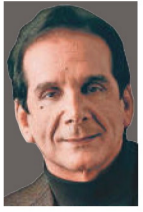


EDITORIAL OPINION

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It's not 'locker room' talk that's troubling



CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

WASHINGTON —

The second presidential debate — bloody, muddy and raucous — was just enough to save Donald Trump's campaign from extinction, but not enough to restore his chances of winning, barring an act of God (a medical calamity) or of Putin (a cosmically incriminating WikiLeaks).

That Trump crashed because of a sex-talk tape is odd. It should have been a surprise to no one. His views on women have been on open display for years. And he'd offered a dazzling array of other reasons for disqualification: habitual mendacity, pathological narcissism, profound ignorance and an astonishing dearth of basic human empathy.

To which list Trump added in the second debate, and it had nothing to do with sex. It was his threat, if elected, to put Hillary Clinton in jail.

After appointing a special prosecutor, of course. The niceties must be observed. First, a fair trial, then a proper hanging. The day after the debate at a rally in Pennsylvania, Trump responded to chants of "lock her up," with "Lock her up is right." Two days later,

he told a rally in Lakeland, "She has to go to jail."

Such incendiary talk is an affront to elementary democratic decency and a breach of the boundaries of American political discourse. In democracies, the electoral process is a subtle and elaborate substitute for combat, the age-old way of settling struggles for power. But that sublimation only works if there is mutual agreement to accept both the legitimacy of the result (which Trump keeps undermining with charges that the very process is "rigged") and the boundaries of the contest.

The prize for the winner is temporary accession to limited political power, not the satisfaction of vendettas. Vladimir Putin, Hugo Chavez and a cavalcade of two-bit caudillos lock up their opponents. American leaders don't.

One doesn't even talk like this. It takes decades, centuries, to develop ingrained norms of political restraint and self-control. But they can be undone in short order by a demagogue feeding a vengeful populism.

This is not to say that the investigation into the Clinton emails was not itself compromised by politics. FBI director James Comey's recommendation not to pursue charges was both troubling and puzzling. And Barack Obama very improperly tilted the

scales by interjecting, while the investigation was still underway, that Clinton's emails had not endangered national security.

But the answer is not to start a new process whose outcome is preordained. Conservatives have relentlessly, and correctly, criticized this administration for abusing its power and suborning the civil administration (e.g., the IRS). Is the Republican response to do the same?

Wasn't presidential overreach one of the major charges against Obama by the anti-establishment GOP candidates? Wasn't the animating spirit of the entire tea party movement the restoration of constitutional limits and restraints?

In America, we don't persecute political opponents. Which is why we retroactively honor Gerald Ford for his pardon of Richard Nixon, for which, at the time, Ford was widely reviled. It ultimately cost him the presidency. Nixon might well have been convicted. But Ford understood that jailing a president for actions carried out in the context of his official duties would threaten the very civil nature of democratic governance.

What makes Trump's promise to lock her up all the more alarming is that it's not an isolated incident. This is not the

first time he's insinuated using the powers of the presidency against political enemies. He has threatened Amazon's Jeff Bezos, owner of The Washington Post, for using the newspaper "as a tool for political power against me and other people. ... We can't let him get away with it."

With exercising free political speech?

Trump has gone after others with equal subtlety. "I hear," he tweeted, "the Rickets (sic) family, who own the Chicago Cubs, are secretly spending \$'s against me. They better be careful, they have a lot to hide!"

He also promises to "open up" libel laws to permit easier prosecution of those who attack him unfairly. Has he ever conceded any attack on him to be fair?

This election is not just about placing the nuclear codes in Trump's hands. It's also about handing him the instruments of civilian coercion, such as the IRS, the FBI, the FCC, the SEC. Think of what he could do to enforce the "fairness" he demands. Imagine giving over the vast power of the modern state to a man who says in advance that he will punish his critics and jail his opponent.

— *The Washington Post Writers Group*

Today in history

Today is Sunday, Oct. 16, the 290th day of 2016. There are 76 days left in the year.

On this date in:

1793: During the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

1859: Radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia.

1968: American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving "black power" salutes during a medal ceremony.

1991: A deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as a gunman opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.



