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Weekly Must-Reads in the Press, October 5, 2018  
*Real-Men-Like-Chablis Edition*

Here we are again with our weekly news update. We know that you are busy people, and you probably do have a lot of news to sift through, online, on social media, on news feeds. But we will bring you a weekly update of news we curate from major news sources that may be of interest to you. We may even be able to introduce you to some new news sources you will enjoy exploring.

So read these on your devices, or print them out for your morning coffee reading this weekend. (We do not expect you will read these all at once: this is slow news, not Facebook news. So explore, linger, and share with friends—we mean share the links with actual, physical, real friends!)

*Local interests will want to skip down to item #10 about Casten and Underwood fundraising.*

*—For those who may not have heard, as of Friday afternoon, Sen. Flake, Collins, and Manchin have said they will support Kavanaugh’s nomination. Sen. Murkowski said no. A vote is expected Saturday. Keep up with latest on CNN, [here](#).*

1. A. Well, we like beer too, here at Indivisible DuPage. But not as much as that man’s man, Brett Kavanaugh. He pumps iron, plays football, ralphs heavy, and does all you can expect from a man who is most decidedly *not* a girly-man. He is, well, Trump’s kind of guy. Observe, for example, Judge Kavanaugh as he explains to all America how much he loves...beer! Click on this link, or on the thumbnail below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0SwwyqhJMs>.

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As Paul Krugman said, in his column on Monday, “**The Angry White Male Caucus**,” “When Matt Damon did his [Brett Kavanaugh imitation](#) on ‘Saturday Night Live,’ you could tell that he nailed it before he said a word. It was all about the face — that sneering, rage-filled scowl. Kavanaugh didn’t sound like a judge at his Senate hearing last week, let alone a potential Supreme Court justice; he didn’t even manage to look like one.” So, just for the sake of giving everyone a bit

of comic relief, which we could all use, here is the SNL link (or click on the thumbnail below): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRJecfRxbr8>

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As time has gone by, it has become clearer and clearer that the Kavanaugh appointment and the Trump tribe's defense is based more on **threatened male privilege** than the merits of the charges. Trump himself has been making that case fairly explicitly. On Tuesday, Trump said to a group of reporters that the real danger in these accusations is to men: "It is a very scary time for young men in America, where you can be guilty of something you may not be guilty of," Trump said. "This is a very, very -- this is a very difficult time. What's happening here has much more to do than even the appointment of a Supreme Court justice." So reported CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/02/politics/trump-scary-time-for-young-men-metoo/index.html>. The line coming from the Trumps and the Grahams is that the process is "unfair" and designed to attack men with false charges, in an attempt to appeal to the Democratic base.

Here is **just one analysis of the "male rage" phenomenon**, from *The New York Times's* Frank Bruni on Sunday: "Christine Blasey Ford had swigged cola during her turn earlier that day. I half expected Kavanaugh to pop open a Bud Light. Or to wheel in a keg! Then there'd be plenty to go around, and he could tactlessly offer an ice-cold brewski to Senator Amy Klobuchar. His outrage, his strategy, his fate: All of it was about beer. Beer as a symbol of his normalcy. Beer as an emblem of his all-American maleness.

"He was painting himself as a martyr for that maleness, and he was using beer — along with weight lifting, football, flatulence jokes and what he mendaciously insisted were inoffensive yearbook high jinks — to do it. Beer was his brand, and he was proud of it.... If Democrats were going to turn this into a referendum on whether women were adequately heard, Republicans were going to turn it into a referendum on whether men were automatically hanged. If some of Kavanaugh's opponents were going to damn him for the company he kept and the rituals he embraced, then he was going to seek salvation along those same lines. He made this about guilt by association with being a bro. About guilt by association with loving a beer....

**"If every American who drinks beer or every American who drank beer in high school is suddenly presumed guilty of sexual assault," he added, "we're all headed toward 'an ugly, new place in this country.' Never mind that every American who drinks beer isn't being presumed guilty of sexual assault. [emphasis added]** He was picking up on the typecasting that some of his most impassioned detractors had done — a bit of bigotry on their part, and a tactical error — and converting it into a weapon of his own.

