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Trump gets it right about one thing



Nicholas Kristof

OPINION

Astonishingly, Donald Trump is right about something!

After recently being caught on a 2005 tape gloating about sexual assaults, Trump issued an unapologetic apology in which he focused on the "big difference" between words and actions. And he has a point.

But there's abundant evidence that Trump has indulged in not just scurrilous rhetoric, but also in heinous actions. Several more women have stepped forward to offer on-the-record accounts of having been aggressively groped or kissed by Trump against their will, right after he met them.

I also find entirely credible the allegations of Jill Harth, a former business partner of Trump's, that he assaulted her in 1992 and 1993. Equally credible is the assertion by a former Miss Utah that Trump inappropriately kissed beauty contestants on the lips.

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Some Republicans have demanded laws to ban transgender women from entering women's restrooms or locker rooms, but instead they might focus on the risk of Trump doing this. He has boasted that he marched unannounced into changing rooms to ogle beauty pageant contestants naked, and a former contestant, Miss Arizona, Tasha Dixon, said he did just that as they were changing into bikinis. "Some girls were topless," she said. "Other girls were naked."

The pageant theme that year? Empowering women.

There's more. In Trump's 2005 tape, he referred in vulgar ways to a married woman, Nancy O'Dell, he had unsuccessfully pursued, but what's less known is that in 2007 he reportedly tried to have her fired from hosting the Miss USA Pageant. Why? Because she was pregnant.

Of course, as Trump acknowledged, words matter as well. On my blog, I posted an essay by a survivor of a home invasion and rape, Michelle Bowdler, who recounted that her attacker had said he wanted "some pussy" — and the moment he used that word, she felt that her life was in danger. **KRISTOF, PAGE 15**



Mourning a beloved king A woman crying in Bangkok after the announcement Thursday of the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, one of the longest-reigning monarchs in history. The king, 88, was a unifying figure in a polarized country, and his death casts a pall of uncertainty across Thailand. **PAGE 7**

ISIS turning drones into airborne explosives

WASHINGTON

U.S. must now find ways to thwart small aircraft not only spying but killing

BY MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT AND ERIC SCHMITT

Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State group in northern Iraq last week shot down a small drone the size of a model airplane. They believed it was like the dozens of drones the terrorist organization had been flying for reconnaissance in the area, and they transported it back to their outpost to examine it.

But as they were taking it apart, it blew up, killing two Kurdish fighters in what is believed to have been one of the first times the Islamic State has successfully used a drone with explosives to kill troops on the battlefield.

In the last month, the Islamic State has tried to use small drones to launch attacks at least two other times, prompting American commanders in Iraq to issue a warning to forces fighting the group to treat any type of small flying aircraft as a potential explosive device.

The Islamic State has used surveillance drones on the battlefield for some time, but the attacks — all targeting Iraqi troops — have highlighted its success in adapting readily accessible technology into a potentially effective new weapon. American advisers say drones could be deployed against coalition forces by the terrorist group in the battle in Mosul.

For some American military analysts and drone experts, the episodes confirmed their view that the Pentagon — which is still struggling to come up with ways to bring down drones — was slow to anticipate that militants would turn drones into weapons.

"We should have been ready for this, and we weren't," said P. W. Singer, a specialist on robotic weaponry at New America, a think tank in Washington.

Military officials said that the Pentagon has dedicated significant resources to stopping drones but that few Iraqi and Kurdish units have been provided with the sophisticated devices that the American troops have to disarm them. The officials said they have ordered the Pentagon agency in charge of dealing with explosive devices — known as the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization — to study ways to thwart hostile drones. This summer, the Pentagon requested an additional \$20 million from Congress to help address the problem.

In recent months, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency both rushed to complete classified assessments about the Islamic State's drone use. And the secretary of the Army, Eric Fanning, recently assigned a special office he had created

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Filipinos back tough approach

MANILA

Despite scorn abroad, polls show support for Duterte's harsh measures

BY AURORA ALMENDRAL

Virgilio Mabag figures there is a good chance that his meth addict brother will become a casualty of President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly campaign against drugs in the Philippines.

"I told him to prepare himself to die," Mr. Mabag said.

But Mr. Mabag, 54, who runs a neighborhood volunteer association in a sprawling Manila slum, still enthusiastically supports Mr. Duterte, saying that his policies will make the country safer and more orderly.

"I'm delighted," Mr. Mabag said, wearing a Duterte T-shirt. "This is the only time I've seen a president like this, who says exactly what he wants to say."

The rest of the world may have trouble understanding this, but Mr. Duterte still commands ardent support in the

Philippines.