Then & now

Recognize this site in Naples? If you think you know what's there now, go to naplesnews.com, click the "business" tab and then the quick link "breaking ground" to enter your answer. We'll print the answer here next week.

Last week's answer: Briggs Wellness Center, 399 Ninth St. N.

Last week's winner: Doug Piercy

Today's birthdays

Actress **Angela Lansbury** is 91. Actor **Barry Corbin** is 76. Actress **Suzanne Somers** is 70. Guitarist **Bob Weir** is 69.

Producer-director **David Zucker** is 69. Actor-director **Tim Robbins** is 58. Bassist **Flea** is 54. Actor **Christian Stolte** is 54. Singer **Wendy Wilson** is 47. Actor **Paul Sparks** is 45.

Singer-songwriter **John Mayer** is 39. Actor **Jeremy Jackson** is 36. Actress **Caterina Scorsone** is 36.

Today's quote

"And, after all, what is a fashion? From the artistic point of view, it is usually a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months."
— Oscar Wilde

Bible quote

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.
— Jeremiah 32:17

Immokalee shelter addresses growing need



LINDA OBERHAUS
NAPLES

For 27 years, the Shelter for Abused Women & Children has protected and empowered survivors of abuse. Thanks to unwavering community support and strong alliances with school, law enforcement, judicial and elected officials, we have grown from a renovated fourplex in 1989 to a 60-bed, state-of-the-art campus with seven transitional housing cottages.

Our prevention, protection and outreach programs are transforming thousands of lives each year, offering hope and healing to Collier's most vulnerable citizens.

But this is not enough. Today, the shelter announces plans for a second emergency shelter to address a serious and growing need for services in rural eastern Collier County. Thanks to a \$3 million lead gift, the approximately 13,000-square-foot emergency shelter will be located in Immokalee. The 30-plus bed facility will include a wing for survivors of domestic violence and another to meet the long-term therapeutic needs of victims of human trafficking.

Why Immokalee and why now?

Established in 1997, the services provided by the Immokalee Outreach Office have grown exponentially over the years. In 2000, the shelter was recognized as a national model for its work serving immigrant and migrant battered women. The

addition of an Immokalee emergency shelter will allow survivors to be safe as well as close to their family support systems, employment and their children's schools. Currently, many survivors return to unsafe circumstances rather than travel to Naples for emergency shelter.

The need to serve victims of human trafficking has also increased in Collier County. Nationally, Florida ranks as one of the top four destinations for trafficking victims. While we live in a community that one might not associate with human trafficking, it is important to note that the shelter has served 38 victims of human trafficking in just the last two years. Most of these were victims of sex trafficking.

Increased awareness of human trafficking has led the Collier County Sheriff's Office to dedicate a full-time detective specifically for human trafficking. On March 6, 2015, the Sheriff's Office and Florida Department of Law Enforcement arrested 15 traffickers and rescued six women, some of whom were forced to perform 25 to 45 sex acts a day.

"There is no other agency in Collier County better prepared to address the short- and long-term needs of domestic violence and human-trafficking victims than the shelter," Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, Collier commissioners and sheriff's officials recognized this in a memorandum of understanding, naming the shelter as the county's foremost service provider to meet the needs of domestic violence and human-trafficking victims.

To measure the need for an emergency facility in Immokalee, the shelter launched an extensive needs assessment. The study utilized data from law enforcement and judiciary sources, information from focus groups, surveys and interviews with Immokalee residents, as well as the input of 32 community organizations.

Updated in 2015, the assessment provides concrete assurance of the need for an emergency shelter in Immokalee. Like the Naples community in 1989, the residents of Immokalee have come together, recognizing the issue of domestic violence and human trafficking and the need for culturally specific services within their community. But they need countywide support to make this facility a reality.

As the shelter moves forward, we anticipate the continued, compassionate support that has created a safe haven for survivors in coastal Collier County.

It is my firm belief that every human being deserves to live a life free from violence and abuse. This is the reality we seek every day at the shelter as we work to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking. It is a reality we seek for all residents in Collier County, for if people cannot feel safe in their own home, then they cannot be expected to feel safe anywhere.

Please join us in this critical initiative. For more information on how you can get involved, go online to naplesshelter.org/immokalee or call 239-775-3862.

Oberhaus is executive director of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children.