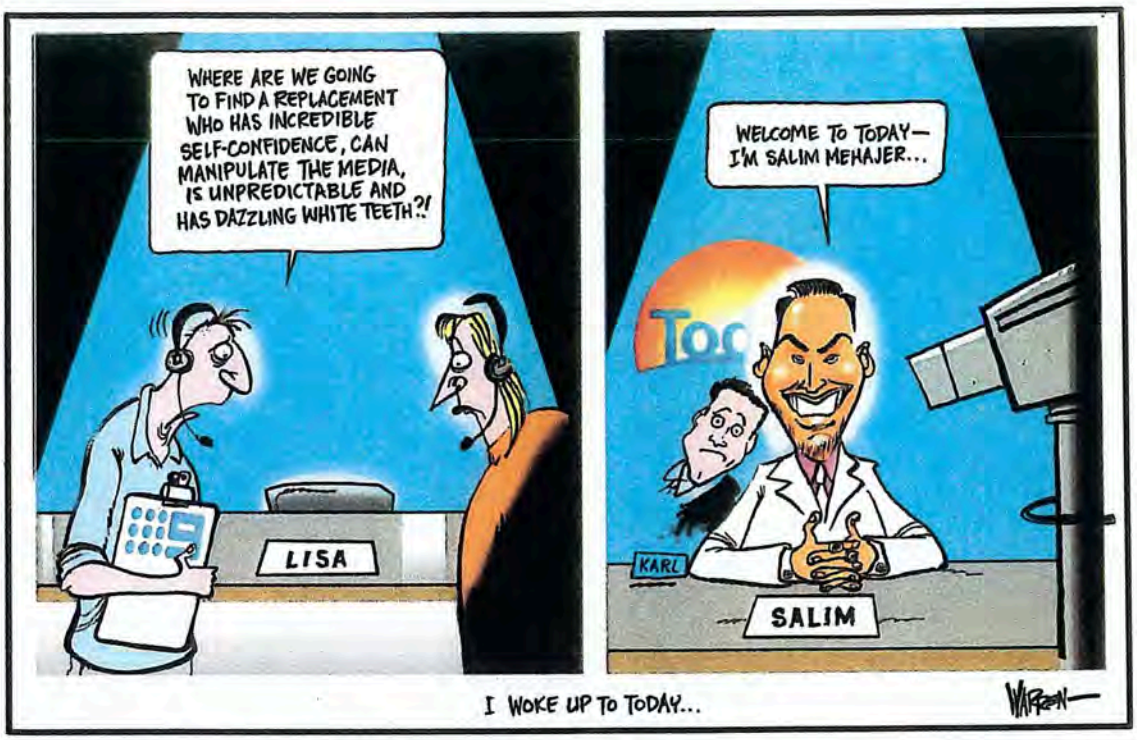
PAUL: Not quite right, Peta. We are not sick of killing off non-performing leaders. We are sick of them being replaced with other non- performers.

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

DARYL: The best chance the Libs 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 useless".

DENIS: The only hope for the government winning the next election is for Turnbull to resign to the backbench and allow a vote for a new leader. If Turnbull is still leader when Parliament resumes in the new year, then all is lost.

CEC: The Liberals' biggest "elephant in the room" is Abbott. Until he goes they are heading to opposition for years.



Given the policy paralysis of recent years, Peta Credlin rightly asks, "Is it any wonder people have lost faith in politics?" ("Dumping PM just can't be the answer", 15/10).

Punters' disappointment with our political leaders is understandable. By default, they are expected to present and implement clear, strong, coherent, big-picture policies to deal with economic and social issues. Debates and controversies are part and parcel of politics and should be regarded as trials that strengthen our leaders' resolve. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's so-called traditional Cabinet model of a wide consultative government appears to have him waiting for a consensus to play out on many issues.

He should heed Martin Luther King Jr's advice that a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus.

STEVE NGEOW
CHATSWOOD

STAND UNITED TO DEFEAT LABOUR

It will be utter foolishness to keep changing leaders and changing the deck chairs like the infamous opposition in Canberra and NSW.

I was an Abbott supporter but now that he is gone to the backbench, the conservatives have to be united to defeat Labor at the next election.

Tony Abbott will find it hard to get his backstabbers to support him if he were to stand again.

If Labor gets in, the country will be ruined forever. Some form of carbon tax, subsidies for any alternative energy scheme such as windmills and solar panels, increased renewable targets and so on — all leading to high energy cost — illegal people smugglers sending in boats, with increased risk of terrorism, increased taxes, increased spending and lower living standards.

Stick to the present leader Malcolm Turnbull and remain united. The conservatives are the better of the two parties as there is no other alternative.

JOHN
ONLINE COMMENT

Weinstein not the only one — name the others

Harvey Weinstein is the latest (Angela Mollard: "Sex addiction is not a disease, it's an excuse for bad conduct", 15/10). Nobody can tell me he's the only one. There must be dozens of directors, producers, agent and actors, dangling access to show business in order to coerce the young 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?

MORPH
ONLINE COMMENT

IT'S ENABLERS WHO PROTECT DOERS

Aren't we told that the standards we walk past are the standards we accept?

Didn't Weinstein's accusers walk past his 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 cocooning them with silence and allowing them to continue their dreadful behaviour. Once the conduct is revealed, the enablers scramble to reinvent themselves as brave souls who tried to change things from the inside.

The truth is more sordid: they knew but out of their own self-interest they did nothing.

IAN
ONLINE COMMENT

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 swooned away hoping for riches — and so many got what they wanted, at any price. I do not condone this behaviour, but I reckon 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 too much power can be a tyrant, in so many ways.

ROSA
ONLINE COMMENT

LISTEN TO YOUR SUPPORTERS

What will it take Malcolm Turnbull and his inept frontbench to start listening to the Liberal Party supporters?

Surely, Mr Turnbull must realise that unless he actually does something and stops his Kevin Rudd-like waffling, his time as PM is fast running out.

It is time to start acting like a Liberal government instead of a Labor-lookalike. Tacky refunds 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 if a private company purchases anything, they do so to make a profit.

JANICE RUSSELL
MALUA BAY

WHOEVER UNITES SHOULD LEAD

Whoever can unite the Left and Right factions 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.

STEPHEN
ONLINE COMMENT

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 slowly move to renewable energy, which no matter what the flat-earthers think is the way of the future.

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

SAM
ONLINE COMMENT

WHERE ARE HENDO AND BAYLY NOW?

I am dismayed that your selection of stars ("101 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.

JONATHAN RIXON
CHERRYBROOK

TELE01201MA - V1

The Guardian



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

ssociated 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.

lew 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 ecades. Spy magazine wrote about him in 1989 and the now-defunct website Gawker also olished 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."

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LANDSLIDE VICTORY PUTS NATIONALIST ON TRACK TO BE JAPAN'S LONGEST-SERVING PRIME MINISTER

Abe aims at Kim after poll win

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to work with the US, China and Russia to contain North Korea's nuclear threat with "strong, resolute diplomacy", as he "humbly" accepted his landslide election victory yesterday.

Fresh from clinching a two-thirds "super-majority" that enables the nationalist to realise his dream of revising Japan's pacifist constitution, Mr Abe vowed to forge a "national consensus" on the divisive issue. He said he would "confirm close co-operation" on North Korea with Donald Trump when the US President visits Japan next month and then discuss the issue with the Chinese and Russian leaders.

"I have renewed my determination to secure people's lives and peaceful living, no matter what," said Mr Abe, 63.

North Korea, which has threatened to "sink" Japan and fired two missiles over its northern islands, dominated the 12-day campaign.

"We will solve North Korea's missile, nuclear and abduction issues with strong, resolute diplomacy," he said in reference to the abduction of Japanese by Pyongyang in the 1970s and 80s.

Mr Abe's conservative coalition was on track to win at least 313 seats with only a handful left to call, according to public broadcaster NHK, giving him the two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament. He is now set to become Japan's longest-serving prime minister, winning a fresh term at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy and key US regional ally.

North Korean belligerence helped the ruling coalition because "people are scared" and voted for Mr Abe's hardline stance, said Gerald Curtis, professor of political science at Columbia University.

"I focused on the national defence issue because I am concerned about North Korea. So I chose the party that will work firmly on this issue," voter Tsuyoshi Ushijima, 66, said.

However, while local media acknowledged a landslide victory, many attributed Mr Abe's win to a weak and ineffective opposition and urged caution.

"The voters didn't think the opposition parties were capable of running a government ... they chose Prime Minister Abe, who is at least better, even if they had some concerns about the ruling coalition," said the Nikkei daily.

The Asahi newspaper said: "The Abe brand is not as strong as it was before. There are some signs that voters are seeking a change in the situation whereby Abe is the only decent option." According to an exit poll by Kyodo News on Sunday, 51 per cent of voters said they do not trust Mr Abe, with 44 per cent saying they did.

Turnout was expected to be only a fraction higher than the all-time low in the 2014 poll. It was boosted by people voting early to avoid a typhoon, which smashed into Japan on election day.

The opposition Party of Hope, formed only weeks before the election by popular Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, suffered a drubbing. It won just 49 seats according to the NHK projections.

A chastened Ms Koike, speaking in Paris, where she was attending an event in her capacity as leader of the world's biggest city, said it was a "very severe result" for which she took full responsibility.

The new centre-left Constitutional Democratic Party outperformed Ms Koike's group but trailed Mr Abe with 55 seats.

"People are reluctant about Prime Minister Abe, but then who would you turn to? There is no one," said professor Naoto Nunaka of Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

Mr Abe, who has been criticised for arrogance, vowed to face the challenge posed by the victory "humbly". He struck a cautious note on possible revisions to the US-imposed constitution, saying he would "deepen" debate in parliament on the divisive issue but not seek to ram anything through.

Any changes to the document must be ratified by both chambers of parliament and then in a referendum, with surveys showing voters are split on the topic.

"Abe would want to see a constitutional revision but we know he is ideologically on the right and he's very pragmatic at the same time. And I think that pragmatism will force him to back off from pushing that issue too hard," said Professor Curtis.

Many voters stressed the economy was their biggest concern. The Prime Minister's "Abenomics" strategy of ultra-loose monetary policy and huge government spending has failed to rekindle the former Asian powerhouse.

But investors cheered the victory, with the benchmark Tokyo index up 1.11 per cent, extending a winning run that has seen 15 straight consecutive gains for the first time in its near 70-year history.

AFP

INQUIRER P9
MARKETS P28



AFP

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to secure 'peaceful living, no matter what' at his party headquarters in Tokyo yesterday



Divided opposition the parties of no hope against skilful PM

PETER LANDLES
TOKYO

A challenge to Shinzo Abe by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike fell far short, highlighting the often underestimated political skills of the Japanese Prime Minister.

Ms Koike's month-old Party of Hope was likely to win about 50 seats in the 465-seat lower house of parliament while Mr Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party won a clear majority.

Ms Koike did not stay in Japan to follow the results, flying to Paris the day before the vote to attend an international gathering of city leaders. "This is a complete defeat," she said in Paris.

Instead of bringing together critics of Mr Abe, she said, the Party of Hope itself "became a target of criticism from everyone".

It was the mirror image of local Tokyo elections on July 2, when backers of Ms Koike swept to majority control of the Tokyo assembly, while Mr Abe's party suffered its worst result in a Tokyo assembly election.

In forming the Party of Hope as a nationwide vehicle for her ambitions, Ms Koike gambled that voters across Japan would follow Tokyo's lead. She said she shared Mr Abe's pro-US foreign policy and hawkish stance on North Korea but would bring fresh thinking to domestic issues by postponing a sales-tax increase and phasing out nuclear power.



Yuriko Koike

Although she declined to run for parliament herself, she campaigned aggressively for Party of Hope candidates. A former newscaster who is fluent in English, she served in parliament for more than two decades and held several ministerial posts, making her one of the most prominent female politicians in Japan.

The election "is a question of whether you're sticking to the status quo or want to take a bold step forward", she said in an interview as the campaign got under way, summing up her message with the English word "reformist".

Mr Abe's political instincts proved surer. In calling the election for Sunday — more than a year early — he judged that the opposition would be too disorganised to take full advantage of public criticism over cases where his government was accused of aiding his friends, analysts said.

Initially, the largest opposition group, the Democratic Party, said it would team up with Ms Koike's Party of Hope. Then Ms Koike announced her policy of "exclusion", demanding that anyone wishing to get her party's backing sign on to her hawkish defence stance. Centrist and left-leaning legislators rebelled and created their own new party, called the Constitutional Democratic Party.

The upshot: just as Mr Abe had forecast, the opposition was divided. Many candidates in Mr Abe's party failed to win a majority of votes in their districts but still won because the anti-Abe vote was divided among multiple opposition parties.

In her post-poll comments, Ms Koike nodded to the backlash against her exclusion policy. "If my words caused discomfort for anyone, I am sorry," she said.

Mr Abe need not call another election until October 2021, and he is likely to seek to stay in power through the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

He first served as prime minister in 2006-07 and retook the job in December 2012. If he stays past the Olympics, his time as Prime Minister, including the first stint, would be the longest in Japanese history.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Military reform still a step too far for Japanese

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
ANALYSIS

He calls it his "long-cherished dream", and for many of his conservative nationalist supporters it is the holy grail of political reform. Nothing of a historic misstep in recent decades.

After another poll landslide, will Prime Minister Shinzo Abe press on with his goal of changing Japan's pacifist constitution?

His coalition is close to the two-thirds "super-majority" that would enable him to call a referendum on constitutional amendments.

If he does not, one of the biggest opposition parties, the Party of Hope, also supports such a change.

But even with the parliamentary numbers on his side, constitutional reform is almost certainly beyond Abe's reach, for the simple reason that most Japanese do not want it.

Drawn up by General Douglas MacArthur's occupying US forces in 1947, Japan's constitution has never been amended. It replaced the constitution enacted in the name of the nation's first modern emperor, Meiji, under which Japan developed into a repressive military state that launched disastrous wars, first on the Asian mainland and then against the US.

The post-war constitution established a democratic political system based on a parliamentary model, with the emperor reduced to a politically powerless "symbol of the state and of the unity of the people". The constitution's most famous sentence, article 9, states that "Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation" and promises that "land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained".

The coming of the Cold War made a defenceless Japan inconvenient to the US, and the term "Self-Defence Forces" was devised to sustain the fiction that the country was adhering to article 9 while building up one of the largest and richest armed forces in the world.

Abe has scaled back his ambitions from cutting article 9 altogether to altering it to make the SDF legitimate — but referendums are dangerous undertakings, as British prime minister David Cameron learnt over Brexit.

Even tabling modest amendments would plunge Japan into a bitterly divisive debate that could easily backfire on the government.

It would risk rousing and uniting Japan's somnolent and divided left wing and provoking the kind of large-scale demonstrations that have not been seen since the 1970s. Opinion polls suggest that victory would be highly uncertain.

The chance for constitutional reform may come only once in a generation. Abe's nationalist supporters will want to make the push only when victory is certain.

THE TIMES

Rowhani lashes out at factional infighting

TEHRAN: President Hasan Rowhani said yesterday Iran's position in the Middle East had never been stronger but the regime was at risk unless infighting between political factions was curbed.

"The greatness of the nation of Iran in the region is more than at any other time," Mr Rowhani said in a speech in Tehran.

"In Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, northern Africa, in the Persian Gulf region — where can action be taken without Iran?"

Mr Rowhani did not directly respond to comments on Sunday by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who called on Iran-backed militias fighting jihadists in Iraq to "go home".

But despite its powerful position in the region, Mr Rowhani said Iran's regime was under threat from fierce infighting between conservatives and moderates at home. "We should not think that damaging one part of the system will strengthen the other part. No, the whole system will collapse," he said.

There has been renewed criticism from hardliners over the nuclear deal Mr Rowhani's administration signed with world powers.

On Sunday, state television read out in its entirety a letter by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei from 2015 in which he warned against trusting the US and other signatories to the deal. Although the accord was endorsed by Ayatollah Khamenei, hardliners have consistently lambasted Mr Rowhani for going too far in his efforts to build ties with the West.

Those criticisms have become more pointed in recent days as US President Donald Trump has thrown the nuclear deal's future into doubt, calling for renewed sanctions to rein in Iran's build-up of influence, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

But Mr Rowhani said his US counterpart was falling in his efforts to undermine the deal. "Every day (Trump) says this agreement is the worst deal in history. As he put it, it is shameful for America. But still he hasn't been able to do anything with this agreement," he said.

AFP

Sex accusers say film writer Toback promised fame

LOS ANGELES: Writer and director James Toback, who received an Oscar nomination for writing *Bugsy*, has been accused of sexual harassment by 38 women.

Many of the women allege Toback approached them on the streets of New York and promised stardom. His meetings would often end with sexual questions and Toback masturbating in front of them or dry-humping them, according to the accounts published in *The Los Angeles Times*.

Toback, 72, denied the allegations to the newspaper, 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, a guitarist and singer for the band Veruca Salt, and *As the World Turns* actress Terri Conn.

Actress Echo Danon recalled an incident on the set of his film *Black and White* where Toback 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 paper. "That's why I put up with it."



INSTAGRAM

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop with screenwriter James Toback, left, and film director Brett Ratner

The report comes amid the downfall of producer Harvey Weinstein, accused of sexual harassment and assault by more than three dozen women. He was fired from the company he co-founded and has been widely denounced by his Hollywood peers.

"James Toback damn you for stealing, damn you for traumatising," Weinstein accuser Rose McGowan tweeted.

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

Though less famous than Weinstein, Toback has had a successful four-decade career in Hollywood and has a devoted following for his originality and deeply flawed characters.

A New York native, Harvard graduate, creative writing professor and compulsive gambler, Toback 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 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 *Bugsy*, directed by Barry Levinson and starring Warren Beatty.

Toback's upcoming film, *The Private Life of a Modern Woman*, stars Sienna Miller and Alec Baldwin and debuted at the Venice Film Festival this year.

Like Weinstein, reports of Toback's alleged behaviour towards women have been around for decades. Spy magazine wrote about him in 1989, and the website Gawker published accounts from women in New York who had had run-ins with Toback.

But 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.

A few others in Hollywood denounced Toback on social media yesterday, including *Bridesmaids* director Paul Feig, who tweeted that Toback "is 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 said: "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 has met at least 15 women who said they had these kinds of encounters with Toback.

"For over 20 years, 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."

AP

Catalan cabinet meets on next step

JACQUELIN MAGNAY
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

Catalan parties were due to meet last night to discuss their next steps at the start of a week that will see Spain dismiss the region's government on Friday to stave off its threat to break away from the country.

"What happens now, with everyone in agreement and unity, is that we will announce what we will do and how," regional government spokesman Jordi Turull said yesterday after denouncing what he called "a fully fledged coup against Catalan institutions".

In what could be a flash point in the coming days, Spanish federal police will take over from the regional Mossus d'Esquadra and impose control on telecommunications and media to prevent pro-independence forces running a parallel state.

Madrid is preparing for civil disobedience and there are fears violent police actions, seen during failed attempts to prevent the October 1 referendum, may return to Barcelona streets.

Mr Turrull said all cabinet ministers were unified against the "coup d'etat that places Spain outside the law" following Saturday's announcement by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that he would invoke Article 155 of the constitution to strip Catalonia of its autonomy.

The main consideration of the Catalan government in the coming days is whether to officially declare independence, which was backed by nine in 10 of the 43 per cent of the electorate who voted in the referendum.

"The whole government is one, especially after what happened Saturday," Mr Turrull told Catalan radio RAC1. "Doing nothing is not an option."

He said cabinet was considering "an issue of institutional dignity" and ruled out holding fresh elections because the parliament had been democratically elected and the electorate had expressed its wishes "many times".

"The question 'what is Catalonia?' will be decided by the parliament legitimately elected by the citizens," he said.

Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis told the BBC that Catalonians should disregard Catalan leaders because they did not have legal authority.

"All the government is trying to do, and reluctantly, is to reinstate the legal order, to restore the constitution but also the Catalan rules and proceed from there," he said.

"I hope everyone will disregard whatever instructions they will be planning to give because they will not have the legal authority to do that."



Puigdemont

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and other separatist officials face arrest on Friday when Spain takes full control. They face being charged with treason, which carries a 30-year jail term.

Mr Dastis said "we aren't going to arrest anyone" but reiterated Mr Puigdemont would lose his authority under direct rule from Madrid and he and other leaders would be equal to "a group of rebels trying to impose their own arbitrariness to the people of Catalonia".

Separatist leaders Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart already are under arrest while authorities investigate sedition charges.

"We hope that the regional police, once put under the control of people who respect and who uphold the Catalan rules and the Spanish rules, everything will be fine," Mr Dastis said.

Reports of police brutality on October 1 had been overstated and there were many fake pictures, he said.

"If there was any use of force, it was a limited one, prompted by the fact that the law and order agencies were prevented from discharging the orders of the courts," he said.

Catalonian hospitals have reported treating 991 patients injured by police, including people hit by rubber bullets and truncheons.

ABC NEWS

James Toback: Who is the latest Hollywood mogul accused of sexual harassment?

By Jessica Haynes

Updated Tue 24 Oct 2017, 8:34am

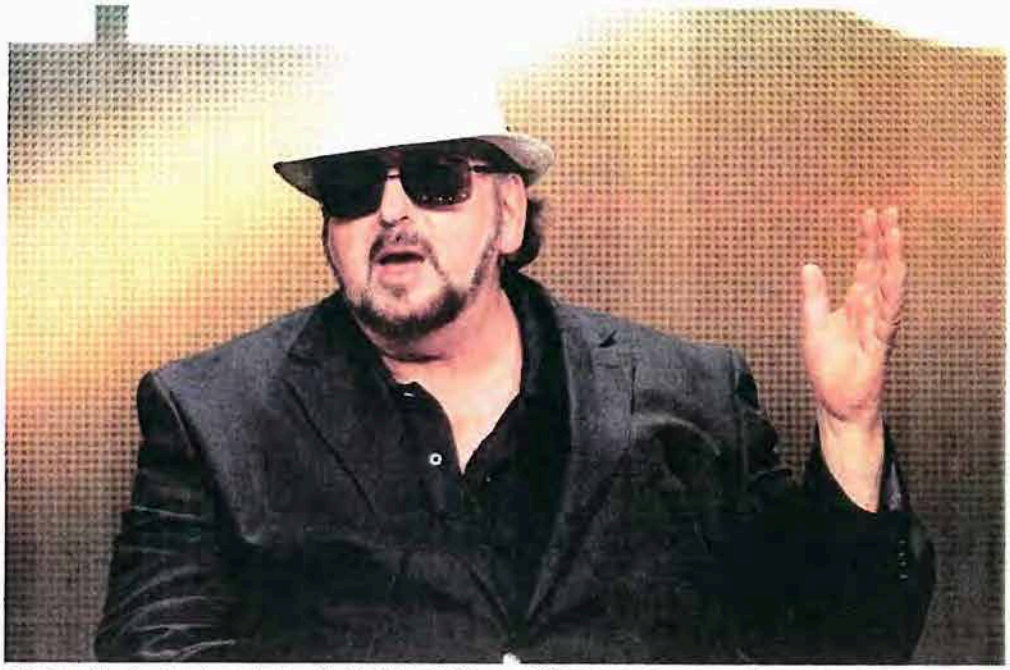


PHOTO: Film director James Toback is the latest Hollywood VIP to face allegations of sexual harassment. (Reuters: Fred Prouser)

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.**



PHOTO: James Toback directed the 2008 documentary film Tyson, based on Mike Tyson's tumultuous life. (Reuters: Jean-Paul Pelissier)

His latest film starring **Sienna Miller** and **Alec Baldwin** (The Private Life of a Modern Woman) debuted at the Venice Film Festival in September.

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 Fieg** (Bridesmaids) also took to social media to share his thoughts.

Paul Feig
@paulfeig

One of the main jobs of a director is to create a safe environment for the actors. James Toback is a disgrace.

latimes.com/entertainment/

12:59 AM - Oct 23, 2017

38 women have come forward to accuse director James Toback o...

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

38 women have come forward to accuse director James Toback o...

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

2,257 744 people are talking about this

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

Republican critics dismissed as outliers in 'love fest'

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 lawmakers.

A day after Republican senators Jeff Flake and Bob Corker described Mr Trump as having a "flagrant disregard" for truth and decency and of "debasing" the nation, the combative president shot back.

Trying to forestall a broader party backlash, Mr Trump tweeted that Mr Flake and Mr Corker were resigning 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 unbridled 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 to Mr Trump's advantage, both will stay 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 mustering 51 votes to pass tax cuts, an effort that appears to be the glue holding the party together.

There are currently 52 Republican senators, so more than one defection would hamper reform efforts, unless Democrats can be brought on board. It is also far from clear that more hardline Republican candidates can beat 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

.SHINGTON: Former US .esident George HW Bush has apologised for jokingly patting "women's rears" after an actress accused him of groping her from his wheelchair while at a screening.

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



Lind added she decided to share her story after seeing Bush Sr (*pictured*), 93, 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 presidents are given for ing served," 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."



New Zealand's new Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and deputy Winston Peters Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Ardern sworn in as New Zealand's new PM

WELLINGTON: Jacinda Ardern was sworn in as New Zealand prime minister yesterday and said she will lead a government that's active, focused, empathetic and strong.

Ardern and other senior lawmakers attended the ceremony in Wellington and took their oaths before Patsy Reddy, the governor-general. They then greeted several hundred well-wishers in front of the parliament.

"I want to start by saying it is an enormous privilege and an honour to stand with these wonderful people ... in front of your house with your government," Ardern said.

At 37 years old, Ardern is NZ's youngest leader in more than 150 years. She is the nation's third female prime minister and 40th leader overall.

Her liberal Labour Party did not win the most votes in the September election but managed to find enough common ground with two smaller parties to form a government.

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 Thais hailed as "Father".

Three separate and intensely solemn processions involving thousands of troops, a golden palanquin, a chariot and a royal gun carriage will move the royal urn representing Bhumibol's remains from the Dusit Maha Prasad Throne Hall to the crematorium.

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

Tense election for Kenyans

NAIROBI: Kenya is holding its second presidential election since August amid high tension and the opposition leader's call for his followers to boycott.

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

Kenyan media say opposition supporters have blocked the operations of some polling stations. The Supreme Court nullified the previous vote because it found illegalities and irregularities in the process.

3 Day Thriller
Hurry, Sale Ends Sunday
2 CASES $88 SAVE $24
Carlton Dry Bottles 24x355ml
Carlton Dry Cans 24x375ml
2 CASES $94
Budweiser Beer Bottles 24x355ml
2 CASES $94 SAVE $36
Corona Beer Bottles 24x355ml
10 CANS $31
Bundaberg Lazy Bear Dry & Lime 10x330ml
IN-STORE @ your local BWS
CLICK & COLLECT* @ BWS.com.au
WITH YOUR GROCERIES @ woolworths.com.au/bws
BWS Here's to you
NTNE01Z01MA - V1

AUSE012SOMA-V1

Catalans dig in as Madrid toughens stand



Catalans follow news of a regional parliamentary session AP

JACQUELIN MAGNAY
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

Political brinkmanship continued in the dramatic last hours before Spain was to take control of Catalonia by invoking a never-before used clause in the constitution to quash independence.

One separatist politician dryly remarked this week that the pro-independence movement was "not a soufflé", yet the air was puffed with a sense of finality.

The front-page headline of Barcelona-based newspaper *El Periodico* said: "Unilateral declaration of independence and goodbye". But Economics Minister Luis de Guindos told Spanish radio: "The scenario of independence is one that we cannot allow and which will not happen." He said the Catalans were "caught in a mousetrap".

King Felipe cancelled all engagements and remained at the Zarzuela Palace as the political chaos and deep divisions spread throughout Catalonia.

Older and more conservative voters fear a civil war and economic ruin, sparked by the aggressive reactions of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that have emboldened separatist support despite the questionable moves of Catalan leaders.

Fresh with the memories of the Spanish police brutality at the October 1 elections, independence supporters began to surround the Catalan parliament and other key institutions in preparation of key developments. Workers at sensitive sites, such as the public broadcasting television station and the region's telecommunications hub, had also vowed a form of civil disobedience in opposition of Madrid's looming control.

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont was expected to formally announce independence but was keeping open the options until the last possible moment before the Spanish Senate formally rubber-stamped the imposition of Article 155. His demands on Thursday that the central government release imprisoned independence leaders Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sanchez, withdraw the national police already stationed in the region and allow Catalonia to remain autonomous were rejected. That left little option for Mr Puigdemont but to abandon his plans for a December 20 regional election and allow the Catalan parliament decide whether to formally declare independence.

Leader of the house Santi Vila, who is also the Business Minister, resigned, saying he was unable to convince the parliament to take the election option.

The delay in making such an independence pronouncement comes as Spain has declared the October 1 referendum illegal and politicians could be jailed for 30 years for sedition if they carry through the pronouncement.

Mr Puigdemont was considering making the independence announcement from a remote location, possibly Belgium, where he would claim political asylum, the *La Vanguardia* newspaper reported.

There was also some division in the Catalan parliament as to whether the referendum vote of 90 per cent support on a 43 per cent turnout gave sufficient authority to declare independence.

Mr Rajoy's government has already foreshadowed that it will sack the Catalan parliament and arrest Mr Puigdemont and other leaders, as well as replace the head of the Mossos d'Esquadra regional police force and other bureaucrats.

But the government has also promised it would gradually implement control, wanting to avoid violent clashes. The initial plans are to replace senior executives and to "take out proportionate and responsible implementation of Article 155".

The Spanish government has also vowed to hold elections in Catalonia within six months, but separatists fear the integrity of such a vote while Madrid is in firm control.

The roots of the independence movement stem from Catalonia's history, but also more recently as the prosperous region has propped up the struggling economies in the south.

But the desires of the separatists to control Catalonia, effectively in parallel with the Spanish government, is doomed to plunge the region into even greater upheaval than seen before in recent times.

Calls mount to resettle Rohingya refugees

AMANDA HODGE
SOUTHEAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT

Is it time to consider international resettlement options for Myanmar's expelled and traumatised Rohingya refugees?

Amid fears of a humanitarian catastrophe among the 600,000 Rohingya crammed into Bangla-[desh] camps, aid agencies warning situation is "spinning out of [con]trol", and doubts over Myanmar's commitment to accept back the Muslim minority, the idea is being raised as an alternative to repatriation.

Sidney Jones, veteran Southeast Asia analyst and director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, says it may be time to consider a comprehensive plan of action for Rohingya refugees, similar to the international agreement struck for the gradual third country resettlement of Vietnamese refugees in the 1980s.

"One of the reasons we have not had that program up to now is because people didn't want to give the Myanmar government an excuse for getting more and more people out of Myanmar," Dr Jones said. "But now we have 600,000 people in Bangladesh and the likelihood is not high that they will be able to come back. It may be time for the region to take the lead in developing a new comprehensive partnership agreement for Rohingya."

Killian Kleinschmidt, former UNHCR manager of the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan, says he too sees "very little hope (Rohingya) will be going back for the next couple of decades or so" and it is time to consider options beyond temporary camps and repatriation.

Instead of building temporary refugee camps in already impoverished and under-resourced Cox's Bazar region in the hope of eventual repatriation, he suggests the focus should be on long-term investment in a special development zone in Bangladesh.

Human Rights Watch Asia deputy Asia director Phil Robertson welcomed regional and international approaches to the crisis, but "no one should give Myanmar the idea that there is a way out that involves throwing responsibility for the Rohingya to other countries".

And, he added, there was little hope of convincing Australia or the US to accept their share of refugees today, as they did Vietnamese refugees in the 1980s.

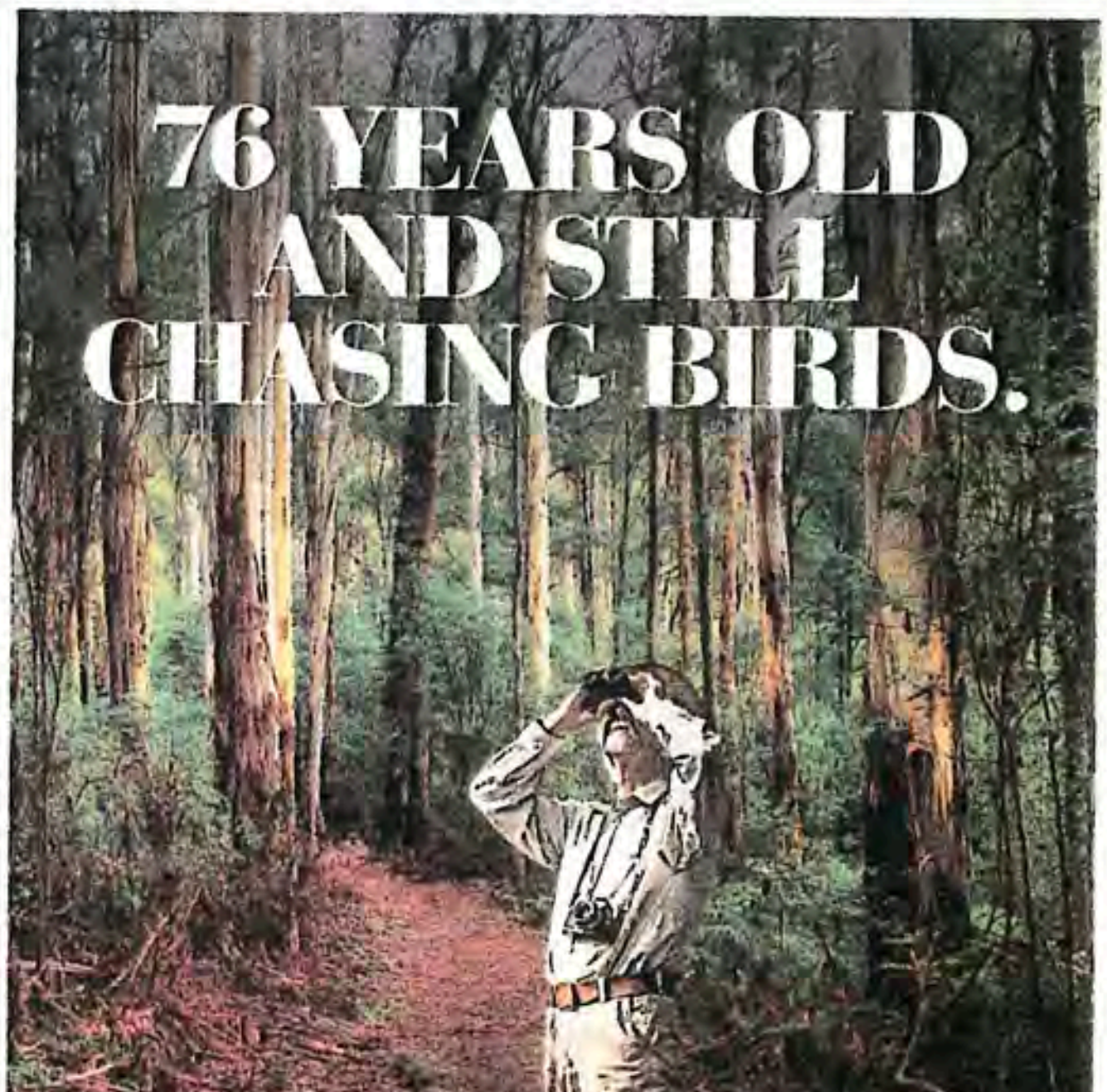
The UN and Bangladesh government have said the Rohingya exodus from Myanmar bears the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing, and Dhaka has insisted all Rohingya must be allowed a "safe, dignified, voluntary return" to Myanmar".

Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed this week to work towards repatriating refugees who have fled violence and starvation in northern Rakhine since late August, but Myanmar has given no timeframe for their return. It also insists only those who can prove their ties to Myanmar may return — an impossible hurdle for many given the state's decades-long policy of disenfranchising Rohingya, and the traumatic circumstances in which they fled.

Many Rohingya are reluctant to return until they are sure they will be safe — an uncertain prospect in Myanmar where the military has described the Rohingya problem as "unfinished business" and the Muslim minority is widely seen as Bengali interlopers.

Rohingya refugees are still pouring out of Rakhine state with accounts of targeted assaults, killings, arson and mass rapes committed by military and Rakhine Buddhist mobs. Yet Myanmar and Bangladesh have also agreed this week to close the borders, potentially leaving tens of thousands stranded inside the no man's land between the two countries.

The Myanmar government has expelled all international aid agencies from Rakhine apart from the International Red Cross which admitted yesterday it was struggling to meet the needs of stranded communities.



Albany | Carine | Melville | Murdoch | Northshore | Centro | Mandurah | Lesmurdie

Women, dogs lost for five months






PICTURES: US NAVY/AP

'They saved our lives': clockwise from main image, Tasha Fuiaba clambers aboard USS Ashland; Jennifer Appel thanks Master Chief Gary Wise; Zeus is helped aboard; and the rescue crew approaches the stricken sailing boat on Thursday

HONOLULU: Two women and their dogs have been rescued after being lost at sea for months while trying to sail from Hawaii to Tahiti.

The US Navy rescued the women on Wednesday after a Taiwanese fishing boat spotted them about 1500km southeast of Japan, well off their planned course, and alerted the US Coast Guard. The USS Ashland arrived early the next day.

Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiaba, both of Honolulu, lost their engine in bad weather in late May but believed they could still reach Tahiti using their sails.

"They saved our lives," said Ms Appel. "The pride and smiles we had when we saw (the US Navy) on the horizon was pure relief."

Ms Appel's mother said she never gave up hope that her resourceful daughter would be found. Joyce Appel, 75, who lives in Houston, got a call from her daughter early on Thursday morning more than five months after they had last spoke.

She answered the phone wondering who wanted to sell her something, when she heard her daughter's voice on the other end of the line. "She said, 'Mom?' and I said, 'Jennifer?' because I hadn't heard from her in like five months," she said. "And she said 'yes mom,' and that was really exciting."

Jennifer Appel departed on May 3, but her phone was lost overboard the first day she was at sea, and she hadn't heard from her daughter since. "Various things on her boat broke, the mast broke and the engine wouldn't start when she needed power. So she had several problems that caused her to end up drifting in the ocean," her mother said.

Ms Appel called the Coast Guard about a week and half after her daughter left Honolulu.

"The Coast Guard in Hawaii did a search and rescue effort," she said. "I waited and waited and waited to see when I would hear from her."

In that time, Ms Appel moved and got a new phone number and was worried her daughter wouldn't know where to call.

"I knew she didn't even know the phone number here," she said. "I had hope all along, she is very resourceful and she's curious and as things break she tries to repair them, she doesn't sit and wait for the repairman to get there, so I knew the same thing would be true of the boat."

The mother said the pair's water purifier had stopped working and they were down to their last few litres of water when Jennifer got it fixed.

Two months into their trip, well after they were scheduled to arrive in Tahiti, the women began making distress calls, but there were no vessels close and they were too far out to sea for the signals to be detected on land.

They survived because they had packed in a water purifier and enough food for a year, mostly dried goods such as oatmeal and pasta.

The women received a medical assessment, food and beds aboard the navy ship, where they will remain until its next port of call.

"The US Navy is postured to assist any distressed mariner of any nationality during any type of situation," said Commander Steven Wasson, the skipper of the landing ship.

AP

Russian helicopter crashes at sea in Arctic, eight aboard

OSLO: Norwegian rescuers believe they may have located the sunken wreckage of a Russian helicopter that went missing with eight people onboard off the coast of the Arctic Svalbard archipelago.

"We've found oil spills and air bubbles rising to the surface, and a vessel in the area has observed what appears to be a submerged object. It may be the helicopter," Tore Hongset, the leader of Norway's rescue co-ordination centre, said yesterday.

A remotely operated mini submarine flown to the site had joined the search.

The search for survivors would continue, the rescue centre said, noting that the helicopter was equipped with life rafts. The Russian Mil Mi-8 was reported missing by airport authorities at about 3.35pm on Thursday (2.35am yesterday AEST).

Russia's Emergency Ministry said the five crew and three passengers were Russians.

The passengers were working for Russia's Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

The helicopter was on its way from the abandoned Pyramiden settlement to the coalmining port of Barentsburg, but was later confirmed to have gone down in the ocean a few kilometres from its destination.

Several vessels were in the area. The ship of the governor of Svalbard, the Polarsyssel, was co-ordinating the search.

The Russian coal company Arktikugol runs the mine at Barentsburg, which employs Russian and Ukrainian miners.

An official at the Russian company Convers Avia Air said it owned the helicopter and had lost communication with it.

Earlier, Mr Hongset told Norwegian broadcaster TV2: "For every minute that goes by, the risk of hypothermia and death rises."

Located about 700km north of the European mainland, Svalbard is governed under t[he] 1920 Treaty of Paris that g[ives] NATO-member Norway sovereignty while allowing other signatories to do business and exploit natural resources.

In 2008, another Mil Mi-8 crashed near Barentsburg, killing three of its nine occupants.

REUTERS, AFP

Blair joins 200 women calling out Toback

LOS ANGELES: Actors Selma Blair and Rachel McAdams have added their names to the growing list of women who have come forward to allege that writer and director James Toback sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Since a report on Sunday in *The Los Angeles Times* detailing the accounts of 36 women, the number of accusers has ballooned to more than 200 alleging inappropriate encounters with Toback, an Oscar nominee for his *Bugsy* screenplay.

Rose McGowan was to make her first public remarks since the actor accused film producer Harvey Weinstein of rape at The Women's Convention in Detroit overnight.

Speaking to *Vanity Fair*, Blair and McAdams described encounters similar to those detailed in the *LA Times* report — many of which assert Toback, 72, would talk up his accomplishments and promise stardom, before masturbating or simulating sex acts on the women.

Blair had filmed *Cruel Intentions* when her representative arranged for her to meet Toback for a possible role in his film *Harvard Man*. The meeting was set at a hotel restaurant, but Blair said when the hostess said Toback wanted her to meet him in his room. There, she described a long meeting in which Toback asked her to perform a monologue naked, propositioned her for sex, and said he would not let her leave until he "had release". Blair said he then simulated sexual intercourse on her leg.

"I felt disgust and shame, and like nobody would ever think of me as being clean again after being this close to the devil," she said. "His energy was so sinister".

McAdams, an Oscar nominee for *Spotlight*, also met Toback to audition for *Harvard Man*.

She was 21 and just starting out in the business. After her audition, he told her he wanted to workshop with her. They met that night in his hotel room where, she said, the conversation quickly turned sexual. "He said, 'You know, I just have to tell you. I have masturbated countless times today thinking about you since we met at your audition'," she said, adding he later asked her to show him her pubic hair. McAdams eventually excused herself and left.

AP

10-40

Andrew Bolt

AUSTRALIA'S MOST READ COLUMNIST



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

There's no way out of this mess



CLOWNS 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 he's to the Left of us or the Right, especially now his ally Christopher Pyne admits he asked the far-Left GetUp! to lobby MPs to save Turnbull's leadership from Tony Abbott. But off Turnbull goes, lurching from one disaster to another like some Wile E. Coyote.

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

First, Turnbull tried to make Shorten seem a global warming crazy 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 a warmist, came up with was a scheme to cut our soaring electricity bills by just $2 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 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 the right way.

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

It collapsed into farce, anyway, when Employment Minister Michaelia Cash was caught out telling a falsehood — claiming her staff hadn't tipped 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 dodgy use of the state to persecute him any better?

And to top it off, the High Court last week booted two 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'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 zip the other way, leaving the government holding just 75 of the now 149 Lower House seats until Joyce is re-elected in a by-election.

So if Shorten has bad 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.

BLOG WITH BOLT NOW
blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/

Abbott 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 tearing each other apart. Imagine 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 ephemerally popular, 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 hand Labor the election. It won't be affection 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 insincerity 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.

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 Aborigines.

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

THE BOLT REPORT 7PM WEEKNIGHTS sky NEWS LIVE

FREE SPEECH TOPPLES CREEPS

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

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

I loved reading just last weekend the oops-you-got-me confession of author and MSNBC political commentator Mark Halperin, accused of groping and propositioning women much his junior when he was political director at America's ABC.

It's such fun to see bullies get paid back, especially by the very people they once thought too weak to resist.

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 Sr, 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, is tainted with envy and frustration that their own virtue was not its own reward.

How many are thinking: 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 comfort to take from this great reckoning. See how Weinstein fell? 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.

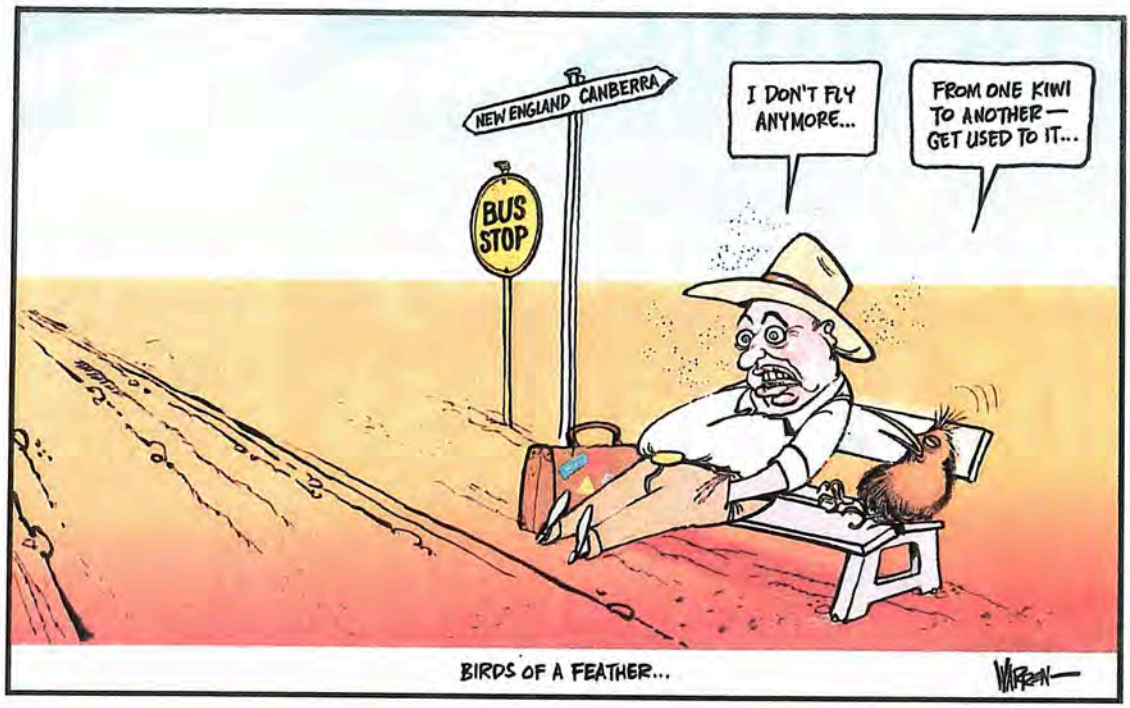
No, two things brought down these men. First, free speech: laws that allowed women to denounce them without running the same risk of being sued that women face here.

Second, people power: people don't want to buy things from a known sex creep — not books or even opinions. The market works, especially now women do so much of the earning and buying.

Trust free speech and people over nanny laws and commissars.

The victims brought down their own monster, and the people cheered.

WARREN'S VIEW



THEY SAID IT

"Queensland is now a state of progress not provocation, a state of co-operation not confrontation, and a state united, not divided."

Queensland Labor premier Annastacia Palaszczuk calls a November 25 election

"Will you not give a billion dollars to the Adani mine? We need renewable energy!"

Anti-mining activists storm the stage during Palaszczuk's "united not divided" election announcement

Joker or the clown?

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

Clowns 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 he's to the left of us or the right, especially now his ally Christopher Pyne admits he asked the far-left GetUp! to lobby MPs to save Turnbull's leadership from Tony Abbott.

But off Turnbull goes, lurching 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 crazy 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 a warmist, came up with was a scheme to cut our soaring electricity bills by just $2 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 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 the right way. What a pathetic abuse of state power to hound a political enemy. It collapsed into farce, anyway, when Employment Minister Michaelia Cash was caught out telling a falsehood — claiming her staff hadn't tipped 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 dodgy use of the state to persecute him any better?



ANDREW BOLT

And to top it off, the High Court last week booted two 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'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 zip the other way, leaving the government holding just 75 of the now 149 lower house seats until Joyce is re-elected in a by-election.

So if Shorten has bad 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.

Tony Abbott 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 tearing each other apart. Imagine 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 ephemerally popular, but is also a lightweight whose political judgment seems as lousy as Turnbull'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.

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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 challengers 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.

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Gropers are running scared in witch-hunt against sex predators

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#METOO

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.



Aurora Snow

10.31.17 4:30 AM ET

Trump Believes There's a 'Conspiracy' to Torpedo Kavanaugh
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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.

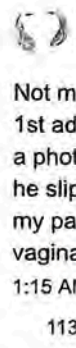
Discussing the sexual assault allegations against Ron Jeremy online in forums was eye-opening for Banks, who has recently been considering the move from webcam model to professional porn. "I started posting on industry-only forums, and producers and industry people were telling me to get used to it. 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 sites 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 w ron jeremy - he slips his finger under my panties and into my vagina

models replied to her tweet with their own Jeremy horror stories.



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."



groping women. Just google "Ron Jeremy Gropes" and see for yourself.

3:23 AM - Feb 18, 2017

75 53 people ar...

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 its 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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[Pics] She Was Their Groupie. But Then She Got Pregnant

DIRECT EXPOSE

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

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GOLDIE TAYLOR

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‹ HOMEPAGE

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 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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I'm a Kavanaugh Fan, but He Botched the Hearings


Senate Democrats Use Cohen to Try to Block Kavanaugh

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.

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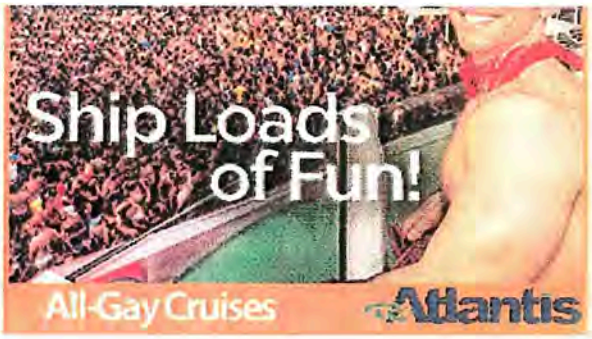

It was much to her surprise, then, that Ratner was not only in his trailer, but was also sans pants and eating a shrimp cocktail.

"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."

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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.

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"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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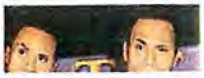

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Six women accuse filmmaker Brett Ratner of sexual harassment or misconduct

By AMY KAUFMAN and DANIEL MILLER
NOV 01, 2017 | 5:00 AM



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Henstridge -- accused filmmaker Brett Ratner of a range allegedly took place in private homes, on movie sets or at industry events. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

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.

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any financial settlement from my client.'

> **“It feels as if I keep going up against the same bully at school who just won't quit.**
>
> — Actress Olivia Munn

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.”

“I've made specific, conscientious choices not to work with Brett Ratner,” Munn said.

“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.



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Director Brett Ratner and producer Robert Evans stand for a photo at a Beverly Hills Oscars party in 2005. (Stephen Shugerman / Getty Images)

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.

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Jaime Ray Newman in 2014. (Andrew Goodman / Getty Images for the Maui Film Festival at Wailea)

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

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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?"

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years. David Steiman, Hopi Dobuler, Dr[illegible] 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."



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Actress Olivia Munn arrives at the 2017 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in February. (Axelle/Bauer-Griffin / FilmMagic)

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

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everybody here," he said. "When she was SAVE NOW
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.'"

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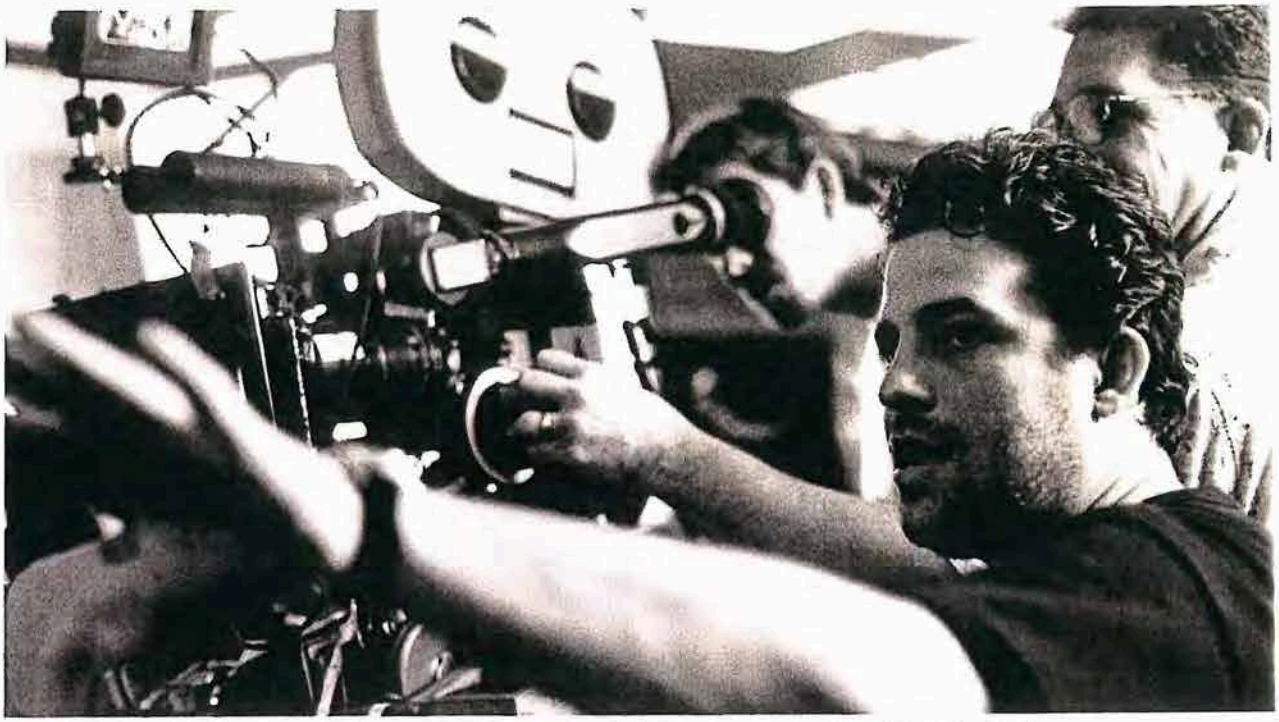

Director Brett Ratner on the set of "Rush Hour 2" circa 2001. (Michael Ochs Archives / Getty Images)

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

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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

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whatsoever."



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Natasha Henstridge in August 2015. (Michael Tran / FilmMagic)

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

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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

Jon Sharman | Wednesday 1 November 2017 17:15 | 0 comments

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Porn star James Deen *(Getty Images)*

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.

World news in pictures





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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.

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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.

GETTY IMAGES

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.

10-93

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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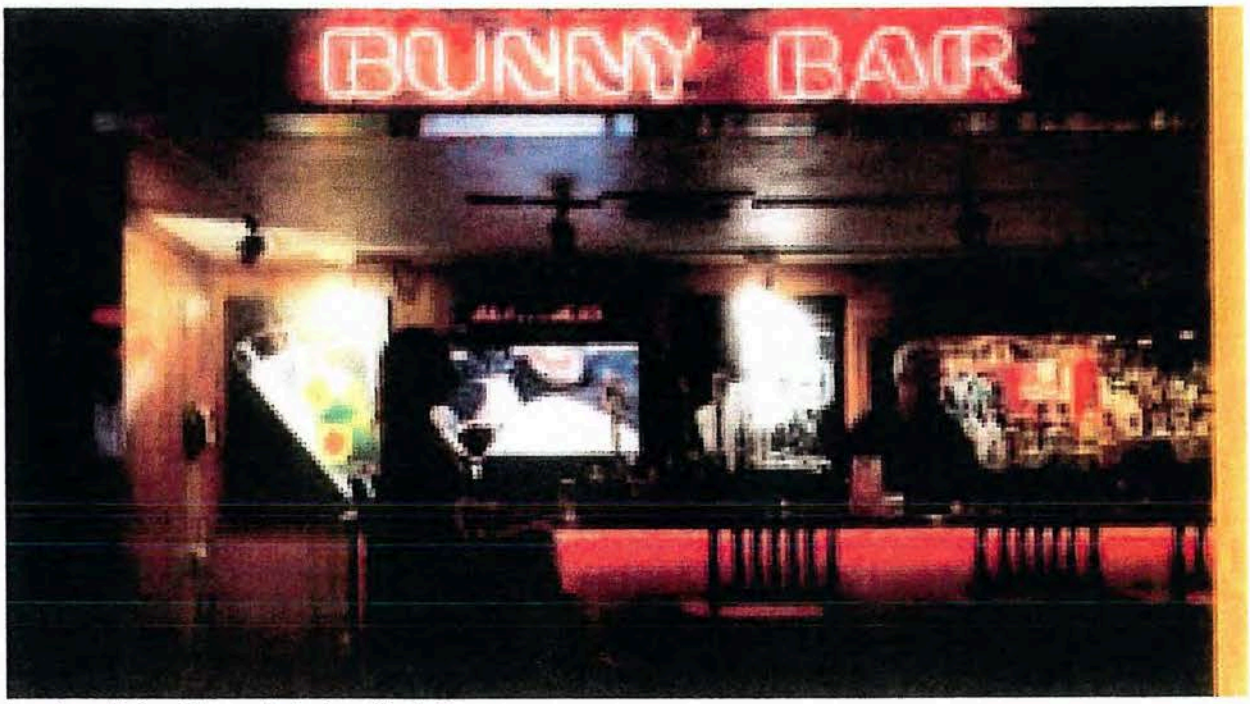

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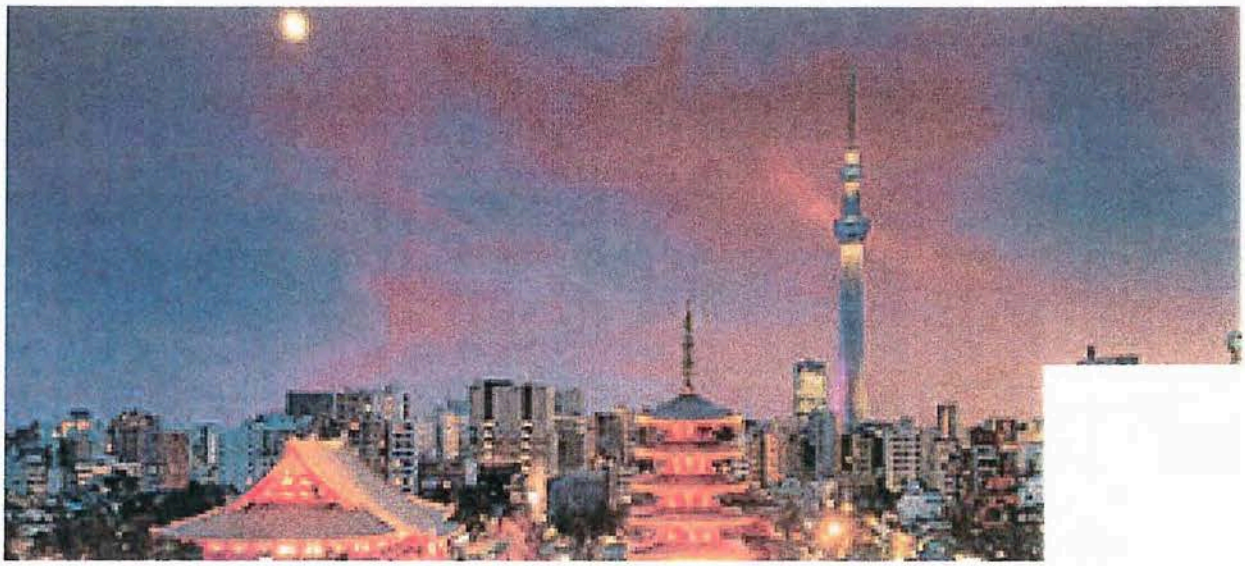

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PORN ABUSE CLAIMS

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
3
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
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Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has been accused of sexually harassing a number of women

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Getty - Contributor
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Porn actor Ron Jeremy has been accused of groping female adult stars

Someone follows Ron Jeremy around at the expos and records him groping women. Just google "Ron Jeremy Gropes" and see for yourself.

— 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.

Harvey Weinstein accused of sex attacks by SEVEN British women, Scotland Yard confirms

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Woman releases video of Harvey Weinstein touching her before 'raping her'

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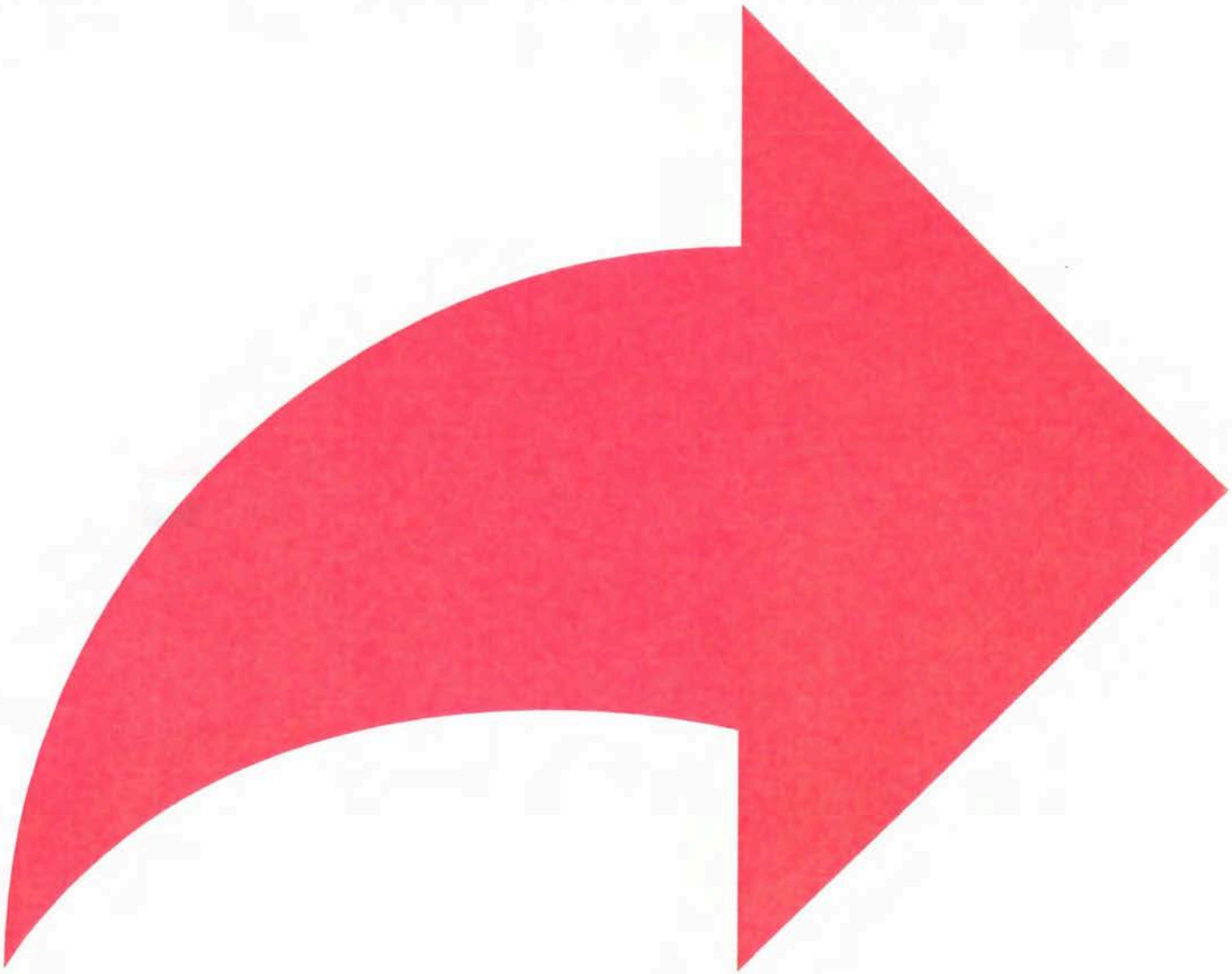

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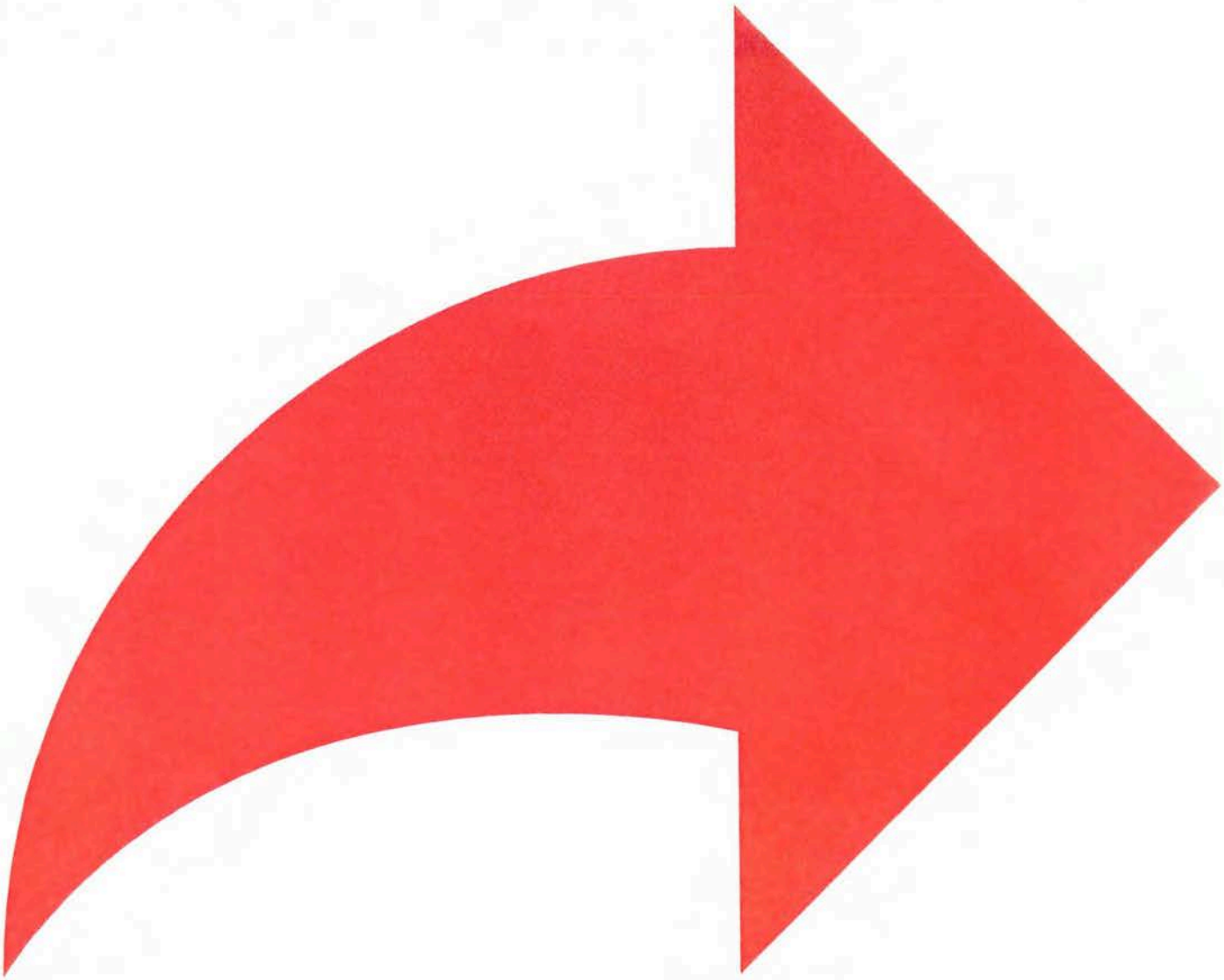

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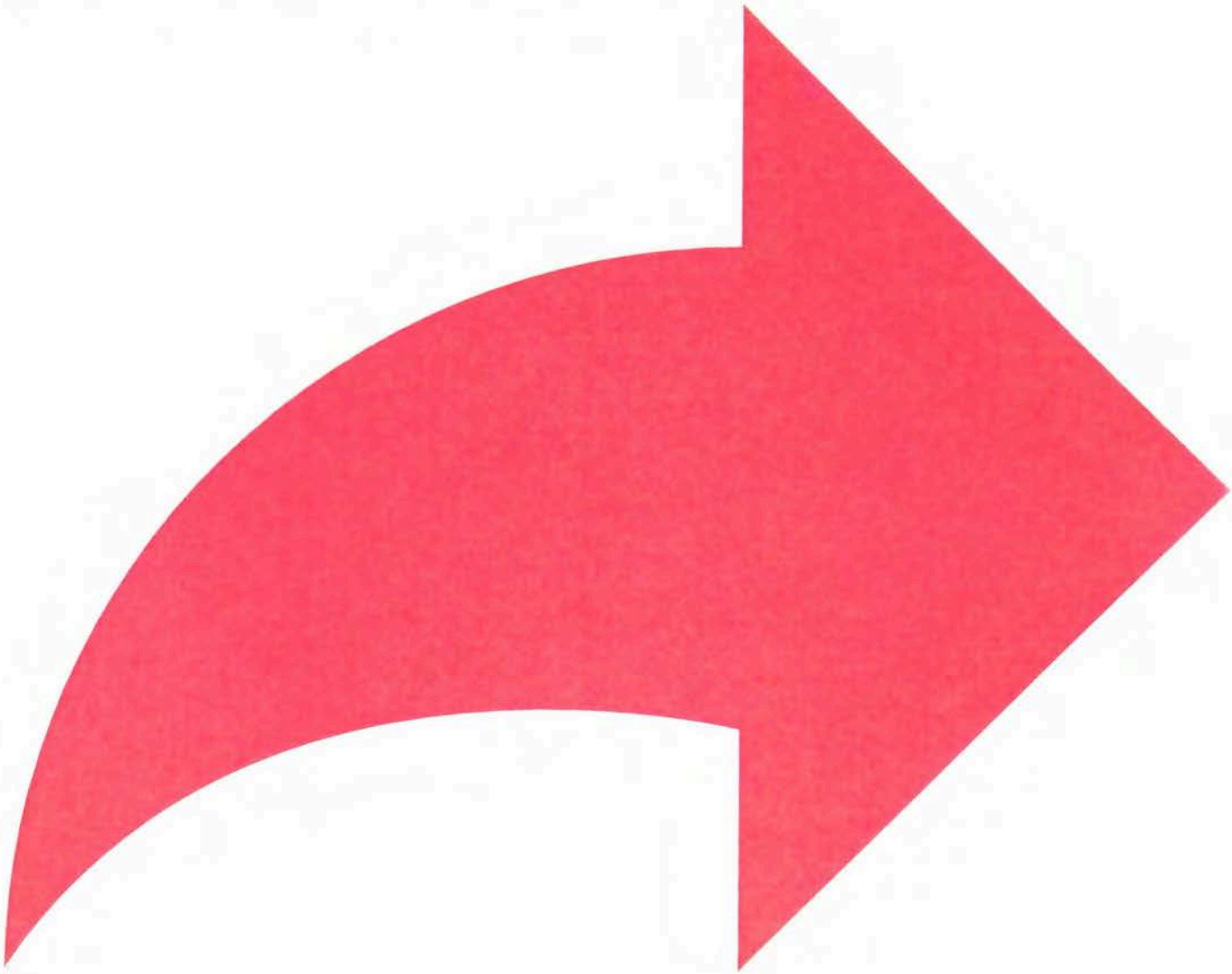

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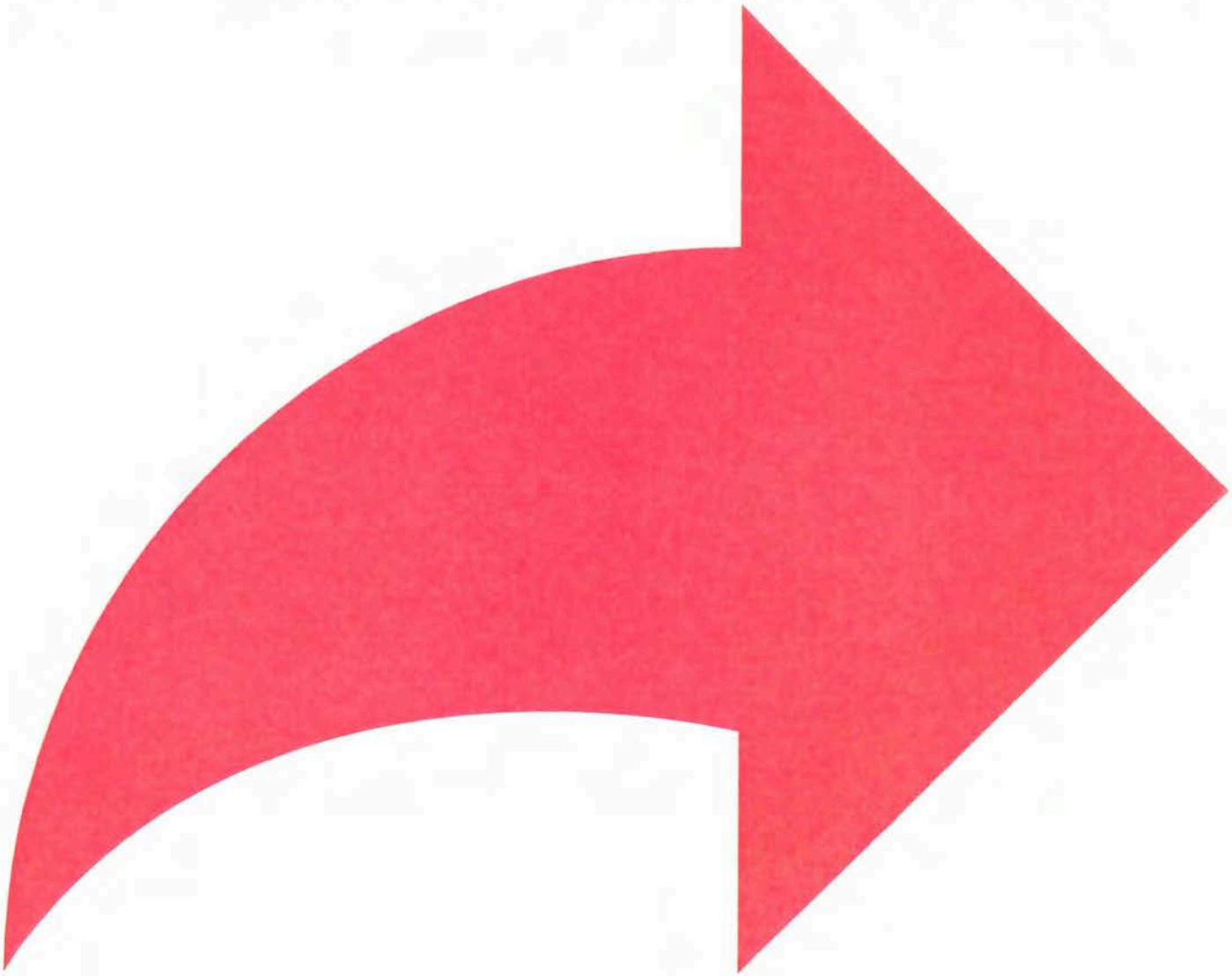

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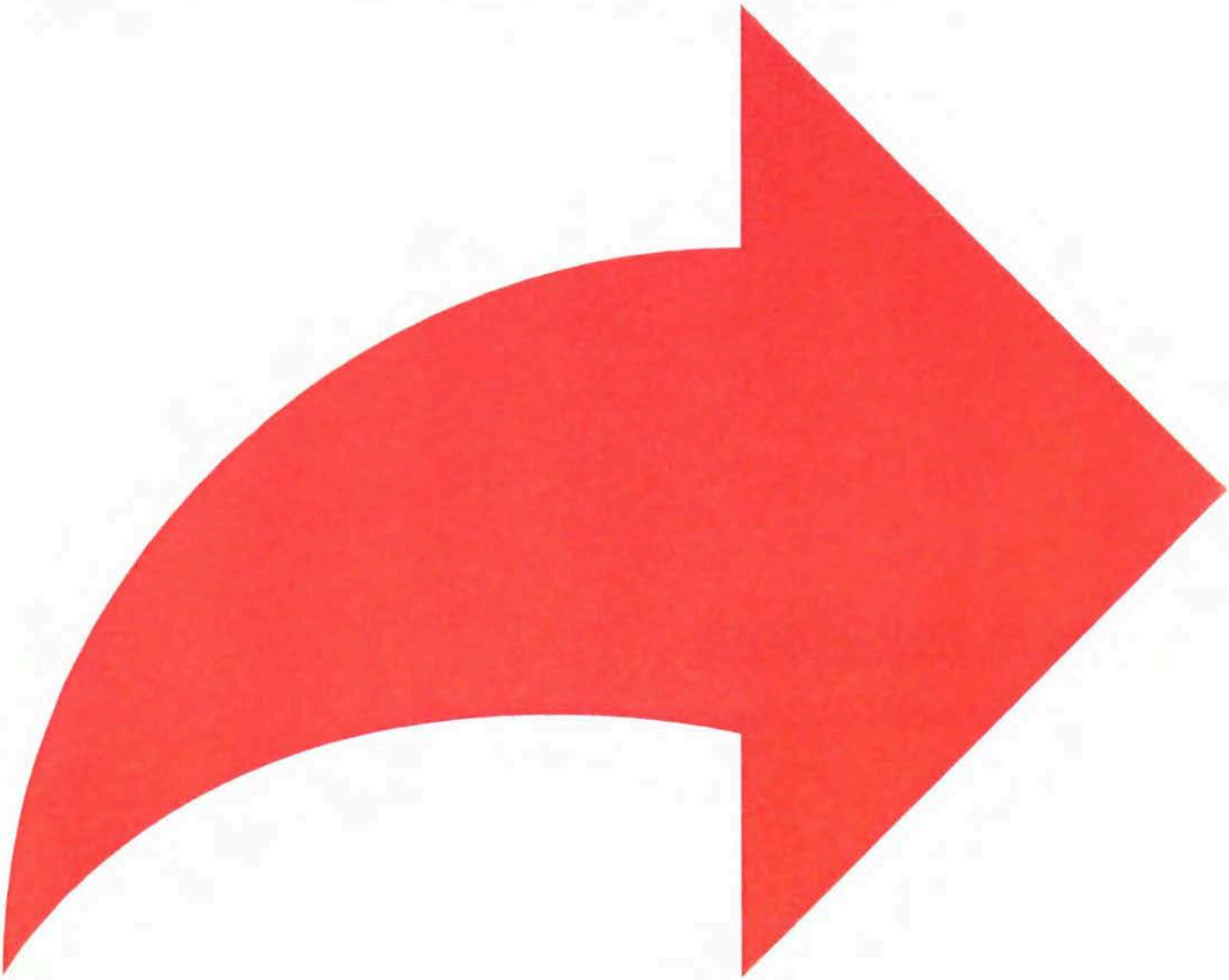

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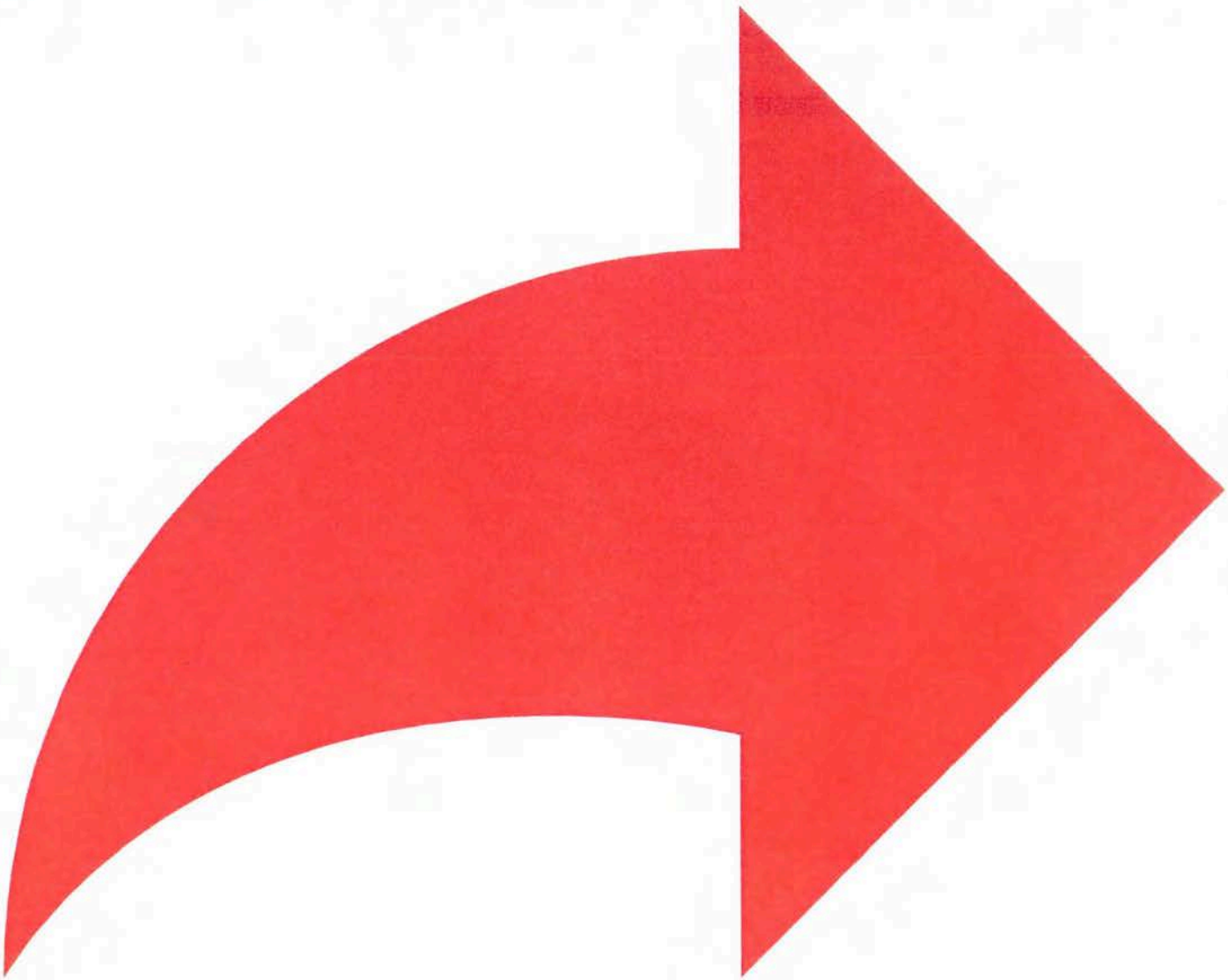

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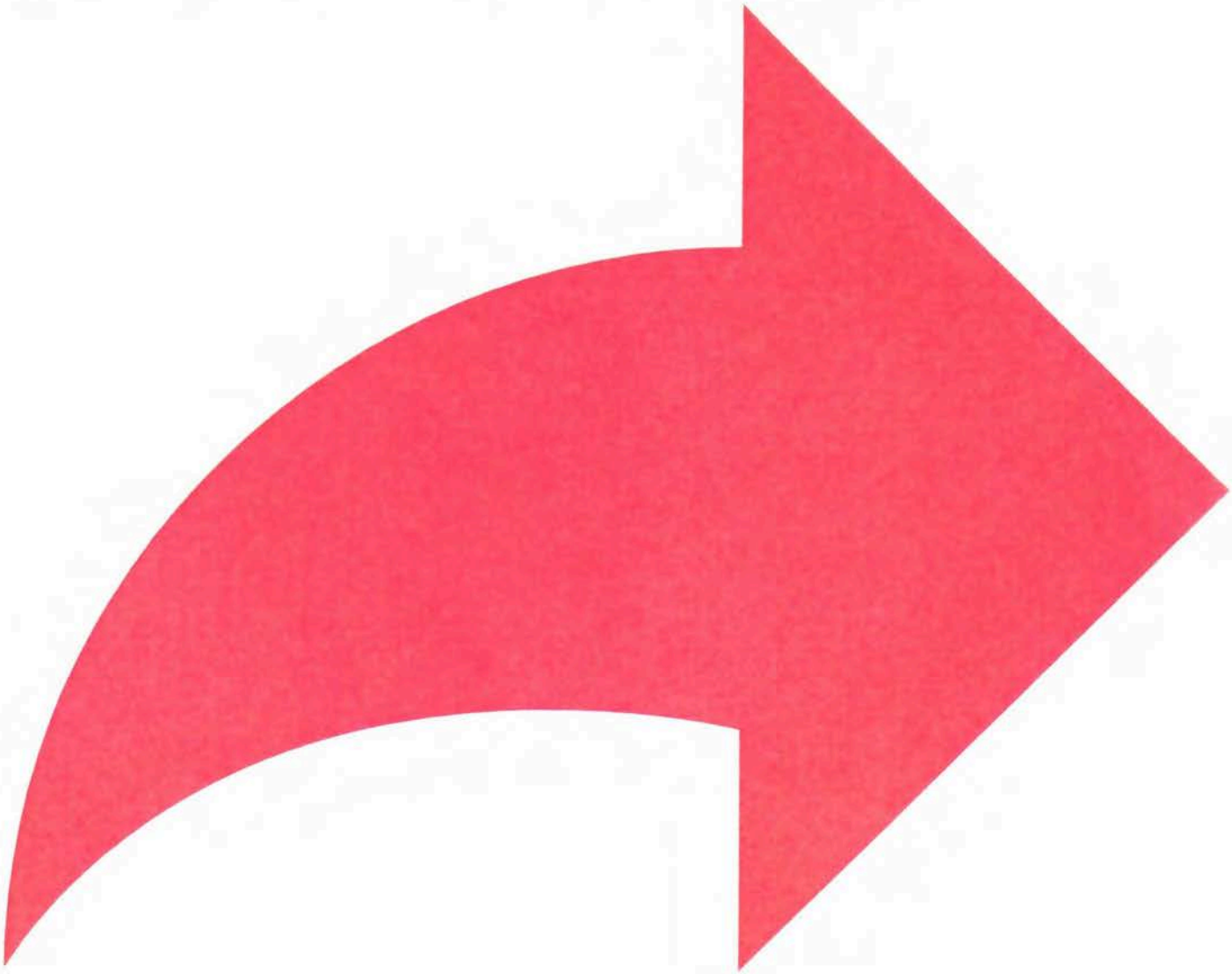

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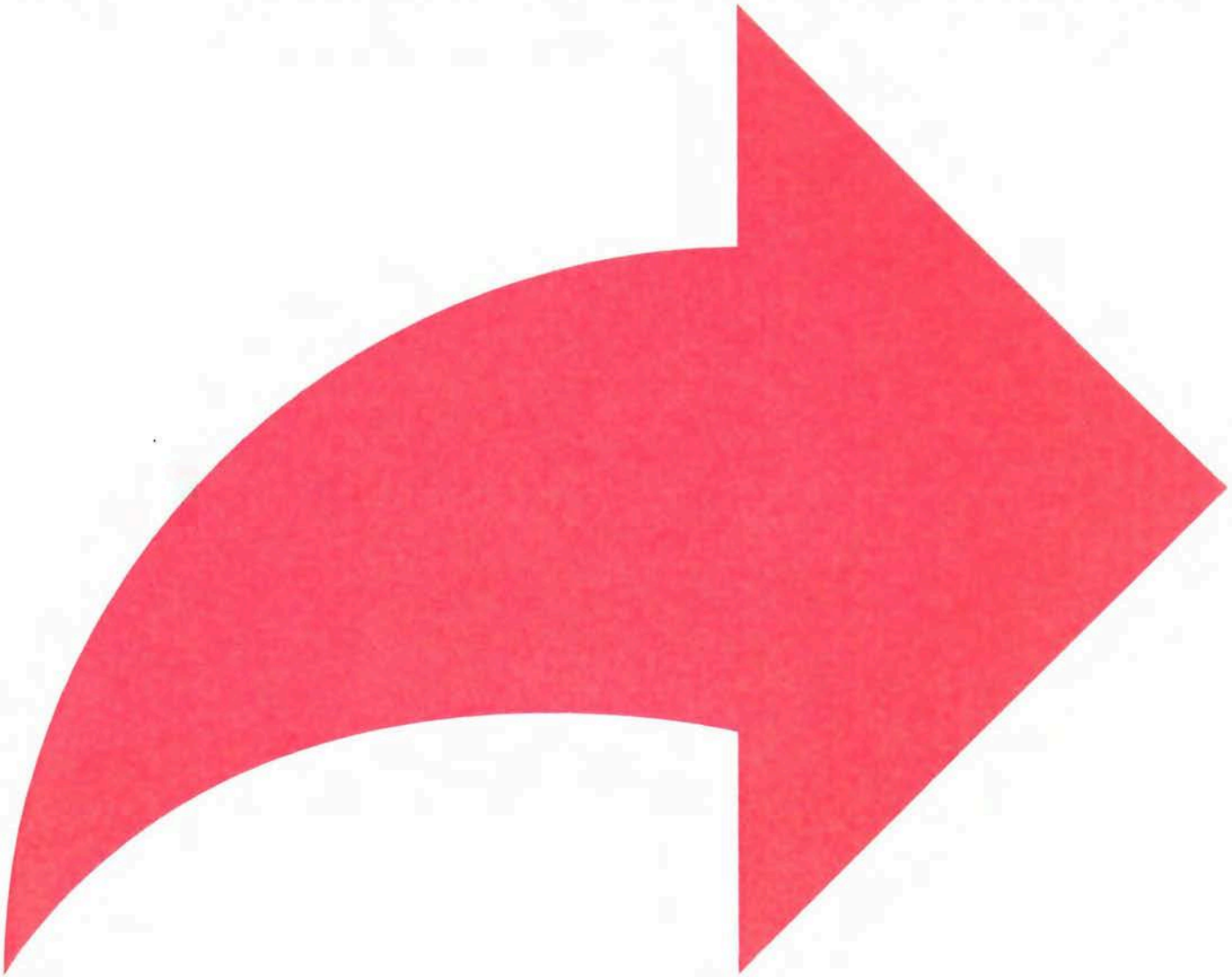

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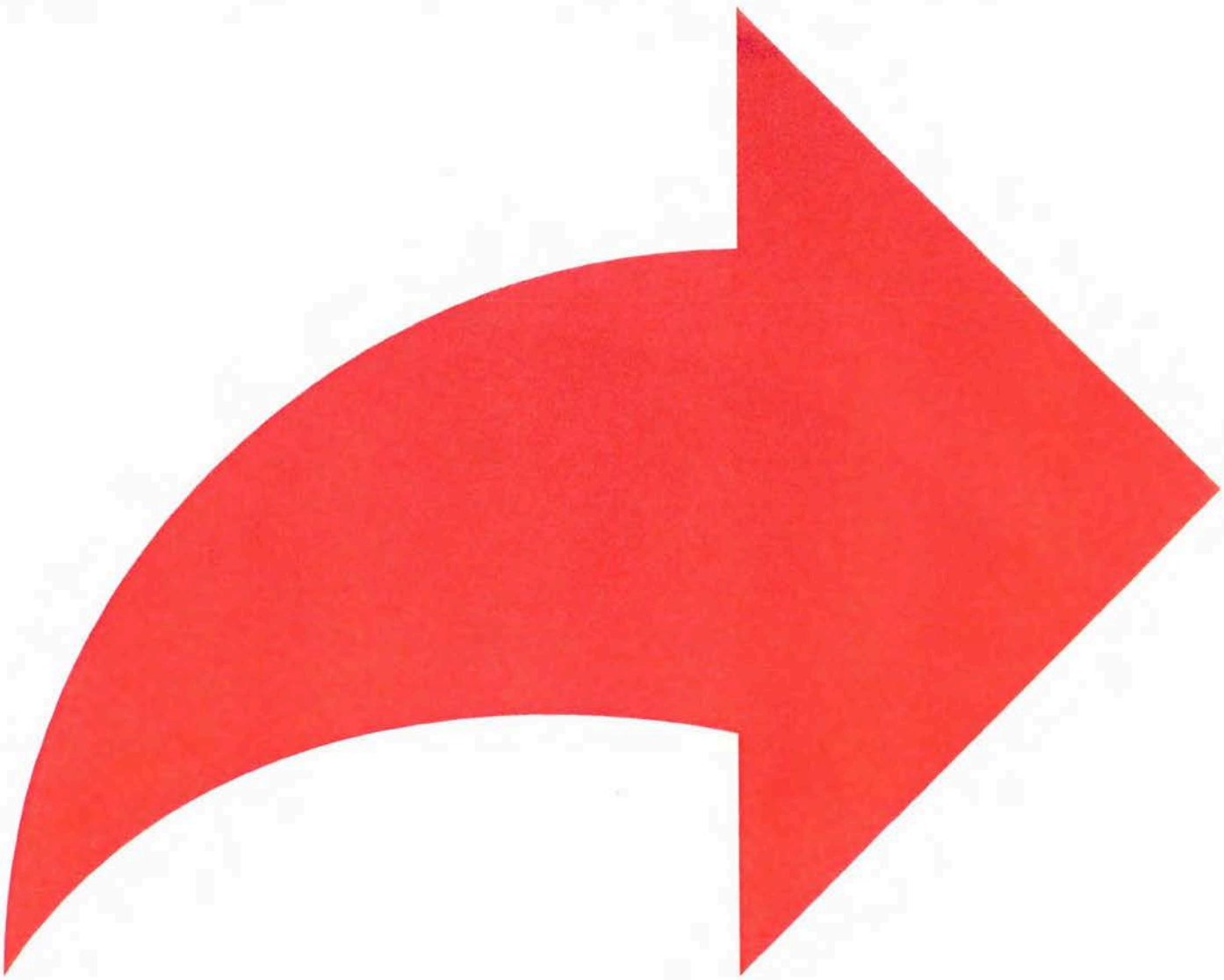

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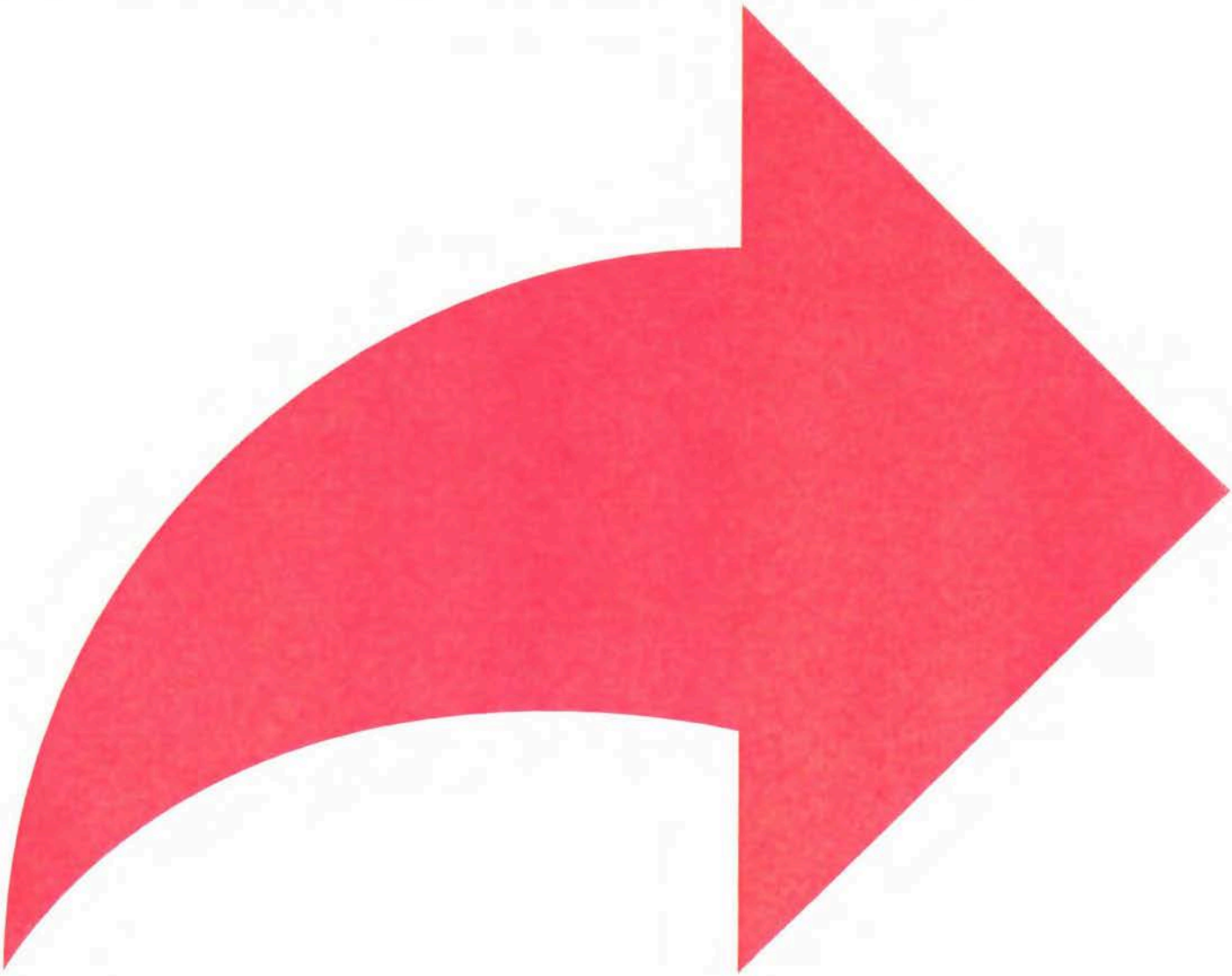

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Body hacker admits guilt

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

Takahiro Shiraishi, 27, has reportedly admitted to police that he had killed nine people, apparently eight women and one man, since August 22, after making contact on Twitter and luring them to his home in Zama, Kanagawa prefecture, with offers to help them die.

The arrested man admitted that theft was one motive for the murders, and that he lured some of the women in order to sexually abuse them.

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 inconsistencies that cast doubt on their tale of survival.

The women previously said that they had radios, 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'

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani woman has been arrested after an alleged plot to murder her husband with a poisoned glass of milk led to the death of 15 of his family members.

Aasia Bibi, 21, of Muzaffargarh, 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 milk 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 'GROPED ACTRESS'



Jeremy Piven shot to fame as the wise-cracking Ari Gold in Entourage (right). Picture: AP

LOS ANGELES: Entourage star Jeremy Piven has been accused of sexual assault by an actress 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 you cornered me in your trailer on the #Entourage set? 'Member grabbing my boobies on the [couch] without asking??"

She also tweeted: "'Member when I tried to leave; you grabbed me by the ass, looked at yourself in the mirror, & said what a 'beautiful couple' we made?"

A later tweet from Bellamar clarified that Piven cornered her and "forcefully fondled my breasts & bum" twice.

"Once at the [Playboy] mansion & once on [the Entourage] set," she wrote.

Piven responded with a statement that the incidents Bellamar described "did not happen" and that he hoped the allegations didn't detract from stories that "should be heard".

The full statement reads: "I unequivocally deny the appalling allegations being peddled about me. It did not happen. 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."

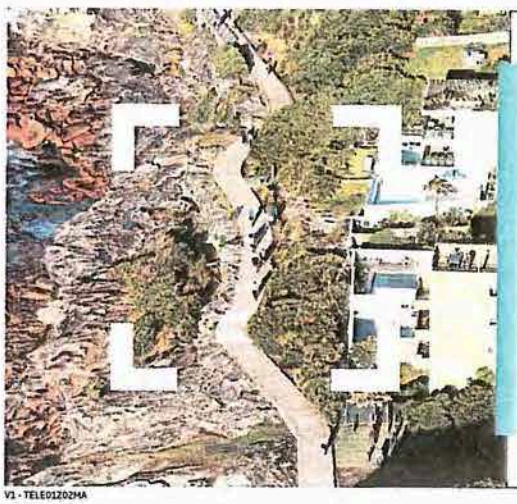
CBS, which airs Piven's new series, Wisdom of the Crowd, said in a statement that "we are aware of the media reports and are looking into the matter."

HBO, which produced Entourage, said: "Today, via the press reports, is the first we are hearing about Ariane Bellamar's allegations concerning Jeremy Piven. Everyone at HBO and our productions is aware that zero tolerance for sexual harassment is our policy. Anyone experiencing an unsafe working environment has several avenues for making complaints that we take very seriously."

Piven is the latest name to join the growing list of Hollywood figures accused of sexual assault or harassment following the allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Most recently, House Of Cards actor Kevin Spacey was accused of molesting a 14-year-old actor. Spacey has apologised for his behaviour but sparked outrage when he appeared to use coming out as gay to mask the scandal.

NBC contributor Mark Halperin and director James Toback have also been accused in recent weeks.



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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

Staff and agencies | Friday 3 November 2017 07:43 | 2 comments

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Danny Masterson *(Getty)*

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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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.

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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 ɔlished 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.

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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. :flix'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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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 monthslong 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.

ne 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 nowledge 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.

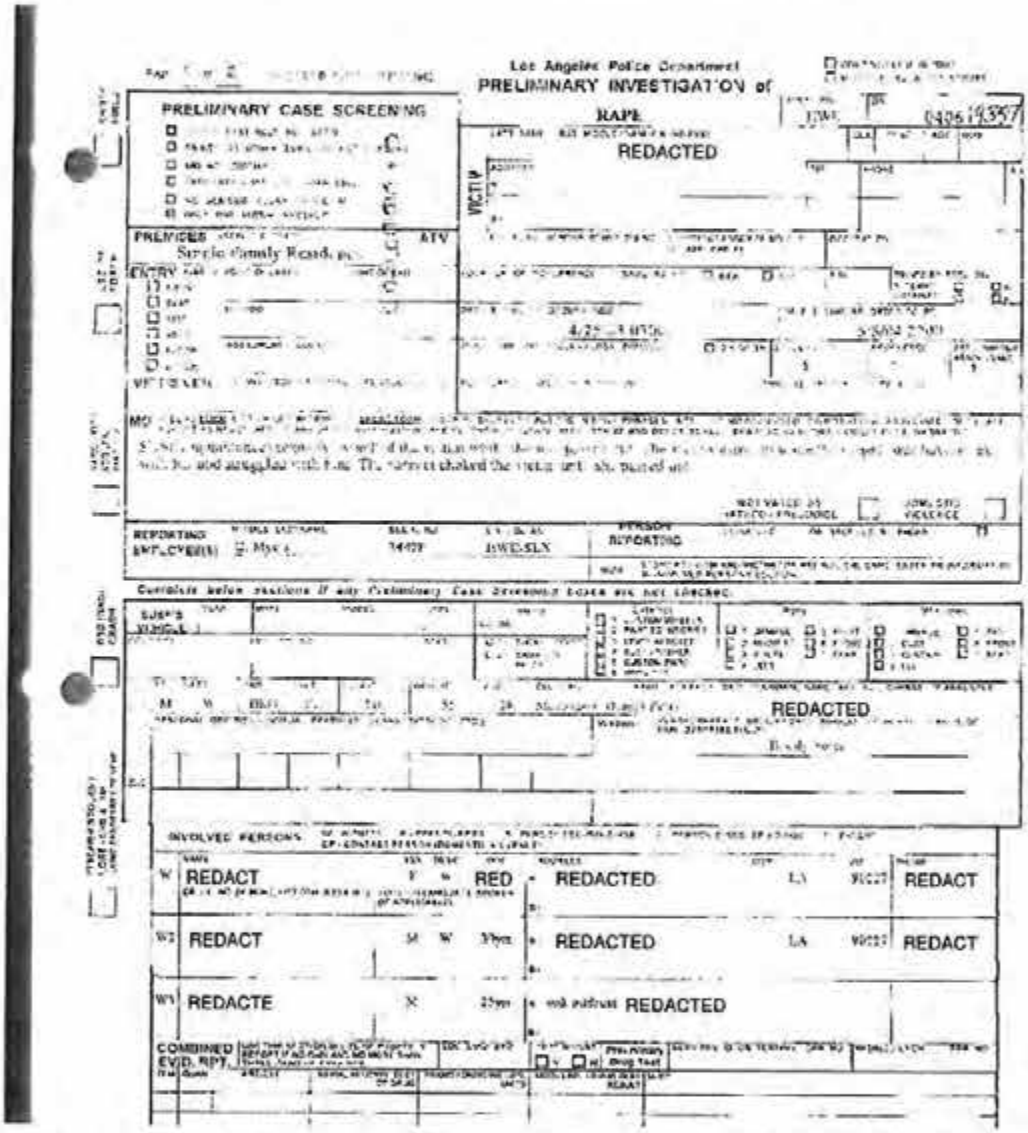
The LAPD in late 2016 began to interview the women accusing Masterson of rape. Ortega first reported on the LAPD investigation in March 2017.

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."

340853382 Victim B Police Report Redacted by Tommy Craggs on Scribd


Los Angeles Police Department
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of
RAPE
PRELIMINARY CASE SCREENING
REDACTED
VICTIM
PREMISES
ENTRY
REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S)
PERSON REPORTING
INVOLVED PERSONS
REDACT
REDACTED
COMBINED EVID. RPT.

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

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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YOU ARE A DIRTY RATNER

Hollywood stars say seedy director preyed on them



Olivia Munn has accused Brett Ratner (inset) of sordid on-set behaviour. Picture: AFP

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

Playboy Enterprises quickly cancelled plans for a Ratner-helmed biopic of Hugh Hefner as his lawyer denied the allegations and yesterday the director announced that he was also stepping away from his $586 million production deal with Warner Bros.

"In light of the allegations being made, I am choosing to personally 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 Aussie tycoon James Packer used to be a shareholder of, yet to be released.

Actors 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 19. 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 strongarmed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me," Henstridge said. "At some point, I gave in and he did his thing."

Newsroom 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 detailed the encounter in her book Suck It, Wonder Woman!: The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek.

"He walked out ... with his belly sticking out, no pants on, shrimp cocktail 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 2010 and he allegedly told her he ejaculated to her image on magazine covers.

"I've made specific, conscientious choices not to work with Brett Ratner," she said.

"It feels as if I keep 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 Martin 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 scandals engulfing Harvey Weinstein, James Toback and Kevin Spacey.





"He strongarmed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me.

Natasha Henstridge (right)

Hoffman accused of grope

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 for a foot massage when she was an intern more than 30 years ago.



Anna Graham Hunter branded the actor (pictured) a "predator", saying he made crude sexual references and openly flirted with her on the set of Death Of A Salesman in 1985. She detailed his alleged behaviour in letters at the time to her sister. Aged 17 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 bottom.

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

Spacey sleaze is growing

KEVIN 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 groom him aged 19, when he was employed at a hotel in the UK in 2010. He alleged he was offered a $8500 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 woke 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 17 at the time, said: "I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst."

And actor Roberto Cavazos, said that he had fended off two unpleasant" advances made by the star in 2008 which "bordered on harassment".

Australia's no-frills history of lizards



Frill-necked lizard.

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 frill-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'd be no dragon lizards, frilled-necks, goannas, 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 6300 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.



celebrities gone bad

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 News Corp Australia Network NOVEMBER 3, 2017 12:42PM

Video Image

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MeToo movement inspires women to share their stories

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.



Noll charged over 'white powder'



The dark history of the Backstreet Boys



Roseanne goes on rant about Ambien



'Humiliating': Nicki blasts Cardi B



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, Ailes, O'riley, 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



TRENDING IN ENTERTAINMENT


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Stoya has levelled allegations of sexual assault against her ex-lover James Deen. Picture: Wire Image *Source:Getty Images*

advertisement

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.


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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.

I'M A: SEEKING A:
Hi, what's your first name?
Postcode? Australia

He now lives in Beverly Hills, California, and is not b ildren.


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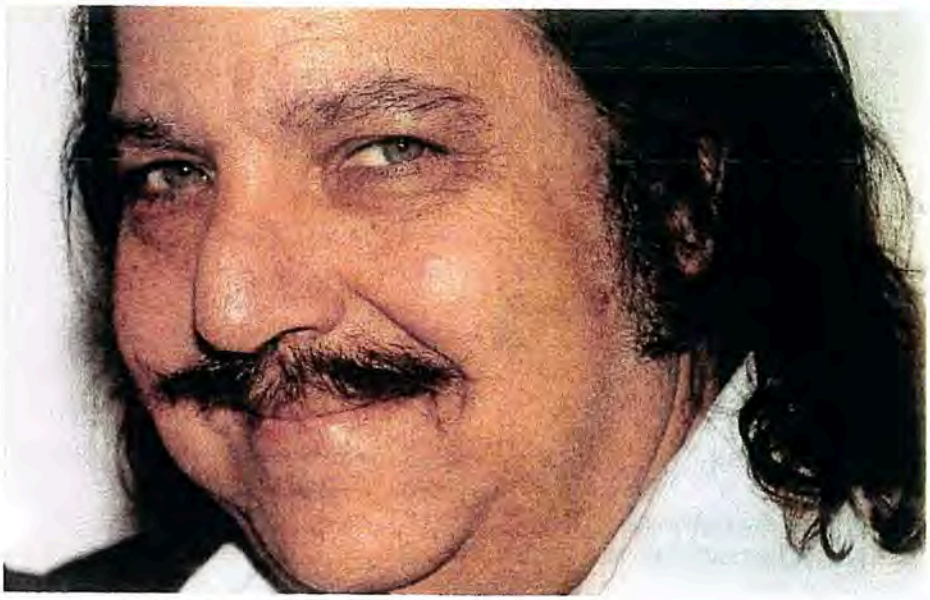

Adult film star Ron Jeremy. Picture: AP *Source:AP*

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

emy has been accused of groping a number of women by webcam model Ginger anks.

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.

This article first appeared in *The Sun* and is republished here with permission.



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Saudi crackdown on royals, rich

MARGHERITA STANCATI
SUMMER SAID
BEIRUT AND DUBAI

Saudi authorities have carried out a new wave of arrests, targeting royals and cabinet ministers in a crackdown against alleged corruption as the Saudi leadership seeks to consolidate power amid a political transition.

Billionaire Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, a prominent member of Saudi Arabia's royal family and one of the world's wealthiest men, was among 10 princes and more than two dozen current and former ministers detained yesterday.

Mr Waleed, a top investor in Apple and Twitter, faces money-laundering charges, a source said.

The targeting of senior princes such as Mr Mr Waleed and of sitting cabinet ministers represents an escalation of a campaign of arrests launched by the Saudi leadership in recent months. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — elevated to heir apparent after his predecessor was deposed this year — is consolidating power before his octogenarian father, King Salman, is expected to abdicate by early next year, sources said.

Mr Waleed has long been one of Saudi Arabia's most prominent business voices, but he had not been seen as a major player in domestic politics. His father, Talal 'bdulaziz al Saud, however, eviously opposed Prince ammed's rise to power.

o other prominent Saudi government officials were also detained, the sources said: Economy Minister Adel Fakieh, and Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, the head of the National Guard, one of three main branches of Saudi Arabia's security forces. Both face charges of corruption.

King Salman yesterday issued royal orders sacking the two men. Prince Mohammed has previously said he would go after graft at the highest level.

The government arrested dozens of clerics and other public figures in September, some of whom had opposed Prince Mohammed's moves towards liberalisation. The government also warned Saudis it would not tolerate criticism of its hardline stand towards neighbouring Qatar, with which it severed ties in June.

At the time, Saudi officials said the government was targeting people it suspected were involved in a plot against the government.

Yesterday's arrests were carried out by a new anti-corruption agency headed by the crown prince. The agency, formed on Saturday, has far-reaching authority in cases of suspected corruption involving public funds, including the power to issue arrest warrants, to impose travel restrictions and to freeze assets.

"Laws will be applied firmly on everyone who touched public money and didn't protect it or embezzled it, or abused their wer and influence," King man's order said. "This will be ied on those big and small, and ear no one."

anti-corruption commitee marks a new effort to stamp out unscrupulous dealings in a country where the line between government money and the royal family is not always clear.

The crackdown comes as Saudi Arabia moves forward with an economic liberalisation plan centred on the initial public offering of a piece of the state energy firm, Saudi Arabian Oil, the largest oil producer in the world.

The IPO could generate up to $US100 billion ($130bn), making Saudi Arabia's sovereign-wealth fund the largest in the world and helping the kingdom invest in other areas beyond oil — a plan referred to as Vision 2030.

The arrests send a clear message that corruption will not be tolerated as the kingdom pushes through its plan for economic reform, said Mohammed Alyahya, a Saudi political analyst and non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

"MBS has made it very clear that he will crack down on corruption, and that he is willing to do it from the top first," Mr Alyahya said, using a popular acronym for Prince Mohammed.

"The bottom line is that corruption costs the government. We have economic problems ... There is no way you can achieve Vision 2030 without tackling these issues."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



REUTERS, AFP

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, main; King Salman, above right, and billionaire Prince al-Waleed bin Talal

Lebanon's dangerous days after Hariri exit

BEIRUT: Saad Hariri's resignation as Lebanon's prime minister has raised fears that regional tensions are about to escalate and that the small country would once again pay a heavy price.

Analysts said the Saudi-backed Sunni politician's move on Saturday night to step down from the helm less than a year after forming a government was more than just the latest hiccup in Lebanon's dysfunctional politics.

"It's a dangerous decision whose consequences will be heavier than what Lebanon can bear," said Hilal Khashan, a professor of political science at the American University of Beirut.

Mr Hariri resigned in a broadcast from Saudi Arabia, accusing Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilising the region.

Hezbollah is part of the government, but the clout of a group whose military arsenal outstrips Lebanon's armed forces is far greater than its share of cabinet posts. Lebanon has been deeply divided between a camp dominated by the Shia Tehran-backed Hezbollah and a Saudi-supported movement led by Mr Hariri.

"Hariri has started a cold war that could escalate into a civil war, bearing in mind that Hezbollah is unmatched in Lebanon on the military level," Professor Khashan said.

The rift in Lebanon's political class led to the assassination in 2005 of Mr Hariri's father, Rafik. Investigations pointed to the responsibility of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah. Other political assassinations in the anti-Hezbollah camp ensued, followed by a month-long war between the militia and neighbouring Israel, as well as violent internal clashes.

Mr Hariri's resignation came amid high tension between Saudi Arabia, once the region's powerhouse, and Iran, which has played an increasingly predominant political and military role in the region. Mr Hariri met Iran's most seasoned diplomat, Ali Akbar Velayati, on Friday before flying to Saudi Arabia. "The timing and venue of the resignation are surprising ... but not the resignation itself," said Fadia Kiwarse, political science professor at Beirut's Saint Joseph University.

"The situation is developing rapidly and we're at a turning point ... there could be a deadly clash between Saudi Arabia and Iran. In that event, the two main camps in Lebanon will clash too."

Other than just an internal conflict, analysts also do not rule out an external attack on Hezbollah, be it by Saudi Arabia directly or by the Shia militia's arch-foe, Israel. "Hariri is saying 'there is no government any more, Hezbollah is not part of it' , and he is thus legitimising any military strike against Hezbollah in Lebanon," Professor Kiwarse said.

AFP

Riyadh intercepts missile targeting main airport

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said its forces intercepted a ballistic missile fired by rebels in from Yemen toward one of the kingdom's major international airports on the outskirts of the capital, Riyadh. The missile fire drew an immediate rebuke from US President Donald Trump, who blamed Iran in part for the attack.

The missile was fired across Saudi Arabia's southern border by Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels, according to several Houthi-owned media outlets, including Al-Masirah and SABA. The rebels are at war with the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia said the missile was shot down by its air defence forces, with fragments of the missile landing in an uninhabited area north of the capital. Saudi Arabia's Civil Aviation Authority said the missile did not cause any damage to King Khalid International Airport and that flights were not disrupted. This is the first time that a Houthi missile has come so close to a heavily populated area, and it appears to be the farthest that such a missile has reached inside Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is about 1000km north of the border with Yemen.

AP



Hariri

Actress about to step on to new stage

LONDON: She has survived the most bruising scrutiny with admirable restraint, but the family and friends of Meghan Markle are not proving quite so discreet as they share their stories about the woman who most of the world believes is about to become Prince Harry's bride.

In the latest outbreak of royal wedding fever, an ITV documentary tomorrow entitled *Prince Harry and Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply* reveals that the actress's African-American heritage was not at all "gangland", as some tabloid reports have suggested; nor was she a "ghetto princess" or the product of a "rags-to-riches Cinderella story".

Instead, Meghan's half-sister, Samantha, reveals: "We were raised in a very beautiful upper-middle class home in the San Fernando Valley of southern California, nowhere near 'gangland'... Meghan was very classy, she was sort of prim and proper even when she was a child."

Their father, Thomas Markle, was a Hollywood lighting director who divorced his first wife — Samantha's mother — and married Doria Ragland, an African-American social worker and yoga instructor who gave birth to Meghan in 1981. Meghan's parents divorced when she was six.

Samantha, 52, who is 16 years older than her half-sister, said Meghan was brought up in a "unique multicultural and inter-racial family".

"With regards to feeling bi-racial tension or rift, I never really noticed that. My father and Doria were very good at giving her stability," she added.

Little new light is shed on Markle's first marriage to film producer Trevor Engelson — they were together for seven years, marrying in 2011 and divorcing two years later. Abby Wathen, Markle's friend and co-star in the film *Random Encounters*, describes how the actresses "bonded" over their divorces.

"Meghan, she's not one of these people that dwells," says Wathen. "I was destroyed and Meghan was really, 'It was great to feel empowered'. I feel she took her power back. It wasn't the marriage she needed to be in and she moved on."

Harry, 33, and Markle, 36, have been dating since July last year and recently have made no secret of their romance. Markle told a magazine interviewer in September: "We're two people who are really happy and in love."

The actress is reported to have met the Queen last month.

Markle is understood to be considering giving up her acting career in preparation for royal life and is reported to have told the makers of *Suits*, which is filmed in Toronto, that she will not return for the next series.

She has also closed down what she has described as her "passion project" — The Tig, a website and blog where for three years she shared tips on food, fashion, travel and beauty.

The scrutiny is certain to continue.

It is to Markle's credit that after more than a year of tale-telling by her friends she still sounds like a normal human being.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

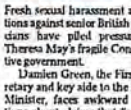


AFP

Meghan Markle, right, with her mother, Doria Radlan, at the Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada, in September

Sex claims pile up against UK MPs

JACQUELIN MAGNAY
LONDON



Fresh sexual harassment allegations against senior British politicians have piled pressure on Theresa May's fragile Conservative government.

Damien Green, the First Secretary and key aide to the Prime Minister, faces awkward questions about claims that "severe" pornographic material was found on a parliamentary computer in his office in 2008.

Another serious complaint, of which details were not known, was levelled against Tory MP Charlie Elphicke and referred to police. He has also been stood down from the party.

Former Tory minister Stephen Crabb has been referred to the Conservative Party's new complaint's process after it was revealed he sent a woman sexually explicit texts after interviewing her for a job.

The scandal has rapidly widened since defence secretary Sir Michael Fallon resigned last week.

It has emerged that Mrs May told Sir Michael to stand down following a series of complaints, including one raised by a journalist in 2003 that he tried to kiss her after an interview.

He is also accused of putting his hand on another journalist's knee and making a lewd remark to Tory MP Andrea Leadsom about warm hands.

Britain's Sunday newspaper headlines were dominated by "Pestminster" and a strong of complaints of bad behaviour and poor governance and complaint mechanisms.

Former deputy police commissioner Bob Quick told *The Sunday Times* that police had found extreme pornographic material on the computer in Mr Green's office during a raid in connection to an expenses scandal nine years ago. The paper reported that the material was deemed legal and Mr Green denied knowledge of any such material. Mr Green is already under a Whitehall investigation following claims of sexual harassment against him by Tory activist Kate Malby.

Conservative MP Daniel Poulter, 39, has been reported to his party's new disciplinary committee after allegations about his behaviour towards at least three female MPs.

The move came after *The Sunday Times* alleged the former health minister had been the subject of a formal complaint by fellow Conservative MP Andrew Bridgen about Poulter's behaviour towards three female MPs.

The Daily Mail reported that Tory whip Chris Pincher made several unwanted passes — including emerging in his bathrobe like a "pound shop Harvey Weinstein with chest and belly sticking out" — while trying to woo male Conservative activist Alex Story, a former Olympic rower.

Labour is under siege over claims of inappropriate behaviour against politicians Clive Lewis, Ivan Lewis and Kelvin Hopkins, all of whom have denied the allegations.

Scottish Children's Minister Mark McDonald, from the Scottish National Party, resigned after complaints about him.

Westminster insiders say the revelations across all party lines have put the party whips in a difficult position as they record politicians' foibles and bad behaviour in "black" books. There could be damaging fallout if the whips suppressed criminal behaviour.



AFP

Stephen Crabb is accused of sending explicit texts

Russia's interference could be the tobacco moment for big tech

WORLD COMMENTARY

DANNY FORTSON

For students of political theatre, last week's congressional hearings into how Facebook, Google and Twitter allowed Russia to spread disinformation in the US presidential election had an eerie ring. Senator Ron Wyden asked each of the companies' lawyers, sitting in front of a gallery of glowering senators: "Are you satisfied with your platform's response to foreign interference in the 2016 election?"

Google's general counsel Kent Walker bumbled through a response before conceding: "We could have done more." Sean Edgett of Twitter said: "No, we need to do more." Colin Stretch, Facebook's general counsel, said: "The same is true."

Wyden had used the same gambit in 1994 with the bosses of America's top seven tobacco companies. He asked them all: "Do you believe nicotine is not addictive?" They all said it wasn't. Four years later, the industry agreed to a landmark $US246 billion settlement, exposing its decades-long lie and leaving no doubt about the dangers posed by smoking. The question is: are we witnessing big tech's tobacco moment?

Silicon Valley has been caught flat-footed since Vladimir Putin's regime in Russia began using its platforms to exploit social divisions and sow chaos, not only in America's affairs, but across the West — from elections in France to the Catalan separatist movement and even the EU referendum. These were, after all, companies that pledged to not "be evil" (Google) and to "bring the world closer together" (Facebook). Instead they are powerful tools of cyber-espionage, bullying and fake news — something they have been slow to acknowledge, let alone address.

Over two days and three hearings last week in Washington, the Silicon Valley giants admitted they had not done enough to counter fake news — but they offered few concrete solutions.

Their underwhelming performance has redoubled calls for the tech titans to be broken up, banned from certain countries or, at best, hit with strict new rules.

"I don't think you get it," said Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, the home state of all three companies in the line of fire. "You have a huge problem on your hands. This could be the beginning of cyber-warfare. You created these platforms and now they are being misused. You have to be the ones to do something about it — or we will."

The most exposed company is Facebook. A year ago, just after the US election, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said it was a "crazy idea" that misinformation had played a role in the voting. In an extraordinary reversal, the company admitted last week that up to 150 million Americans — 46 per cent of the population — may have seen fake news on its platforms.

Facebook pledged to hire 10,000 new workers in "safety and security" by the end of next year. On the company's quarterly earnings call, Zuckerberg, 33, said: "I am dead serious about this, and the reason I'm talking about this ... is that I've directed our teams to invest so much in security, on top of our other investments we're making, that it will significantly impact our profitability."

Critics are not ready to take the billionaire at his word. Scott Galloway, marketing professor at New York University's Stern School of Business and author of *The Four*, a critique of the big internet companies, said: "Facebook is dealing with this crisis with a series of half-measures and denial, and it's going to bite them in the arse. They're literally begging for regulation. They're sticking their chin out and asking somebody to do something severe."

Indeed, while Facebook's general counsel was being hauled over the coals by the Senate committee, Zuckerberg was in China trying to sweet-talk President Xi Jinping into allowing the social network access to the country's potential one billion-plus users. Jason Calacanis, a Silicon Valley investor, told CNBC this showed "a complete lack of respect for the democracy that has allowed them (Zuckerberg and other tech chiefs) to receive tens of billions of wealth". He added: "Making money is more important to Zuckerberg than protecting democracy."

The day after the hearings, Facebook announced that in the three months to September, it banked $US4.7bn ($6.140n) in profits, an 80 per cent increase on the same period last year.

More extraordinary than the financial performance is Facebook's insistence that it is not a media company (Google and Twitter also refuse to be classified as such). Saying it is a media operation would subject it to regulations it has avoided.

More than 99 per cent of Facebook's $US10.3bn turnover in the last quarter came from ads and it plans to spend $US1bn a year on original content. About half of the US gets its news from Facebook and more than six million companies advertise on its platform. The Trump and Clinton campaigns together spent more than $US81 million on Facebook ads during the election campaign. Galloway said: "They're afraid of having some sense of obligation around the role that the Fourth Estate plays in society."

A newspaper or broadcaster has a duty to check facts, correct inaccuracies and vet advertisers. Facebook has dodged all of these obligations.

Senator Mark Warner last month proposed an Honest Ads Act, which would impose the same transparency guidelines for online political ads that apply to newspapers and broadcasters.

The type of ads that Facebook allowed, which originated in Russia and were sometimes paid for in roubles, points to the paucity of the controls it had in place. The advertisers ranged from a group called the Army of Jesus, which quoted Satan as saying "If I win, Clinton Wins", to Secured Borders, which hit on immigration concerns with a picture of a road sign reading "No Invaders Allowed".

> 'They're literally begging for regulation. They're sticking their chin out and asking somebody to do something severe'
>
> SCOTT GALLOWAY
> NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Stretch admitted Facebook knew as early as 2015 Russia was posting misinformation — well before Zuckerberg publicly dismissed the role of fake news in the election.

Twitter was also littered with misinformation. After first saying it had uncovered 200 accounts connected to the Internet Research Agency, a troll farm linked to the Kremlin, it admitted last week that the real number was about 2700. It courted Russia Today, which US intelligence has labelled "the Kremlin's principal international propaganda outlet". In the run-up to the 2016 ballot, Twitter offered up to 15 per cent of all election-related ads to Russia Today — equal to $US3m in ad spending — leaked documents revealed. Last week, Twitter banned Russia Today.

The meddling has not slowed. The Alliance for Securing Democracy monitors 58 Kremlin-oriented Twitter accounts. Over the week to October 20, the top hashtags from those websites included "Maga" — an acronym for Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan, "iamhillary" and "uraniumone", relating to the 2010 sale of a uranium miner approved by the Obama administration, which Trump is peddling as a scandal.

Galloway predicted that unless tech giants moved more aggressively to stamp out such abuse, governments could begin banning them. Galloway said: "You're going to see European nations go, 'You know what, we're done. We're banning you'."

In his closing statement last week, Richard Burr, chairman of the Senate committee, warned: "What you're allowing is damaging the security, safety and sovereignty of our nation."

It almost makes tobacco seem small.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MEDIA P24

HWD

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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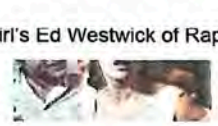

Learned from Gossip Girl

BY LAURA BRADLEY



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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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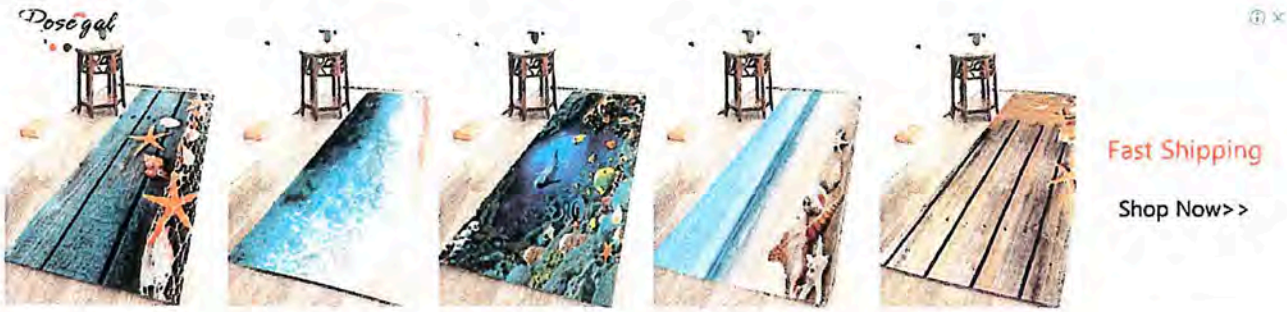
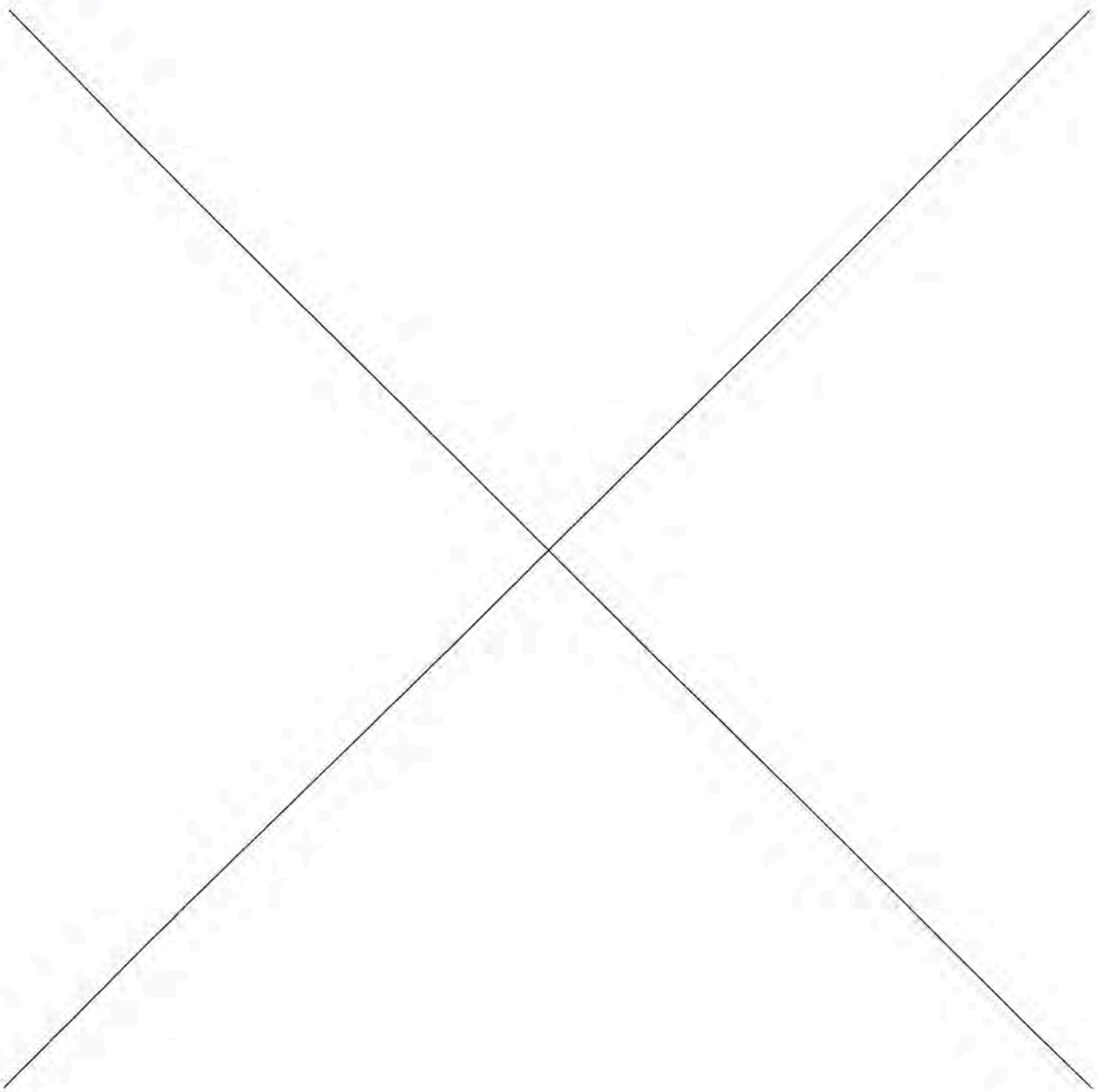


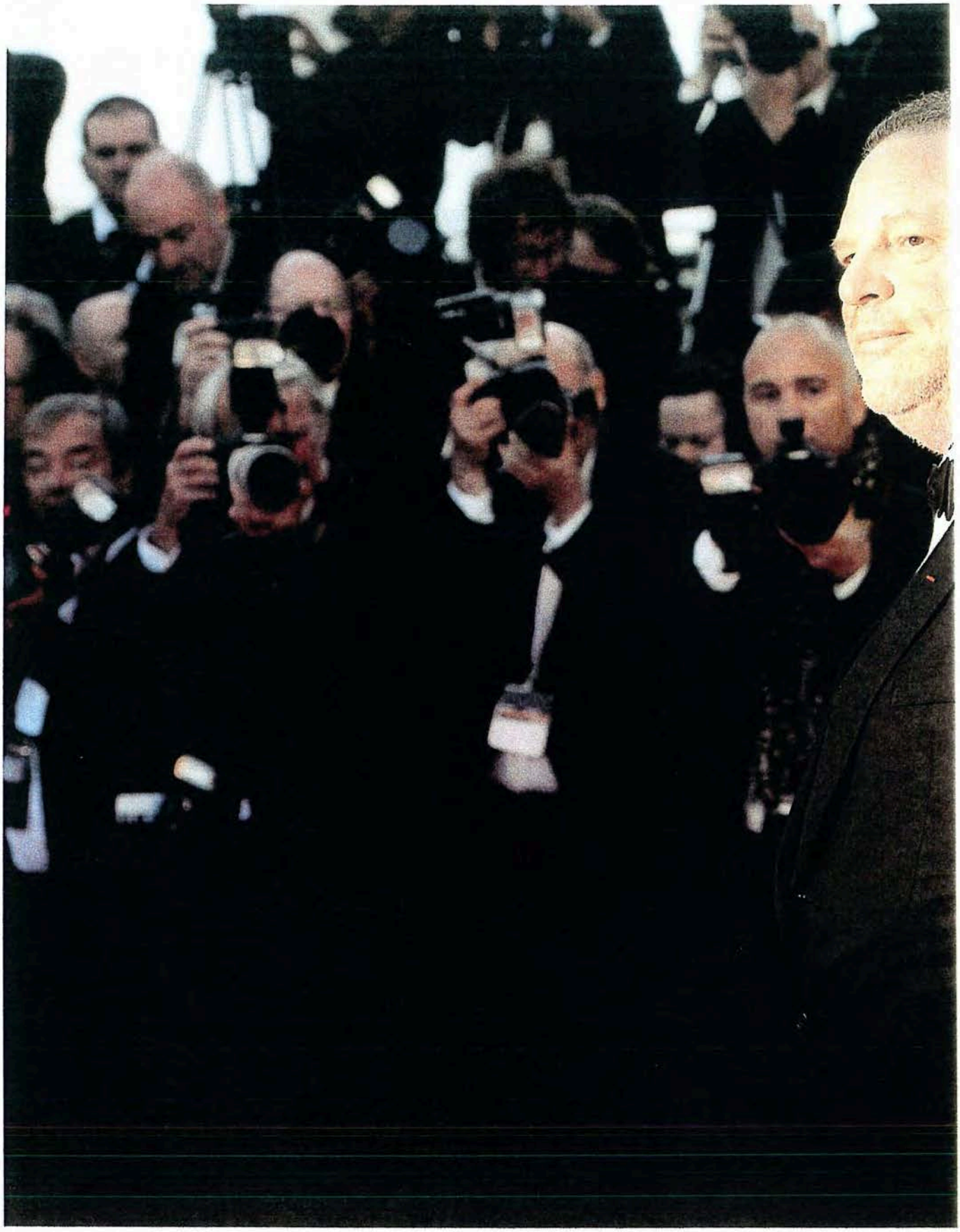
A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein



U.S. news

A growing list of men accused of sexual misconduct since Weinstein

Lorin Stein, Nelly and Roman Polanski are among the latest public figures to be accused of sexual misconduct.
by Dan Corey / Nov.09.2017 / 8:50 AM ET / Updated Jan.11.2018 / 8:34 AM ET / Source: Associated Press



Harvey Weinstein arrives for a screening at the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France on May 24, 2013.Anne-Christine Poujoulat / AFP - Getty Images file

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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."

Related



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 wu0said 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.

ı 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. hen 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



James Franco speaks at the National Board of Review Annual Awards Gala on Jan. 9, 2018.Dimitrios Kambouris / Getty Images

Almost immediately after James Franco, 39, won a Golden Globe on Jan. 7, "The Breakfast Club" actress Ally Sheedy tweeted: "James Franco just won. Please never ever ask me why I left the film/tv business." (Franco directed Sheedy in a 2014 off-Broadway play.)

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 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 arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscars party in 2014.Danny Moloshok / Reuters file

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 Lepera, 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



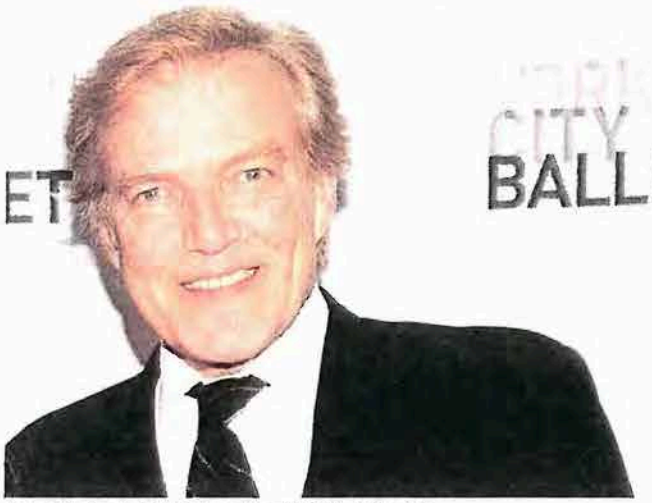
Ben Vereen attends the 2017 Tony Awards.Mike Coppola / Getty Images for Tony Awards Pro

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 in 2013.Evan Agostini / Invision/AP

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 fulling 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 at 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



Tavis Smiley officiates Courting Justice: Little Rock, Arkansas at Central Arkansas Library Ron Robinson Theatre on Sept. 23, 2016.Earl Gibson III / Getty Images file

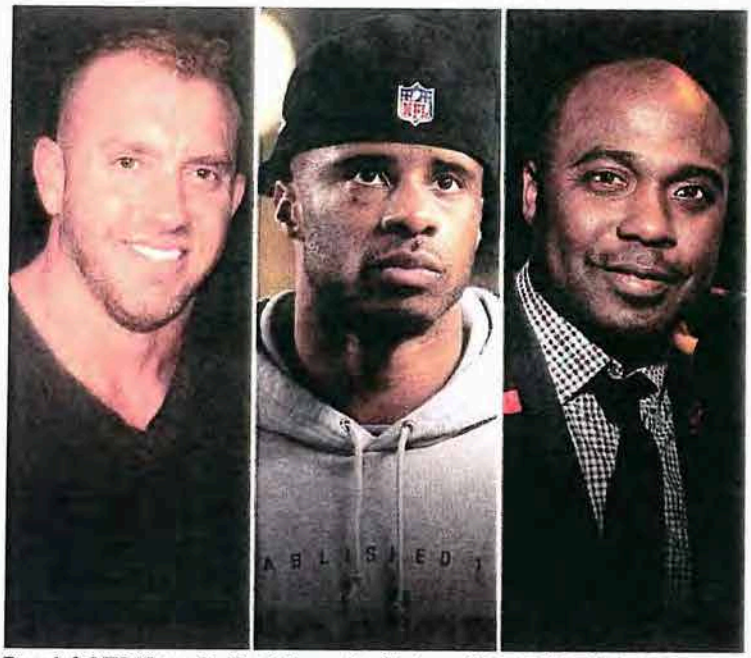
PBS announced on Dec. 13 that it was suspending distribution of the late-night talk show "Tavis Smiley" following "troubling allegations" of misconduct against the longtime public television and radio host.

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, w named in an updated 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 almost immediately, issuing a statement that described a complaint made by one woman.

"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 Eater New York 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

'umber of accusers: Unclear

. .mer Paris Review Editor Lorin Stein went under investigation in October for 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



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.

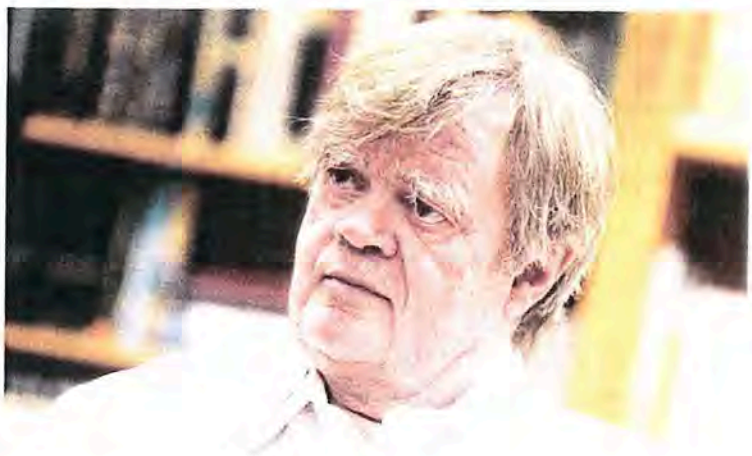
The New York Times identified two other men who it said alleged that they'd had sexual encounters with Levine beginning in the summer of 1968, when they were teens at a music school in Michigan.

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 tim 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, creator and host of "A Prairie Home Companion, in an interview by The Associated Press on July 20, 2015, in St. Paul, Minnesota.Jim Mone / AP file

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 Jon McTaggart said Wednesday.

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

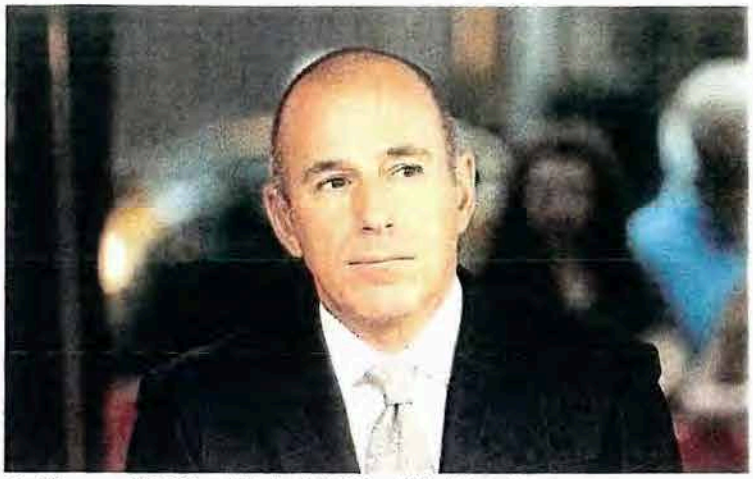
Keillor released a statement in which he said he was fired over "a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version MPR heard." But he did not release any details.

"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

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 want 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.

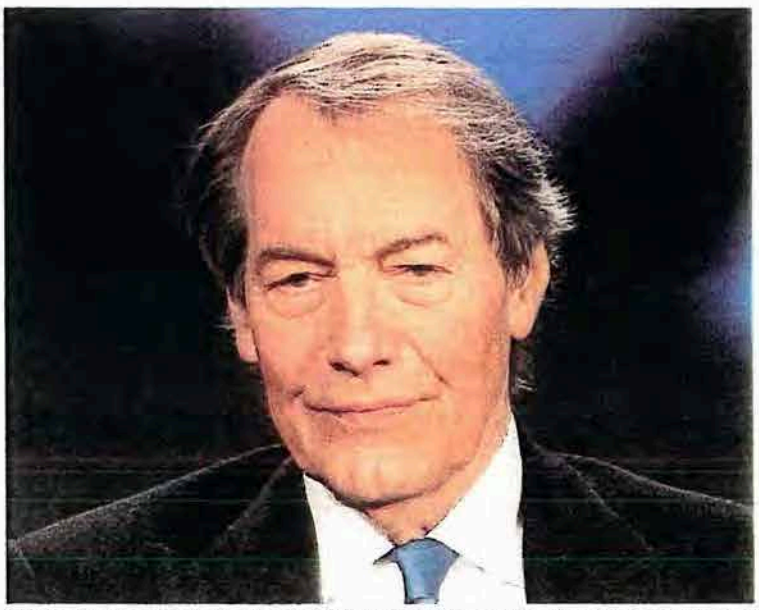
Later, Variety and The New York Times reported other cases of women coming forward to allege sexual misconduct against Lauer. Variety said at least three women shared accounts that were corroborated by "dozens of interviews with current and former staffers" during their two-month investigation. The Times 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. 20 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, Kyle 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, chief White House political correspondent for the The New York Times, works in the briefing room of the White House in Washington on Feb. 24, 2017.Yuri Gripas / Reuters file

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."

Thrush, who is married, apologized in a statement.

" apologize to any woman who felt uncomfortable in my presence, and for any situation where I behaved inappropriately. Any behavior that makes a woman feel disrespected 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 refused 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 guest column in The Hollywood Reporter how Simmons forced her into a sexual encounter in 1991 when she was 24.

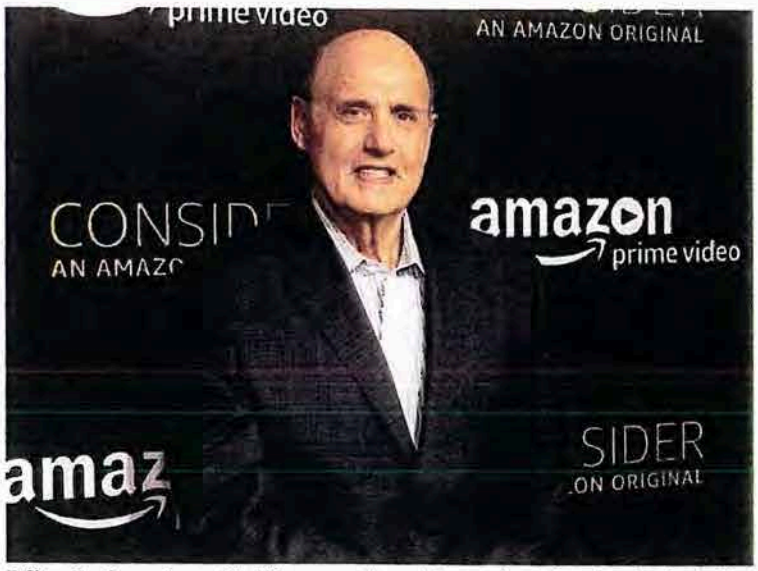
Simmons, 60, said that her recollections of that night are "very different from mine" although "it is now clear to me that her feelings of fear and intimidation are real."

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 Natashia Williams-Blach, 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



Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington on Oct. 4, 2011.Carolyn Kaster / AP, file

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., was accused by a radio news anchor of forcibly kissing and groping her in 2006 when they were overseas as part of a USO show.

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.

Tweeden said 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."

Franken announced his plans to resign on Dec. 7 while taking a parting shot at President Donald Trump and other Republicans.

"I, of all people, am aware that there is some irony that I am leaving while a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault sits in the Oval Office, and a man who has preyed on underage girls is running for the Senate with the full support of his party," Franken, D-Minn., said in emotional speech on the Senate floor.

He was referring to Trump, who has also been accused of sexual misconduct, and Roy Moore, the Republican candidate for Senate in Alabama, who faced allegations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls. Trump and Moore have both denied the claims.

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



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.

'ariety 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 act 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 underpants" 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 woman said Moore forced them into any sort of relationship or sexual contact.

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Norm Macdonald backpedals on #MeToo comments — with another insult



Men like Les Moonves and Harvey Weinstein were cultural gatekeepers for decades. How do we undo their damage?

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



Louis C.K. at Madison Square Garden in 2016.Stephen Lovekin / REX/Shutterstock via AP file

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 Wolov allege Louis CK 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.

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



American actor Steven Seagal in Moscow.Mikhail Japaridze / TASS via Getty file

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 SiriusXM that she was excited to read for the part when he 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 her 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



Ed Westwick arrives at the BAFTA Awards Season Tea Party at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles on Nov. 7, 2017.Jordan Strauss / AP

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 no 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 not evidence of a crime. There was no police report filed at the time of the alleged incident, sources said.

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



Brett Ratner arrives at Wolfgang Puck's in Beverly Hills in 2017.Willy Sanjuan / Invision/AP file

Actresses Olivia Munn, Katharine Towne, Jamie Ray Newman, Natasha Henstridge, Jorina 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



Dustin Hoffman arrives at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Grants Banquet in Beverly Hills, California on Aug. 2, 2017.Jordan Strauss / Invision/AP file

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 Wendy Riss Gatsiounis 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 "Ishtar" 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 those 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 Zoeller / 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.

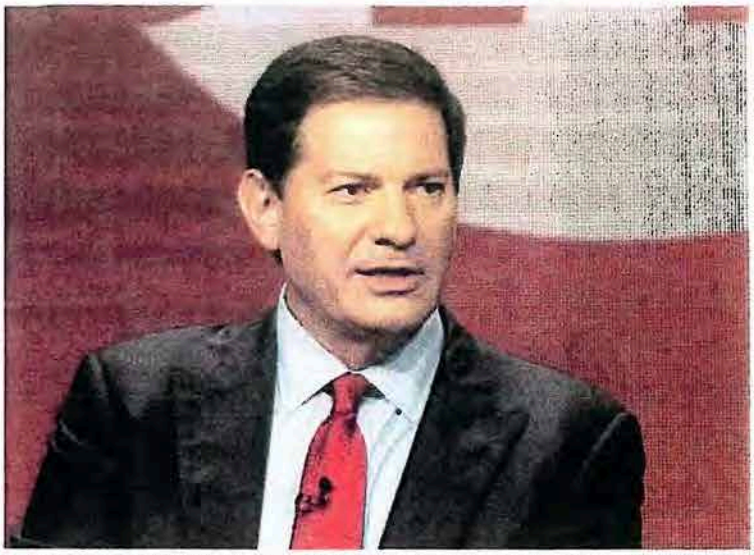
Heather Unruh, a former television anchor, told reporters that Spacey bought her then 18-year-old son "drink after drink after drink" at a crowded restaurant in Nantucket, Massachusetts, in July 2016, and then "stuck his hand inside my son's pants and grabbed his genitals."

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 mistreated."

Halperin, 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."

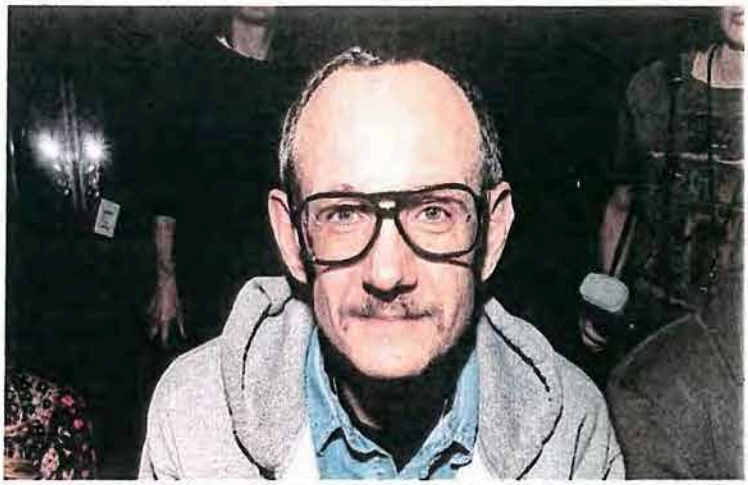
New York actress Jordana Grolnick also accused the former president of having inappropriately touched her in 2016. Author Christina Baker Kline said the incident involving Bush occurred in 2014, while Amanda Staples, a Republican candidate for Maine's Senate, said the touching occurred in 2006 and retired 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-up 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

Number of accusers: Multiple



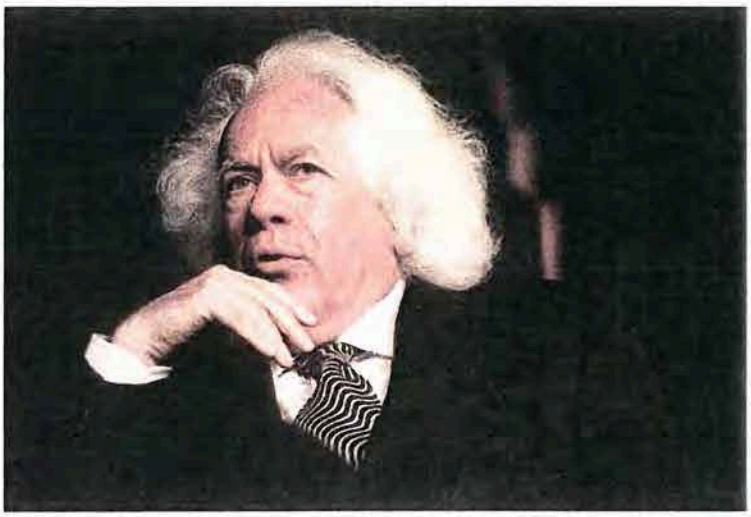
Terry Richardson sits in the front row at New York Fashion Week in 2017.Swan Gallet / REX/Shutterstock via AP

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 E! News.

,eon Wieseltier

Number of accusers: Multiple



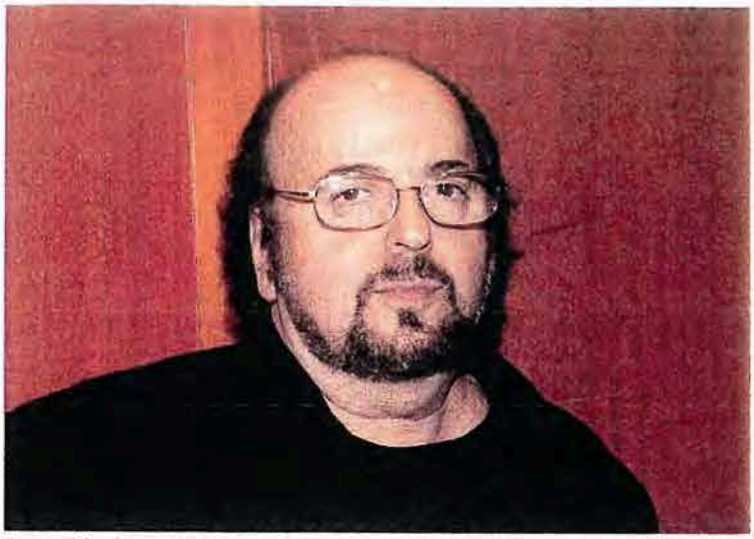
Leon Wieseltier poses for a photograph on June 9, 2013 in Tel Aviv, Israel.Dan Balilty / AP file

The benefactors of a new magazine set to be edited by Leon Wieseltier — a literary critic, former contributing editor for The Atlantic and a former New Republic editor — ended their business relationship with him after sexual harassment allegations surfaced, The New York Times reported. The Atlantic severed its ties with him on Oct. 27.

"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



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 claimed 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



Chef John Besh attends a benefit in New York in 2015.Brad Barket / Invision via AP

Celebrity chef John Besh, a prominent fixture of the New Orleans culinary scene, stepped down from the company he 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 NOLA.com 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



Miramax co-founder Bob Weinstein appears at a premiere of "Sin City," in Los Angeles on March 28, 2005.Chris Pizzello / AP file

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.

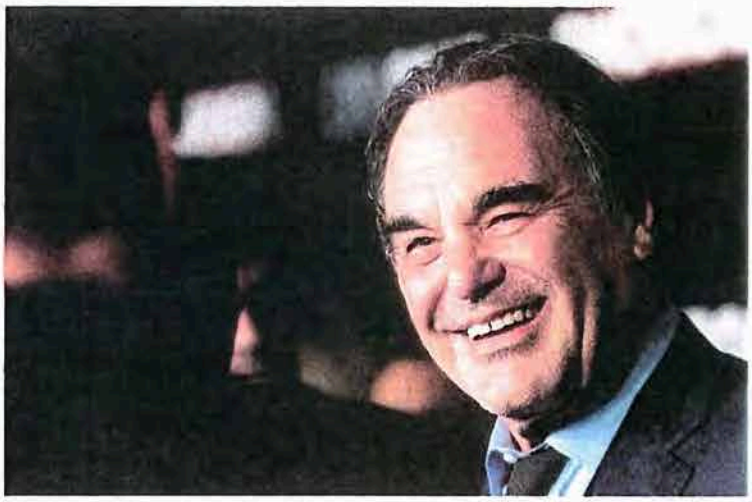
\manda Segel, an executive producer of "The Mist," a Weinstein Co. drama that aired on Spike TV, said Bob Weinstein began harassing her in the summer of 2016 y repeatedly asking her to join him for private dinners.

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



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 ple 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 ctly with those involved."

A spokesperson for Price declined to comment to The Hollywood Reporter.

Ben Affleck

Number of accusers: 2



Ben Affleck arrives at the premiere of Warner Bros Pictures' "The Accountant" on Oct. 10, 2016 in Hollywood, California.Gregg DeGuire / WireImage file

Hours after actor Ben Affleck released a statement condemning Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct, Affleck was accused of groping Hilarie 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 told 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



Rapper Nelly performs during the kickoff of The Main Event tour on May 1, 2015 in Las Vegas.Ethan Miller / Getty Images file

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 1979, 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.

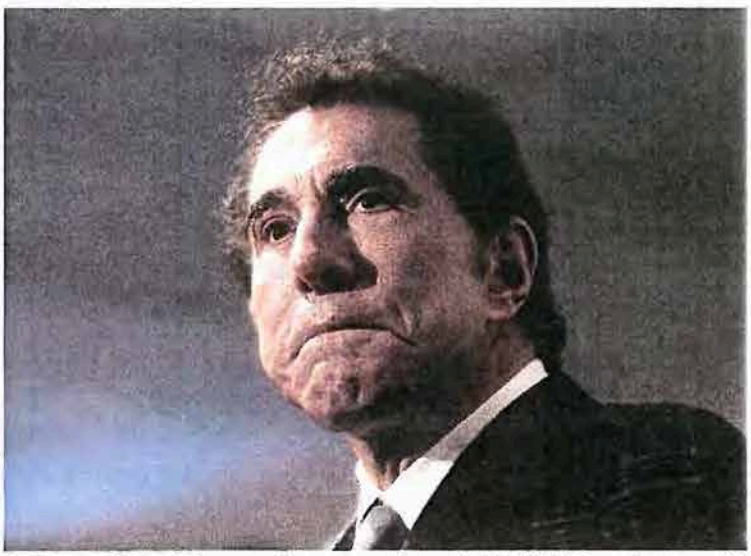
Samantha Geimer, 55, asked the Los Angeles Superior Court to dismiss the case or sentence Polanski to the time served in prison during a court-ordered evaluation since the process has lasted over 40 years.

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 "hysteria."

Stephen Wynn

Number of accusers: Unclear



Casino mogul Steve Wynn attends a news conference in Medford, Massachusetts on March 15, 2016.Charles Krupa / AP file

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.

The manicurist 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 in 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 Asante McGee 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 Sep. 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.

"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



Harvey Weinstein speaks at the "Lion" press junket during the 12th Zurich Film Festival on Sept/ 22, 2016 in Zurich, Switzerland.Alexander Koerner / Getty Images file

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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ABC NEWS

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 pleasured 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.

RELATED STORY: Why the tentacles of the Weinstein effect reach for those in power

RELATED STORY: Spacey completely cut from Ridley Scott movie weeks before release

RELATED STORY: Sexual harassment happens on the Australian stage too

RELATED STORY: Gossip Girl actor Ed Westwick denies rape allegation

Key points:

- Five women allege sexual misconduct by comedian Louis CK
- Allegations include CK having masturbated in front of them
- The New York premiere of CK's controversial new film I Love You, Daddy has been cancelled

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.



Thousands of women are taking to social media to share their stories of sexual harassment using the #MeToo hashtag.

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

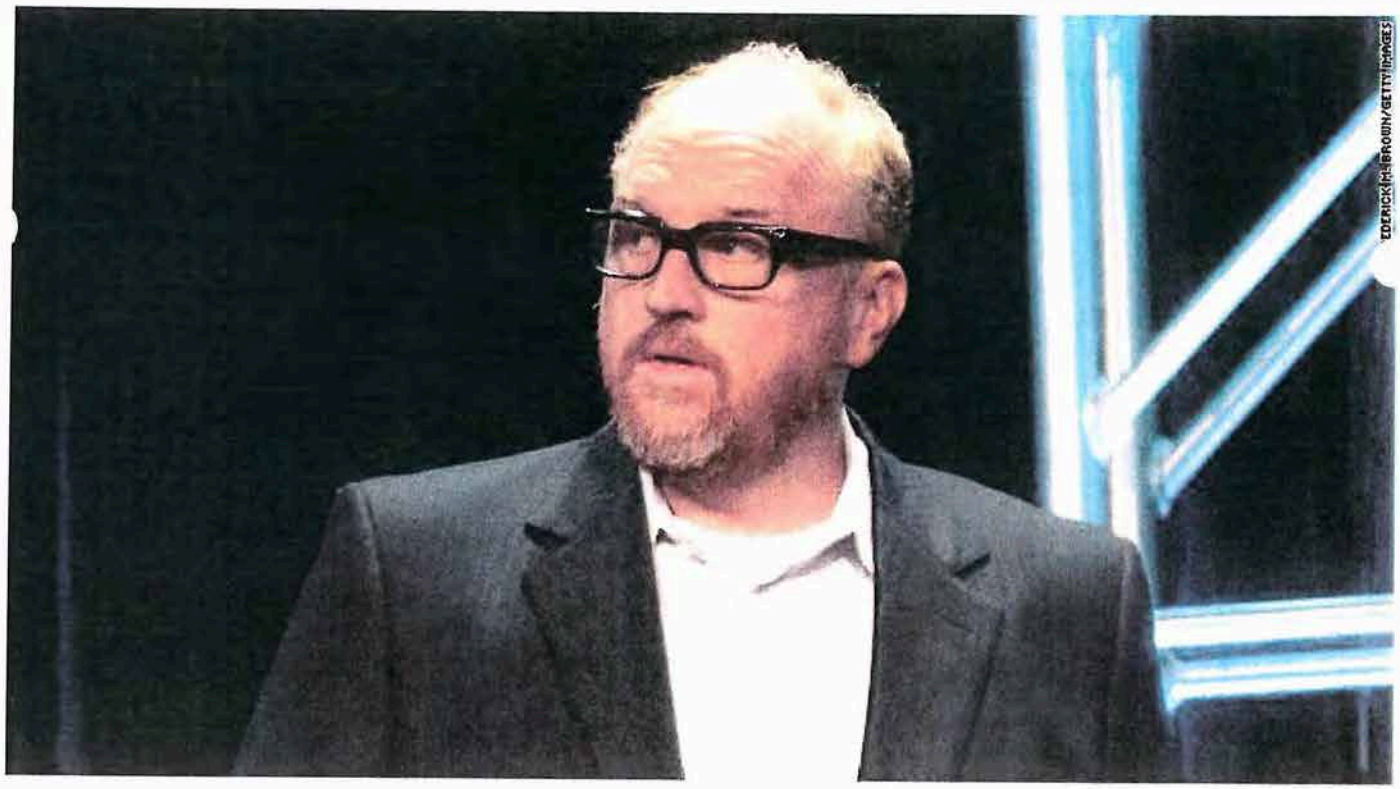
Topics: sexual-offences, law-crime-and-justice, arts-and-entertainment, comedy-film, united-states

10-195

Louis C.K.: 'These stories are true'

By Chloe Melas, CNN

Updated 0254 GMT (1054 HKT) November 11, 2017



Louis C.K. accused of sexual misconduct 01:27

(CNN) — *Warning: This article contains language some may consider offensive.*

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 continued.

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10-196

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."

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SATURDAY: 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Saturday Morning 12.00 Music Makers 1.00 Afternoon Concert 4.00 The Opera Show 5.00 Screen Sounds 7.00 Concert.
SUNDAY: 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Sunday Morning 12.00 Keys to Music 1.00 Afternoon Concert 5.00 Sunday Recital 7.00 Sunday Opera.
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SUNDAY: 4.00 Roll' News 4.30 Business 10.00 Live Drive 10.30 World News 11.00 News 11.30 NPR 12.30 News 1.30 News Sport 2.30 A/P Business 3.00 News Science 3.30 News 4.00 World This Week 4.30 NPR 5.30 News 6.30 Health 7.30 Go Digital 8.30 News.
Territory FM 104.1Territory Network
SATURDAY: 6.00 Maximum Music 8.00 Sports Saturday 10.00 Maximum Music Weekends 6.00 Best of Alice Cooper 9.00 Saturday Night Rock.
SUNDAY: 6.00 Sunday Breakfast 9.00 Acoustic Storm 12.00 Maximum Music – No Repeats 6.00 Cultural Village – World Music.
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SATURDAY: 8.00 Totally Fresh 12.00 Reggae Rebels with Steve 4.00 Easy Listening 8.00 Party Mix 12.00 Overnight Sounds.
SUNDAY: 8.00 Country with Pam 12.00 Mixed Up Beats 4.00 AFLCA Footy 6.00 Feel Good Sunday 8.00 Green Bush 12.00 Overnight Sounds.
RHEMA FM 97.7
SATURDAY: 8.00 Sat Morning Music 3.00 20 Cdown Mag 7.00 Reality Zone 10.00 Fresh.
SUNDAY: 6.30 Amazing Grace 7.00 Heart & Soul 9.00. Church Service 12.00 Sun Sounds 3.00 Women of Hope 5.00 Face to Face 7.00 B'through Gen 9.00 Paul Gray.
RADIO NATIONAL AM 657
SATURDAY: 6.00 Breaky 7.00 Saturday AM 7.30 Sat Extra 9.00 Blueprint for living 2.00 Books and Arts 5.00 Between The Lines 6.00 AWAYE! (Listen Up) 7.00 The Moth Radio Hour 8.00 BBC Arts Hour.
SUNDAY: 5.00 Blueprint for Living 7.00 Sun Extra 10.00 The Minefield 11.00 The Music Show 2.00 BooksPlus 5.00 All in the Mind 6.00 The Spirit of Things 7.00 This American Life 8.00 Download This Show.
KIK FM 91.5
SATURDAY: 12am Throb Night live. 1am KIK'n dance m6.00 Blueprint for living 7.00 Correspondents Report 8.00 Background Briefing 10.00 Between The Lines 12.00 Boyer Lectures 1.00 Earshot 3.00 Radiotonic 6.00 Spirit of Things 7.00 This American Life 8.00 Soundproof.usic 3.00 Sat KIK 6.00 KIK'n dance music.
SUNDAY: Sounds of Summer Dance and Hi NRG.
CHINESE-MANDARIN FM 91.5
SUNDAY: Noon-1pm.
MIX 104.9 FM SATURDAY. 7.00 Better Homes and Gardens 9.00 Music 4.00 Cover to Cover 6.00 Retro Party.
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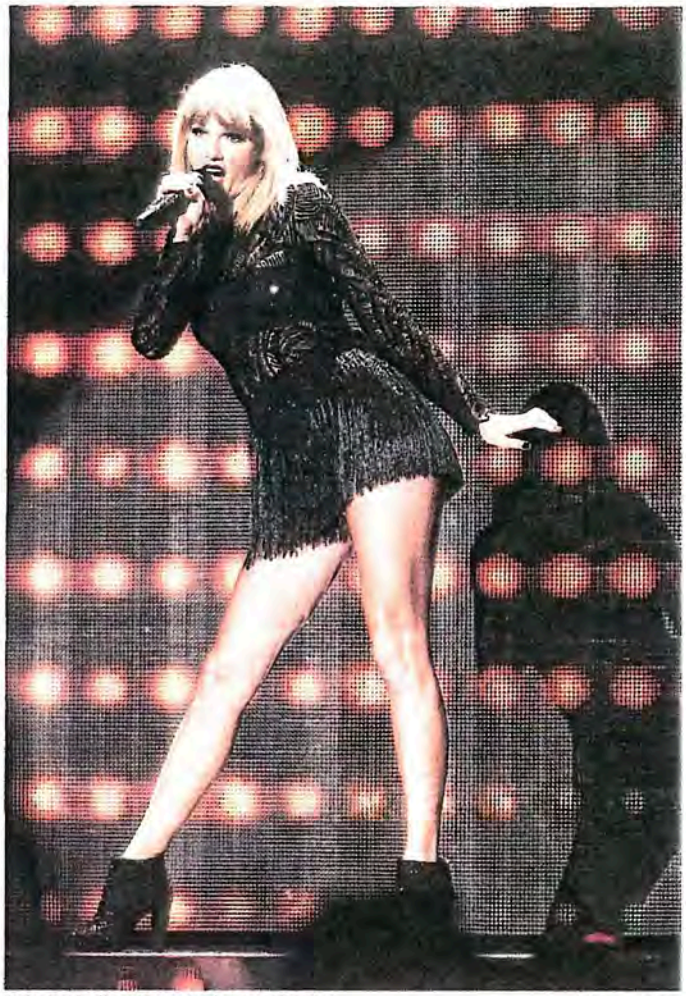

Taylor Swif's album *Reputation* has soared to No.1 Picture: INVISION

Swift builds on stellar Reputation

KATHY McCABE

TAYLOR Swift is either a master manipulator or an astute 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 questioning the loyalty of the Swifties.

They had prepared the way for her return with pre-orders of more than 400,000 copies in the US alone, double the number ordered for 2014's album *1989*.

It appears likely *Reputation* will help Swift boost her collection of 10 Grammys and sales of more than 40 million albums and 130 million singles worldwide.

New Star Wars trilogy



NEW YORK: The Walt Disney Co. announced yesterday that Rian Johnson *(pictured)* will craft a new trilogy for the *Star Wars* universe, greatly expanding the director's command over 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 foray 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 *(pictured)* married art curator Gisele Schmidt in late August at the Beverly Hills, California home of his friend and manager Doug Urbanksi, Urbanksi said on Thursday.

Oldman confirmed his marriage in an interview, saying he'd done it "quietly". Urbanksi said Oldman had known Schmidt for four or five years and the wedding included several dozen friends.

A judge finalised Oldman's divorce from his fourth wife two years ago, according to court records.

Louie CK faces sex scandal

5 women accuse comedian

NEW YORK: Comedian Louis CK has been accused of sexual misconduct toward several women, including masturbating in front of them to their horror and embarrassment, according to a report in *The New York Times*.

Comedians Dana Min Goodman, Abby Schachner, Julia Wolov and Rebecca Corry allege the Emmy-winning star of FX's *Louie* either pleasured himself in front of them, asked to do it or did so over the phone. A fifth woman detailed her allegations against CK to the paper but was not identified.

A lawyer for CK did not immediately respond to comment from The Associated Press, but a representative for the comedian said yesterday that CK would issue a written statement in the coming days.

Another publicist told The *Times* the comedian would not respond to their reporting.

Schachner, who said she heard CK masturbating on the phone in 2003, declined comment and representatives for the other three named women did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

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 said her client had nothing more to add.

In anticipation of the report, the New York premiere of Louis CK's new film *I Love You, Daddy* was cancelled c Thursday night and CK scheduled Friday appearance on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* also has been scrapped.

The small distribution company handling the release of *I Love You Daddy* said it is reviewing the situation and giving careful consideration to the timing and release of the film.

HBO announced Thursday that CK would no longer be participating in *Night of Too Many Stars: America Unites for Autism Programs*, set to air on the cable channel November 18. HBO also said it will remove CK's past projects from its video on demand services.

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.

Known for his candid, warts-and-all personal humour, which often includes talk of bodily fluids and sex, CK grew up outside Boston.



The Guardian

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.

10-199

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."

ven 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.

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US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Russia's President Vladimir Putin at the APEC Summit in Vietnam Picture: AFP PHOTO

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 Russia'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 co-operation among leaders.

It was a departure for Mr Trump, who is rarely snapped 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 overcoat called a durumagi in South Korea.

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 actor 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 *I 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 predicame for them. The power I had ov 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 run 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 these women who admired me feeling badly about themselves and cautious around other men," he said.





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May on borrowed time over Brexit turmoil

CAROLINE WHEELER
LONDON

Forty British MPs have agreed to sign a letter of no confidence in Prime Minister Theresa May as EU negotiators threaten to block trade talks until March unless Britain agrees to settle the Brexit divorce bill.

Mrs May is facing a fight on three fronts following another week of Tory turmoil in which Priti Patel become the second cabinet minister to resign and two other cabinet ministers, Damian Green and Boris Johnson, faced pressure to quit. Mrs May now faces a "make or break" month as:

- Senior European politicians and officials warn that the talks are entering a "crisis mode" as a preliminary deal will probably not be reached next month, as previously expected, but could instead be postponed until March;
- Plotters reveal that 40 Conservative MPs — eight short of the number required to force a leadership challenge — have joined a list of Tory rebels who want her to resign; and
- The EU withdrawal bill returns to the Commons tomorrow with Labour expected to join Tory rebels to inflict a series of damaging defeats on the government.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn issued an ultimatum to the Prime Minister yesterday, telling her to "govern or go" as she "shows every sign of being in office but not in power".

In an article for *The Sunday Times*, he accused her of being too weak to deliver Brexit and claimed the chaos surrounding her "crumbling" government risks "dangerously weakening Britain's hand" in the talks.

"Continuing uncertainty about the government's approach to Brexit is now the biggest risk facing our country," he wrote. "The Prime Minister must end the confusion, take on the 'no-deal' extremists in her government and back a jobs-first Brexit for Britain."

Some Tory MPs and ministers privately agree with Mr Corbyn and fear Mrs May has become a liability to the Brexit process. They are discussing whether the party needs a period in opposition to reinvent itself.

One minister said: "It's a horrible thing to say ... but we are getting closer and closer to the point whereby we need some time in opposition to regroup."

The news comes as the European Commission has set up a "preparedness taskforce" for a no-deal Brexit amid fears that a collapse of Mrs May's government could lead to Britain crashing out of the bloc.

EU negotiators say their British counterparts have signalled willingness to resolve the key outstanding issue — agreeing to pay a €60 billion ($91bn) exit bill — which is a condition for starting trade talks. They are concerned, however, that "turmoil" in the Tory party could prevent the British side from making a clear financial commitment at a key Brussels summit next month, which could delay progress until March or even bring down the government.

A Brexit adviser to a European Prime Minister said the talks were now "hostage" to the Conservative Party's "internal psychodrama".

"This is a Tory party problem and there is nothing we can do about it here," he said. "Should we put all of our cards on the table with May — only to find out that she would be replaced months or even weeks from now?"

A German government source said EU leaders had "no choice" but to rely on Mrs May as a partner, but it was difficult to conduct complex negotiations with a "moving target". Polish European Affairs Minister Konrad Szymanski, who met British Brexit Secretary David Davis last week, said "both sides" had tried to use time pressure as "leverage" but he was confident of a "last-minute deal", possibly in March.

His words were echoed by a senior government source in Austria, who said he expected Britain to commit to the financial part of the deal and kickstart the trade talks "latest by March".

Downing Street hoped it had killed off any coup last month after it revealed that Grant Shapps, a former Tory chairman, had been the "chief rebel" assembling a list of MPs wanting Mrs May to go.

Mr Davis signalled the government would attempt to face down rebels who are demanding a series of concessions on the withdrawal bill, including on "Henry VIII powers" and a binding vote in parliament on the final EU deal.

"The principle arguments by those who seek to derail this bill are that it involves a 'power-grab' ... and that it undermines rights and protections on equalities, workers' rights and the environment currently enshrined in EU law. They are both wildly wrong."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

More famous names added to shame file

JOSH GLANCY
LOS ANGELES

While Westminster tears itself apart over the alleged peccadillos of misbehaving MPs, the town that triggered the worldwide calling to account of sexual bullies — Hollywood — is convulsed by ever more shocking revelations about the behaviour of some of its most famous names.

Sexual assault allegations — going back two decades or more — continue to spool out every day in the aftermath of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Emmy award-winning actor and comedian Louis CK, best known for his hugely popular Netflix specials, has admitted that accusations of sexual misconduct by five women are true. The scabrous funnyman repeatedly masturbated in front of them.

Action star and director Steven Seagal is also among those caught up in the blizzard of allegations. Actress Jenny McCarthy



Louis CK



Portia de Rossi

claims Seagal harassed her during an audition for *Under Siege 2* in 1995.

She claims he said: "You know, this part has nudity in it, and I can't really tell what your body looks like in that dress you're wearing." He then allegedly ordered her to lower her dress so he could see her breasts.

These allegations follow a similar accusation by Australian actress Portia de Rossi. *The Arrested Development* star said that during a film audition that took place in Seagal's office, the actor unzipped his leather trousers and told her it was important to have chemistry off-screen.

British actor Ed Westwick was also the subject of serious allegations last week. The heart-throb star of teen TV drama *Gossip Girl* was accused by actress Kristina Cohen of raping her at his home in 2014.

A second actress, Aurelie Wynn, also accused him of raping her in the same year.

Westwick denies the allegations. "I do not know this woman," he tweeted. "I have never forced myself in any manner on any woman. I certainly have never committed rape."

The BBC said it would not broadcast any shows starring Westwick until the matter was resolved. This includes *Ordeal by Innocence*, an Agatha Christie adaptation that was a key part of its Christmas schedule.

Louis CK's career is also under threat in the wake of revelations about his obscene antics in front of two comedians, Dana Min Goodman and Julia Wolov, after their show at a comedy festival in Aspen, Colorado.

He invited them back to his room for a drink and then asked if he could take out his penis. They thought he was joking. "Then he really did it," Goodman told *The New York Times*. "He proceeded to take all his clothes off, and get completely naked, and started masturbating."

Louis CK admitted his wrongdoing over the weekend. "These stories are true," he said. "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 learnt 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."

His latest film, *I Love You Daddy*, which controversially depicts a relationship between a girl and a much older man, has been dropped by distributors. HBO has cut ties with him and streaming service Netflix has scrapped his upcoming stand-up special citing "disturbing" allegations.

Another Hollywood titan, *Mad Men* creator Matthew Weiner, was under fire after his former assistant Kater Gordon accused him of making a lewd request while she was working for him.

Gordon, who won an Emmy for co-writing an episode of the hit series about the world of advertising with Weiner, alleges he told her that she owed it to him to let him see her naked.

A representative for Weiner said: "He does not remember saying this comment nor does it reflect a comment he would say to any colleague."

On November 5, Weiner told *The Sunday Times* he found reports of sexual harassment in Hollywood "disgusting".

"It's terrible that people are broken down and women in particular have to experience powerlessness," he said.

Three women have come forward to accuse *Entourage* star Jeremy Piven of sexual assault, which he denied.

So many stars had their reputations tarnished last week that late-night comedy host Trevor Noah joked: "At this point, we're going to need a new Oscar category this year: best actor whose movies we can't watch any more."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ARTS P15
WALL STREET JOURNAL P21

Wilson details harassment

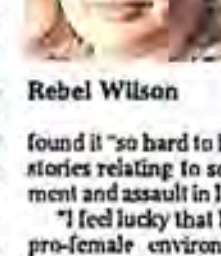
LOS ANGELES: *Pitch Perfect* star Rebel Wilson claims she has been a victim of sexual harassment in Hollywood.

The Australian said a "male star", whom she did not name, who was in a "position of power" asked her to penetrate him with her finger while his friends filmed the incident on their phones.

She also claimed she had a separate "hotel-room encounter" with a "top director", but said nothing physical happened after his wife called and shouted at him for sleeping with actors.

"Luckily she was yelling so loud that I could hear her and I bolted out of there immediately," she wrote on Twitter. "I was so naive the thought of anything happening apart from 'work talk' didn't even cross my mind."

Wilson, 37, said she had had



Rebel Wilson

found it "so hard to hear all these stories relating to sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood".

"I feel lucky that I grew up in a pro-female environment, going to an all-girls high school, and that I have such a strong sense of self and have taken self-defence classes. I had the ability to escape both incidents. I realise not everyone is as lucky," Wilson added.

AAP

Fury fills the void left by departing jihadis



MARK SALUDES

Security blocks Marawi residents from returning to their homes; below, an evacuation centre outside the city; and a shrapnel-pocked Marawi apartment

AMANDA HODGE
MARAWI







Hidaya Serad scrubs the floor of her newly rented Marawi shop space with sharp, angry strokes as she talks of the destruction of her city and the looting of her home.

The middle-aged Marawi city budget official returned to her home in a cleared area of the city last week — five months after she was forced to evacuate with her husband and son — to find it stripped of everything they had built.

Now they are cleaning floors and whitewashing walls to start again as snack-shop proprietors.

"I can't believe the situation we are in," she says bitterly. "If it weren't for the military airstrikes we would not have evacuated."

Hidaya says she was not afraid of the Islamic State-linked militants who spilled onto the streets of Marawi on May 23 saying they intended to establish an Islamic caliphate in southern Mindanao province.

"Without the military airstrikes we could have retaliated, we could have fought the Mautes ourselves," she says. "If not for the airstrikes we would have had time to get our belongings out."

"One hundred per cent people here will want revenge" against the local Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf militants, but also the military that razed the city to rout them, she adds.

The Philippines military's declared victory this month in a fierce urban battle that killed more than 1100 people was welcome news to most Filipinos and their anxious regional neighbours.

But anger is spilling over among Maranaos as they slowly return to a ravaged, looted city.