“Why moon over the great quarterback, and why mention his sustained habit? Because it made him a guy’s guy, and in the wake of [the sexual-assault accusations against him](#), he was no longer emphasizing his scholarly credentials and playing to the lawyers of the American Bar Association. He was fashioning himself as a persecuted Everyman and playing to Americans who saw themselves in the rebooted ‘Roseanne.’” <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/29/opinion/brett-kavanaugh-beer-politics.html>

Of course this defense of masculinity is playing well with Trump’s base (see #8 below), which, as many commentators have said, is part of the motivation for McConnell and Graham’s attack on the process itself, as a smear campaign of a decent man (and not an inquiry, however flaccid) into serious accusations and charges from old friends that the judge was not candid about his drinking in those days.

B. Here is Paul Krugman’s opinion, in that *Times* essay: “There have been many studies of the forces driving Trump support, and in particular the rage that is so pervasive a feature of the MAGA movement. What Thursday’s hearing drove home, however, was that white male rage isn’t restricted to blue-collar guys in diners. It’s also present among people who’ve done very well in life’s lottery, whom you would normally consider very much part of the elite. In other words, hatred can go along with high income, and all too often does.

“At this point there’s [overwhelming evidence](#) against the ‘economic anxiety’ hypothesis — the notion that people voted for Donald Trump because they had been hurt by globalization. In fact, people who were doing well financially were just as likely to support Trump as people who were doing badly.”

**For Krugman, the economic anxiety behind Trumpism is less central than the threat to white male privilege, which is under siege in the new world that is coming.** “And nothing makes a man accustomed to privilege angrier than the prospect of losing some of that privilege, especially if it comes with the suggestion that people like him are subject to the same rules as the rest of us. So what we got last week was a view into the soul of Trumpism. **It’s not about ‘populism’ — it would be hard to find a judge as [anti-worker](#) as Brett Kavanaugh. Instead, it’s about the rage of white men**, upper class as well as working class, who perceive a threat to their privileged position. And that rage may destroy America as we know it.” [emphasis added] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/01/opinion/kavanaugh-white-male-privilege.html>

C. But there are other views of what may be a chicken-and-egg dilemma—gender or economic anxiety. Sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild, whose work,

*Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, we have discussed in these reports, argues that **behind Trumpism and the rise of white supremacy is indeed economic stress on less-educated males**. She is reviewing three new books on the problems facing men and boys today, in education and in employment, in the Oct. 11 issue of *The New York Review of Books*. In her analysis, she emphasizes the enormous stresses on men and young boys today, mostly but not solely the result of economic and technological changes. “In the last three decades, the lives of men have undergone what [David] Autor and coauthor Melanie Wasserman have called a ‘tectonic shift.’ Compared to women, a shrinking proportion of men are earning BAs, even though more jobs than ever require a college degree, including many entry-level positions that used to require only a high school diploma. Among men between twenty-five and thirty-four, 30 percent now have a BA or more, while 38 percent of women in that age range do.

“The cost of this disadvantage has only grown with time: of the new jobs created between the end of the recession and 2016, 73 percent went to candidates with a BA or more. A shrinking proportion of men are even counted as part of the labor force; between 1970 and 2010, the percentage of adult men in a job or looking for work dropped from 80 to 70 while that of adult women rose from 43 to 58. Most of the men slipping out lack BAs. We have yet to fully address these changes, and there’s no reason we can’t do so while also celebrating the successes of American girls and women.”

Hochschild agrees with Susan Faludi, who back in 1999 had argued: “Powerful social and economic shifts, the impact of which remains unacknowledged, have [as Faludi put it] ‘a lot more to do with [male] unhappiness...than the latest sexual harassment ruling.’...”

**“It’s surely better to solve the problem at its many roots,”** [emphasis added] argues Hochschild, “with generous support for troubled families, school outreach programs, drug recovery centers, reduced mass incarceration, help with the skyrocketing costs of higher education, and enhanced understanding of the forces at play that Susan Faludi describes—all of which contribute to the male crisis itself.

