

Will Trump's lows ever hit rock bottom?

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A president who'd all but call a senator a whore is unfit to clean toilets in Obama's presidential library or to shine George W. Bush's shoes: Our view



(Photo: Gregg Pachkowski, Pensacola (Fla.) News Journal)

With his latest tweet, clearly implying that a United States senator would trade sexual favors for campaign cash, President Trump has shown he is not fit for office. Rock bottom is no impediment for a president who can always find room for a new low.

Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total flunky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office “begging” for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!
— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 12, 2017 (https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/940567812053053441?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Tuesday dismissed the president's smear as a misunderstanding because he used similar language about men. Of course, words used about men and women are different. When candidate Trump said a journalist was bleeding from her "wherever," he didn't mean her nose.

And as is the case with all of [Trump's digital provocations \(http://www.trumptwitterarchive.com/archive\)](http://www.trumptwitterarchive.com/archive), the president's words were deliberate. He pours the gasoline of sexist language and lights the match gleefully knowing how it will burst into flame in a country reeling from the #MeToo moment.

RNC: Democrats' response is laughable (</story/opinion/2017/12/12/rnc-democrats-response-laughable-editorials-debates/108551938/>)

A president who would all but call Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand a whore is not fit to clean the toilets in the Barack Obama Presidential Library or to shine the shoes of George W. Bush.

This isn't about the policy differences we have with all presidents or our disappointment in some of their decisions. Obama and Bush both failed in many ways. They broke promises and told untruths, but the basic decency of each man was never in doubt.

Donald Trump, the man, on the other hand, is uniquely awful. His sickening behavior is corrosive to the enterprise of a shared governance based on common values and the consent of the governed.

It should surprise no one how low he went with Gillibrand. When accused during the campaign of sexually harassing or molesting women in the past, Trump's response was to [belittle the looks of his accusers \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/10/14/trump-mocks-sexual-assault-accuser-she-would-not-be-my-first-choice/?utm_term=.5d3f5fea63ce\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/10/14/trump-mocks-sexual-assault-accuser-she-would-not-be-my-first-choice/?utm_term=.5d3f5fea63ce). Last October, Trump suggested that he never

would have groped Jessica Leeds on an airplane decades ago. "Believe me, she would not be my first choice, that I can tell you." Trump mocked another accuser, former *People* reporter Natasha Stoyanoff, "Check out her Facebook, you'll understand." Other celebrities and politicians have denied accusations, but none has stooped as low as suggesting that their accusers weren't attractive enough to be honored with their gropes.

If recent history is any guide, the unique awfulness of the Trump era in U.S. politics is only going to get worse. Trump's utter lack of morality, ethics and simple humanity has been underscored during his 11 months in office. Let us count the ways:

- He is enthusiastically supporting Alabama's Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, who has been accused of pursuing — and in one case molesting and in another assaulting — teenagers as young as 14 when Moore was a county prosecutor in his 30s. On Tuesday, Trump summed up his willingness to support a man accused of criminal conduct: "Roy Moore will always vote with us."
- Trump apparently is going for some sort of record for lying while in office. As of mid-November, he had made 1,628 misleading or false statements (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/11/14/president-trump-has-made-1628-false-or-misleading-claims-over-298-days/?utm_term=.a4c9fd7ca03b) in 298 days in office. That's 5.5 false claims per day, according to a count kept by *The Washington Post's* fact-checkers.
- Trump takes advantage of any occasion — even Monday's failed terrorist attack in New York — to stir racial, religious or ethnic strife. Congress "must end chain migration (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/12/11/statement-president-donald-j-trump-regarding-todays-attack-new-york-city>)," he said Monday, because the terror suspect "entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security." So because one man — 27-year-old Akayed Ullah, a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. who came from Bangladesh on a family immigrant visa in 2011 — is accused of attacking America, all immigrants brought to this country by family are suspect? Trump might have some credibility if his criticism of immigrants was solely about terrorists. It isn't. It makes no difference to him if an immigrant is a terrorist or a federal judge. He once smeared an Indiana-born judge whose parents emigrated from Mexico. It's all the same to this president.
- A man who clearly wants to put his stamp on the government, Trump hasn't even done his job when it comes to filling key government positions that require Senate confirmation. As of last week, Trump had failed to nominate anyone for 60% of 1,200 key positions (<https://ourpublicservice.org/issues/presidential-transition/political-appointee-tracker.php>) he can fill to keep the government running smoothly.
- Trump has shown contempt for ethical strictures that have bound every president in recent memory. He has refused to release his tax returns, with the absurd excuse that it's because he is under audit. He has refused to put his multibillion dollar business interests in a blind trust and peddles the fiction that putting them in the hands of his sons does the same thing.

Not to mention calling white supremacists "very fine people," pardoning a lawless sheriff, firing a respected FBI director, and pushing the Justice Department to investigate his political foes.

It is a shock that only six Democratic senators (</story/news/politics/2017/12/12/trump-sexist-tweet-sen-gillibrand-sparks-mini-rebellion-among-women-senators/944337001/>) are calling for our unstable president to resign.

The nation doesn't seek nor expect perfect presidents, and some have certainly been deeply flawed. But a president who shows such disrespect for the truth, for ethics, for the basic duties of the job and for decency toward others fails at the very essence of what has always made America great.

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