Abdul Hamidullah Atar, the youngest of Marawi's sultans, is among 7000 families whose homes and businesses were flattened in the main battle area of the commercial district, which remains closed while the military mops up the last terrorist "stragglers", clears ordinances and pulls bodies from the rubble.

Through his Rido Organisation he has worked for years to counter extremism and solve conflicts in a Muslim community infamous for clan violence.

Now he is collecting complaints from displaced Maranaos in preparation for a class action against The Philippines government for destroying their city.

"I'm not a lawyer but according to international humanitarian law, both sides — the radical groups and the government, violated the rights of Marawi people," he told *The Australian*.

"How many illegal arrests were made? How many people the military branded as ISIS (Islamic State) were nothing of the sort? How many bombs were dropped on our houses?"

Atar says the only way to prevent a bloodbath of revenge and further radicalisation among Maranaos — stripped of their homes and livelihoods — is to give them a peaceful outlet for their anger.

"Otherwise we are pushing them to become violent extremists and that's what we want to prevent. My wife and I have incomes but even we feel so very angry and a sense of radicalisation. Imagine how those who now have nothing must feel?"

Last week one of the region's most experienced terrorism analysts, Sidney Jones, also warned of the high risk of radicalisation among disgruntled Maranaos and the children and younger siblings of slain fighters.

While the wealthy seethe, the poorest displaced Maranaos live in makeshift camps between neighbouring Iligan City and Marawi and talk of hunger and frustration.

Most are surviving on irregular government rations consisting solely of tinned sardines, corned beef, coffee, and poor-quality rice. The food packs are the same whether they must feed a family of five or of 10. Fresh fruit and vegetables disappeared from rations months ago.

> 'Without the military airstrikes we could have retaliated, we could have fought the Mautes ourselves. If not for the airstrikes we would have had time to get our belongings out'
>
> MARAWI RESIDENT HIDAYA SERAD

Many in the shelters are from ground zero — the CBD razed in the battle — and the best they can hope for is resettlement to temporary neighbourhoods of prefabricated huts being built on Marawi's outskirts. But those who don't own land in Marawi, whose families migrated there for work, fear they will be forced back to their original provinces.

Marawi Crisis Management Committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong confirms that is one proposal being considered in a reconstruction plan mired in political bickering — although he is championing a plan that accommodates all former residents including "settlers".

Some 265 prefabricated huts are to be completed before Christmas but the National Housing Authority overseeing construction says wet weather is foiling their schedule.

That is a problem given neighbouring, predominantly Christian Iligan City has given Muslim Marawi authorities until next month to move the evacuees out of their halls in time for the Christmas season.

Iligan has been generous during the crisis but the sectarianism that has always simmered between the two cities is beginning to boil over.

Some evacuees say they have been knocked back for work there because they are Muslim and others who have sought rental accommodation have encountered similar discrimination.

"We understand they are scared because now they think we are all ISIS," says one.

In fact, Iliganos will say Marawi was a lawless place of kidnappings, drugs and violence before the terror siege, even if many were drawn there by well-paid work.

"Our husbands could not go out after work in Marawi because it wasn't safe for them as Christians," says Melgie Powao.

Her extended Iligano family is missing 10 husbands and sons who worked on a Marawi highway construction project and were trapped in the siege.

"They weren't welcome in Marawi yet the Muslims have been treated well here," the 24-year-old says tearfully.

"The Maranaos cry because they lost their houses. We cry because our husbands are missing."

Her sister-in-law, Luisa Mae Pantollono, says her husband took a job on the same project just one day before the siege.

"I told him it was a dangerous place and asked him if he was OK not seeing his kids (aged two and three) during the week. He promised he would come home every weekend."

None of the women are eligible for relief assistance although they have lost their children's fathers and breadwinners.

"It's unfair for us," says Luisa. "They (Maranaos) are already starting to rebuild but how can we do that?

"Right now we are like rivers, we just have to keep flowing because we have mouths to feed," she said.

Far right marches for Polish 'rebirth'

WARSAW: Tens of thousands of nationalists marched in a demonstration organised by far-right groups in Warsaw at the weekend, as Poles celebrated Independence Day.

The far-right march on Saturday was one of many events marking Poland's rebirth as a nation in 1918 after being wiped off the map for 123 years.

Earlier, President Andrzej Duda presided over state ceremonies also attended by EU president Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister.

But the march has become the largest Independence Day event in recent years, overshadowing official state observances and other patriotic events.

Some participants expressed sympathy for xenophobic or white supremacist ideas, with one banner reading "White Europe of brotherly nations".

Participants marched under the slogan "We Want God", words from an old Polish religious song US President Donald Trump quoted during a visit to Warsaw this year.

Speakers spoke of standing against liberals and defending Christian values. Many carried the national white-and-red flag as others set off flares and firecrackers, filling the air with red smoke. Some carried banners depicting a falanga, a far-right symbol dating to the 1930s.

Police estimated 60,000 people took part. Many were young men, some with their faces covered or with beer bottles in hand, but families and older Poles also participated.

The march has become one of the largest such demonstrations in Europe, and on Saturday it drew far-right leaders from throughout Europe, including Tommy Robinson from Britain and Italy's Roberto Fiore.

State broadcaster TVP, which reflects the conservative government's line, called it a "great march of patriots", and described the event as one that drew mostly regular Poles expressing their love of Poland, not extremists. "It was a beautiful sight," Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said.

A smaller counter-protest by an anti-fascist movement also took place.

Organisers kept the two groups apart to prevent violence. However, there was an incident in which the nationalists pushed and kicked several women who chanted anti-fascism slogans and carried a banner saying "Stop Fascism".

Independence Day marks Poland regaining its sovereignty at the end of World War I after being partitioned and ruled since the late 18th century by Russia, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski noted Poland was not always fully independent since 1918, a reference to Germany's World War II occupation and Moscow's control. "(But), the Polish state was internationally recognised the whole time and that is a great achievement."

AP



AFP

Fascists ignite the night in Warsaw on Saturday

WEEDS

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.



Tom Sykes
11.13.17 5:37 AM ET



Reuters

Elizabeth Perkins called out the actor James Woods on Sunday, holding a sign

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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.



Hollywood Min
@Hollywood_Mine

Weeds star Elizabeth Perkins holds sign naming actor James Woods as she joins hundreds of women at the #MeToo ...
yabuilder.com/YtE
5:41 PM - Nov 13, 2017

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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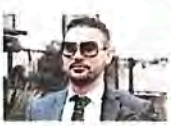

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Why People In Sydney Are Going Crazy For This Cooking

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 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

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Was Council of Nicaea Church Just Found Under a Lake?
CANDIDA MOSS

Christine Blasey Ford, I've Been There, I Believe You
GOLDIE TAYLOR

17 Dead From Killer Florence, Rivers Threaten to Burst Banks
KEVIN MAURER, ALLISON QUINN

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 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.

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 further saying "we can't vote until we hear more" from Ford and that he was "not comfortable voting yes" until they did.

RELATED IN POLITICS


Kavanaugh Accuser: 'Thought He Might Inadvertently Kill Me'


I'm a Kavanaugh Fan, but He Botched the Hearings


Senate Democrats Use Cohen to Try to Block Kavanaugh

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 "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

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 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

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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The take on Takei



TIM BLAIR

Taking a principled stand against perceived injustice is the easiest thing in the world — if you've got nothing riding on it. Matters become more difficult if there's some form of personal investment involved.

Hollywood ran silent for decades on mega-producer 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 team 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 cheerleaders — Meryl Streep once referred to him as "God" — Weinstein is open game. So is Kevin Spacey, who was instantly reduced from A-list superstar to unlisted 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, ditched as lead performer in House Of Cards and removed from scenes in the soon-to-be-released All The Money In The World.

Right now he'd struggle to land a gig announcing arrival times at your local train station.

In Spacey's case, another element besides celebrity and alleged sexual wrongdoing is in play. Long rumoured to be gay, Spacey only confirmed this in the immediate wake of Rapp's accusations, drawing rage from some who felt he'd conflated homosexuality with paedophilia.

Among those to condemn Spacey was Star Trek's Mr Sulo, actor George Takei, who this week begins an Australian stage tour.

"When power is used in a non-consensual situation, it is a wrong," Takei said. "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."

Note that line about 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'll probably 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.

Former actor and model Scott R. Brunton told The Hollywood Reporter that Takei sexually assaulted him in 1981



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 claimed he felt "very disoriented and dizzy" following a drink at Takei's Los Angeles apartment. Then he passed out.

"The next thing I remember I was coming to and he had my pants down around my ankles and he was groping my crotch and trying to get my underwear off and feeling me up at the same time, trying to get his hands down 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 Steward, 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 be germane at this point. Stern, who tends to take a direct approach, asked the actor: "Did you ever grab anyone by the cock against their will? You've never sexually harassed anyone, have you?" Takei's reply wasn't exactly a denial: "Some people are kind of ... umm ... skittish. Or maybe ... um ... afraid and you're trying to persuade." Make of that what you will.)

Just like Spacey, his former target, Takei claims 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 racked my 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 columnist and AB darling Benjamin Law, who did n respond on 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—t in the past? Yes? Then you're going the f—k down." Well, unless you're George Takei, for whom the new rules of guilty until proven innocent do not apply. Also, there's a really sweet hosting gig to consider – or, in Law's case, to reconsider. "If I remain as host," 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

Close the Manus Island detention centre! No, wait — keep it open! Reconnect the electricity and turn on the air-conditioners! No, wait again — close Manus and bring all of the detainees to Australia!

Australia's yay-for-people-without-passports community seems even more confused than usual, what with all their diverse detention centre demands. Just as confused are the detainees, who can't decide if they are frightened of Papua New Guineans or want to have sex with them. According to GetUp!'s human rights campaign co-director Shen Narayanasamy, the reason about 580 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," Narayanasamy said last week, referring to poor living standards at the now-closed Manus Island facility.

"They believe they will be rapidly in danger." Really? All 580 of them? Yet their fear of PNG hostility evidently hasn't prevented many of the detainees creeping into town for sordid liaisons with underage girls and other illegal activities. Australian government officials were told of these detainee diversions last month.

"Papua New Guinea police and community leaders told the Australian government in mid-October of 161 incidents of various offences involving residents at the centre recorded over four years from October 2013," The Australian reported. "The alleged offences 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 sit-in — for that's basically all it is — doesn't appear to be a long-term arrangement. By late last week, about 200 formerly frightened detention centre residents had moved on. As for the mob 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, lured by people smugglers, were killed at sea? Every day Australia maintains a strong level of border protection is a day without drownings. For some inexplicable reason this makes the pro-refugee lobby sad.

Interview by:
Catherine Fox

Illustration by:
Steven Moore

THE DAUGHTER EFFECT

THE PRACTICE OF MEN CLAIMING THEIR DAUGHTERS AS FEMINIST CREDENTIALS WHILE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO SEXISM HAS PASSED ITS USE-BY DATE



It's become such a common response from male business leaders when discussing gender that it's been dubbed "the daughter effect". That penny-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 realising 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 – amplified in media interviews and on stage by leaders of organisations where precious little has changed for many 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 syndrome 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 vying for status and rewards in competitive workplaces the world over. 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 embedded bias, norms and attitudes – and some of them are doing just that.

Telling your employees you have a daughter and understand the barriers that women face doesn't mean much unless there's a bit more skin in the game. Personal commitment is terrific, but it needs to be matched by action.

Ensuring more women are appropriately recognised and rewarded, for example, is often deeply unpopular and takes much more effort than pulling out 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" (hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=52703), Paul Gopers 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 Jeannine Prime, of US women and work research firm 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 Metz.

While the motivation for joining the group varied, and it was more likely to be personal than external, Metz 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 upside but also plenty of downside, Metz concluded.

They wanted a fairer 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 even 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. Glacial. **D**

The Washington Post

Food

Rape in the storage room. Groping at the bar. Why is the restaurant industry so terrible for women?

By Maura Judkis and



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Reporter covering culture, food and the arts
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November 17, 2017

If you're a woman, what makes a restaurant dangerous isn't the sharp knives or the hot griddle: It's ı 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 posses 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, ccording 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'

. 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.

nat 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 afood, seven years ago, she thought it was a step up. But soon enough, she alleged in a lawsuit, her nager, Paul Fisichella, 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." Fisichella "adamantly disputed the claims," according to one of his attorneys.

Labukaite said Fisichella kept dangling the possibility of a promotion for her.

One night, she alleged, Fisichella 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 Fisichella, "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 Fisichella and RM Seafood, and eventually the parties settled, with the restaurant settling on Fisichella'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."

Stefanie 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?' "

A 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 [illegible] 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 [illegible]konas, 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 groper 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 ..nterfere 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 .ape 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.

vas 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

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Sex killer jailed for 33 years

A SYDNEY man has been jailed for at least 33 years for the "horrific" sexual assault and murder of a 16-year-old boy in a vacant house.

Aymen Terkmani, 24, was found guilty in August of sexually assaulting and murdering Mahmoud Hrouk (below, right) in May 2015 at an unoccupied Fairfield East home. In the NSW Supreme Court yesterday, Justice Lucy McCallum sentenced Terkmani (below, left) to a maximum 45 years in jail with a non-parole period of 33 years. The court heard Terkmani used a rolling pin and toaster 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.

Mahmoud'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 Terkmani 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.

CONNECTED AT A COST

THE cost of being digitally savvy has exploded and kids are largely to blame.

A surge of devices in households is crunching family finances. Despite inflation data showing technology sale prices are falling, average Aussie families are spending more to keep connected.

New services plus multiple devices that regularly need upgrading push up overall expenses, school IT can cost $1000 per student each year, and more than 80 per cent of teenagers have mobile phones.

WOLF CREEK STAR ACCUSED OF RAPE

John Jarratt denies claims he assaulted woman in 1970s



John Jarratt is being investigated over an alleged sex assault from the 1970s. Picture: Calum Robertson

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

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.

The woman made a statement to Shoalhaven police about a week ago, with the matter now being investigated.

The incident is alleged to have occurred while the woman was working in the entertainment industry.

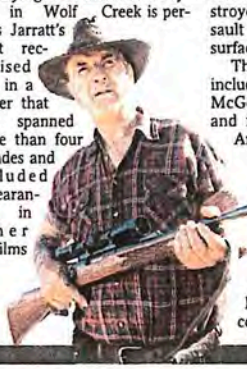
"Police are investigating an allegation of a historical sexual assault on Sydney's eastern beaches," a police spokesman told The Saturday Telegraph. "The allegations were reported to police earlier this month and relate to a matter from the 1970s."

Jarratt, 65, has worked as an actor since 1975, when he broke through with his role as Albert Crundall in Peter Weir's acclaimed Picnic 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 A Country Practice, Blue Heelers, McLeod's Daughters and Blue Murder.

He was a longtime 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 Broadway, 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 Noni Hazlehurst. He remarried but later separated from Cody Jarratt.

In the wake of the Weinstein scandal, television journalist Tracey Spicer launched an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse, bullying and assault in the Australian entertainment industry, in a mission to expose those she claims have perpetrated indecent acts on colleagues.

Spicer has previously vowed to expose more than 40 "household names" uncovered in her investigations, and claims there is an "absolute tsunami of sexual assault, intimidation and abuse" attested 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 assault and harassment claims surfaced in recent months.

Those accusing Weinstein include American actors Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd, and former Italian actor Asia Argento.

The scandal surrounding the powerbroker swiftly 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 $43,200 in penalties after allegedly breaching new consumer laws by charging "excessive" surcharges to some online customers using credit cards.

The consumer watchdog alleges the online trader — which sells "experiences" 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 laws have applied to "large businesses" since September 2016 and to all other businesses since September this year.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission deputy chair Michael Schaper said companies can only pass on what it costs to accept payments.



Jimi Keen.

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.

Duane Roy from Glandore Estate Wines said rose was definitely becoming a popular drop for men.

"Rose is in now — all the labels are more neutral tones rather than brighter colours that are usually made to attract female customers," he said. "These days men are more likely to try rose when we sell it at the cellar door."

In the 2015-16 year domestic sales for Australian rose and red wines recorded the strongest growth (from the previous year) at 4.5 per cent up by nearly 8 million litres to 183 million litres.

Matthew Williams, founder of food and wine festival Vino Paradiso, says men were proving keen to try a drop of pink.

"I think in the past rose has had a taboo representation with the sweet flavours and old school Aussie blokes saw it as a bit of a stretch from, say, their pilsners or lagers."

The Vino Paradiso wine festival is being held at The Rocks today and tomorrow.



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The Daily Telegraph
SATURDAY



WOLF CREEK STAR IN RAPE CLAIM

EXCLUSIVE

JONATHON 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, ...terday strongly denied allega...ns of sexual assault made by a woman who claimed the incident occurred in the 1970s.

The woman made a statement to Shoalhaven police about a week ago, with the matter 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.

FULL REPORT PAGE 5

EXCLUSIVE BENNELONG POLL

LABOR'S GRAND SLAM

Ex-premier's surge threatens Turnbull's one-seat majority

IT'S GAME ON

TWO PARTY PREFERRED

— LIBERAL —

July 2016 59.7 ↓ Now 50

— LABOR —

July 2016 40.3 ↑ Now 50

SHARRI MARKSON

THE battle of Bennelong between former NSW premier Kristina Keneally and Aussie 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 by-election 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 50-50.

Dissatisfaction 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.

FULL REPORT PAGES 4-5



Kristina Keneally in campaign mode yesterday.


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US move threatens peace mission

WASHINGTON: The Palestinians have threatened to suspend all communication with the US if the Trump administration closes their diplomatic office in Washington.

The potential rupture in ties threatens to undermine President Donald Trump's bid for Middle East peace — a job he has handed to son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said yesterday the US decision was "very unfortunate and unacceptable", and accused Washington of bowing to pressure from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government "when we are trying to co-operate to achieve the ultimate deal"

In a video statement, Mr Erekat said: "We will put on hold all our communications with this American administration."

Mr Netanyahu's office said the closure was "a matter of US law". US officials had insisted before Mr Erekat's statement that the move was not aimed at increasing leverage over the Palestinians, but merely the unavoidable consequence of US law.

The administration announced on Saturday that the Palestinians had run afoul of a legal provision that says the Palestine Liberation Organisation cannot operate a Washington office if the Palestinians try to get the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israelis for crimes against Palestinians.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson determined that the Palestinians crossed that line in September when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on the court to investigate and prosecute Israelis, according to State Department officials. It was unclear when the office would close or whether the Palestinians would have to clear out of the building entirely or just close it to the public.



AFP

The Washington offices of the PLO yesterday

Under the law, Mr Trump now has 90 days to consider whether the Palestinians are in "direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel". If Mr Trump determines they are, the mission can reopen, officials said.

PLO official Hanan Ashrawi said the US was "disqualifying itself as a peace broker in the region" by refusing to extend a waiver of the law.

"Conditioning the renewal of the waiver on the Palestinians' sticking to 'direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel' is actually superfluous since negotiations are non-existent, and the current US administration has yet to present any kind of peace initiative", she said.

The US denied it was cutting ties with the Palestinians and remained focused on a comprehensive peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians. One of the US officials said "this measure should in no way be seen as a signal that the US is backing off those efforts".

The Palestinians quickly dismissed that argument, with Foreign Minister Riad Malki telling Palestine Radio the Palestinian leadership "will not accept any extortion or pressure"

Mr Erekat said the move was the result of "the pressure being exerted on this administration by the Netanyahu government".

In response, the Israeli Prime Minister's office said: "We respect the decision and look forward to continuing to work with the US to advance peace and security in the region."

The Israelis and Palestinians are not engaged in active, direct negotiations.

The Palestinians, publicly supportive of the US effort, are sceptical because Mr Trump's close ties to Israel suggest any deal might be unfavourable to them.

The PLO formally represents all Palestinians. Although the US does not recognise Palestinian statehood, the PLO maintains a "general delegation" office in Washington that facilitates Palestinian officials' interactions with the US government.

The US allowed the PLO to open a mission in Washington in 1994.

That required president Bill Clinton to waive a law against a Palestinian office. In 2011, under the Obama administration, the US let the Palestinians fly their flag over the office.

Israel opposes any Palestinian membership in UN-related organisations until a peace deal has been reached.

AP

Judge claims 50 lovers to brush off 'feeding frenzy'

TOBY HARNDEN
WASHINGTON

Before the wave of sexual misconduct allegations sweeping the US hit Washington, few outside Ohio had heard of judge Bill O'Neill. Now his claim to have made love to "50 very attractive females" has become a Facebook sensation.

Mr O'Neill, 70, who sits on the Ohio Supreme Court, went public at the weekend "on behalf of all heterosexual males" and in defence of fellow Democrat Al Franken, who is fighting for his political life after a TV presenter accused him of forcibly kissing and groping her in 2006, three years before he became a senator.

For the judge, who hopes to be Ohio's governor, the "witch-hunt" had gone too far. "Let me save my opponents some research time," he wrote on Facebook. "In the last 50 years I was sexually intimate with approximately 50 very attractive females."

They ranged from a senator's "gorgeous personal secretary ... we made passionate love in the hayloft of her parents barn" to a "drop-dead gorgeous redhead".

"I am soooo disappointed by this national feeding frenzy about sexual indiscretions decades ago."

Senator Franken was clinging on yesterday. Alleged victim Leeann Tweeden produced a photograph of him looming over her as she sleeps, clad in a flak jacket and helmet, on a flight back to the US from Afghanistan. His hands are reaching for her breasts, his face turned and grinning at the camera.

Ms Tweeden, a model at the time, now works at a Los Angeles television station. She wrote last week on its website that she and Senator Franken had appeared together in a show in Afghanistan.

He had written a sketch to get them to kiss on stage. Despite her protests, he insisted on "rehearsing" and forcibly kissed her. "He [put] me, put his hand on the back of my head, mashed his lips against mine and aggressively stuck his tongue in my mouth."

She said she felt like punching him but pushed him away. "All I could think about was getting to a bathroom as fast as possible to rinse the taste of him out of my mouth. I felt disgusted and violated," Ms Tweeden said.

Although Senator Franken apologised swiftly after this was revealed, even some of his Democratic colleagues said he should go. He could be the first US politician to be forced from office by the #MeToo campaign triggered by the Harvey Weinstein scandal. Senator Franken, a former *Saturday Night Live* comedian, is a political minnow compared with the occupant of the White House, who bragged about sexual assault on a 2005 tape released a month before last year's election.

Donald Trump was accused of sexual harassment or assault by at least 16 women but defeated Hillary Clinton anyway, in part because he pointed out that her husband had also been accused of assault and at least one rape.

If any of this made the President uncomfortable, he did not show it at the weekend as he blasted Senator Franken. "The Al Frankenstien picture is really bad, speaks a thousand words. Where do his hands go in pictures 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 while she sleeps?"

Mr Trump's intervention was designed to divert attention from the firestorm over Roy Moore, the Republican Senate candidate in Alabama. A string of women has accused Mr Moore of pursuing, propositioning or assaulting them when they were teenagers — one only 14 — and he was in his 30s.

Mr Moore, now 70, has been denounced by almost every leading Republican bar Mr Trump. Senate leaders have urged him to drop his candidacy. Polls indicate he could be heading for defeat in one of the most Republican states next month.

The allegations span the political spectrum. Former president George HW Bush, 93, has been accused by at least seven women of groping their behinds. Some feminists are now saying they regret not insisting Mr Clinton resign over the Monica Lewinsky scandal 20 years ago. Asked if he should have stepped down, senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat expected to run for president in 2020, said: "Yes, I think that is the appropriate response."

Philippe Reines, an aide to Hillary Clinton, tweeted: "Over 20 yrs you took the Clintons' endorsements, money, and seat. Hypocrite. Interesting strategy for 2020 primaries. Best of luck."

Some have tried to protect politicians of their own party by vilifying victims. Vivian Copeland, a feminist writer, posted a photo of Ms Tweeden posing nude in Playboy in 2011 and juxtaposed it with a picture of her wearing spectacles and a black top last week.

"Quite the transformation," she wrote. "I don't care what party a person belongs to. Perverts need to be held accountable but false accusations aren't cool, either."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Secret weapon for Arab diplomacy



AP

Ivanka Trump in New Jersey to sell her father's tax plan; and inset, Jared Kushner and Dina Powell at the White House

TOBY HARNDEN
WASHINGTON

A glamorous Egyptian-American is emerging as a key player in Donald Trump's Middle East diplomatic initiative, which was initially derided but is increasingly being taken seriously in Washington.

The US President has entrusted son-in-law Jared Kushner with brokering a deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

But Dina Powell, who speaks fluent Arabic and made a fortune at Goldman Sachs before unexpectedly joining the Trump administration, is described by one diplomat as the mission's "secret weapon", with an influence that far exceeds her title of Deputy National Security Adviser.

Ms Powell was recruited to the White House by Mr Kushner's wife, Ivanka, the President's daughter. Although only 44, Ms Powell is one of the most experienced White House officials, having served in several senior positions during the George W. Bush administration.

Last month she accompanied Mr Kushner on an unannounced visit to Riyadh, where the two were said to have talked until the early hours with Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammad bin Salman about terrorism, Iranian ambitions in the region and bringing the Israelis and Palestinians together.

Some US diplomats privately accuse Mr Kushner of hubris for boasting of his rapport not just with Prince Salman but also with Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and rising power in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Kushner's detractors point out he is increasingly embroiled in special counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry into alleged collusion between Russia and the Trump election campaign.

A State Department official working on Iran issues said: "Dina Powell is the secret weapon here. The leaders of the Arab autocracies view Kushner as a fellow prince, but Powell also has serious heft because of her relationship with Ivanka. She understands the Arab world in a way that Kushner doesn't. Kushner is held up as the one who could make this all work, but the irony is that if Mueller indicts him or he is forced to resign, that could bring it all crashing down."

Born in Cairo, Ms Powell moved to Texas with her parents when she was four. Her father, a former captain in the Egyptian army, drove a bus before opening a grocery store with her mother.

Although the family was keen to assimilate, ties to her homeland were maintained. "I so desperately wanted a turkey and cheese sandwich with potato chips," she once said. "Instead I always got grape leaves and hummus and falafel, not even in a cool brown paper bag. And now, of course, I appreciate so much that I did."

At 29, she became the youngest person to run the presidential personnel office and its 35 employees. Condoleezza Rice, secretary of state during George W. Bush's second term, described her as "a member of my Middle East brains trust" and made her an envoy.

After working as an executive at Goldman Sachs during the Obama years, Ms Powell is part of a Trump administration quartet drawing up a blueprint for Middle East negotiations.

Mr Trump has referred to an Israeli-Palestinian accord as "the ultimate deal", leaving it to Mr Kushner, Ms Powell and their two colleagues on the "quad" — Jason Greenblatt, Mr Trump's chief international negotiator, and David Friedman, the US ambassador to Israel.

Mr Kushner, Mr Greenblatt and Mr Friedman are Orthodox Jews with strong ties to Israel, and Friedman is also associated with hardliners opposed to a Palestinian state. Ms Powell, a Coptic Christian, is said to be a pragmatist who favours a two-state solution. Saudi Arabia is viewed by the White House as central to any Middle East deal.

After Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was summoned to Riyadh this month, it was reported in Israel that the crown prince had told him to accept any proposals put forward by the Kushner team or resign.

Egypt, also courted by Mr Trump as a pivotal ally, is brokering a reconciliation between Mr Abbas and his Palestinian Authority overseeing the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls Gaza.

THE TIMES

Lebanon the loser as Saudis 'host' Hariri to curb Iranian influence

WORLD COMMENTARY

THE ECONOMIST

Saad Hariri is an unlikely hero for Lebanon. Despite inheriting a powerful surname — not to mention a vast construction company, Saudi Oger — he often bemoaned his lot. He seemed to live in the shadow of his father Rafik, a former prime minister, whose assassination in 2005 (probably at the behest of Syria) propelled Saad into politics.

But during his own two turns as prime minister (from 2009 to 2011, and last year to the present) he accomplished little, as the power of Sunnis, like himself, waned.

When Saudi Oger shut down this year, his countrymen had little sympathy.

But since his odd, televised resignation on November 4, perhaps under some form of duress in Saudi Arabia, Hariri has seen his popularity rise. Many Lebanese, including President Michel Aoun, believe he was held against his will in the kingdom.

Across Lebanon's sectarian divide, politicians have championed his return. A website counts the days and hours he has been away. The Arabic hashtag #WeAreAllSaad has appeared on billboards in Beirut. Spectators at the Beirut marathon on November 12 sported banners that read "Running for you" and "We want our PM back".

Mystery still surrounds the circumstances of Hariri's exit. His announcement surprised even his own staff — and appeared to have been penned by his Saudi patrons. Hariri denounced Iran, the kingdom's archrival, and its powerful Lebanese ally, Hezbollah, which is part of his government. When, more than a week later, Hariri gave his first interview since his resignation, he appeared to fight back tears as he spoke of the support he was receiving back home.

Hariri left Saudi Arabia over the weekend to meet Emmanuel Macron in Paris. The French President had made a surprise visit to Saudi Arabia on November 9. Macron has insisted he is not offering Hariri political exile.

"We need a strong Lebanon with her territorial integrity respected," he said. "We need leaders who are free to make their own choices and speak freely."

Indeed, Hariri has hinted he might rescind his resignation. Aoun has said he will not accept it until Hariri returns to Beirut. Even then, parliament may nominate him again as prime minister.

Not for the first time, Lebanon has become the proxy battleground of outside powers. this time of Saudi Arabia, the region's Sunni champion, and of Iran's Shia regime. For decades, the Saudis poured money into the country only to see Hezbollah become the main political powerbroker and a potent fighting force.

Hariri has done little to curb the group at home or to stop it supporting Iran's ambitions in the region. When an Iranian official boasted of his country's influence in Lebanon after meeting Hariri in Beirut, the Saudis finally snapped, calling the Prime Minister to Riyadh.

Without the figleaf of Hariri as prime minister, Hezbollah's influence on Lebanon would be exposed — or so hoped the Saudis as they beat the drums of war. Its officials blamed Iran and Hezbollah for a missile fired at Riyadh from Yemen on November 4. The missile was intercepted, but the Saudi government nevertheless called it an "act of war".

On November 9 it told Saudis to leave Lebanon at once, raising concerns of an imminent descent into chaos, or even an attack. The Lebanese held their breath.

But if Saudi Arabia's plan was to lure Israel and the US, which lists Hezbollah as a terrorist group, into a war in Lebanon, it miscalculated.

Israel, though deeply concerned about Hezbollah's growing armoury, appeared wary of being sucked into another conflict in Lebanon. US and European officials publicly urged Hariri to return to Beirut for the sake of Lebanon's stability. In private, they pressed Saudi Arabia to back down.

The advice was heeded. A relief of many Lebanese. When Hariri went before the cameras on November 2 he appeared to offer a way out of the crisis. He implied he might withdraw his resignation if Saudi demands were met — namely that Lebanon commit to staying out of the region's conflicts. If it refused, the Gulf countries might impose sanctions.

Lebanon's economy is vulnerable to such pressure. As many as 400,000 Lebanese work in the Gulf, sending home a big share of the remittances that make up about 14 per cent of their homeland's GDP. Were it so inclined, Saudi Arabia could ban the transfer of this money or expel the workers.

It could also withdraw deposits from Lebanon's central bank, damaging confidence and making it even harder for the country to service its debt, which has reached more than 140 per cent of GDP — one of the highest debt-to-GDP ratios in the world.

Were the Gulf countries to impose sanctions, "all economic hell will break loose", says Randa Slim of the Middle East Institute.

The unexpected crisis comes as Lebanon has just begun to recover from years of political paralysis. Last month Hariri's government passed the country's first budget since 2005. It has set a date for the first parliamentary elections in eight years.

It was about to ask international donors for up to $US12 billion ($15.8bn) in aid to cope with the burden of 1.5 million Syrian refugees a fix the country's decrepit infrastructure.

But whether the government is led by Hariri or someone else, it is still Hezbollah that will call the shots.

Lebanon will remain the region's punching bag.

The Economist



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Mugabe finally agrees to resign







Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, right, is shown to his seat by military chief General Constantino Chiwenga before his defiant broadcast, to which those gathered in Harare reacted with confusion

AP, AFP

HARARE: Robert Mugabe has agreed to stand down as Zimbabwean President but was clinging to power late last night as he ignored a deadline to quit or face impeachment.

Members of Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party were summoned to an emergency meeting after the African despot missed the deadline imposed by his party after weekend negotiations with the army generals who had seized power on Friday.

Under the terms of the deal to step down, Mugabe and his wife, Grace, would be granted full immunity, CNN reported yesterday.

Two senior government sources told Reuters that Mugabe had agreed to resign but they did not know details of his departure.

News of a draft resignation letter emerged on Sunday night after his shock insistence in a television address that he still held power. In the address Mugabe, 93, defied expectations that he would bring the curtain down on his 37-year reign, pitching the country into a second week of political crisis.

Mugabe seemed unfazed in his speech and made no reference to the hostile chorus calling for him to go, shrugging off last week's dramatic military intervention.

"The operation I have alluded did not amount to a threat to our well-cherished constitutional order, nor did it challenge my authority as head of state, not even as commander-in-chief," he said in the address.

The speech provoked anger and disbelief among crowds who had gathered in bars and cafes to watch, and raised concerns that Zimbabwe could be at risk of a violent backlash.

The influential war veterans association said yesterday the military should let the people, and politics, remove Mugabe from power. The body's Chris Mutsvangwa said more protests were planned.

"Your time is up," Mr Mutsvangwa said, suggesting that the military, even though it put Mugabe under house arrest days ago, was still beholden to him and compelled to protect him.

He said the war veterans' association would go to court to argue that Mugabe is "derelict of his executive duty".

Ahead of the ZANU-PF deadline, a noisy group of demonstrators gathered at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare to call for Mugabe to go.

The President's speech capped an extraordinary weekend that saw Zimbabweans jubilant at the prospect of his demise and venting their anger in ways that, just a week earlier, would have been brutally punished.

But their joy turned to despair as Mugabe brushed aside the turmoil — blithely declaring he would chair a party meeting.

"We will continue with the momentum to make sure Mugabe is history. It might take days and weeks, but Mugabe is on his way out," said bus driver Charles Muramba, 46.

"Arrogant Mugabe disregards ZANU-PF," screamed the front page of yesterday's *Daily News*.

The crisis erupted on November 13 over a factional squabble to succeed the ailing President.

Grace Mugabe, 52, secured prime position to succeed him, sidelining vice-president Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was fired.

But Mr Mnangagwa, 75, has close ties to the army and war veterans. After he fled abroad, the army placed Mugabe under house arrest. The army insisted it was not a military coup, but rather an operation to root out "criminals around (Mugabe) who are committing crimes". That was seen as a reference to supporters of the highly ambitious first lady.

When Mugabe refused to step down following talks, the generals unleashed people power.

In scenes redolent of Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, crowds gathered in cities, waving national flags and chanting for Mugabe to resign.

The pendulum swung further against the President on Sunday, when ZANU-PF dismissed him as its leader and demanded he resign as head of state, naming Mr Mnangagwa as party chief.

But impeaching Mugabe would require a two-thirds supermajority in both houses of Zimbabwe's parliament, which is due to resume tonight.

Derek Matyszak, an analyst at the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies, said Mugabe's address raised the stakes further.

"It's absolutely astounding. Mugabe behaves as if nothing ZANU-PF said this afternoon was of any relevance," he said.

"Where will they go from here? They'll proceed with the so-called impeachment process."

Some sources suggest Mugabe has been battling to delay his exit in order to secure a deal that would guarantee future protection for him and his family.

Mugabe was a key figure in the war that wrested power from the white colonial government that ran the former Rhodesia.

He took office as prime minister in 1980, surfing a wave of goodwill, and later became president.

AFP, REUTERS, AP

First family's assets may be seized by government

HARARE: Military chiefs and senior figures in the ruling ZANU-PF party have been examining ways to punish the Mugabe family and seize the assets it accumulated over the past four decades.

The Mugabes own more land than any other individuals in Zimbabwe ever have — both before and after independence in 1980.

All of the many farms the Mugabes seized from white owners — with one exception — became state property in 2005, indicating that a successive government may be able to take the land back.

Grace Mugabe has invested heavily in much of it, largely through borrowing from Zimbabwean banks. Robert Mugabe has admitted several times that the family's chief business, Gushungo Dairy, whose products are displayed prominently in the country's supermarkets, runs at a loss.

Other businesses owned by the Mugabes, including an orphanage and two expensive private schools, were funded through "well-wishers". Many senior ZANU-PF figures sent their children there to curry favour with the family.

The Mugabe family owns several palatial homes in addition to its private mansion in Harare's exclusive Borrowdale suburb that is known as Blue Roof for its Chinese tiles. These were a gift from Beijing. The house boasts 25 bedrooms, a helipad, game park and two lakes. It was built in 2000 with unexplained funds on a hectare of land that Mugabe bought shortly after independence.

Grace Mugabe owns another Harare property and bought a $4 million mansion in Sandton, Johannesburg, six months ago. She has also built a three-storey mansion on a piece of land seized from an elderly white couple in 2002.

She has sought to expand her dairy business north of Harare by grabbing land owned by the neighbouring Arnold Farm. Police were sent to evict 320 families in 2012 and, despite a court order against it, have continued raids on their makeshift shacks, burning them.

Locals have also been banned from fishing in the nearby dam, the largest in the country, because the Mugabes were said to have requisitioned it.

Grace Mugabe claims to own an apartment in Hong Kong. The family were also renting a property in the prestigious Emirates Hills compound in Dubai while their son was at university there. He was later asked to leave amid allegations of drug abuse.

"Assets in the country are likely to be subject to a whole set of legal activity if she herself faces criminal charges," Piers Pigou of Crisis Group said.

Grace Mugabe has not tried to hide the trappings of wealth from asset seizures by her and her husband. In 2003 she was said to have spent $US120,000 on a Paris shopping trip.

She once sued a diamond dealer over allegations that he had failed to supply a 100-carat diamond, worth $US1.35m, she ordered to mark her wedding anniversary.

Formerly the secretary to the President, she was born in South Africa and has four children, three by Mugabe.

THE TIMES

Merkel in danger as talks collapse

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel is battling for political survival after high-stakes talks to form a new government collapsed yesterday — plunging Germany into a crisis that could see it hold fresh elections.

Europe's biggest economy now faces weeks, if not months of paralysis with a lame-duck government that is unlikely to take bold policy action.

And with no other viable coalition in sight, Germany may be forced to hold new elections that risk being as inconclusive as September's polls.

Mrs Merkel had been forced to seek an alliance with an unlikely group of parties after September's elections left her without a majority.

But after more than a month of gruelling negotiations, the leader of the pro-business FDP, Christian Lindner, walked out of talks, saying there was no "basis of trust" to forge a government with Mrs Merkel's conservative alliance CDU-CSU and ecologist Greens.

"It is better not to govern than to govern badly," he said, adding the parties did not share "a common vision on modernising" Germany.

Voicing regret for the FDP's decision, Mrs Merkel vowed to steer Germany through the crisis. "As Chancellor ... I will do everything to ensure that this country comes out well through this difficult time," she said.

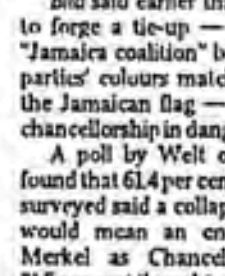
Greens leaders deplored the collapse of talks, saying they had believed a deal could be done despite the differences.

The negotiations, which turned increasingly acrimonious, had stumbled on issues including immigration policy.

Mrs Merkel's liberal refugee policy that let in more than a million asylum-seekers since 2015 had also pushed some voters to the far-right AfD, which campaigned on an Islamophobic and anti-immigration platform in the September elections.

The parties also differed on environmental issues, with the ecologists wanting to phase out dirty coal and combustion-engine cars, while the conservatives and FDP emphasised protecting industry and jobs.

Party chiefs had initially set



Merkel

6pm on Sunday (4am yesterday, AEDT) as the moment of truth, but the deadline went by without a breakthrough — the second overtime after already missing a previous target on Thursday.

But signs that talks were going badly began emerging and the newspaper *Bild* said on its website that "failure is in the air" as parties dug in their heels on key sticking points.

Mrs Merkel could now try to convince the Social Democratic Party, which has been junior coalition in her government since 2013, to return to a partnership. But after the SPD suffered a humiliating loss, the party's top brass has repeatedly said its place was now in the opposition.

Mrs Merkel, who has been in power for 12 years, could lead a minority government although she had signalled that she was not in favour of such instability.

Germany could therefore be forced to hold new elections. But that is not without peril for Mrs Merkel, who would face questions from within her party on whether she is still the best candidate to lead them into a new electoral campaign.

Bild said earlier that a failure to forge a tie-up — dubbed a "Jamaica coalition" because the parties' colours match those of the Jamaican flag — puts "her chancellorship in danger".

A poll by Welt online also found that 61.4 per cent of people surveyed said a collapse of talks would mean an end to Mrs Merkel as Chancellor. Only 31.5 per cent thought otherwise.

As coalition talks dragged out without a breakthrough, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier issued a warning to parties in the talks. "All sides are aware of their responsibilities. And this responsibility means not returning their mandate to voters," he told *Welt am Sonntag*.

AFP

..odel accuses record mogul of sex assault

LOS ANGELES: Model Keri Claussen Khalighi has accused Def Jam Records mogul Russell Simmons of sexual misconduct in 1991 when she was 17.

Khalighi says Simmons coerced her to perform a sex act and penetrated her without her consent in his New York apartment, *The Los Angeles Times* reported. She said film producer and director Brett Ratner, who has also been accused by multiple women of sexual harassment, was present. Khalighi said she asked Ratner, then a music video director and a Simmons protege, for help.

"I'll never forget the look on his face," she said. "In that moment, the realisation fell on me that they were in it together."

Simmons, 60, denied the allegations. He said everything that occurred between himself and Khalighi was consensual and with her "full participation".

"I'm deeply saddened and truly shocked to learn of Keri's assertions as to what happened over the course of that weekend," Simmons said in statement.

He detailed his support of the #MeToo movement and the "brave men and women who have spoken out over the past month".

Simmons included three witness statements in his defence. Two were anonymous and one was from his former assistant Anthony McNair, who said he did not notice any signs of distress from Khalighi during that time.

The report included four additional allegations against Ratner, who was facing at least six allegations of misconduct from women including actress Olivia Munn. His lawyer, Martin Singer, has denied all allegations.

Meanwhile, after two women on the set of *Transparent* accused him of sexual harassment, Emmy-winning actor Jeffrey Tambor announced he was leaving the Amazon series.

"Playing Maura Pfefferman on *Transparent* has been one of the greatest privileges and creative experiences of my life," he told *Deadline Hollywood*. "What has become clear over the past weeks, however, is that this is no longer the job I signed up for four years ago."

Deadline said the show had already been considering writing off the character played by the American actor, who has also won a Golden Globe for the role, after allegations emerged this month.

The claims have been brought by his former assistant, transgender actresses Van Barnes and Trace Lysette. Barnes said her former boss had propositioned her on several occasions, made lewd comments, groped her and threatened to sue if she made the behaviour known.

Lysette said Tambor had made lewd remarks of a sexual nature to her repeatedly, and had been "physical" with her at least once.

The accusations come amid a surge of claims of sexual harassment levelled at men in the entertainment, media and political establishments, including Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and actor Kevin Spacey.

AP, AFP

Illegal migrants 'spread terror'

AMANDA HODGE
SOUTHEAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT

Aung San Suu Kyi has blamed illegal immigration for instability and conflict in the world in a speech likely to dampen hopes the Nobel laureate will oversee a swift return of more than 600,000 Rohingya refugees forced to flee violence in Myanmar.

Ms Suu Kyi told a meeting of European and Asian foreign ministers in the Myanmar capital Naypyitaw yesterday that illegal immigration was partly responsible for the spread of terrorism.

Myanmar's de facto leader did not specifically mention the recent refugee exodus, but her speech reflects popular opinion in Buddhist-majority Myanmar that the country's Rohingya minority are Muslim interlopers responsible for acts of terrorism.

It came just hours after the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, hailed "extremely encouraging" talks with Ms Suu Kyi over the Rohingya crisis, and welcomed steps towards the repatriation of Muslims driven from Myanmar into Bangladesh.

"I am very much encouraged by the possibility — that I believe is real and concrete — of Myanmar and Bangladesh" reaching agreement on the repatriation of refugees, Ms Mogherini said after touring the massive refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, just over the Myanmar border.

"Stopping the violence, stopping the flow of refugees and (guaranteeing) full humanitarian access to Rakhine state and safe, sustainable repatriation of the refugees is going to be needed."



Aung San Suu Kyi has taken aim at illegal immigration

AP

The latest exodus of Rohingya from Rakhine State, described as the worst Asian refugee crisis in decades, began in late August after deadly attacks by Rohingya militants on Myanmar security posts sparked ferocious new "clearance operations" on villages.

'Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty'

AUNG SAN SUU KYI
MYANMAR LEADER

More than 620,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh, fleeing organised military and Buddhist mob violence that the UN has said bears the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing.

As State Counsellor, Ms Suu Kyi does not control the military, but her refusal to condemn the violence against Rohingya civilians — including allegations of arson, mass killings, mass rapes and arbitrary detentions — have damaged her reputation and prompted calls for renewed international sanctions on Myanmar.

Ms Suu Kyi told EU and Asian ministers yesterday that the world was experiencing a new period of instability and cited "illegal immigration's spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war".

"Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing peoples and even countries away from one another," she said, calling for policymakers to understand the "constraints and difficulties" others faced in dealing with such problems.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AP

Pentagon wants Star Trek stealth aircraft

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon is planning a new generation of stealth aircraft inspired by the *Star Trek* films that would be invisible to radar.

It has deployed the US's brightest aviation engineers to design and build new bombers and refuelling aircraft that will safeguard the country's ability to fight wars from the air with minimal risk to pilots.

The Russians are leaders in the field of "shadow" aircraft that vanish from radar, while their own radars can detect targets at a range of up to 550km.

The US engineers will be expected to get as close as they can to the Klingon cloaking system in the *Star Trek* films. They are developing radar-absorbing material for the frame and a new cooling system for reducing the aircraft's heat signature.

The bat-shaped B-21 bomber, each of which will cost an estimated $US550 million ($726m), is under development at Plant 42, a huge, heavily guarded facility in the Californian desert northeast of Los Angeles. Details of the program to replace the ageing B-52 and B-1B strategic bombers, and eventually the B-2 stealth bombers, are classified. But the selected shape mirrors the revolutionary radar-evading B-2 Spirit which has been in service since 1997.

Plant 42, which is run by Northrop Grumman, the company that won the $US80 billion bomber contract, is said to be a hive of activity as newly recruited staff arrive at the site in Palmdale. More than 5000 employees will be working there by 2019 to ensure that the new bomber is ready for delivery by the mid-2030s. The Pentagon wants 100 B-21s.

The key to the bomber's lifespan will be its ability to make itself partly invisible. Colonel Mace Carpenter, a former combat pilot who flew America's first stealth aircraft, the F-117 Nighthawk, said it would be amazing if a cloaking device could be designed for the B-21 to make it "disappear".

In reality, stealth technology combined with special tactics would still be necessary to protect the bomber from attack, he said.

"Stealth is not about making an aircraft completely unseen, but harder to see," he said.

Colonel Carpenter, who believes a quarter of all US combat aircraft will fly with stealth technology by 2022, supported the idea of having stealthy refuelling tankers. "If there's money for it" There are already artist impressions produced for a US Air Force program called KC-Z.

"The B-21 will have the range to operate independently but if it's required to fly deep into enemy territory then an accompanying stealthy tanker would be useful," he said.

Colonel Carpenter, who was chief of strategy during Operation Iraqi Freedom — the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 — said radar would remain the greatest threat during warfare.

THE TIMES

An incomplete, depressingly long list of celebrities' sexual assault and harassment stories [UPDATED]

Katie Rife
11/22/17 1:07pm •

94 13



L to R: Reese Witherspoon, America Ferrera, Jennifer Lawrence, and Molly Ringwald, all of whom have shared their stories of assault and harassment over the past 24 hours. (Photos: Getty Images)

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, Louisette 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

later performed a powerful rendition of her song "Til It Happens To You," from the campus rape documentary *The Hunting Ground*, at the 2016 Oscars, surrounded by fellow survivors.

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

Rosario Dawson

Anna Paquin

Anika Noni Rose

Debra Messing

Felicia Day

Kimya Dawson

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 meant 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."

Farris and her guest, *UnREAL*'s Arielle 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 Estevez—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."

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Former Backstreet Boy Nick Carter Responds to Rape Allegation

By Eric McAdams (/writers?name=eric+mcadams) | November 22, 2017 | 12:02pm

Photo by Jason Koerner/Getty

MUSIC > NEWS > SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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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



Watch Live (/live-streams/video/)

MOR



(/articles/NZm8Ysa6Oik.html)

Hippo Campus
9/19 - 1:15 am

Melissa Explains It All
My Life unfiltered... all in good humor
melissaexplainsitall.wordpress.com

4,605 2,539 people are talking about this

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.

Schuman 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."

Tags backstreet boys (/tag/backstreet+boys) nick carter (/tag/nick+carter) sexual harassment (/tag/sexual+harassment) sexual misconduct (/tag/sexual+misconduct)

Recently in Music



Adam Driver to Host *SNL* Season 44 Premiere, with Musical Guest Kanye West

By Stephan Cho

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

(/articles/2018/09/adam-driver-to-host-snl-season-44-premiere-with-mu.html)



Beastie Boys Say

(/articles/2018/09/beastie-

(/articles/NZm8Ysa6Qik.html
Jake Shimabukuro
9/19 - 2:30 am
(/articles/ksckKCWDQAI.htm
Jill Sobule
9/19 - 4:30 am
(/articles/xfjR3UK-n5c.html)
Scott Bradlee
9/19 - 6:30 am
(/articles/CoWvXgRc7ug.htm
James Leg
9/20 - 2:15 pm
(/articles/2QVF8cilS7w.html)
Rooney
9/21 - 2:30 am
(/articles/tsOIXJQJg8E.html)
Previous Live Sessions (/studio)
Ani DiFranco MC
9/18/2018
(/articles/Hqci4iNT1Ts.)
Rogue Wave
3/28/2018
(/articles/2018/03/rogue-wa chicago-x-122.html)
Breathe Owl Breathe
10/1/2011
(/articles/2011/10/breathe-o breathe-dog-walkers-of-the-new-age.html)
Joan as Police Woman
1/29/2018
(/articles/2018/01/joan-as-police-woman-warning-bell.html)
Ani DiFranco
11/16/2016
(/articles/2016/11/ani-difran your-next-bold-move.html)
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
2/27/2017
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They Were Unaware of Eminem's *Kamikaze* Album Art Homage

By Justin Kamp

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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Father John Misty Details Live Album Recorded at Third Man Records

By Justin Kamp

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

(/articles/2018/09/father-john-misty-announces-live-album-recorded-at.html)

Watch Dave Grohl Sit in on Trombone Shorty Set, Perform Nirvana's "In Bloom"

By Justin Kamp

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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The Best-Selling Album All Time

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The Curmudgeon: Does Warren Zevon Belong in Rock & Roll Hall of Fame?

(/articles/2018/09/the-curmudgeon-does-warren-zevon-belon in-the-roc.html)



Smashing Pumpkins Announce First New Albu in 18 Years, Share New Si

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Paul McCartney's Egypt Station Is His First Number One Album Since 1982

By Justin Kamp

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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By Eric McAdams

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

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By Jacob Weindling

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By Ellen Johnson

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Eight Women Accuse Morgan Freeman of Sexual Harassment (Updated)

(/articles/2018/05/breaking-eight-women-accuse-morgan-freeman-of-inap.html)

By Cole Henry

MAY 24, 2018

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trombone-shorty-sel

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(/articles/2018/03/guilty-non-pleasure-pavement-crooked-rain-crooked.html)

The 50 Best New Wave Albums



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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 2017 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: *Alan Partridge's Scissored Isle* (United Kingdom); Documentary: *EXODUS: Our Journey to Europe* (United Kingdom); Drama Series: *Mammon II* (Norway).



Aleyce Simmonds, Ashleigh Dallas, Fanny Lumsden and Kasey Chambers are finalists in the Golden Guitar Awards Picture: JUSTIN LLOYD

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 has won more than 20 Golden Guitars over her career, is being recognised for her 11th record, a double album called *Dragonfly* which reached the top of the charts at the start of the year.

Along with The McClymonts and collaborators 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 along with 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 Bushwackers, with five nominations, solo artists Lee Kernaghan and Shane Nicholson, and bluegrass duo The Davidson Brothers, with four nominations each.

Tributes flow for star, 20 years on

DANIELLE McGRANE



MICHAEL Hutchence, the enigmatic INXS frontman, captured the attention of the world until his untimely death 20 years ago.

Caught up in whirlwind of celebrity and tabloid drama, the rock star was found hanged in his room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Double Bay, in Sydney's east, on November 22, 1997.

Having found himself embroiled in a custody drama involving his partner, British TV presenter Paula Yates, and her ex-husband Bob Geldof, the final year of Hutchence's life was difficult.

"He was not happy living in London and it was a conundrum because his child (Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily) was in London but he was being just savaged by the press over there and it was very hard for him," Hutchence's half-sister Tina Schorr recently told the Seven Network in a documentary released ahead of Wednesday's 20th anniversary of his death.

But in the years before that, Hutchence had been a chart-topper with INXS, memorably bewitching 70,000 people at London's Wembley Stadium in July 1991. Alongside keyboardist Andrew Farriss, 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-read. He always had a really sparky idea or take on things and I think that was an incredible contribution," Farriss said.

The stylish and effortlessly cool performer was nicknamed "Elvis" by his fellow band mates, but the attention-seeking showman also had a lot of time for anybody who came into his orbit.

"Michael had tremendous empathy for other people's problems. Michael wasn't just a self-involved narcissistic guy," Farriss said.

Before his death, Hutchence was working on solo music, but the Farriss brothers believed he would have returned to the band.

"So long as we gave Michael enough space and room to go do what he wanted whenever he wanted to do it, he'd always come back to us. That was never a question in my mind," guitarist Tim Farriss said.

Toby Creswell, author of the biography *Shine Like it Does: The life of Michael Hutchence*, describes the rock star as a man of contradictions. "He was such a whimsical, gentle kind of guy, almost not there but very much there when he wanted to be. He was a massive contradiction."

Lifeline 13 11 14, MensLine Australia 1300 78 99 78

CHITCHAT

Swift album hit



NEW YORK: Taylor Swift's *Reputation* is in good standing: the album has sold 1.22 million units in its first week.

Nielsen Music and Billboard report that the album is Swift's fourth project to sell more than a million copies in a 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 1.29 million copies in 2014. Her albums *Red* and *Speak Now* each sold 1.21 and 1.05 million copies when they released in 2012 and 2010, respectively.

Reputation, released on November 10, has sold more traditional albums than any other release this year. Ed Sheeran and Kendrick Lamar's recent albums are behind Swift, but have not sold a million units traditionally.

Beyonce richest



LOS ANGELES: Beyonce's hit album *Lemonade* and world tour made her the highest-paid woman in music in 2017, according to an annual Forbes list, edging out Britain's Adele and pop star Taylor Swift.

The R&B singer earned about $US105 million ($A147 million) from record sales and from her *Formation* concert tour, according to Forbes. She also has her own Ivy Park fashion line and other business interests.

Adele, whose 25 album broke first-week US sales records in 2015 and who completed her first major tour since 2011, made second place with an estimated $US69 million, despite having no major endorsements for other products.

Swift, who topped the last year's list with $US170 million in estimated earnings, raked in $US44 million this 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 unwanted advances.

A bombshell *Washington Post* report said the women were employees or aspired to work on the *Charlie Rose* show and were in their 20s and 30s when the alleged harassment took place from the 1990s to as recently as 2011. They complained that the unwanted advances included lewd phone calls, groping and walking naked in front of them. Three of them spoke on the record.

The report makes Rose, now 75, the latest senior male journalist accused of misconduct in the wake of the downfall of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

French society 'sick with sexism'

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has proposed a raft of measures to combat "horrific and shameful" violence against women, as leaders and activists around the world spoke out on the issue.

"Our entire society is sick with sexism," Mr Macron said yesterday in Paris, pledging to make gender equality a major theme of his administration.

He spoke as rallies were held from Brazil to Kosovo to mark the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

When Mr Macron spoke yesterday he began with a minute of silence to remember the 123 women killed last year in France by their partners or former partners. "France must no longer be one of those countries where women are afraid," he said.

Mr Macron outlined three priorities for his presidency, from fostering gender equality to giving better assistance to victims of sexual abuse and enforcing harsh measures against aggressors.

Nearly 225,000 women were victims of physical or sexual violence by their partners in France last year. But fewer than one in five filed a complaint.

Mr Macron wants to have the minimum age of consent for sex legally set at 15 — there is currently no such law in France. He



Macron

said he would like to look at the issue of hiring discrimination against women and "fight for the non-negotiable equality of both sexes". French first lady Brigitte Macron will help raise awareness of harassment in schools.

Equality Minister Marlene Schiappa said the world was at a turning point. "People can no longer ignore the extent of the violence women are subjected to. They have spoken up and we are responding," she said.

Those hazards have been front-page news after the fall of powerful men in the US and beyond following sexual misconduct allegations, starting with movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Weeks after the Weinstein story emerged, the #metoo hashtag burst into the social media spotlight and snowballed into an online movement as women across the world revealed similar experiences.

In Istanbul, male LGBT activists joined a rally in tourist hotspot Taksim Square to protest the killing of women, which rights groups say have been on the increase in Turkey since 2011. Last year 328 women were killed in Turkey, compared with 121 in 2011, according to the We Will Stop Femicides group, one of the organisers of protests held across the country.

Thousands demonstrated in Madrid as Spain was outraged by a trial over an alleged gang rape. At least 45 women have been killed in Spain this year by their partners or former partners.

Kosovo has been shocked by the killing of a 52-year-old mother of three from the central village of Kpuz, who died in hospital a week after her husband attacked her with an axe.

The office of Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj condemned the killing as an act "unacceptable in our society". Kosovo Women Network, an umbrella group, urged the authorities "to seriously address violence against women".

Mexico City, named as a black spot in a UN report into violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean, also saw a large rally. The UN Development Program has found that violence against women has reached "epidemic" proportions in states including Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

AFP

Relatives mourn missing sub sailors

MAR DEL PLATA: Relatives mourned the 44 missing crew members from Argentina's San Juan submarine with a religious ceremony yesterday, even though the navy has yet to declare them dead.

A service was held outside the Mar del Plata naval facility, where the submarine was based, to support grieving friends and relatives.

The navy has refused to rule out finding survivors. "We are at a stage of hope and hopelessness," said spokesman Enrique Balbi. "We have to be guided by firm evidence. We are focused on detecting the submarine."

But many relatives have lost hope since the navy announced on Thursday that there had been an explosion on board the submarine, which experts said was likely to be catastrophic and linked to a battery problem.

Captain Balbi said the submarine was not carrying torpedoes, thus dismissing a mishap with the explosives.

He said the search would continue around the clock. A handful of relatives held out hope that at least some of the sailors aboard the 34-year-old submarine, which had recently been refurbished, could be found alive.

Weather conditions for the search were good over the weekend — better than the difficult stormy weather of the past week — but were expected to deteriorate overnight.

Hopes were boosted by the arrival of a giant Russian Antonov transport plane bringing an underwater robot that can scour the ocean at a depth of 1km.

Separately, an army of welders worked to create an opening in the stern of the Norwegian offshore supply ship Sophie Siem, owned by oil company Total, large enough to accommodate the underwater rescue capsule sent by the US Navy.

The US capsule can rescue up to 16 trapped submarine sailors at a time in shifts of 20 minutes, experts said.

Depths plummet from 200m to more than 3000m on the edge of the Argentine shelf.

Experts say the sub would begin to break up if it dropped below 600m.

The navy said one sailor escaped the tragedy because he disembarked the submarine on special leave to visit his ailing mother — and was replaced.

Reports identified him as Humberto Vilte. A friend named Carolina said she spoke to Mr Vilte when his picture appeared in the papers. "He is well physically but very concerned about his comrades and friends," she told the daily *La Nacion*.

Mr Vilte's Facebook page, which has an Argentine navy coat of arms crossed by a black sash, is filled with messages of condolence.

Mr Vilte was not alone: a communications lieutenant also disembarked at Ushuaia and was sent on an urgent mission to Peru. Another lieutenant replaced him.

AFP



Relatives comfort each other at Argentina's navy base in Mar del Plata

Has Zimbabwe gone from bad to worse?



AFP

Zimbabwe's new President Emmerson Mnangagwa reviews the honour guard for the first time at the National Sports Stadium in Harare

CHRISTINA LAMB
MATABELELAND

When Blessing Chebundo watched the crowds cheering and dancing at the inauguration of Zimbabwe's new President on Friday, he wondered if it was time to leave the country. Mr Chebundo, the only person to have defeated Emmerson Mnangagwa, says the President tried twice to have him killed.

At 59, Mr Chebundo is lucky to be alive. A long-time trade unionist at the country's biggest fertiliser plant, he was persuaded to run for the newly formed MDC opposition party in the June 2000 elections in his home town of Kweke, which had been Mr Mnangagwa's constituency since independence in 1980.

"No one wanted to take on Mnangagwa," said Mr Chebundo. "He is one of the most feared politicians in the country."

On May 9, 2000, he was on his way to work when he was surrounded by 15 youths. "One of them hit me with a pitch handle and I fell to the ground. Another grabbed a can from under his shirt and poured petrol over me. I grabbed one of the others and said we're going to burn together." He was only saved because in the scuffle the matches had been covered in petrol and wouldn't light.

On May 13 his campaign manager, Abraham Misheno, was attacked. "They petrol-bombed his house in the night so it burnt down and then his family including his one-year-old daughter so badly she ended up in hospital."

Two days later they went for Mr Chebundo's house. Fearing an attack, he had sent his pregnant wife and child away. After darkness fell, he heard a noise. "When I tried to open the door an object flew past me and hit the wall and exploded. I thought, 'Oh God'."

"Soon every room was petrol-bombed. I was inside and everything was on fire."

He called the police but was told there was no one available. "Inside was fire all around and when I opened the curtain I could see a sea of people holding picks, knobkerries and other weapons. I thought, 'If I go out I'm killed. If I stay inside I'm consumed by fire'."

He ran out with a breadknife. "There must have been 40 or 50 of them and I knew I couldn't pass them. I told them, 'You're going to kill me but I'm going to take as many as I can of you'."

Among the crowd he recognised a local police inspector and a retired policeman. "They started retreating," he said. "Afterwards they told people they thought I was possessed as I looked like I was flying."

He won more than twice as many votes as Mr Mnangagwa. It may seem bizarre that the man who rigged elections for Robert Mugabe could not win his own seat in a poll, but Mr Chebundo said urban seats are harder to rig.

In 2005 Mr Chebundo defeated Mr Mnangagwa again, after which his rival created a new constituency. He had mixed feelings last week as he watched fellow opposition activists pulling down portraits of Mugabe and stamping on street signs bearing the name of the 93-year-old.

"Of course I'm glad he's gone," he said. "But no one can blame me for having reservations. Personally I'd say Mugabe is a better deal — I don't like him, but this person is worse."

He is not the only one. In the village of Emkayeni, just outside Tshelotsho in Matabeleland, Georgina Tshuma Ndlovu, 70, stood at a grave, bowing her head.

"The pain never goes away," she said. There lies her eldest son, ZuluBuy, shot dead at 19 with a friend by soldiers from the notorious Fifth Brigade.

With her is her son Kenneth, who ran away when he heard the shots that day in January 1983 but was caught and beaten so badly that he still drags his right leg. He was 16 at the time.

They are victims of Gukurahundi, the most brutal massacre of the Mugabe regime in which an estimated 20,000 people from the Ndebele tribe were killed or disappeared. The name comes from a Shona word that means "the early rain that washes away the chaff before spring" and the aim was to wipe out opposition after independence. "We call it the time of the killing," said Ms Ndlovu.

Mr Mnangagwa was head of Zimbabwe's spy agency, the Central Intelligence Organisation, in the mid-1980s. "Mnangagwa was the leader of that army that did this Gukurahundi," said Mthumayeli Moyo, 60, the local head man, who was also abducted by soldiers. "I'm worried that what happened before will come back."

'Is he going to be another Gorbachev or de Klerk, or will he be a Milosevic or Idi Amin? The choice is literally that stark'

DAVID COLTART
FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER

His wife, Sihle, could not walk for weeks after she was beaten.

The Fifth Brigade, trained by North Koreans and headed by Perence Shiri, who is now air force chief and was alongside Mr Mnangagwa at his inauguration on Friday, spread terror from 1983 to 1987. The brigade went from village to village in the south. Within six weeks more than 2000 civilians had died, hundreds of homes had burnt down and thousands of civilians had been beaten.

Most were killed in public executions. Afterwards villagers were sometimes forced at gunpoint to dance on the freshly dug graves and sing pro-Mugabe songs. Entire families were burnt alive inside huts, women raped and mothers-to-be bayoneted.

Gukurahundi has never been officially acknowledged by the regime, and Mr Mnangagwa has denied his role. "I low do I become the enforcer?" he asked a *New Statesman* interviewer last year. "During Gukurahundi we had the president, the minister of defence, the commander of the army, and I was none of that."

David Coltart, a lawyer in Bulawayo, opposition senator and minister for education in Mugabe's cabinet during the government of national unity in 2009-13, described Mr Mnangagwa as one of the architects of the massacre.

In his book *The Struggle Continues* he documents how under Mr Mnangagwa the CIO provided lists of members of the rival party Zapu that the Fifth Brigade would go after. He quotes him warning in a speech in April 1983: "Woe unto those who will choose the path of collaboration with dissidents, for we will certainly shorten their stay on earth."

"Everyone's celebrating but I'm not in a celebratory mood," said Mr Coltart, who used to sit two seats away from Mr Mnangagwa in cabinet. "I'm happy Robert Mugabe has gone but am worried about Mnangagwa.

"Is he going to be another Gorbachev or de Klerk, or will he be a Milosevic or Idi Amin? The choice is literally that stark. His history doesn't give us much encouragement. It's not just more of the same — it's potentially worse. You have someone much younger and more vigorous and much closer to the military."

It's not just Gukurahundi that concerns Mr Coltart but also Mr Mnangagwa's role in the 2008 presidential election, when he orchestrated violence and intimidation that forced the opposition MDC to pull out of a run-off vote. Mr Coltart said he helped rig the last elections too.

"He has been Mugabe's point man all along," he said. "He was his point man in Gukurahundi, point man in the run-off elections in 2008 ... it was Mnangagwa who organised that entire election with all the incidents of targeting - - and then, with General Chiwenga and the military, he ran the 2013 elections, where I had soldiers in my constituency voting early and often."

His fears are shared by Chief Felix Nhlanhla Ndiweni, 52, who lived in Canvey Island, Essex, England, and worked as an auditor until three years ago, when he returned to succeed his father as paramount chief of the Ndiweni. "We've been through a hellish patch for 37 years so, yes, the exit of Mugabe is good," he said, "but we're opening a Pandora's box and I'm concerned history will repeat itself."

He is calling for an international investigation. "We need information: where are the bones of our loved ones and who did what? And at some point some individuals have to be locked up for this."

The feared new President is also "the wealthiest man in the country", said Tendai Biti, a former finance minister and an opposition leader.

His business interests include a chain of petrol stations, ethanol production and gold panning. Eyebrows were raised when, in his inauguration speech, he called for an end to corruption. "As we focus on recovering our economy, we must shed misbehaviours and acts of indiscipline, which have characterised the past," he said.

A UN security council report accused him of plundering diamonds from the Democratic Republic of Congo when Zimbabwean troops intervened to prop up the government of president Laurent Kabila in the 1990s.

According to the 2002 report, Mr Mnangagwa was "key strategist for the Zimbabwean branch of the elite network" looting precious minerals.

Some Zimbabweans are starting to wonder if they have been fooled. "It's a ZANU-PF squabble we allowed ourselves to be sucked into," said Shari Eppel, director of the Solidarity Peace Trust and one of the authors of the Gukurahundi report. "It was never about a return to democracy. I feel people en masse are succumbing to Stockholm syndrome, mistaking their captors for liberators. The army are not our friends and liberators. They never have been and never will be."

THE SUNDAY TIMES



AP

Former finance minister Ignatius Chombo in court in Harare yesterday

Former minister tells of arrest at gunpoint

HARARE: Zimbabwe's former finance minister has testified that armed, masked men in uniform abducted him during the military operation leading to the ouster of Robert Mugabe and held him for a week, fuelling debate about the legality of the takeover by the armed forces.

The account by Ignatius Chombo came a day after a High Court judge, a retired general, ruled the military's actions last week, which commanders described as a move against "criminals" surrounding Mugabe, 93, were legal. While some critics said it set a dangerous precedent, the decision by judge George Chiweshe reinforced the military's assertion it had acted within the law even though it set off events that led to the end of Mugabe's 37-year rule.

However, Mr Chombo and two leaders of the ruling ZANU-PF party's youth league said they were abducted by the military. The three men have been linked to a party faction loyal to Mugabe's wife, Grace, whose presidential ambitions triggered the military intervention.

"I was in the custody of armed persons who were dressed in soldiers' uniforms," said Mr Chombo, who has been charged with corruption. "I don't know where I was taken."

He described in court how the raid in the early hours of November 15 began with two explosions. Men armed with AK-47 assault rifles then entered his bedroom, handcuffed him and hustled him out of the house.

AP

Common challenges provide platform for regional co-operation

WORLD COMMENTARY

ANTHONY BERGIN

One of the key messages of last week's foreign policy white paper was that if Australia is to navigate the challenges in the Indo-Pacific then we can't sit back while others engage in hard and soft power strategies to win influence.

We'll need to innovate and co-operate with other partners to give us the greatest range of policy options to advance our interests. This month's quasi-trilateral meeting of senior officials of Australia, US, India and Japan is one example.

Another example — and one that's flown under the radar — is occurring today in Bogor, Indonesia: the first official trilateral dialogue between Australia, Indonesia and India.

The impetus for the trilateral grouping doesn't just come from shared Indian Ocean geography. The three countries have closely co-operated in recent years to invigorate the key regional body in the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

IORA is the only multilateral forum with a broad-based agenda and a membership that spans the diverse Indian Ocean region, covering the more than two billion people who live around the Indian Ocean rim.

For a six-year period Australia, India and Indonesia sat at the top of IORA's high table and were its principal institutional contributors. In November 2011 India assumed the chair. Then after a two-year term, it made way for Australia. Indonesia took over in 2015. (South Africa is the current chair).

The six-year stewardship of the organisation by the three countries has seen significant advancement by IORA in institutional and program terms. An IORA Concord, signed during the first leaders' summit in Jakarta in March this year, for example, sets out norms to strengthen maritime regional architecture in the Indian Ocean region.

But Canberra, New Delhi and Jakarta now recognise that as neighbouring democratic countries they have the makings for trilateral co-operation beyond advancing IORA's agenda.

As evidenced by the Bogor meeting, there's now a recognition by the three states that practical measures around sustainable use of ocean resources and maritime safety and security can underpin trilateral co-operation.

Common oceanic challenges include maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, responsible fisheries management, (the three states can help build capacity, skills and governance), and combating the problems of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. (compared to the Pacific, the Indian Ocean is the "wild west").

Other issues would include disaster-risk management, (the three countries mostly face the same maritime natural hazards), marine scientific research (the eastern Indian Ocean lacks a regional marine scientific research forum), sea lanes security and safety, the illegal movement of people and drugs, and offshore infrastructure security, (offshore oil and gas exploration poses challenges for the security of offshore platforms).

A trilateral dialogue offers the potential to influence security developments in the eastern part of the Indian Ocean, which apart from the trilateral states, includes Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Timor-Leste. The eastern Indian Ocean is part of the primary operating environment for the Australian Defence Force.

Regional co-operation is generally better developed in the western Indian Ocean than it is in the east. The three major Indian Ocean players might want to examine the option of creating an eastern Indian Ocean forum that would enhance prospects of a triangular strategic relationship between India, Southeast Asia and Australia — a potentially valuable link that's currently underdeveloped. ASEAN as a regional body looks inward and towards its north and east, rather than to the west.

Trilateral co-operation is possible in naval exercises. The Indian navy now has at least one ship permanently stationed at the western approaches to the Strait of Malacca and they often take the opportunity to work with the Indonesian navy in the area. Given the recent large RAN Indo-Pacific deployment to the region, Australia has a real opportunity to join in here.

There's also prospects for trilateral co-operation around our Indian Ocean offshore territories, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island. These offshore island territories are closer to Southeast Asia than they are to main air bases in Australia. Cocos Island can act as a "lily pad", extending the strategic reach of RAAF aircraft and sustain operations of unmanned aerial vehicles.

An expanded Australian strategic presence on our Indian Ocean island outposts would enable closer maritime security and other forms of defence co-operation with a range of Indo-Pacific partners, including India and Indonesia.

The latest strategy document of the Indian navy puts an increased focus on undertaking co-operation between various navies to counter common threats at sea. Given our Indian Ocean offshore islands are proximate to Indonesia there's scope for maritime co-operation with Indonesia around these territories. We could, for example, invite Indonesian use of Cocos Island for its own aircraft patrols.

The Australia-India-Indonesia trilateral has the makings of a real three-way synergy in the eastern Indian Ocean and keeping the wider Indian Ocean as a peaceful maritime highway.

Anthony Bergin is a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and a senior research fellow at ANU's National Security College



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF HORSE PAMPERERS

Horses are being harmed by owners who insist on treating them like pets, according to an equine welfare expert.

A new breed of owner wraps up horses in rugs at the first hint of a chill and shuns horseshoes and bridle bits as cruel, said Ruby Owers, chief executive of World Horse Welfare.

Too squeamish to put their horse down in old age, these new owners often leave horses to live in chronic pain.

Speaking ahead of the charity's annual conference in London this week, he said: "It is not a crisis but it is a growing problem and could have a profound impact over the coming years."

A collapse in the price of horses in the wake of the financial crisis a decade ago brought in a new type of owner who had no background in looking after them, he said. Instead of owners keeping them in their own paddocks or on their own farms, more than half go to livery yards, many of which are DIY, meaning that the landowner provides only a field and running water.

They used to listen to the vet and the farrier but now they listen to 101 real people and 101,000 online people," he said.

It has opened the way for husbandry that is susceptible to fads and to owners projecting their attitudes, and those of their friends, onto their animals.

Mr Owers singled out the practice of using a rug when there is no need. The charity found two thoroughbreds suffering from heatstroke because they were turned out in the field wearing several blankets in temperatures of 20C-10C. Their owner was charged for causing unnecessary suffering. The practice also hinders the horse from developing protective oils and growing a thicker winter coat.

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MEDIA

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FIJI IN A SPIN

How Australian taxpayers are funding military PR (P28)



Sexual misconduct file imminent

EXCLUSIVE

DANA McCAULEY
BROADCAST



Tracey Spicer's pledge to disclose explosive revelations about sexual misconduct in Australia's media and entertainment industries could be published this week following legal issues.

It is understood Spicer has gathered 485 complaints about 65 separate alleged offenders. Accusations range from verbal harassment to criminal indecent assault.

The outspoken journalist, who this year detailed her own experience of working in the "boys' club" of commercial television in a tell-all memoir, was yet to put a single allegation against a living person on the record. On Friday, she confirmed the project had been delayed by "legal issues" although she is said to be close to publication. She has teamed up with Fairfax Media.

Spicer's investigation is said to include men currently employed in senior roles in Australia's television, radio and print media, some of whom have been the subject of human resources complaints, and the industry is abuzz with talk of who might be implicated. "These are serial predators who've been enabled by their workplaces," Spicer said. The nation's strict defamation laws have proved a stumbling block for the journalist, who last month vowed to "name and shame" sexual predators in the wake of the cascade of accusations that swept Hollywood following the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The fallout in the US continues — with CBS firing veteran broadcast journalist Charlie Rose on Wednesday after reports of "extremely disturbing and intolerable" alleged harassment on set — but in Australia the dominoes are yet to fall.

Defamation barrister Matthew Collins QC said Australia had the



Tracey Spicer

toughest defamation laws of the English-speaking world, making a Weinstein-style deluge of accusations a risky proposition.

Former *Hey Dad!* child actress Sarah Monahan joined the fray on Saturday, warning that "household names" — including Logie Award winners and television hosts — would soon be named as sexual offenders. Monahan is a survivor of childhood abuse at the hands of the actor who played her father on *Hey Dad!*, Robert J Hughes. She told *The Daily Telegraph* "The casting couch is real ... The floodgates are definitely about to open here in Australia."

It is unclear how many allegations will see the light of day, thanks to Australia's plaintiff-favouring legal climate.

What stood in the way of openly slather public accusations, Mr Collins said, was the fact that Australia had no constitutional enshrinement of a right to free speech — unlike similar countries. With no charter or bill of rights, he said, Australia's legal regime resembled English defamation law in the 19th century.

Nor does this country have a public figure defence enabling journalists to report freely on allegations raised against celebrities or politicians, as exists in the US. If allegations were made against media figures in Australia, Mr Collins said, the only way publishers could be protected would be if they could prove the accusations were true — a "difficult" proposition that would require alleged victims to be willing to testify in court. "You'd want to be very, very sure that they were victims who were prepared to, if it came to it, get in the witness box and say what happened to them — and be sure that they're credible," Mr Collins said.

By contrast, he said, in the US the onus of proof was reversed for public figures who believe they have been defamed.

"If someone like Weinstein were to sue, he'd have to prove (the allegation) was false," Mr Collins said. Australia's media industry has been hit with a number of hefty defamation payouts in recent months. Rebel Wilson's record-breaking $4.56 million win against Bauer Media in September heralds a new era of caution. Bauer is appealing the amount.

Fairfax Media is awaiting the NSW Supreme Court's damages award in the case of cricket superstar Chris Gayle, whom a jury last month found it had defamed with a 2016 article. In that case, Ms Russell left the courtroom after a cross-examination in which personal details of her life were raised.

YouTube pervert lure galls ad chiefs

DARREN DAVIDSON
MEDIA EDITOR

Australian media buyers are bracing themselves for the possibility of a fresh local boycott of Google's YouTube platform after an investigation revealed that adverts were shown on videos of scantily clad children with comments from sexual predators.

A fresh wave of advertisers suspended commercials on YouTube over the weekend, following revelations in *The Times of London*, after their ads showed up next to videos of young children, many of which drew crude comments.

John Miskelly, chief digital officer of WPP's media investment arm GroupM, said he was comfortable with steps the agency had taken to stop ads appearing next to extremist content.

He said GroupM's local operation introduced a new policy limiting its ad placements to sites on a "whitelist".

But Mr Miskelly said this was a problem of managing extreme risks, and it was clear Google was fighting a losing battle.



Jason Pellegrino

"It's almost impossible for Google to keep on top of this given the volume of content on YouTube," Miskelly told Media.

He called on Google to introduce more proactive policing of YouTube. "It's going to keep happening. They need to employ a lot of people," he said.

Simon Ryan, chief executive of Denstu Aegis Network, Australia and New Zealand, said the agency group had launched tools to control where ads appeared. This comes after a series of safety issues at Google as well as Facebook, with ads appearing alongside inappropriate or offensive content.

"We take digital brand safety extremely seriously," he said. "We pursue every possible measure to protect our clients. We have a robust approach in place, which we constantly review against the latest technologies in the marketplace to ensure we are at the forefront of managing the risks."

The backlash is the latest over what critics say is Google's failure to effectively monitor its digital platforms. Advertisers to pull out of YouTube include Mars, Adidas, Diageo and Sky NowTV.

Revelations in *The Times* included an ad-funded YouTube channel that featured two young girls in distress and in scenarios where they spat on each other and wet themselves.

In a statement sent to Media, a spokesman for Google said the company was taking urgent steps to remove the content and protect advertisers.

"Content that endangers

Continued on Page 28

Snappers focus on press council ruling

EN BROOK
ALISM

Photographers have criticised the Australian Press Council after it ruled that an image of a woman pulled from a wreckage of a car in the aftermath of a fatal crash breached standards on privacy and minimising distress.

The ruling last week from the press watchdog was attacked by photographers who feared it could curb press freedom and lessen the chances of invasive but newsworthy images being published.

"I would like to see it rescinded but the likelihood of that I imagine is probably zero," said freelance photographer Brian Cassey, who last year won a Nikon Walkley Award for News Corp for a picture of a 17-year-old asylum seeker. "In any situation the photographer's job is to portray the truth of an event and our job is not to consider privacy issues," he said, adding that was for editorial executives.

"You have only got to look at the World Press Photo exhibition every year of people in dire situations — war zones, disasters, crisp clear shots of people in dire situations. And it does bug me that it is OK for the Australian media to use those without a press council statement or recourse yet you have this obscure photo of a car crash and they are saying it's a privacy issue, with a hardly recognisable person."

Reuters chief photographer David Gray said the press council decision was "ridiculous".

"The basic point of anti-speed-paigns is to show the ef- e said. "This is completely and it goes against the ...ings of journalism, which is to show the facts. Most journalism that happens is an invasion of privacy because it happens in the public domain."

The Walkley Foundation and MEAA declined to comment, saying it is their policy not to comment on press council rulings. But Michael Amendolia, a member of the Walkley advisory board, said news.com.au was doing its job when it published the image.

"The key point here is that after one person complained to news.com.au they took the image down from their website," he said. "It seems to me news.com.au has presented the photo online in accordance with its charter. In report the news of the day across the full spectrum of life."

But he said the council had to address the complaint.

The Australian's editor-in-chief Paul Whittaker warned that the ruling ignored the fact that news gathering was often about tragic events.

"This finding ignores the reality of news — journalists and photographers are often called on to report stories that by their nature can be distressing but are

Continued on Page 28

Ricketson faces boycott over claim of bias against Oz

CHRIS MERRITT
LEGAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

Australian Press Council member Matthew Ricketson faces the prospect of becoming the second member of the complaint-handling organisation to be boycotted because of concerns about bias.

The question of whether the boycott goes ahead depends on whether the Press Council concludes that Professor Ricketson was accurately quoted as saying The Australian published information that has been shown to be false.

***The Australian* has asked the Press Council to investigate the incident in a November 10 letter to the organisation's vice-chairs, Julie Kinross and John Doyle.**

If it is found that Professor Ricketson's remarks had been accurately reported, The *Australian* has told the Press Council it will not provide testimony to and not accept adjudications of complaints by the council in which Professor Ricketson takes part.

The letter said Professor Ricketson had "publicly displayed an inherent bias towards The *Australian* which renders him incapable of fairly adjudicating matters involving its journalists' work".

This is the second time this

Continued on Page 28

Georgie will never be managed, says Karl



JOHN FEDER

'We are not going to stand for BS': Karl Stefanovic with Georgie Gardner, the new co-host of Nine's flagship morning program *Today*

EXCLUSIVE

STEPHEN BROOK
TELEVISION

The *Today* program will return next year "reinvigorated" with an increased focus on politics and campaigning journalism — but with a "no BS" policy aimed at stopping spinning politicians in their tracks.

New co-host Georgie Gardner, the program's newsreader for seven years before leaving 3½ years ago, nominates more campaigns and less opinion as the way forward.

"Everywhere you look people have got an opinion on something," she told *The Australian*. "There is so much white noise. If we can cut through that and get the experts and really give up-to-date factual advice I think it is a great opportunity."



DANNY AARONS

With husband Tim Baker and children Bronte and Angus

Co-host Karl Stefanovic, who has been with the program for 13 years, said *Today* was increasingits political coverage following some combative interviews with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and deputy Liberal party leader Julie Bishop.

"We have come back to doing political interviews now but we are not going to stand for BS. And there is so much BS out there the people are sick of it," Stefanovic said.

And yes, both admitted there would be arguments.

Today would not give in to the widespread fear in commercial media that politics had a negative effect on ratings. Stefanovic said. The new mantra of the program would be "information. information. information".

"Keep it coming," he said. "But as soon as people start to spin in any capacity — stop it. Ultimately you have got to call it. when they start, because everyone at home starts calling it as well. And you know what they do at home — they call it with their remote."

Gardner said her time on the sidelines was a bonus.

"Every now and then I get little text message from her ... a little straighten up," Stefanovic said.

But halfway through the interview, when asked how they would manage each other, they both erupt. "I will never be managed," Gardner said.

"She will never be managed and good luck trying with me," Stefanovic said. But the duo would have "respectful arguments" about content.

Hosting live television was "really personal, there are serious pressures that happen during a show and afterwards", Stefanovic said.

"And if you don't be adult about things and if you go away like a child you will have problems that fester. We will address them as we have always done. upfront with each other.

"All this rubbish that some people have been writing about us not getting on, no one knows how much we adore each other and respect each other. You don't go back and work on breakfast TV with someone if you don't like them," he added.

"Particularly when the alarm goes off at 3.30 in the morning," Gardner said.

This year Nine's flagship

Continued on Page 28

What a Price to pay: 10 years on, we still mourn the loss of a wonderful wordsmith

STEVE LEWIS
PRESS GALLERY

On a blissfully warm Perth day, 10 years ago on Saturday, the most powerful man in Australia stood among a crowd of several hundred, quietly reflecting on the caprice of life.

Just days earlier, Kevin Rudd and his Labor paratroopers had stormed the Coalition parapet after 11 years in the wilderness.

But this famous victory was soured almost immediately by the death of Matt Price, *The Australian*'s much loved political sketch writer.

Price passed away in his Perth home the morning after election night. His death at the age of just 46 shattered the exuberance of the Kevin07 election after-party, so the prime minister-elect deferred the swearing in of his government and instead flew his ministry to Perth, so they could pay their respects to a writer who'd routinely mocked the pomp and absurdity of Canberra's political pageantry.

Ten years later, it seems quite inconceivable that any political leader — let alone a prime minister — would find the good grace to shower such reverence on a journalist. But then Price was something special.

Perhaps the finest wordsmith to work in the federal parliamentary press gallery, Price injected irreverence and wit into everything he wrote, beautifully chronicling the absurd world of national affairs, lampooning but rarely wounding. Who else could have got away with describing John Howard as "Captain Ordinary", "The Evil Genius" and "The Unpreferred Prime Minister"?

Or his artful portrait of Julia Gillard who, he wrote, "... combines the cheese-grater voice of a Footscray flaxwife with the multi-shaded hair of a Tweak trendsetter".

When he passed away, surrounded by his family, the tributes flowed from across the political divide. Gillard spoke of Price's "infectious spirit (which) made you laugh with him and laugh at yourself". Tony Abbott, himself a former journalist, said Price had the "gift for being able to write genial prose that was very hard to reject".

He also loved immersing himself in the murky, backstabbing world of frontline politics. He understood the toll that political life took on its practitioners, particularly those from his home state of WA who were forced to regularly catch the "red eye" to Canberra.

But while he had empathy, he also possessed that rare skill to see politics as something more than just a shallow race to the bottom. His death left a void in the ranks of those who report politics for a living, robbing us of his unique gift for writing about the political elite, pointing out their flaws and strengths, their foibles and addictions.

How we would have savoured his wicked humour during the past seven or so years. How would he have reported the tumultuous toppling of Kevin Rudd in 2010 by his deputy Julia Gillard, then to see Rudd return several years later before he lost the 2013 election to Tony Abbott?

And what would Price have made of the inevitable rise of Malcolm Turnbull, who tore down another Liberal leader but who is now fending off speculation about his own political mortality.

Price found a place in the hearts of so many Australians because he was peerless in his ability to deconstruct the complexity of politics. Equally he could craft beautiful words about his beloved Fremantle Dockers or his other passion — music — including one late night rendezvous with a bemused Bob Dylan at Perth Airport in 2001. From one poet to another.

Price wrote of his "karmic connection" with Dylan and it seems many Australians shared that same fondness for Matt. Like the farmer from South Australia's Eyre Peninsula who travelled to Canberra for Price's memorial service a few weeks after he died, taking his place in the front rows between Joe Hockey and Julia Gillard. A blue singlet among the blue suits. Ten years later, we still miss Matt deeply.

Steve Lewis is a former political reporter for The Australian and a senior adviser with Newgate.

Matt Price 1961 - 2007



JOHN HOWARD
FORMER PRIME MINISTER

"Matt was a wonderful journalistic soul, he had terrific writing skills, he had a delicious sense of humour and a passion for sport."

KEVIN RUDD
FORMER PRIME MINISTER

"Matt had an extraordinary effect on all of us in federal politics. It was his ability as a sketch writer to cut through the political pomposity and I never escaped his attention on that score. But also there was a great humanity about the guy."

BARRIE CASSIDY
HOST, INSIDERS

"Matt in many respects was the quintessential Insiders panellist — the one who licked all the boxes. He was well informed, so well plugged in to all sides of politics, and he analysed in plain and simple terms."

JOHN HARTIGAN, FORMER CEO, NEWS LIMITED

"Miss him as if it was yesterday. He made everyone feel special with a mix of old-fashioned decency, a contemporary twist on life and of course — humour. This country has a history of producing great sketch writers but none as yet a patch on the master."

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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

Jean-Georges restaurant. Her boss, pastry chef and emerging TV star Johnny Iuzzini, hovered nearby. Without warning, the pastry chef told *Mic*, Iuzzini was beside her, his tongue in her ear.

Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini'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 Iuzzini 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.

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In a statement to *Mic*, Iuzzini 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. (Iuzzini's full statement can be found at the end of this article.)

By the time Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini'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 Iuzzini 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 [Iuzzini] 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."

Iuzzini 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.





French chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten in the kitchen of his flagship Manhattan restaurant, Jean-Georges, in 2007. Emmanuel Dunand/Getty Images

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, Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini 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. Iuzzini also works as a pastry consultant and runs a chocolate company, Chocolate by Johnny Iuzzini.

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 Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini 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, Iuzzini

denied that he "ever had a drug problem."

The first pastry chef explained that Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini'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 Iuzzini had a habit of touching female employees' rear ends with items in the kitchen — knives, long vegetables and spoons — in a suggestive manner.

Tweet

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 Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini, 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. Iuzzini 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," Iuzzini 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, Iuzzini's temper turned violent — the two pastry chefs cited in this story witnessed an aggressive encounter between Iuzzini 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

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called Johnny and all the chefs." While she was trying to remake the spoiled goods, she said, Iuzzini 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."

Tweet

The first chef recalled being shaken by this incident, during which she said Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini.

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 Iuzzini, who was to conduct her interview. She had no formal culinary training but had been connected to Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini'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 Iuzzini's influence. "And if one person has all the power, it's not really consent." The extern felt conflicted about her relationship with Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini in the restaurant and was hired. She said they had sex before her first day as an extern, and kept up a consensual sexual relationship for three months

extern, and kept up a consensual sexual relationship for three months until Iuzzini 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. Iuzzini 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."

Tweet

David Sherwyn, a law professor at Cornell University who specializes in hospitality labor and human resources, described the alleged relationship between Iuzzini 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 Iuzzini, the spokesperson

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asked about the specific allegations regarding Iuzzini, 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," Iuzzini said in his statement.

The first pastry chef said that Iuzzini "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 Iuzzini:

> *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.

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By **Rachel Tepper Paley**

Freelance writer, Out of Office



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Why women should not be afraid to own the times they were preyed upon

JILL POULSEN

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 should've been 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 feeling as shame.

Did I really want my family to know all of the times someone had touched me sexually without my consent? Or my colleagues?

I didn't feel like answering questions about it so I 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 in plural," he asked in complete shock.

That's what made my mind up that this was something worth sharing. Almost every woman I know has been the victim of sexual assault or harassment. I understand that it's important that my brothers, mum, 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 was on my way home from a party with some friends at 17 when a guy I didn't know particularly well reached behind me and put his hands down 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 on. It wasn't until the girlfriend of the driver said "If you don't stop doing that we're going to pull this car over 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 hips and chest. I tried to get out of the chair but he put his leg up so I was forced to jump over it just 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 this man, he keeps 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 form the station.

3. At 22 I was dancing with my friends at a nightclub frequented by unit students. 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 maxi taxi and I sat in the back. The driver, aged 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 many boyfriends". Things went from bad to worse.

He said the door was broken so he'd have to come and let me out. 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 tapped me on the shoulder. When I turned around he grabbed both of my breasts, I stumbled 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 every sympathetic and recommended a "swift kick to the balls" if I ever found myself in a similar situation.

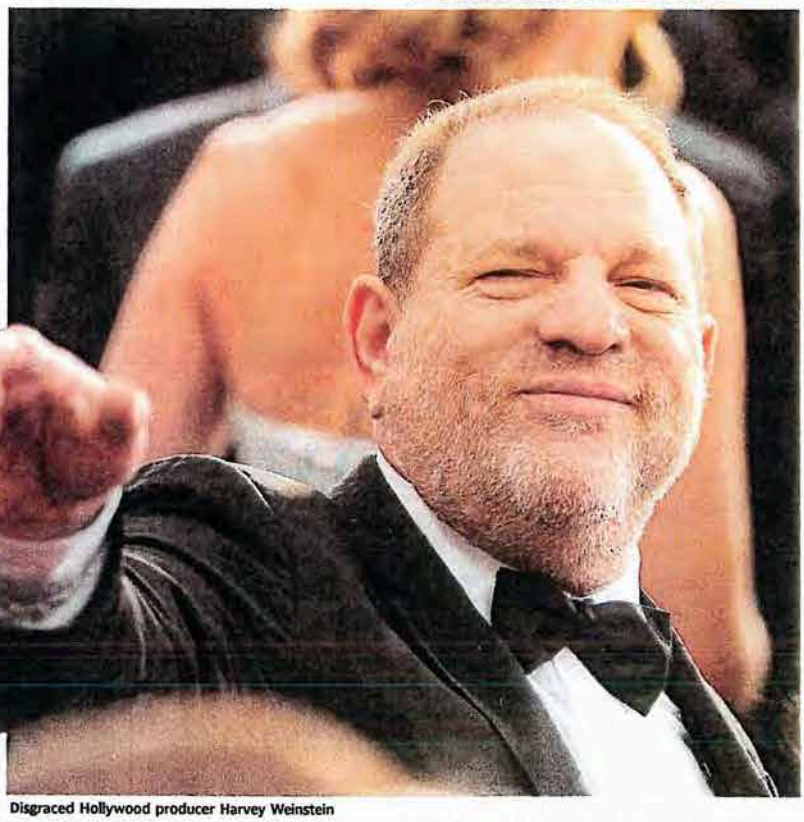
5. After I graduated from university I was working at a fish and shop trying to get a job as a journalist. Like most new graduates with few career prospects I found myself out drinking on a Tuesday night. I met a dude in a bar who said he was a journo we had a great chat about the industry and he offered 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 chippie for the rest of my life than degrade myself in that way. These stories are shameful.

But the shame doesn't belong to me; it belongs to the perpetrators.



Disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein

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Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino. Picture: FilmMagic/Getty

DIRECTOR'S BIG REVEAL IN SORDID DRAMA

LOS ANGELES: Cult filmmaker Quentin Tarantino has admitted he knew of mogul Harvey Weinstein's sexual improprieties and should have done more to bring the incidents to light.

The writer/director's startling admission to The New York Times — the same publication that broke news of the Weinstein scandal last month — came as it was revealed police in Los Angeles were investigating a possible sexual assault in 2013 involving Weinstein.

Tarantino, who has partnered with Weinstein on most of his films from Pulp Fiction to The Hateful Eight over the past 20 years, told the Times yesterday that he "knew enough to do more than I did".

Tarantino had heard first hand from his one-time girlfriend Mira Sorvino about Weinstein and had known about a settlement reached with Rose McGowan, he told the paper.

Tarantino said it was impossible that anyone who was close to Weinstein had not heard about at least one sordid incident involving the producer. "I chalked it up to a '50s-'60s era image of a boss chasing a secretary around the desk," Tarantino said. "As if that's OK. That's the egg on my face right now."



Tarantino with Weinstein and (right) Nyong'o.

Tarantino went on to compare Hollywood's treatment of women to a "Jim Crow-like system that us males have almost tolerated". He called on other men to "vow to do better by our sisters" and not just issue statements. "What was previously accepted is now untenable to anyone of a certain consciousness," he said.

Weinstein has been accused of sexual abuse and harassment by more than three dozen women, including several top actresses including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie.

Police in New York and London are also investigating the 65-year-old over the allegations, and now authorities in Los Angeles have commenced a probe of their own. Detectives have interviewed a possible victim who recently reported she was sexually assaulted by the film mogul, police said.

Also yesterday, Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o added her account of misconduct by Weinstein towards her.

In a New York Times op-ed piece, Nyong'o described a 2011 incident in which she said the producer offered her a massage at his Connecticut home.

Nyong'o said she instead offered to give Weinstein a massage, but left when he told her he wanted to take off his pants. Nyong'o said she had also been propositioned by Weinstein on numerous occasions and had declined an offer to appear in a movie he was involved with.

China's catching US by stealth



China's J-20 stealth fighter.

BEIJING: 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.

Kelly backs Trump in soldier skirmish

WASHINGTON DC: White House chief of staff John Kelly has delivered a searing defence of his boss, President Donald Trump, over accusation of insensitivity towards a slain soldier levelled at the commander-in-chief.

Mr Kelly, whose own son was killed in action in 2010 in Afghanistan, lashed out at congresswoman Frederica Wilson yesterday, accusing her of politicising what he called a "sacred" presidential effort to console the grieving loved ones of a slain soldier.

Ms Wilson had earlier in the week said Mr Trump had been disrespectful in his condolence call to the family of Sgt La David Johnson, who was killed in Niger.

Mr Kelly said he was "heartbroken" that Ms Wilson overheard the conversation and used it to attack the President. "I was stunned ... and broken-hearted at what I saw a member of Congress doing," he said. "It stuns me."

Mr Kelly absolved Mr Trump of blame, suggesting that the President did the best he could in one of the most challenging aspects of his job.

"If you're not in the family, if you have never worn the uniform, if you have never been in combat, you can't imagine how to make that phone call." Mr Kelly said.

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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 in Film event in Los Angeles.

The 25-year-old, who won rave reviews for her breakout role in Patti Cake$, was honoured in front of a crowd of VIP guests that included **Abbie Cornish** and **Jessica McNamee**.

"I moved to LA seven years ago, so it's kind of amazing to see that progress happens over time. It's really cool. I haven't really wrapped my head around it," she told Confidential about the award.

It's already been a busy year for Macdonald. She recently wrapped filming on Dumplin, a film starring **Jennifer Aniston**. She's also been cast as the lead in White Girl Problems, a film based on **Babe Walker's** novel of the same name.

Then last week it was also announced that she would star in Netflix drama Bird Box, alongside **Sandra Bullock**.

"It's based on a book. It's a really cool script that I read and I loved it a lot and it's such an amazing group of actors that get to bring it to life with an incredible director on board and I'm so excited to get on board," she told Confidential.

Macdonald also credits her success to "not giving up".

"There are lot 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 just as hard, things will find a way and everything will line up," she said. 13 Reasons Why star **Katherine Langford** and director **Alethea Jones**, who is filming the Barbie movie with **Anne Hathaway**, also received the Breakthrough Award.

WEINSTEIN CASE GIVES WOMEN A VOICE, SAYS JESS

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, and I think it's really amazing," the model said at the launch of Jets' 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 Hollywood film Father Figures 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, Jets was ready and we came together and thought, 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".

"He 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.



Wilkinson enjoys champagne moment

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 Moet and Chandon event at the Sydney Opera House and will front up for emcee duties. The appearance comes after her termination from Nine's Today show over gender pay parity has made global news, with international media outlets reporting on the fracas.

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 **William H. Macy** told The Daily Telegraph he had just read about Wilkinson's exit in The New York Times.

The father of two and husband of Desperate Housewives star **Felicity Huffman** said equal pay was a "no-brainer", 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 RAF established and operated Bomber Command. Based in the UK, it's role was to bomb key targets in Nazi occupied Europe. Bomber Command was made up of airmen and women 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 Fleeton 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 air museums such as Cosford, Coningsby, Shuttleworth and Hendon plus unforgettable days at the Duxford and Yeolvilton airshows.



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The New York Times https://nyti.ms/2xVPfVW

U.S.

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 he 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.

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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, 62, 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'

10-282

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.

Rachel Abrams and William K. Rashbaum contributed reporting. Grace Ashford contributed research.

A version of this article appears in print on October 6, 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 and Jennifer Lawrence

HARVEY WEINSTEIN: SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR AND BIG-TIME GROPER

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun
October 6, 2017 11:19am



world-ready women™

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 he 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 c realise times have changed?

Lisa Bloom, a lawyer advising Mr. Weinstein, said in a statement that "he denies many of the accusations as patently

ANDREW BOLT

BEN QUILTY AND THE

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Malcolm 11 months ago

.. is not illegal to act as a lawyer for such a person. But it should be. I view it as a worse crime.

Reply

mickel 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

Reply

Atheist1 11 months ago

Sleazebags in Hollywood and sleazebags in the White House..who would have thunk it?

Reply

john of gaunt 11 months ago

No Clinton didn't win and her husband can't run again.

Reply

Rosalind 11 months ago

Well I just hope Julia Gillard who is now hobnobbing around New York with a new BFF in the form of Rhianna 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 Hilary 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.

Reply

Gary 11 months ago

Rosalind That's GOLD Rosalind!!! Love your work.

Reply

Neil 11 months ago

Rosalind I just luuuurve your work, Roz! Spot on.

Reply

Chris 11 months ago

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NEWS AFL SPORT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLE REAL ESTATE

Lis 11 months ago

Is he a friend of Trump and Roger Ailes, seem to have many things in common plus dinosaurs!

Reply

Septic the Sceptic 11 months ago

Lis Good friend with the Obamas and Clintons.

Reply

Leigh 11 months ago

Lis, I think he is a friend of Bill Clintons.

Reply

Lis 11 months ago

Then they are all as bad as each other!

Reply

Jim 11 months ago

Lis No Bill has a head lead over all of them.

Reply

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.

Reply

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Atheist1 11 months ago

Christo Almost as low as the White House...Kennedy,Clinton and Trump.

Reply

Robert 11 months ago

Hey Mr Producer.

Reply

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PREVIOUS NEXT

OCTOBER 6 2017

Harvey Weinstein takes 'leave of absence' after sexual harassment accusations

Gene Maddaus

MORE

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."

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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.

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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

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

> ***"Heed the mantra and never forget: Women. Have. Nothing. To. Gain. And. Everything. To Lose. By. Coming. forward. https://t.co/ynKX1bcBkK"***
>
> — Amber Tamblyn (@ambertamblyn) October 5, 2017

> ***"Here is Weinstein's statement to the New York Times:https://t.co/lpjgsoytRe"***
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> — Hamza Shaban (@hshaban) October 5, 2017

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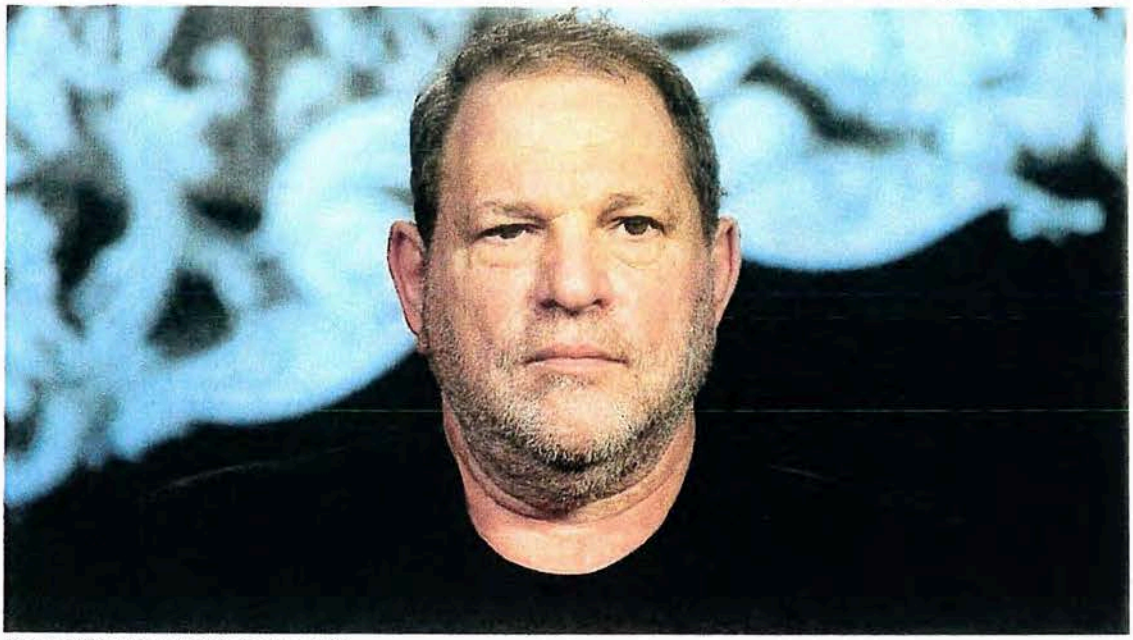
Trump 'not at all surprised' by Harvey Weinstein allegations



Harvey Weinstein in 2016. Source: AAP

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he was unsurprised by revelations that Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed women for nearly three decades.

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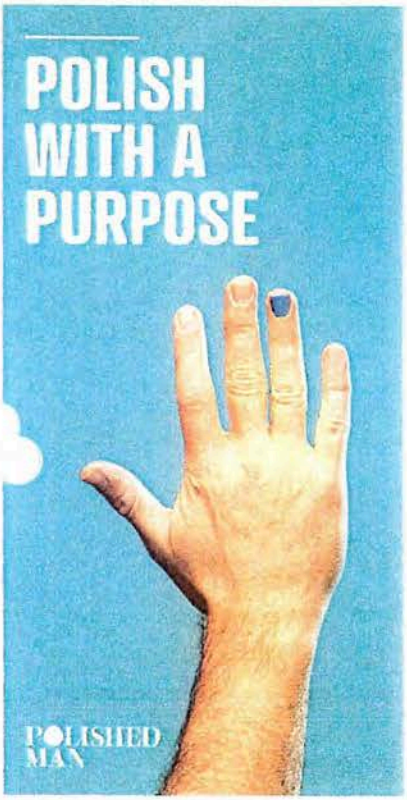

"I've known Harvey Weinstein for a very long time, I'm not at all surprised to see it," President Trump told reporters outside the White House.

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.

Harvey Weinstein

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein apologises after sexual harassment claims

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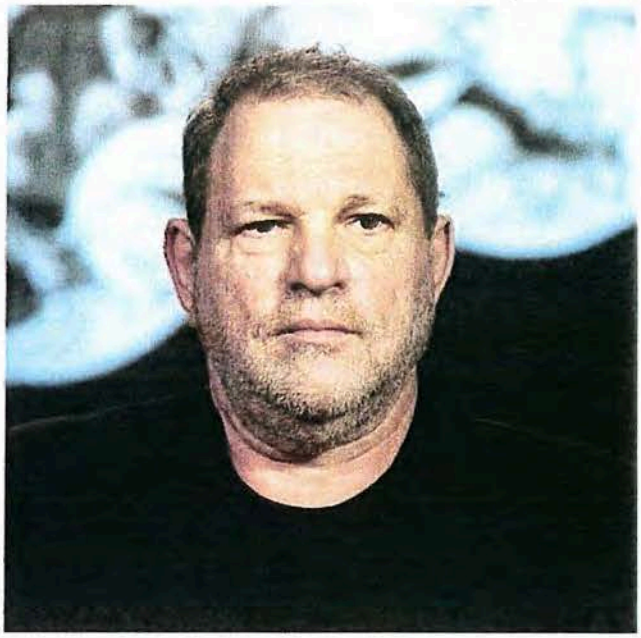
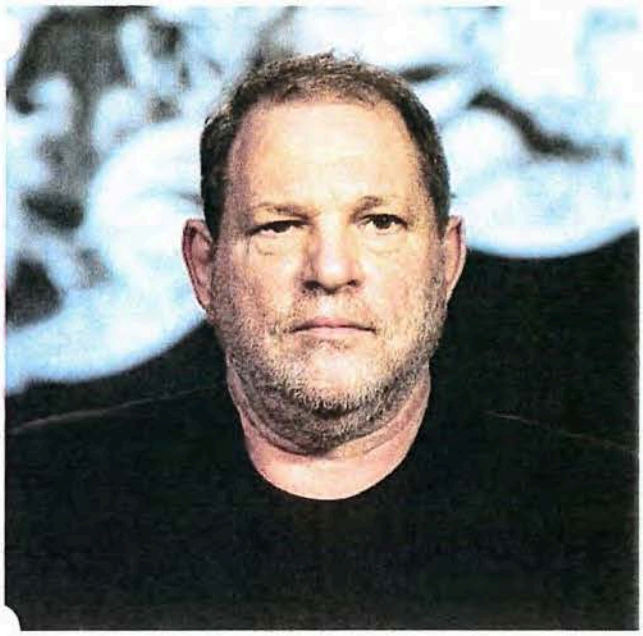


Weinstein on 'indefinite' leave of absence



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.



Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd.
AAP

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

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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.

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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 ·ssault. Her work with the co-chair of The Weinstein Company drew ıierce 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.



Lawyer Lisa Bloom has resigned as Harvey Weinstein's attorney. Photo: AP

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 Dirk 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.

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Hollywood's kingmaker Harvey Weinstein loses his crown



Michael Idato

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If Harvey Weinstein was merely a Hollywood film producer, the sexual harassment scandal that has engulfed him and his company might have eventually burned out, just another scandal in a town where such scandals are commonplace.



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

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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."

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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 nforced 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

WASHINGTON: Diplomatic efforts with North Korea have failed and "only one thing will work", Donald Trump tweeted yesterday as he re-entered the war of words with dictator Kim Jong-un.

"Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid," the US President tweeted.

It "hasn't worked, agreements violated before the ink was dry, makings fools of US negotiators. Sorry, but only one thing will work!"

Mr Trump returned to the theme when he appeared on former governor Mike Huckabee's show on Trinity Broadcasting Network television. North Korea "should have been handled 25 years ago, it should have been handled 10 years ago, it should haven been handled during the Obama administration," the President said, referring to his predecessor Barack Obama.

The US has not ruled out the use of force to compel Pyongyang to halt missile and nuclear tests, and Mr Trump has threatened to destroy the country.

The President also said at a recent gathering with military leaders to discuss Iran, North Korea and the Islamic State group that the current period "could be the calm before the storm," declining to clarify his remarks.

In recent days, as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson flew home from meetings with top Chinese officials, Mr Trump tweeted that his envoy was "wasting his time" in trying to probe North Korea's willingness to talk.

Mr Trump also revealed he had spoken to the US Senate's Democratic leader to gauge whether the party was interested in helping pass "great" health legislation.

The answer: Democrats are willing to hear his ideas, but scrapping the Obama health law is a non-starter.

Mr Trump's overture to Democrats followed Republican failures so far to fulfil the party's promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Despite controlling the White House and congress since January, Republicans have not passed the legislation.

The President tweeted he had called senator Chuck Schumer at the weekend to discuss the 2010 law known as "Obamacare", which Mr Trump said "is badly broken, big premiums. Who knows!"

Mr Trump said he wanted "to see if the Dems want to do a great healthcare bill".

On the South Lawn of the White House before a trip to North Carolina yesterday, Mr Trump said he was willing to consider "a temporary deal."

What that might involve was not clear, but Mr Trump referred to a popular GOP proposal that would have the federal government turn over money for healthcare directly to states in the form of block grants.

"If we could do a one-year deal or a two-year deal as a temporary measure, you'll have block granting ultimately to the states, which is what the Republicans want. That really is a repeal and replace," he said.

In the Huckabee interview, Mr Trump said "we'll have healthcare before the election".

Senator Schumer said through a spokesman that Mr Trump "wanted to make another run at repeal and replace and I told the President that's off the table".

Mr Trump is also poised to "decertify" the Iran nuclear deal, declaring the historic pact as contrary to US interests and urging congress to review it.

Mr Trump is scheduled to unveil his Iran plan on Friday (AEDT), although aides said the timing could shift and the unpredictable President could yet change his mind. Last week Mr Trump said Tehran had not "lived up" to the spirit of the 2015 deal.

On the campaign trail last year, Mr Trump railed against the landmark agreement brokered by president Obama between Iran and the US, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany. Mr Trump said it was the "worst deal ever".

Under the pact, crippling international sanctions were lifted in return for Iran's suspending its nuclear development program.

Mr Trump's decision will not mean the treaty is dead, because Republicans in congress are unlikely to reimpose sanctions within the required 60 days.

However, in decertifying it, Mr Trump is rejecting the counsel of his advisers, including Mr Tillerson and Pentagon chief James Mattis.

AFP, THE SUNDAY TIMES



AFP

Donald Trump boards Air Force One yesterday

Weinstein facing another sex claim



Weinstein Sivan

LOS ANGELES: A US TV news anchorwoman has lodged a 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 said she was no longer representing the movie mogul as he confronts sexual harassment allegations dating back years.

TV anchorwoman Lauren Sivan detailed an alleged 2007 encounter with Weinstein in a HuffPost report at the weekend.

Sivan, then working at New York cable channel Long Island 12, alleged Weinstein had cornered her in the hallway of a Manhattan restaurant closed to the public and masturbated in front of her.

Sivan, who is now a reporter and host for Fox broadcast TV's Los Angeles station, Fox 11, 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 last week.

"My understanding is that Mr Weinstein and his board are moving toward an agreement," said lawyer Lisa Bloom, in announcing her resignation on Twitter.

Ms Bloom, the daughter of renowned women's rights lawyer Gloria Allred, previously has represented victims of sexual harassment and assault. Her work with the co-chairman of The Weinstein Company drew fierce criticism online.

Asked to comment on the embattled Hollywood figure, US President Donald Trump said: "I've known Harvey Weinstein a long time."

When asked if he was surprised by the accusations, the President replied: "Not at all."

Weinstein is on indefinite leave from the company he cofounded while it investigates claims by women including actors Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan.

The scandal's fallout included the resignation of Weinstein Company board member Marc Lasry, chairman and chief executive of Avenue Capital Group. The resignation was confirmed by Lasry spokesman Todd Fogarty.

Mr Lasry joined an exodus from the nine-member board, with billionaire Dirk Ziff and Technicolor executive Tim Sarnoff also leaving, reports said.

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

Crisis shows Suu Kyi still military's prisoner



GETTY IMAGES

A man keeps Rohingya children at bay with a cane as aid is distributed at a Bangladesh refugee camp; below, Aung San Suu Kyi

NIHARIKA MANDHANA
JAMES HOOKWAY
YANGON

Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel laureate, democracy activist and Myanmar's main civilian leader, met with a senior diplomat last year and told a cautionary tale about how Muslims had come to dominate another southeast Asian state, Indonesia, after centuries in the minority.

Ms Suu Kyi spoke about her country not wanting to face such a situation, a source said. Muslims were already in the majority in some areas, she added, although they made up just 4 per cent of the total population.

In recent weeks, hundreds of thousands of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims have fled the country following a military crackdown that has turned villages in the western state of Rakhine into ghost towns. Rohingya who made it to neighbouring Bangladesh have recounted how soldiers razed their homes, in some cases shooting and raping villagers. Bangladesh authorities estimate 3000 people have been killed since August 25.

Ms Suu Kyi has confounded the expectations of Western political leaders and her fellow Nobel laureates by failing to explicitly condemn what the UN calls a clear-cut case of ethnic cleansing.

Her reticence is a tactical decision, people in her inner circle say. She worries that speaking more forcefully would antagonise the military, which once ran the country and still wields considerable authority, and would jeopardise her goal of full democracy.

Yet it also seems to be driven by the extent to which Ms Suu Kyi channels the historical grievances and concerns of her largely Buddhist country.

There is a fear that the spread of a Muslim minority could unravel Myanmar's fragile ethnic and religious balance. Many view the Rohingya as intruders from Bangladesh intent on pushing Islam's frontier east.

When a visiting diplomat raised the issue of the Rohingya with Ms Suu Kyi in 2013, she admonished: "Please don't call them Rohingya. They are Bengali. They are foreigners," said a source with knowledge of the conversation. The term "Bengali" is often used in Myanmar to describe illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

The source also said Ms Suu Kyi had complained that the international community underestimated the threat Buddhists faced from Muslims in Rakhine State.

On the question of what to call the Rohingya, her spokesman Zaw Htay said: "We refer to them as the Muslims of Rakhine State. Actually it's difficult to decide the term. We sometimes use the word 'Bengali' when it is unavoidable."

Ms Suu Kyi cancelled plans to attend last month's UN General Assembly, where she was expected to face scrutiny over Rohingya refugees. One source said there was concern the military might not let her return if she stepped out of line. She has repeatedly stopped short of criticising soldiers for setting fire to Rohingya settlements.

Antipathy to the Rohingya, who live in Myanmar without citizenship or the right to vote, goes back decades. Some Rohingya say they were the original inhabitants of the coastal strip along western Myanmar. Under British rule, Rohingya were encouraged to migrate into what was then called Burma from what is now Bangladesh and India to bolster farming.

During World War II, Rohingya sided with retreating British forces while many local Buddhists took up arms with the Japanese in hopes of gaining independence, inflaming tensions between the two communities.

Last October, Rohingya insurgents launched attacks on border outposts in Rakhine State, killing nine security personnel and seizing weapons.

Myanmar's army chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, ordered what Myanmar military strategists call the "Four Cuts". Developed in the 1970s against rebel armies, it involves sweeping through civilian areas to deny insurgents food, funds, recruits and information. The general later described the operations as "unfinished business" dating back to World War II.



More than 600,000 of Myanmar's estimated 1.1 million Rohingya have since crossed the mud-brown waters of the River Naf to Bangladesh to escape Myanmar's army — including more than half a million in the past six weeks alone. They are joining about 300,000 who fled years ago, now living in squalid camps as the annual cyclone season closes in.

The crisis is raising questions about whether the push among Western nations to restore ties with Myanmar, a resource-rich nation in a strategically important region bordering China, was justified. While there is no talk of reimposing economic sanctions, suspicions are growing among political analysts and members of the civilian government that Myanmar's military, long accused of human-rights abuses, is tightening its grip again.

The constitution Myanmar's army drafted in 2008 grants it control of the defence and interior ministries, the administrative backbone of the country. Soldiers are guaranteed a quarter of the seats in the parliament, enough to veto constitutional changes.

Ms Suu Kyi is barred from being president because she has foreign-born children. Having won elections in 2015, she serves as Myanmar's de facto head of state through a specially created post of state counsellor.

Sources say she fears the military will retake sole control if she provokes them.

"This is the view at the highest level of the civilian side of government," said one source familiar with Ms Suu Kyi's thinking, adding: "Everyone has been utterly played" by the army.

Ms Suu Kyi has said her long-term objective is to rewrite the constitution to expand civilian control. She wants to bring lasting peace by providing more autonomy to Christian and ethnic Chinese groups. That effort does not include the Rohingya, who are not among the 135 ethnic groups recognised by the government.

In earlier times, Ms Suu Kyi's bravery in facing down the military during years of house arrest inspired devotion worldwide.

She decided it was worth accepting limited power if it meant moving Myanmar closer to becoming a full democracy with proper rule of law. In interviews, she told people she wanted to be seen as a politician, not as an idealist or human-rights icon.

"She saw that there was a window of opportunity to influence the way the transition would go," said Derek Mitchell, the US ambassador to Myanmar from 2012 to last year, and now an adviser to the US Institute of Peace in Washington.

Ms Suu Kyi says she has little influence over the army chief, say sources who have discussed the matter with her. One said the flow of information to her office from the armed forces slowed after Rohingya militants first attacked the military last year.

Her plan for a grand peace deal with Myanmar's many ethnic minorities has foundered. There are now more people displaced by internal conflicts in Myanmar than when she took office. She has struggled to build trust with the insurgent armies, many of whom regard the Myanmar military as the real power.

Mr Zaw Htay says her government's peace plan has made progress. While the previous military-backed government obtained a ceasefire deal with armed groups, Ms Suu Kyi has taken a step forward by starting discussions on a political settlement, he said.

Economic changes have come slowly, leading some investors to lose interest in a country many thought would take off like Vietnam. New foreign investment, after some sharp gains before Ms Suu Kyi took office, fell 22 per cent to $US2.2 billion ($2.83bn) last year compared with the year before, according to UN data.

An alternative, nationalist vision for the country has gained ground, driven in large part by the army and its backers, including influential Buddhist monks.

Ms Suu Kyi already taking heat from rights groups for not fielding any Muslim candidates for her party in 2015 elections, was angered by what she saw as a tepid international response to the insurgents' attacks.

After the UN issued a statement calling on Myanmar's army to exercise restraint, she cornered a UN official in Naypyitaw, a source said.

"She said, 'Why don't you condemn the attacks more strongly? This is an insurrection against the state,'" the source recalled.

One diplomat said Ms Suu Kyi had expressed reluctance to give Rohingya citizenship, saying it would encourage more Muslims to come from Bangladesh.

Some of Ms Suu Kyi's former allies — many of them from the 1980s democracy movement — wonder whether by entering a power-sharing pact with the army, she is now as much a prisoner as she was during her long years of house arrest.

Khin Zaw Win, a former political prisoner who directs a Yangon think tank, said it was doubtful whether the country would emerge as a full democracy in the foreseeable future.

"She is binding herself to the military because both sides understand they have to hang together," he said. "For all her rhetoric past and present, her leverage on the military is nil."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

America needs another Sputnik as China takes the lead in science

WORLD COMMENTARY

BEN MACINTYRE

Sixty years ago, a shiny sphere of aluminium, magnesium and titanium, 60cm in diameter and weighing 83kg, flashed across the sky at 30,000km/h from west to east.

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite, a new moonlet, a giant step for mankind. By the time Sputnik burnt up three months later, the world it had orbited 1440 times was an utterly different place.

Sputnik sparked a scientific crisis of confidence in the West, shaking post-war US technological complacency to the core, stoking triumphalist Soviet propaganda and kicking off the Cold War space race.

More than that, it prompted the greatest single investment in science ever undertaken. Following Sputnik, money and energy poured into engineering, science and technological research in an educational great leap forward that unleashed an unprecedented wave of innovation on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Today the West needs another "Sputnik moment" to shake it out of its technological lethargy. Historically, such leaps tend to follow crises, rivalry or war. The next major scientific overhaul may be prompted by a Russian cyberattack, a North Korean dictator with a nuclear warhead or environmental disaster.

But the greatest technological challenge is likely to come from China, which accounts for 20 per cent of the world's expenditure on scientific research and development, a rate increasing just as the US is reducing such spending.

Sixty years on, it is easy to forget the astonishment and fear that greeted the news of Sputnik: the Soviet Union had not just won the race to launch a satellite, it had done so in secret.

"Sputnik triggered a period of self-appraisal rarely equalled in modern times," wrote Wernher von Braun, the German leader of US space efforts. "Overnight, people questioned our education system, our industrial strength, our science and technology, even the moral fibre of our people." (Braun's use of the first person plural is notable: he had previously invented the Nazis' V-2 rocket system.)

The weapons gap was one source of alarm but the education gap was another. In the late 1950s, the USSR was training two or three times as many scientists as the US. Moscow crowed that Sputnik (which translates as "fellow traveller on Earth") proved how "the freed and conscious labour of the people of the new socialist society turns even the most daring of man's dreams into reality".

Then-US president Dwight Eisenhower was quick to appreciate that space rivalry was about more than bragging rights and ideological posturing. Only huge and sustained investment in academic capacity and scientific research would keep the West in the race, and safe.

Within a year, US congress established NASA, putting space research under a civilian umbrella and ensuring that space technology would be part of a public, shared scientific endeavour. The US National Defence Education Act poured billions of dollars into science education, providing low interest loans to maths, engineering and science students. By 1968, the National Science Foundation budget had increased to $US500 million, from $US34m a decade earlier.

In Britain, the Tory government created eight new universities, including East Anglia and Sussex, in part to close the science gap.

Within 12 years of Sputnik, the US had put a man on the moon. But in addition to the achievements of Project Apollo and the Hubble space telescope, the flood of technological innovation created a host of objects we take for granted, from cordless power tools to TV satellite dishes. More than that, the response to Sputnik laid the basis for modern academic scientific research.

In the wake of Sputnik, money and energy poured into engineering, science and technological research

Emergency is frequently the spur to science. The US National Academy of Sciences was created in 1863 at the height of the American Civil War to aid the Union's fight against the secessionist South. In Britain, many of the most important scientific bodies, such as the Medical Research Council, emerged from the scientific demands of World War I.

The Soviet satellite suddenly circling the Earth was seen as a direct political and scientific challenge to the West. In sharp-edged doggerel, G Mennen Williams, then governor of Michigan, wrote:

Oh little Sputnik, flying high
With made-in-Moscow beep
You tell the world it's Commie sky
And Uncle Sam's asleep

In October 1957, America woke up overnight to a new scientific reality and immediately threw its vast resources and limitless ingenuity at the problem. Today, many countries are investing heavily in science but the Trump budget for 2018, by contrast, would cut government research spending by 17 per cent.

Donald Trump looks forward to a Mars landing but no US president of modern times has been more hostile to federal support for the sciences.

Sputnik has been compared, in its impact on US thinking, to Pearl Harbor, a moment of cataclysm that galvanised the nation through shock, wounded pride and moral outrage.

No one would welcome another such crisis, but a new Sputnik moment is long overdue and may well be triggered, not by Moscow this time, but Beijing. For decades the US led the world in the creation of scientific knowledge but China is now the second-largest performer in terms of research and development, with an investment growth rate exceeding that of the US and EU.

The steady beep given off by Sputnik sounded a warning that was clearly heard; six decades later, Uncle Sam's asleep again.

THE TIMES



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE JAIL FILM FESTIVAL

Italian film directors face tougher critics than usual this month as they compete at a new film festival inside a high-security jail in Rome, where drug dealers, armed robbers and murderers make up the jury.

"These jurors say to your face exactly what they think, because it's one of the few occasions when they can," said Giovanni Veronesi, whose film *This is no Country for the Young* screened last week.

The 20 jury members, picked as a reward for good behaviour, will select the best of five films being shown at Rebibbia jail, with a prize-giving ceremony this month. After each screening, directors and actors take part in a question-and-answer session with the inmates.

"The prisoners who have been here the longest, who are in for the most serious crimes, are taking it very seriously and asking tough questions," a guard said.

The film festival is the latest in a series of cultural initiatives turning the prison into an artistic oasis.

A docu-drama film that followed the prison's renowned theatre group as it rehearsed Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* won the Berlin Film Festival in 2012.

Fabio Cavalli, the group's director, said his actors rarely reoffended when they left jail, and often become professionals.

"Art turns jail from a place of suffering to a place of hope," he said.

THE TIMES

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Harvey Weinstein has been fired from his own company

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OCT 9, 2017, 11:06 AM



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Coatsallou/AFP/Getty Images

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 woman over sexual harassment claims.

Here's what the statement from the directors said:

10-315

FIRED FROM

HIS OWN

COMPANY)

> 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 $US50 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

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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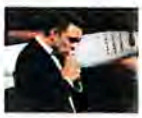

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OCTOBER 9 2017

Harvey Weinstein forced out of his own film company by sexual harassment scandal

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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 hobbled 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.



Forced out: Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

"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."

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FOLLOW BUSINESSDAY

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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.

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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

COMMENT OCTOBER 10 2017

Harvey Weinstein embodies a culture whose power is on the wane

Ann Hornaday

MORE

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".

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FOLLOW DAILY LIFE

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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.

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

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*

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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.

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Mother of Mandurah tent tragedy children found dead in home



BUSINESS

Amazon chief Jeff Bezos knows he can no longer afford to stay in the shadows



NEWS

Drug driver in hit-run wants a shorter sentence because cyclist didn't die



LIFESTYLE

We're asking the wrong questions about Aziz Ansari

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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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Killer's home searched

Investigators descend on Las Vegas shooter's house

LAS VEGAS: Federal investigators returned to search the home of Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock yesterday, while the officers who raided his hotel room door the night of the shooting gave a harrowing account of a barricaded door they had to bust through and the booby-traps they feared they'd find.

The search of Paddock's three-bedroom house on a cul-de-sac in a retirement community in Mesquite, Nevada, was for "re-documenting and rechecking," said local police Chief Troy Tanner, who accompanied FBI agents as they served the search warrant.

"I don't think they are after anything specific," Tanner said.

"They're going through everything and 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 2015.

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 gunmen on both the 29th and 32nd floor, so "we're thinking multiple shooters at this point," Sgt. Joshua Bitsko said. They zeroed in on the 32nd floor after Paddock unleashed about 200 rounds at 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 shut the door – with a piece of metal and some screws," Bitsko said.

"Cause he knew we'd be coming out that door to gain entry into his door. So he tried to barricade it as best he could." But another officer had a pry bar and was able to easily pop it open, Bitsko 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 35 people were on the boat and eight survived the capsizing, local police official Mainuddin Khan said.

He said rescuers have retrieved 12 dead bodies but it was not exactly clear how many were missing. The search was continuing, but the sea remained rough.

The capsizing occurred near the Shah Porir Dwip 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 decried by the United Nations as "ethnic cleansing." Boat accidents have killed 143 Rohingya trying to reach Bangladesh.

Myanmar's military launched what it described as "clearance operations" after an insurgent group attacked security posts and killed several police and border guards.

The UN said Myanmar's response was "disproportionate" compared to the insurgents' action.

The refugees arriving in Bangladesh have described indiscriminate violence and widespread arson in their home villages in Myanmar's Rakhine state along the Bangladesh border.



An Indian wildlife park worker was mauled to death by two white tiger cubs while he was herding them into their enclosure Picture: PICTURES MEDIA

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.

Anji, 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 Santosh Kumar said.

"The victim was assisting the caretaker in pushing the cats into their enclosure for the night when they turned around and pounced on him as one of the four gates was not shut and latched by then," Kumar said. The tigers were eventually driven off by park staff but the victim was already dead.

"The felines did not allow the caretaker to retrieve Anji's body from the spot and were guarding it, which delayed in rushing him to a nearby hospital," Kumar said.

Anji, 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.

Angry relatives protested outside the park on Sunday and demanded 500,000 rupees ($A10,000) 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 1941 animals including Bengal tigers, lions and leopards, according to its website.

Catalans feeling pressure

BARCELONA: Pressure mounted yesterday against Catalan plans to declare independence after hundreds of thousands of protesters rallied to defend Spanish unity.

The protests followed days of soaring tensions after police cracked down on voters during a banned October 1 Catalan independence referendum, prompting separatist leaders to warn they would unilaterally break 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, municipal police said, while organisers put turnout at between 930,000 and 950,000.

Some protesters called for Puigdemont to go to jail.

Weinstein shown door

NEW YORK: Harvey Weinstein, the sharp-elbowed movie producer whose combative reign in Hollywood made him an Academy Awards regular, was terminated from The Weinstein Company yesterday following an expose that detailed decades of sexual abuse allegations made against Weinstein by actresses and employees.

In a statement, the company's board of directors announced his termination, capping 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 at least allegations of sexual harassment.

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MOGUL'S WEB OF SLEAZE

Harvey Weinstein preyed on pretty women eager to make it in films

TOBY HARNDEN



Harvey Weinstein has been sacked from his production company over sexual harassment allegations. He is a long-time Democrat supporter and donor to the Clinton and Obama presidential campaigns. Below from left, Weinstein is pictured with actresses Ashley Judd, Nicole Kidman and Rose McGowan

AP; GETTY IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK; JIM BOURG







He was one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, a brash multi-millionaire friend of former president Bill Clinton, a liberal lion lauded for the stances he took on women's rights while shovelling cash towards Democratic politicians.

Now it turns out that many suspected Harvey Weinstein was also a sexual predator who viewed himself as entitled to the services of young actresses but was protected by a conspiracy of silence in the movie and media worlds.

After decades of being seemingly immune to censure, Weinstein, 65, is reeling from accusations triggered by a *New York Times* report that gave excruciating details of his alleged behaviour and revealed that he had paid off at least eight accusers.

In a swift downfall for one of Hollywood's most powerful pro[illegible]ucers, his all-male board of di[illegible]tors yesterday expelled him [illegible]he independent film and [illegible]n studio company he co-[illegible]over the allegations of sex[illegible]misconduct.

In multiple conversations during the past few days, board members of the Weinstein Co had been furious not just about revelations about Weinstein's previously undisclosed financial settlements with women who accused him of sexual harassment but his public attempts to defend himself.

In a statement, released by Bob Weinstein, Harvey's brother and the company's co-chairman, the board cited "new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that emerged in the past few days" for its decision to fire him.

Weinstein's public shaming presents an acute dilemma for liberal politicians whom he befriended and funded. Some, including Democrat Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer and Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren, have pledged to pass on money he gave them to women's causes.

Weinstein is best known as the co-founder of Miramax, which produced hit films such as *Pulp Fiction*, *Good Will Hunting*, *The English Patient* and *No Country for Old Men*, but he is also a major player in American politics, hosting fundraisers for Bill and Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and a slew of other Democrats.

He was hailed as a "wonderful human being" and a "good friend" by Michelle Obama in 2013. The Obamas' eldest daughter, Malia, was an intern in the Weinstein [illegible]mpany's New York office be[illegible]she went to Harvard in Au[illegible]

[illegible]nstein has been close to [illegible]mocratic presidents as well [illegible]sidential aspirants. He sel[illegible]dom appeared to push particular policy positions, although he broadly supported the party agenda on issues such as gun control. Instead, Weinstein mostly has appeared to enjoy mingling with the politically powerful.

"You could say there was a certain amount of ego involved," says one Democratic fundraiser. "It's fun to have the Clintons come to your house for an event."

He was a close ally and friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, frequently spending time with the first family on Martha's Vineyard and elsewhere during the 1990s, when Weinstein was a leader in the independent film boom. He also helped organise a 50th birthday party for then president Clinton in New York in 1996.

Those who lined up to condemn the sexual behaviour of conservative figures — such as Donald Trump last year for his infamous "grab 'em by the pussy" tape when he joked about assaulting women — are now under pressure to show that their moralising was not political.

Several women told *The New York Times* that Weinstein had pressured them for sexual favours. His staff, it was alleged, would facilitate liaisons with beautiful young women seeking work.

Actress Ashley Judd claimed that 20 years ago she was asked to attend a "business meeting" in Weinstein's Beverly Hills hotel room and was confronted by the burly producer in his dressing gown. He asked her to give him a massage, she alleged, and said she could watch him shower. Aware of his power to make and break careers, she wondered: "How do I get out of the room as fast as possible without alienating Harvey Weinstein?"

The settlements uncovered by *The New York Times* include one in 1997 in which he had paid actress Rose McGowan $US100,000 for "an incident in a hotel room" at the Sundance Film Festival. McGowan, who has spoken out about Weinstein in the past and starred in the Miramax-produced film *Scream*, took to Twitter last weekend, slamming actresses who had not spoken out in support of their fellow female stars. "Ladies of Hollywood, your silence is deafening," she tweeted.

Some of the female stars who have had long, public associations with Weinstein include Nicole Kidman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Cate Blanchett, Kate Winslet, Penelope Cruz, Meryl Streep and Jennifer Lawrence.

Lena Dunham, star of the TV series *Girls*, said via Twitter: "The women who chose to speak about their experience of harassment by Harvey Weinstein deserve our awe. It's not fun or easy. It's brave."

Producer Judd Apatow, referring to the allegations Weinstein had reached settlements with eight accusers, declared that "wealthy people buy silence with settlements", adding: "The confidentiality clause allows predators to hurt people. For decades."

The newspaper revelations have led to others. Lauren Sivan, a Fox News television reporter, claimed that when she was a presenter on a local news channel, Weinstein invited her into the empty kitchen of his Cafe Socialista restaurant in Manhattan and, when she refused his advances, masturbated in front of her.

> 'There was a certain amount of ego involved. It's fun to have the Clintons at your house for an event'
>
> DEMOCRATIC FUNDRAISER

Sivan didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. But she reaffirmed the report on Twitter. "Yeah. This happened. luckily I didn't need a job or favour from him + didn't have to be polite. Others did. Keep that in mind," she tweeted, then followed up with a second post: "For those asking why I waited? YOU try telling that story 10yrs ago. Only possible now because of women with bigger names far braver than me."

Author Rebecca Traister made another damaging allegation. She claimed that as a young reporter in 2000 she was sent to cover a book party hosted by Weinstein. He grew angry about a question she asked, swore at her and described himself as the "f.king sheriff of this f.king lawless piece-of-shit town".

She wrote: "I remembered what it was like to have the full force of Harvey Weinstein — back then a mountainous man — screaming vulgarities at me, his spit hitting my face."

Weinstein, who disputes some of the allegations and has said he will sue *The New York Times*, was sent on indefinite leave on Friday by his company's board before sacking him, and the company has appointed independent lawyers to investigate. 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.

Weinstein's behaviour appears to have been a well-known secret in Hollywood circles, with US President Trump weighing in, saying he was unsurprised by revelations Weinstein had sexually harassed female colleagues for nearly three decades.

"I've known Harvey Weinstein for a very long time. I'm not at all surprised to see it," he told reporters outside the White House.

Until the weekend Weinstein was being advised by Lisa Bloom, a prominent feminist lawyer who has represented the victims of sexual assault and is the daughter of well-known Los Angeles women's rights lawyer Gloria Allred. Bloom resigned last weekend. Her book about the killing of Trayvon Martin, a young black man gunned down by a vigilante, is being developed into a documentary series by one of Weinstein's companies.

Before she resigned, Bloom had described the film mogul as "an old dinosaur learning new ways", conceding his position as a Hollywood studio head meant that "some of his words and behaviours can be perceived as inappropriate, even intimidating". In an interview Bloom defended Weinstein and acknowledged he'd been "stupid". She saluted the women who had come forward to allege wrongdoing but said many allegations were overblown and consisted of Weinstein telling a woman she "looked cute without my glasses".

In an almost comical apology, Weinstein admitted he had "caused a lot of pain" and "though I'm trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go". He faced ridicule for the statement he released in response to the stories about his behaviour, in which he explained: "I came of age in the 60s and 70s when the rules about behaviour and workplaces were different." He also implied that he might earn forgiveness by pumping money into gun control and helping women to become film directors. "I'm going to need a place to channel that anger, so I've decided I'm going to give the NRA (National Rifle Association, the gun rights group) my full attention," he said, adding: "One year ago I began organising a $US5 million foundation to give scholarships to women directors at USC (University of Southern California) ... It will be named after my mom. I won't disappoint her."

In an interview with the *New York Post*, Weinstein said his wife would remain at his side while trying to make him "a better human being" amid the barrage of allegations. Georgina Chapman, 41, a British designer and co-founder of the Marchesa fashion label, would be "kicking my ass" and pushing him to "apologise to people for my bad behaviour". "Georgina and I talked about this," he said. "She stands 100 per cent behind me."

Under his leadership, the Weinstein Co has been a dominant force at the Oscars, including the rare feat of winning back-to-back best picture Academy awards with *The King's Speech* and *The Artist*. In recent years, however, Weinstein's status has diminished because of money shortages, disappointing box-office returns and executive departures.

Weinstein made his name with Miramax, the company he founded with his brother Bob in 1979. They sold it to Disney in 1993 for $US660m. The company was a fixture of the 90s independent film movement, launching the careers of filmmakers Quentin Tarantino, Kevin Smith and Steven Soderbergh, and winning best picture with *Shakespeare in Love* and *The English Patient*.

As early as 2010 Courtney Enlow, a journalist, wrote that "rumours of Harvey's casting couch ways are legendary".

She identified the young women in "the Harvey Weinstein club" who were treated "as his pet", and wrote: "The Harvey Girls are easily spotted. They are all very pretty, often in a rather generic sense. Their instant fame and the push behind them comes seemingly out of nowhere and without any justification in terms of resume or skill set."

Film figures from studio head David O. Selznick to the director Alfred Hitchcock have been accused of sexually assaulting young actresses. David Thomson's recent book, *Warner Bros: The Making of an American Movie Studio*, details how Hollywood was founded on sex and sleaze, and was always "fond of its rascals, rather in the way we relish its villains or tough guys on screen".

Jack Warner had "pursued his chances with pretty women in pictures as an obvious fruit of the profession ... As Jack and other Hollywood moguls saw it, taking advantage of the pretty women applying to the picture business was obvious, expected."

But it appears Hollywood is slowly changing. Weinstein's company hasn't had a hit for years, with his reputation as a volcanic and demanding personality hurting his chances at winning the hottest scripts in town or retaining key executives — and the allegations of Weinstein's sexual misconduct have cast doubt on his film and TV projects in the pipeline.

Despite his notorious temper, Weinstein was among the most skilled executives in Hollywood at charming A-list talent and convincing them to work with his studio — a pull that may explain the muted response from show-business elite since the revelations. Weinstein's track record at the Academy Awards and his ability to elevate undiscovered talent gave him incredible power in Hollywood, and industry insiders wonder at Weinstein Co's future.

Without Weinstein at the helm, his reputation may not be the only thing left in tatters.

THE SUNDAY TIMES, AP, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Strewth!

JAMES JEFFREY

Paws for thought

Things took something of a turn for the unexpected when Malcolm Turnbull ventured on to Jonesy and Amanda's show on Sydney's WSFM yesterday. And in the process, it yielded one of the better uses of "on reflection" we've heard in a little while.

Amanda: "Which G8 mate has a black labrador called Nemo?"

Turnbull: "A black labrador called Nemo? OK, I'll have a go, would it be (Vladimir) Putin?"

Amanda: "No, it's actually Emmanuel Macron."

Jonesy: "I think Putin would have a dog called Rex, wouldn't he?"

Turnbull: "Or Fang."

Amanda: "Fang! Sic 'em Fang!"

Jonesy: "Or Stalin."

Turnbull: "On reflection, yes." Not quite shirt-fronting, but it's nice to know the spirit is there.

The dogs of Vlad

Putin did have a black labrador, but for better or worse she was not named after the purge tsar and slaughterer of the Russian people. Her name was Konni, but alas she departed this earth (figuratively, not as part of the Russian space program) in 2014. These days the Russian President's pup posse includes a young Japanese akita called Yume and a karakachan (or Bulgarian shepherd) that answers to Buffy, a name Putin insists has nothing to do with the TV show. Yume once attended a Kremlin press conference with the boss and barked his head off at a group of Japanese journalists. As for Putin and Stalin, there is a family connection. In Putin's words: "My father's father worked as a cook. Apparently my grandfather cooked rather well, because after World War I he was offered a job in the Hills district on the outskirts of Moscow, where Lenin and the whole Ulyanov family lived. When Lenin died, my grandfather was transferred to one of Stalin's dachas. He worked there a long time." Just for the sake of symmetry, we'll mention in passing that Stalin's grandson Yevgeny Dzhugashvili took the time a couple of years back to slag off Putin: "We see him skiing, in a plane, then in a submarine, next without a shirt. It is a lack of brains, just showing off."

Yet to be court out

Meanwhile, lest the nation's droll little constitutional circus had momentarily slipped your mind due to the plethora of other entertainments on offer, the PM was afforded the opportunity yesterday to make a little deposit in the predictions bank.

Journo: "What about the High Court ruling? Are you still confident that Barnaby Joyce is eligible?"

Turnbull: "Yes, as I have said, it's now in the hands of the High Court, of course, and we await their decision. But the government, based on the legal advice we have from the solicitor-general, is confident that the Deputy Prime Minister and the other two, senators (Fiona) Nash and (Matt) Canavan, will be found not to be disqualified from sitting in the parliament." Noted, PM. Elsewhere, Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young was taking issue with Pauline Hanson's previous assertion's about Malcolm Roberts's status. To wit: "I can hand-on-heart assure everyone that Malcolm is not a dual citizen. I saw first-hand his renouncement of UK citizenship before he became a candidate for the Senate." Sure, Hanson's statement has been rendered droll by subsequent developments, but just to be on the safe side yesterday the One Nation leader in turn suggested yesterday that Hanson-Young was "rude", "ignorant" and a "pain in the backside". So, a little bit of something for everyone.

Chairman of the boards

Thanks to Agent 99 public relations, Strewth is aware of the impending visit by "the Guinness World Record holder for the most Monopoly boards owned". There then followed a list that will likely haunt us for a few weeks: "A few fun facts about Neil (Scallan): He's spent over $200,000 on Monopoly', before he had storage he slept with his sets as they didn't fit in the room (70 per cent of his double bed was filled, so he had to sleep in a particular way to fit); he bought 106 sets on a trip to the US, and that amount meant instead of the convertible car his girlfriend wanted to travel in he hired large monster car to transport them for two weeks." We consider ourselves warned.

The Shorten harmonies

Could it be possible a beautiful new age is dawning? On Friday, Bill Shorten made this — how shall we put it — uncharacteristic proclamation: "What I am focused on is not spending all our time complaining or talking about the mistakes of the government." And yesterday, this: "Everyone has been happy to sit in the trenches, and bag everyone else until the cows come home, but it's not good enough any more is it? It's just what turns people off politics ..." Yes, he got a few things off his chest before arriving at this point — exhibit A: "The government's dishonest scare campaign" — but it's a start.

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Final cut for film mogul

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein has been sacked from his own company over a growing sexual harassment scandal.

The Weinstein Company's board of directors voted to "terminate" his employment, leaving control of the company in the hands of Weinstein's brother Bob and chief operating officer David Glasser.

It followed his suspension last week and the resignation of about a third of the firm's board.

The producer and Oscar winner has been rocked by a New York Times report documenting decades of sexual harassment allegations by actresses, associates and former employees. The allegations extend back to Weinstein's days running Miramax, an independent film studio that was then owned by Walt Disney Co.

Alleged victims include actress Ashley Judd, Amber Tamblyn, America Ferrera, Brie Larson, Brooklyn Decker, Patricia Arquette, Jessica Chastain and Heather Matarazzo.

However, A-list actresses like Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman and Gwyneth Paltrow, who have used their fame to encourage and support women and who have worked with Weinstein, have said nothing.

In fact, at the 2012 Golden Globes Streep referred to Weinstein as "God" when speaking about his work.

They are not alone in their silence either, as many other women who have sung the praises of Weinstein while speaking out against harassment also went mute.

A statement from Weinstein's company on Sunday said: "In light of new information about misconduct ... that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company ... have informed Harvey Weinstein that his employment ... is terminated effective immediately."

Weinstein did not agree to leave the company, and there is no financial settlement in place, according to an insider.

Among allegations about Weinsten, former Fox News anchor Lauren Sivan said he once masturbated in front of her after cornering her in a restaurant.



Supermodel Heidi Klum and Harvey Weinstein, and (far left) Ashley Judd, and (left) Weinstein with actress Meryl Streep. Picture: Getty

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

BANGALORE: Two white tiger cubs have mauled their keeper to death at a wildlife national park in southern India as h tried to usher them back in their enclosure.

Anji, 40, was killed late Saturday at Bannerghatta Biological Park on the outskirts of Bangalore when the two cubs attacked him after a gate was not secure properly.

Angry relatives protested outside the park on Sunday and demanded $A9835 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 tipsy 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 hir alert after five attacks blam 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.

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Trump could start war: GOP man

WASHINGTON: A top Republican has warned that Donald Trump's impulsive threats could set America "on the path to World War III", in comments capping an unusually hostile and public feud.

Bob Corker, who chairs the powerful Senate foreign relations committee, slammed the US President yesterday for running his office like a "reality show" in a rebuke that was remarkable even by the volatile standards of the Trump administration.

The spat between the former allies could also undermine Mr Trump's legislative agenda, with Senator Corker's vote vital to the fate of the Iran nuclear deal and passing tax reform.

"He concerns me," Senator Corker told *The New York Times*. "He would have to concern anyone who cares about our nation."

The drama erupted when Mr Trump tweeted that Senator Corker had decided against running for re-election because he lacked the "guts". The senator replied that the White House had become an "adult daycare centre".

The unusual exchange came out of nowhere on a rainy morning that Mr Trump began in the White House before skies cleared and he headed to a golf course.

Senator Corker, a respected moderate who once supported Mr Trump, has emerged as one of the …sident's most outspoken …lican critics.

…ecently said that only the …s in Mr Trump's inner cir… …ad kept the White House from descending into "chaos".

Mr Trump attacked Senator Corker for his decision to return to private life, blaming him for what Mr Trump considers the flawed nuclear deal with Iran.

"Senator Bob Corker 'begged' me to endorse him for re-election in Tennessee. I said 'NO' and he dropped out (said he could not win without my endorsement)," Mr Trump wrote in a series of tweets.

"He also wanted to be secretary of state, I said 'NO THANKS.' He is also largely responsible for the horrendous Iran deal!"

Mr Trump called Senator Corker a "negative voice" who would "stand in the way of our great agenda". "Didn't have the guts to run!" the President added.

Senator Corker told the *New York Times* Mr Trump had urged him to run again and promised to endorse him. "I don't know why the President tweets out things that are not true," he said.

Mr Trump's outcry was not unusual, but Senator Corker's blunt rebuttal was strikingly rare, coming from a fellow top Republican.

The senator tweeted: "It's a shame the White House has become an adult daycare centre. Someone obviously missed their shift this morning."

A few hours later, Mr Trump suggested Senator Corker's achievements had been limited.

"Bob Corker gave us the Iran deal, & that's about it. We need HealthCare, we need Tax Cuts/Reform, we need people that can get the job done!" he wrote.

Amid the row, Mr Trump sent congress his immigration reform priorities, including building a controversial border wall, speeding up deportations and dramatically increasing the number of officials involved in enforcement.

The list, which also includes preventing immigrants from sponsoring their extended families to move to the US, drew immediate fire from Democratic leaders, who said it went "far beyond what is reasonable".

The administration tied its priorities to Democrats' desire to provide legal protection to about 690,000 immigrants known as Dreamers who came to the US illegally as children and were covered by an amnesty by former president Barack Obama, which Mr Trump scrapped last month.

"These findings outline reforms that must be included as part of any legislation addressing the status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients," Mr Trump wrote in a letter to congress accompanying the list, using the official name for the amnesty order.

The White House list is topped by "border security", a category that includes building a massive wall on the southern US border that Mr Trump promised would be paid for by Mexico, which has said it will not do so.

Mr Trump also wants to ramp up the number of officials involved in enforcement, hiring an additional 10,000 Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officers and 1000 lawyers, 370 immigration judges and 300 federal prosecutors.

And he hopes to prevent immigrants from sponsoring extended family members to move to the US, limiting such green cards to spouses and children, as well as to close "loopholes" that prevent the deportation of children who enter the country illegally.

The list includes financially targeting "sanctuary cities" that have resisted the Trump administration's efforts to crack down on illegal immigrants.

Mr Trump's list was criticised by Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, the respective Democratic leaders in the Senate and House.

"This proposal fails to represent any attempt at compromise," they said. "The list includes the wall, which was explicitly ruled out of the negotiations. If the President was serious about protecting the Dreamers, his staff has not made a good-faith effort to do so."

AFP

Pence walks out in protest after 49ers stars take a knee



San Francisco 49ers players kneel during the anthem AP

LOS ANGELES: Mike Pence walked out of a football game between the Indianapolis Colts and San Francisco 49ers yesterday after players from the 49ers took a knee during the US national anthem.

The US Vice-President flew to Lucas Oil Stadium so he could watch Peyton Manning's jersey retirement ceremony.

The White House quoted Mr Pence as saying: "President Trump and I will not dignify any event that disrespects our soldiers, our flag, or our national anthem". "At a time when so many Americans are inspiring our nation with their courage, resolve, and resilience, now, more than ever, we should rally around our flag and everything that unites us," the statement said.

Mr Pence tweeted a picture of himself and his wife, Karen, standing with their hands over their hearts with the caption: "We were proud to stand — with all our Colts — for our soldiers, our flag, and our national anthem."

Donald Trump chimed in via Twitter: "I asked (Mr Pence) to leave stadium if any players knelt, disrespecting our country. I am proud of him and Karen."

Mr Pence's walkout fuelled the controversy over NFL players kneeling during the anthem.

The controversy — which has its origins with the then San Francisco 49ers' quarterback Colin Kaepernick sitting during the anthem last year — was escalated three weeks ago when Mr Trump told a rally in Alabama: "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say: 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now, out. He's fired. He's fired!'"

REUTERS



Bad policy outcomes ignored in obsession with virtue signals

WORLD COMMENTARY

MATT RIDLEY

The curse of modern politics is an epidemic of good intentions and bad outcomes. Policy after policy is chosen and voted on according to whether it means well, not whether it works. And the most frustrated politicians are those who keep trying to sell policies based on their efficacy, rather than their motives. It used to be possible to approach politics as a conversation between adults, and argue for unfashionable but effective medicine. In the 140-character world this is tricky (I speak from experience).

The fact that it was Milton Friedman who said "one of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results" rather proves the point. He was one of the most successful of all economists in getting results in terms of raising living standards, yet is widely despised today by both the left and centre as evil because he did not bother to do much virtue signalling.

The commentator James Bartholomew popularised the term "virtue signalling" for those who posture empathetically but emptily. "*Je suis Charlie*" (but I won't show cartoons of the Prophet), "Refugees welcome" (but not in my home) or "Ban fossil fuels" (let's not talk about my private jet). You see it everywhere. The policies unveiled at the British Conservative Party conference show the party is aware of this and (alas) embracing it. On student fees, housing costs and energy bills, the Tories proposed symbolic changes that would do nothing to solve the underlying problem, indeed might make them worse in some cases, but which at least showed they cared. I doubt it worked. They ended up sounding like pale imitations of Labour, or doing political dad-dancing.

"Our election campaign portrayed us as a party devoid of values," said MP Robert Halfon said in June.

"The Labour Party now has circa 700,000 members that want nothing from the Labour Party but views and values they agree with," lamented Ben Harris-Quinney of the Bow Group last week.

I think that what politicians mean by "values" is "intentions".

The forgiving of good intentions lies behind the double standard by which we judge totalitarians. Whereas fascists are rightly condemned in schools, newspapers and social media as evil, communists get a much easier ride, despite killing more people. "For all its flaws, the Communist revolution taught Chinese women to dream big," read a *New York Times* headline last month.

"For all its flaws, Nazi Germany did help bring Volkswagen and BMW to the car-buying public," replied one wag on Twitter.

Imagine anybody getting away with saying of Mussolini or Franco what John McDonnell and Jeremy Corbyn said of Fidel Castro or Hugo Chavez. The reason for this double standard is the apparently good intentions of communist dictators: unlike Nazis, communists were at least trying to make a workers' paradise; they just got it wrong. Again and again and again.

Though Corbyn is a leading exponent, elevating intentions over outcomes is not entirely a monopoly of the left. It is something that the coalition government kept trying, in emulation of Tony Blair. Hugging huskies and gay marriage were pursued mainly for the signal they sent, rather than for the result they achieved. (Student loans, to be fair, were the opposite.) Indeed, George Osborne's constant talk of austerity, while increasing spending in real terms, was an example of the gap between intention and outcome, albeit less sugar-coated.

I can draw up a list as long as your arm of issues where the road to failure is paved with counter-productive benevolence. Gordon Brown's 50p top tax rate brought in less tax from the richest. Banning fox hunting has led to the killing of more foxes. Opposition to badger culls made no ecological sense, for cattle, hedgehogs, people — or badger health. Mandating a percentage of GDP for foreign aid was a virtuous gesture that causes real inefficiency and corruption — and (unlike private philanthropy) also tended to transfer money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

Or take organic farming, which has been shown

> The forgiving of good intentions lies behind the double standard by which we judge totalitarians

repeatedly to produce trivial or zero health benefits, while any environmental benefits are grossly outweighed by the low yields that mean it requires taking more land from nature. Yet the BBC's output on farming is dominated by coverage of the 2 per cent of farming that is organic, and is remorselessly obsequious. Why? Because organic farmers say they are trying to be nice to the planet.

My objection to wind farms is based on the outcome of the policy, whereas most people's support is based largely on the intention. There they stand, 90m tall, visibly advertising their virtue as signals of our commitment to devotion to Gaia. The fact that each one requires 150 tonnes of coal to make, that it needs fossil fuel back-up for when the wind is not blowing, that it is subsidised disproportionately by poor people and the rewards go disproportionately to rich people, and that its impact on emissions is so small as to be unmeasurable — none of these matter. It's the thought that counts.

The Paris climate accord is one big virtue-signalling prayer, whose promises, if implemented, would make a difference in the temperature of the atmosphere in 2100 so small it is practically within the measuring error. But it's the thought that counts. Donald Trump just does not care.

One politician who has always refused to play the intention game is Nigel Lawson. Rather than rest on the laurels of his political career, he has devoted his retirement to exposing the gap between rhetoric and reality in two great movements: European integration and climate change mitigation. In his book *An Appeal to Reason*, he pointed out that on the UN's official forecasts, climate change, unchecked, would mean the average person will be 8.5 times as rich in 2100 as today, rather than 9.5 times if we stopped the warming. And to achieve this goal we are to punish the poor of today with painful policies? This isn't "taking tough decisions", this is prescribing chemotherapy for a cold.

Yet the truth is, Lawson and I and others like us have so far largely lost the argument on climate change entirely on the grounds of intentions. Being against global warming is a way of saying you care about the future. Not being a headless chicken — however well argued your case — leads to accusations you do not care.

THE TIMES

Beauties and the beast: studio fires Weinstein



Harvey Weinstein enjoys the attention of women at the at the Beverly Hilton Hotel; and, inset, his brother Robert Weinstein GETTY IMAGES

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was yesterday fired from the film studio he co-founded with his brother following reports he sexually harassed women for decades.

"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 in a statement, capping the swift downfall of one of Hollywood's most powerful producers.

The firing came after *The New York Times* published a bombshell report last week that alleged Weinstein, whose company produced such hits as *The King's Speech* and *The Artist*, preyed on young women hoping to break into the film industry.

The accusers — reportedly including celebrities such as Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd — say Weinstein promised to help advance their careers in exchange for sexual favours, pressuring them to massage him and watch him naked.

Republicans have pounced on the scandal because Weinstein has been a major backer of Democratic candidates.

Congressional Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren, donated to charities thousands of dollars in donations they had received from Weinstein.

President Donald Trump, who said he had known Weinstein for a "very long time," said he was "not at all surprised" by the claims.

Many in the entertainment industry have spoken out in the wake of the allegations, backing the alleged victims. "The women who chose to speak about their experience of harassment by Harvey Weinstein deserve our awe," actress Lena Dunham said. "It's not fun or easy, it's brave."

For Weinstein critics, the allegations not only compare to those against comedian Bill Cosby and for former Fox News chief Roger Ailes, but reflect Hollywood's deep-rooted gender inequality. Imbalances in pay between actors and actresses and the paucity of women directors for the biggest productions have been ongoing issues in Hollywood.

Most of the A-listers that Weinstein led to Academy Awards nominations have been silent. Others celebrated.

"If even 1/10th of the stories about Harvey Weinstein are true (and I believe they are), then good riddance." *Guardians of the Galaxy* director James Gunn said yesterday, adding an expletive. "The enabling needs to end."

Five of the company's nine all-male board members have resigned over the scandal. The remaining members are Weinstein's brother Robert, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar.

Weinstein said he respected all women and was hoping for a second chance while acknowledging he had "work to do to earn it". His lawyer Charles Harder said the *New York Times* report "relies on mostly hearsay accounts and a faulty report, apparently stolen from an employee personnel file, which has been debunked by nine different eyewitnesses".

He promised to donate any proceeds from a planned lawsuit against the newspaper to women's organisations. A father of two married to British fashion designer Georgina Chapman, Weinstein is considered a powerhouse in Hollywood and many of his movies have picked up Oscars, including *Good Will Hunting*.

He formed the Miramax production house in the 1970s with his brother and then sold it to Disney. The pair went on to create the Weinstein Company. In recent years, Weinstein's status diminished because of money shortages, poor box-office returns and executive departures.

AFP, AP

INQUIRER PH

Scores of Rohingya feared drowned

SHAH PORIR DWIP: At least 12 Rohingya refugees, most of them children, drowned and scores more were missing, feared dead, yesterday after their overloaded boat capsized in the latest tragedy to strike those fleeing violence in Myanmar.

Authorities in Bangladesh said the boat was carrying nearly 100 people when it overturned and sank late on Sunday in rough seas.

More than half a million Rohingya Muslims have fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state for Bangladesh since late August. Many walk for days through thick jungle before making the perilous boat journey across the Naf river that divides the two countries.

Border Guard Bangladesh official Abdul Jalil said yesterday they had recovered the bodies of 10 children, an elderly woman …nd a man after an all-night …ue operation.

…rvivor Sayed Hossain wept …tched the body of his 2½-…l son being taken away to …al cemetery for burial.

"We set off at around 6pm. We did not have any choice but to leave our village," he said, telling how the overloaded boat overturned when it hit a shoal in rough water.

Mr Hossain's mother, his pregnant wife and two children were still missing. Border guard boats have rescued 13 Rohingya and the rest were missing, Mr Jalil said, adding many may have swum to the Rakhine coast.

Area coast guard commander Alauddin Nayan said the boat capsized near the village of Galachar with nearly 100 people on board, more than half of them children.

About 150 Rohingya, many of them children, have drowned trying to reach Bangladesh in small and rickety fishing boats that coastguards say are woefully inadequate for the rough seas.

Late last month more than 60 refugees are feared to have died when their boat capsized in rough weather in the Bay of Bengal. Villagers at Shah Porir Dwip where the boats mostly land said the Rohingya were increasingly travelling at night to avoid strict border patrols in Bangladesh, making the journey even more dangerous.

Last week the guards destroyed at least 30 wooden boats amid concerns they were being used to bring the popular methamphetamine drug known locally as Yaba into the country and using the refugee crisis as cover.

Gangs of boat owners, crew and fishermen have also been charging the fleeing Rohingya upwards of $320 for the two-hour journey that normally costs no more than $7.

AFP

Leading Catholic priest to quit after revealing he fathered two

ROME: A Catholic order hit by revelations its founder had a secret family and abused children has admitted the head of its Rome seminary is a father of two.

The Legionaries of Christ said Oscar Turrion, a 49-year-old Spaniard, would leave the priesthood.

It released a letter in which the priest asks "forgiveness for the scandal … forgiveness for my bad example and the negative witness I have given".

The order said Father Turrion, who supervised men studying for the priesthood in Rome, was replaced after he admitted in March that he had a daughter. Last week he confessed he had also had a son with the same woman but had kept quiet due to "weakness and shame".

He had not used church funds to support his family, he added, relying on donations from friends.

The priest said he had "lost his grounding" and started a family at the time when the first scandal emerged involving the order's founder, Marcial Maciel. The Mexican priest and morphine addict abused seminarians, some as young as 12, and fathered up to six children. He appeased the Vatican with large donations despite rumours spreading about him. Inside the order, members were warned never to criticise Maciel or speak out about his private life. Pope John Paul II has been accused of turning a blind eye to Maciel's behaviour, grateful for the number of young priests produced by the order.

His successor Benedict XVI was less impressed, banishing Maciel to a life of penitence in 2006. Maciel died, aged 87, two years later and the Vatican took over the order in 2010.

Three years later Thomas Williams, a US priest with the Legionaries who taught moral theology and appeared on television as a pundit, stepped down after admitting he had a child with the daughter of a former US ambassador to the Holy See.

THE TIMES

OCTOBER 10 2017

George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Judi Dench rebuke Harvey Weinstein for 'horrifying' offences



Michael Idato

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 whole hearted 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."



George Clooney who got his start in the Harvey Weinstein film From Dawn to Dusk says he has been unaware of Weinstein's casting couch. Photo: AP

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 Veinstein'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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THE NEW YORKER

FROM AGGRESSIVE OVERTURES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT: HARVEY WEINSTEIN'S ACCUSERS 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

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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 "honeypot"—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.

2.

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.

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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

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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

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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,"

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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.

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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 coöperate 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

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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 funnelled 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 coöperate 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

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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.

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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."

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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.

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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.

10.

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Weinstein 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 "honeypot" 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.

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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.

Staff writers and AP

News Corp Australia Network ┐ OCTOBER 11, 2017 3:02PM

Video Image



Harvey Weinstein exposed in explosive audio tape

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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.


Stars caught up in ugly pre-Emmys fight


Star hits out at 'salacious' #MeToo movement


We've been saying Chrissy Teigen's name wrong


Ben 'went to rehab for Jen and the kids'

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.

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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 vater."

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," Guttierez 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/1IOLFnPN2H
— Leonardo DiCaprio (@LeoDiCaprio) October 11, 2017

The recording continues with Weinstein telling Guttierez 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."

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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.


Gwyneth Paltrow told Brad Pitt about Harvey Weinstein's advances. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Corp Australia*


Gwyneth Paltrow made her big break in Emma. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Limited*

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 Times* 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?'

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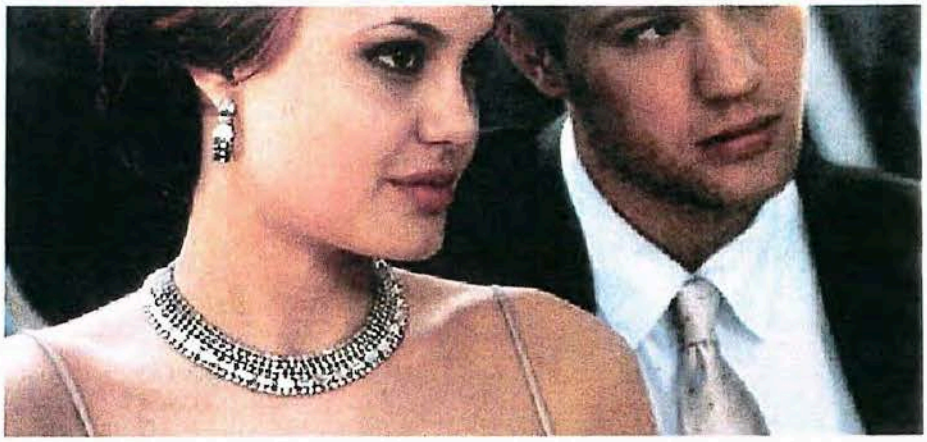

Angelina Jolie and Ryan Phillippe in Playing by Heart, her first and last Weinstein flick, she says. Picture: upplied *Source:Supplied*

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'



Italian actor Asia Argento says Harvey Weinstein raped her. Picture: AP *Source:News Limited*

A third woman spoke anonymously.


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.@AsiaArgento I am proud and honored to know you. You just did the hardest thing in the world.
https://t.co/i2Lsb6h5vU
— Anthony Bourdain (@Bourdain) October 10, 2017

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".

When 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.



Actress Heather Graham says she was propositioned by Weinstein. Picture: David Livingston/Getty Images *Source:Supplied*

"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?"

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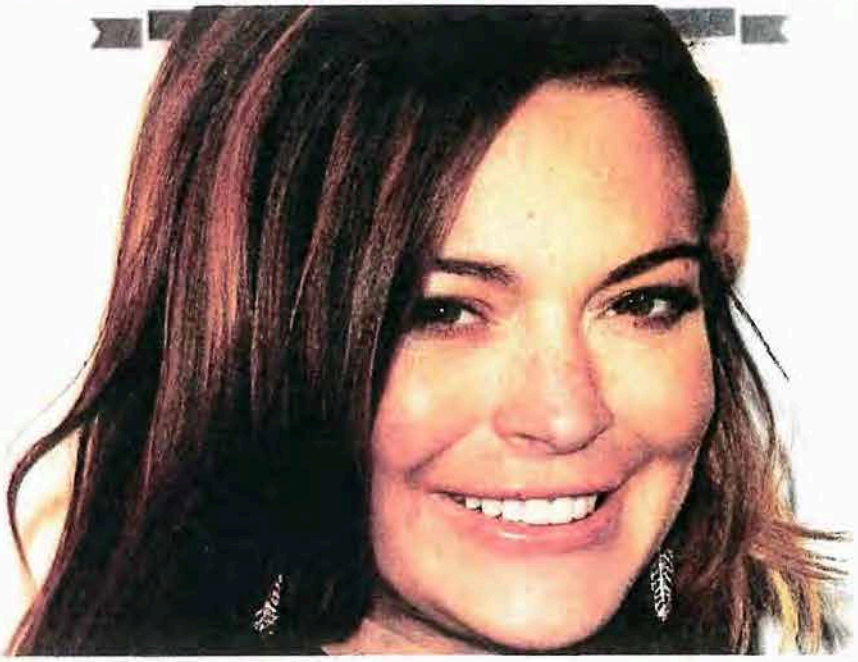

Lindsay Lohan posted a video on Instagram defending Weinstein and asking people to "stop". Picture: Stuart C. Wilson/Getty Images *Source:Getty Images*

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/aMzvAOXPYp*
> *— 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."



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Weinstein and his wife Georgina Chapman arrive on the red carpet for the 89th Oscars in February. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

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."



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Matt Damon says if he knew about Weinstein's alleged actions he would have stopped them. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

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," ne statement read.

"Any man who demeans 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



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Actor Nicole Kidman and Producer Harvey Weinstein. Picture: Getty *Source:Getty Images*

"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 and 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.



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Mira Sorvino with her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in film Mighty Aphrodite. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Corp Australia*



Rosanna Arquette is the sister of Patricia Arquette and David Arquette. Picture: Supplied *Source:AP*

But a few weeks later, Weinstein called ‹er up after midnight and said he wanted to discuss his marketing ideas for a film.



Mira Sorvino, right, with Lisa Kudrow in the cult classic film, Romy and Michele's High School Reunion. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Limited*

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 summonsed 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

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia



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Madonna and Rosanna Arquette in Desperately Seeking Susan. Picture: Supplied *Source:News Limited*



Rosanna Arquette (L) and sister Patricia Arquette in 2007. Picture: Reuters *Source:reuters*

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 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."



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Hillary Clinton and Harvey Weinstein. Picture: Splash *Source:Supplied*

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 $US1.5 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.



Hillary Clinton, right, with aide Huma Abedin, left, and Harvey Weinstein. Picture: Splash *Source:Supplied*

WEINSTEIN FEELS 'BETRAYED' BY BROTHER

Weinstein reportedly told friends he "feels betrayed" by his brother after he voted to sack him, as fashioner designer Donna Karan apologised for blaming the disgraced US producer's alleged victims.



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Brothers Bob (left) and Harvey Weinstein founded The Weinstein Company in 2005. Picture: Supplied *Source:Supplied*

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 he Weinsteins, which was already tumultuous, deteriorated even further last year lowing 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.

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Actresses Rose McGowan (left) and Ashley Judd spoke to The New York Times on the record about Harvey Weinstein's lleged behaviour. Picture: AP Photo *Source:AP*

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."

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Harvey Weinstein with US designer Donna Karan in 2007. Picture: AP Photo/Rick Maiman *Source:AP*

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/oYyO9tfFKz pic.twitter.com/Fck0h5m13R
— 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/Vze7lnpdvj
— 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



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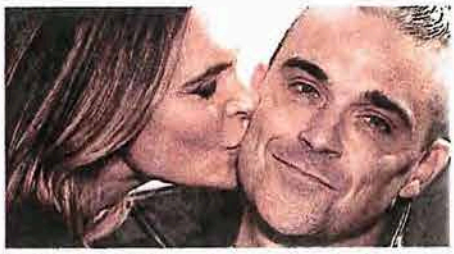

Robbie Williams' surprise baby news
CELEBRITY LIFE



10 Makeup Tips All Women Over 50 Should Know About [Photos]
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ABC NEWS

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.

RELATED STORY: Hollywood stars speak out on 'horrifying' Weinstein harassment claims

RELATED STORY: Hollywood is finally draining the swamp of men's bad behaviour

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?



PHOTO: Ashley Judd is best known for her role in Double Jeopardy. (IMDb: Paramount Pictures)

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 is Harvey Weinstein?



10-378

Who has spoken out?

If you've seen Pulp Fiction, Silver Linings Playbook or the Spy Kids films, you already know more about Harvey Weinstein than you might think.

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

60.6K 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 her then boyfriend Brad Pitt confronted Weinstein after he tried to get her to give him a massage. (Supplied)

10-379

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 "indefensible".

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 profiting, 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.**

10-380

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.

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.

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.

YOUTUBE: 30 Rock Youtube clip

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.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, film-movies, law-crime-and-justice, crime, sexual-offences, united-states

OCTOBER 11 2017

More allegations, including rape, emerge as Harvey Weinstein scandal deepens



Michael Idato

MORE

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.

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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.

Both Jolie and Paltrow made statements to the *Times*

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Both Jolie and Paltrow made statements to the *Times*.

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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.

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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.



Actresses Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow both allege they were sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

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.



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow poses with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Harvey Weinstein as they arrive for the premiere of Shakespeare in Love in 1999. Photo: Peter Morgan

"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."

. second woman, former actress Lucia Evans, told the magazine she was coerced into performing oral sex on Weinstein.



Im director and actress Asia Argento said she was lured to a hotel room and pressed into a non-consensual sexual situation by Weinstein. Photo: Supplied

"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."

And 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.



10-385



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

Tamblyn and Seth Rogen, 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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Security high as Catalan chief weighs up split



Police on guard outside the Catalan parliament yesterday AP

BARCELONA: Spain's separatism crisis faced a decisive moment early today with Catalonia's leader Carles Puigdemont to address regional MPs in a speech his supporters hope will be a unilateral declaration of independence.

Police guarded public buildings and closed off a park surrounding the regional parliament in Barcelona where any declaration of independence is likely to be met with a harsh response from Spanish central authorities.

Mr Puigdemont hasn't revealed the precise message he will deliver to a 6pm Tuesday (3am AEDT today) session, but separatist politicians expect a declaration based on the results of the disputed October 1 independence referendum.

But whether the 54-year-old Catalan President will actually go ahead with it in defiance of the central government and national courts, play for time or simply back down is a mystery. At stake is the future of a region of 7.5 million people, one of Spain's economic powerhouses whose independence drive has raised concerns for stability in the EU.

Political leaders in Catalonia, Spain and Europe have urged Catalan separatists to back down and ease the country's biggest upheaval since it returned to democracy in the 1970s. But Mr Puigdemont says the referendum that took place despite a ban by Madrid justifies secession.

About 90 per cent of the 2.29 million who cast ballots voted to split from Spain, as Catalans who reject independence largely boycotted an illegal poll that was severely repressed by police with turnout at 43 per cent.

Mr Puigdemont hinted at the weekend the region would go ahead with the declaration if Madrid continued to refuse dialogue.

Such a move "will not go unanswered by the government", Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria retorted.

"If this gentleman unilaterally declares independence, measures will have to be taken," she told the COPE radio station.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy at the weekend refused to rule out an unprecedented constitutional manoeuvre to impose direct rule on the semi-autonomous region — a move likely to heighten tensions still further.

Catalan separatists have come under intense pressure at home and abroad to halt plans to break away from Spain.

On Monday evening, Barcelona mayor Ada Colau warned that a unilateral declaration of independence would put "social cohesion" at risk. The results of the referendum "cannot be an endorsement to proclaim independence but they constitute the possibility of opening a dialogue and international mediation", she said.

French European Affairs Minister Nathalie Loiseau said that "if there were a declaration of independence it would be unilateral and it wouldn't be recognised".

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel backed Spanish unity in a telephone call with Mr Rajoy over the weekend.

The pressure also came from the street itself.

On Sunday, hundreds of thousands of Spanish flag-waving demonstrators packed central Barcelona to protest against the independence plan.

Over in the other camp, the ANC, an influential Catalan pro-independence association, called on supporters to come watch today's parliamentary session live on screens in front of the regional parliament in Barcelona.

Following the lead of the region's two major banks, CaixaBank and Sabadell, a string of companies have moved their legal headquarters — but not their employees — from Catalonia to other parts of Spain. On Monday, highway operator Abertis, telecoms company Cellnex and real estate firm Colonial became the latest to announce their move from Barcelona to Madrid.

Recent opinion polls indicate Catalans are split on independence, though regional leaders said police violence during the referendum had turned many against Madrid.

Demands for independence in Catalonia, which has its own language and cultural traditions, date back centuries. But a 2010 move by Spain's Constitutional Court to water down a statute that gave Catalonia additional powers, combined with an economic crisis in Spain, sparked a surge in support for independence.

AFP, AP

UN rolling out mass cholera vaccinations in Rohingya camps



A young Rohingya refugee receives the cholera vaccine at the Thankhali refugee camp yesterday AFP

THANKHALI: The UN launched one of its biggest ever cholera vaccination drives in the vast refugee camps of southeast Bangladesh yesterday amid fears almost a million Rohingya are at risk of an outbreak.

Thousands of Rohingya lined up at makeshift health centres, many with young children in their arms, to receive the oral vaccine against the disease.

The UN is working with the Bangladesh government to vaccinate 650,000 people living in the sprawling camps against cholera, which spreads through dirty water and can kill if left untreated.

"These people lack most of the basic services — toilets, water sanitation and everything," UNICEF spokesman AM Sakil Faizullah said.

"When we have this kind of situation, there's a heavy possibility of a cholera outbreak."

Almost 520,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived in Bangladesh since late August, fleeing a military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar that the UN has said likely amounts of ethnic cleansing.



A girl gets her finger inked after being vaccinated AFP

Poor and overpopulated Bangladesh has struggled to cope with the mass influx of people, many of whom have to travel for days or even weeks to reach safety and arrive exhausted and malnourished.

The influx had slowed in recent weeks, but appears to have picked up again. An estimated 10,000 new refugees arrived on Monday.

World Health Organisation workers supported by about 1000 local volunteers plan to vaccinate 650,000 Rohingya over the coming weeks.

They will follow up with a second dose of the vaccine for an estimated 250,000 children aged between one and five. Those under one will not be vaccinated.

It is thought to be the second-biggest such campaign ever, after 800,000 people were immunised against the disease in Haiti last November.

Volunteers at the Thankhali camp used loudhailers to appeal to refugees to go to the centres, where they queued to have the vial placed in their mouths.

"The health workers told us we would be better with medicines, that we wouldn't have any more diseases," said Nabi Hossain, a 35-year-old refugee who arrived at the camp two weeks ago, as he queued with two of his sons.

Abdus Salam, a senior health official with the local government, said workers would go door to door to ensure no refugees were left out of the drive.

The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority who have long faced persecution in Myanmar, which regards them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

The UN says more than 600,000 have arrived in the last year, swelling camps that were already home to between 300,000 and 400,000 refugees. Bangladesh has allocated land to accommodate about 800,000 refugees in one massive camp, but the UN has warned that such a large concentration in one area could promote the spread of disease.

AFP

Upstart rival to give Abe a fight

TOKYO: Popular Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike denounced Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday as the gloves came off for the official start of a snap election campaign in the world's third-largest economy.

The conservative Mr Abe, 63, is facing an unexpected and fierce challenge from the media-savvy Ms Koike, who has upended Japan's staid political landscape with her upstart Party of Hope. Addressing hundreds of commuters at a busy Tokyo station on loudspeaker, she called on supporters to "end the politics of Abe", lashing out at the long-serving Prime Minister over recent scandals that have weighed on his popularity.

"The political status quo has continued while politics itself has lost the public's confidence," charged the former TV anchorwoman, 65.

The 12-day campaign will be fought around reviving Japan's once world-beating economy and the threat of North Korea, which has threatened to "sink" the country into the sea.

Ms Koike's party has replaced most of the main opposition party within a week. But surveys suggest her bandwagon is sl[illegible]ing as she refuses to run for p[illegible] minister, focusing on Tokyo, [illegible] the world's most populous [illegible] with just three years until Tokyo hosts the Olympic Games.

A poll in the *Yomiuri* daily suggests 32 per cent of voters plan to back Mr Abe's LDP with 13 per cent for the Party of Hope — down six percentage points from a poll in late September.

Mr Abe unexpectedly called a snap election to capitalise on a weak and fractured opposition.

But Ms Koike stole his limelight by launching her party, attacking Mr Abe's government for being too slow to make reforms in the country weighed down by an ageing population, deflation and huge debt.

Mr Abe returned to power in December 2012 and has pushed a nationalist social agenda as well as his trademark "Abenomics" economic policy, promising to kick deflation and achieve 2 per cent inflation with stable growth in two years. But almost five years later, he has failed to deliver on those pledges.

Critics argue Mr Abe called the early election to divert attention from a string of scandals, including allegations of favouritism to a friend in a business deal — which the Prime Minister denies.



Yuriko Koike

Analysts say the October 22 election is effectively a referendum on Mr Abe, who has enjoyed unrivalled political strength for the past five years, partly because of a lack of credible opposition, while his key policies remained controversial or unpopular.

MS Koike says her new group promotes "compassionate conservatism" and hopes to distinguish herself from Mr Abe by pledging a phase-out of nuclear power by 2030 and a freeze on a planned sales tax increase.

Koike sceptics, however, say charge repeats vague, catchy phrases and lacks details, including how to pay for her ambitious projects.

Mr Abe plans to use proceeds from the proposed tax rise to make childcare free, to get more women into the labour force.

He has also appealed to voters to keep him in power so he can continue his hardline approach to North Korea, which has fired two missiles over Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

More than 1000 candidates were expected to run for 465 seats in the all-powerful lower house — a reduction of 10 seats from the previous election.

The outcome could create two rival conservative blocs with broadly similar diplomatic and defence policies, with fragmented leftist forces filling the gap, pundits say.

Mr Abe's ruling bloc currently holds a two-thirds majority, with his long-ruling LDP holding 287 seats while its junior partner Komeito has 35.