“This has not been President Trump’s approach. During his campaign, he promised to restore jobs in coal mines, on assembly lines, on oil rigs, and in steel mills. To this he added bad-boy appeals to sex and violence, as when he urged his supporters in Cedar Rapids in 2016 to ‘knock the crap’ out of hecklers. Some interpreted this bravado as an unmistakable sign of insecurity; others saw it as a clear expression of male strength: one website for Trump supporters featured T-shirts with the slogan ‘Finally Someone with Balls!’ No equivalent shirts emerged

for Bernie Sanders.” Her essay is unlocked and free to read: <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2018/10/11/male-trouble/>. *\*Highly recommended reading*

D. Supporting Hochschild’s arguments, and carrying the debate into the pages of *The Washington Post* on Saturday, philosopher and law professor at the University of Chicago Martha Nussbaum says, “A wave is sweeping across our nation: a wave of fear-driven male rage. We see it not only in the hysterical outbursts from Republicans during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh ([Kavanaugh](#) himself, suddenly shrill, as well as committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley and [Sen. Lindsey O. Graham](#)), but also more widely [in the dark allegations](#) of women ‘weaponizing the #MeToo movement,’ as if [masculinity itself were under attack](#). We are even told that good parents should tremble for the future of their sons when women can make claims against them. And, indeed, men are trembling....

“American men do have genuine reasons for anxiety. The traditional jobs that many men have filled are disappearing, thanks to automation and outsourcing. The jobs that remain require, in most cases, higher education, which is increasingly difficult for non-affluent families to afford. **We should indeed tremble for the future of both men and women in our country unless we address that problem, and related problems of declining health and well-being for working-class men.** [emphasis added]

“But our public discussion does not stay focused on such genuine issues. Fear and anger have found ways to displace themselves onto other targets, above all women and their unprecedented outspokenness. **Misogyny takes the place of serious deliberation.**” [emphasis added] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/democracy-post/wp/2018/09/29/the-roots-of-male-rage-on-show-at-the-kavanaugh-hearing/> *\*Highly recommended reading*

E. As for **the political implications of this gender divide**, *Washington Post* columnists Philip Rucker and Robert Costa wrote on Monday that “This outbreak of male resentment now seems likely to play a defining role in the midterm elections just five weeks away, contrasting with a burst of enthusiasm among women propelling Democratic campaigns and inspired by the national #MeToo reckoning over sexual assault and gender roles.... [Kavanaugh’s supporters] say the federal judge is being caught in a #MeToo riptide and unfairly grouped with serial predators — such as entertainer Bill Cosby, who has been [accused of sexual assault or harassment by more than 60 women and was sentenced last week](#) to three to 10 years in prison for drugging and assaulting one of them.” Indeed Lindsey Graham actually compared the way Kavanaugh is being treated to the way Bill Cosby was.

**“Public opinion on Kavanaugh breaks down along gender lines.** [emphasis added] Women oppose his confirmation, 55 percent to 37 percent, while men support it, 49 percent to 40 percent, according to a [Quinnipiac University poll](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/the-trauma-for-a-man-male-fury-and-fear-rises-in-gop-in-defense-of-kavanaugh/2018/10/01/f48499a2-c595-11e8-b2b5-79270f9cce17_story.html) released Monday. The survey found that 48 percent of American voters most believe Ford, while 41 percent most believe Kavanaugh.” [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/the-trauma-for-a-man-male-fury-and-fear-rises-in-gop-in-defense-of-kavanaugh/2018/10/01/f48499a2-c595-11e8-b2b5-79270f9cce17\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/the-trauma-for-a-man-male-fury-and-fear-rises-in-gop-in-defense-of-kavanaugh/2018/10/01/f48499a2-c595-11e8-b2b5-79270f9cce17_story.html)

**F. That the GOP strategy in pushing Kavanaugh through has important political value for them,** see the opinion piece in the Sep. 29 *New York Times* that suggests, “By agreeing to delay Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh’s nomination in the short term, President Trump and Senate Republicans are making two long-term bets: that a drawn-out confirmation battle will secure a conservative majority on the Supreme Court, and that the fight will give them a better chance of keeping control of the Senate in the midterm elections.