Since he took office in June promising to kill drug addicts and dealers, about 1,400 people have been killed by the police in antidrug operations, and hundreds more by vigilantes. His embrace of violence has shocked other countries and earned him condemnation from human rights groups.

He has compared himself to Hitler (and later apologized), called President Obama a "son of a whore," and joked after an Australian missionary was raped and killed that "she was so beautiful" he should have been first to rape her. He has lashed out at the pope, despite leading a nation that is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, and cursed the United Nations and the European Union.

No matter. For many Filipinos, Mr. Duterte's passionate outbursts, however crude and impolitic, are signs of his fearlessness and willingness to take action. The weak leadership of previous presidents, they say, led to high rates of violent crime, drug use, woefully inadequate infrastructure and widespread poverty.

The first national polls since Mr. Duterte became president came out this week, showing that his outbursts and



Virgilio Mabag next to a poster of President Rodrigo Duterte in Manila. He said Mr. Duterte's tough policies will make the Philippines a safer and more orderly country.

the mounting body count have barely dented his extraordinary popularity. One, conducted in late September, found that 83 percent of Filipinos had "much trust" in him, compared with 84 percent

in June, after he was elected but before he took office. The other showed his trust rating falling slightly, to 86 percent in September from 91 percent in July. **PHILIPPINES, PAGE 6**

The new celebrity diet: Cyberbullying

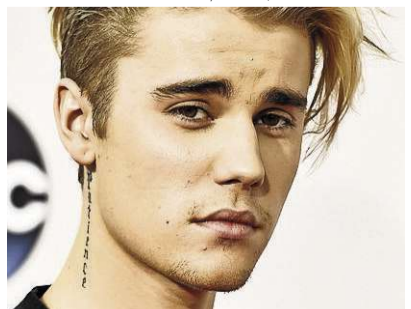
CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

BY AMANDA HESS

The reality TV star Rob Kardashian had a family matter to discuss, so naturally, he turned to Twitter. "Didn't invite the Mother of my child to a baby shower you all were trying to throw for me!!!" he tweeted late last month, reigniting the feud between the Kardashian-Jenner clan and his model fiancée, Blac Chyna. "You all must have lost your damn minds." In retaliation for the slight, he tweeted out his little sister Kylie Jenner's phone number.

Mr. Kardashian, in internet parlance, had doxxed Ms. Jenner — he published personal, private information about her online, seemingly without her consent. It's a maneuver harassers use to humiliate, intimidate or silence their targets. It also helped Mr. Kardashian score his most popular tweet ever.

Lately, celebrity feuds have taken on the contours of cyberbullying, with famous rivals integrating the tactics of online harassers into their PR. offensives.



Selena Gomez waded into Justin Bieber's Instagram comments to scold him for posting pictures with a new girlfriend.

What looks like a public display of immaturity can actually be part of a sophisticated image management strategy. Retweet counts and Instagram followers are the new Billboard 100, and celebrities can gin up their numbers by instigating feuds with one another in increasingly nasty or technologically intriguing ways.

But the game can have a dark side, especially for the losers.

The modern celebrity arsenal incorporates these other digital bullying tools:

SECRET RECORDINGS The celebrity squabble of the summer exploded when Kim Kardashian West released a surreptitiously recorded Taylor Swift talking on the phone with Ms. Kardashian West's husband, Kanye West — a bid to prove that Ms. Swift had preapproved his controversial lyrics about her in his song "Famous." Ms. Kardashian West posted the video evidence to Snapchat in July. (Such recordings are illegal in some states, including California, and run afoul of YouTube's harassment rules.)

SEXUAL HUMILIATION When the rappers Wiz Khalifa and Mr. West tussled on Twitter in January, Amber Rose, their mutual ex, stepped in to tease Mr. West about their sex life. And when Justin Bieber's ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez waded into his Instagram comments to scold him for posting pictures with a new girlfriend and to accuse him of cheating, he hit back by accusing her of using the relationship for attention.

REVENGE PORN After the teenage actress Chloë Grace Moretz tweeted dismissively about the Kardashian-Swift feud, yet another Kardashian — Kim's sister Khloé — responded by posting a photo of a woman resembling Ms. Moretz. She had jumped onto a young man's back on the beach, and her bikini bottoms were yanked to the side, revealing everything underneath. Ms. Moretz tweeted back to debunk the depantsing, writing that Ms. Kardashian had instead exposed "some girl who was wrongfully photographed."

MOB DEPLOYMENT For celebrities with the most rabid fandoms, even an oblique **CELEBRITIES, PAGE 2**

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