AFP

Migrant cap set by Merkel

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel has agreed to an annual limit of 200,000 asylum-seekers in order to cement her alliance with Bavarian conservatives before coalition talks open next week.

Ms Merkel also agreed in talks with the Bavarian Christian Social Union that Germany should process as many asylum-seekers as possible in new detention centres at the border, where migrants would live while their cases were assessed.

She had resisted setting a limit on migration for years. The cap was rejected by the leaders of the Green party, whose 67 seats Ms Merkel needs to form a majority, but they agreed to begin coalition negotiations.

Last month's election result strengthened the hand of the CSU, who blamed Ms Merkel's resistance to a migrant limit for aiding the rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Ms Merkel emerged from long talks with CSU leader Horst Seehofer to announce a compromise had been struck for a flexible annual limit that could be amended by parliament in times of crisis. Ms Merkel stressed, however, the 200,001st asylum-seeker would not be automatically turned back but would still have their case assessed.

They both refused to comment on why it had taken them years to agree on a limit, the absence of which contributed to the 94 seats won by the AfD with 12.6 per cent of the vote.

The migration agreement between the CSU and Ms Merkel's Christian Democratic Union paved the way for talks to begin with the Greens and Free Democrats on forming a coalition.

Greens co-leader Cem Ozdemir said the cap would not stop a coalition being discussed but stressed he did not want it to be part of any coalition agreement, while fellow leader Katrin Goering-Eckardt labelled the deal "a formulaic compromise".

THE TIMES, AFP

100 years of casting couches coming to an end

Predatory men shaped our popular culture for too long but there are signs that women are beginning a fightback

HUGO RIFKIND



Hollywood bad boys Roman Polanski, left, Charlie Chaplin as The Tramp, and Errol Flynn AP

If I looked like the Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein — and the way things are going, Lord knows, I may one day soon — then I'm not sure the bathtub would be my chosen locus of seduction. I'd want somewhere darker where I could be fully clothed. Such as the cinema, perhaps. Does he ever go?

Weinstein, who has produced or executive produced a formidable slew of movies, from *Reservoir Dogs* to *The English Patient*, was sacked from his own company on Monday after an equally formidable slew of sexual harassment allegations surfaced in the US media. Ashley Judd is one of several to bring up baths in hotel suites. Another tale, from a journalist, has him doing unspeakable things to a restaurant plant pot.

None of this stuff is proven and plenty of it denied. Still, there are worlds in which sexual harassment is a hidden thing of which nobody knows, and then there are worlds in which some waiter with a trowel has to change the little brown clay beads in the aspidistra by the loos, again. The Weinstein scandal, wherever it leads, shows Hollywood as the latter.

Which, of course, is not very surprising. You could lose your mind trying to summarise examples of the dogged, predatory, institutional sexism of Hollywood and simply find yourself making a mad list of almost everything.

Forget the films. Start with the many teenage wives of Charlie Chaplin or the tastes of Errol Flynn who once said, "I like my whisky old and my women young". Linger perhaps on the bail-jumping exile of Roman Polanski (and we shall come back to him) and rest up at the Oscars of 2013.

Here, host Seth MacFarlane sang a jaunty ditty called *We Saw Your Boobs* in which he reeled off the nude scenes of actresses, who were sitting there listening. There was a joke in there about the hacking of Scarlett Johansson's private photos (for which somebody went to jail) and a fun mention of Jodie Foster's nude scene in *The Accused*, during which her character is gang-raped on a pinball machine. This is not the way you talk about equals. It is also the primary engine of Western culture and has been for half a century, at least. This is not, in other words, a quiet, internal, industry problem.

> You could lose your mind trying to summarise examples of the dogged, predatory, institutional sexism of Hollywood

We breathe this stuff in, through our eyes.

In 2009, Weinstein was an outspoken critic of Swiss moves, later abandoned, to extradite Polanski back to the US. The director has been convicted of the statutory rape of a 13-year-old, that conviction itself the result of a plea bargain in a case in which he was initially charged with far, far worse. At the time, Weinstein called him "a great artist" and referred to his "so-called crime". His attitude isn't unusual. Dig out the footage of Polanski's Oscar win, for *The Pianist* in 2003, and watch the standing ovation. Weinstein is there, whooping along, but so is everybody else, from Jack Nicholson to Meryl Streep to Martin Scorsese. The strength of his work transcends the obligation to care about it. This is the call Hollywood makes about what matters more.

Polanski may not be the only person they have been making such a call about.

It would be dishonest to pretend that Weinstein has shrugged off decades of allegations until now simply because he was powerful. He was also brilliant. Had he been involved only in stupid, exploitative, sexist films, this story would be far neater. Whereas actually, from *Shakespeare in Love*, to *Good Will Hunting*, to *True Romance*, to *The Reader*, to *Silver Linings Playbook*, he has been involved in the best of Hollywood rather than the worst. Even here, Hollywood has tended to give us stories of inspirational men and their adoring womenfolk. Even in *Shakespeare in Love*, when there was really no need whatsoever, we still saw Gwyneth Paltrow's boobs. Probably we had come to expect them. Possibly we would have felt a little robbed had we not.

Weinstein's disgrace and defenestration are not happening now wholly by chance. They are part of a changing world. You can feel it in the films of Kathryn Bigelow, for example, which are fairly conventional in most respects but somehow manage to feature incredibly beautiful women (e.g. Jessica Chastain in *Zero Dark Thirty*) without randomly forcing them to have sex with people or take their clothes off. You can feel it in the evolution from Angelina Jolie's Lara Croft, in hotpants and a boobtube in *Tomb Raider*, to Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games* who, in films with women strongly involved in writing and production, struts her stuff for the most part in a relatively sensible leather jerkin.

Even more so you can feel it on the small screen. From *Big Little Lies*, to *The Handmaid's Tale*, to *Transparent*, we are living through a time of female-led filmed fiction that often seems to have simply rolled its eyes at the male-gaze-led conventions and assumptions of a century of Hollywood, and turned out far better as a result.

You can feel mass culture, and particularly the cleverer end of it, changing in a way that makes a generation of film makers into dinosaurs for more than just their alleged bathroom or restaurant habits.

We cannot know how a century of lust and casting couches have shaped Western society, but my hunch is quite a lot. We also can't know what it will do to us if, finally, they get shamed out of town. Speaking as a father of daughters though, I look forward to finding out.

THE TIMES

EDITORIAL P13
ARTS P14

Studio to expunge Weinstein's name

LOS ANGELES: The Weinstein Company will change its name following the sacking of co-founder Harvey Weinstein over sexual harassment allegations, a studio insider said yesterday.

The source said the name change was expected to take some time, but "it will happen". Weinstein's name will also be stripped from several TV projects.

The Hollywood establishment — slow to react to the initial allegations against the hot-tempered mogul — has begun to speak out after he was fired.

Meryl Streep, who called Weinstein "God" in 2012, said the alleged conduct was not universally known in Hollywood.

"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 said. "The intrepid women who raised their voices to expose this abuse are our heroes."

Director Kevin Smith, whose movies *Clerks* and *Chasing Amy* were produced by Weinstein, said the producer financed the first 14 years of his career.

"Now I know while I was profiting, others were in terrible pain," Smith tweeted. "It makes me feel ashamed."

Judi Dench, who has two decades of awards and nominations thanks to Weinstein, said she was "completely unaware" of the "horrifying" offences.

"I offer my sympathy to those who have suffered and wholehearted support to those who have spoken out," she wrote.

Kate Winslet, who won an Oscar for The Weinstein Company's *The Reader*, said the alleged behaviour was "disgraceful and appalling".

Glenn Close had heard the "vague rumours" of his inappropriate behaviour. "Harvey has always been decent to me, but now that the rumours are being substantiated, I feel angry and darkly sad," Close said. "I'm angry, not just at him and the conspiracy of silence around his actions, but also that the 'casting couch' phenomenon, so to speak, is still a reality in our business and in the world: the horrible pressure, the awful expectation put on a woman when a powerful, egotistical, entitled bully expects sexual favours in exchange for a job."

Weinstein's downfall was set in motion last week by a *New York Times* expose. Many in the industry believe the studio boss's career in Hollywood is over.

The article chronicled at least eight sexual harassment settlements Weinstein made with actresses and employees at the Weinstein Company and Weinstein's former firm, Miramax.

After the US allegations, attention has now focused on his behaviour in Britain. Artist and writer Liza Campbell revealed Weinstein asked her to "jump in the bath" with him at London's Savoy Hotel after she arrived for a meeting. "Come on, it'll be fun. We can drink champagne. You can soap me — whaddaya say?" he allegedly said, according to her account of the 1995 incident.



Harvey Weinstein

Campbell said yesterday she had been approached this week by people aware of two similar allegations. A US journalist who investigated Weinstein 13 years ago claimed she tracked down a woman in London who signed a non-disclosure agreement about an "unwanted sexual encounter".

Emma Thompson threatened to quit *Brideshead Revisited* in 2007 after the producer told Hayley Atwell she looked like a "fat pig".

Jessica Hynes, 44, star of the BBC comedies *W1A* and *Twenty Twelve*, said she lost a role on a Weinstein film after refusing to screen test in a bikini.

AP, THE TIMES

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



MIRANDA DEVINE

"... is a hallmark of the Left to give fellow travellers a free pass for any atrocity while screaming blue murder at conservatives

Because he's such a shameless toad, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein inadvertently blew the whistle on the protection racket at the heart of identity politics.

If you bow to the altar of the globalist Left's grab-bag of causes — LGBTIQ, racism, feminism, open borders, abortion, feminism, climate change, the Clintons, pro-Islam and anti-Christian — you buy yourself protection.

It's how it works in Australia, too. Many a career has been made, not on talent, but on allegiance to politically correct shibboleths.

Just watch the media personalities, sports identities, politicians, business leaders and even a police commissioner line up to promote the Yes case in the gay marriage debate. They do it because of the unspoken contract that protects them from negative publicity in return.

It's a deal so well entrenched that when Weinstein, 65, was outed as an alleged sexual predator of three decades by the New York Times last week, he explicitly tried to call in his chips by whining that he had made all these leftie movies and given money to the Clintons so wasn't that atonement enough?

"They never wrote about the documentary I did with Jay-Z about Rikers Island (about racism)," he told the New York Post.

"They never write that I raised $50 million for amfAR (an AIDS charity) nor my work with Robin Hood (a George Soros-linked charity which helped fund left-wing activists)."

In other words, he wasn't just signalling his virtue with fashionable charitable activities, but buying a collective blind eye to his alleged misdeeds against women.

And now that the New York Times unexpectedly has welshed on the media's side of the bargain, Weinstein seems to think the problem is that he just wasn't generous enough. He needs to do more.

So last week, among all his denials and phony mea culpas, he declared he's going to make a movie bagging Donald Trump and agitate for gun control and feminist causes.

"I've decided I'm going to give the N.R.A. (National Rifle Association) my full attention," he announced.

"One year ago, I began organising a $5 million foundation to give scholarships to women directors. It will be named after my mom and I won't disappoint her."

Oh, pass the barf bowl, please.

It's pathetic, but this has long been the modus operandi of the Left: promoting vacuous causes expunges the guilt of being a really bad person and a hypocrite to boot.

Weinstein went so far as to back a documentary, the Hunting Ground, about campus sexual assault, which, despite being a dishonest beat-up, won him plaudits for his feminist sensibilities.

He also reportedly funded a chair at Rutgers University in the name of celebrity feminist Gloria Steinem, marched in a women's protest against Trump, and is an enthusiastic fundraiser for abortion provider Planned Parenthood, which has been caught out selling the body parts of aborted babies.

He's given almost $2 million to Democratic candidates, employed Barack Obama's daughter Malia as an intern, and hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton at his New York apartment last year.

He counts the Clintons among his closest friends, organising Bill's 50th birthday party and holidaying with the family.

When he presented Bill Clinton with the LGBTIQ organisation GLAAD's Advocate for Change award in 2013, he called him "a hero in our time" and boasted that he had been "the chief projectionist at the WH from '92 to 2000".



You couldn't find a more perfect embodiment of the Hollywood leftist establishment than Weinstein.

And, according to the flood of claims that have emerged since the New York Times blew his cover, for almost three decades he was forcing himself on young actresses, inviting them to his hotel rooms, pressing them for sexual favours, or to watch him shower or masturbate himself, and paying off at least eight accusers.

What's more, we're told his behaviour was an open secret in Hollywood and the media, with a former New York Times reporter Sharon Waxman this week claiming that her piece exposing Weinstein in 2004 was gutted by the newspaper after Weinstein muscled her editors.

It is a hallmark of the Left to give fellow travellers a free pass for any atrocity while screaming blue murder at conservatives for "micro-aggressions" on Twitter.

How they moralised when Donald Trump merely talked about touching women inappropriately ("grabbing pussies") on the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape of 2005, leaked during last year's election campaign.

Those same moralisers and feminists were the same people who ran protection on Bill Clinton when he was accused of assorted predatory sexual behaviour against young women.

Hillary complains about Trump "looming" over her in an election debate, but is silent about her pal Harvey, and excused her husband as just "a hard dog to keep on the porch".

Hypocrisy, thy name is Hillary.

The predators even run protection for each other, like when Weinstein spearheaded Hollywood's defence of paedophile director Roman Polanski.

"It's a shocking way to treat a man who went through the Holocaust and his wife's murder," was Weinstein's take.

But a new generation is refusing to enable sexual predators just because they pay lip service to left-wing causes. They seem to believe that virtue signalling should signal actual virtue.

Awful Vegas blame game

It was bad enough when psychologist Steve Biddulph convinced a generation of parents to hold back their sons from starting school until they were six.

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 1.5 million copies of his book Raising Boys on the back of it, without letting on that he was a climate alarmist and refugee activist to boot.

Now his left-wing credentials are in no doubt, after he launched a vicious diatribe in Fairfax Media against conservatives John Howard, Tony Abbott, Peter Dutton and Eric Abetz.

He accused them of being "messed up men" while linking them to the Las Vegas massacre.

Howard is "a dismal human being, heartless and self-seeking" Abbott "Gollum-like", Dutton "emotionally empty", Biddulph wrote, in a column last week headlined "Las Vegas shooting is part of the wider problem of messed up men".

And somehow he neglects to mention Howard's courage in enacting some of the world's toughest gun laws after the Port Arthur massacre, which has not been repeated since, touch wood.

The Sydney Morning Herald quietly deleted the offensive paragraphs, without apologising or even explaining why.

What a twisted response to a tragedy half a world away.

Big day out for the 'No' camp

If more than 10,000 Christians gather at Fairfield showground to celebrate the traditional family, and the media doesn't report the event, does it matter? The Yes camp and its boosters hope not.

Sunday's event in Fairfield was the brainchild of the Bishops' council of the Australian eastern Christian churches, including Maronites, Copts, Melkites, Syriacs and Chaldeans, whose followers are still paying in blood for their faith. Yes activists did their best on social media to mock attendees as "nonnas" and a "sea of old and bitter", but there were 10 times as many people in Fairfield as at a Yes rally in Oxford Street.

There also were plenty of young families and Gen Ys at the Fairfield showground, a snapshot of diversity which the Left pretends to champion. It's just that the under-60s weren't sitting up front because the elderly and the bishops were given pride of place in the standing-room only venue. Some people still value wisdom.

THE AUSTRALIAN
FOR THE INFORMED AUSTRALIAN

Climate evangelists reduce debate to a binary farce

Tony Abbott deliberately has sparked a vigorous argument

The response to former prime minister Tony Abbott's provocative London speech on climate change has exposed the superficial approach to this crucial issue in our national debate. While Australia's climate and energy policy will have clear and unavoidable impacts on our economy, it is arguable whether it will have any environmental effect. We produce only 1.3 per cent of the world's carbon emissions, so can have no discernible influence unless our actions are tied to sufficient efforts by other countries to eclipse larger and growing emissions from nations such as China and India. So far, under the Paris Agreement, this is not the case. Our reductions will be dwarfed by increases elsewhere. At the least this means we should be in no undue haste because our actions are not going to save the planet any time soon; we have time to get the policy right. Our most urgent imperative is to ensure our household and industrial consumers have access to reliable and affordable energy.

The climate debate is a complex collision of facts, forecasts, theories and proposals. On every aspect of this multi-layered puzzle there are myriad records, measurements and options. The variables are so vast that even the simplest question about recorded temperatures in one place on one day is open to conjecture because of debates about measurement practices, external factors and homogenisation efforts. Extrapolate this on to interpretation of the record over more than a century of readings and we build more complexity. Then we delve further to geological samples, ice cores or satellite data, and we add to the database and sum of human knowledge but invite infinitely more areas of contestability. And that is before we get to forecasts and computer modelling, or the estimates of carbon emissions, natural and anthropogenic, and inputs of other greenhouse gases and the role of volcanic activity, land clearing, ocean currents, solar cycles and orbital variations. This is such a fascinating and multifaceted area of human exploration that it is beyond banal to talk about the "science being settled", as if we have learned enough. Scientific consensus tells us human-generated greenhouse gas emissions have increased global warming and will continue to do so. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment says: "It is extremely likely that more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951 to 2010 was caused by the anthropogenic increase in GHG concentrations and other anthropogenic forcings together." Yet the climate has stubbornly refused to behave according to predictions. We have only just begun to understand, let alone master and manage, the immense and intricate process at play.

As if this complicated research isn't challenging enough, it needs to be considered alongside an equally diverse range of possible responses. Politicians may spruik renewable energy to cut emissions and limit warming, but within this debate will be arguments about emissions trading, carbon taxes, clean energy targets, technology or simple regulation as a means to the end. Other experts argue this is futile and that only a rapid transition to nuclear power can cut emissions deep enough. Still others argue the forces unleashed already are so far beyond control that, rather than mitigation, adaptation is the only sensible path: that we should farm and populate areas rendered more favourable by warming and move away from areas placed under stress. The IPCC says some of what has been done cannot be undone and other factors will play a role: "Future climate will depend on committed warming caused by past anthropogenic emissions, as well as future anthropogenic emissions and natural climate variability."

Despite all this, Mr Abbott's blunt attempt to bring these issues into focus has been seized on by politicians and commentators as a chance to divide the world into believers and deniers — or those in favour of climate action and those against — as if there are only two choices available rather than an endless array of prescriptions. It demonstrates a debilitating debate that has failed to mature even after dominating a decade of national affairs and playing a pivotal role (three times) in the overturning of party leaders and prime ministers. The volatility is sufficient once more to do the same again on either side.

Labor leader Bill Shorten said Mr Abbott lost "the plot" and his deputy, Tanya Plibersek, said the former prime minister was "loopy". Former British Labour leader Ed Miliband attacked the speech as "idiocy" while the Greens labelled Mr Abbott a "dangerous fool". Labor accused Malcolm Turnbull of caving in to his predecessor's posturing by inching away from a clean energy target. ABC political commentator Paul Bongiorno gave us the unintentional pun of describing the former prime minister as a "weathervane" on climate and declaring he flew "in the face of contemporary science". For Bongiorno and many at the ABC it is suspiciously simple and clear. "There is catastrophic global warming coming," he preached on Radio National, "and we have got to do something about it." Righto, then.

This is the simplistic, partisan and binary inanity to which this crucial debate has descended. All the while our households and industries confront escalating energy prices and reduced security of supply while our economic competitiveness suffers and we export energy around the world. At the same time we subsidise renewable electricity and ponder how to lure investment in back-up or baseload generation, global carbon emissions still rise, oblivious to our costly gestures. Mr Abbott has injected some sorely needed frankness into this debate. He is mocked for talking about climate change "doing good", yet even the IPCC talks about the "risks and benefits" of global warming, noting we are most likely to experience any upside before a looming downside. By ignoring the manifest complexities in the diagnosis and the treatment, the critics are not, as they claim, adhering to the science but rather eschewing it.

Hollywood culture in disrepute

Harvey Weinstein has embarrassed senior Democrats

Hollywood has much to learn from the appalling allegations of predatory behaviour surrounding Oscar-winning producer Harvey Weinstein. For decades the film industry's so-called "casting couch culture" — a euphemism for trading sexual favours for a career in films — was the butt of cartoonists' jokes. But there is nothing funny in the sordid claims about Weinstein, an industry titan and producer of some of Hollywood's most successful movies. He is a close friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton and Barack and Michelle Obama, and a leader of Tinseltown's strong support for the Democrats.

For 30 years Weinstein used his powerful position to sexually harass women seeking a career. Some have described being invited for business meetings, only to be asked to massage him or watch him shower. In at least eight instances Weinstein has reached substantial financial settlements with victims. Weinstein, who has been fired by his own company, argues he came of age in the 1960s and 70s when the rules about behaviour and workplaces were different: "That was the culture."

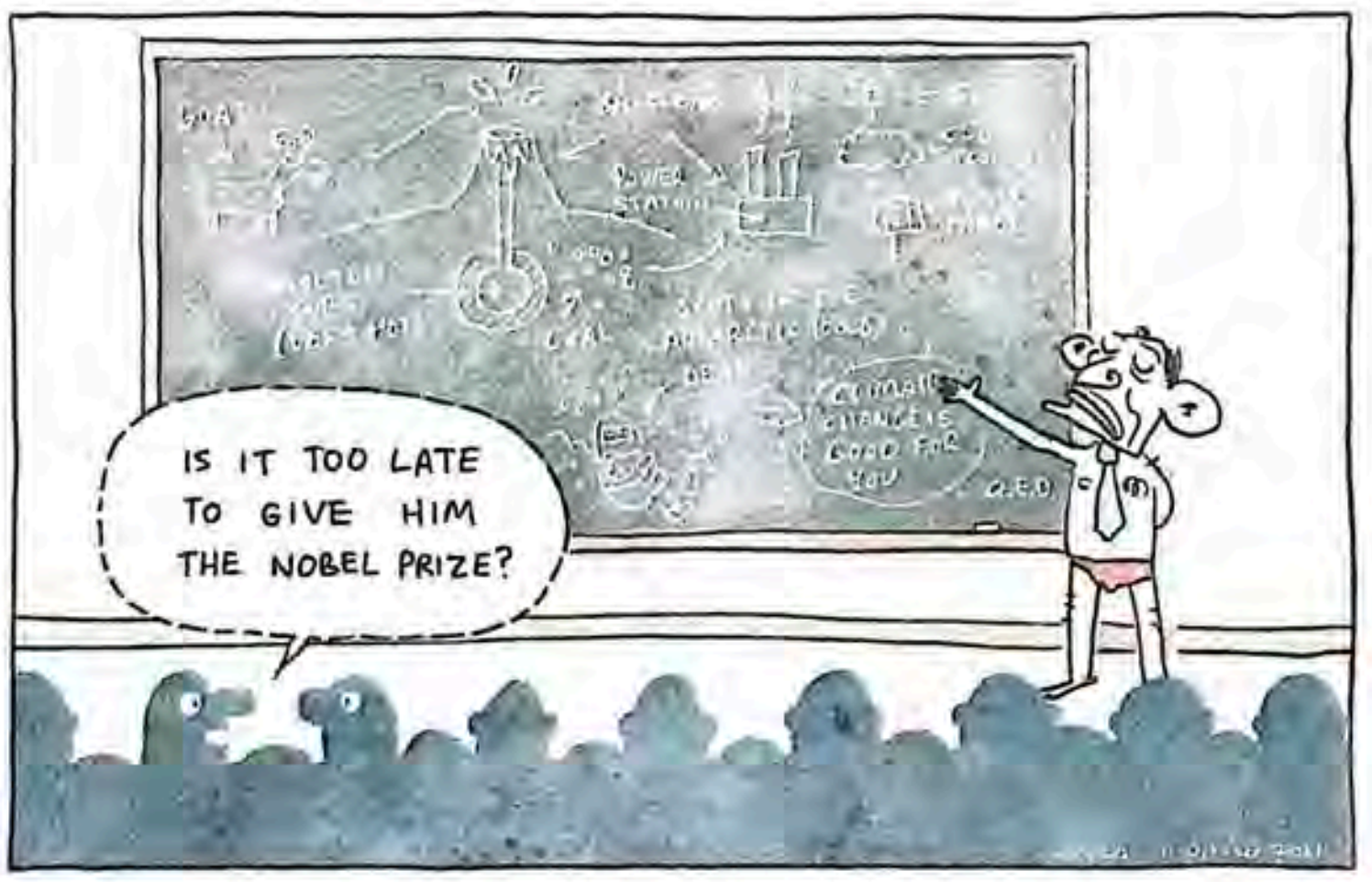
The US film industry has been brought into disrepute by the disclosure that for so many years Weinstein's harassment was widely known yet protected by Hollywood's cone of silence. This smacks of hypocrisy. Leading actors condemned Donald Trump in droves last year when allegations of sexual misconduct emerged. But nothing was said about Weinstein, who had a big role in Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Mr Obama allowed his 19-year-old daughter, Malia, to be employed as an intern in Weinstein's New York office. In 2013, Michelle Obama said Weinstein was "a wonderful human being, a wonderful friend, and just a powerhouse". As television producer Frank Rich has tweeted: "Biggest mystery of Weinstein story: how exemplary parents like Obamas let their daughter work there." The Obamas are far from alone in overlooking the scandals. Nicole Kidman is one of many prominent actresses who avoided speaking out. Meryl Streep, who referred to Weinstein as "God" when accepting a Golden Globe, has now condemned him. So has Dame Judi Dench, who had a fake "JD loves HW" tattoo in 2011.

The allegations against Weinstein reflect poorly on Hollywood and its modus operandi. There should be no place for such dinosaurs in an industry that wields immense cultural influence worldwide.

KUDELKA

Cartoon prints: To view and purchase prints of Leak cartoons and his book, please visit billleak.com.au
Kudelka prints are available from kudelka.com.au



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TALKING POINT

Don't forget the billions we pay fossil fuel companies

Judith Sloan gives a very one-sided commentary on energy today ("Dublin it is, but we're starting from a very bad spot", 10/10). Calls for a "level playing field" for renewable energy companies would be more honest if they acknowledged the billions annually in subsidies and direct spending channelled to fossil fuel companies.

For a highly regarded economist to dismiss the work of a highly regarded scientist — Alan Finkel — with the word "sneaky" is intellectual laziness.

Finally, Judith must be trying to match Joe Hockey's misinformed rhetoric with her claim that wind farms are "so disruptive to rural communities". The farmers and graziers I know who host wind farms are delighted to have some reliable income in a difficult industry. When discussing disruption to rural communities it would be even-handed and more honest to also mention the many agriculturalists and communities negatively impacted by gas and coal.
Ros Treloar, Avalon Beach, NSW

Australia's energy issues can be resolved by an unbiased assessment of the economic and engineering realities. The solution will be a mix of coal, gas and renewables. Achieving this resolution is not helped in any way by the continued front-page prominence given to the outdated ideology of Tony Abbott, who had his opportunity as PM to shape the debate and who committed Australia to the Paris Climate Agreement. The continued policy uncertainty is damaging our economy and is, in itself, a contributor to higher energy prices.
Mike Palmer, Balmain, NSW

The best of both worlds in terms of emissions reduction and surety of baseload power supplies is to replace our end-of-life coal-fired plants with high-efficiency low-emission technology (HELE, also termed ultra-supercritical boiler technology) ("Wind, solar 'don't need subsidies'", 10/10). Such replacement would bring a 26 per cent reduction in emissions relative to current technology, according to Chief Scientist Alan Finkel's recent review. HELE plants are the technology of choice among our neighbours: Japan since 1993, China since 2006, and Malaysia and Taiwan over the past two years. We do not need to be innovative — we just need to catch up.

A national vision should pledge as a minimum a new HELE power station in Victoria, NSW and Queensland. There is a strong case to be made that 26 per cent of the capital cost (equivalent to the projected emissions reduction) could come from funding already set aside for green energy projects. Justification of the remaining investment will require regulations to ensure that such 24/7 energy supply will indeed be purchased 24/7 by power distribution companies.
Michael Asten, retired professor of geophysics, Monash University

While your editorial says that we don't yet have the details of the Turnbull government's energy policy ("Turnbull shaping to give voters clear energy choice", 10/10), Tony Abbott actually delivered it with his speech to the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London: no taxpayer-funded subsidies for new intermittent power, a government-built coal-fired power station to overcome political risk; gas bans must go, along with the ban on nuclear power. Abbott in one succinct paragraph has provided the government with the energy policy script it should be using. If not, why not, Malcolm Turnbull?
Mandy Macmillan, Singleton, NSW

The economic subsidies that have protected producers of unreliable, intermittent power are, in effect, a tariff on technology. The objective of this tariff was to tilt the economic playing field in favour of a developing but promising technology at the expense of proven ones (coal and gas).

Politicians were quick to grant renewables with this economic advantage because the basic, or natural, physics of the developmental starting point for this new technology appear to have an inherently low impact upon the natural environment. Selling the simplicities of "nature" to the voting public was always going to be a low-effort, low-risk policy for any populist politician.

However, as with all forms of peremptory economic protections that have lingered for too long, this tariff has stifled the economic incentive (in Australia) for further research and development into the proven technology of coal-fired power stations.

The natural starting point of coal may not be as seductively clean as the sun or the wind, but that does not mean a suitably motivated power industry would not be inventive enough to clean it up. Protectionism removes the incentive for invention.
Mark Dyer, Rockingham, WA

Tony Abbott's position on climate change is at odds with what the vast majority of Australians feel. Most accept that climate change is real and that mankind is contributing to it; it's only the extent that is in debate.

The Liberal Party will ignore the realities of climate change at its peril. It has an opportunity to differentiate itself from Labor, but only if it is prepared to stick its neck out on controversial issues like nuclear. Abbott is right to challenge the RET quantum but wrong to dismiss it altogether.
John George, Terrigal, NSW

'Girls' club' Credlin has no right to bash Bishop

Peta Credlin's statement that Julie Bishop "diminishes all Liberal women" just doesn't sit well, considering what I have heard emanating from Credlin herself ("Julie Bishop 'diminishes Liberal women': Peta Credlin", online 10/10).

I was one of many Coalition female staffers who sat in a meeting in 2014, called by Credlin, to discuss pathways for women to advance in politics. It was seen by many as a welcome move and well attended. What I didn't expect was a call to the "girls' club" championed by Credlin herself.

She candidly admitted that she employed only those she knew or had previously worked with — signalling career demise for those of us who were not "in the loop".

I therefore have to ask whether Credlin herself did any favours in the promotion of women within the Liberal ranks. Or was it simply twisting the age-old "jobs for the boys" into jobs for the girls?

While we may have wanted to look up to Credlin as a female leader in a male-dominated workplace, in that one moment she lost the empathy of women who believe that they should secure jobs because they are good at what they do, not because of who they know.
Fiona Wade, Downer, ACT

What's left for parents?

So seven out of 10 parents want teachers to teach more social skills to their kids, and five out of 10 want teachers to teach their kids how to behave in public ("Parents want lessons in life added to school curriculum", 10/10).

What does this leave the parents to do apart from meals and washing? I thought manners, respect, and the like began at home. For the record, I am a teacher and a parent.
Martin Smee, Port Elliot, SA

Reasons for revolt

It is most disappointing that Jennifer Oriel can see the communist revolutions in Russia, China and Cuba only through the lens of benevolent capitalism ("Red October led us to genocide", 9/10).

Oriel doesn't ask why they happened. It was the hunger, and the Russian ruling class's total disregard for the poor that led to the communist revolution in Russia. Similar reasons led to the one in China. Before 1959, all the land in Cuba was owned by a thousand absentee landlords — the peasants owned nothing; they had no human rights. The French revolution was also caused by the hunger of the poor. It can happen even in Australia if the rich-poor divide increases and the nation becomes an oligarchy of the rich.
Bill Mathew, Parkville, Vic

Temple story goes deeper

Helen Dale's opinions about Jesus's "assault" on the Temple show a basic ignorance of some key historical facts ("Not only will I not shut up, I have written a book about Jesus", 7/10).

The Jerusalem Temple was controlled by a clique of kleptocratic priests and religious extremists (Shammaite Pharisees) who used draconian "purity laws" to create a culture of guilt and then proclaim the expensive sacrificial rituals of Temple as the only path to fo... ness. Recent digs have shown Temple was a veritable slaughterhouse and animal sacrifice was a major commercial venture. In stampeding the animals, Jesus was probably helping them to escape.

Such evidence has significance beyond Dale's trite conclusions. It suggests that Jesus, along with the John the Baptist movement and the Essenes, believed cultic sacrifice was discredited. That would make it a very dubious model on which Christians would later base their theology of divine atonement. But if it seems improbable Jesus offered himself as a divine sacrifice, the Temple "cleansing" episode did seal his fate and thus stamps his mission of forgiveness with distinctly social and political overtones.
Tom Drake-Brockman, Berrilee, NSW

LAST POST

Blocking same-sex marriage for fear it might diminish religious freedoms recalls Randolph Churchill's grounds for opposing female MPs: the Houses of Parliament had no ladies' toilets. The problem can be addressed.
Patrick Ball, Fern Tree, Tas

"No" campaigners have criticised company boards supporting the Yes case on the grounds that it implies the agreement of all company members. Is the Anglican Diocese of Sydney's contribution to the No case any different ("No campaign gets $1m from Anglican Church", 10/10)?
Norm Neill, Darlinghurst, NSW

Tony Abbott: the suppository of all wisdom on climate change.
Rod Tuck, Katoomba, NSW

Tony Abbott's charge that primitive people sacrificed goats to appease the volcano gods is nonsense. Best practice required virgins.
Terry Birchley, Bundaberg

The media hangs on Tony Abbott's every word; Malcolm Turnbull is hanged on some of them.
M.F. Horton, Adelaide, SA

So our universities fear foreign influence from Beijing, including that it tries to silence those with different views. I thought our unis had done a perfect job of this already.
Denzil Bourne, Jerrabomberra, NSW

The mantra seems to be "we've got to stop climate change, I want to leave a better world for my grandchildren". Surely the best thing would have been not to have children in the place — or to have convinced yo children not to have children, or if they must, only one?
Michael Guppy, Moruya, NSW

Malcolm Turnbull's GST headache confirms Paul Keating's advice: never stand between a premier and a bucket of money.
Steve Ngeow, Chatswood, NSW

Chris Bowen wants the GST divided in such a way that no state is worse off. How many ways can you divide a pudding and end up with more for everyone? Is he innumerate or does he think his audience is? Either way, it's not a good look for the alternative treasurer of Australia.
Paul Yates, Beachmere, Qld

It's excellent that the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize went to an organisation campaigning for nuclear disarmament; but some contend that if nuclear weapons didn't exist, we would have already had World War III, since it's less risky starting a major war without them.
Rod Matthews, Fairfield, Vic

Nick Cater proposes as proof of the ABC's irrelevance that its free-to-air TV reach figure is "less than 55 per cent" and that "about three-quarters of us never listen to ABC radio" ("Guthrie continues to Peppa us with same excuses", 10/10).

I wonder what he makes of the relevance of *The Australian*, which is bought by just one in 200 of us, Monday to Friday?
David Salter, Hunter's Hill, NSW

Abbott's adventures in Pommy-land lead to a fight with Ed Miliband over climate change

And there's a coup against Malcolm Turnbull brewing in Adelaide ...

CUT & PASTE

Tony Abbott speaking at the G20 summit in Brisbane, November 14, 2014:
Australia has always believed that climate change is real, that humanity makes a contribution ...

We guess he still thinks it's real. The former prime minister at the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London, yesterday:
Climate change itself is probably doing good.

Abbott angered a famous Pommy pollie with his London speech. *The Australian* online, yesterday:
Former British Labour leader Ed Miliband has likened Tony Abbott to Donald Trump ...

Ah yes, the worst British Labour leader ever. BBC News online, May 8, 2015:
Ed Miliband has stepped down as Labour leader ... with the Tories defying opinion polls to secure a House of Commons majority.

How did Abbott go in an election? *The Australian* online, September 14, 2013:
The incoming Abbott government is likely to have around 90 seats ...

We know Abbott has the backing of the so-called delcons in the big cities. Andrew Bolt in Melbourne's *Herald Sun*, September 3:
Can he (Malcolm Turnbull) win the next election? Not one MP would think so. Would another leader give the Liberals a better chance? Without one, there's none ... Bring back Tony Abbott.

But the Prime Minister's woes have spread to the provinces. Rex Jory in Adelaide's *The Advertiser*, Tuesday:
Mr Turnbull must go. He can either step down with good grace or face a divisive leadership challenge.

We told you Turnbull was in real strife in the regions. *The Australian*, Monday:
Turnbull has lost more ground with voters across regional Australia in a danger sign for his government in key marginal seats, with a new analysis showing core support for the Coalition has fallen from 44 to 34 per cent in the regions since last year's federal election.

OK, OK, SA isn't the regions, but it's not the only lesser state ready to boot Malcolm. WA's *Sunday Times*, July 30:
Turnbull is heading for an election rout in WA, with an exclusive poll predicting four Liberal-held seats in the west will fall to Labor.

Elsewhere, Richmond FC president Peggy O'Neal was lobbed a question on the national gas crisis by Tony Jones on ABC's *Q&A* on Monday:
All they see is gas prices skyrocketing ... Any thoughts on this, Peggy?

O'Neal is definitely not a gas expert. The *Q&A* website on Monday:
O'Neal was appointed president of the Richmond Football Club in October 2013 ... (she) has specialised in superannuation and financial services law for more than 20 years.

But this is *Q&A* where you needn't be an expert for your opinion to matter. May 7, 2012:
Answering your questions tonight pop diva Kate Miller-Heidke.

O'Neal told Jones she had absolutely no clue. *Q&A*, Monday:
It's out of my expertise ...

As Sergeant Schultz once said ... *Hogan's Heroes*, September 17, 1965:
Nothing! I know nothing! Nothing!

Mystery of why shooter stopped

SARAH BLAKE
US CORRESPONDENT

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 was shot six minutes 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 the slaughter.

Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, however, said this was not the case, raising new questions on how Paddock was able to inflict so much damage.

Sheriff Lombardo said Paddock shot Mr Campos at 9.59pm 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 it emerged Paddock gambled a million dollars a day and boasted he was the "biggest video poker player in the world", according to court documents.


Paddock.

New detail about the retired accountant and mailman, who nine days ago became America's worst mass killer, was revealed in a 2013 deposition from when he unsuccessfully sued Las Vegas' Cosmopolitan Hotel after slipping over.

He described how he slept all day, travelled three weeks a month and lived mainly in "comped" casino hotel rooms.

"I averaged 14 hours a day, . days a year," he said of the period in 2006 when he was at the height of his wagering.

"I know some of the video poker players that play big. Nobody played as much 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 sober when he was playing poker.

"At the stakes I play, you want to have all your wits about you, or as much wit as I have," he said. "Each time I push the button, it will range from $100 to $1350," he said, adding that he often bet $1 million a night.

A WEINING PLEA

Mogul 'begged' for support as harassment claims intensify



LOS ANGELES: Harvey Weinstein begged top Hollywood CEOs and entrepreneurs for their last-minute support in a "desperate" email that he sent shortly before he was fired amid the growing list of sexual harassment accusations against him, according to explosive new reports.

Media strategist at Eldridge Industries LLC, Janice Min, yesterday tweeted an email in which Weinstein pleaded for support from "the industry".

The revelation comes amid claims the New York Times, who broke the explosive story of sexual harassment accusations against Weinstein, could have exposed the mogul over a decade ago.

However, the story was watered down by editors after a visit from Weinstein and big-name actors Matt Damon and Russell Crowe, Fox News reports.

Addressing last week's Times expose by email, Weinstein's plea for his job begins: "My board is thinking of firing me. All I'm asking, is let me take a leave of absence and get into heavy therapy and counselling. A lot of the allegations are false as you know but given therapy and counselling as other people have done, I think I'd be able to get there."

Hollywood "power players" including the one-time Disney boss and Dreamworks co-founder Jeffrey Katzenberg and NBC Universal vice-chairman Ron Meyer refused to help, Ms Min said.

She said Weinstein's letter asked fellow industry heavyweights to support him in writing, believing it would help him avoid getting fired.

"We believe what the board is trying to do is not only wrong but might be illegal and would destroy the company," it read.

"If you could write this letter backing me ... it would help a lot. I am desperate for your help. Do not let me be fired. If the industry supports me, that is all I need."

But it was all to no avail — Weinstein's employment with his own production firm, Weinstein Company, was terminated days after news of the harassment claims broke.

In a report that hints further at Weinstein's immense power in the industry, journalist Sharon Waxman published a story on Monday detailing a 2004 incident in which she was given "the green light to look into oft-repeated allegations of sexual misconduct by Weinstein", when she was at The New York Times. Ms Waxman says the story was never published.

Ms Waxman said she travelled to Rome to claims against Weinstein and tracked down Fabrizio Lombardo, who ran Miramax Italy. Citing "multiple accounts", Mr Lombardo "had no film experience and his real job was to take care of Weinstein's women needs", Ms Waxman wrote.

Ms Waxman, founder of The Wrap, claimed she also "tracked down a woman in London who had been paid off after an unwanted sexual encounter with Weinstein" but was called directly by Weinstein associates such as Damon and Crowe to vouch for Lombardo and squash the story's publication.

Damon's and Crowe's reps did not immediately reply to requests for comment, while the Times has dismissed Ms Waxman's claims.



Harvey Weinstein (right) with singer Kylie Minogue and (inset right) Weinstein with Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger. Pictures: Getty

DAREDEVIL THIEVES

LONDON: Six jewel thieves have escaped on a single moped after a smash-and-grab raid.

The gang, armed with machetes and hammers, escaped on one scooter after the raid at a high-end jewellers in busy Regent St after arriving on three separate machines. One moped was abandoned at the scene and one was crashed on Oxford St.

"The suspects who were on that moped were then picked up before all six fled on a single remaining moped." a police spokesman said.

The acrobatic robbers made their getaway on Monday night and have yet to be caught.



Family not part of any grand plan

EDINBURGH: If you're a doting granny or grandad, this will be a shock: there's no plausible biological reason to explain why you exist.

We all know grandparents provide love and support for their children and grandchildren — and perhaps the occasional treat. But from a strictly scientific point of view it is a mystery why humans have evolved to live past 50. In most animals there is no reason to stay alive once they have reproduced and the next generation has been raised. Biologists have long been perplexed as to why older women carry on after 50 when they cannot have children.

Scientists at Edinburgh University said the unusually long lives of humans were an "evolutionary puzzle". They examined theories that a grandmother's role as a babysitter helps younger family members to thrive and studied suggestions that genes for long life are passed on by older dads.

Researchers were surprised to find no genetic link between male longevity and the ability to father a child, and no evidence that having grandparents around led to children having better survival chances.

10-393

HWD

HARVEY WEINSTEIN

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

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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

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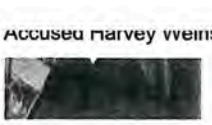

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between her and Weinstein; they met in an elevator, says Burr, where she says Weinstein



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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:

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these women, I was so ashamed of what happened. And I fought. I *fought*. But still I was like,



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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

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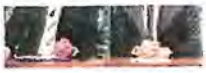

massages and hand-jobs in hotel rooms" with regard to Weinstein—but not suspecting that



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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.

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wearing nothing but a bathrobe; he then allegedly told her, "I waited for the masseuse, but



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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."

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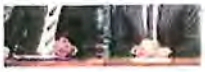

out how to extricate myself from this undesirable situation. Before long he said he wanted to



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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.

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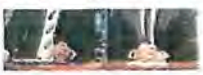

says, Weinstein used the toilet, then began taking a shower—continuing to talk to her all the



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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

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Mia Kirshner:



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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 **Marlène Jobert,** said on Europe 1 Radio that her daughter

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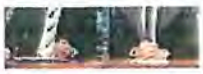



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Tara Subkoff:

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 blacklisted by the industry: "My reputation was ruined by false gossip, and I was called 'too

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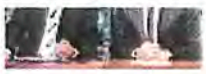



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Florence Darel:

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.'"

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Claire Forlani:



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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

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Léa Seydoux:



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Angelina Jolie:

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Twenty years ago, says Judd, Weinstein invited her to a breakfast meeting at the Peninsula



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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 reposting 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."

Heather Graham:

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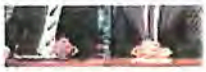

mention that to star in one of those films I had to sleep with him, but the subtext was there.



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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:

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Dawn Dunning:



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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

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to wear so that she could attempt to wring a confession or incriminating comments from



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on 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

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Emma de Caunes:



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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

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Louisette Geiss:



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Lisa Campbell:

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

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Eventually, she says, he dressed, and she left the suite when an assistant arrived. "I'm so



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Yohana Desta is a Hollywood writer for VanityFair.com.

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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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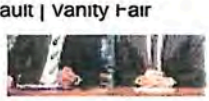

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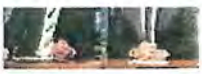



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Weinstein accusers speak out

NEW YORK: A flood of allegations poured in yesterday against Harvey Weinstein in on-the-record reports that detailed sexual abuse claims.

They included testimonies from Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, further intensifying the already explosive collapse of the disgraced movie mogul.

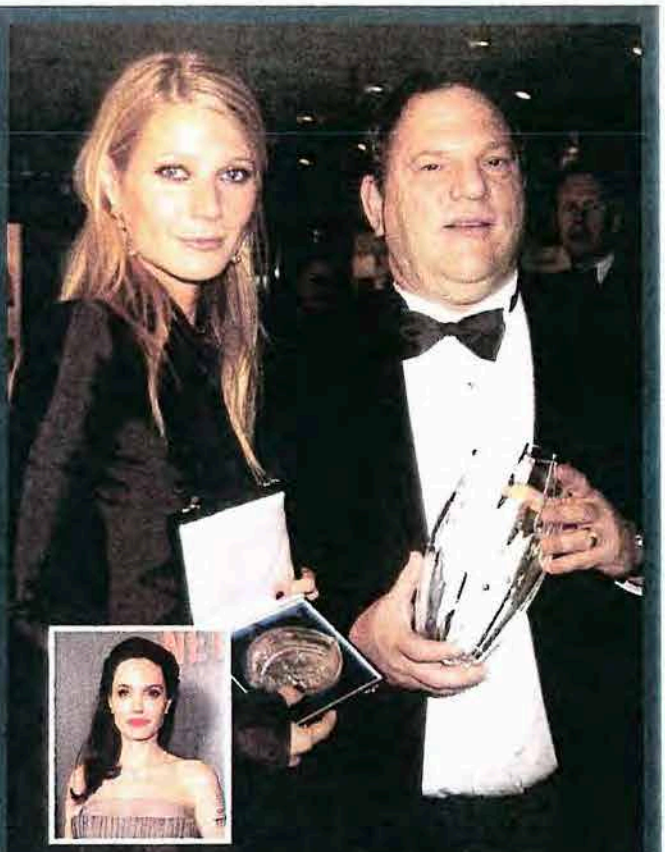
Three women accused Weinstein of raping them in a story published online by The *New Yorker*, including the Italian actress and filmmaker Asia Argento and a woman who was an aspiring actress in college when she caught Weinstein's eye.

A representative for the mogul vehemently denied the allegations in a statement to the magazine.

Paltrow described Weinstein's attempt to lure her, then 22, into giving him a massage in a hotel room.

The incident prompted her then- boyfriend Brad Pitt to angrily confront Weinstein at a film premiere.

Jolie also spoke out on the accusations. "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," she said



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Harvey Weinstein at the 50th Anniversary Gala of the National Film Theatre in 2002. Inset, Angelina Jolie Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Killer blazes scorch state

LOS ANGELES: The flames that raced across California wine country left little more than smouldering ashes and smoke in their wake.

House after house is gone, with only brick chimneys and charred laundry machines to mark sites that were once family homes.

The wildfires burned so hot that windows and tyre rims melted off cars, leaving many vehicles resting on their steel axles. In one driveway, the glass backboard of a basketball hoop melted, dripped and solidified like a mangled icicle.

Newly homeless residents of Northern California took stock of their shattered lives yesterday while the blazes that have killed at least 17 people and destroyed more than 2000 homes and businesses burned.

Hundreds more firefighters joined the battle against the uncontained flames.

"This is just pure devastation, and it's going to take us a while to get out and comb through all of this," said Ken Pimlott, chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

He said the state had "several days of fire weather conditions to come".

The wildfires already rank among the five deadliest in California history, and officials expected the death toll to increase as the scope of destruction becomes clear.

At least 185 people were injured during the blazes th started Sunday night.

Nearly 200 people were reported missing in Sonoma County alone. Seventeen wildfires raged Tuesday across parts of seven counties.

Fire crews and other resources were being rushed in from other parts of the state and Nevada. More than 240 members of the California National Guard helped ferry fuel to first responders because so many gas stations were without power. Guard members were also helping with medical evacuations and security at evacuation centers, said Major General David Baldwin.

In addition to knocking out electricity, the blazes damaged or destroyed 77 cellular sites, disrupting communication services that officials were rushing to restore, said Emergency Operations Director Mark Ghilarducci.

The fires moved so quickly that thousands of people were forced to flee with only a few minutes of warning. Some did not get out in time.

NK 'hacked war plans'

SEOUL: A South Korean politician says North Korean hackers stole highly classified military documents that include US-South Korean wartime "decapitation strike" plans against the North Korean leadership.

The United States, meanwhile, staged another show of force meant to deter any North Korean aggression by flying .wo B-1B supersonic bombers yesterday from an air base in the US territory of Guam to the South for drills with South Korean jets.

If confirmed, the reported hacking attack by the North would be a major blow for South Korea at a time when its relations with rival North Korea are at a low point.

The South has taken an aggressive stance toward the North's belligerence.

Lethal force ends riot

MEXICO CITY: A security official in the state of Nuevo Leon in northern Mexico says 13 inmates have died in a prison riot which authorities ended with lethal force.

Spokesman Aldo Fasci says the riot occurred at the state prison in Cadereyta.

He added that the death toll could climb, because eight people remained in critical condition yesterday.

Yesterday, desperate families battled with authorities outside the prison gates, demanding information about their relatives inside.

Several hours of attempted negotiations failed and police using non-lethal force were unable to quell the riot. So authorities decided about 5pm local time to use lethal force to protect the lives of the guards and the prisoners.



V1 - NTNE01Z01MA

The sound of silence



ANDREW BOLT

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

The 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 Ronan Farrow, son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, has talked to 13 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.

Add the other stars who say they were sexually harassed: Rose McGowan, Mira Sorvino, 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 witnesses. Farrow writes: "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."

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 Hollywood that comedian Seth MacFarlane announced the Oscar nominees for best female actor in 2013 with this joke: "Congratulations, you five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein."

"I know that everybody — I mean everybody — in Hollywood knows that it's 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 contain this scandal to a story about an ugly man who got off on using his power to fill his bed and stoke his ego. That's true, but not enough.

Likewise, it is easy to note Weinstein disguised himself as a moralist of the Left, going on a women's march and backing The Hunting Ground, a documentary 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 and alleged raping for so long.

Consider: Italian actor and director Asia Argento claims Weinstein raped her, but concedes she submitted because he was going to distribute her film. They then had a consensual affair for several years.

Paltrow, who at 22 was asked by Weinstein for a massage, still later starred in his films, winning an Oscar with Shakespeare In Love.

Rosanna Arquette, who says Weinstein tried to get her to touch his erect penis, later accepted a part in his Pulp Fiction, although she says he also cost her work because she'd refused him.

Then there were the women who took Weinstein's money in exchange for their silence.

Weinstein could have destroyed their careers, so why not just take the cash? And something similar could be said of some male actors who knew but said nothing.

Newspapers, too, could have lost advertising or access if they'd attacked Weinstein.

In fact, The New York Times watered down a 2004 report to remove references to the head of Weinstein's Italian office allegedly working as a procurer for him.

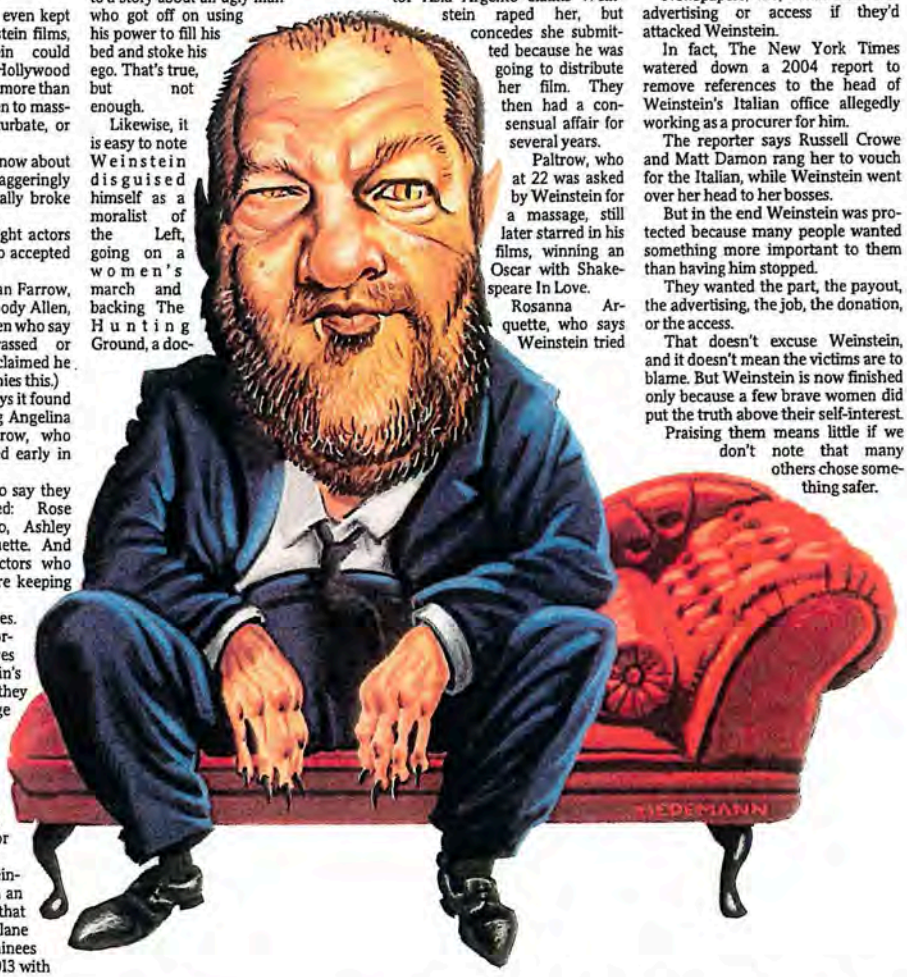
The reporter says Russell Crowe and Matt Damon rang her to vouch for the Italian, while Weinstein went over her head to her bosses.

But in the end Weinstein was protected because many people wanted something more important to them than having him stopped.

They wanted the part, the payout, the advertising, the job, the donation, or the access.

That doesn't excuse Weinstein, and it doesn't mean the victims are to blame. But Weinstein is now finished only because a few brave women did put the truth above their self-interest.

Praising them means little if we don't note that many others chose something safer.



> "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 minister 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: "Loopy... nuts." Here is Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull: "Mental Health Day! ... A great day!"

ABC reporter Andrew Probyn took the media prize for outrage, accusing Abbot of "having drenched the work of climate scientists with contemptuous spittle". But see a common thread?

Yes, lots of abuse, but no attempt to prove Abbott factually wrong.

Oops: The Sydney Morning Herald did run one piece claiming Abbott was wrong on Australian temperatures, but doctored 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 confusingly admit, er, it "appears to be true", after all.

It is. As the Lancet 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 $36 million to bribe Australians to use less electricity, particularly when they most need it — in a heatwave.

It will pay people in NSW, Victoria and South Australia to turn down their air conditioning, furnaces and cool rooms to stop blackouts now that we are running so short of electricity.

First the government spends money on green power, then spends more to make us use less. Meanwhile electricity bills keep rising. This is so truly nuts it's no wonder warmists are abusing Abbott. They have nothing else.

THE BOLT REPORT | 7PM WEEKNIGHTS sky NEWS LIVE

LEADER DECLARES, THEN SUSPENDS, INDEPENDENCE TO ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS

Madrid in crisis talks on Catalan split

BARCELONA: Spain's government prepared to hold crisis talks last night after Catalan leaders signed a suspended declaration of independence and called for dialogue with Madrid.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will chair an emergency cabinet meeting in response to Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont's announcement early yesterday that he had accepted "the mandate of the people for Catalonia to become an independent republic" following a banned referendum earlier this month.

But Mr Puigdemont in his declaration to parliament called for Catalonia's independence to be suspended to allow for negotiations with Madrid.

Mr Rajoy was to appear before the national parliament early today to discuss the referendum and what he plans to do next. He has vowed to use everything in his power to prevent independence and has refused to rule out imposing direct rule over the semi-autonomous region — an unprecedented move many fear could lead to unrest.

At stake is the future of a region of 7.5 million people, one of Spain's economic powerhouses, whose drive to break away has raised concern for stability in the EU.

Crowds of thousands gathered outside parliament in Barcelona on Tuesday evening waving Catalan flags and banners screaming "democracy" in the hope of witnessing a historic night in a region deeply divided over independence.

Spain's political establishment rounded on Mr Puigdemont following the declaration, and support among separatists was mixed.

Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said shortly after the signing Mr Puigdemont was "a person who doesn't know where he is, where he's going or with whom he wants to go".

Barcelona resident Maria Rosa Bertran was against a delayed secession. "I find it even worse because it is suffering a longer agony. Indecision and uncertainty is the worst thing that can happen to us," she said.

Political leaders in Catalonia, Spain and Europe have come out against secession, concerned over the country's biggest upheaval in decades.

Following his declaration to parliament, Mr Puigdemont and his allies signed an independence declaration outside the chamber, but its legal validity was unclear.

Spain and Catalonia now enter into the unknown, as Madrid has repeatedly said independence is not up for discussion.

Marc Cazes, a student in Barcelona, said: "I did not expect independence to be declared today because of all the processes that the government of Spain has begun, both with police actions and with threats"

Catalonia pressed ahead with an independence referendum on October 1 that the central government said breached Spain's constitution. About 90 per cent of those who cast ballots voted for independence but the poll was poorly monitored and many Catalans opposed to secession boycotted what Madrid branded an illegal plebiscite. The turnout was 4 per cent.

The crisis has caused deep uncertainty for businesses in one of the wealthiest regions in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy.

Spain's stock market shed nearly 1 per cent ahead of Tuesday's parliamentary session and a string of companies have moved their legal headquarters — but not their employees — from Catalonia to other parts of the country.

The stand-off has also put significant strain on the euro but the single currency was up after Mr Puigdemont's announcement and held onto gains in Asian trade yesterday, buying $US1.18. However, it was still down US2c from its highs last month, with uncertainty continuing to dog the unit.

Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA, said that while the euro rose it "gained little traction as this is little more than kicking the can down the road. It's unlikely we've heard the last of this debate despite cooler heads prevailing".

Demands for independence in Catalonia, which has its own language and cultural traditions, date back centuries. But a 2010 move by Spain's Constitutional Court to water down a statute that gave Catalonia additional powers, combined with a deep economic meltdown in Spain, sparked a surge in support for independence.

AFP



GETTY IMAGES

Catalan independence is declared yesterday

Wife walks as mogul is accused of rape

LOS ANGELES: Harvey Weinstein's wife announced she yesterday she was leaving him as the disgraced Hollywood producer faced claims he raped an Italian ""n star and two other women.

The allegations came in an ..ose by the *New Yorker*, widening a scandal that has drawn condemnation from across the elite of politics and film. Weinstein denied all charges, spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister said.

But former US president Barack Obama and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton condemned the Oscar-winner, a longtime Democratic Party donor.

His wife, British fashion designer Georgina Chapman, 41, told *People* magazine she was leaving Weinstein, 65, with whom she has two children and married in 2007.

"My heart breaks for all the women who have suffered tremendous pain because of these unforgivable actions," Chapman 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."

> 'I had a bad experience with Harvey Weinstein in my youth, and as a result, chose never to work with him again'
>
> ANGELINA JOLIE

The divorce revelation, following Weinstein's remarks last week that she was standing by her man, came as some on social media called for a boycott of Chapman's ..hion label Marchesa.

The announcement came amid ..h allegations from Hollywood ..-listers such as Angelina Jolie, Rosanna Arquette and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Previous allegations that led to his sacking from The Weinstein Company on Monday had been limited to complaints about harassment.

New Yorker writer Ronan Farrow spent 10 months interviewing 13 women who said they were harassed or assaulted by Weinstein.

Italian actress Asia Argento, 42, the daughter of horror director Dario Argento, said Weinstein forced oral sex and intercourse on her 20 years ago. She said she had maintained her silence for fear that Weinstein would "crush" her, adding: "I know he has crushed a lot of people before."

She said Weinstein, who has weighed up to 135kg, terrified her due to his size. "It wouldn't stop. It was a nightmare," she added.

Argento acknowledged her credibility may be compromised by the fact she yielded to his advances, even growing close to him and having consensual sex with him over the following five years.

Another woman, who was too afraid to allow her name to be published, told the *New Yorker* Weinstein brought her to a hotel room and "forced himself on me sexually". She thought about going to the police, but decided it would be a case of "he said, she said".

Another instance involved model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, once a finalist in the Miss Italy contest, whom the *New Yorker* said Weinstein met in March 2015 at a reception for a show he was producing in New York.

According to the *New Yorker*, Gutierrez says Weinstein "lunged at her, groping her breasts and attempting to put a hand up her skirt" in his offices in Tribeca.

She reported the incident and the New York Police Department asked her to wear a wire to his play *Finding Neverland*.

Audio of their conversation in a hallway at the Tribeca Grand Hotel was released by the magazine, with Weinstein heard repeatedly trying to persuade her to come into his room.

"Why yesterday you touch my breast?" she asks, and he replies: "Oh, please, I'm sorry, just come on in. I'm used to that."

Authorities decided not to press charges, according to the *New Yorker*, because the woman had attended one of former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's "bunga bunga" sex parties.

"I was shocked and appalled by the revelations about Harvey Weinstein," Mrs Clinton said, while Mr Obama and his wife Michelle said they were "disgusted".

"Any man who demeans and degrades women in such fashion needs to be condemned and held accountable, regardless of wealth or status," they said.

Paltrow described Weinstein's attempt to lure her, then 22, into giving him a massage in a hotel room. The incident prompted her then boyfriend, actor Brad Pitt, to angrily confront Weinstein at a film premiere.

Arquette described a 1990s incident at a Beverly Hills hotel in which Weinstein tried to make her give him a massage and tried to lead her hand to his penis.

"He made things very difficult for me for years," Arquette said.

Jolie said: "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. This behaviour towards women in any field, any country is unacceptable."

The board of The Weinstein Company issued a statement vowing to help in any criminal investigation "while pursuing justice for the victims and a full and independent investigation of our own".

AFP, AP, PA

Weinstein 'like a hunter, fear turned him on'



Harvey Weinstein with wife Georgina Chapman, and some of the women who have made allegations against the Hollywood mogul. From top: Rose McGowan, Ashley Judd, Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow, Rosanna Arquette, Mira Sorvino and Asia Argento

GETTY IMAGES, AP

WILL PAVIA
NEW YORK

In the 2000 film *Scarlet Diva*, a heavy-set Hollywood producer in a dressing gown lies on a bed and asks an aspiring actress for a massage, telling her he would read her script afterwards. "Don't be afraid, I'm a teddy bear," he says. Then he attempts to sexually assault her.

The film was based on the life of its director, the Italian film star Asia Argento. The scene depicting the fat, seedy producer was based on the time that Harvey Weinstein raped her. Argento has told *The New Yorker*.

Her claim formed part of an avalanche of graphic allegations of sexual assault and harassment that fell on the mogul yesterday.

Yet the most serious allegations came from two women who agreed to be named by *The New Yorker*. Lucia Evans, who met Weinstein as a college student, said he had forced her to perform oral sex during a daytime meeting in the Manhattan offices of Miramax in 2004.

He had called her several times after meeting her in a New York nightclub, and she eventually agreed to a meeting with a casting executive, she said. At the offices she was eventually led to a room where he met her alone, "simultaneously flattering and demeaning me" and suggesting she might be considered for upcoming films. "After that is when he assaulted me," she said. "He forced me to perform oral sex on him ... I said, over and over, 'I don't want to do this, stop, don't.' I tried to get away, but maybe I didn't try hard enough. I didn't want to kick him or fight him ... He's a big guy, he overpowered me."

Ms Evans said that afterwards, "it was like it was just another day for him". She said she blamed herself for years. "It was always my fault for not stopping him."

Argento had met Weinstein in 1997 after one of his producers invited her to what she thought would be a party at a hotel on the French Riviera. Instead, she found herself alone with Weinstein in his suite. He asked her to give him a massage, she said. "I was like, 'Look, man, I'm no f.. king fool'." But after reluctantly agreeing, she said he performed oral sex on her even as she told him to stop. He "terrified me", she said.

She said that later, when she told him "I am not a whore", he had laughed and said he would have the phrase emblazoned on a T-shirt. After that he kept contacting her, she said, and she eventually accepted his advances, fearful he had the power to ruin her career. They dined together, he introduced her to his mother and many years later, when she was short of money, he offered to pay for a nanny, she said.

In the intervening years, she said she had consensual sexual relations with him, but added that these encounters were one-sided and "I felt I had to". When *Scarlet Diva* was released in 2000 many women approached her to ask her if the producer who assaults the heroine was meant to be Weinstein, Argento said. She said some of those women recounted similar stories. Weinstein himself had seen the film and apparently saw some of himself there too, telling her: "Ha, ha, very funny." Yesterday she posted a clip of the scene on Twitter, with the hashtag "Weinstein".

The two women made the claims to Ronan Farrow, a writer and broadcaster. In the course of 10 months investigating Weinstein, he said one other woman who had worked with the producer and who did not wish to be identified, also claimed he had "forced himself on me sexually" after bringing her to his hotel room. She said she considered going to the police but was too fearful of his reputation and his "impressive" legal team.

Farrow said a woman had told him of locking herself in a bathroom as he tried to masturbate in front of her, saying it was a "classic case" of "someone not understanding the word 'no' ... I must have said no a thousand times".

French actress Emma de Caunes told Farrow she had met Weinstein for lunch at a hotel in Paris in 2010 where he had offered her a film role and then asked her to accompany him to his room, where he had a copy of the book on which it was to be based. He went into the bathroom, turned on the shower, and emerged naked, asking her to lie on the bed, she said.

"I was very petrified," she said. "But I didn't want to show him that I was petrified, because I could feel the more I was freaking out, the more excited he was ... It was like a hunter with a wild animal. The fear turns him on."

Farrow obtained a tape recording made by the New York Police Department, which attempted to investigate Weinstein in 2015. Ambra Gutierrez, a former finalist in the Miss Italy contest, had gone to the police saying Weinstein had invited her to a meeting and then groped her breasts and attempted to put a hand up her skirt. While she sat in the police station, he had called inviting her to his Broadway show, *Finding Neverland*. Investigators persuaded her to meet him in a hotel bar wearing a wire. There Weinstein asked her to accompany him to his hotel room while he showered. He says he is famous and that she is embarrassing him. "Get in here!" he tells her, in the recording. "Please?" he asks, when she says no.

"Yesterday was kind of aggressive for me," she says. "When we were sitting there you touched my breasts."

"Please, I'm used to that," he says.

"You are used to that?"

"Yes, come in," he says. "I won't do it again."

The Manhattan district attorney decided not to prosecute, after days in which the city's newspapers carried accounts that appeared to shed doubt on her credibility as a witness.

The website The Daily Beast suggested the case was dropped because the district attorney was still recovering from the collapse of the rape case brought against former IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

THE TIMES

Trump: my IQ's bigger than yours, Tillerson

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump, apparently still smarting at claims that his Secretary of S called him a "moron", has gested he would beat Rex T. son in an IQ test.

The US President was said to have been left seething after reports circulated last week that Mr Tillerson had disparaged his intellect, mocked his grasp of foreign affairs and had been on the verge of resigning.

Mr Trump's retaliation came in a *Forbes* magazine interview. "I think it's fake news," he said. "But if he did that, I guess we'll have to compare IQ tests — and I can tell you who is going to win."

Asked yesterday whether he felt he had undermined Mr Tillerson with his IQ comment, Mr Trump said: "No, I didn't undercut anybody. I don't believe in undercutting people."

He was expected to meet Mr Tillerson and Defence Secretary Jim Mattis at the White House yesterday, with the Iranian nuclear deal expected to be high on the agenda.

The barbed remarks added to the sense of an increasingly isolated President, with Washington still reeling from an extraordinary series of attacks on Mr Trump by Republican senator Bob Corker.

On Monday (AEDT), the Republican chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee likened Mr Trump to an imbecilic toddler who risked putting the US "on the path to World War III". Senator Corker told *The New York Times* the US was safe only "as long as there's people around who are able to talk him down".

Mr Trump responded on Twitter yesterday. "The Fai" @nytimes set Liddle' Bob ' er up by recording his co.. sation," he said. "Was mad.. sound a fool, and that's what I am dealing with!"

A transcript of Senator Corker's interview made it clear he knew he was being recorded and was speaking on the record.

Mr Trump has a history of mocking shorter politicians. He was said to have decided in the spring that Senator Corker, at 170cm, was not tall enough to be secretary of state. Asked yesterday about the senator's remarks about a potential third world war, Mr Trump said: "If you look over the last 25 years through numerous administrations we were on a path to a very big problem; a problem like this world has never seen. We're on the right path right now, believe me."

Mr Trump can ill afford to lose goodwill among Republican senators, who have already scuppered his bid to reform healthcare and are a week away from a budget vote that will be critical to his ambitions to slash taxes. He has, nevertheless, publicly feuded with half a dozen of them, despite his party having only a two-seat majority in the chamber.

Mr Trump was angry that he had not received enough credit for his response to three hurricanes that battered Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, US media reported. He is also said to have been embarrassed by the defeat of a Republican Senate candidate he endorsed in Alabama last month, and is believed to have bridled at the new sense of order imposed inside the White House by John Kelly, his chief of staff. There has been talk that Mr Kelly could be replaced by Thomas Barrack, a wealthy real estate mogul.

THE TIMES

Turkish court sentences WSJ reporter to 25 months for 'terror propaganda'



AFP

Female members of the PKK on patrol outside Makhmur in northern Iraq

THOMAS GROVE
NEW YORK

A Turkish court has sentenced *Wall Street Journal* reporter Ayla Albayrak to 25 months in prison, declaring her guilty of engaging in terrorist propaganda in support of a banned Kurdish separatist organisation through one of her *Journal* articles.

The conviction of Albayrak, who is in New York, highlights the increasing targeting of journalists in Turkey, where President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has gained attention for deteriorating media freedoms.

"This was an unfounded criminal charge and wildly inappropriate conviction that wrongly singled out a balanced *Wall Street Journal* report," said *Journal* editor-in-chief Gerard Baker. "The sole purpose of the article was to provide objective and independent reporting on events in Turkey, and it succeeded."

Albayrak plans to appeal. "Given the current climate in Turkey, this appalling decision shouldn't have come as a surprise to me, but it did," she said.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the court decision.

Turkish legal actions against Albayrak began after the publication on August 19, 2015, on the *Journal*'s website of her article "Urban warfare escalates in Turkey's Kurdish-majority southeast". It reported on the state of a conflict in Silopi, Turkey, between Turkish security forces and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). It included interviews with the local mayor and residents, a Turkish government official, as well as a representative of an organisation Turkey says is the youth unit of the PKK.

Turkey, the US and the EU consider the PKK a terrorist organisation.

In November of the same year, Albayrak, who has dual Finnish and Turkish citizenship, received a written order on her door to visit her local police station in Istanbul where she was notified she was under investigation for spreading terrorist propaganda.

At the police station, she gave a statement saying the article accurately reflected the state of the conflict between the PKK and the Turkish government. In April last year, a prosecutor in southeastern Turkey filed an indictment against Albayrak alleging that she violated anti-terror laws.

As part of the article she was convicted for, Albayrak interviewed a person who described herself as a member of the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement, or YDG-H, which the Turkish government says is the youth unit of the PKK.

Albayrak said in a statement included in the court documents that the original article didn't include any praise for the group, but rather provided a balanced and objective view of urban warfare that had gripped areas of Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast at the time.

"The decision shows the extent to which the authorities did not want the operations that were going on in Turkey's southeast to be reported on," said Albayrak. "It also shows yet again, that the international media is not immune to the ongoing press crackdown in Turkey."

The court decision comes amid an escalating diplomatic spat between Washington and Ankara that has seen the US suspend nearly all types of visa services for Turks. The row erupted after a US consulate employee was arrested on suspicion of having ties to US-based Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for last year's failed coup. Turkey in response said it was suspending US visa applications. Mr Gulen denies the accusation.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ON FURY ROAD



After leaving a trail of destruction, the semi-trailer burst into flame. Pictures: Tina Saunders, Darrell Booth, 9 News, Clifton Brett, Tony Pearce



wellbrook, it had already swiped two cars and caught the attention of police. Choosing not to actively pursue the truck, they instead deployed road spikes on the outskirts of Singleton 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 streetscape.

"The first ambulance arrived at 8.55am to a chaotic scene involving a number of quite distressed people," NSW ambulance inspector Luke Wiseman said.

Seven ambulances and two emergency helicopters responded to the scene. Johnson was grabbed by police as he allegedly fled from the truck and attempted to steal a getaway vehicle.

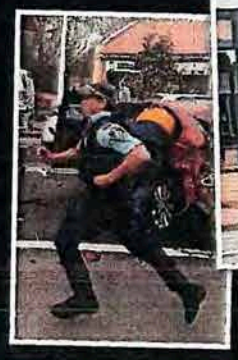
Singleton High School cleaner Tina Saunders was on her way home from work when she saw Johnson climb out of the burning semi's window allegedly try to carjack a new truck, as police raced towards him.

"I yelled that he was in the other truck that had stopped and that's when the police drew 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 restraints about 3pm 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's 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.



8.55AM: Ambulances respond to the scene. Four of the injured include a 67-year-old man in a critical condition with chest injuries and a 62-year-old female with pelvic and hip injuries.



CAPTURE: Johnson is taken to Singleton Hospital before being transferred to a police station for formal questioning at 3pm. He has not been charged.



THE FINAL STAND: 29-year-old driver Rod Johnson flees the burning truck and allegedly attempts to steal a petrol tanker caught in the traffic chaos (above). Police give chase (left) and wrestle him to the ground at gunpoint.

Rain fails on dam dilemmas

JASON TIN

RECENT patches of rain have failed to halt shrinking NSW dams and done little to fill catchments and backyard water tanks.

Warragamba Dam was yesterday sitting at 88.1 per cent, down 0.4 per cent on the previous week. Just 4mm of rain had fallen into the catchment 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 2206ML.

Sydney Water spokesman Peter Hadfield said the small amount of recent rain may have had an effect on backyard water tank 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 restrictions are expected in the medium term, but Sydney Water is nonetheless urging people to be vigilant on water wastage.

At this time last year Warragamba Dam was at 96.3 per cent, 8.2 per cent higher than the current level.

This September also experienced the highest average day water demand since 2003.

Exceeding 1.7 billion litres, it was 25 per cent higher than that of September 2016.

Over the three heatwave days of last month — September 22 to 24 — demand varied between 1.88 billion litres and 1.96 billion litres.

Aussies pay stack of tax

MORE than 1.6 million Australians will be slugged 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 average 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 set the stage for pre-election tax cuts as early as next year, with Treasurer Scott Morrison having warned in the past that bracket creep was a "silent tax" that eroded incentives 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 misuse of power — be it domestic violence or sexual harassment in the workforce," Kidman said.

GROPES OF WRATH P15



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 officers 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 charges of drug possession and importation after 36g of marijuana mixed with tobacco and 37 Diazepam pills was found in his luggage at the airport on Sunday.

He was taken to the police hospital for a routine medical examination and about 2.40am he asked the two police officers guarding him for permission to use the toilet. "Our police personnel were too excited watching television while waiting," 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 window. Baker ran to a nearby minimarket and borrowed a mobile phone to get a motorbike taxi to take him to a friend's home nearby.

10-419

Kim killing rehearsal

KUALA LUMPUR: The suspect in the airport assassination of the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader has been seen on security video presented in court smearing something on a person's face two days before Kim Jong-nam was killed in the same manner.

The footage showed Doan Thi Huong running towards a person from behind and wiping his face before moving away.

Kim died on February 13 after being attacked at Kuala Lumpur Airport with what is believed to have been a nerve agent.

Huong and fellow suspect Siti Aisyah claim they were duped into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a TV show.

Dog goes plane crazy

TOKYO: A runaway dog has caused chaos at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, breaking loose as it was about to be loaded onto a plane and causing a runway to be shut down.

The large poodle had been put in a special basket for JAL airline staff to load it onto a plane bound for Naha. But when they began to move it the dog leapt for freedom, scampering for the runways, causing one to close while the crazy canine was caught.

The dog was on the run for 40 minutes and a total of 14 flights were disrupted.

JAL said it will question its staff about the incident and check if there were any problems regarding the loading procedures.

Dozen die in jail riot

MEXICO CITY: At least 13 inmates have died in a prison riot n northern Mexico that authorities ended with lethal force.

The riot occurred at the state prison in Cadereyta and the death toll could climb even higher, with eight prisoners last night reported to be in a critical condition.

Several hours of attempted negotiations failed and police using non-lethal force were unable to quell the riot.

So authorities decided to use lethal force to protect the lives of the guards and the prisoners. No guards were killed but one police officer was injured.

In March, four inmates in the same prison died after taking over a prison pharmacy; they apparently overdosed.

RAPE ALLEGATIONS HIT DISGRACED MOVIE MOGUL

GROPES OF WRATH AS WIFE DEPARTS



Harvey Weinstein with wife Georgina Chapman, and (right) Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow. Pictures: Getty Images

LOS ANGELES: Harvey Weinstein has been accused of raping three women — as a string of stars also alleged he had harassed or assaulted them during decades of predatory behaviour.

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 depraved behaviour 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 once the target of 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, Gwyneth Paltrow 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, adding: "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 told him to never touch her again. She added that she was "expected to keep the secret".

And Angelina Jolie said she had a "bad experience" with Weinstein, 65, 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 scandal 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 16 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 unforgivable actions," Chapman, 41, said.

Weinstein and Chapman married in 2007 and have two children together — India Pearl, 7, and Dashiell Max Robert, 4.

The latest sordid allegations are the result of a 10-month investigation by Ronan Farrow, the son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen.

"I was told by 13 women that, between the 1990s and 2015, Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them ... Three women told me Weinstein raped them," he wrote.

The article features a disturbing audio recording of Weinstein badgering Italian actress Ambra Battilana Gutierrez to go into his room at a Manhattan hotel in 2015. When she says he groped her breasts the day before, Weinstein responds: "I'm sorry, I'm used to that."

Gutierrez made the recording after going to the New York police and agreeing to wear a wire. The case was eventually dropped because of questions over Gutierrez's credibility.





THOSE WHO CAN'T TEACH

ABUJA: Thousands of primary school teachers Nigeria are facing the sack after they failed exams they set for their six-year-old pupils.

A total of 21,780 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 required they must get 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 politicised and we intend to change that."



Paddock.

Explosive new sniper discovery

LAS VEGAS: Gunman Stephen Paddock reportedly fired special "incendiary" bullets from his hotel room at a 43,000-barrel fuel tank in an attempt to cause a massive explosion.

Those types of rounds, meant to ignite what they hit, were found inside Paddock's room at the Mandalay Bay hotel and near the fuel tank a short distance away on the grounds of McCarran International Airport, law enforcement sources told CNN.

Authorities have previously disclosed Paddock fired at the tank from his 32nd-floor hotel room and struck it with two rifle rounds, when he opened fire on the crowd at a country music festival, killing 58 people and wounding close to 500 others.

It has now been revealed that the 64-year-old killer used incendiary rounds to fire at the tank, which contained jet fuel.

CNN is reporting it is unclear if the rounds that struck the tank were also of the incendiary variety.

Airport spokesman Chris Jones said he was unaware of any rounds being recovered other than those that struck the tank.

Limits loom on weekend rostering

EXCLUSIVE

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

Limits could be placed on the ability of employers to require employees to work on weekends to prevent them being left worse off under enterprise agreements that trade away penalty rates.

The Fair Work Commission has asked the Turnbull government, employers and unions to make submissions to a full bench hearing about how the Fair Work Act's better-off-overall test should be applied to agreements that replace penalty rates and other benefits with higher flat ...ely rates.

...mission president Iain ...s referred six applications ...eements that "roll up" pen...ty rates to the full bench, including proposed deals negotiated by Aldi and Gloria Jean's Coffee.

The Australian understands the full bench hearing will seek to address concerns that workers who predominantly work weekends under "loaded rate" agreements are left worse off when compared to employees engaged Monday to Friday.

It is understood the full bench will examine whether employers should have to give undertakings about the frequency that workers would be required to work weekends, potentially placing limits on the number of weekends employees could be directed to work in a roster cycle.

The commission will also examine whether employees could be paid higher rates if they predominantly worked weekends, or a high number of Saturdays or Sundays, in a roster cycle.

The move is designed to provide full bench "guidance" to commission members when considering the deals following concern that members are taking different approaches to the application of the better-off-overall test. It follows a Senate inquiry into such deals between the shop assistant union and major employers which examined whether agreements replacing penalty rates gave big employers a commercial advantage over small business competitors.

Responding to the commission move, ACTU secretary Sally McManus told *The Australian* last night that workers should be better off as a result of bargaining and "there should be clarity around how that is measured".

Australian Industry Group national workplace relations director Stephen Smith welcomed the full bench hearing scheduled for November 15.

"There has been widespread concern about the manner in which the commission has been applying the better-off-overall test for agreements that include loaded rates of pay," Mr Smith said. "This is a key reason for a recent major decline in the incidence of agreement-making in industries like retail and fast food where loaded rates are common."

Mr Smith said some of the problems would only be fixed by amending the Fair Work Act but "other problems could be addressed by the commission taking a more practical approach" in applying the better off overall test.

Unions would not rule out seeking to take the commission's decision to cut Sunday penalty rates to the High Court after a full court of the Federal Court yesterday dismissed their bid to overturn the decision.

Bill Shorten reiterated Labor would seek to reverse the penalty rate cuts if it won the next election. "Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberals own these cuts," he said. Employment Minister Michaelia Cash said the court decision highlighted the "hypocrisy" of the ALP and unions.

Cate, Nicole speak out in wake of Weinstein

SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES

Two of Australia's highest-profile actors have joined their international counterparts in condemning all instances of sexual assault in the wake of damning allegations against Harvey Weinstein, although both stopped short of naming the Hollywood mogul.

Oscar winners Cate Blanchett and Nicole Kidman have released statements since the bombshell allegations against Weinstein emerged. "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 told *Variety*.

"It is never easy for a woman to come forward in such situations and I wholeheartedly support those who have."

Blanchett worked with The Weinstein Company on films such as *Carol* and *The Aviator*, for which she won the best supporting actress Oscar.

Earlier, Kidman also applauded women for speaking out against abuse and misuse of



Kidman



Blanchett

power. However, the actor, who has a long history of working with Weinstein, like Blanchett, did not name the disgraced mogul.

Kidman has previously collaborated with Weinstein, and some of her most successful films — including award-nominated roles in *Lion* and *Cold Mountain*, and bomb *Grace of Monaco* — were made with him.

"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," Kidman said in a statement released to *People* magazine.

"We need to eradicate this behaviour."

The statements came as former US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said she was "shocked and appalled" by the allegations against Weinstein, who donated to her 2016 presidential campaign. Former president Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, whose daughter Malia worked as an intern at The Weinstein Company in New York earlier this year, said they had "been disgusted by the recent reports".

"Any man who demeans and degrades women in such fashion needs to be condemned and held accountable, regardless of wealth or status," they said in a statement.

A growing list of A-list actors, including Meryl Streep, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jennifer Lawrence and Angelina Jolie condemned Weinstein after investigations by *The New York Times* and *New Yorker* exposed the Oscar-winning mogul's alleged behaviour. The *New Yorker* report, which came after a 10-month investigation, alleged 13 women between the 1990s and 2015 were sexually harassed or assaulted by Weinstein.

A spokeswoman for Weinstein, Sallie Hofmeister, said he denied "any allegations of non-consensual sex".

WORLD P9

Big-rig rampage brings chaos to country town









Clockwise from main: The burnt-out shell of the truck in George Street, Singleton; police arrest the alleged driver; the man is led away; and the damage shortly after the truck crashed

LIAM DRIVER, TWITTER, NINE NEWS

SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES

An out-of-control truck laden with fertiliser careered along the main street of Singleton in the NSW Hunter Valley at more than 100km/h, witnesses said, before crashing into buildings and cars, exploding in flames and leaving several people injured.

The truck, allegedly stolen from a petrol station in Murrurundi, 115km north, at 7.30am yesterday, crashed on George Street a little over an hour later after taking out five cars and damaging buildings including the Royal Hotel and an antique store.

It had allegedly been travelling erratically. Instead of a police chase, officers laid spikes several kilometres out of Singleton and waited. The truck, however, continued into the town.

"I could hear the (truck) and brakes screeching and just crash after crash after crash," Daniel Storey, licensee of the Horse and Jockey Hotel said. "He was going at least 100km/h ... some cars have been taken out by the truck. He's caused it all. When he crashed, he got out of his truck, and tried to get into another truck."

Tony Pearce said: "It was total carnage, like a bomb had gone off. I heard the truck before I saw it. All you could hear was the sound of metal crushing, cars being hit."

A witness described the scene to Seven News. "A truck came down the inside and we just seen it plough straight into the building," the witness said. "A big fireball shot out and a guy got out and ran."

Singleton Mayor Sue Moore said the town "looks like a war zone". "I can sympathise with the people involved with the situation," she said. "I was looking at the live feed on the Facebook site and I thought, 'this can't be real'."

Police arrested the driver, reported to be 29, and launched a critical incident investigation.

Eight people were assessed by paramedics at the scene and several were transported to nearby hospitals. The Westpac Rescue helicopter was flown in from Sydney. A 67-year-old man remained in a critical but stable condition and a 61-year-old woman was in a "very stable" condition at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle.

Ambulance officer Luke Wiseman said it was a "chaotic scene".

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AAP

Regional media 'censors' Hadley



JAMES CROUCHER

Ray Hadley

STEPHEN BROOKS

Broadcaster Ray Hadley has accused two large media companies of censorship over a court case involving a truck driver.

Hadley took aim at Southern Cross Austereo and Fairfax Media after his broadcast about the court case, in the NSW central west city of Orange, was not played on the local Triple M station or reported in the *Central Western Daily* newspaper.

The truck driver — who was involved in a fatal accident and has been charged with dangerous driving causing death, and negligent driving causing death — had his licence returned by a magistrate. The truck driver is an employee of West Orange Motors, a prominent local advertiser.

"It's a commercial decision for you to make, fellas. I couldn't give a tinker's cuss if you were here or not here," Hadley said of Southern Cross Austereo, which broadcasts his show in the area.

"I love my regional listeners. If Southern Cross want to continue to act in this petulant way, and then tell lies, 'Oh he is talking about a case we can't talk about'. That's just a lie. It's a sponsor's deal.

"I have great loyalty to my listeners in all areas, whether it be 2GB or 4BC or other areas, but I won't be curtailed by them. The sort of stuff they are doing is unprofessional, it's petulant, it's nonsense."

Southern Cross Austereo said it acted on legal advice regarding contempt of court and defamation.

"We apologise for any interruption to the Ray Hadley program. A continuing segment of the program relates to a case currently before the court which we are not permitted to discuss on air," Southern Cross Austereo said.

The Ray Hadley Morning Show is broadcast on Triple M stations in Coffs Harbour, the Fraser Coast, Griffith, Orange, Port Macquarie, Wagga, Mount Gambier, Toowoomba and the Fraser Coast, and has a share of up to 35 per cent in regional radio markets.

Hadley also accused the local newspaper of censorship for ignoring the story. "Remarkably yesterday after I spoke about this there is not one line in the *Central Western Daily*," he said.

"That would be because the *Central Western Daily* would also get a stack of money off the same car dealer. They are part of the Fairfax regional network who are supposed to be independent always."

Fairfax Media owns Macquarie Media, which owns Hadley's radio station 2GB and it is not the first time the group's left-leaning papers and right-aligned radio interests have clashed.

A Fairfax spokesman said last night: *"The Central Western Daily* has been covering the court case and will continue to cover the court case. Our editorial decisions are not influenced by commercial considerations."

Hadley urged listeners to bypass the local Triple M station and listen to his program online or via Facebook.

Nine to do the bidding of desperate buyers

DANA McCAULEY

...e is cashing in on young Aus...s' desperation to enter the ...y market, with a high-...show to hit screens next ...

Buying Blind will follow couples who are tired of doing the rounds of auctions in the futile quest for their dream home — and have entrusted the show's producers with what could be the biggest decision of their lives.

In a last-ditch attempt to join the ranks of property owners, contestants will hand over their savings, along with a brief outlining their budget and aspirations for their first property, before embarking on an adrenaline-inducing journey towards home ownership — facing potential disappointment along the way as expectations collide with reality.

Nine chief executive Hugh Marks said applications were pouring in for the show, which he described as "television reinventing the property market".

"When the property market's tough and a schmick house goes for a big bucket, well it's just sort of hit that mood of Tve been struggling to get into the property market and if you can help me do it, go ahead'," Mr Marks told *The Australian* ahead of Nine's annual Upfront presentation to marketers in Sydney.

"They'll have some criteria for what they're looking to buy, but basically they end up with whatever they end up with. So there is real jeopardy, because I'm sure some of them will look at the house that they end up being presented with and they'll go 'uh'."

Unlike in *The Block*, which will return next year with the full stable of Nine's platform shows, contestants in *Buying Blind* will shoulder the financial risk, without even the prospect of prize money. But, whatever it may look like, they will end up with a home of their own.

Marketers gathered at Fox Studios last night were given a first glimpse of Nine's programming for 2018, with a renewed focus on local content designed for cross-platform viewing.

Sean Micallef's game show *Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation*, previously housed by Ten, will be revived by Nine.

Hamish and Andy's smash hit *True Story* will also return, and *Ninja Warrior* will be extended from nine episodes to 12 after a spectacular debut this year.

There will also be a local version of the hit British reality show *Love Island*, to be filmed in Spain.

Look mum, no shark: Mel goes viral





Facebook film of 'shark wrangler' Melissa Hatheier sending the shark back to sea: 'He was only a little one'

SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES

A real estate agent has earned the moniker "shark wrangler" after calmly picking up a shark from a beachside rock pool and wrestling it back into the ocean as onlookers cheered.

Melissa Hatheier was filmed reaching into the water at her local Oak Park rock pool, in Cronulla in Sydney's south, and emerging with the writhing shark.

"Our in-house Shark Wrangler Melissa Hatheier wrestling a shark out of Oak Park rock pool yesterday morning" Cronulla Real Estate wrote on its Facebook page yesterday. "Nice work Mel!"

The video has been viewed more than 80,000 times.

Ms Hatheier told Nine's *Today* show her mother swam at the pool every day and had called her about the shark.

"I said, 'OK, don't worry, I'll come down'. So I came down, there was a bit of a crew down here, and had a look and he was a little Port Jackson and was doing laps of the pool and I said, 'you know, I'm going to go in and check him out'," she said.

"So I herded him into the shallows and then I just sort of got on my knees. With his fins, I picked him up and helped him back."

The shark was "like a toddler", she said. "He bumped into me — it was like he was saying 'can you help me?'"

Onlookers, including police, cheered as Ms Hatheier lifted the shark from pool and raised her arms in victory. "Honestly, poor old sharks. They get a bad rap, and he was only a little one," she said.

Brace for cosmic close shave as house-size asteroid swings by

A house-size asteroid will give Earth a near-miss today, passing inside the moon's orbit while giving experts a rare chance to rehearse for a real strike threat.

Dubbed 2012 TC4, the rock will shave past at an altitude of less than 44,000km — just above the 36,000km plane at which hundreds of satellites orbit the Earth. That represents about an eighth of the distance between the Earth and the moon.

TC4 will make its closest approach to Earth just before 3.41pm AEDT, at a point south of Australia, according to NASA.

It will not be visible to the naked eye or with binoculars.

Australian scientists will join experts from around the world in keeping a close eye on the asteroid. "NASA's going to use this close path as an opportunity to test their planetary protection procedure," said Glen Nagle from the CSIRO NASA tracking station in Canberra. "Understanding these things is critically important because if a big thing is coming and we didn't know about it there's very little we could do about it."

NASA's Mike Kelley, who is leading the exercise to track the asteroid, said there was "no danger, not even for satellites".

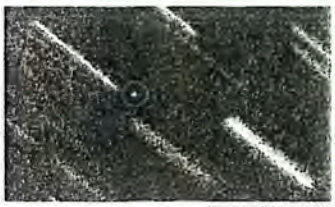
"We've now been observing TC4 for two months, so we have very accurate position information on it," he said.

It is 15m to 30m wide — about the size of the meteoroid that exploded in the atmosphere over Chelyabinsk in central Russia in 2013 with 30 times the kinetic energy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

On its 609-day loop around the sun, TC4 will return to Earth in 2050 and 2079, according to Ruediger Jehn of the European Space Agency's Near-Earth Object program in The Netherlands. "We know today that it will also not hit the Earth in the year 2050, but the close fly-by in 2050 might deflect the asteroid such that it could hit the Earth in the year 2079," he said.

With a one-in-750 chance of hitting the planet then, TC4 is listed at No 13 on the "risk list" of objects that could strike Earth. TC4 has been chosen to test the asteroid pre-warning system, led by a network of observatories and universities around the world. Its close approach will allow teams to evaluate how accurate they were in predicting its orbit and size.

AFP, AAP



AFP/EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Here it comes ... 2012 TC4 hurtles towards Earth

The Sydney Morning Herald

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."

10-422

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-gyyoku.html***

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NYPD, Scotland Yard launch investigations into Weinstein assault allegations



Michael Idato

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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.

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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 review was based on "information reflected in published news 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.

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"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."



Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow have come forward to say they were sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

Weinstein is under fire folllowing a series of devastating allegations published in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* detailing sexual harassment assault stretching back decades.

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.



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New York model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez wore a wire tap to secretly record Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein after he allegedly groped her. Photo: Instagram

"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 – ngelina 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 jnr 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 .is 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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MamaMia

'The honey pot': the cunning ploy Harvey Weinstein allegedly used to lure vulnerable women.

ZARA MCDONALD
Content Producer
October 13, 2017

Video via 5604907576001

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 pretence 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

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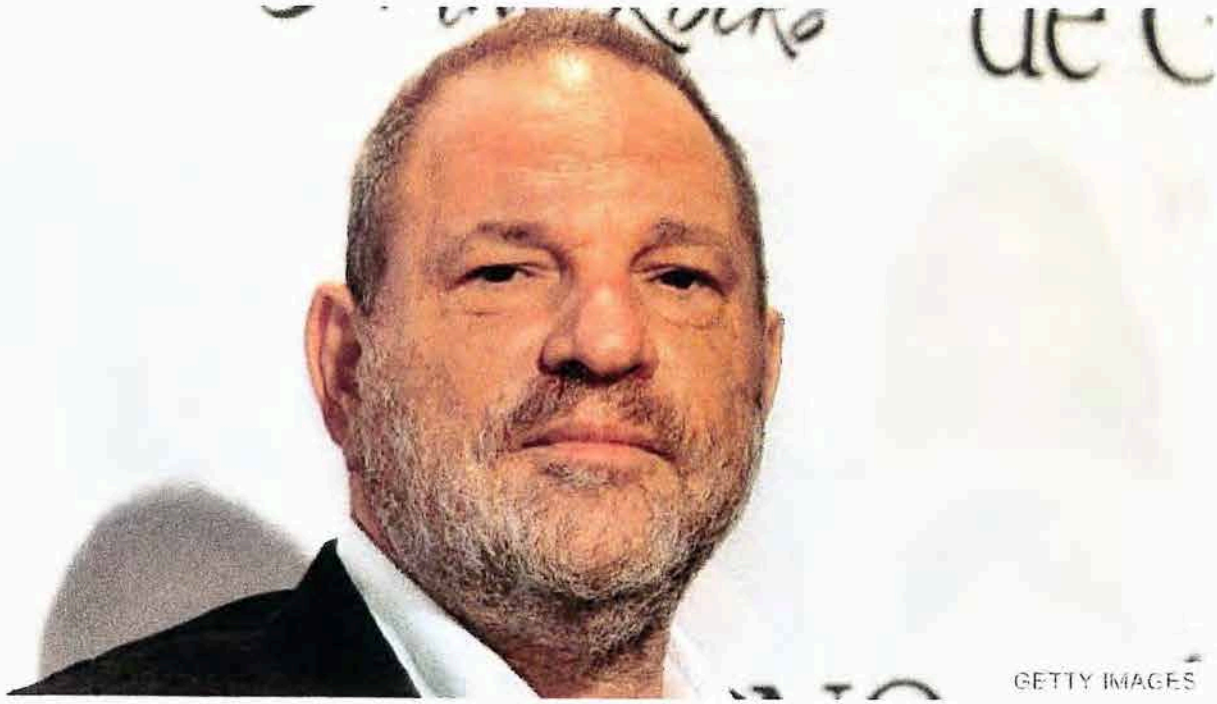

US and UK police have launched investigations into sexual assault allegations against the film producer Harvey Weinstein.

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.

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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.

REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

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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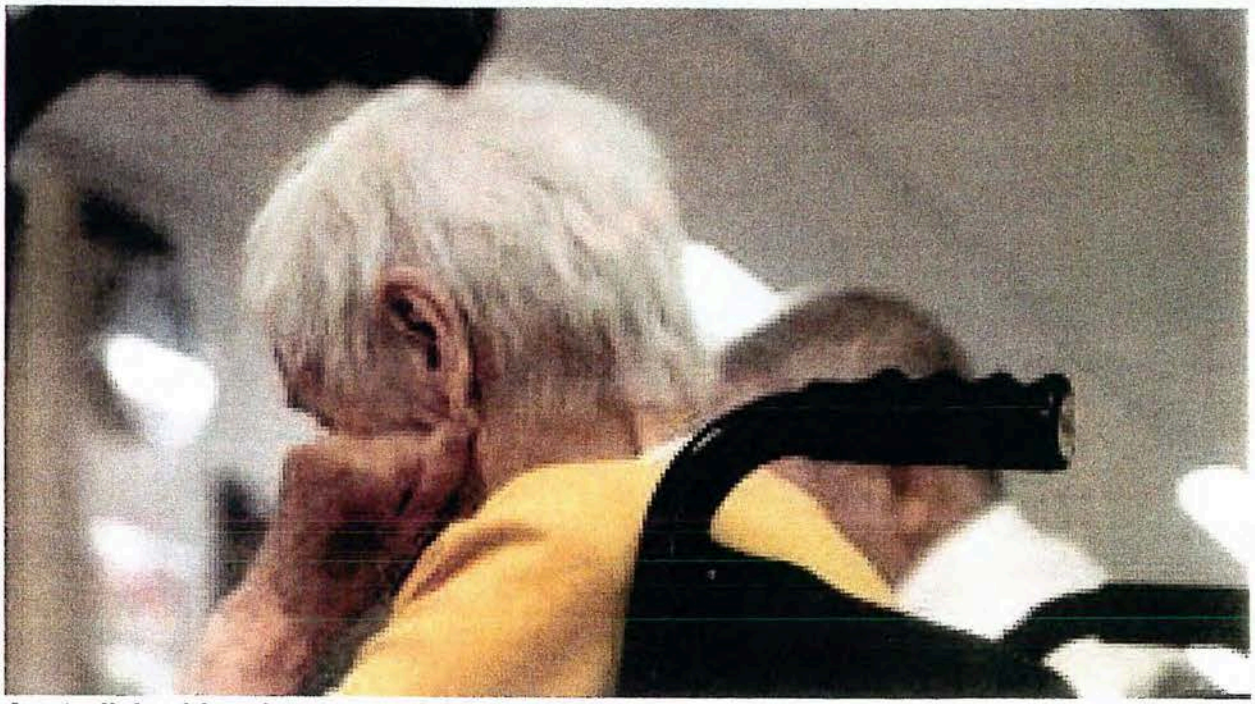

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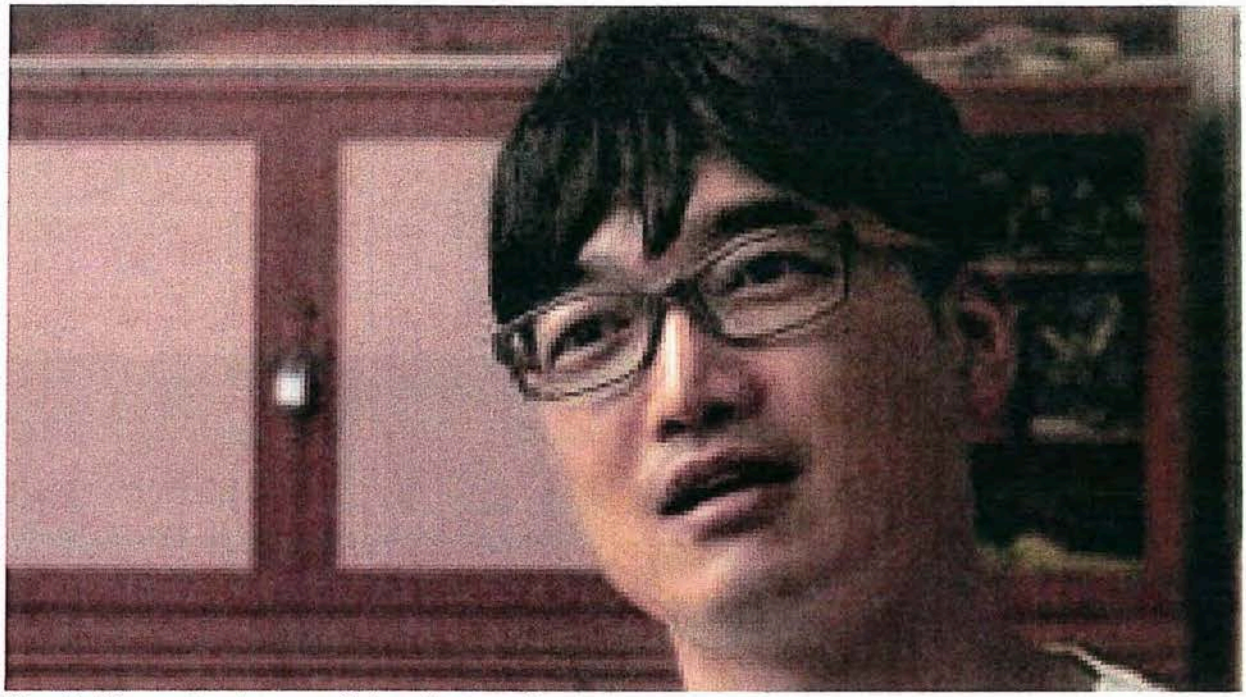

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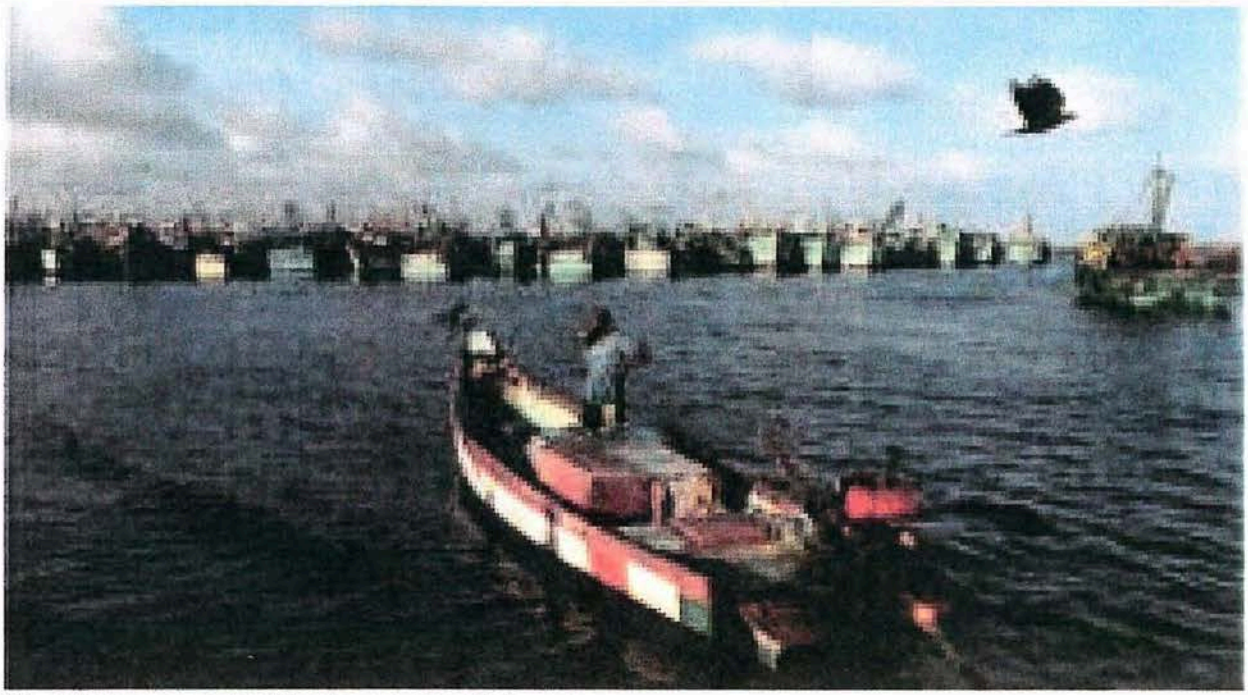

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Daughter calls police for 'suicidal' Weinstein

LOS ANGELES: Officers have been called to a "family dispute" at the home of Harvey Weinstein's daughter amid reports the Hollywood mogul was suicidal.

Remy Weinstein called the emergency number 911, saying her dad was "suicidal and depressed", the TMZ website said last night. Video showed Weinstein leaving the property with an associate.

The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed yesterday it had been called to reports of a "disturbance". Weinstein was not at the home when officers arrived.

Ms Weinstein, 22, is one of three daughters from the producer's first marriage to Eve Chilton. The drama follows a string of sexual harassment allegations being levelled against Weinstein from women who worked with him.

Weinstein said he was saddened Hollywood was shunning him and "devastated" by his wife Georgina Chapman leaving him.

"I am profoundly devastated," he told Page Six TV. "I have lost my wife and kids, whom I love more than anything else."

He said he supported Chapman's decision to leave him and hoped they could reconcile.

British actress and supermodel Cara Delevingne has been the latest star to speak out. She said Weinstein made advances to- ds her in a hotel room after -ing her to kiss another woman.

Actress Lea Seydoux, of the Bond movie *Spectre*, also joined Weinstein's accusers, saying she had had to defend herself after the director allegedly jumped on her and tried to kiss her.

The French actress, who won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for *Blue Is The Warmest Colour*, said the mogul stared "as if I was a piece of meat". "We were talking on the sofa when he suddenly jumped on me and tried to kiss me. I had to defend myself. He's big and fat, so I had to be forceful to resist him," she wrote in *The Guardian*.

Weinstein was accused of rape by three women — claims he "unequivocally denies".

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hosts the Oscars, described the sexual abuse allegations against Weinstein as "repugnant" and "abhorrent" and said it would meet this weekend to discuss action.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts announced it had suspended his membership.

As the grim scope of the allegations expanded, actor Ben Affleck was forced to defend his own actions, and scrutiny fell on who knew what about the Weinstein's behaviour over the decades it allegedly took place.

Further scrutiny has followed the contention that Weinstein's conduct was "an open secret" in Hollywood. Focus has turned, in part, not just to Weinstein's workplace environment but to the stars who may have known of Weinstein's alleged behaviour but failed to raise any alarms.

Affleck was called out by actress Rose McGowan. In a tweet, she accused Affleck of lying after issuing a statement that he was "saddened and angry" about the Weinstein revelations. McGowan, whom *The New York Times* reported reached a $US100,000 settlement with Weinstein in 1997, suggested Affleck knew decades ago about Weinstein's behaviour.

Actress Hilarie Burton also renewed an earlier allegation that Affleck groped her during a visit to MTV's TRL, which she was hosting in 2003. Affleck tweeted an apology yesterday: "I acted inappropriately toward Ms Burton and I sincerely apologise."

The fallout poses potentially severe legal issues for the companies involved. The Weinstein Co., which fired its co-chairman early this week, has moved to change its name.

Legal experts are sceptical The Weinstein Company could have been unaware of allegations given the number of allegations.

"Given all the information that's coming out now, I would find it highly implausible that the board was not aware," said Angela Reddock-Wright, a lawyer who specialises in employment and labour law. "There are just too many allegations here. Unless there were settlements paid out by Weinstein from his own personal money, settlements over a certain dollar value would have presumably been approved by the board of directors."

Veteran employment lawyer Ann Fromholz said that given Weinstein's position, The Weinstein Company would be liable even if it was not aware of alleged incidents at the time.

Between potential lawsuits and the likely loss of business, Ms Fromholz said it was unlikely The Weinstein Company would survive under any name.

PA, AP



THE BLAST/THEMEGAAGENCY.COM

Harvey Weinstein leaves a Los Angeles law office yesterday

POWERFUL MAN'S PLAYTHINGS

ROSETTA ARQUETTE (1990s)
Arquette said she took a business meeting with Weinstein that ended in her being propositioned.



ANGELINA JOLIE, above, (1998)
Jolie said she rejected Weinstein's sexual advances in a hotel room during the release of 1998's *Playing by Heart*.



GWYNETH PALTROW, above, (1996)
Weinstein met 22-year-old Paltrow for what she thought was a work meeting at a Beverly Hills hotel. She said she refused a suggestion they head to his bedroom for massages.

ASHLEY JUDD (1990s)
Judd was summoned to Weinstein's hotel room to talk about film roles. He asked her for a massage, and after she declined, he asked her to watch him shower. "I said no, a lot of ways, a lot of times," she said.

ROSE McGOWAN (1997)
McGowan had reached a $US100,000 settlement with Weinstein after an unwanted encounter in a hotel room during Sundance Film Festival in 1997.



MIRA SORVINO, above, (1995)
Sorvino said Weinstein "harassed her" and pressured her to have a sexual relationship while she acted in Miramax films. massaged her shoulders and chased her around.

LAUREN SIVAN (2007)
Weinstein trapped the journalist in the hallway of a restaurant, tried to kiss her, then blocked her path and masturbated. Sivan said.

TOMI-ANN ROBERTS (1984)
Roberts was waiting tables in New York and hoping to start an acting career. Weinstein urged her to audition for him saying she would give a better audition if she were comfortable "getting naked in front of him," she said.

LOUISE GODBOLD (1990s)
Godbold, co-executive director of the non-profit Echo Parenting & Education organisation, said during an office tour she got trapped in an empty meeting room where Weinstein begged for a massage.

LAURA MADDEN (1991)
Madden, a former employee of Weinstein, said he would ask her to give him massages in hotel rooms.

AMBRA BATTILANA GUTIERREZ (2015)
Gutierrez filed sexual assault charges in 2015 after Weinstein allegedly grabbed her breast during one of their meetings. The charges were dropped by New York Police Department, but initially, Gutierrez worked with the police to try to catch Weinstein confessing to the crime on tape.

LIZA CAMPBELL (1995)
Campbell, a British artist and writer, said Weinstein had invited her to his hotel room and suggested they take a bath together.

JUDITH GODRECHE (1996)
Weinstein allegedly invited Godreche to breakfast at the Cannes Film Festival in his hotel suite to see the view and discuss her film's marketing campaign. He started "pressing against me and pulling off my sweater," she said.



HEATHER GRAHAM, above, (early 2000s)
Graham said Weinstein called her into his office and said he wanted to put her in a movie. He mentioned an agreement he had with his wife where he could sleep with whoever he wanted while he was out of town, she said.

ASIA ARGENTO (1997-1999)
The Italian actress was 21 when she met Weinstein. She said she entered a "consensual" relationship, afraid of what would happen if she refused. During the first encounter he forced her legs apart and performed oral sex.

CARA DELEVINGNE, below.
The actress and model said Weinstein tried to engage her in a threesome with another woman.



When Delevingne got up hurriedly to leave, "he walked me to the door and stood in front of it and tried to kiss me on the lips".

ROMOLA GARAI (2000)
The British actress claimed Weinstein had her privately audition for him in a hotel room while he was wearing a bathrobe. "I was only 18. I felt violated by it."



LEA SEYDOUX, above
The French film star said "everyone knew what Harvey was up to and no one did anything ... He's big and fat, so I had to be forceful to resist him. I left his room, thoroughly disgusted."

DAWN DUNNING (2003)
Dunning met Weinstein when she was waitressing and he offered her a screen test. Wh- she arrived, he was in a bathr- and said he had contracts for hi- next three films, but she could sign them only if she would have three-way sex with him, she said.

LUCIA EVANS (2004)
The actress said she was forced to perform oral sex on Weinstein. She says she tried to resist but was overpowered.

EMMA DE CAUNES (2010)
At Cannes Film Festival, Weinstein allegedly told the French actress she would be perfect for an adaptation of a book he had in his hotel room. She said he emerged from his bathroom naked and demanded she lie on the bed. She left.

JESSICA BARTH (2011)
Barth met with Weinstein in his hotel room for a business meeting that "alternat(ed) between offering to cast her in a film and demanding a naked massage in bed"



KATHERINE KENDALL, above, (1993)
The actress said Weinstein gave her scripts and invited her to a screening, which turned out to be a solo trip wi- him. He emerged from the bathroom in a robe, asking fo- massage and chased her and asked to at least see her breasts.

EMILY NESTOR (2014)
Nestor was an assistant at Weinstein Company when Weinstein offered to relocate her to the London office so she could be his girlfriend. The two got coffee, which Nestor said was "the most excruciating and uncomfortable hour of my life".

Company reels as partners, movie industry jump ship

LOS ANGELES: Weinstein Company's challenges continued to pile up following the ouster of co-chairman Harvey Weinstein, with the firm reassessing plans for movie releases as business partners tightened payment terms.

The independent studio is considering delaying the release of *The Current War*, the only remaining prestige movie on its 2017 schedule, a source said, amid chaos surrounding sexual-assault allegations against Weinstein.

If *The Current War*, a historical drama starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Thomas Edison and Michael Shannon as rival inventor George Westinghouse, is moved to next year, it would not qualify for awards including the Oscars. However, Weinstein Co could book the movie in a handful of theatres in December to qualify it for awards but wait until next year to release it nationwide.

Releasing the movie on November 24 as planned could be challenging because much of the publicity Weinstein Co would need to drive audience interest could be subsumed by questions about Weinstein.

Pushing back the movie's release might allow time for the controversy to die down and for the company to restart operations with a new name. The studio has enlisted two advertising agencies to help it find a new name.

Weinstein has always played a hands-on role in marketing plans for the company's high-profile movies and in particular the campaigns to help them gain consideration for Oscars, Golden Globes and other honours.

Weinstein may be gone, but questions remain about how the independent studio will continue to release movies or fill out an already thin slate during its leadership crisis. The mogul's brother and co-chairman, Bob Weinstein, is running the studio on an interim basis with its president, David Glasser. Weinstein Co's board of directors had planned to decide yesterday whether to name the two men to run the studio on a permanent basis, but have delayed that decision indefinitely.

The only other movie scheduled for theatrical release by Weinstein Co this year is *Polaroid*, a low-budget horror picture. It would be released under the company's genre label, Dimension Films, overseen by Bob Weinstein. A person close to *Polaroid* said the studio had not decided whether it would be released on November 22.

One of Hollywood's largest post-production vendors, Technicolor, has stopped extending credit to Weinstein Co, people close to the firms said. It will do work on the studio's films and television shows, including sound, colour and visual effects, only if payment is received immediately upon delivery.

That move comes after Technicolor's chief executive, Frederic Rose, sent an email to executives discussing whether the company should cease work on Weinstein projects until the issues were resolved, said a person with knowledge of the message.

Weinstein has been rebuffed over the past two days by prominent entertainment industry institutions.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts suspended his membership, saying "it considers the reported alleged behaviour completely unacceptable".

Weinstein releases, including *Shakespeare in Love* and *Gangs of New York*, have been honoured at the Bafta awards ceremonies.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which produces the Academy Awards, said it will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow night (AEDT) to discuss Weinstein's membership. The academy has ousted members in the past, but it is rare.

Calling the allegations against Weinstein "repugnant, abhorrent and antithetical", the academy said its board of governors was meeting to discuss whether there were "any actions warranted".

Walt Disney said it had "terminated" Weinstein as a producer from a movie in development, *Artemis Fowl*. A film adaptation of the young-adult book had been in development at Disney subsidiary Miramax, which the Weinstein brothers ran until 2005.

Weinstein Co's film division has already had a dismal year at the box office. Its current release, the crime thriller *Wind River*, has grossed a modest $US33.3m in the US and Canada — the most any of its movies has made this year.

Other releases have flopped, such as the animated *Leap* and Matthew McConaughey's *Gold*. The studio has made $US77m from six releases this year, film website Box Office Mojo said.

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WEINSTEIN WOES ROCK ROBBIE'S NEW FILM

KARLIE RUTHERFORD

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 flick Goodbye 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 Valley of the Dolls actor 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

Actress Margot Robbie in New York this week. Picture: AFP

Breast doctor's licence cut out

EXCLUSIVE
ROSE BRENNAN



Blackstock.

THE licence of a Western Sydney cosmetic doctor has been suspended after The Daily Telegraph revealed he was putting patients at risk with bizarre conduct — including waking patients up 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 Emu 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 spokeswoman 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 waking 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 arithmetical questions in the middle of surgeries to check cognition before asking them if they were happy with their implant sizes.

The Daily Telegraph was told that in some cases the partners of patients had been asked to go into surgeries to see what they thought of the implants. It was also revealed that 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 surgeon Dr Rohit Kumar, of Sydney Cosmetic Sanctuary, performed corrective surgery on the patient and said he was "extremely concerned" Dr Blackstock had been "waking patients" up mid-surgery.

Dr 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 1pm yesterday following an extensive four-day search by emergency services.



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Mogul in reported meltdown as more sex allegations surface

FLIPPING OUT OVER SCANDAL



LOS ANGELES: The grubby sex assault and rape scandal engulfing Harvey Weinstein continued to escalate yesterday amid reports police had responded to a call from his daughter after she said her father was suicidal.

The avalanche of assault accusations against Weinstein continue to pile up, with British actor Cara Delevingne (right) among those now pouring forward with explosive charges against the disgraced movie mogul. Weinstein's sordid behaviour has opened a Pandora's box of Hollywood harassment and hypocrisy, but the 65-year-old remained defiant yesterday as he emerged in public for the first time since the lurid allegations first surfaced last week.

Police in New York said they were considering a criminal investigation into the allegations and wanted to interview aspiring actor Lucia Evans, one of more than a dozen women to make accusations against Weinstein, over claims she was raped at a casting meeting in 2004.

The embattled Hollywood heavyweight, who has been sacked from his own company The Weinstein Company, looked dishevelled as he made his way into the offices of lawyer Paul Glasser in Los Angeles.

But as he made his way through the glass doors there was a flash of his famed arrogance when he flipped the bird with both hands.

The former studio chief later flew off to sex rehab in Arizona at The Meadows, where Tiger Woods sought treatment following his DUI arrest earlier this year. It capped a tumultuous day for Weinstein after a meltdown in front of daughter Remy's home led to police being called.

According to gossip website TMZ, a source said Weinstein was arguing with Remy on the street and footage showed him storming out of her home and yelling at waiting paparazzi.

Weinstein reportedly yelled, "You're making it worse," before trying to get a passing driver to stop and give him a ride.

The LAPD confirmed officers responded to a call for someone who was suicidal and depressed. "Remy overreacted at the situation, out of love and concern for her father, and called the police, telling them he was depressed and suicidal," a source told The New York Post.

Weinstein said earlier the sexual abuse allegations have left him "profoundly devastated".

His wife, Georgina Chapman, 41, said she was leaving him on Tuesday night after news of the allegations broke. Late last week, after the New York Times published its story alleging he harassed women over three decades, both Weinstein and Chapman said they were staying together.

Meanwhile, British actor Delevingne last night claimed she was a victim of Weinstein, describing how she felt "powerless and scared" when he tried to kiss her.

The 25-year-old said Weinstein had met her in a hotel lobby and asked her to go up to his room, where another woman was waiting for them.

Weinstein told the two women to kiss, which Delevingne said she got out of by suddenly breaking into song. When she announced she had to leave, Weinstein tried to kiss her on the lips.

Delevingne said she still got the part in the film, and has felt guilty ever since. The actor has filmed two movies for the Weinstein Company — 2015's Paper Towns and the recently released Tulip Fever.



Defiant movie producer Harvey Weinstein flips the bird on a visit to his lawyer in Los Angeles. Picture: The Blast/MEGA

Winds whip up hell fire

SAN FRANCISCO: Fuelled by the return of strong winds, the wildfires 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 Pimlott said. The fires have so far burned through a staggering 686sq km.

No palace for Trump

LONDON: 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 full state visit. Such a visit would traditionally include staying with the Queen at the Palace.

However, a furore 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 Brits 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 an emergency decree to extend their validity by two years as a million people wait for new documents.

Economic mismanagement by the socialist government and a collapse in oil prices have 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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OCTOBER 13 2017

'Tip of the iceberg': Emma Thompson's comments on 'predator' Weinstein go viral



Rob Moran

MORE

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.

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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.

"I don't think you can describe him as a 'sex addict'; he's a predator,"

10-451

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.

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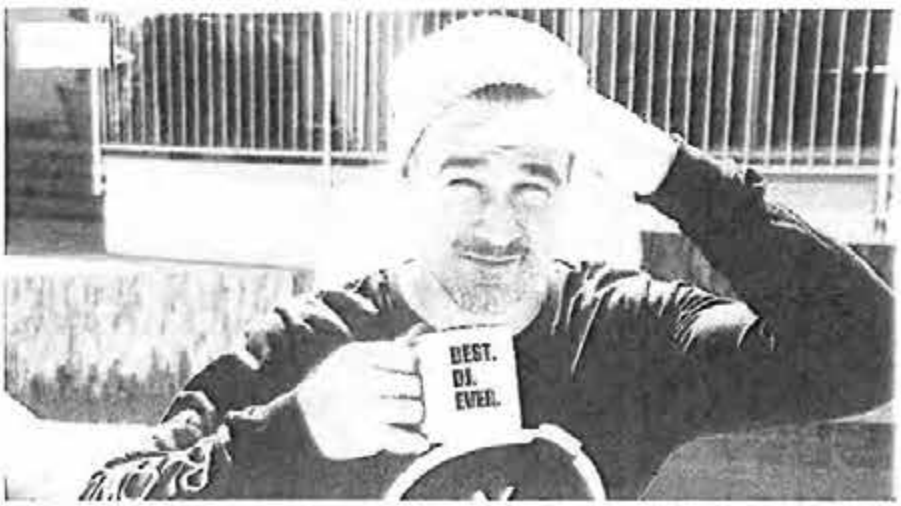
When asked by journalist Emily Maitlis if she thought there were others like Weinstein in Hollywood, Thompson replied: "Of course, many!"



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What Would Diplo Do star James Van Der Beek. Photo: SBS

"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/VDxswrUP5Z"*
>
> — BBC Newsnight (@BBCNewsnight) 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

10-453

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 /Mr X/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 confided 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 in 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 12, 2017 at 6:02am PDT"

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Style

Violence. Threats. Begging. Harvey Weinstein's 30-year pattern of abuse in Hollywood.

By Monica Hesse and



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October 14, 2017

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.

en 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."

eryone 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 ırds 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 operato

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 ırly '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.

Weinstein 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.

Louisette 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 n 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 fair 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 bloody 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 groping her in a Tribeca hotel room in 2015.

The New York Post published photos of her in a bikini and labeled her "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 aying 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**

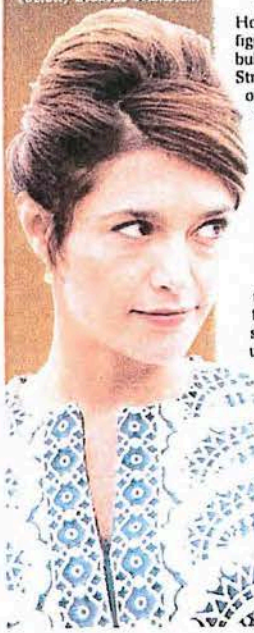
Of all the stomach-turning disclosures about Hollywood heavyweight Harvey Weinstein's predatory behaviour, none can rival for sheer impact the 113 seconds of audio captured between an aspiring Italian actor and the movie mogul outside his Manhattan hotel room two years ago.

Italian model Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, 22, is trying to avoid walking into a room she seems quite terrified of entering. At the door, Weinstein, a heavy-set, 2m tall, 63-year-old, is insistent, pleading, desperate, frustrated and angry.



Weinstein with actor Ashley Judd at an Oscars party in 1997.

> **"He lured me to his hotel room in 2010 to discuss a character and emerged naked with an erection from the bathroom**
>
> Actor Emma de Caunes (below) accuses Weinstein



Gutierrez — who is wearing a wire after complaining to New York police the day before that Weinstein assaulted her and put his hand up her skirt at his Tribeca office — asks why he groped her breasts.

"Oh, please, I'm sorry, just come on in," he says on the tape, obtained by The New Yorker. "I'm used to that. Come on. Please."

Gutierrez is incredulous: "You're used to that?"

"Yes. I won't do it again," 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 "God" onstage in her Oscars acceptance speech three years before, turns threatening.

"Don't ruin your friendship with me for five minutes."

When A-listers Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow 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, Ronan Farrow, 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 accusers for decades, revealing details of settlements with eight women.

As Ashley Judd, the first actor 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 deflection, saying he was seeking

Eyes on Weinstein

Detectives looking into fresh allegations

POLICE detectives in New York City and London are taking 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.

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, he said, other than one well-known case that prompted an investigation in 2015, but authorities are encouraging anyone with information to contact them.

Also yesterday, it was reported London 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 Merseyside force in northwest England.

Merseyside police say the allegation was made Wednesday and concerns "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., a studio he co-founded with his brother.

Detectives in the NYPD's special victims unit were instructed to identify and speak with any potential victims.

These included the women 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 Veronicas' 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 "ego and politics" for not including the video among the 10 nominated clips contesting the Best Video award which will be publicly voted.

Jess and sister Lisa hosted the awards last year which strongly supported the marriage equality campaign before it ramped up this year.

Kylie Minogue and her then fiance Joshua Sasse wore the "Say I Do Down Under" T-shirts on stage.

The Veronicas singer also suggested ARIA would be hypocritical to incorporate any equality themes into this year's awards on November 28.

"Can't wait for the EQUALITY theme they push this year, while snubbing the most watched LGBT video of the year," she wrote.



Ruby Rose and Jess Origliasso

Boss hits the stage

AFTER checking off all the rock star superlatives in his 68 years, Bruce Springsteen has set out to create a wholly new performance template.

Springsteen on Broadway, which opened yesterday, is a deeply personal life story with a soundtrack, a one-man (or one-man and one-woman for two songs) show that's by turns funny and touching.

He's onstage five nights a week through February 3 in what has been called his Broadway debut.

The distinction is important.



Bruce Springsteen

This is a set piece, not a concert where Springsteen usually changes his set-list from night to night.

Country star keeps tour rolling

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.

Three songs into his show in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the singer launched into a five-minute speech that honored the 58 killed and nearly 500 hurt in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

But Aldean took a defiant tone in telling concertgoers to resist living in fear, and he called for more of the national unity he's seen since the attack.



Country star Jason Aldean

"These people are going to continue to try to hold us down," Aldean said. "To those people that keep trying to do that, I say (expletive) you, we don't really care."

Fans agreed.

They pumped their fists and held up American flags as Aldean continued.

"I want 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.

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ON THE AIRWAVES

ABC CLASSIC FM FM-107.3 SATURDAY: 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Saturday Morning 12.00 Music Makers 1.00 Afternoon Concert 4.00 The Opera Show 5.00 Screen Sounds 7.00 Concert. **SUNDAY:** 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Sunday Morning 12.00 Keys to Music 1.00 Afternoon Concert 5.00 Sunday Recital 7.00 Sunday Opera. **ABC NEWSRADIO 102.5FM SATURDAY:** 3.30 World Brief 4.00 News Finance Sport 4.30 News Asia Pacific Review 10.00 World This Week 10.30 The World Today 11.00 News 11.30 NPR 12.30 News 1.30 Roll' News 2.30 News 3.00 News Arts 3.30 News Business of Business 4.00 Live Drive 4.30 NPR 5.30 Go Digital 6.30 News 8.30 Science In Action. **SUNDAY:** 4.00 Roll' News 4.30 Business 10.00 Live Drive 10.30 World News 11.00 News 11.30 NPR 12.30 News 1.30 News Sport 2.30 A/P Business 3.00 News Science 3.30 News 4.00 World This Week 4.30 NPR 5.30 News 6.30 Health 7.30 Go Digital 8.30 News. **Territory FM 104.1Territory Network SATURDAY:** 6.00 Maximum Music 8.00 Sports Saturday 10.00 Maximum Music Weekends 6.00 Best of Alice Cooper 9.00 Saturday Night Rock. **SUNDAY:** 6.00 Sunday Breakfast 9.00 Acoustic Storm 12.00 Maximum Music – No Repeats 6.00 Cultural Village – World Music. **CAAMA 8KIN FM 102.9 SATURDAY:** 8.00 Totally Fresh 12.00 Reggae Rebels with Steve 4.00 Easy Listening 8.00 Party Mix 12.00 Overnight Sounds. **SUNDAY:** 8.00 Country with Pam 12.00 Mixed Up Beats 4.00 AFLCA Footy 6.00 Feel Good Sunday 8.00 Green Bush 12.00 Overnight Sounds. **RHEMA FM 97.7 SATURDAY:** 8.00 Sat Morning Music 3.00 20 C'down Mag 7.00 Reality Zone 10.00 Fresh. **SUNDAY:** 6.30 Amazing Grace 7.00 Heart & Soul 9.00. Church Service 12.00 Sun Sounds 3.00 Women of Hope 5.00 Face to Face 7.00 B'through Gen 9.00 Paul Gray. **RADIO NATIONAL AM 657 SATURDAY:** 6.00 Breaky 7.00 Saturday AM 7.30 Sat Extra 9.00 Blueprint for living 2.00 Books and Arts 5.00 Between The Lines 6.00 AWAYE! (Listen Up) 7.00 The Moth Radio Hour 8.00 BBC Arts Hour. **SUNDAY:** 5.00 Blueprint for Living 7.00 Sun Extra 10.00 The Minefield 11.00 The Music Show 2.00 BooksPlus 5.00 All in the Mind 6.00 The Spirit of Things 7.00 This American Life 8.00 Download This Show. **KIK FM 91.5 SATURDAY:** 12am Throb Night live. 1am KIK'n dance m6.00 Blueprint for living 7.00 Correspondents Report 8.00 Background Briefing 10.00 Between The Lines 12.00 Boyer Lectures 1.00 Earshot 3.00 Radiotonic 6.00 Spirit of Things 7.00 This American Life 8.00 Soundproof.usic 3.00 Sat KIK 6.00 KIK'n dance music. **SUNDAY:** Sounds of Summer Dance and Hi NRG. **CHINESE-MANDARIN FM 91.5 SUNDAY:** Noon-1pm. **MIX 104.9 FM SATURDAY:** 7.00 Better Homes and Gardens 9.00 Music 4.00 Cover to Cover 6.00 Retro Party. **SUNDAY:** 9.00 Music 3.00 Time Warp Special 4.00 My Generation 6.00 Rick Dees. **HOT 100 SAT:** 6.00 Music 2.00 Hot Hits 6.00 Urban Chart Hits 8.00 Hot Sessions. **SUNDAY:** 6.00 Music 2.00 Take 40 Australia 6.00 American Take 40 10.00 Planet Rock. **RADIO LARRAKIA 94.5FM SAT:** 5.00 8KIN 10.00 Sentimental Journey 12.00 Local Music 2.30 Blues & Roots 6.30 NIRS Footy 10.00 Blue Thunda. **SUNDAY:** 8.00 Gospel 12.00 Everything Palmerston 3.30 CAAMA Footy 6.45 Youth-A-Ramma 8.00 Youth Beat.

THORSOME CHRIS STILL SPLASH HIT AT HOME

ALISON STEPHENSON

BACK on home soil, Aussie superstar Chris Hemsworth was a sight for Thor eyes as he emerged from the surf at a Gold Coast beach yesterday.

After landing at Sydney airport yesterday morning, fresh from the Los Angeles world premiere of his new film Thor: Ragnarok, the actor wasted no time jetting up to Queensland for a swift dash to the beach.

Locals were left stunned as the Hollywood A-lister casually emerged from the waves and strolled barefoot to the outdoor showers to wash his famous sixpack.

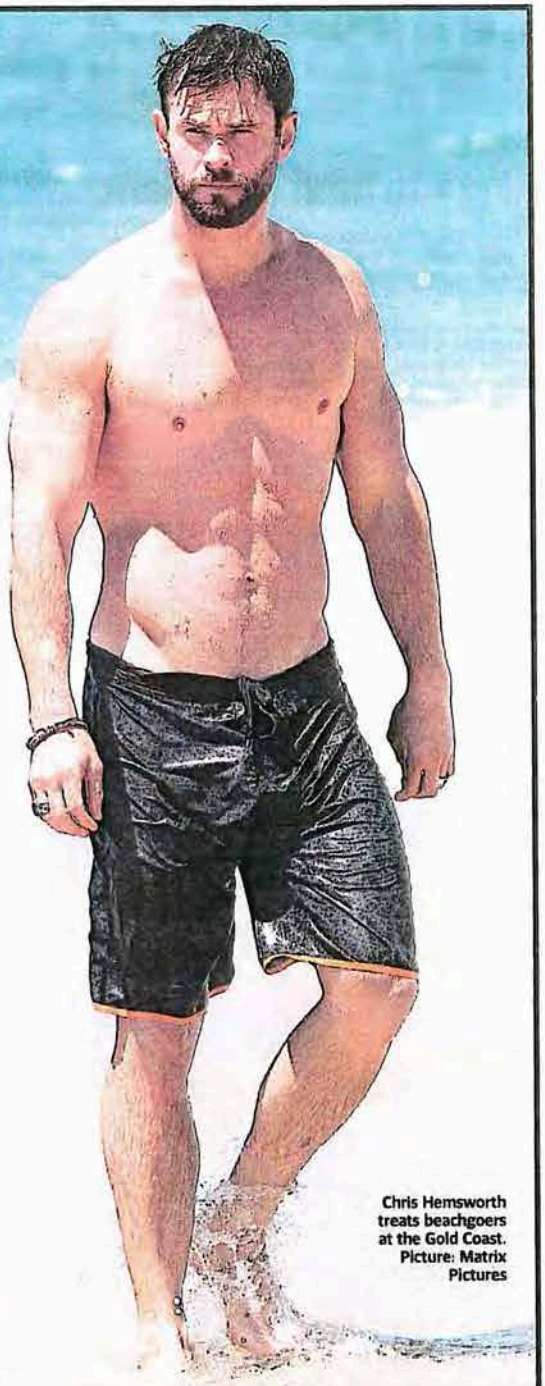
Hemsworth, his wife Elsa Pataky and their three young children live on a property just outside Byron Bay, but Hemsworth attended the Australian debut of the new Thor instalment at a nearby cinema last night. The film was shot on the Gold Coast.

The 34-year-old Hemsworth, Thor: Ragnarok director Taika Waititi and Hulk actor Mark Ruffalo will also walk the red carpet for the Sydney premiere at EQ Moore Park on Sunday.

Big things are expected from the third film in the Thor franchise. The Hollywood Reporter said analysis so far indicated that the film, which will open in Australian cinemas on October 26, will do better on its US opening weekend than its two predecessors.

It is expected to earn between A$115 million to $A127 million in the US when it begins screening over the November 3-5 weekend.

The trailer's debut in April broke records for a Marvel film with 136 million views.



Chris Hemsworth treats beachgoers at the Gold Coast. Picture: Matrix Pictures

Cops eye celebrity producer sex saga

KATRINA SICHLAU

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 actors Kate Beckinsale and Claire Forlani both revealed they'd managed to escape Weinstein's advances before anything sinister happened.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Beckinsdale said 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 getting slobbered 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 actors who had slept with him and what he done for them in return. She said she felt ashamed for not sharing her story earlier.



Meanwhile McGowan berated 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 Isa Hackett — 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 Los Angeles home.

"Guys, I'm not doing OK but I'm trying," he said in a TMZ website video. "I got t get help. You know what, v all make mistakes."

TMZ also reported Weinstein then flew to an Arizona rehabilitation centre, possibly The Meadows, where golfer Tiger Woods and supermodel Kate Moss have been treated.



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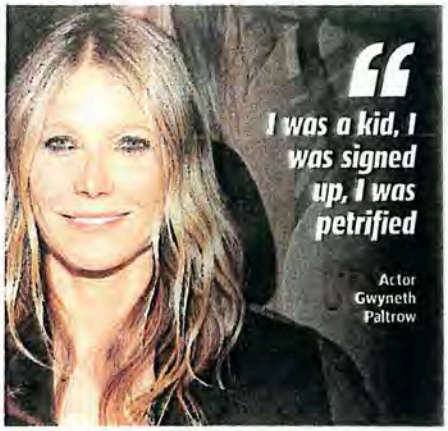
BEAUTIES AND THE BEAST



MORE THAN 30 WOMEN BREAK THEIR SILENCE ON ABUSE BY STUDIO HEAD, WRITES **SARAH BLAKE**

Gwyneth Paltrow was in her early twenties in 1994 when she says Harvey Weinstein tried to steer her to his hotel bedroom and suggested a massage, leading her then-boyfriend Brad Pitt to confront the Hollywood heavyweight. "I was a kid, I was signed up, I was petrified," Paltrow said.

• **Angelina Jolie** says she chose to never work with Weinstein again after spurning his advances in the 1990s, and warned others about his sleazy ways. "I had a bad experience with Harvey Weinstein in my youth, and ... chose never to work with him again," Jolie said.

• **Ashley Judd** was one of the first to publicly accuse Weinstein, telling The New York Times he repeatedly asked her to watch him shower in 1996. She says her thoughts were: "How do I get out of this room as fast as possible without alienating Harvey Weinstein."

• Oscar-winner **Mira Sorvino** says her rejection of 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.

• **Rosanna Arquette** 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 her 1996 breakthrough role in Scream, which he produced. She signed a nondisclosure 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: "HW raped me."

• 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 made 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 got 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 so hesitant 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 know 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 bathrobe. She says: "After declining alcohol and announcing that I had school in the morning I left, uneasy but unscathed. I said no to him professionally many times over the years — some of which ended up with him screaming at me, calling me a 'c...' and making threats, some of which made him laughingly tell people 'oh Kate lives to say no to me'."


Lauren Sivan


Rose McGowan.


Asia Argento.

• Actor **Jessica Barth** confided she had been approached several times for sex by Weinstein to her comedian friend Seth MacFarlane, who went on to joke about it at a pre-Oscars event in 2013. She says Weinstein said to her "So, what would happen if, say, we're having some champagne and I take my clothes off and you give me a massage?". "And I'm, like, 'That's not going to happen'." When she moved toward the door to leave, Weinstein lashed out, saying she needed to lose weight "to compete with Mila Kunis".

• French actor **Judith Godreche** was already a big star in Europe at age 24 when Weinstein invited her to his room in Cannes in 1996, tried for a massage and rubbed up against her, trying to pull off her sweater.

• Wannabe actor **Dawn Dunning** says she attended what she thought was a script meeting in 2003 when Weinstein said she could star in his next three films only if she had a threesome with him. He told her: "You'll never make it in this business. This is how the business works." Dunning left the hotel.

• English actor **Sophie Dix** says Weinstein shoved her onto a bed at the Savoy Hotel in 1990 when she was 22. She says she ran and hid in the bathroom and when she came out found Weinstein standing in front of the door masturbating.

• French actor **Lea Seydoux**, who starred in Spectre, claims that a meeting at his hotel room turned threatening. "We were talking on the sofa when he suddenly jumped on me and tried to kiss me," she says. "I had to defend myself. He's big and fat, so I had to be forceful to resist him. He tried more than once ... I pushed him physically."

• British actor **Jessica Hynes** says she lost a job after refusing to audition for Weinstein in a bikini.

• British actor **Romola Garai** says that she felt "violated" after Weinstein wore his bathrobe in a meeting in his hotel room when she was just 18 in 2001. She says: "I just tried to make out it was normal because as far as I was concerned it was a job interview. I knew something had happened to me that I didn't like, and that I felt belittled by it. But I didn't feel like I had the right to complain."

• Actor **Louisette Geiss** says she left in disgust when she was greeted for a 2008 late-night script meeting by a bathrobe-clad Weinstein, who said he would only go ahead with her film if she watched him masturbate.

• Italian filmmaker, actor and

LIFE IN FAST LANE

March 19, 1952: Harvey Weinstein is born in Flushing, New York City, growing up with dad Max, mum Miriam and younger brother Bob.
1979: At age 27 he founds Miramax film distributors with Bob.
1992: Has his first Australian hit with Strictly Ballroom, and first blockbuster with Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction in 1994.
1995: Wins the Academy Award for Best Picture for The English Patient.
1997: Actor Rose McGowan reaches a settlement with Weinstein after an "incident" at the Sundance Film Festival.
1998: Wins Academy Award for Best Picture for Shakespeare In Love.
2016: Rose McGowan tweets about being "raped" by an unnamed studio head.
October 5, 2017: Ashley Judd accuses Weinstein of sexual harassment in New York Times article.
October 8: Sacked from Miramax.
October 10: Allegations from more than 30 women mount up. Wife announces she is leaving him.
October 12: Goes into rehab for sex addiction. US and UK police start investigations.

10-469

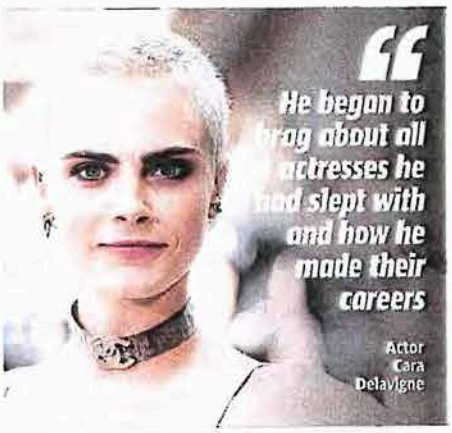


Rosanna Arquette.



Ambra Battilana.







Ashley Judd.

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 1997. "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 whomever he wanted when he was out of town. I walked out of the meeting feeling uneasy. There was no explicit mention that to star in one of those films I had to sleep with him, but the subtext 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 question — 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 may 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."

• Actor **Katherine Kendall** was chased by a naked Weinstein in 1993 after he changed into a bathrobe and she refused to give him a massage. She says he told her "everybody does it", but she refused. He left the room and returned nude. "He literally chased me. He wouldn't let me pass him to 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 offices 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 lured her to his hotel room in 2010 to discuss a character and emerged from the bathroom naked with an erection.

• Italian actor and model **Ambra Battilana** complained to police in 2015 after Weinstein grabbed her breasts.

• Then-waitress **Tomi-Ann Roberts** left the film industry after Weinstein greeted her at his home in his bathrobe and tried to convince her she would give a better audition if she was naked.

Roberts says the 1984 incident spurred her to become a psychologist.

• Oscar-winning producer **Elizabeth Karlsen** says a female executive found Weinstein naked in her bed almost 30 years ago.

• Freelance script reader **Liza Campbell** told the UK's Sunday Times that Weinstein called her to his London hotel room and invited her to have a bath with him in the 1990s.

• Former Fox News host **Lauren Sivan** says Weinstein masturbated in front of her in the downstairs area of a closed New York restaurant in 2007.

• Former assistant **Zelda Perkins** settled out of court after accusing Weinstein of harassing her and several other women in 1998.

• New Zealand model and writer **Zoe Brock** was invited to 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 'f..ing' Weinstein". She alleges he took off his clothes and asked for a massage, forcing her to run to the bathroom to escape. "Harvey chased me, dick, balls and all, and banged on the door with his fists, pleading with me to come out." Brock agreed to come out 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 Madden** was repeatedly asked to give the boss massages from 1991 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 "horror, disbelief 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.





SILENCE OF THE ENABLERS

Weinstein's dirty secret was safe with the media for far too long

LEE SMITH







Harvey Weinstein with, clockwise from left, Rose McGowan, Hillary Clinton and Gwyneth Paltrow; below, the first issue of his *Talk* magazine

The New York Times last week broke the story of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's long record of sexual harassment. Actresses including Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd came forward to detail Weinstein's depredations, and so did former employees of the man who founded one of the most important independent film companies of the past 30 years, Miramax. The details were so jarring and the trail of abuse so long that it was impossible to read the story and not come away wondering: how did no one know what he was doing?

But, of course, people knew about Weinstein. Like *The New York Times*, for instance. Sharon Waxman, a former reporter at the *Times*, writes in The Wrap how she had the story on Weinstein in 2004 — and then he bullied the *Times* into dropping it. Matt Damon and Russell Crowe even called her directly to get her to 'ack off the story. And Miramax s a major advertiser. Her editor Times, Jonathan Landman, er why it mattered. After ,old Waxman, "he's not a p...ly elected official".

Manhattan's district attorney knew, too. In 2015, Weinstein's lawyer donated $US10,000 to the campaign of Manhattan district attorney Cyrus Vance Jr after he declined to file sexual assault charges against the producer.

Given the number of stories that have circulated for so long, Weinstein must have spread millions around New York, Los Angeles, and Europe to pay off lawyers and buy silence, including the silence of his victims.

But he had something else going for him, too. He knew his victims would be reluctant to go public because it might suggest that some of their success, their fame even, was a function of their inability to protect themselves from being humiliated by a man who set the bar for humiliating others at the precise level of his self-loathing.

Hollywood is full of connoisseurs like Weinstein, men whose erotic imaginations are fuelled primarily by humiliation, who glut their sensibilities with the most exquisite refinements of shame. A journalist once told me about visiting another very famous Hollywood producer — you'd know the name — who exhibited for my friend his collection of photographs of famous actresses — you'd know their names, too — performing sexual acts for his private viewing. As with Weinstein, this man's chief thrill was humili-'ion, and the more famous the tet the more roundly it was sa-'d: Even her, a big star — eople will do anything to ole; they're so awful, they'll oil for me.

One of the refrains you hear today from media experts and journalists is that they had known about Weinstein's transgressions for a long time. The problem, they say, was that no one was able to nail down the story.

Nonsense. Everyone had it, not just Waxman. Sure, reporters hadn't been able to get any stars to go on the record. But that means the story journalists were pursuing wasn't really about Weinstein's sexual depredations. It means that what they wanted was a story about actresses, junior executives or assistants who had been humiliated, maybe raped, and chose to remain quiet in exchange for money and/or a shot at fame.

Of course, no one was going to get that on the record — very few journalists would even want to publish a story like that. But journalists always had the actual story of how a Hollywood producer humiliated and sexually assaulted women. How? Because he victimised journalists.

Fox News reporter Lauren Sivan told Huffington Post that a decade ago, Weinstein masturbated in front of her. She says she didn't say anything at the time, when she was an anchor on a cable show, because she was "fearful of the power that Weinstein wielded in the media". She was right and her fear was understandable.

Writing in *New York* magazine, Rebecca Traister remembers the time when she asked Weinstein an interview question at a book party. He screamed at her, spit in her face, called her a "c..t", then put her boyfriend in a headlock and dragged him to the street. Traister said nothing at the time because she figured she had little chance against "that kind of force".

I don't blame her or Sivan for not saying anything, never mind reporting the story. Weinstein is violent, vindictive and litigious, as well as sexually abusive — facts the entertainment and political media knew for years. No one wanted to publish that story. But that's not the same thing as "not being able to nail it down". "Nailing it down" would have amounted to nothing more than printing a collection of facts under a byline.

The real issue, as Traister notes, was that "there were so many journalists on his payroll, working as consultants on movie projects, or as screenwriters, or for his magazine". Traister is referring to *Talk*, the magazine Weinstein started at Miramax with Tina Brown. The catchword was "synergy": magazine articles turned into books, turned into movies, a supply chain of entertainment and information that was going to put these media titans in the middle of everything and make them all richer.

Traister and I worked at *Talk* together in the late 1990s. There were lots of talented journalists but it was still a mess. Outside of "synergy", there was no idea driving the magazine, and Tina's search for a vision was expensive. She spent lavishly on writers, art directors, photographers and parties. Harvey got angry. Every time Tina went downtown to meet him he screamed at her the whole time. He humiliated her.

At least this was the story that went around the office every time she went down there, a story circulating through, and circulated by, several dozen journalists.

Or to put it another way: more than 20 people in one magazine office alone all had the story about Weinstein's "mistreatment" of women. So why didn't anyone write it? Not to take anything away from Jodi Kantor's excellent *New York Times* piece, but the reality is that everyone had the story.

The reason no one wrote it is not because the press wanted to get Weinstein but couldn't prove the story. No, it's because the press was protecting Weinstein.

Why wouldn't they? He made terrific movies and he was a big mover in Democratic Party politics, raising millions for local and national campaigns, including the Clintons. (Hillary was on the cover of *Talk*'s first issue.)



The story came out now also because the court over which Bill Clinton once presided, in which Weinstein was one part jester, one part exchequer and one part executioner, no longer exists

John Kennedy Jr tried to blend politics and entertainment with the magazine he founded, *George*. His basic insight was correct, but he misunderstood something crucial. And John John misunderstood it because he was, by all accounts, a good man.

You know the old joke about Washington: that it's Hollywood for ugly people. Kennedy thought this was unfair to Washington and that people in the nation's capital had the capacity for glamour, too.

But it turns out that the joke works in the opposite direction: Hollywood is for ugly people, too. That was Weinstein's essential insight, and how he managed to combine the worlds of politics, entertainment and media. They're all repulsive — and I know they're disgusting or else they wouldn't be courting, of all people, me.

Thus his fortress was quarried from the misshapen material of human vanity, ambition and greed. Writers and journalists — the intellectuals, in his mind — were nearly as contemptible as actors. They wouldn't dream of crossing a guy who could turn them into culture heroes with a phone call. Hey, I just optioned your novel and I already know who's going to make the movie. And oh yeah, please confirm that you don't, like I think I may have heard, have a reporter looking into a story about me.

A friend reminds me that there was a period when Miramax bought the rights to every big story published in magazines throughout the city. Why mess with Weinstein when that big new female star you're trying to wrangle for the June cover is headlining a Miramax release? Do you think that glossy magazine editor who threw the swankiest Oscar party in Hollywood was trying to "nail down" the Weinstein story? Right, just like the hundreds of journalists who were ferried across the river for the big party at the Statue of Liberty to celebrate the premiere of *Talk* — they were all there sipping champagne and sniffing coke with models to "nail down" the story about how their host was a rapist.

That's why the story about Weinstein finally broke now. It's because the media industry that once protected him has collapsed. The magazines that used to publish the stories Miramax optioned can't afford to pay for the kind of reporting and storytelling that translates into screenplays. They're broke because Facebook and Google have swallowed all the digital advertising money that was supposed to save the press as print advertising continued to tank.

Look at *Vanity Fair*, basically the in-house Miramax organ that Tina failed to turn into *Talk*: Conde Nast demanded huge staff cuts from Graydon Carter and he quit. He knows they're going to turn his aspirational bible into a blog, a fate likely shared by most (if not all) of the Conde Nast books.

Chairman Si Newhouse, magazine publishing's last Medici, died this month, and who knows what will happen to Conde now. There are no more journalists: there are just bloggers scrounging for the crumbs Silicon Valley leaves them. Who's going to make a movie out of a Vox column? So what does anyone in today's media ecosystem owe Weinstein? And besides, it's a good story, right? "Downfall of a media mogul" — maybe there's even a movie in it.

Traister says the stories are coming out now because "our consciousness has been raised". Between Bill Cosby and Roger Ailes, Bill O'Reilly and Donald Trump, argues Traister, people are now accustomed to speaking and hearing the truth about famous, sexually abusive men.

This is wrong. It has nothing to do with "raised consciousness" — or else she wouldn't have left off that list the one name obviously missing. It's not about raised consciousness or else the Democratic Party's 2016 presidential campaign would not have been a year-long therapy session treating a repressed trauma victim with even its main slogan — "I'm with her" — referencing a muted plea for sympathy for a woman who had been publicly shamed by a sexual predator.

Which brings us, finally, to the other reason the Weinstein story came out now: because the court over which Bill Clinton once presided, a court in which Weinstein was one part jester, one part exchequer and one part executioner, no longer exists.

A thought experiment: would the Weinstein story have been published if Hillary Clinton had won the presidency? No, and not because he is a big Democratic fundraiser. It's because if the story were published during the course of a Hillary Clinton presidency, it wouldn't have really been about Weinstein. Harvey would have been seen as a proxy for the president's husband and it would have embarrassed the president, the first female president.

Bill Clinton offered get-out-of-jail-free cards to a whole army of sleazeballs, from Jeffrey Epstein to Weinstein to the foreign donors to the Clinton Global Initiative.

The deal was simple: pay up, genuflect, and get on with your existence. It was like a papacy selling indulgences, at the same time that everyone knew that the cardinals were up to no good.

The 2016 election demolished Clinton world once and for all, to be replaced by the cult of Obama, an austere sect designated by their tailored hair shirts with Nehru collars.

"That is not who we are as Americans," they chant, as Harvey Weinstein's ashes are scattered in the wind.

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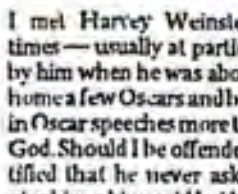
What might seem weird to many was part of the world inhabited by Harvey

There have always been casting couches and tales of abuses involving them

CHRISSY ILEY



I met Harvey Weinstein many times — usually at parties thrown by him when he was about to take home a few Oscars and be thanked in Oscar speeches more times than God. Should I be offended or mystified that he never asked me to give him a bj or said he'd like me to meet him upstairs at his suite at the Peninsula so that he could open the door in his white towel and suggest we get massages?

Well, I am never one who likes to miss a party, but if that had happened I might have said: "Harvey, you are a fat pig. You are not attractive and even though I might like you to make one of my scripts into a movie, I'd like you to do that because you thought the script was attractive, not because you want to expose yourself to me."

There were 13 alleged Harvey Weinstein victims referred to in Ronan Farrow's story in *The New Yorker*, three of whom allege being forced into sex acts. Farrow, son of Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, wrote: "Sometimes it took months and months for them to go on the record ... each of them talked about their own fears or what they believed he might do to them. How they believed people around them would react, how they believed it would affect their careers, and so that was a lot to process for every woman in this story."

These were mostly women who had worked for Weinstein and feared they would lose their jobs and reputations and more.

There were, in the few days after the story appeared, another eight women who alleged sexual harassment — and they received settlements of between $80,000 and $150,000. Gathering the pace of the most vicious tornado, more and more jumped on the hate trail.

At one time Weinstein's table was the one everyone wanted to be placed on but once he became tainted, they, or their publicists, felt dirty by association. They wanted to shower themselves clean of dirty Harvey. He went from king of the movie world to untouchable in days. The speed of this escalation is incredible.

Ashley Judd started the tidal wave. Twenty years ago she was filming with Weinstein and he asked her up to his hotel suite for room service — she ordered cereal — then he asked her for a back rub and to watch him shower. She did report it at the time — people ignored her out of fearing to upset a powerful man. Clearly something wrong with that. Then came Rosanna Arquette, Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Paltrow says she was 22 and working as the star of Weinstein's *Emma* when he invited her up to his room for a massage. She was so frightened she asked her then boyfriend, Brad Pitt, to sort out Harvey. There is a step back for Weinstein but a bigger step back for womankind. Who knows if she was scared standing on podiums winning Oscars with Harvey?



AP

Ashley Judd, early accuser

One can show respect and empathy for Jolie, who feels she was sexually compromised many years ago. She warned everybody not to have anything to do with him and completely distanced herself and never worked with him. That is the proper reaction.

Of course, I can see that if your boss is harassing you, you might be afraid to lose your job; after all, your other boss is your boss's brother. But that turned out to be a wrong move because brother Bob was planning on a rewrite of Cain and Abel. He tore his own brother down from the company he'd made that had been so internationally applauded and awarded, deemed his brother unfit and ensconced himself. Now the world's greatest independent film company is run by a chump. Oh, yes, Bob, I have met you, too.

Everybody knew Harvey Weinstein had what turned out to be a fatal flaw. Everybody knew he liked to chase women. Seth MacFarlane, at the 2013 Oscars, joked as he read out the nominations for the best supporting actress: "And these are the women that no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein in order to win awards ..."

My point is, people knew it was happening for as long as there have been casting couches in Hollywood. And those couches were tacit approval to sexual predators. It was an unspoken deal — the film industry treats women with contempt. Weinstein is not the cause of this, merely the effect. Was it disgusting? Yes. But nobody spoke out, so he is right when he says he was born into a different culture. It was a culture where powerful men made deals involving body parts of women who wanted to be famous or seen as talented or respected, weirdly.

Think Marilyn Monroe. Where would she be without the favour of the casting couch? Alive to a very old age? She wouldn't have had to die because she wouldn't have felt used by men. But that is another story. Although there is a tenuous link ... one of her alleged abusers, John F. Kennedy, is considered one of the greatest American presidents. He was also a womaniser. Did that make him do a bad job at the presidency? Bill Clinton, too, was a lover of the bj, but a brilliant economist and looked after America's budget better than any of his successors. So while everyone is busy tearing down the mogul, I just want to point out he did not make his great achievements because of or despite his horrible behaviour.

Of course, I don't — and no one can — condone what he has done, but is he paying the price for an entire industry's wrongdoing?



AP

Angelina Jolie alerted others

These are some interesting things about Harvey: he is fantastically well read. He'd read all of Dostoevsky by the time he was 12 because it was feared he would go blind so he wanted to read everything before he lost his sight. He was extremely driven; he made movies for which he had passion and marketed them as if he were conducting a philharmonic orchestra in an opera house. He believed in people when no one else did and while he was confident of his abilities, he had a very low self-image. Without his contribution to the film industry there would be more movies involving other galaxies — robots — car chases and all-male casts. Only 17-year-old males would watch them. There would have been no *Shakespeare in Love*, no *The English Patient*, no *Pulp Fiction*, *The King's Speech*, *Finding Neverland* or *Silver Linings Playbook*.

He green-lit all of these — and now BAFTA has suspended his membership, the Cannes film festival has denounced him and some British politicians are urging the stripping of the CBE awarded to him by the Queen in 2004.

It seems ridiculous — you can't unmake these clever movies that were also great box office. He was known as Harvey Scissorhands not because of the way he touched people but by the way he touched movies. He cut them up, cut them down, falling out with directors who felt they were scalping their own babies, but invariably he made the movies better, more accessible, more universally loved.

This public horror show will not stop the film industry from objectifying women. Asking for body doubles with bigger breasts and tighter bottoms for nude scenes and using leading men over 50 with female love interests 30 years younger is disgusting. The culture that influenced Weinstein is wrong. Yet in this culture Weinstein romped around for more than three decades. No one said anything — until everyone did. Weird.

When I last met Harvey at the Oscar party for *Lion*, I wanted to ask him something. I wanted to say: "I have written this brilliant script. I'd love you to be involved." I didn't say it because it was inappropriate at a party. If I met him now — unlikely because I am told he'll be forced into some kind of extreme rehab for being Harvey — I would still say: "I would love you to be involved."

Today I was at a funeral for Australian actor-writer-opera critic Charles Osborne. Barry Humphries gave the tribute. Even he joked about Weinstein in a eulogy. This is how far and how fast it has spread. Yesterday we were appalled. Today it's a joke.

Afterwards, the talk was not only about Osborne but about Weinstein. It has reached that kind of circuit: funeral chat.

People said complicity was the devil and the silence only encouraged this behaviour, not just Harvey's but any man of power in an industry that could so easily disrespect women. People said that now Weinstein was being humiliated and so universally punished, this would make other abusers think twice and it could change the way powerful men manipulate the weaker sex. Really? Are we the weaker sex? Will it change anything? The buck stops with such men. But I believe it also stops with the women. Let's be more Jolie and less Paltrow.

Chrissy Iley is a Los Angeles-based English journalist.

OCTOBER 14 2017

Inconvenient truth behind the Weinstein sex scandal



Andrew Hornery

MORE

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.

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FOLLOW DAILY LIFE

FOLLOW SMH

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.

DAILY LIFE NEWSLETTER
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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."

Sale 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".

THE MAN YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO

STARRING HARVEY WEINSTEIN

A scandalous tale of how one man wielded power so shamefully, reports **Sarah Blake**

WHEN New York was staging a benefit concert after 9/11, the city turned to Harvey Weinstein to pull it all together.

The powerful film producer and former concert promoter quickly assembled a cast of megastars in his hometown, with a sellout show at Madison Square Garden, including Mick Jagger, Elton 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 2001 was at the height of his powers, has never been any easy man 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 in both London and the US as he prepared to head into a celebrity rehab centre 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, Sex Lies And Videotape, and My Left Foot.

Some point to the fact that Weinstein — a loud, bullying, cutthroat negotiator who remained proud of his coarse persona — had finally made more enemies than friends. He was also in the twilight of a waning career, after a series of business missteps in the past decade.

To understand how Weinstein was able to wield such power for decades over the women he tormented, you have to go back to where his career started.

Weinstein and his brother Robert were raised in a middle-class Jewish family in Queens and after a stint as concert promoters they set up a film studio, named Miramax after their parents Miriam and Max, in 1979.

Focusing on art house films they went on to create an unprecedented winning streak from 1992 to 2003, with at least one Best Picture Oscar nomination every year.

Feted for their Midas touch, the pair received 249 Academy Award nominations and 86 wins, including three Oscars for Best Picture for The English Patient, Chicago and Shakespeare In Love.

But his success was always tempered by his boorish behaviour.

While the shocking recent allegations of bribing women for decades, near-constant sexual harassment and even 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 2011 Vanity Fair profile said: "Love him or hate him, and there are plenty in both camps, Weinstein is first and foremost a creature of New York, a personification of the city's best and worst traits: smart, arrogant, foul-mouthed, temperamental, undeniably creative."

A year later, Meryl Streep offered some insight into her opinion of Weinstein in her Golden Globes thank you speech for The Iron Lady.

"I just wanna thank my agent Kevin Huvane and God, Harvey Weinstein, the punisher, 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 lobbied 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 summonsed 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 actor she was in 1996.

"How do I get out of the room as fast as possible without alienating Harvey Weinstein?" Judd told The Times she remembered thinking.

In the end, it took 21-years for Judd to summon up the courage to name and shame Weinstein, triggering a tsunami of similar claims from his other accused victims and seeing her labelled a hero.

"I said no, a lot of ways, a lot of times, and he always came back at me with some new ask," Judd claimed to The New York Times.

"It was all this bargaining, this coercive bargaining."





Model's claim of obscene behaviour

LOS ANGELES



Angie Everhart.

FORMER Sports Illustrated model Angie Everhart says Harvey Weinstein performed a lewd act in front of her on a boat during the Cannes Film Festival more than 10 years ago.

"This isn't really easy to talk about," she said.

"I was on a friend's boat. Harvey walked in, walked in front of me, took his pants down, did his thing ... pulled his pants back up, said 'You're a really nice girl. Don't tell anybody about this,' and left."

She explained she had just arrived at the festival and went to take a nap when she woke to find him standing above her.

"He was blocking the door," she said. "I couldn't get out."

Everhart, 48, said she immediately told everyone what happened. "I told people on the boat. I told people at the dinner I was at. Everybody was like, 'Oh, that's just Harvey'," she explained.

"When I talked about it before, nobody listened and now people are listening and ... I'm glad people are listening so it doesn't happen anymore because it's not OK ... This kind of behaviour is not OK."

After the incident, she steered clear of Weinstein, although she said she saw him all the time.

"There isn't a single person who is anybody in this business who doesn't know that Harvey Weinstein has been like that," she said of celebrities who have been claiming not to know.

"If they know Harvey, they know he's been like that.

"It's a very scary thing in Hollywood to come out and talk like this about somebody who's as powerful as Harvey Weinstein.

"He got stories crushed and he could crush you. Even when I said it that night, nobody cared. I'm really glad this is happening," she said.

Her accusations come as reports surface about the Weinstein Company possibly preparing for closure. The embattled film production company's board was said to be looking at either selling to another company or just fading to black.

However, company co-chair Bob Weinstein, Harvey's brother, said the company was ploughing ahead.

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Picture: HELEN ORR

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Embattled Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein with star Maryl Streep in 2012



ANGELA MOLLARD
OPINION

WAKE UP TO YOURSELF Harvey Weinstein claiming a sex addiction amounts to cowardice and a failure to own up

"My name is Angela and I'm a sex addict."

So began my participation in Sex and Love Addicts' Anonymous, a support group for those who, as name spells out, are addicted to sex.

We meet at St Mary the Virgin church hall though the irony seems lost on my fellow addicts — among them a man smoking furiously, a chap in spectacles looking as if he's just arrived from a chemistry lecture and another in ironed pants.

For the next hour we "bring our disease out from the shadows" with one man admitting he can't stop himself calling prostitutes and another revealing he follows women in shops.

"I know I'm in danger of being caught because the security guards in some of these places ask me to leave and I'm sure they've got video cameras," he confesses.

To be clear, I am not a sex addict but my attendance at an SLAA meeting was part of a six-week investigation I undertook into sex addiction for a British newspaper.

Posing as a PR girl who went out several times a week to pick up men, I sought help via a psychotherapist, a phone counsellor and one of the world's most reputable rehab clinics.

My conclusion? That "sex addiction" — the malady Harvey Weinstein claims is responsible for his deplorable behaviour — is a steaming pile of quackery invoked by those unwilling to take responsibility for their actions. Weinstein is not a sex addict. He's a creep and a coward who upon being rumbled has further insulted the women he abused by shamelessly claiming some sort of medical "condition" is to blame.

To recap, Weinstein is the Hollywood media mogul who is reportedly seeking treatment for sex addiction at a rehab facility in Europe following bombshell reports that he sexually harassed and assaulted an ever-growing catalogue of actresses, among them Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. He's been sacked by the company he presided over, dumped 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 will be to learn about myself and conquer my demons."

Weinstein has been in La La Land for too long. The narrative he's pushing is as fictional 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, watch him shower, or submit to sex acts. Indeed, it's a story so emblematic of an era with a ready-made antihero and such great supporting roles — Donald Trump/Hugh Hefner/Bill Clinton — that Reese Witherspoon should be casting 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 the condition, it's no more than whitewashing of the common garden jerk.

David Ley, a clinical psychologist and the author of *The Myth of Sex Addiction*, says it's simply a convenient defence.

"These are just individuals who have gotten caught for irresponsible, misogynistic, hypocritical 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 and of itself", 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 that out a decade and a half ago during my investigation into the industry.

After attending the sex addicts' support group, I consulted a leading London psychotherapist who confirmed I was a "classic case" since addiction is 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 nutter," the psych told me, "but you would 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 Promis Recovery Centre where Elton 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 $1400 a day or residential care for $4800 a week. My counsellor told me solemnly that addiction was the worst "illness" there is. "It's about denial, manipulation and spiritual bankruptcy."

Rubbish. Both then and now sex addiction is not an illness or a disease. The only "condition" Weinstein is suffering is a failure to take a long hard look in the mirror and hold himself accountable.

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THIS WEEK IN THE TERRITORY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

SUNSET STRIP
Get the most out of Darwin's Mindil Markets before they finish for the season. Tasty food, crafts and more. Mindil Beach, 4pm-9pm. Free.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

WAYNE'S WORLD
Rugby league legend Wayne Pearce gives a motivational lecture and tips for how to lead a team in the 21st century, as part of October Business Month. 65 Staunton St, Tennant Creek. 11am-1pm.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

STRUCTURED CONVERSATION
Michael Reynolds' Earthship Biotecture Australian Tour hits Alice Springs. Join acclaimed architect Reynolds as he presents a fascinating glimpse into the latest in sustainable architecture and design. Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Tuncks Rd, Alice Springs, lecture from 6.30pm-10.30pm. $50.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

BIKIN' FOR BACON
Free breakfast for Ride2Work Day. Get up early, get active and get a free feed, with the Alice Springs Town Council, on the council lawns, 6.45-8.45am. Also games and prizes, including for best dressed.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

PUPPETRY PROWESS
Stage adaptation of much-loved picture book by authors Jackie French and Bruce Whatley, *Diary of a Wombat*. Darwin Entertainment Centre, 10am. $20.

PILLOW TALK
Hilarious theatre with Bedroom Facre, a comedy featuring four couples, in three bedrooms, over one night, where nobody gets any sex, and hardly any sleep. Darwin Community Arts, Chambers Cres, Malak Shopping Centre. 7pm, Adults, $25.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20



AMPED UP
At the Dakota with support acts Basic Rocket Science and Max Fredericks. Live music, local and loud, at Darwin Railway Club. 7.30pm-11.30pm. On the door, $15.

WATCH THE STARS
Astronomy enthusiasts descend on the outback for the Uluru Astronomy Weekend. Hosted by leading astronomers, be dazzled by this stargazing event. From 10pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

ORGANICALLY TESTED
US comedian Arj Barker presents his new show, Organic, at the Darwin Entertainment Centre, 8pm. $49.90.

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ANNETTE SHARP



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 between her agent Nick Fordham and Nine boss Hugh Marks have, this columnist was informed last week, stalled.

Nine denied this on Friday saying via a spokeswoman "negotiations are continuing".

Nine CEO Marks is believed to be eager to re-sign the star so it may be that Wilkinson has recognised 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.

Professional, experienced, warm and relatable, Wilkinson's popularity has never been more apparent to the market at large.

In July, a portrait of Wilkinson by artist Peter Smeeth won the Packing Room prize at the Archibald Awards, a fact the artist put down "99 per cent" to Wilkinson's appeal.

She is everywhere — on magazine covers, on advisory panels, on health supplement ads. Next month she will host journalism'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 bloke next to her was employed to do.



Hugh Marks.

The media personality has spent the past year steadying the ship at Today following Stefanovic's scandalous split from his wife of 21 years and much-papped courtship of a pretty young model, two events that in combination have tarnished Stefanovic's public image and prompted Today's once surging 2016 audience to fall away by the tens of thousands.

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 dutiful daughter to Stefanovic's naughty and indulged pampered son.

He has received successive pay rises, two prime time talk shows, guest interview stints 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 lying 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 Rowlands, Hamish Blake and Andy Lee, Sonia Kruger, Shaun Micallef, contestants from The Block and Wilkinson's Today show castmates Stefanovic, Sylvia Jeffreys and Richard Wilkins.

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.

Wilkinson's popularity has never been more apparent to the market at large

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 the impact on Today post marriage breakup.

Whether this means conversely that Marks recognises Wilkinson's value as the respectable mainstay of the show will now be tested.

So what is 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 in a free-to-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.



Lisa Wilkinson was notably absent from Nine's 2018 season preview.



Wilkinson's Today co-host Karl Stefanovic on the road this year.

Silence still golden for Crowe after Weinstein claim

RUSSELL Crowe has been conspicuously silent in the days since it was claimed he helped kill off a 2004 exposé on serial sex predator Harvey Weinstein.

While his co-accused, Matt Damon, rushed into the media maelstrom to attempt to clarify why he made a call to a New York Times reporter at Weinstein's request a decade ago, Crowe (inset) has held his tongue.

In the hours after being named as a member of Weinstein's vanguard, the prolific Tweeter 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 retweeted Hollywood funnyman writer and director Mel Brooks: "I am exploding with joy! Congratulations to our brilliant cast of @youngfrankldn — What a fantastic opening night."

Crowe and Weinstein share some interesting history. Crowe was earmarked to play Shakespeare in Miramax's 1998 film Shakespeare In Love with Gwyneth Paltrow but Crowe was critical of the characterisation of The Bard who, Crowe felt, was "not smelly enough ... not unshaven enough, and obviously hadn't had enough to drink. He was some prissy pretty boy." The part eventually went to Joseph Fiennes.



Five years later in 2002 Crowe and Weinstein would cross paths again when the infamous hotheads finally did collaborate, on the movie Master And Commander: The Far Side of The World, a film shot during one of Crowe's more temperamental years in Hollywood. It was the year in which he was accused of pinning a BAFTA producer to a wall, attacking the performer Moby 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.

INSIDER | OPINION

Sex addiction is not a disease it's an excuse for bad conduct



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"My name is Angela and I'm a sex addict."

So began my participation in Sex And Love Addicts' Anonymous, a support group for those who, as the name spells out, are addicted to sex.

We meet at St Mary The Virgin church hall though the irony seems lost on my fellow addicts — among them ıan smoking furiously, a ıp in spectacles looking as ır he's just arrived from a chemistry lecture and another in ironed pants.

For the next hour we "bring our disease out from the shadows" with one man admitting he can't stop himself calling prostitutes and another revealing he follows women in shops. "I know I'm in danger of being caught because the security guards in some of these places ask me to leave and I'm sure they've got video cameras," he confesses.

To be clear, I am not a sex addict but my attendance at an SLAA meeting was part of a six-week investigation I undertook into sex addiction for a British newspaper. Posing as a PR girl who went out several times a week to pick up men, I sought help via a psychotherapist, a phone counsellor and one of the world's most reputable rehab clinics. My conclusion? That "sex addiction"— the malady Harvey Weinstein claims is responsible for his deplorable haviour — is a steaming pile quackery invoked by those unwilling to take responsibility for their actions.

Weinstein is not a sex addict. He's a creep and a coward who, on being rumbled, has further insulted the women he abused by shamelessly claiming some sort of medical "condition" is to blame.

To recap, Weinstein is the Hollywood media mogul who is reportedly seeking treatment for sex addiction at a rehab facility in Europe following bombshell reports that he sexually harassed and assaulted an ever-growing catalogue of actors, among them Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. He's been sacked by the company he presided over, dumped 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 will be to learn about myself and conquer my demons."

Weinstein has been in La La Land for too long. The narrative he's pushing is as fictional 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.



Harvey Weinstein is reportedly seeking treatment for sex addiction, as did Tiger Woods (inset, left) and David Duchovny.

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, watch him shower, or submit to sex acts.

Indeed, it's a story so emblematic of an era with a ready-made antihero and such great supporting roles — Donald Trump/Hugh Hefner/Bill Clinton — that Reese Witherspoon should be casting 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 the condition, it's no more than whitewashing of the common garden jerk.

David Ley, a clinical psychologist and the author of The Myth of Sex Addiction, says it's simply a convenient defence.

"These are just individuals who have gotten caught for irresponsible, misogynistic, hypocritical 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 and of itself", Ley said there was little evidence to support the theory that sex addiction treatment works in any curative sense.

I'm not a medic nor a psychiatrist but I figured that out a decade-and-a-half ago during my investigation into the industry. After attending the sex addicts' support group, I consulted a leading London psychotherapist who confirmed I was a "classic case" since addiction is 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 nutter," the psych told me, "but you would 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.

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My counsellor told me solemnly that addiction was the worst "illness" there is: "It's about denial, manipulation and spiritual bankruptcy."

Rubbish.

Both then and now sex addiction is not an illness or a disease. The only "condition" Weinstein is suffering is a failure to take a long hard look in the mirror and hold himself accountable.

Reno show habit has me doing my Block



KERRY PARNELL
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I am a property show widow. I lost my partner years ago to his other love: home renovation programs.

It started with a slow seduction by Grand Designs and Kevin Beelzebub McCloud's mellifluous tones.

Back then I could handle it, as pre-digital TV meant you had to wait a week for a new episode, and months for a new series.

But then, as these DIY drugs do, he slowly began to need another fix(er)-upper, and another, until he just couldn't stop.

And those dastardly channels were happy to deal out more, with Grand Designs Australia and Grand Designs New Zealand.

Soon stories of people building their dream houses with inadequate budgets, surprise babies and a foolish roof design meaning they would never "be in by Christmas", was not enough and he started mixing his medication.

There were doses of Selling Houses Australia and their nitwit homeowners; binges of The Block and House Rules and their weeping/singing/showing off contestants; nips of Escape To The Country (ironically we have escaped to the country and one of the first things he tuned into in our new home was this) and on really bad days he will get high on Homes Under the Hammer (a UK series where people buy horrible houses in dispiriting areas and spend $500 "doing them up", or Hot Property where Michael Caton literally just went to people's house auctions. By the time he found 9 Life's North American renovation shows House Hunters, Flip or Flop and Fixer Upper — I'd lost him. And now he has Love it Or List It — the new Foxtel show with Andrew Winter and Neale Whitaker.

The only one he hasn't discovered is the Vanilla Ice Project. He has no idea Ice is back with his brand-new invention.

The only time there isn't an image on the screen of someone with a hammer is when the children are watching ABC Kids. And even they like Bob the Bloody Builder.

I lie: He does make an exception for The Walking Dead, which also involves hammers, but only to bash zombies' heads in.

He's not alone. DIY show addiction is a growing problem in Australia. The Block and House Rules are among our biggest series — regularly drawing in over a million viewers per episode.

Coupled with the crazy housing market and our real-estate obsession, they show no sign of waning.

"There's nothing so true-blue Aussie as the TV reno show. Knockabout larrikin humour, plenty of real estate porn and the triumph of honest, hard work. And if you're lucky you stand to make a bob or two at the end of it all," explains Neale Whitaker of The Block and Love It Or List It.

His advice on how to get my other half back? "Surrender," he says, "resistance is futile. Get yourself a tool belt and join him. Bunnings will soon feel like David Jones."

Stella McCartney did do a line in designer tool belts, so maybe he's on to something.

I could use it to help my husband construct a Tiny Home — a recent addition to his TV roster — as the idea of a Borrowers-sized house in our garden appeals to him. Probably because he could sit in it and watch reno shows in peace.

Which wouldn't be such a wrench for either of us.

TELE01202MA - V1

Hollywood preys on girls and boys

EXCLUSIVE

AMELIA SAW
NATIONAL TV WRITER

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 masseuse when she was in her early 20s and understands the feeling of powerlessness during an attack.

"I was assaulted in a way that was really funky, 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 the 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 such an open secret? And how were we all complicit in protecting this man?" she said.

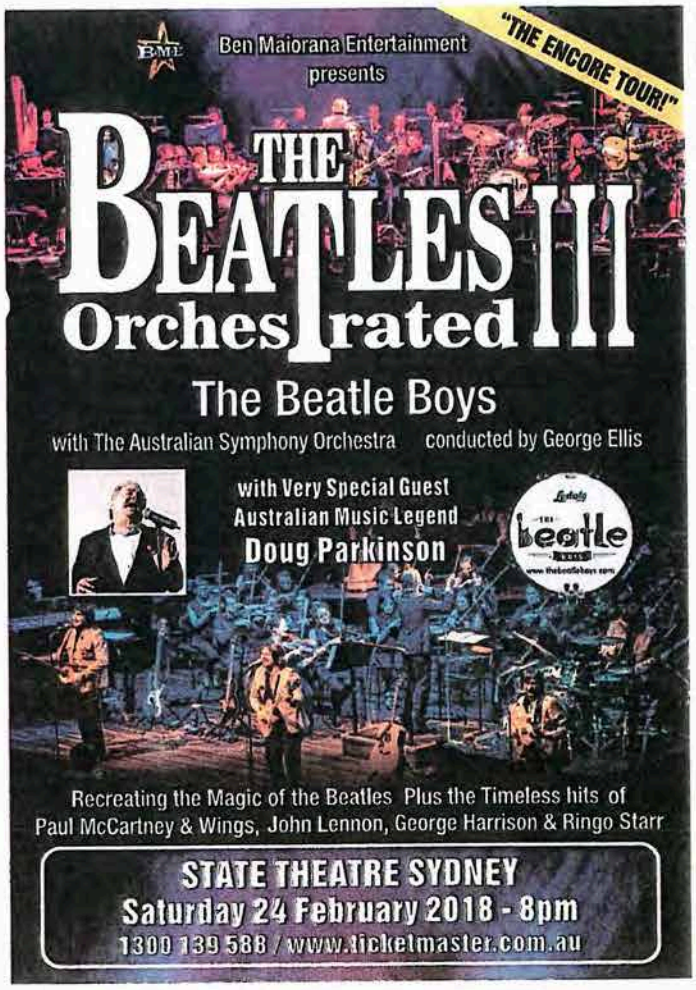
"It's preying on the hopes and dreams of young people, creative people, who just want to catch a break and it's the nature of the industry, where it's not always about what you know it's who you know.

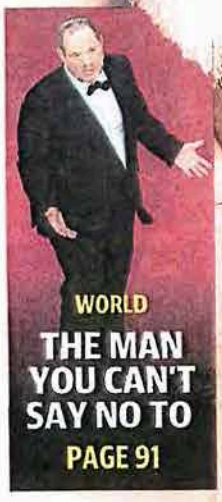
"And (people have) this vulnerable side, thinking: 'Oh, maybe this could change my career. I'm thinking to myself: 'Gosh, well if I have heard these things years ago, am I part of the problem of the complicit nature of Hollywood'?"