“With that Senate majority squarely in mind, Republicans are also making a concession to stark political realities. **Party leaders have concluded that supporting Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination, in the face of sexual assault accusations against him, will all but ensure that Republicans lose control of the House in November even as their fortunes may improve in some tough Senate races.**” [emphasis added] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/29/us/politics/kavanaugh-republicans-midterms.html>

*Now for something completely different!*

Now a bit more comic relief (we do not minimize the seriousness of the issues, and no one who has been reading these pages can imagine that; but we have heard from a few readers who complain that our news is just too depressing). For all the men in our readership: just remember what *Monty Python* said about being a model of masculinity: pull on your flannel shirts and steel-toe boots...*and be a lumberjack!* (And maybe wear women’s clothes....) Sing along, everyone, with this famous ode to the pleasures of a broadly-understood masculinity: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZa26\\_esLBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZa26_esLBE). Just click on the link or on the thumbnail...and sing with men everywhere.

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*We now return to our regularly scheduled programme.*



few forays into a Senate battle he's mainly lobbed verbal grenades at from afar." In *Politico's* analysis, Manchin is waiting to see how the vote goes, and will probably vote "yes" if the outcome is going to be "yes" on the nominee anyway. <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/10/04/manchin-kavanaugh-battle-867885>

**3. News sources have been full of reports of Kavanaugh's many lies or misrepresentations.** We think our readers will benefit from a full list of these, as known midweek. Bear with us as we shrink the font a bit, and reproduce the list from *The Washington Post's* Paul Waldman on Oct. 1:

- "I never attended a gathering like the one Dr. Ford describes in her allegation," Kavanaugh said in his testimony. Ford described a small gathering of fewer than 10 teenagers at which beer was consumed. But [his own calendars](#) reference such gatherings.
- "Dr. Ford's allegation is not merely uncorroborated, it is refuted by the very people she says were there, including by a long-time friend of hers. Refuted." This is false. The people in question said they [have no memory](#) of the event, which is very, very different from *refuting* the idea that the event ever took place. Since nothing of note happened to *them* at the gathering, there's little reason to think they would recall it all these years later.
- Kavanaugh repeatedly characterized his drinking as regular but moderate, insisting that he has never been so drunk that he couldn't remember what happened the next day. "Like most people in college I went to parties and had beers," he [said](#) to Judiciary Committee staff. Yet multiple people have now described him as being frequently stumbling drunk in high school and college. "He frequently drank to excess," [one classmate said](#). "I know because I frequently drank to excess with him." Another [said](#), "I definitely saw him on multiple occasions stumbling drunk where he could not have rational control over his actions or clear recollection of them."
- "And yes, there were parties. And the drinking age was 18, and yes, the seniors were legal and had beer there," he said in his [interview](#) with Fox News. In his testimony, he repeated the same idea: "My friends and I sometimes got together and had parties on weekends. The drinking age was 18 in Maryland for most of my time in high school, and was 18 in D.C. for all of my time in high school. I drank beer with my friends." This is false. The drinking age in Maryland was raised to 21 in 1982, when Kavanaugh was 17. There was not a single day during his entire time in high school when it was legal for him to drink.
- In one of his friend Mark Judge's books, a memoir of his time in high school, Judge uses pseudonyms for other people he describes. At one point he refers to a "Bart O'Kavanaugh" throwing up in a car. Sen. Pat Leahy asked, "Is that you that he's talking about?" to which Kavanaugh got indignant and accused Leahy of trying to "make fun of some guy who has an addiction," meaning Judge. Pressed on whether "O'Kavanaugh" was him, Kavanaugh finally said, "You'd have to ask him."