NATHALIE KELLEY STARS IN THE REBOOT OF DYNASTY, AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX.



Nathalie Kelley in New York. Picture: Kevin Mazur/ Getty





Call for stronger super laws

ANNIKA 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 $268 million dividend from its wealth management arm Colonial First State Investments Limited.

CFSIL 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 dudded".

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.

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OPINION OURS & YOURS

The Sunday Telegraph

EDITORIAL

Thank God for Jimmy

TODAY one of Australia's most-loved entertainers shares with us his story of attempted suicide.

Jimmy Barnes attempted to take his own life — not 30 years ago, but in 2012.

Today we publish a prologue to his new book, in which Barnes reveals the depths of despair, dysfunction and drug-induced misery the singer-songwriter was enduring at the time.

It is a powerful story and it's confronting in its detail. We have chosen to publish that detail — how Barnes awoke one bleary morning to discover a dressing-gown cord tied around a rail. He immediately had a flashback to the previous night when he attempted to hang himself with the cord by tying it around his neck.

Our readers will be aware that The Sunday Telegraph has reported extensively on suicide and self-harm, especially relating to young people, as part of our Can We Talk campaign.

We have been careful at every point to adhere to the experts' recommendation that media should not reveal explicit detail about suicides or self-harm, to mitigate the risk that vulnerable people might attempt to copy the attempt.

But in this case, we chose to make an exception.

Why? First of all, because Jimmy Barnes himself has chosen to share this detail with his millions of readers in the upcoming book in which this extract will appear. He is sharing the story of his suicide attempt not to be gruesome or attention-seeking, but because it demonstrates in the clearest way just how desperate he had become.

It's also the reason he turned his life around.

Without the grim discovery of that dressing-gown cord, Barnes might not have woken up to the real danger he was in.

It was the suicide attempt that finally cut through, where the pleading of his wife Jane and his family and friends had not.

Only at the brink of death did Jimmy Barnes realise how much he wanted to be alive.

And ultimately, his story is of survival; of choosing life over death, and of finding a way to create happiness from the most appalling of circumstances.

In the first volume of his autobiography, Barnes detailed a childhood worse than anything Charles Dickens might have imagined. Sexual abuse. Extreme violence. Paternal neglect. Domestic assaults. Then: stardom, fame, success, money.

But even in the success and the money, Barnes' misery found him.

His life, to the outsider, looked like a dream come true. On the inside, it was pure self-torment. As he has said on a previous occasion: "Coke, ecstasy, going out, singing, fighting, whatever else. Mine was the longest, slowest suicide attempt in Australian history. When I wrote this book I could see that ... and I didn't have to kill myself any more."

To censor or varnish Jimmy Barnes' story would have been to conceal the truth.

We consider ourselves grateful this man survived to tell his story — a story that will reach many more people, and perhaps save more lives, than any earnest government campaign could.

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELECTION COMMENT TAKEN BY THE EDITOR, MICK CARROLL, 2 HOLT ST, SURRY HILLS 2010

Tony was right and now we're the goat



PETER AKERMAN

THE absolute ineptitude of Malcolm Turnbull's government has been epitomised by its latest energy policy thought bubble — the offer to pay consumers NOT to use electricity this summer.

That's right, in a nation with the most abundant and efficient natural energy resources in the world, punters in NSW, Victoria and South Australia, will be asked to voluntarily switch off their appliances when demand is high in return for rebates or even movie vouchers.

At the same time as these non-users of electricity are being given handouts, owners of unreliable intermittent power sources like wind and solar will also be given healthy handouts for their inefficient but effective virtue signalling operations.

Little wonder that disgruntled conservative MPs have been ringing around in the past week to discuss the blizzard of emails and telephone calls they have been receiving from outraged constituents demanding that they bring an end to this costly energy stupidity.

What the government policy clearly demonstrates is the massive expected shortfall in power in coming months.

In an incisive and deadly accurate speech, technically correct in all aspects, former PM Tony Abbott last week said that: "Thanks to a decade of policy based more on green ideology than common sense, we can't be sure of keeping the lights on this summer — it's akin to Saudi Arabia being in a petrol drought."

He acknowledged his role in the government that introduced a Renewable Energy Target, calling it "a stealth carbon tax" but added: "In those far-off days, it was just 2 per cent."

His internal party critics have been quick to point out that he didn't say that when he was PM.

Labor's deputy leader Tanya ("Africa is a country") Plibersek dumbly said that the speech was "in the realm of the loopy" and "actually just weird stuff" — probably because neither she nor anyone on the Labor side was able to find a single inaccuracy in the science he presented.

No doubt the scientifically challenged Ms Plibersek will be happy to turn off the home airconditioning to collect her rebate when temperatures soar.



And, as she swelters, she may contemplate her party's pledge to follow nationally what Labor lunatic state leaders in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland have already promised — even greater reliance on more expensive ineffectual wind and solar power should they ever win office. As Liberal MP Craig Kelly told me: "Perhaps Earth Hour should be moved to coincide with this voluntarily power shut-off, then people could be given a certificate of appreciation as well."

Mr Kelly, one of the clearest thinkers in parliament, told me of a swimming instructor in his electorate who has watched his company's power bills increase threefold in recent years to the point where it is now paying an extra $10,000 per month.

The fee for lessons will have to be increased from $17 to $25, a level that will be too high for some parents, which will inevitably mean there will be more dropouts and more children who won't learn to swim, putting them at greater risk of drowning.

This is just one example of the way small businesses are being hit by the tsunami of extra costs delivered by failed power system.

Small businesses, as Mr Turnbull has obviously forgotten, are the powerhouses of the economy.

The higher power prices caused by the failure to ensure the nation, with all its natural resources, can provide reliable baseload power, are undoing whatever good work he thinks his government may have done.

To provide the certainty of continuity of supply, the government should — as governments have always done in the past — invest in coal-powered electricity generation (even better, nuclear-powered, but it lacks the spine to give the leadership European nations, the Chinese, Indian and Japanese governments have shown).

The government has to take the risk because coal-powered generation requires a 40-year investment, far longer than the smash-and-grab hedge funds that want to reap government subsidies for their investment in flawed renewables are prepared to wait.

Federal parliament resumes this week and energy will be the big issue — not the homosexual marriage issue with which Labor and the Greens and the bed-wetters in the Coalition have been preoccupied.

There is the very real risk of the nation electing a mad Green-Labor government within the next two years unless the Turnbull government takes decisive action now and the cost and reliability of energy is the biggest issue facing the nation.

Mr Turnbull's past form is not encouraging.

He is particularly distant from the real concerns of the country and surrounds himself with people such as the head of his department, Martin Parkinson (who was one of the architects of the failed Labor-Green climate policy).

The PM's reliance on Chief Scientist Alan Finkel's completely flawed report (with modelling outdated even before its release) is testament to his own belief in the global warming cult. Professor Finkel is a scientist, not an economist, as all the evidence shows.

On this, Mr Abbott was correct. In years past, goats were sacrificed to appease the volcano gods — now we're sacrificing the nation to those who worship Gaia.

We cannot afford to cut our road, aviation and marine transport to meet the demands of those who have drunk the eco-freaks' Kool-Aid, nor can we afford to lose more manufacturing, more jobs, to placate the global warmists when everyone agrees that nothing Australia does can affect the earth's climate?

This is Mr Turnbull's last chance to save his job — oh, and the nation.

Creeps are emboldened when



NINA SMETHURST

IN my mid-20s, unable to see my regular doctor, I booked an appointment at a bulk billing clinic to quickly get a new script for some asthma medication. The older male doctor handed over the script but suggested a breast examination would be necessary too.

I was wise enough to know this was not a normal part of an asthma check-up and promptly left. But I never mentioned it to the clinic, nor to anyone else.

Last Christmas I was invited to a dinner hosted by a lobby group. I was seated next to an older man whose comments about my appearance made me so uncomfortable I left before I'd finished my main course. I never asked him to stop, I just left.

Earlier this year I again found myself in an uncomfortable situation when my former personal trainer used his non-existent sports massage qualification as a reason to investigate a twinge in my lower back. Eventually, alarm bells rang and I politely made an excuse to leave. Again, I didn't report the incident and tried to joke it off with friends.

Some of you will read this and accuse me of getting the wrong end of the stick. Perhaps I am too sensitive, or maybe I can't take a joke. Others will blame my silence for encouraging this behaviour.

But anyone who knows me will tell you I am bolshie, streetwise and can stand up for myself. Yet even I struggled to call out these incidents for what they were. Harassment.

In my personal and professional life I have witnessed a lot worse, but I have rarely called it out. I have been part of the protection racket that

Rocking the boat takes guts. At best you're branded a wowser, at worst it can be career-limiting. ANNIKA SMETHURST



Abbott, Pell sing from same hymn sheet on climate



PENBERTHY

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 doling out wafers, jiggling an incense canister and conversing with God to argue for a reason-based approach.

"In the past pagans sacrificed animals and even humans in vain attempts to placate capricious and cruel gods — today they demand a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions," Pell said at the time, adding that climate change theory pointed to an emptiness of the soul.

In a newspaper column the next year he doubled down, saying that as far as he could tell, there was no scientific evidence of "impending man-made climatic catastrophes".

"Uncertainties on climate change abound," the great empiricist wrote. "My task as a Christian leader is to engage with reality, to contribute to debate on important issues, to open people's minds, and to point out when the emperor is wearing few or no clothes."

It was an audacious intervention from a man who believes simultaneously in the Virgin Birth and the Holy Ghost, yet will bang his cuffed fist on the pulpit telling those damned scientists to get back to the lab and come up with firmer evidence that the planet is hotter than it once was, as a result of human activity.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott is cut from the same liturgical cloth and this week joined his friend and theological fellow traveller in giving scientists another sermon.

Abbott's speech in London had at its centre a puzzling contradiction. It stated — based in part on his own observations of tidal patterns at Manly beach — that climate change was probably bunkum, but that if it were happening, it was a good thing as fewer people would die in cold snaps.

Abbott got his intellectual start in a seminary and then drifted into the preferred profession of the dilettante, journalism, before embarking on a political career. I am not sure if this gives him what the lawyers call "standing", that is, the basis to mount an argument against something that should only be a question of science. But argue he did, with gusto, in a speech which in parts was so similar to Pell's 2006 address that you could almost be tempted to accuse him of plagiarism, unless of course it was God working through the pair of them in his own mysterious way.

"Environmentalism has managed to combine a post-socialist instinct for big government with a post-Christian nostalgia for making sacrifices in a good cause," Abbott said. "Primitive people once killed goats to appease the volcano gods. We're more sophisticated now, but are still sacrificing our industries and our living standards to the climate gods to little more effect."

I am not a scientist. But nor are George Pell and Tony Abbott. Unlike Pell and Abbott, I would argue that 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 strife, and that something must be done.

Of course, we can have an argument about what that "something" is. And we should call out zealotry of any form where we see it, such as Kevin Rudd's typically bombastic assertion that climate change was the greatest "moral" challenge of our time. It's not a moral problem. It's a policy problem. And having spent the past six years living in South Australia, where a left-wing government has mismanaged the transition to renewables, I am well up for a pragmatic debate about whether we should be slower to wean ourselves off fossil fuels while wind and solar remain unreliable alternatives.

But having said that, it is time for the scientific community to fight back against those who, for reasons of ideology alone, would dismiss so much painstaking and dispassionate scientific work.

Science has been slow or ill-equipped to respond to a decade of abuse. The consensus, and it is vast, is that the world is warming up and that mankind is responsible. Uncertainties on climate change do not abound, as Pell asserted.

There was one inadvertently candid line in Abbott's speech which spoke volumes about this age of alternative facts. "The lesson I've taken from being in government, and then out of it, is simply to speak my mind," he said.

Well, he certainly did that. Never mind that it was the kind of stuff that would be lucky to score you a D for Year 10 geography.

abuse victims suffer in silence

allows creeps to get away with this predatory behaviour. But my silence should not be compared to the abhorrent actions of perpetrators.

The revelations about Hollywood predator Harvey Weinstein this week show that as a society we haven't come very far in calling out harassment and inappropriate behaviour.

But rocking the boat takes guts. At best you're branded a wowser, at worst it can be career-limiting.

Wondering how widespread the problem was, I asked a dozen friends if they had experienced harassment or unwanted attention.

One friend told me about an incident as a young lawyer when her boss, 30 years her senior, kept hassling her to see an R-rated movie with him. She quit.

A teacher friend received a series of unwanted and inappropriate comments at a work function but said she didn't want to report the male colleague because she "didn't want to embarrass him".

There was another incident where a doctor asked a patient, who had booked an appointment for a bad case of bronchitis to completely strip off. And one journalist had to endure repeated public comments by a senior politician about the size of her waist.

Not one of these strong professional women said a word, but they shouldn't be blamed for that.

We are all guilty of turning a blind eye, but sadly silence can offer safety.

Losers like Weinstein target women who are less powerful and they use this to their advantage.

We all know the difference between friendly banter and blatant harassment or the line between a compliment and an inappropriate comment. We can also identify the difference between unwanted advances and someone finally making a move on an office crush.

But often we let these doubts justify our silence.

A false sense of shame and embarrassment from witnesses and victims often leads to silence which sadly allows this behaviour to continue.

But the only person to blame is the predator.



Harvey Weinstein.

Teens get shown up as suckers



DUNCAN LAY

THE Susan Croper Instagram scam this week has shown — once again — why you need to keep an eye on what your teenagers are doing online.

For those who missed it, "Susan Croper" put up an Instagram post claiming to have won $70 million on Powerball 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 swiftly amassed more than 55,000 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, where a huge cash prize is dangled in the hopes of getting your bank details.

Usually it is offered by the relative of a Nigerian prince, although one of the more imaginative versions claims to be from the relative of a Nigerian astronaut who had been left up on a space station by the Russians and has $15 million in back pay to give away to those kind people who could help get him down.

Sound familiar?

Apparently not too many Aussie teens are savvy, as hashtags like "susancroperlegit", "susancroperyoulegend" and "whatanicelady" quickly bounced around.

Luckily it seems nobody lost their money and the enthusiasm has been replaced by a series of Susan Croper memes, as well as people offering 20c from their change to the first five people to follow them. But "Susan Croper" proved there is a big market for scammers.

They might be brilliant at texting and able to juggle multiple apps on a single screen 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 something they see online. Hey, if everyone else is doing this, why shouldn't I?

Parents can't monitor everything their children do online. But they need to talk to them about some of the tricks and traps. Maybe start by asking them about Susan Croper. Chances are they saw it, or their friends liked it. Have a conversation. And maybe remind them the internet is also known as "the web".

UPDATED OCTOBER 15 2017

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 decades 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.

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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

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

nighlights.

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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AUSEOLZOIMA - V1

Academy axes Weinstein

LOS ANGELES: Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was revoked yesterday by its board.

The almost unprecedented decision was reached in an emergency session by the academy, the world's top movie organisation and home to the Oscars. The expulsion was effective immediately.

It comes after reports by *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* about sexual harassment and rape allegations against Weinstein going back decades. He has denied the accusations.

In issuing its decision, the academy stated: "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 wilful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over.

"What's at issue here is a deeply troubling problem that has no place in our society."

The statement said the decision was reached by "well in excess of the required two-thirds majority" of the 54-member academy board.

Only one person is thought to have been previously expelled from the academy: Carmine Caridi, a character actor who had his membership revoked in 2004 for lending DVD screeners of films in contention for Oscars that ended up online. The academy's swift and severe ruling against Weinstein may raise questions about other academy members who remain in good standing. These include Roman Polanski, an Oscar-winner who in the 1970s pleaded guilty to drugging and raping a 13-year-old girl, and entertainer Bill Cosby, who has faced dozens of allegations of sexual assault.

Weinstein, an Oscar winner as a producer of the 1998 best picture *Shakespeare in Love*, was ousted a week ago from The Weinstein Company, which he co-founded with his brother Bob. In an interview published over the weekend in *The Hollywood Reporter*, Bob Weinstein called for his "sick and depraved" brother to be kicked out of the academy. Harvey Weinstein's membership in the British Academy of Film and Television Arts was revoked last week.

British actress Lysette Anthony said she had told police Weinstein raped her in London in the 1980s. It was reported last week that London police were investigating a rape allegation against the producer relating to an incident in the 80s. The Metropolitan Police confirmed it was investigating a sexual assault allegation from that time, without identifying Weinstein.

Anthony, who appears in the soap opera *Hollyoaks*, told *The Sunday Times* newspaper that Weinstein raped her in the late 1980s after showing up at her London home. She said she was left feeling "disgusted and embarrassed" after the attack.

AP

COMMENTARY P14

Bond girl's meeting with 'that fat pig': I had to push him off

PARIS: Harvey Weinstein allegedly threatened to destroy Eva Green's career after the Bond girl rebuffed his advances in a Parisian hotel suite.

"Eva was a victim of this horrible man," Green's mother, Marlene Jobert, 76, said on French radio. "From the moment he arrived in Paris, he would start calling her.

"He is tenacious, insistent," said Jobert, also an actress. "He operated with her the exact same way he acted with all the others, under the pretext of a professional meeting, of a script that had to get to her with a nice part into the bargain."

When the *Casino Royale* star brushed him off, "he threatened to destroy her professionally", Jobert alleged. "He stuck so many sticks in her wheels, because he was angry. If that fat pig's victims were able to avoid him, for revenge he would ban directors from choosing her."

In response to her mother's comments, Green issued a statement: "I have not discussed this before because I wanted to maintain my privacy, but I understand it is important to do so as I hear about other women's experiences.

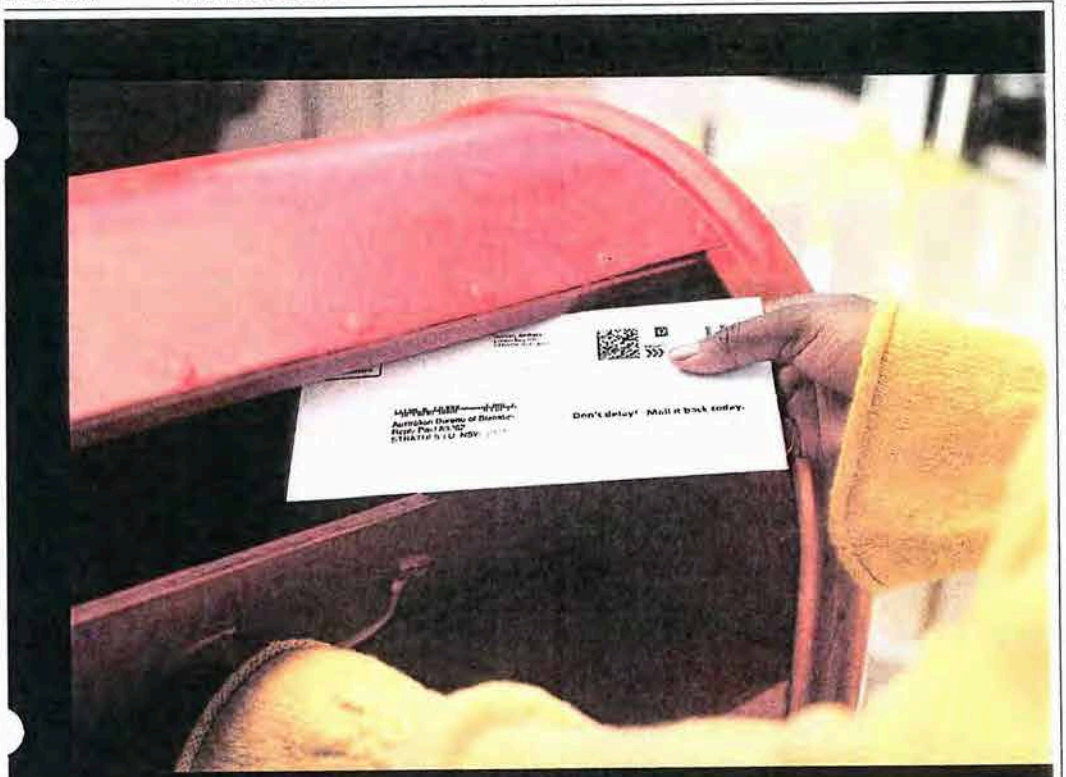
"I met him (Weinstein) for a business meeting in Paris at which he behaved inappropriately and I had to push him off. I got away without it going further, but the experience left me shocked and disgusted."

She continued: "I salute the great bravery of the women who have come forward. We should recognise that this sort of behaviour exists everywhere and is not unique to the entertainment industry."

THE TIMES



Harvey Weinstein on the Oscars red carpet in 2014; and, inset, Eva Green, top, and Lysette Anthony. Pictures: AFP



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Claims shielded by power, manipulation

JOSH GLANCY
COMMENT

When comedian Seth MacFarlane revealed the best supporting actress nominations for the 2013 Oscars he made a joke: "Congratulations. You five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein."

Last week, amid the torrent of revelations about Weinstein's sexual misconduct, MacFarlane admitted Weinstein had demanded a naked massage from actress Jessica Barth, his friend.

"I couldn't resist the opportunity to take a hard swing in his direction," he said. "Make no mistake, this came from a place of loathing and anger."

MacFarlane knew something. Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow knew. Angelina Jolie knew. Weinstein's brother and business partner, Bob, knew. As the dam broke last week, it seemed anyone who had spent more than five minutes in Hollywood had a Weinstein horror story.

How did a man accused of forcing women to give him oral sex, of groping and even rape, keep it under wraps? And why did media outlets now dancing on his corpse reject previous opportunities to expose him?

It was an extraordinary exercise in power and manipulation. "This story reminds me of the old expression, the emperor has no clothes on, in every sense of the word," said prominent Los Angeles lawyer Gloria Allred. "Now women are coming forward and saying so."

Allred has represented several women in sexual assault cases and is acting on behalf of some of Weinstein's alleged victims. Her daughter, Lisa Bloom, briefly represented Weinstein and urged him to apologise after *The New York Times* revealed he had made at least eight settlements to women accusing him of sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact.

More than 30 women have come forward in under two weeks, including supermodel Cara Delevingne, who said Weinstein tried to coerce her into a lesbian encounter and had told her she would never make it in Hollywood if she was gay.

On Tuesday the journalist Ronan Farrow, who has accused his own father, Woody Allen, of abusing his sister — which Allen denies — dropped a bombshell story on *The New Yorker*'s website. Three women, including Italian actress and director Asia Argento, had told Farrow that Weinstein had raped them, forcing them to perform or receive oral or vaginal sex.

Suddenly the most pressing question is not whether Weinstein's career can survive the scandal, but whether he will go to jail. Police in New York and London, as well as the FBI, are all looking into allegations.

As more revelations emerged from A-listers such as Jolie, Paltrow and Kate Beckinsale, a pattern of alleged abuse became clear. Young women — girls — attempting to find their way in Hollywood were targeted.

Weinstein's appetites were difficult to sate. If spurned or faced down by a woman, he would hit back, threatening to jeopardise the career of the young women who dared to deny him. Rebecca Traister, a journalist who worked for *Talk* magazine, which Weinstein set up in 1999, recalls the mogul "could spin, or suppress, anything; there were so many journalists on his payroll, working as consultants on movie projects, or as screenwriters".

And so an open secret was kept for decades. Even those who dodged his advances, those who went on to be famous and powerful, kept quiet.

Something specific about Weinstein's position in American life shielded him. For 30 years he has stood at the apex of the US liberal establishment, where Hollywood, media and politics meet. His companies have been Oscar factories. Business partners including his brother accepted his flaws as the cost of doing business. Bob Weinstein called his sibling "sick and depraved", expressing his wish he be removed from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and "get the justice that he deserves".

Democratic politicians, including the Clintons, curried favour with Weinstein, seeking his money and connections. And in that world, allegations of sexual assault are survivable if you have political clout.

Although *The New York Times* now wears the halo, conservatives have pointed out it has been slow to investigate liberal philanderers such as John Edwards, the presidential candidate who had a child with a campaign staffer while his wife was dying of cancer.

It might have nailed Weinstein earlier. In 2004, Sharon Waxman, then an investigative reporter on the paper, wrote a story that accused Weinstein of employing an executive to procure women for him. Yet, she said last week, after pressure from Weinstein, a big advertiser, "the story was gutted ... stripped of any reference to sexual favours or coercion".

> The most pressing question is whether he will go to jail.

When Farrow took what became his *New Yorker* story to NBC, where he works, executives refused to publish it. *The New York Times* said the stories were not "reportable".

The story reaches beyond the disgrace of one Hollywood titan. Coming after allegations about Bill Cosby, the late Fox News boss Roger Ailes and presenter Bill O'Reilly, there is a sense of a sea change in holding powerful, predatory men accountable.

Revelations spill out daily. No sooner had actor Ben Affleck condemned Weinstein than he faced his own accusation of groping actress Hilarie Burton, for which he has apologised.

"This is a major teaching moment for many people in the entertainment business," said Allred. "I'm already getting calls from women about other high-level, well-known men in the industry."

Weinstein checked into a sex addiction clinic and hopes for a "second act", reports said.

"This is not a movie," Allred said. "This is real life and real people have been hurt. If he wants a second act, he is going to need to do much more than go to sex therapy. He is going to need to face justice."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Sex predators turn to dark web

EXCLUSIVE

SIMON BENSON
NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

More than 8000 cases of child-sex offences are being received every year by the Australian Federal Police, with the emergence of global, online live-streaming rackets as high-risk offenders blocked from travelling overseas move into the dark web.

Figures supplied to *The Australian* reveal that new federal laws banning high-risk offenders from travelling to Southeast Asian sex-tourism hubs had all but cut off the notoriously popular routes to Indonesia and The Philippines.

However, the head of the AFP's International Operations command, Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee, has warned that live-streaming of child exploitation and sexual abuse was now growing at an alarming rate.

"We see more of this move into live-streaming ... with people now reaching in from all over the world," he told *The Australian*. "It is difficult to quantify (but) there is an alarming prevalence of people accessing child exploitation material in a range of communities that you would not expect."

According to figures supplied to *The Australian*, the AFP Assessment Centre received more than 8000 reports of child exploitation last year. By September 21 this year it has received more than 6776 reports of child exploitation for the calendar year.

A 2016 global study, Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, found that "the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism has expanded across the globe and has outpaced every attempt to respond at the international and national level".

"It just seems to be increasing across the board," Mr Lee said.

The AFP has led international efforts to target and shut down the child-sex trade in the region and has recently disrupted several global child-sex rings.

Last year the AFP shut down 80 sex tourism and online exploitation activities. Since July this year, there were another 16 successful disruptions.

Mr Lee said the AFP had been highly successful in preventing high-risk sex offenders leaving Australia to travel to notorious hot spots in Indonesia and The Philippines, or in having them turned around by foreign authorities at airports following intelligence provided by the AFP.

"Three years ago, we were averaging 20 high-risk sex offenders a month looking to travel to Indonesia or The Philippines," he said.

"Over the three years where we have disrupted travel or they have been refused entry, it has gone down to three a month."

Mr Lee said recently the AFP was involved in a joint operation with Philippine police to rescue three children from a house in the country's south that had been live-streaming acts involving adults having sex with children.

The material was being accessed in Australia, the US and elsewhere around the world.

"It was horrendous," Mr Lee said. "Children are being exposed to the most horrendous of crimes ... it is disgraceful."

INQUIRER P18



Johsua James Baker in police custody in Bali

'Mentally ill Aussie should be deported'

AMANDA HODGE
NIVELL RAYDA

An Australian man charged with drug possession in Bali, just days after he tried to escape detention by climbing through an air shaft in a police hospital toilet, is mentally ill and should be deported for treatment, his Balinese lawyer has said yesterday.

Joshua James Baker, 32, from Mt Isa in Queensland, faces up to 15 years in prison after he was formally named a suspect by Bali police on Saturday on drug possession and importation charges — roughly the equivalent of being charged in Australia.

But his Bali lawyer Pande Putu Maya Arsanti said Mr Baker could not be held accountable for his actions because he suffered frequent hallucinations and used marijuana for medical purposes. Ms Arsanti said when her client escaped he had been off his medication for several days and "wasn't thinking right".

"Joshua is not well mentally. If he doesn't take his medicine he will be quite aggressive and psychotic," Ms Arsanti told *The Australian*. "He has been seeing Dr Denny Thong (a Balinese psychiatrist) for about five years because he has chronic mental problems.

"Sometimes he hallucinates and there are other abnormal behaviours. Joshua should be treated and not in police custody. He cannot be held accountable for what happened because he is not fit mentally to stand trial. He should be deported and treated."

Police spokesman Hengky Widjaja said Mr Baker was undergoing psychological evaluation by police doctors.

"Doctors at the hospital requested that he remains in their care and not detained at our facility because he needs to take tests and undergo treatments. We have assigned around-the-clock security to make sure he doesn't escape again," Commissioner Widjaja said.

Mr Baker was detained on arrival at Bali's Ngurah Rai international airport on October 8 when Indonesian police found 28g of marijuana and 37 prescription-only diazepam pills in his bags.

He was being held under medical observation at Bhayangkara Trijata police hospital in Bali when he escaped on October 10 by climbing through a ventilation shaft in a toilet.

A police spokesman admitted his officers had been "too excited watching television" at the time of his getaway. Mr Baker is understood to have run to a nearby minimarket, from where he caught a motorcycle taxi to a friend's home in Canggu.

Weinstein hunted me: Aussie model

EMILY RITCHIE



NINE NETWORK
Zoe Brock last night

An Australian-raised model who was "hunted" by Harvey Weinstein 20 years ago is the latest in a long line of accusers to allege she suffered sexual harassment at the hands of the disgraced Hollywood film mogul.

Australian former model and actor Zoe Brock, who now lives in San Francisco, said she was 23 when she was "singled out and ...unted" by one of the most ...werful men in the industry.

"... lucky to have gotten out ... experience with Harvey ... lly unscathed," the 47-... old told the Nine Network's *60 Minutes* last night. "The more that I hear come to light, as this story breaks, and keeps on breaking and growing, the more lucky I realise I was, and am."

After meeting Weinstein at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997, Brock claims she was taken back to his hotel room by a group of his colleagues and was eventually left alone with him.

"He left the room and came back naked," Ms Brock said.

"He wanted a massage, and I didn't want to give him one. I remember being quite frozen. He touched my back and shoulders, and I quickly knew that I couldn't ...and I got up and I ran."

Ms Brock said she hid in the bathroom but Weinstein began banging on the door, pleading for her to come out. When she eventually did, he was dressed in a bathrobe and said to her: "You don't like me because I'm fat".

"He wanted a lot more than I wanted to give him," she said. "I didn't want to give him anything. I wanted to give him my friendship. I thought he was a cool guy."

On reflection, Ms Brock believes she was manipulated and targeted, not only by Weinstein but his accomplices who set up the situation and offered no help or support.

"I had been played by not just one predator but all his accomplices. Yuck," she said. "I think he's absolutely getting what he deserves right now."

Discovered at 14, Ms Brock worked with fashion magazines including *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Glamour* and cosmopolitan and participated in fashion shows for designer such as Giorgio Armani, Vivienne Westwood and Gucci.

Her accusations come as some of the movie industry's most famous actors — including Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cara Delevigne — speak out in the scandal.

Yesterday it was announced Weinstein had been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' board of governors, with a statement from the Oscars' board describing him as someone "who does not merit the respect of his colleagues".

WORLD P12

Everest scaled ... and the view is a winner







JENNY EVANS, AAP, GETTY IMAGES
Clockwise from above: The packed Randwick crowd; Kerrin McEvoy on winner Redzel; winning trainer Peter Snowden; revellers; and Jason Derulo

BRENDAN CORMICK

When The Everest was announced as the brash new kid on the Sydney racing scene earlier this year, not everyone — namely, the Victorian racing establishment — was doing cartwheels in the mounting yard.

The eye-watering prizemoney on offer for the Sydney event, and the inevitable interest it would attract at home and overseas, was one thing. But the fact that it would be held on the same day as one of Melbourne's most prestigious races, the Caulfield Guineas, horrified much of the Victorian industry, which feared The Everest would serve only to rob the state's racing body of a large chunk of its revenue and its appeal.

Melbourne Racing Club chairman Mike Symons even went so far to say that The Everest's push into Caulfield Guineas Day, the traditional start to Australia's greatest racing festival, was an "eat what you kill" approach that might have an adverse effect on the "optimal racing calendar".

But following the wild success of the inaugural running of The Everest on the weekend, the Sydney event is now likely to be seen as the industry's Pied Piper more than its Robin Hood, with turnover for the Caulfield Guineas up 6 per cent on last year across NSW and Victorian TABs, and other interstate meetings also up on the corresponding weekend in 2016.





The 10-race Randwick meeting attracted $29 million from NSW and Victoria, while turnover on The Everest race alone was $12.2m across the two states, which is likely to be the highest hold of any race in 2017 other than the Melbourne Cup.

To put that in perspective, this year's Golden Slipper — long seen as the jewel in Sydney's racing crown — held just $6.6m.

Despite the cool conditions, Randwick hosted 33,512 punters on Saturday, the highest crowd since the famous racecourse was reconfigured four years ago, comfortably eclipsing recent race days that featured Winx (in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes in April this year) and Black Caviar's 25th and final start in the 2013 TJ Smith Stakes.

Before reconfiguration, crowd estimates at Randwick were notoriously unreliable, and while a reported 38,000 punters turned up to watch Makybe Diva — on the big screen — win her third straight Melbourne Cup in 2005, some think Saturday's crowd may have been the biggest ever.

"It was the biggest crowd I have ever seen at Randwick and I have been going there since I was a 10-year-old," Racing NSW chief executive Peter V'landys said.

"We did this race to attract a younger audience and bring new people to racing. Younger audiences don't like old. They like new.

"The concert after the last with Jason Derulo attracted a happy crowd. If you want to live in a bubble and not realise the world is going past you, you've got a shelf life. That's why The Everest is so important to us."

Star Entertainment chief executive Matt Bekier said more than 50 high rollers from Asia had travelled to the casino group's Sydney property as a result of The Everest. Redzel won $5.8m to be divided among connections, including trainers Peter and Paul Snowden, who receive 10 per cent ($580,000).

In a further sign of the event's global appeal, *The Australian* understands one of the slot owners, who paid $600,000 to have a runner in the race this year, received a call late on Saturday from a French consortium offering $1m to take over the slot in 2018.

SPORT P31, P36

Hair dye link to cancer

Women should dye their hair only two to five times a year and use products with more natural ingredients, such as beetroot, to ...duce the risk of cancer, a breast ...geon has advised.

Professor Kefah Mokbel, a ...ancer surgeon at the Prin... ...ace Hospital in central ...a, reviewed studies of whether women who dyed their hair had a greater risk of breast cancer. He found a 14 per cent rise. His study concluded: "Although further work is required to confirm our results, our findings suggest that exposure to hair dyes may contribute to breast cancer risk."

Professor Mokbel suggests women dye their hair less often and switch to products with natural ingredients. "What I find concerning is the fact that the industry recommends women should dye their hair every four to six weeks." He said some dyes used natural ingredients, such as henna and rose hip.

Research in Finland also found women who used hair dye were more likely to develop breast cancer. But Sanna Heikkinen, of the Finnish Cancer Registry, said it had not been proven that dye was causing the increase.

"We did observe a statistical association between hair dye and risk of breast cancer. However, it is not possible to confirm a true causal connection. It might be, for example, that women who use hair dye also use other cosmetics more than women who reported never using hair dye," she said.

THE TIMES



WHY DO WE HAVE THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE SUPER?

Fund management fees are greater than your power bill and it's time we unplugged

ADAM CREIGHTON
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT



Peter Costello was right to highlight the gross inefficiency of our superannuation system last week in a speech he delivered in Melbourne. It was timely in a week when US economist Richard Thaler, who highlighted the folly of forcing people to choose privately managed retirement plans, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics.

Here's a fun fact: a family in Australia with a combined superannuation balance of $300,000 is paying more in fund management fees than it is on electricity — even after the latest 20 per cent price jump in power prices.

You might expect electricity to be expensive: fossil fuels need to be extracted and refined, sent to costly generators and then pumped around vast distribution networks. And that's before the cost of administering customers' accounts.

But super? There's no production of anything; other people and businesses are doing the hard work. Super is the allocation of savings; it's the management of dots on a computer screen, of which advances in computing power should have slashed the cost.

We hear a lot about the importance of low-cost energy; we'd also be better off with low-cost finance.

The family in question would be, unwittingly almost to a tee, paying between $2400 and $4770 a year to have their retirement balance managed, according to Rice Warner's latest superannuation fee survey. The average fee across the $489 billion in industry funds was 0.8 per cent last year, compared with 1.59 per cent for the $371bn in retail and corporate plans.

Sudden increases in electricity prices have rightly provoked outrage, given part of the rise stems from a fetish for solar and wind power on a huge scale alongside batteries that aren't up the task. Yet a much bigger share of the much bigger costs of superannuation — money that could be spent on other goods and services — arises from misguided policies too.

I'm no engineer, but I'm willing to bet electricity, even if it were supplied by the most efficient, well-meaning businesses in history, couldn't be provided for a 20th its present cost. Yet my own superannuation choice, HostPlus's Indexed Balanced fund, has an annual cost of less than 0.05 per cent, about a 20th of the 1.03 per cent average across the entire $2.3 trillion invested in super. It has returned more than 9 per cent a year on average for the past five years, which is well above average.

Remarkably, only $45m is invested in this option.

"Choice" has been a miserable failure in superannuation, as Thaler (and common sense) would have predicted. About two-thirds of superannuation fund members stick with the default fund they are initially allocated, fewer than 5 per cent of members actively switch funds, according to the Productivity Commission.

"If the underlying task is difficult and unfamiliar, and if people do not get prompt feedback when they err, then it is legitimate, even good, to nudge a bit," wrote Thaler. This is especially true "if the underlying task is forced", Thaler wrote in his best-selling 2009 book *Nudge*. No one asked for 9.5 per cent of their wages and salaries to be siphoned off into abstract, untouchable accounts where fees are taken out of future rather than the current, salient income.

> As Costello urged, it would be nice if the government kindly 'showed some interest' in ensuring people's savings were managed 'in a cost-efficient way'

"Nudging" has been called "libertarian paternalism", where the state leaves people choice if they want it but otherwise entices them into choices it deems to be in their best interest.

As Costello urged, it would be nice if the government kindly "showed some interest" in ensuring people's savings were managed "in a cost-efficient way". If nudging is justified anywhere, it is in super, where ordinary people are making decisions that have significant consequences not only for their own retirement but their likelihood of needing state support. This isn't buying a restaurant or furniture or even a car, where the average person has a much better idea of what they are doing and getting.

Dipping into Thaler's book, one has to smile that he berates Sweden, not Australia, for the design of its privately managed saving system. What emerged there, he laments, is "450 fund options charging average fees of 0.71 per cent alongside a government-administered default fund with fees of 0.17 per cent.

Memo to Professor Thaler: Downunder we have about 44,000 fund options, no default fund at all, coupled with utter confusion about fees. No wonder we have the most unnecessarily expensive super in the world.

Swedish advertisers for private funds, Thaler pointed out, were using Harrison Ford to encourage savers to opt out of the default government fund, which had consistently beaten the average of the private options. "In this nightmare, ads almost never mention fees, but they do talk a lot about past performance, even though there is essentially no evidence past performance predicts future performance," he writes. "Advertisers are encouraging savers to think big, not settle for average by indexing, and to think of investing as a way to get rich."

Countless studies (and logic) show paying for fund managers to "beat the market" by a sum greater than their own salaries and bonuses over a long period of time is a waste of time and money.

The lowest hanging fruit in Australia's reform agenda should be directing the superannuation contributions of those who don't choose into one or a small handful of default funds with fees capped by legislation. The arrangement now is an unconscionable and highly inefficient subsidy to one part of the economy. Naturally, savers should always be free to choose; it's their money.

"A bigger pool with economies of scale and access to the best managers would likely drive down costs and drive up returns — it would be in the interests of all, except of course the fund managers," Costello said.

Ideally, superannuation fees and charges would be made salient: every quarter members would receive a bill and pay them out of their disposable income, as they do for electricity. Let's see how long $4770 a year super fees last then.

If dollars and cents are your top criterion for ranking reforms, then no area is more pressing. More than $25bn every three months flows into super accounts.

It won't be easy though. Any politician who attempted to turn the tap off even a little on $23bn a year in fees could expect a symphony of sophistry. As politicians know, there's nothing like other people's money for a good time.

USE GONSKI 2.0 TO TRAIN TEACHERS

Phonics and classroom management will take all the difference for our children

BLAISE JOSEPH

With $23.5 billion of additional Gonski 2.0 funding to splash around, schools will be drawing up shopping lists. What should be on them? The temptation might be to splurge on technology, but computers, tablets and coding are not the solution to Australia's education woes.

We've been bombarded by platitudes of "21st century learning" and "preparing kids for the jobs of the future that don't yet exist". However, while it's fine to hypothesise about what future classrooms could look like, we need to be guided by the evidence of what actually works.

Australian schools already have many more computers and much higher use of technology compared with the rest of the world, yet this hasn't helped to stop our declining performance in maths, science and reading. The data indicates the use of education technology has only minor and inconsistent effects on student results — and it is also expensive and can quickly become obsolete.

> Most students learn better in a relatively large class with a great teacher than in a smaller class with a mediocre teacher

Further, there's even some evidence to suggest investments in education technology have a negative impact on academic achievement in schools. Just because technology increases workplace efficiency doesn't mean it necessarily has a productive effect in the complicated area of school education.

For example, the Rudd and Gillard governments' Digital Education Revolution Program — whereby all students from Year 9 to Year 12 received laptops — cost $2bn between 2008 and 2013 but had no positive impact on student results. While intuition suggested there would be a benefit, evidence showed there wasn't.

The triumph of intuition over evidence in recent education debates is part of the reason why Australia's literacy and numeracy results have declined in recent years, despite massive increases in government spending on schools.

Take class sizes. Superficially, it would seem to make sense that smaller classes will mean teachers are better able to cater for the needs of individual students, all else being equal. But the truth is that "all else" is rarely equal in education — class size reduction is expensive and has only minor positive effects. Some of the top-performing countries, such as Singapore and Japan, have much larger class sizes.

Ultimately, teacher quality is far more important than class size. Most students tend to learn better in a relatively large class with a great teacher rather than in a smaller class with a mediocre teacher.

So how should schools invest the additional Gonski 2.0 cash? For a start, it should always be in evidence-based, cost-effective programs and policies.

First, give teachers fewer classes and more time outside the classroom. Australian teachers typically spend at least an hour extra teaching per day compared with high-achieving countries. The more time teachers have to prepare and review lessons, and collaborate with other teachers, the better their teaching will be.

The OECD recently suggested Australia give teachers less class time so they can focus more on high-quality teaching — the cost and need for more teachers of this approach could be offset by increasing class sizes.

Second, we need to address the slide in literacy and numeracy. Intervention to help students who are underachieving in literacy and numeracy is far more effective in early primary years than in later schooling. Teaching reading is absolutely vital in the early years, but teachers are not equipped with the skills necessary to do so effectively.

Phonics — the practice of teaching students how to read by linking sounds to letters, to sound out written words — is a necessary component of effective reading instruction, but is not practised consistently in Australian schools. A recent systemic literature review in Australia found new teaching graduates feel unprepared to teach phonics. Primary schools should fill this knowledge gap by training teachers in effective phonics instruction.

Third, there is a strong need for teachers to receive classroom management training. Australia has relatively high levels of student classroom misbehaviour compared with the OECD and other high-achieving countries. This is partly because university teacher education degrees do not consistently prepare new teachers with adequate classroom management skills. Again, schools should make up for this by training teachers in evidence-based classroom management techniques.

A final necessary, overarching, reform is teacher training. We currently have an absurd situation where it is compulsory for teachers to periodically attend professional development as part of the national teaching standards, but the professional learning providers are not obliged to ensure the content delivered is evidence-based (except in NSW and the ACT). States and territories should have more consistent and transparent standards for professional development providers.

Unless we bring evidence back to the forefront of school spending, the extra $23.5bn of Gonski 2.0 funding will be frittered away on measures that fail to improve student outcomes.

Blaise Joseph is an education policy analyst at the Centre for Independent Studies and a former teacher. He is author of Getting the most out of Gonski 2.0: The evidence base for school investments.

HOLLYWOOD PC CROWD ALWAYS LOOKS AFTER ITS OWN

The Tinsel Town hills have long been home to two-faced cynics

JENNIFER ORIEL





The Harvey Weinstein scandal has exposed Hollywood's PC moralising as an exercise in projection. The entertainment industry featured large in campaigns against Donald Trump's sexism. All the while, its elite turned a blind eye to comrades who paraded feminist credentials in public while preying on women and girls in private. Perhaps Weinstein got away with it for so long because he is a member of the PC elite — and the politically correct protect their own.

At the time of writing, the number of women accusing Weinstein of sexual harassment or assault has risen to more than 30. The claims read like a well-worn script of a movie mogul who showers young actors with promises of fame and fortune before ruining their virtue. Allegedly Weinstein's exploits were well known. But there is a deep-seated cultural belief among lovers of Greek myth and Freud's meandering thought that male genius is a libidinal condition. For a time Weinstein's brilliance was enough to outshine the rumours about him.

More than one of Hollywood's reputed male genii have been embroiled in sexual controversy. In the early 1990s Woody Allen's long-term relationship with Mia Farrow broke down. She discovered his sexual relations with her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn. After the story broke, industry insiders believed Allen's reputation was damaged beyond repair. But Harvey Weinstein's company Miramax offered him a deal. In a 1994 *LA Times* article, Weinstein dismissed widespread concerns about Allen's affair with Previn, saying: "Shunned by Hollywood means nothing to Miramax. We're talking about a comic genius." In 2014 Allen was honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globes.

Harvey Weinstein also came to the aid of Roman Polanski in a 2009 column for *The Independent*. The rider read: "It's a shocking way to treat a man who went through the Holocaust". Weinstein called on filmmakers to protest Polanski's extradition to the US because he might face prison. He argued: "Whatever you think of the so-called crime, Polanski has served his time." The "so-called" crime was statutory rape.

The entertainment industry does have an issue with sexism and its leading ladies are part of the problem. In 2015 the music industry released *Bill Talk*, a video hit co-directed by Miley Cyrus and Diane Martel. The utterly repulsive video features Cyrus dressed in a nappy, rolling around and sucking a baby bottle. She sings: "F..k me so you stop baby talkin'." Without any sense of irony, Cyrus emerged the following year as a feminist icon berating Trump for sexism.

As I have written previously, Trump was rightly criticised for his derogatory comments about women and people with a disability. At the Golden Globes Meryl Streep rebuked Trump for his vile mockery of *The New York Times* reporter Serge Kovaleski's disability: "Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. It kind of broke my heart when I saw it" Beware those who pontificate from the Hollywood cesspit. It kind of broke my heart when I saw old footage of Streep, one of my favourite actors, giving convicted rapist Polanski a standing ovation at the Academy Awards.

> So many are rushing to disavow Weinstein that it sounds like a chorus of 'out, damn spot'

Whoopi Goldberg, who *Ms* magazine once praised as a feminist, went further by casting doubt on the conviction. As co-host of *The View*, Goldberg said of the Polanski case: "I know it wasn't rape-rape. It was something else but I don't believe it was rape-rape."

America's ABC obtained testimony from the trial. At the time of the rape Polanski was 43 years old. His victim was 13-year-old Samantha Geimer, who testified that he plied her with drugs before raping her orally, vaginally and anally. How anyone could defend him is beyond comprehension.

The political right is not immune to sex scandals but has learned to respond decisively to them. Alt-right figure Milo Yiannopoulos courted controversy this year during an interview in which he suggested that some minors might be capable of consent and joked about learning sexual technique from a priest.

After a co-host raised the problem of pedophilia, Yiannopoulos said: "You're misunderstanding what pedophilia means. Pedophilia is not a sexual attraction to somebody 13 years old who is sexually mature. pedophilia is attraction to children who have not reached puberty."

The conservative response to the comments was swift. The Conservative Political Action Conference cancelled Yiannopoulos's invitation to a speaking event " resigned from news site Bre In a Facebook post, he defe himself: "I did say that there relationships between younger men and older men that can help a young gay man ... But I was not talking about anything illegal and I was not referring to prepubescent boys." In some quarters, it was perceived as a rationalisation of pederasty. In a subsequent post, he wrote: "I do not believe sex with 13-year-olds is okay".

Conservatives held Yiannopoulos to account for his apparent rationalisation of pederasty. By contrast, America's PC elite has celebrated men known for sexual predation. Yet some celebrity women have rejected partisan politics for a more ethical position. At last year's Cannes Film Festival, Susan Sarandon held firm to her unpopular criticism of Allen, saying: "I think he sexually assaulted a child and I don't think that's right." *Sports Illustrated* model Emily Ratajkowski rebuked *The New York Times* reporter Jacob Bernstein after he called Melania Trump "a hooker".

So many of Weinstein's former besties are rushing to disavow him that it sounds like a chorus of "out, damn spot". Many are washing their hands of guilt by claiming ignorance about the years of alleged abuse. Yet more reports are emerging that indicate his alleged propensity for sexual predation was well known in Hollywood — and beyond. If true, the scandal will spread to Washington. Weinstein is a generous funder of Democrat campaigns and popular left causes. He was close to both the Clintons and the Obamas.

Hollywood once put that most magical quality c power to enchant.

It was a glittering dream, a technicolour siren luring us from the mundanity of daily life to some enchanted moment. But Tinsel town turned into trash town. Perhaps now we know why; art imitates life.

LET'S NOT ISOLATE OURSELVES FROM THE BENEFITS OF CHINA

We can learn from each other and share the benefits of educational cooperation

LAURIE PEARCEY

"There is an old Vulcan proverb Captain — only Nixon could go to China". And so it was that James Tiberius Kirk's loyal right-hand man counselled the captain of the Enterprise on his looming peace mission to heal wounds with his arch enemies in the Klingon Empire.

Yet for Australia, it was Whitlam, in 1971, who had the foresight to go to China. The opposition leader's landmark meeting in Beijing was hailed by the then prime minister William McMahon as a "political asset" for the Coalition. The government could hardly contain its delight at being given a free kick from the Labor Party at the height of bitter Cold War politics that plagued Australia's politics.

What McMahon didn't know was that just three days after Whitlam shook hands with the Communist Party elite, Henry Kissinger secretly landed in the Chinese capital laying the foundations for US president Richard Nixon's history-defining summit with Chairman Mao.

The Coalition looked silly. Nixon met with Mao and Labor won a thumping victory at the 1972 election and established diplomatic ties with Beijing in one of its first acts of office. The rest, as they say, is history.

Now, 45 years later, China is the world's second-largest economy, Australia's largest trading partner, our largest source of tourists and international students, and a major contributor to the economic success of 21st century Australia.

Yet much of the recent media commentary on Sino-Australian relations posits that Beijing is on a mission to undermine our democratic institutions by buying off politicians, stealing the crown jewels of Australia's research discoveries, and invading our university campuses with Chinese Communist Party intelligence operatives. There is no doubt China operates a political system antithetical to Australia's proud history of parliamentary democracy, freedom of the press and rule of law. You only need look to the gathering of the Chinese Communist Party's elite in Beijing at next week's five-yearly Party Congress to see a system remarkably different from our own.

China has drawn significant international criticism for its human rights record and suppression of dissident voices, with Australia one of the first countries to establish a bilateral human rights dialogue with the Chinese government. But over the past 40 years of China's economic reforms, more people have been lifted out of poverty than anywhere and at any time in the history of our planet. Perhaps this has come at the cost of Western political ideals, but it surely must stand as one of the greatest contributions to social progress and indeed global stability in human history.

China's leadership acknowledges the diversity of global opinion generated by its rise. In his 2014 address to the Australian parliament, Chinese President Xi Jinping said "these diverse views (about China) are to be expected. After all, China is a large country of over 1.3 billion people and stands out like the big guy in the crowd".

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade secretary Frances Adamson was right this week when she said that "more scrutiny of China" will follow "the ways it seeks influence internationally". As a mature democracy, we should welcome public debate and hope it is conducted in a manner that is respectful of the values and traditions we seek to uphold.

> Australian universities are attractive because we are world class

Racist smears plastered on walls at our university campuses have no place in a multicultural society that consigned the White Australia policy to the scrapheap decades ago.

The idea that highly internationally engaged universities should shy away from exchanging ideas or jointly developing technologies that will potentially yield major environmental and global health dividends for decades to come is equally fanciful. Information exchange is the foundation of the modern international research system and we are deluding ourselves if we think we can retreat to a comfortable state of isolationism.

Countless studies show that Australia continues to underperform against major comparable international economies when it comes to commercialising our research. As the world's fastest growing investor in research and development, China represents an obvious destination for world-class research breakthroughs to have a real impact and deliver global commercialisation pathways for Australian research.

Of course, universities need to be mindful that China sits outside the ANZUS framework and respectful of the architecture that has underpinned our post-war national security. This is why universities effectively quarantine all of their sensitive research in key areas like quantum computing and fluid dynamics from Chinese collaborations, and why universities ensure strict compliance with Defence export controls.

The Chinese are sensible enough to know that Canberra and Washington are major defence and intelligence allies and recognise elements of research collaboration between China and Australia will be off limits.

That same pragmatism exists across our education relationship.

The reason Australian universities are so attractive to hundreds of thousands of international students, supported by their families and recognised by their governments, is because we are world class. The reason we are world class is because our institutions are fiercely independent and cherish their academic freedom.

This may clash with values on both sides from time to time but Beijing respects the quality and independence of our institutions, just as our government and institutions recognise and respect China's views.

As Canberra and Beijing gear up for the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations the challenge is to look beyond the fog of difference and towards a future where education continues to light the way.

Laurie Pearcey is pro vice-chancellor international at UNSW Sydney and former CEO of the Australia China Business Council.

10-488



Lysette Anthony in 2009 (main) and in 1987 (inset). Main picture: AFP

Harvey raped me

Police probe soapie star's accusation of assault in the '80s

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 *Hollyoaks*, 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 ndon police were investiga- g a rape allegation against ue producer from the '80s.

The Metropolitan Police confirmed an investigation without identifying Weinstein.

Dozens of women, including actors Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, went public with accusations against Weinstein following recent reports by *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* detailing misconduct claims by others.

UNITED KINGDOM

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 "send a message that the era of wilful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over".

Weinstein's brother, Bob, 62, the co-founder of The Weinstein Company, says he's in "a waking nightmare" and had no idea of "the type of predator" his brother is accused of being.

"I want him to get the justice he deserves," said Mr Weinstein, who operated 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 and Harvey, 65, have barely spoken in five years.

They ran separate divisions of their company, from opposite coasts — Bob in Los Angeles, Harvey in New York.

He said he knew his brother was unfaithful to wife Georgina Chapman, "philandering with every woman he could meet", but had no idea of any sexual harassment and assault.

"The members of the board, including myself, did not know the extent of my brother's actions. I'll tell you what I did know: Harvey was a bully.

"Harvey was arrogant. He treated people like (crap) all the time. I'm mortified and disgusted by my brother's actions. And I am sick for the victims. And I feel for them."

Of the Weinstein Co, he said: "There is a plan to come out on the other side."

AP



Harvey Weinstein

KENYA

Teen kills 6 at school

AN expelled student has shot dead six of his former schoolmates and a security guard at his school in northern Kenya, and was then himself killed by a furious mob.

The attack took place at a school in the remote town of Lokichogio near the border with war-torn South Sudan.

The attacker was a 17-year-old from South Sudan, one of thousands of refugee children in Kenya since civil war broke out in their country in 2013.

He was arrested in possession of an AK-47, but an angry mob killed him while in police custody.

UNITED STATES

FIRE THREAT TO TOWN

BUSHFIRES raced toward wineries and the historic town of Sonoma, chasing hundreds more people from their homes and threatening to roll back firefighters' modest gains against blazes across a 160km swath of northern California.

Crews halted the advance at the edge of Sonoma. Firefighters spent days digging firebreaks to keep flames from the city's historic central plaza built centuries ago when the area was under Spanish rule. But several homes near a vineyard east of the town were in ruins.

SYRIA

IS ready to quit Raqqa

ISLAMIC State fighters are set to abandon Raqqa in a withdrawal agreed with the US-backed Syrian militia that has them surrounded.

The jihadists' defeat in their former capital is edging closer, a militia spokesman said.

The final defeat of IS at Raqqa would be a milestone in efforts to roll back the theocratic "caliphate" the group declared in 2014 in Syria and Iraq, where earlier this year it was driven from Mosul.



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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 province is Hoa Binh in the north, where 20 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 exemptions.

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.



Actor Eva Green. Picture: Getty

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 his downfall over the past 10 days has been dramatic, with police investigating in the US and UK and a long line of big names denouncing him.

Among more than 30 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 and she had to physically push him off.

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 first published allegations he had been buying off his victims for decades on October 5.

The Academy said it had voted "well in excess of the required two-thirds majority" to immediately expel Weinstein.

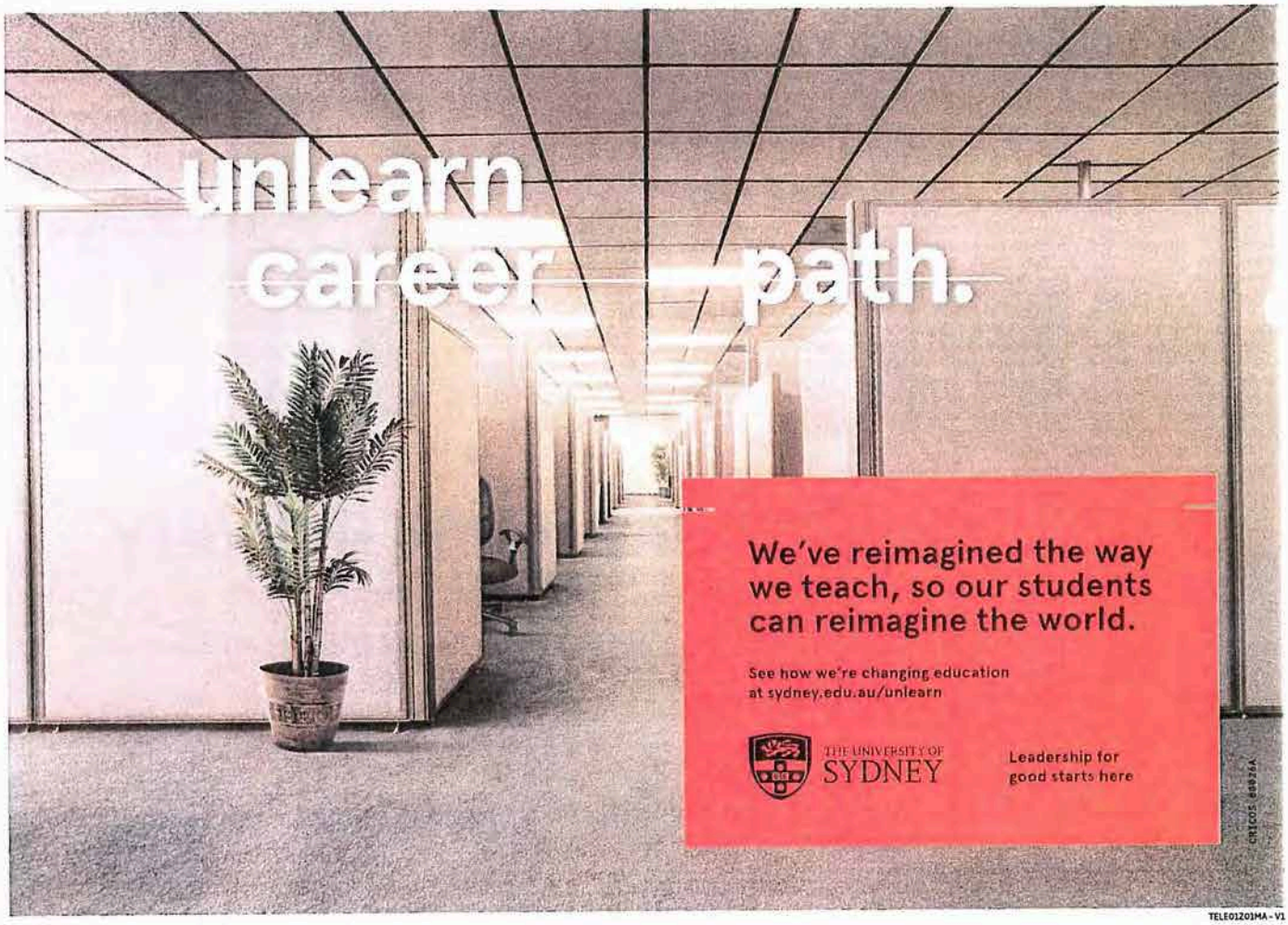
"We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of wilful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over," the board said in a public statement.

The 54-member Oscars board includes heavy hitters such as Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and Kathleen Kennedy.

There has been no comment y on whether Weinstein's Oscars w be rescinded. His films have receivea more than 300 Oscar nominations and won 81.

It came as Weinstein's brother Bob, who along with the board kicked him out of the company they co founded last week, said he has shown no remorse for his "sick and depraved ways".

Bob Weinstein said he considered his brother someone who cheated in his marriage but was not aware of



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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.



Harvey Weinstein and British actress Sophie Dix, who claims he sexually harassed her in the 1990s. Photos: AP, Supplied

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.

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Weinstein "unequivocally denies" the claims.

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British actor 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.

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"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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COMMENT OCTOBER 16 2017

Harvey Weinstein is a sex offender not a sex addict

Bryony Gordon

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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.

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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.



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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.

'efore 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 ad 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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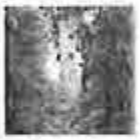

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OCTOBER 16 2017

Harvey Weinstein investigated over four more rape, abuse allegations in London

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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.

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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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Woody Allen warns of 'witch hunt' after Weinstein allegations

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."

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Anthony, who stars in the television soap *Hollyoaks*, told *The Sunday Times* she had told the Metropolitan Police about an attack in the '80s.



Lysette Anthony (Roxanne) who stars in Night and Day on ABC TV in 2002.

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".



Harvey Weinstein, left, Gwyneth Paltrow and Edward Zwick celebrated winning the Oscar for best picture for Shakespeare in Love. Photo: New York Times

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."



Lysette Anthony in 1988. Photo: Universal Pictorial Press Photo

The Telegraph, London

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Producers Guild to expel Harvey Weinstein, create sexual harassment taskforce

.en Yamato

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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.

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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 Lori 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 abuse and harassment are eradicated from the industry."



The Producers Guild of America has voted to expel Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

Weinstein and his brother Bob were the recipients of the guild's highest honour, the Milestone Award, in 2013.

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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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OCTOBER 17 2017

Weinstein complaints mount but most monsters lurk outside the movies

John Birmingham

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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.

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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.

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NYPD, Scotland Yard launch Weinstein investigations

The fall of Harvey Weinstein, the Miramaximum douche-nozzle, has occasioned a great outpouring of rage and grief and righteous animus ... but mostly from his victims and the numberless ranks of less-famous, less-celebrated victims of other less-famous, less-celebrated predators.

You will have seen at least some of this online the past few days. Women you know, even if only at a remove, talking about their experiences of unfairness, discrimination, intimidation, assault and, in the final extreme, of rape.

Their attackers weren't movie moguls or software billionaires or even the President of the United States, although there appears to be no shortage of women to tell those particular stories.

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Nope.



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 worst of Harvey Weinstein but Woody Allen says he feels "sad" for the disgraced movie mogul — and he said he fears a "witch hunt".

It came as more allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against Weinstein and police in London said they are conducting investigations into five alleged sex assaults.



Allen and Weinstein.

Controversial director Allen, who has battled his own sordid allegations in the past, worked with Weinstein several times. "The whole Harvey 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 sad 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 non-consensual sexual activity.

Allen's son Ronan 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 Ali on silk burial costumes found in boat graves in Sweden.

While trade between the Islamic and Viking worlds began about 950AD, the robes found at a site north of Stockholm suggest a deeper cultural exchange. Experts said Viking burial traditions could have been informed by Islamic belief.



Sebastian Kurz addresses supporters as Austrian election results come through. Picture: Getty

AUSTRIA'S MOMENT OF YOUTH

Far right to gain power

ELLEN WHINNETT

VIENNA: A baby-faced Austrian anti-immigration conservative with a glamorous girlfriend will become the first millennial to lead a European country.

People's Party chief and Austrian foreign minister Sebastian Kurz, 31, known in Austria as Wunderwuzzi or "Wonderkid", claimed victory in the Austrian elections on Sunday night. While he fell short 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, who only took over the People's Party in May, call for restrictions on migration, and the cutting of benefits for European Union migrants living 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 SS member Anton Reinthaller, secured about 25.9 per cent of the vote. It was last part of a coalition government from 2000-2005 and the EU briefly 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 ministry employee Susanne 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."

Absentee and postal ballots will be announced on Thursday and the results declared on October 31.

The People's Party gained about 31.7 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 all parties once final votes were in, but is considered closer to the Freedom Party than the Social Democrats.

"I would of course like to form a stable government. If that cannot be done then there are other options," 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 to stop migrants arriving in Austria through the Balkan states. This year he pledged to stop them arriving from Africa.

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Austria follows shift to right

JACQUELIN MAGNAY
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT



Austria's new millennial leader, 31-year-old conservative Sebastian Kurz, is poised to form government with the far right, creating a fresh EU rupture through tougher immigration policies.

Mr Kurz will be the world's youngest leader, having shifted his party from centre-right to the right and taken it from third in the polls five months ago.

His win reflects the shift to the right in the September 24 German election, which left Chancellor Angela Merkel facing tough negotiations to forge a three-way coalition.

Mr Kurz's conservative People's Party (OVP), won with 31.4 per cent support, ahead of the far-right Freedom Party (FPO) with 27.4 per cent and the Social Democrats on 26.8 per cent. The Greens scored a poor 3.3 per cent and will not be represented in the parliament. A large number of postal votes will be counted in the coming days.

Mr Kurz presented the OVP as a new People's Party", changing its colours to turquoise and adopting many of the policies of the Freedom Party. He campaigned on giving refugees a cap of two-thirds of social security benefits for five years, reducing corporation tax and cutting income tax for earners up to €60,000 ($89,860).

Earlier this year he ended his party's coalition with the Social Democrats and vowed to "put Austria first". He supported the tough anti-migrant stance of Hungary's Viktor Orban, which helped stem the western Balkans migrant route.

While more than 1.5 million migrants have passed through Austria en route to Germany and Sweden, about 130,000 have claimed asylum in Austria.

"Today we have won a huge mandate to change this country, and I promise you I will work with all my energy for change," Mr Kurz, a former law student, told supporters yesterday.

"We want to establish a new culture in politics. And we want to change the country for the better. I accept this responsibility with great humility."

Mr Kurz is the only child of a secretary and a schoolteacher, and has attained cult status in Austria since he posed with young women on the "hot-o-mobile", giving out black condoms in a 2010 council election campaign — at a time when the party's colours were black. His controversial slogan for that campaign was "Schwarz macht geil" — "Black makes you hot".

He became the party's secretary of integration and a year later became foreign minister at 27. In this campaign he was seen scaling the Alps to "return this beautiful country to the peak".

Observers say there has not been this much euphoria over an Austrian politician since Joerg Haider, the magnetic but controversial FPO leader who died in a drink-driving car crash in 2008.

"His phenomenon isn't all that new and resembles the ... expectations placed in Joerg Haider," journalist Christa Zoechling wrote in current affairs magazine *Profil*.

He has a long-time girlfriend, Susanne, but she is rarely seen by his side.

Mr Kurz intends to align with the FPO, which has its origins with former Nazis in the 1950s.

The FPO had been leading the polls this year, but with Mr Kurz adopting many of their policies, the Austrians have felt more comfortable with a stronger conservative voice than an extreme shift.

"The Freedom Party as a government partner will not make a good impression in Europe (and) Kurz is aware of that," Austrian newspaper *Der Standard* said just before the polls opened.

"But the question is whether there is any getting around (Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian) Strache after this election."

Outgoing Chancellor Christian Kern, a Social Democrat, said he would remain as party leader to defend an open, modern, democratic and diverse Austria in the years ahead.

"There has been a huge shift to the right," he said.

"We have seen it across Europe. We are not pleased with the result, but we can live with it."

Some analysts warn that Mr Kurz's election will be an "earthquake" for the EU.

"He's a 'Haider light' version," said Paris-based Austria expert Patrick Moreau. Kurz's ideas on everything from immigration to economic policy represented a "complete rupture" with the EU, Moreau added.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AFP



Sebastian Kurz, the world's youngest leader, thanks supporters of his People's Party after the election victory AFP

SEBASTIAN KURZ

Head of the Austrian People's Party (OVP) set to become Europe's youngest leader

Age: 31

- Became the EU's youngest foreign minister, aged 27
- Known in Austria as "Emperor Kurz", or "Whizz-kid"
- Greeted like a rock star when on the campaign trail
- Claims credit for closing the Balkan migrant trail last year

- 1986 Born August 2 in Vienna. His father was a technician, his mother a teacher
- 2003 Joins the centre-right OeVP's youth wing
- 2010 Ridiculed in a council election campaign for featuring the slogan "Black makes you hot", Black is the OeVP colour
- 2011 Minister for integration
- 2013 Foreign minister
- 2017 Becomes leader of the OVP
- Oct 15, 2017 Projections put him ahead in legislative elections

'I want it to be possible for young people in our country to be successful, whether they want to find that success in the family, as an artist or by founding a company. I refuse to give in to the sad reflex of French envy because this envy paralyses our country'

EMMANUEL MACRON
FRENCH PRESIDENT



Love thy neighbour ... unless his name happens to be Trump

WORLD COMMENTARY

THE ECONOMIST

For almost 80 years the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship has aspired, in the words of its first president, to take a "definite stand for Christ on the campus". Yet in August the student body dropped the word "evangelical" from its name. It had become "misunderstood" by students, its current boss said. "There might be certain assumptions that all evangelicals are Republicans."

That would not be unreasonable, given that 81 per cent of self-identified white evangelicals voted for Donald Trump and, amid the shambles of his presidency, they remain his most devoted fans. But it is easy to see why some Princetonians might find that hard to stomach. Ever since the founding of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority in 1979, white evangelicals have justified their pre-eminent role in US politics in part by standing for high moral character in public office. That is not a standard Trump meets. Yet there were also encouraging exceptions to this depressing capitulation by white evangelicals, which could have impressive consequences. Disgusted by Trump, many younger Christians, in particular, are rethinking the nexus between politics and faith. This raises a glimpse of two much-needed renewals — of US democracy and of its foremost religious tradition.

To explore this, *The Economist* paid a visit to Wheaton College in Illinois, which illustrates some of the strengths of that tradition. One of America's foremost Christian institutions, it was founded by abolitionists in 1860 and doubled as a stop on the Underground Railway. These days its leafy campus also houses a museum dedicated to a famous alumnus, Billy Graham, "America's pastor", in the admiring phrase of George H.W. Bush. And in the political-science class to which *The Economist* was welcomed, the students, 14 evangelical sophomores from across America, seemed mindful of that dual legacy.

They were contemptuous of the acquiescence, or worse, of their co-religionists to Trump's racial divisiveness. "Evangelical Christianity is supposed to be about love thy neighbour," said Tim, a uniformed soldier from Ohio.

"It gave me a sense of betrayal," said Jessica, a Mexican-American from San Diego. "It was like our own community turned against my family."

Like Graham, the students also worried that the church had become too political and too partisan.

"We've become over-identified with a political party," said Drew, from Pittsburgh. Only two of the students had voted for Trump (though most of their parents had). Nine said they were now uneasy about being identified as evangelical.

Princeton and Wheaton are rarefied places. Yet polling data suggest many young white evangelicals feel similarly, and also why. It is not because they are better than their parents at spotting a phony. Older evangelicals also know what Trump is. (Last year they flipped from being the voter group most likely to say personal morality mattered in a president, to being the group least likely to say that.) Yet they are burdened by deep anger and racially tinged resentment at the secular turn America has taken, and Trump vowed to redress that. By comparison, their offspring are more relaxed. Having never experienced majority status, they do not mourn the loss of it. While evangelicals now represent only about 17 per cent of the population; those under the age of 30 represent a mere 8 per cent. Inspired by writers such as Russell Moore, a Southern Baptist leader and scathing critic of Trump, many youngsters even consider their moral minority status a sort of spiritual liberation. "Throughout its history, Christianity has always tended to get into a tangle with power," quips James Forsyth, 33, a pastor in McLean, Virginia.

While not obviously less prayerful than their parents, young evangelicals, semi-freed from the culture wars, are also culturally more in step with the rest of America. This is apparent in a widening generational split on gay rights. A big majority of older white evangelists oppose gay marriage; almost half of

> Having never experienced majority status, young evangelicals do not mourn the loss of it

younger ones are for it. Among the students at Wheaton, 10 said they were comfortable with gay marriage and only one was not.

Thus liberated, young evangelicals are also embracing a far more diverse, and heterodox, set of concerns than their "evil elders", as the Wheaton students, with no hint of irony, referred to their parents' generation. They are more concerned, at Wheaton and everywhere, about the environment, the plight of refugees and immigrants, and criminal justice reform, which are mostly preoccupations of the Democrats. This raises an intriguing question: are young white evangelicals about to turn left?

It seems unlikely. Inheritors of a protestant tradition founded on distrust of central authority, they are still conservative. Polling also suggests young evangelicals are as hostile to abortion as their elders.

Another important conclusion from the election, moreover, is that they will not consider a Democratic Party that does not respect them. Where Barack Obama, in 2008 especially, launched a serious and rather successful bid for white evangelical votes, Hillary Clinton's strategists hardly bothered with them last year, some framed the contest against Trump as America's "first post-Christian election". With white evangelical numbers in decline, and the Democrats increasingly in hock to groups that consider abortion less a necessary evil than a splendid right, that high-handed attitude may endure.

But this would be a mistake, most obviously because it may be some time before the Democrats' demographic advantages deliver the easy wins their activists seem to expect. Meanwhile they will need every white vote they can get — and at least some young evangelicals look persuadable. Moreover, the deep meaning of the generational divide in Christian America is that the electorate, mercifully, is more dynamic than the lumpen logic of tribal politics suggests. To adapt to it, Republicans plainly need to heed the cultural concerns of today. Yet the Democrats' task, which is to embrace pluralism as well as diversity, is no less pressing.

The Economist

Tillerson plays down tensions with Trump

WASHINGTON: Rex Tillerson insisted that tensions with Donald Trump were not hindering his mission as US Secretary of State, while ducking the question of whether he called the president a "moron".

Mr Tillerson dismissed the brouhaha as the "petty stuff" of Washington. Asked about a leading GOP senator's comment — "You cannot publicly castrate your own secretary of state" — Mr Tillerson would have none of it.

"I checked. I'm fully intact," he quipped.

Again and again, Mr Tillerson declined in a news show interview to attest to the accuracy of the report about his use of the word "moron" to describe the commander-in-chief.

He said he was "not dignifying the question with an answer", reprising his response from earlier this month, the morning the story broke, when he used an extraordinary televised statement to insist he had nothing but respect for Mr Trump.

"I'm not making a game out of it," Mr Tillerson said yesterday on CNN.

Asked once more, he replied: "I'm not playing."

It was unclear why Mr Tillerson was unwilling to repeat the explicit denial his spokeswoman had earlier made on his behalf. But the continuing questions have brought his strained relationship with the President into renewed focus.

Mr Tillerson insisted the relationship was solid, and that the public focus on whether he had being undermined by the President had not impeded his ability to succeed in his role.

"I know the appearance of it certainly looks like there's sometimes disunity," Mr Tillerson told CBS.

"There's no confusion among the people that matter."

AP

Allen sets record straight on 'sad, sick' Weinstein

LOS ANGELES: Woody Allen yesterday clarified his warnings against a Harvey Weinstein "witch hunt", saying he meant the disgraced Hollywood mogul was a "sad, sick man".

"When I said I felt sad for Harvey Weinstein, I thought it was clear the meaning was because he is a sad, sick man," Allen's statement to *Variety* magazine read.

"I was surprised it was treated differently. Lest there be any ambiguity, this statement clarifies my intention and feelings."

Earlier, Allen had urged caution over the scandal involving dozens of women accusing Weinstein of sexual abuse.

"You don't want it to lead to a witch-hunt atmosphere, a Salem atmosphere, where every guy in an office who winks at a woman is suddenly having to call a lawyer to defend himself."

Weinstein has been credited with reviving Allen's career after the director was accused of abusing Dylan Farrow, his adopted daughter with actress Mia Farrow. Allen has always denied the claims.



Woody Allen and Harvey Weinstein in LA in 2008 AFP

The allegation against Allen emerged in the early 1990s after he separated from Mia Farrow when she discovered he was having an affair with her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn.

Allen's son Ronan Farrow was among those who investigated Weinstein, writing in *The New Yorker* about three women who alleged he had raped them. Allen and Weinstein worked together on films including *Mighty Aphrodite* in 1995, for which Mira Sorvino, one of Weinstein's accusers, won an Oscar.

Allen said he had never heard any allegations of rape and sexual assault. "No one ever came to me or told me horror stories with any real seriousness," he added. "But you do hear a million fanciful rumours all the time. And some turn out to be true and some — many — are just stories."

The comments came as British police investigated allegations that Weinstein sexually assaulted a second woman in London.

Scotland Yard, which was already probing one allegation made by a woman against Weinstein, is now looking at three further allegations made by a second woman.

"On October 11, Merseyside Police referred an allegation of sexual assault to the Metropolitan Police Service," Scotland Yard said. "It is alleged that a man sexually assaulted a woman (victim 1) in the late 1980s in west London.

"On October 14, further allegations were made against the same man. It is alleged that the man sexually assaulted a woman (victim 2) in Westminster in 2010 and 2011, and in Camden in 2015," both areas in London.

"Officers from the Met's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command are investigating the allegations. There has been no arrest at this stage."

The British police do not name suspects who have not been charged. An avalanche of claims have surfaced since the publication last week of an explosive report by *The New York Times* newspaper alleging a history of abusive behaviour by Weinstein dating back decades.

Weinstein has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex.

Weinstein's films have received more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 statuettes, according to The Weinstein Company, which he co-founded after selling Miramax.

REUTERS, AFP, THE TIMES

Leader's retirement could shift China's policy on N Korea

ROWAN CALLICK
CHINA CORRESPONDENT

The retirement of China's third-ranked leader after tomorrow's Communist Party congress is set to change the delicate balance on North Korea policy.

A debate is escalating between cadres who urge caution and those pushing to crack down on Pyongyang.

Zhang Dejiang, 70, is believed to be the foremost of the caution camp. He comes from Liaoning province, which borders North Korea, and studied Korean at Yanbian University in neighbouring Jilin before gaining a degree in economics from Kim Il-sung University in North Korea in 1980.

His expertise on Pyongyang is understood to have spurred his progress through the party's elite.

He is deputy chairman of the National Security Commission, and chairman of the National People's Congress standing committee.

Strategic advisory and analysis firm China Policy argues Mr Zhang's departure will tip the balance of opinion at the top towards the analysis of Jia Qinggun, the dean of Peking University's School of International Studies.

Professor Jia, who has a doctorate from Cornell University in the US, has urged Beijing to join — or co-ordinate — planning with the US and South Korea towards coping with imminent crisis on the peninsula, with the prospect emerging of a power struggle in North Korea as hardliner sanctions bite.

A bitter online debate emerged — and, almost as interesting, was allowed to emerge by the authorities — between Professor Jia and a former police officer, Zhu Zhihua, a member of the Zhejiang Association of International relations.

Mr Zhu accused Professor Jia of "copying the US", which had brainwashed him, and of conceding the prospect of a military attack on North Korea, saying the professor held a "wrong political standpoint" — a form of criticism much used in China's Maoist past.

Professor Jia said "scholars should not be treated as suspects", evoking Mr Zhu's public security officer career.

Global Times editor Hu Xijin backed the professor, urging an end to politicising such an important issue.

China Policy says this face-off shows that "red lines for public discourse continue to be redrawn, with contingency planning no longer taboo. And while critics of ties with North Korea have multiplied and become much more vocal, conservatives have not yet given up the fight."

The temperature in Beijing about North Korea, it says, "is rising to match Donald Trump's Twitter feed".

Singapore's Chinese-language daily *Lianhe Zaobao* says the debate is between a "leftist" position that views the US and South Korea using North Korea's nuclear program as a device to reduce China's strategic interests and "rightist" elements that stress the threat a nuclearised Kim regime poses to Beijing, urging closer co-operation with the international community.

Zhu Feng, dean of Nanjing University's School of International Relations, is firmly on Mr Jia's side, warning of the cost of North Korea's provocations to China's security environment and global role, and of the risk of accidents — as well as blaming THAAD's deployment on the North Korean deadlock.

Wang Peng, a research fellow at China's Charhar Institute think tank, warns that the issue can become even more divisive if people equate support for North Korea's nuclear program with support for its socialist system and by extension for China's own system.

The debate remains "deeply divisive", says China Policy, with Mr Hu describing the Zhu-Jia stand-off as the tip of the iceberg.

The "rightists", it says, argue for more pressure to be placed on Pyongyang beyond talks, primarily viewing North Korea's nuclear program as a threat to China's security — strengthening the US-South Korea-Japan network and ramping up the risk of nuclear proliferation — and warning of the dangers of accidents to China's northeast.

In contrast, the "leftists", who may also be viewed as "conservatives", see the US as the real threat and blame it for the deteriorating situation, while seeing North Korea continuing to play a valuable role as China's buffer.

Duterte calls end of ISIS siege

AMANDA HODGE
SOUTHEAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has declared Marawi City liberated from ISIS militants after a five-month siege that has left more than 1000 people dead and sparked fears the conflict could spill over into Southeast Asia.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from the terrorist influence that marks the beginning of rehabilitation of the city," Mr Duterte told troops in the ruined city yesterday, as fighting continued between the last surviving militants and security forces.

Shortly after his announcement, Philippines military chief Military chief Eduardo Ano sought to clarify the President's statement, saying it meant the threat from the militants, who have been fighting in Marawi since May 23, was substantially over.

"They're leaderless and they have no more organisation," General Ano said. "There are still skirmishes."

Some 30 militants are believed to still be fighting security forces and holding as many as 20 civilians hostage in a tiny area of the city centre still under terrorist control.

Authorities have predicted the last militants will be caught or killed within days, paving the way for the mammoth task of rebuilding the ruined city — once considered the seat of Islamic learning in Muslim-majority southern Mindanao.

The liberation announcement came a day after Philippines security forces shot dead the last two surviving commanders of the militant forces, including Isnilon Hapilon — Islamic State's so-called Southeast Asia emir and one of Asia's most wanted terrorists.



AFP

Rodrigo Duterte with the troops yesterday

'They're leaderless and they have no more organisation'

EDUARDO ANO
PHILIPPINES MILITARY CHIEF

Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf commander with a US government bounty of $US5 million ($6.4m) on his head, and Omarkhayam Maute, one of two Middle East-educated brothers who led the local Maute militant group, were killed in an early morning raid by military forces following information received from a 16-year-old hostage freed on Saturday.

But Philippines' forces are still hunting Malaysian terrorist Mahmoud Ahmad, who is believed to still be hiding out in Marawi.

Ahmad is believed to have raised much of the funding for the siege and acted as mediator between ISIS command in Raqqa and the Maute brothers, who were the military brains of the operation.

Philippines military spokesman Restituto Padilla said the war in Marawi would continue "until all armed elements are dealt with".

"The declaration of the President hopefully gives way to the entry and start of rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding of Marawi from the ashes."

That is expected to take at least three years and President Duterte has already allocated 100 billion pesos ($250m) for the task.

But it could still be weeks, if not months, before civilians can safely return to the city.

Soldiers are now turning their attention to clearing Marawi of improvised explosive devices, the greatest cause of troop casualties since about 500 heavily-armed militants streamed into the city on May 23 declaring their intention to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate in southern Mindanao.

Philippines security analyst Richard Heydarian said the threat of a wilayat (ISIS province) had been "more or less contained" by the security forces.

The key now would be to rebuild quickly to avoid anger and disenchantment among the 400,000 civilians displaced by the conflict creating a fertile recruitment ground for terrorists.

"The concern right now is that ISIS sympathisers in The Philippines will shift to spectacular terrorist attacks, as they did in Middle East," Professor Heydarian told Al Jazeera last night.

"The war in Marawi may be over but the battle over extremism and terrorism is definitely not over."

New Jakarta chief stirs ethnic tensions

AMANDA HODGE
NIVELL RYDA
JAKARTA

He promised to reunite a city divided over an election fought along race and religious lines but Jakarta's new governor has used his first speech in office to urge "native" Jakartans to take back the Indonesian capital.

Anies Baswedan's speech on Monday night, which followed his swearing in at the Presidential Palace, sparked concern among the city's ethnic Chinese community who have endured decades of discrimination and long been regarded as non-natives.

The former education minister, sacked by President Joko Widodo last year, told supporters outside City Hall: "Jakarta is one of a few places in Indonesia which felt the presence of colonialists up close.

"In Jakarta, colonialism is right in front of eyes, felt in everyday lives. In the old days, all of us pribumi (natives) were oppressed and defeated. Now after independence, it is time for us to be the masters of our land," he said as people in the crowd punched the air and shouted "Allah is Great".

The comments are particularly incendiary given the campaign focused on the ethnicity of former governor Basuki Tjahaja "Ahok" Purnama, an ethnic-Chinese Christian whom Islamists argued could not represent Muslim-majority Jakarta. Days after Mr Anies's election victory in April, following a campaign in which the former moderate Muslim played up his conservative religious credentials, Ahok — an ally of Mr Joko — was jailed for blasphemy.

Hendri Satrio, a political lecturer at Paramadina University where Mr Anies previously was rector, said it was "inappropriate" any politician to use the terms pribumi" and "non-pribumi", and particularly so for the new governor, given Jakarta was "still trying to heal itself from a very divisive election season".

"The atmosphere in Jakarta is very different now compared to before the election and the term 'pribumi' could spark tension. We cannot blame those who took offence at this speech," Mr Hendri told *The Australian*.

Former minister and human rights advocate Tebias Basuki described the speech as a "disaster" guaranteed to "open old wounds".

The Centre for Strategic and Political Studies researcher said the message was "alienating, especially coming from him and his track record in the election.

"It's quite obvious that he's excluding Chinese Indonesians because that's the narrative that propelled him into office," he said.

As controversy mounted yesterday, Mr Anies insisted he had been referring to Dutch colonialists and not the Chinese community, which is perceived as holding much of the city's wealth.

"Who faced the Dutch up close? Jakartans," he said. "If we look at people in the countryside, they know about the Dutch. But do they face them up close? No. The bottom line is I was talking about the Dutch colonial rule."

But Tom Pepinsky, an associate professor at Cornell University's Southeast Asia program, writing on the website New Mandala, said: "Every Indonesian who hears this speech will understand that it is targeting ethnic Chinese Indonesians. Specifically, it is associating Chinese Indonesians with the long colonial period and its legacies on everyday politics."

Mr Pepinsky noted a banner displayed along the governor's convoy route to City Hall on Monday night, hailing Mr Anies's election as a "symbol of the awakening of the indigenous Muslims", reflected "similar kinds of politics".



AFP

Anies Baswedan left, after being sworn in by Joko Widodo at the Presidential Palace on Monday night

Trump aide to save Weinstein firm as women slam abuse

NEW YORK: Facing a scandal that has blackened its name and left a founder facing police inquiries in London, New York and Los Angeles, the surviving board of the Weinstein Company has announced it is holding talks to sell the studio.

Colony Capital, run by Thomas Barrack Jr, a close adviser to President Donald Trump, said it had agreed to invest in the film company founded by Harvey Weinstein, 65, and his brother Bob, 62, with an eye to buying some or all of its assets.

The announcement came after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the most powerful institution in Hollywood, which disburses Oscars, said it would expel Weinstein from its membership, as a growing number of women accused him of harassing or assaulting them.

Actresses including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, and some who left the industry after encountering him, have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment, and at least four women have accused him of rape.

Bob Weinstein said his brother had caused "unconscionable suffering" declaring himself "heartbroken for the women he harmed". He said he and 180 members of staff had met to discuss how to salvage the company. He told *The Hollywood Reporter*: "They said, 'We don't want Harvey to have the last word on this company. We want to stay'

"My brother is the one who should pay for everything, and I mean literally — whether it's criminal or otherwise. I will be supportive of that. But I don't think the people that are employees of this company or the company itself should pay."



Harvey Weinstein

Efforts to separate Harvey Weinstein from the company he co-founded in 2005 have been complicated by allegations that some staff helped to facilitate his lone meetings with aspiring actresses, and that board members knew he had reached legal settlements with some women after he renegotiated his contract in 2015. Weinstein is tipped to contest his firing as company chairman.

Bob Weinstein insisted he was unaware of his brother's alleged abuses, saying they had barely spoken in recent years and ran separate divisions of the company. "I was also the object of a lot of verbal abuse, at one time physical abuse," he said.

Bob Weinstein was said to be the source of the first reports into his brother's alleged sexual abuse, apparently wailing until their mother died last year before disclosing the behaviour.

He denied the claim: "That's totally untrue. I could take a lie-detector test on that," adding that his brother might be behind such suggestions.

"Harvey is suspicious of everybody. People that are liars — lying to his wife, to his children, to everyone — well, they have to turn around and say, 'Who stabbed me?' " he said. "It's unbelievable that even to this moment he is more concerned with who sold him out. I don't hear concern or contrition for the victims."

The Weinstein scandal inspired women to flood social media with accounts of sexual assault and harassment yesterday, responding to calls to break the culture of silence.

People shared stories and offered support under multiple hashtags, including #MeToo in English, #balancetonporc ("Rat out your pig") in French, and #quellavoltache ("That time that") in Italian.

US actress Alyssa Milano sparked the outpouring with a Twitter request that women respond "me too" if they had been sexually harassed or assaulted. #MeToo became the top trending topic.

Monica Lewinsky — the centre of the White House sex scandal in the 1990s leading to the impeachment trial of US president Bill Clinton — simply tweeted #MeToo with out comment.

THE TIMES, AFP

Bomb kills reporter who linked Malta PM to Panama Papers

VALLETTA: A Maltese investigative journalist who exposed the island nation's links to offshore tax havens through the leaked Panama Papers was killed when a bomb exploded in her car.

Daphne Caruana Galizia, 53, had just driven away from her home in Mosta, a town on Malta's main island, when the bomb went off, sending the vehicle's wreckage spiralling over a wall and into a field, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said yesterday.

Caruana Galizia's death resulted from a "barbaric attack" that also amounted to an assault on freedom of expression, Mr Muscat said. He described her as "one of my harshest critics, on a political and personal level" as he denounced her slaying.

One of the topics the veteran reporter examined was the revelations about Malta in the Panama Papers. She wrote that Mr Muscat's wife, the Energy Minister and the government's chief of staff had offshore holdings in Panama to receive money from Azerbaijan. Mr Muscat and his wife, Michelle, denied they had companies in Panama.

Caruana Galizia filed a police report two weeks ago saying she was receiving threats, law-enforcement officials said.

The slain journalist had been a columnist for *The Malta Independent* since 1996. She also wrote a popular blog called Running Commentary.

Half an hour before she was killed, she posted to her website an item about a libel claim the Prime Minister's chief of staff had brought against a former opposition figure over comments the latter made about corruption.





AP

Caruana Galizia's bombed car

Opposition leader Adrian Delia sued Caruana Galizia over a series of stories linking him to a prostitution racket in London. Economy Minister Chris Cardona claimed libel when she wrote he visited a brothel while in Germany on government business.

Yesterday's parliament session was scrapped, except for briefings about the bombing given by Mr Muscat and Mr Delia, who called the reporter's slaying a "political murder".

Mr Muscat said he had asked the US government and the FBI for help investigating the car bombing.

Caruana Galizia is survived by her husband and three sons. One son, Matthew, was on the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its work on the Panama Papers scandal.

The leak exposed the identities of rich and powerful people around the world who allegedly had offshore holdings in Panama.

Caruana Galizia's family has asked the Courts of Malta to replace a magistrate assigned to conduct the inquiry into the journalist's death. The family said the magistrate, Consuelo Scerri Herrera, "in her personal capacity, had launched judicial procedures against (Caruana Galizia) regarding comments she had written"

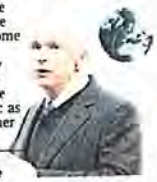
Caruana Galizia for many years was a harsh critic of Malta's Labour Party and its government. More recently she had expanded her criticism to include the opposition Nationalist Party.

"Daphne played a vitally important role in unearthing serious allegations of money laundering and corruption in Malta, including those involving senior figures in the Maltese government," said Sven Giegold, a Greens member in the European Parliament.

AP

'To abandon the ideals we have advanced around the globe ... for the sake of some half-baked, spurious nationalism cooked up by people who would rather find scapegoats than solve problems is as unpatriotic as an attachment to any other tired dogma'

JOHN McCAIN



Time fast approaching for Trump's inner circle to tell it like it is

WORLD COMMENTARY

PEGGY NOONAN

In March I met with a dozen Republican US senators for coffee as part of a series in which they invite writers, columnists and historians to share what's on their mind. The consuming topic was the new President. I wrote some notes on the train down, seized by what I felt was the central challenge Republicans on Capitol Hill were facing. The meeting was off the record, but I think I can share what I said.

I said the terrible irony of the 2016 campaign was that Donald Trump was the only one of the 17 GOP primary candidates who could have gone on to win the presidency. Only he had the uniqueness, the outside-the-boxness to win. At the same time Trump was probably the only one of the 17 who would not be able to govern, for reasons of temperament, political inexperience and essential nature. It just wouldn't work. The challenge for Republicans was to make legislative progress within that context.

It was my impression the senators were not fully receptive to my thoughts. Everyone was polite but things were subdued, and I wondered later if I'd gone too far, been too blunt, or was simply wrong. Maybe they knew things I didn't. Since then I have spoken to a few who made it clear they saw things as I did, or had come to see them that way.

I jump now to the recent story involving Republican senator Bob Corker, chairman of the foreign relations committee. In August he said publicly that Trump had yet to demonstrate the "stability" and "competence" to be a successful president. Trump mocked the senator, calling him gutless and "Liddle Bob Corker". Corker tweeted in response: "It's a shame the White House has become an adult day care centre. Someone obviously missed their shift this morning."

After that he turned serious, telling *The New York Times* "the President concerns me". He likes him, it isn't personal, but "I know for a fact that every single day at the White House it's a situation of trying to contain him." He said there are "some very good people" around the President, "and they have been able to push back against his worst instincts ... But the volatility is, to anyone who has been around, is to a degree alarming."

In particular, he observed: "The tweets, especially as it relates to foreign policy issues, I know have been very damaging to us."

Asked if he had Senate colleagues who felt the same way, Corker said: "Oh yeah. Are you kidding me? Oh yeah."

Asked why they did not speak out, Corker didn't know: "Look, except for a few people, the vast majority of our caucus understands what we're dealing with here. There will be some – if you write that, I'm sure there will be some that say, 'No, no, no, I don't believe that,' but of course they understand the volatility that we are dealing with and the tremendous amount of work that it takes from people around him to keep him in the middle of the road."

Among them are Defence Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and chief of staff John Kelly. "As long as there's people like that around him who are able to talk him down, you know, when he gets spun up, you know, calm him down and continue to work with him before a decision is made, I think we'll be fine."

He said of the President: "Sometimes I feel like he's on a reality show of some kind, you know, when he's talking about these big foreign policy issues. And, you know, he doesn't realise that, you know, that we could be heading towards World War III with the kinds of comments that he's making."

This is all pretty striking from a sitting senator, even one not running for re-election.

At roughly the same time, some sharply critical pieces on the President were coming from the nation's newspapers. *The Los Angeles Times* had a story on Trump's reaction to Kelly's efforts at imposing order on the White House: "The President by many accounts has bristled at the restrictions." The article quotes allies of the President describing him as "increasingly unwilling to be managed, even just a little". A person close to the White House claimed Kelly and Trump had recently engaged in "shouting matches". In *The Washington Post*, the President was described as "livid" whe discussing options for the Ira nuclear deal with advisers. He was "incensed" by the arguments of Tillerson and others.

Also in the *Post*, Thomas

> A lot of people appear to be questioning in a new way, or at least talking about, the President's judgment, maturity and emotional solidity

Barrack Jr, a billionaire real-estate developer and one of the President's most loyal longtime friends, delicately praised Trump as "shrewd" but said he was "shocked" and "stunned" by things he said in public and tweeted. "In my opinion, he's better than this."

Vanity Fair's Gabe Sherman said he'd spoken to a half-dozen prominent Republicans and Trump associates, who all describe "a White House in crisis as advisers struggle to contain a President who seems to be increasingly unfocused and consumed by dark moods" Sherman reported two senior Republican officials said Kelly is miserable in his job and is remaining out of a sense of duty, "to keep Trump from making some sort of disastrous decision" An adviser said of Trump: "He's lost a step." Two sources told Sherman that several month ago, former chief strategist Bannon warned Trump that t... great risk to his presidency isn't impeachment but the 25th amendment, under which the cabinet can vote to remove a president temporarily for being "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office".

There are a few things to say about all this. First, when a theme like this keeps coming up, something's going on. A lot of people appear to be questioning in a new way, or at least talking about, the President's judgment, maturity and emotional solidity. We'll be hearing more about this subject, not less, as time goes by.

Corker deserves credit for going public with his reservations and warnings. The US is in a challenging international environment: it's not unfair or unjust to ask if the President is up to it and able to lead through it.

But we are a nation divided on the subject of Trump, as on many others, and so this is a time to be extremely careful. Unnamed sources can — and well - - say anything. If you work in the White House or the administration and see what Corker sees, and what unnamed sources say they see, this is the time to speak on the record, and take the credit or the blows.

What a delicate time this is. Half the country does not see what the journalists, establishment figures and elites of Washington see. But they do see it, and they believe they're seeing clearly. It's a little scary. More light is needed.

Peggy Noonan is a former speech writer and was special assistant to US president Ronald Reagan.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Elton backs Aussie films

Writer-director says we need more local productions

BEN Elton is urging Australia's film industry to take the emphasis off Hollywood blockbusters like *Thor: Ragnarok* and start making and promoting more homegrown projects.

The millions spent luring the Marvel cosmic action movie to the Gold Coast could have helped make 10 or 15 Australian films and all the money would have stayed in Australia rather than headed overseas, Elton says.

"I'm not denying it's great to be a part of the global industry," he said. "But the reason Cate Blanchett and Russell Crowe are these big stars is because they started in small films here and we need to nurture that market too."

The writer-director famous for the cutting comedic satire of British TV series *Blackadder* and *The Young Ones*, for his series of books and more recently for penning the Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, is releasing his first Australian feature film, *Three Summers*, filmed entirely in WA with a local cast and crew.

Elton has applied his writing and directing talents to a mish-mash of quirky Australian characters for the movie, played by actors including Michael Caton, Magda Szubanski, Deborah Mailman and Rebecca Breeds.

There's a social conscience underneath the comedy.

Elton uses a WA folk festival as a microcosm where indigenous people, refugees and Anglo-Australians come together and air grievances.

Having lived in Fremantle for 30 years, where he is married to and has children with a local girl, Elton considers himself Aussie.

The film was funded largely by Screen Australia and Screen West and he believes the economic benefit of supporting local arts shouldn't be overlooked. "Every penny of the budget we had was spent within the local community," he says.

"Not one penny went overseas, we had $3.5 million which was a small but wonderful budget to have, all spent within the Pinjarra region.

"If we want the Australian character and Australian stories to be told within our own community and overseas we have to make them ourselves but it's also economically so important to support our arts."

↘ Three Summers will be released in cinemas November 2

Hutchence doco fires up INXS

INXS has lashed out at producers of a new documentary about the life of their late frontman Michael Hutchence, saying no-one in the band was approached to participate or consult on the project.

The band released a strongly-worded statement explaining their permission wasn't sought for any INXS-related materials to be used in the two-part documentary series, *The Last Rockstar*.

The band released a strongly worded statement this week explaining their permission wasn't sought for any INXS-related materials that were used in the two-part documentary series.

"Universal Music Group, Petrol Records and the members of INXS have confirmed that they were never approached for their opinion, consultation of the content, participation or comment in relation to the Michael Hutchence documentary," the statement read.

"Publication of any image or recording concerning INXS or the Band Members is not an authorised publication."



Kirk Pengilly and Michael Hutchence in Illinois in 1986

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Authors eye Man Booker glory

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 big name omissions.

US author George Saunders (*pictured*) is the bookmakers' favourite to take the world's most prestigious English-language literary award for his first full-length novel *Lincoln in the Bardo*.

The book weaves a tale around the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie, using the accounts of hundreds of narrators.

He would become the second US author to win the prize



following last year's victory by Paul Beatty, for his novel *The Sellout*.

The prize, which was launched in 1969, was only opened to non-Commonwealth authors from 2013 – a decision that was highly controversial in Britain.

Washington Post critic Ron Charles urged Britain to "please take your Booker Prize back home" in a recent article bemoaning the homogeneity of US culture.

"For any serious reader of fiction in this country, the Americanisation of the Booker Prize is a lost opportunity to learn about great books that haven't already been widely heralded," he wrote.

Debut writer Emily Fridlund is in the running with *History of Wolves*, while fellow debut novelist Fiona Mozley, 29, is on the list for *Elmet*.

Guild looks to ditch Weinstein

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 (*pictured*) 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 on by a group comprised 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 5000 members and 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 presidents Gary Lucchesi 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

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COMMENT OCTOBER 18 2017

Harvey Weinstein case shines light on witness apathy

Jim Bright

MORE

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 case against Harvey Weinstein is growing. Photo: Andy Butterton/PA Wire

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 10 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 damning 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 celebre, find no difficulty in

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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 overlooker 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 .ducate, 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 @DrJimBright.

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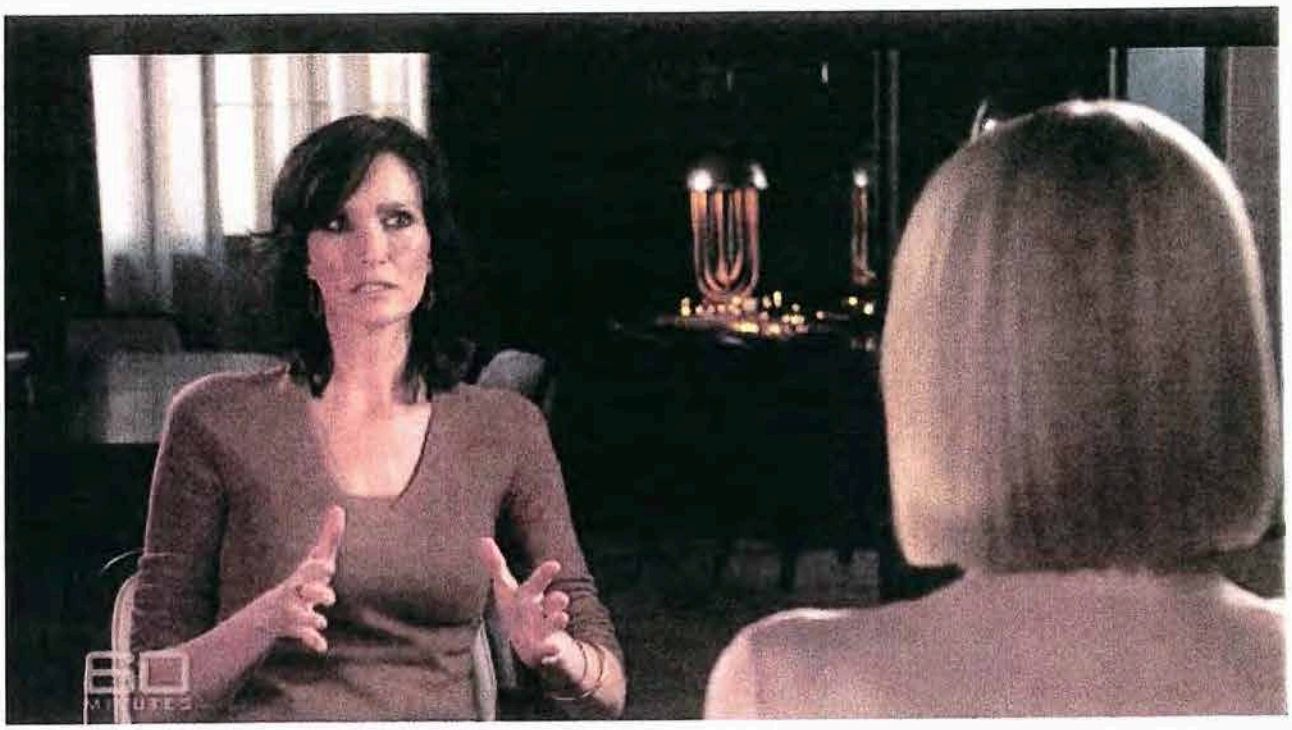


Zoe Brock on Harvey Weinstein

Weinstein's enablers should be held accountable



Katy Hall

October 18, 2017 11:45an

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 aiders and abetters are walking away unscathed.

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."



Rose McGowan has called out Weinstein and those around him. (Pic: Kevin Winter/Getty).

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

assistants.

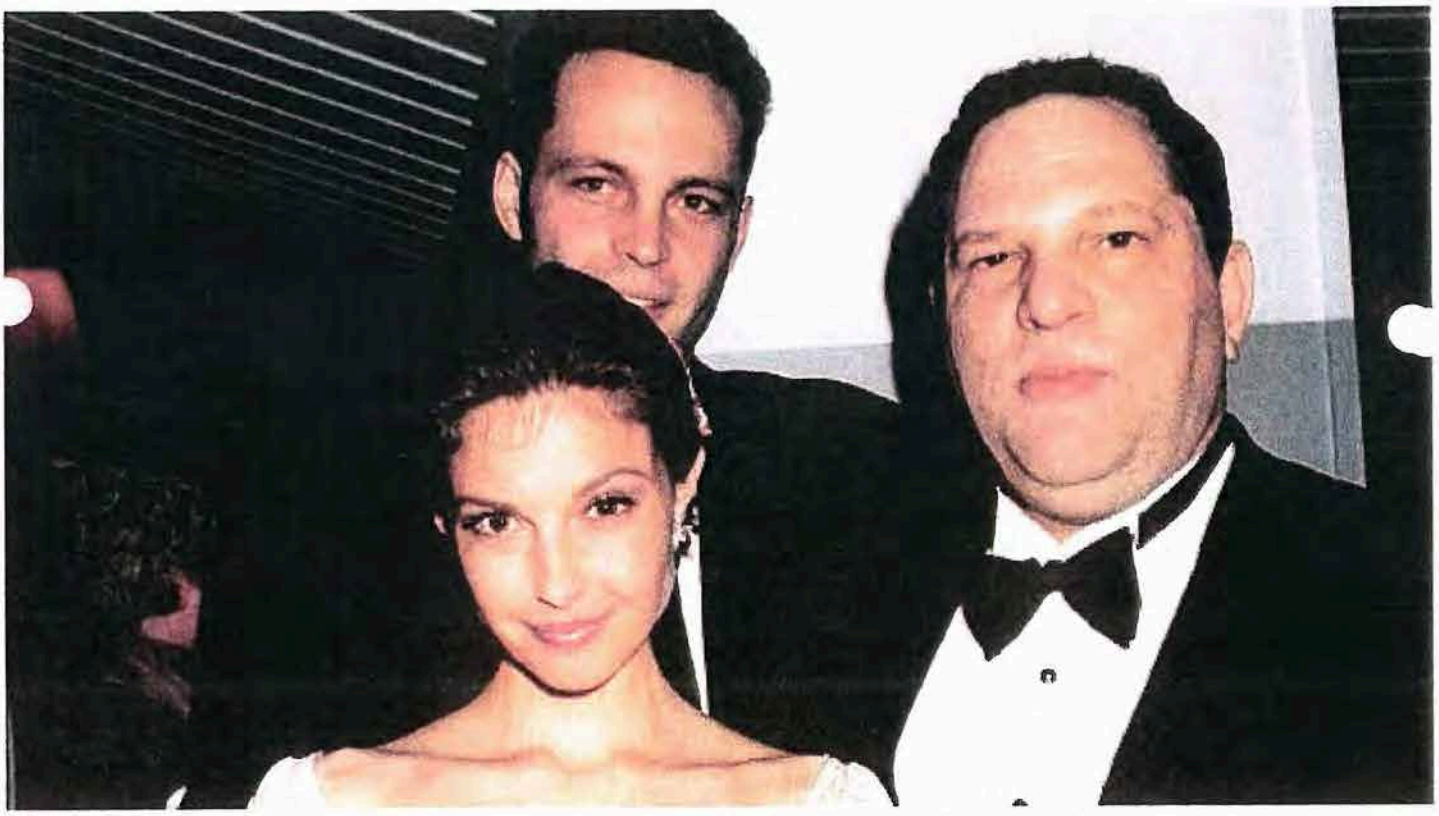
Of the 39 women who have so far come forward and claimed they were sexually harassed or assaulted by Weinstein, 25 have told stories so alike they are almost mirror, cookie-cutter experiences.

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)

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

10-524

which she found herself alone in a hotel room with Weinstein was clearly rehearsed and well-known to Weinstein's inner circle.

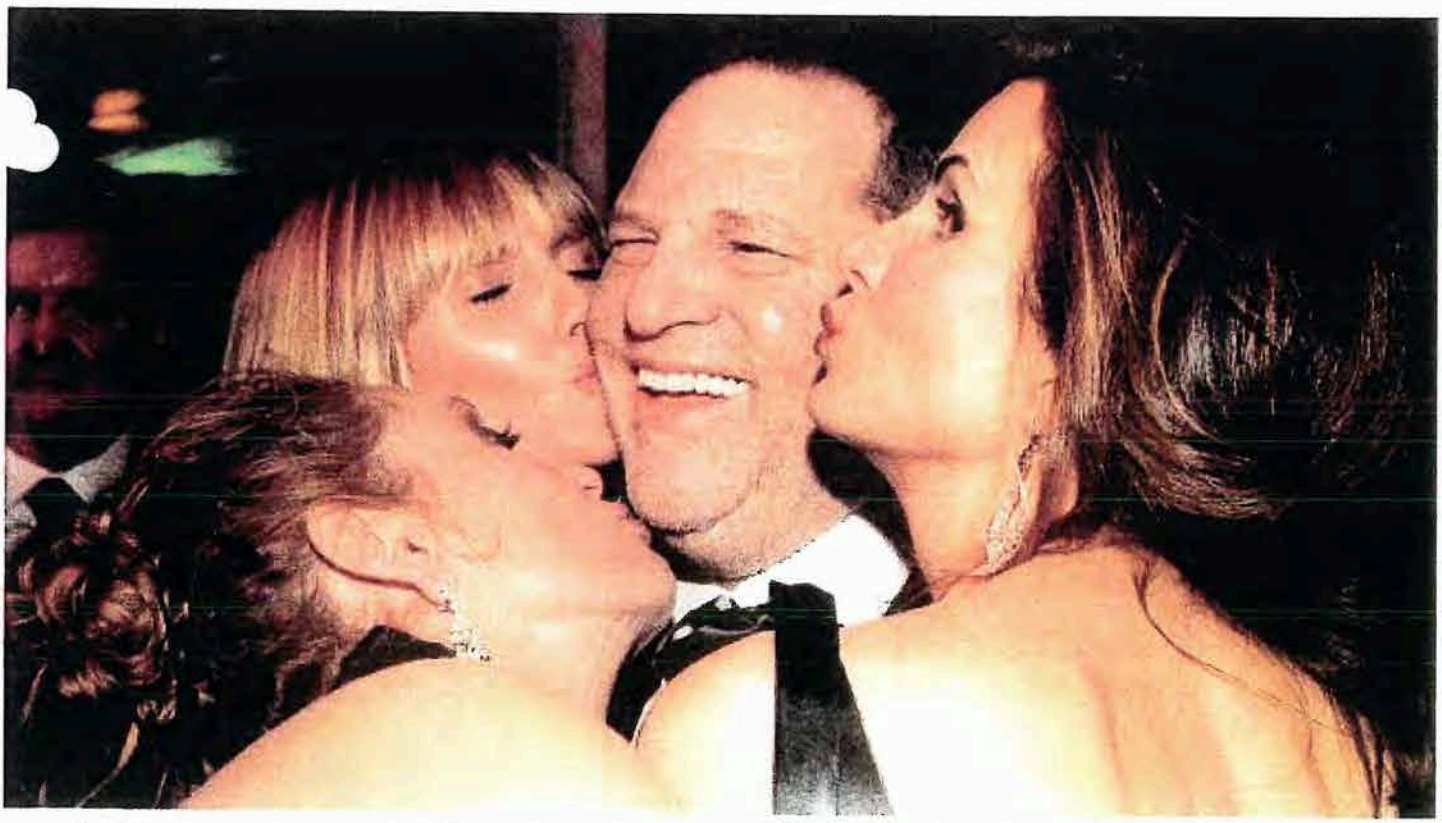
"I had been played by not just one predator, but by all his accomplices," Brock said.

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".



The claims against Weinstein from over 20 women are almost identical in how they are said to have

The claims against Weinstein from over 20 women are almost identical in how they are said to have taken place. (Pic: Araya Diaz/Getty.)

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

By LOS ANGELES TIMES STAFF
OCT 19, 2017 | 5:35 PM



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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

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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
10:21 AM - Oct 14, 2016

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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.

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6:02 AM - Oct 6, 2017

2,897 753 people are talking about this

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

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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

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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."



Angelina Jolie, left, at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 10, 2017, and Gwyneth Paltrow at the amfAR Inspiration Gala in Los Angeles on Oct. 29, 2015. (AP Photo)

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

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10-534

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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.



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

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Hillary Clinton say 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 Merrill condemning 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."

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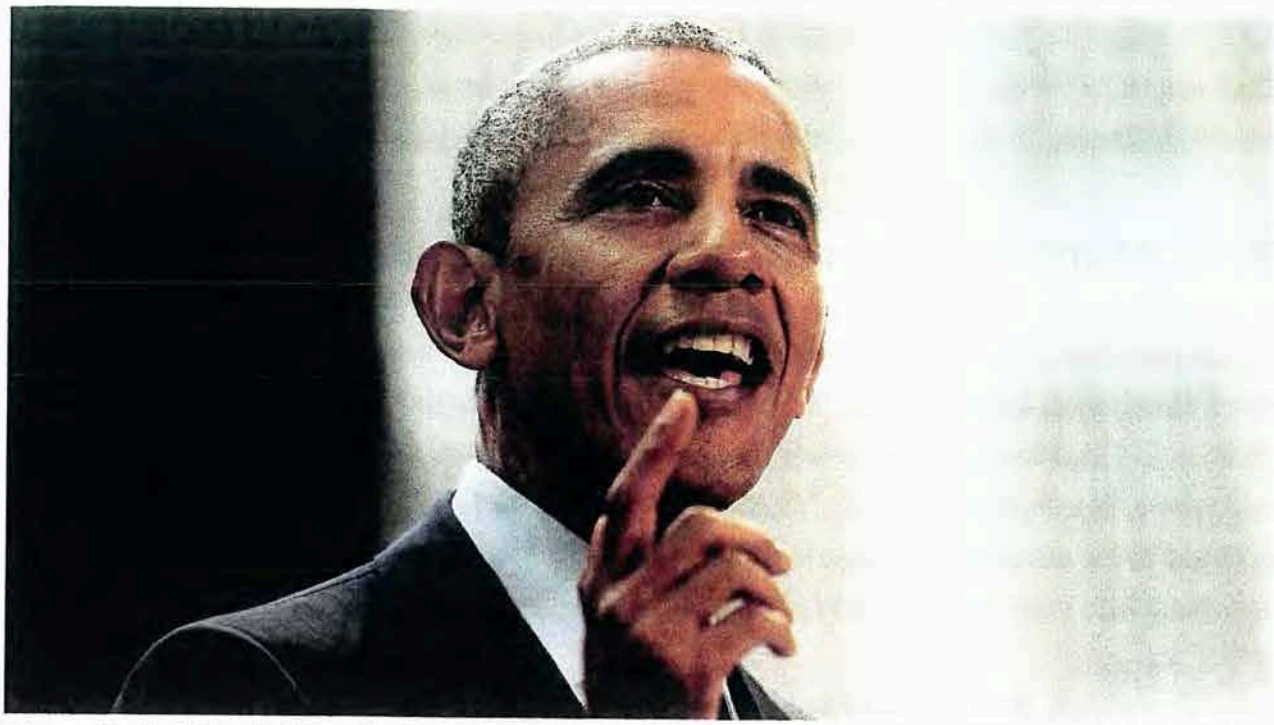

Former President Barack Obama speaks during the Goalkeepers Conference in New York on Sept. 20, 2017. (Julio Cortez / AP Photo)

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

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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 risque 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

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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.



Hatchette Book Group ends deal with Weinstein

The Hachette 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

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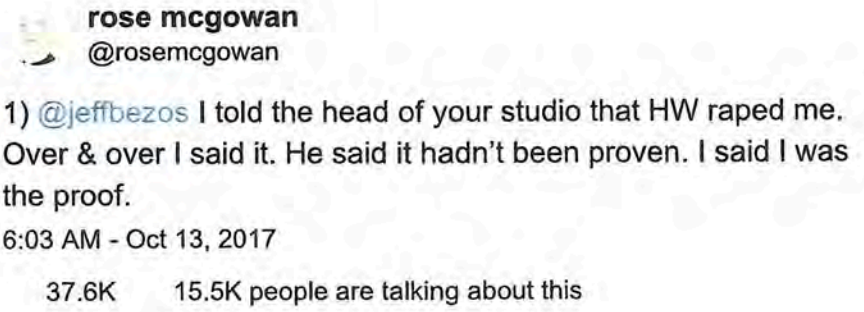
New York City and London law enforcement open investigations

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.



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

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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.

1.6K 251 187

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.

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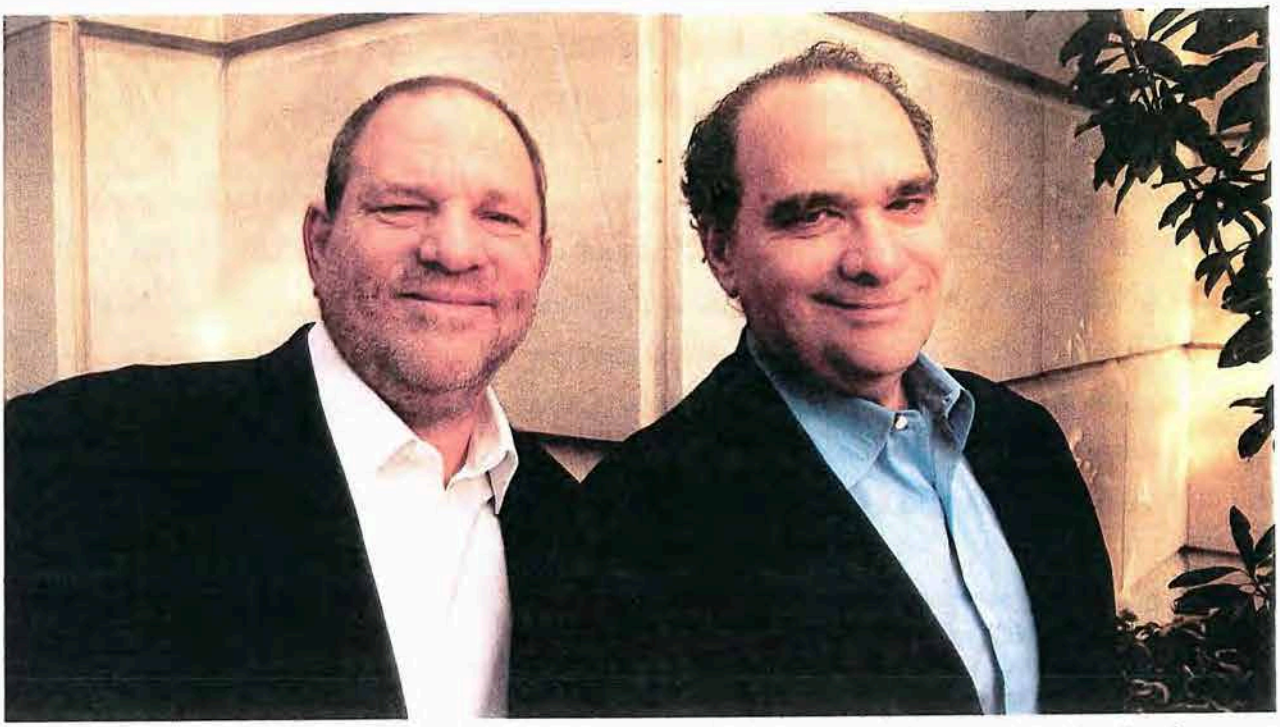

Harvey, left, and Bob Weinstein, at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 24, 2012. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)

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

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"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

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that the company's co-founder was a "ser

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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 Oct. 16.

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This article was originally published at 3:45 p.m., Oct. 12

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COMMENT OCTOBER 20 2017

The way to stop the Harvey Weinsteins of the world isn't #instacleavage



Elizabeth Farrelly

MORE

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 bade 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.

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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.

RELATED ARTICLES

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.

he 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.



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Illustration: Simon Bosch

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 uprightness 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 uprightness has cost.



Voluntary bimboism broadcast to the world is not feminsim. Photo: Shutterstock

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.



10-550



As a young actor long before she landed a role in the *Hunger Games*, Jennifer Lawrence experienced a humiliating casting call. Photo: Murray Close

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 ought 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 outed. The evident answer is feminism: equal pay, equal rights, equal respect. That's so simple, although

apparently still so frightening. But broadcasting your privates to the world? #instacleavage? #instabooty? C'mon loves. That's not feminist. That's buying the Big Boy bullshit, big time. That's getting screwed.

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OCTOBER 20 2017

12 Years a Slave star Lupita Nyong'o accuses Harvey Weinstein of harassment



Broede Carmody

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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*.

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Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow - who have gone public with

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.

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Nyong'o was a student when she first encountered Weinstein. Photo: AP

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."



Weinstein allegedly got frustrated when Nyong'o refused to consume alcohol. Photo: RE/Westcom/STAR MAX/IPx

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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COMMENT OCTOBER 22 2017

So Hollywood caught out one rat – what about the rest?



Amanda Vanstone

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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.

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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 cone of silence that protected Weinstein for so long, the better

THE GOSS OCTOBER 21 2017

Who are the Australian Harvey Weinsteins?



Amy Croffey

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There's a list of local, well-known men, including a top television presenter, a Hollywood A-lister 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.

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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

Woody Allen warns of 'witch hunt' after Weinstein

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.



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

10-562

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 'ndustry.

"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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OCTOBER 21 2017

The way men have reacted to Weinstein fall-out says a lot about how women aren't heard



Natalie Reilly

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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.



Reese Witherspoon has spoken about her experiences of sexual assault. Photo: AP

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

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powerful stars in the game, both spoke publicly about their experiences of sexual harassment and assault on the job.

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'Director assaulted me when I was 16'

Donna Karan apologises (properly) for defending Weinstein

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

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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.

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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 not 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.

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COMMENT OCTOBER 22 2017

How men can help after Weinstein and #MeToo

Ann Friedman

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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.

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they're OK, especially those we know who couldn't bring themselves to use the hashtag

to use the hashtag.

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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 #IHave 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 pressed when I should have accepted, I have been part of the problem."

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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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After the flood of #MeToo posts

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

Nicole Kidman was among many Hollywood stars to speak out against disgraced producer Harvey Weinstein, saying: "We need to eradicate this behaviour". Picture: Getty Images



DAVID PENBERTHY

U 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 realised the errors of his ways and withdrew his supportive remarks, issuing a 180-degree condemnation of the movie mogul who has set some squalid 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 pitiably. "I'm trying. I've 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 sham excuse for bad behaviour deliberately perpetrated by sentient beings equipped with free choice and the faculty of reason.

Weinstein's decision to play the sex addict card is a stellar example of the modern propensity for medicalising bad choices as uncontrollable impulses. Like the rugby league stars who attribute drunkenly urinating in public to a hitherto undiagnosed case of ADHD, or the disgraced former jurist Marcus Einfeld pleading for sympathy on account of depression which followed his own decision to perjure himself to duck a $77 speeding fine, Weinstein is blaming an imagined mental condition.

It is an insult to people who have suffered from genuine and lifelong mental illnesses 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-gold bullshit.

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, persisting pathetically before the ultimate capitulation. There are plenty of blokes out there with a reputation for being pants men, too.

One of the biggest falls from grace 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 in the rest of mankind as if we should regard his behaviour as relatable. For most of us it's not relatable at all because it involves the simple bedrock question of consent.

With his imploring of "you guys" to show him some sympathy, Weinstein attempts to rope the rest of us into his sordid world, to give him some cover for stuff that we abhor.

As the American psychologist Dr Joe Kort 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 exploitive 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 strife at home.

It is an ameliorating term in that it lessens the impact of their misconduct. 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 enlist the rest of us blokes as inhabiting his spectrum of conduct, should be dismissed as the lamest brand of opportunism by a pig of a bloke 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. t".

But, as the hours ticked by, Victorian MPs proved that they were mostly capable of handling a difficult debate and dealing with this decision on their own.

Confining 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 incomparable, 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: "Paternalism once had its place in this state. The Parliament determined when people could shop, who they could sleep with and many other things. But those days are gone, and those laws are gone."

As with same-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 Pederick even linked voluntary euthanasia with mass killings in Nazi Germany.

But these arguments, whether you believe them or not, have 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.

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OCTOBER 22 2017

Harvey Weinstein scandal: More women come forward

Jayme Deerwester and Maria Puente

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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.

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He sat close to her on a couch, she said, and kept asking her if she was "good." She offered to provide him with a reel of her acting work.

good." She offered to provide him with a reel of her acting work.



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.

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"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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Weinstein with Gwyneth Paltrow and their Oscars for "Shakespeare In Love". Photo: New York Times

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.



Heather Kerr, a former actress weeps her attorney Gloria Allred speaks at a press conference. Photo: Amanda Lee Myers

"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 38-year-old Italian woman whose accusation that Weinstein raped her in 2013 is now being investigated

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because she was not a resident of the USA. She is coming forward now

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.

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ENTERTAINMENT

The Cranberries lead singer O'Riordan dead at 46

Ansari 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 Footy 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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Program highlights

TUESDAY

THE BLOCK, REALITY, 7.30PM, NINE

This is the episode where the houses, now completed, are 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 styled homes, while teams quiver over their pale carpets and fragile 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

WORLD'S BUSIEST CITIES, DOCO, 9.30PM, ABC

Nothing can prepare you for the shock of visiting Delhi, city so densely populated it easily outstrips Australia's measly 24 million residents (give or take a few). But what appears – at first – to be complete mayhem, particularly on the roads, somehow works. Anita Rani , Dan Snow and Ade Adepitan find out what keeps the city moving.

WEDNESDAY

ROSEHAVEN, COMEDY, 9.05PM, ABC

Season two of this Tassie-made comedy promises to be as beautifully awkward and odd as the first. Daniel (Luke McGregor) 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 MOVIE, 8.30PM, 7FLIX

The final serving in the five-part Twilight saga. Bella (Kristen Stewart) is now a vampire and has a young daughter (Mackenzie Foy) with her longtime love toy 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

Fans of the ABC's last a-little-too-accurate political comedy, Utopia, will surely gobble up series two of The Ex-PM, starring Sean Micallef. This series sees Dugdale attempting to re-enter parliament, running in a marginal rural seat. A strong start.

AMERICAN DAD, COMEDY, 9.30PM, 7MATE

Sometimes you just need to check your brain, and settle in for a bit of American Dad. Tonight's episode sees the family competing on a version of The Amazing Race. Bear Grylls and Phil Keogan guest star. Who knew they were fans?

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 a lid on the controversy – and save their case.

FRIDAY

THE SECRET LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA HISTORY, 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, MOVIE, 8.30PM, SBS

This gritty crime-drama makes the Underbelly TV franchise look like a grotesque 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 mount a revenge attack upon police after losing two of their favourite sons.

SATURDAY

VICTORIA, DRAMA, 7.30PM, ABC

Some bodice-ripping fun here for those missing their fix of Downton Abbey and 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 soon bonds with the PM Lord Melbourne (Rufus Sewell, above with Chapman) but are they getting a little too close? This is the first of seven episodes. Tally ho!

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 one police droid, Chappie, is stolen and given new programming, he becomes the first robot with the ability to think and feel. A strange tale about a police robot programmed to feel human emotion who falls into the hands of crooks who want to exploit the machine for their own ends. Hugh Jackman's in it, but he's sporting a rather unattractive mullet. So even he doesn't save this flick. Also stars Dev Patel, Sharlto Copley and Sigourney Weaver

V1 - CAVE01Z01MA

Wonder woman a hero for equality

HOLLY BYRNES

DEPENDING on which meme you read on Google, it was either Harvard psychologist Timothy Leary or Hollywood siren 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 quotebot, it could well be attributed to Lisa Wilkinson.

With an ace up her sleeve in the form of the most lucrative contract for any personality – man or woman – on Australian TV, the former *Today* show co-host played her Nine bosses for jokers, after they baulked at matching her pay with that of co-star Karl Stefanovic.

In a deal that made headlines around the world, the 47-year-old, one-time magazine editor emerged with a new salary package estimated at $2.3 million for appearances on *The Project*, its new Sunday series and other programs still to be announced; as well as contentious third-party deals with digital masthead The Huffington Post and other advertisers likely to follow her "every woman" brand from Nine to Ten.

For Australia's third-rating network, pushed to the brink of bankruptcy earlier this year, it was a bold move, positioning Ten on the front foot for a shot at a debt-free recovery in 2018.

Studio 10 presenter Ita Buttrose, a mentor to Wilkinson and media maven who built her career on playing men at their own game, said: "What (the Wilkinson deal) says is that Channel 10 is in for the long haul. 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 upfronts (each network's annual program showcase) 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 presenter's flag-waving, ahead of the $70 billion US network's takeover of Ten next month.

On a feminist note, Buttrose said Wilkinson's move spoke volumes of broader changes in media, where women were "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, actors 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 conversation, media corporations and their culture.



Lisa Wilkinson is laughing all the way to the bank after her deal with Channel 10. Picture: PETER RAE

For Wilkinson, it was a line in the sand on pay parity.

For other women, it was about taking to social media and joining the "me too" campaign, exposing the Harvey Weinsteins in their world.

For the TV industry, it was an unmistakeable memo: underestimate women at your peril.

THE (FEMALE) REVOLUTION WILL BE TELEVISED

The power of "she" was captured en masse last week by the "me too" hashtag, a viral social media movement triggered after the take-down of one of the entertainment industry titans, Harvey Weinstein, on sexual misconduct charges.

The movie producer, accused of abusing his power and trading sexual favours for work opportunities, was finally (after almost three decades of terrorising women) and suddenly shunned by Hollywood, when two of his most high-profile alleged victims, actors Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd, went on the record with their historical rape and harassment claims against him.

In the media storm of headlines and bad publicity that followed, *Who's The Boss* and *Charmed* star Alyssa Milano urged more women to show how widespread harassment and sexual violence was by retweeting their own experiences, by telling their stories and linking them together with the #metoo hashtag.

In the first 24 hours, more than 12 million people on Facebook and 650,000 on Twitter added their testimonies, including Ellen DeGeneres, Lady Gaga, Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Lawrence.

It would produce a steady, painful but powerful stream of rape survivor stories, expose systemic and worldwide corporate abuse issues – breaking the terrible silence that has protected perpetrators.

Milano would tell US breakfast show, *Good Morning America*: "We are going to be vocal until this stops. Not one more.

"It stops here."

It follows a year in TV that has made hits of female-driven dramas including Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale* and *Big Little Lies*, an adaptation of a best-selling Australian novel, starring Nicole Kidman as a wealthy woman keeping secret the sexual violence in her seemingly perfect marriage.



Harvey Weinstein has been shunned by Hollywood. Picture: GETTY

OCTOBER 24 2017 SAVE PRINT

Weinstein's fashion world connections provided a 'pipeline to women'

Daniel Miller, Meg James and Kim Christensen

MORE

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.



Harvey Weinstein with wife Georgina Chapman in 2012. Photo: Andy Kropa/AP

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.

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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.

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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 Kropa

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 at 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.



In this November 9, 2004 photo, actress Renee Zellweger wears a Marchesa dress at the premiere of her film "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason." Photo: Adam Butler/AP

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."



In this February 4, 2017 photo, actress Nicole Kidman wears a Marchesa dress at the 69th annual Directors Guild of America Awards in Beverly Hills, California. Photo: Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

Weinstein's transformation into a fashion player was an unlikely turn for a movie producer at the zenith of his career.

By 2000, films released by Weinstein's company, Miramax, had

10-582

By 2000, films released by Weinstein's company, Miramax, had 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 $US8,000, according to one former Miramax employee. Unruh receives modest royalties from *Project Runway*.

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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

rolling its eyes too. Just how much of that success, observers wonder, is due to the Harvey Factor?" a *Los Angeles Times* article asked in 2006, a year before Weinstein and Chapman wed.

Competitors complained that stars wore 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

10-585

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 Battilana 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 them what

had occurred. Both confirmed speaking that night to Brock and hearing her account.

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 Hofmeister

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Mr. Weinstein says the story is a fabrication," said Hollmeister, Weinstein's spokeswoman.

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

Sam Blewett and Jake Coyle

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Two assistants who worked for Harvey Weinstein have gone public with explosive allegations, accusing their former boss of sexual assault and harassment.

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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.



A former assistant to Harvey Weinstein has broken a non-disclosure agreement to speak out about alleged sexual harassment by the disgraced movie mogul. Photo: AP

"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 film 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.

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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 duress 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

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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.

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How Ashley Judd escaped Weinstein's room

The actress tells ABC America's Dianne 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.

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OCTOBER 27 2017

'I just fled': Ashley Judd gives first TV interview about her Harvey Weinstein encounter

Stephanie Merry

MORE

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*.

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How Ashley Judd escaped Weinstein's room

The actress tells ABC America's Dianne 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 cajole them into

10-597

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.



Actress Ashley Judd has given her first TV interview since publicly accusing Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment. Photo: ABC News

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."

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Judd reminisced about the day that Weinstein allegedly tried to bully her to bend to his will two decades ago.



10-598



Judd was the first high-profile star to come forward with harassment claims against Weinstein. Photo: Jordan Strauss

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.



Weinstein is facing sexual harassment and rape allegations against him going back decades. Photo: AP

"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 closet, 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

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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/1NbOgJELeM"*
>
> — Good Morning America (@GMA) October 26, 2017

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What the Weinstein sexual discrimination case taught women: Renee LaBran



Nassim Khadem

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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

WARNING GRAPHIC CONTENT: A former production assistant describes an alleged serious assault at the hands of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

"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. In

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Weinstein hits out



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ABC CLASSIC FM FM-107.3 SATURDAY: 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Saturday Morning 12.00 Music Makers 1.00 Afternoon Concert 4.00 The Opera Show 5.00 Screen Sounds 7.00 Concert. **SUNDAY:** 6.00 Breaky 9.00 Sunday Morning 12.00 Keys to Music 1.00 Afternoon Concert 5.00 Sunday Recital 7.00 Sunday Opera.

ABC NEWSRADIO 102.5FM SATURDAY: 3.30 World Brief 4.00 News Finance Sport 4.30 News Asia Pacific Review 10.00 World This Week 10.30 The World Today 11.00 News 11.30 NPR 12.30 News 1.30 Roll' News 2.30 News 3.00 News Arts 3.30 News Business of Business 4.00 Live Drive 4.30 NPR 5.30 Go Digital 6.30 News 8.30 Science in Action. **SUNDAY:** 4.00 Roll' News 4.30 Business 10.00 Live Drive 10.30 World News 11.00 News 11.30 NPR 12.30 News 1.30 News Sport 2.30 A/P Business 3.00 News Science 3.30 News 4.00 World This Week 4.30 NPR 5.30 News 6.30 Health 7.30 Go Digital 8.30 News.

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Disgraced US film producer Harvey Weinstein is suing his former company. Inset, Ashley Judd Main picture: AFP PHOTOS

DISGRACED film mogul Harvey Weinstein has sued his former company, seeking access to emails, his personnel file and other records he contends may exonerate him from multiple allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

Weinstein's lawsuit filed yesterday in Delaware seeks access to the records, which Weinstein's lawyers argue are key to the Oscar-winner's defence from the avalanche of harassment claims made against him since an October 5 report by *The New York Times*.

Weinstein was fired from The Weinstein Co. three days later. His lawsuit makes clear that if he is able to obtain the records, he may use them to pursue a wrongful termination case or other legal actions against the company.

The lawsuit notes the numerous legal troubles facing Weinstein and his former company, including criminal investigations, a civil lawsuit that alleges The Weinstein Co. knew of decades of harassment allegations lodged against the producer and a civil rights investigation launched by the New York attorney general.

"Mr Weinstein believes that his email account – which is the primary, if not only, account he used during the term of his employment by the company – will contain information exonerating him, and therefore the company, from claims that may be asserted against him or the company.

"Further, Mr Weinstein is in a unique position to offer insight, and further explain and contextualise his emails."

Weinstein is asking a judge to expedite a ruling on his case.

A representative for The Weinstein Co. did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The lawsuit came hours after actress Ashley Judd described on-camera Weinstein's sexual advances toward her, which she said she escaped by making a deal. She was a rising young actress two decades ago who had arrived at the hotel suite of this powerful film mogul for what she thought would be a business meeting.

It wasn't, she said.

Judd's account of the incident three weeks ago in *T' New York Times* was a key fa tor in Weinstein's downfall, and opened the door to an avalanche of harassment allegations against Weinstein and others.

Writer and director James Toback, an Oscar-nominee for his *Bugsy* screenplay, has been accused of sexual harassment and assault by more than 200 women since a *Los Angeles Times* article broke the stories of 38 women this week.

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Call to weed out our own Weinsteins

Aussies act on Hollywood scandal

THE Australian Directors Guild has taken the extraordinary step of sending a strong message to perpetrators of sexual abuse in the film business both here and overseas.

As the **Harvey Weinstein** (inset) scandal continues to unfold in Hollywood, ADG president **Samantha Lang** condemned harassment and encouraged victims to speak out.

"It is important the Australian screen industry recognise the problems that has been highlighted by the Weinstein revelations and act in the best interests of the industry," the Australian director said.

"The ADG supports all women in the Australian screen industry to come forward and report and abusive or bullying behaviour." The ADG 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 **Tracey 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 community is using the #MeToo hashtag to challenge the code of silence around sexual harassment," the ADG said in its statement.

"We recognise that our roles as directors and producers comes with a professional responsibility to not abuse the power dynamic inherent in the relationship."



Actor's a proud Yes man

E Castle actor **Michael Caton** has spoken in support of same-sex marriage.

The 74-year-old was speaking ahead of the November 7 closure 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."





Jen Hawkins for Mount Franklin at Balmoral yesterday. Picture: Carly Earl

BUILDING UP 'BRAND JEN'

FROM bottled water to tequila and lingerie to swimwear, **Jennifer Hawkins** has a portfolio of brands behind her that any celebrity would kill for. Add to that a burgeoning property portfolio which includes multiple properties and 'Brand Jen' is flat-out building her empire well into the future.

So much so that these days you're more likely to read about the multimillion-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 33, Hawkins has remarkably managed to avoid the controversy that plagues celebrities with a profile as big as hers.

"I don't buy into the dramas," she said. "My life is very casual, it's not as glamorous as everyone thinks."

MUCH MORE TO A HEALTHY LIFE THAN IT APPEARS

MODEL and mum **Rachael Finch** wants Aussies to stop focusing on their external physique.

Freshly signed as an ambassador for Melrose MCT Health products, Finch said she, like many Aussies, was a victim of "physical health misconceptions".

"I think initially when people think about their fitness, they speed up the body and pump out gym 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 **Mischa** are blessed to have the help and support of his family and friends.

"We are lucky to have the help," Finch said. "**Violet** goes to her grandma's (Mischa's mother) quite a bit."

Finch is also gearing up for a jam-packed Spring Racing Carnival with Myer after kicking off the season at The TAB Everest Day in Sydney.

"It will be great to be back together with gang," she said.



Model Rachael Finch.

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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.



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Actress Daryl Hannah says he once tried to force his way into her hotel room. Photo: AP

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.

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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.

AP

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A DOUBLE AACTA NOD FOR NICOLE

KRIS CRANE

AUSSIE 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 hoped 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, Glitch, Janet King — Playing Advantage, and Wentworth.

Kidman's Top Of The Lake co-stars Elisabeth Moss and David Dencik have been nominated for their lead acting roles in the series, while Ewen 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 Butterfly Tree.

Lion's nominations also include best film, direction and screenplay, while Dev Patel is in the running for best supporting actor.



NICOLE'S AACTA AWARD RIVALS

Confidential Page 19

Actor Nicole Kidman has been nominated for two AACTA awards. Picture: Getty Images

Vaccine is too weak to stop a killer flu

EXCLUSIVE
SUE DUNLEVY

A CHEAPER vaccine that does not protect the elderly has been blamed for a record flu season, which claimed hundreds of lives.

More than 217,000 Australians had laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza this year — more than twice the previous record of just over 100,000 in 2015.

Immunisation Coalition chair Professor Paul van Buynder said a $6 "budget" version of the flu vaccine used in the national vaccination program does not work well in the elderly. A vaccine that is four times stronger and costs $8 per dose has been found to be 24 per cent more effective in preventing influenza and cuts the risk of hospitalisation by 12.7 per cent.

It is not currently available in Australia but could have been brought in at the federal government's request. Prof van Buynder yesterday warned that the government needs to urgently look into making that vaccine available.

"Paying for a vaccine that doesn't work is a false economy," Professor van Buynder said.

"If you can stop tens of thousands of people getting sick ... the extra expense is worth undertaking.

"This was a disaster year and if we don't get policy change as a result, heaven help me."

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Bastian Seidel is also calling on the government to fund the stronger vaccine and wants free flu vaccines for everybody.

The nation's Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy said two stronger vaccines were not currently registered in Australia. "By law, the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee must recommend a vaccine before it can be listed," he said.

"PBAC has not yet received submission for either vaccine."

However, those vaccines could have been registered for use here at the government's request.

"The choice of vaccines is based on recommendations from independent medical experts including the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation," Prof Murphy said. "Independent advice ensures Australians receive the best possible vaccines."

Health Minister Greg Hunt has asked the CMO to examine how to strengthen the immunisation program, including talking with manufacturers about new vaccines.

Experts blame the nation's worst flu outbreak on the weaker vaccine, as well as the fact all three strains were in circulation — including one which mutated. And one in four elderly people, two in three pregnant women and nine in 10 children are not vaccinated against flu.

Professor van Buynder, a public health physician who has been on an advisory panel to the expert group that advises on vaccines, said children are super spreaders of virus and must be vaccinated and the government should pay. Mr Hu has also said he would investiga ways to boost vaccination rates among aged care workers, including making the flu vaccine compulsory.

HUGHESY JOINS BLOCK PARTY

COMEDY star Dave Hughes helped Elyse Knowles and Josh Barker win The Block last night. The radio star bought the couple's renovated five-bedroom Melbourne house for $3.067 million on Saturday. The price was $447,000 over the pair's $2.62 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 PAGE 18



Dave Hughes.

'I WAS RAPED BY HARVEY'

HOLLYWOOD stars Annabella Sciorra and Daryl Hannah have added their own terrifying accounts of a vicious rape and sexual harassment at the hands of disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Sciorra told the New Yorker magazine that after dropping her off at her Los Angeles hotel room after an industry event in the early 1990s, Weinstein returned and burst in when she opened the door — then violently raped her. "He shoved me onto the bed, and he got on top of me. I kicked and I yelled," Sciorra said.

Kill Bill star Hannah was also aggressively pursued by Weinstein at the Cannes Film Festival before he burst into her hotel room.

FULL REPORT PAGE 17



Annabella Sciorra.

Sydney commute no longer the tops

SYDNEY'S transport network has been rated the second best in the country — but has lost the top spot to Brisbane.

A new report being released today from design and consultancy firm Arcadis has ranked Sydney's transport network 51st globally — with the report citing the city's urban sprawl as a key reason why it had missed out on the top spot. The report said the growing distance between the concentration of jobs in the CBD and Sydney's geographical residential centres was hindering the transport system. It said work by the Greater Sydney Commission and State Department of Infrastructure to develop business hubs in Western Sydney would help alleviate these problems.

Arcadis Sydney City Executive Stephen Taylor described the city's transport system as a work in progress.

"Sydney is truly a global city in many ways but it is still chasing truly integrated and sustainable transport," he said.

"There are many great initiatives underway that will help improve Sydney's ranking."

Dozens die in suicide bombings

MOGADISHU: A suicide truck-bomb has exploded outside a popular hotel in Somalia's capital, killing at least 23 people and wounding more than 30, and gunfire continued as security forces pursued other attackers inside the building, police said.

Two more blasts were heard one when an attacker detonated a suicide vest.

Captain Mohamed Hussein said 30 people, including a government minister, were rescued from the Nasa-Hablod hotel as heavy gunfire continued in the 10-hour standoff between extremists and security forces yesterday.

Three of the five attackers were killed, Captain Hussein said. The others hurled grenades and cut off the building's electricity as night fell.

The blasts came two weeks after more than 350 people were killed in a massive truck-bombing on a busy Mogadishu street in the country's worst attack.

Al-Shabab, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, quickly claimed responsibility for the attack and said its fighters were inside the hotel.

Among the dead were a mother and three children, including a baby, all shot in the head, Captain Hussein said. Other victims included a senior Somali police colonel, a former legislator and a former government minister.

[illegible]otage from the scene showed [illegible] vehicles and nearby buildi[illegible]h only walls left standing.

[illegible]amed Dek Haji said he [illegible]rvived the bombing as he walked beside a parked car that was largely destroyed by the explosion. He said he saw at least three armed men in military uniforms running towards the hotel after the bombing at its gate.

"I think they were al-Shabab fighters who were trying to storm the hotel," he said, lying on a hospital bed. He suffered lacerations on his shoulder and head from flying glass.

Witnesses in previous attacks have said al-Shabab fighters disguised themselves by wearing military uniforms.

Security officials said the latest bomber pretended his truck had broken down outside the gate. Police colonel Mohamed Abdullahi said the bomber stopped outside the heavily fortified hotel and pretended to repair the truck before turning it around and detonating the bomb.

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu. It has not commented on the massive attack two weeks ago; experts have said the death toll was so high that the group hesitated to further anger Somali citizens as its pursues its insurgency.

Somalian President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed said the new attack was meant to instil fear in Somalis who united after the October 14 attack, marching in the thousands through Mogadishu in defiance of al-Shabab.

Since the blast two weeks ago, the President has visited regional countries to seek more support for the fight against the extremist group, vowing a "state of war".

He also faces the challenge of pulling together regional powers inside his long-fractured country, where the federal government is only now trying to assert itself beyond Mogadishu and other major cities.

A 22,000-strong multinational African Union force in Somalia is expected to withdraw its forces and hand over the country's security to the Somali military by the end of 2020. US military officials and others in recent months have expressed concern that Somali forces are not yet ready.

The US military also has stepped up military efforts against al-Shabab this year in Somalia, carrying out nearly 20 drone strikes, as the global war on extremism moves deeper into the African continent.

AP



AFP



Rescuers retrieve a body from the site of the truck-bomb and, below, wrecked vehicles on a Mogadishu street after a suicide bomber's attack

Revered Suu Kyi guilty of deplorable silence in a state of incompetents

WORLD COMMENTARY

THE ECONOMIST

In the bonfire of liberal certainties, Myanmar makes for an especially painful case. Only two years ago the world celebrated as a land long covered by darkness emerged from brutal army rule. In a jubilant election the National League for Democracy swept nearly all before it. The party's revered leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, took over from the same generals who had imprisoned her or kept her under house arrest for nearly two decades.

Hers had been painted as a contest between good and evil, in which not just the people of Myanmar but much of the democratic world felt they had a stake. Suu Kyi's moral authority on the global stage was matched only by the Dalai Lama's.

Yet unlike Tibet, Myanmar enjoyed a fairytale ending with its first proper election — one in which, moreover, it was possible for outsiders to feel they had played a part. They included Western governments that had kept up the pressure on the generals, campaigning dons from the Oxford high tables at which Suu Kyi in happier days had supped, and foreign journalists who had smuggled liberal reading matter to Suu Kyi during her bleakest years.

What to make of the country today? In the past two months 600,000 Muslim Rohingyas have fled their homes in Rakhine state, carrying tales of barbarity into squalid camps across the border in Bangladesh: plumes of smoke mark the villages from which they were chased. Detail is hard to come by, since the security forces prevent all but a few outsiders from visiting the ravaged areas. But this is certainly one of the biggest refugee crises and cases of ethnic cleansing since World War II.

That is grim enough, and the complicity of the army and police is appalling. But for the many diplomats, aid workers and, yes, foreign journalists for whom contact with the country and its people has been a long and beguiling love affair, there comes a further shock. In Yangon, the commercial capital, old friends in Myanmar who long shared an open, decent outlook on almost every topic, have closed their minds to the Rohingyas.

Some pin all the blame for events on a nasty group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, whose attack on police posts in late August was the pretext for this latest and biggest anti-Rohingya pogrom. But the group consists of just a few dozen ill-trained recruits radicalised by years-long persecution of the stateless Rohingyas. Other Yangon folk veer alarmingly into the kind of language of conspiracy that enables genocide. The "Bengalis", they say (not even gracing the Rohingyas with their own name), are breeding so fast that they are overrunning the country; besides, they don't belong in Myanmar.

Worst of all, of course, is that Suu Kyi, the erstwhile champion of the oppressed, refuses to condemn the soldiers, the police and the Buddhist chauvinists in Rakhine who have been responsible for the rapes, killings and evictions. On security matters, Suu Kyi has chosen hawkish advisers — ex-army types with a suspicious view of the world. She, too, is prickly when criticised by foreigners who once supported her.

The West is struggling for a response. Some have called for Suu Kyi to be stripped of her Nobel Peace prize, though what that would accomplish is unclear. Equally doubtful is how US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson intends to follow through on his promise to hold those responsible for the pogroms accountable.

There is talk of reimposing sanctions. That would hardly help those near the bottom of a dirt-poor country. As it is, economic transformation under Suu Kyi is a second, huge disappointment. Those in charge of the economy are themselves incompetents. The Minister for Planning and Finance admits he has a fake degree. Non-NLD technocrats are not welcome. Suu Kyi has failed to articulate a program, and her minions do nothing without her say-so. Vital matters pile up on her desk while she micromanages trivia. A lack of reliable power supplies and transport has scared away foreign investors. And the banking system, as one observer puts it, is only a rumour away from collapse.

Then there is a further challenge in the dozens of simmering or frozen conflicts between other ethnic groups and the army, some dating back seven decades. Ms Suu Kyi's imperiousness has only harmed a "peace process" with armed groups that she once promised to bring to fruition. Her comportment seems all of a piece. Cocooned inside Naypyidaw, the weird, empty capital, the 72-year-old is distracted and out of touch.

> This is certainly one of the biggest refugee crises and cases of ethnic cleansing since World War II

Yet to obsess over Suu Kyi is to repeat a mistake. For all her moral force before, and disappointment now, she is not Myanmar's key. It was always wrong, says Thant Myint U, a well-connected historian, to believe in a golden age that the generals put an end to and that democracy would restore. Myanmar, he argues, is a country broken by 20 years of sanctions, 30 years of self-isolation and 50 years of authoritarianism, not to mention more than a century of British rule in which the monarchy was ripped from the heart of society. Descendants of the last, exiled king are garage mechanics and rickshaw-drivers in southern India.

A broken state, then, with the army still entrenched in vital parts of it. Though Suu Kyi is sincere in wanting a just and peaceful outcome to the Rohingya tragedy, her failure to condemn the armed forces is deplorable. Yet for her to blame the army over the Rohingyas would be to admit to two parallel governments.

Certainly, huge changes in a few short years include far freer speech. But the widespread adoption of cheap Chinese smartphones is not entirely a boon. Hatred of Rohingyas is generated by sulphuric propaganda spread through Facebook.

And then, even with all the political will in the world, planning a good stuff and getting it done, in a country starved for so long of health care, education, infrastructure and administrative competence, was always going to be a tall order. It is the end of the fairy tale, as Thant puts it. Now for the long, hard slog.

The Economist



Aung San Suu Kyi leaves the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in the Myanmar capital Naypyidaw

AP

May's weekly update of Commons gropers

TIM SHIPMAN
LONDON

Theresa May was embroiled in a Westminster sexual harassment scandal yesterday as Downing Street officials revealed the British Prime Minister gets weekly updates about the sexual indiscretions of Conservative MPs, but has "lowed ministers accused of [illegible]ngdoing to serve in cabinet.

"[illegible]nservative whips faced the [illegible] that they have turned a [illegible]e to sex pests and failed to [illegible] them to the police because sexual harassment has been treated as if an MP is having an affair with another consenting adult.

Mrs May is given a regular briefing by the Tory chief whip, Gavin Williamson, on misdemeanours by Tory MPs after the 8.30am planning meeting in No10.

In a sign of the levity with which the issue is treated, one of Mrs May's aides said the briefing was known in Downing Street as "the ins and outs" chat.

Insiders say it covers MPs having affairs, suffering from sex addiction, caught using prostitutes, running up gambling debts and taking class-A drugs. But sources allege "good, honest fun with other people's wives" has been treated the same as predatory sexual behaviour in which senior ministers and MPs prey on the vulnerability of younger women and men working in the Commons.

"The whips behave as if it's the same thing — a list of a laugh," one No10 source said.

Another aide to Mrs May said: "Gavin would come in and explain that this MP was having an affair or that MP had been up to no good. The 'ins and outs' stuff, the whips call it. Theresa just sits there and doesn't say much. On one occasion she said, 'Why can't they just do their job?'"

The claims led to calls yesterday for the whips to open up their "black book" detailing the misdemeanours of senior MPs and ministers, and report culprits to the police rather than sit on the evidence as a weapon to keep politicians in line. Labour MP Emma Reynolds said: "The whips should not protect MPs they hear are accused of sexual assault. They should be reported to the police."

Nadine Dorries, the Conservative MP for Mid-Bedfordshire, said: "No male predator should be given cover. In order for women to reach their full potential, the corridors of power have to be free from all forms of sexual harassment and intimidation, regardless of party."

Education Secretary Justine Greening said anyone who felt they had been sexually harassed should contact the police.

Police have dealt with nine cases of sexual harassment in parliament this year. But amid fears that is just the tip of the iceberg, Commons Speaker John Bercow is to hold a meeting this week to discuss greater safeguards for researchers and Commons staff.

Two senior ministers have been named by female MPs, researchers and journalists as serial sex pests. One serving minister placed his hand on the thigh of a senior female journalist in full view of his frontbench colleagues at a party conference dinner and announced: "God, I love those tits."

A second senior cabinet minister had an affair with a junior female aide who is also an MP. Downing Street is concerned that if either man is forced to resign it will destabilise the government.

Female MPs were also sharing details over the weekend of a former Tory minister who propositioned his young secretary by asking her to "come and feel the length of my dick". When the same MP was first elected, his female colleagues told each other: "Don't get into a lift with him." He then formed a "shagging double act" with a party grandee who has now left the Commons.

On the Labour benches the MPs facing exposure include one thrown off a foreign trip for making "inappropriate" approaches to a young woman and an MP tipped as a leadership contender, who is known to female researchers as "Happy Hands". A Liberal Democrat peer's career is also in danger after inviting a succession of female journalists to lunch while insisting they wear knee-high boots and short skirts.

The constituency Labour Party in Sheffield Hallam is considering whether to start deselection proceedings against Jared O'Mara, the MP who was suspended from the party last week after making sexist and racist remarks online.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Sopranos actress accuses Weinstein of rape

WASHINGTON: Actress Annabella Sciorra has accused Harvey Weinstein of rape, detailing a harrowing encounter with the now-disgraced movie mogul.

She joins dozens of women who have levelled allegations of sexual abuse against 65-year-old Weinstein.

Sciorra, who received an Emmy nomination for her role in the television series *The Sopranos*, said that in the early 1990s Weinstein forced his way into her apartment and violently raped her.

She said that before the alleged attack Weinstein came in "like he owned the place, and started unbuttoning his shirt".

"It was very clear where he thought this was going to go," she told *The New Yorker*.

She urged Weinstein to leave but "he shoved me onto the bed, and he got on top of me", Sciorra said.

Despite her resistance Weinstein forced sexual intercourse with her and "attempted to perform oral sex on me," she told the magazine.

"I struggled, but I had very little strength left in me."

"I was so ashamed," said Sciorra, now 57, adding she fell into deep depression and stopped working for several years.





Accusers Daryl Hannah, left, and Annabella Sciorra

AP

She kept the graphic story under wraps for fear of professional backlash. Although she did eventually begin acting again, Weinstein continued to harass her for years, Sciorra said.

The actress is now one of more than 50 women to accuse Weinstein of sexual abuse and harassment — a group that includes stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino.

Actress Daryl Hannah — who appeared in *Kill Bill: Volume 1*, which Weinstein produced — said the powerful Hollywood executive aggressively pursued her but she dodged his advances.

Hannah, 56, alleged Weinstein at one point had "burst in like a raging bull" to her hotel room — where she was with a male makeup artist — and later asked to touch her breasts.

She said when she refused, "I experienced instant repercussions" in the film industry.

"I called all the powers that be and told them what had happened," Hannah said. "It didn't matter. We are not believed. We are more than not believed — we are berated and criticised and blamed."

Hannah said among those she told were Oscar-winning director Quentin Tarantino, who worked closely with Weinstein for decades, including on the *Kill Bill* films. Tarantino since has admitted having known for decades about Weinstein's behaviour and has expressed regret for not speaking out.

Weinstein, a twice-married father of five, has denied forcing himself on his accusers. He is being investigated by detectives in Los Angeles, New York and London.

The toppled Hollywood tycoon was sacked as co-chairman of The Weinstein Company and also resigned from its board.

AFP

Vow to act as Brussels rocked by sex claims

BOJAN PANCEVSKI
BRUSSELS

The European parliament will hire external investigators in response to revelations of the long-standing and widespread sexual harassment of female staff.

Members voted on emergency measures, including changing the rules and setting up a taskforce of independent experts, to tackle a "culture of silence" after allegations of abuse of female aides by officials and parliamentarians.

The disclosures in *The Sunday Times* of London on October 22 prompted a backlash against the assembly and encouraged more victims to speak out as nearly 100 fresh accusations were reported in news outlets across Europe.

The parliament voted last week on a resolution to clean up its act, vowing to overhaul procedures to stop the practice, support victims and ensure "zero tolerance" of harassment.

Antonio Tajani, the Italian Speaker of the parliament, said he had learnt of the disclosures with "shock and indignation" and pledged to "inflict the harshest punishment possible" on guilty MEPs. He encouraged victims of "inappropriate behaviour" to denounce their harassers.

The Sunday Times has a list of senior MEPs — some of whom serve in top positions — who have been accused by several women of harassment ranging from sexual advances to violent groping.

European politicians are now pulling pressure on MEPs to investigate the claims. "I welcome the disclosures and I call for a thorough and unsparing investigation into the allegations revealed by *The Sunday Times*," said Sebastian Kurz, Austria's designated chancellor.

The perpetrators, all over 50, cannot yet be named because the victims are still refusing to go public with their allegations for fear of legal repercussions and career damage. But at least two women said they had filed official complaints.

"The external investigators should be people who have dealt with the issue in other big institutions," said Terry Reintke, a female MEP from Germany's Greens alliance who is driving the campaign.

Ms Reintke, 30, said there were "sexual assaults on a regular basis in the European parliament" and that she herself had been harassed. "If there is no public pressure and no media scrutiny the parliament will do little ... I know that this house tends to cover things up to protect its reputation but this time we will not allow for that," she said.

MEPs have spoken of more than 10 complaints. In one case the EU ombudsman declared the parliament guilty of maladministration for failing to act on a female trainee's allegations.

More than two dozen women have approached the *Sunday Times* over sexual harassment. The first victims came forward after becoming emboldened by the #MeToo social media campaign prompted by the revelations about the Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

One senior staffer allegedly pestered younger female colleagues with demands for sado-masochistic practices. When his harassment became aggressive, he was reported but his superiors failed to act, the victims say.

A Romanian MEP is alleged to have made forceful sexual advances to a female adviser but, when she rejected him, he became aggressive and publicly accused her of tampering with his legal submissions. The woman reported the case but received no feedback and was even asked to continue working with the MEP, which she refused to do.

In another case it is said that a 60-year-old adviser to a parliamentary group crawled under a table at an official function to take pictures up women's skirts.

"The tablecloth went all the way to the floor so he remained hidden for a while but then a couple of us realised what he was doing. He just grinned and fled," a woman said.

"When we reported (it) our boss dismissed it as a joke but none of us were amused at having to work with that lecher."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

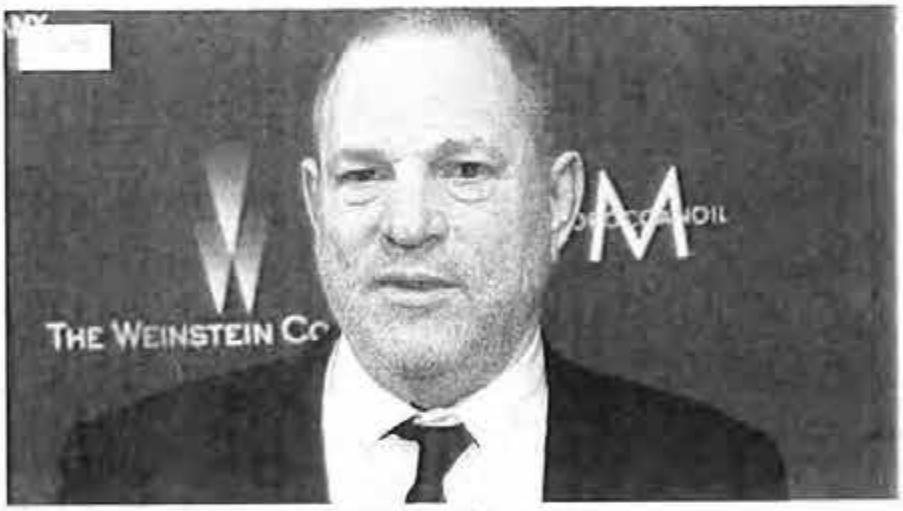
OCTOBER 30 2017

Harvey Weinstein offered Rose McGowan $US1m: report

Erin Nyren

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.



Women will no longer be silenced by Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

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.



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FOLLOW DAILY LIFE

FOLLOW SMH

Steps to take to avoid a culture of harassment

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF COMPANY DIRECTORS

ALLEGATIONS of harassment, intimidation and serious forms of sexual misconduct have rocked the world's most profitable entertainment industry with new victims continuing to speak out against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, co-founder and now former co-chairman of The Weinstein Company.

The TWC board has been accused of knowing for years about the accusations against Weinstein.

The *New York Times* reported Weinstein had reached eight previously undisclosed settlements with women who alleged he harassed them.

To avoid the risks and harm to employees of serious misconduct and harassment, boards must shape culture and put in place policies that protect staff, according to senior directors who spoke about the lessons boards could learn from the Weinstein scandal.

1. Avoid a culture of complicity

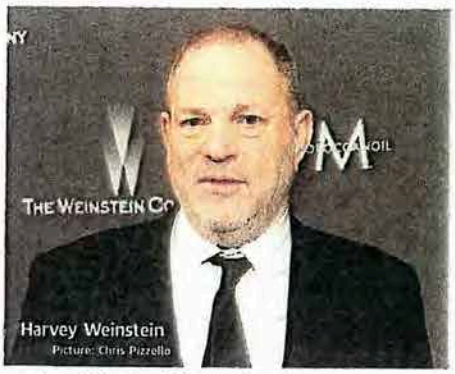
The Australian Human Resources Institute said Weinstein's clout within TWC and influence with a board that included his brother made TWC a "company that enables a predator".

Megan Brownlow MAICD, Deputy Chair of Screen Australia and partner at PwC, said the best way for boards to be alert to allegations of sexual misconduct against senior figures is for individual directors to "cultivate trustworthy connections within the company, at a variety of levels".

"These often informal connections can be great sources of unfiltered, coalface information," Brownlow said.

She also suggested providing a confidential outlet for whistleblowers like a phone number where employees could report misconduct anonymously.

Louise McElvogue GAICD, NSW AICD division council member and director of US cybersecurity company WhiteHawk said boards needed to set the tone and ensure culture within the company was morally and ethically suitable in all dealings.



Harvey Weinstein
Picture: Chris Pizzello

2. Swift and effective investigations, even if the matter is 'settled'

Brownlow believes: "(TWC) should have started an investigation using an independent provider with a report due in a timely manner."

She explained the business case for this kind of timely and effective action: "After the misconduct is determined to a reasonable degree of certainty, the board must act — swiftly — even if the alleged perpetrator is a highly valued asset for the company. Misconduct devalues even the best assets and also the company, as research has shown."

Non-disclosure agreements and the silence they compel does not void board responsibility or mean the issue is finalised, with some TWC staffers reportedly now seeking to be released or simply breaching those agreements.

3. Gender diversity's role

McElvogue warned increased female representation on boards could not be a failsafe solution. However, it would succeed in bringing a "different perspective to workplace relationships". McElvogue said: "Boards need to reflect our society and for a business like TWC focused on general entertainment, diversity at a board level that reflects your audience makes good business sense."

4. Listen: using policies which empower staff to speak

McElvogue said companies needed "clearly communicated policies and guidelines for CEOs and staff around disclosure of relationships that might influence decision making".

Brownlow agreed, saying these formal processes were vital to protect staff.

5. No organisation is immune

AHRI said the issue went deeper than any single company.

McElvogue said: "This matter will not be limited to TWC and the impact on other companies has already started."

Brownlow said this industry-wide knowledge offered an important avenue for directors to keep appraised of potential allegations.

"One striking aspect of the Weinstein case is that the US film and television industry knew about it and therefore it was most likely discussed albeit discretely given Weinstein's prominence," she said. "It would be easier for a savvy director to get wind of problems in their organisation."

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

TENDERS INVITED

TENDERS AND QUOTATIONS RELEASED

Tender Number T17-2084	Tender Number T17-2241	Tender Number T17-2285A
Title: Katherine Region - Keep River Plains Road (Upgrade) - Provision of Indigenous Employment Services	Title: Katherine Region - YMCA Sports Building (Henry Scott) - Repaint Building	Title: Katherine Region - Legune Access Road - Flood Damage Repairs, Reinstate Table Drains, And Gravel Pavement At Various Locations Between Ch 0.00km And Ch 14.60km
Closing: 13/11/2017	Closing: 20/11/2017	Closing: 2/11/2017

TENDERS AND QUOTATIONS AWARDED

Tender Number T17-1792	Tender Number T17-2029	Tender Number T17-1882	Tender Number T17-1917
Title: East Arnhem Region - Central Arnhem Road - Construct 5 Concrete Flood Ways $369,813	Title: Darwin Region - Palmerston - Supply Delivery Installation And Replacement Of Existing Irrigation Systems $479,070	Title: East Arnhem Region - Central Arnhem Road - Gravel Resheeting - Various Locations $912,800	Title: Alice Springs - Town Area - Provision of Landscaping Works to Telegraph Terrace Median Strip $510,110
Award Contractor: Wood Hill & Sons Pty Ltd t/as Woodhill & Sons Pty Ltd	Award Contractor: Water Dynamics (NT) Pty Ltd t/as Water Dynamics	Award Contractor: Wood Hill & Sons Pty Ltd t/as Woodhill &	Award Contractor: Whatareya Pty Ltd t/a Diggamen Civil

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COMMENT NOVEMBER 3 2017

Predatory men crushed my Hollywood dreams

Wendy Dent

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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 out-take left on the cutting room floor.



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.

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.

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4 Column 8

5 Pressing the panic button

I daydream sometimes of the directing job I might have had, if that producer didn't give me absinthe and then say 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-bed room. It was for budgetary reasons, he said.

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Dustin Hoffman apologises over sexual harassment allegations

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.

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.

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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

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NOVEMBER 3 2017 SAVE PRINT

What it's like to watch a Harvey Weinstein movie now

Ann Hornaday

MORE

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?



Harvey Weinstein, left, with Gwyneth Paltrow with their Oscars for "Shakespeare in Love". Photo: New York Times

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?

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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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Dustin Hoffman apologises over sexual harassment allegations

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 osses 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.

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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.



Mira Sorvino and Woody Allen in *Mighty Aphrodite*. Photo: Supplied

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 jnr 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.



Producer and director Brett Ratner. Photo: AP

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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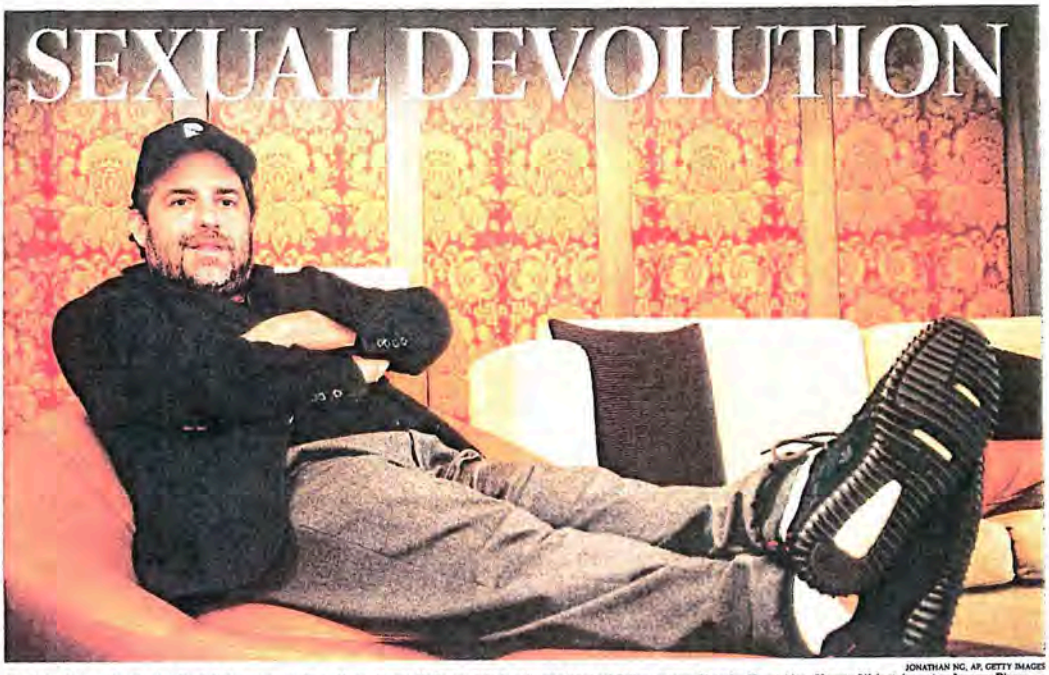
SEXUAL DEVOLUTION



JONATHAN NG, AP, GETTY IMAGES

Clockwise from main, director Brett Ratner; actress Olivia Munn; Dustin Hoffman; British politician Michael Fallon; actress Natasha Henstridge; Harvey Weinstein; actor Jeremy Piven













Women are on alert and men are confused

LARA PRENDERGAST

Neil Minow, a US film critic, recently described how in 2010 she had interviewed *Friends* actor David Schwimmer. When the noise in the restaurant grew too loud, he asked her whether she might like to move to a room upstairs with him and, if so, would she like a chaperone present. She praised him for this behaviour. "He understood what it is like to have to be constantly on the alert and he wanted to make sure I understood I was safe."

When I read Minow's story, my reaction was to think what a patronising arse Schwimmer must be. A female journalist shouldn't need a chaperone when she is doing her job.

But, in the fallout from the Harvey Weinstein allegations, it has become clear that, for many women, safety is starting to trump liberty. We are moving towards a chaperone culture, in which women, delicate lambs that we are, must be protected at all times.

A new schism is opening up between men and women. Women — incessantly told to be vigilant predatory men and are increasingly scared to be out in public. Men, meanwhile, are becoming more nervous around women for fear that their very nature is itself threatening to the opposite sex. The wrong words, gestures or body language now may render them guilty of one of the new crimes popping up on social media — for example, "creeping" on someone or being "too handsy".

The spotlight is on Hollywood and British parliament's Westminster — or "Pestminster", as it has been dubbed — but it will soon turn to other industries. More sex pests will be exposed or their peccadillos gossiped about on WhatsApp groups. The internet jury will then make its decision.

It's not hard to see why this is happening. There have always been rapists and men who exploit women for kicks, and the sexual revolution of the 1960s has done nothing to stop them; worse, perhaps, it has given them licence to operate without the old boundaries. We live in a time that is almost defined by seedy characters such as Donald Trump and Weinstein, so it's natural that women feel they must be on their guard.

Sexual abuse allegations are coming thick and fast. Just this week, Oscar winner Kevin Spacey was accused of sexual misconduct in 1986 against a then 14-year-old boy. Six women including actresses Olivia Munn and Natasha Henstridge accused powerful film director and producer Brett Ratner of sexual assault and harassment, allegations that cost Ratner lucrative deal with Warner Bros.

US television network CBS is "looking into" accusations by actress and reality star Ariane Bellamar that Emmy-winning *Entourage* star Jeremy Piven groped her on two occasions — strenuously denied by Piven. Acclaimed actor Dustin Hoffman was forced to apologise after a woman who worked as a teenage intern on one of his productions said he groped her in the 80s.

And the scandal is widening into the political sphere. Britain's defence secretary Michael Fallon has resigned amid suggestions of inappropriate behaviour towards female journalists, admitting his personal conduct had "fallen below the high standards we require of the armed forces".

It came as *The Times* reported an unredacted list of unverified claims against about 40 Conservative MPs had been leaked online. The document allegedly contains details of consensual relationships between MPs alongside sexual harassment allegations and claims of unconventional sexual acts.

If real crimes are uncovered because women feel emboldened to come forward, that can only be good. It should go without saying that any woman who has been the victim of sexual abuse deserves sympathy and to be believed.

Unfortunately, that still has to be said because too many women are not believed when they tell their stories. And if they took a while to speak, they are doubted because of the delay or told not to cause trouble. Just this week, activist Bex Bailey said she was raped by a senior British Labour official six years ago when she was 19 but was advised by a party official not to report it in case it damaged her career.

But if you look beyond the hysteria, something sinister is happening. Barriers between men and women that had been knocked down by feminists are being resurrected — in the name of feminism. Whereas it used to be religious groups that enforced sexual morality, in our modern, secular culture the loudest voices on the internet are taking over that responsibility.

Think of it as a new sexual reformation. Five hundred years ago, Luther posted his 95 theses on the door at Wittenberg; today, prominent women have begun issuing edicts about appropriate male behaviour. Like Luther, these women think it is their mission to change the world.

> A sexual abuse accusation, or even a snifter of gossip published online, has the power to sabotage a career and ruin a life

Last month, writer Helen Rosner published a guide to "20 things men can do to support women, beyond just literally ceasing to sexually harass us". It included suggestions for men such as "seek out women to be your heroes", "talk less. At all times" and consume "ethical" porn made by women, queer people and people of colour. I wonder what Luther would have made of that.

A lot of this boils down to that boring ancient impulse to separate men and women. There is political chatter about the possibility of women-only carriages on trains. The orthodoxy of "safe spaces" — which began as part of the women's movement before becoming a university campus cliche — is starting to infiltrate public life.

Last year, a survey showed that 70 per cent of British women have taken steps to guard themselves against harassment. The pull included 10 strategies those polled had used, including avoiding parks or public transport, missing school or work or taking a chaperone. "Modesty wear", clothing that offers an alternative fashion for those who want to cover up, is becoming more popular on the catwalks. In February, more than 40 designers took part in the first "London modest fashion week".

The old feminist trope says it is not a woman's responsibility to worry about her own safety; it is a man's job not to harass her. Yet women clearly are taking increasingly extreme measures to protect themselves because a small number of vocal campaigners are telling us that all our worst fears about men are true — and we must take action. And if this means reinstating old-fashioned segregation at the expense of hard-won freedoms, so be it.

The #MeToo hashtag, which trended on social media in the days after the Weinstein story broke, revealed just how many women considered themselves victims of sexual abuse, but also how alarmingly wide that definition ran.

On my own Facebook feed, the experiences described stretched from rape to "feeling as if a man once looked through me". The implicit message of all these confessional posts was clear: if it hasn't happened to you yet, you've just been lucky.

Or perhaps you are in denial. It's as if a new feminist movement is advocating victimhood, rather than equality. And women who protest about this new reality are denounced as traitors to their sex.

The paranoia isn't confined to women. Understandably, plenty of men are starting to feel anxious about what this may all mean. Each day brings fresh stories in the newspapers of prominent figures tumbling from positions of power because of a major — or minor — misdemeanour. A sexual abuse accusation, or even a snifter of gossip published online, has the power to sabotage a career and ruin a life.

So men are also starting to think about how best to defend themselves. Nobody wants to be daubed with the pervert brush.

Older men tell me they are nervous that something in the distant past that once would have been dismissed as silly behaviour now will be dredged up as damning evidence. Younger men, meanwhile, seem even more reluctant about approaching women or making a move.

I heard a story recently about a woman who had been on a date with a man who was younger than her. After a few drinks they ended up back at her house. The woman was keen to go to bed with him, but he refused because he was so worried about doing something that might lead to recriminations later. In the current climate, who can blame him?

Professional life is becoming a nightmare. Young women feel uneasy about the lay of the land. What career can you choose that won't involve creeps? And men in positions of authority inevitably will become more anxious about hiring women. It must just seem easier to hire other men, who less likely to interpret a comment as sexual assault.

Across a wide range of industries, men are being given guidance as to how they should behave so as to avoid getting caught out by this new sexual counter-revolution. Consent classes have been compulsory at British universities for a few years, and law firms and banks are also starting to introduce them. In the military, some officers have been advised they should ask for a woman to give them consent, filmed on their phone, before taking things further.

It's a surprise, really, that anyone is having sex these days, given the reputational risk involved. One single girlfriend tells me she is worried about what this all means for her hopes of finding a husband. What sensible man would try it on after a few drinks? Then again, what happy romantic relationship didn't start with a lunge?

The paradox is that all this paranoia comes during an era of intense sexual libertinism — the decade of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, one of the bestselling books of all time. We live in an age of chemsex parties and "hi-tech sex toys". Hardcore porn is always a few clicks away. It has never been easier to hook up, via dating apps or the internet. While embracing so much freedom, society is moving towards prudishness. We all talk about sex all the time, but the safest sex is no sex at all.

This new sexual reformation may leave women feeling safer in a domestic environment, surrounded by other women — or chaperoned when out in public — what started off as an attempt to give support to abused women mutates into a movement that undoes everything women's rights campaigners have fought for.

Men, too, may cut themselves off, retreating into the company of other men, and we will be back where we were a century ago. How's that for a sexual revolution?

THE SPECTATOR

Lara Prendergast is online editor of The Spectator magazine.

Spacey picked a bad time and the worst (cowardly) way to come out as gay

The actor could have used his profile to help out a community that is still marginalised

CAROLINE OVERINGTON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A little more than a year ago, Melbourne embryologist Michael Quinn was convicted of child sex crimes in the US. Police say he was prepared to pay $300 to rape a six-year-old while on tour in Los Angeles with his amateur rugby team.

According to court records, Quinn tried to find his victim before he left Melbourne. An undercover cop took his inquiry online and set him up.

Quinn took an Uber to the hotel room where he was supposed to meet the child, who of course never existed. He pulled out his wallet, the undercover detectives from the sex crimes unit pulled out their badges, and now Quinn is serving a 12-year prison sentence.

The story was widely reported in Australia, but hardly anyone reported the fact Quinn was a member of the Melbourne Chargers, a gay-friendly rugby club, or that he was playing for a gay rugby cup.

Why not? Because it's not relevant. Being gay doesn't make you a sex offender, and anyone who says otherwise is a bigot. Yet some of Quinn's gay teammates found themselves accused of harbouring a paedophile.

"You wake up at 2am to a buzz on your phone, and you get the subject line of 'you child-fiddling faggots'," club vice-president Matt Arthy told the ABC, when in fact Quinn's teammates were so shocked by Quinn's arrest they spent 24 hours thinking the media must have got the name or the photograph wrong.

If they had known what Quinn was up to, they'd have called the police, like anyone else.

Yet the myth — the damaging slur — that gay men are as interested in boys as they are in other men persists, which explains why so many in the rainbow family are lamenting the manner in which Hollywood star Kevin Spacey came out this week.

Spacey is Hollywood royalty. He has an Oscar for *American Beauty*, in which he played a bored husband lusting after a schoolgirl. More recently he has been a star in *House of Cards*, the first big hit for Netflix, in which he plays a repulsive, power-hungry US president.

Spacey's impersonations and improvisations have made him a talk show darling. Many have long assumed he was gay but keeping it to himself, which is his right.

But then, this week, he was accused of trying to force himself on a 14-year-old boy. He responded with words to the effect: "I don't remember that, and oh, by the way, I'm gay."

What a cowardly thing to do.

Spacey didn't come out to encourage or inspire some sweet young kid dealing with his own attraction to the same sex. He didn't come out when it mattered. He came out to deflect attention from allegations of gross misdeeds.

Comedian Billy Eichner put it best on Twitter, saying: "Kevin Spacey has just invented something that has never existed before: a bad time to come out." He is right: Spacey's decision to come out when accused of a crime fuels a dangerous myth: that gay men are predators who pose a threat to children.

Gay men do not pose a threat to children.





Kevin Spacey, left, in a scene from *House of Cards*; and his accuser, Anthony Rapp

Yet the myth persists, which explains why there is a sense of dread in the community whenever the big-story paedophiles get caught, in case they turn out to be gay, which happened in the case of *A Current Affair* reporter Ben McCormack. He described himself in text messages as a "total pedo". He's also gay.

But dance teacher Grant Davies is not gay. He is a child sex offender. Robert Hughes is not gay. He is a child sex offender. Robert Keith Knight, who killed himself in prison in 2013, was not gay. He was a child sex offender.

Paedophilia is a perverted, sexual desire for children. Many more victims are boys than girls, in part because men are likelier than women to be paedophiles, and paedophiles, being likelier to be men, are likelier to have unfettered access to boys in groups such as the Boy Scouts or a church choir. But when they can get at girls, they do.

So why did Spacey do it? His accuser, *Star Trek: Discovery* actor Anthony Rapp, says Spacey tried to force himself on him in 1986 when Rapp was still a kid. Fourteen, and trying to make it in Hollywood. It has taken Rapp a long time to talk about it, and when he did, Spacey is saying: "How about we talk about the fact that I'm gay?"

How about no?

Yet New York's *Daily News* went with "Kevin Spacey comes out as gay"

In his statement, Spacey said he had enjoyed romance with women and men, but "I choose now to live as a gay man".

The idea of choice is interesting. Even US rapper Macklemore, who isn't gay, gets the idea that being gay isn't something you choose. Gay chooses you.

Coming out is difficult for many people, understandable since homosexuality was recently illegal in Australia. They could arrest you, charge you, humiliate you in court and in the pages of your local newspaper. It still will get you flogged in Aceh and Saudi Arabia.

The rainbow family has proved remarkably resilient. They have kept their sense of humour. But not this week, and who can blame them? Spacey's statement was gross abuse of a marginalised community, one he was happy to ignore for years, one that could have done with a little support, actually.

It was something *House of Cards*' Frank Underwood would do, which would be fine because that's television. This is real life in Hollywood and, boy, what a horror show.

ISIS routed from Syrian enclave

BEIRUT: Syrian government forces have expelled the last Islamic State jihadists from the eastern city of Deir Ezzor in a two-month-long campaign backed by Russian air power.

Syrian regime and allied fighters broke the Islamic State siege of a regime enclave in the city in early September and yesterday the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said troops had captured the last areas held by the jihadists, with Russian air support, after seizing three new neighbourhoods this week.

There was no official confirmation but a Syrian military source earlier in the week said government troops held about 80 per cent of the city.

The city's fall marks another key defeat for the jihadists, who have in recent months lost most of the territory they seized in a lightning 2014 advance across Syria and Iraq.

After Syria's uprising broke out in 2011 with anti-government protests, rebel groups and jihadists seized parts of Deir Ezzor and the its surrounding oil-rich province of the same name bordering Iraq.

But in 2014, as Islamic State rampaged across Syria and Iraq, it seized the territory held by rival jihadist and rebel forces in the province and closed in on Deir Ezzor city. By January 2015, it had seized parts of the city and imposed a siege on government forces and civilians in the rest of it.

Assad government forces man[illegible] cling on to their enclave [illegible] regular Islamic State at[illegible]long with ally Russia, the [illegible] regime has regularly carried out air strikes on Islamic State-held rural areas, but the jihadists seized more territory in January.



A Russian airstrike this week pounds Islamic State positions in support of Syrian government forces in Deir Ezzor AFP

Their advance split the government-held zones into two: a northern enclave and a southern area near the city's military airport. At one point, the jihadist group held around half of Deir Ezzor city, including several central neighbourhoods, according to the human-rights observatory.

The regime army and allied fighters broke the siege on the northern part of the city on September 5, entering via the Brigade 137 base on its western edge.

Estimates of the number of people living in Deir Ezzor city vary, but agree the population has shrunk dramatically from its pre-war figure of 300,000.

The UN said earlier this year, before the siege was broken, that more than 90,000 people remained in areas under government control. The siege created food shortages, sent prices soaring and limited access to medicine and healthcare.

The Syrian government flew in supplies on military aircraft, a process hampered by security concerns and damage to the airport by Islamic State bombardment.

The UN began air dropping aid into the city in April 2016, but the program was briefly suspended after the jihadist advance in January that overran the aid drop zone. Activists have also reported dire humanitarian conditions in Islamic State-held territory, particularly as Syria's army neared, cutting supply routes.

On October 28 and 29, with regime forces back in control of most of the city, heavy clashes claimed more than 70 lives as government forces captured two new districts and the municipal stadium, the observatory said.

The advance left Islamic State encircled between the city and the Euphrates river, it added.

Islamic State has been expelled from neighbouring Raqqa province, and is now confined to just a few pockets of territory in Deir Ezzor province.

The province is rich with oil and gas fields that served as a key revenue stream for Islamic State at the height of its power in 2014.

The regime offensive against the jihadist group has been waged largely on the western side of the Euphrates, which cuts diagonally across Deir Ezzor province.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-Arab alliance backed by a US-led coalition, is waging a second, separate offensive against the jihadists in the east of the province. The SDF on October 22 announced the recapture of Al-Omar, one of Syria's largest oilfields, a week after regime forces had seized the nearby town of Mayadeen from Islamic State.

AFP

May under fire after ally gets defence job

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May was warned yesterday she would not survive renewed coup attempts after the promotion of her close ally Gavin Williamson to defence secretary was met with anger.

The appointment of Mr Williamson, a chief whip with no departmental experience, to replace Sir Michael Fallon brought a backlash from Conservative MPs and military figures.

Senior Tories also warned that the loss of Mr Williamson, 41, from Downing Street could destabilise Mrs May as she faces political challenges this month and a sexual misconduct scandal at Westminster.



AFP
Gavin Williamson yesterday

One minister said that in choosing a small-scale reshuffle Mrs May had limited her room for manoeuvre if further resignations were forced on her. "Are we going to have one of these every week? I don't think she can survive that," the frontbencher said.

Another minister said after Mr Williamson's departure from the whips' office: "We're no longer talking about whether she can be a leader but how quickly we can move on to the next one."

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson warned it would require "some pretty big shovels" to clean out British politics and that "house clearing" in Westminster could take years to ensure there was no return to the culture of sexism and misogyny.

She was contradicted by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling, who declared his regret that Sir Michael had left the government and denied the departure was evidence of the government taking steps to "clean out the stables", another phrase used by Ms Davidson.

Yesterday it was reported that Sir Michael was forced to quit after Commons leader Andrea Leadsom accused him of lewd sexual comments. According to *The Sun*, he is said to have told Ms Leadsom, who was complaining of having cold hands: "I know where you can put them to warm them up."

The position of chief whip has garnered more importance since Mrs May's failed election gamble this June. In the coming weeks, she must now navigate a Commons upheaval over the EU withdrawal bill and a politically tricky budget without Mr Williamson as chief whip, who managed her MPs after the loss of a majority and signed the deal with the Democratic Unionist Party to prop up the government.

One minister said: "Gavin Williamson is a self-serving c... The air in the tea room has turned blue. What does he think he's doing deserting her at this time? He's gone from someone who got grudging respect as chief whip and become one of the most hated people in the party right now." Another minister said: "She's chosen her successor. That's what this looks like."

General Lord Richard Dannatt, the former head of the army, said Mr Williamson was a "surprising" appointment and not the best choice "from a defence point of view". He had argued for a successor to be found from within the Ministry of Defence, but conceded that he respected the "PM's desire to give a senior job in cabinet to a trusted lieutenant".

THE TIMES

Weinstein raped me twice: actress

NEW YORK: Manhattan prosecutors are investigating actress Paz de la Huerta's accusations that Harvey Weinstein raped her twice in her apartment in 2010.

The actress told CBS News for a report broadcast yesterday that the first incident happened in October 2010 after Weinstein gave her a ride home after a party. She said the second rape occurred in December 2010.

Manhattan district attorney spokeswoman Joan Vollero said a senior sex crimes prosecutor had been assigned to the investigation, which is being conducted along with New York police.

Weinstein, 65, denies any allegations of non-consensual sex.

Police in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, and London are also investigating allegations against Weinstein.



De la Huerta

The new case against Weinstein emerged as filmmaker Brett Ratner sued a woman for libel after she accused him of raping her more than a decade ago.

Ratner, who directed the *Rush Hour* action-comedy films and is one of Hollywood's most successful producers, filed the complaint in a Hawaiian court on Thursday, more than a week after Melanie Kohler added her claim to the avalanche of alleged sex abuse accounts that have emerged since public allegations were levelled at Weinstein last month.

Ms Kohler wrote on Facebook on October 20 that Ratner "was a rapist on at least one night in Hollywood about 12 years ago" who "preyed on me as a drunk girl and forced himself upon me".

His lawyer has dismissed the statements as entirely false and said that his client was seeking unspecified damages for emotional distress, worry, anger, anxiety and the damage to his personal and professional reputation.

AP, THE TIMES

[illegible] P21

NY victims honoured as bollards go in along the path

NEW YORK: The eight people killed in a driver's rampage were honoured by friends and strangers with a night-time walk down the Lower Manhattan riverfront esplanade where most victims died.

New York officials yesterday began to put up temporary concrete barriers at 57 sites where it is possible for vehicles to turn onto the bike bath where the attack took place.

Some of the marchers carried candles as city lights twinkled on the water on Thursday night.

Others pushed bicycles in solidarity with the victims, who were cut down on the bike path that runs the length of Manhattan's Hudson River waterfront.

The mourners included Harry Kassen, a student at the school where one of the victims, Nicholas Cleves, 23, worked part-time.

"You never think it is going to be someone you know," said the 17-year-old. He said he had worked recently with Cleves on lighting and sound for a school performance. "We were up in the tech booth, chatting. Then, two weeks later, here we are. And he's gone," he said.

The march began near the place where Sayfullo Saipov, 29, an immigrant from Uzbekistan, on Tuesday steered a rented utility onto the path and sped toward the World Trade Centre, striking cyclists and pedestrians. He was shot by a police officer after crashing the truck into a school bus, and arraigned on terrorism charges.

Two women carried the flag of Argentina, in memory of the five people from that country who were killed when Saipov's truck ploughed into a group of friends who had made the trip to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their high-school graduation.

The memorial walk and vigil happened just hours after Argentinian survivors of the attack visited a severely injured member of their group in hospital. Martin Marro, of Massachusetts, to tell him which of his friends had died.

"I think Martin had to know the truth. Maybe he already imagined that but now he knows and is a step that his friends wanted to take before returning to Argentina," Argentina's consul in New York, Mateo Estreme, said.

The New York Police Department's top counter-terrorism official, John Miller, said investigators still had no evidence of that Saipov had any accomplices in the attack, but said information was still being gathered.

A propaganda arm of Islamic State yesterday called Saipov "a soldier of the caliphate". The militant terrorist group has an interest in taking credit for attacks by people who are self-radicalised.

In their search for clues, FBI investigators have questioned Saipov's wife Nozima Odilova and some of his acquaintances, including a fellow Uzbek immigrant, Mukhammadzoir Kadirov, who said he got to know Saipov when they were both Uber drivers.

Yesterday, Mr Kadirov condemned the attack. "It is so sad and unbelievable. This not from our religion. It is not acceptable. We as Muslims completely reject this kind of actions. No human being who has a heart can do this," he said.

President Donald Trump yesterday repeated tweets calling for Saipov's execution.

The comments could give defence attorneys grounds to argue that Mr Trump has poisoned the minds of potential jurors, but some legal experts said they doubted judges in Manhattan's federal courts would let the president's remarks derail the case in a court with a quarter-century record of swift terrorism prosecutions with mostly airtight outcomes.

AP

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NOVEMBER 4 2017

In a mirror, darkly: how Hollywood's real movie monsters hid behind the camera

Michael Idato

MORE

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.



Kevin Spacey at this year's Tony Awards. He said Rapp's accusation "has encouraged me to address other things about my life". Photo: AP

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

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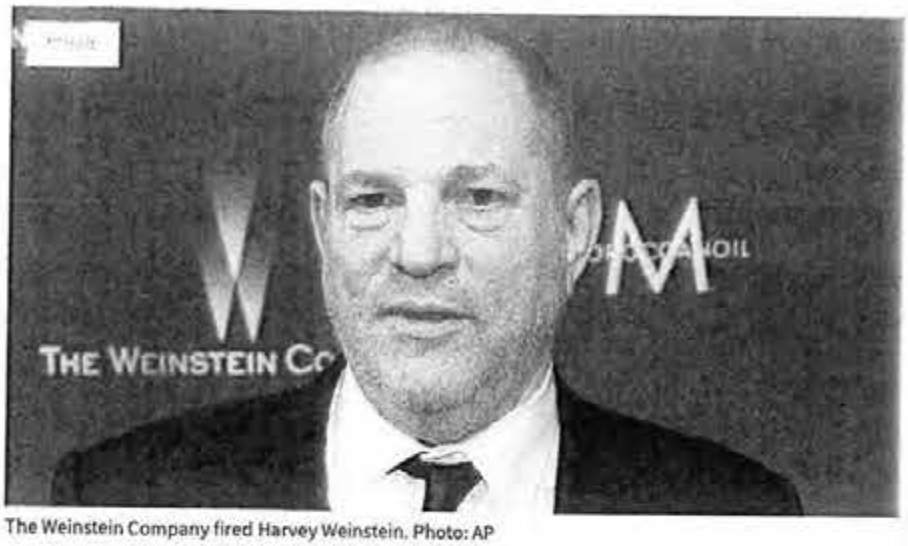
accusations levelled against him point to an endemic problem at the hands of men in power in Hollywood.



The Weinstein Company fired Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

"You are seeing a systemic pattern of marauding behaviour that is recently, because of technology in part, having the sunshine pierce :," 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.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER
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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.



Bill O'Reilly left Fox News Channel after allegations of sexual harassment. Photo: AP

The centrepiece of this story is Hollywood and the business of making entertainment. The city's cliched 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".



Dustin Hoffman. Photo: AP

"This isn't anything new," New York-based crisis public relations expert Mark Macias tells Fairfax Media. "If you go back to 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

10-626

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.

10-627

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." 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-finances 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 Hilarie 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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NOVEMBER 4 2017

Police building case to arrest Harvey Weinstein in sexual assault case

Al Baker and Jodi Kantor

MORE

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.



Harvey Weinstein faces a string of sexual harassment, assault and rape allegations. Photo: AP

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

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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.



Paz de la Huerta has accused Weinstein of raping her two times 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.

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BUSINESS

Amazon chief Jeff Bezos knows he can no longer afford to stay in

Investigating these cases is not impossible. In the case of Alex Hawke I simply did a Hansard search. ANNIKA SMETHURST

A borderline nobody patrols



Lupita Nyong'o says Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed her.

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.

HARVEY

And then put her clothes back on and coolly drank a cocktail.

The storyteller laughs. The male friend looks embarrassed. The woman laughs.

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."

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."

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.

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 stayed mum. 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 gave Parry similar authority to 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 slim majority, but he will return to Parliament before Christmas.

Parry's stupidity and inaction has damaged the position of President and further fuelled public demand for a full audit.

Bill Shorten has sniffed the breeze and thrown his support behind a citizenship audit, and why wouldn't he?

Even if the processes uncovers 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 threaten Malcolm Turnbull's government.

Until then, the Prime Minister looks weak as he insists an audit is too difficult and accuses journalists of a witch hunt for simply doing their job.

Investigating these cases is not impossible. In the case of Alex Hawke, the latest MP embroiled 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 citizens are ineligible to sit in Parliament.

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.

After months of denial, Liberal Party officials hit the phones late this week to conduct their own in-house audit.

MPs were surprised to finally receive a call from party officials inquiring where their grandparents were born.

It's a reactive and slapdash response and will do little to quash momentum for a full audit of citizenship.



Liberal MP Alex Hawke.

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 Saudi Arabia and Shi'ite Iran that has also buffeted Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Bahrain.

A Saudi government minister said Mr Hariri (pictured) was in Riyadh to ensure his safety.

Mr Hariri, who is closely allied with Saudi Arabia, alleged in a broadcast from an undisclosed location that Hezbollah was "directing weapons" at Yemenis, Syrians and Lebanese.



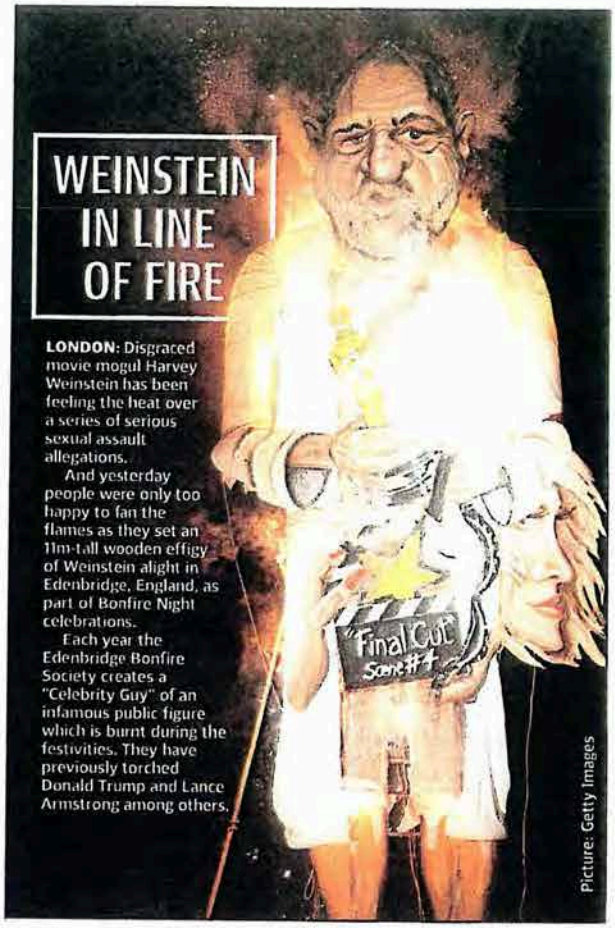
In comments directed at Iran, he said the Arab world would "cut off the hands that wickedly extend to it".

Mr Hariri's coalition, which took office last year, 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 resignation risks exacerbating sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shi'ite 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 five Hezbollah members over the killing. Hezbollah denies involvement.

The Saudi-owned TV channel al-Arabiya al-Hadath reported an assassination plot against Mr Hariri was foiled in Beirut. Saudi Arabia's Gulf Affairs Minister Thamer al-Sabhan said Mr Hariri's personal security detail had "confirmed information" of a plot to kill him.



LONDON: Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein has been feeling the heat over a series of serious sexual assault allegations.

And yesterday people were only too happy to fan the flames as they set an 11m-tall wooden effigy of Weinstein alight in Edenbridge, England, as part of Bonfire Night celebrations.

Each year the Edenbridge Bonfire Society creates a "Celebrity Guy" of an infamous public figure which is burnt during the festivities. They have previously torched Donald Trump and Lance Armstrong among others.

Picture: Getty Images

Farming out an apology

LONDON: A mysterious message that sent conspiracy theorists into a tailspin was spotted in an English field has been revealed as the handiwork of a "grumpy" farmer.

Social media was awash with speculation after a police helicopter saw the letters "SUE x" etched in huge letters on a field in Oxfordsire. 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 apologise for being moody.



Typhoon on a deadly path

HANOI: A typhoon battering Vietnam has killed at least 27 people and left 22 others missing amid extensive damage along the south-central coast.

The missing include 17 crew members of cargo ships sunk off the coast of the central province of Binh Dinh. More than 600 houses were destroyed and nearly 40,000 others damaged as Typhoon Damrey caused widespread blackouts.

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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

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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 $US12 million for Luke Davies' dramatisation of Saroo Brierley's memoir. The film went on to gross $US140 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 Kings Speech*, distributed by The Weinstein Company. Photo: Andrew Sheargold

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 Jonathan 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".

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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-

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King of Hollywood and the casting couch

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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.



Harvey Weinstein at a short film event in Los Angeles. Photo: AP

Now the infection is spreading in the entertainment industry with

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Harvey Weinstein had investigators spy on women

Gene Maddaus

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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.

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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.

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.

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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.



Harvey Weinstein. Photo: AP

In a statement to the *New Yorker*, Weinstein spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister accused the publication of trafficking in "inaccuracies and wild conspiracy theories".

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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.



Actress Rose McGowan. Photo: Bloomberg

Reuters

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Former Channel Seven journalist Dylan Howard among Weinstein's 'army of spies'



Broede Carmody

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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 by

relocated to the United States where he resumed his media career by 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.

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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*.

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"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, Australian actress Essie Davis (*Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and *The Babadook*), and British actor George MacKay (*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 hand to adapt Carey's uncompromising gothic western for the big screen.

"Peter Carey's book *The True History of the Kelly Gang* always felt like the true spirit of Ned Kelly. Unsentimental, brutal, raw and visceral," Kurzel said.

"His story is one of the great odysseys in history, and I feel excited to be bringing it to the screen 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 bad boy in Netflix hit *Stranger Things*, Australian actor Dacre Montgomery, has also joined the cast of the movie along with *Vikings* star Travis Fimmel.

The film is financed by Romulus Entertainment, a new production company launched by Fences executive producer Brad Feinstein and has received major production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Film Victoria and Film4.

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-[illegible]ocate for women confronting [illegible]ual assault and harassment.

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 Foundation's Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award in a ceremony yesterday.

Previous winners include former South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Secretaries General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and Kofi Annan.

Oswalt weds [illegible]nce more

COMEDIAN Patton Oswalt has married actress Meredith Salenger.

Oswalt, 48, and Salenger, who's 47, shared photos of the ceremony and reception on social 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.



Chris Hemsworth as Thor in a scene from *Thor: Ragnarok*. Picture: MARVEL STUDIOS

Box office no match for power of Thor

AFTER a dismal October for Hollywood, Disney and Marvel Studio's *Thor: Ragnarok* proved a smashing success over the weekend weekend, pulling in $US122.7 million in North American theaters for a global total of $US306 million, industry figures showed yesterday.

How big was the film's three-day opening? The latest *Thor* episode, boosted by strong reviews and the self-mocking humor of Chris Hemsworth as the powerful Norse god (with Cate Blanchett as Hela, goddess of death), netted more than seven times last week's take for then-leader, Lionsgate's *Jigsaw*.

That movie, which has police investigating a string of horrific murders carried out in the style of supposedly long-dead killer Jigsaw, dropped this weekend to third place at $US6.6 million.

In second was *A Bad Moms Christmas*, from STX Entertainment, at $US16.8 million. The comedy stars three women – Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn – whose plans change when their mothers (Christine Baranski, Cheryl Hines and Susan Sarandon) drop in unexpectedly for the holidays.

Weinstein had 'army of spies' for complaints

HARVEY Weinstein hired journalists and highly trained ex-spies and military personnel who used fake identities to try to stop accusers from going public with sexual misconduct claims against him, *The New Yorker* reported yesterday.

The news came as the Television Academy, which hands out Emmy Awards, was said to have expelled Weinstein "for life," following a similar move by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gives out the Oscars.

Among the private security agencies hired by Weinstein starting around fall 2016, the magazine said, was Black Cube, which is largely run by former officers of Israeli intelligence agencies, including Mossad. Another was corporate intelligence giant Kroll.

Two Black Cube private eyes met with actress Rose McGowan – before she publicly accused Weinstein of raping her – to get information.

One of the investigators secretly recorded at least four meetings with McGowan while pretending to be a women's rights advocates, said the magazine, citing dozens of pages of documents and seven people directly involved in Weinstein's efforts.

The spy used a different fake identity to meet with a journalist while claiming to have an accusation against Weinstein, in order to learn which women were talking to the media.

Weinstein and the private eyes also used journalists themselves to extract details from women who were making claims against Weinstein.

Weinstein and his team would collect information on dozens of people, compiling psychological profiles with their personal or sexual histories in order to contradict, discredit or intimidate his targets.

Police launched investigations in London, Los Angeles and New York after around 100 women accused Weinstein, once one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to rape.

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COMMENT NOVEMBER 18 2017 SAVE PRINT

Weinstein aftermath: it's white, wealthy, powerful women who stand to benefit

Ann Friedman

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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.

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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 burn babies. They do not make

their living stitching jeans or answering customer complaints. They do not work for tips.

RELATED ARTICLES

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 assaulters. "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.

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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

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

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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.



Louis C.K: is there an equivalent at a fast-food restaurant? Photo: Cara Howe

"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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THE AUSTRALIAN

Sharing 'my Harvey Weinstein moment' sparked a grubby backlash

Kevin Spacey, right, and his accuser Anthony Rapp. No one asked what he was wearing, nor perhaps, if he was asking for it.

NIKKI GEMMELL THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM 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:

o 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 some sort of focus 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 d 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 – wilfully or otherwise – by some who misread the column and were enraged by what they assumed was an attack on all men. It was not.



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The air safety investigator says the crew on an Indonesia AirAsia flight was 'distracted' on an approach to Perth Airport.



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The latest skilled migration lists include an occupation that health officials had previously recommended be left off.

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Mel Gibson says Harvey Weinstein scandal is 'healthy' for Hollywood



Rob Moran

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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.



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Gibson: Examination of misconduct allegations 'a little late'

Actors Mel Gibson, Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg and John Lithgow comment on the sexual

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harassment scandal currently rocking Hollywood.

"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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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.

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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".



Mel Gibson says Hollywood's sexual harassment scandals will lead to change in the industry. Photo: AP

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 misdemeanour 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".



Mel Gibson with Mark Wahlberg, Will Ferrell and John Lithgow in Daddy's Home 2 from Paramount Pictures. Photo: Photo credit: Claire Folger

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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Contestants include Michael Turnbull, Keira Maguire, Laurina Fleure, Davey Lloyd, Tara Pavlovic and Apollo Jackson.

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urnbull said:
I'm looking
– fun, spon-
give anything
girls, Laurine

Fleure I would love to get to know her, Tara, to meet her would be nice. Me and Keira wouldn't form a relationship."

Meanwhile, Channel 10 programming boss **Beverley McGarvey** said the network had been swamped with applications from women pitching to be the next Bachelorette following **Sophie Monk's** recent stint on the show.

"Whether that person has a profile or not will not be as important to us as to whether we think we can make a series with them where we actually get to see who they are," McGarvey said. "We are looking at casting at the minute and there is no firm rule. We are not looking for a celebrity.

"As you'd imagine given the success of Sophie's series, we have had a deluge of people putting their hands up."



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 on 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 prize.

The 32-year-old was awarded the 10th 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 honoured and humbled to receive an award that is voted 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 gives this award a lot more meaning."



Edwina McCann, **Kym Ellery**, **Nicholas Huxley** and Romance Was Born's **Luke Sales** and **Anna Plunkett** were among the laureate nominees.

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 next step in terms of continuing to grow the brand internationally," he said.

Zimmermann, Jac+Jack, P.E Nation, Dinosaur Designs and Harrolds were also winners at the awards, which were attended by models **Gemma Ward**, **Samantha Harris** and **Louise van de Vorst** and former laureates **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 2014, but the world is about to see a whole lot more of Aussie actor **Abbie 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 promoting 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 Geostorm, 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.

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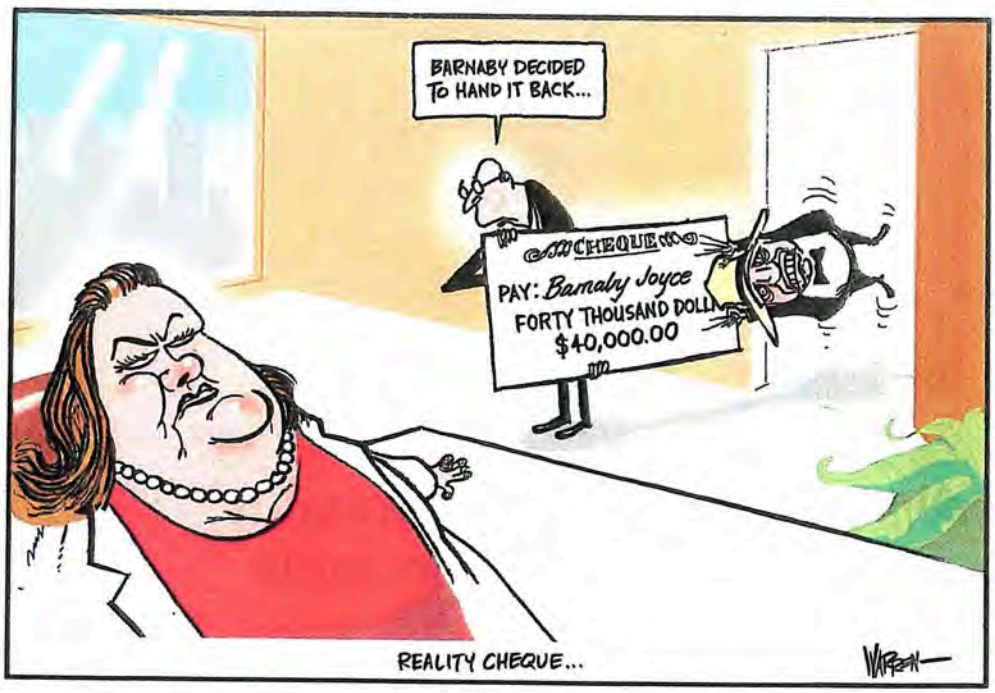

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"My mother was born in the former colony of Singapore before independence. This gave her citizenship of the United Kingdom."

Former senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore, the latest politician to resign over constitutional ineligibility, explains how she became a dual citizen

The left out in the cold

As sex scandals continue to explode across Hollywood, not even progressive politics can save abusers



LOUISE ROBERTS

Once upon a time, in a glittering fairytale land crafted by an insidery clique on the left side of politics, A-listers 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 exploiting, the powerless.

Professional feminists, who regularly chirp that they live and die for their politics, were happy to turn a blind eye if it meant the wealthy, headline generators supported their causes.

But ever since the fall of Harvey Weinstein the message to the high-flying men of Hollywood is clear: Those glory days are over.

Weinstein's sickening, predatory behaviour has triggered a revolution, the Weinstein effect, that has exposed a modern-day casting couch stretching from the entertainment industry to the UK parliament and everything in between.

Thanks to "machine feminism" which mows 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 clout 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 repentance 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 paltry $13k — the ruined director personally donated to her.

Of course, theirs was the cosiest of mogul-pollie arrangements. On one occasion alone Weinstein coughed up $US250,000 for the Clinton Foundation. And some reports estimate he has donated $US1.3 million since 2000 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 luvvie Lena Dunham, one-time darling of the myopic 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 which she 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 lie about: what they ate 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 the LAPD.

But lacking any evidence indicating guilt or otherwise, Dunham and her producer pal Jenni Konner slammed Perrineau as "the 3 per cent of assault cases that are misreported every year".

If it's your friend being accused, then self-righteous feminism can get in the sea.

> *With wearying inevitability that is machine feminism, a chastened Dunham did a complete about-face*

Apparently.

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 feminist should be required to hear her under patriarchy, 'I believe you' is essential.

"I naively believed 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 lefties of course don't like the mirror being held up to them, like LA Times writer Robin Abcarian who served up a "pep 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 if we have no illusions of or desire for grandeur, fame, fortune or a political life?

We start by supporting each other with honesty and fairness without slapping the brush 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.

@whatlouthinks

NOVEMBER 24 2017

'You don't deserve a bullet': Uma Thurman's Thanksgiving message to Harvey Weinstein



Broede Carmody

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Kill 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".

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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

angry recently, and I have a few reasons. #metoo, in case you couldn't tell from the look on my face.



Actress Uma Thurman has written a provocative Thanksgiving message aimed at disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Photo: Andrew Cooper

"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."

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HAPPYTHANKSGIVING 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.

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Keith Urban debuts new Harvey Weinstein-inspired song at CMA Awards 2017



Rob Moran

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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?"

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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*.

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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".



Keith Urban accepts his Single of the Year prize at the 51st CMA Awards in Nashville. Photo: Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

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. #whoa

7:11 AM - Nov 9, 2017

51 432 2,713

Sister, shoulder, daughter, lover
Healer, broken halo, mother
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Hillary Busis
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Keith Urban's "female empowerment" song is just him mansplaining Bitch by Meredith Brooks. youtube.com/watch?v=_qSW96...

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NOVEMBER 17 2017

Why do male exhibitionists force women to watch them? Two therapists explain

Lisa Bonos

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.



Comedian Louis C.K. performs at the David Lynch Foundation Benefit for Veterans with PTSD at New York City Center on Saturday, April 30, 2016, in New York. Photo: Invision/AP

"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

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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 *Erotic 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.

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"It's a hair'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."

NOVEMBER 29 2017

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

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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 .ct 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'."



Kadian Noble speaks during a news conference as her attorney Jeff Herman looks on in New York. Photo: Seth Wenig

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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Harvey Weinstein in 2016. Photo: Richard Shotwell

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.

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THE AUSTRALIAN

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 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 ullied 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 .nboldened 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 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 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 women v men. It's about awful behaviour, abuse and harassment, and people should knows 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."

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SAVE PRINT

Harmless daybed or 'casting couch'? Hollywood sculpture removed, then returned, in wake of Weinstein scandal

Christopher Knight

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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.



Tourist bench or sinister casting couch? Photo: Erika Rothenberg

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

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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 hallway.

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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DECEMBER 7 2017

SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

Some men are bad. But not all of them

Madonna King

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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.



Kevin Spacey in his now-former role in House of Cards. Photo: Supplied

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.



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The cover of Time magazine showing a lone elbow, to represent the sexual abuse victims who felt they were unable to speak out.

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 to" 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

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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.

Some men are bad. But not all of them.

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DECEMBER 7 2017

'Concealed evidence': Lawsuit sees Harvey Weinstein as a crime boss

Alyssa Rosenberg

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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.

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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.

Certifying 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

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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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The Weinstein complicity machine

Weinstein's alleged ability to carry off an astonishing list of crimes depended on the participation of a disturbing number of other people.

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 Louisette 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."

That maintenance worker is a useful character in the very ugly saga of

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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 Weinsteined?" 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

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The Sydney Morning Herald

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.

He 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 as far back as 1990. Some low-level assistants were pulled in: they compiled "bibles" 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 "Corporately 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 ney had cautioned Clinton's aides about his treatment of women. Now, Weinstein exchanged questions abo. 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 Maerov, 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 damning 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 Messick, 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.

New York Times

This story was found at: ***http://www.smh.com.au/world/weinsteins-complicity-machine-entangled-stars-scribes-and-aides-20171206-h007zy.html***

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DECEMBER 7 2017

Time magazine names 'The Silence Breakers' Person of the Year

Jonah Engel Bromwich

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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.

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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*

10-695

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.



The cover of Time. Photo: Time

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"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 unrest. 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 behaviour 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."

New York Times, Washington Post

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COMMENT DECEMBER 12 2017

Politics, sexual harassment and why some women will never come forward



Jenna Price

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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.

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When will Australian politics have its Weinstein moment?



Jane Gilmore

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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.



Half the women currently working in media have experienced sexual harassment, bulling and intimidation. Photo: Ingrid Kurtz

One of the many incidents Middleton described occurred when she was 21 years old and had just started working in the press gallery. An

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MP with "an octopus reputation" found her, as he thought, alone in an office.

She wrote: "Remarking 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.

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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, bulling and intimidation.



Political journalist Karen Middleton

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 70 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 $160 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 unmaking 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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DECEMBER 14 2017

SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

Harvey Weinstein threatened to 'kill' Frida star Salma Hayek



Broede Carmody

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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.

Trailer: Frida

A biography of artist Frida Kahlo, who channeled the pain of a crippling injury and her tempestuous marriage into her work.

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 naivete, 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.

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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."

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After forcing Hayek to rewrite *Frida's* entire script and raise $US10 million to finance the film, Weinstein reportedly showed up to set ne 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 Ena

"He offered me one option to continue," the actress wrote. "He would

offered me one option to continue," the actress wrote. "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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THE EX-POWER BROKERS

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



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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.

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Hollywood Responds to the Harvey Weinstein Allegations

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 2010, 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

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BY YOHANA DESTA



BY KENZIE BRYANT

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. 3, *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 ie 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 insensitive, 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 ıfter 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 ıo years, the *Post* notes, but did not remove Oreskes from the organization until after the story went public, a revelation that has rattled 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 did not happen at NPR, it was not an NPR employee. It was at *The New York Times* and it occurred 20 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

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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 harassing 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 Rohatensky**, 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 19, 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

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BY YOHANA DESTA



BY KENZIE BRYANT

James Toback

On October 22, the *Los Angeles Times* published a piece in which 38 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 recollection.' 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 the Barstool Sports blog's *Pardon My Take* podcast—had come under fire primarily for a 2014 Barstool Sports ·st 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, Hank, and PFT 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 witch 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 Wieseltier

he longtime *New Republic* editor, who left the magazine in 2014, was reportedly included on a crowdsourced list of so-called "Shitty Media ·ien" that circulated October 11. Wieseltier was accused of making sexually charged comments to colleagues; according to an October 26 Splinter story, during his *New Republic* days, an anonymous co-worker once put a sign in Wieseltier'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 Wieseltier, 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 ask for their forgiveness," Wieseltier 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 assure 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 have a soda and talk 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." Shortly

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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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abinet Of Dr. Caligari

se 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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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



Left, courtesy of Daniel Zuchnik/Wireimage; right, courtesy of Dimitrios Kambouris/Wireimage

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."

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BY EMMA STEFANSKY



BY YOHANA DESTA

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 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 13 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/918909971001217025

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."

Though 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 witting 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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Kaia 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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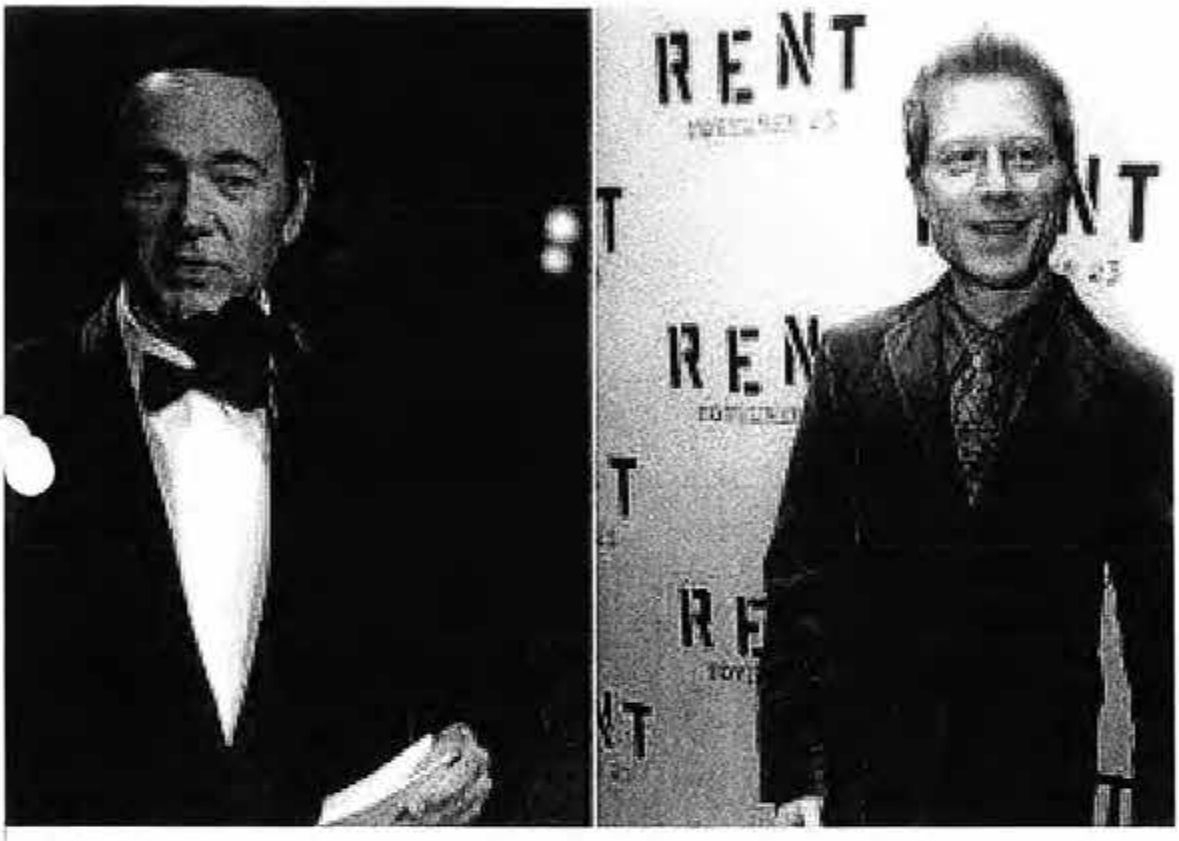


Anthony Rapp (right) claims that Kevin Spacey (left), then 26, made sexual advances toward him when he was 14 years old. (Picture: AP/REUTERS, File)

Rita Panahi Blog Posts

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 been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour" if it did occur.

RITA PANAHI'

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

18,971 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:



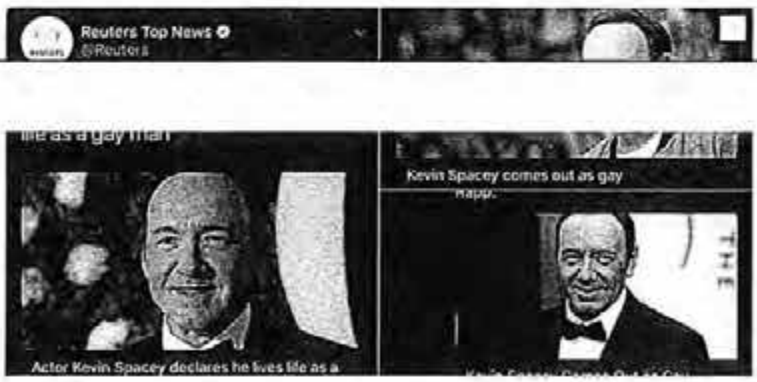
Josh Jordan
@NumbersMuncher

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



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@thealexvanness

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Herald Sun

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'I choose now to live as a gay man': Kevin Spacey comes out in emotional tweet

by KAISH ALLEN



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 5,507 10,389

Yashar Ali
@yashar

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 5,761

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

< PREVIOUS NEXT >

113 3,307 6,894

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!

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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 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.

COMMENTS 9

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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 festering sore that has been going on for decades. What (typical) hypocrites!

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 rotten 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-show 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

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1 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 give him some credit for not

Herald Sun

Scott Nov 3, 2017

Oh really Tom? Witch hunt? Victim blaming? A one off? What about all the others coming out bow and the fact a lot of people seemed to know what he was like? Sounds like you are making excuses to me

1 Like Reply

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

6 Like Reply

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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.



Nick Bond @bondnickbond

OCTOBER 30, 2017 7:32PM

Video Image

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Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

OLLYWOOD 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."

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McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey

3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017

18,971 30,184 84,176

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 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 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."



Actor Anthony Rapp is known for roles in Star Trek and Rent. Picture: Splash *Source:Splash News Australia*

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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 *Source:Getty Images*

uzzfeed reported they had spoken to at least half a dozen of Rapp's friends and ed ones who had confirmed Rapp had privately told them about the alleged 1986 dent 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."

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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.

James Weir @hellojamesweir

OCTOBER 30, 2017 7:36PM

Video Image

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Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

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
@kevinpokeeffe

Replying to @kevinpokeeffe
Coming out as a deflection away from assault allegations is SOMETHING. pic.twitter.com/x2UrOca4HV
3:07 PM - Oct 30, 2017

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your keys when you were drunk last summer is all you really need to know

3:36 PM - Oct 30, 2017

29 1,277 3,942

Jess McGuire
@jessmcguire

We're all pretty OK with yr gayness Kevin. A completely separate issue - you allegedly assaulting underage boys - is the reason yr in strife twitter.com/KevinSpacey/st...

3:25 PM - Oct 30, 2017

2 12 40

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. Conflating 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 dwelt 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!"

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go

Seth Macfarlane wrote this joke in 2005. How many more are victims of yours? pic.twitter.com/jpWLYWNisx
— Shane Rider us (@shaneriderMA) 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."

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Secret Spacey kept for years

30th Oct 2017 6:34 PM

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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.

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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.

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"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 hunk 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 1999 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 out, 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 2010 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 frock as 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 lighthearted 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-criticised apology to Rapp.

Vanity 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."

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Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

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

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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

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"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' -

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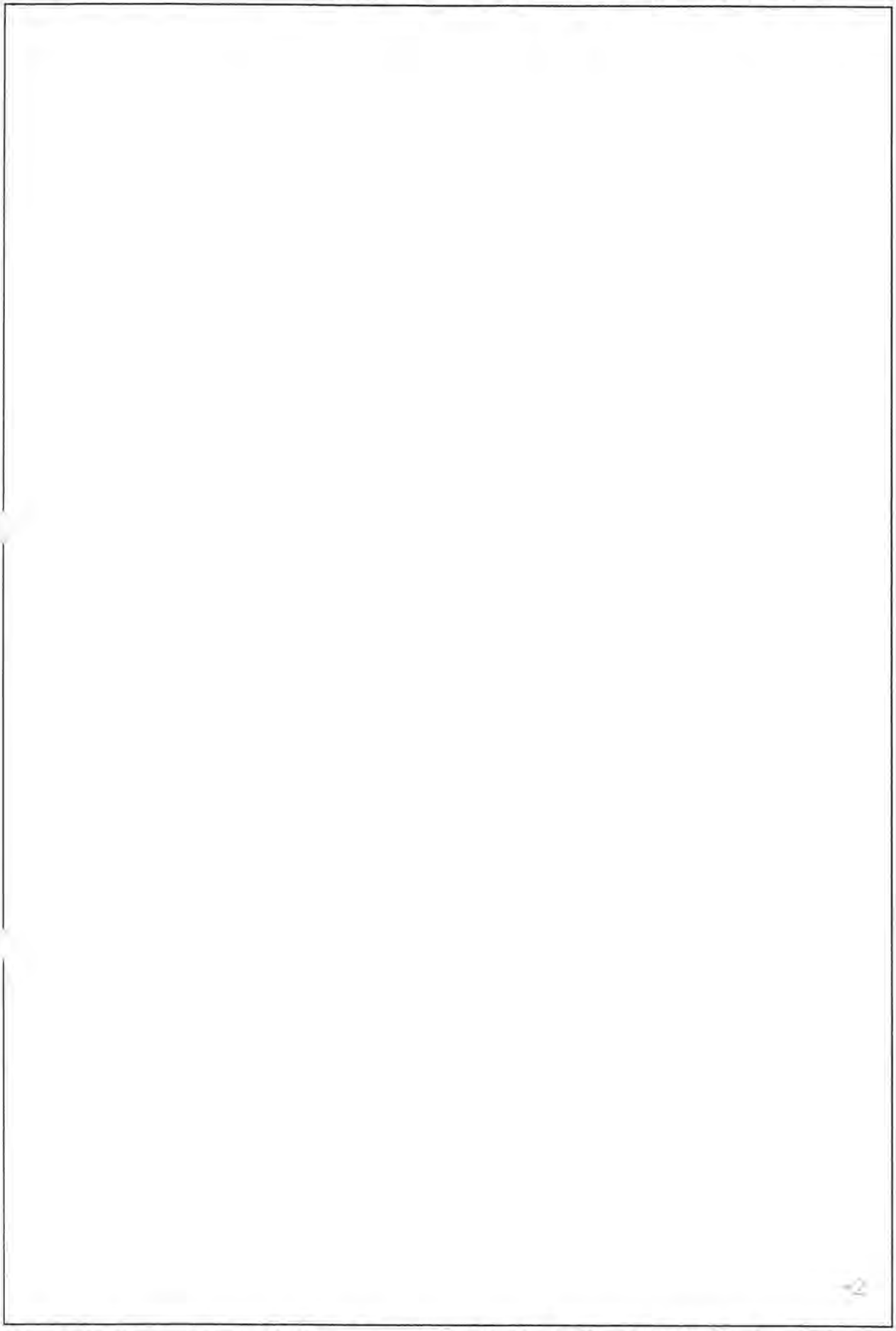

"Star Trek: Discovery" actor Anthony Rapp, shown in this October 06, 2017 file photo, is best known for his portrayal of the character Mark Cohen in the original production of Broadway musical hit "Rent"

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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.

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"No no no no no! You do not get to 'choose' to hide under the rainbow! Kick rocks!" comedian Wanda Sykes said on Twitter.

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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

In 30 Oct 2017 18.08 AEDT

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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pics
Kevin Spacey

REUTERS

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OCTOBER 30, 2017 / 4:14 PM / 3 MONTHS AGO

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 Barragan 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, upending 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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OCTOBER 30 2017

Kevin Spacey accused of making 'sexual advance' toward 14-year-old



Broede Carmody

MORE

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.

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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.



Kevin Spacey at the 2017 Tony Awards. Photo: AP

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.

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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.



Anthony Rapp in a scene from the 2006 film Rent. Photo: Sony Pictures

"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

going on? 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 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.

owever, he told *BuzzFeed* he did walk past Spacey during a rehearsal ‹or 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



Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey

3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017

18,971 30,184 84,176

Spacey 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 fuelled by the fact that I have been so protective of my privacy,"

he said. "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."

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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 devastating expose that has helped to expose the sleazy underbelly 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.

Though McGowan (pictured below) reached a settlement with Weinstein for $130,000 in 1997, she realised over time the contract had not included a confidentiality clause. She said she responded by asking for $7.8 million in an effort to slowly torture her alleged abuser.

"I figured I could probably have gotten him up to three," she said. "But I was like — ew, gross, you're disgusting, I don't want your money, that would make me feel disgusting."

McGowan said she told her lawyer to rescind 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 actors Ashley Judd, Daryl Hannah and Gwyneth Paltrow, have since come forward with horrifying stories about the disgraced Weinstein's behaviour.

Some have accused him of serious misconduct, ranging from harassment to sexual assault and rape.

Weinstein has denied the allegations of non-consensual sex.



SUPERSTAR ACCUSED OF PREYING ON TEEN

SPACED OUT IN SEX SCANDAL



Kevin Spacey is alleged to have accosted Anthony Rapp (inset) when the [illegible] was just 14. Picture: Getty Images

NICK BOND

HOLLYWOOD superstar Kevin Spacey dramatically came out as gay yesterday after being accused of making sexual advances to a teenage boy.

The House Of Cards star, 58, was sensationally accused of making "drunk" advances to Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp at Spacey's Manhattan apartment when the latter 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 "now 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 mea culpa 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 dwarf the misconduct claims with news of his sexuality.

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".

Rapp's allegations to website Buzzfeed — the latest in a string of high-profile sex scandal to dog Hollywood in recent weeks — dates back to 1986.

Rapp was a child actor earning praise for a Broadway run of the play Precious Sons. Spacey, then a 26-year-old relative unknown, was also on Broadway at the time and Rapp alleged he first met him at a post-show function.

He said Spacey invited him to attend a party he was hosting and when he arrived alone Rapp, who is now 46, found he was the only non-adult there, spending most of the evening in a bedroom watching TV.

When the party was ending, Rapp claims that Spacey appeared in the room, visibly 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 said. "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 alleged he was able to break free, and went into Spacey's bathroom before fleeing.

"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 he had found it hard to watch Spacey's star rise since that alleged incident, and had had several near-encounters with the older actor.

"In retrospect I'm very grateful that I wasn't alone with him," he said. "Then I don't know what the f... I would have done."



Buzzfeed reported they had spoken to at least half a dozen of Rapp's friends and loved ones who had confirmed he had privately told them about the alleged incident at some stage in the past 30 years.

'ASHAMED' TIGER BANNED

RICHMOND Tigers player Nathan Broad was yesterday suspended for the first three games of the 2018 AFL season after taking full responsibility for the code's nude photograph scandal.

An image of a bare-breasted woman with a premiership medal draped around her neck went public after 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 drunken decision."



Nathan Broad.

Teen charged over Halloween hit

A TEENAGER was yesterday charged over the Halloween party attack in Sydney's northwest which left another youth in a critical condition.

The 17-year-old was last night behind bars after being arrested and later charged with recklessly causing grievous bodily harm to the 16-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 gatecrashers at the party in Gladesville — 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 but stable".

The youth charged with his assault was refused police bail yesterday and is due to appear at a children's court this morning.

Herald Sun



Rapp claims Spacey made unwanted sexual advances toward him when he was 14. Picture: AFP

SUSIE O'BRIEN

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.

Herald Sun

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.



Spacey at the premiere of Baby Driver. Picture: WireImage

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.

I don't blame Weinstein accuser Rose McGowan for feeling vindictive: "Bye bye, Spacey. Goodbye. It's your turn to cry. That's why we've gotta say goodbye," she tweeted.

COMMENTS 11

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The West Australian

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.

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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.

OCTOBER 31, 2017 3:20PM

Video Image

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Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

"VIN Spacey was raised by a Nazi father who raped his brother and abused his ily 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.

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'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Kevin Spacey's brother, Randy Fowler. Picture: Facebook *Source:Supplied*

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.



Spacey has come out following an allegation of abuse by a fellow actor. Picture: WireImage *Source:Getty Images*



Kevin Spacey (left) with brother Randy Fowler. Picture: Facebook *Source:Supplied*

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."

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"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 'ng the walls of his home office.



Kevin Spacey as a baby with mother Kathleen Fowler. Picture: Supplied *Source:Supplied*

I'M A: SEEKING A:
Hi, what's your first name?
Postcode? Your Country?

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.

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Kevin Spacey and Mother Kathleen Fowler in 1996. Picture: Ron Galella/WireImage *Source:Getty Images*

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.



Frank Chung @franks_chung

OCTOBER 31, 2017 3:57PM

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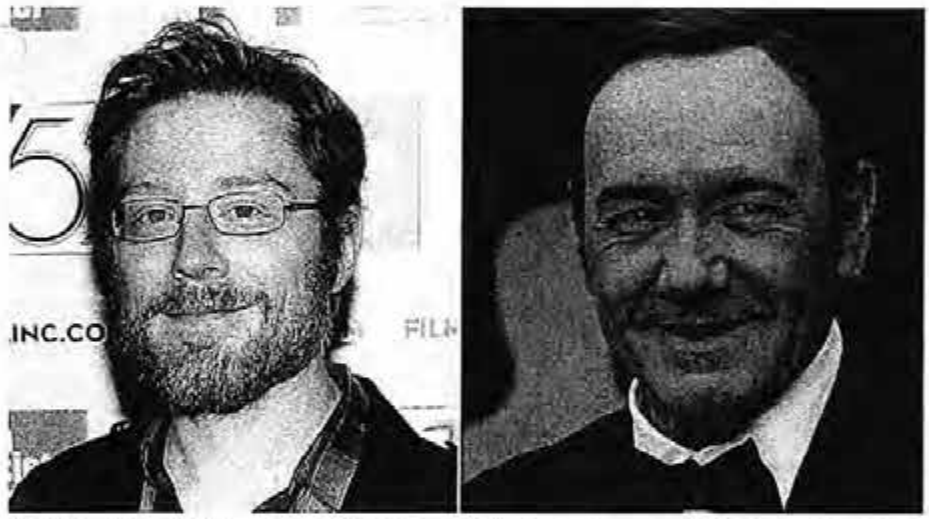

Actor Anthony Rapp, left, this week accused Kevin Spacey of "trying to get with me sexually" when he was 14 and the House of Cards star was 26. Picture: Stephen Lovekin and Robyn Beck/AFP *Source:AFP*

THE 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."

Images Fox Sports 3BEK Carsales RealEstate News Network



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The secret life of teenage Kim

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
@kimrichardsaa

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 @kimrichardsaa @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
@kimrichardsaa

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 41 398

Anna Khait
@Annakhait

Replying to @kimrichardsaa @KevinSpacey
Are you insane? Stop making excuses for this piece of ...
5:05 PM - Oct 30, 2017 · Brooklyn, NY

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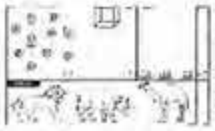
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If your impulse is to pound a 14 year old boy you're NOT good and decent

How many times have you "over-indulged" Kim?

7:04 PM - Oct 30, 2017

1 1 6

U BANK RateCity

Kim Richards
@kimrichardsaa

Replying to @cynicpolitic and 3 others

By over-indulged I was referring to drinking to excess & I don't drink or do drugs. Kevin takes responsibility but doesn't remember it.

7:10 PM - Oct 30, 2017

46 1 2

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 Stewie 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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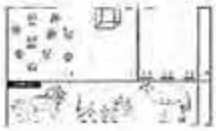
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Sordid rumours followed Kevin Spacey for years

KEVIN Spacey's alleged sexual misconduct was an open secret in Hollywood for years. Now his House of Cards is falling down.



Emma Reynolds @emmareyn

OCTOBER 31, 2017 12:12PM

Video Image

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Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

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.

Former *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 #weinsteinscandal has emboldened me — #truth time. I was a Kevin Spacey fan until he assaulted a loved one. Time the dominoes 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."

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin


'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'


Dennis Rodman charged with DUI


McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



Kevin Spacey is the latest Hollywood star to be embroiled in sexual assault rumours. Picture: Nicholas
mm/AFP *Source:AFP*



Heather Unruh
@HeatherUnruh

The #weinsteinscandal 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 3,787 4,703

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'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

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 30 Oct
Replying to @sueperkins
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_s_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
1 1 14

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 way to deflect attention from the younger actor's accusation.



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McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

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

Kevin Spacey
@KevinSpacey

3:00 PM - Oct 30, 2017

18,971 30,184 84,176

I'M A SEEKING A

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go

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!"

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims

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 tentpole 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."

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



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ENTERTAINMENT

'Bye Spacey, it's your turn to cry'

31st Oct 2017 5:35 AM

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USE THIS CONTENT

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.

RELATED ITEMS

Secret Spacey kept for years

SPACEY COMES OUT AMID STORM: 'I now live as a gay man'

Netflix kills off House of Cards

Responding to the *House Of Cards* star's decision to come out as gay in the statement, which was seen by some as an attempt to overshadow the sexual misconduct claims, she added:

"Gay = Gay Predator = Predator".

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

341 826 4,314

rose mcgowan
@rosemcgowan

Gay = Gay Predator = Predator

11:17 PM - Oct 30, 2017

343 6,693 25,587

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.

"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 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.

Couple forced to take out $100k loan an hour ago

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Former mayor's daughter fronts civil court over $15k debt



Anthony Rapp says Spacey groped him and forced himself on him in 1986. Picture: Splash News



Kevin Spacey @KevinSpacey · 3h

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

Spacey apologise to Anthony Rapp regarding his inappropriate behaviour 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.



Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright in season 2 of Netflix's House of Cards. Picture: Nathaniel Bell

"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 behaviour, 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 behaviour.

Heather Unruh tweeted that the American Beauty actor assaulted a loved one of hers.

"The #weinsteinscandal 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.

:S [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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ABC NEWS

Kevin Spacey: Netflix pulls plug on House of Cards, says it is 'troubled' by sexual harassment allegation

Updated Tue 31 Oct 2017, 8:11pm



PHOTO: Kevin Spacey is accused of sexual misconduct towards a 14-year-old boy in 1986. (Courtesy Netflix)

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.

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey criticised for coming out 'as a deflection from sexual misconduct claims'

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey apologises for alleged sexual advance on teenage boy

MAP: United States

But Netflix spokeswoman Karen Barragan 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.



PHOTO: Actor Anthony Rapp accused House of Cards star Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct. (Reuters: Keith Bedford)

'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, Willmon 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



Kevin Spacey

Andrew Bolt Blog Posts

SPACEY ON ASSAULTING A 14-YEAR-OLD BOY: SORRY, I'M GAY

Herald Sun
October 31, 2017 7:56am

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 1986, 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*

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How hard has it been to blow the whistle on Hollywood power brokers preying on boys?

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 Cory 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 paedophilia 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 misdemeanour charge for marijuana possession.*

7 WHO LET THEM IN?
8 USELESS BOLLARD
9 NICK MCKIM
10 VOTERS SAY

COMMENTS 88

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Stephen Oct 31, 2017

Isn't it great, Hollywood feasting on it's own ! The wealthy pseudo Socialist hypocrites are being exposed for what they are, what middle America has always known and is now punishing these " fakes" where it really hurts them and that's at the " box office" !

1 Like Reply

Val Oct 31, 2017

Did anyone notice he said he "chose to be Gay"

PREVIOUS NEXT

Anthony Oct 31, 2017

Wonder what value an endorsement from Hollywood will have at the next US election ? Or here in Aus . About time they lost their pedestal !

1 Like Reply

Konrad Oct 31, 2017

Hopefully there are three positive outcomes from these recent revelations:

1.
An end to sexual exploitation of actors including children in Hollywood.

2.
An end to sanctimonious sermonising at Hollywood awards nights.

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He said - I don't remember, but if that happened I am truly sorry.

In no way did he try and excuse himself.

Like Reply

Andrew Oct 31, 2017

@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!

Like Reply

Michael Nov 1, 2017

@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?

Like Reply

Groundhog Oct 31, 2017

The headline is a misrepresentation. As usual.

Like Reply

Paul Oct 31, 2017

@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".

Like Reply

Stuart Oct 31, 2017

Yeah because Spacey in no way tried to justify it

Like Reply

Groundhog Nov 2, 2017

@Paul BS

Like Reply

PSFR Oct 31, 2017

Rapp was an adolescent so it wouldn't be pedophilia in any event.

Like Reply

< PREVIOUS NEXT >

It's called nepiophilia!

Like Reply

PSFR Oct 31, 2017

@Neil You would think Bolt would know that.

Like Reply

Mary Oct 31, 2017

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 14 year 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.

3 Like Reply

Neil Oct 31, 2017

Strange logic male chucking 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!

8 Like Reply

Lo Nov 1, 2017

@Neil A 14 year old alone, of any gender, at a grown man's 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?

Like Reply

mots Oct 31, 2017

The host of that show needs to be exposed. She'd horrified that someone is speaking out. Thanks for zero.

6 Like Reply

PSFR Oct 31, 2017

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 Fitts (Chris Cooper) who mistakenly thought Lester was gay.

Like Reply

Andrew Oct 31, 2017

@PSFR Then you haven't watch House of cards have you? His true self is there for all to see.

Like Reply

Stephen Oct 31, 2017

@PSFR, And what a movie and what a performance from Spacey ! ,

Like Reply

Jim Oct 31, 2017

Hollywood is fantasy land.

6 Like Reply

PREVIOUS NEXT

Like Reply

Michael Oct 31, 2017

Hollywood has 'exposed itself' as being nothing more than a cesspit of sleaze and hypocrisy.

The chickens are coming home to roost for the virtue signalling leftist elites.

18 Like Reply

Terry Oct 31, 2017

Print Edition

The Daily Telegraph

Like Reply



andrew k Nov 1, 2017

@Michael Yeah - I'd pay $32 million of my own money to make a bit of smear go away.

Like Reply



Neil Oct 31, 2017

Isn't Spaceys argument, the same as Milo's?

2 Like Reply



rene Oct 31, 2017

@Neil No, the opposite - Milo was the 14 year old

7 Like Reply



Michael Nov 1, 2017

@Neil plus Milo wanted the advances. Still says so now. It is an offence as 14yo is a minor, but Milo accepts responsibility for his actions at that age.

Like Reply



guido Oct 31, 2017

Please Andrew, don't get any deeper in this latest witch-hunt game from the US. Your Adam Sandler example on your show last night was embarrassing. He put his hand on an actress knee among a group of actors on TV? Really? That's a scandal? The Kevin Spacey "scandal"? We don't even know whether that's true. Another 30 year old story hits the road. Even IF true. Drunken sexual advances on a party now equals rape and murder? My question. Why was a 14 year teenager on a party with adults? During my time parties were usually among same age people.

6 Like Reply



AndyJ Oct 31, 2017

Spacey has been a holier-than-thou activist for a long time. Time he got knocked off his pedestal.

I have been watching the recent Hollywood scandals with a lot of Schadenfreud. All those preaching screachers getting pinged for their nasty illegal behaviour like how they love to ping others for the most spurious of reasons. Meryl Streep and her defence of Roman Polanski. Harvey Weinstein and all his hanger-ons including Hillary Clinton. Delicious.

Next is Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon, I hope. And after that, Cate Blanchett and the Baldwin brothers (except Stephen).

5 Like Reply

‹ PREVIOUS NEXT ›

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 to public records, Spacey was 26. Rapp was 14."

https://www.buzzfeed.com/adambvary/anthony-rapp-kevin-spacey-made-sexual-advance-when-i-was-14?utm_term=.bgwMjjL2YX#.exdEllo24j

6 Like Reply

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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.

2 Like Reply



Bruce Nov 1, 2017

@James @guido It's not like the "glitterati" have only just decided to be a little "extra-eccentric".

Almost a century ago, there was the case of Fatty Arbuckle:

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-skinny-on-the-fatty-arbuckle-trial-131228859/

Like Reply



Terry Oct 31, 2017

Milo Yiannopoulos would agree with Spacey

4 Like Reply



Septic the Oct 31, 2017

@Terry Nope.

8 Like Reply



Paul Oct 31, 2017

@Terry You forget that Milo was not the perpetrator - he was the victim.

8 Like Reply

Michelle Oct 31, 2017

@Terry nope. He doesn't. **https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=milo yiannopoulos**

7 Like Reply



Denise Oct 31, 2017

Hollywood needs a major I clean up!

9 Like Reply



mots Oct 31, 2017

@Denise

Domestos would be good, is there enough available?

8 Like Reply

< PREVIOUS NEXT >

8 Like Reply



Matt Oct 31, 2017

Giving actors status is one of the great follies of modernity.

20 Like Reply



Trevor Oct 31, 2017

Andrew - where is your outrage or even a little mention of your idol - Bill O'Reilly??? Your story in yesterdays SunHerald could have had a little mention of Bill and the behavior of people in positions of power. A very conspicuous omission.

5 Like Reply

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@mots @Trevor Mots you constantly throw out this line. It is totally irrelevant, Trevor is discussing this blog. You are a blight on here, where is your blog since that is your rule for people who comment.

3 Like Reply

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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*

31 Oct 2017 23.02 AEDT

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."

Rapp, 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."

Rapp'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

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Sexual harassment

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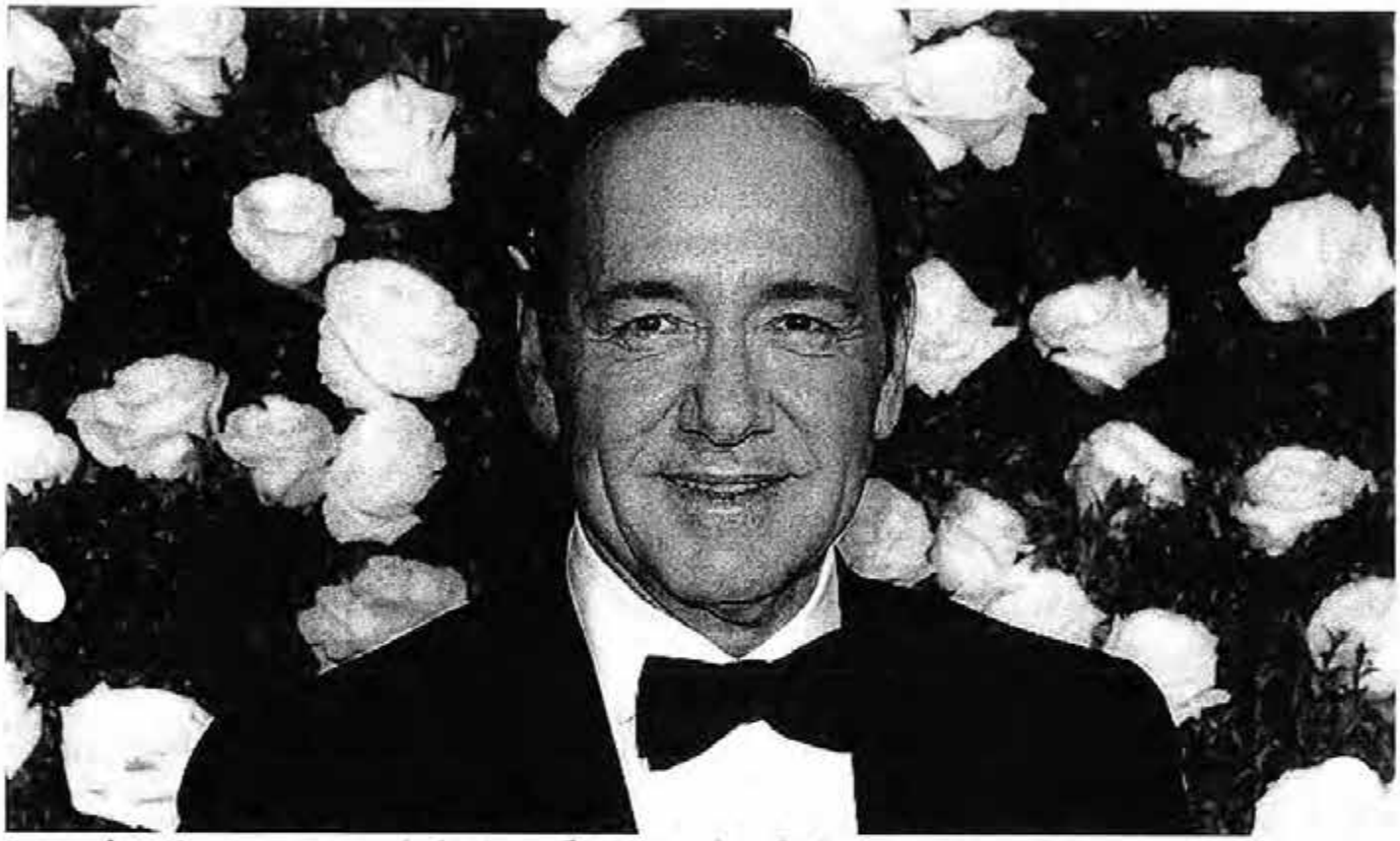

Kevin Spacey criticised over link between homosexuality and abuse

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.

Actor and comedian Billy Eichner tweeted: "That Kevin Spacey statement. Nope. Absolutely not. Nope."

"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.

Topics
Kevin Spacey

OCTOBER 31 2017

'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 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.

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

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behaviour", drew criticism from both Hollywood peers and commenters online.



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.

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"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/8ISMtKHZoh"***
>
> — Kate Aurthur (@KateAurthur) October 30, 2017

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the guardian



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

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CELEBRITY

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 8:49AM 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 corned 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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ABC NEWS

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.

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

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."



PHOTO: Kevin Spacey is accused of sexual misconduct towards a 14-year-old boy in 1986. (Reuters: Eduardo Munoz)

Take a look at the comments to see what our readers thought about Spacey's "rainbow shield".

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.



PHOTO: Actor Anthony Rapp accused House of Cards star Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct. (Reuters: Keith Bedford)

\ 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".

Official Wanda Sykes
@iamwandasykes

No no no no no! You do not get to "choose" to hide under the rainbow! Kick rocks! twitter.com/kevinspacey/st...

4:54 PM - Oct 30, 2017

498 9,694 34,706

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 workplaces 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.

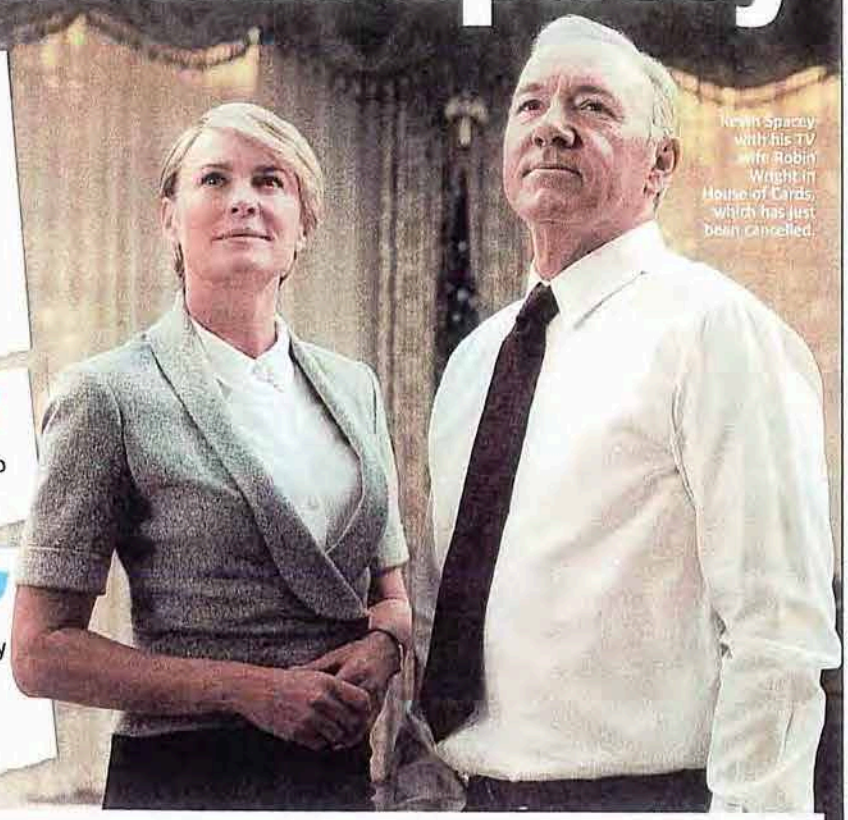
Like Weinstein, Spacey may find that all the PR magic and legal obfuscation money can buy can't cover up the truth.

Alex McKinnon is a Sydney writer.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, actor, sexual-offences, social-media, united-states

First posted Tue 31 Oct 2017, 2:54pm

Watch this Spacey



Kevin Spacey with his TV wife Robin Wright in House of Cards, which has just been cancelled.

quinto
Zachary Quinto

It is deeply sad and troubling that this is how Kevin Spacey has chosen to come out .. ut as a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusation

sykes
Wanda Sykes

You don't get to choose to hide under the rainbow!'

rosie
Rosie O'Donnell

F*** u kevin — like Harvey we all knew about u — I hope more men come forward

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 disgust 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 charge he attempted to molest then child actor Anthony Rapp at a party in the 1980s, by announcing he is gay.

The curtain could also be falling on his time as an A-list actor with Netflix announcing the canning of his acclaimed political drama House Of Cards.

Netflix and production company Media Rights Capital said it was "deeply troubled" by the allegations that Spacey harassed the then 14-year-old at 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 waded 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 rumours that have swirled 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. Time the dominoes fell"

Meanwhile, it has been claimed Spacey groped a male employee during his acclaimed tenure as artistic director of London's Old Vic Theatre from 2003-15. 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."

Royals' sights set on 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 orchid named after them and be hosted at a state banquet by Singapore's president, Halimah Yacob.



Camilla.

Charles last visited Singapore in 1979. 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 long-standing relationship between Singapore and the United Kingdom," Singapore's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The royal couple leaves for Malaysia tomorrow. They'll cap off their Asia tour with visits to Brunei and India.

British media reported that Myanmar was considered for the trip but was excluded from the itinerary as the country's Rakhine state is enveloped in religious violence.

Campus in gun terror

SALT LAKE CITY: A university campus in the US was in lockdown last night after a person was shot dead by a fugitive who was "armed and dangerous" and still on the run.

The University of Utah sent an alert at 9pm, instructing students and staff to shelter in place. People on campus remained on lockdown hours later. Salt Lake City police said its officers were searching nearby Red Butte Canyon for 24-year-old Austin Boutain, who is suspected in the shooting. He is considered armed and dangerous. At least eight law enforcement agencies were on the scene, including the FBI.



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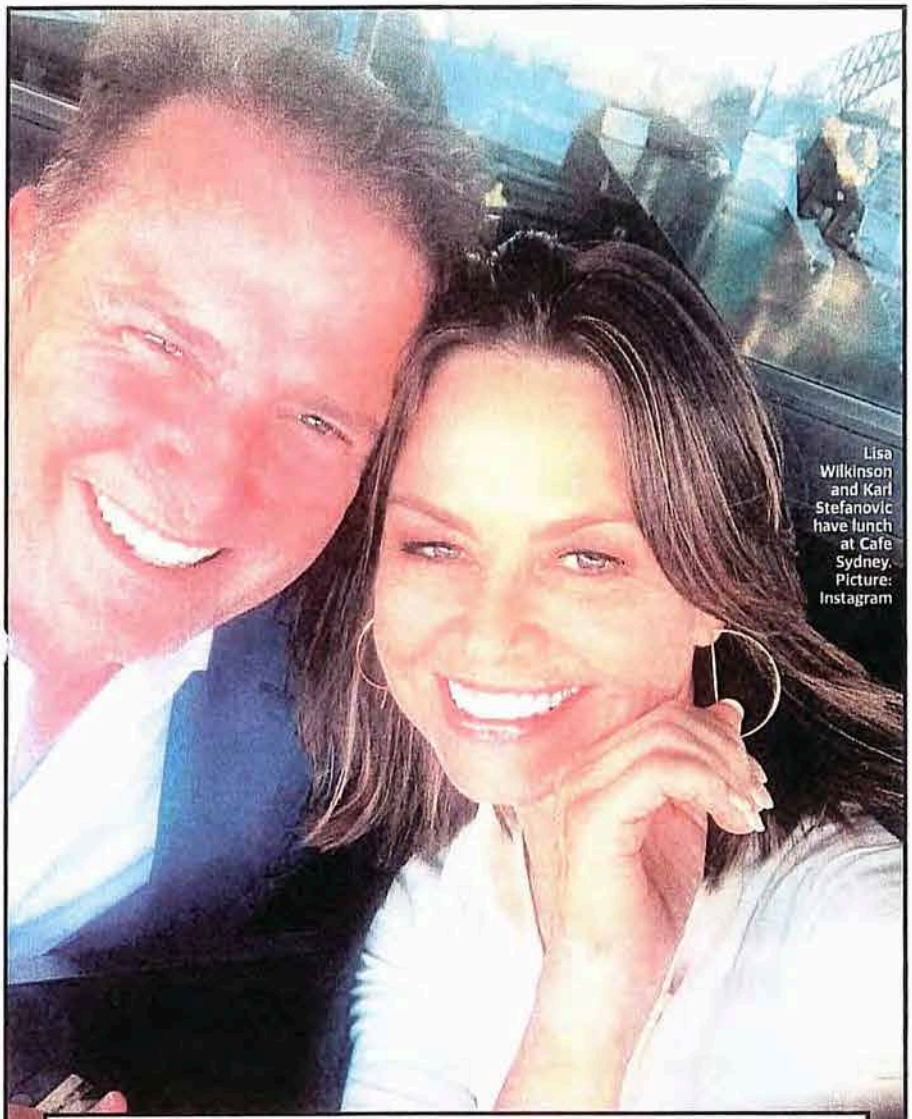

Lisa Wilkinson and Karl Stefanovic have lunch at Cafe Sydney. Picture: Instagram

HERE TODAY BUT GONE TOMORROW

JONATHAN MORAN

IT took them two weeks but Lisa Wilkinson and Karl Stefanovic have finally reunited — over a long boozy lunch.

Today host Stefanovic and his former on-air partner met up at the plush Cafe Sydney yesterday, meeting around noon for what ended up being a 3½-hour get together.

"There was lots of uncontrollable laughter right down to some very intense moments," one diner told The Daily Telegraph. "There was some serious discussion going on for probably the best part of the time."

The onlooker said Stefanovic "put away quite a few chardonnays" while Wilkinson drank mojitos.

It was the first public appearance of the pair since Wilkinson sensationally announced she was leaving the breakfast TV behemoth last month.

Once clear of the venue, after 4pm, Wilkinson shared a happy snap from the lunch.

"The best lunch today with this guy," she wrote on Instagram.

Weighty issue a massive problem

EXCLUSIVE
SUE DUNLEVY

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 that 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 Alison McAleese 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 (BMI 25-29.9) described themselves of average weight, the survey of 2000 Aussies 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 McAleese 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 45-49 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 McAleese 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 teenage boy. The actor, whose drama House of Cards 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".

WORLD PAGE 16

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Catalan 'rebel' bolts to Brussels

BARCELONA: Sacked Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont was to last night break his silence in Brussels, where he hired an asylum lawyer, as prosecutors in Spain demanded he be charged with rebellion.

The fresh twist in the secessionist crisis came as Catalans went to work for the first time since the central government imposed direct rule on the region after its parliament declared independence on Friday, with no major disruptions reported.

But as workers went about their business despite uncertainty generated by the declaration, a question mark remained over Mr Puigdemont's whereabouts.

He appeared on television on Saturday urging "democratic opposition" to Madrid's move to take power in the semi-autonomous northeastern region, but has not been heard of since.

It eventually emerged he had travelled to Belgium, where he contacted Paul Bekaert, a lawyer who has worked on asylum cases involving Spaniards in the Basque Country, once hit by decades of violence waged by armed separatist group ETA.

Speaking to Flemish television VRT, Mr Bekaert said: "Mr Puigdemont is not in Belgium to request asylum.

"On this matter, nothing has yet been decided."

He added that Mr Puigdemont had appointed him as his lawyer.

"I spoke with him personally in Belgium ... and he officially made me his lawyer. I have more than 30 years of experience with the extradition and political asylum for Spanish Basques, and it's probably because of this experience that he came to me."

Spanish media outlets reported that Mr Puigdemont was travelling with several members of his axed government.

Belgian Immigration Minister Theo Francken, a member of the Flemish separatist N-VA party, suggested on Saturday Mr Puigdemont could receive asylum but Prime Minister Charles Michel poured cold water on the idea.

In an interview with Catalonia's TV3 television, the region's axed vice-president Oriol Junqueras said Mr Puigdemont would explain early today what he was doing in Belgium.

Upping the ante in the stand-off, Spain's chief prosecutor said he was seeking charges including rebellion — punishable by up to 30 years in prison — and sedition against the Catalan leaders who were sacked by the central government. Jose Manuel Maza said they had "caused an institutional crisis that led to the unilateral declaration of independence carried out on October 27 with total contempt for our constitution". A court now has to decide whether to bring charges.

Mr Puigdemont maintains that the result of an independence referendum that took place on October 1 despite a court ban gave the region's parliament a mandate to declare it was breaking away from Spain. Following this declaration, Madrid took control of the region under a previously unused "nuclear option" in the constitution.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called snap elections for December 21 to replace the Catalan parliament.

On Sunday there was speculation Catalan leaders and civil servants might seek to disrupt Madrid's move to impose direct rule once people returned to work.

Catalan police, under orders from Madrid, were told they could allow the dismissed leaders to enter the government headquarters in Barcelona only to clear their desks. But in the end, apart from one minister who tweeted a photo of himself at his desk, there was no resistance.

"For now everything is very quiet. People have returned to work as normal," said Joan Escanilla from the CSIF civil servants union.

Analyst Sandra Leon from York University in England said that Mr Rajoy's move to call snap elections appeared to have wrong-footed the separatist camp.

"This isn't the framework they had imagined of passive resistance, of mobilisation, that's changed completely," she said.

A member of Mr Puigdemont's Catalan European Democratic Party, which together with other separatist parties has a narrow majority in the Catalan parliament, said it would stand in the December election, against expectations of a possible boycott.

Mr Junqueras said that his Republican Left of Catalonia party would also take part in the vote, which would be "one more opportunity to make ourselves heard". Whether the small far-left Popular Unity Candidacy party, an ally of Mr Puigdemont, will also stand remains to be seen.

The international community has largely spurned the independence declaration and has united behind Madrid.

AFP



Carles Puigdemont is facing rebellion charges AP

Mild-mannered monk had no idea his theses would rock the world

WORLD COMMENTARY

ERIC METAXAS

This week the world celebrates the 500th anniversary of an event that never happened. Well, something did happen, and it altered the course of history. But what actually took place is astoundingly different from how it is portrayed today.

As the story is told, on October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther socked the European church establishment in the kisser by defiantly nailing his "95 Theses" on indulgences to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. His hammer resounded throughout the world. It was as though he had stuck his finger in the pope's eye.

The document brazenly charged the Catholic Church with corruption. The corrupt powers-that-be were put on notice that the vile practice of indulgences — whereby the faithful could throw a coin in the coffer to buy their way out of purgatory or worse — must end.

Except it never happened, at least not that way. Luther probably didn't post his theses on the famous date celebrated each year, though he likely did within a month of the designated day. And they might never have been posted by Luther, despite five centuries of paintings depicting him doing just that. As it happens, he may have handed the document to a church custodian to post. And if Luther did post it, he may even have unheroically affixed it with paste.

More important, posting the document on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church was not an act of calculated defiance. That door had long served as the community bulletin board for anything and everything. For context, imagine the fabled document posted next to a flyer for a missing cat.

The most important difference between how most people remember the event and what actually happened is that the 30-something monk never dreamt that history would notice what he was doing. He did not intend to be defiant or to cause trouble. And he certainly did not plan to shake the foundations of the church he loved and obediently served. The idea that this all might lead to a sundering of the church was unthinkable. If he had thought of it, it would have utterly horrified him.

And the theses were written in Latin, which no one but cultural elites could understand. If there was anything provocative in what he wrote, it was only because such documents typically contained an edgy thesis or two to instigate a robust debate.

The brainy Saxon monk merely wanted to coax his fellow theologians into an academic debate on indulgences, thinking something might be done about the practice through the proper and customary channels. What happened shocked Luther more than anyone.

A copy of the document was promptly delivered to Rome, where it furrowed Vatican brows and upset the papal stomach. Far worse, Luther's well-meaning Saxon colleagues quickly translated the document into German. Then they duplicated it endlessly without his permission, courtesy of a relatively new technology invented by a fellow German, Johannes Gutenberg. Suddenly everyone was reading it across Europe and debating its points. Before Luther could say "sola scriptura", the horse had slipped out of the barn and was wildly trampling the status quo that had existed for centuries.

Within four years, Luther's written and oral responses to the growing conflagration had taken the world by storm and he

> The powerful ideas Luther's writings conveyed would in time lead to virtually everything we now take for granted in the modern world

arguably had become the first genuine celebrity in world history. The frothy torrent of writings that poured from his pen would make printers and publishers rich, with no royalties ever paid to him for his troubles. And his woodcut portraits reproduced like rabbits across the German landscape.

The powerful ideas Luther's writings conveyed would in time lead to virtually everything we now take for granted in the modern world. By prompting the end of Vatican hegemony, Luther opened the door for the creation of thousands of new churches under dozens of denominations, Lutheran among them. In the coming centuries, this attitude would help elevate the concepts of religious pluralism, tolerance, democracy and freedom.

Who knew? Certainly not Martin Luther, whose grotesque pronouncements against the Jews near the end of his life prove he did not comprehend the ramifications of what he had loosed upon the world.

But by humbly raising the questions he had in 1517, and then by responding to the attacks as truthfully and carefully as he could, Luther ended up cracking the great edifice of medieval Christendom in twain. And for good and for ill both, out of that opening the future itself seemed to fly.

Eric Metaxas is the author of Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



An 1878 painting of Luther's 95 Theses nailed to the door

N Korean assassins arrested China

[redacted]
CHINA CORRESPONDENT

North Korea send a seven-person assassination team to Beijing to murder Kim Jong-un's nephew, Kim Han-sol, whose father was killed in Malaysia, it was reported yesterday.

South Korean newspaper *JoongAng Ilbo* said two members of the North Korean team were being interrogated in a high-security facility on the outskirts of the Chinese capital.

It appears they were picked up during heightened Chinese security for last month's five-yearly Communist Party congress in Beijing.

This plot was uncovered while the trial is continuing of two women, from Indonesia and Vietnam, in Kuala Lumpur charged with murdering Kim Han-sol's father, Kim Jong-nam, at the city's airport in February.

The half-brother of Kim Jong-un, Kim Jong-nam was travelling from his home in Macau under a pseudonym.

The women allegedly applied the highly toxic nerve agent VX to his face. They have pleaded not guilty.

Agents from Pyongyang who were believed to have organised the assassination fled from Malaysia.

The month after his father's murder, Kim Han-sol, one of an estimated six children of Kim Jong-nam, appeared on a YouTube video, introducing himself as North Korea, part of the family.

The video, in which the 22-year-old said his family was grateful for help they had received since his father's assassination, came from a website



Kim Han-sol

associated with Cheollima Civil Defence, a group whose goal is to help those who escape from the North Korean regime.

The group said in a brief statement that the family members in Macau had been "relocated to safety".

China is believed to offer substantial protection in a bid to help foster a smooth transition towards a member of the Kim dynasty more in tune with Beijing's modernising goals, should anything happen to Kim Jong-un.

Kim Han-sol was born in Pyongyang, lived in China and Macau and was educated by United World Colleges in Hong Kong and Bosnia. He studied at France's Sciences Po University in Le Havre, graduating last year.

He is believed to be living with his mother and sister.

Like his father, he is thought to have angered Kim Jong-un via an interview.

Talking with a Finnish TV journalist five years ago, the then 17-year-old referred to his uncle as a dictator.

Spacey comes out to a teen sex assault storm



Kevin Spacey's apology to Anthony Rapp, right, sparked claims he linked homosexuality with preying on children AFP, AP

NEW YORK: Kevin Spacey united celebrities and activists in anger yesterday after apologising over allegations that he made sexual advances to a 14-year-old boy more than 30 years ago in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The double Oscar winner and star of the US version of *House of Cards* has been widely considered one of the finest actors of his generation, with a glittering stable of career credits.

But he came under a torrent of fire over claims from fellow actor Anthony Rapp that he "made a sexual advance" at a party in 1986 when Rapp was 14, and for appearing to deflect the story by finally confirming what had been an open secret in Hollywood for years — that he was gay.

Critics denounced the A-lister for appearing to conflate homosexuality with preying on a child, stereotypes that gay activists have fought for generations.

Netflix confirmed it would not be renewing *House of Cards* — a flagship production that put the subscription platform on the map — beyond season six, due to air next year. A source said, however, that the decision had been made before the allegations emerged and was unrelated.

The streaming platform and *House of Cards* production company Media Rights Capital issued a joint statement saying they were "deeply troubled" by the allegations against Spacey, 58, who was not scheduled to be on set.

"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 said.

Rapp, 46, told Buzzfeed that in 1986, while he and Spacey were performing on Broadway, the then 26-year-old Spacey invited him to a party at his New York home.

Rapp said he was in the bedroom watching TV when Spacey, apparently drunk, came in after all the other guests had left, 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 free after a brief period of time and went into the bathroom, before leaving Spacey's apartment and going home.

Spacey posted on his Twitter account that he was "beyond horrified" by Rapp's revelation, which he claimed not to remember before apologising.

He went on to say that Rapp's accusation "encouraged me to address other things about my life", and that "I know that there are stories out there about me".

"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," Spacey wrote.

But the backlash was swift as reports suggested that Spacey, who in 2015 received an honorary knighthood, may face other accusers. "Bye bye, Spacey goodbye, it's your turn to cry, that's why we've gotta say goodbye," tweeted Rose McGowan, one of the first actresses to accuse disgraced Hollywood producer Weinstein of rape.

Sarah Kate Ellis, president of LGBTQ acceptance advocacy group GLAAD, added: "Coming-out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault."

Richard Lawson, a film critic for *Vanity Fair* magazine, tweeted: "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 pedophiles is significant."

Rapp said he felt compelled to speak out after the recent accusations against Weinstein sparked an examination of abuses committed by powerful men in the entertainment industry.

Comedian Rosie O'Donnell likened Spacey to Weinstein. "We all knew about u — I hope more men come forward," she tweeted.

Victoria Featherstone, artistic director of London's Royal Court Theatre, told the BBC that she was aware of stories about Spacey during his decade-long stint as artistic director of the Old Vic theatre in London.

"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," she told Radio 4.

Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh wrote on October 13 that she was a Spacey fan "until he assaulted a loved one", whom she did not name.

Actress Asia Argento, who says she was harassed by Weinstein, has unveiled a list of 82 women who have accused the disgraced producer of misconduct including rape, abuse and harassment.

He denies non-consensual sex but his career is in tatters.

AFP

Five more Tory MPs on Westminster's dirty dossier

LONDON: Five more Tory MPs, including a member of the 2017 intake, have been added to a dossier set up by British parliamentary researchers amid growing allegations of sexual misconduct in Westminster.

More than 40 Conservative MPs, including several cabinet ministers, have now been accused of sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour.

Their names feature in a spreadsheet, known as the "dirty dossier", which has been compiled by about half a dozen current and former researchers and which has prompted the government to pledge action.

The document, which is being widely shared in Westminster, includes a string of explosive and unverified allegations against 45 MPs ranging from extramarital affairs to harassing young researchers and paying for sexual services from prostitutes. The Tory aides who set it up said it was prompting people to come forward with further allegations, amid fears the scandal could bring down the government.

It comes as a former Labour MP in Wales said two colleagues had touched her inappropriately in the House of Commons and a former Labour adviser said she was "lunged at" on a regular basis in Westminster.

The Conservative Party also faces questions over the extent to which British Prime Minister Theresa May and MPs in the whips' offices were aware of sexual misconduct allegations.

A Conservative MP who was elected this year said he had been taken aside by another MP shortly after arriving in Westminster and warned about a number of male MPs who were said to behave in a predatory manner in parliament's bars and restaurants. "I was given a heads up as a new MP of older, male MPs I shouldn't find myself inebriated and alone with," he said.

Those named in the dossier, which has been given the title "high libido MPs", include an MP whose "advances on young female researchers" have allegedly been reported to the whips; a male MP elected in 2017 accused of having "made unwanted physical advances on a female"; and a backbencher who is said to have "harassed" women to go on dates.

The document includes claims that a female minister is having an inappropriate workplace relationship and that a male MP behaved inappropriately while interviewing women for jobs. In one of the most extreme allegations, it is claimed that a video exists of a male MP being urinated on by three unnamed men.

Betty Williams, a former Labour MP for Conwy, claimed she had been the victim of inappropriate behaviour by two colleagues while in the House of Commons. Ms Williams, who was elected in 1997 and stood down in 2010, said one veteran Tory MP had grabbed her breast. Another, whom she described as "a leading Tory MP who'd been there for years" squeezed her knee during a debate in the chamber.

Ayesha Hazarika, a former Labour adviser, claimed she had been "lunged at on a regular basis" by one staff member when she first started in parliament but said she feared that speaking out could end her career.

Yesterday, a number of those named in the dossier denied any knowledge of sexual misconduct by MPs and said they were the victim of "Chinese whispers" in Westminster.

"I fear we are about to witness a full-frontal witch hunt based on rumour and media hypocrisy," one MP said.

Speaking in the Commons, the Labour MP Jess Phillips said she had overheard "two male colleagues walking through the halls wittering about a witch hunt". She accused them of failing to take the issue seriously.

One of the researchers involved in the document said it had been "encouraging" that its publication had resulted in more allegations.

They praised a letter sent by Mrs May to Speaker John Bercow calling for tougher rules to protect MPs' staff from harassment and said they hoped she would sack Mark Garnier, a junior trade minister who has admitted calling a member of staff "sugar tits" and asking her to buy sex toys.

THE TIMES



Jokes about "women drivers" rightly vanished from Australian stand-up routines way back in the last century.

But in southwest China, the management company running a compound of blocks of flats in Kunming recently introduced — "as a courtesy" — extra-large parking spaces set aside only for women, in its multi-storey carpark.

The borders around the bays are painted, on the ground, in a distinctive bright yellow.

Besides being longer and wider than other parking spots, they are also handily close to the entrance of the carpark.

Such stereotyping is not rare, even among women drivers themselves in China.

A fairly common rear window sticker reads in Chinese, in a variant of the "baby on board" message: "I'm a new driver and I'm a woman, so I can be lethal — steer well clear from me!"

The Kunming carpark company has received in response a few social media messages of support, such as Zhao Xinya saying: "As a female new driver, I reckon it's a good idea."

Du Xiaozhan wrote: "It's a matter of male courtesy, like saying 'ladies first'."

But such welcoming remarks have largely been drowned in a tirade of angry online attacks accusing the firm of discrimination.

"I'm a woman, and I'm as good a driver as any man. I don't need extra space to park, maybe less," one post read.

ROWAN CALLICK

House of Cards toppled

Hit show casualty of fallout from Kevin Spacey drama

THE fallout facing Kevin Spacey widened yesterday following an accusation that he allegedly that he made sexual advances on a teen boy, with Netflix pulling the plug 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, yesterday to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported." Spacey was not scheduled to be on set yesterday.

Though the decision 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 authorised 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 month after 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 BuzzFeed News on Sunday, actor Anthony Rapp alleged that he was attending 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 behavior."

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 behavior."

Requests for comment went unanswered yesterday.

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.

Nightmare machine spinning scary tales

DON'T throw away your Stephen King collection just yet.

But the Master of the Macabre (*pictured*) 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 bone-chilling tales.

MIT researchers have applied the electrodes and brought to life a new fiction-writing bot they call Shelley - after *Frankenstein* author Mary Shelley. To keep the bot busy – no wandering the countryside terrorising villagers – the team gave it a crash course in the horror genre, forcing it to read 140,000 stories published by amateur writers on a popular online forum.



Now Shelley's artificial neural network is generating its own stories, posting opening lines on Twitter, then taking turns with humans in collaborative storytelling.

"She's creating interesting and weird stories that have never really existed in the horror genre," said Pinar Yanardag, a postdoctoral researcher at the MIT Media Lab.

The lab's experiment, launched in time for Halloween, follows a similar project to create scary images 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 Nic Cester is making music again – both with the band and on his own

Picture: DYLAN ROBINSON

Jet frontman tackles his demons with new solo album

JET frontman Nic Cester didn't think he would ever be able to make music again after he broke up the successful Aussie band six years ago.

He wasn't even sure his bandmates would ever speak to him again. "When the whole Jet thing ended I was pretty disillusioned," Cester said. "It was my choice to stop being Jet for many many reasons but I wasn't really sure even if I wanted to pursue music and I just needed some time away."

It was a lot to walk away from. Cester and his bandmates, including his brother Chris, had sold more than six million albums. But being in a band isn't always that easy and, three albums later, Cester needed to stop and find himself.

So Cester decamped to Europe. He and his wife hid out in Berlin for a while and went to German classes, revelling in the anonymity.

He started to write the songs that have gone on to form his first solo album, *Sugar Rush*.

This year, Cester also reformed with Jet and supported Bruce Springsteen in Australia.

The band will tour Japan next year.

He's also back in Australia touring his solo album.

Sugar Rush is out Friday

Lion roars with 12 AACTA nods

NICOLE Kidman's tear-jerker film *Lion* is leading the way at this year's AACTA nominations with 12 nods.

The Australian film, directed by Garth Davis, stole hearts upon its release last year as it told the true story of Saroo Brierley's unlikely journey to find 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 guest or supporting actress in a television drama for playing another adopted mother in Jane Campion's popular TV drama *Top of the Lake*.

The second season of Campion's murder-mystery is also a top nominee with 11 nods, alongside *Blue Murder: Killer Cop* which saw Richard Roxburgh reprise his role as Detective Roger Rogerson in a follow-up to *Blue Murder*.

Clooney film box office bomb

GEORGE Clooney's *Suburbicon* notched one of the most dismal wide-release debuts in recent years on a sluggish pre-Halloween weekend where the horror sequel *Jigsaw* topped all releases despite an underperforming debut.

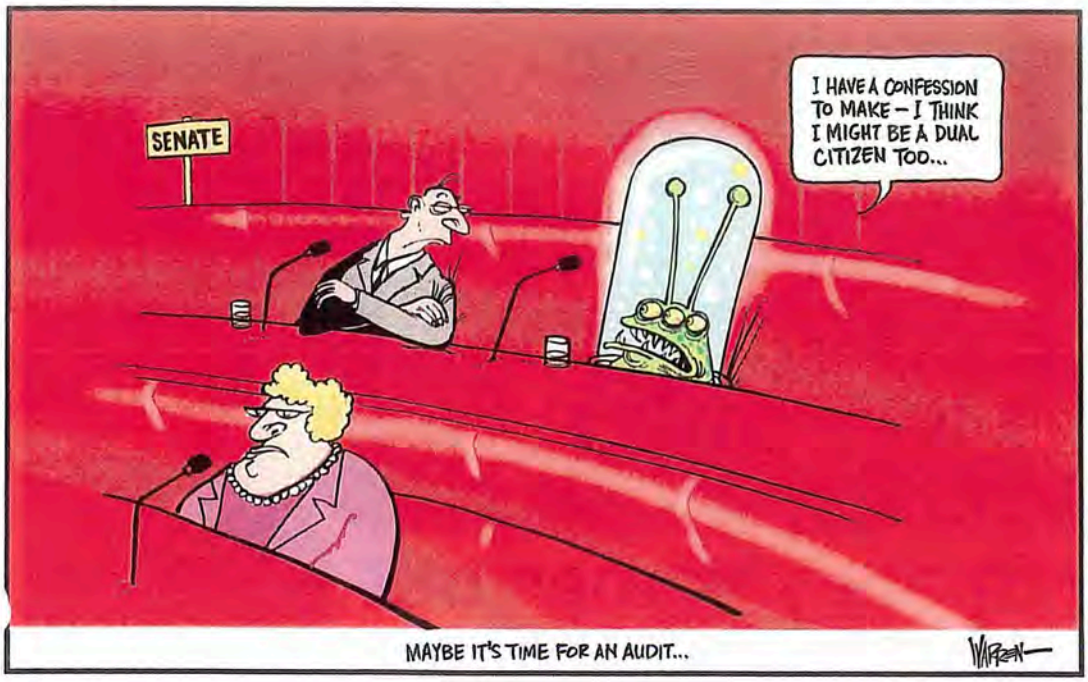
The eighth *Saw* film landed at No. 1 with $16.3 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came in below industry expectations and suggested the revived *Saw* franchise isn't connecting with audiences the way other recent horror entries have.

In its first release since the Harvey Weinstein scandal began unfolding, the beleaguered Weinstein Co. feebly released a horror sequel of its own: *Amityville: The Awakening*. It played in a Saturday-only engagement on 10 screens, and grossed $742.

Critics weren't happy to see *Jigsaw*, giving it a 39 per cent Rotten Tomatoes score.

NTNE01Z01MA - V1

WARREN'S VIEW



THEY SAID IT

"In response to last night's revelations, executives from ... our companies arrived in Baltimore this afternoon to meet with our cast and crew to ensure that they ... feel safe and supported. As previously scheduled, Kevin Spacey is not working on set at this time."

Netflix announces the cancellation of House of Cards amid claims the show's star, Kevin Spacey, tried to seduce a 14-year-old boy in the mid-1980s

"GetUp! attacked our independent Electoral Commission. GetUp! for some reason thinks the laws it argues should apply to others should not apply to itself."

Special Minister of State Scott Ryan says the activist group has crossed a line

Hollywood Spaceys out

The latest Tinseltown sex scandal is vile, but the accused are still entitled to a presumption of innocence



RITA PANAHI

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 a much loved and respected Hollywood A-lister, Kevin Spacey.

Accused of aggressively pursuing a 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 ugliness to an industry inhabited by grubs and enablers who feel entitled 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 sadly 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 inebriated speaks to overindulgencegence, 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 rescinding an upcoming honour: "The International Academy has announced that in light of recent events it will not honour Kevin Spacey with the 2017 International Emmy Founders Award."

Rumours of children being sexually abused in the entertainment world are not new but they have rarely been given weight by the powerful elite 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 both 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 doyen Barbara Walters who accused him of "damaging an entire industry"

In between Walter's derisive sighs of exasperation, 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, dismissed and black-listed when they do say something.

Just as everyone in the business knew about Weinstein, rumours about Spacey's predilections have been rife in the entertainment industry.

Actor and comedian Rosie O'Donnell yesterday slammed Spacey on social media claiming that many knew about his "creepy" reputation: "f..k u kevin — like Harvey we all knew about u — I hope more men come forward @kevin 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 eagerness to embolden the victimised.

It is naive 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 sleazy locker room antics.

In the wake of the "don't blush, baby" furore the West Indian cricketer was accused of intentionally exposing his genitalia 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 malice had been established.

Gayle is said to be ecstatic but not everyone can afford the cost of pursuing legal action in order to clear their name.

There must be a balance between believing victims and the presumption of innocence that is essential in a civilised society.

THE MEETING PLACE FOR NEWS-MAKING VIEWS



Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

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.

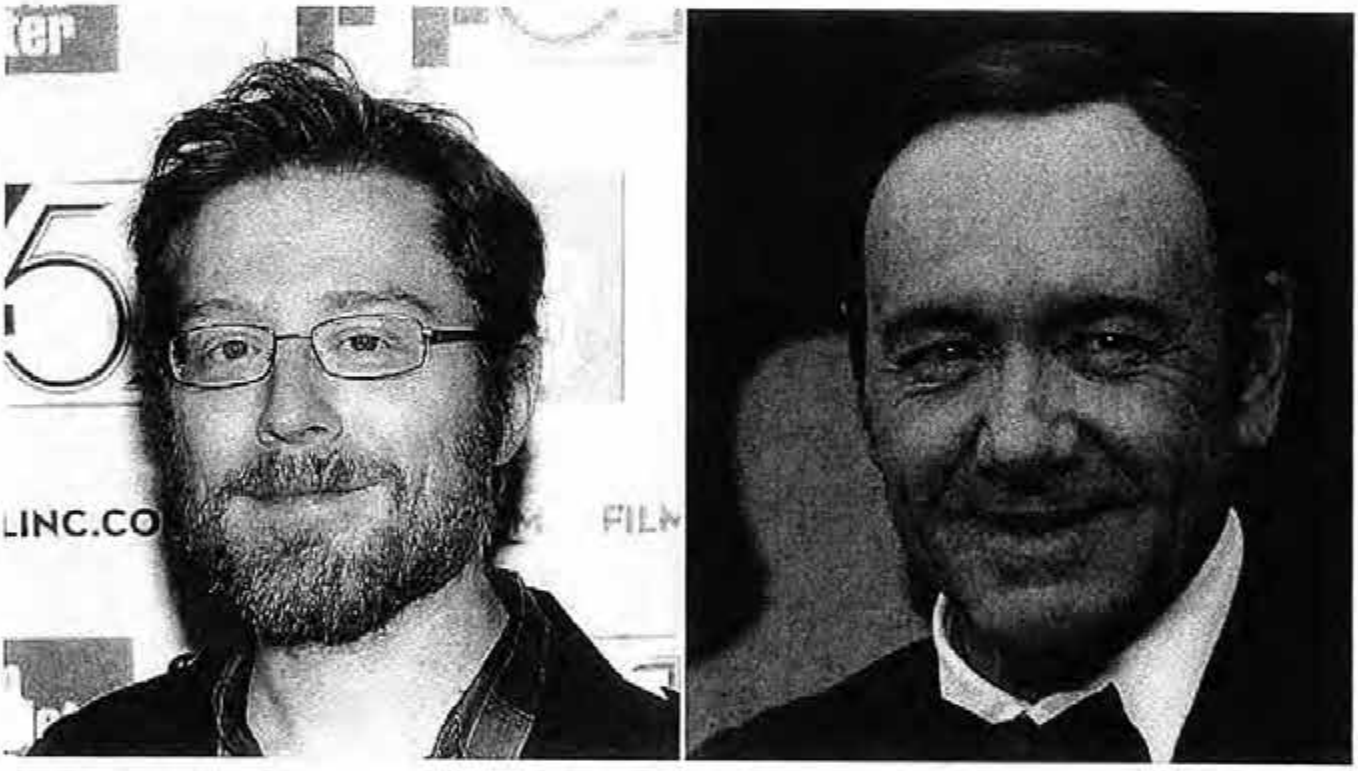
How dare he use a man's statement about his secret feelings of shame to vent some of his own — and to reveal his homosexuality.

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.



kevinspacey
Follow

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 udimentary 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.

pacey 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.

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 32

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Frank Nov 2, 2017

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.

3 Like Reply



Peter Nov 2, 2017

@Frank I love Kevin spacey as an actor. The rumors of him being gay never gave me reason to not like him.
But Rappaports 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.

3 Like Reply

Ross Nov 2, 2017

A male with another male is homosexuality regardless of age. As such, the majority of pedophiles ARE homosexuals.

3 Like Reply

Ghostfire Nov 1, 2017

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.

2 Like Reply

Phillip Nov 1, 2017

"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.

6 Like Reply



Peter Nov 1, 2017

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

3 Like Reply

Diane Nov 1, 2017

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.

4 Like Reply

Mark Nov 1, 2017

@Diane Rubbish, tell her to report it, or you are simply conveying to her that living with those remarks is OK.

Like Reply

Bazza Nov 1, 2017

"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?

4 Like Reply



Tony Nov 1, 2017

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

5 Like Reply

Jimmy G Nov 1, 2017

@Tony "Hollywood's elites"

Those lovely code words.

Tell us Tony - are they also "Soros funded" or an "international banking cartel"

Like Reply



Tony Nov 1, 2017

Jimmy G, Mate, The Lefty kiddies on this site, never fail to amuse.

Tony Fitzgerald -Wavell Heights

4 Like Reply



Emma Nov 1, 2017

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.

12 Like Reply



Mark Nov 1, 2017

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.

8 Like Reply

Graeme Nov 1, 2017

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.

2 Like Reply



J Nov 1, 2017

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.

25 Like Reply

Jason Nov 1, 2017

@J strange isn't it. And Im hearing "advance" , " harrassed" and " abused ".

Which one was it ?

Like Reply



Peter Nov 1, 2017

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.

9 Like Reply



J Nov 1, 2017

@**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.

3 Like Reply

Graeme Nov 1, 2017

@**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.

7 Like Reply



Peter Nov 1, 2017

@**Graeme** @**Peter** like the rest coming out now. all remained quiet for sake of careers it would seem.

1 Like Reply



Peter Nov 2, 2017

@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.

Like Reply

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 usiually 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.

4 Like Reply

I Nov 1, 2017

@Craig It hasn't improved. Today you are more likely to be groped on public transport in Melbourne.

1 Like Reply



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?

Like Reply

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.

16 Like Reply



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.

3 Like Reply



Mark Nov 1, 2017

@nicole Correct Nicole, although the pc brigade will hang you for it. It's an inconvenient truth.

5 Like Reply

Ditch Oct 31, 2017

"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 woman 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.

13 Like Reply



Kathleen Nov 1, 2017

@Ditch Maybe only straight white men can be predators.

5 Like Reply

Lachlan Nov 1, 2017

You hit the nail on the head there Kathleen

4 Like Reply



Peter Nov 1, 2017

@Kathleen @Ditch Hello. Who is this story about?

2 Like Reply

Herald Sun



Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright in a scene from House of Cards. Picture: Netflix

NEWS

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

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Herald Sun

NEWS BREAKING NEWS LOCAL VICTORIA LAW & ORDER BO



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.

Meanwhile, filmmaker Tony Montana alleged a drunk Spacey "groped" him while at a Los Angeles bar in 2003.

"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."

Herald Sun

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



Mexican actor Robert Cavazos. Picture: Facebook

Gay Hollywood shuns Kevin Spacey: 'Don't hide under the rainbow'

OCTOBER 31, 2017 2:01PM



Kevin Spacey

Nick Bond news.com.au

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.

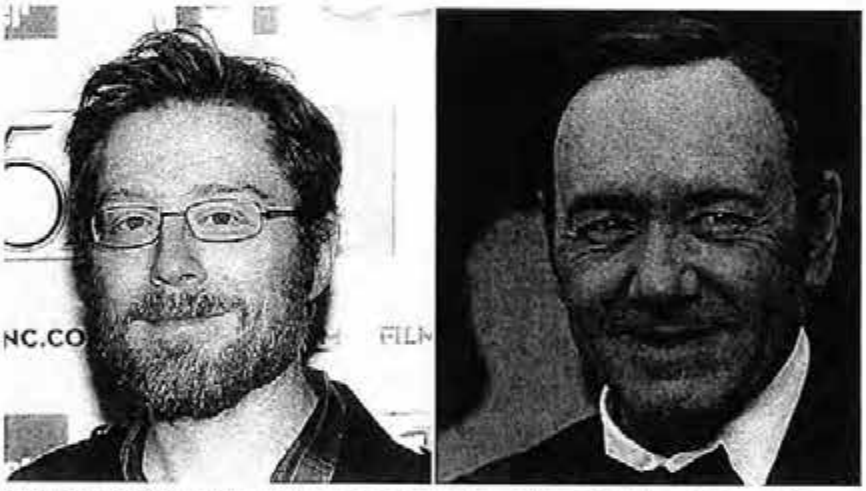
Spacey would have been 26 at the time of the alleged incident, while Rapp was just 14.

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.



Zachary Quinto's statement about Kevin Spacey has been praised by many in Hollywood. Picture: AP *Source:* AP

"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.



Anthony Rapp (left) alleges Spacey mounted him at a party when he was 14 years old. Picture: AFP *Source:* AFP

"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:



Jesse Tyler Ferguson
@jessetyler

I couldn't have said it better myself. twitter.com/zacharyquinto/...
4:43 AM - Oct 31, 2017
22 503 3,907

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js



Andy Cohen
@Andy

Well said Zach twitter.com/zacharyquinto/...
4:00 AM - Oct 31, 2017
34 101 1,079

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

Gay comedian and actor Billy Eichner declared that Spacey had done the impossible in finding a bad time to come out:



billy eichner
@billyeichner

That Kevin Spacey statement. Nope. Absolutely not. Nope.
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 28,549 135,906

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
400 7,180 65,516

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

While fellow gay comic Wanda Skyes tweeted Spacey was not welcome to "hide" in the LGBT community:



Official Wanda Sykes
@iamwandasykes

No no no no no! You do not get to "choose" to hide under the rainbow! Kick rocks! twitter.com/kevinspacey/st...

4:54 PM - Oct 30, 2017

498 9,694 34,706

https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

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".



#EvanRachelWould
@evanrachelwood

I am Bi, have been to parties with minors while intoxicated & I have never assaulted anyone because being being bi doesnt make u a predator.

1:01 PM - Oct 31, 2017

130 2,519 14,517

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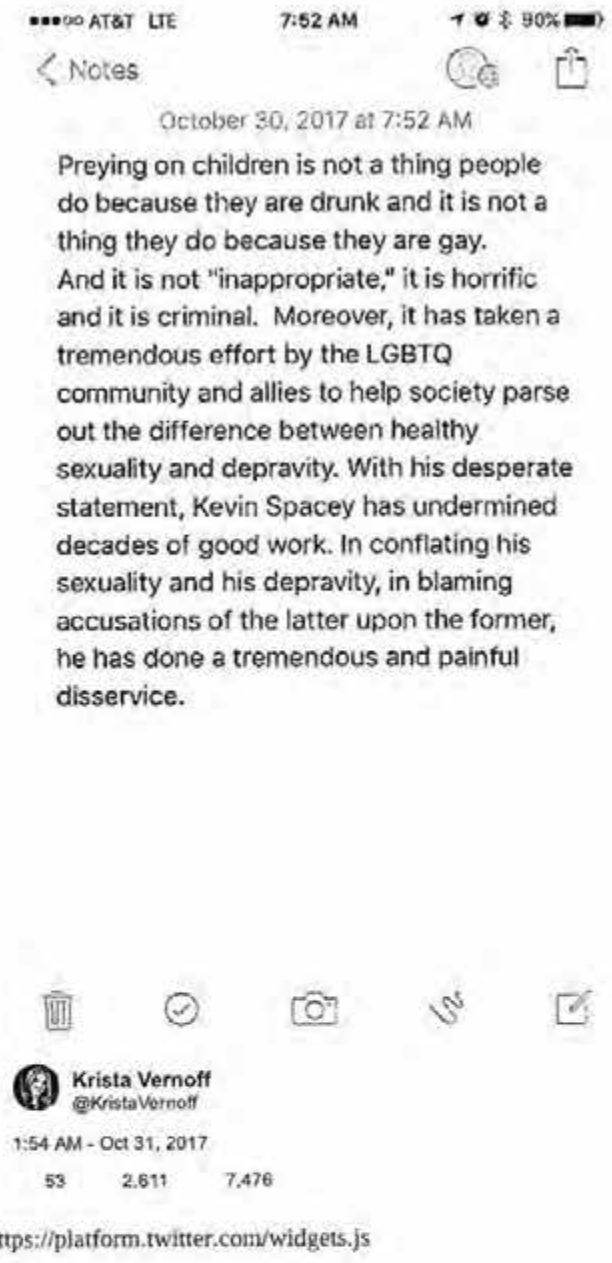
Other LGBT Hollywood figures and their allies penned statements of their own, damning Spacey for conflating sexually predatory behaviour with homosexuality:



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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 BIZZZZ 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". Allowing producers to quiz me about my sex life in meetings because "we bat 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 winking 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 Spacey 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:

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY of TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES

Statement from The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

New York, October 30, 2017

The International Academy has announced today that in light of recent events involving actor Kevin Spacey, the 2017 International Emmy Founders Award

MZS
@mattzollerseitz

Re: Kevin Spacey. Screenshot of a letter. One sentence.

1:09 PM - Oct 31, 2017

27 264 593

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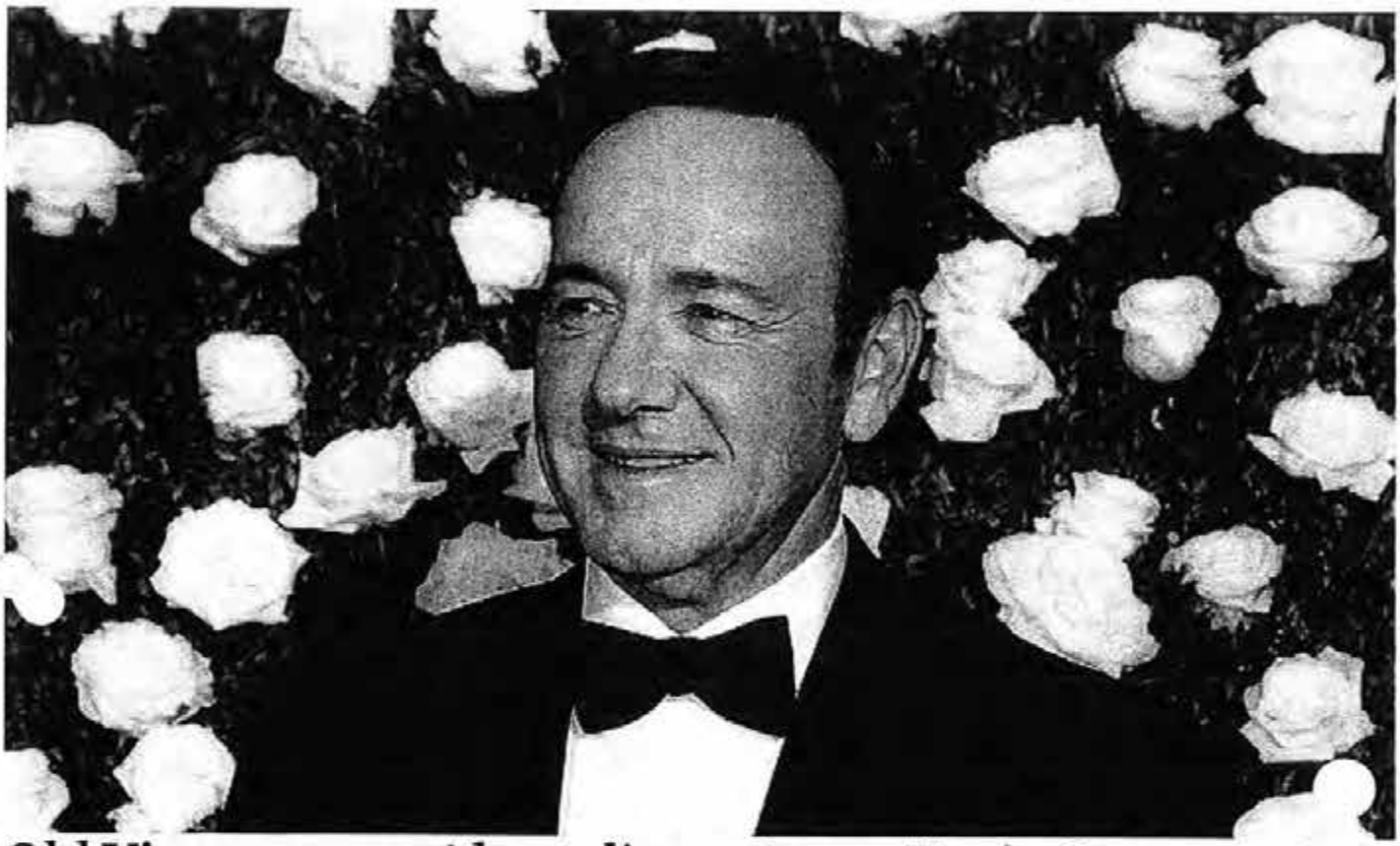
the guardian



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*

d 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.

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.

"Inappropriate 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

ABC NEWS

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 dismay" 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.



PHOTO: Netflix said it will end House of Cards after its upcoming season. (Netflix: House of Cards)

RELATED STORY: Netflix pulls plug on House of Cards, says it's 'troubled' by Spacey allegation

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey's rainbow shield won't protect him, but it could damage the gay community

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey criticised for coming out 'as a deflection from sexual misconduct claims'

MAP: United States

Key points:

- Mexican actor Robert Cavazos details an encounter with Kevin Spacey at London's Old Vic Theatre
- He accused Spacey of trying to fondle him against his will and says "people were afraid to stop" Spacey's behaviour
- CBS announces it is "looking into" allegations against Entourage star Jeremy Piven

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.



PHOTO: The actress alleged Jeremy Piven groped her on two occassions. (Reuters: Mike Blake)

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.

Ariane Bellamar
@ArianeBellamar

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

Ariane Bellamar
@ArianeBellamar

'Member when I tried to leave; you grabbed me by the ass, 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."

Bellamar's credits include Suicide Squad, The Hangover Part III and reality series Beverly Hills Nannies.

AP/ABC

Topics: sexual-offences, law-crime-and-justice, community-and-society, arts-and-entertainment, actor, united-states

First posted Wed 1 Nov 2017, 3:43pm

Like 13.9M

'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

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1.9k shares 524 View comments

A second Hollywood figure has come forward Tuesday with sexual assault allegations against actor **Kevin Spacey**.

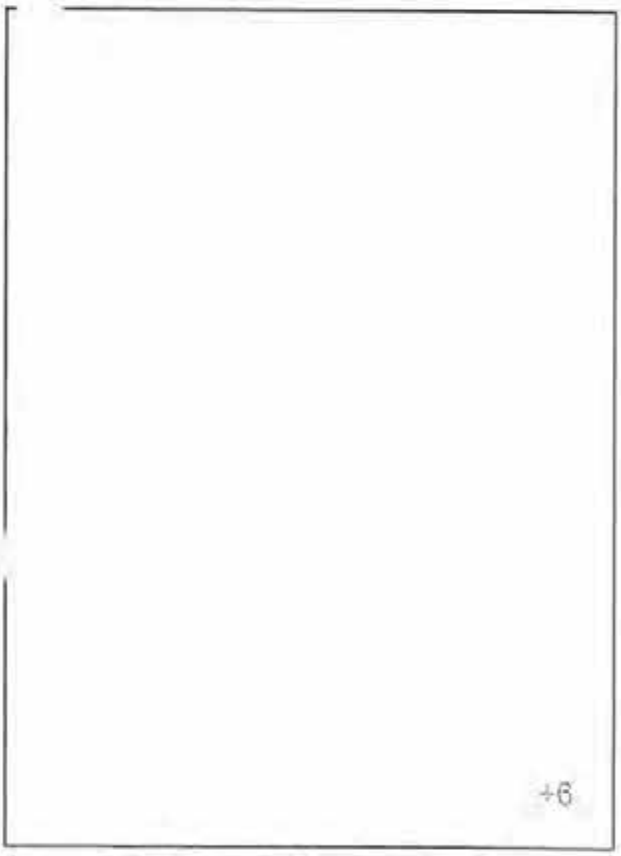
Tony Montana, a documentary filmmaker, says that the House of Cards star groped him in the Coronet Pub in Los Angeles in 2003.

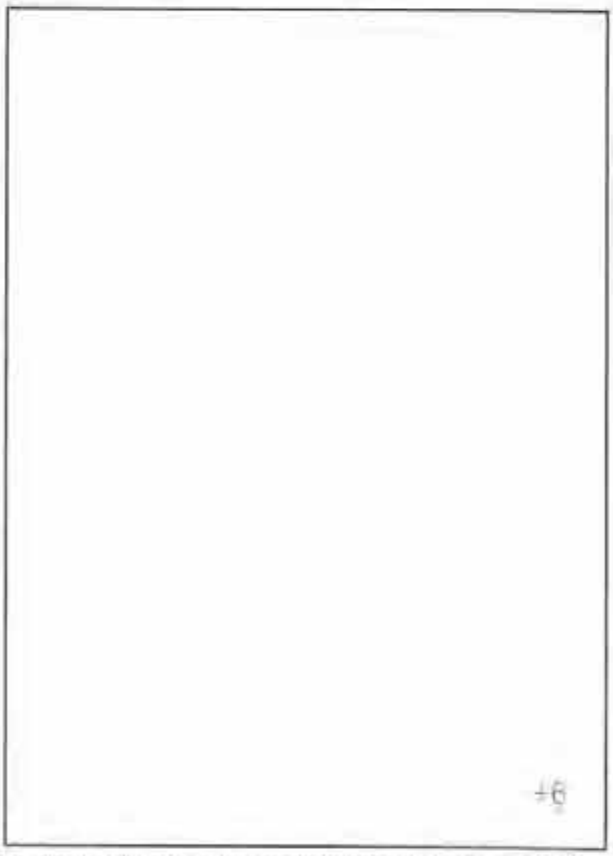
He says he was in the bar working when Spacey showed up with a number of his friends.

'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.'

'ontana alleges that a drunk Spacey told him: 'This designates ownership.'





A second Hollywood figure has come forward Tuesday with sexual assault allegations against actor Kevin Spacey (left). Tony Montana (right), a documentary filmmaker, says that the House of Cards star groped him in the Coronet Pub in Los Angeles in 2003

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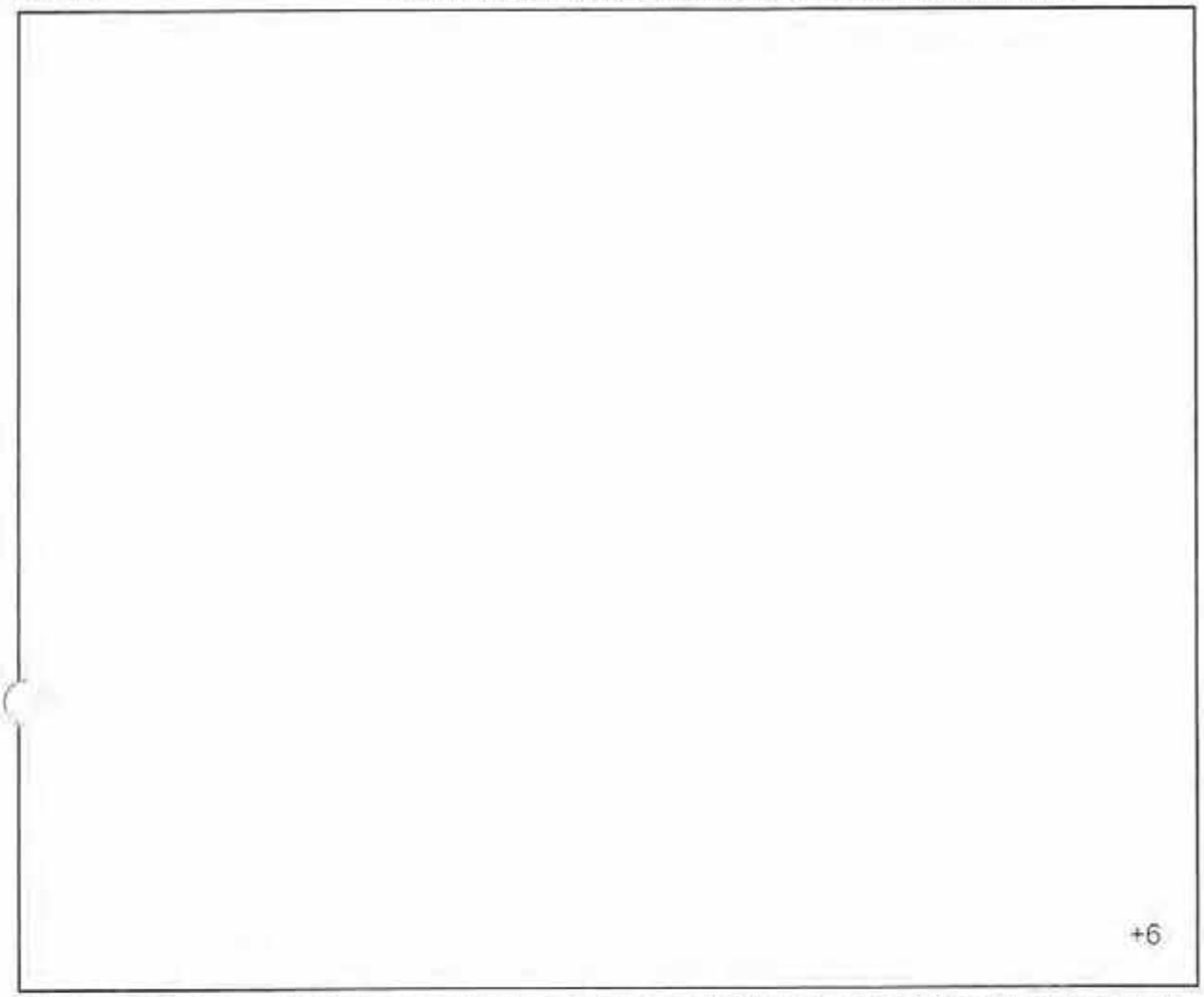

Montana says he was in the bar working when Spacey showed up with a number of his friends. The Coronet Pub in West Hollywood is seen in the above stock image

'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.

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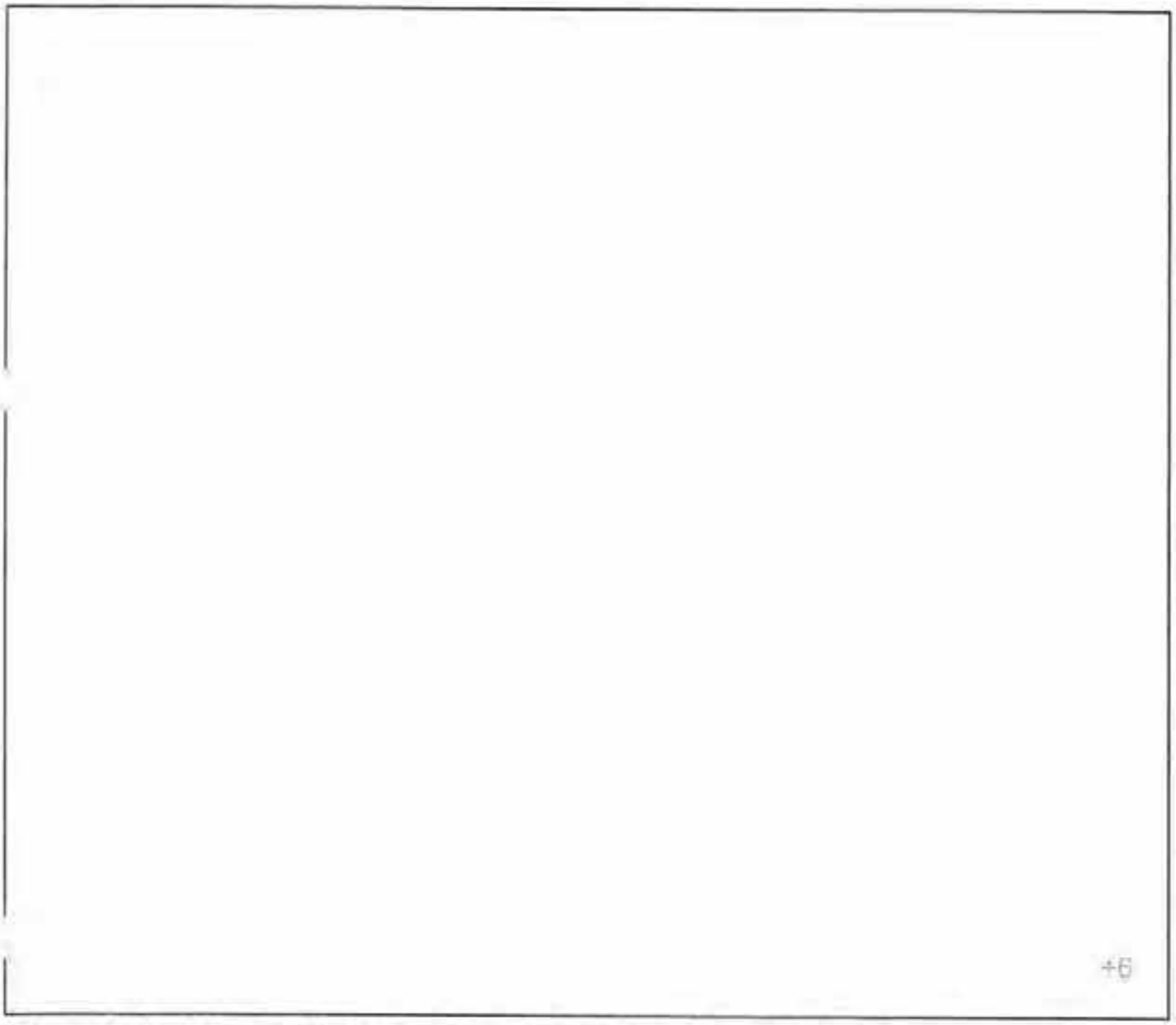
'I had PTSD for six months after. It was an emasculating thing for someone to do to me. Whenever I went to the bar I would see if he was there or have my back against the wall.'

Montana says he decided to come forward after he read about similar allegations made against Spacey by actor Anthony Rapp.



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.

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment claims

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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.

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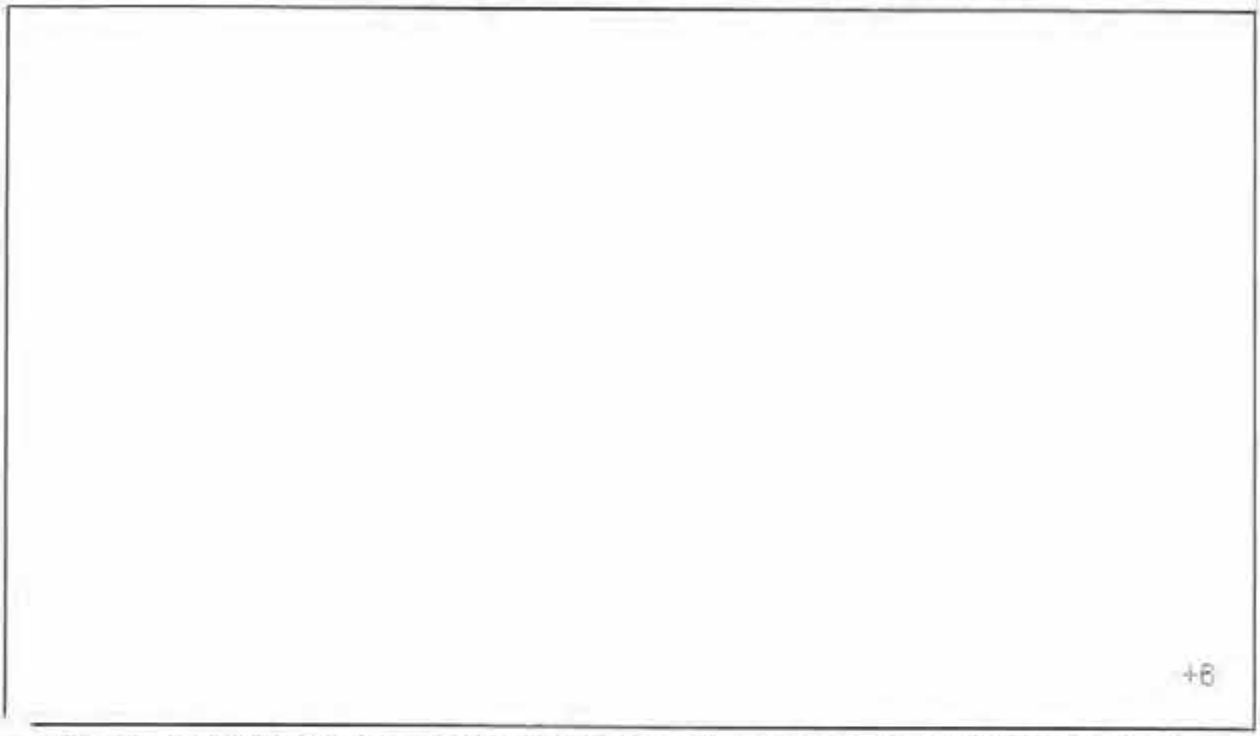
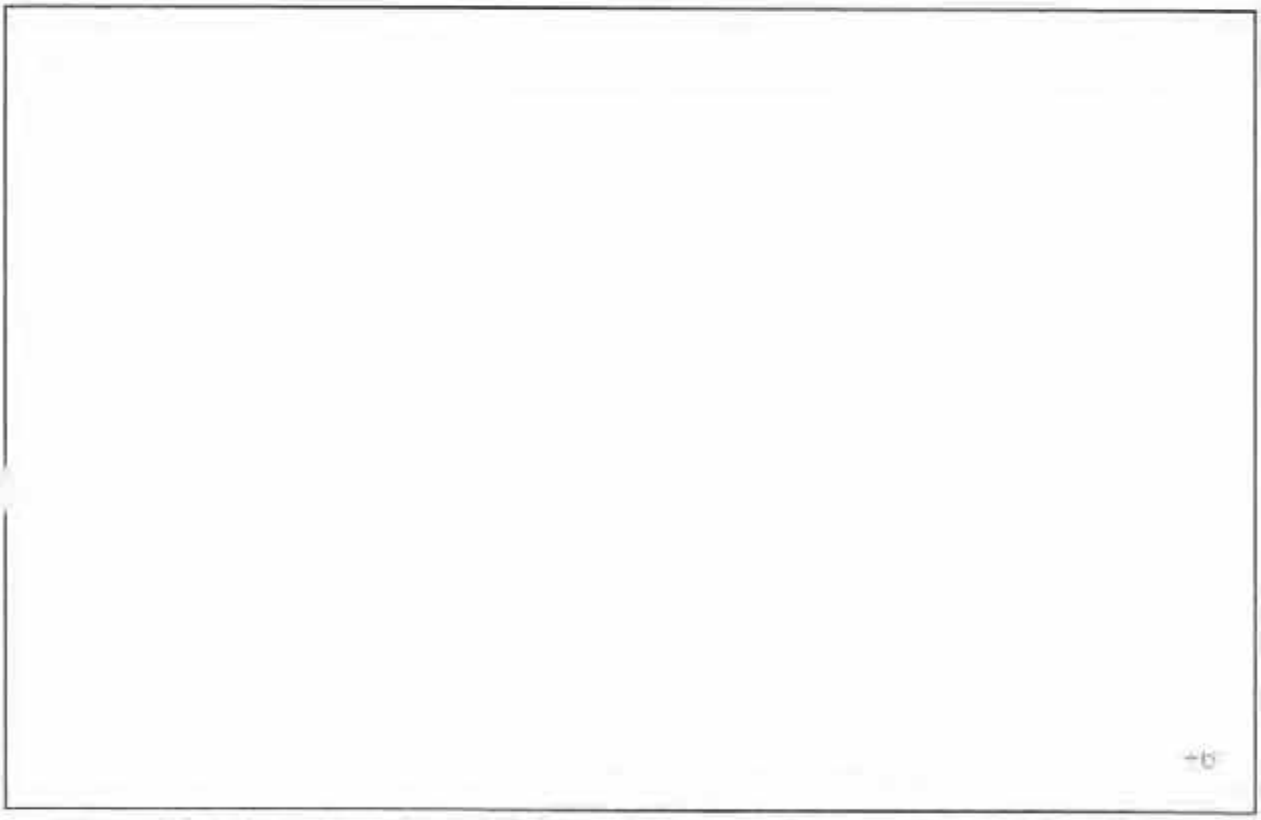


duction on the final season of House of Cards has been suspended indefinitely following t. underage sex assault claims against Spacey (pictured in the popular Netflix series above)



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

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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."

NOVEMBER 2, 2017 6:17AM

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Another man has come forward with an allegation of sexual misconduct from Kevin Spacey. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

A SECOND Kevin Spacey accuser has come forward claiming the actor groped him in a Los Angeles bar in 2003.

Tony 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.

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'I was in a horror movie,' says Tony Montana of an alleged 2003 incident between he and Spacey. Picture: Getty *Source:AFP*

"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.

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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.

NOVEMBER 2, 2017 4:26PM

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Kevin Spacey is facing further allegations. Picture: Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File. *Source:AP*

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.

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'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Mexican actor Robert Cavazos has accused Kevin Spacey of harassment while he was working in ·don. *Source:Facebook*

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 levied 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.

·t if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what ·ould have been deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour."

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This image released by Netflix shows Kevin Spacey in a scene from "House Of Cards." Netflix says it's suspending production on "House of Cards" following harassment allegations against Spacey. Picture: David Giesbrecht/Netflix via AP. *Source:AP*

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.

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A number of other men have claimed to have experienced unwanted sexual advances from Kevin Spacey. Picture: Evan ...nstini/Invision/AP, File. *Source:AP*

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."

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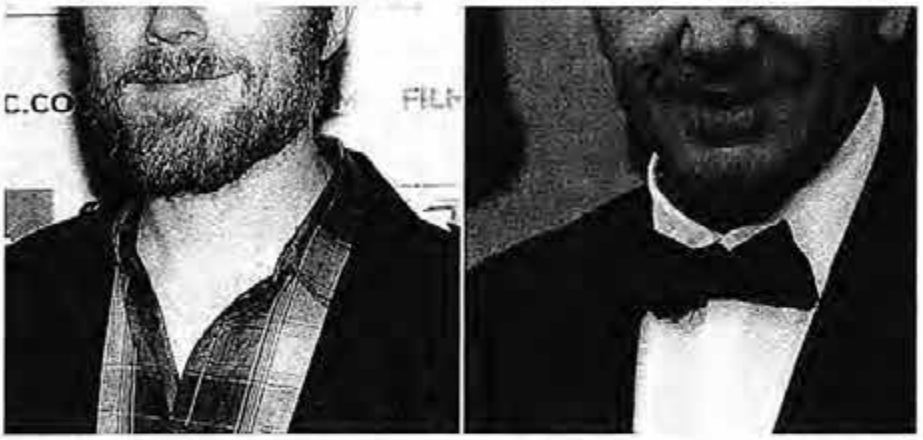

Anthony Rapp, left, accused the actor of making an advance at him when he was only 14 years old. Picture: AFP PHOTO Stephen Lovekin and Robyn Beck. *Source:AFP*

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.

Filmmaker 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.

AFP

AFP NOVEMBER 2, 2017 12:33AM

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Prime Minister Theresa May has announced her office would look into the conduct of her deputy after claims he touched a journalists knee. *Source:AFP*

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.

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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 since said her knees are 'in tact' 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 said 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.

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Britain's Cabinet Office will investigate allegations made against Garnier by his former secretary Caroline Edmondson, at he breached conduct rules by asking his secretary to buy sex toys. Picture: Tim Goode/PA via AP. *Source:AP*



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.

t 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"



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guardian



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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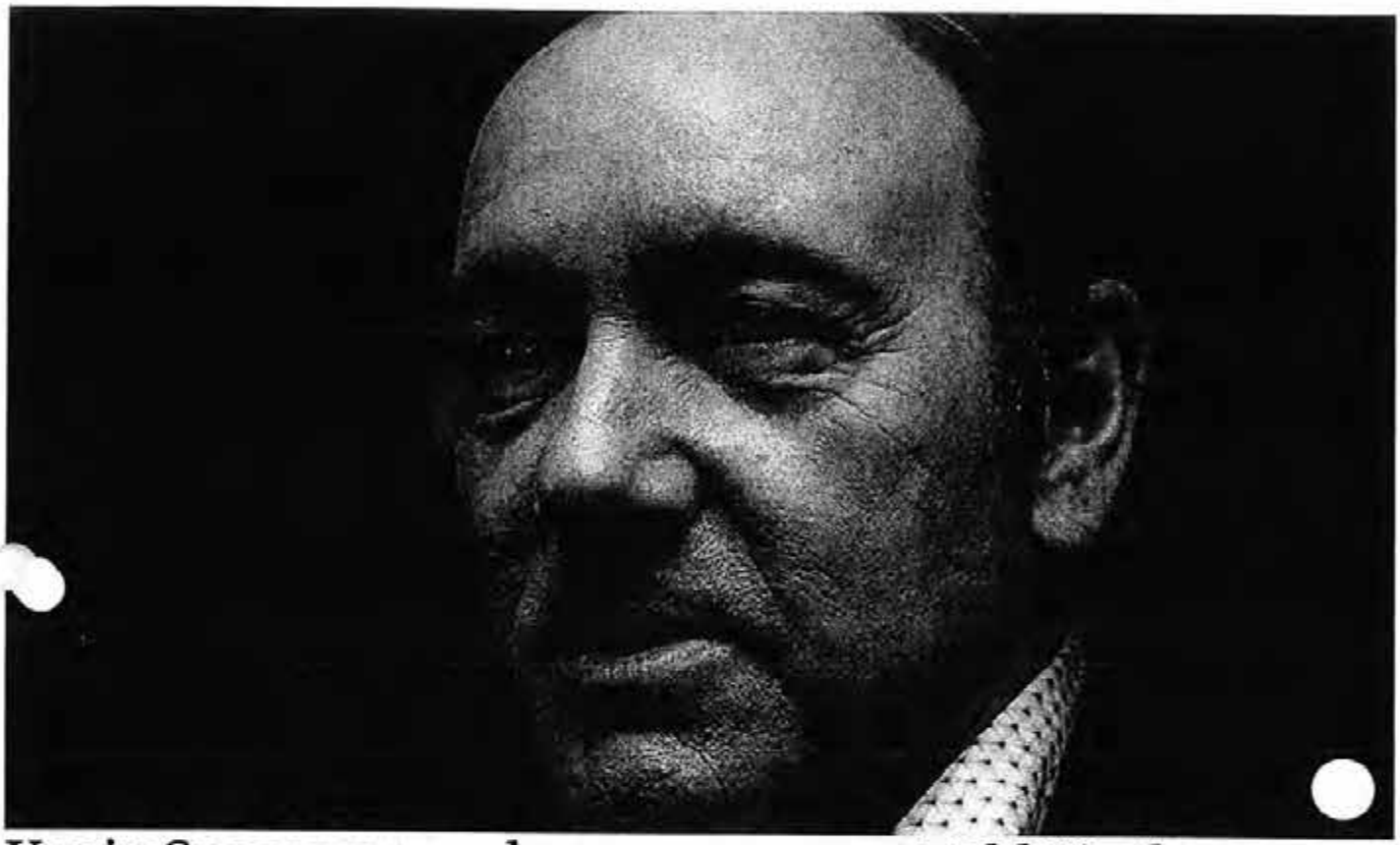

Kevin Spacey preyed on young men at Old Vic theatre, actor claims

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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Actor accuses Kevin Spacey of harassment during London theatre stint

By REUTERS
PUBLISHED: 16:15 AEDT, 2 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 16:15 AEDT, 2 November 2017

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".

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"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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HWD

ANOTHER ONE

Artist Claims Kevin Spacey Tried to Rape Him When He Was 15

"I would call him a pedophile and a sexual predator," the unnamed, now-48-year-old man told Vulture.

by YOHANA DESTA

NOVEMBER 2, 2017 5:26 PM



By Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images.

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 rape him.

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Can *House of Cards* Go on without Kevin Spacey?

BY REBECCA KEEGAN



Kevin Spacey Responds to Alleged Sexual Misconduct [Updated]

BY JOANNA ROBINSON

I would've told you that relationship was completely consensual," he said. "That we were boyfriends."

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 rape 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 up 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 sturdy, thankfully. I throw him off of me and I run crying down the stairs and out into the street and then suck 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."

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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: By Tom Wargacki/Wireimage/Getty Images.

Yohana Desta is a Hollywood writer for VanityFair.com.

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The West Australian

< CELEBRITY GOSSIP

Netflix employees accuse Kevin Spacey of 'toxic' House of Cards set

Kate Feldman
Friday, 3 November 2017 3:43PM

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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".

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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

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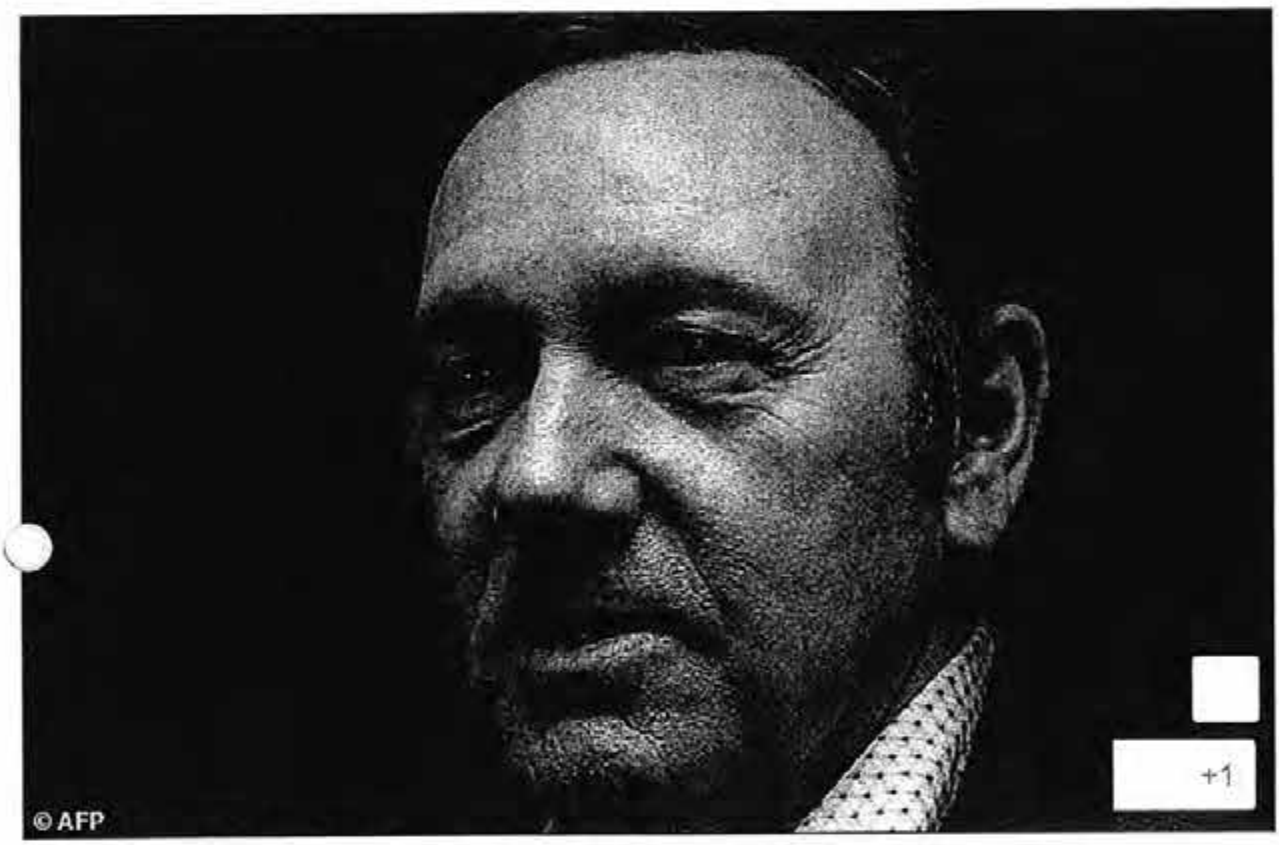
By AFP
PUBLISHED: 21:44 AEDT, 3 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 21:44 AEDT, 3 November 2017



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.

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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" when he was a 14-year-old boy more than 30 years ago.

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NOVEMBER 3 2017

SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

House of Cards staff accuse Kevin Spacey of sexual assault and harassment



Rob Moran

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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.

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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.

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

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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."



New allegations of sexual assault and harassment against Kevin Spacey have emerged. Photo: AP

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*.

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"It was a toxic environment for young men who had to interact with him at all in the crew, cast, background actors."





Kevin Spacey as Frank Underwood, with co-star Robin Wright, in House of Cards. Photo: Netflix

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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HOUSE OF CARDS

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



Kevin Spacey stars as Richard II in a production of Richard II at the Old Vic

By Robbie Jack/Corbis/Getty Images.

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BY REBECCA KEEGAN



BY YOHANA DESTA

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 stateside 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.

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The Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari

Because 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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YOU ARE A DIRTY RATNER

Hollywood stars say seedy director preyed on them



Olivia Munn has accused Brett Ratner (inset) of sordid on-set behaviour. Picture: AFP

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

Playboy Enterprises quickly cancelled plans for a Ratner-helmed biopic of Hugh Hefner as his lawyer denied the allegations and yesterday the director announced that he was also stepping away from his $586 million production deal with Warner Bros.

"In light of the allegations being made, I am choosing to personally 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 Aussie tycoon James Packer used to be a shareholder of, yet to be released.

Actors 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 19. 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 strongarmed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me," Henstridge said. "At some point, I gave in and he did his thing."

Newsroom 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 detailed the encounter in her book Suck It, Wonder Woman!: The Misadventures of a Hollywood Geek.

"He walked out ... with his belly sticking out, no pants on, shrimp cocktail 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 2010 and he allegedly told her he ejaculated to her image on magazine covers.

"I've made specific, conscientious choices not to work with Brett Ratner," she said.

"It feels as if I keep 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 Martin 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 scandals engulfing Harvey Weinstein, James Toback and Kevin Spacey.





He strongarmed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me.

Natasha Henstridge (right)

Hoffman accused of grope

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 for a foot massage when she was an intern more than 30 years ago.



Anna Graham Hunter branded the actor (pictured) a "predator", saying he made crude sexual references and openly flirted with her on the set of Death Of A Salesman in 1985. She detailed his alleged behaviour in letters at the time to her sister. Aged 17 and working as an intern, she was left in 'ears by Hoffman's behaviour and on one occasion scolded him for being a "dirty old man" when he groped her bottom.

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

Spacey sleaze is growing

KEVIN 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 groom him aged 19, when he was employed at a hotel in the UK in 2010. He alleged he was offered a $8500 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 woke 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 17 at the time, said: "I was uncomfortable at best, traumatised at worst."

And actor Roberto Cavazos, said that he had fended off two unpleasant" advances made by the star in 2008 which "bordered on harassment"

Australia's no-frills history of lizards



Frill-necked lizard.

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 frill-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'd be no dragon lizards, frilled-necks, goannas, 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 6300 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.



BAZAAR

CELEBRITY

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 30,184 84,176

Spacey was widely criticised 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.

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North America

Kevin Spacey made work environment 'toxic' allege House of Cards staff



Play

A group of people claiming to have worked on the Netflix drama have described the actor's behaviour as "predatory".

Updated 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, ibing 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 staffers - 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 "nonconsensual touching and crude comments and targeted production staffers 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.

"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."

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.

...s co-star Robin Wright is yet to comment publicly on the matter.

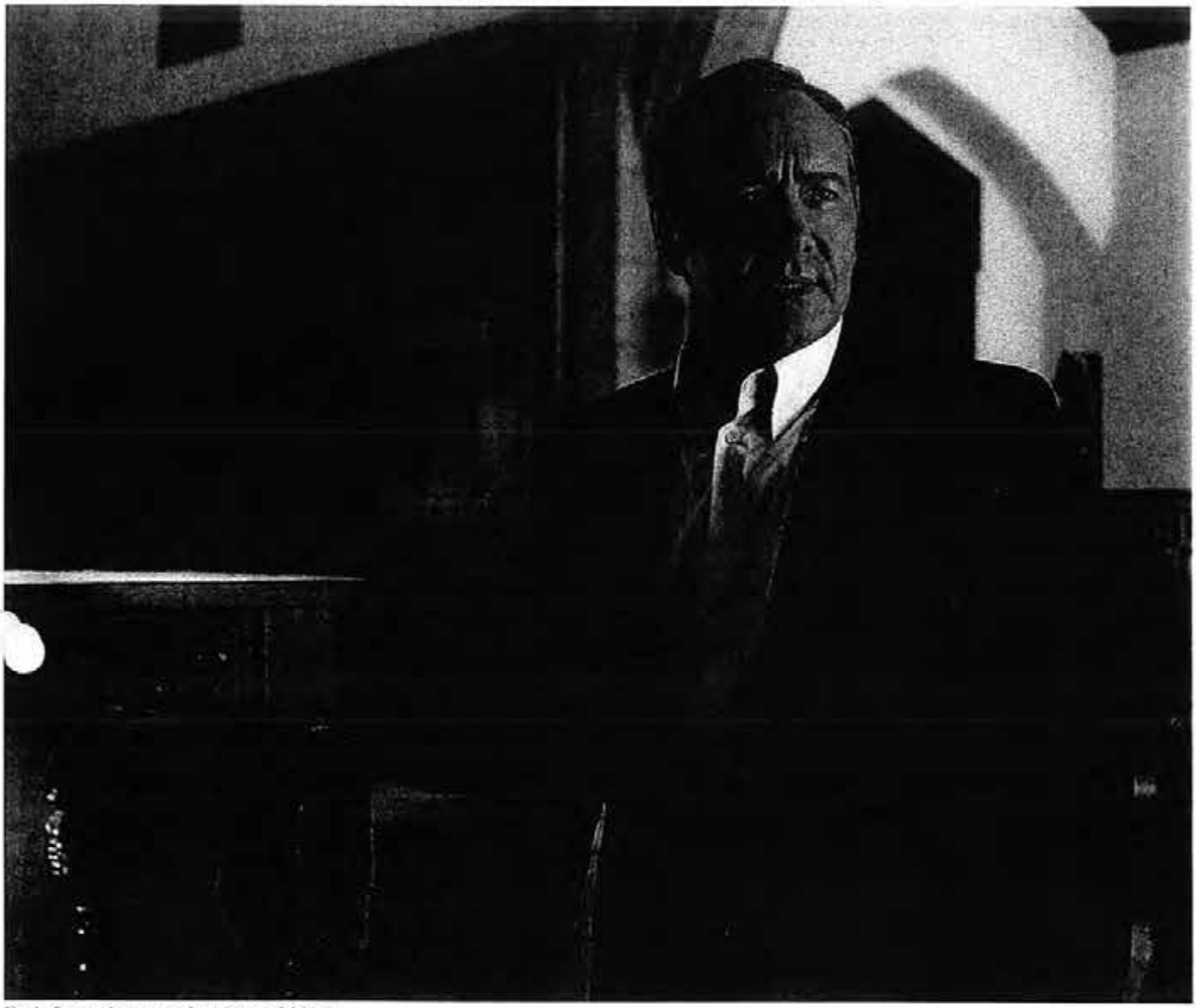
The Old Vic accused of 'pleading ignorance'

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 Cavazos 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.



Kevin Spacey in a scene from House Of Cards.
AAP

"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.

e Old Vic said it was "not currently in a position to comment on specifics of what may have taken place in the past".

ıeatre 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.

- *With AFP*



Kevin Spacey seeks treatment after sexual harassment claims

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 7:51PM

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Kevin Spacey is under investigation by British police. Picture: Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File *Source:AP*

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.

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



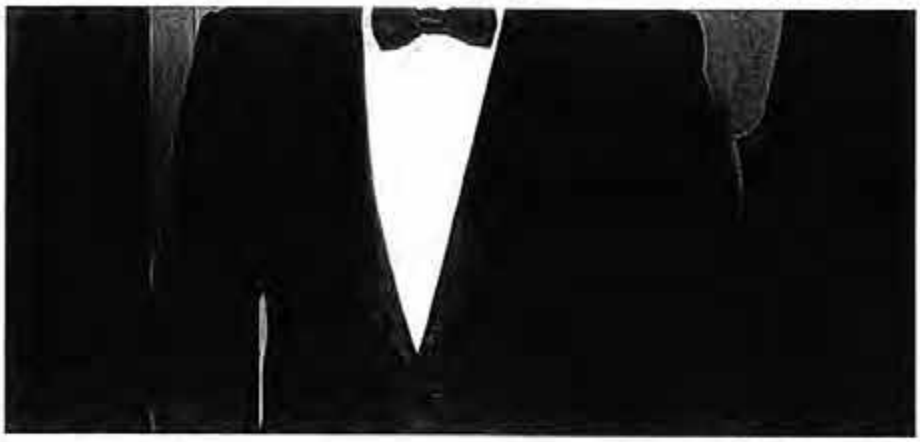
'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



It is the first known UK police probe into the actor, 66, who allegedly abused the Brit after inviting him in for a drink.
Picture: Jason Merritt/Getty Images *Source:Getty Images*

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."

is understood that no arrest or charge has been made.

latest allegations comes after a man claimed he had a sexual relationship with Spacey when he was just 14.

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McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



The man alleges he woke up to find the House of Cards star performing a sex act on him in 2008, when Spacey was artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre. Picture: AFP Photo/Daniel Leal-Olivas *Source:AFP*

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.

Hollywood filmmaker Tony Montana accused Spacey of grabbing him in the crotch at a Los Angeles pub in 2003.

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.

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



It comes after a separate allegation against Spacey by Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp. Picture: Shutterstock/Splash News *Source:Splash News Australia*

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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'Don't tell': Explosive new Kevin Spacey claims

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by Dan Sales, Mike Sullivan, Crime Editor, and Emma Lake

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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 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.

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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.

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It is understood that no arrest or charge has been made.

The latest allegations comes 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.

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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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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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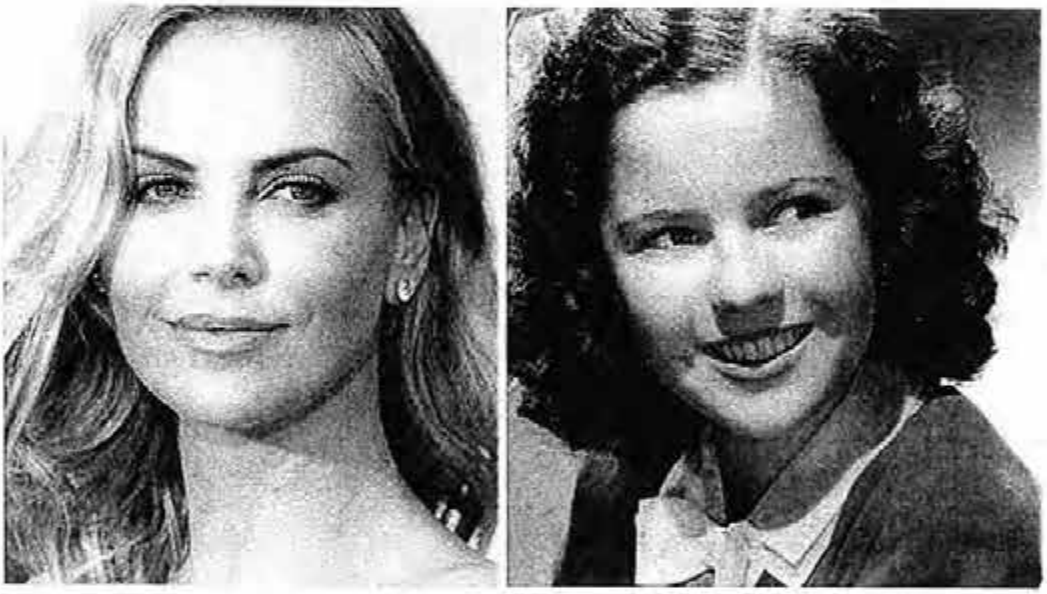
The journalist went on to say that he didn't run a story about his sexual misconduct because he didn't want to out Spacey as a gay man. He felt empowered to speak

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

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NOVEMBER 4 2017

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

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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.



Illustration: Matt Davidson

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.

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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.



Kevin Spacey as Frank Underwood in *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 *all* will, and act accordingly.



Harvey Weinstein in 2013. Photo: AP

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

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 Cosby Show* with its moral piety 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 Hemigway 17 when she played his lover in *Manhattan* (1979).

Kevin Spacey is tremendous in *House of Cards* and *American Beauty* and *The Usual Suspects* and *Se7en* 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

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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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 'cringey' 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

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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.'

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'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 e 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.



Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp was the first to make claims against Spacey, saying the actor drunkenly grabbed him and lay on top of him when he was just 14

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.

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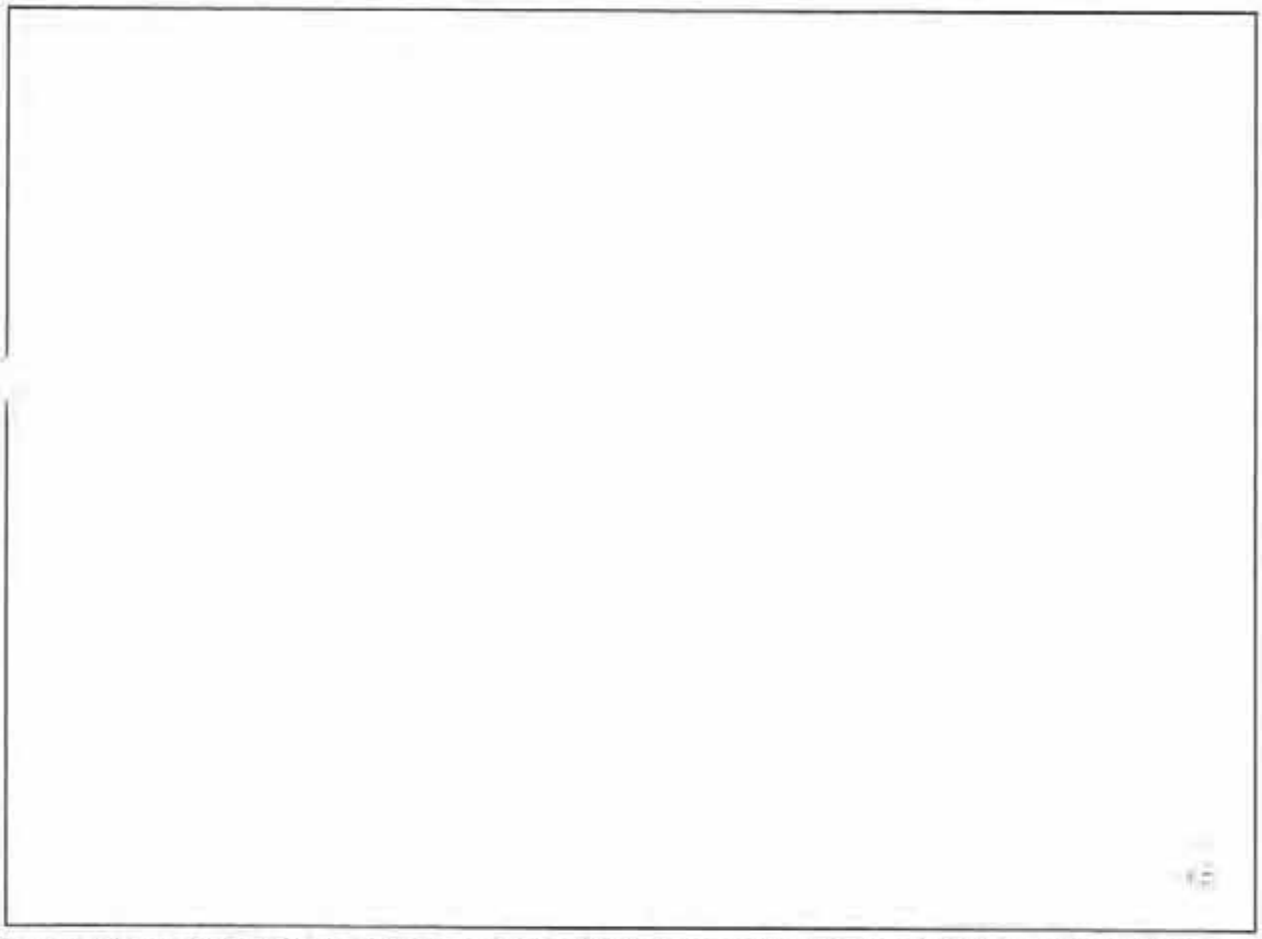
The actor invited him and a male friend over to watch Roman Polanski's Chinatown at an apartment he was renting for the duration of the performance.

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 mixing cocktails. But the now-38-year-old said Spacey was 'cringey' and 'benign'

Man claims he woke up to actor Kevin Spacey cuddling him

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'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 nighclub.

'He just kept reaching between my legs and, you know, just grabbing my d**k,' he said.

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'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.'

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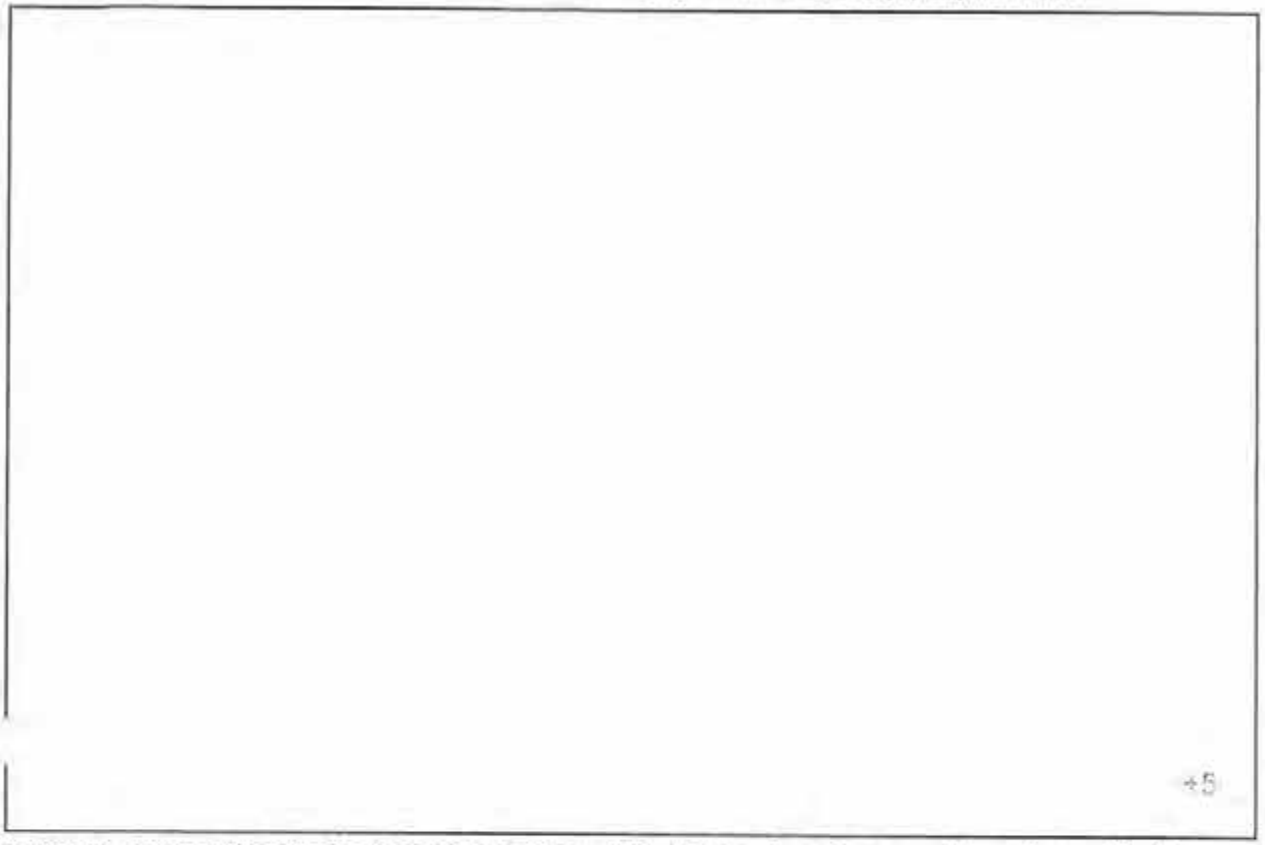

In 2009, during this production of Inherit the Wind in London, Spacey allegedly grabbed a journalist's penis and chased him around a club

Kevin Spacey has apologised over sexual advance claim

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The journalist said that Spacey's entourage did nothing to help, and that he felt compelled to stay because he was on an assignment.

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'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.

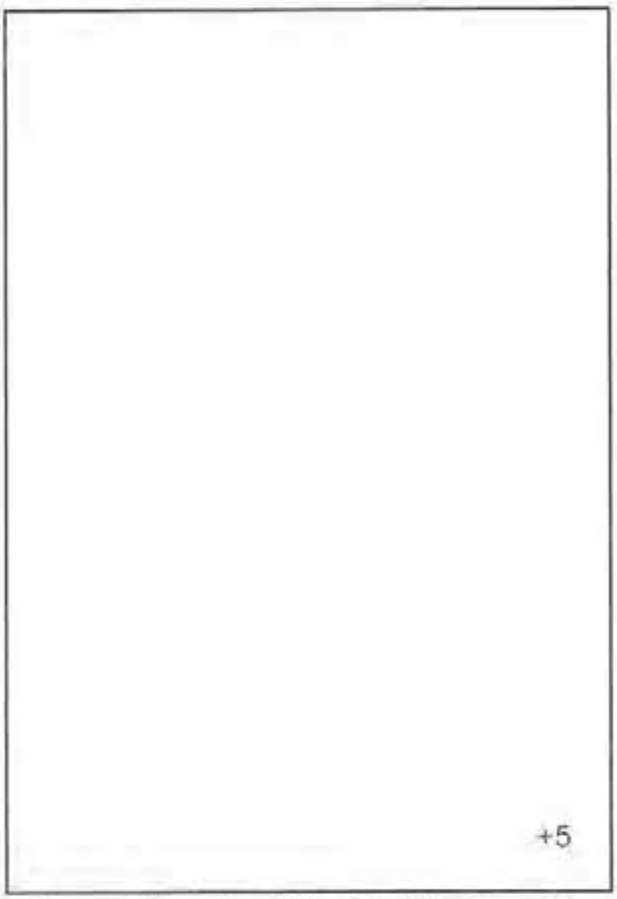
'And then it may have served as this strange, protective mechanism, to say, "My whole sexual life is off limits because of my sexuality."'

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 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.



Military advisor Mark Ebenhoch (pictured) said that on the set of Outbreak, one of Spacey's 'harem' of assistants asked him to go to Spacey's trailer and have sex with him

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.

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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.'

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment claims





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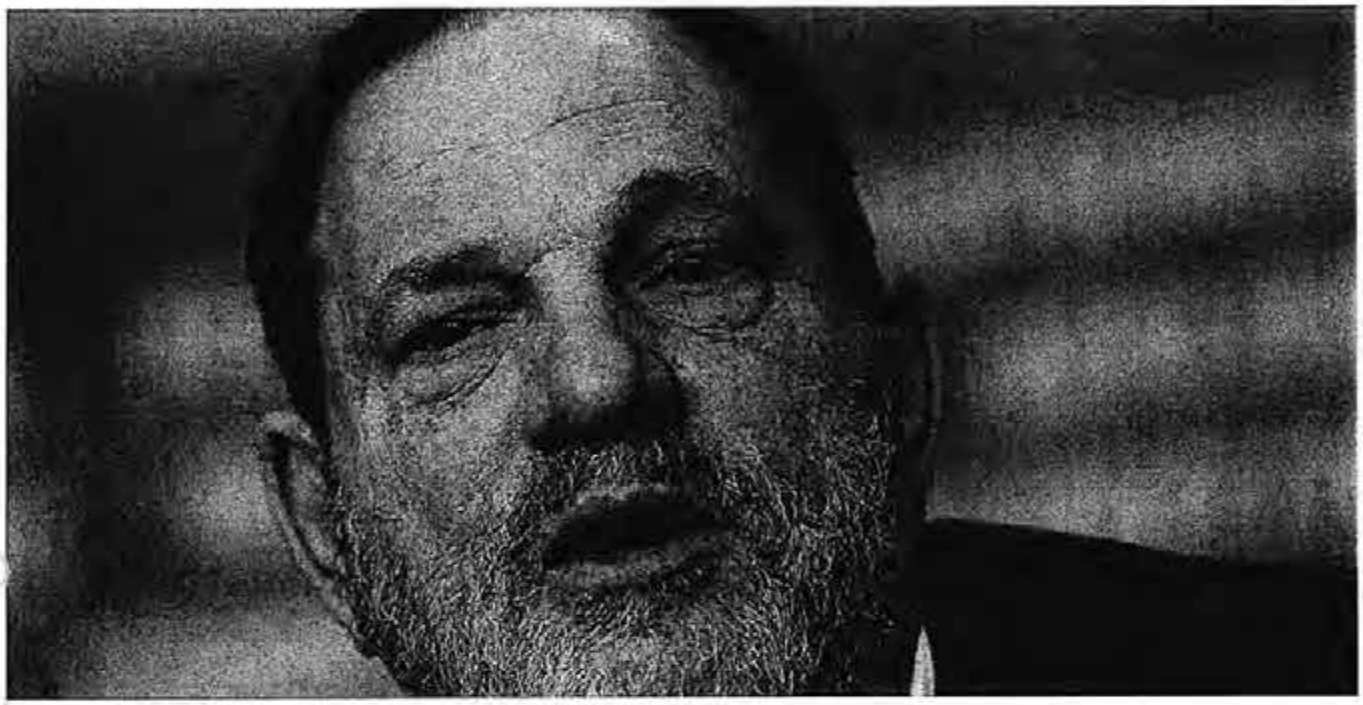

Harvey Weinstein's accusers started a flood of claims about workplace sexual abuse and harassment that has now stretched well beyond Hollywood. (Pic: Michael Sohn)

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."

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.



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 37

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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.

1 Like Reply

Christopher Nov 5, 2017

If women didn't go for the 'creeps' life would already be hard for them...

Like Reply

Jim Nov 6, 2017

@**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.

Like Reply

Matt Nov 5, 2017

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.

Like Reply



Ceekay Nov 5, 2017

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.

Like Reply

maree Nov 5, 2017

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.

2 Like Reply

Tom Nov 5, 2017

Haven't heard much from Hollywoods 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 .

6 Like Reply

Kris Nov 5, 2017

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.

2 Like Reply

Jim Nov 6, 2017

@Kris *"Madonna ... groping her in public."*

Yes, but that was probably 'art'. Therefore, being art anything goes in the minds of the 'creative' elite.

Like Reply

Luke Nov 6, 2017

@Kris Do you understand the concept of consent?

Like Reply

Karen Nov 5, 2017

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!

2 Like Reply

Bev Nov 6, 2017

@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.

3 Like Reply

Davidh Nov 5, 2017

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 if 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 publically 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 prood of guilt. And yet there are reputations, carreers, wealth and families destroyed. Whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty.

8 Like Reply

Bev Nov 5, 2017

@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.

5 Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

@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 trail.
If they are guilty they all deserve the max penalty but then so do those who sat on the information for 20 plus years.

1 Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

@Davidh Anyone see the Ellen pics oggling Katy Parrys ampleness? Why did Ellen feel that was ok?

5 Like Reply



Ceekay Nov 5, 2017

@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.

Like Reply

Warwick Nov 5, 2017

I can't wait for the Rock star groupies to start airing their tales of woe....

Waz

4 Like Reply



David Nov 5, 2017

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 damsel in distress bull.

15 Like Reply

Jim Nov 5, 2017

@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.

5 Like Reply

Dean Nov 5, 2017

The one that got away

Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

@Jim @David Hmmm, 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.

Like Reply



Kati Nov 6, 2017

@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.

Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

Really don't like putting Michael Jackson in this group do you? Still a favorite. Hard bitter pill to swallow.
Mulitple accusations and never a verdict.

2 Like Reply

brad Nov 6, 2017

@Peter paid them all off

Like Reply



Andrew Nov 5, 2017

Dear Claire.

Scenario 4. My inept female supervisor, with little work or life experience, but a willingness to be "friendly" with the CEO.

10 Like Reply

Brett Nov 5, 2017

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 liife" 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.

10 Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

@Brett Ratner, is that you ;)

Like Reply

Bev Nov 5, 2017

@Brett It will never stop human nature being what it is unless we totally segregate men and women.

2 Like Reply



Kati Nov 8, 2017

@Bev Do you honestly believe we have no control over our urges? Are you saying you think that we cannnot overpower our urges with common sense?

Like Reply

Laurie Nov 5, 2017

@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!!!

3 Like Reply

philip Nov 5, 2017

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 isnt 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 agreeance 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.

10 Like Reply

Jim Nov 5, 2017

@philip I have always thought the majority of Hollywood 'stars' had to have some underlying and deep psychological need to enter such a trade.