- His yearbook refers to him as “Beach Week Ralph Club — Biggest Contributor.” Beach Week is a yearly [bacchanal](#) of drinking, drugs, and sex that D.C.-area prep school kids engage in with little or no adult supervision, but Kavanaugh claims that all that was being memorialized was the fact that “I’m known to have a weak stomach and I always have ... whether it’s with beer or with spicy food or anything.”
- Kavanaugh claimed that a series of sexual references in his yearbook actually amounted to a vernacular unique to him, in which commonly understood slang terms took on meanings different from what every other person anyone can find understood them to mean. He said the “Devil’s Triangle,” which [refers](#) to a threesome with two men and one woman, was actually a drinking game similar to quarters, despite the fact that there is no reference anywhere on the Internet to such a drinking game, and claimed that “boofing” referred not to one of its two [common](#) meanings (anal sex or the practice of taking drugs as suppositories) but to flatulence. A reference to “FFFFFFFourth of July” was not [a sexual one](#), but mocking a classmate who stuttered.
- He claimed that multiple references to him and his friends being “Renate alumni,” referring to a young woman from a nearby school, were not sexual boasting and slut-shaming, but were merely included on their yearbook pages to show their affection and admiration for her. “That yearbook reference was clumsily intended to show affection, and that she was one of us,” he said. That must have been why one of his classmates, joining in the show of “affection,” included a poem: “You need a date / and it’s getting late / so don’t hesitate / to call Renate.” When Sen. Richard Blumenthal raised it, Kavanaugh affected deep umbrage, claiming he actually thinks “she’s a great person.” If there’s a single person in America who believes that yearbook reference was meant to show affection, they have yet to make themselves known.
- “I got into Yale Law School. That’s the number one law school in the country. I had no connections there. I got there by busting my tail in college.” This picture of Kavanaugh is absurd. He went to an elite prep school with other children of wealth and influence, he got into Yale as a legacy (his grandfather [went there](#)), and one suspects that being a Yale undergrad didn’t harm his chances of getting into Yale Law School.
- “I grew up in a city plagued by gun violence and gang violence and drug violence,” he said in his first round of hearings. Kavanaugh [grew up](#) in Bethesda, Md., a wealthy suburb where there is almost no gun violence or gang violence. Though there is plenty of drug use, since the drugs are taken by wealthy white people, the police don’t get involved and there isn’t much violence around it.
- When Kavanaugh was working in the Bush White House on judicial confirmations, a Republican Senate staffer stole Democratic documents and shared what they contained with Kavanaugh, among others. In his hearings, Kavanaugh claimed “I never suspected anything untoward” in the information he was given, [despite the fact](#) that it contained references to confidential information about Democrats’ internal discussions and strategy that they had no legitimate access to.

- He [claimed](#) to have no knowledge of the sexually explicit jokes, comments and emails by Alex Kozinski, a judge for whom he clerked and to whom he remained close afterward, and who was recently forced from the bench when his history became public. Another of Kozinski's former clerks [wrote](#), "I do not know how it would be possible to forget something as pervasive as Kozinski's famously sexual sense of humor or his gag list, as Kavanaugh has professed to in his hearings."

We offer this list so that readers can share accurate information with their friends. As for other reports, **NBC News revealed that "In the days leading up to a public allegation that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh exposed himself to a college classmate, the judge and his team were communicating behind the scenes with friends to refute the claim,** [emphasis added] according to text messages obtained by NBC News. Kerry Berchem, who was at Yale with both Kavanaugh and his accuser, Deborah Ramirez, has tried to get those messages to the FBI for its newly reopened investigation into the matter but says she has yet to be contacted by the bureau.

"The texts between Berchem and Karen Yarasavage, both friends of Kavanaugh, suggest that the nominee was personally talking with former classmates about Ramirez's story in advance of the New Yorker article that made her allegation public. In one message, Yarasavage said Kavanaugh asked her to go on the record in his defense. Two other messages show communication between Kavanaugh's team and former classmates in advance of the story." <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/mutual-friend-ramirez-kavanaugh-anxious-come-forward-evidence-n915566>

And of course, there have also been many corroborating stories about Kavanaugh's excessive drinking from his college classmates. And *The New York Times* broke the story that "**As an undergraduate student at Yale, Brett M. Kavanaugh was involved in an altercation at a local bar during which he was accused of throwing ice on another patron, according to a police report.**" [emphasis added] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/01/us/politics/kavanaugh-bar-fight.html>

For the most interesting, comprehensive discussion of the bar fight, you can't go wrong watching this comic take by Trevor Noah on *The Daily Show*. As Noah says, "Do you know how bad a fight has to be for the police to get called on a white guy? At an Ivy League school in the '80s!... That was like rich white male heyday." Click here or on the thumbnail below: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=284&v=CpYgDTimaKs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=284&v=CpYgDTimaKs)