5 Like Reply



Juanita Nov 5, 2017

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

5 Like Reply

Bev Nov 5, 2017

@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.

4 Like Reply



Peter Nov 5, 2017

@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.

1 Like Reply

Everyone Who Has Spoken Out Against Kevin Spacey A 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."



Read

Netflix Officially Cuts All Ties to Kevin Spacey



IMDB.com

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

951 9,677 57,125



Daniel Zuchnik/WireImage

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.



Netflix

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 agency CAA. 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 Ebenhoch: According to **Buzzfeed News**, Ebenhoch, 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. Ebenoch, 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.

TAGS/ Kevin Spacey , Top Stories , Apple News

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Like 13.9M

Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

The swift unraveling of Kevin Spacey _ in less than a week

Site V

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



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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 L[illegible]ave 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 [illegible] (though they added that such a decision had been made before the allegations) a[illegible]. 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

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AD FEATI



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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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NOVEMBER 6 2017

Harry Dreyfuss, son of Richard Dreyfuss, says Kevin Spacey groped him at age 18

Bryan Alexander

SHARE TWEET MORE

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.

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NEWSLETTERS

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."



Netflix is calling on broadband providers to stop choking our internet access. Photo: Netflix

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.

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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

951 9,677 57,125

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.



Richard Dreyfuss in 1996. Photo: Universal Pictorial Press Photo

"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 had all of me in his hand. I stopped

had all of me in his hand. I stopped reading the script and my eyes went wide," Dreyfuss wrote.

> **HarryDreyfuss**
> @harrydreyfuss
>
> 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

> **Actor Harry Dreyfuss: When I was 18, Kevin Spacey groped me**
> "He knew he could fondle me in a room with my father and that I wouldn't say a word. He knew I wouldn't have had the guts. And I
> buzzfeed.com
>
> 1,463 7,929 26,504

"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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Father hires helicopter in frantic bid to find missing son

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ENTERTAINMENT

Spacey's brother: Kevin is 'a monster'

6th Nov 2017 5:23 AM

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by The Sun

USE THIS CONTENT

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 US screen star would emerge.

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Kevin Spacey's brother Randy Fowler. Picture: Facebook.

Speaking from his home in Idaho, Randy said: "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.

"He struggled with his sexuality, always denying he was gay. On 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 off. 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 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 burned 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 $8,545 watch to hush him up.

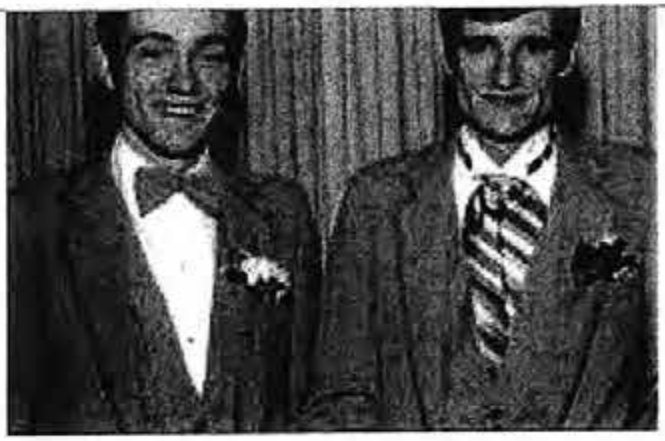
On Thursday, his publicist announced he was going to have treatment. By Friday it was claimed he sexually harassed eight of the House of Cards crew - with one claiming they were assaulted by him.

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 Rapp 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 Julie 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.



Kevin Spacey's brother Randy Fowler. Picture: Facebook.

"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*.

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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 "twisted" nature.

Randy Fowler said the House Of Cards actor turned to acting and changed his name to hide a "dark side" after a childhood plagued by abuse and denials about his sexuality.

And the 61-year-old admitted he had been waiting for years for sordid 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.

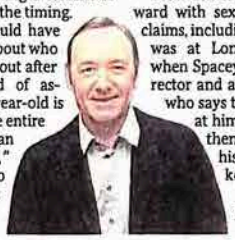
"His fans love the sinister characters he plays, but he's not acting, that's really him in reality he was a monster. I've long suspected there was a dark side to him."

The carefully crafted image Spacey (pictured), 58, created first cracked in a bizarre incident in 2004 when he claimed he had been mugged 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 reinvented his entire childhood."

Star Trek's Anthony Rapp last week alleged Spacey tried to seduce him when he was just 14. The star then announced he was gay, sparking a torrent of criticism over the timing.



"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, who has only seen his brother a few times in the past three decades and not since their mother's funeral in 2002, said.

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 who says the actor flashed at him outside a hotel then handed over his $8545 watch to keep him quiet.

There have 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 whipped, beat and raped him.

"I once tried to talk to Kevin about it. He said he had no idea dad was like that and wouldn't discuss it," he said.

SHOCKED ROYALS AREN'T HORSING AROUND



Princess Mary and her children are horrified after (below) earlier being all smiles as a rider falls at the finish line, lying limp on the ground (left). Pictures: Getty



COPENHAGEN: It was supposed to be a fun day out soaking up the spectacle of a cross-country horse race.

But delight turned to devastation for Denmark's Princess Mary and her four children when one of the riders took a terrible tumble.

Earlier in the day, the Tasmania-born royal, 45, and her children Christian, 12, Isabella, 10, and six-year-old twins Vincent and Josephine posed for photographs and waved to onlookers from the balcony of the Hermitage Palace.

They were among tens of thousands gathered to watch the Hubertus Hunt, an autumn race through woodlands north of Copenhagen, which marks the end of the Danish hunting season.

Mary's husband, Crown Prince Frederik, was busy attending an International Olympic Committee 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 the man lay limp on the ground. Paramedics worked on the man before an ambulance raced him to hospital.





Donald Trump.

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. "So I would certainly be open to doing that but we'll see where it goes."

TIRAMISU KING'S SWEET DREAM

ROME: 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 means "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 Ciccolella, 28, said.

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Photos Kevin Spacey didn't you want you to see

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Kevin Spacey, in white, and a male companion. Picture: Bauergriffin.com

by Nick Bond

USE THIS CONTENT

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," after fellow actor Anthony Rapp accused the star of groping him at a party in 1986 - when Spacey was 26 and Rapp 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 of many sexual assault allegations by finally confirming his much-rumoured homosexuality.

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 snapped massaging the man and laying with his head in his lap.

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 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."

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.

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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

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Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

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

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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 'is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment,' his representatives said in a statement late Wednesday.

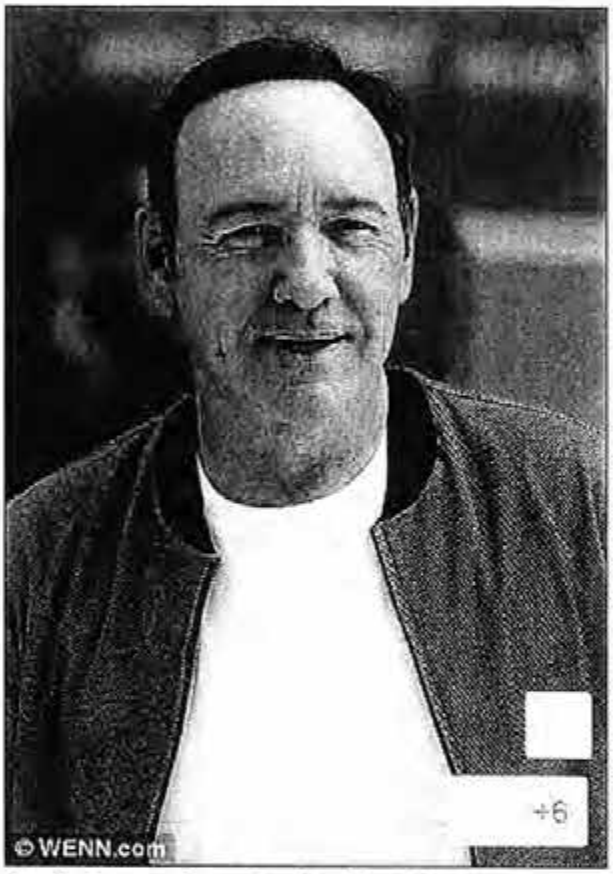
DailyMail.com has reached out to Spacey's reps for comment.

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.



Kevin Spacey has checked into luxury $36,000-a-month rehab center in Arizona desert to receive treatment for sex addiction, sources tell DailyMail.com

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.

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'The goal is for these individuals to gain the courage to face difficult issues, including grief and loss; heal from emotional trauma; and become accountable for the feelings, behaviors, and recovery.'

Spacey is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp c that he had come onto him when he was just 14-years-old, after a party at Sp 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.

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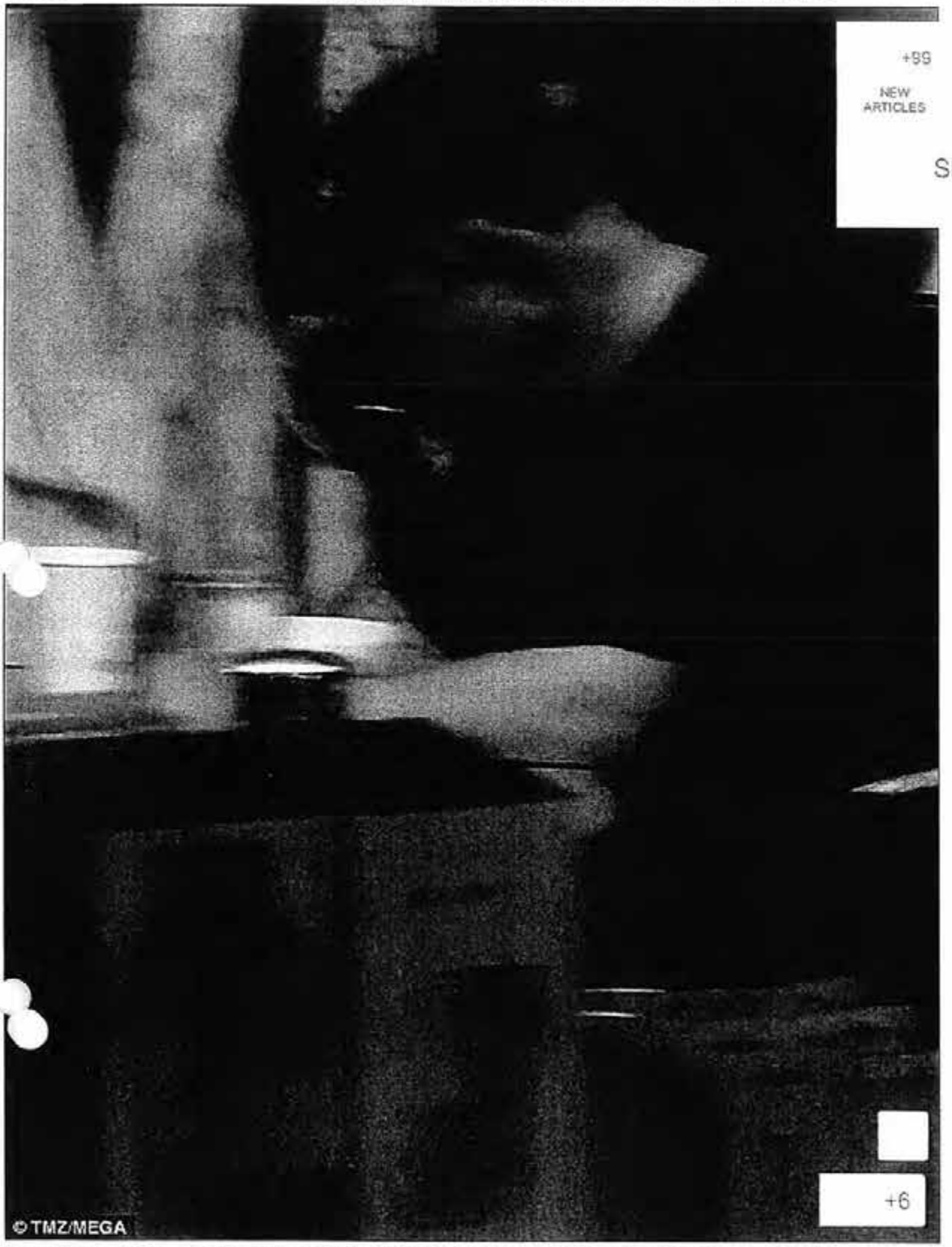

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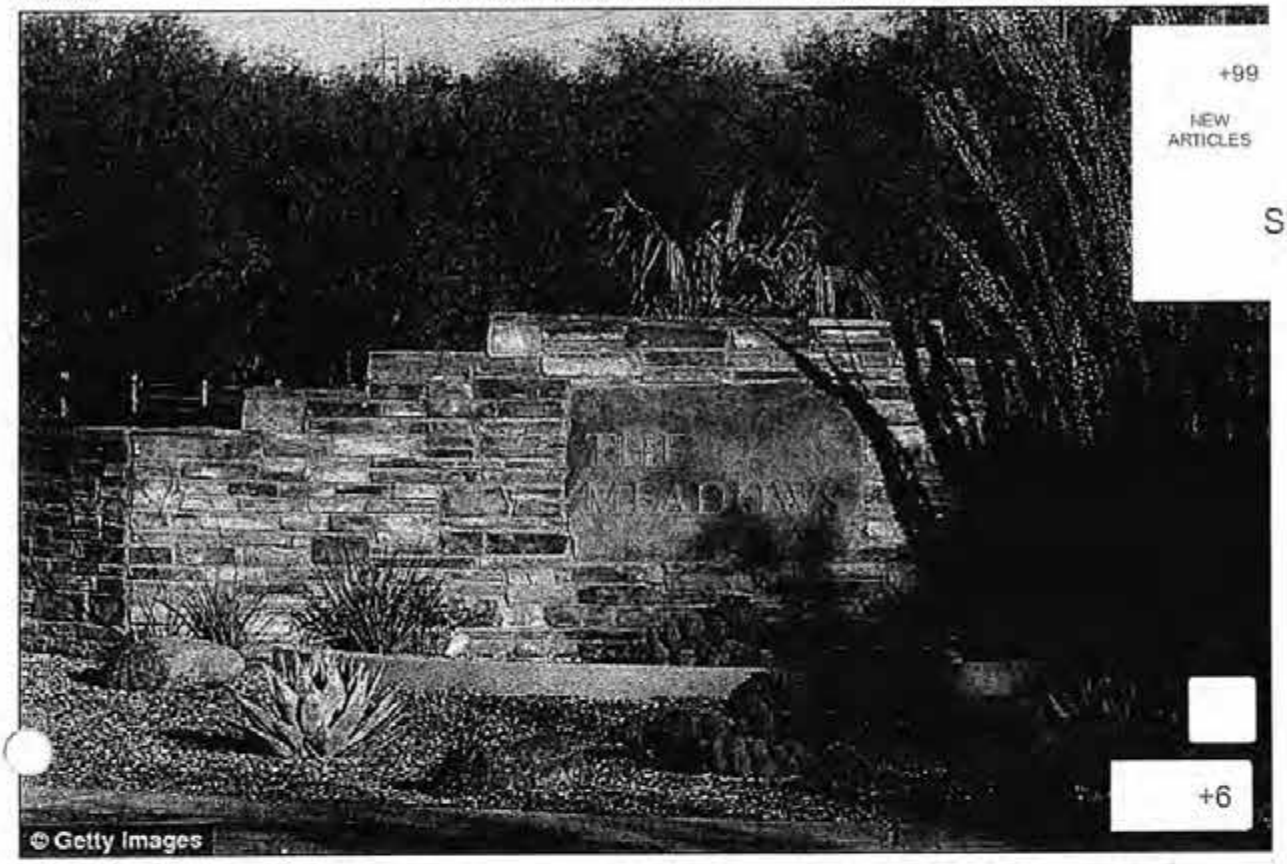
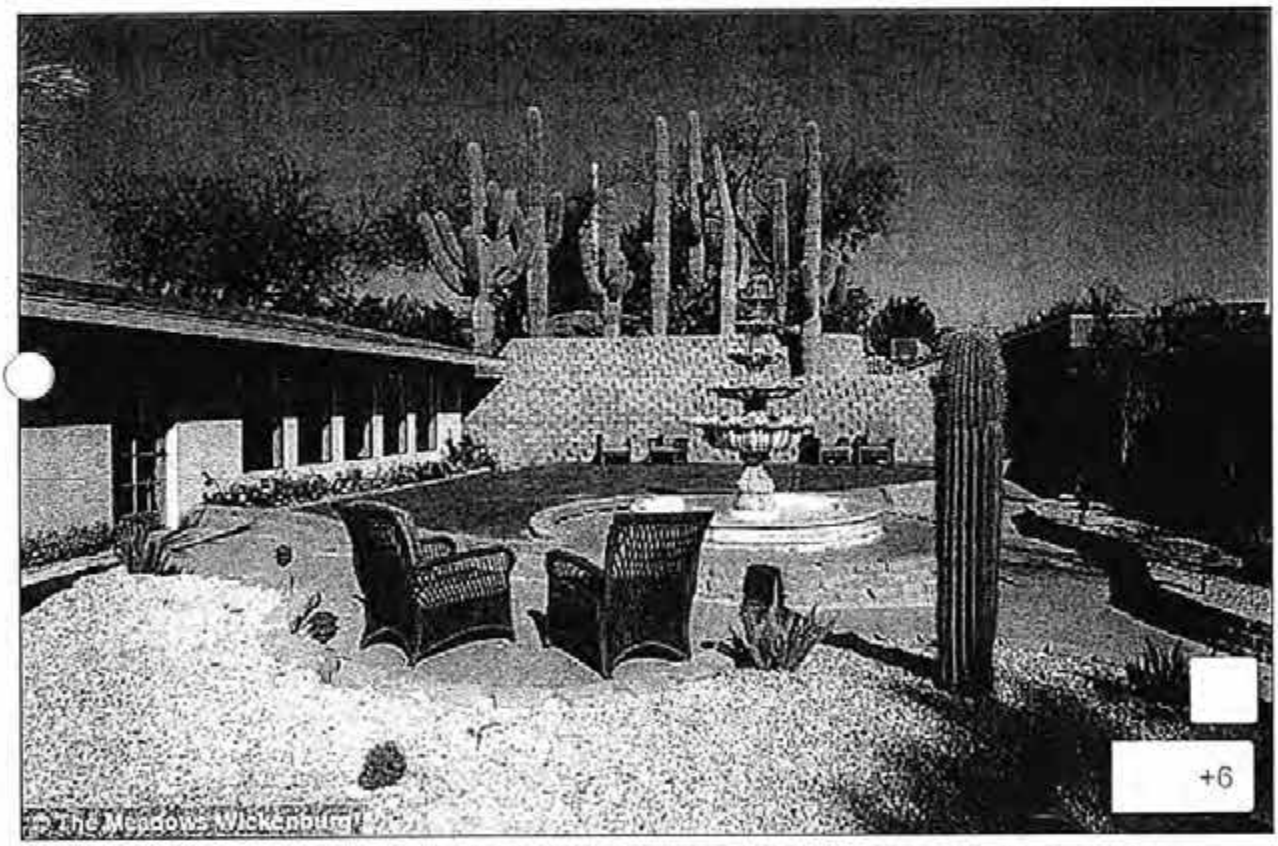


The center runs a 45-day treatment program for sex addicts called the 'Gentle Path' under which patients undergo counseling and 'expressive arts' to try and deal with their issues



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

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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 ıain involving a teenager, another one claiming that he grabbed a man's penis and (sed 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.

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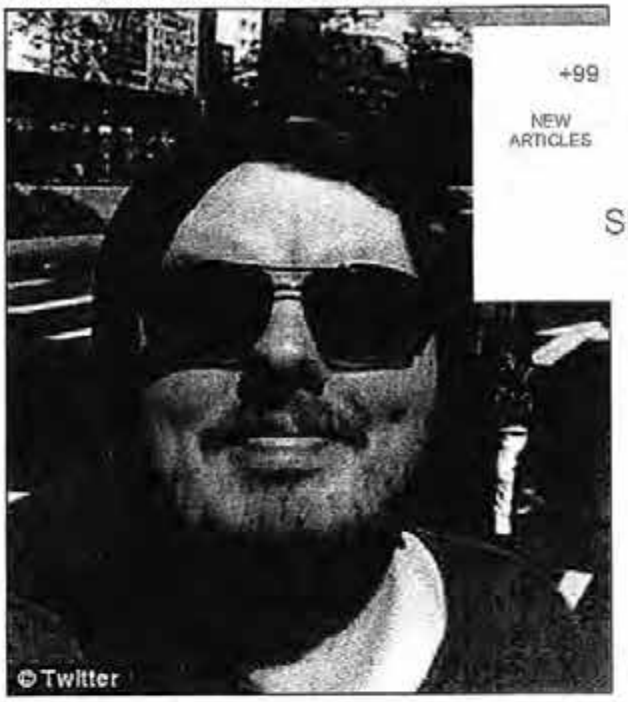

Harry Dreyfuss (left), the son of Oscar-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss, has written an account of how Kevin Spacey allegedly groped him when he was 18 years old. Kris Nixon claimed Spacey groped him twice in a week and told him he perform a sex act 'better than your girlfriend'

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

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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".

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Read full piece here.

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simon Nov 20, 2017
hollywood sleaze, oh and a lefty

Like Reply

chris Nov 12, 2017
What about Bill Shortens alleged rape. Where is the hue and cry over that ? He seems to have got off scott free and he may be the next leader of the country. Lets have some investigative journalism please.

5 Like Reply

Don Nov 11, 2017
I really don't care what he's done, he is a brilliant actor.

2 Like Reply

Gary Nov 11, 2017
Of course they knew, and did zero about it. Now the cat is out of the bag, they will get all 'holier the thou" and portably make a movie about it. What a bunch of hypocrites.

3 Like Reply

Paul Nov 11, 2017
Just a few more candidates for standing ovations, eh Meryl?

4 Like Reply

ross Nov 13, 2017
Yes we get fake outrage from Streep and her cronies about the President of the USA but nothing about scum like these blokes. You have no credibility now Meryl.

1 Like Reply

Stuart Nov 10, 2017
Spare us your fake sympathy too.

PREVIOUS NEXT

Stuart Nov 10, 2017
The people at the very top with all the power tend to be of the right, but I know, this is just another not very veiled 'lefty' bash.

Like Reply

Val Nov 12, 2017
@Stuart Not that many are of the right. Most of the sordid ones party with the left.

3 Like Reply

Tom Nov 10, 2017
Hollywood have considered themselves above it all for far to long , most of us can spot a sleeze easily and spacey is just the tip of the iceberg

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And they have the temerity to preach to the rest of us.

Tip of the iceberg for sanctimonious hypocrisy. Best to just stick with the drugs and zip it.

10 Like Reply

Mark Nov 9, 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 chide and scold 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..

11 Like Reply

Michael Nov 9, 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?

2 Like Reply

Val Nov 12, 2017

@Michael

Money is the root of all evil.

Now where have I heard that before?

Oh no not the bible, don;t tell me the bible is right.

Heaven forbid.

Like Reply

James Nov 9, 2017

Kevin Spacey really is Frank Underwood...! 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.

1 Like Reply

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 as for the people who protected them they are no better.

9 Like Reply

Jimmy G Nov 11, 2017

@linda Yes - who do they think they are? Priests?

PREVIOUS NEXT

Val Nov 12, 2017

@Jimmy G @linda

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 infiltrated the scouting movement, school and yes even parliaments.

Like Reply

kieran Nov 8, 2017

Hollywood is big business and in business theres very little morality just power lust and more profit.

Val Nov 12, 2017

@euan @John So far, yes.

Like Reply

simon Nov 20, 2017

@euan @John no they've just disappeared because trump won, just another pathetic left attempt.....so tough!

Like Reply

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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

NY Post NOVEMBER 9, 2017 12:23PM

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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 done something, 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

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin



'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'



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McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



It's just the latest damaging story to surface about Spacey. Photo: Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images *Source:Getty Images*



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.

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Former TV anchor says Spacey sexually assaulted her son

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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.

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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.

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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.

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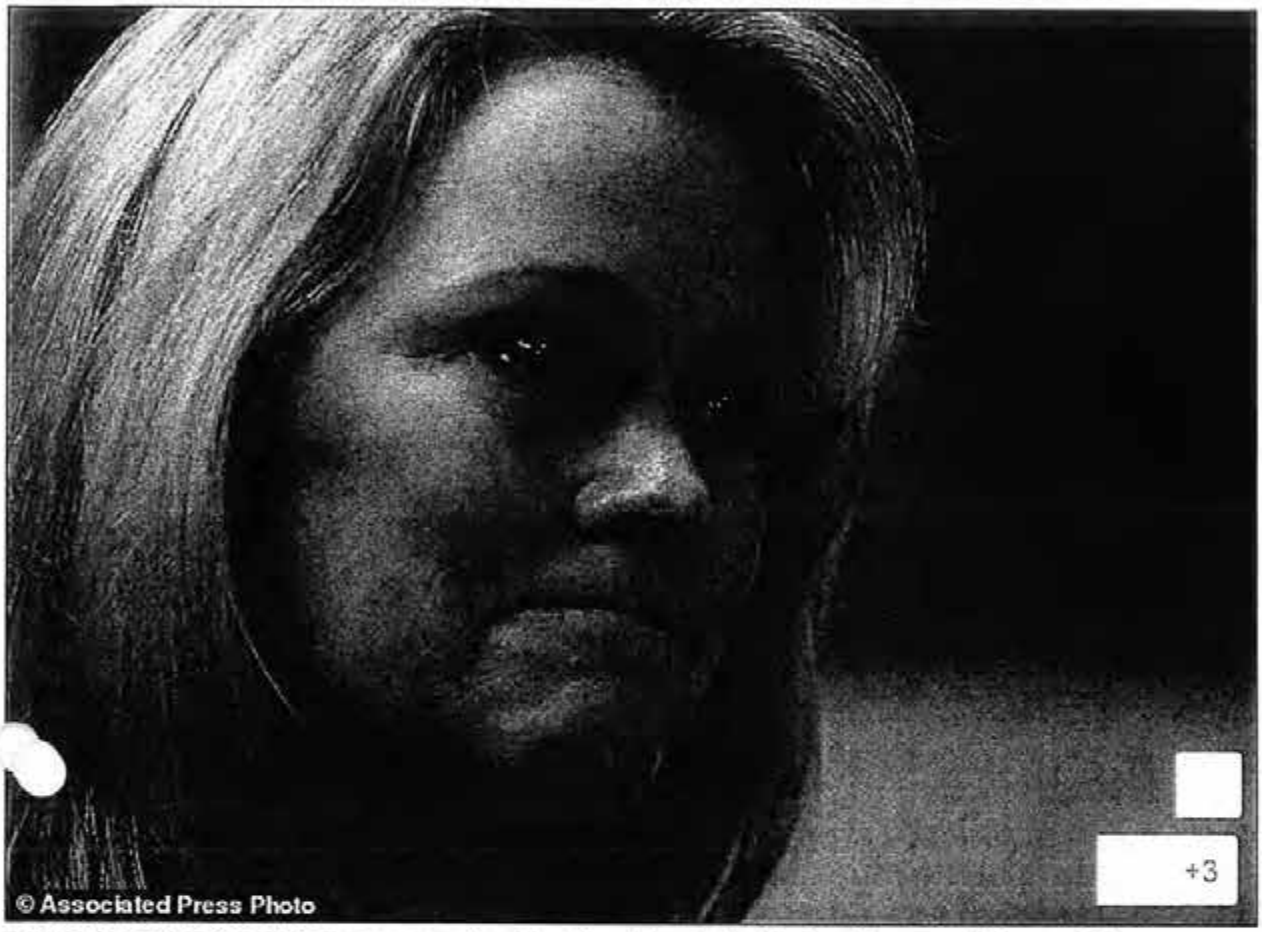
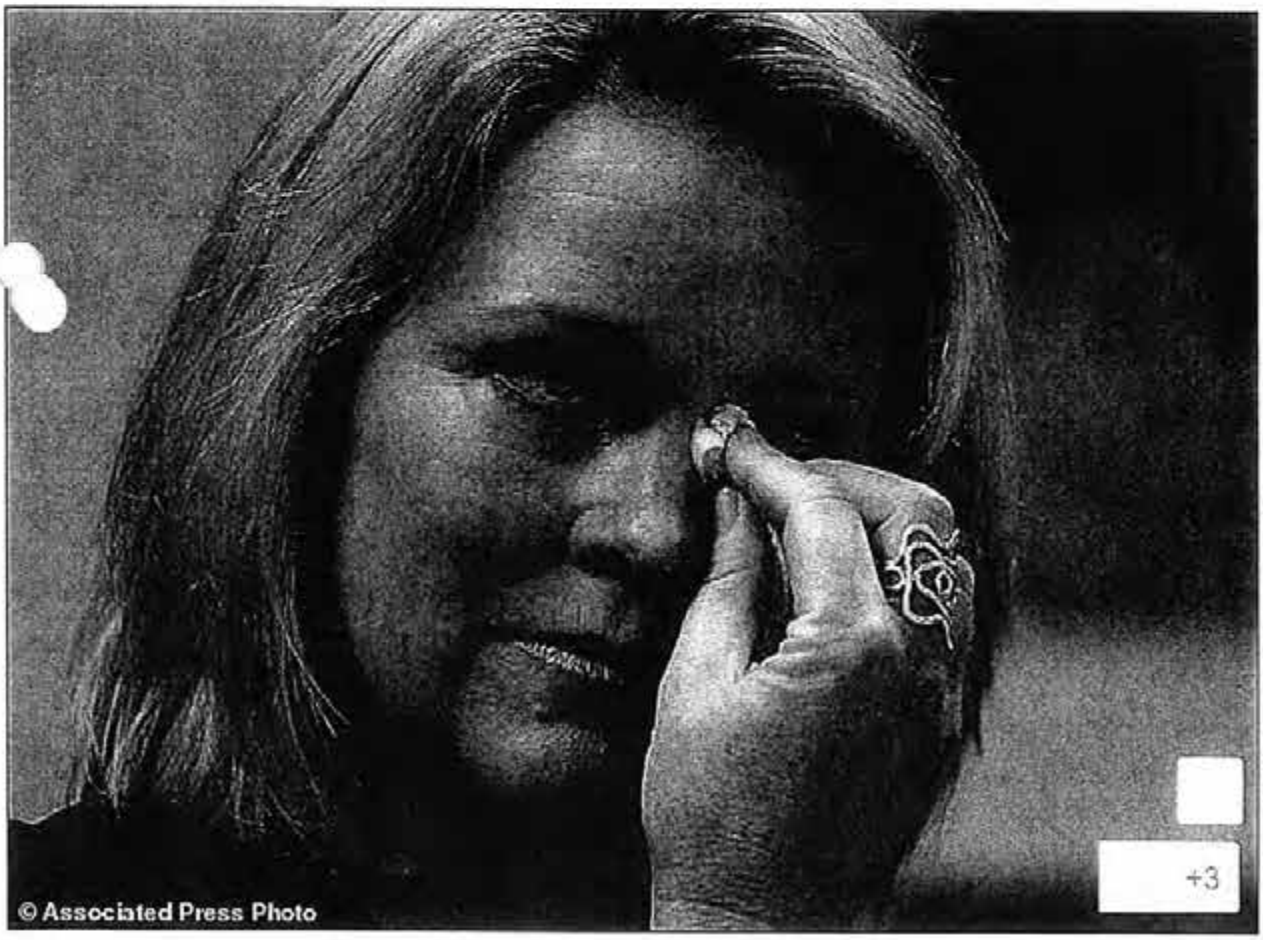


Former Boston television news anchor Heather Unruh holds back tears while speaking Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, in Boston, about the alleged sexual assault of her teenage son by actor Kevin Spacey in the summer of 2016 on Nantucket. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)



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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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The West Australian

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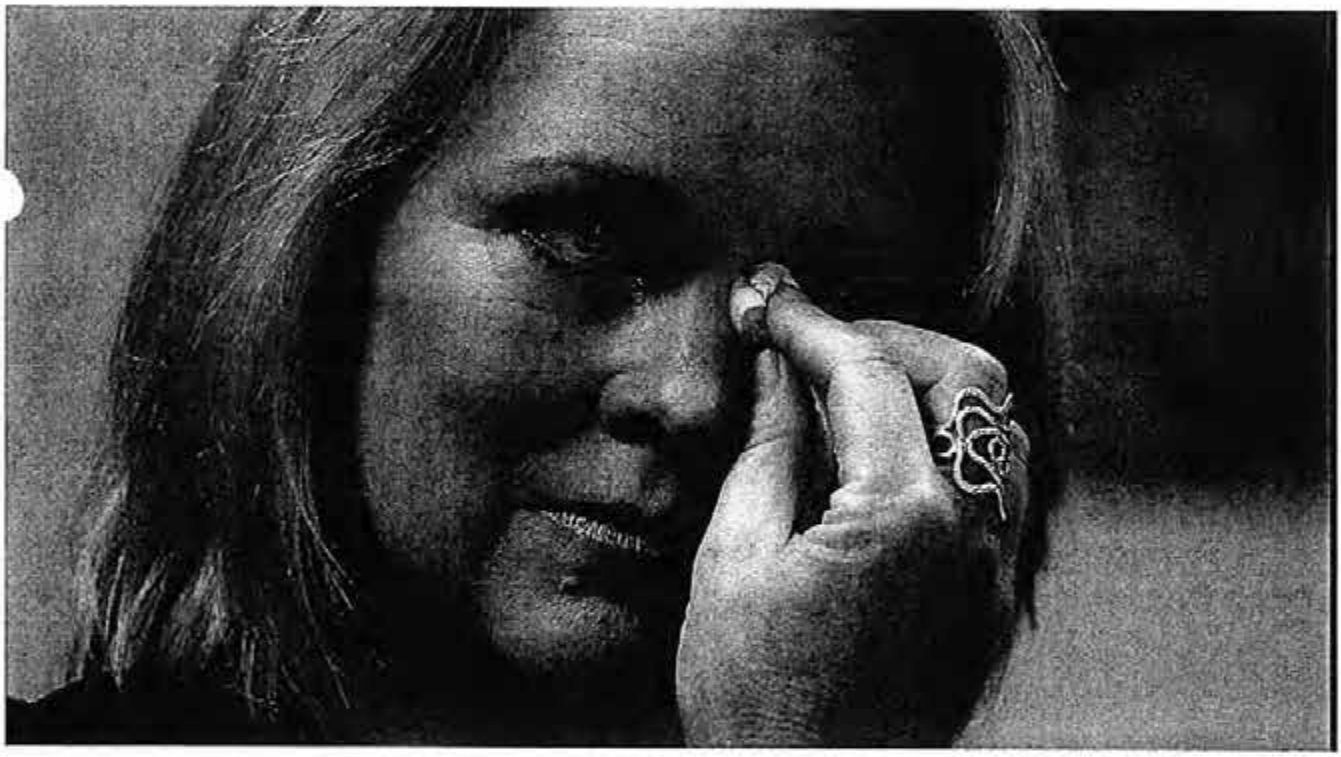
Ex-news reader says Spacey assaulted son

Rebecca Rubin
Thursday, 9 November 2017 4:49PM



ɔrmer 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.

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"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.



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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 9, 2017 7:10PM

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Kevin Spacey comes out amid allegations of sexual misconduct

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.

Uhruh, 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 plied him with alcohol.

"Spacey bought him drink 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."

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Working with Woody 'a privilege': Baldwin


First look at Anna and Enrique's twins


O'Riordan's tragic final photo


'He threatened to gouge my eyes out'


Kevin Spacey has not responded to the allegations. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*


TV host Heather Unruh. Picture: Supplied *Source:Supplied*


TV host Heather Unruh and husband William Little. She says Kevin Spacey abused her teen son. Picture: Facebook *Source:Supplied*

"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."

Uhruh, 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.

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Heather Unruh
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5:43 AM - Oct 14, 2017

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Uhruh first tweeted last month, eight days after *The New York Times* and *New Yorker* did pieces on Harvey Weinstein.

"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.

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Anthony Rapp (L) said Kevin Spacey tried to sexually abuse him when he was 14. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

:n 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.

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At least 13 men have now accused Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct. Picture: Getty *Source:Getty Images*



Jon Bernthal has hit out at Kevin Spacey. Picture: AP *Source:AP*

"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."

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"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.



Jon Bernthal starred in Baby Driver. Picture: AP *Source:AP*

"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.

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'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 KHALEDA RAHMAN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 17:02 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 23:14 AEDT, 9 November 2017

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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.

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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.

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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.

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'Shame on you': Former Boston anchor claims Kevin Spacey got



Jon Bernthal says Kevin Spacey was a 'bully' on Baby Driver

'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.'

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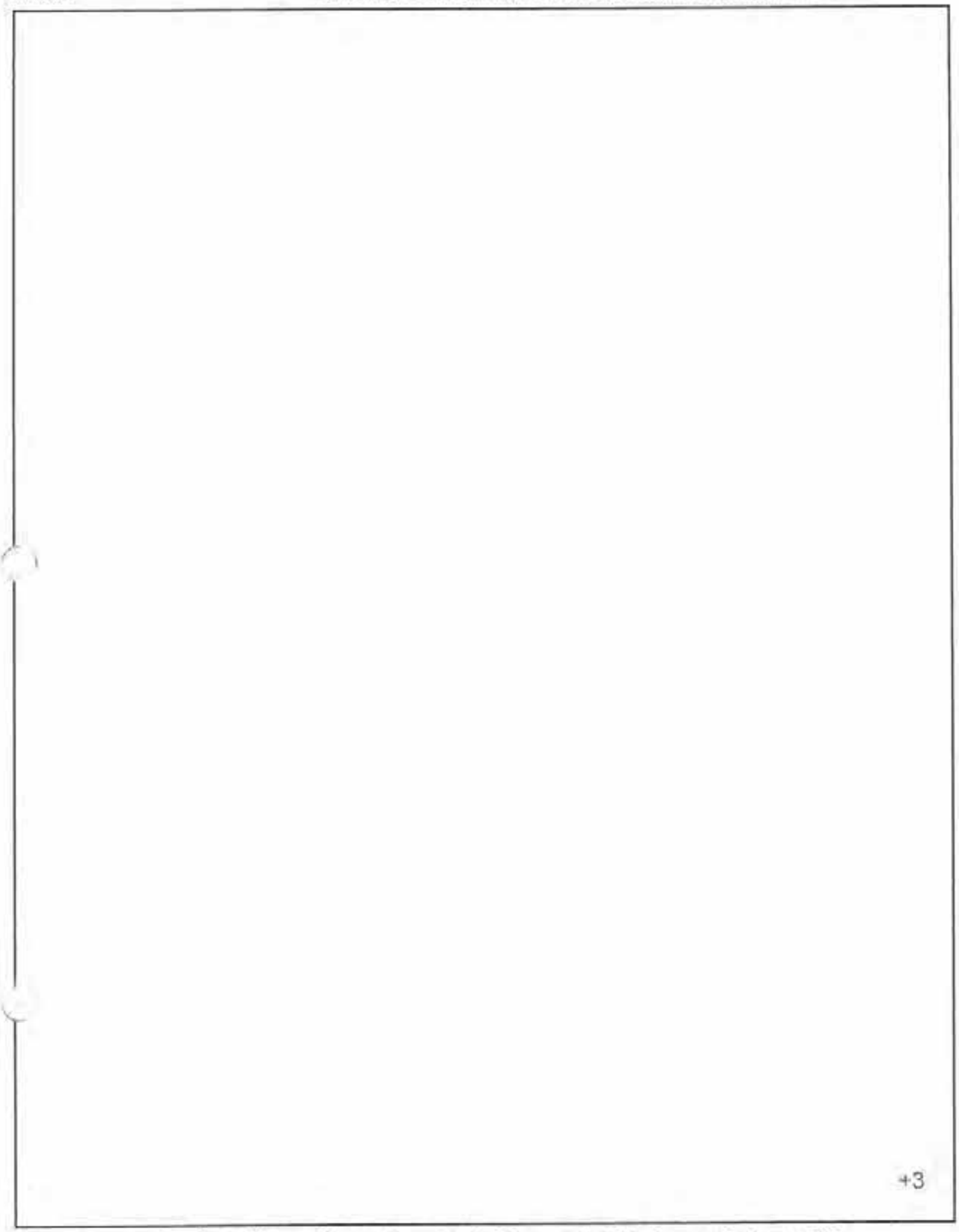

Mr Fowler says he hasn't heard from the actor in 14 years, but is desperate to reunite

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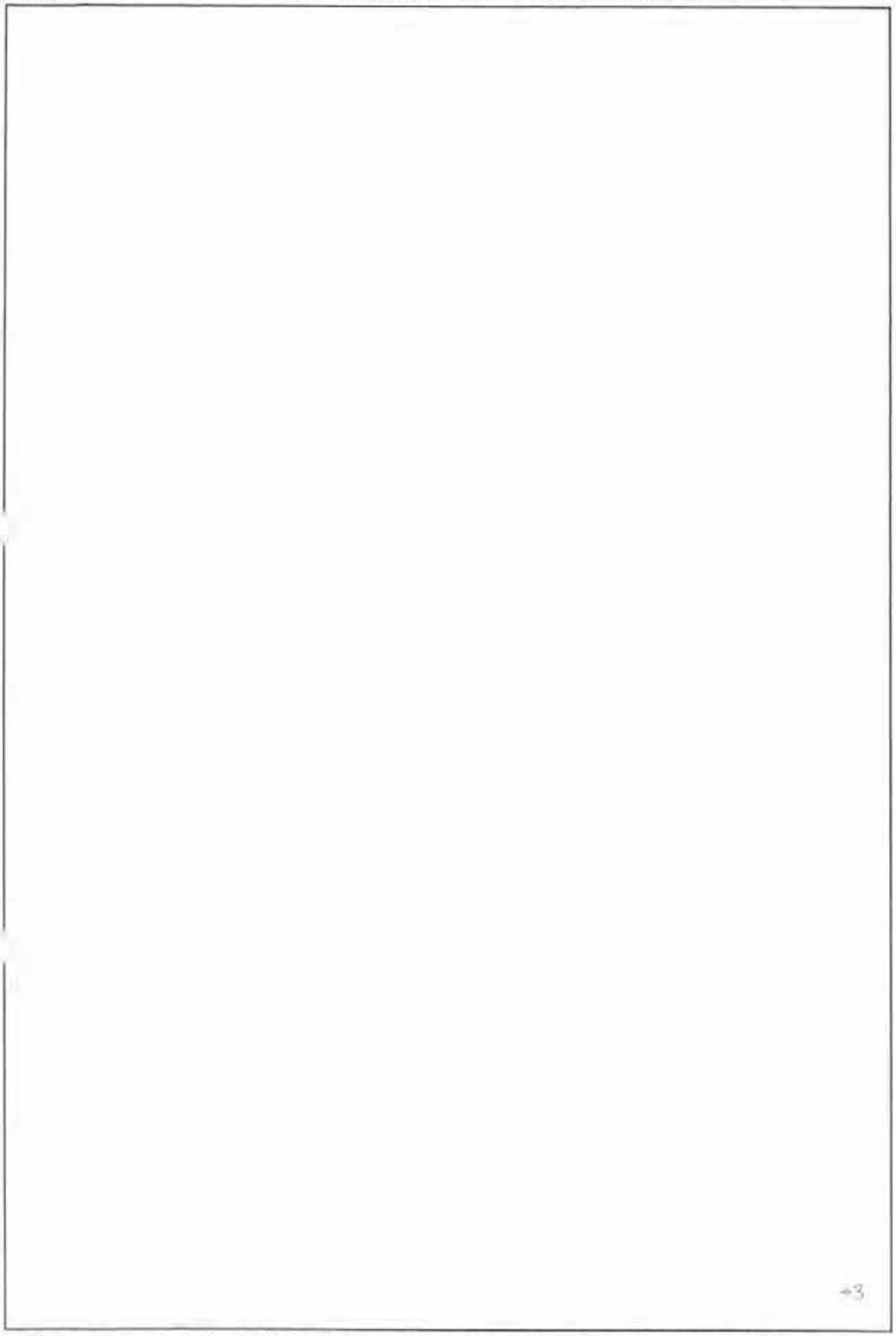

Spacey's career is in freefall following numerous allegations of sexual assault and he is reportedly being investigated by police in London over an alleged assault in 2008

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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

Watch the full video

0:00 / 5:23

'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.

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'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.

'...was my mother's dying wish to bring the brothers back together. It's been 14 years, its time.'

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ABC NEWS

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.

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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.

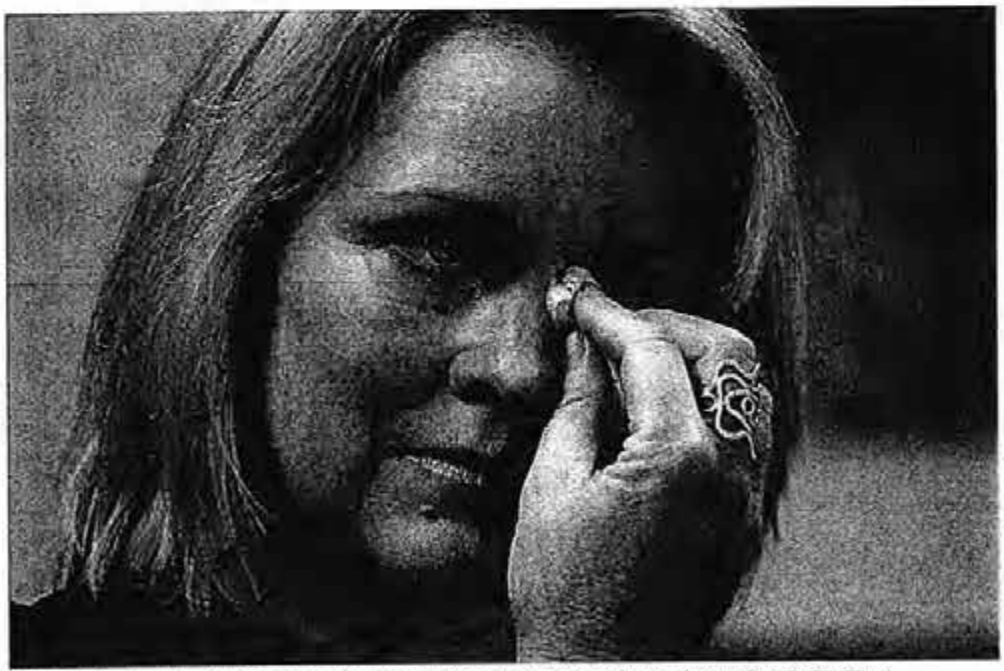

PHOTO: Heather Unruh wipes tears while speaking about the alleged sexual assault. (AP: Bill Sikes)

"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.

A publicist said last week that Spacey was "taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment".

'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 Miltimore 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 reshot. 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

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, actor, sexual-offences, law-crime-and-justice, community-and-society, united-states

First posted Thu 9 Nov 2017, 1:01pm

NOVEMBER 9 2017

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TV anchor alleges Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her teenage son last year

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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".

SKIP AD

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.

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NEWSLETTERS

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.

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"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."



Kevin Spacey has sought evaluation and treatment, his representatives have said. Photo: AP

She said her son, now a college student, was still "bothered" by the cident 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.



Heather Unruh said her son didn't report the incident to police because he was embarassed and fearful of the kind of attention it might attract. Photo: AP

"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.





Actor Anthony Rapp was the first person to come forward with allegations against Kevin Spacey.
Photo: AP

> ***"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"***
>
> — Heather Unruh (@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.

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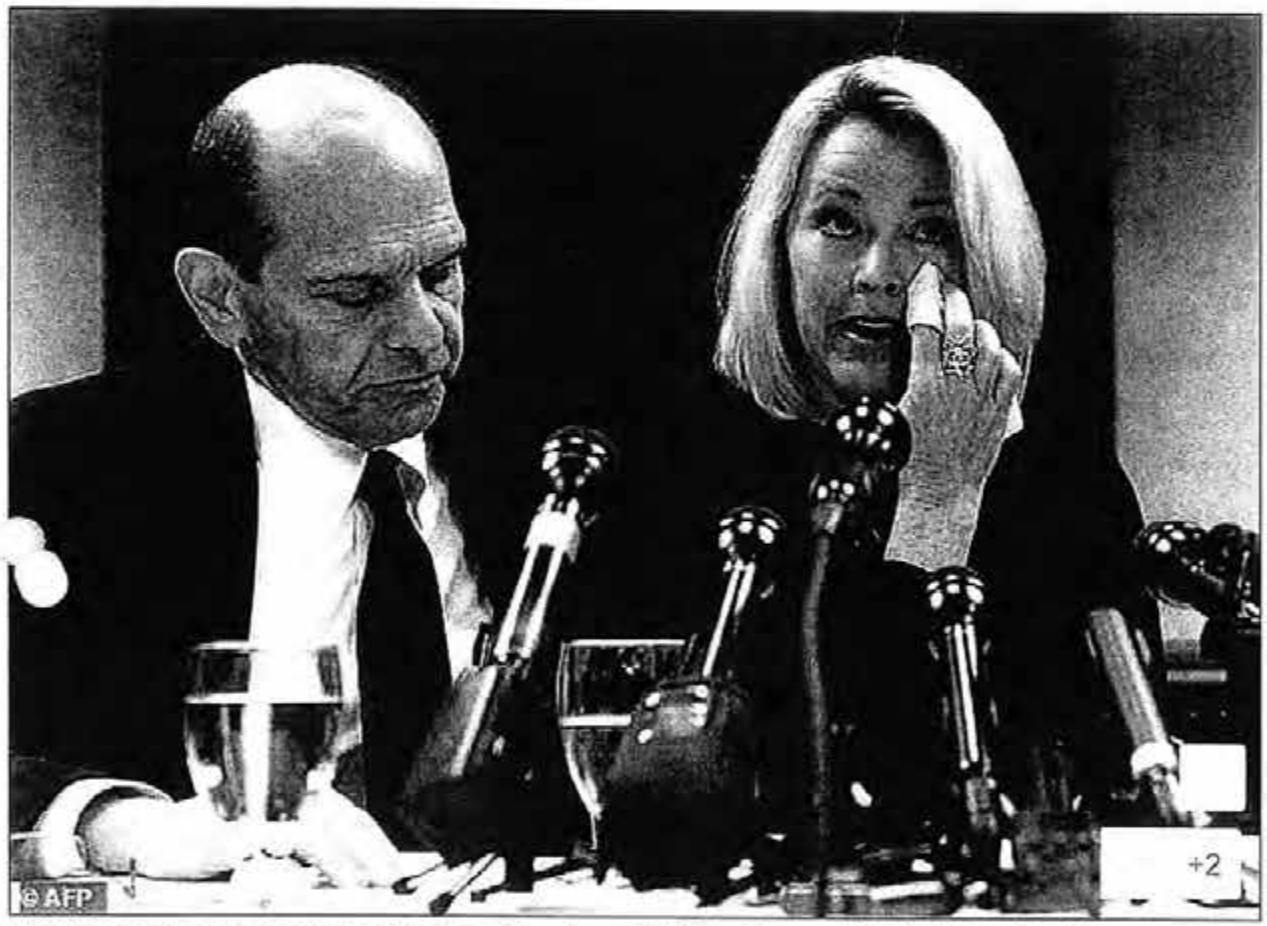
US mom says Spacey assaulted son, police investigating

By AFP

PUBLISHED: 06:25 AEDT, 9 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 06:26 AEDT, 9 November 2017



Former Boston news anchor Heather Unruh,s 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.

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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."

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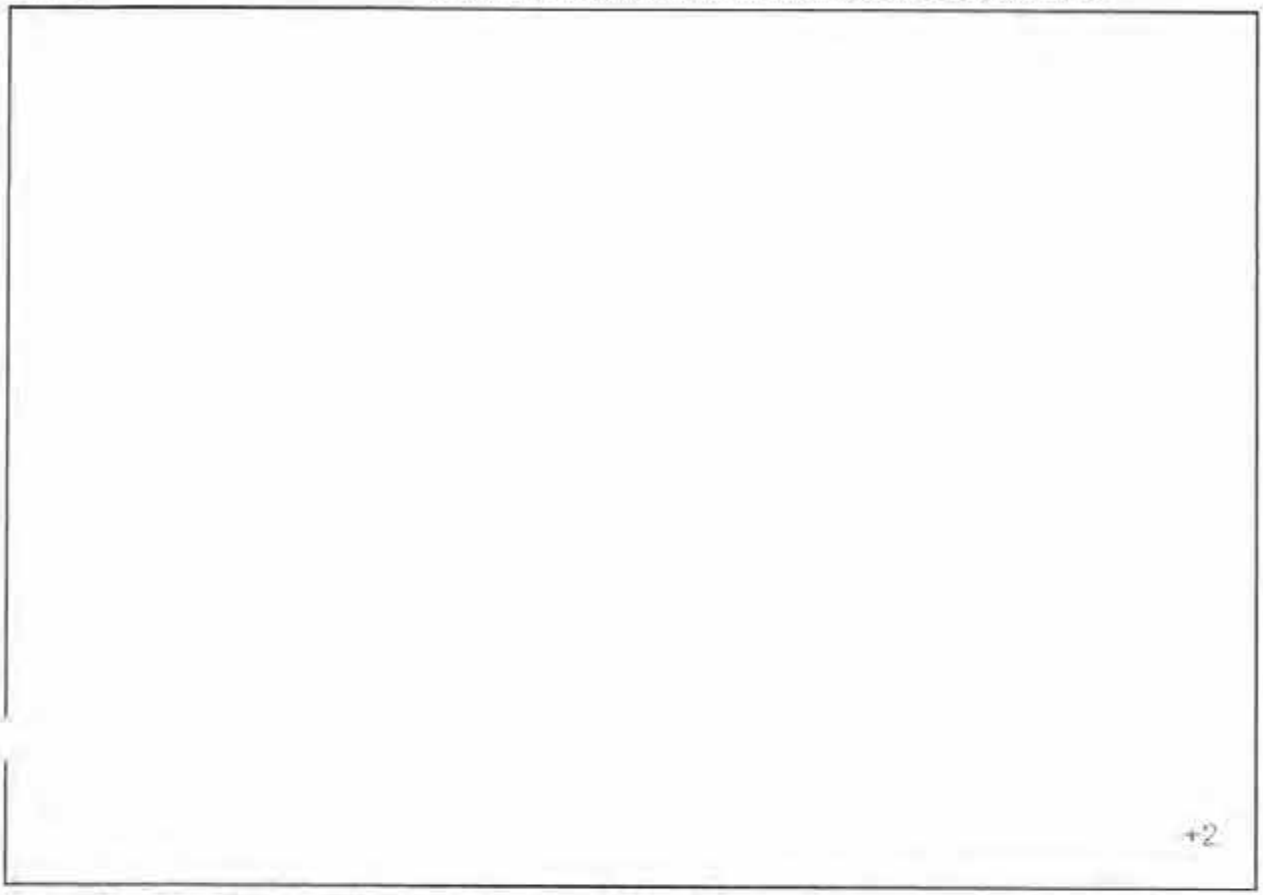

Actor Kevin Spacey, seen here at a screening of "House of Cards" in Washington in February 2016, has been booted from the Netflix show amid spiralling sexual assault accusations

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 legedly 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

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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.

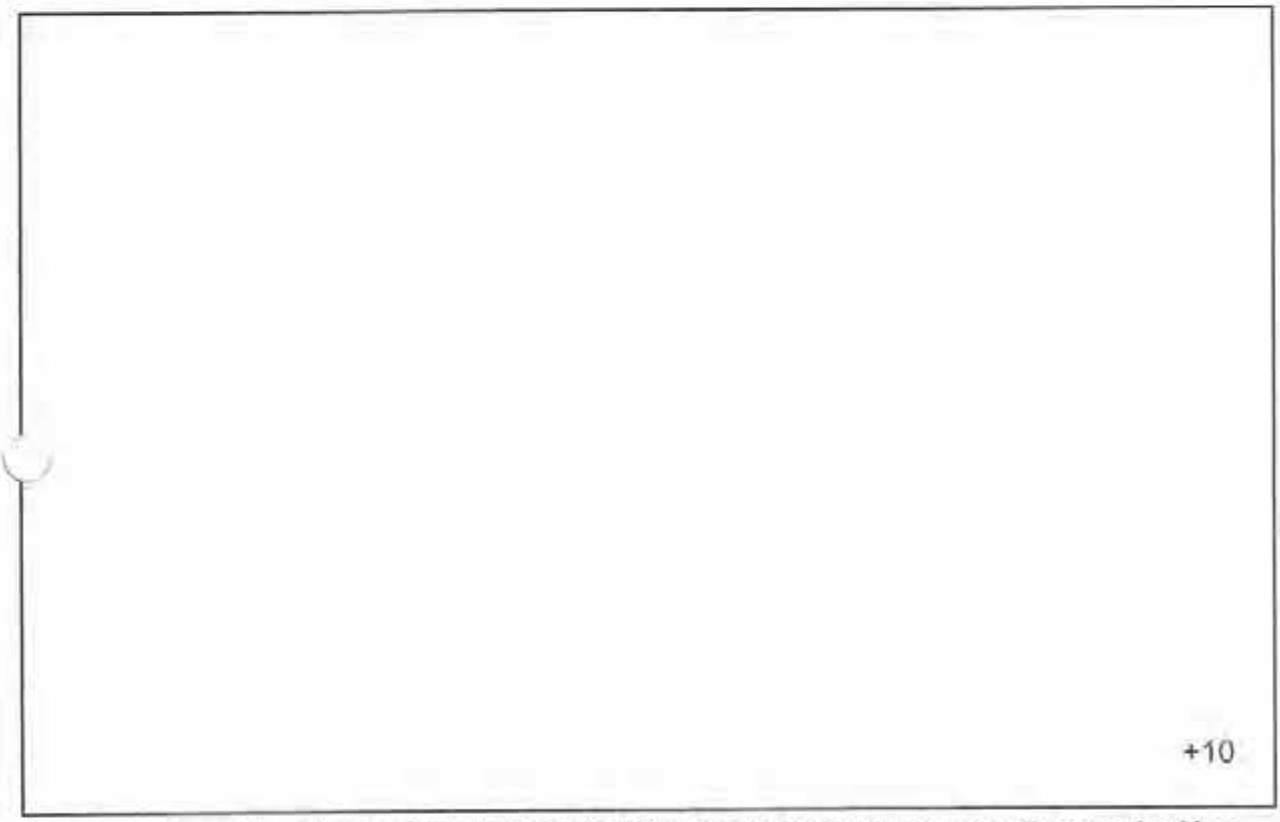
Heather Unruh revealed the shocking claim during a press conference on Wednesday alongside her daughter and attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who is best known for representing the victims of the Catholic church sex abuse scandal.

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.'

Scroll down for video



Former news anchor Heather Unruh (above) claims that Kevin Spacey sexually assaulted her then-18-year-old son last summer and now police are investigating the alleged incident. She tearfully recounted what happened to him during a press conference on Wednesday (above)

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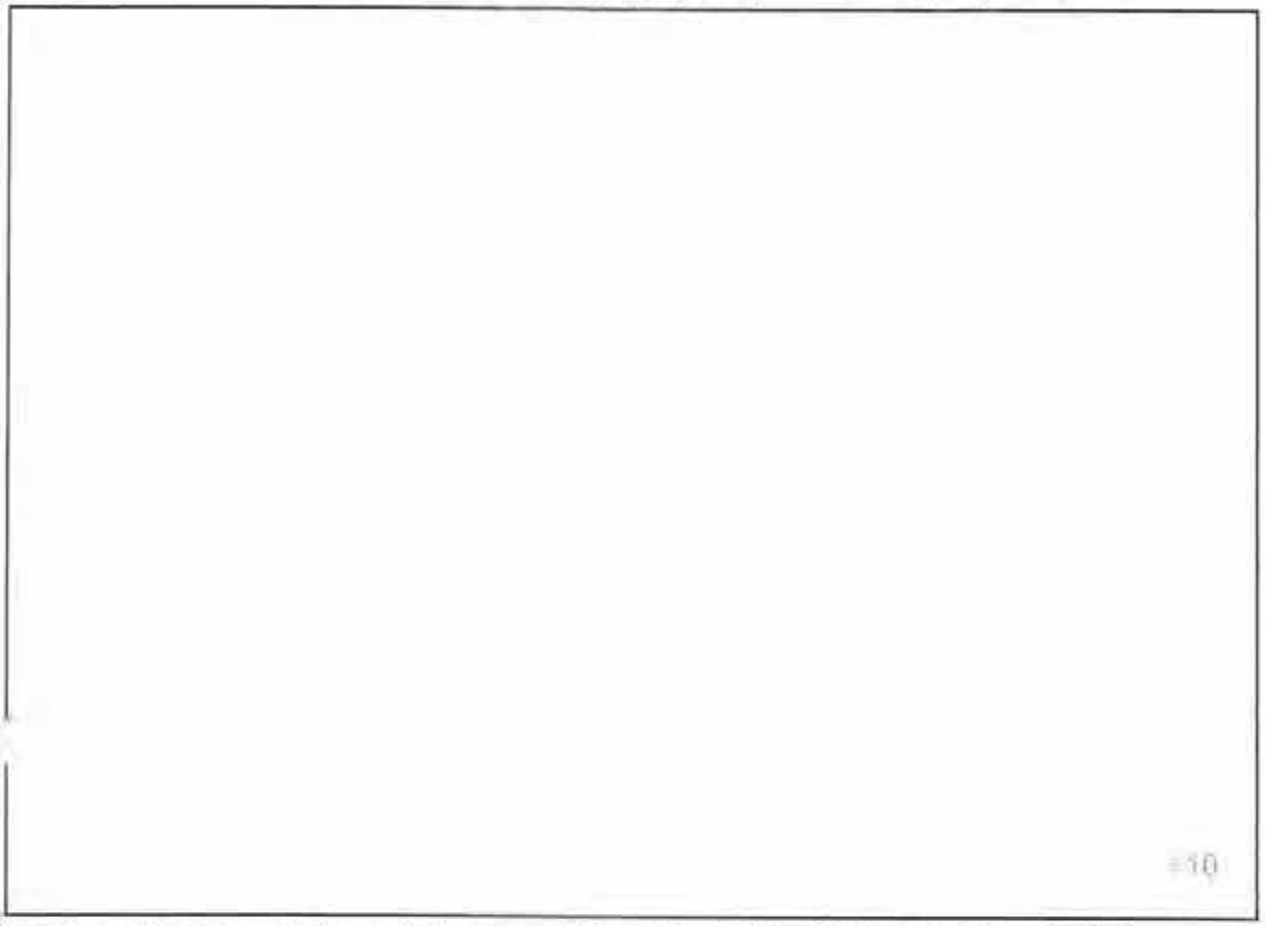
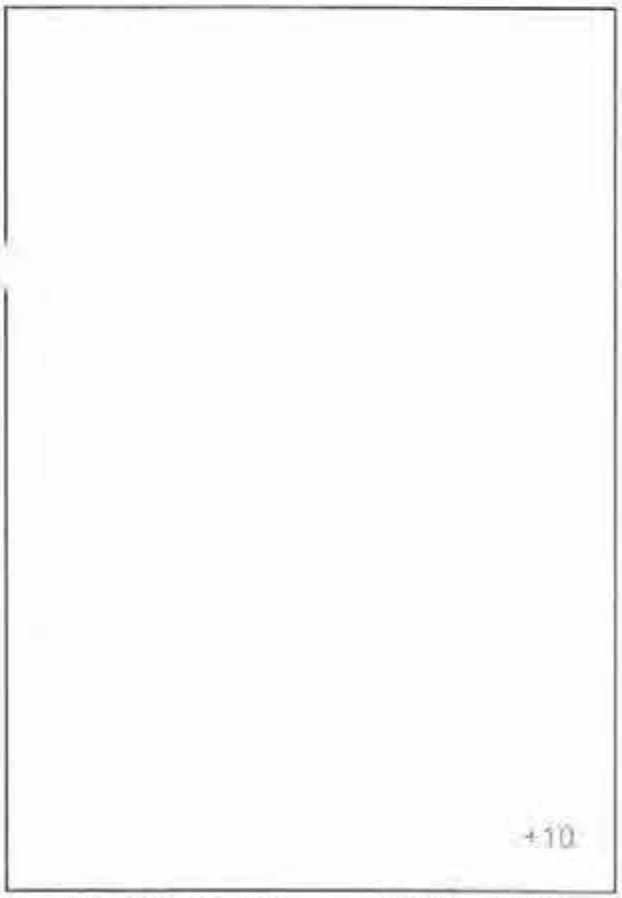
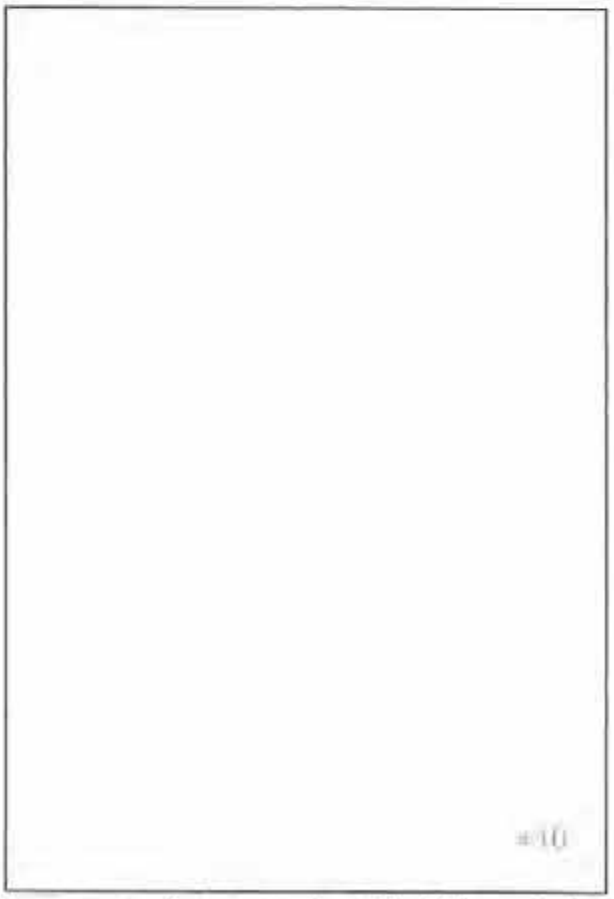


While explaining what allegedly happened, Unruh tearfully said: 'In July 2016, Kevin Spacey assaulted my son... The victim, my son, was a starstruck 18-year-old who had no idea this famous actor was an alleged sexual predator or that he was about to become his next victim'





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

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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.

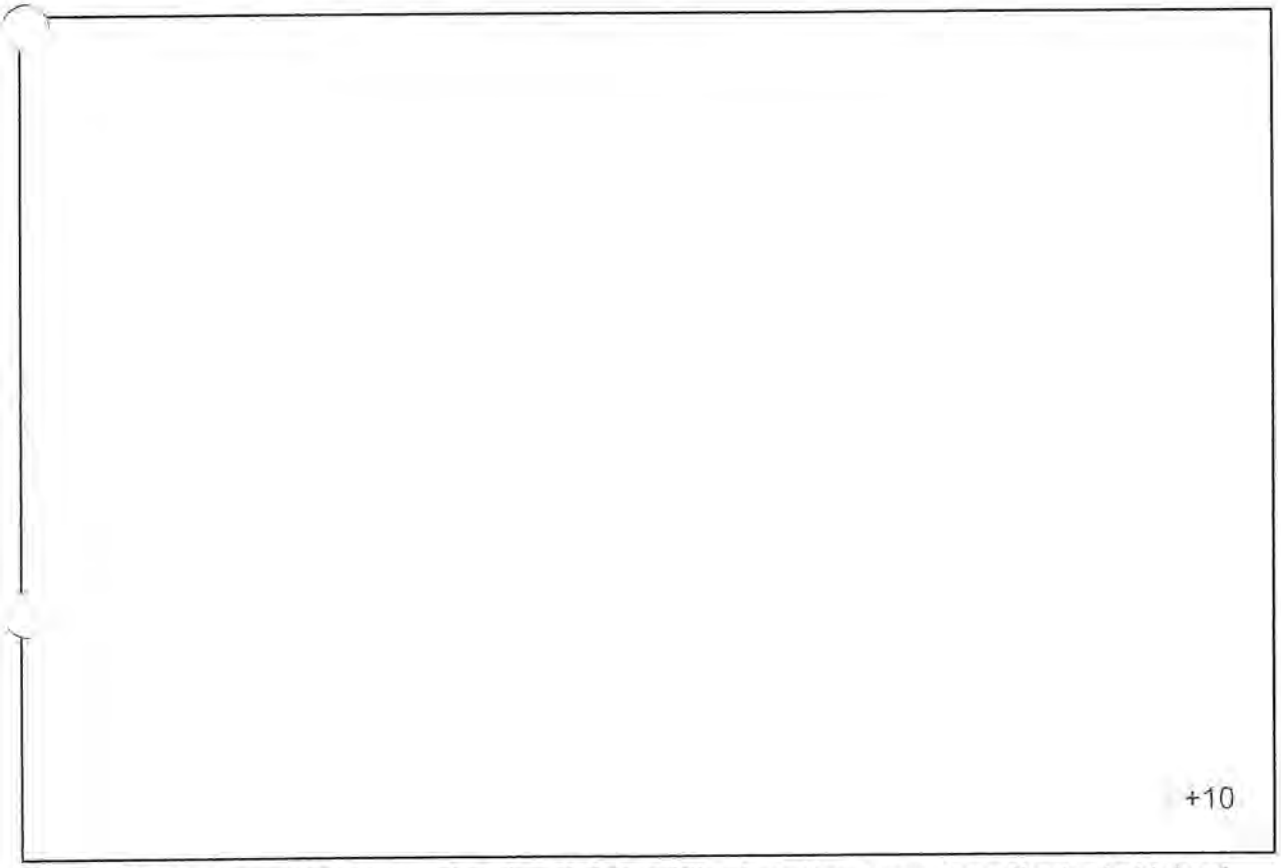
'Kevin Spacey bought him drink after drink after drink. And when my son was drunk, Spacey made his move and sexually assaulted him,' she emotionally said.

'... 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

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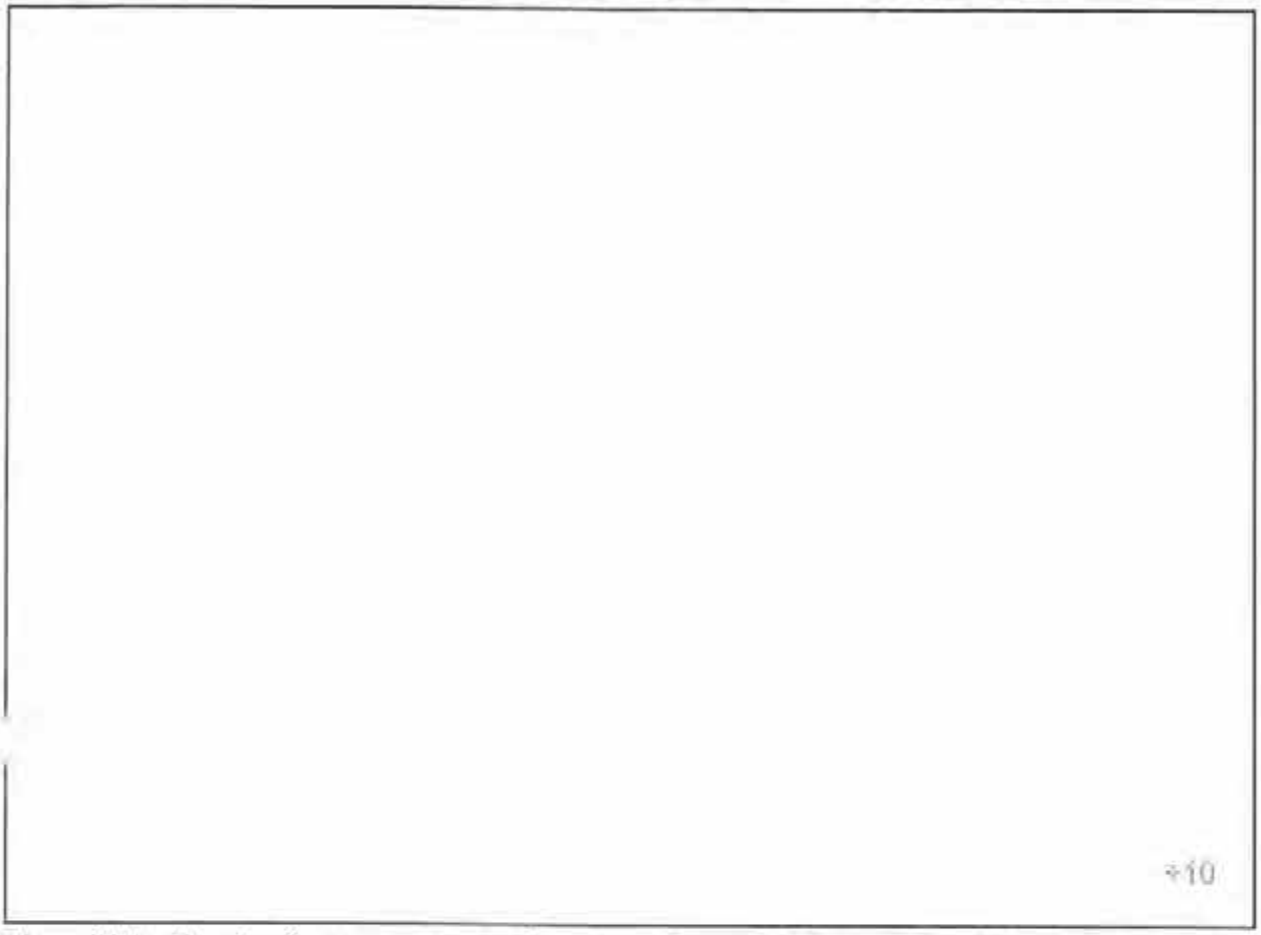

She said that her family was encouraged to come forward after dozens of women spoke out publicly to accuse movie producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct. She said: 'I want to see Kevin Spacey go to jail'

Kevin Spacey accused of sexually assaulting reporter's son

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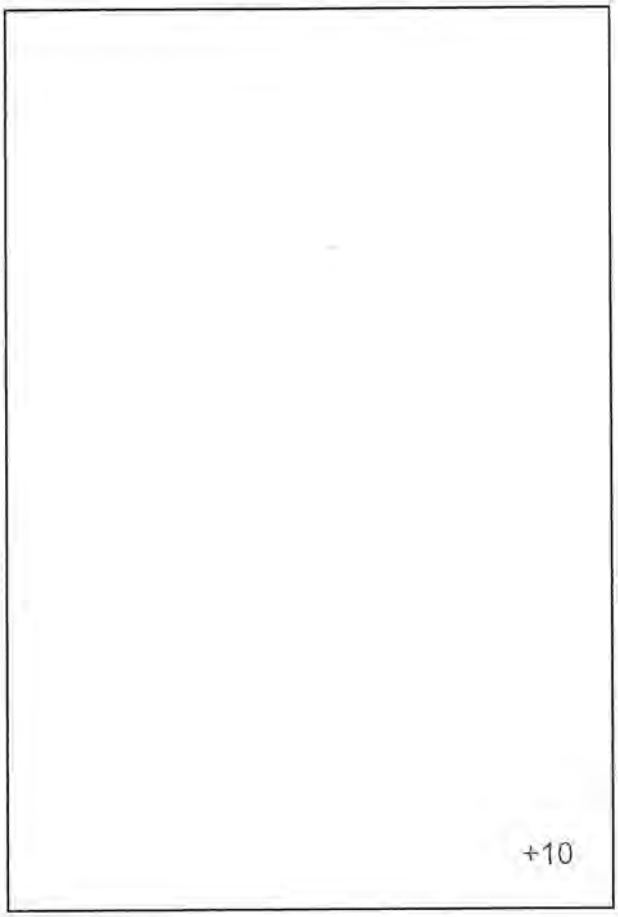
'The next morning I joined my family on Nantucket. Nothing could have prepared my son. It harmed him and it can not be undone.

'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 is that she saw my son was very shaken.'



Unruh said: 'I want to see Kevin Spacey have the hand of justice come down on him'

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.

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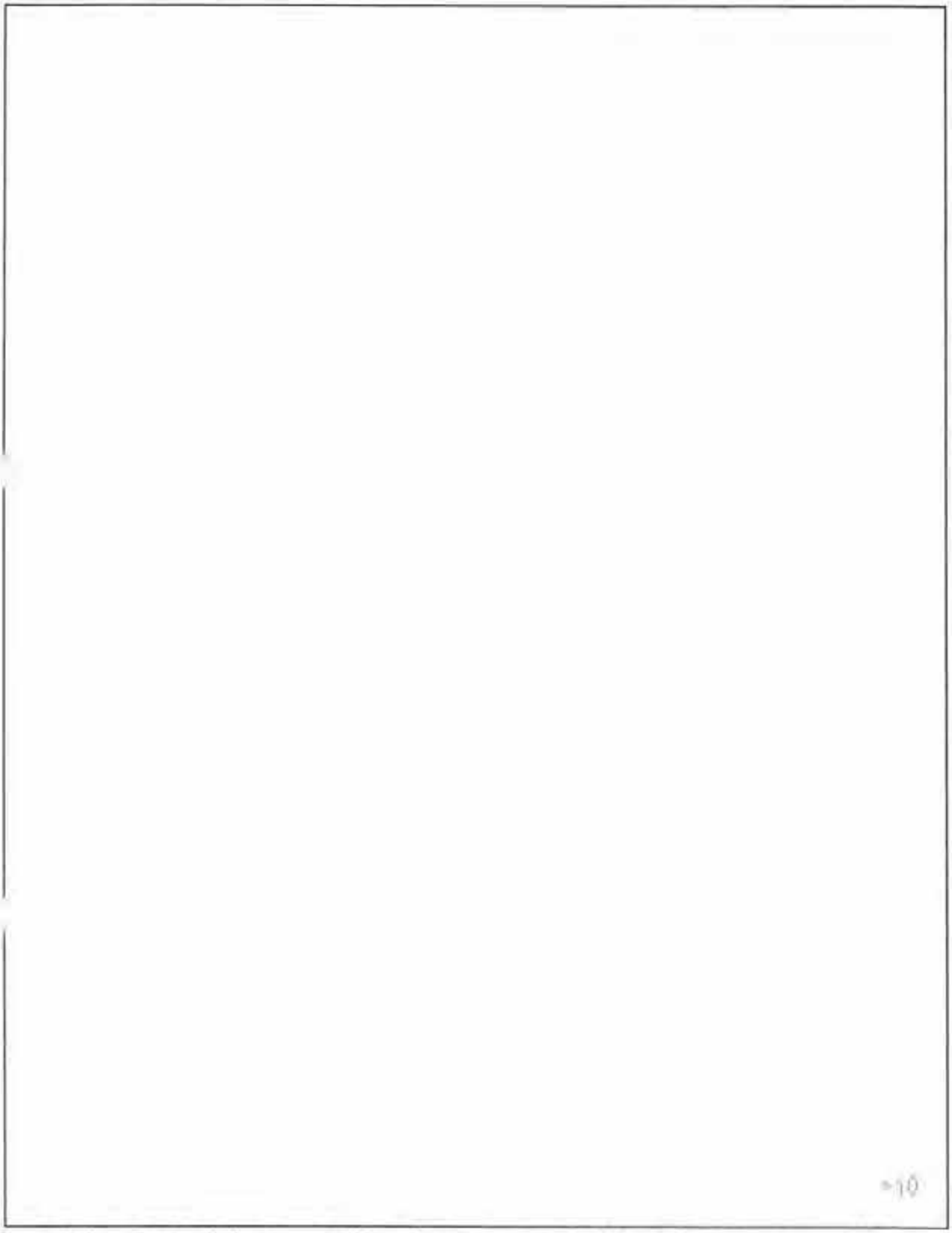
'I was really emboldened by the victims in the Harvey Weinstein case. They are astonishingly brave women.'



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.

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It's unclear what type of evidence was provided. Unruh 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 Unruh's claim.

Unruh first tweeted the accusation on October 13 saying that the actor 'assaulted a loved one.'

Unruh, who previously worked at WCVB-TV, tweeted back on October 13 that the Harvey Weinstein sexual assault scandal 'has emboldened me– #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, Unruh 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.'

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Unruh 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, Unruh 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.'

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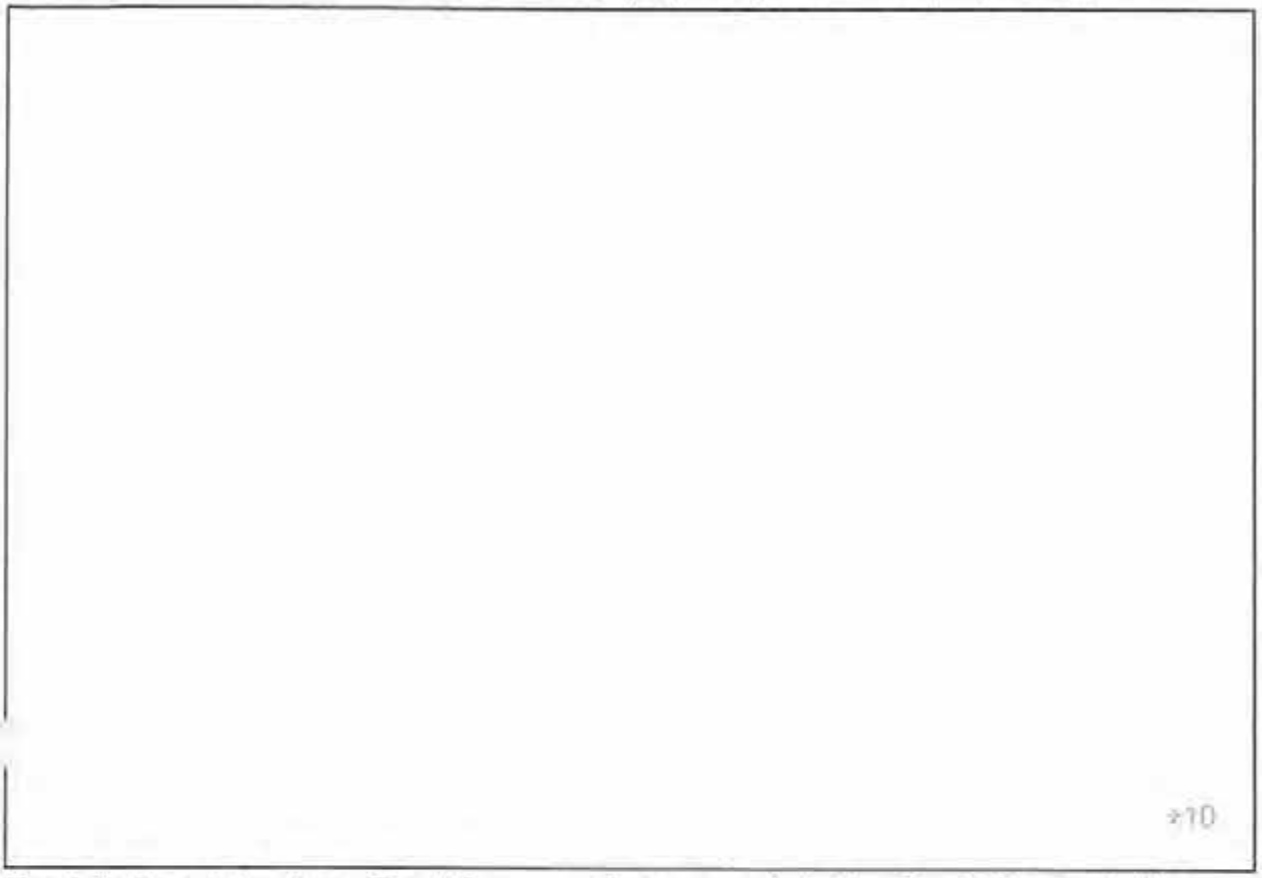

Unruh first made her damaging claims more than two weeks before Star Trek actor Anthony Rapp got an apology after he said Spacey, then 26, tried to seduce him when he was just 14

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 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.

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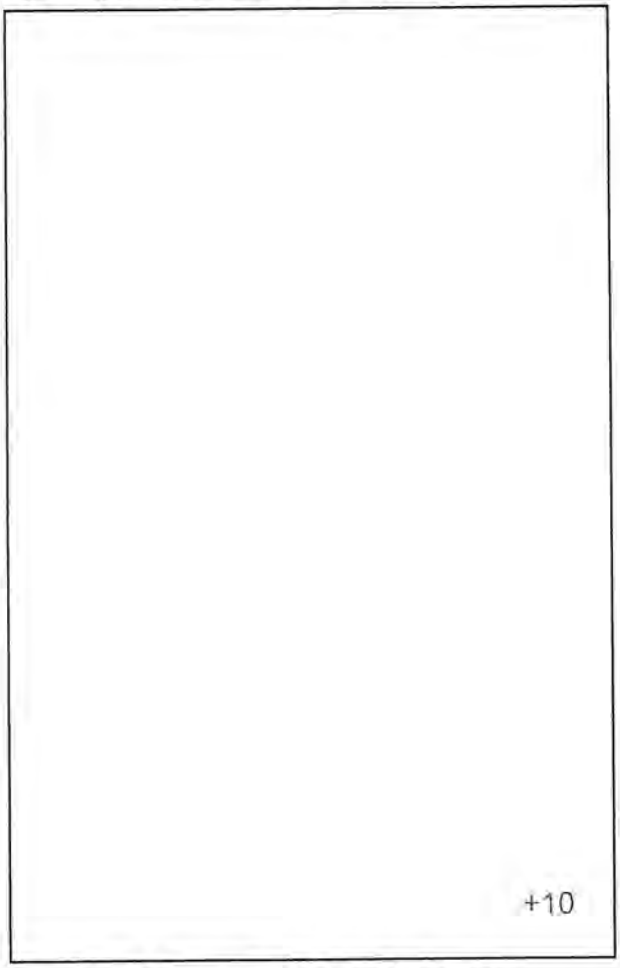
He said in a statement: 'But if I did behave as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior.'

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

Kevin Spacey responds to harassment claims

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'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.

' more:
Kevin Spacey, Former TV Anchor Says 18-Year-Old Family Member 'Sexually Assaulted' | TMZ.com
Actor Anthony Rapp: Kevin Spacey Made A Sexual Advance Toward Me When I Was 14
Heather Unruh tweeted two weeks ago that Kevin Spacey assaulted someone she knew - The Boston Globe

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Kevin Spacey to be edited out of finished movie

10th Nov 2017 5:51 AM



Kevin Spacey in All the Money in the World.

by Andrew Bucklow

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IN WHAT'S being called an "unprecedented move", Kevin Spacey will be replaced in his upcoming movie [illegible] 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.

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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.



Christopher Plummer will replace Kevin Spacey in the movie.

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."

11-334

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SECOND CABINET MINISTER IN A WEEK FORCED OUT

EU chiefs ready for May exit by January

BRUNO WATERFIELD
FRANCIS ELLIOTT
LONDON AND BRUSSELS

EU leaders are preparing for the fall of Theresa May before the new year. It emerged yesterday, as the British Prime Minister lost her second cabinet minister in a week.

Fears are growing in Brussels that the instability of Mrs May's Conservative government raises the real prospect of a change of leadership or elections leading to a Labour victory.

One European leader said Mrs May's increasingly fragile leadership had led to officials planning for both scenarios.

"There is the great difficulty of the leadership in Great Britain, which is more and more fragile," the leader said.

"Britain is very weak and the weakness of Theresa May makes negotiations very difficult."

No options were being excluded in Brussels, including a "no deal" disorderly exit by Britain from the EU or a reversal of the Brexit decision after new elections because, the source noted, "the referendum decision was very close".

He spoke as it emerged that Mrs May would announce a limited one-in-one-out reshuffle after Priti Patel was forced into a humiliating resignation.

The international development secretary quit after being recalled to Downing Street from an official trip to Africa in the public glare. Ms Patel accepted that she "fell below the standards of transparency and openness" in failing to disclose full details of her contacts with Israeli politicians.

Friends of Ms Patel said the Foreign Office was responsible for leaking details to kill off her attempt to change government policy towards co-operating with Israel on Syria.

Her departure came a week after Sir Michael Fallon resigned as defence secretary following allegations of sexual misconduct.

Downing Street said Ms Patel's exit would not trigger a full overhaul of the beleaguered administration. Her replacement was likely to be announced overnight, but Mrs May could wait until tonight, senior figures said.

The exit of a leading campaigner for Brexit leaves the Prime Minister again facing the need to do running repairs on her battered administration.

Mrs May's calculations are being further complicated as hopes fade for an early resolution of a cabinet office inquiry into her deputy, Damian Green.

It is understood his fate could hinge on Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick after she told MPs she was willing to help "in any way" over the allegation that pornography was found on one of Mr Green's office computers eight years ago. Mr Green denies the charge.

Ms Patel's exit came after it emerged that she had held a series of 12 engagements with senior Israeli figures, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during a holiday in the country in August.

She held two additional meetings, one in Britain and one in the US, after her return from Israel.

In a further development, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported that during her stay in the country she visited an Israeli military field hospital in the occupied Golan Heights.

Britain, like other members of the international community, has never recognised Israeli control of the area seized from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War.

In her resignation letter Ms Patel said: "While my actions were meant with the best of intentions, my actions also fell below the standards of transparency and openness that I have promoted and advocated."

The meetings, which took place without officials and were in relation to one of the most sensitive areas of foreign policy, led to Ms Patel apologising and being given a dressing down by the Prime Minister.

But subsequent disclosures added to pressure on Ms Patel, culminating in a meeting in Downing Street lasting about 30 minutes during which it was made clear that her cabinet career was over.

THE TIMES



AFP

Secret meetings: Priti Patel leaves Downing Street yesterday

Ex-deputy calls for ouster of Mugabes

AISLINN LAING
JOHANNESBURG

A former vice-president of Zimbabwe has fled the country in fear of his life, vowing to lead opposition against Robert Mugabe.

Emmerson Mnangagwa said the 93-year-old President planned to hand power to his wife Grace and a cabal of younger backers. Mr Mnangagwa said the group was acting all the behest of "foreign powers" and "plundering the country".

He said the ruling ZANU-PF party "is now controlled by undisciplined, egotistical and self-serving minnows who derive their power not from the people and party but from only two individuals in the form of the first family".

Mr Mnangagwa, 75, plans to head a coalition of opponents constituting the biggest challenge to Mugabe's 37-year grip on power since Morgan Tsvangirai launched the opposition Movement for Democratic Change in 1999.

Known as the Crocodile for aiding Mugabe's suppression of political foes, Mr Mnangagwa is thought to have backing from within the security forces, which have propped up Mugabe's regime.

He said he fled Zimbabwe after "incessant threats on my person, life and family by those who have attempted before through various forms of elimination including poisoning".

The former vice-president was treated in South Africa last month for what supporters say was an attempt to poison him with ice cream from the Mugabes' dairy. The President insisted his deputy suffered food poisoning.

Mr Muangagwa said: "Let us try our differences and build a new and prosperous Zimbabwe, a country that is tolerant of divergent views, a country that respects the opinions of others, a country that does not isolate itself from the rest of the world because of one stubborn individual who believes he is entitled to rule until his death."

He was sacked by the President this week after the succession battle between him and Mrs Mugabe, 52, burst into the open.

Zimbabwean media reported that Constantine Chiwenga, head of the defence forces, had also been sacked in a purge of senior ZANU-PF figures thought to back Mr Mnangagwa but he was rumoured to be refusing to leave his post. Another report suggested he had fled Zimbabwe with Mr Mnangagwa.

The developments back up a suggestion in leaked intelligence documents that Mr Mnangagwa had been negotiating with opposition parties, including Mr Tsvangirai's MDC, for years to form a transitional government in the event of Mugabe's death or resignation. He is thought to have met British diplomats in Zambia and extended an olive branch to thousands of white farmers ousted in violent land grabs in 2000 that sparked economic collapse.

The plan to oust Mugabe also has the backing of Zimbabwe's war veterans who spearheaded the land grabs. Christopher Mutsvangwa, the head of the veterans and an ally of Mr Mnangagwa, yesterday denounced Mrs Mugabe as "mad" and "without an iota of brains in her head".

Speaking in Johannesburg, he cited the "embarrassment" of her alleged attack on a South African model she believed was consorting with her sons, which caused a diplomatic incident.

THE TIMES

Human brain cells implanted into rodents

LONDON: Human brain tissue has been transplanted into the hearts of mice and rats in two experiments that open the door to the creation of a new kind of chimera.

Scientists found the pinhead-sized "plugs" of human brain cells not only grew extensive and lasting links with rodent neurons but also appeared to start firing as though they had become part of the animals' brains.

The research could be a powerful tool for studying how the brain works and how its disorders could be treated, experts say. However, it also raises ethical questions on the extent to which a human brain should be hybridised with another species.

In two separate studies that have yet to be peer reviewed, researchers found the lumps of human brain cells had survived and thrived in their new home.

Both teams began with human stem cells which were converted into neurons and grown into tiny 3D structures known as cerebral organoids. These blobs of tissue are routinely used in laboratories and are not thought to be capable of anything as sophisticated as thought or emotion.

One of the groups, led by Isaac Chen at the University of Pennsylvania, grafted the organoids into the visual cortices of ll adult rats. Two months later, the scientists discovered that the cells were still present in seven of the animals' brains, where they had formed connections stretching as far as 1.5mm.

The human tissue did not produce any electrical activity on its own, but it seemed to light up when the rats' eyes were stimulated, suggesting it might have somehow integrated with its new environment. A second study by Fred Gage at the Salk Institute in California involved a similar procedure in mice but no data has been published.

The scientists wrote in a brief description of the experiment that the human organoid had hooked up to "multiple regions of the mouse brain" as well as being fed by native blood vessels and seemed to fire electrically of its own accord. Under US law scientists may graft human organoids into the brains of animals but cannot transplant the stem cells from which the brain tissue is derived.

Roger Lemon, professor of neurophysiology at University College London and one of the paper's senior authors, said the two US transplant studies were important and legitimate but paved the way for much more controversial territory.

"The kind of things these guys are doing fall a long way short of the idea of human cells taking over the animal's brain," he said.

"The trouble with all these things is that once the door is open, you can come to all sorts of scenarios including the 100 per cent humanisation of an animal's brain, and all the ethical concerns that raises. But I don't think we are anywhere close to that with these reports."

The studies will be released at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Washington at the weekend.

THE TIMES

Pop star resists the Swift flow of streaming



ANNE STEELE
NEW YORK

Taylor Swift appears to be staking her reputation on CD sales.

While the music industry is watching to see if the pop star's new album can match the sales of her previous blockbuster, a bigger question for many concerns how her sixth studio effort, *Reputation*, will be made available when it comes out today.

The album is unlikely to be heard on streaming services when it's released, according to people familiar with the matter. Initial discussions indicated such a streaming blackout could last as little as a week or two after the album's release, according to one of these people, who said the final decision was up to Swift and her inner circle.

That group had yet to share its plans with many business partners. Swift's label, Big Machine Records, declined to comment on plans for the new album.

After releasing her previous album, *1989*, in 2014, Swift waited seven months before allowing any streaming services to carry it.

Three years later, however, streaming has overtaken download sales and CDs as the most popular way to listen to music, and it is unclear whether it would be feasible to keep the new album off Spotify AB, Apple Music and other services for as long.

Streaming is responsible for about 60 per cent of music consumption in the US this year, according to Nielsen Music, which measures sales and streams in units, rather than in dollars, and treats 1500 streams as the equivalent of one album sale.

All signs point to strong sales momentum ahead of today's release.

Reputation has already generated 400,000 pre-orders for digital and physical copies — more than double the figure for *1989*, according to Big Machine. That album was released when sales still generated more revenue than streaming in the US, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

Sales remain a huge opportunity for Swift. A superstar artist can receive up to 20 per cent of the proceeds from album sales.

In the first weeks after the release of a heavily promoted album like *Reputation*, that can make sales far more profitable than streaming, which generates royalties worth tiny fractions of a cent per listen. Over the long term, those micropayments can add up to big money for hit songs and albums.

Last week, streaming accounted for 75 per cent of total retail volume for *1989*, according to Nielsen.

While the singles from *Reputation* have not had the same chart success as those on *1989*, that does not appear to have diminished demand for the album, said David Bakula, a Nielsen Entertainment analyst.

The first four singles on the album indicate a more synth-heavy — and, at times, bass-heavy — brand of pop, while the set list includes a collaboration with singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and rapper Future.

Three of the same pop masterminds who worked on *1989*, Jack Antonoff, Max Martin and Shellback, are listed as producers.

Swift is using various incentives to encourage her loyal fan base to buy the new album on CD. Ordering a copy from her website can boost a buyer's chances of securing tickets to her coming concert tour.

Target says *Reputation* has generated more pre-orders than any album before it, and expects the album to be its biggest music release of the season.

The chain's biggest seller so far is Adele's *25*, which was held from streaming for the better part of the first year after it came out in 2015, when streaming became the biggest segment of the US music market.

Target is offering two different 72-page special-edition magazines featuring portraits, personal photos as well as poetry and paintings by Swift with each album purchase.

It expects many fans, who call themselves "Swifties", to buy two copies of the album to have both magazines, said Lee Henderson, a company spokesman.

"We look for a way to give fans something they can't get anywhere else," Mr Henderson said.

Until the middle of this year, none of Swift's music was available on Spotify, by far the most popular streaming service, with about twice as many users as the No 2, Apple Music.

Swift wanted her music to be available only to paying subscribers; Spotify insisted that all its users — including those who use its free, ad-supported option — be able to listen to it.

In June Swift put her entire catalogue on Spotify, including its free tier.

By then *1989* had sold 10 million copies worldwide, according to her management team.

It's too soon to say what keeping *Reputation* off streaming services would mean for its overall performance.

"This was going to be heavily purchased album anyway," said Nielsen's Mr Bakula.

Since Swift's fan base is largely made up of younger consumers who listen to music via streaming, she could effectively get paid twice for the same album, as fans buy a digital or physical copy of *Reputation* then continue to listen to it on the subscription services they typically use.

With or without streaming, Mr Bakula said, "it's going to be a blockbuster one way or another".

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Race to reshoot Getty scenes as Spacey erased from film

LOS ANGELES: In an unprecedented move, Kevin Spacey is being cut from Ridley Scott's finished film *All the Money in the World* and replaced by Christopher Plummer about a month before its release.

Plummer is commencing reshoots immediately in the role of J. Paul Getty. All of Spacey's scenes will be reshot.

Co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams are expected to participate. Scott, who is known to be an efficient director, is intending to keep the film's December 22 cinema release date.

The move came as longtime Boston television journalist Heather Unruh accused Spacey of sexually assaulting her son at a Massachusetts bar last summer.

Unruh said Spacey plied her 18-year-old son with drinks before reaching down his pants and grabbing his genitals. Her son told Spacey he was 21, she said.

"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, not just for my son but for the many others who have yet to speak their truth."

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, Unruh said, she spoke informally with the Nantucket sheriff and officially reported the matter only last week. Police are now conducting an investigation, she said.

Unruh first alluded to the incident in a tweet on 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.



Spacey



Plummer

All the Money in the World was set to have its world premiere at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles on November 16 but was pulled this week amid the sexual harassment reports surrounding Spacey, who has also been sacked from *House of Cards* and dropped by his talent agency and publicist.

All the Money in the World was primed for a plush awards-season release from Sony Pictures Entertainment and its advertising campaign, which features Spacey, has been public for about a month already. But its plans have been in question since allegations have surfaced against Spacey since Anthony Rapp came forward on October 29 to accuse the star of sexual misconduct 31 years ago.

The film chronicles the events surrounding the kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III and his mother's attempt to convince J. Paul Getty, his billionaire grandfather, to pay the ransom demanded.

The 87-year-old Plummer was Scott's first choice for the role of J. Paul Getty, but the director was pressured into casting a bigger name.

Plummer is probably best known for his role in *The Sound of Music*. He won his first Oscar in 2012 for the film *Beginners*.

AP, REUTERS

Smog shuts schools across north India

NEW DELHI: Schools closed across large swaths of northern India yesterday as pollution hit hazardous levels for the third day, with increasing calls for urgent government action to tackle what doctors are calling public health emergency.

Punjab's government said it was closing all 25,000 schools in the state for the rest of the week because of the acrid air blanketing northern India and parts of neighbouring Pakistan.

The decision came a day after New Delhi authorities said they were closing all 6000 schools in the capital until Sunday.

Low winds and the annual post-harvest burning of crop stubble in Punjab and neighbouring areas have caused the levels of dangerous pollutants in the air to spike to many times the levels considered safe.

Figures on the US embassy website showed levels of PM2.5 — the smallest particulates that cause most damage to health — spiked at more than 1000 on Wednesday in New Delhi, although by yesterday they had fallen to 590. The World Health Organisation says 25 is the maximum safe exposure over a 24-hour period.

Government advice urged anyone with breathing difficulties to remain indoors and said everyone should avoid strenuous activity.

The thick smog had also led to road accidents in northern India, reports said. Eight students were killed when a truck ploughed into them as they waited for a bus in Punjab.

The Times of India joined growing calls for government action to curb the chronic pollution, which the Indian Medical Association this week termed a public health emergency. It is the second year running that New Delhi — now the world's most polluted capital with air quality worse than Beijing — has faced such high levels of PM2.5.

"Delhi once again has become a veritable gas chamber with denizens finding it difficult to breathe," India's most-read English-language newspaper said in an editorial, blaming "political apathy" for the "catastrophe".

"It's high time the question is asked: Why can't authorities enjoying jurisdiction over the national capital of an aspiring great power ... come up with concrete measures to tackle the world's worst air pollution?" it said.

Since 2014, authorities in New Delhi have closed power plants temporarily and experimented with taking some cars off the road.

But the measures have had little effect. New Delhi's air quality typically worsens before the onset of winter as cooler air traps pollutants near the ground and prevents them dispersing into the atmosphere, a phenomenon known as inversion.

AFP



AFP

New Delhi residents have been urged to stay indoors

Kevin Spacey erased from upcoming Ridley Scott flick as personal brand turns toxic



By John Glenday
10 November 2017 08:30am

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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 Ptetzels 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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John Glenday is responsible for compiling The Drum's daily morning bulletin and ensuring that overnight breaking news is covered while you're still brushing your teeth. Can also make a mean cup of tea.

All by John

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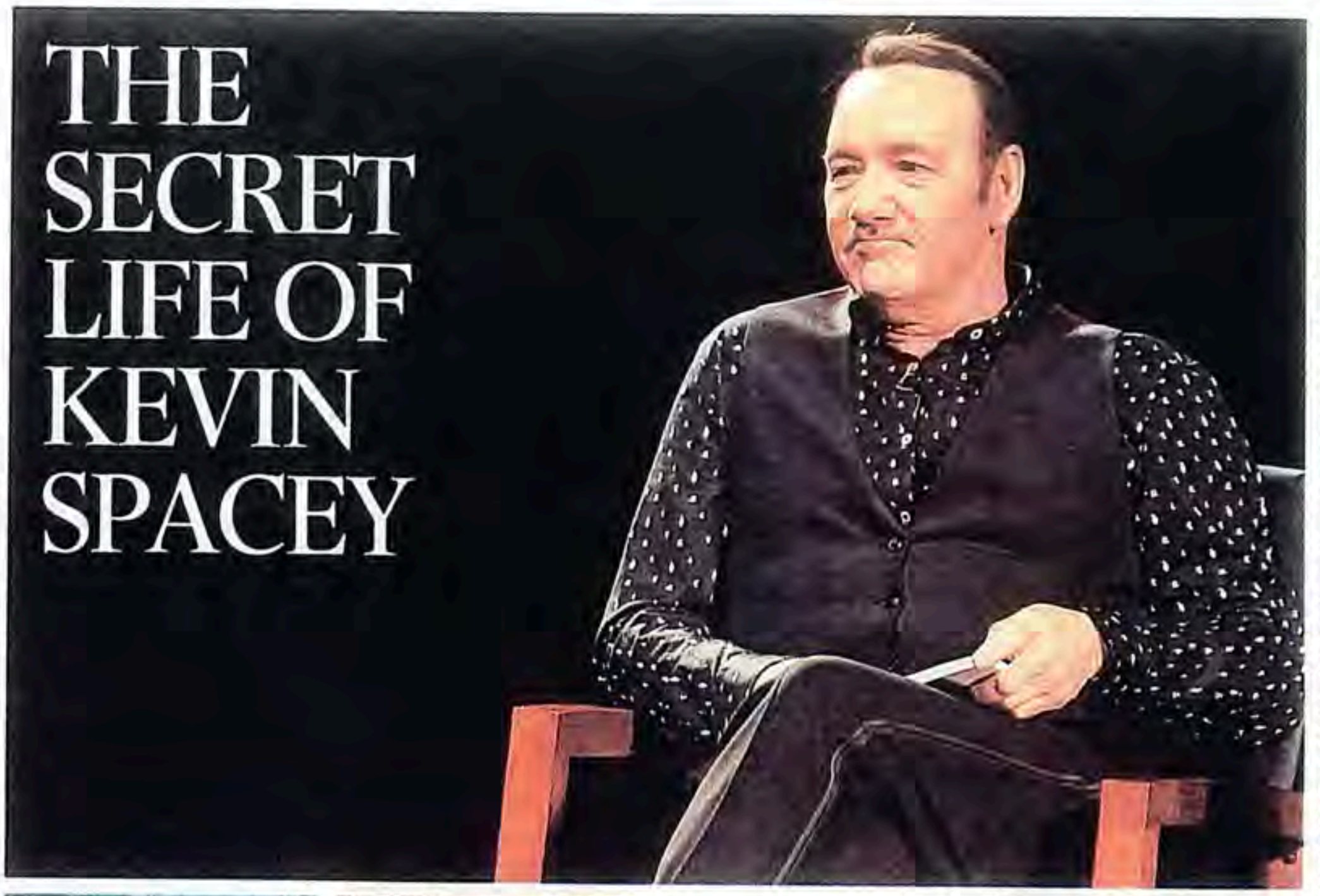
THE SECRET LIFE OF KEVIN SPACEY



Fame allows so much but not total immunity

CHRISSY ILEY
LOS ANGELES



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 '. No, no, no, not in this post-'einstein age of Hollywood.

British publicist and fame guru Borkowski, author of *The rmula*, says scandals of proportion have been on in Hollywood since the words silver and screen appeared together.

"In 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."

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.

Apparently 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 'anding by him. Sony obviously it had too much to lose because o in the world would pay to see a pedophile play John Paul Getty? 'n the Hollywood streets is ot only deserves to lose but should be castrated. '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 enraging 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.









WIREIMAGE, AP, GETTY IMAGES, AFP

Kevin Spacey last year, main picture; above, from left, in *Richard III* at London's Old Vic, with Ansel Elgort in the film *Baby Driver*, as Jean Paul Getty in a trailer for *All the Money in the World* and with *House of Cards* co-star Robin Wright at a Netflix Q&A in 2013

> 'The more success he had with *House of Cards*, the worse he became. It just pushed him over the top'
>
> A PERSONAL SOURCE



Anthony Rapp, whose claims have set off a chain of allegations

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.

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.

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.

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 at 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 coward. 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.

Odds of finding a life partner favour men more as they notch up passing years

The ratios around the country differ but older single women tend to outnumber the blokes



Men and women of Australia, I have an important announcement. Sufficient data has been released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to construct a statistical model — stay with me here — that determines the ratio between the number of single and married or de facto adults across the life cycle. No matter your age, what are your chances of finding love — or lust — with a similarly aged single person of the opposite sex?

In September I looked at bachelor hot spots for the young and beautiful in the 25 to 34 age cohort: single women, please make your way to Melbourne's Fawkner or Lucindale in South Australia, which are among this nation's hottest bachelor hot spots. Or so it would seem from census results.

In the 25 to 34 age group the odds governing partner selection are very much in women's favour: just 554,000 single women against 646,000 single men. It is this blunt ratio that determines each gender's chances for love. More single men than single women allows reproductive women the exquisite luxury of choice. Evolutionist Charles Darwin would call these odds natural selection that leads to an overall improvement in the survival of the human race. Theoretically, dud dudes don't get to pass on their genes.

This is all well and good for the reproductive stage in the life cycle, but what happens later in life? Women have the upper hand in the partnering stakes in youth but later in life the underlying demographics favour men. Mother Nature must have a sense of humour or a sense of fair play.

In the 45 to 54 age group there are 424,000 single women and 346,000 single men. Middle-aged single men can pick and choose partners from their own age cohort or compete for an even younger candidate for their affection. By 55 to 64, the odds deteriorate further for single women: 406,000 single women versus 298,000 single men.

Don't blame me for these figures; I'm just the messenger. But I am here to help.

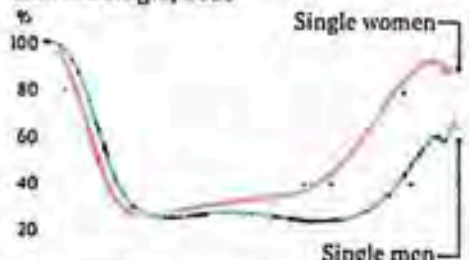
There may be an undersupply of single men relative to single women from the late 30s onwards, but this is a problem only if you don't know where to look. Middle-aged single men cluster; they hang out in the same places. All older single women need do is find the cluster, and the odds of finding a romantic relationship are improved. Who needs Tinder when you have access to the census?

The Demographics Group's director of research, Simon Kuestenmacher, has scanned the continent to find the cities and postcodes where the odds of finding love later in life are best.

Nationally, there are 82 single men aged 45 to 54 per 100 single women, but in Darwin the ratio is 100:100. The middle-aged partnering market must be sizzling in the Top End with 2583 single women and 2584 single men aged 45 to 54. But it's a different story at the other end of the continent in cold and lonely Melbourne, with 84,000 single women and 64,000 single men producing a ratio of 76 middle-age single men per 100 middle-aged single women.

Darwin is dominated by the military and the energy industry, both of which tend to favour men, whereas Melbourne offers access to corporate head offices as well as to education and health services, which tend to favour women.

Share of population by age that are single, 2016



Singles ratio
Number of men to women in the 45-54 age group

Darwin	100
Adelaide	86
Perth	82
Hobart	82
Brisbane	79
Sydney	78
Canberra	78
Melbourne	76

Source: ABS Census 2016

Of course this summation of the older singles market simply presents the raw numbers in each city. The numbers include singles who are gay as well as others who may be perfectly happy with their relationship status.

However, it is assumed the proportion of singles not inclined to partner up with a member of the opposite sex is broadly the same for each gender, which means the logic of the singles ratio is still mightily relevant to the issue of partner selection.

We have mapped the distribution of older singles across each capital city and it shows an overall wash of more single women than single men in the 45 to 54 market, which is to be expected given the national figures. There is a powerful and, I suspect, painful story to be told about the breakdown of relationships later in life that is evidenced in the census results. There's a lot of singles later in life and each of them has a story to tell.

Even so there are some — admittedly modest — clusters of middle-aged single men in each capital city. (Maybe there's no need to move to Darwin?) These clusters include the Perth CBD, where there are 77 single men aged 45 to 54 and just 37 single women.

In Melbourne the older singles hot spot is Bunyip near Pakenham, where there are 24 single women and 40 single men. Bunyip's older single women can't complain. There's plenty of older single male product on offer. In Sydney the hot spot is, perhaps not surprisingly, Darlinghurst, where there are 970 single men and just 484 single women. In Brisbane single older blokes bunker down in Fortitude Valley, where they outnumber single women by a ratio of 337 to 226.

> We scanned the continent to find the cities and postcodes where the odds of finding love later in life are best

In other parts of our major cities there is noticeable absence of older single men. In the public housing estates of Sydney's Campbelltown, for example, there are 75 single women aged 45 to 54 and just 24 single men. In Melbourne it's a different story: in the genteel suburb of Balwyn there are 125 middle-aged single women and just 49 men in the same situation. In Brisbane there are 370 single women aged 45 to 54 in Calamvale and just 181 single men.

In some ways the narrative of a single existence later in life is to be expected. Single men in their late 40s and early 50s huddle together in the gay suburbs of Sydney (Darlinghurst) and Melbourne (Abbotsford) or give themselves over to work by clustering in or near the CBD in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Older single men also cluster in mining communities and in frontier towns such as Karratha and Darwin and in rural communities that women are disinclined to move to or to live in, such as Naracoorte, Jindabyne and Tumbarumba. I suspect this isn't so much a female rejection of the men in these areas as it is a commercial decision based on a perceived absence of work options for women.

Perhaps the most curious outcome of this trawl through the ways in which older singles organise their lives is the clustering of older single women in large country towns surrounded by an ocean of older single men. When a relationship breaks down in the city the female usually remains with the house and the kids, as in Campbelltown, Balwyn and Calamvale. The men in this situation gravitate to a rented apartment in the CBD or inner city. In the country it's a different story. Woman leave the farm and move into town, creating an island of older singles perhaps working in health, education or business services.

Rural Australia is awash with towns functioning as singles islands, including Horsham (population 16,000), Rockhampton including Yeppoon (18,000) and Mount Gambier (29,000). All three towns are sufficiently large to support a diverse employment base and allow separated husbands and exes reasonable access to children. Horsham has 271 single women aged 45 to 54 and 207 single men. In the surrounding communities of Murtoa, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera, there are 30 per cent more older single men than single women.

Australia's admittedly shallow reserves of middle-aged single men are thinly scattered across the farmlands or clustering here and there for military or mining purposes. Rural communities must be marked if not skewed by the significant and growing social issue of the breakdown of familial relationships. Only in the city is the story different and where men must seek out alternative digs.

I suspect there is much unhappiness and angst at different times in the life cycle when Australians realise their relationship isn't working. Based on census figures, I suspect this is from the mid-30s onwards, leading to angst across the spectrum of middle age. Perhaps I need to review married couples through the life cycle to restore your faith that some Australians really do manage to raise a family and stay together through good times and bad.

Bernard Salt is a twice weekly columnist with The Australian. Research by Simon Kuestenmacher.
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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

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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.

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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, t 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.

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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)

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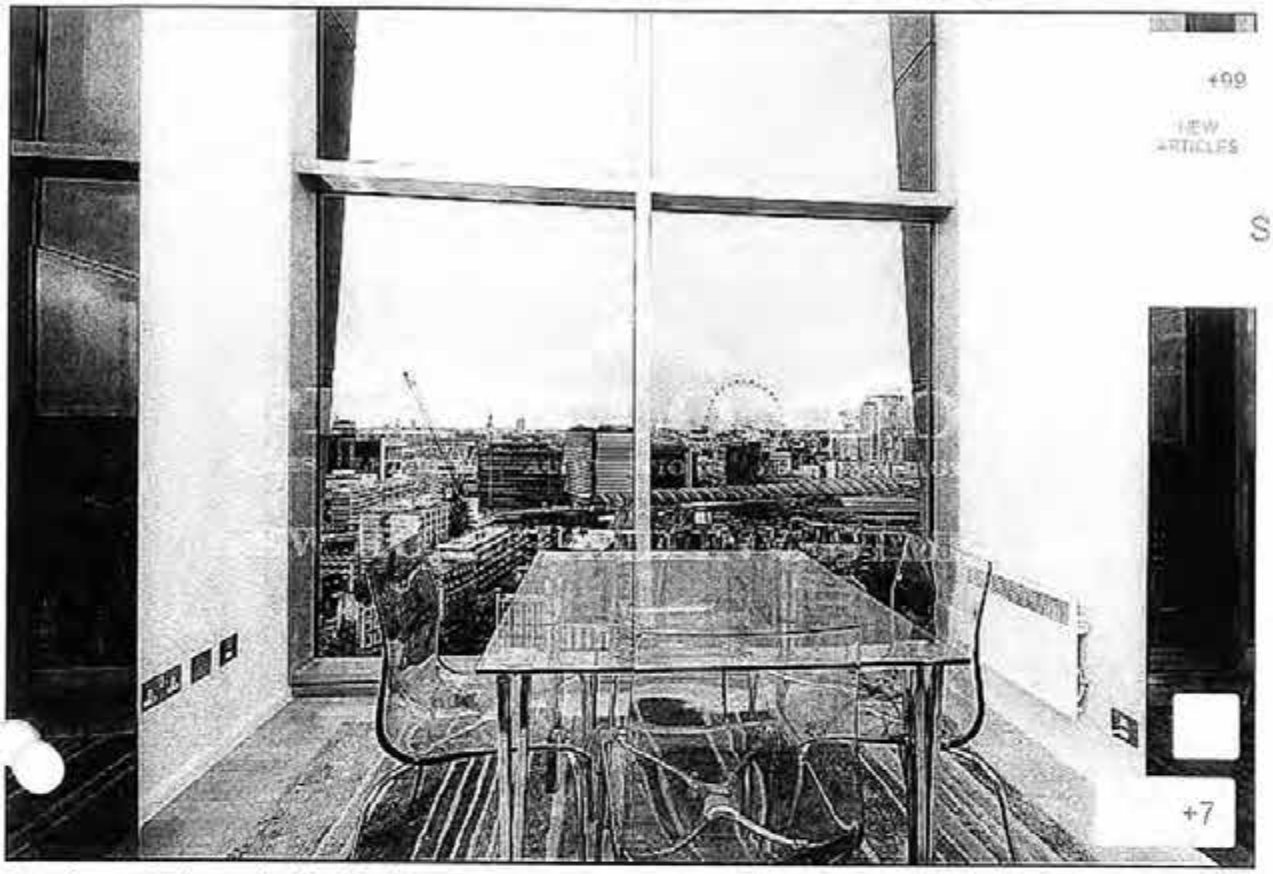
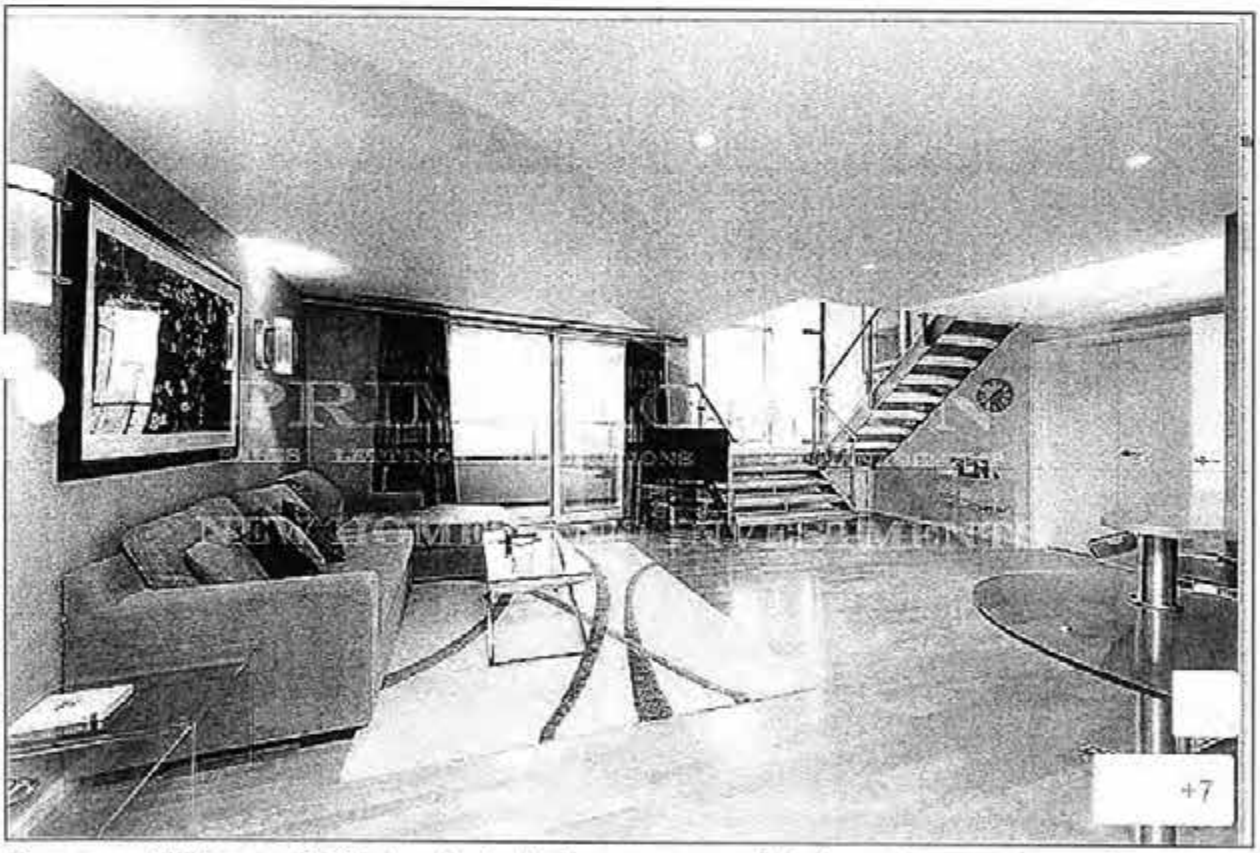


Spacious: He bought the flat (similar to the one pictured) in 2009 while he was artistic director of The Old Vic Theatre in central London with panoramic views across the city



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

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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'

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And he made himself feel more at home by installing a stage door as his fro 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 e.

'But then on some occasions he'd be just like everybody else and walk out of the front door and down to Waterloo.

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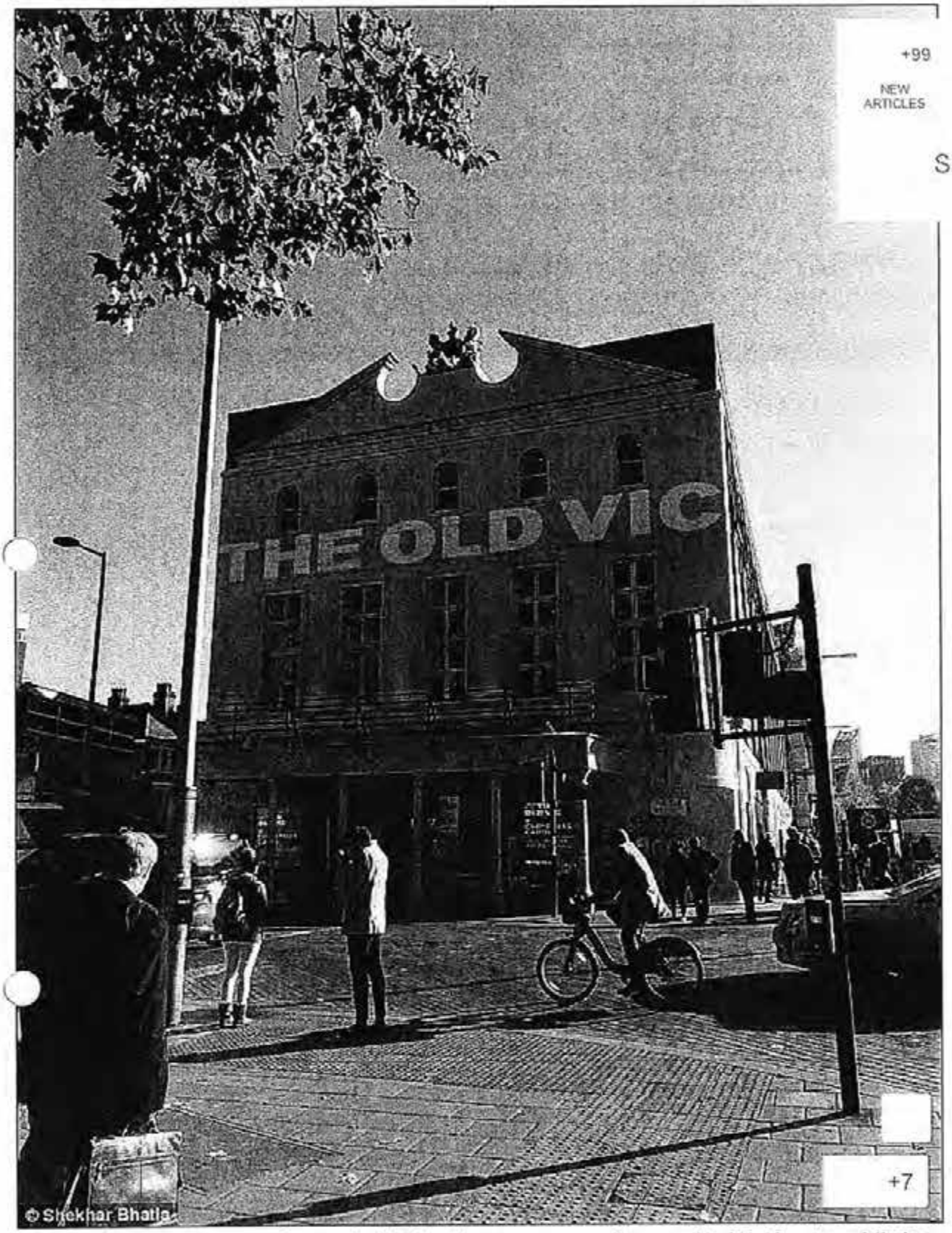
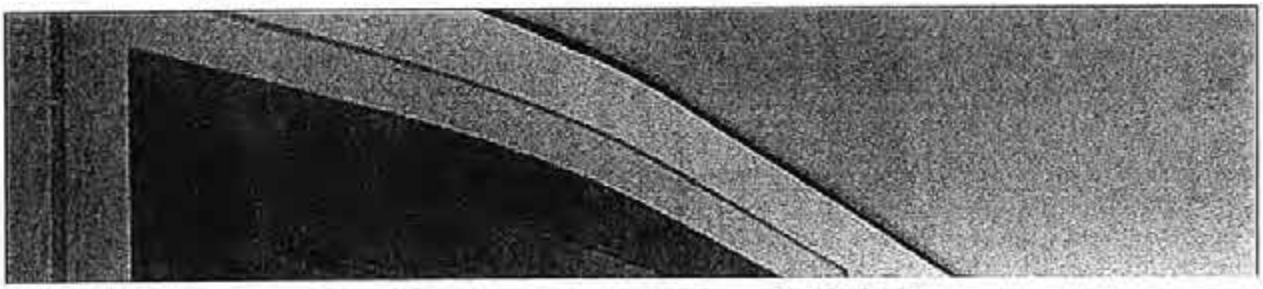


Claims: Three actors came forward claiming they were sexually assaulted by the star while he was artistic director at The Old Vic Theatre



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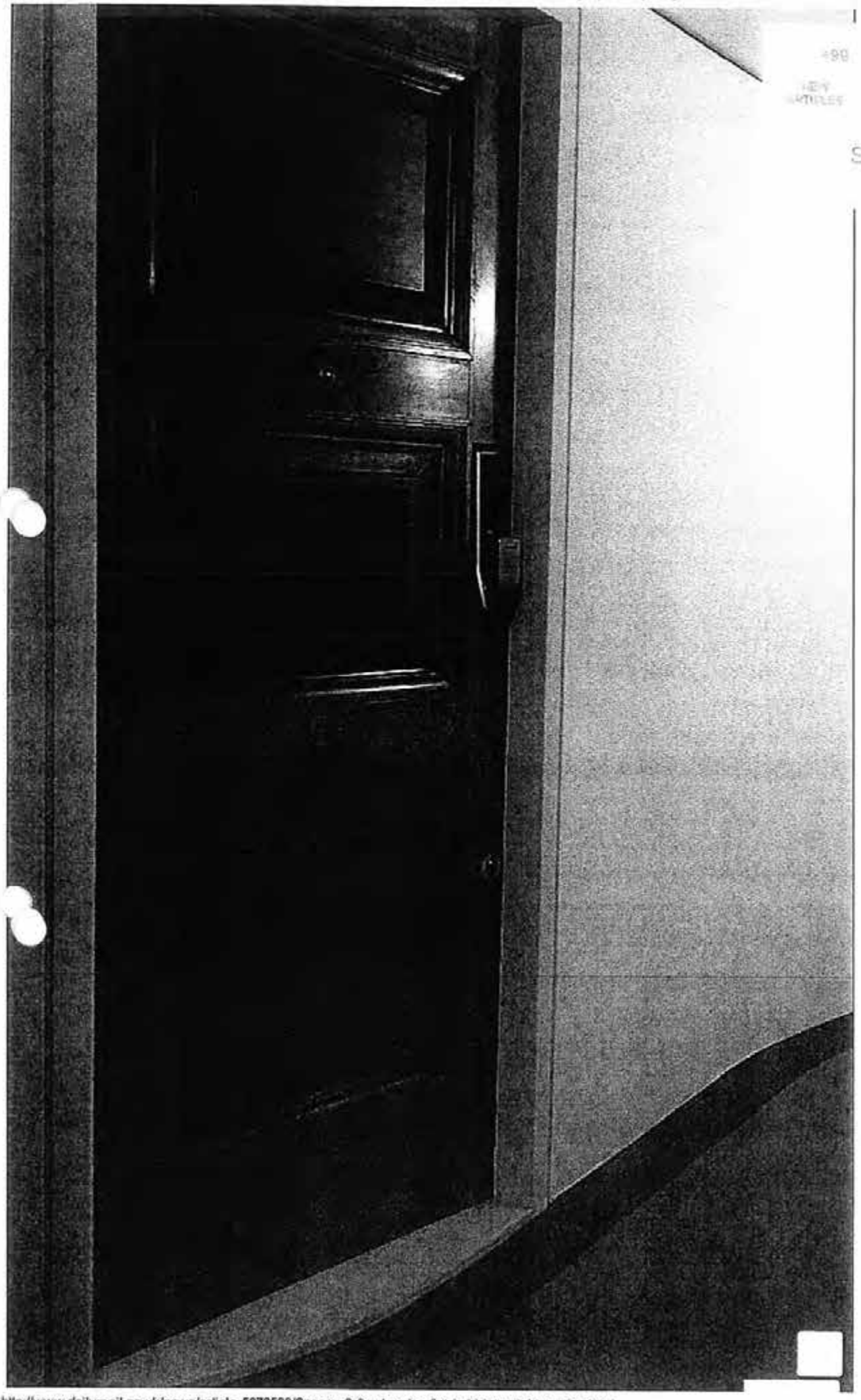

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Spacey's London home was put into the name of an off shore company in 2012 by Sp his name does not appear as the owner

'But he'd have pretty wild parties and there was a lot of drink. These parties attended by mostly men, but there was never any trouble or anything like th 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.



Spacey has battled sexual impropriety claims since Anthony Rapp accused him of trying to seduce him in 1986 when he was 14 years old

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 that 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 caved in.'

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.

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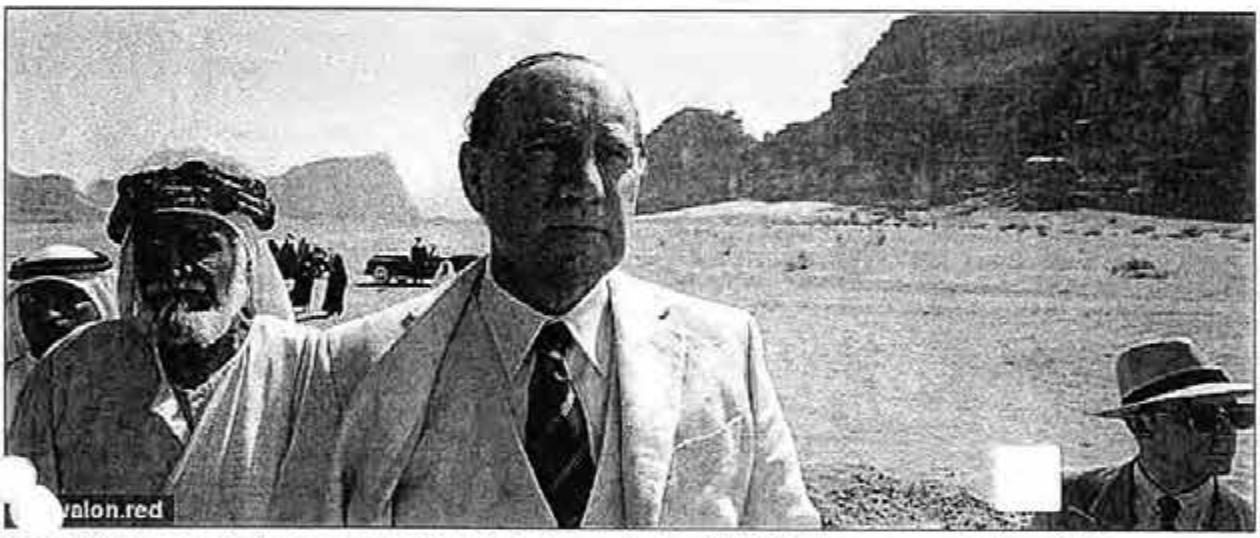

Axed: Since the claims emerged, entertainment giant Netflix has severed ties with Spacey, who has also been cut from the Hollywood blockbuster 'All the Money in the World' (pictured)

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.

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THE AUSTRALIAN

Spacey scandal unleashes toxic wildfire in Hollywood

Kevin Spacey at Wallis Annenberg Centre for the Performing Arts last year. Picture: WireImage

CHRISSY 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 film *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.

parently 87-year-old Plummer was director Ridley Scott's first choice for the role but Scott was told he needed a ger 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.

Kevin Spacey performs a scene from William Shakespeare's *Richard III* at the Old Vic Theatre in London. Picture supplied.

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 enraging 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 /ard. 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.



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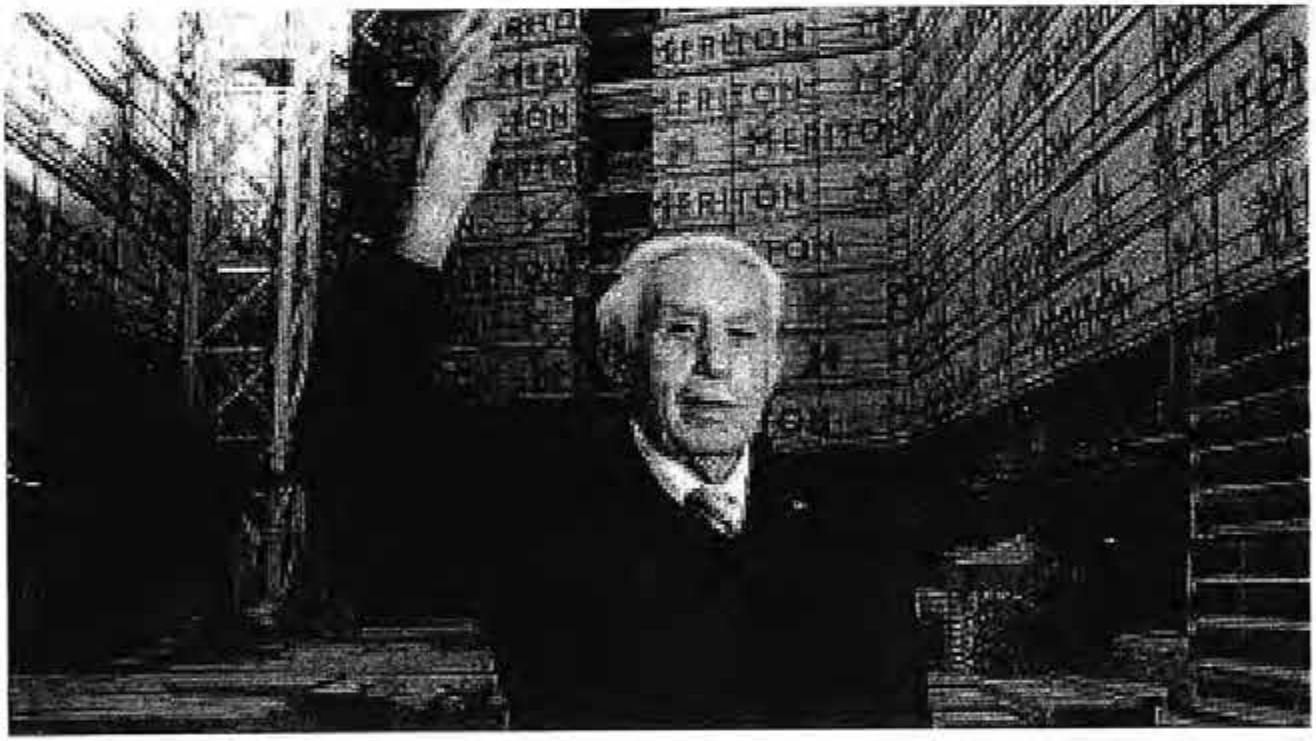

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The tough Sydney apartment market has led Harry Triguboff to put one of his prized hotels on the market.

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Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

'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 f 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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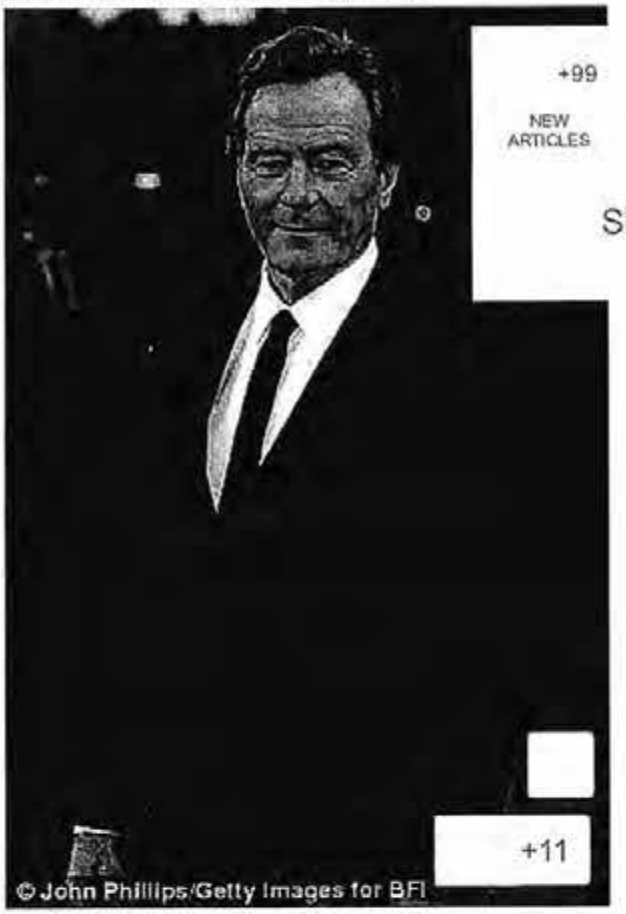
Bryan Cranston said on Friday he believes **Kevin Spacey**'s career is over because of allegations he sexually assaulted over a dozen men.

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**.

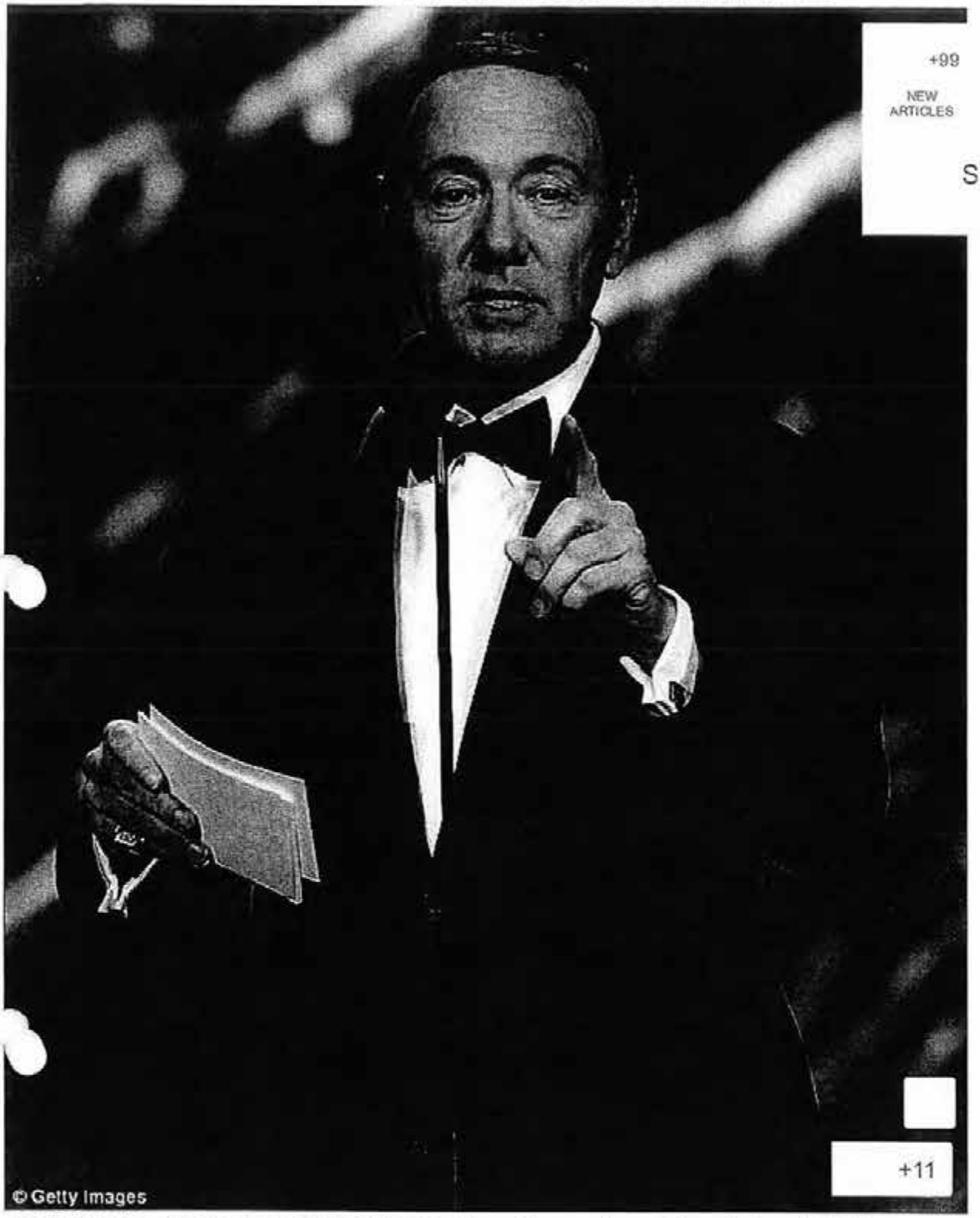
Earlier this week, it was learned that Spacey's scenes from an upcoming Ridley Scott film were removed just six weeks before it is due to be released.



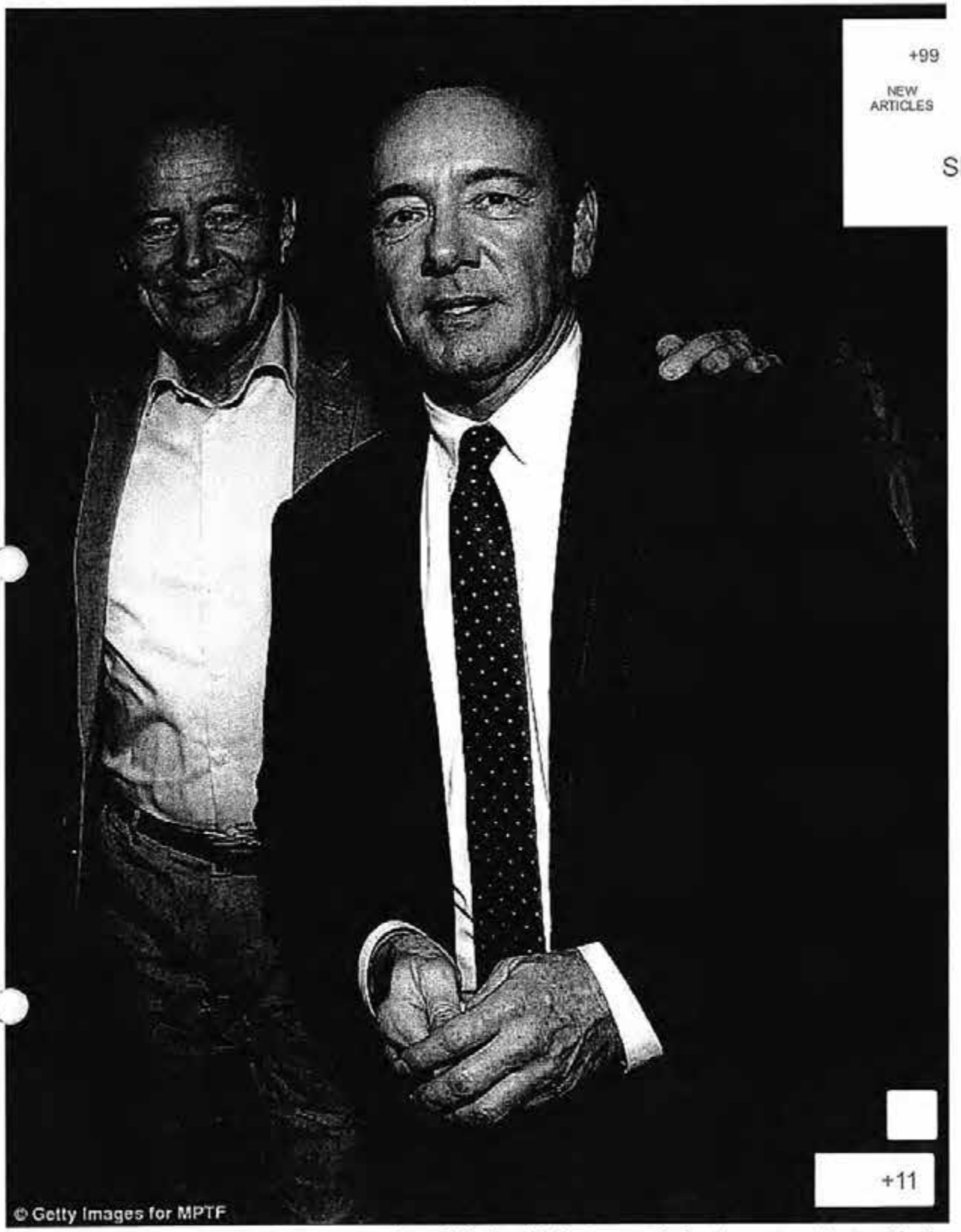
Bryan Cranston said on Friday he believes Kevin Spacey's career is over because of allegations he sexually assaulted over a dozen men

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.

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'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 oney In The World (above), will have his character's scenes be re-shot

Kevin Spacey scenes reshot in Ridley Scott flick

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He says that the abuse and harassment is normally aimed at the most vulner 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.

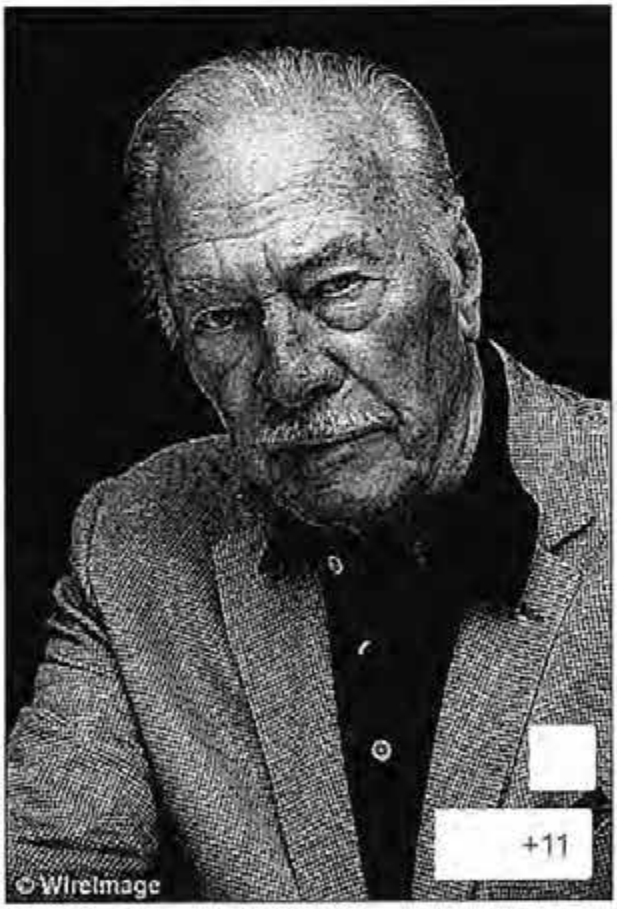
'The silver lining is we're not accepting behavior like that just because it's the way it's always been.'

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.



Christopher Plummer, 87, will replace Spacey as Getty in the film

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.

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In the same statement, Spacey acknowledged that he was a homosexual – v drew sharp criticism from gay rights advocates who accused him of trying t attention away from sexual assault allegations by coming out of the closet a playing 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

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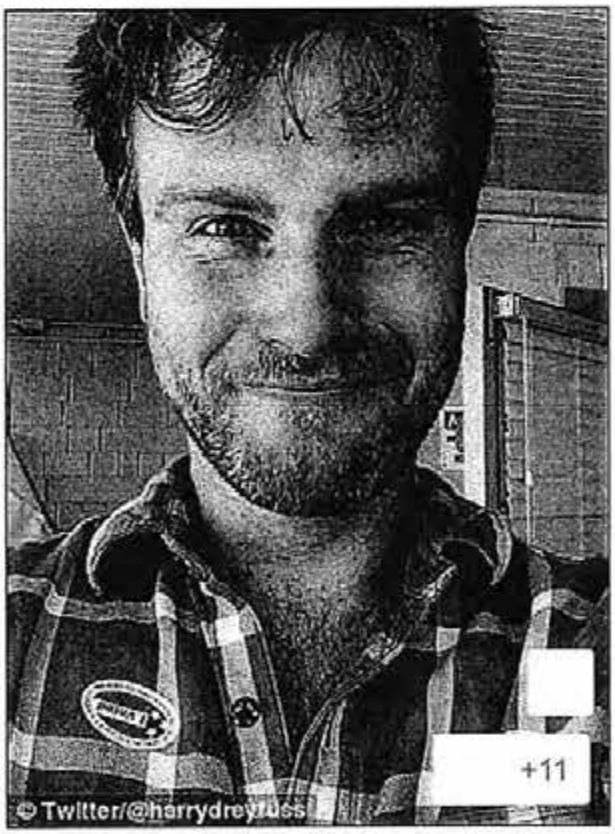
Documentary filmmaker Tony Montana also came forward with allegations that Spacey groped him





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.

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On Wednesday, Heather Unruh, a former Boston television news anchor, held a 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



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New Kevin Spacey accuser claims attack was 'certainly more than a grope'

Published November 10, 2017

FoxNews.com

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, told 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 "likely 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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Spacey in the wilderness: Disgraced s the $36,000-a-month sex-rehab clini 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 wal**
- **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 abuse or harassment dating 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 dese men came forward accusing him of sexual abuse or harassment that dates back years

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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 ad

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 w light blue t-shirt.

At one point throughout the day, he was spotted wearing a black hooded sweatshirt v mat.



Kevin Spacey was spotted for the first time on Saturday at The Meadows rehab clinic in Arizon month for sex addiction treatment

The actor's representatives said last week that he was 'taking the time necessary to se 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 patie and 'expressive arts' to try and deal with their issues.

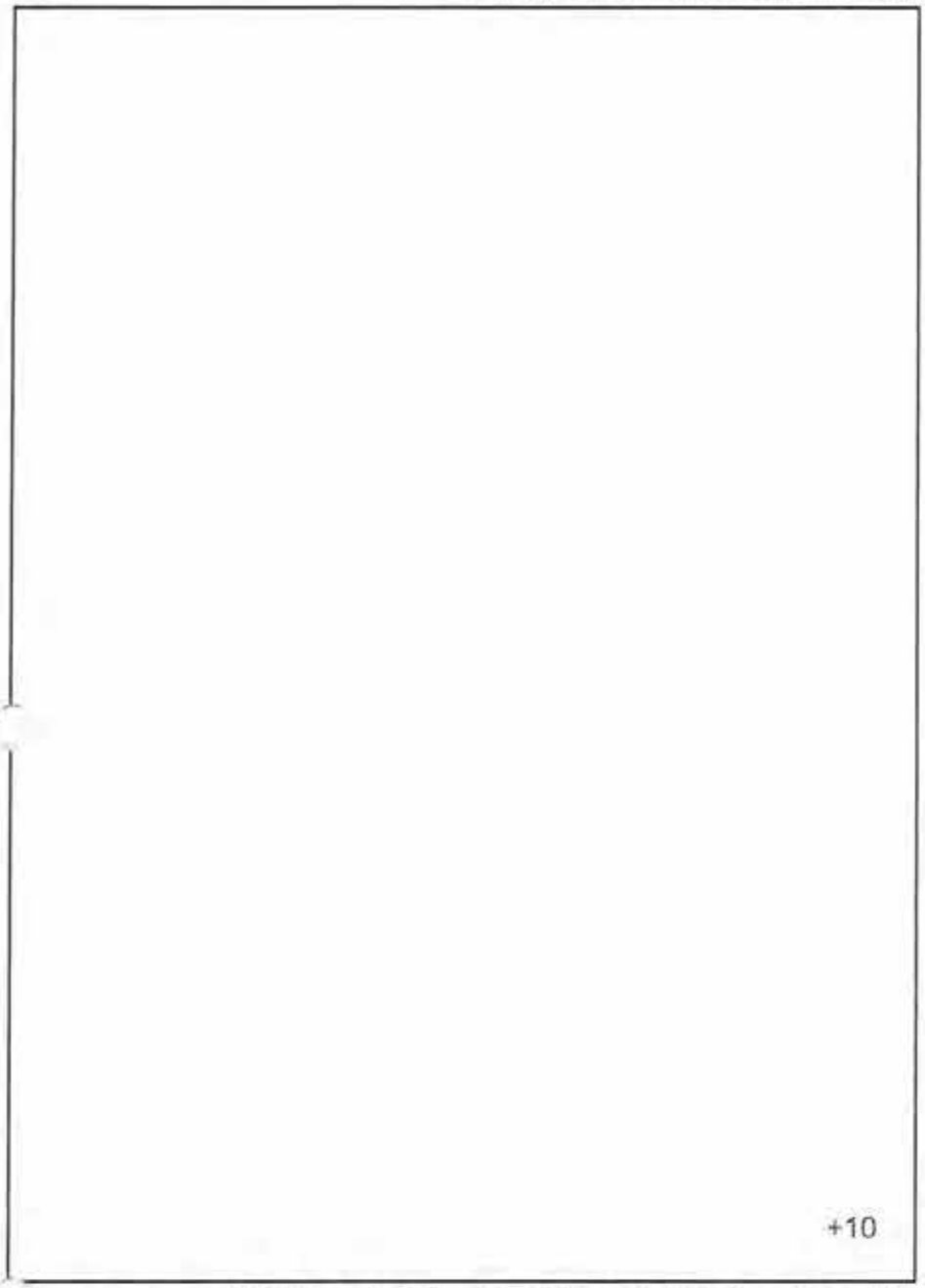
Patients also commit to having no sex for eight weeks as part of the program that incl therapy, one-on-one counseling, yoga and horseback riding.

The House of Cards actor is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthor allegation that he came onto him when he was just 14-years-old following a party at S

Rapp said the actor, who was 26 at the time, had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride him in the alleged 1986 incident.

11-374

Spacey was spotted carrying a yoga mat and water bottle as he walked through the facility wit hooded sweater over his head





pacey covered his head with a black baseball hat as he walked through the facility, which cl addiction treatment program in the US

11-376

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 so
'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 wo inappropriate drunken behavior,' Spacey said.

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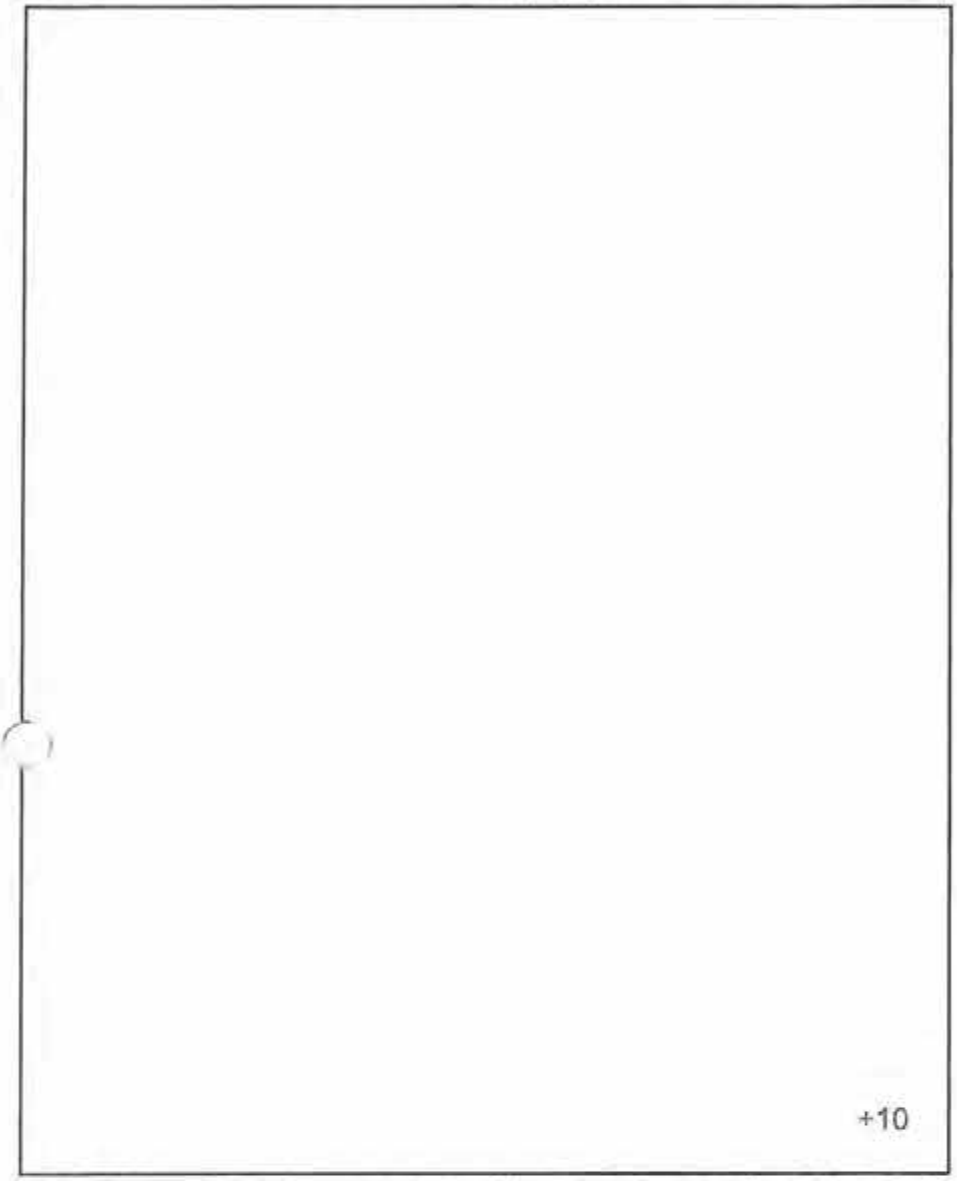
In the days that followed, Spacey was hit with a string of sex abuse allegations from o have come forward to allege that Spacey either harassed, assaulted, or attempted to accusers said the alleged incidents took place when they were teenagers.

One of his accusers claimed that Spacey grabbed his penis and chased him around - an assistant to request sex on set.

Harry Dreyfuss, the son of Richard Dreyfuss, has also alleged that Spacey groped him 2008 when he was a high school senior.

The shamed Oscar-winner appeared to be carrying books and folders throughout the day as h





The House of Cards actor is seeking treatment after Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp 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 prograr

Gentle Path hopes to cure Weinstein and Spacey of sex addiction

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The elite Arizona facility where Spacey is seeking treatment is popular among celebri such as Tiger Woods, Elle Macpherson, Kate Moss and Selena Gomez.

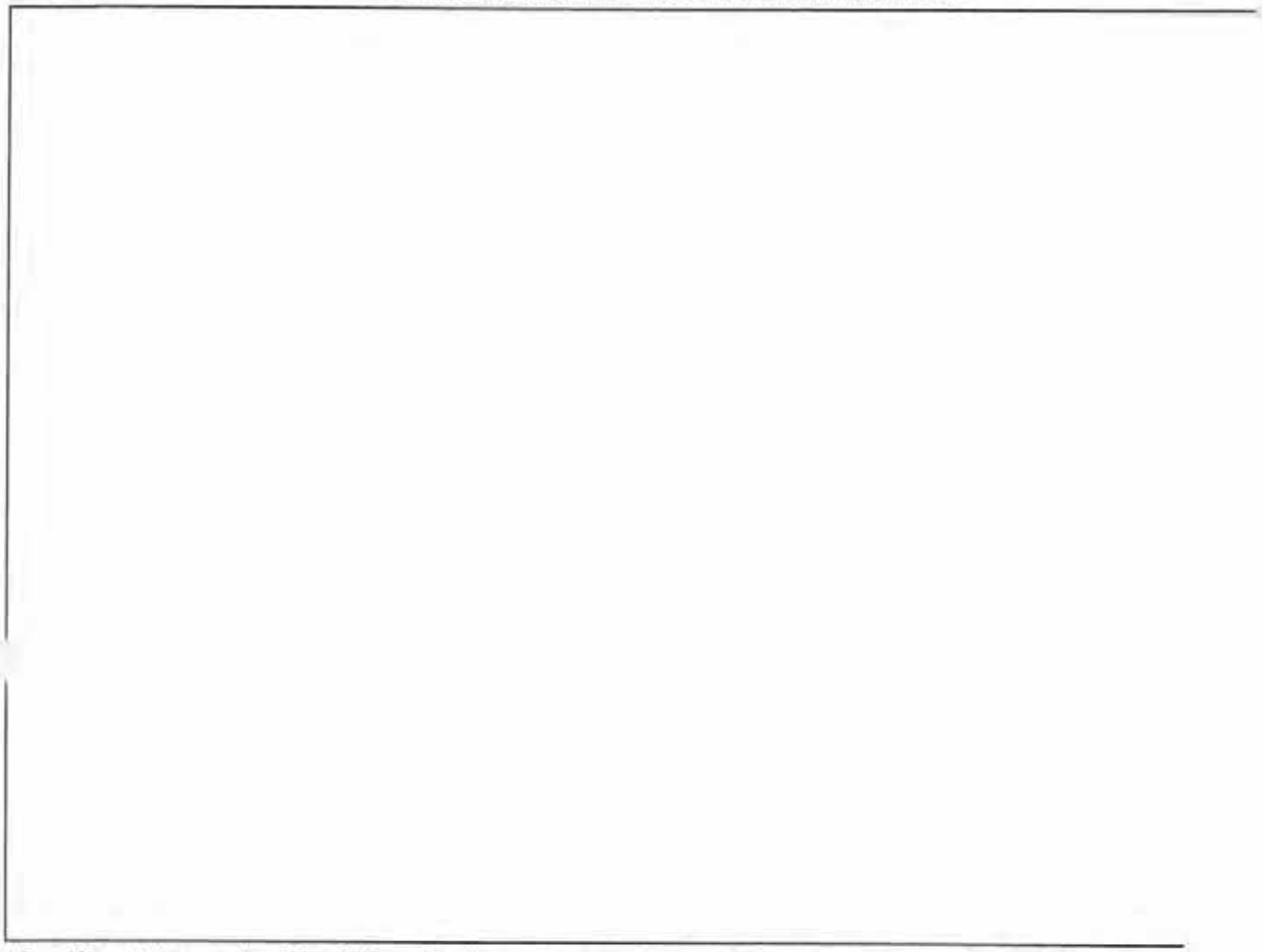
It was reported earlier this month that alleged serial assaulter Harvey Weinstein was a Meadows.

Netflix revealed they had cut ties with Spacey after the numerous allegations of sexua were leveled against him.

His talent agency Creative Arts Agency, as well as his publicist, have also parted ways

It has also since emerged that Spacey's scenes from an upcoming Ridley Scott film 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 Th 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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Sam, London, 2 months ago

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

Sheila, 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 $'s, but as long as the accuser can enjoy t has



hypnochic, 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 oik 'wishes' he was someone else!



Michey, toronto, Canada, 2 months ago

Harvey and spacey in the same facitly, 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 momen Not one bit.



Michey, toronto, Canada, 2 months ago

just another illusion



Livvy, Gloucester, United Kingdom, 2 months ago

If I rob a bank and claim that I have a money addiction, could I be sent to a cash rehab?



mordecai.scrunge, Denver, United States, 2 months ago

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.

11-385



denis07, 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



Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright captured during a scene on series House of Cards. Image credit: Getty Images
Share
17th Nov 2017
by Jessica Arrowsmith
Celebrity News

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 he now chooses to "live as a gay man."

Read the full statement below:

I have a lot of respect and admiration for Anthony Rapp as an ac I'm beyond horrified to hear his story. I honestly do not remembe 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 fc what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, a I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him ε these years.

This story has encouraged me to address other things about my know that there are stories out there about me and that some ha been fueled by the fact that I have been so protective of my priv. those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships witl men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters witl throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I wai deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining 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 Cavazos shared his personal encounter on Facebook, stating that Spacey groped 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," Cavazos 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 designates 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."

Media 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 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. 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 Dreyfuss, actor and son to Richard Dreyfuss, alleged that Spacey touched him inappropriately in 2008 at the age of 18 in an essay to *BuzzFeed News*. Dreyfuss shared, "Over the course of about 20 seconds, centimetre by centimetre, Kevin crawled his hand from my thigh over toward my crotch," he said. "My mind went blank."

"I thought I was protecting everyone. I was protecting my dad's career. I was protecting Kevin, who my dad surely would have tried to punch. 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 Ebenhoch, who met Spacey while working on the set of Outbreak, 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.

vember 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 e with Spacey in the film is set to be reshot commencing 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 addition, while also specialising in treatment for panic and anxiety disorders and alcohol and drug addiction.

The facility charges USD$28,000 (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 ficient accountability."

. 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 no formal action be taken," the release said, adding that Spacey's "stardom 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 Clarry, 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 apologizes. Inappropriate behavior 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, at any level. We want anyone who works here to feel confident, valued and proud to be part of The Old Vic family."

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CO-STAR SHOCKED BY SPACEY BEHAVIOUR

KRIS CRANE

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 about the older 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



Ansel Elgort and Kevin Spacey in Baby Driver.

ways of the industry are no longer acceptable or in life in general," he said when asked about Spacey. "The world should be a safer place where sexual harassment is not acceptable."

Elgort, 23, was with his 21-year-old ballet dancer girlfriend Violetta Komyshan at the awards and said the pair were keen to see some national parks before leaving.

GQ RED CARPET
SYDNEY CONFIDENTIAL P20-21

Baby Driver star Ansel Elgort with Violetta Komyshan at the GQ Men Of The Year Awards. He said Kevin Spacey's alleged behaviour was "unacceptable". Picture: Christian Gilles

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 prepare devastating assaults, the federal government's financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC will train employees in sectors with constant money movement to look out for suspicious transactions.

"The Bali bombings, which killed over 200 people, were financed by $US70,000 ($92,000). In the scheme of the global financial system that 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 was developed with input from US agency the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network as well as academics and industry experts. Over the next fortnight, participants will learn about money laundering, organised crime, terrorist groups and terrorism financing, as well as the misuse of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. It also includes financial analytical tools and techniques to prepare participants to identify money laundering and terrorism financing patterns, trends and risks.

"We have to look for the danger signs. Where there are movements of money looking to finance terror, we have to be looking at small amounts," Mr Keenan said.

The Star provided speakers for the course, along with MoneyGram, ANZ, Betfair and Melbourne's Crown Casino, with participants including workers from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and financial sectors.

"Since we raised the terror threat level in 2014 we have stopped 13 attacks, the most recent one being the attempted downing of the Etihad jet," Mr Keenan said. "The challenge has never been greater. Part of the intelligence is the financial intelligence."

SEXY SHELTON TOPS LIST

COUNTRY music superstar Blake Shelton has been named the Sexiest Man Alive in People magazine's annual list in the US.

When asked what the award meant to him, Shelton (right) said: "I've been ugly my whole life. If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it!" He then added: "I'm not going to treat this like Hugh Jackman or one of those guys who's humble about it."



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NOVEMBER 17 2017

Old Vic says 20 men made allegations against Kevin Spacey

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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.

CONTINUE

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.

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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.

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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.

Reuters

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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 SPILLETT, CRIME CORRESPONDENT FOR MAILONLINE
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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

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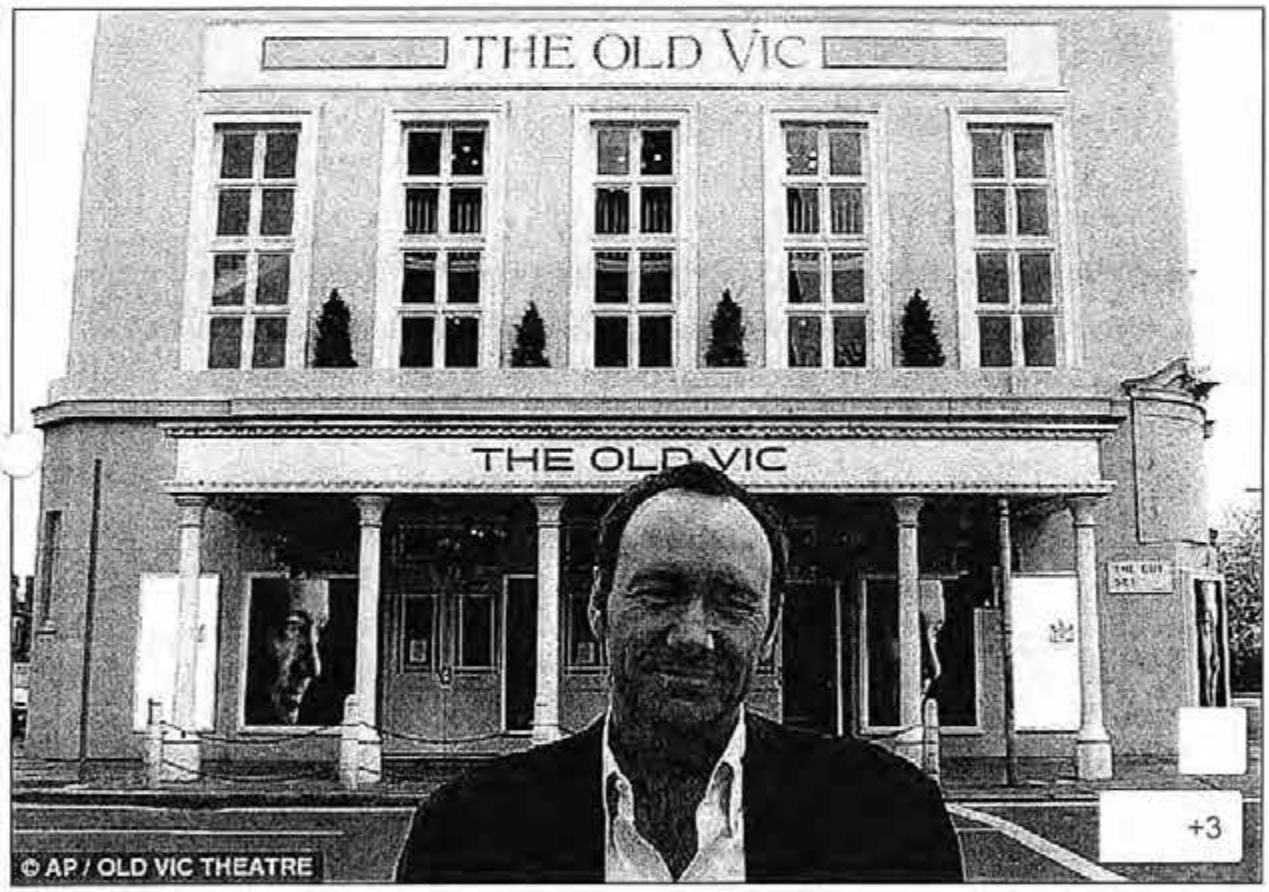
assault to the Metropolitan Police Service.

'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 hom woke to find himself being abused.

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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

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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 58-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



0:00 / 5:23

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Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

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

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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.

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Netflix already announced that the upcoming season would be the show's la
following the multiple accusations against Spacey, and he is expected to be
out of the final season.

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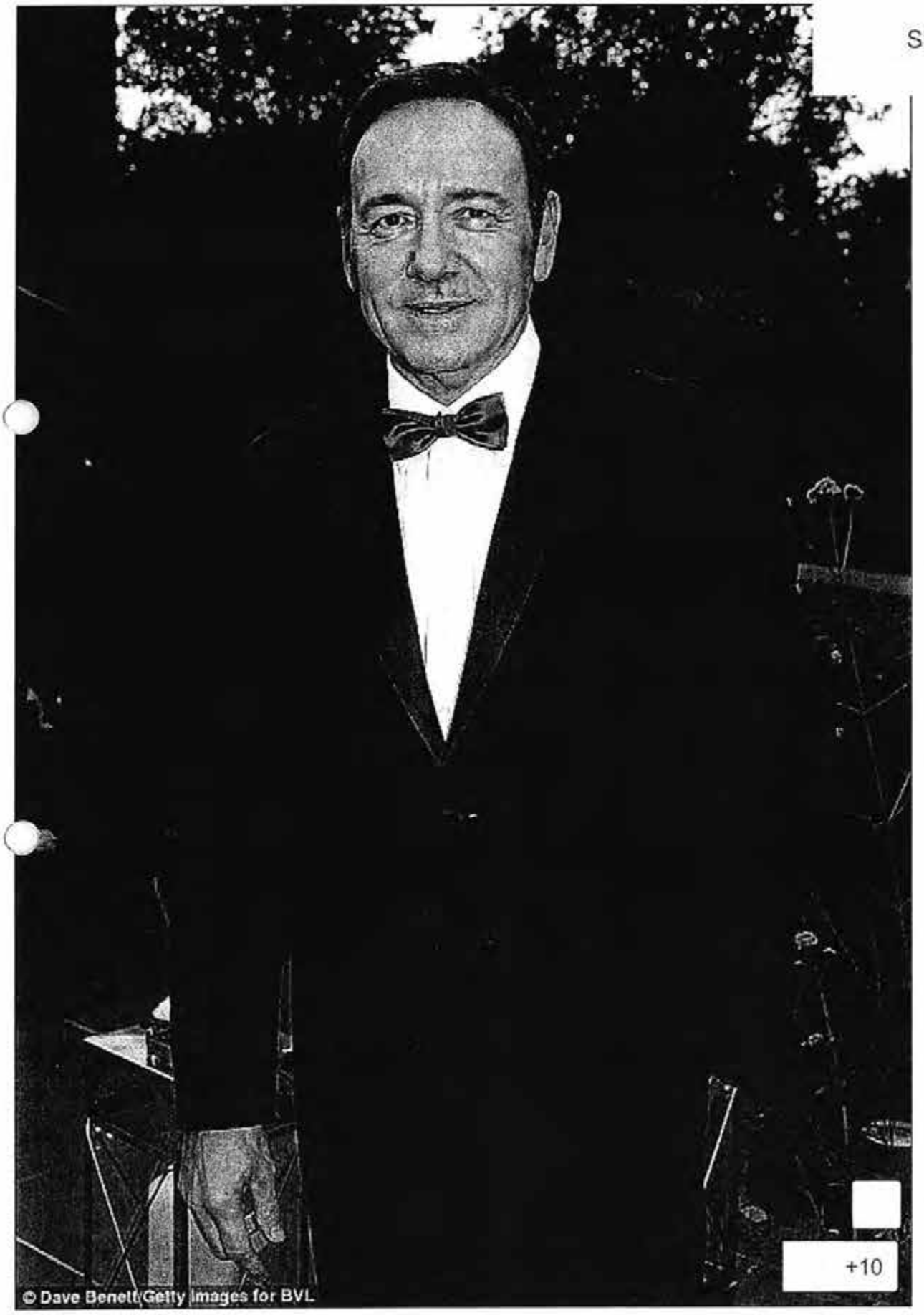
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House of Cards production continues to be delayed amidst the sexual assault revelat' surrounding Kevin Spacey (pictured here)

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At least 15 young men have come forward to say that he sexually assaulted c attempted to rape them.

'These last two months have tested and tried all of us in ways none of us cou 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 maintains her silence on the sex abuse scandal.



Spacey and Robin Wright play the leads Francis and Claire Underwood on the hit show

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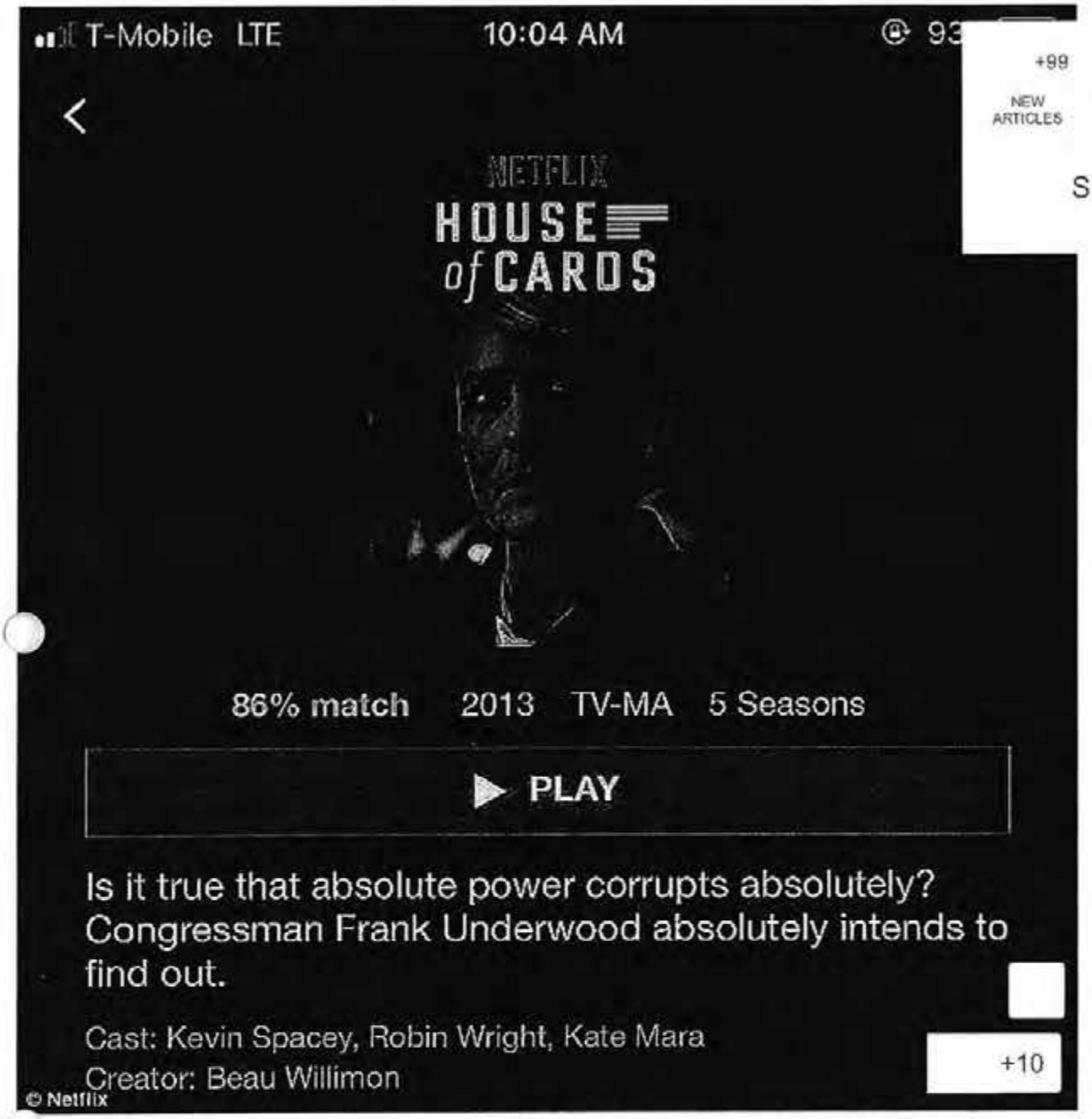

Netflix removed Spacey from the cover photo of the show and instead replaced it with a photo of Wright by herself (pictured here)

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.

11-408



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 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.'

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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.

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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,

11-411

when they were the only ones in the apartment.

He said the actor had drunkenly picked him up 'like a bride,' and then lay do 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' o 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.

pacey'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 rformance.

This was some 11 years after Polanski himself was infamously charged with getting a 13-year-old girl drunk and raping her.



Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp was the first to make claims against Spacey, saying the actor drunkenly grabbed him and lay on top of him when he was just 14

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.'

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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'

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.

Man claims he woke up to actor Kevin Spacey cuddling him

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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 nighclub.

'He just kept reaching between my legs and, you know, just grabbing my d**k,' he said.

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'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.'