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4. **One common theory of Kavanaugh’s behavior on the night in question is that he was so drunk that he honestly does not remember an assault on Ford, that is, that he “blacked out.”** This is distinct from “passing out,” in that the drunken person commits acts but fails to recall them when waking up. This phenomenon was the subject of a book by Sarah Hepola, [\*Blackout: Remembering the Things I Drank to Forget\*](#). She has written an essay that is important for all to read who wish to understand this possible explanation of how he could possibly have no memory of such an assault. Read **“Kavanaugh and the Blackout Theory:** It is both easy and common to drink, act and then have no memory of it,” in *The New York Times* on Sep. 29. She explains her own experience and says, “I want to be clear, up front, that I cannot know whether Judge Kavanaugh experienced a blackout. But what I do know is that blackouts are both common and tragically misunderstood. Before the prosecutor Rachel Mitchell was mysteriously dispatched, she was aiming toward the above line of inquiry.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/29/opinion/sunday/brett-kavanaugh-drinking-blackouts.html> *\*Highly recommended reading*

5. A. An important exposé by *The New York Times* appeared on Sunday detailing the surreptitious movement of immigrant children from foster homes and shelters all over the country to a tent city in the middle of the West Texas desert. The story is shocking to read: **“Migrant Children Moved Under Cover of Darkness to a Texas Tent City.”** The paper reported, in an exclusive investigation, that **“In shelters from Kansas to New York, hundreds of migrant children have been roused in the middle of the night in recent weeks and loaded onto buses with backpacks and snacks for a cross-country journey to their new home: a barren tent city on a sprawling patch of desert in West Texas.** [emphasis added] Until now, most undocumented children being held by federal immigration authorities had been housed in private foster homes or shelters, sleeping two or three to a room. They received formal schooling and regular visits with legal representatives assigned to their immigration cases.

“But in the rows of sand-colored tents in Tornillo, Tex., children in groups of 20, separated by gender, sleep lined up in bunks. There is no school: The children are given workbooks that they have no obligation to complete. Access to legal services is limited. These midnight voyages are playing out across the country, as the federal government struggles to find room for more than 13,000 detained migrant children — the largest population ever — whose numbers have increased more than [fivefold](#) since last year.... Hundreds of children are being shipped from shelters to West Texas each week, totaling more than 1,600 so far.”

The justification for this barbarism is that the foster and shelter system is overwhelmed, and the children have to be moved out to accommodate newcomers. Children have been rounded up from shelters and homes with only minutes notice. The tents are said to be air- conditioned. But unlike the shelters, the tents are classed as “emergency shelters,” and are exempt from HHS guidelines requiring such amenities as schooling. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/30/us/migrant-children-tent-city-texas.html>

B. *The Times* editorial board said on Monday, “**Hundreds of Children Rot in the Desert. End Trump’s Draconian Policies:** The administration created this crisis.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/01/opinion/migrant-children-tent-city-texas.html>

C. In an interesting column in *The Guardian*, Bill McKibben, environmentalist and founder of the activist organization [350.org](http://350.org), finds a connection between the Trump administration’s immigrant roundups and its environmental policy. His title is itself a wake-up call: “**The Trump administration knows the planet is going to boil. It doesn’t care.**” He writes, “In the cloud of toxic dust thrown up by the [Kavanaugh hearings](#) last week, two new Trump initiatives slipped by with less notice than they deserve. Both are ugly, stupid – and they are linked, though in ways not immediately apparent.

“In the first, the administration provided the rationale for scrapping President Obama’s automobile mileage standards: because Trump’s crew now [officially expects the planet to warm by 4C](#) . In the [environmental impact statement](#) they say it wouldn’t make much difference to the destruction of the planet if we all keep driving SUVs.... **The news in that statement is that administration officials serenely contemplate that 4C rise (twice the last-ditch target set at the Paris climate talks). Were the world to actually warm that much, it would be a literal hell, unable to maintain civilizations as we have known them.** [emphasis added] But that’s now our policy, and it apparently rules out any of the actions that might, in fact, limit that warming....