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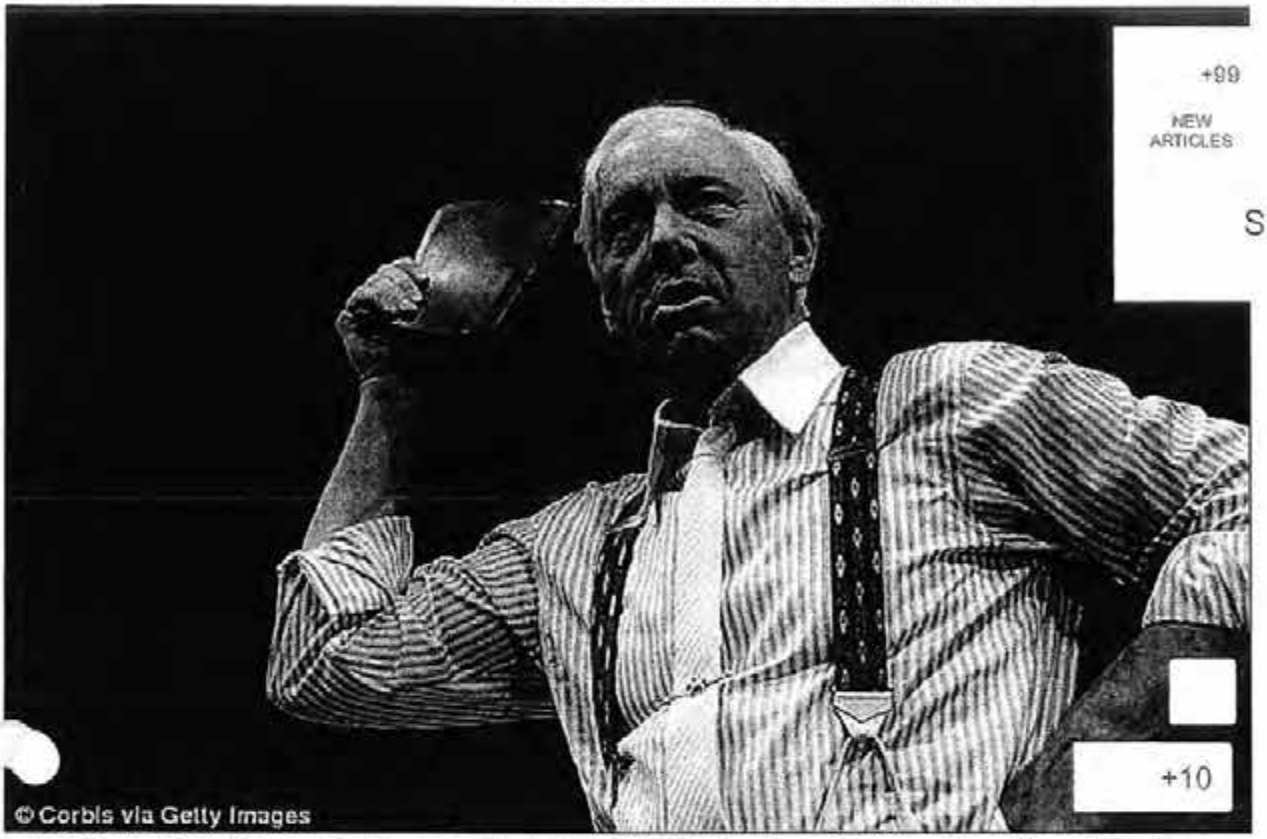

In 2009, during this production of Inherit the Wind in London, Spacey allegedly grabbed a journalist's penis and chased him around a club

Kevin Spacey has apologised over sexual advance claim.

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The journalist said that Spacey's entourage did nothing to help, and that he felt compelled to stay because he was on an assignment.

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'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.'

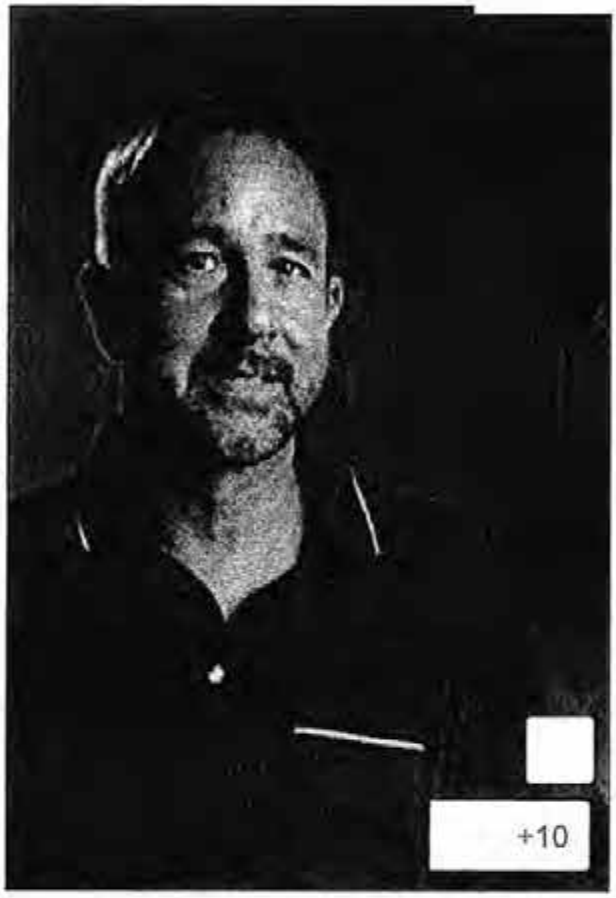
He said he ended up not printing the story because Spacey was in the close didn't want to out him without the man's permission.

'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.



Military advisor Mark Ebenhoch (pictured) said that on the set of Outbreak, one of Spacey's 'harem' of assistants asked him to go to Spacey's trailer and have sex with him

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

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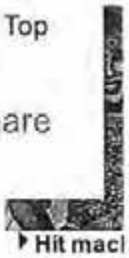

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ner Bros, the film's distributor, declined to comment when approached by BuzzFeed News.

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:
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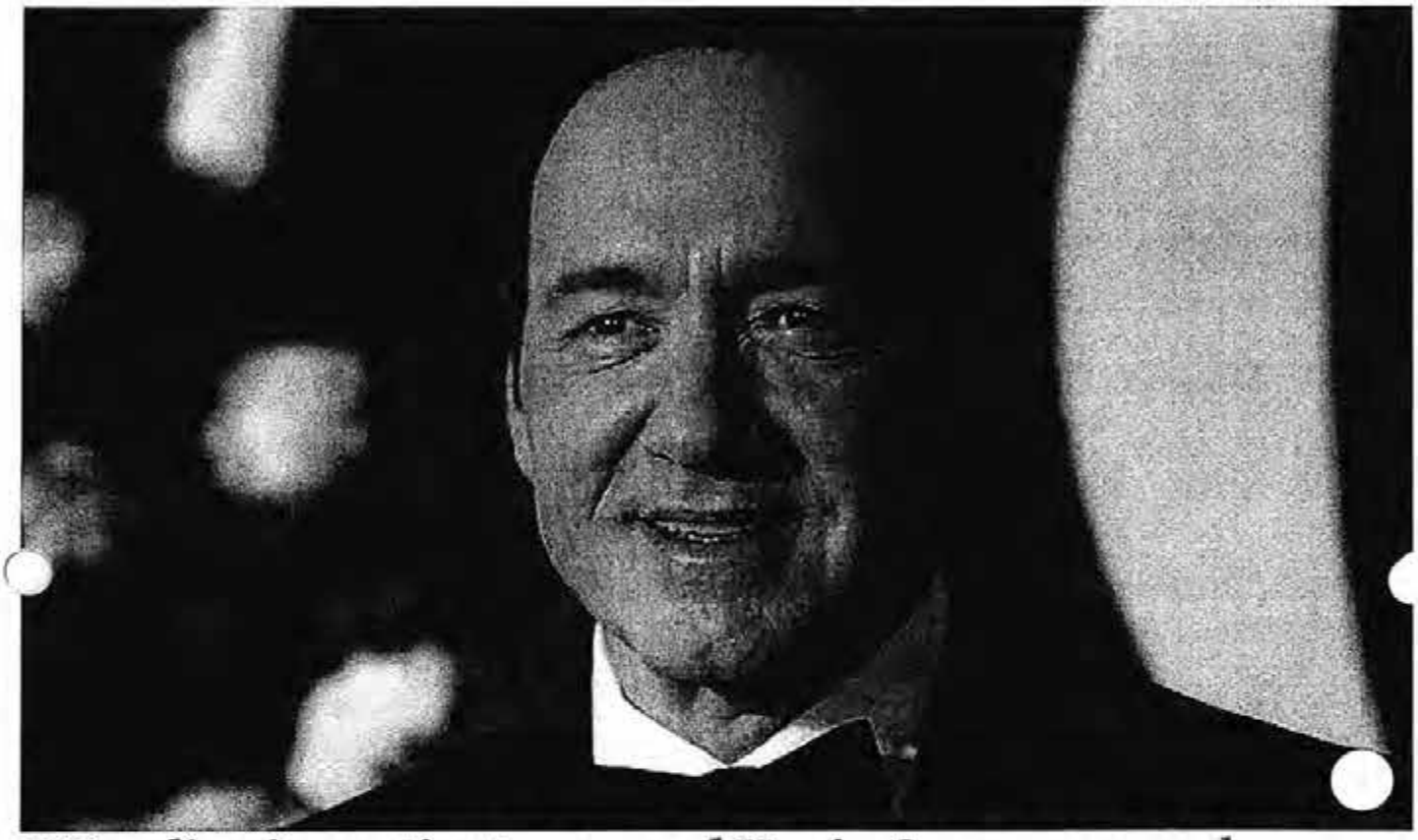

UK police investigate second Kevin Spacey sexual assault claim

Metropolitan police say they are looking into allegation that Hollywood star assaulted man in Lambeth, London

Kevin Rawlinson

Thu 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,"

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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Topics
Kevin Spacey

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'

EXCLUSIVE By Dan Sales
26th November 2017, 5:36 am | Updated: 5th December 2017, 9:55 am

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.

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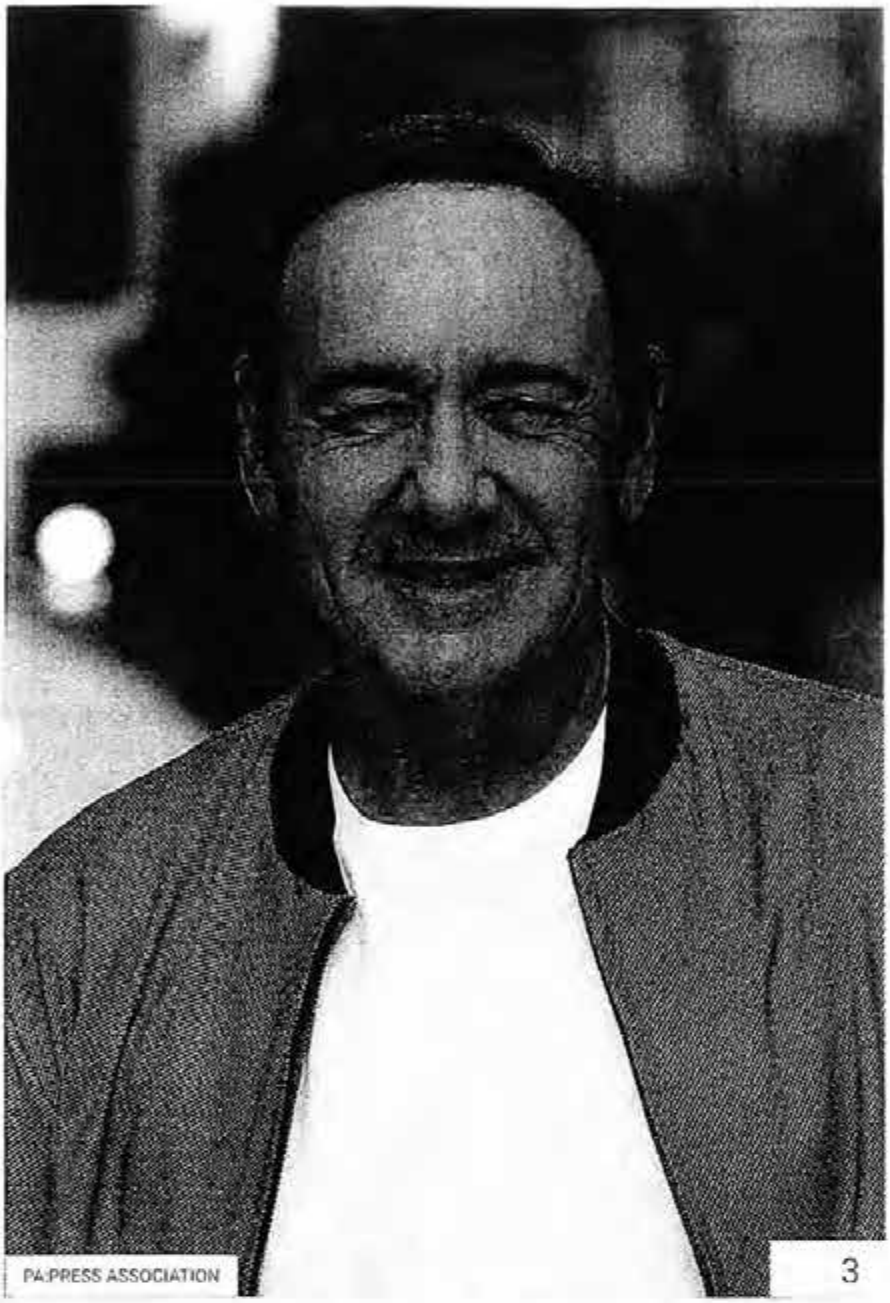

Kevin Spacey has been accused of groping a man at the National Theatre in 2011

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.

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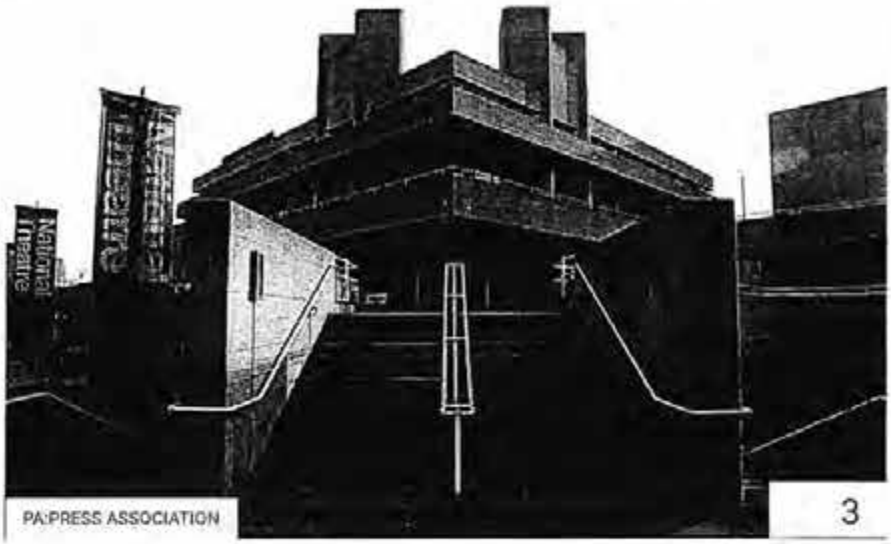

PA:PRESS ASSOCIATION 3

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

GETTY IMAGES - GETTY ealed Spacey tried to seduce him when he 3

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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I'M EMBARRASSED' Aunt of 13 hous horror kids reveals their 'strange' secr upbringing

Ex-London barman 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 go death in shocking two-hour attack

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Fleetwood Mac's Mick Fleetwood is in Sydney to promote a book and appear at the ARIAs. Picture: Brett Costello

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 lap.

"No it won't be a farewell tour, not as far as I know," he said.

The revered 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".

Triple J pulls plug on Oz Day tradition

KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

DESPITE the annual countdown being a mainstay of Australia Day barbecues for a generation, ABC station Triple J has bowed to activists 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 1998.

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 Australia 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 activist pressure 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 Fifield (below) said. "The ABC should honour it and not mess 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 constant push to politicise and delegitimise Australia Day being held on January 26 is pathetic and out of step with most Australians' views," Mr Hawke said. "The government's firm position is that Australia Day, January 26, will remain our national day."

Labor leader Bill Shorten said it "doesn't matter to me what day it's 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 to our First Peoples," Greens senator Rachel Siewart said.



But Liberal senator Eric Abetz said the ABC was the "political correctness brigade", and was "wasting money on "selective research"

"The ABC should focus on reporting on actual news rather than continuing to waste money on ramming their political correctness routine down people's throats," he said.

OUR MISS JUST MISSES OUT

AUSTRALIAN representative Olive 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 at 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 enthusiastically cheering on the 25-year-old Aussie, she missed out on a place in the top 16.

SYDNEY CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 18



Olivia Rogers.

SPACEY TIME CONTINUUM

THE restart of production on House of Cards — which was to have starred accused sex abuser Kevin Spacey — has been delayed again.

In a letter sent to cast and crew, producers said the series' hiatus would extend until at least December 8, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Netflix already announced that the upcoming season would be the show's last — after about 15 reports from young men that Spacey had sexually assaulted or attempted to assault them. Spacey is expected to be written out of the final season.

House of Cards was already eight months into making the show's sixth and final season when the allegations against Spacey came to light.



Kevin Spacey.

Finances not women's savings grace

ONE in three 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 their main causes of concern.

A lack of financial expertise is also causing problems, with new research from MLC — which quizzed 1000 Australian women — revealing a large majority (75 per cent) rate their knowledge as average or poor.

The survey also showed 66 per cent of women are failing to tip extra money into super and this, combined with the gender pay gap, means many are falling short of what is needed in retirement.

"The harsh reality is that women are trying to overcome a persistent and infuriating gender pay gap, and unequal allocation of carer duties in the home is leading to women having gaps in their employment," Dr Martin Fahy, chief executive of Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, said.

Guardian express
(https://www.communitynews.com.au/guardian-express/)

EXCLUSIVE: Australian League legend Ian Roberts says working with Kevin Spacey made him 'uncomfortable, angry'

November 30th, 2017, 12:40PM | Written by Greig Johnston | Guardian Express (https://www.communitynews.com.au/guardian-express/)

NEWS (/GUARDIAN-EXPRESS/NEWS/)

Kevin Spacey. Photo: Getty

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FORMER rugby league champion Ian Roberts has described how his experience working with Kevin Spacey left him "uncomfortable and angry".

Roberts played for South Sydney and Manly during his 12-year league career, and in 1995 became the first high-profile Australian team sportsman 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, 16 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.

"I 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 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

18,972 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 51,334 151,946

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

341 826 4,313

"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."

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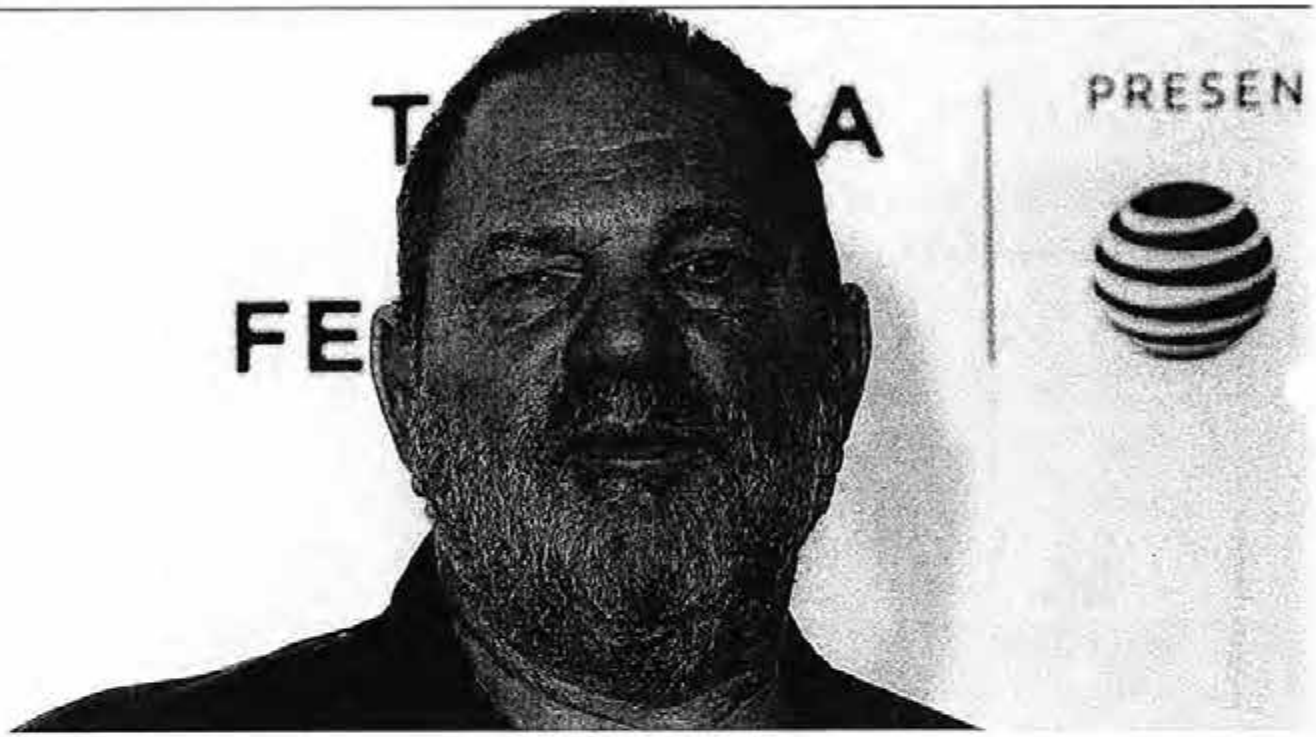


Harvey Weinstein was rude and bombastic.

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.

bombastic, horribly American.

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.

Geelong Advertiser

The assaults, abuses of power and horror stories of harassment, threats and more that we're now hearin 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

Geelong Advertiser

Fortunately, then-Premier 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.

"

GRRR

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 TV gardener 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 risque 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 Barraclough:** Pain of loss for men after abortion

► **Corrine Barraclough:** '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.



Columnist Corrine Barraclough.

COMMENTS 23

Show Comments

THE AUSTRALIAN

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 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 lied 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 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 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 women v men. It's about awful behaviour, abuse and harassment, and people should knows 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."

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 ›me who 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.

Actor Geoffrey Rush has angrily denied the harassment accusation made against him. Picture: David Caird

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.

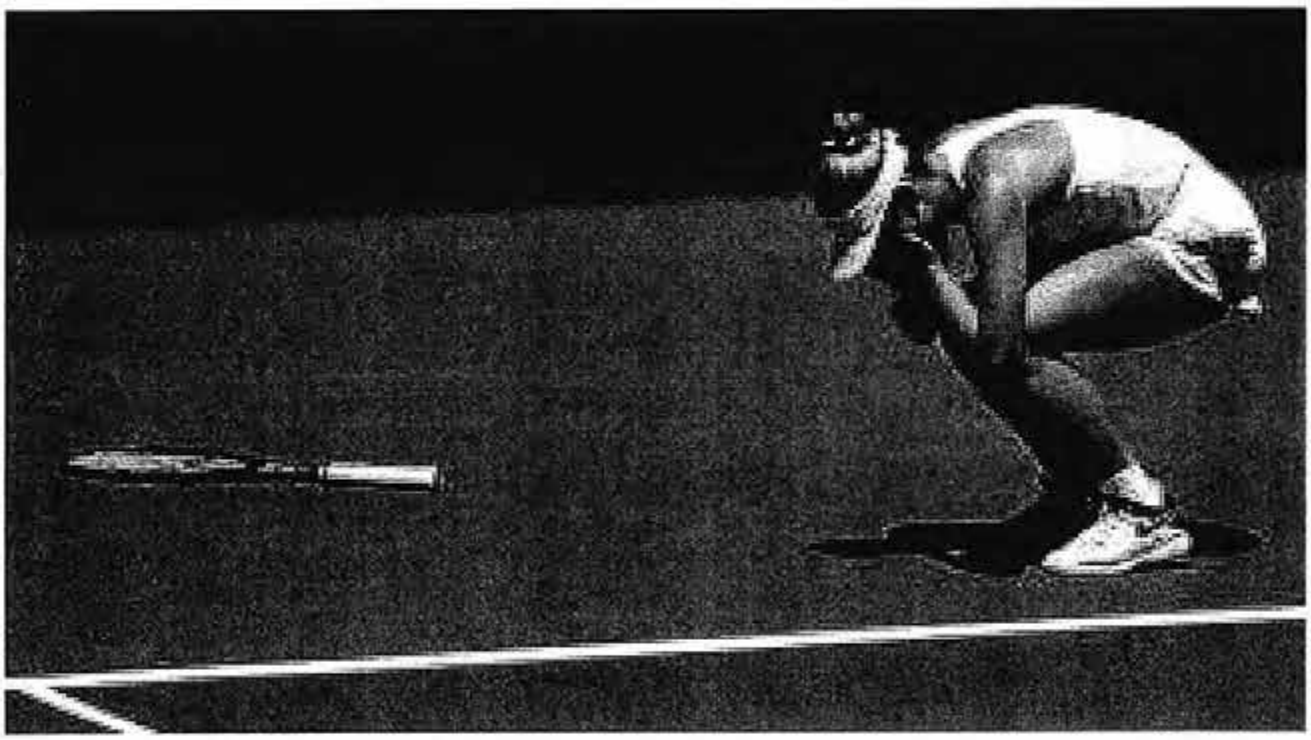
But the women who took the first tentative steps against harassment — complaining and seeing their complaint go nowhere — are buoyed to see the movement become one of great strides, and there may not be any going back.

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.

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Usual suspect was Spacey for misbehaviour, claims Byrne

Eithne Shortall

December 3 2017, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



The Usual Suspects
POLYGRAM/SPELLING/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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Gabriel Byrne (left) & Kevin Spacey in The Usual Suspects.

MOVIES

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.

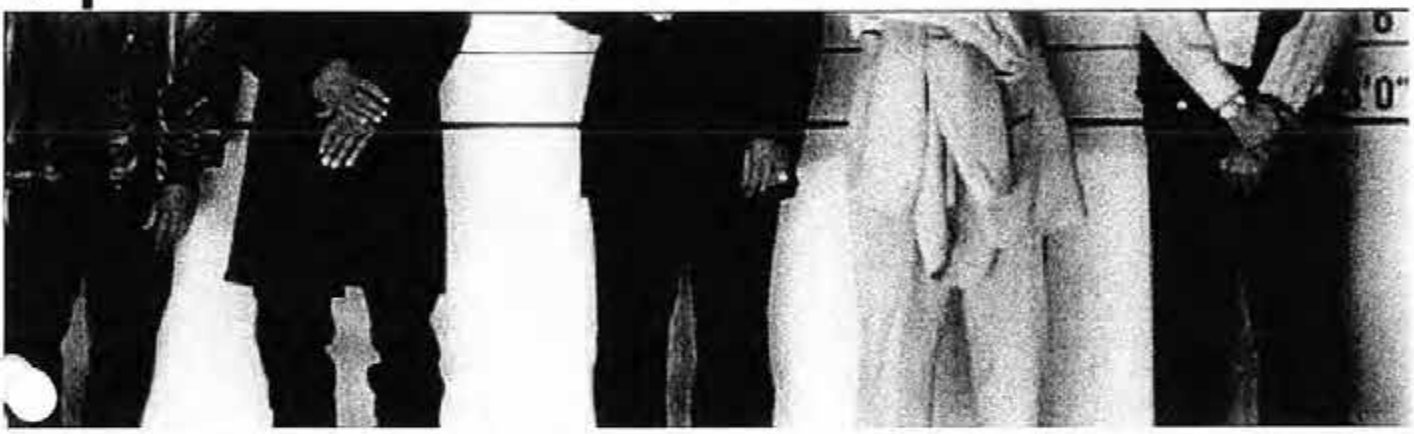


Gabriel Byrne (left) & Kevin Spacey in The Usual Suspects.

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.

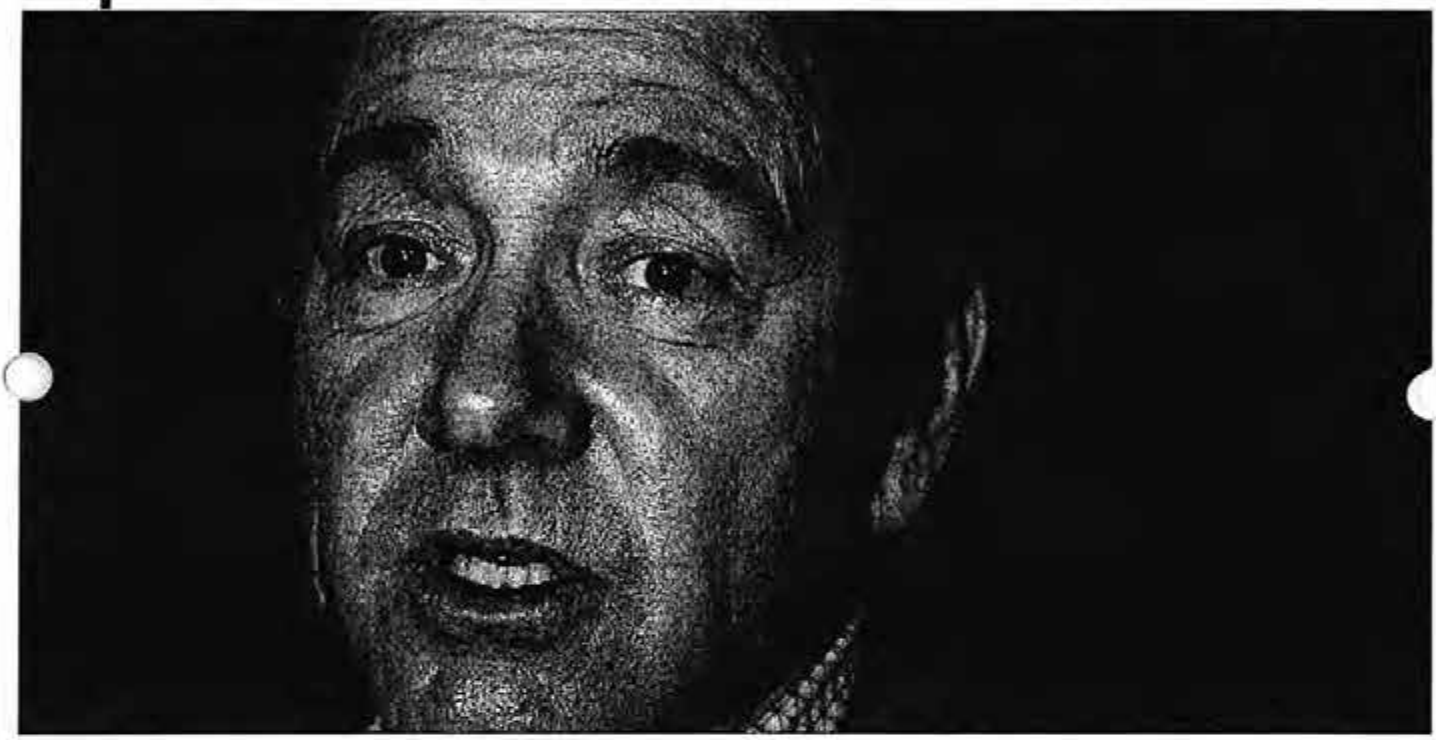
Netflix and Media Rights Capital announced on Monday production for the sixth and final season of House of Cards will resume early next year without Spacey. Netflix severed ties with the 58-year-old actor in early November.



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 has accused Kevin Spacey of groping him 10 years ago. Picture: AFP

CELEBRITY LIFE

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.



Kevin Spacey. Picture: Nathaniel Bell



Former Norway royal Ari Behn says Kevin Spacey groped him. Picture: YouTube

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."

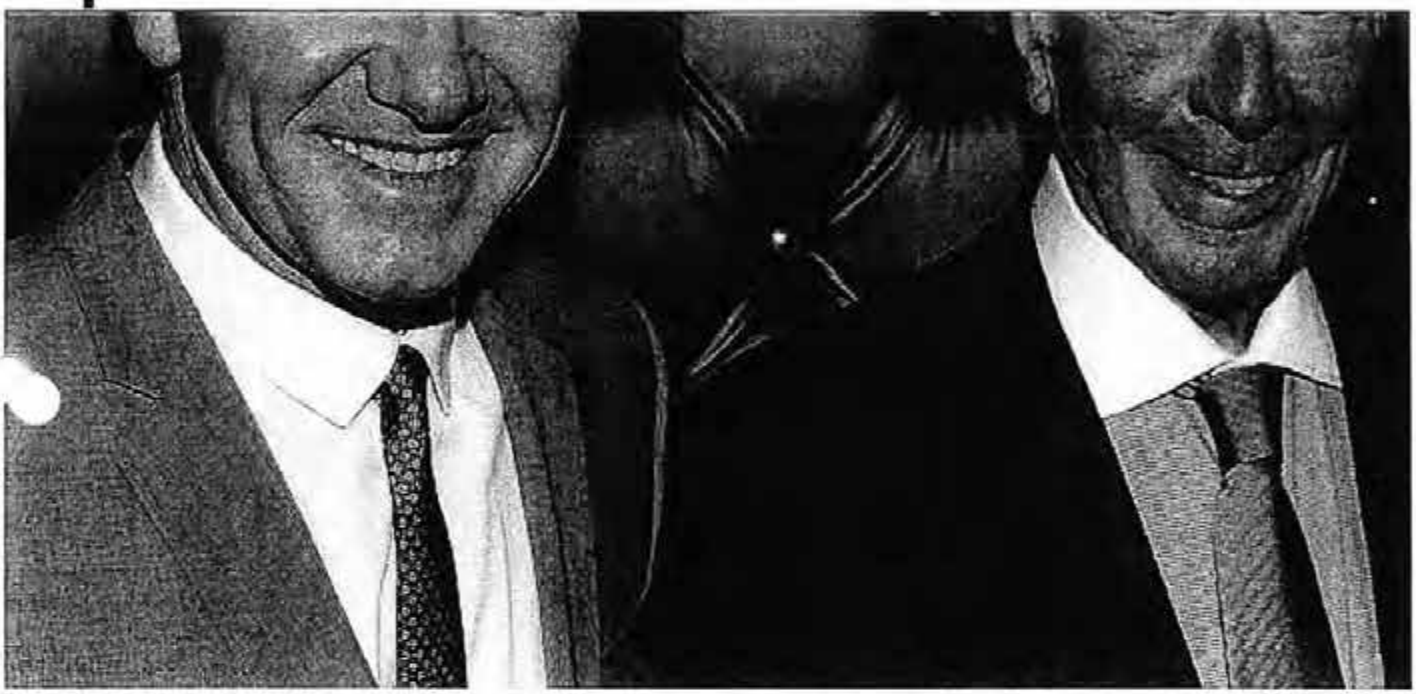
Ari, who divorced Princess Märtha Louise of Norway last year, told a radio interviewer that he exclaimed: "Eh, maybe later."

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 expose 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.

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Kevin Spacey. Pic: AP

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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

News Corp Australia Network DECEMBER 8, 2017 6:37AM

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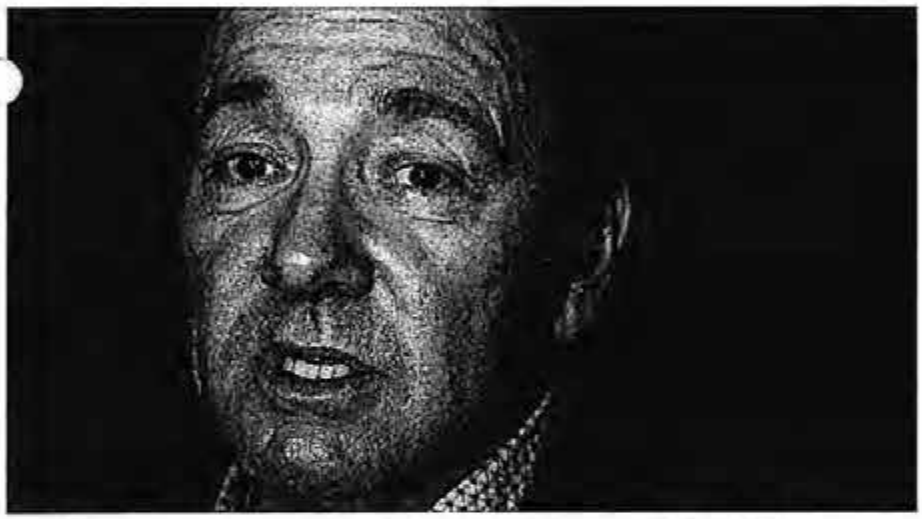

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Former Norway royal Ari Behn says Kevin Spacey groped him. Picture: YouTube *Source:Supplied*



Kevin Spacey. Picture: Nathaniel Bell *Source:Supplied*

The couple wed in 2002.



Ari Behn with his then wife, Norway's Princess Martha Louise and their children in 2005. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

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Christopher Plummer has replaced Kevin Spacey as John Paul Getty in All The Money in the World. Picture: AFP *Source:AFP*

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Kevin Spacey. Pic: AP *Source:AP*

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Royal shock: 'Spacey groped me'

8th Dec 2017 5:28 AM



More allegations followed and Netflix cut ties with him and he was replaced in the Ridley Scott film, "All the Money in the World."

Chris Pizzello - Invision - AP

by The Sun

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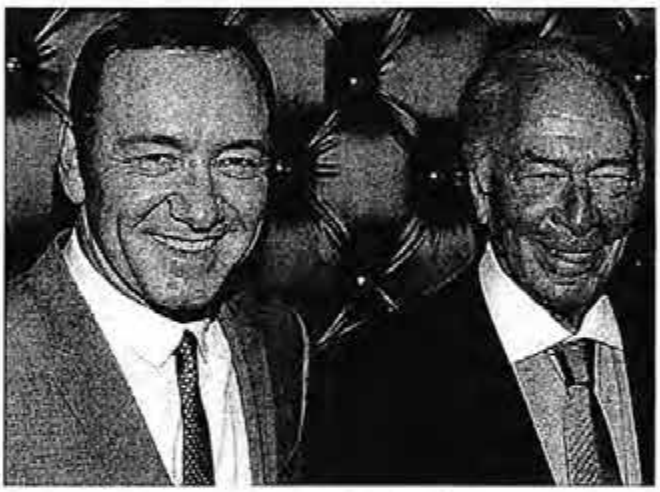
Ari Behn with his daughter Leah Isadora (R) and his then wife, Norway's Princess Martha Louise (L), with their oldest daughter Maud Angelica, during the start of the christening ceremony 16 June 2005. Picture: AFP



Canadian actor Christopher Plummer has replaced Kevin Spacey in All The Money In the World. Picture: AFP

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Former Norway royal Ari Behn says Kevin Spacey groped him. Picture: YouTube



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Ari Behn with his daughter Leah Isadora (R) and his then wife, Norway's Princess Martha Louise (L), with their oldest daughter Maud Angelica, during the start of the christening ceremony 16 June 2005. Picture: AFP

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ABC NEWS

Kevin Spacey accused of groping Ari Behn, former son-in-law of Norwegian King Harald

Updated Sat 9 Dec 2017, 3:28pm



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.

RELATED STORY: Robin Wright to star in final season of House of Cards

RELATED STORY: Kevin Spacey criticised for coming out 'as a deflection from sexual misconduct claims'

MAP: Norway

"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.



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 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 2018.



PHOTO: Robin Wright has replaced former co-star Kevin Spacey as the lead on House of Cards. (Supplied: Netflix)

ABC and wires

Topics: sexual-offences, arts-and-entertainment, film-movies, law-crime-and-justice, community-and-society, norway, united-states

First posted Sat 9 Dec 2017, 2:53pm

11-468

Menu Digital Print Edition | Rewards | Hi Jeremy

The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL WORI

NSW

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.

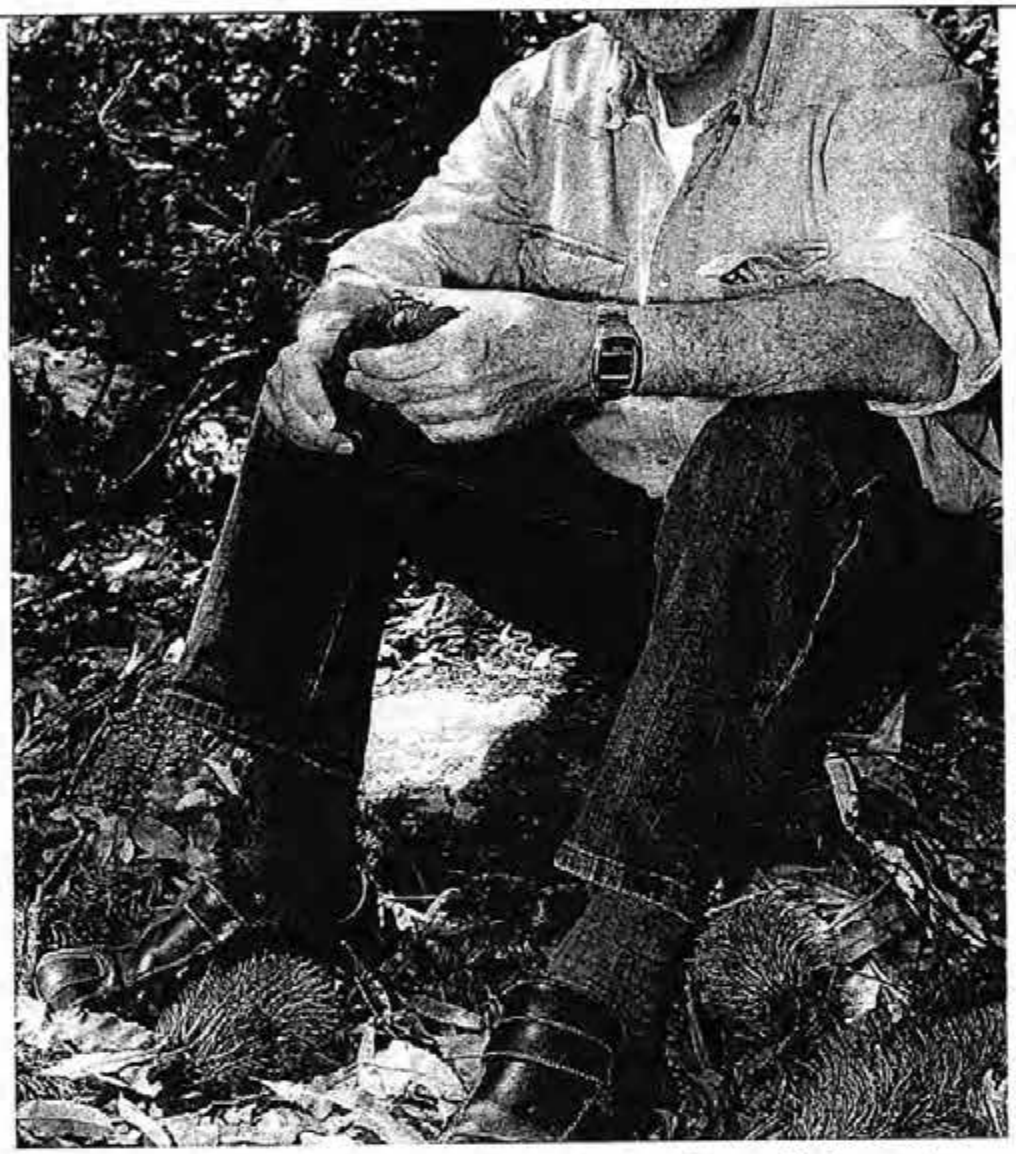
The target of what the former TV host has described as "false and defamatory claims" made by a number of women who worked with him on his former top-rating Burke's Backyard show in the 1980s and 90s, Burke has denied claims of bullying and sexual harassment.

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.



A Current Affair host Tracy Grimshaw interviews Don Burke today.

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".



Don Burke during his Burke's Backyard heyday. Picture: Bradley Cooper

"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

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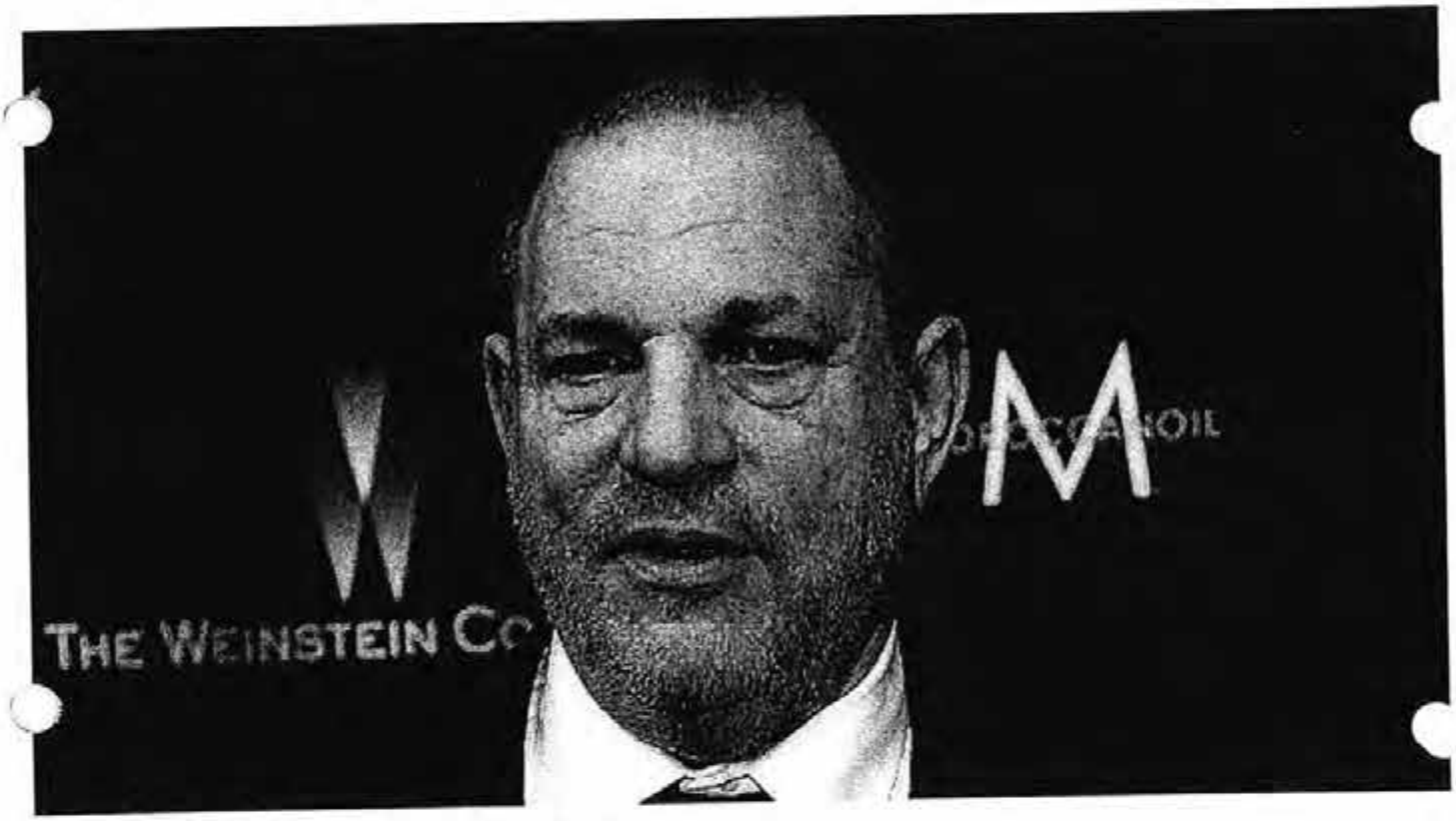
The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL WORL

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 tot 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.



Disgraced film exec Harvey Weinstein.

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).

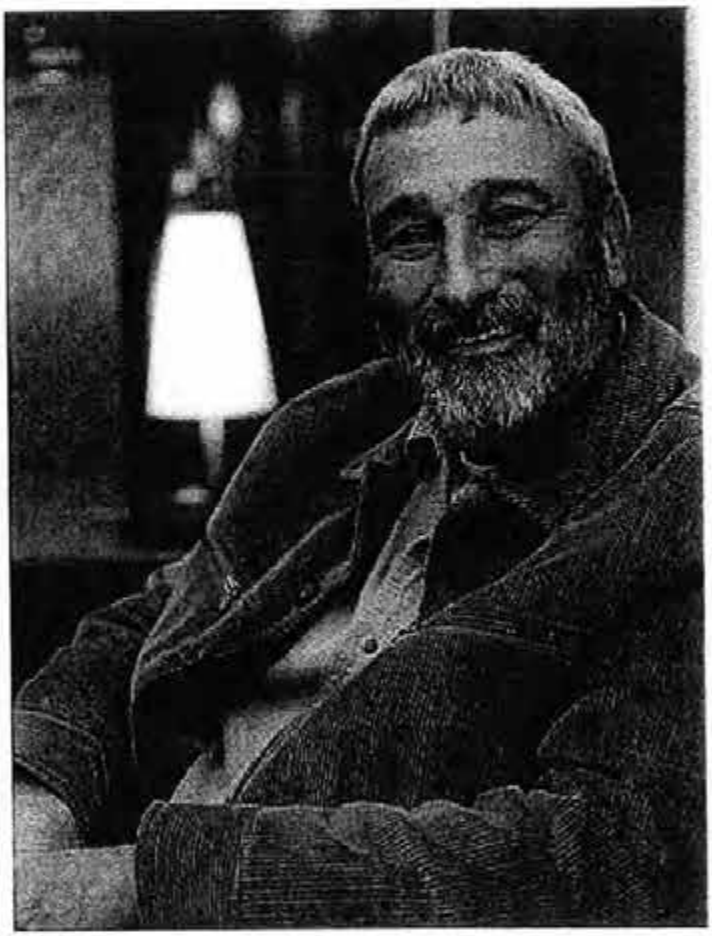
These women, in Jackie French's own words, were not the typical media females aged under 30 and with "Barbie-Doll figures" and Don faced considerable opposition to having them on prime-time TV.

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.



Tracey 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

was the prime reason for BBY lasting 18 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.



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.



Burke has called the allegations "unworthy journalism".



Burke says Tracey Spicer had her "Weinstein" headline.

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.

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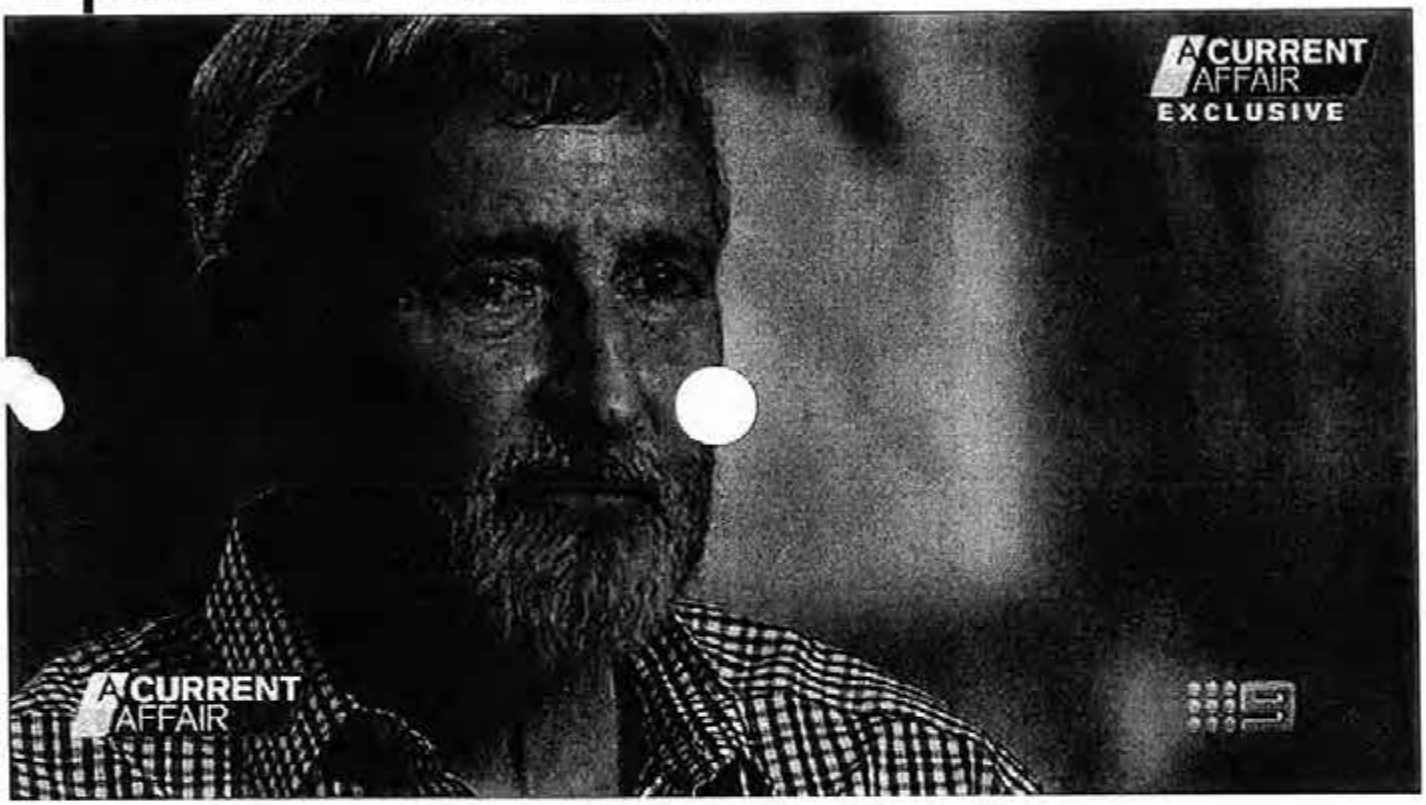


Don Burke: 'I think people are punishing me for my mistakes'

TV

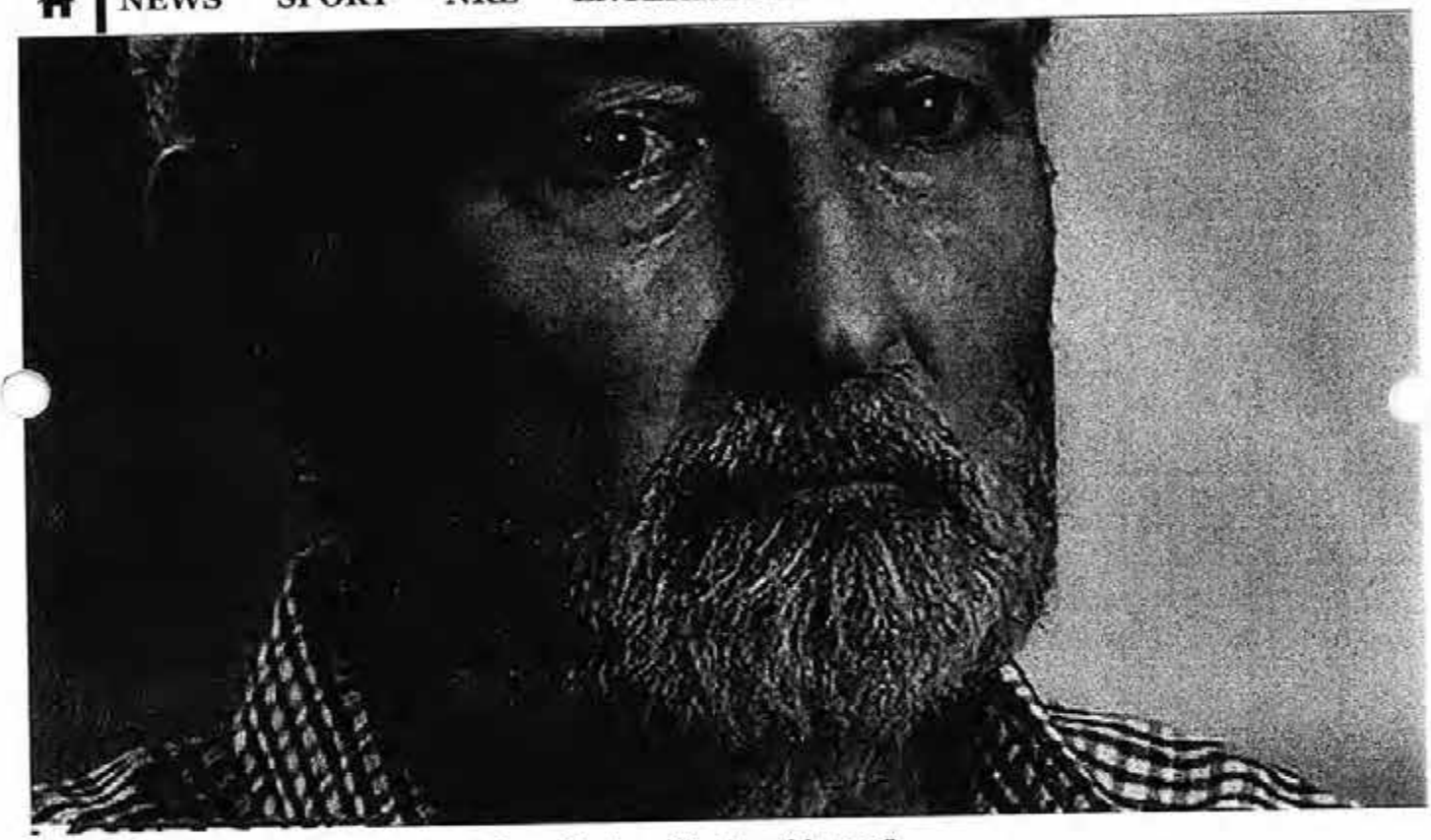
Don Burke allegations: Nine's ghost back to haunt them

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.

The Daily Telegraph



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.



Louise Langdon has spoken out against Don Burke. Picture: ABC News

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.

The Daily Telegraph



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."

THE MEETING PLACE FOR
NEWS-MAKING VIEWS



Television personality Don Burke. (Pic: Getty)

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.



Former Nine boss David Leckie called Don Burke "a horrible, dirty old man". (Pic: Adam Yip)

"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.



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COMMENTS 187

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Ray Nov 29, 2017

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



citizen Nov 29, 2017

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.

1 Like Reply



bob Nov 29, 2017

@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.

1 Like Reply



citizen Nov 29, 2017

@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 Nov 29, 2017

@bob and as i have said elsewhere today, show proof in a court of law. Until you do he is innocent

Like Reply



Richard Nov 28, 2017

Skeletons in the closet have escaped.... aaaaaahhhh!

1 Like Reply



Wynston Nov 28, 2017

So it's illegal to be sleazy 20 years ago now?

4 Like Reply



Alan Nov 28, 2017

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 nuthing 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

1 Like Reply



Lord Ramsay Nov 28, 2017

Is Don is no good..

3 Like Reply



Investor Nov 28, 2017

Bring back Derryn Hinch and his "shame, shame, shame...." file

Like Reply



asa Nov 28, 2017

Thirty years ago it was okat to say a women had a large you know what below the navel, actually its never been okay to say that.

Like Reply



Jamie Nov 28, 2017

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.

2 Like Reply



King Nov 28, 2017

@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 where 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.

1 Like Reply



Nathan Nov 28, 2017

@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.

Like Reply



Beeb Nov 29, 2017

@Jamie

The vicious tool that can be Social Media didn't exist 30 years ago.

Like Reply

tim Nov 28, 2017

So was attacking and constantly repeating questions by Tracy Grimshaw harrasesment? 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 alledged 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 dont watch ACA anymore

5 Like Reply

Alex Nov 28, 2017

@tim

Perhaps you should watch the 7.30 report....rather than TV's version of New Idea.

4 Like Reply

tim Nov 28, 2017

@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 certianly would be unnaceptable behaviour if perpertrated by anyone else, claiming the high moral ground when behaving like a bully does'nt apeall to me at all. I actually usually have 7.30 report on in the background while preparing dinner.

2 Like Reply

Phillip Nov 28, 2017

@tim i thought he handled himself well, with all that was being thrown at him - lol.

Like Reply

J Nov 28, 2017

@tim Now they are attaching those who have "dared" to defend Don.

2 Like Reply

milton Nov 28, 2017

@tim grimshaw,k stefanovic & tara are all hacks that make 9 unwatchable,then again okeefe is on par too

2 Like Reply

Beeb Nov 29, 2017

@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".

Like Reply

King Nov 28, 2017

"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.

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.

13 Like Reply



Michelle Nov 28, 2017

King..what rot

3 Like Reply



Nathan Nov 28, 2017

@Michelle Welll he has a point....what evidence have we been offered of these misdeeds?

7 Like Reply



J Nov 28, 2017

@King Trial by social media

6 Like Reply



Lill Nov 28, 2017

@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???

4 Like Reply



King Nov 28, 2017

@Lill @King Then they should have gone to the POLICE!!!

All fake news at this point...

2 Like Reply



King Nov 28, 2017

@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.

3 Like Reply



Lill Nov 28, 2017

@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?

Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

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

Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

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????

1 Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

Nathan

@Lill @King Uh...evidence?

If they can prove it, the police will not only believe them, they will prosecute the criminal.

2 Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

Nathan

@David 73 What?
Tell alleged victims they need proof of a crime?

That seems downright....normal.

2 Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

King

@Nathan @Lill @King Yeah you know, what the police use to prosecute people with.

Evidence, something that is 100% non-existent here.

2 Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

John

@Lill @King Please do.

Like Reply

Nov 28, 2017

Nathan

@David 73 Yup, I'd be pushing for a police investigation.

2 Like Reply

Nov 29, 2017

Beeb

@J @King

Trial by Social Media.

Nothing more than a lynch mob.

Like Reply



Phillip Nov 28, 2017

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.

4 Like Reply



King Nov 28, 2017

@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.

1 Like Reply



Phillip Nov 28, 2017

@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 phychiatrist, as he seems a very complex charachter.

Like Reply



Mark Nov 28, 2017

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?

8 Like Reply



Kevin Nov 28, 2017

@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.

6 Like Reply



Mimi Nov 28, 2017

I completely agree with you! It's even more difficult to bring the subject up as a man. My husband was harrased 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.

5 Like Reply



Investor Nov 28, 2017

@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.

6 Like Reply



Kevin Nov 28, 2017

@Mimi Yes. A man would be ridiculed for complaining. Even today.

6 Like Reply



Sue Nov 28, 2017

@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 be 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 wifes place was in the home...

We still have a long way to go

2 Like Reply



Mimi Nov 28, 2017

A very long way...

Like Reply



tim Nov 28, 2017

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 30years ago. In the 80s and 90s TV ads objectified women as eye candy, many of the adverts could not be shown on todays standards,

Australia recently voted to legalise same sex marriage yet 30 years ago any amount of TV comedy programs used derogitory terms about homosexuality and the subject was pretty well fair game as the butt of jokes.

30years 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 embarrased we were definalety 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 appropriatly punished, just remember sleazy behaviour was more acceptable back then (although that doesnt make it right) and jugement needs to be kept in perspective to the times.

9 Like Reply



Kevin Nov 28, 2017

@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, Ch 9 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.

6 Like Reply



Mimi Nov 28, 2017

True in some ways.

1 Like Reply



Jamie Nov 28, 2017

@tim OK. The first thing that I need to say to all writers is that spellcheck is a thing

2 Like Reply



tim Nov 28, 2017

@Jamie @tim Speil chequers are ovorrated

1 Like Reply

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Herald Sun

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Don Burke

Andrew Bolt Blog Posts

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 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

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Herald Sun

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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..."

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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

News Corp Australia Network NOVEMBER 27, 2017 12:52PM

Video Image

advertisement

Don Burke accused of sexual harrassment

USTRALIAN TV star Don Burke has denied sexual harassment and bullying of omen 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



Margot Robbie stuns in Paris



Mystery over Cranberries singer's death



Zeta-Jones defends hubby over harassment claims



Brilliant reply to abuse question



Don Burke has been a long-running fixture on Australian TV. Picture: Bradley Cooper *Source:News Corp Australia*



Louise Langdon has spoken out against Don Burke. Picture: ABC News *Source:ABC*

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."

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your tits."

Burke has denied all the accusations, and said "the rooftop incident never occurred."

Burke's Backyard, DIY Terrariums

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".

She 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".

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Burke's famous Burke's Backyard ended its 17-year run in 2004. Picture: Bradley Cooper *Source:News Corp Australia*

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Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go



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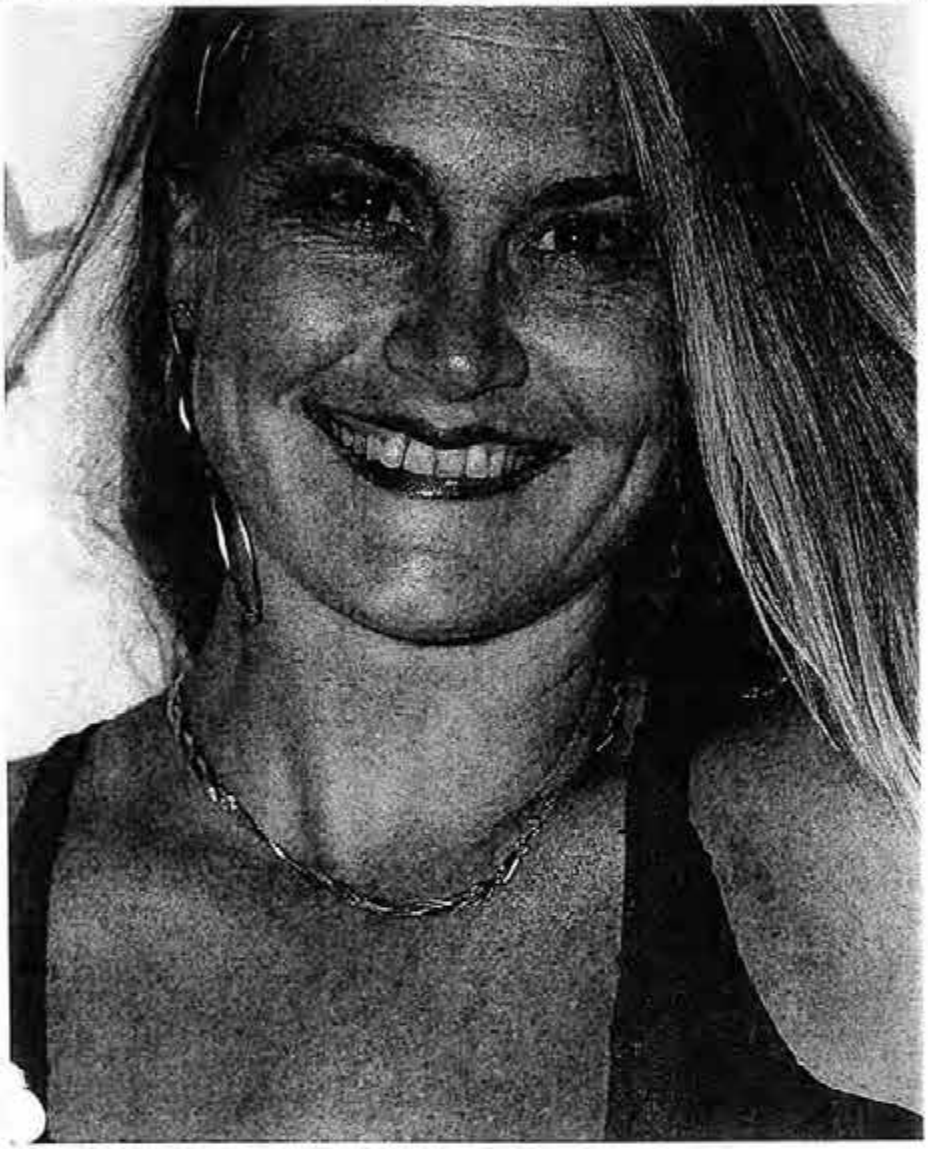

Wendy Dent said Burke told her she had to audition topless. Picture: Monica Schipper/Getty Images for The Hamptons International Film Festival *Source:Getty Images*

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 misbehaviour. Some of these 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 some 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*.

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models and sporting figures, according to the website.

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.


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celebrity life ▶ **celebrities gone bad**

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.



Emma Reynolds @emmareyn

NOVEMBER 27, 2017 1:29PM

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Video Image

Don Burke accused of sexual harrassment

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 Mattata.

"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."



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



'This is why people hate celebs'



'Why is James Franco allowed in?'

2

Esther Clerehan
@clerehan

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

3 2 8

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

1 3

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. #9Today
pic.twitter.com/cU4T0WvPHM

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

1 9

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"dumb sl*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. Don is a major money earner for this network. We wouldn't want to crush you."

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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.



Burke denies the allegations of bullying, lewd behaviour and sexual harassment by more than 50 people. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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.

11-508

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'This is why people hate celebs'



'Why is James Franco allowed in?'



...ner Burke's Backyard producer Louise Langdon alleges the gardening guru regularly made sexual comments and tried to lift up her top. Picture: ABC News *Source:ABC*

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 ...sh. She alleged he then opened his eyes and said: "It didn't work. You've still got ...ur 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.

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



'This is why people hate celebs'



'Why is James Franco allowed in?'



Wendy Dent alleges Burke offered her an audition, but said she had to be topless. Picture: Monica Schipper/Getty Images for The Hamptons International Film Festival *Source:Getty Images*

"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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EXCLUSIVE NOVEMBER 27 2017

'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.

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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.

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"Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally," said Sam Chisholm, Leckie's predecessor at Nine.





Louise Langdon, a former researcher, says she was subjected to ongoing harassment by Don Burke. Photo: ABC

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.





Don Burke was "a disgrace" and a "terrible grub", says Sam Chisholm, David Leckie's predecessor at Nine Network. Photo: Bob Pearce

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.



Don Burke's program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for Channel Nine before it was cancelled 2004. Photo: Supplied

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."



Louise Langdon when she worked with Don Burke at 2UE. Photo: Supplied

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 bully. Because he was a "perfectionist" and demanded excellence in his production company, "a small number" of former employees were 'ismissed either for underperformance or misbehaviour. Some of ,nese 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, kneeled 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 its back," the reporter snapped the tape off.

"I was absolutely and utterly repulsed by the man, I felt compromised, I felt violated, I just felt disgusted

"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 terrorising [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.





Bridget Ninness worked as a producer for *Burke's Backyard* for more than seven years. Photo: ABC

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 ›tally 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's not 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

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COMMENT NOVEMBER 27 2017

The Australian media industry operates a protection racket for men like Don Burke

Tracey Spicer

SHARE TWEET MORE

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, legal

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or police support, before requesting they speak on background, off the record or on camera.

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Don Burke a sexual harasser and ruthless bully, claims series of women

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 ıstance, I was the first person she'd ever told. "Please, keep my ıdentity 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

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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 fellas: 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 ›entioned 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.

ly 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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COMMENT NOVEMBER 27 2017

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 you: 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

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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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Don Burke a sexual harasser and ruthless bully, claims series of women

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 .

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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.

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"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' Roger Singh says: "If it is found

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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UPDATED NOVEMBER 27 2017

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

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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.

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"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."



Companies have distanced themselves from Don Burke, with Channel Nine saying there are no plans to bring him back in 2018. Photo: Supplied

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.



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Don Burke's popular program Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for Channel Nine. Photo: Supplied

French told Fairfax Media that over nine years of working closely with Burke she had never seen 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.

"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.

he 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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EXCLUSIVE NOVEMBER 27 2017

Olympic swimmer Susie O'Neill 'flabbergasted' at Don Burke comments: 'It was crude and it was belittling'



Kate McClymont

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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.

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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 genial gardener 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

But as she stood in front of one of her favourite artworks, 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.



Don Burke speaking to A Current Affair on Monday night. Photo: Channel Nine/A Current Affair

"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.





Susie O'Neill has told Fairfax Media that she was shocked at comments made by Don Burke at her home. Photo: Craig Golding

"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."



Tracy Grimshaw interviews Don Burke over allegations of sexual harassment and bullying. Photo: Channel Nine/A Current Affair

"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.



Illustration: Cathy Wilcox

"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

iriam Webber

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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.

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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

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.



Tracy Grimshaw interviews Don Burke on A Current Affair on Monday evening.

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.

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"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 harrassment. 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 Grimshaw 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

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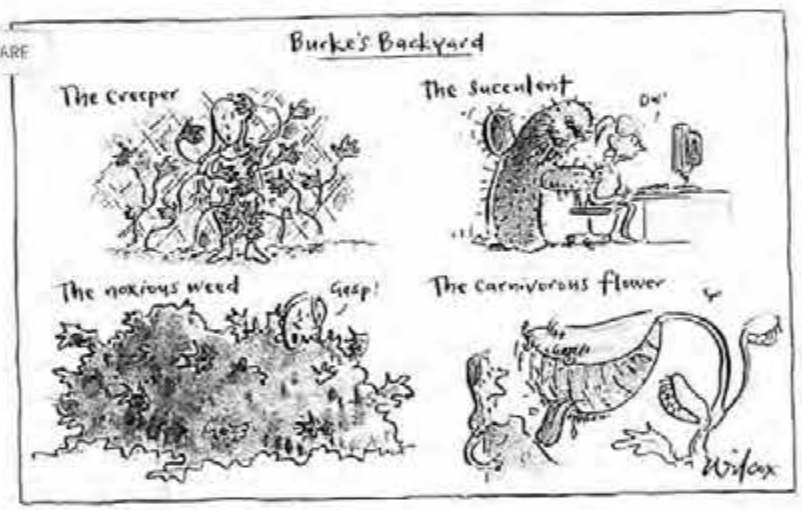

Illustration: Cathy Wilcox

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 Meakin? Their inaction over decades is stunning. They were, and are, undeserving of their positions of power. These men and Channel Nine should be ashamed.

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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

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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, Longueville

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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 Gralton,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 decree,
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

laudanum then I'm the person from Pollock.

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, Woollahra

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 imple 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 refunded 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 long been our family tradition to visit and wander at the usually

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 Ferrier, 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

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The Cranberries lead singer O'Riordan dead at 46

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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 @hellojamesweir

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 9:23AM

Video Image

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Don Burke continues to deny allegations

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'



Margot Robbie stuns in Paris



Mystery over Cranberries singer's death



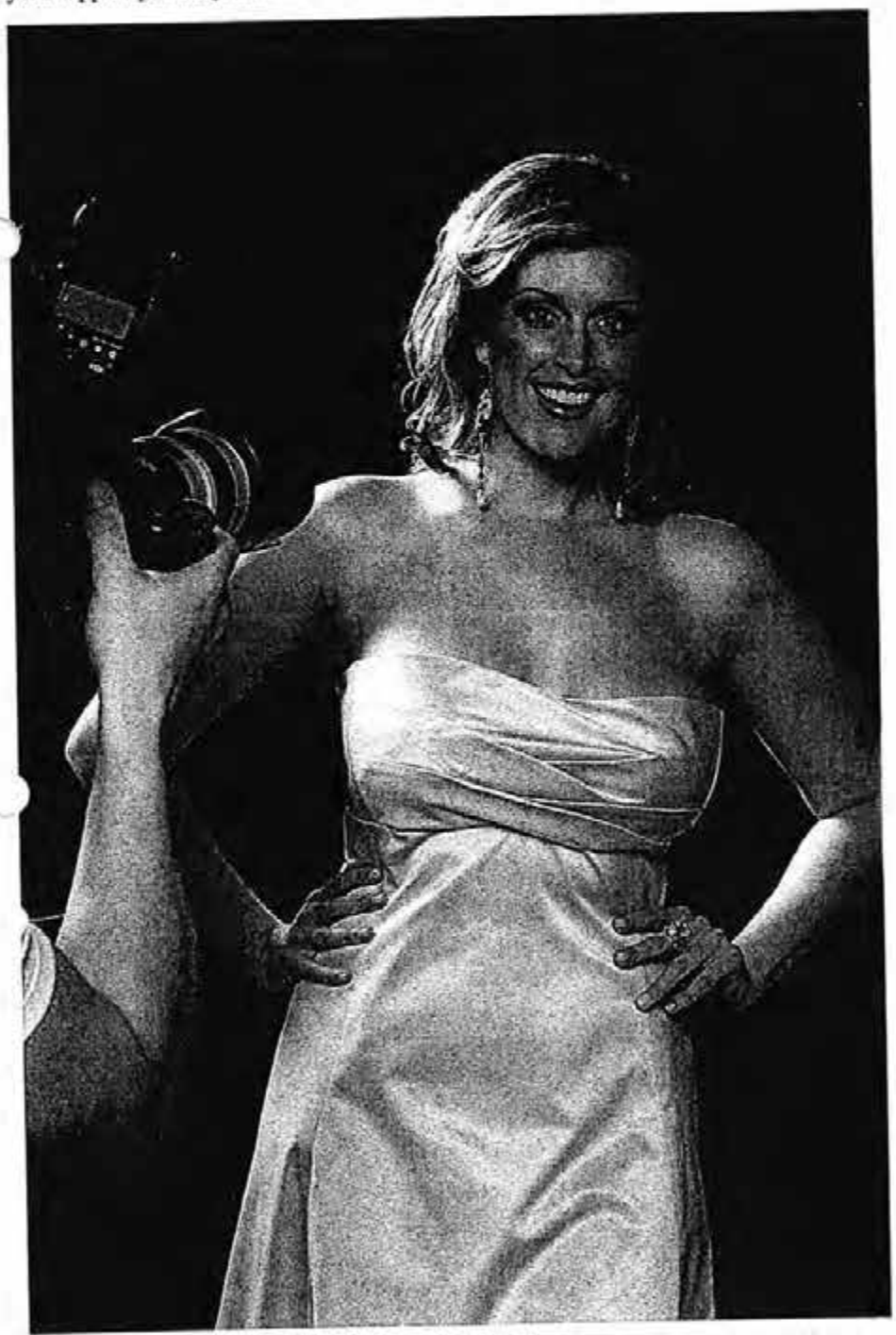
Zeta-Jones defends hubby over harassment claims



Brilliant reply to abuse question

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 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," she said.



'He was awkward with women' ... Kate Fischer was a high-profile star when she worked with Burke. *Source:News Limited*

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Brilliant reply to abuse question



Power couple James Packer and Kate Fischer in 1997. *Source:Supplied*

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

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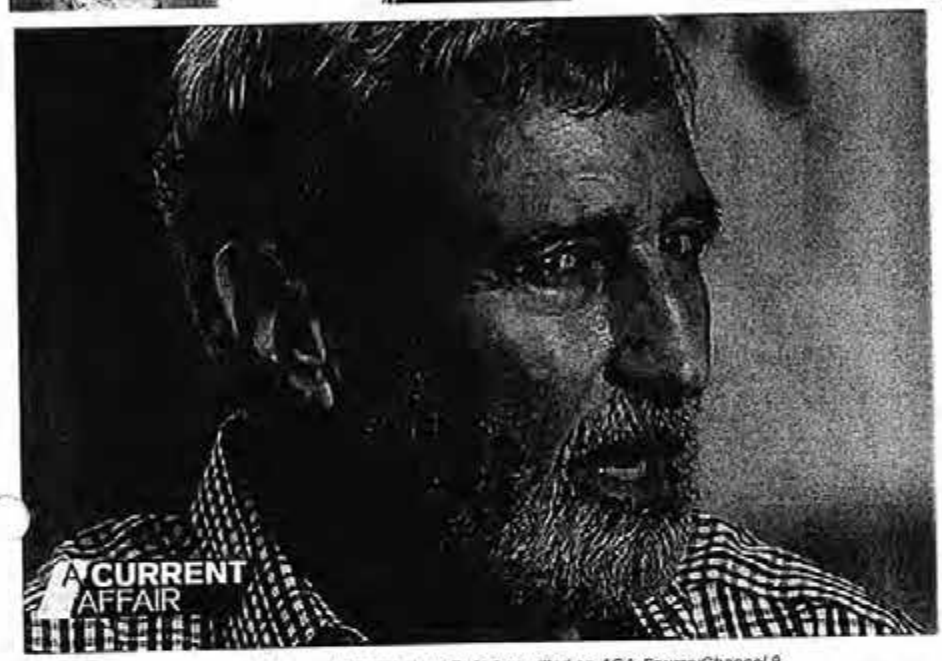

Don Burke claimed to have undiagnosed Asperger's while being grilled on *ACA* Source:*Channel 9*

'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.

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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.

james.weir@news.com.au | @hellojamesweir

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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 @JournoLawJ

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 10:33AM

Video Image

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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.

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Brilliant reply to abuse question



Former Olympian Susie O'Neill. Picture: Tim Hunter. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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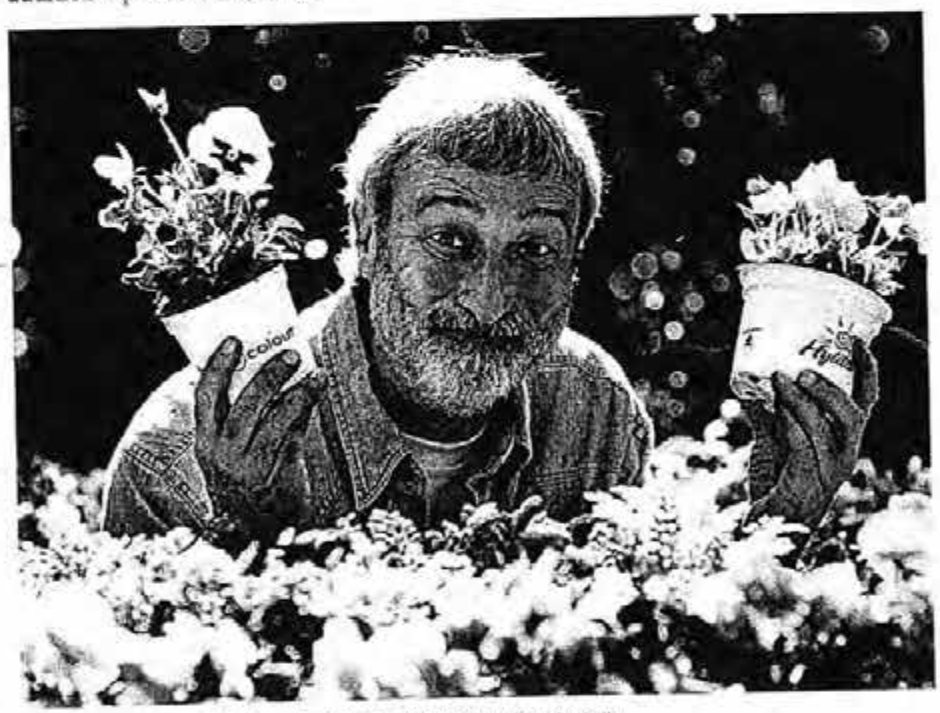
O'Neill's management tried to pull the program after the comments, but Channel 9 refused, according to the report.

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.



Don Burke hosted Burke's Backyard for 18 years. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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.

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Zeta-Jones defends Douglas over claims



Brilliant reply to abuse question

"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?"



I'M A: SEEKING A:
Hi, what's your first name?
Postcode? Australia

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."

Burke 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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tv

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 28, 2017 1:52PM

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Don Burke continues to deny allegations

AN investigative piece into Don Burke published by The Australian in 2004, ...rnalists 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.

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Stars who've dropped the F-bomb on SNL


Stunning confession 25 years later


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Seven called out over 'racist' interview



Don Burke says he has "no recollection" of explicit claims of predatory workplace harassment. *Source:Supplied*

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 McClymont 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."

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A Current Affair host Tracy Grimshaw grilled Don Burke over the allegations. *Source:News Corp Australia*

.ITCH 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 ·ns that people give you. I don't see that. I suffer from a terrible problem with that. .t seeing. No one can understand how you can't see it. But you don't."

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Beginning the interview by admitting he had repeatedly cheated on his wife, Marea — who battled breast cancer and AVM, 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."

I'M A SEEKING A

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go

Louise Langdon, former Burke's Backyard producer tells her story

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.

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Seven called out over 'racist' interview



Burke, who is married to Marea, 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".

Bridget Ninness breaks down over treatment at the hands of Don Burke

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.

Candace Sutton

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 1:29PM

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Video Image

Don Burke: 'I think people are punishing me for my mistakes'

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.



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People "exaggerate and build a better story", says former Nine Network TV star Don Burke in his Tracy Grimshaw rview. Picture: ACA. *Source:Channel 9*



"That's just not me," *Source:Channel 9*



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"Weinstein reinforces victim mentality." *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 Grimshaw.

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.



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Former Nine TV celebrity gardener Don Burke claims that accusations against him have resulted from "idges". *Source:News Corp Australia*



Burke told Grimshaw allegations of sexual comments were just his "ribald sense of humour". Picture: ACA. *Source:Twitter*

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."

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Burke has "looked in the mirror [and] there's a lot I don't like".

He's "had 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.



Burke told Channel 9 he cheated on his wife Marea (above, with him in 2014) but said that had ceased since she became ill. Picture: Don Arnold. *Source:Getty Images*

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Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

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".

s 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 parted 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?



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'Bizarre sexual life': Don Burke's most skin-crawling clip yet

A SUGGESTIVE scene from Don Burke's popular gardening show makes for uncomfortable viewing after this week's allegations.



Emma Reynolds @emmareyn

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 4:37PM

Video Image

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News

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.

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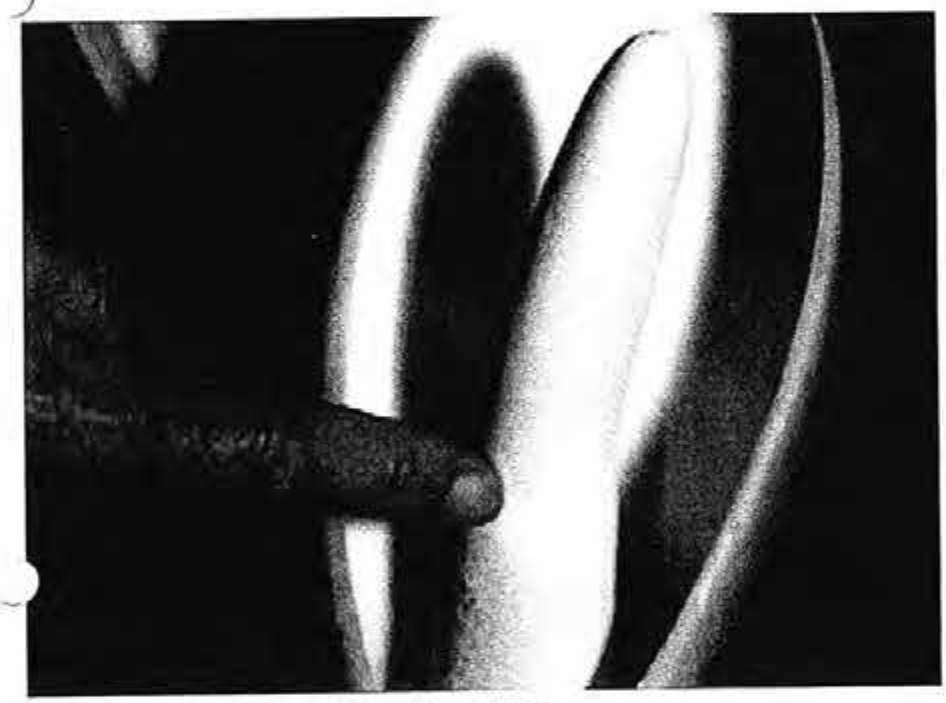
Burke, now 70, has denied all the allegations of sexual harassment and bullying. *Source:YouTube*



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.

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Burke's Backyard, Pollinating Philodendrons

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.

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misogynist and a sexual predator who sexually harassed and bullied a number of female employees.

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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SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

Men like Burke grow tall when no one's clipping the weeds



John Birmingham

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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.

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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.



Don Burke was back on Nine this week, being grilled by A Current Affair's Tracy Grimshaw over allegations of sexual harassment and bullying. Photo: Channel Nine/A Current Affair

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.

.lsewhere, 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 bloke.

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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 court cases for wrongful dismissal or

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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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NOVEMBER 28 2017

Head of Autism Awareness Australia blasts Don Burke's 'appalling' Asperger's excuse

ıthony 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.

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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.

"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

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.

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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 Rogerson'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

medically diagnosed with the condition.

"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. Not seeing. 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.



Autism Awareness Australia CEO Nicole Rogerson has been infuriated by Don Burke's claims. Photo: Supplied

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, ...t 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.



Nick Bond @bondnickbond

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 12:44PM

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Video Image



Tracy Grimshaw reflects on Don Burke interview

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?https://t.co/jH02jrH8FW*
> *— Autism Awareness Aus (@AutismAwareAus) November 27, 2017*

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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 Asperger's 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/KZceJCvzFG
— 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/GOgijNtNQ9
— Nathaniel Bane (@natbane) November 27, 2017

Don Burke on ACA just blamed the 'Twittersphere' for 'stirring 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

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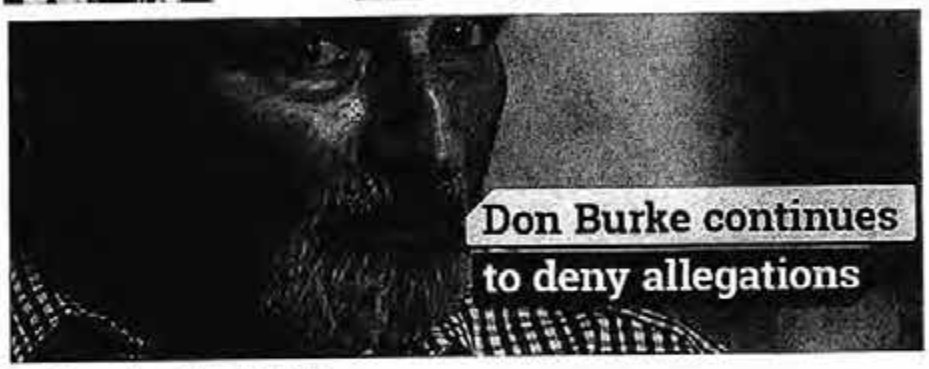

Don Burke continues to deny allegations

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 Don 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.



Tracy Grimshaw reflects on last night's controversial Don Burke interview. *Source:Channel 9*

"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.

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"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."

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NOVEMBER 28 2017

'What kind of human sinks this low?' Don Burke blasted for blaming Asperger's



Sarah Berry

Show comments

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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".

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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 'Twittersphere' thing, I guess they've stirred this up because of the Harvey Weinstein thing and

they've stirred this up because of the Harvey Weinstein thing and we've got a witch hunt," said the *Burke's Backyard* star.



Screenshot from A Current Affair's interview with Don Burke over allegations of sexual harassment and bullying, in alleged incidences dating back more than a quarter of a century ago. 27 November 2017. Photo: Channel Nine

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?"

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Don Burke from Burke's Backyard

icki 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

Syndrome/HFA 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
PUBLISHED: 16:42 AEDT, 28 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 16:44 AEDT, 28 November 2017

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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

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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'.

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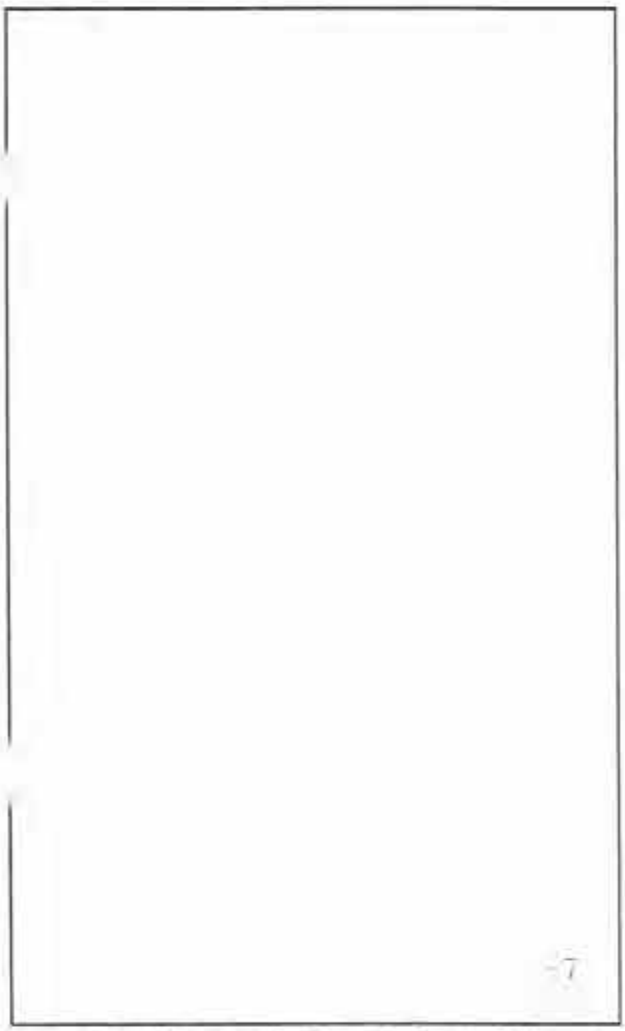
'These claims will destroy my income for

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.

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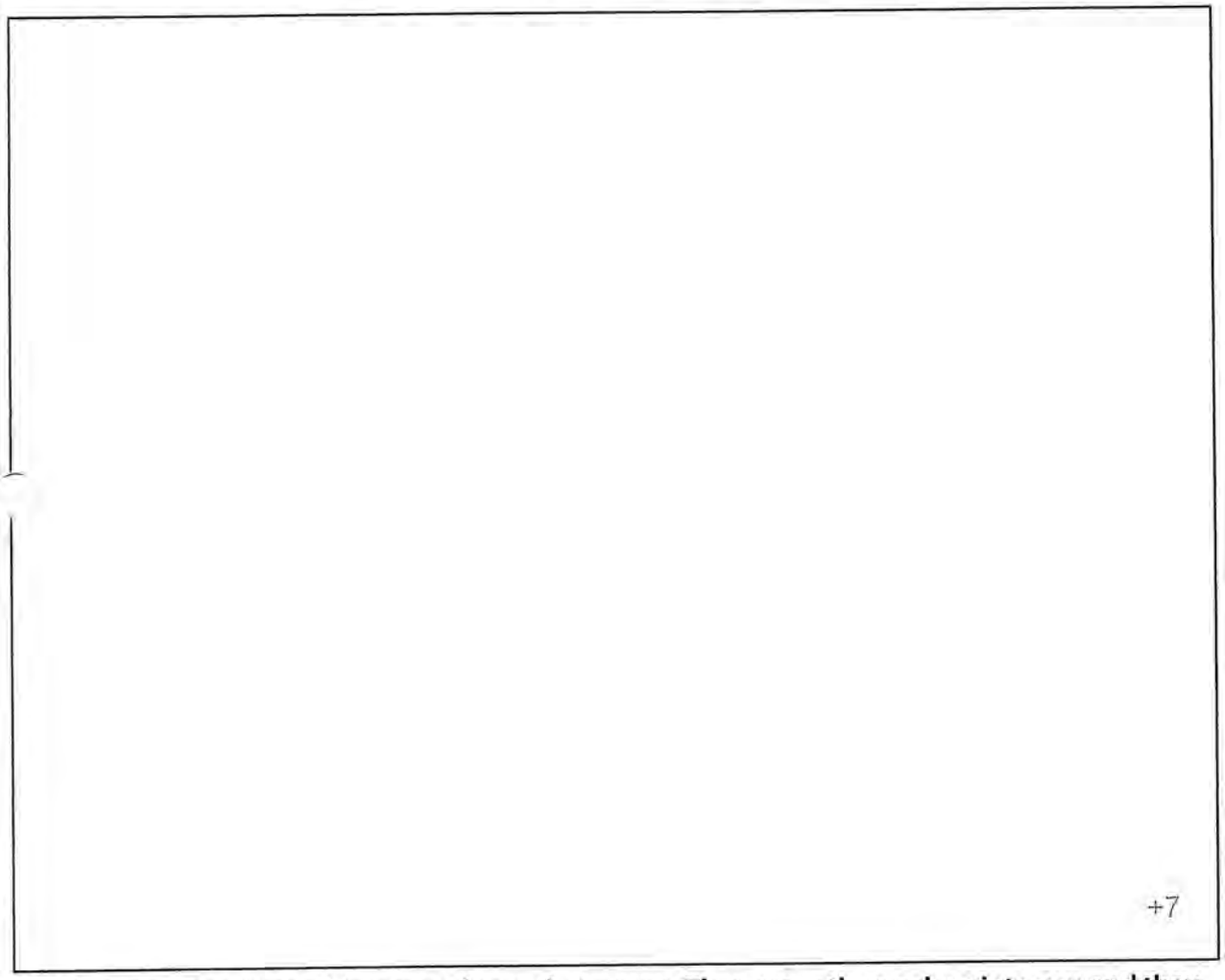
'I'm prepared to cop that I might have terrified a few people and that I shouldn't have done that... towards the end of Burke's Backyard I must have been a bear with a bloody sore head and I do apologise for it,' he told A Current Affair.

'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

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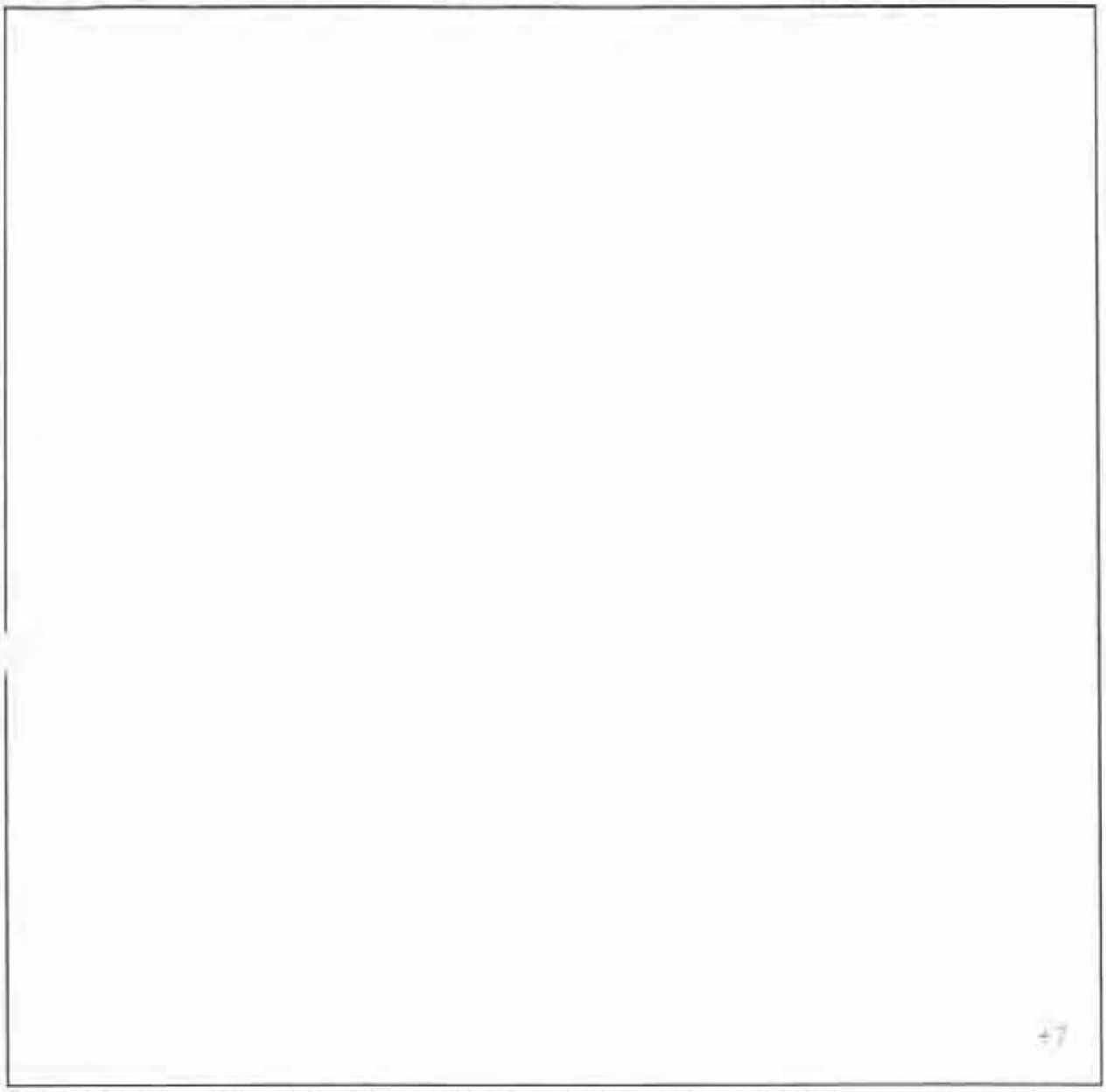

Ms Malkah (above) described Burke as 'awkward with women' but said he was never 'touchy feely' with her

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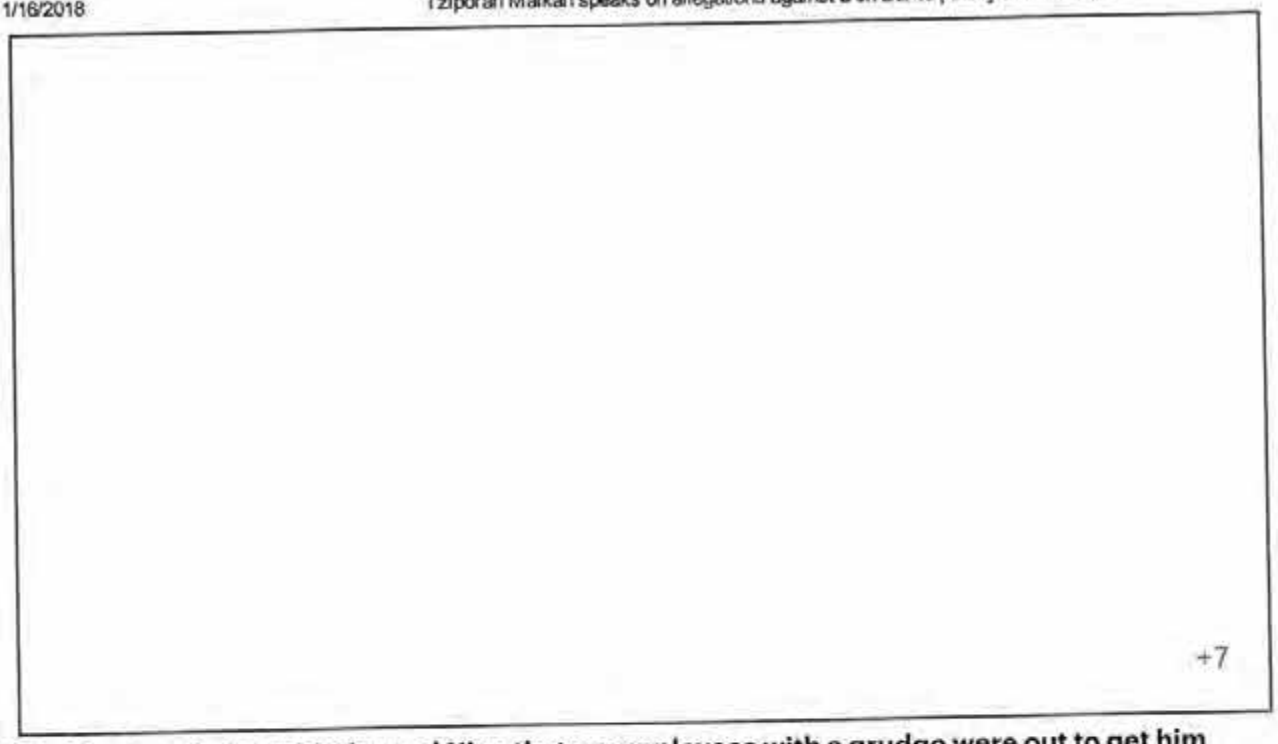

On Monday, Burke told Channel Nine that ex-employees with a grudge were out to get him

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'

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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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Don Burke, you owe me, and everybody else with Asperger's, an apology

Daniel Andrusiak

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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*.



A series of women have accused Don Burke of sexually harassing them.

"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.



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Screenshot from interview with Don Burke, where he claimed to have Asperger's. Photo: Channel Nine

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) and mother who agreed to disagree, for lack of a better expression, on how to bring me up.

I 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.

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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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THE MEETING PLACE FOR
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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.

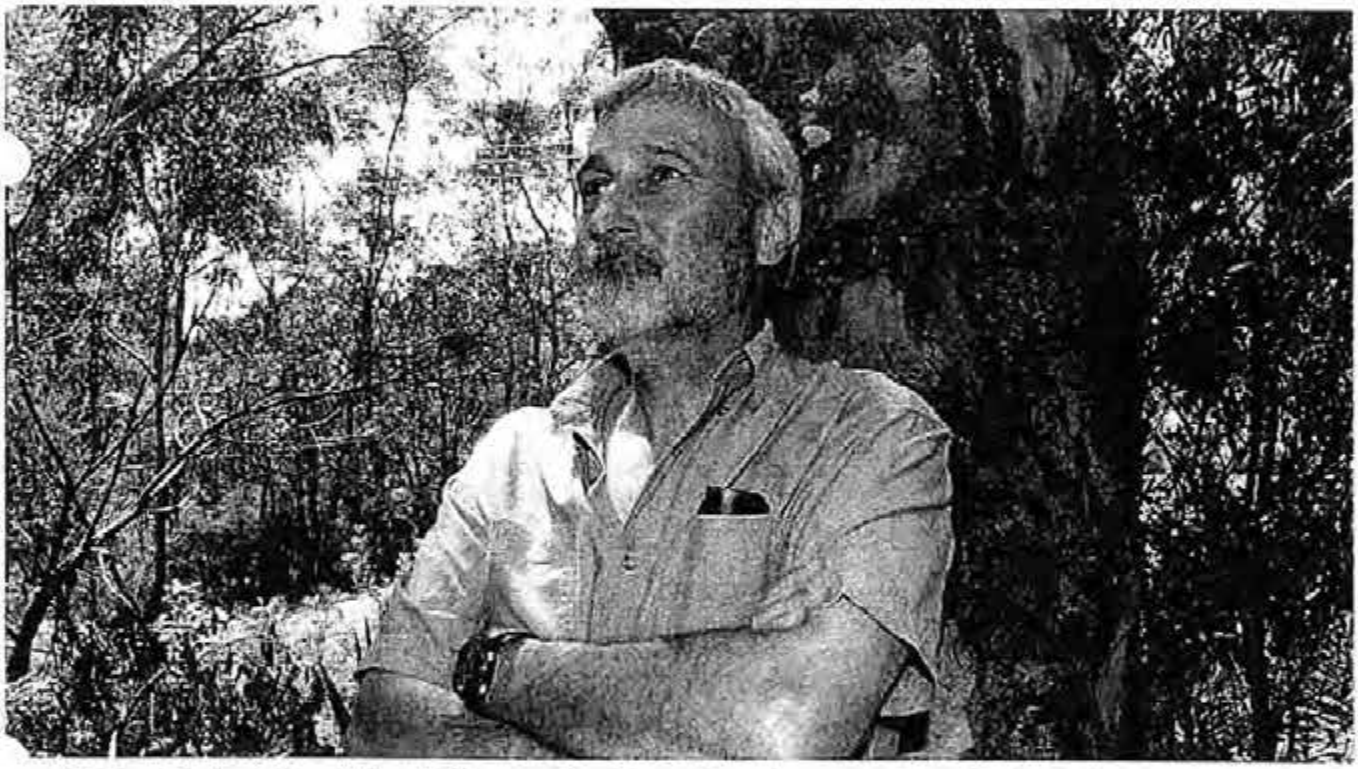
11-630

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 Aspberger'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.

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COMMENTS 28

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citizen Dec 2, 2017
Ow about focussing on more important matters ?

Like Reply

Nick Nov 30, 2017
Sorry but this comes across as someone trying to find something to be outraged about.

Burke is a filthy creep and every person with a hint of commonsense 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 wasnt trying to 'assist the cause' of Autism and you wouldnt want him to. Also, his comments are not an assault on the Ausism community and would have no effect on the communities attitudes or understanding of Austism.

There are better ways to promote your cause than feigning outrage off the back of Don Burke being a creep.

1 Like Reply



Al Pyne Nov 29, 2017

Ask the good people of Grafton and the staff of the Jacaranda Motel about Don Burke...and his stay there while filming a segment covering that city's famous Jacaranda Festival in the day.

Like Reply



Keith Nov 29, 2017

In blaming a syndrome and without any medical proof, he is agreeing with the sexual harassment claims ie that he has done something wrong.

Like Reply



Phillip Nov 29, 2017

how do you know for sure he HASN'T GOT ASBERGERS SYNDROME ?. HE SURE SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM, IF ALL THESE REPORTS ARE TRUE.

3 Like Reply



Lill Nov 29, 2017

@Phillip

70 years old and he's never sought a professional diagnosis? He's a smart man but clearly not smart enough to go to a doctor!

2 Like Reply



Rohan Nov 29, 2017

@Lill @Phillip Men are not exactly known for going to the doctor, especially older generations of men.

Like Reply



Corey Nov 29, 2017

@Phillip He's got something wrong with him all right - it's called "a giant bloody ego".

3 Like Reply



Lill Nov 30, 2017

@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 Nov 30, 2017

@Lill @Phillip yes, i agree with that. seems all a bit late now. the damage has been done.

Like Reply



Nora Nov 29, 2017

If he's Asperger's syndrome, why so good on doing the show (Burke backyard) 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 Nov 29, 2017

@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.

2 Like Reply



Thomas Nov 29, 201

Its up there with BWS and alcohol "issues" as the all purpose cop out for abusers and violent people. Shame.

1 Like Reply



Helen Nov 29, 2017

anyone with half a brain does not believe a word of what Don Burke said other than yes I had extramarital affairs.

2 Like Reply



Bing 4814 Nov 29, 2017

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.

3 Like Reply

Trevor Nov 28, 2017

".... 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.

2 Like Reply

Jim Nov 29, 2017

@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*.

5 Like Reply

J Nov 29, 2017

@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.

1 Like Reply

Katherine Nov 30, 2017

@Jim @Trevor @J Burke was able to contain himself around 22year old Kate Fisher who was engaged to James Packer at the time. I assume he was in control enough not to try it on with her and suffer Kerry's wrath! He's an opportunist and a bully.

1 Like Reply

Jason Nov 28, 2017

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.

8 Like Reply

Jason Nov 28, 2017

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.

10 Like Reply

Michelle Nov 28, 2017

Doesn't mean he should blame his behaviour on a self diagnosis

11 Like Reply



Juanita Nov 28, 2017

@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 at 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.

7 Like Reply



HamishMcGeach Nov 28, 2017

@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.

1 Like Reply



David Nov 28, 2017

@Michelle ALLEGED behaviour at this stage dear

6 Like Reply



Ross Nov 28, 2017

He didn't. It is the media doctoring his comments to cause outrage.

Like Reply



Greg Nov 28, 2017

@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.

4 Like Reply



Michelle Nov 28, 2017

@David its not alleged at all. He has admitted to bullying people etc etc and put it down to his self diagnosis etc etc.

4 Like Reply

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ENTERTAINMENT

'He was fine': Stunning defence of Don Burke

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28th Nov 2017 10:52 AM 0 4 COMMENTS

by Nick Bond

USE THIS CONTENT

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 Ita 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.

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"I know Don, I worked with him in radio back in the 80s when I was hosting a show on 2UE in Sydney and I spoke to them 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.



Ita Buttrose said she'd never heard of any poor behaviour from Burke.

Hildebrand challenged Buttrose, 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 after he has already frankly, not really on television any more?" he asked her.

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 crude and we didn't like his behaviour. Nonetheless, nobody fired him. If it was that bad, why was he still there?" she asked.

Former Nine presenter Jessica Rowe spoke up, arguing that the system was stacked to protect bankable stars like 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.

"I have had instances where people have behaved terribly to me but because of my young age

and inexperience I did not have the confidence at the time to call them up and when I did, I was ignored because I was young and a nobody."

Talk then turned to Rowe's own well-publicised run-in with Burke - the two appeared in a 2011 episode of panel show Can of Worms during which Rowe could be seen threatening to walk off set after Burke announced he "loves a good f**k" in a discussion about whether Australians swear too much.

"It was revolting, what he said. Everybody knows I am not a fan of swearing, anyway. But to me it was crude and belittling and people thought it was funny. I think I have a good sense of humour and I did not find it funny at all," Rowe said.

Hildebrand interjected 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



Don Burke's bizarre interview on A Current Affair last night drew much criticism from viewers. Picture: ACA/ Channel 9.



Jessica Rowe didn't appear too pleased when Joe Hildebrand interjected.

funny or crude ... There is a difference between that and all sorts of crude language and bullying behaviour that so many people talked about and 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.

0 4 COMMENTS

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celebrity life ▶ celebrities gone bad

'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.



Emma Reynolds @emmareyn

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 7:07AM

Video Image

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Don Burke brags about his love for swearing

A 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 Braaksensiek 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 Braaksensiek, 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?"



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Jessica Rowe was shocked at gardening show star Don Burke's crude remarks on TV. *Source:YouTube*



The Channel 10 star looks visibly awkward as Burke says he loves "a good f**** after the panel was asked whether Aussies swear too much. *Source:YouTube*

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.

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Don Burke asks a woman if her breasts are real

"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, hat'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."



I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go

Burke also told actor Sophie Lee people wouldn't think she was from an academic family. *Source:YouTube*

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

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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.

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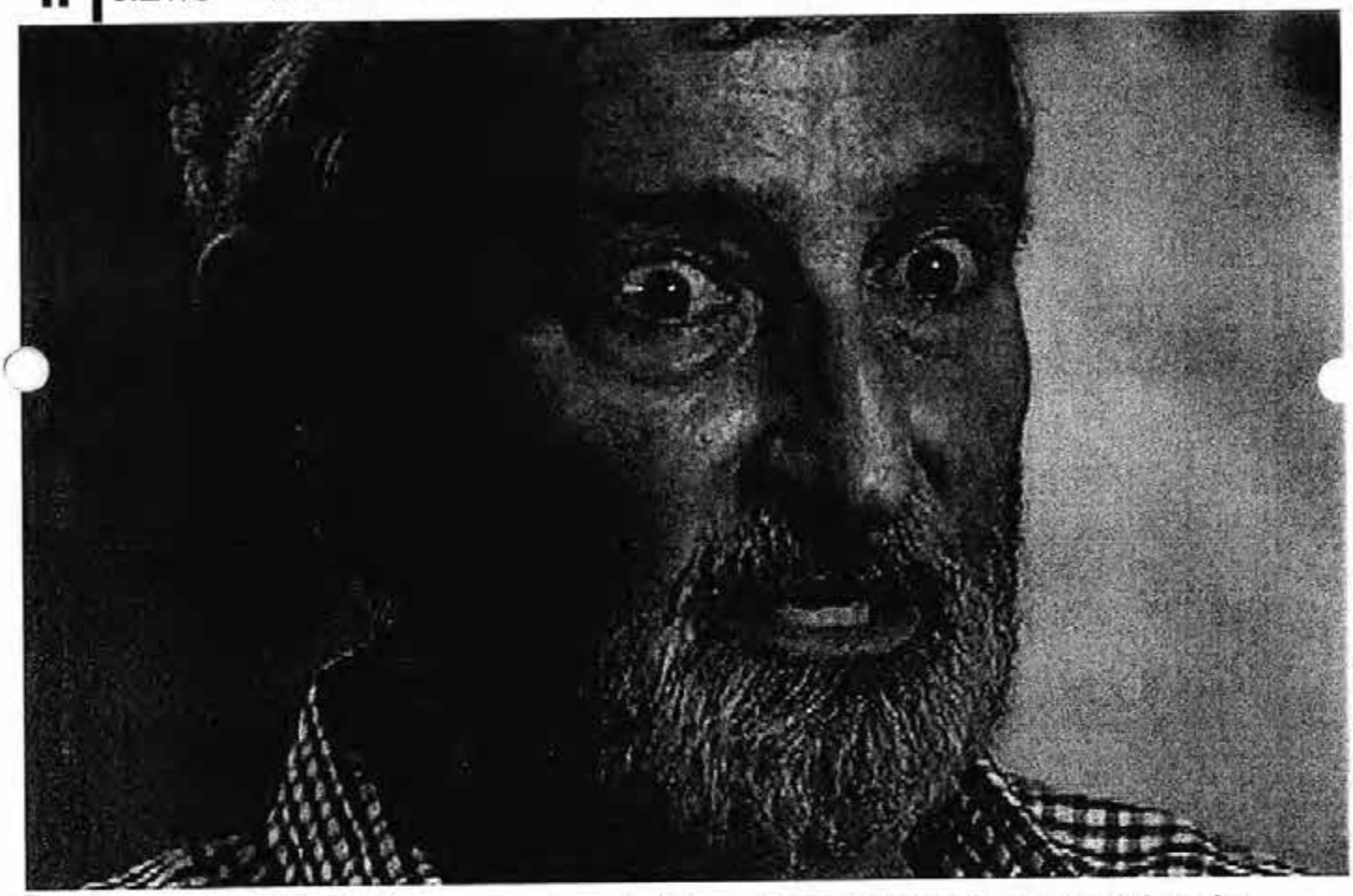

Don Burke said he has Asperger's syndrome in A Current Affair interview. Picture: ACA/ Channel 9

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.



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)

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

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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

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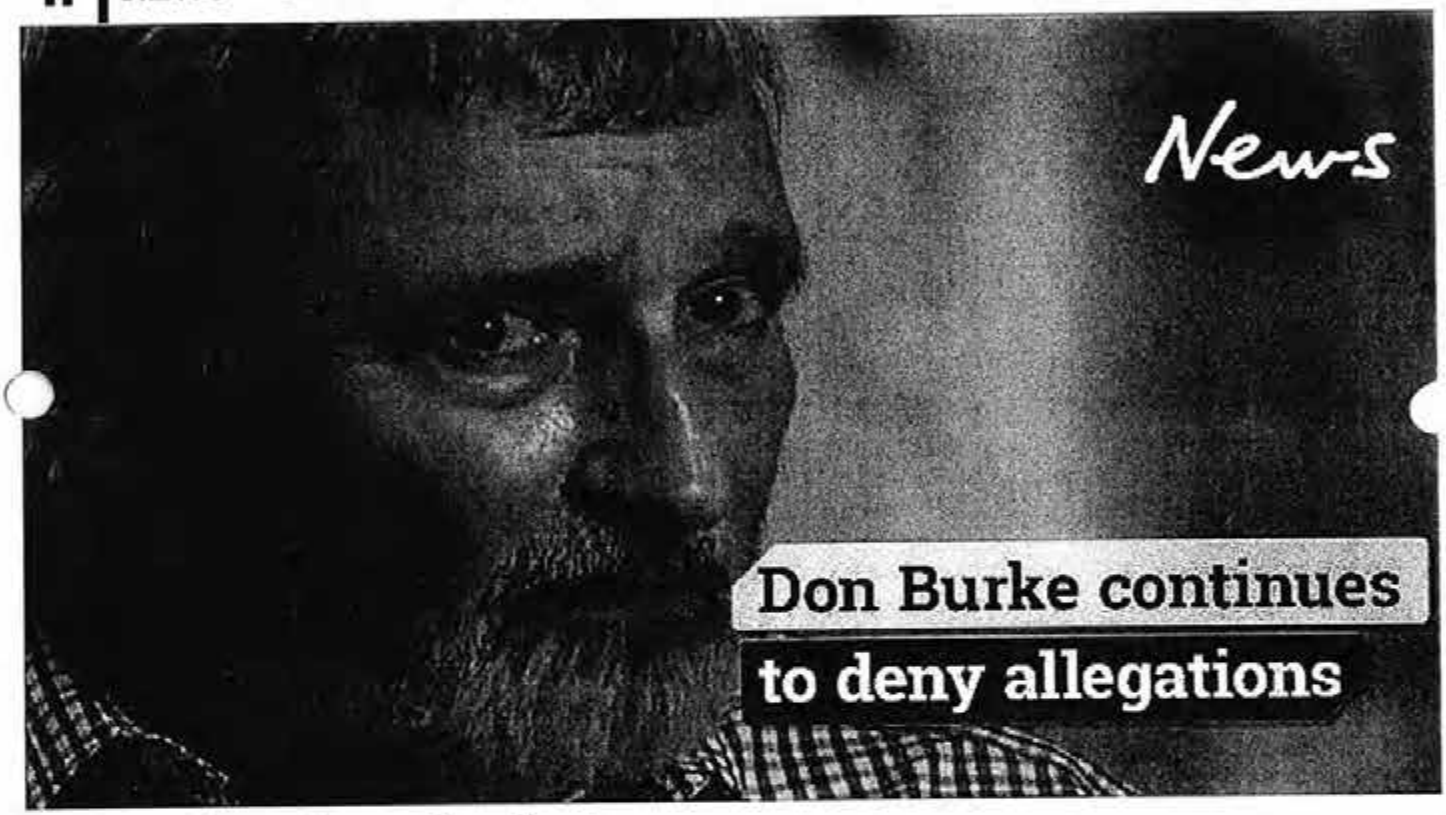

Don Burke continues to deny allegations

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.

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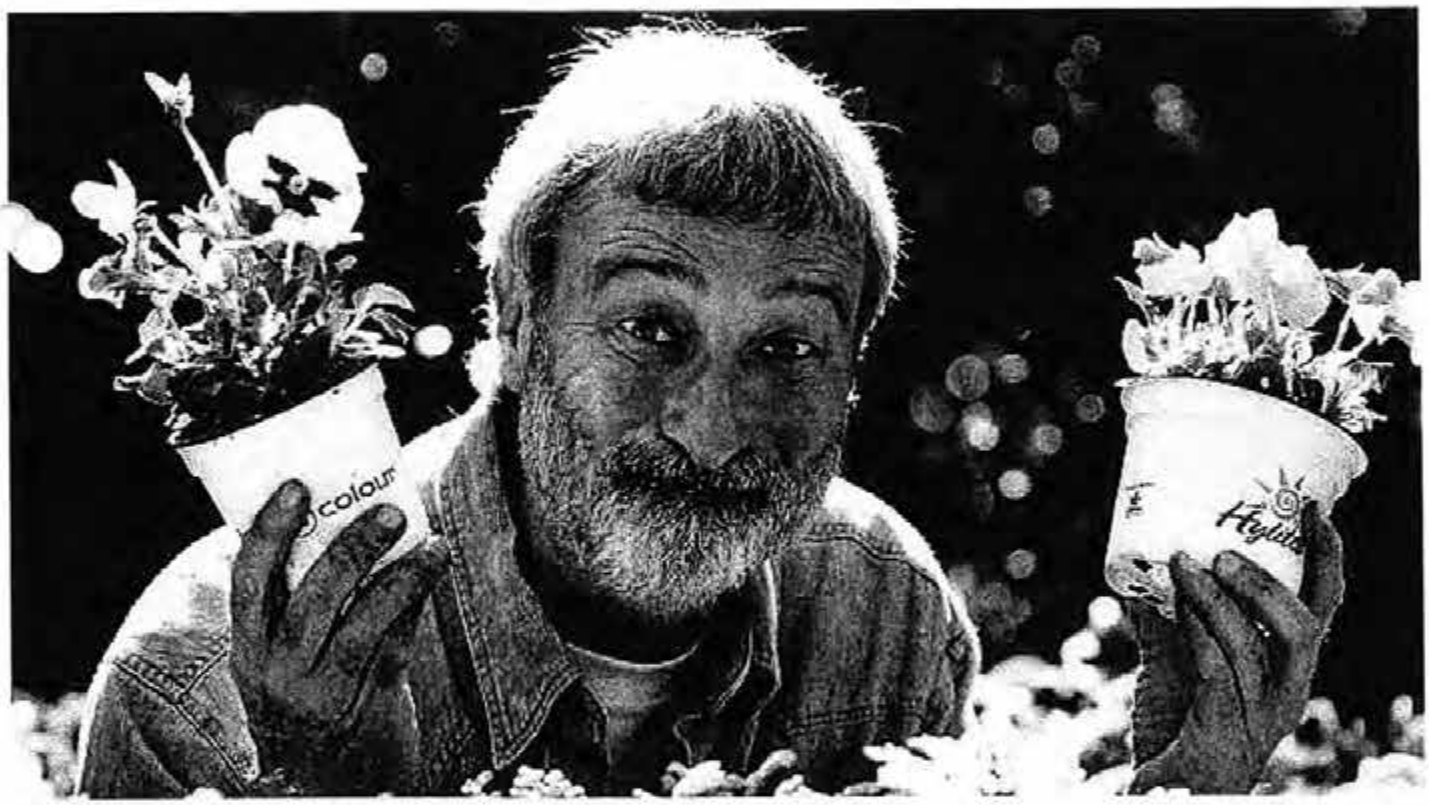
the highest quality work.

Then there was Don the animal husbandry obsessive.



Host and celebrity gardener Don Burke.

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.



Don Burke on A Current Affair. Picture: ACA/ Channel 9.

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.

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'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.



Tara Dennis and Don Burke

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.

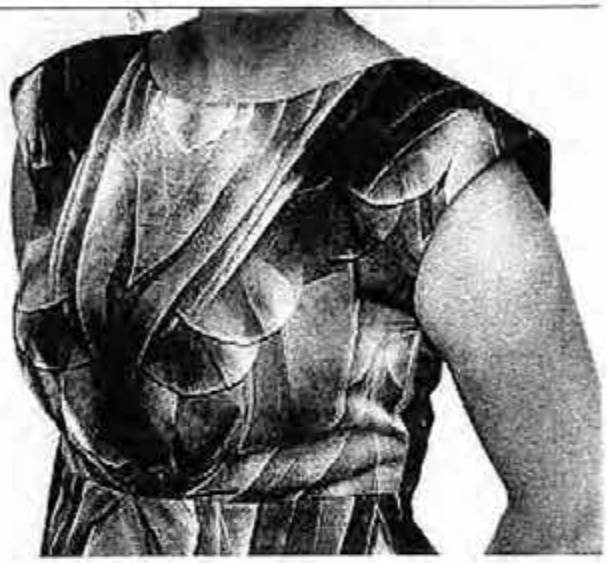
This Don was, as legend had it, a menace with women, though until this week I had never heard the names of those women.

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.



Don Burke near his property.



Annette Sharp.

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.



Don Burke and Mark Jackson in 1989.



Dennis Hundscheidt with Don Burke

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

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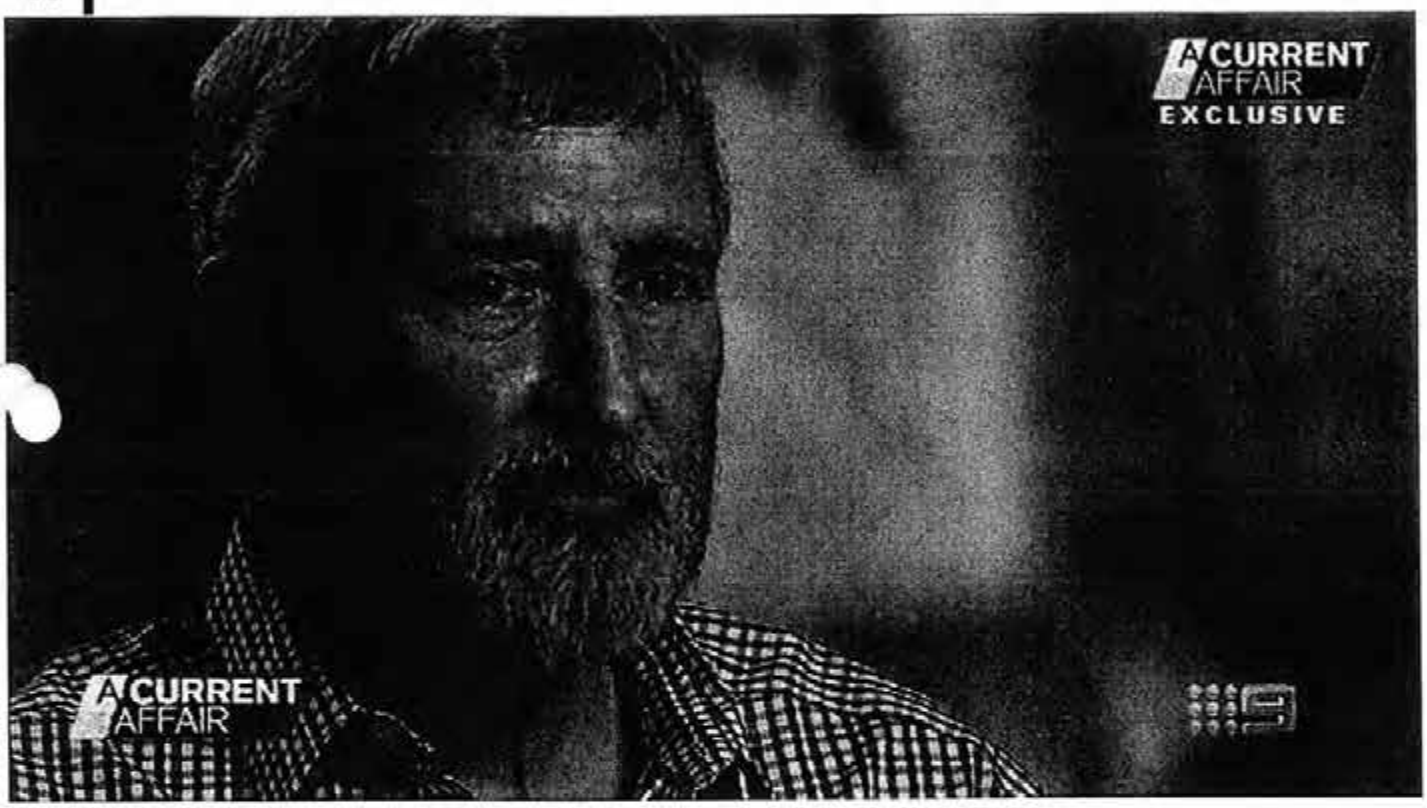

Don Burke: 'I think people are punishing me for my mistakes'

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

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The interview on last night's A Current Affair with host Tracy Grimshaw at Don Burke's Kenthurst home. Picture: Supplied

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."

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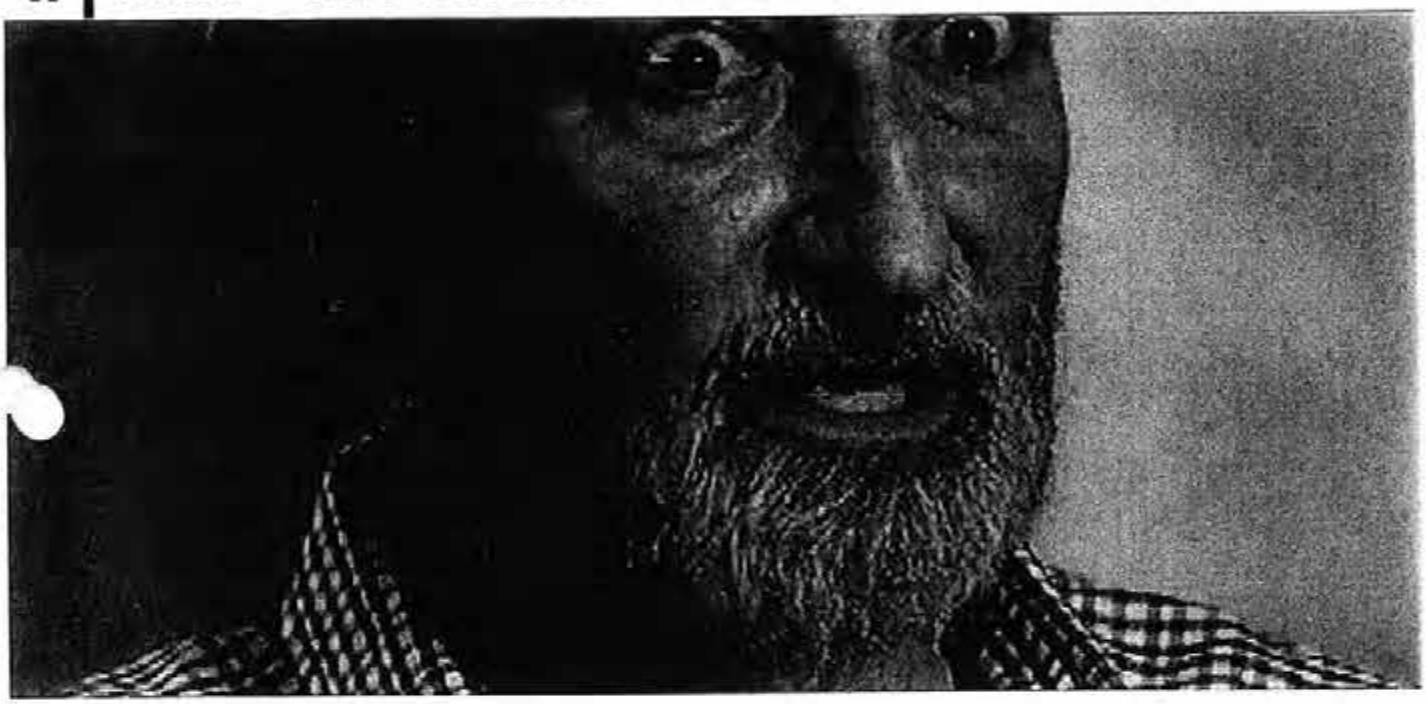

Burke told Tracey Grimshaw he was the victim of a "witch hunt". Picture: ACA/Channel 9.

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."

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Don Burke in his earlier TV days.



Don Burke near his property in Kenthurst last week.

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 Daily Telegraph



Elle Macpherson on Burke's Backyard in 1994. Picture: Ch 9



Burke and Rolf Harris on the show in 1993. Picture: Ch 9

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".



The Daily Telegraph

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.

The Daily Telegraph



Don Burke refused to talk when the Telegraph approached him at his Kenthurt 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."

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Don Burke with wife Marea in 2014. Picture: Don Arnold

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.

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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

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.

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ABC NEWS

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."

RELATED STORY: Don Burke under siege in wake of indecent assault, sexual harassment claims

RELATED STORY: 'He was trying to take my top off': Don Burke accused of sexual harassment

MAP: Australia

Key points:

- Don Burke admits he has "made mistakes in his life" but denies allegations of sexual harassment
- He says it is a "witch-hunt" and "he might have terrified a few people" but it doesn't reflect who he is
- Michael Freedman, former managing director of Burke's company CTC Productions, says the allegations "do not represent the Don Burke that I know"



PHOTO: Tracy Grimshaw interviews Don Burke following the airing of the accusations. (Twitter: A Current Affair)

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.

11-666

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."



PHOTO: Don Burke spoke out on A Current Affair about allegations of indecent assault and sexual harassment. (Fairfax Media: Wolter Peeters)

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.

"Just because someone said it doesn't mean it's 100 per cent true," he said.

'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: Wolter Peeters)

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."

Topics: community-and-society, arts-and-entertainment, television, television-broadcasting, information-and-communication, broadcasting, women, australia

First posted Mon 27 Nov 2017, 7:33pm

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The Daily Telegraph

NEWS SPORT NRL ENTERTAINMENT OPINION BUSINESS LIF

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.

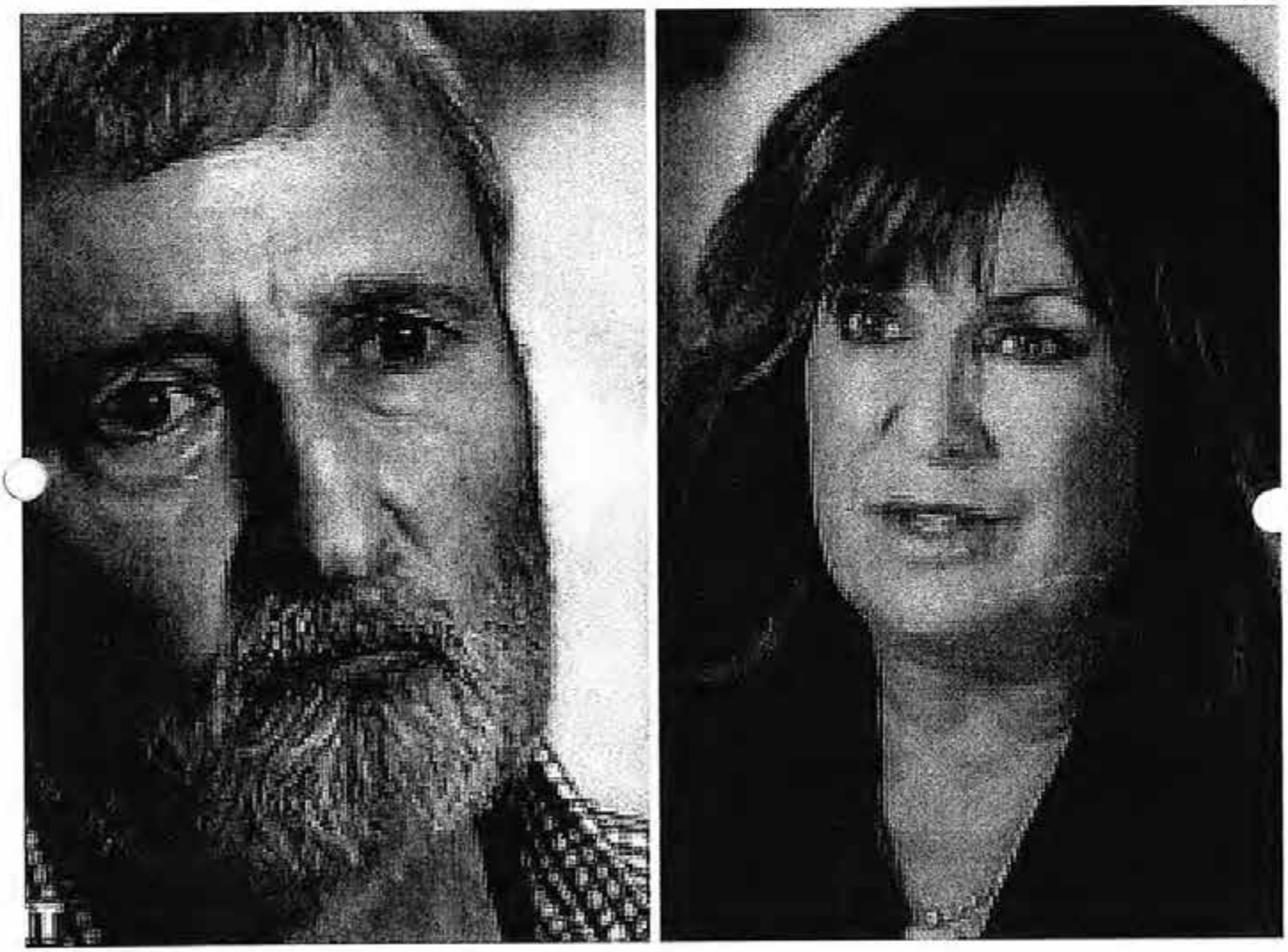
The former Nine Network star went on the offensive tonight after a full day of lurid allegations against him, suggesting the women who had accused him of wrongdoing were "fragile" and claimed to be a victim of a "witch hunt" ignited by the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal.

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.



Don Burke on Nine's ACA

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
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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.

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@SarahHarris

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



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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



Jon Ralph
@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.

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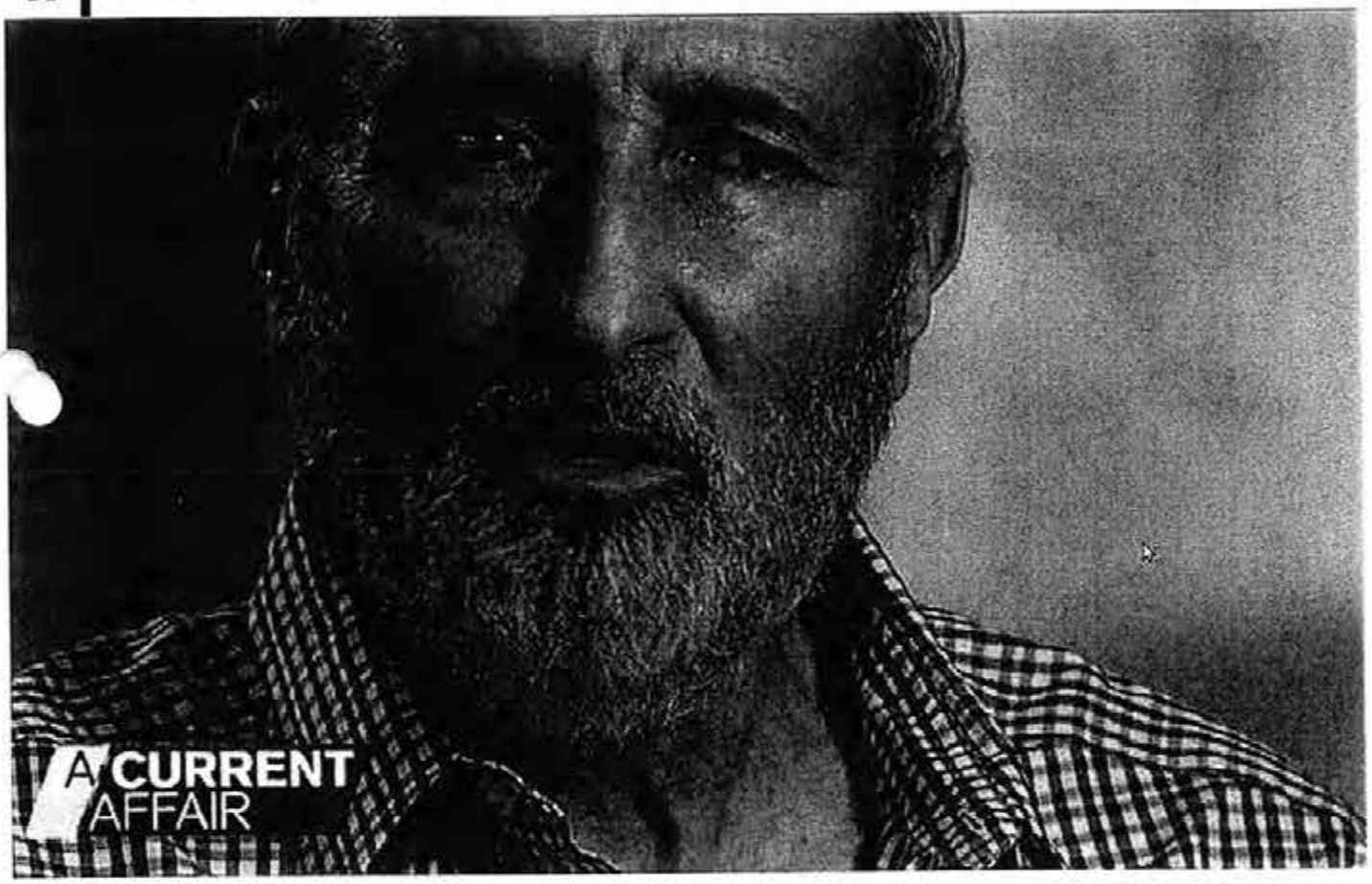

Tracy Grimshaw has grilled Don Burke on the numerous allegations against him. Picture: Channel 9

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."

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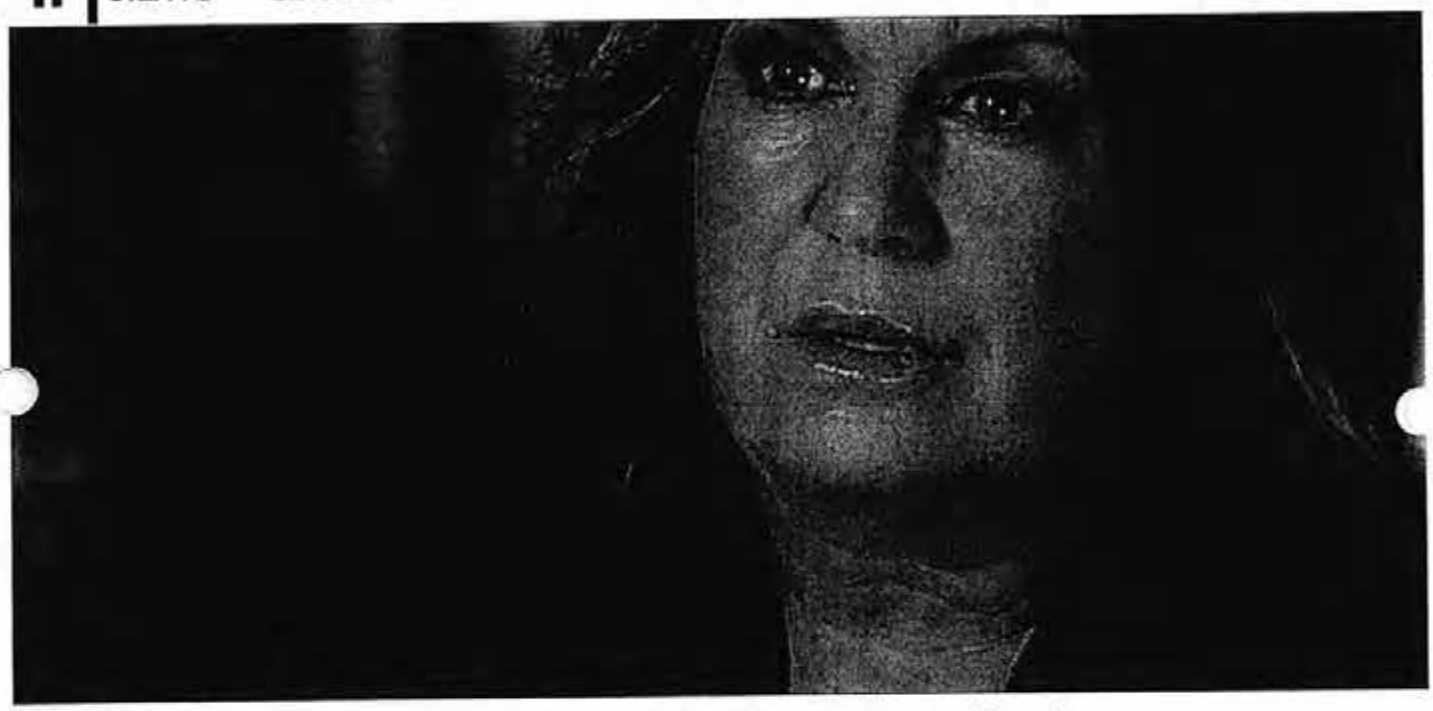

Tracy Grimshaw challenged Don Burke about the allegations. Picture: Channel 9

"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.

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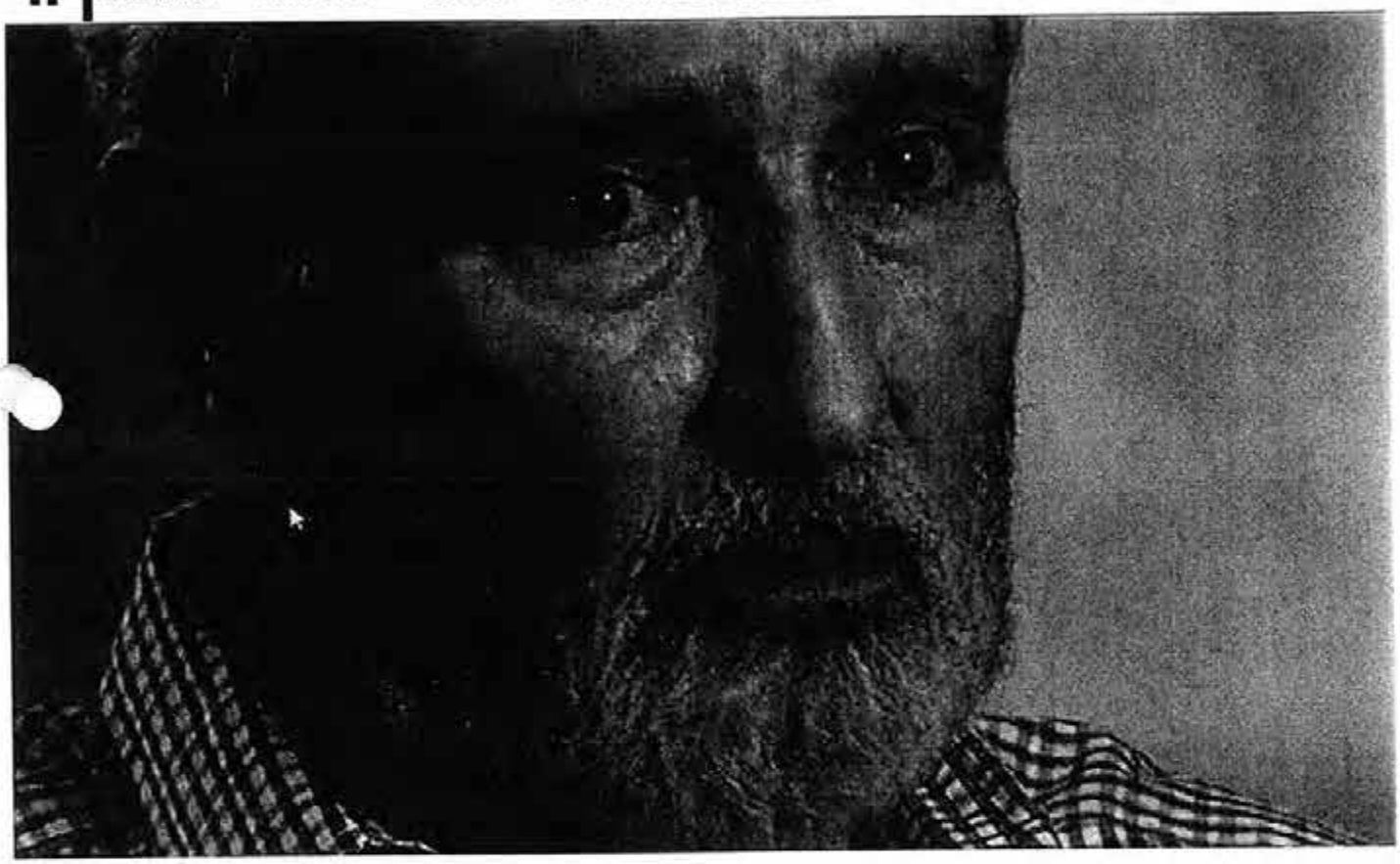

Don Burke claimed he was the victim of a "witch hunt". Picture: Channel 9

"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.

The Daily Telegraph



Don Burke has responded to the shocking claims

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

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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.



Andrew Koubaridis @akoubaridis

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 7:23AM

Video Image

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Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

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.

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".

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Nine announces new Weekend Today hosts



Marco Pierre White scolds Mel Doyle



The Project: Lisa's roster revealed



Don Burke on Nine's ACA *Source:Supplied*

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

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

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Marco Pierre White scolds Mel Doyle


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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?"



Sarah Harris
@SarahHarris

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
@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



Jon Ralph
@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.

"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."

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Tracy Grimshaw has grilled Don Burke on the numerous allegations against him. Picture: Channel 9 *Source:Channel 9*

... 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 *Source:Channel 9*

"Look at the people lining up against you today. Three women have put their names to it...

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The Project: Lisa's roster revealed

"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.

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go



Don Burke claimed he was the victim of a "witch hunt". Picture: Channel 9 *Source: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.

"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."

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Marco Pierre White scolds Mel Doyle



The Project: Lisa's roster revealed



Don Burke has responded to the shocking claims *Source:Channel 9*

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.

ndrew.koubaridis@news.com.au



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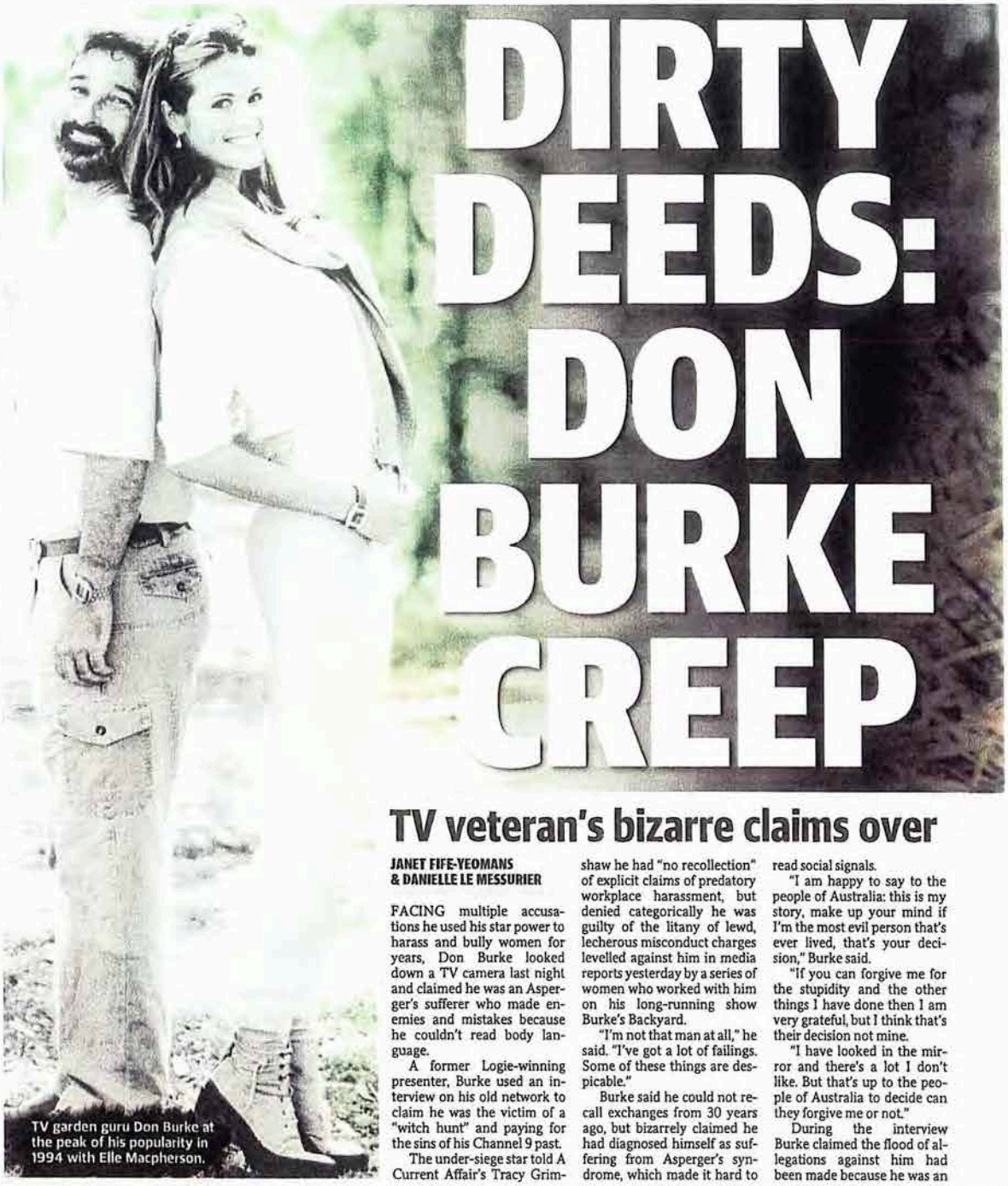
DIRTY DEEDS: DON BURKE CREEP



TV garden guru Don Burke at the peak of his popularity in 1994 with Elle Macpherson.

Olympic legend reveals torment

HOLLY BYRNES

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 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 Nine, 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 serial misconduct, sexual harassment and workplace bullying.



Hugh Marks.

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 Olympics. She said he made a "crude" sexual joke about her private parts when the two were alone in her Brisbane 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' predecessors — Nine's former chairman Sam Chisholm, long-time CEO David Leckie and veteran news executive Peter Meakin — who would put their names to the alleged Burke dirt file — compiled first by whistleblower Tracey Spicer, which formed the basis of a joint investigation.

TV veteran's bizarre claims over

JANET FIFE-YEOMANS & 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 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-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.

"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

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Hospitals to pay for their mistakes

SEAN PARNELL
HEALTH EDITOR

Public hospitals will no longer receive commonwealth funding for avoidable complications such as pressure injuries, infections and falls under a landmark bid to improve the standard and cost of acute care in Australia.

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In a blow to the efficiency agenda, the pricing authority is unable to proceed with the planned bundling of maternity payments, due largely to data issues, but will support innovative payment models for chronic care. The move had been expected to deliver significant savings over time.

Harry to wed his Princess Meghan



GETTY IMAGES
Meghan Markle and Prince Harry will marry next year

JACQUELIN MAGNAY
LONDON

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have announced their engagement, and are to wed in the northern spring, shortly after the birth of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge's third child, due in April.

The wedding, announced last night, is tipped to be non-traditional but involving the Archbishop of Canterbury, with Prince George and Princess Charlotte expected to be in the wedding party.

It has catapulted the royals into modern times, with the Queen accepting Ms Markle, 36, who is a divorcee and commoner from the US. The Queen had to give her approval to the match.

The couple announced the news from Clarence House, the residence of Harry's father, the Prince of Wales, after an 18-month relationship.

They were quickly congratulated by the Queen, Ms Markle's parents, Prince William and Kate and political figures including British Prime Minister Theresa May. Kensington Palace tweeted that William and Kate were "very excited" at the engagement.

Australia was informed via diplomatic channels and, unlike in 1932 when George VIII sought to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson, the Australian government did not object.

Harry, 33, met Ms Markle in Toronto, where she was acting in a television series, *Suits*. Before he had met the actress, he told friends his ideal woman was Ms Markle's character, Rachel Zane.

He proposed in London this month and introduced his fiancee to the Queen over afternoon tea.

Ms Markle's divorced parents, African-American Doria Ragland, a 61-year-old yoga instructor, and Mexico-based Thomas Markle, an Emmy award winning lighting director, also approved. "We are incredibly happy" for the couple and "we wish them a lifetime of happiness", they said.

She has two older half-siblings: Samantha Grant, who has multiple sclerosis, and Thomas Markle Jr. She married Trevor Engelson in a Jewish service, and the marriage lasted two years.

Ms Markle has given up her acting career and the couple have been househunting in the Cotswolds, west of London. She has moved her belongings and her two "loves", a labrador-shepherd cross and a beagle, to London.

Ms Markle has written of her mixed race in an essay for *Elle* magazine: "Being bi-racial paints a blurred line that is equal parts staggering and illuminating. While my mixed heritage may have created a grey area surrounding my self-identification, keeping me with a foot on both sides of the fence, I have come to embrace that. To say who I am, to share where I'm from, to voice my pride in being a strong, confident mixed-race woman."

Harry and Ms Markle are distant cousins going back to the late 15th century. An English sheriff called Ralph Bowes is Ms Markle's ancestor from 15 generations ago and Harry's relative through the Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

Cool reception as JJJ moves its Hottest 100

EMILY RITCHIE

ABC radio station Triple J is facing a backlash over its decision to move the Hottest 100 away from Australia Day, with Communications Minister Mitch Fifield warning that the national broadcaster should "not mess" with the national day.

The youth-focused station yesterday announced its popular music countdown instead would be broadcast across the fourth weekend in January each year because of indigenous concerns that the national day is held on January 26, which commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

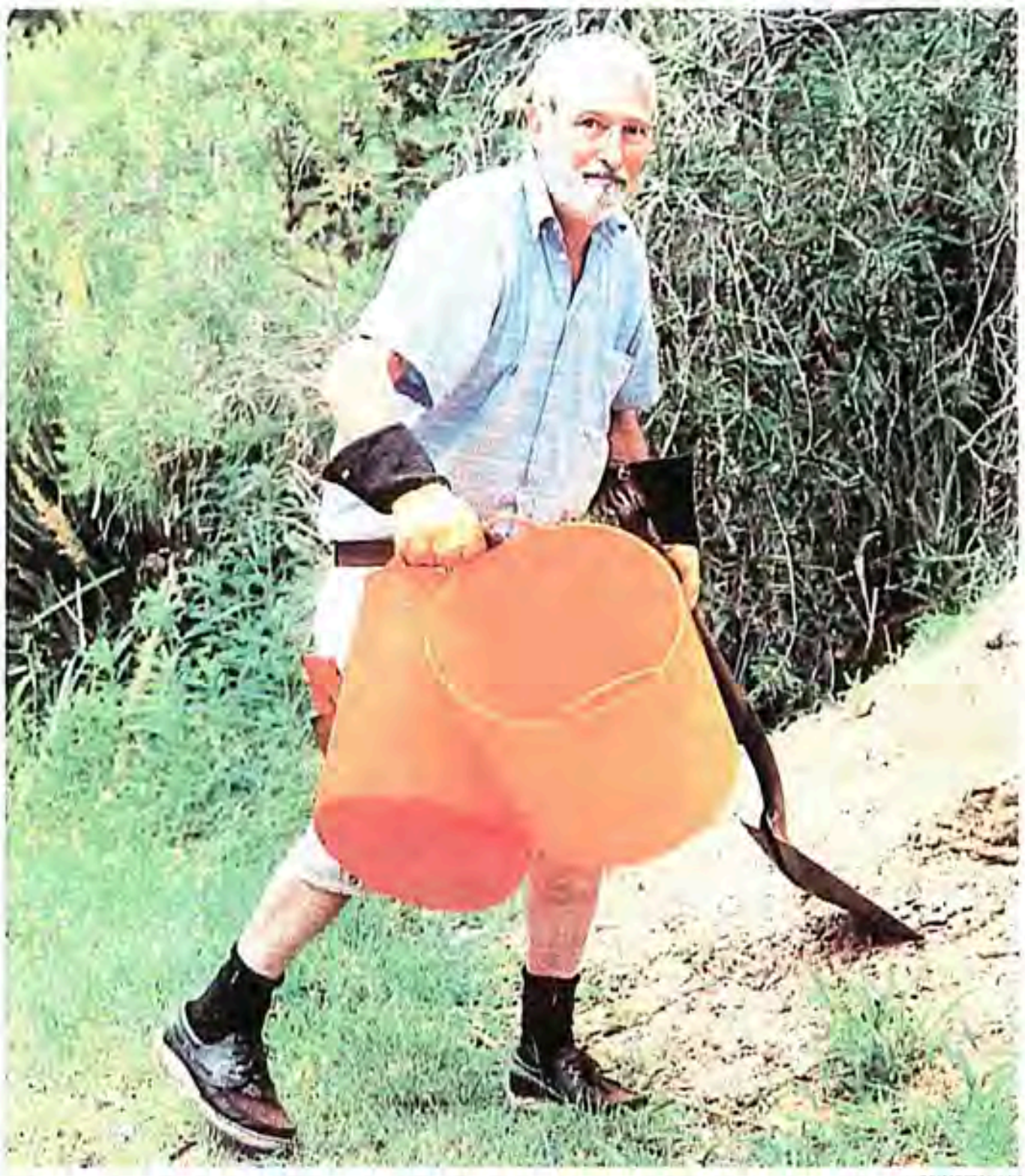
But Senator Fifield hit out at Triple J. "I am bewildered by the ABC's decision to move the Hottest 100 from Australia Day," he said. "The ABC shouldn't be buying into this debate. Australia Day is our national day. The ABC should honour it and not mess with the Hottest 100."

The station ran listener surveys and talked to music industry professionals and indigenous groups, saying a majority favoured a change of date.

"You told us how much you love the countdown and most of you are up for a new day," Triple J said yesterday. "The only debate should be about the songs." The station said it would hold a "Hottest 100 Weekend" on January 27-28.

Greens senator Rachel Siewert welcomed the move, saying the countdown would now be held on a date that doesn't "hurt our First Peoples".

Burke memory fails on 'exact things I did'



BRIANNE MAKIN
'Who remembers what happened 30 years ago?': Don Burke near his property at Kenthurst in Sydney's northwest

DARREN DAVIDSON
DANA McCAULEY

Former Nine Network television personality Don Burke has given a bizarre television interview in which he admits to behaving like a bullying tyrant, and having "a number of affairs", but cannot remember "exact things I did 20 years ago".

Burke categorically denies all allegations of sexual harassment made against him. He was grilled on television last night as he faced up to allegations that he was a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" during the 17-year run of *Burke's Backyard*.

Burke said he suffered from self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome, a sub-type of autism that affects how people make sense of the world and relate to others.

Half an hour after the interview aired on Nine, the ABC's 7.30 broadcast interviews with Burke's accusers following a joint ABC-Fairfax Media investigation published yesterday.

"The ABC is just getting started with its bid to expose accused sexual abusers in Australia's media and entertainment industries," host Leigh Sales said.

Sales said the ABC was "slowly and meticulously working through accusations against well-known public figures", with the complaints against Burke the first of a series of revelations.

A tenacious interview by *A Current Affair* host Tracy Grimshaw on Nine saw Burke confess, "I might have gone a bit far", but he denied he was like Harvey Weinstein, whose swift fall from grace as one of Hollywood's most powerful movie moguls has been capped by rape allegations.

Weinstein faces a police investigation. Burke does not. *The Australian* does not suggest Burke is guilty of any of the allegations, only that he has been accused. "I was this bullying figure, it was a robust environment and everybody was entitled to put in their two cents," Burke said.

Burke said allegations against him were part of a "witch hunt" inspired by the backlash against powerful men in Hollywood.

"I think this whole Harvey Weinstein thing reinforces the victim mentality of women," he said. "With all of these Twitter things, it is a terrible time."

Grimshaw suggested that, rather than turning women into victims, the #MeToo campaign was "empowering women and helping them find their voices".

Burke replied: "Some women, maybe. But for others it reinforces their victim position."

Burke dismissed the most serious allegations but told Grimshaw: "A lot of this was 30 years ago. Who remembers what happened 30 years ago? What I know is that I know what I will say and what I will not say."

Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for Nine before it was cancelled in 2004. As the show's run ended, he said he behaved liked a "bear with a bloody sore head" and apologised for it.

Burke challenged viewers to pass judgment on whether he was guilty of the most serious allegations against him. "I want to say to the people of Australia this is their chance to judge. 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, then I am grateful. That is up to the people of Australia to decide, can they forgive me."

Lawyers line up as accusers come forward



ABC NEWS, LOUISELANGDON.COM
From left, researcher Louise Langdon, producer Bridget Ninness, and entertainer Wendy Dent

DANA McCAULEY

The Nine Network, which aired Don Burke's long-running prime time hit *Burke's Backyard*, has launched an internal investigation after a joint Fairfax-ABC investigation accused the former host of bullying, harassing and indecently assaulting female staff and associates over decades.

Legal experts say the network is exposed to a potential class action by Burke's accusers, after a string of ex-staffers — and two former chief executives — painted a picture of a predator given free rein to terrorise women. In comments published by Fairfax yesterday, former Nine boss David Leckie described Burke as a "horrible, horrible man", while predecessor Sam Chisholm called Burke a "terrible grub".

As the dominoes begin to fall in journalist Tracey Spicer's investigation into alleged misconduct in Australia's media and entertainment industries, lawyers are on standby as rumours swirl about who will be accused next.

Shine Lawyers defamation special counsel Roger Singh said media companies could be facing "substantial" damages payouts if they were found to have breached their duty of care to employees subject to abuse. Singh said a sexual harassment group action could seek "quite substantial" damages if it established that the company had negligently allowed the abuse to occur. To succeed, he said, such accusers would need to show the culture of the organisation created a platform for the offender to engage in the conduct "with impunity".

"You have to be able to demonstrate that there was a breach of duty of care and negligence on the part of the institution … on the basis that it knew, or ought to have known, the propensity of the offender to inflict abuse, but didn't take appropriate action," Mr Singh said.

Nine's legal advisers will have read with dismay comments by the network's former CEO Chisholm, who told Fairfax: "Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally." Asked whether anyone had come to him with allegations of misconduct, he said: "Probably they did, but I don't know."

Nine maintains any alleged misconduct was the responsibility of Burke's production company CTC Productions, which "employed and managed all staff".

It is alleged some of the incidents took place when the program was produced at Nine.

Lawyer Josh Bornstein, head of Maurice Blackburn's employment law practice, said he had spoken to women who had settled sexual harassment claims, but now wanted to speak out.

Nine has opened an internal investigation into the Burke allegations. A Nine spokeswoman said the network is "encouraging people to come forward", including past and present employees.

World watches as archbishop stands trial for 'protecting pedophile priest'

SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES

The most senior Catholic cleric in the world to be charged with concealing the child-sex-abuse offences of another priest will face a two-week hearing starting today.

In what is seen as a test case for the potential prosecution of others accused of not disclosing such crimes, the Archbishop of Adelaide, Philip Edward Wilson, faces up to two years in jail if convicted of "concealing a serious indictable offence".

It is alleged the 67-year-old had information he knew or believed about Hunter Valley priest James Fletcher that he failed to pass on to investigating police between April 22, 2004, when Fletcher was charged with child sex offences, and July 7, 2006, when Fletcher died in jail. Prosecutors say Archbishop Wilson, a former president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, knew Fletcher had abused a 10-year-old boy in 1971 but failed to notify police. He has denied the allegation.

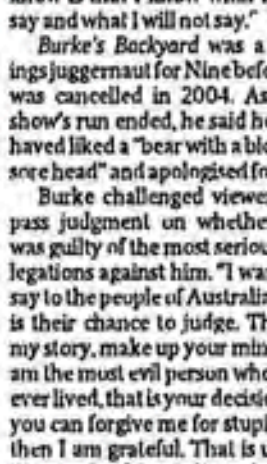
Since he was charged in March 2015, Archbishop Wilson has made three attempts to have the charge against him dismissed or permanently stayed. In February last year, a magistrate refused to quash the allegations. Then in the NSW Supreme Court, Archbishop Wilson's lawyers argued the evidence gathered by police was capable of establishing only that he had received the allegations — there was no evidence the Archbishop believed them, meaning he did not have the legal responsibility to report them to police.

Judge Monika Schmidt rejected that argument, saying she was "satisfied that the inferences capable of being drawn from all of that evidence, if accepted, include that the archbishop held the alleged belief."

NSW Court of Appeal judges John Basten, Tony Meagher, and Chief Justice Tom Bathurst dismissed Archbishop Wilson's attempt to challenge Justice Schmidt's decision in June.

"I agree with the primary judge's conclusion that the predicate offence which it is alleged Father Fletcher had committed was at all relevant times between 2004 and 2006 a 'serious indictable offence' for the purposes of the Crimes Act," Justice Meagher wrote.

Archbishop Wilson initially stood aside in March 2015 but resumed his role early last year as the legal battle continued. He will be represented by barrister Stephen Odgers SC and Adelaide firm Iles Selley, while the prosecution will be managed by the NSW Department of Public Prosecutions.



BROOKE CAMPBELL
Archbishop Wilson

Declared corrupt, cleared by judge

CHRIS MERRITT
LEGAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

Four years after being labelled corrupt by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, businessman Craig Ransley was yesterday cleared of all charges.

District Court judge Peter Zahra found Mr Ransley not guilty of three charges related to allegations at the heart of coal inquiries conducted by former ICAC commissioner David Ipp.

After his exoneration, Mr Ransley revealed the commissioners now in charge of ICAC had provided his lawyers with exculpatory evidence that had not previously been made public.

"I have no argument with the new management at ICAC, but there needs to be an inquiry into why that material was not made available earlier," he said. "Had those documents been made available to the Director of Public Prosecutions I believe I would never have been charged."

ICAC declared Mr Ransley corrupt in 2013 after an inquiry known as Operation Acacia that concerned the allocation of coal exploration licences by the former Labor state government.

Since then, Mr Ransley said he had spent between $2 million and $3m on legal fees and had



Ransley

been forced to step down from positions with public companies.

ICAC's Acacia report, and the charges that were dismissed yesterday, had accused him of knowing that his company, Doyles Creek Mining, had submitted misleading information to a state government department.

Mr Ransley's call for an inquiry comes after the NSW parliament was told last week that an aspect of ICAC's coal inquiry had been affected by "misinformation, deliberate deception and perhaps even gross maladministration". Liberal Peter Phelps told the upper house he feared the parliament had been misled into expropriating coal exploration licences.

Mr Ransley's exoneration came on the same day Mr Ipp, backed by the Australia Institute and several retired judges, called for the creation of a federal anti-corruption commission.

Judge Zahra's decision to clear Mr Ransley is the second setback for ICAC over the Acacia inquiry. The Acacia report had recommended the DPP also consider charging another Doyles Creek director, Andrew Poole, with a criminal offence. ICAC believed Mr Poole had agreed to have the company publish false and misleading material to the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Mr Poole, like Mr Ransley, had disputed this during the ICAC hearing but the commission, which is not bound by the rules of evidence, considered him to be corrupt. The DPP later found there was insufficient evidence to charge Mr Poole with any offence.

One of the companies that was stripped of its exploration licence has lodged a complaint with ICAC's independent inspector, Bruce McClintock SC, about the handling of that inquiry. Mr McClintock is also considering a complaint by former NSW emergency services commissioner Murray Kear that concerns the suppression of exculpatory evidence.

Hospitals to pay for their mistakes

SEAN PARNELL
HEALTH EDITOR

Public hospitals will no longer receive commonwealth funding for avoidable complications such as pressure injuries, infections and falls under a landmark bid to improve the standard and cost of acute care in Australia.

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ICAC cried corrupt, then helps clear him

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LEGAL AFFAIRS EDITOR


Ransley

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District Court judge Peter Zahra found Mr Ransley not guilty of three charges related to allegations at the heart of coal inquiries conducted by former ICAC commissioner David Ipp.

After his exoneration, Mr Ransley revealed the commis- ners who are now in charge of AC had provided his lawyers xculpatory evidence that previously been made

ave no argument with the new management at ICAC, but there needs to be an inquiry into why that material was not made available earlier," he said. "Had those documents been made available to the Director of Public Prosecutions I believe I would never have been charged."

ICAC declared Mr Ransley to be corrupt in 2013 after an inquiry known as Operation Acacia that concerned the allocation of coal exploration licences by the former Labor state government.

Since then, Mr Ransley said he had spent between $2 million and $3m on legal fees and had been forced to step down from positions with public companies.

ICAC's Acacia report, and the charges that were dismissed yesterday, had accused him of knowing that his company, Doyles Creek Mining, had submitted misleading information to a state government department.

Mr Ransley's call for an inquiry comes after the NSW parliament was told last week that an aspect of ICAC's coal inquiry had been affected by "misinformation, deliberate deception and perhaps even gross maladministration". Liberal Peter Phelps told the upper house he feared the parliament had been misled into expropriating coal exploration licences.

Mr Ransley's exoneration came on the same day Mr Ipp, backed by the Australia Institute and several retired judges, called for the creation of a federal anti-corruption commission.

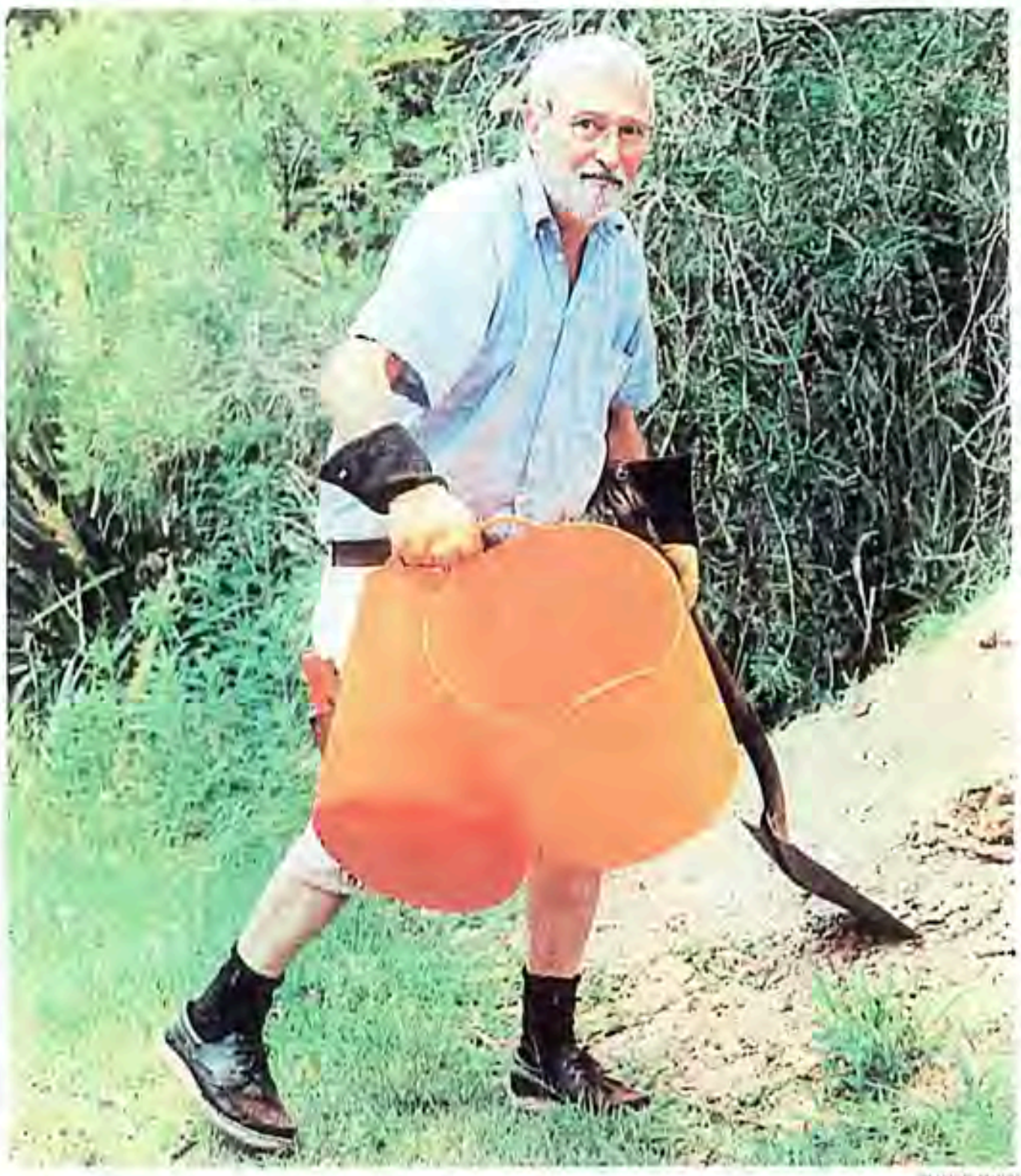
Judge Zahra's decision to clear Mr Ransley is the second setback for ICAC over the Acacia inquiry.

The Acacia report had recommended the DPP also consider charging another Doyles Creek director, Andrew Poole, with a criminal offence. ICAC believed Mr Poole had agreed to have the company publish false and misleading material to the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Mr Poole, like Mr Ransley, had disputed this during the ICAC hearing but the commission, which is not bound by the rules of evidence, considered him to be corrupt. The DPP later found there was insufficient evidence to charge Mr Poole with any offence.

One of the companies that was stripped of its exploration licence has lodged a complaint with ICAC's independent inspector, Bruce McClintock SC, about the handling of that inquiry.

Burke memory fails on 'exact things I did'


'Who remembers what happened 30 years ago?': Don Burke near his property at Kenthurst in Sydney's northwest
BRIANNE MAKIN

DARREN DAVIDSON
DANA McCAULEY

Former Nine Network television personality Don Burke has given a bizarre television interview in which he admits to behaving like a bullying tyrant, and having "a number of affairs", but cannot remember "exact things I did 20 years ago".

Burke categorically denies all allegations of sexual harassment made against him. He was grilled on television last night as he faced up to allegations that he was a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" during the 17-year run of *Burke's Backyard*.

Burke said he suffered from self-diagnosed Asperger's syndrome, a sub-type of autism that affects how people make sense of the world and relate to others.

Half an hour after the interview aired on Nine, the ABC's 7.30 broadcast interviews with Burke's accusers following a joint ABC-Fairfax Media investigation published yesterday.

"The ABC is just getting started with its bid to expose accused sexual abusers in Australia's media and entertainment industries," host Leigh Sales said.

Sales said the ABC was "slowly and meticulously working through accusations against well-known public figures", with the complaints against Burke the first of a series of revelations.

A tenacious interview by *A Current Affair* host Tracy Grimshaw on Nine saw Burke confess, "I might have gone a bit far", but he denied he was like Harvey Weinstein, whose swift fall from grace as one of Hollywood's most powerful movie moguls has been capped by rape allegations.

Weinstein faces a police investigation. Burke does not. *The Australian* does not suggest Burke is guilty of any of the allegations, only that he has been accused. "I was this bullying figure, it was a robust environment and everybody was entitled to put in their two cents," Burke said.

Burke said allegations against him were part of a "witch hunt" inspired by the backlash against powerful men in Hollywood.

"I think this whole Harvey Weinstein thing reinforces the victim mentality of women," he said. "With all of these Twitter things, it is a terrible time."

Grimshaw suggested that, rather than turning women into victims, the #MeToo campaign was "empowering women and helping them find their voices".

Burke replied: "Some women, maybe. But for others it reinforces their victim position."

Burke dismissed the most serious allegations but told Grimshaw: "A lot of this was 30 years ago. Who remembers what happened 30 years ago? What I know is that I know what I will say and what I will not say."

Burke's Backyard was a ratings juggernaut for Nine before it was cancelled in 2004. As the show's run ended, he said he behaved liked a "bear with a bloody sore head" and apologised for it.

Burke challenged viewers to pass judgment on whether he was guilty of the most serious allegations against him. "I want to say to the people of Australia this is their chance to judge. 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, then I am grateful. That is up to the people of Australia to decide, can they forgive me."

Lawyers line up as accusers come forward

DANA McCAULEY




ABC NEWS, LOUISELANGDON.COM
From left, researcher Louise Langdon, producer Bridget Ninness, and entertainer Wendy Dent

The Nine Network, which aired Don Burke's long-running prime time hit *Burke's Backyard*, has launched an internal investigation after a joint Fairfax-ABC investigation accused the former host of bullying, harassing and indecently assaulting female staff and associates over decades.

Legal experts say the network is exposed to a potential class action by Burke's accusers, after a string of ex-staffers — and two former chief executives — painted a picture of a predator given free rein to terrorise women.

In comments published by Fairfax yesterday, former Nine boss David Leckie described Burke as a "horrible, horrible man", while predecessor Sam Chisholm called Burke a "terrible grub".

As the dominoes begin to fall in journalist Tracey Spicer's investigation into alleged misconduct in Australia's media and entertainment industries, lawyers are on standby as rumours swirl about who will be accused next.

Shine Lawyers defamation special counsel Roger Singh said media companies could be facing "substantial" damages payouts if they were found to have breached their duty of care to employees subject to abuse. Singh said a sexual harassment group action could seek "quite substantial" damages if it established that the company had negligently allowed the abuse to occur. To succeed, he said, such accusers would need to show the culture of the organisation created a platform for the offender to engage in the conduct "with impunity".

"You have to be able to demonstrate that there was a breach of duty of care and negligence on the part of the institution ... on the basis that it knew, or ought to have known, the propensity of the offender to inflict abuse, but didn't take appropriate action," Mr Singh said.

Nine's legal advisers will have read with dismay comments by the network's former CEO Chisholm, who told Fairfax: "Don Burke was a disgrace because of his behaviour internally and externally." Asked whether anyone had come to him with allegations of misconduct, he said: "Probably they did, but I don't know."

Nine maintains any alleged misconduct was the responsibility of Burke's production company CTC Productions, which "employed and managed all staff".

It is alleged some of incidents took place at a time when the program was produced at Nine.

Lawyer Josh Bornstein, head of Maurice Blackburn's employment law practice, said he had spoken to women who had settled sexual harassment claims, but now wanted to speak out.

Nine has opened an internal investigation into the Burke allegations. A Nine spokeswoman said the network is "encouraging people to come forward", including past and present employees.

Forgetful child killer to die in jail


NICOLE GARMSTON
Gregory Keith Davies

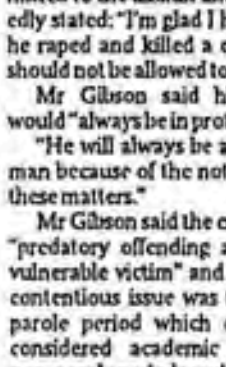
TESSA AKERMAN

A man who claims he doesn't remember raping and killing a six-year-old girl in 1984 will likely die in prison, a court has heard.

Gregory Keith Davies, 75, pleaded guilty earlier this year to the murder of Kylie Maybury and is likely to spend the rest of his life in protective custody, his barrister said.

Kylie was on her way home after picking up some sugar at the local store for her mother on Melbourne Cup day when she disappeared.

Her body was found early the next morning and tests showed the child had been sexually assaulted, drugged and suffocated.


Kylie Maybury

David Gibson told the Victorian Supreme Court his client was attacked in prison with boiling water following his plea and sustained burns to 15 per cent of his body.

He said Davies's assailant admitted to the assault and reportedly stated: "I'm glad I hurt him, he raped and killed a child. He should not be allowed to live."

Mr Gibson said his client would "always be in protection".

"He will always be a marked man because of the notoriety of these matters."

Mr Gibson said the crime was "predatory offending against a vulnerable victim" and the only contentious issue was the non-parole period which could be considered academic as any non-parole period would see Davies being at least 100-years-old.

"The reality of his plea is he dies in prison," Mr Gibson said.

A psychiatric report noted Davies claimed not to remember the offence but had pleaded guilty and prayed for forgiveness.

Prosecutor Mark Rochford SC said general deterrence and protection of the community were paramount.

He read a victim impact statement to the court on behalf of Kylie's mother, Julie Ryan.

Ms Ryan said Kylie was her "little princess" and her daughter's death had left a hole in her heart. "You can heal slightly around it but you can't heal the wound," she said. "Kylie's death destroyed my life."

Ms Ryan said she turned to alcohol following the murder and, until Davies was charged, looked at everyone wondering if they were her daughter's killer.

"I often thought about the killer, how it was done, I still think about how it was done," she said. She said she blamed herself and a conviction would make her feel better when visiting Kylie's grave.

Justice Lex Lasry will sentence Davies on December 15.

Cool reception as JJJ moves its Hottest 100

EMILY RITCHIE

C radio station Triple J is facing a backlash over its decision to the Hottest 100 away from a Day, with Communica- linister Mitch Fifield that the national broadcaster should "not mess" with the national day.

The youth-focused station yesterday announced its popular music countdown instead would be broadcast across the fourth weekend in January each year because of indigenous concerns that the national day is held on January 26, which commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet at Port Jackson in 1788.

But Senator Fifield hit out at Triple J. "I am bewildered by the ABC's decision to move the Hottest 100 from Australia Day," he said. "The ABC shouldn't be buying into this debate. Australia Day is our national day. The ABC should honour it and not mess with the Hottest 100."

His Liberal colleague Alex Hawke said the move was "disappointing" and "pathetic".

"The constant push to politicise and delegitimise Australia Day being held on 26 January is pathetic and out of step with most Australians' views," Mr Hawke said.

The Hottest 100, which charts listeners' favourite songs from the previous year, has been held on January 26 for almost two decades. This year the station conducted two listener surveys and canvassed the opinions of music industry professionals and indigenous groups, saying a majority of respondents favoured a change of date.

"You told us how much you love the countdown and most of you are up for a new day," the station said in an announcement yesterday. "We all agreed that the Hottest 100 shouldn't be part of a debate about the day it's on. The only debate should be about the songs."

The station said it would hold a "Hottest 100 Weekend", which may fall on January 26 in some years but will take place on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, next year. The station will broadcast alternative programming on Australia Day.

Greens senator Rachel Siewert welcomed the move, saying the countdown would now be held on a date that doesn't "hurt our First Peoples".

The station said one of its surveys received 65,000 responses, with 60 per cent stating they would prefer a date change, and the results of both surveys were analysed by a third party.

World watches as archbishop stands trial for 'protecting pedophile priest'

[illegible]

The most senior Catholic cleric in the world to be charged with concealing the child-sex-abuse offences of another priest will face a two-week hearing starting today.

In what is seen as a test case for the potential prosecution of others accused of not disclosing such crimes, the Archbishop of Adelaide, Philip Edward Wilson, faces up to two years in jail if convicted of "concealing a serious indictable offence".

It is alleged the 67-year-old had information he knew or believed about Hunter Valley priest James Fletcher that he failed to pass on to investigating police between April 22, 2004, when Fletcher was charged with child sex offences, and July 7, 2006, when Fletcher died in jail. Prosecutors say Archbishop Wilson, a former president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, knew Fletcher had abused a 10-year-old boy in 1971 but failed to notify police. He has denied the allegation.

Since he was charged in March 2015, Archbishop Wilson has made three attempts to have the charge against him dismissed or permanently stayed. In February last year, a magistrate refused to quash the allegations. Then in the NSW Supreme Court, Archbishop Wilson's lawyers argued the evidence gathered by police was capable of establishing only that he had received the allegations — there was no evidence the Archbishop believed them, meaning he did not have the legal responsibility to report them to police.

Judge Monika Schmidt rejected that argument, saying she was "satisfied that the inferences capable of being drawn from all of that evidence, if accepted, include that the archbishop held the alleged belief."

NSW Court of Appeal judges John Basten, Tony Meagher, and Chief Justice Tom Bathurst dismissed Archbishop Wilson's attempt to challenge Justice Schmidt's decision in June.

"I agree with the primary judge's conclusion that the predicate offence which it is alleged Father Fletcher had committed was at all relevant times between 2004 and 2006 a 'serious indictable offence' for the purposes of the Crimes Act," Justice Meagher wrote.

Archbishop Wilson initially stood aside in March 2015 but resumed his role early last year as the legal battle continued. He will be represented by barrister Stephen Odgers SC and Adelaide firm Iles Selley, while the prosecution will be managed by the NSW Department of Public Prosecutions.


BRODIE CAMPBELL
Archbishop Wilson

The Daily Tel raph

WE'RE FOR SYDNEY

$1.60 // TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are set for a spring wedding next year. Picture: Chris Jackson /Getty Images

REMARKLEABLE!

Harry and Meghan engaged

» FULL STORY PAGE 7

CELEBRITY SCANDAL

Grubby TV gardener 'ashamed' of behaviour but claims to be the victim of a 'witch hunt'

WHAT A BURKE



JANET FIFE-YEOMANS

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 70-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

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WE'RE FOR SYDNEY

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Prince Harry and Meghan Markle pose for a photograph at Kensington Palace last night.
Picture: Daniel Leal-Olivas/AFP

REMARKLEABLE!

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↘ FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9



V1 - TELE04Z01MA

The Daily Telegraph

WE'RE FOR NSW

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SCOOP

PM HAS DRIVE TO WIN

SHARRI MARKSON

A $100 million transport hub to bust Bennelong congestion 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 her federal counterpart to announce the funding. Macquarie Park is the biggest transport hub in Sydney outside of the CBD, with 20,000 commuters passing through it every day. 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 PAGE 2

SCOOP

A GYM JUNKIE CRISIS

DANIELLE GUSMAROLI

DUMB belles and shred heads are snorting cocaine and taking other illicit drugs before hitting the weights so 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 gyms for illicit drugs over the past three weeks carrying out the same swabbing techniques used by the Australian Federal Police.

Eighty-five per cent of sites tested positive for traces of cocaine, including Fitness First's platinum gym in the CBD in Bond St and its Kings Cross branch. Both of the sites also indicated a presence of opiates such as heroin.

Experts warn "party" drugs are becoming increasingly common inside popular fitness spots as even mums and dads turn to stimulants like cocaine to enhance physical performance. Drugs such as cannabis and morphine are also being used as painkillers.

FULL REPORT PAGES 4-5

THE DON BURKE SCANDAL



Keep on digging ... Don Burke confronted by The Daily Telegraph about the allegations at his property in Kenthurst last week. Picture: Brianne Makin

Am I evil? That's your call

Grubby TV gardener "ashamed" but claims to be the victim of a "witch hunt"

"If you can forgive me for the stupidity and the other things I have done then I am very grateful

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TV legend Don Burke last night admitted he's "not a good person" and "drove people hard" — but denied he was a sexual predator and put down accusations of misconduct from several women as nothing more than a "social media witch hunt".

"There are things I've done that I'm not at all proud (of)," the 70-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."

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FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9

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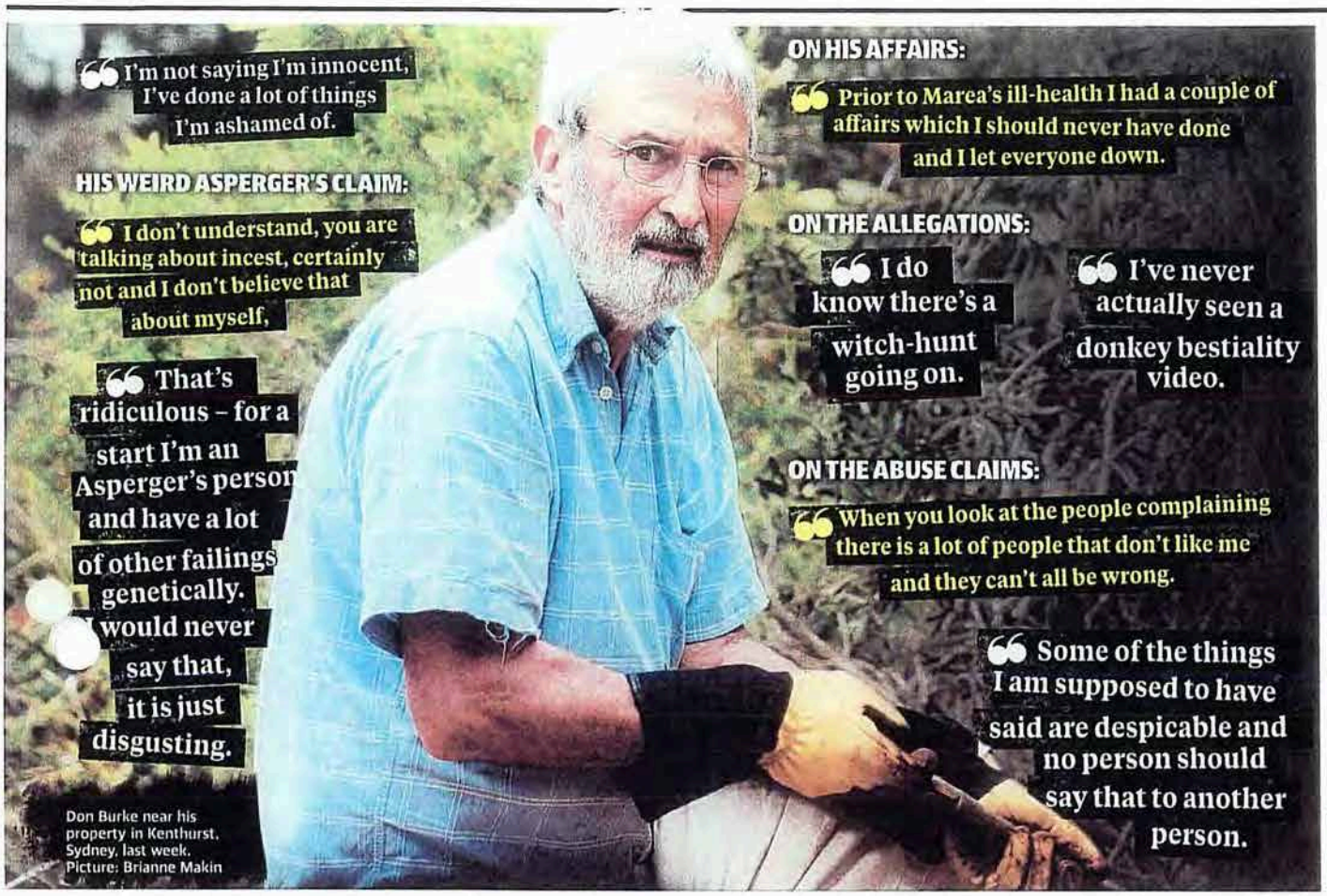

Don Burke near his property in Kenthurst, Sydney, last week. Picture: Brianne Makin

Asperger's, witch hunts and affairs in defence 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 "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- 'airs" while married to wife Marea, who had battled breast ·cer.

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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".

Burke replied: "That's ridiculous — for start I'm an Asperger's person and have a lot 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'."

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.

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.

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.

Acquitted rape accused is spared another trial

A MAN accused of raping a woman in a Kings Cross alleyway four-and-a-half 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.

Luke Andrew Lazarus, 26, spent 11 months in jail before his conviction for anally raping an 18-year-old woman near a Soho nightclub was overturned on appeal in 2016. He was later cleared following a judge-alone retrial.



The NSW Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an appeal against the acquittal over the May 2013 incident.

That appeal was dismissed by the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal yesterday. Justice Geoffrey Bellew said it would be "oppressive" to put Mr Lazarus "to the expense and worry of a third trial" almost five years after the event. "Whilst I recognise that any criminal trial is an ordeal for a complainant, it is also an ordeal for an accused," he ruled.

'TIL OUR DEBT DO US PART

ONE in seven people with financial debt has hidden their money woes from a partner.

New research in the UK found feeling ashamed was the most common reason for hiding debt, cited by half of the 4700 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 different approach to money than they did. The report warned that one in six adults were currently in problem debt, meaning they struggle to meet their financial commitments or have missed payments.

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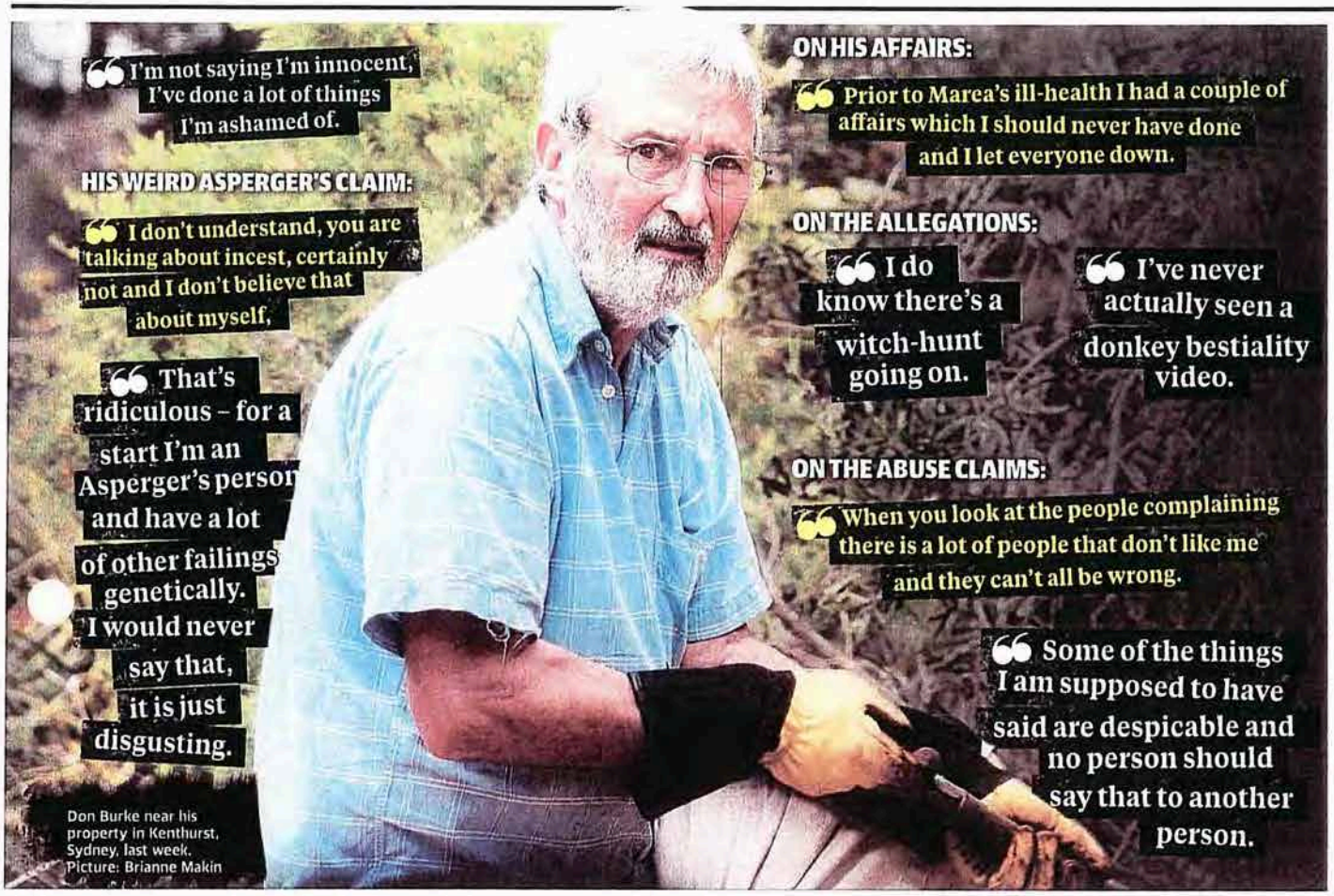

Don Burke near his property in Kenthurst, Sydney, last week. Picture: Brianne Makin

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"The bitter irony is that I have had a lifelong opposition to sexism and misogyny," he said.

Former swimsuit model and actress Annalise Braakensiek, who was asked by Burke on camera if her breasts were real, was among those coming to his defence. Ms Braakensiek said the question was asked "in jest".

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DIRTY DEEDS: DON BURKE CREEP


TV garden guru Don Burke at the peak of his popularity in 1994 with Elle Macpherson.

Stranger things in gene gaffe

JACK HOUGHTON

IN one of the most surreal claims in 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 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.

"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 not seeing."

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 heat of the Harvey Weinstein sex scandal turning to Australian entertainment, a candid Marks told a conference that sexual predators, including those he admitted had worked for Nine, were now on notice:

"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."

Less than a fortnight later, his prediction would come true.

TV veteran's bizarre claims over

JANET FIFE-YEOMANS & 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 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-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 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 these things are despicable."

Burke said he could not remember exchanges from 30 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 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

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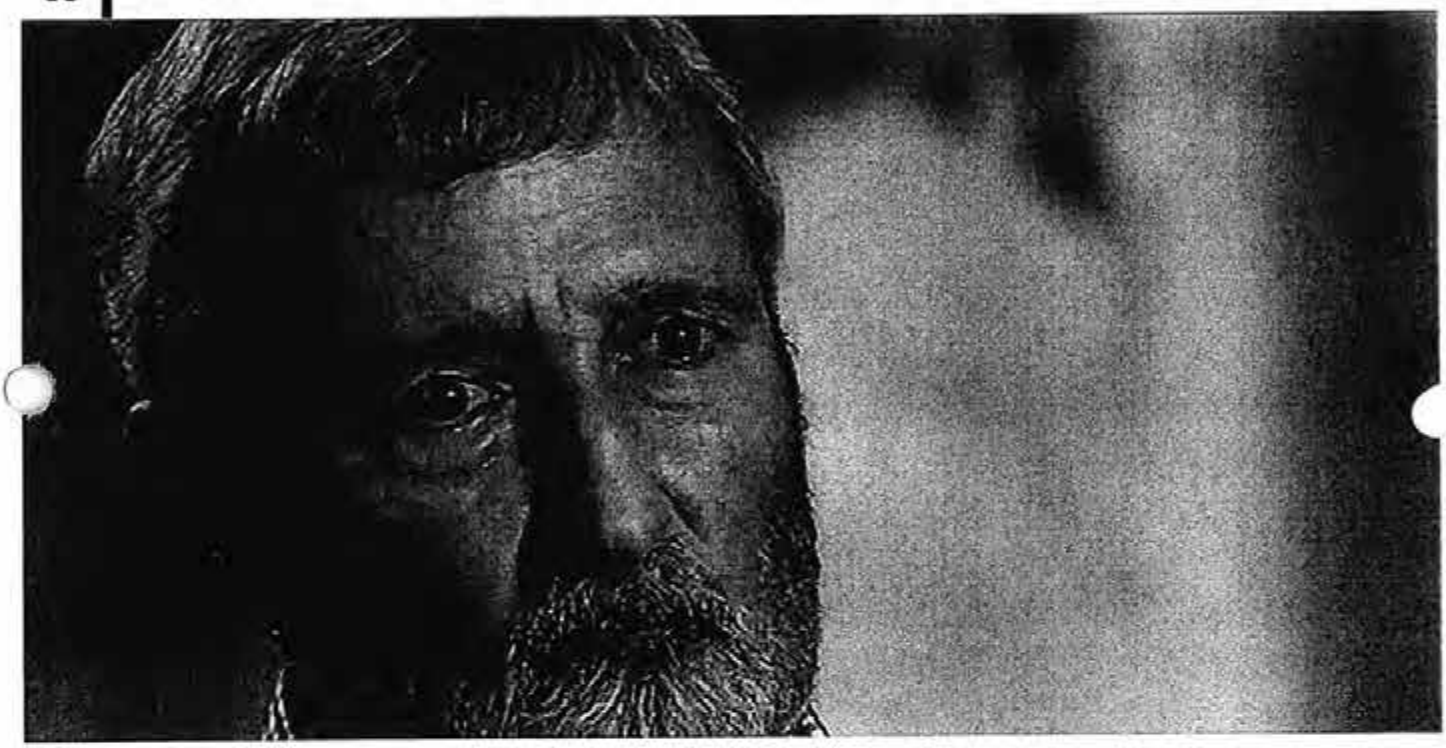
Herald Sun



Screen Grabs of Don Burke being interviewed on A Current Affair by Tracy Grimshaw. Picture: ACA/ Channel 9.

WENDY TUOHY

These five most pathetic statements only dug Don Burke deeper into public disgust

Wendy Tuohy, Herald Sun
November 28, 2017 4:06pm
Subscriber only

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.

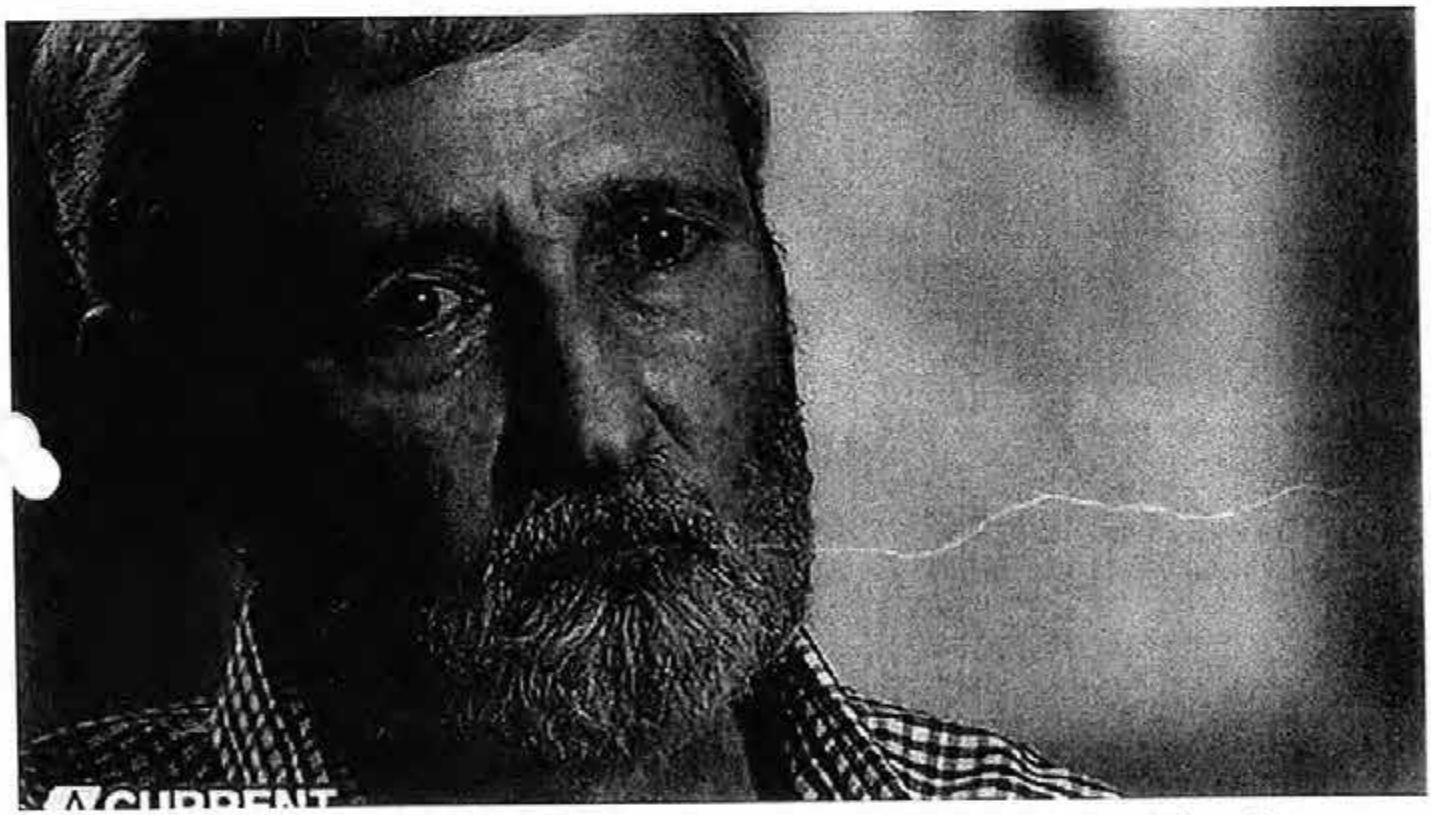
Herald Sun

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.

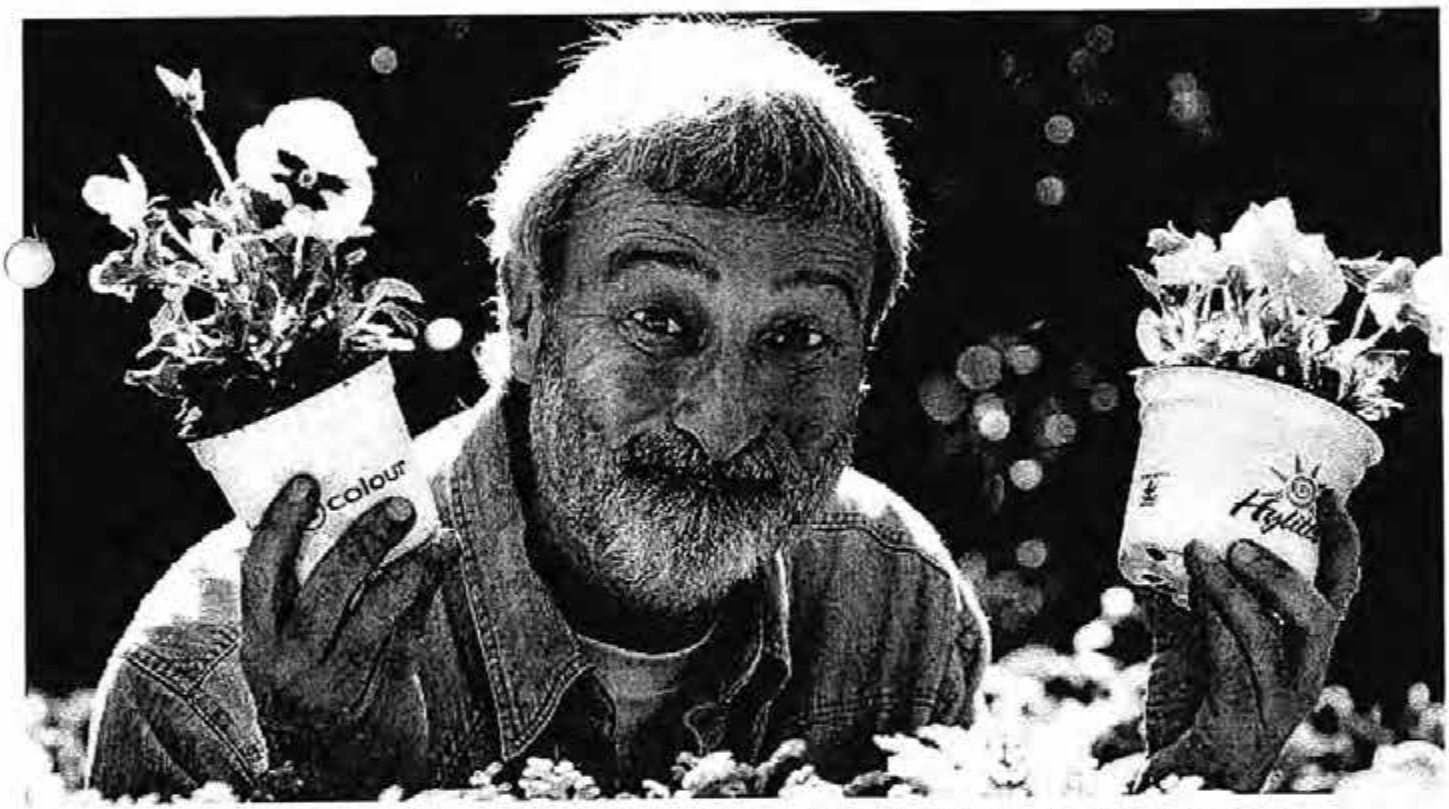
He harmed the community by conflating allegations of hideous sexual misconduct with the common condition.



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.



Host and celebrity gardener Don Burke during filming for TV show 'Burke's Backyard' in Sydney.

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.

9NEWS

News / National

Don Burke once told me I had a 'great arse' following an outburst: Alison Piotrowski



By Alison Piotrowski | 8:13pm Nov 28, 2017

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.



Piotrowski spoke with former colleagues who are disappointed Burke's behaviour wasn't addressed earlier (ACA)

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 perienced at that time. We were all young, in our early to mid 20s, and for most of us it was our first workplace.

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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

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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THE AUSTRALIAN

Don Burke should possibly be stripped of Order of Australia, Bill Shorten says

Don Burke and his wife Marea pictured together in 2014.

GREG BROWN THE AUSTRALIAN 2:47PM November 28, 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.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten thinks the Governor-General should consider stripping Don Burke of his Order of Australia.

"I think it is shocking and what you call an open secret I don't think most Australians did know about this and if it turns out that within the media industry people were happy to accept dollars and ratings and turn a blind eye to the completely wrong and horrendous practices well that is to the shame of the industry," Mr Shorten told ABC radio yesterday.

"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.

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AUSTRALIA

'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
PUBLISHED: 20:56 AEDT, 28 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 21:52 AEDT, 28 November 2017

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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.

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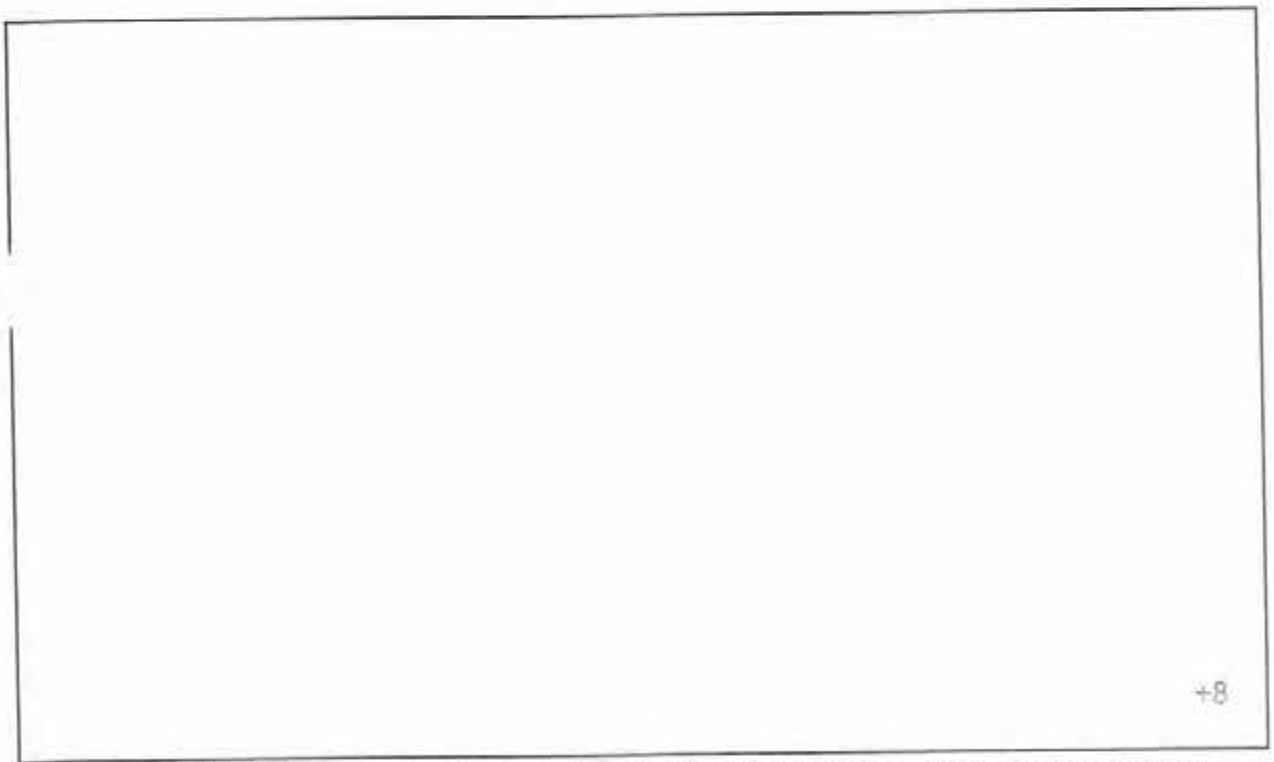
Embattled television gardening personality Don Burke (pictured, right, with Annalise Braakensiek) was so angered by a critical profile that he threatened to sue



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)

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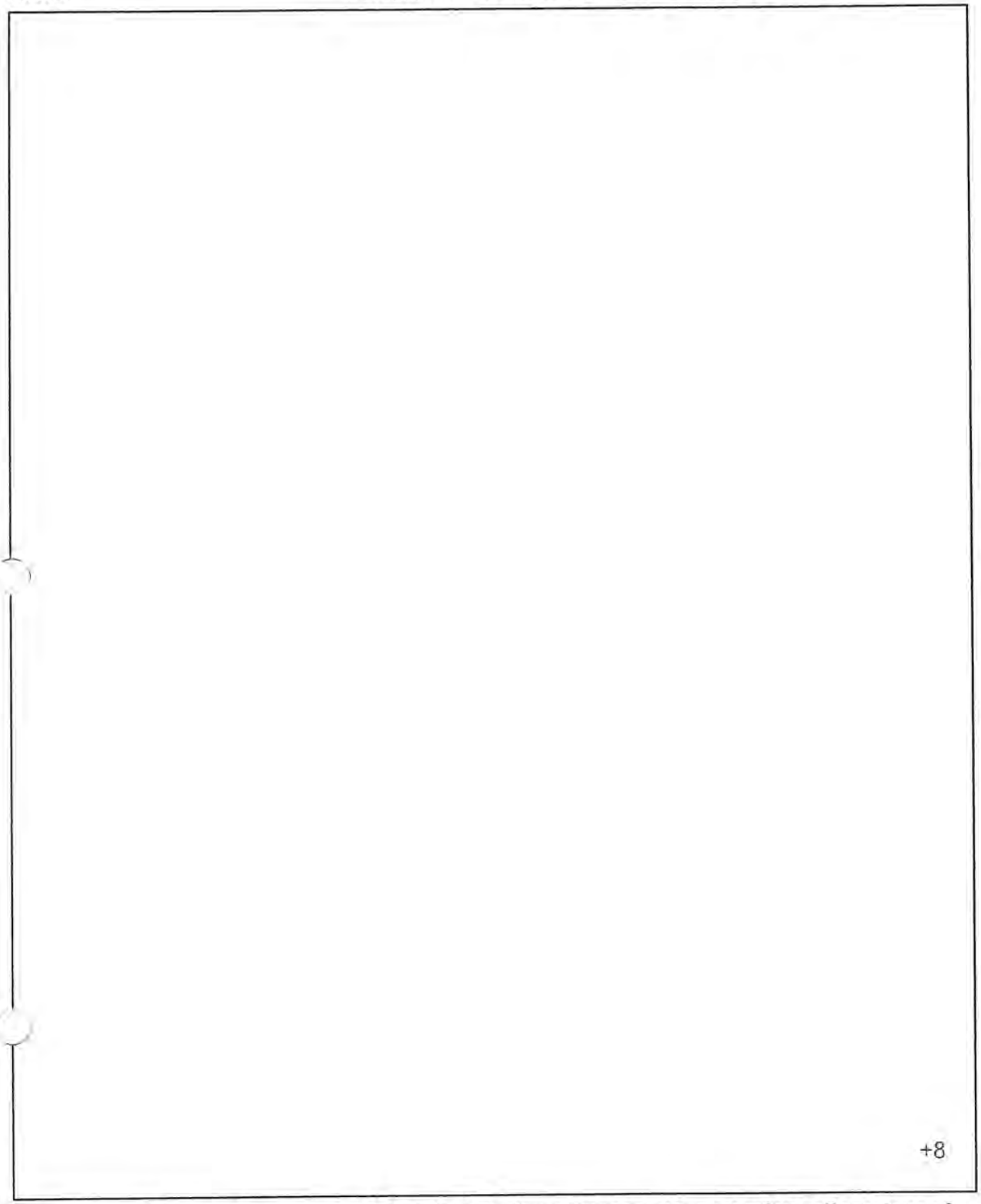

Glover's post (pictured) comes as the Burke's Backyard host continues to deny allegations of sexual harassment and indecent assault

'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.

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'Is your c* as big as that?' Swimming legend Susie O'Neill**



'I was so nervous I vomited': Producer breaks down in tears

'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'



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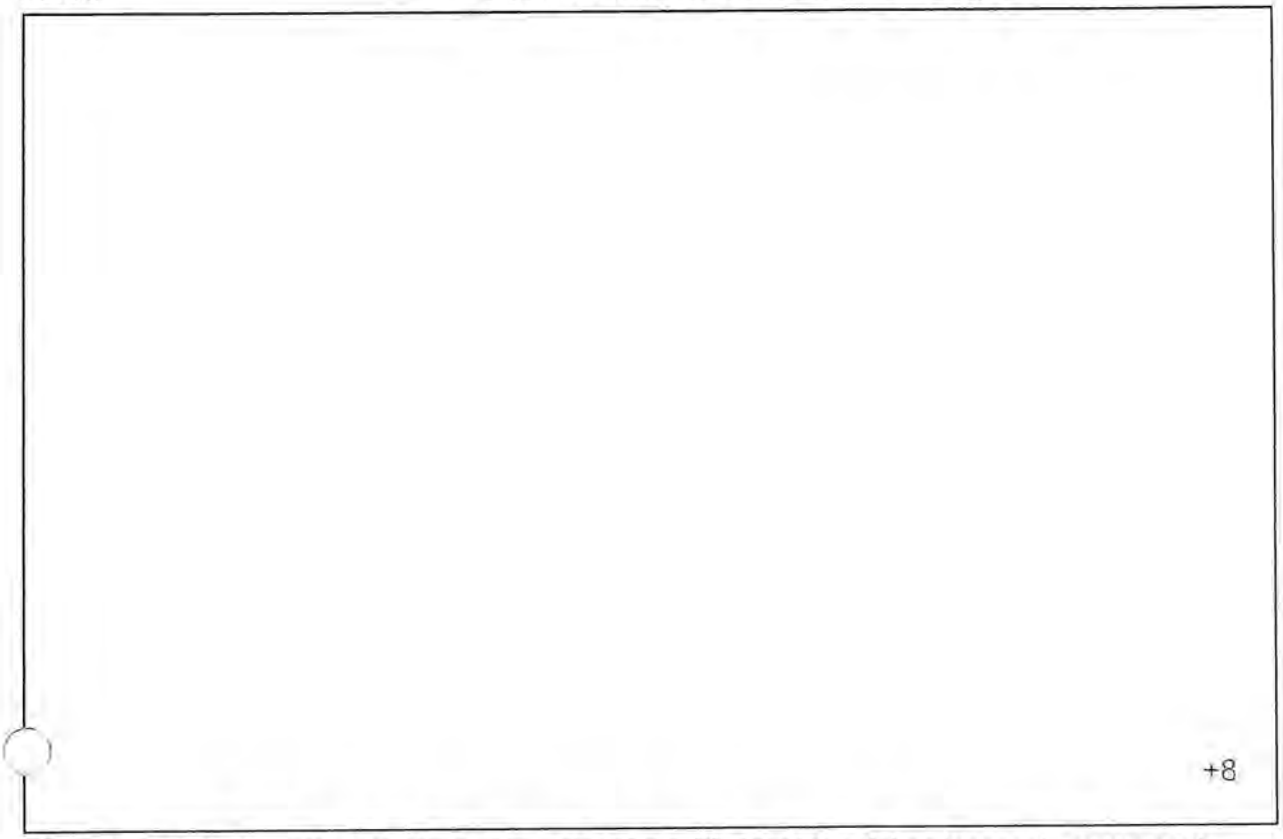

Glover's article described Burke (pictured, right, with Tara Dennis) as 'obsessive, arrogant, conceited, egotistical', based on more than 50 interviews

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.

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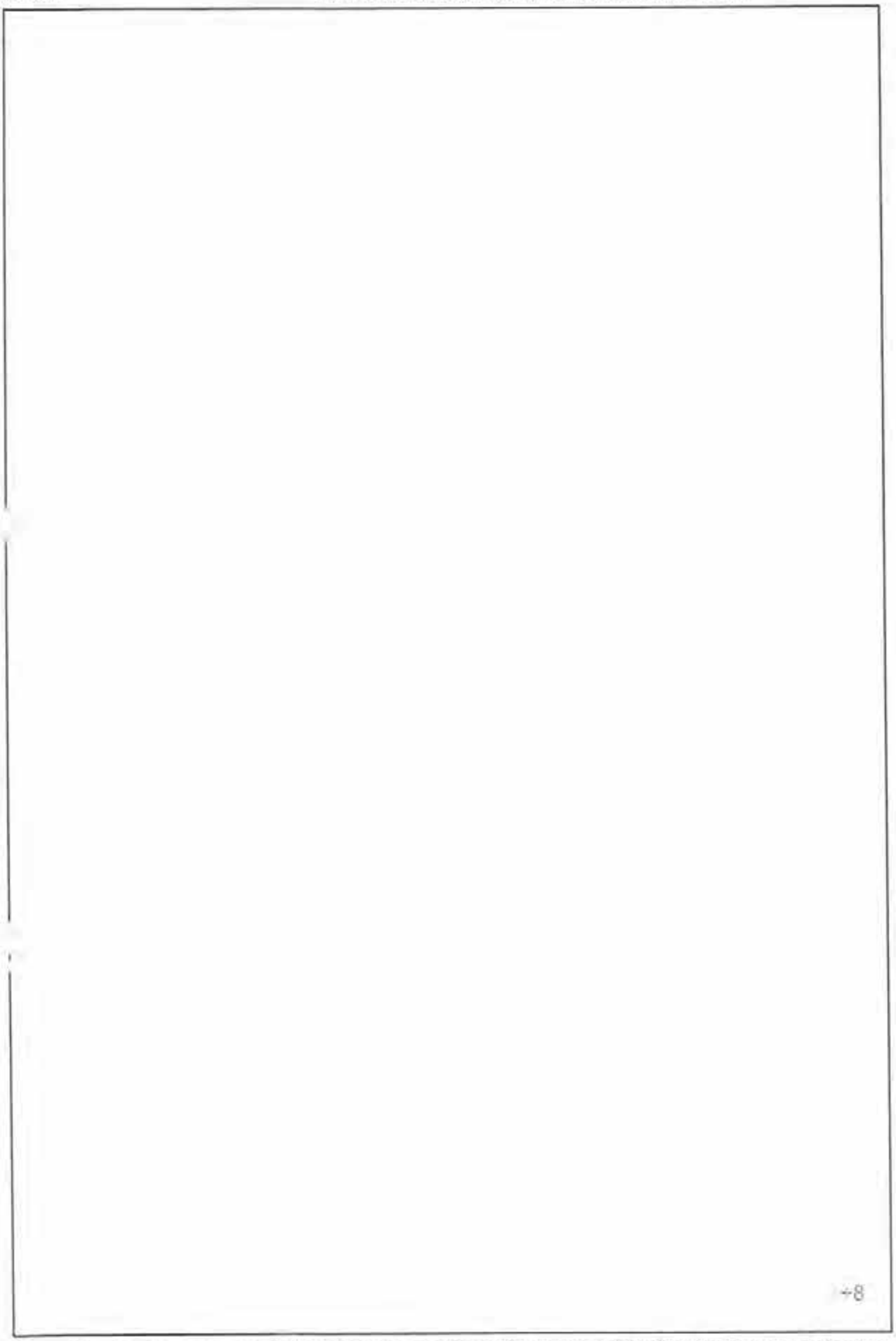

It contains frank accounts of the television personality (pictured) which take on new relevance in light of the recent allegations

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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.'

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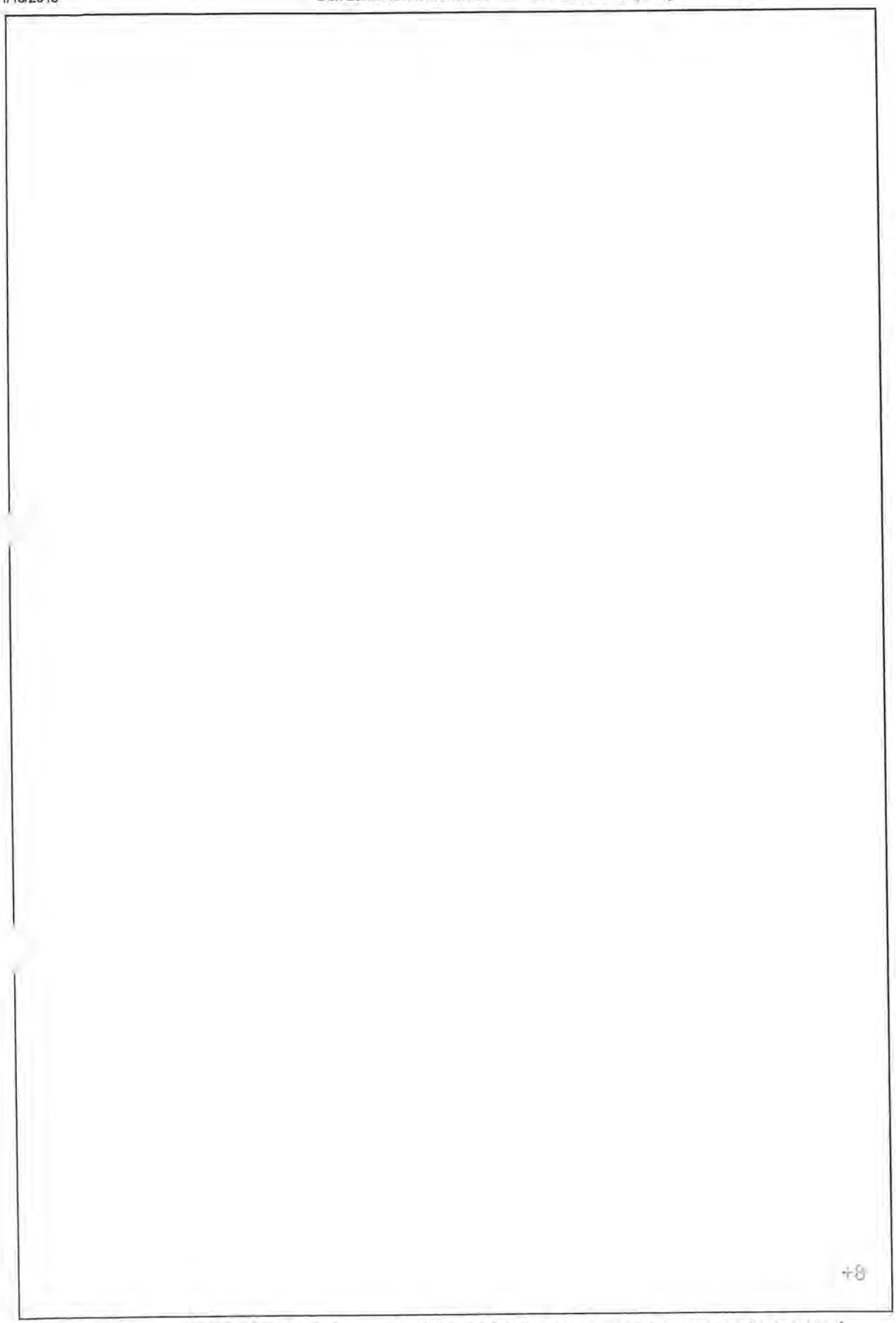

Swimming legend Susie O'Neill (pictured) claimed Burke compared her vagina to a prized painting of a flower by her husband, which was hanging on her wall

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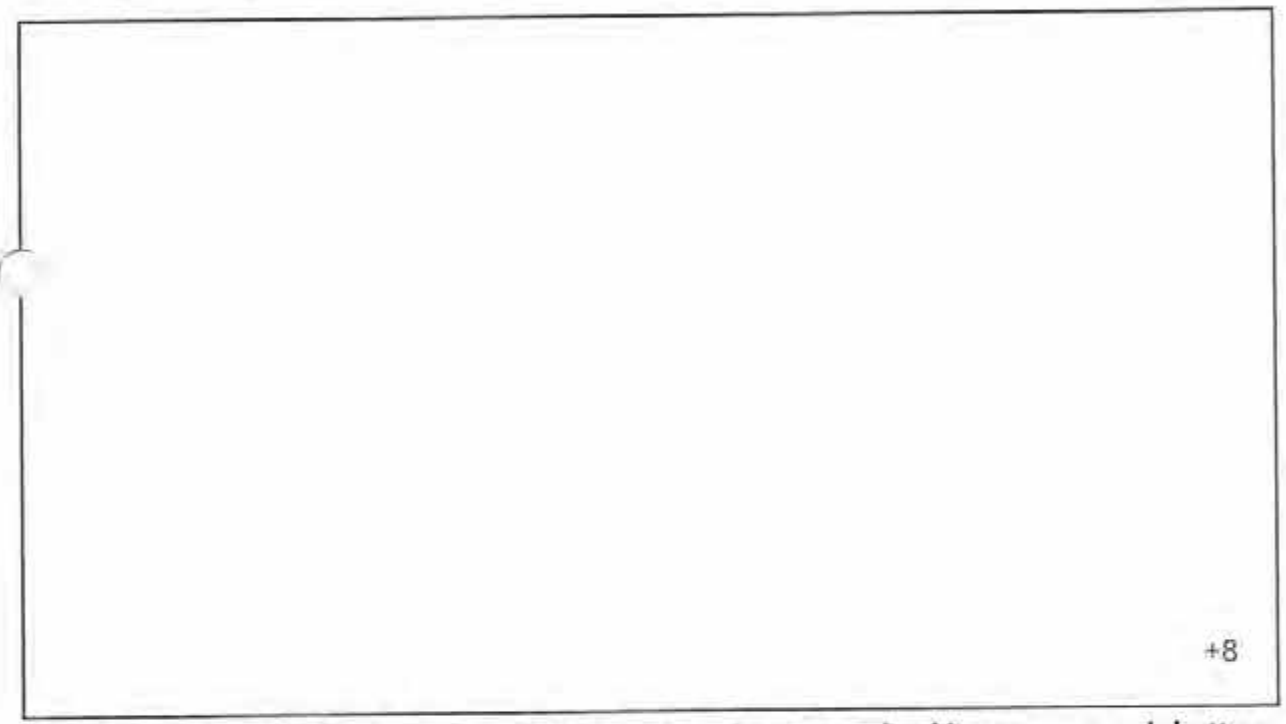
She allegedly went to the Nine Network with the footage, but she sent a bunch of flowers the next day and the complaint was forgotten.

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)

Are your breasts real?' Don Burke asks inappropriate question

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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'.

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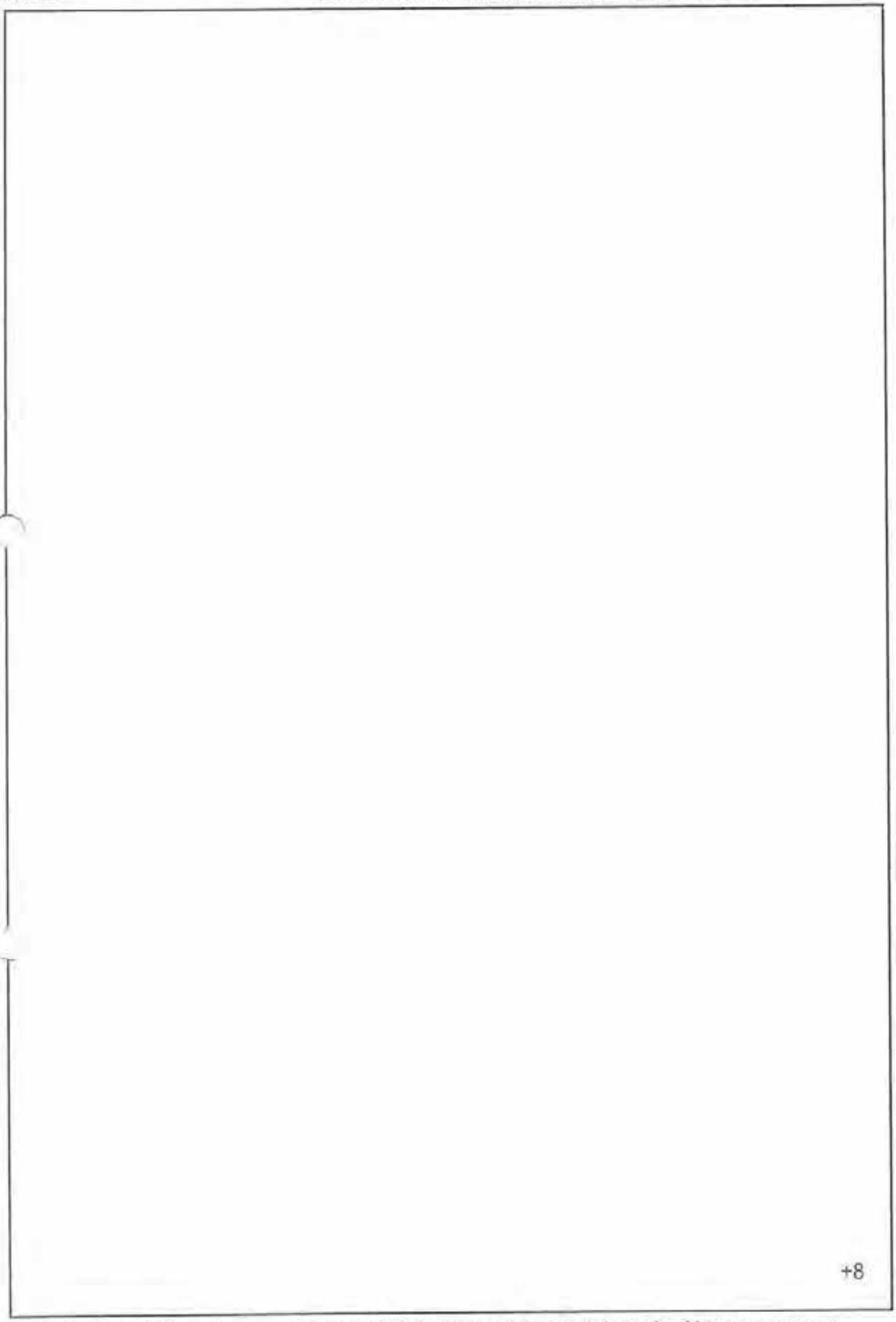

Burke (pictured) has strenuously denied all the allegations and described his accusers as 'malcontents' who 'bear grudges against me'

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COMMENT NOVEMBER 29 2017

Don Burke's appalling autism call is an opportunity to challenge prejudice

iomi Chainey

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 see[s] things differently" as an autistic man.

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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. Grown, 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.

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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.

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In attempting to make themselves blameless, Burke and Damore are effectively perpetuating the myths that fuel that discrimination.



Don Burke claimed on A Current Affair that, as 'an Asperger's person', he struggles to interpret body language - a defence that didn't fly with the public. Photo: Steven Siewert

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.



Naomi Chainey.

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 ıy 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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EXCLUSIVE NOVEMBER 29 2017

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Don Burke campaigned against domestic violence in 1993 despite complaints from women

Kate McClymont

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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.

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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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Don Burke, you owe those with Asperger's an apology

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.







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.





Amanda Pepe cried when she told Fairfax Media how she fought Don Burke off. Photo: LinkedIn

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 teach 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.

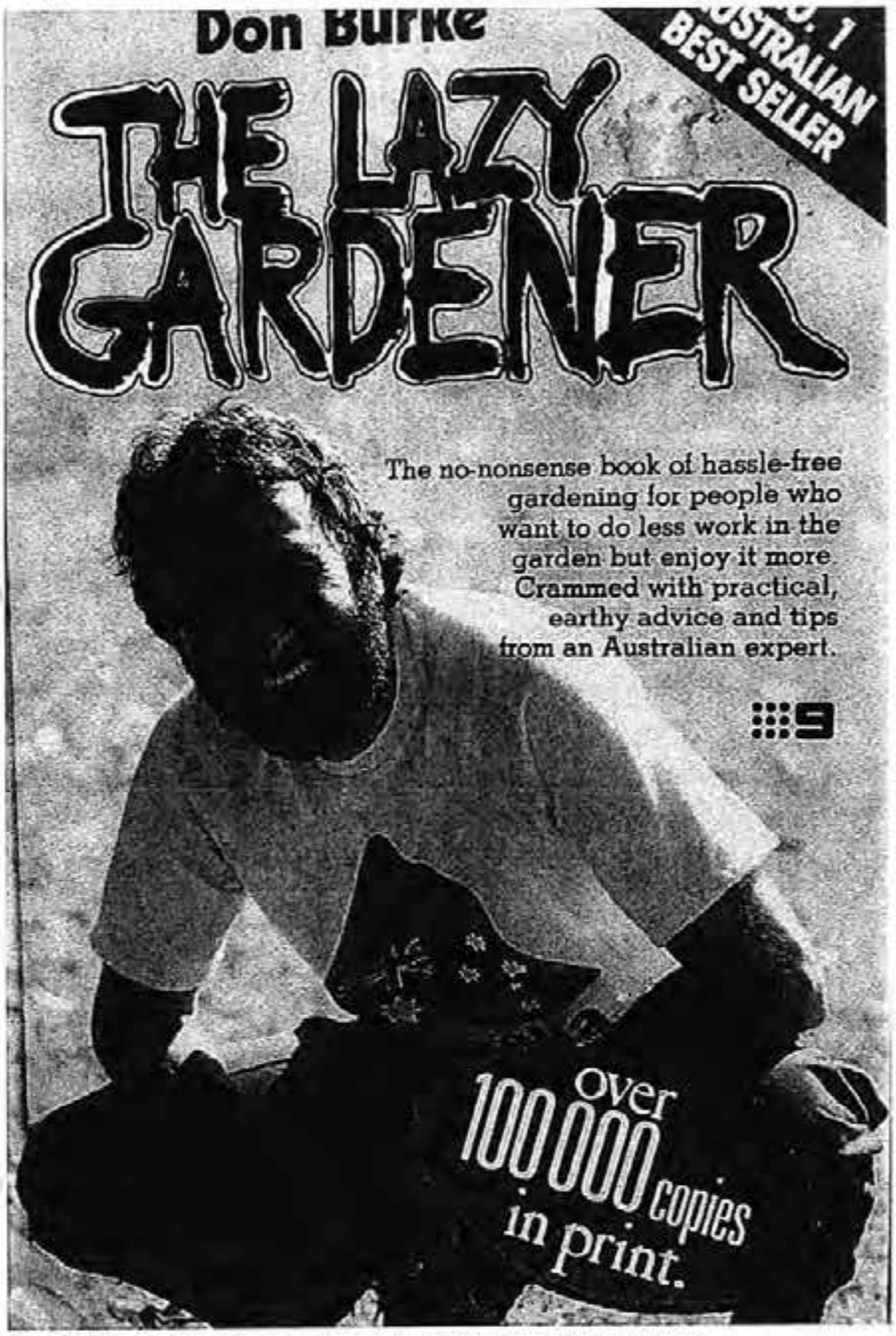
"Don Burke was in there when I came out. I tried to get around him and he mirrored my sidestep, made some sleazy comment about helping me pull my pants up," she said.

The woman 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.

Celebrated children's author Jackie French, who had previously

supported Burke, backed away from the embattled celebrity on Tuesday. "The man you uncovered is not the one I knew," French told Fairfax Media.



Don Burke's gardening book joked about assaulting women. Photo: Supplied

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

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Nine 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 stating 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.

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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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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."

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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.

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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.

ırke 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



Broede Carmody

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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 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.



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 s 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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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

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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.

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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.



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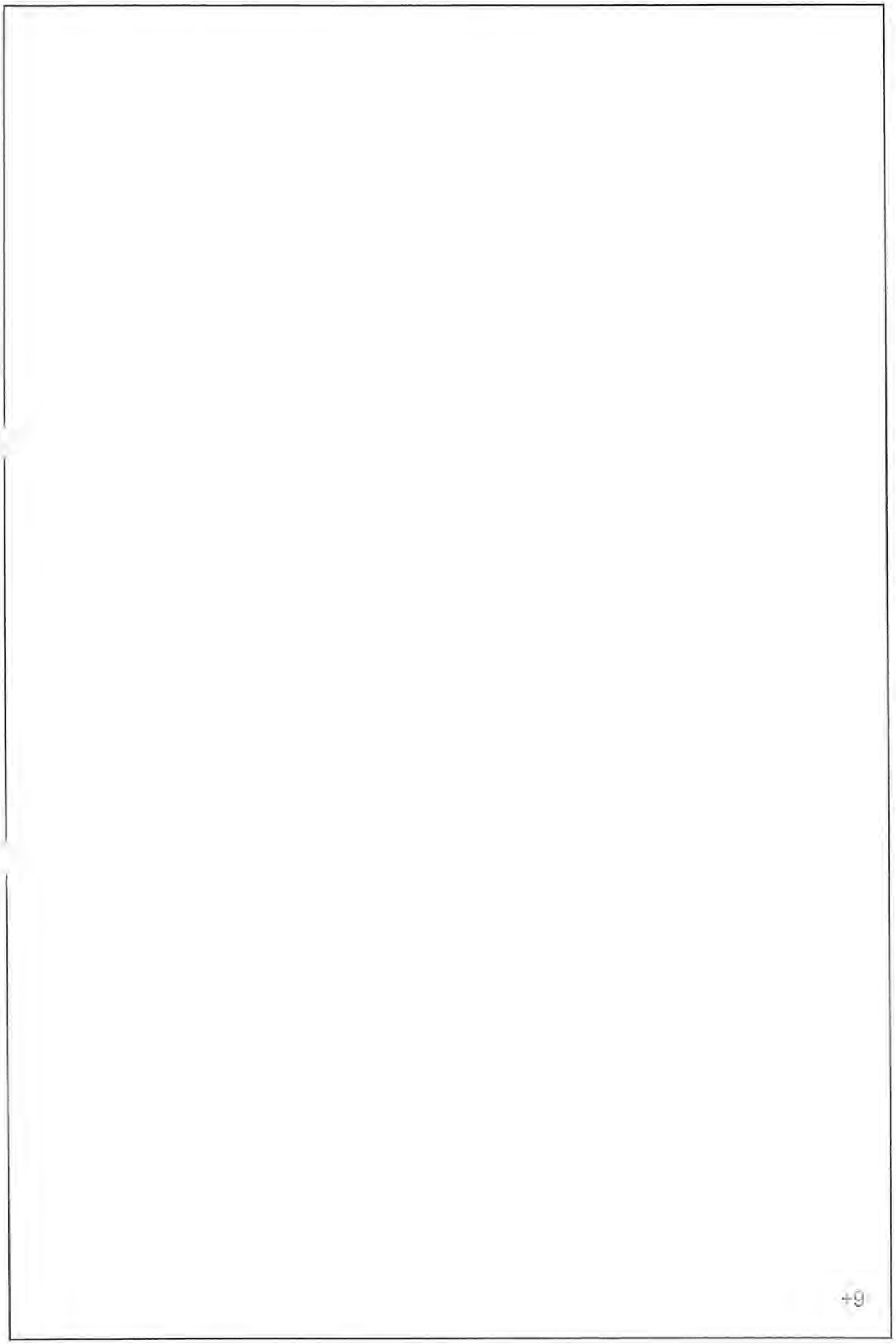
Swimming legend Susie O'Neill is the latest woman to accuse Don Burke of sexual harassment after dozens of women made shocking allegations



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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 let Burke and two male crew members inside to film her ahead of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

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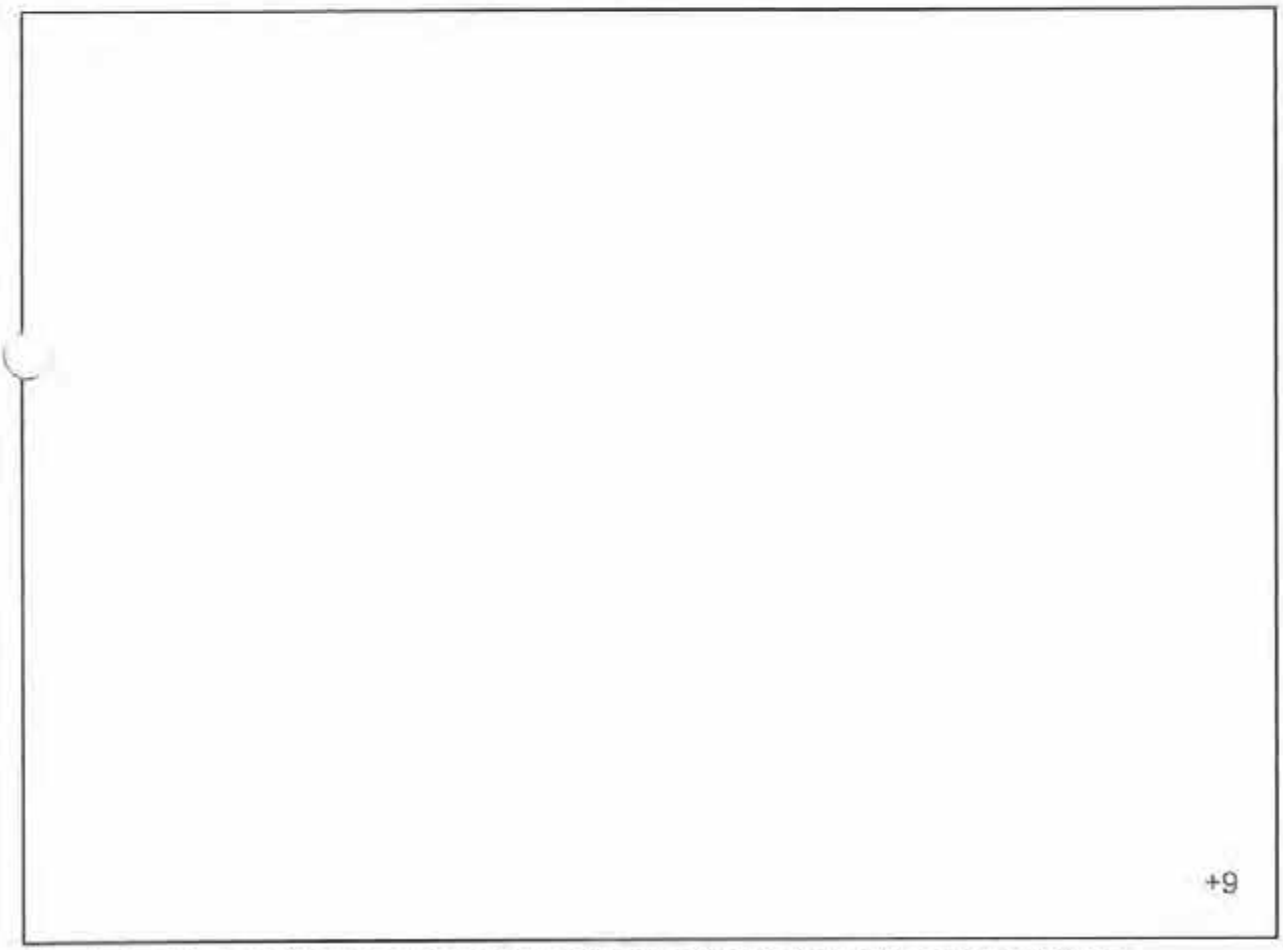
A former crew member of the program, which ran for 17 years until it was axed in 2004, confirmed O'Neill's version of events to the Sydney Morning Herald.

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 ct as big as that' in comparison to painting of a flower hanging in her Brisbane home**

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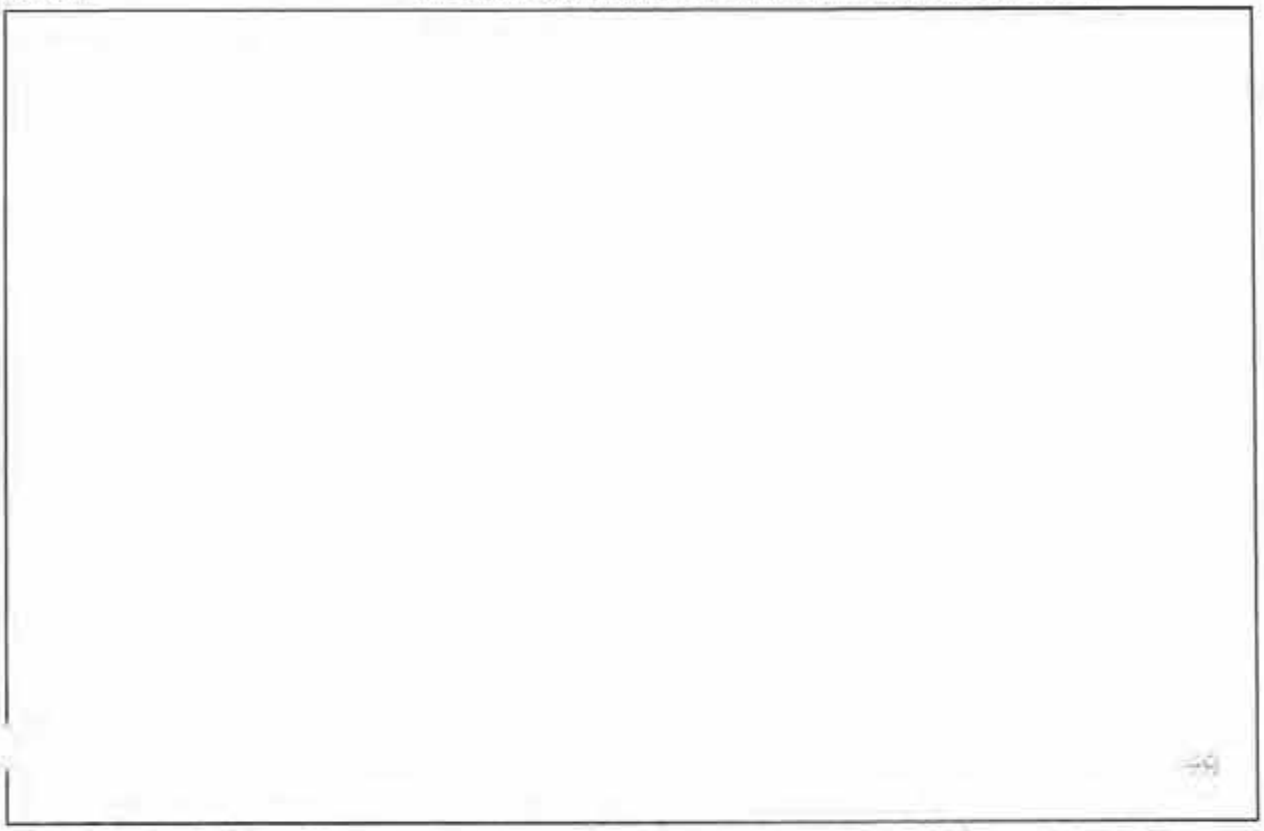

Olympian Susie O'Neill has gone public to allege Don Burke made explicit comments to her

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 Forver 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.

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'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'

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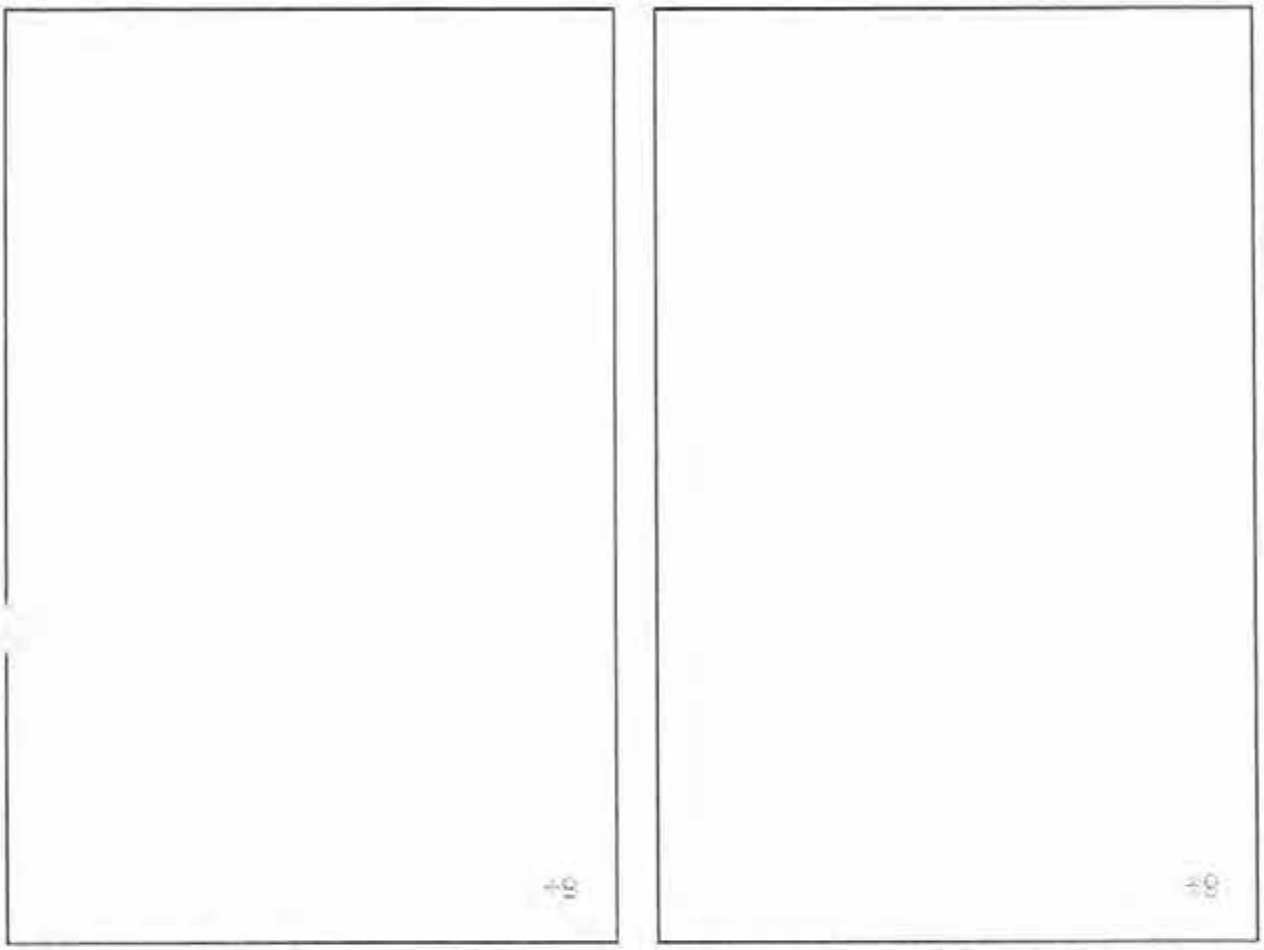
O'Neill (centre), who won eight Olympic medals swimming for Australia, joins former Burke colleagues and aspiring actresses in calling out the TV icon



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.

It 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.

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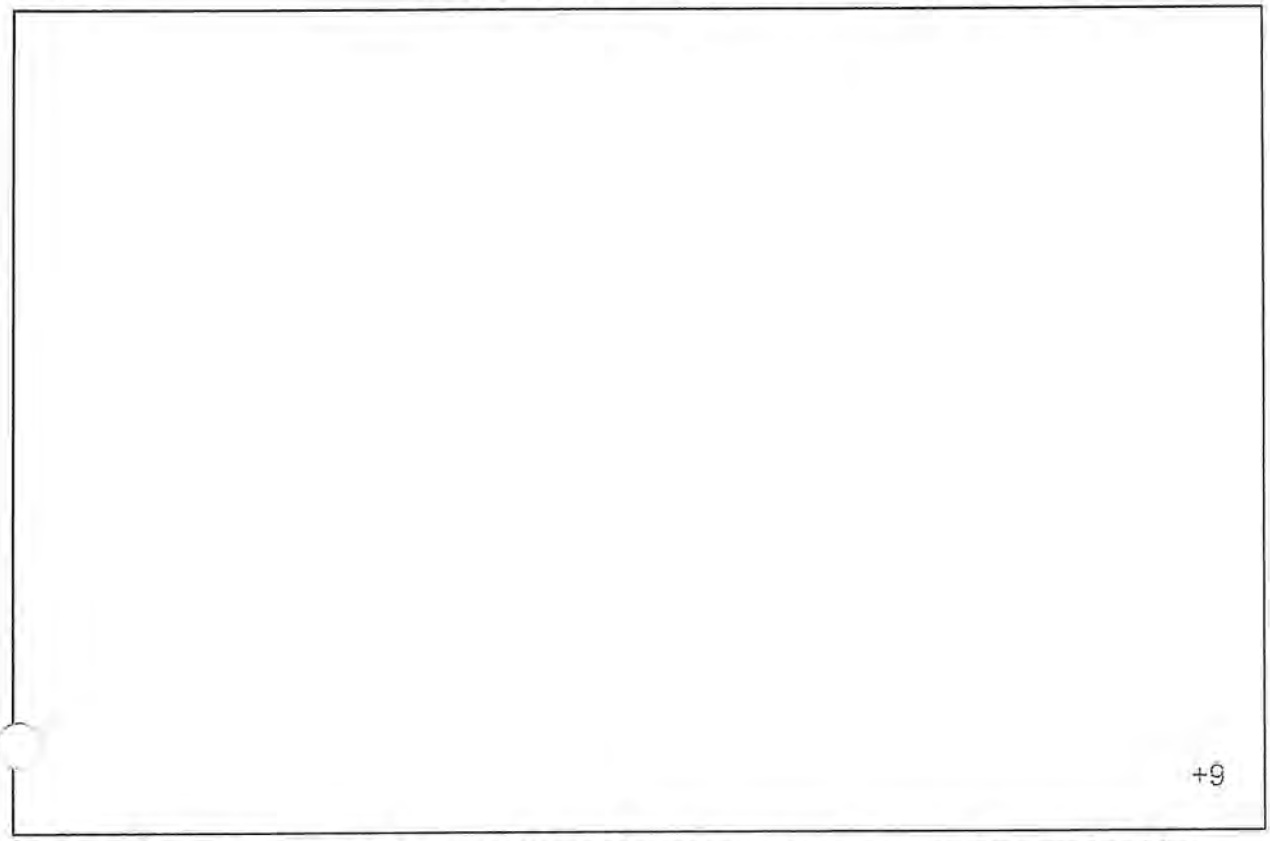
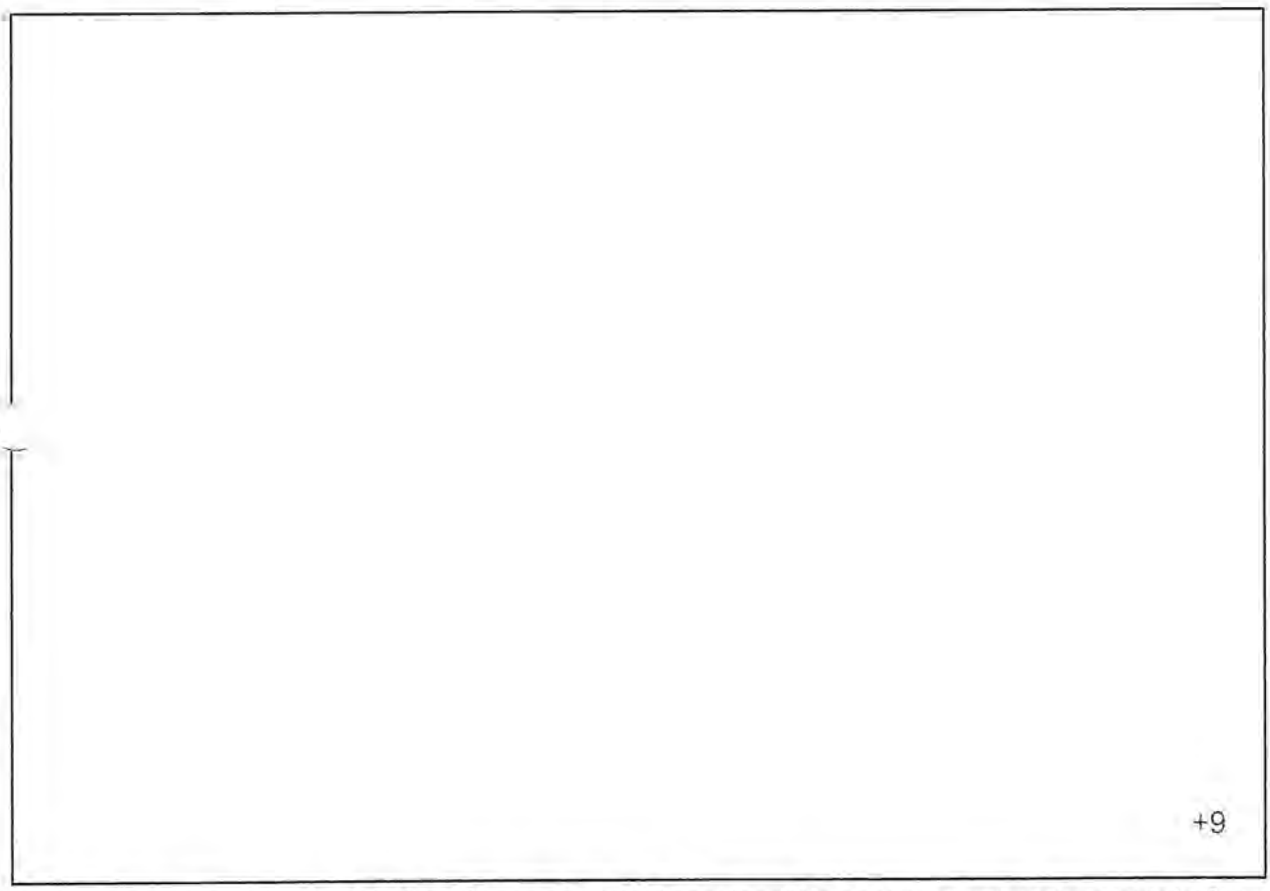


Burke earlier appeared on A Current Affair to deny the numerous accusations against him



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.

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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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Daily Mail
AUSTRALIA

'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

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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

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'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

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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.'

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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.

Sophie Monk holds of Don Burke close as she serenades him





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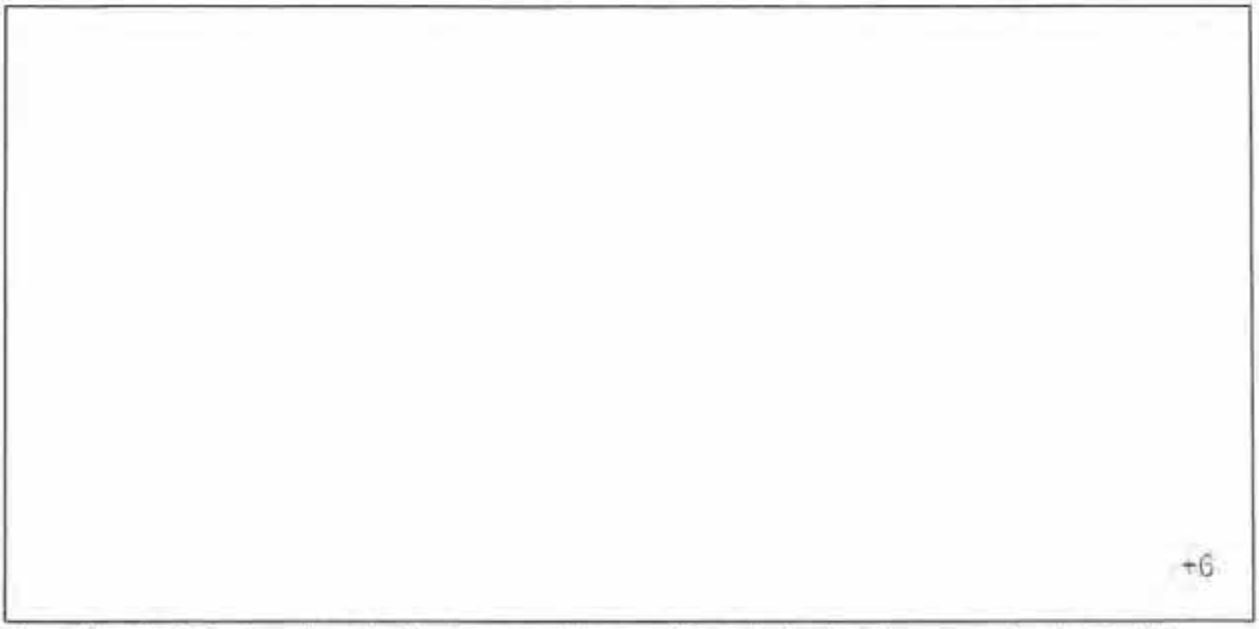

Throwback: Claiming that she had never witnessed Don behaving inappropriately, Sophie added: 'No nothing happened, I was just in my backyard gardening and that's about all I could say'



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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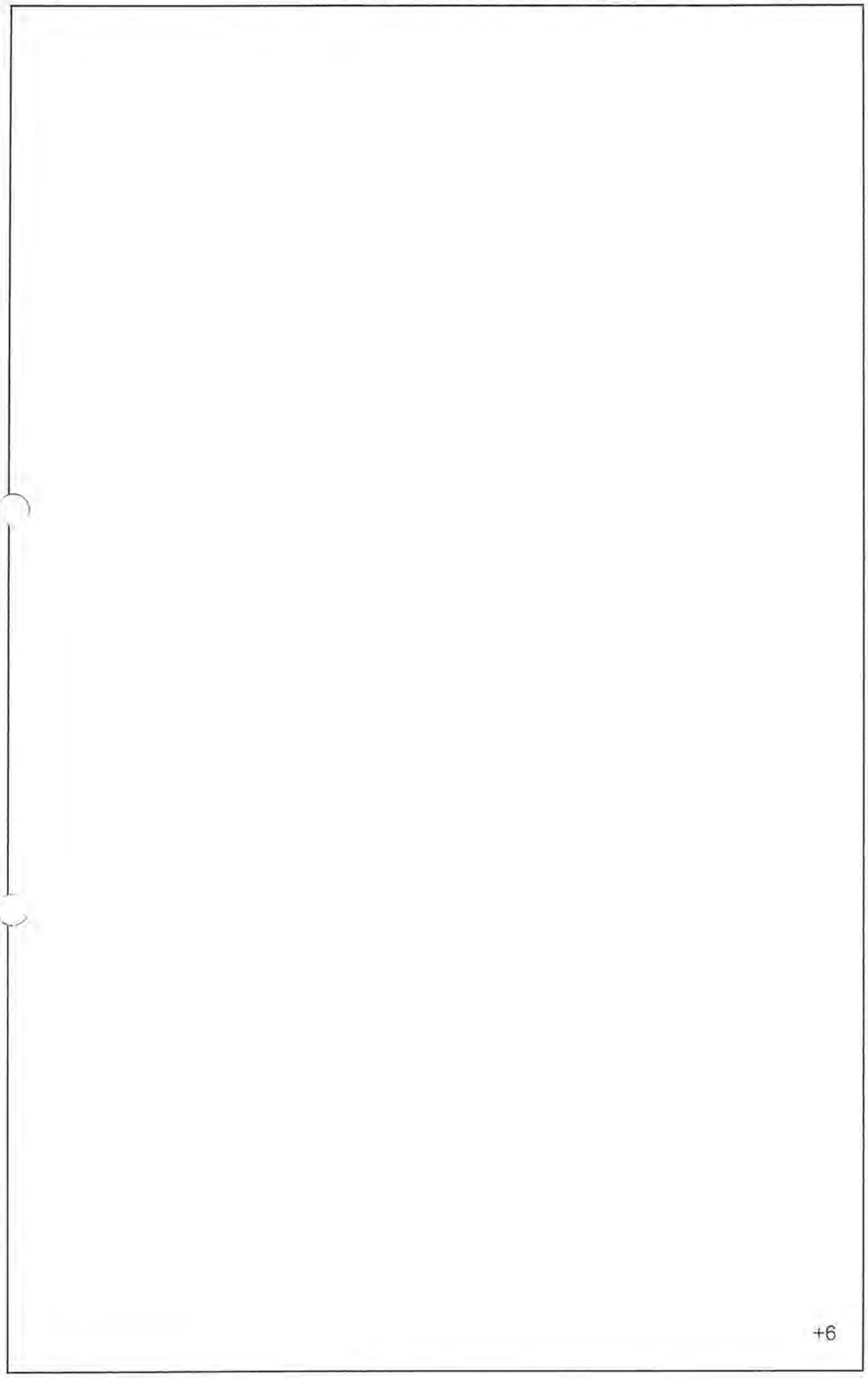

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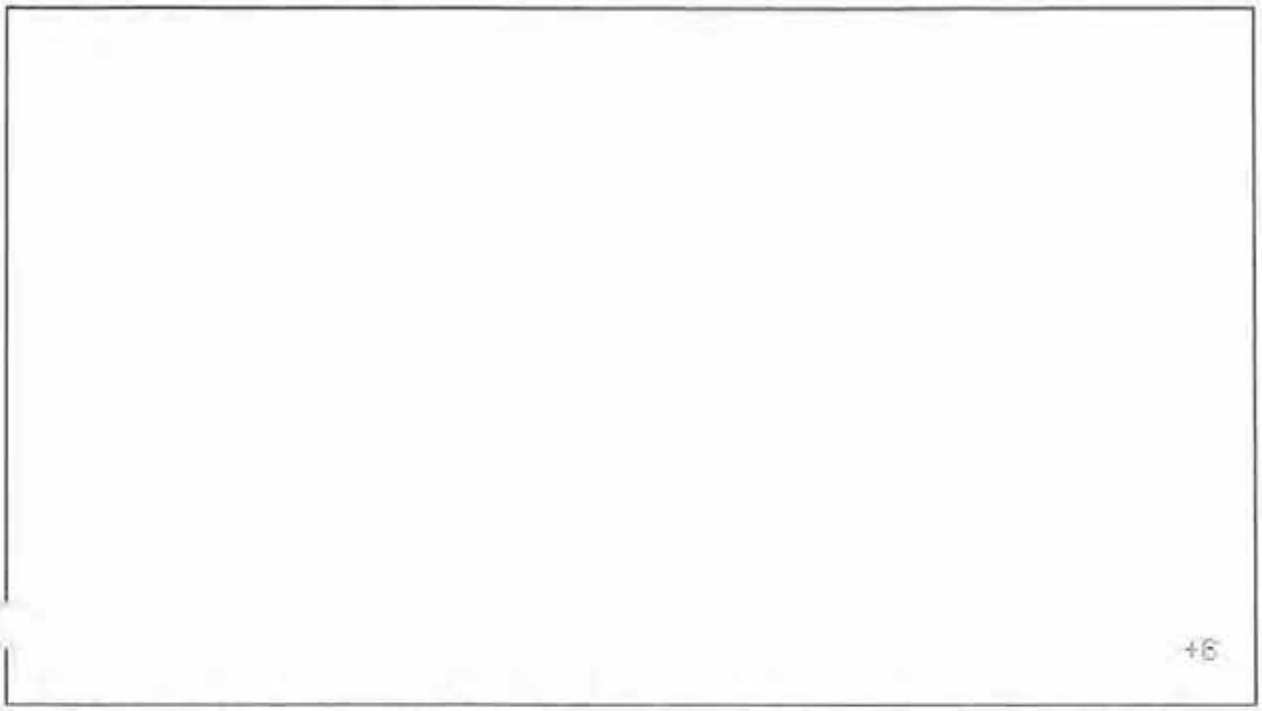
Controversy: Don Burke has been accused of sexually harassing and indecently assaulting women who worked on his gardening program in the 1980s and 1990s



'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'.

Don Burke says sexual assault claims part of 'witch hunt'

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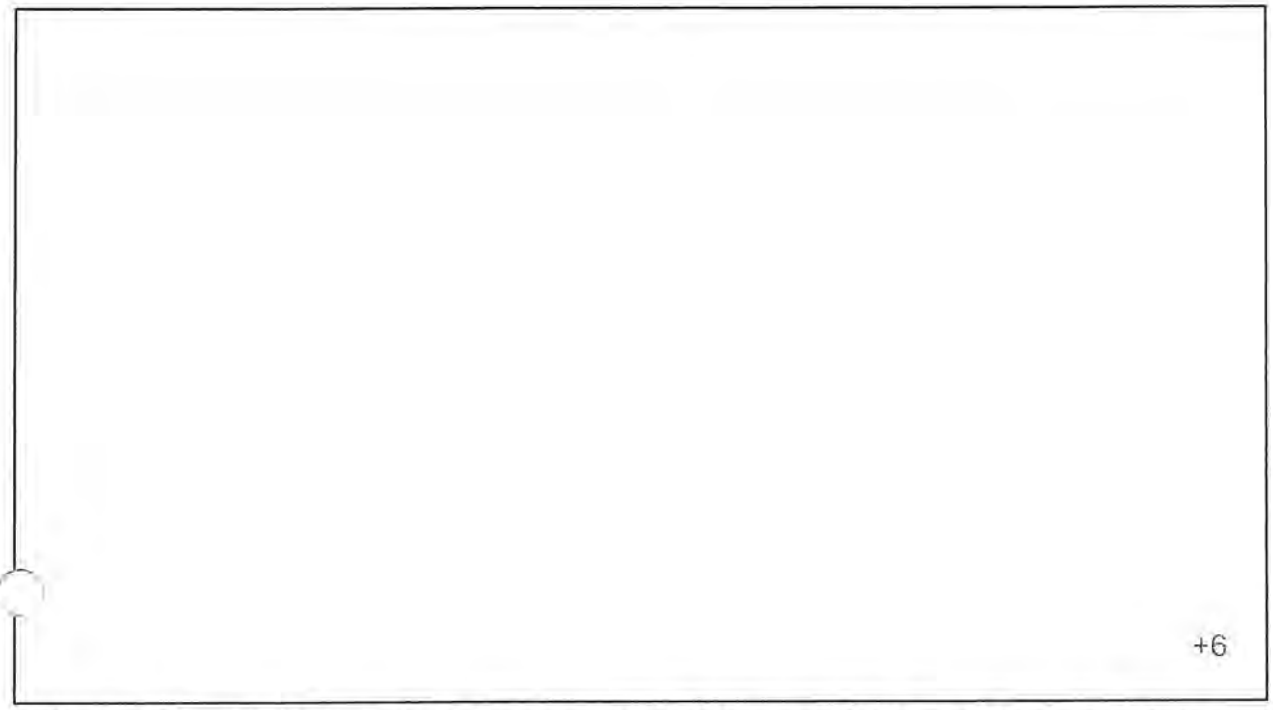

Defending himself: He also rejected comparisons to disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein - which he said were 'intended to severely damage (his) reputation'

Read more:
ARIA Awards 2017: Sophie Monk talks filming with Don Burke

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Kerri Anne speaks out about Don Burke

OPINION

Opinion: Don Burke does damage in his own back yard

Kylie Lang, The Courier-Mail
November 29, 2017 4:21pm
Subscriber only

- Burke 'not only one'
- Skin-crawling clip
- Qantas banned Burke

The Courier Mai

The Courier Mai



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?



Rolf Harris at court with daughter Bindi, wife Alwen and niece Jenny.

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

Play

The Daily Telegraph

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$1.60 // WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

REVEALED

KERRY SENT DON PACKING

JANET FIFE-YEOMANS

CHANNEL Nine tycoon Kerry Packer personally rang Don Burke at the height of his fame to express concerns about his alleged lewd and bullying behaviour and order the star to pull his head in.

The bombshell new claim, which raises 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 personally 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 offended swimming legend Susie O'Neill at her Brisbane home.

FULL REPORTS PAGE 7



LA SLUMS TO WEDDING OF THE CENTURY

Meghan's incredible story!

THE ROYALS SPECIAL » P4-5



Picture: Mark Stewart

EXCLUSIVE: 'NYE jihadi' has links to vile NSW cop shooter

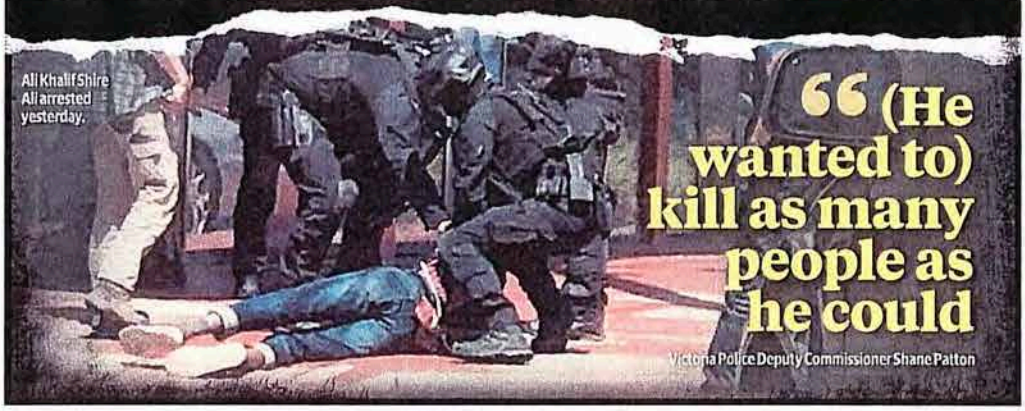
SYDNEY TRIGGER

JAMES DOWLING

A 20-year-old arrested yesterday for allegedly planning a NYE massacre was previously targeted over links to the teen terrorist who fatally shot Sydney police employee Curtis Cheng.

Ali Khalif 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.

FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9



Ali Khalif Shire Ali arrested yesterday.

"(He wanted to) kill as many people as he could

Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton

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More accusers of Burke emerge

STEPHEN BROOK

TV star Don Burke has been accused of attempting to force two women on to beds in separate incidents as new sexual harassment allegations emerged last night.

The new claims were aired as it was revealed that more than 800 women had contacted journalists with stories of harassment across the media industry.

Home decorator Julie Nielsen invited the host of *Burke's Backyard* into her home to film a segment only for him to allegedly attempt to force her onto a bed.

"You wouldn't accept that behaviour from anyone and I had only known him for half an hour — it was just full on, he was a real lly," Ms Nielsen told *A Current* fair.

Jarrett, a waitress in Moss leged that Burke pushed o a bed when they were after-dinner drinks and said: "My wife and I have an agreement that it would be OK if I had sex with you, my wife would agree with that."

"I freaked out and said get off me — no way," she said.

Burke, 70, the genial face of Nine's ratings-winning gardening program *Burke's Backyard* for almost 17 years from the 1980s to 2004, has denied all allegations of harassment or indecent assault and engaged defamation lawyers.

Long-time Nine owner Kerry Packer personally called Burke and ordered him to behave, casting doubt on Nine's assertions the network was ignorant of the claims at the time, *The Daily Telegraph* reported last night.

Packer is understood to have called Burke after Olympic swim champion Susie O'Neill lodged a complaint against the presenter in 2000.

O'Neill said yesterday Burke made lewd, sexual comments towards her while filming a story inside her Brisbane home.

A Current Affair also claimed that Qantas banned Burke because of inappropriate behaviour



Burke

for a period in the 90s. The airline was not able to confirm this to *The Australian* last night.

The new allegations about inappropriate behaviour from one of the industry's biggest stars in the 80s, came as the number of women making complaints and exposing harassment by men in the media and entertainment industries skyrocketed.

The ABC's 7.30 last night reported the story of Amanda Pepe who was a 20-year-old journalist working in outback NSW in the late 80s when Burke and his film crew came to town. Ms Pepe alleged Burke offered her a television presenting role in Sydney, picked her up from the airport and drove her to a hotel room.

"The intent was very clear that he expected to have sex, and that he'd pay for the room, that I, more or less, owed it to him," she said. A freelance sound recordist who worked with Burke also told the program he witnessed the same behaviour reported by women.

Journalist and campaigner Tracey Spicer, who started investigating harassment in the wake of US scandals, said 670 women had now come forward to her, and 200 to Fairfax Media's Kate McClymont.

The Australian does not suggest Burke is guilty of any of the allegations, only that he has been accused. Burke has rejected the allegations, saying he was "deeply hurt and outraged" and asserting they were made by former employees who held a "grudge" against him. A statement from Nine said the allegations were extremely serious and would not be tolerated at Nine today.

Boy 'reached in bin for weapon' before killing

JOEL TAYLOR

the youngest children in an legal history to be with murder, an 11-year- was so keen to be involved in a pack attack in the centre of Perth that he reached into a vomit-stained bin looking for weapons, the Perth Children's Court has been told.

Prosecutor Sean Stocks yesterday said the boy was leading, not following, his group of relatives and friends as they pursued 26-year-old Patrick Slater and his relatives near the Esplanade train station in the early hours of January 27 last year. The two groups had been in the city for an Australia Day concert and fireworks, but stayed late and clashed three times over the course of the night. The conflict began as arguing mostly between females and escalated, the court has been told.

Slater, who had a machete, was set upon by a group of males, including the boy, in an alcove where there was no CCTV footage and sustained a sharp wound to the chest that punctured his aorta and lungs, the prosecution alleges. Mr Stocks had earlier told the court the fatal injury was caused by a screwdriver that CCTV captured the boy holding less than a minute later. It was coated in Slater's blood.

Yesterday the boy, now 13 but still very small for his age, sat in the dock between two guards as Mr Stocks gave his closing address to children's court chief judge Denis Reynolds. Mr Stocks said the boy's group collected weapons, including bottles, to throw at Slater's group, a wooden stake from a construction site and bits of concrete from broken pavers.

Mr Stocks said the boy knew his female friend had just been sick in a bin — also captured on CCTV — but rummaged through it anyway because he wanted to be part of the attack on Slater's group. The boy, whose name is suppressed because he is a minor, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter but the state alleges he is guilty of murder.

The case continues.

Southeast's soggy summer start

NSW and Victoria are expected to make a soggy start to summer as heavy rainfall threatens to dampen the first weekend of December.

Rain is predicted to soak much of the nation's southeast in coming days, with a low-pressure system and associated troughs bringing rain to inland Victoria and NSW from Friday onwards.

NSW Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Gabrielle Woodhouse said while "there's been a slight hint of drier conditions for northern parts of NSW", a high-pressure system in the Tasman has led to "unstable air mass and moisture levels that are more tropical than normal, leading to warmer nights, which we usually see later in the summer".

Stephen King, a forecaster at Victorian's BOM, said while the state was expecting a hot end to spring with temperatures in the 30s, significant bands of thunderstorms are expected to hit Victoria on the first day of summer.

The state's northeast is forecast to bear the brunt of thunderstorms with 10-15ml of rain.

Hobart will also end November on a high with a humid 32C expected tomorrow.

OLIVIA CAISLEY

Angus leads the farewell on a highway to heaven



PICTURES: AAP, AFP, TOBY ZERNA

Clockwise from main, Angus Young carries the beloved Gretsch guitar of his brother Malcolm following his funeral at St Mary's cathedral in Sydney yesterday; former drummer Phil Rudd; Jimmy Barnes; singer Brian Johnson and wife Brenda







STEPHEN FITZPATRICK

It was apposite that the final show for the man they called the greatest rhythm guitarist of all time had little to do with rock 'n' roll.

Instead Malcolm Young, founding member and driving force in legendary Australian band AC/DC, had the heavenly voices of choirboys singing *Amazing Grace* and Blake's *Jerusalem*, the pealing of church bells and the splendour of massed pipes and drums to mark his life's achievements.

Young's funeral service, at Sydney's St Mary's cathedral, could hardly have been further from the trademark high-voltage swagger on which his group's international acclaim was built across more than four decades. But it was an apt encore for a man described as gentle and humble, whose greatest delight was being with family and his band mates, including younger brother and co-founder Angus.

And overwhelmingly it was they who filled the pews, not celebrities. Rockers Jimmy Barnes and Angry Anderson showed up, as did high-profile promoter Michael Chugg, and brothers Rick and John Brewster from the Angels, but — like AC/DC singer Brian Johnson — they were there as mates who'd lost a loved one, not as stars to be spotted.

Along with wife O'Linda, children Ross and Cara and three grandchildren were members of the Albert family, the music publishing and recording dynasty whose fortunes have long been intertwined with those of the Young brothers.

"Malcolm was never interested in fame — it was never about the awards and the adulation," David Albert, nephew of Ted, the entrepreneur who helped set the AC/DC juggernaut on its way when he signed the band in 1974, told the congregation. "He was a quiet and humble man who throughout his life remained



Malcolm Mitchell Young

deeply loyal to his family, the band and the music — nothing more, nothing less."

Young's beloved 1963 Gretsch Jet Firebird guitar sat atop his casket and was taken afterwards from the cathedral by a clearly shattered Angus.

This was the musical instrument that perhaps more than any other — even lead guitarist Angus's own 1968 Gibson SG — defined the band's signature tone. In Malcolm's hands, the Gretsch produced a sound, Albert said, "that would capture the toughness and the joy of life in the Australian suburbs".

Young died more than a week ago, aged 64, after retiring from the band in 2014 to receive treatment for his illness. His death came less than a month after that of older brother George who, as creator of 1960s rock superstars the Easybeats and then an early producer for AC/DC, was one of the single most influential figures in creating a distinctly Australian rock sound.

Afterwards, as the cortege prepared to head off, the pipers at its head gave just a brief nod to that sound: a couple of bars from rock's most famous bagpipe anthem, *It's a Long Way To The Top (If You Want To Rock 'n' Roll)*. And then it was straight into *Waltzing Matilda*.

Kelly and the Gang stand and deliver

EARLY EDITION

Sydney indie-rockers Gang of Youths and renowned pop-poet Paul Kelly were the two big winners at this year's ARIA Awards, taking out five gongs between them at the annual music industry celebration in Sydney.

This year's Gang of Youths album *Go Farther in Lightness* won the top prize for album of the year, with the Sydney outfit also taking home the trophy for best group and rounding out a winning trifecta with best rock album.

Kelly, who last week charmed sold-out audiences with performances on the Sydney Opera House forecourt, was awarded the ARIA for best male artist, while his latest album *Life Is Fine* won for best adult contemporary release.

Earlier this year at the ARIA nominations event, Kelly also picked up awards for engineer of the year and best cover art, taking his 2017 ARIA haul to four.

Gold Coast indie-pop darling Amy Shark, whose debut single *Adore* came in second in the 2016 Triple J Hottest 100 countdown, took home the ARIA for breakthrough artist and best pop release with her EP *Night Thinker*.

Melbourne rapper Illy took out the public-voted award for best Australian live act.

Australian hip hop duo A.B. Original, fronted by indigenous rapper and comedian Adam Briggs, picked up awards for best independent release and best urban release for the debut album *Reclaim Australia*, and the inaugural music teacher award was given to Renee McCarthy from Woodcroft College in South Australia.

A highlight of the night was the induction of *The Horses* singer/songwriter Daryl Braithwaite into the ARIA Hall of Fame. The 68-year-old, who was previously inducted as part of his band Sherbet in 1990, was given a solo induction by fellow hall-of-famer Jimmy Barnes.



AAP

Harry Styles performs

Barnes also led a music tribute for late AC/DC guitarist Malcolm Young, performing the band's classic hit *High Voltage*.

The 31st iteration of the annual awards night included a star-studded line-up of international performers, including New Zealand pop songstress Lorde, who performed her acclaimed track *Green Light*, and former One Direction member Harry Styles, who is in the middle of the Australian leg of his debut album tour.

Young fans went wild as Styles took the stage to perform his latest single *Kiwi*, with the former boyband star also taking out the ARIA for best international artist.

The media suite, where journalists and musicians converged throughout the night, was officially named in honour of this newspaper's late music journalist Iain Shedden, who died last month.



GETTY IMAGES

Gang of Youths won three awards including best album





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Ex-publicist on dirt and the Dons



THERE are at least four Don Burkes that I know of.

For those of us who worked with him during the 1990s, there was the hard, focused, one-take wonder. He was as tough on the people around him as he was on himself.

Then there was Don the animal husbandry obsessive.

This is the Don who would delight in embarrassing young television publicists chaperoning reporters to Burke's Backyard. This Don liked to talk about the sex organs of plants.

I know this Don well, for I became that young publicist in 1991 when I joined the Nine Network aged 23, the latest in a string appointed to Burke's Backyard.

The third Don Burke I saw only once but knew he had become a problem for Nine executives — one of the reasons they were happy when Burke spun his program off to his own production company, CTC. This Don was, as legend had it, a menace with women.

As former Burke's Backyard producer Bridget Ninness and former researcher Louise Langdon — two women I knew during my seven years at Nine — have now stated they were subjected to constant harassment by Burke. Though I did not witness these events, I have no reason not to believe these women.

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 Don number four — hush-voiced Don, practised, smooth-talking Don, who accepts the invitation to address rumours because he believes he can persuade anyone of anything, even himself.

That Don believes he can strike a deal with the Australian public and, in damning himself with a frank admission of extra-marital affairs, hopes to save himself.

Delusional Don, at his best.

BULLYING STAR SENT PACKERING

Late TV mogul's Burke lashing



Don Burke last week. Last night it emerged that Channel 9 mogul Kerry Packer (inset) warned him about his behaviour. Main picture: Brianne Makin

JANET FIFE-YEOMANS

MEDIA mogul Kerry Packer personally called TV star Don Burke and ordered him to behave, it was revealed last night.

The revelations emerged as a former Channel 9 insider described how Burke's TV kingdom was built on a culture of bullying amid separate allegations that the gardening guru had also been banned from flying with Qantas in the 1990s for acting inappropriately towards airline staff.

The former Nine employee said abuse was constant, and continued from Monday morning's production meeting to Friday's end-of-week party.

"It would be true to say that 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 dragged some of Burke's male employees at his production company CTC 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 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 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.



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 towards her while filming a story inside 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 Bates, from leading sexual harassment legal firm Harmers Workplace Lawyers, yesterday said he would not rule out a potential class action because of the number of women who claim they were bullied, terrorised and sexually humiliated by the Burke's Backyard host.

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.

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.

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Cricket Tasmania chief executive Nick Cummins. Picture: LUKE BOWDEN

TASMANIA

Cricket Tasmania chief tells of Burke incident with swimmer Susie O'Neill

JESSICA HOWARD and AAP, Mercury
November 29, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

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."

Image:

Supplied

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 as 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

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icon-plusicon-minus

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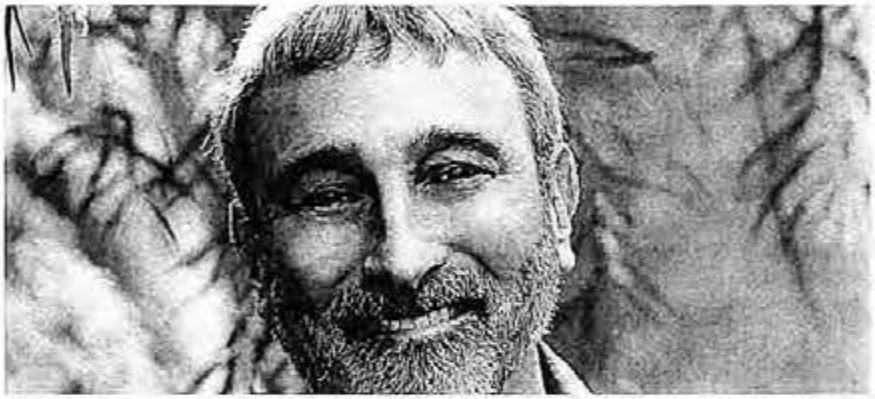
ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITY 12:02pm, Nov 29, 2017 Updated: 3:32pm, Nov 29

Don Burke accused of swearing at couple who lost family in Bali bombing



Don Burke allegedly called a couple who lost relatives in the Bali bombing "c--s" and "wogs" *Photo: New Holland*

Alison Branley

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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.

11-767

Burke has strenuously denied all the allegations saying "The

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A TV 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."

Burke denied the original complaints of indecent assault and

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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.



Burke during a shoot for his TV program. *Photo: Good Weekend/ Jack Picone*

"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.

Another woman who only wanted to be known as Michelle

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the early 1990s.

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.

"I can't remember exactly what he said, he was remarking how

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"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, etcetera 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

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NOVEMBER 29 2017

SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

Caroline Wilson reveals 'creepy' encounter with Don Burke at 1996 Logies



Broede Carmody

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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 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.



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 s 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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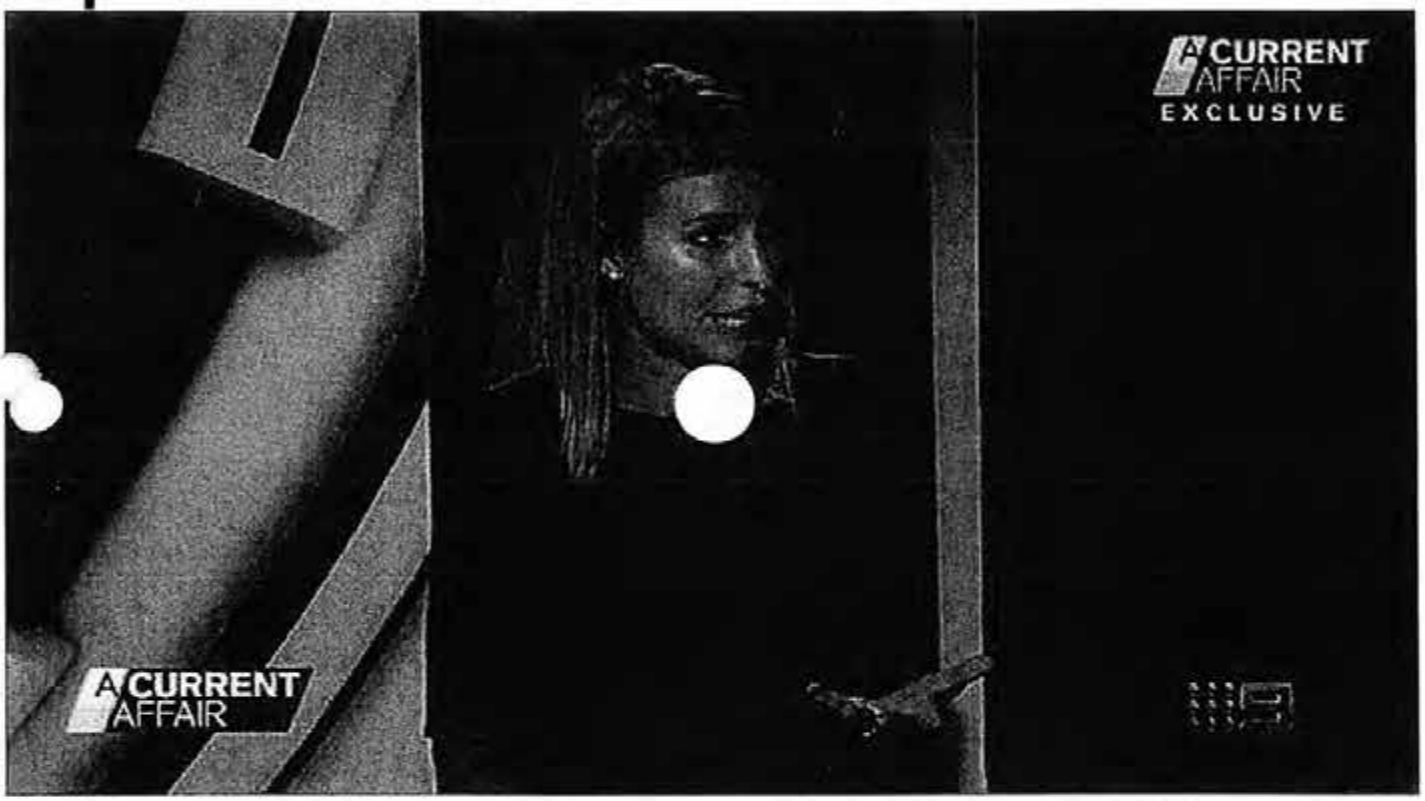


Reporter Alison Piotrowski describes the moment Don Burke made sexual comments at her

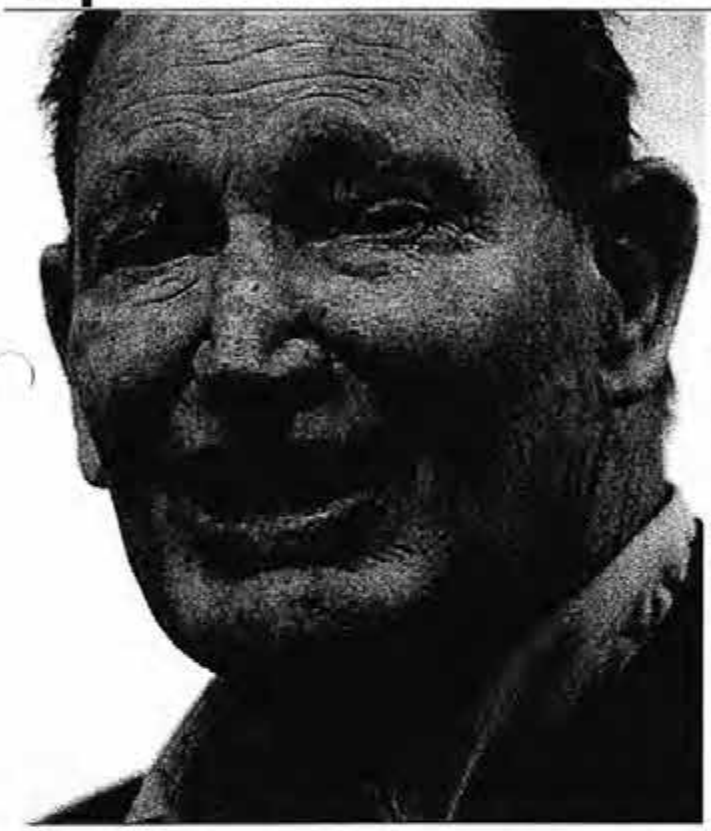
NSW

Former Nine employee reveals Don Burke wasn't the only sexual harasser

Janet Fife-Yeomans, The Daily Telegraph
November 29, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

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 has been revealed Kerry Packer called Don Burke to tell him to behave after a formal complaint. Picture: Supplied



Don Burke is the latest celebrity to be embroiled in sexual harassment allegations. Picture: Brianne Makin

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.

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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.

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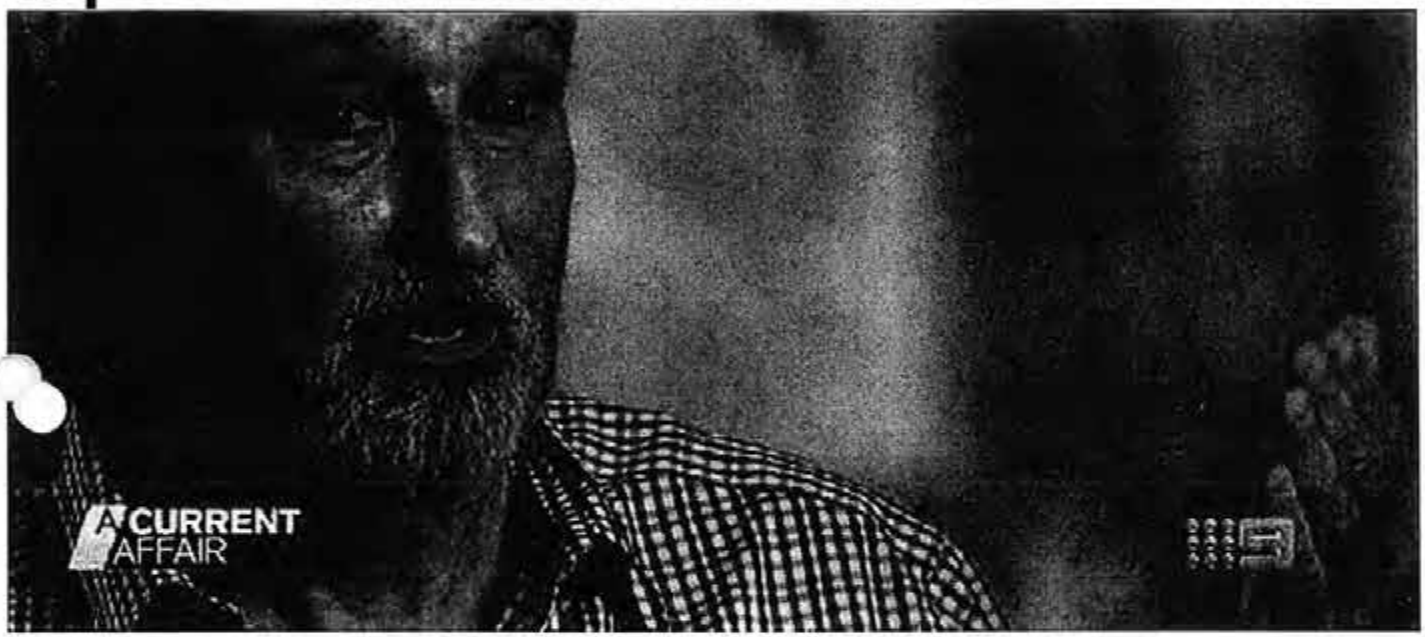

Don Burke admits he suffers from undiagnosed Aspergers

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 one 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."

The Daily Telegraph



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.

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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

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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.

The Daily Telegraph



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.

COMMENTS 244

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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.

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 10:17AM

Video Image

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Journalist says Don Burke 'expected to have sex' with her

A FORMER TV journalist has recalled how Don Burke told her to come to Sydney 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?'"



Dennis Rodman charged with DUI



McGowan slams Franco over sex claims



'This is why people hate celebs'



'Why is James Franco allowed in?'



TV personality Don Burke denies claims he is a bully and a sexual predator. Picture: Patrick Riviere/Getty Images *Source:Getty Images*

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."

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told her a piglet had a "really big p***y" when she met him at a Channel 9 lunch. Wendy said Burke was completely expressionless, "like it was a normal conversation."

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 clitoris.

The journalist said he also asked her to sit on his lap.

ndy 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, 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 @emmareyn

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 8:30AM

Video Image

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News

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 Tootbrush* 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."

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"Miss Wendy" Mooney with Don't Forget Your Toothbrush co-host Tim Ferguson. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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."

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Celebrity gardener Don Burke made a lewd remark to the 24-year-old female presenter during a Channel 9 lunch, she sims. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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 much?"

In another video, he told actor Annalise Braaksensiek: "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.

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Wendy, then 24, says she was 'shocked' by Burke's crude comment about a piglet's genitalia, but her Channel 9 colleagues seemed unsurprised. *Source:News Limited*

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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ABC NEWS

Don Burke's 1993 domestic violence campaign sparked backlash from women

By the National Reporting Team's Lorna Knowles and Alison Branley

Updated Wed 29 Nov 2017, 9:37am

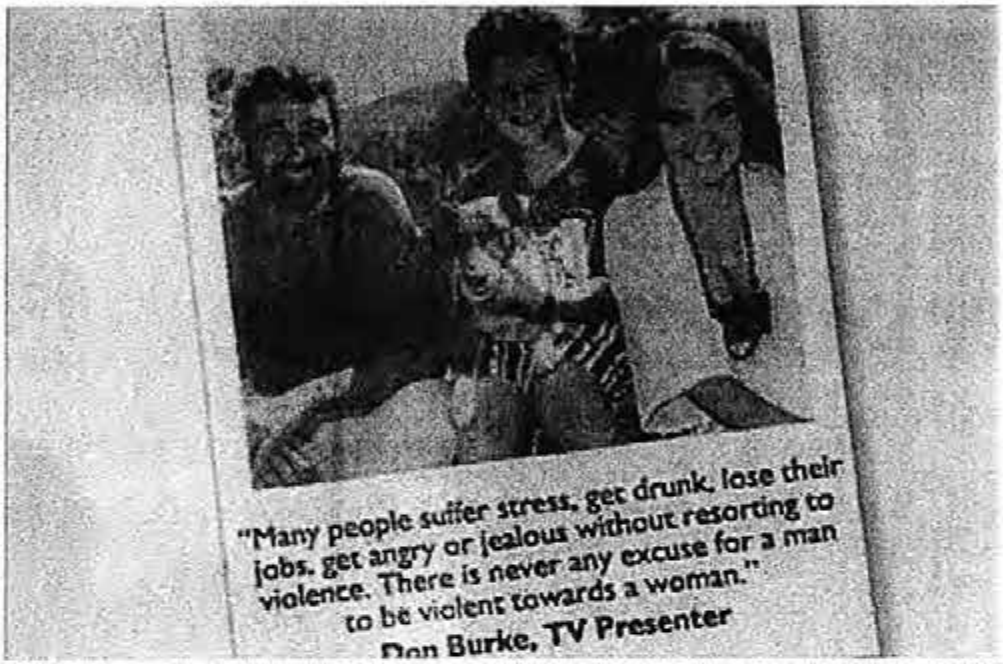

PHOTO: The campaign included billboards, posters and TV advertisements with phrases like "real men don't bash or rape women". (ABC News)

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 Blundell.

RELATED STORY: 'He expected to have sex': Journalist says Don Burke took her to hotel room

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MAP: Australia

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.

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.

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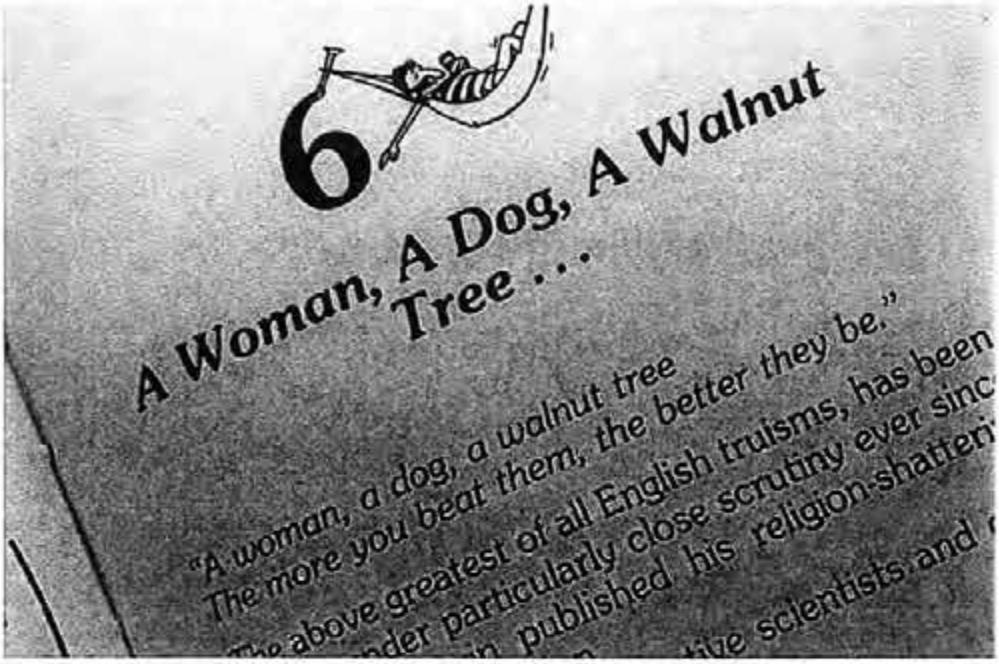

PHOTO: Some lines from Don Burke's book are being read in a more troubling context. (Supplied)

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:

> "A woman, a dog, a walnut tree.
> "The more you beat them, the better they be."

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.



PHOTO: Burke's most famous publication was his seminal gardening handbook, The Lazy Gardener. (Supplied)

Topics: community-and-society, arts-and-entertainment, television, television-broadcasting, information-and-communication, broadcasting, women, australia

First posted Wed 29 Nov 2017, 6:05am

ABC NEWS

Don Burke: Jackie French backtracks on support for embattled TV star

By the National Reporting Team's Lorna Knowles and Alison Branley

Updated Wed 29 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 ABC/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."

RELATED STORY: Susie O'Neill accuses Don Burke of 'crude and belittling' remarks

RELATED STORY: 'He expected to have sex': Journalist says Don Burke took her to hotel room

RELATED STORY: Don Burke's claim of undiagnosed Asperger's a 'slap in the face'

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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



PHOTO: Jackie French had earlier provided a statement in support of Burke. (ABC News: David Flannery)

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 countenance anything remotely resembling harassment," she wrote.

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.



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.

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.



PHOTO: Susie O'Neill says she told her manager about alleged comments by Don Burke. (AAP/Fairfax Media)

"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."

To print the document, click the "Original Document" link to open the original PDF. At this time it is not possible to print the document with annotations.

Topics: sexual-offences, law-crime-and-justice, broadcasting, television-broadcasting, women, australia

First posted Tue 28 Nov 2017, 8:05pm

Contact Lorna Knowles

NOVEMBER 30 2017

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.

RELATED ARTICLES

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 G'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.



Don Burke and Elle McFeast pomoting the Battle of the TV Shows series for Sale of the Century, Channel Nine, 1994. Photo: Publicity

He greets me on the drive of his newly rebuilt home in Kenthurst, on Sydney's outskirts, with the characteristic smile and "G'day". Today

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, T HEY 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."





Don Burke, right, with the creator of Footrot Flats, cartoonist Murray Ball, 1993. Photo: Publicity

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."



Don Burke prior to the start of his weekly gardening show for the Nine network, August 30, 1987. Photo: Publicity

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

11-802



Lorraine Bayly with Don Burke. Photo: Fairfax Media

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.



Barcelona Olympic hopeful Hayley Lewis with Don Burke. Photo: Fairfax Media

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 ırdening 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 ɔlleagues, 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 an arrogance. Supporters and

11-803

But with that intelligence comes an arrogance. 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 1962, 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, 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 Ryde 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-rooing 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.

.aybe 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

News Corp Australia Network NOVEMBER 29, 2017 9:41AM

Video Image

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Julie Neilson meets Don Burke: 'it was disgusting, you wouldn't accept that behaviour from anyone'

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."

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Stars who've dropped the F-bomb on SNL


Stunning confession 25 years later


Tragic fate of young heiress



Burke denied all the allegations of sexual harassment and bullying on A Current Affair. Picture: ACA/ Channel
Source:Channel 9



slie said Burke tried to force her on to a bed. *Source:Channel 9*

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 f*** 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.

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ACA reporter Alison Piotrowski says Don Burke sexually harassed her. *Source:Supplied*

Reporter Alison Piotrowski describes the moment Don Burke made sexual comments at her

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 held 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.

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...agement at radio station 2UE failed to discipline the star, it has been claimed. *Source:News Corp Australia*

"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.



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tv current affairs

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".



Andrew Bucklow @ACBucklow

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 2:25PM

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Kerri Anne speaks out about Don Burke

'ON Burke isn't the only one.

'hat'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.

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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."



Don Burke being interviewed on A Current Affair by Tracey Grimshaw. Picture: ACA/Channel 9. *Source:Channel 9*

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 strife 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
PUBLISHED: 16:55 AEDT, 29 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 16:55 AEDT, 29 November 2017

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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.'

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'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.

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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.'

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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

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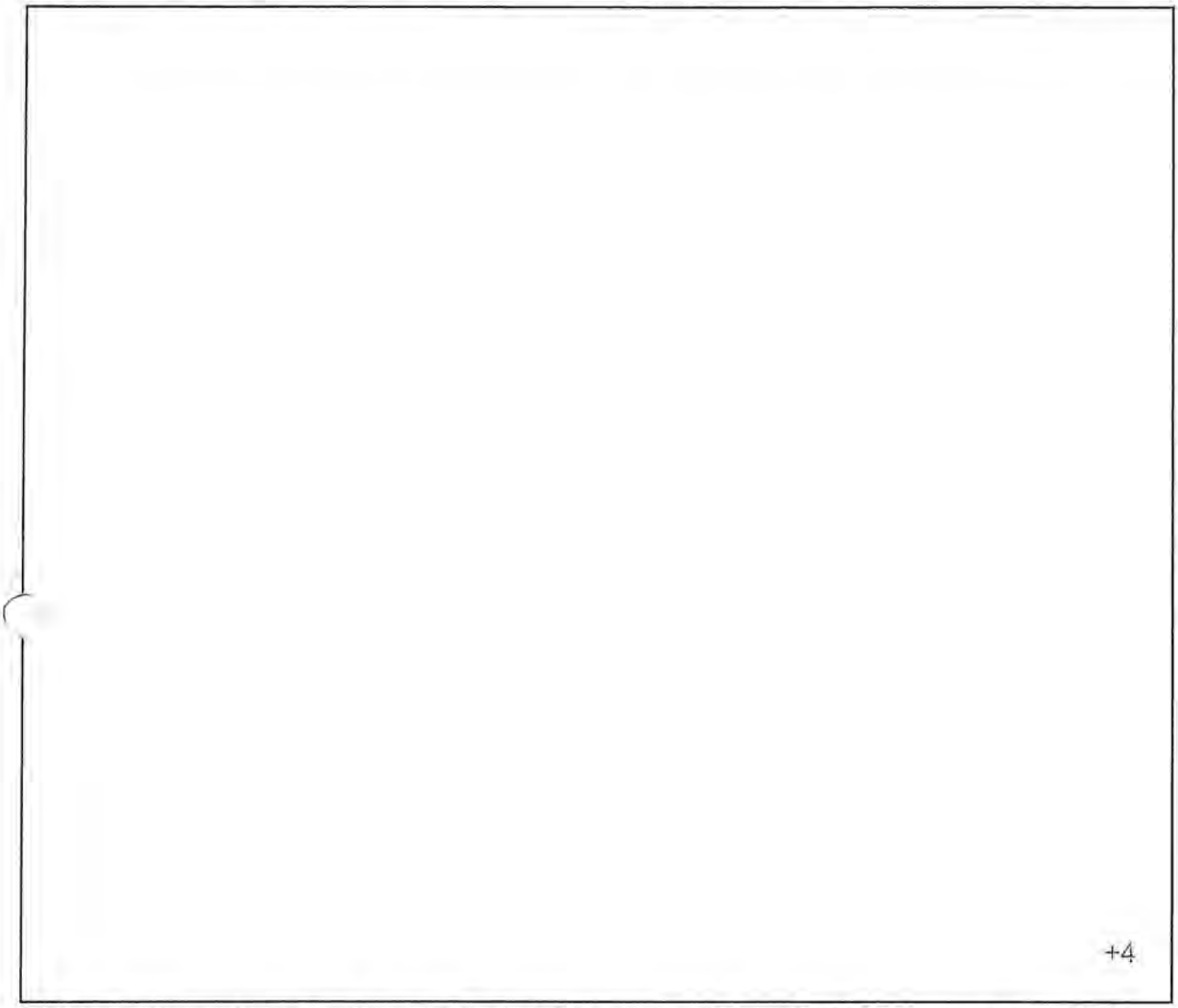

Ms Kennerley spoke out to describe Burke's language at the peak of his career as 'appalling'

'I'm not trying to justify it... no young woman should ever have to put up with that,' she 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'.

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A Current Affair reporter Alison Piotrowski claims Burke targeted her when she was a young producer

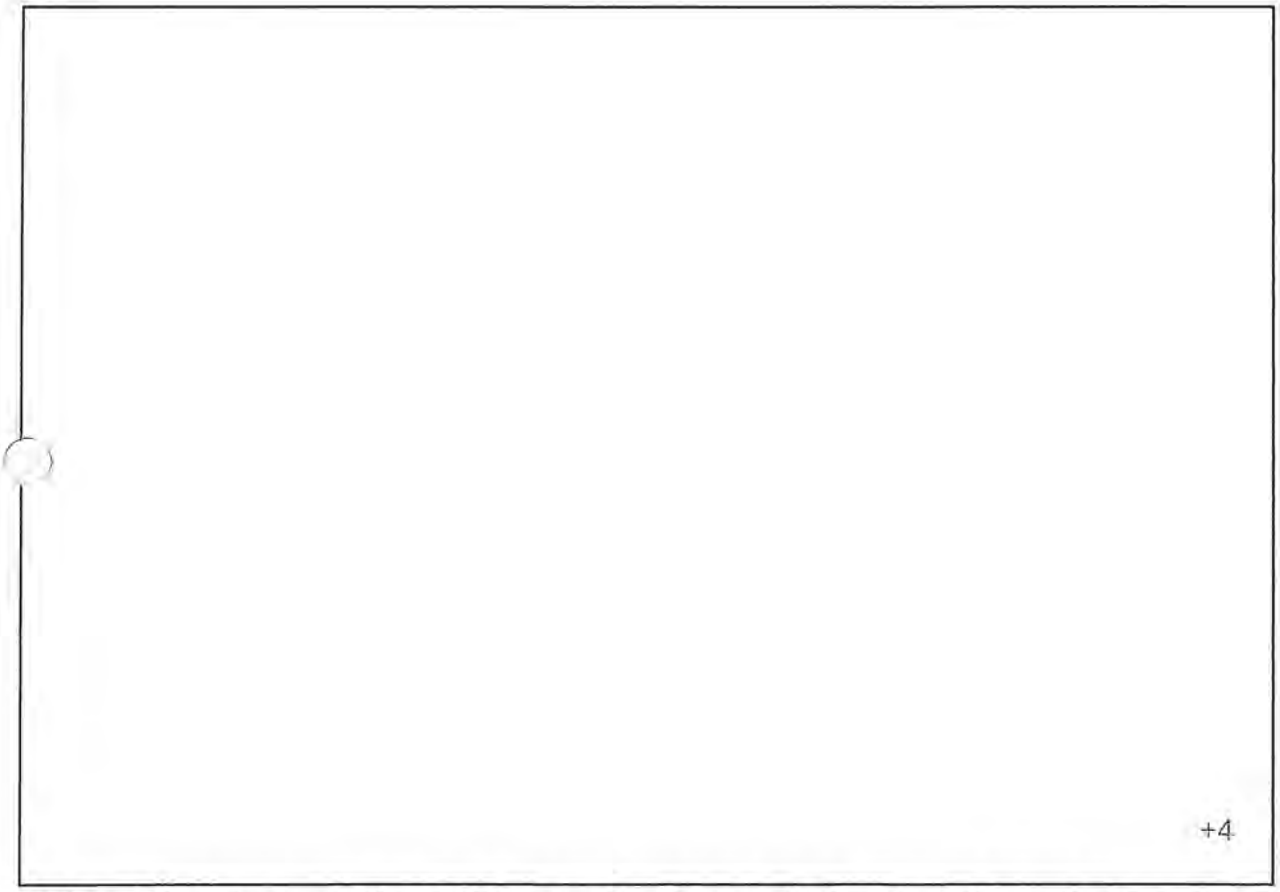
Burke said he's the target of a witch hunt and has denied all allegations of sexual misconduct.

'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'Neill 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'Neill 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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NOVEMBER 29 2017

The bitter irony of men now supporting women's claims against Don Burke



Clementine Ford

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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".

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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.

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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 Tracey 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.





Louise Langdon said she complained to senior producers at *Burke's Backyard* about Don Burke's general behaviour but nothing was done.

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.

Ronan 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.



Don Burke was 'a disgrace' and a 'terrible grub', says Sam Chisholm, David Leckie's predecessor at Nine Network. Photo: Bob Pearce

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 BURKE SCANDAL

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Don ducks controversy

Grimshaw bemused by Burke's lack of accountability

NICK BOND

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 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.

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 drew the line at 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 insult 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 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."

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.



It was tense on *Studio 10* yesterday as Jessica Rowe and Ita Buttrose butted heads over Don Burke
Main picture: NETWORK TEN

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 media veteran Ita 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.

"I know Don, I worked with him in radio back in the '80s when I was hosting a show on 2UE in Sydney. I had two female producers and I spoke to them 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," she said.

Hildebrand challenged Buttrose, 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 her.

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.

Former Nine presenter Jessica Rowe spoke up, arguing that the system was stacked to protect bankable stars like Burke.

"You might say, why did nothing happen? Unfortunately, there were people in power who worship this whole star system and have not held people to account. He was a cash cow, as they say."

Talk then turned to Rowe's own well-publicised run-in with Burke – the two appeared in a 2011 episode of panel show *Can of Worms* during which Rowe could be seen threatening to walk off after Burke said he "loves a good f****" in a discussion about whether Australians swear too much.

"It was revolting, what he said," Rowe said.

Stone expecting baby

AUSTRALIAN actress Yael Stone is expecting her first baby with partner Jack Manning Bancroft.

Stone, originally from Sydney, shot to fame in 2013 playing New Jersey inmate Lorna Morello, one of the main characters in Netflix ensemble show *Orange Is The New Black*.

"My partner, Jack Manning Bancroft 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 *Joan of Arc* in the Sydney Theatre Company's upcoming production, but pulled out because of her pregnancy.



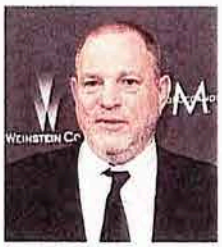
Yael Stone Picture: AAP

Actress 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 producer went to London in 2014 and "groomed" Kadian 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 (kan), where he groped her and forced her to watch him masturbate.

A spokeswoman for Weinstein has denied the allegations.



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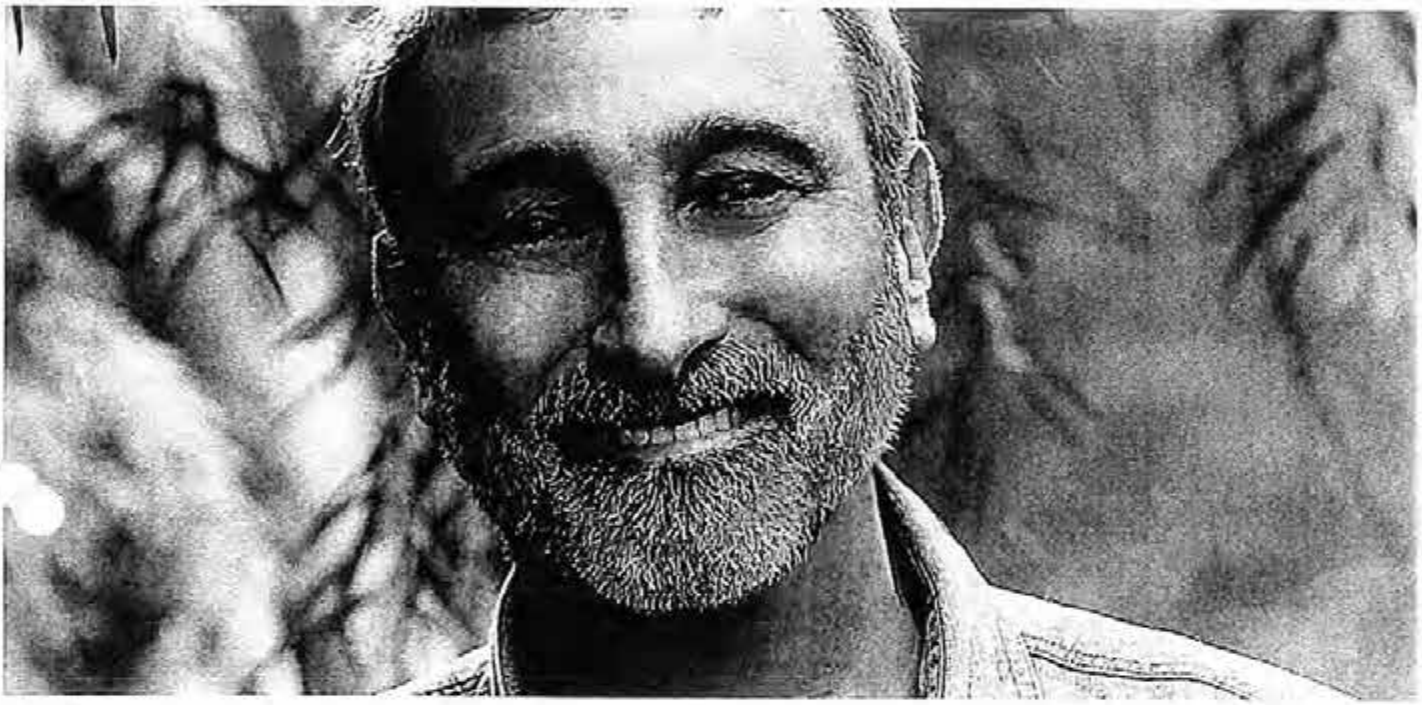

Don Burke story reveals the pernicious culture of men protecting each other in the media

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

Author



Gael Jennings
Honorary Fellow, Centre for Advancing Journalism, University of Melbourne

It 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.

11-839

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, #BalanceTonPorc ("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'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 ratted 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 (21%), 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

protect themselves.

Read more: From Public Confessions to Public Trials: The Complexities of the 'Weinstein Effect'

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 teetering crest into a massive, roaring wave of change.

Misogyny Women in media

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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.



Nick Bond @bondnickbond

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 4:23AM

Video Image

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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.

Veteran 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".

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1990s-era Don Burke. *Source:News Corp Australia*

Glover wrote that those who he spoke to "report a darker side, offering their nickname for [Burke] 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".

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"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".

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Journalist Richard Glover. *Source:Supplied*

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 endeavours — 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 — don't 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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Sports journalist Caroline Wilson recalls 'gross' encounter with Don Burke at 1996 Logies

By Julia Naughton · Nov 29th, 2017



The â€˜creepyâ€™ 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."

11-851



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



Backyard Blitz Book Launch

news.com.au

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, Burkes Backyard 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 them 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.

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 BBY team to perform at a high level. My perfectionist management was the prime reason for BBY lasting 18 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, BBY 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. 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.

— 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.

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Nine launches staff helpline in wake of 'appalling' Don Burke scandal



(/people/arvind-hickman) By Arvind Hickman (/people/arvind-hickman) | 30 November 2017

1 Comment

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.



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.



CEO Hugh Marks

"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 554 818 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 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."

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12:19 PM Yes Adnews will perhaps escape the brunt of this, as will many other more niche publications, such a... **General News** on **Facebook isn't the be all and end all** (http://www.adnews.com.au/opinion/F745-11E7-B4C956A3EB202366)

12:17 PM So very true. Goodbye Buzzfeed and Mashable **Peenny Blacksmith** on **Facebook isn't the be all and end all**

11-858

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 Leckie described Burke as Australia's "Harvey-Weinstein", in reference to the disgraced US production mogul, while another former Nine CEO, Sam Chisolm, 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.

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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

NOVEMBER 30, 2017 1:05PM

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Kerri Anne speaks out about Don Burke

EXCLUSIVE

THE champagne was flowing and the cash was thrown around during the loose parties and boozy boardroom meetings at the Nine Network.

It was a man's world and there were no rules. Within the walls of the network's Willoughby headquarters on Sydney's north shore, the boys' club worked hard. And they played even harder.

"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 supermodel 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'

11-860

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Margot Robbie stuns in Paris



Cranberries singer's tortured past



Zeta-Jones defends Douglas over claims



Brilliant reply to abuse question

Kennerley recalled an incident involving a "serious major player (still working) in the media as we speak".

"He literally pulled out his old fella 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".

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Brilliant reply to abuse question



Kerri-Anne Kennerley at Melbourne's Crown Casino for the 1998 Logie Awards. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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CELEBRITY LIFE



Margot Robbie stuns in Paris



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Zeta-Jones defends Douglas over claims



Brilliant reply to abuse question



'KP would turn his tongue to fairly vile language' ... Kerry Packer in 1996. *Source:News Corp Australia*

I'M A: SEEKING A:

Hi, what's your first name?

Postcode? Australia

Give it a go

.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'

nnerley 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."

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Brilliant reply to abuse question



Kennerley copped a tirade of verbal abuse while hosting Midday on Nine. *Source:Channel 9*

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 show 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."



'Grubby guy' ... Kennerley appears with Don Burke in a book commercial in the mid-2000s. *Source:YouTube*

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".

11-864

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TV LIFE


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Help line set up for Burke accusers

DARREN DAVIDSON
DANA McCAULEY



Burke

The Nine Network has opened an independent counselling service following allegations this week of sexual assault by former TV personality Don Burke, as network boss Hugh Marks addressed staff for the first time on the issue, saying "we cannot rewrite history".

Mr Marks told staff that allegations of harassment and misconduct by Burke were "appalling", vowing to deal with misconduct, harassment, discrimination and bullying issues "effectively".

It comes as the network's former head of news and current affairs Peter Meakin, who revealed a bullying complaint about Burke decades ago, expressed regret the alleged serious criminal conduct had not been addressed.

He said he was shocked at the outpouring of accusations against the former prime-time star, calling it "a tsunami of horror".

"I've been gobsmacked by the extent of the complaints that have emerged," said Meakin, who left Nine for Seven in 2003 and is now an executive consultant at Ten. "Of course it would have been nice if some of the alleged actions could have been stopped if management had nipped some of this stuff in the bud."

Meakin does not recall but does not dispute a bullying complaint made to him about Burke.

An email to staff, obtained by *The Australian*, said former Nine employees with complaints could provide their contact details and its human resources department would follow up confidentially.

A phone line, 1300 554 818, was set up yesterday to enable people to report issues. Nine would provide free counselling and would support people to "work through any issues that relate to their time" at the network, it said.

"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," Mr Marks said.

Claims would be addressed externally "if required".

Meakin said times were different in the 1980s and 90s in the television industry. "At Channel Nine in those days, people were bullied from top to bottom," he said. "People at the top were bullied by (then owner) Kerry Packer. That was how the place ran in those days." But, he said, "it wasn't as if there were a huge number of complaints coming in".

He said Nine had been "a decent and supportive place to work" overall for many employed there, and had nurtured the careers of some of Australia's most celebrated female talent.

Meakin did not deny having heard rumours about Burke, saying he was known to be "overbearing" but "I hadn't heard any stories about sexual assault", which "even 30 years ago would have been unfathomable".

Burke has been described as a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" during the 17-year run of *Burke's Backyard*.

This week Burke, 70, told Nine's *A Current Affair* he admitted to behaving like a bullying tyrant, and having affairs, but cannot remember "exact things I did 20 years ago". He denied the allegations against him.

Yesterday it emerged Packer called Burke to tell him to behave. The then owner of Nine acted after Olympian Susie O'Neill lodged a complaint in 2000.

Fairfax pulls plug on HuffPost

Fairfax Media has terminated its joint-venture agreement with HuffPost Australia, ending weeks of speculation about the online publisher's future.

Two years after editor Tory Maguire launched the local arm of the global Huffington Post and, the news and commentary website was cast adrift following a review of its funding by the media company's global arm.

HuffPost Australia's staff of about 30 were called in to a meeting yesterday afternoon to be briefed on the development after rumours circulated throughout the media industry. A spokesman for HuffPost Australia said in a statement: "HuffPost will operate a stand-alone Australian edition from December 1 with a smaller local team. If redeployment is not possible, regrettably redundancies will occur."

Maguire will not be continuing with the stripped-back operation, which it is understood will have just three contractors on its books.

Huffington Post withdrew funding for its local edition as part of a global shake-up under new editor-in-chief Lydia Polgreen, who replaced the publisher's namesake and co-founder Arianna Huffington last year. It is understood that although some staff may be redeployed in Fairfax's metro newsrooms, a significant number will be left without jobs.

Also affected will be HuffPost's editor-at-large Lisa Wilkinson, who left Nine's *Today* last month for a role at rival Ten, and was contracted to the publisher in a deal believed to be worth six figures annually.

DANA McCAULEY

Early harvest time as hard rain's gonna fall

PIA AKERMAN
SUE NEALES

An "unprecedented" rainstorm is forecast to drench three states from today, prompting flood warnings and forcing a panicked rush among farmers to harvest their grain crops before the deluge.

Victoria is tipped to take the brunt of the deep low-pressure system, with areas including Melbourne likely to receive double or triple the monthly average rainfall over just two or three days.

Senior bureau meteorologist Scott Williams said tropical moisture that had been building in southeastern Australia for the past fortnight would collide with a deep low-pressure system coming from the west.

"I don't think I've ever seen such a deep low fall over Victoria whilst we've got this moisture around, so to that extent we are a little bit in uncharted territory," he said.

"Some weather models are suggesting 300mm of rainfall, particularly in the northeast of the state — a lot of that within a 24-hour period from Friday night to Saturday night. It's right at the top end of the rainfalls we've seen in Victoria in the last 30 years ... when you're talking 150 up to 300mm on the ranges, that makes it unprecedented."

The rain is expected to start in South Australia today, moving into western and central Victoria tomorrow, with western NSW also expecting heavy falls.

Mr Williams said as much as 50mm of rain could be expected to fall in a single hour, with Melbourne expecting up to 150mm over three days. The State Emergency Service has warned that rivers might experience moderate to major flooding, particularly in northern Victoria and Gippsland.

The wet spell comes after a record-breaking stretch of hot weather for Melbourne and Hobart, with today marking 15 days over 30C in Melbourne before the start of summer. Hobart set a November record of six consecutive days over 26C but Brisbane has not had a 30C day all month.

Farmers across Victoria and southern NSW were driving their headers late into the night yesterday in a desperate bid to harvest dried-off grain crops before the predicted downpour.

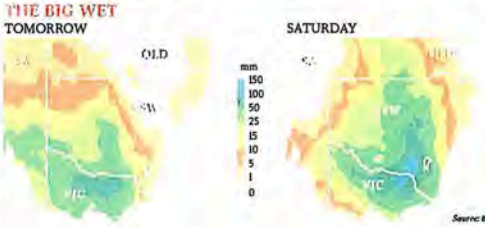
Inverleigh grower Steven Peel was rushing in 31C heat to cut 50ha of canola because he fears the damage heavy rain and possible hail could cause.

"It's dreadful timing with the harvest starting," he said. "If it didn't rain at all between now and February I'd be happy. I'm still hoping it's not going to be as bad as the bureau is warning, but hail and rain together would take any canola left in the paddock down (from edible oil quality) to stock feed only."



Steven Peel is harvesting his canola crop at Inverleigh, southern Victoria, ahead of the forecast rain

PAUL JEFFERS



Australia's winter grain harvest was already looking below average, with predictions it will be a massive 41 per cent less than last year's record crop production total of 59 million tonnes.

A bone-dry autumn and early winter in Western Australia, SA and northern NSW has played havoc with typical yields, with only Victoria, southern NSW and WA's Esperance region showing potential for bumper crops until late October and November brought dire late and fatal frosts.

Victorian Farmers Federation president David Jochinke said growers in the state's Wimmera, Mallee and central regions had near-perfect crops until spring had brought troubles of "almost everything biblical". "First we had mice plagues, then it was frosts, heavy rain, floods in some places, even hail," he said.

Wine region toasts 50 years, and a 'mad man's' vision

MIRANDA ROUT

Tom Cullity knew nothing about making wine. The locals thought he was crazy. But that did not stop the Perth cardiologist from getting up at 3am every Saturday and driving hours to Margaret River to tend his newly planted vines.

That was 1967. Little did he know that his passion would kick-start a wine region that 50 years later produces 20 per cent of Australia's premium wine exports.

"If I had known the problems presented to an ignorant and possibly obsessed person like myself in a small closed community, I doubt whether I would have persisted," the late doctor once said of his decision to try to re-create the fine table wines of Europe he tasted while working in London.

Margaret River this year celebrates its 50th anniversary of the start of Cullity's winery. Vasse Felix, and the 142 producers that have followed. It has gone from a small agricultural community with good surfing to one with 2.7 million visitors each year.

The December issue of *WISH* magazine, out tomorrow with *The Australian*, features a guide to the best food and wine the region has to offer. "It is one of the leading players on par with regions such as the Yarra Valley," leading wine expert James Halliday told *The Australian*.

"Margaret River has its own style and the quality is up with the very best. It also has pristine beauty, magnificent gums reaching the coastline, famous for its surfing. I am often asked where I would make wine if I was to start again and my answer is Margaret River."

Cullity was not the only doctor to enter the wine game in Margaret River. He was joined by GP Bill Pennell setting up Moss Wood winery in 1969. David Johnson (not a doctor but his father lived across the road from Cullity in Perth) followed soon after, setting up Cape Mentelle with his brothers Mark and Giles. Dr Kevin Cullen and his wife Diana planted vines in 1971 to start Cullen winery.

Key to Cullity's decision was the region being identified as having similar growing conditions to Bordeaux in France by University of Western Australia agronomist John Gladstone.

His research papers in the 1960s suggested that its soaking winter rains and dry summers, plus well-drained gravely soils and cool ocean breezes, made it perfect for growing grapes. Cullity read this report on the recommendation of his brother and started Vasse Felix.

"At the time it seemed almost a disgrace that nobody was doing anything to prove a golden opportunity that would be the envy of most other countries," wrote Cullity in 2007, a year before his death. "So in August 1967, after site and soil preparation, (we planted) four acres of riesling, two of cabernet sauvignon, half of malbec and half of hermitage."

Some of those vines remain. Vasse Felix chief winemaker Virginia Willcock has used the original cabernet sauvignon and malbec vines to make a wine commemorating the founder, labelled Tom Cullity. The wine, released in May, received the highest score ever for a Vasse Felix vintage.

"It is the most significant wine I have ever made in my life," said Willcock. "It is more than a beautiful glass of wine. It is something about the great, mad, man who planted the first vineyards here and says something about Margaret River and the site. It smells and tastes of the site."



Vasse Felix chief winemaker Virginia Willcock has used the original cabernet sauvignon and malbec vines to make a wine commemorating the founder, Tom Cullity, right

Milo's career of making mischief

NICOLA BERKOVIC

Julia Gillard is a "complete prick", Muslims should be expelled to the Middle East and conservatives on university campuses are among the globe's most "marginalised" people.

This is the world according to right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos, who touched down in Australia yesterday.

Decked out in a military-style Dolce & Gabbana jacket, high-top Versace sneakers, diamond earrings and dark, reflective sunglasses, he addressed the media in a windowless, underground screening room.

His advice to young conservatives was to "tease, have a little bit of mischief" and a "laugh".

And he was clearly having fun as he unleashed a barrage of offensive remarks: railing against "proud feminists" who are "overweight, unattractive, miserable, single losers" and remarking that he "liked that guy Tony Abbott" because he was "bullsy" while Julia Gillard "seemed like a complete prick". He was also enjoying himself as he tore down a young female, Muslim interviewer after the media conference: "You seem to be submitting to stupidity, I don't know you're submitting to God."

But his crusade against political correctness and its corrosive effect on public debate is serious. Writing in *The Australian* today Yiannopoulos says there is no "rape culture" on university campuses and no gender pay gap. And he takes aim at those who attack opinions that defy left-wing thinking.

"If you bring any of this up, you'll be called a misogynist, a sexist, a racist and perhaps something worse. Calling people names has become a substitute for argument for the bossy left-wingers who tell us lies while lecturing us about how we should live," he writes.

Speaking with *The Australian* yesterday, the British-born, US-based commentator said he had identified a problem with Western democracies, which was that conservatives and libertarians were being "sidelined, marginalised, mocked and demeaned".

In Australia, he said, it was "terrifying" that an individual could be dragged before the courts under section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act because they caused offence to another person. "This idea that you can destroy someone's life, their bank account, their savings, the future of their family ... because you claimed to be offended, that's not just bad law ... that's a piece of political weaponry designed to destroy conservatives," he said.

Comedians no longer performed at US colleges because "kids" were "too touchy": "The only law about free speech should be if you directly incite someone to commit a serious crime, to commit violence or if you're advocating for terrorism or tyranny. Other than that, let people say what they want."

And it was "ludicrous" the national broadcaster, the ABC, had decided to move the Triple J Hottest 100 from Australia Day to prevent offence to Aboriginal people, he said.

COMMENTARY P12



COMMENT NOVEMBER 30 2017

Sexual harassment happens to ordinary women in ordinary jobs



Jenna Price

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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'Neill, 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.



Sexual harassment happens in all industries, female- or male-dominated. Photo: Nic Walker

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

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5 Column 8

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."

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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.

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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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TERTAINMENT

The Cranberries lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, dead at 46



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Herald Sun



Don Burke during his interview with Tracy Grimshaw at his Kenthurst home. Picture: Channel Nine

PAGE 13

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.

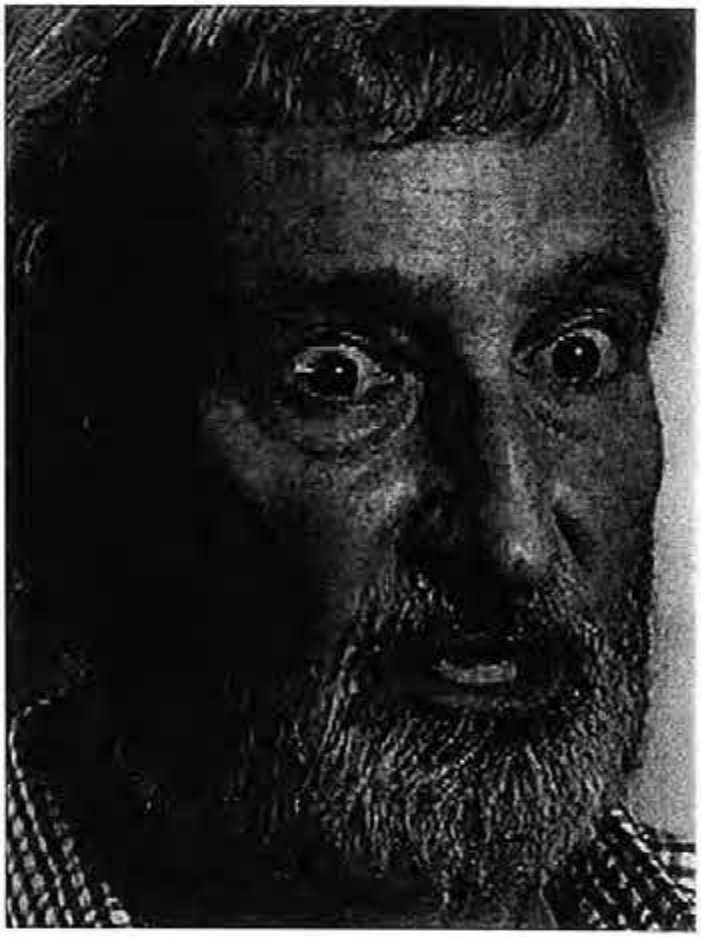
they could improve their garden.

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.



Kerry Packer.



Don Burke. Picture: Channel 9

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

PRIVATE SYDNEY DECEMBER 1 2017

Don Burke's publicity-shy wife of 50 years thrust into spotlight



Andrew Hornery

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For the past 50 years there has been one woman who has quietly stood behind Don Burke, his wife Marea, 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".

DON'T PLAY

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 Marea Burke?

In the process she has suffered the indignation of having her private laundry aired for national consumption as her husband went on

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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.



Don Burke is interviewed on A Current Affair, where he denied allegations of sexual harassment and lying. Photo: Channel Nine

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.



Don Burke's wife Marea.

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 PS 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 PS 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, PS 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.



Grin and bear it - Harry Styles on the ARIA red carpet at The Star. Photo: Belinda Rolland Photography

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.



Debbie Byrne and Daryl Braithwaite were Australia's pop royalty in 1975 named the King and Queen of Pop. Photo: Fairfax Photographic

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.



Daryl Braithwaite inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame. Photo: Supplied

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.



Happier times: The late Peter Baikie, daughter Amelia and showbiz reporter wife, Angela Bishop. Photo: Supplied

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.

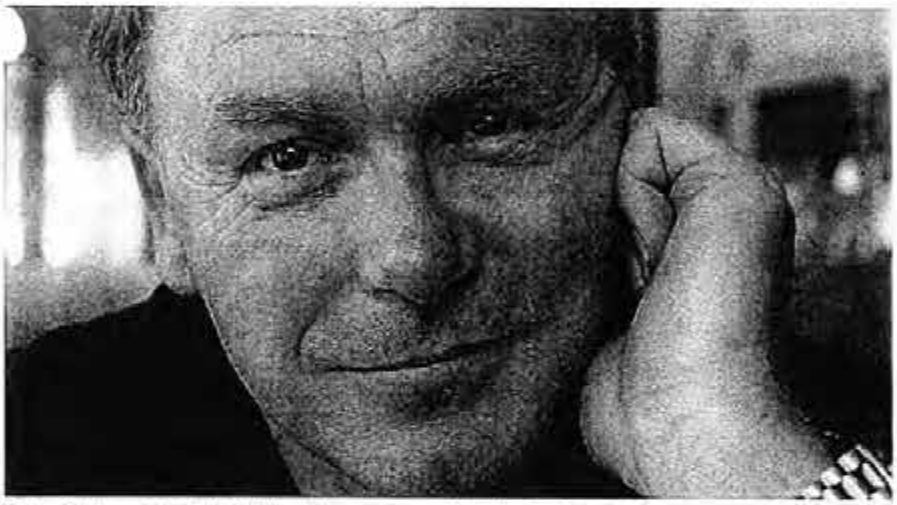
After 28 sessions of radiation his oesophagus was badly damaged and he required a month of treatment in hospital.

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

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.





No frills Paris Hilton. Photo: AP

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 Buttrose, who once was one of the biggest cocaine dealers in Sydney's more salubrious suburbs, has been back in his old stomping grounds.



Richard Buttrose in 2009 before his prison sentence. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

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 Buttrose's socialite sister, *Real Housewife of Sydney* support star and headline-making Lizzie Buttrose, 48, was due to marry her boyfriend, base jumper and mountain biker, Zoran Stopar yesterday. Richard was reportedly set to give the bride away.





Real Housewives of Sydney star Lizzie Buttrose. Photo: Foxtel

In October it emerged Buttrose and Stopar, 38, who is her seventh fiance, 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.

'ndeed there has been a major falling out between the women, whose .iendship had managed to survive several boyfriends and countless scandals over the years.



zie Buttrose and Shari-Lea Hitchcock. Photo: Helen Nezdropa

PS hears the friendship fell apart months ago as Hitchcock is not a fan of Stopar.

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COMMENT DECEMBER 1 2017

The male icons keep falling: how #MeToo has turned into 'Oh god, not you too?'



Jacqueline Maley

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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.

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We can no longer pretend that the harassers are bad apples who exist

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.

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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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Kirk Pengilly of INXS (left) reportedly misses being able to slap women's bottoms.

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.



Kevin Spacey is another icon tarnished by shocking allegations. Photo: AP

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,

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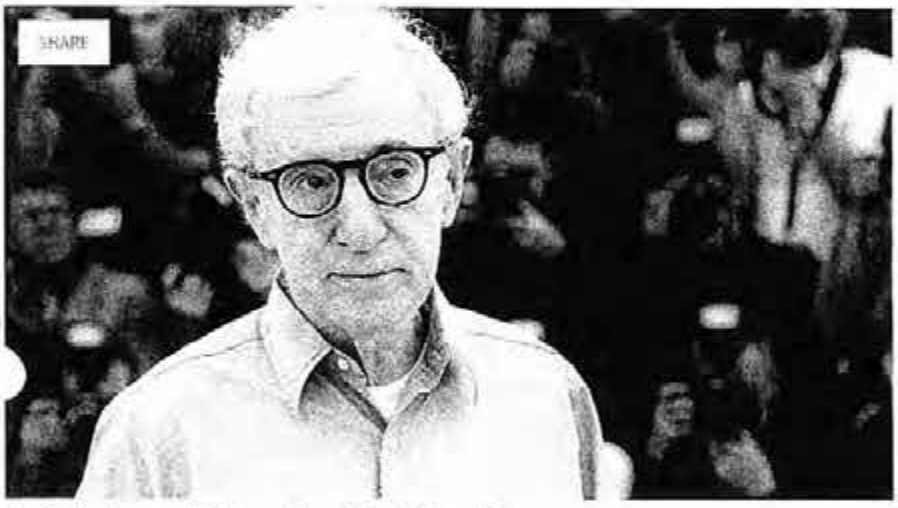
Louis CK admitted to having masturbated in front of women.

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 brandished their pain, and their damage, in the face of Friend's admirers.



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surely there are politicians, high profile journalists, heads of business and captains of industry who are at this moment quaking

that 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 – because no one making it ever seems to flip it, 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.

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■ FIVE PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL ■ DRIVER HAS SERVED JAIL TIME

Screams as car hits Christmas shoppers



AFTERMATH: Emergency crews inspect the scene of the crash in the city yesterday. Pictures: MATT LOXTON

MITCH MOTT

WITNESSES have recounted their horror as a car careered into Christmas shoppers and then into a light pole at an entrance to Rundle Mall yesterday.

Police last night confirmed the driver, a 40-year-old man, had recently served time in prison but ruled out the possibility that the crash was deliberate.

The driver was in Royal Adelaide Hospital with serious injuries last night.

Superintendent Craig Wall, of the Eastern Adelaide Local Service Area, said police were investigating the car's ownership.

The driver and a 60 year old female pedestrian suffered serious injuries when the car crashed into the crowd with enough force to bend the light pole and then swing the car on to the footpath.

The driver, who was displaying P-plates, is believed to have crashed as he tried to turn right into Rundle St from Pulteney St just after 4pm.

The car, travelling north, hit pedestrians who were waiting to cross the road near the Target store, and came to a halt after crashing into the pole, which also holds a traffic light.

Raven Osborn, 15, who was waiting to cross at the lights, saw the car lose control and said an elderly woman was left injured and screaming in the middle of the street.



"The car just came off the road and went into the pole and the pole crumpled with it and smoke started coming out of the body (of the car)," Ms Osborn said. "A woman was screaming help me, please come and help me."

"Another woman was flung into the gutter and lay there motionless.

"It was terrifying, it was random and out of nowhere. It was horrific.

"We rushed over to try and help but there wasn't much we could do.

"We could see the driver just sitting there not really responsive at all."

Four women were taken to hospital. A 60-year-old from Dulwich with multiple injuries and a 32-year-old from West Croydon who suffered leg injuries were taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

A 60-year-old from Heathpool who suffered leg injuries and a 26-year-old from North Adelaide with minor injuries were taken to the Flinders Medical Centre.

Dozens of people hurried to help the injured pedestrians and driver in the minutes after the crash as emergency services rushed to the scene.

A bystander said he heard a "god-awful bang" and came out of a shop to find a female lying in the middle of the intersection.

Other injured pedestrians were on the footpath and the bystander said the occupants of the car were initially trapped in the crash.

The airbags in the car deployed during the crash and the front of the car was extensively damaged.

A MedSTAR helicopter circled overhead as at least five ambulance crews attended to the injured.

The intersection was re-opened by police last night.

After Burke visited, we felt like scrubbing the house

ADELAIDE singer, actor and reality TV star Amity Dry has joined the growing list of women to speak out against gardening guru Don Burke.

The 39-year-old entertainer has told of the "vile and predatory energy" Burke left in her apartment after he visited to film an interview with her and husband Phil Rankine after they were contestants on the first season of reality renovation show The Block in 2003.

The revelations come as actor and The Bachelorette star Sophie Monk has told how sleaze and sexual harassment is rife in the entertainment industry. "People can get drunk with the power and the money and a lot of girls will do things to get roles," she said.

Monk said she learned to survive and maintain her self-respect after experiencing a decade of inappropriate behaviour while living and working in the US. "It is just very loose over there, and who do you go to? There are no rules. There is no HR system to go through," she said. "I don't regret leaving there at all. It is completely different here."

In an email, Dry said she wanted to add her voice to "those who were not employed by Nine but who witnessed his (Burke's) vile behaviour".

Burke, who ruled ratings in the 1990s with his show Burke's Backyard, has been accused of indecent assault, harassment and bullying by a number of women, including high profile figures such as swimmer Susie O'Neill.

The accusations emerged following an investigation aired on the ABC this week.

Burke has denied the claims, saying he was a tough boss whose self diagnosed Asperger's syndrome meant he often misread people.

Dry said she remembered Burke commenting about schoolgirls passing by, making jokes about bestiality and commenting about her appearance. "But what I remember more than anything was that after he left, my husband and I said we felt like taking a shower and scrubbing the house. It was as though a vile and predatory energy had filled it and we felt dirty for the experience."

PAGE 24: DAVID PENBERTHY



SHOCKED: Amity Dry and husband Phil Rankine.

Penbo on Sunday

DAVID PENBERTHY



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Man up and show respect for women

SOME years ago, a prominent Australian sport star and his wife were the victims of a burglary. I won't name the bloke as he copped enough sniggering from the public and media when it transpired that one of the items stolen from his house was an, ahem, home video in which he and his wife were expressing their love for one another in a physical way.

He held a press conference where he understandably pleaded for privacy, arguing the video was no different to those made by "many other couples."

Aside from making me reflect on how mundane my own life was, this sportsman's comments were a good example of h[illegible]ople will attempt to rope a[illegible]ist of us when they find themselves in a bind. I mean, who can honestly say they haven't made their own porno? Everyone does it, right?

Having said that, good luck to them. There's no crime in what they did. He probably had a whole stack of fun pretending to be the pizza delivery guy who couldn't believe what happened after he dropped off the Super Supreme.

The biggest stories of 2017 have involved sex. Not sex in the loving and consensual way as expressed by this decent couple, but unwanted and aberrant sexual advances, the use of sexually aggressive language and sexual assaults perpetrated by men in positions of power.

Men who are often so ugly in appearance and character that they would be flat out pulling a you-know-what in a brothel if they were forced to battle on like the rest of us, armed only with our looks and personalities.

[illegible]debate and analysis of [illegible]e stories has been driven to a large degree by female commentators, and fair enough too, as it is the women who are suffering here, and who have suffered silently for far too long.

As a bloke, one part of this sordid series of scandals that I find really galling is the attempt by the men at the centre to rope the rest of us into their conduct. This excuse-making mindset was epitomised by Donald Trump during last year's US election campaign upon the release of the so-called "pussy-gate" audio, in which he was heard boasting that when you're rich and powerful like he is you can get away with indecently assaulting women.

Trump's insulting subsequent explanation was that this was just "locker-room talk", suggesting that when the rest of us guys aren't digging ditches, teaching schoolchildren, programming computers or writing newspaper columns, we're sitting around with our mates guffawing about how many women's skirts we've stuck our hands up lately.

Harvey Weinstein used the same approach with his pitiful declaration – "Guys, I'm not doing OK, I need help" – the cringeworthy use of the word "guys" being a shameless plea for misplaced sympathy, as if we were all somehow meant to relate to what the poor guy was going through. And then high-profile American TV journo Matt Lauer pops up to apologise for inappropriate sexual behaviour with colleagues.

From a crowded field of excuses, Don Burke deserves a special mention for his assertion that his use of ripe language and sexual imagery was simply part of some graphic comic banter that many of us knockabout Aussies cherish.

I'm not a prude; I know plenty of dirty jokes that would be regarded in some circles as inappropriate. But I don't think I know any men who would talk the way Burke did to Susie O'Neill, or Jessica Rowe, or Annalise Braakensiek and try to laugh it all off as a bit of playful locker-room banter. He is his own mentally screwed-up, morally bankrupt category.

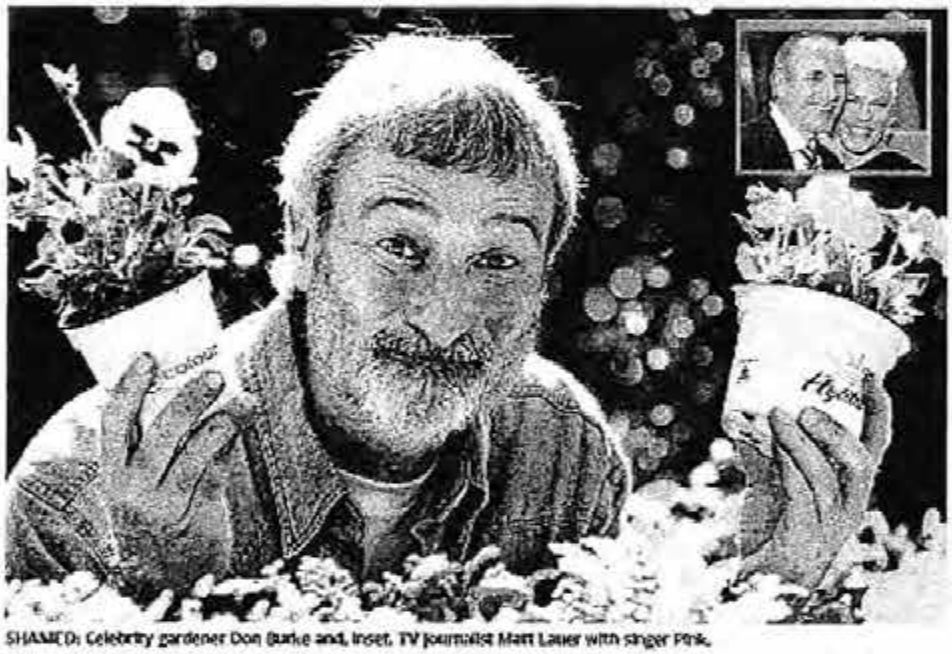
There are many issues th[illegible] arise from the aforementioned scandals that reflect very poorly not just on the perpetrators but the men around them who did nothing.

One of the most shameful aspects of these stories is the volume of women who had their careers interrupted or abandoned as gutless managers forced them to tiptoe around the likes of Burke, where the non-solution to being groped or bombarded with profanities was to move the woman to a different shift or a different show. These blokes have plenty of explaining do.

It's no different from the Catholic Church's deplorable modus operands of shifting problem priests from one parish to the next, rather than addressing and owning the fact that they had sex offenders in their midsts.

But I would part company with the those feminist hardliners who argue that the behaviour of Burke, Weinstein et al is part of a spectrum of male behaviour.

It doesn't strike me as a spectrum, rather a sick cul-de-sac which most of us have never even gone near. I simply do not know these men, and I'm not up for helping them concoct their rubbish alibis.



SHAMED: Celebrity gardener Don Burke and, inset, TV journalist Matt Lauer with singer Pink.

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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

News Corp Australia Network DECEMBER 4, 2017 8:06PM

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Gardening With Greta - Tonightly With Tom Ballard

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.



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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.



Greta Lee Jackson satirises misogynistic "victim blaming". *Source:Supplied*

"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 searingly 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.



The cast of Tonightly: Greg Larsen, Bridie Connell, Tom Ballard and Greta Lee Jackson. Picture: ABC *Source:Supplied*

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There's "industry standard" techniques, explained Jackson, such as telling complainants they "can't take a joke".



Don Burke has been hit with multiple allegations of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour. Picture: Getty. *Source:Getty Images*

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"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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