“Meanwhile, reporters also discovered that the administration has set up what can only be described as a concentration camp near the Mexican border for detained migrant children, spiriting them under cover of darkness from the foster homes and small shelters across the nation where they had been staying. Not an extermination camp – these aren’t Nazis – but a camp that literally concentrates this ‘problem’ in one place: a tent city in the middle of the desert. That camp is linked to climate change because, first, it’s in a desert. If you searched high and low across the North American continent, you could barely find a place hotter and drier than [Tornillo, Texas, where in June the average high is 96F](#) and where, as one climate data [source](#) succinctly puts it, ‘there is virtually no rainfall during the

year.” But the situation at the border is also linked to climate change because refugees fleeing Mexico and Central America are running not only from gang violence, but also from the effects of climate change that have wiped out or damaged crops. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/02/trump-administration-planet-boil-refugee-camps>

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6. In another blockbuster story, *The New York Times* on Wednesday evening published a report on Donald Trump’s questionable tax evasions. Their special investigation is titled, “**Trump Engaged in Suspect Tax Schemes as He Reaped Riches From His Father.**” They found that “President Trump participated in dubious tax schemes during the 1990s, including instances of outright fraud, that greatly increased the fortune he received from his parents, an investigation by The New York Times has found.

“Mr. Trump won the presidency proclaiming himself a self-made billionaire, and he has long insisted that his father, the legendary New York City builder Fred C. Trump, provided almost no financial help. But The Times’s investigation, based on a vast trove of confidential tax returns and financial records, reveals that **Mr. Trump received the equivalent today of at least \$413 million from his father’s real estate empire, starting when he was a toddler and continuing to this day.**” [emphasis added]

*The Times* discovered that Trump’s parents, Fred and Mary, transferred over \$1 bln in wealth to their children, paying only minimal taxes. The paper found that “**Much of this money came to Mr. Trump because he helped his parents dodge taxes.** [emphasis added] He and his siblings set up a sham corporation to disguise millions of dollars in gifts from their parents, records and interviews show. Records indicate that Mr. Trump helped his father take improper tax deductions worth millions more. He also helped formulate a strategy to undervalue his parents’ real estate holdings by hundreds of millions of dollars on tax returns, sharply reducing the tax bill when those properties were transferred to him and his siblings.” This is long-form muckraking journalism, and we cannot summarize it fully. We urge readers to click through, here: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-tax-schemes-fred-trump.html>. *\*Highly recommended reading*

*The Times* provides a convenient 11-point summary of their findings here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-wealth-fred-trump.html>. *\*Highly recommended reading*

On Thursday morning, as *The Washington Post* reported, “**New York state’s tax agency said it is considering an investigation into allegations detailed in a New York Times story** that President Trump participated in “dubious tax schemes” that allowed his father to pass him more than \$413 million while minimizing tax payments.” [emphasis added] [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-york-tax-agency-weighs-investigation-after-report-that-trump-family-built-wealth-through-tax-avoidance-schemes-and-fraud/2018/10/02/5119f24e-c680-11e8-b2b5-79270f9cce17\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-york-tax-agency-weighs-investigation-after-report-that-trump-family-built-wealth-through-tax-avoidance-schemes-and-fraud/2018/10/02/5119f24e-c680-11e8-b2b5-79270f9cce17_story.html)

7. A. **Trump is extolling his new “Nafta” agreement**, which he calls “United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or U.S.M.C.A.” It makes many changes to Nafta, but in the end, it may have little effect on our economy. *The New York Times* summarized on Monday, “Text of the pact, released late Sunday, includes major adjustments in several key areas of the countries’ trading relationships. The agreement sets new rules for automobile production, meant to incentivize production of cars and trucks in countries that pay higher wages. It reduces barriers for American dairy farmers to sell cheese, milk and other products to Canada. It retains a tribunal for resolving trade disputes that the United States had sought to eliminate.

“It guarantees Canadian and Mexican manufacturers expanded access to some large American markets, such as cars and light trucks, but leaves lingering questions about their ability to avoid tariffs on steel and aluminum exports to the United States.” *The Times* summary includes the highlights: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/01/business/trump-nafta-usmca-differences.html>

B. As for Canadians, they are generally happy with the deal, which gives them much of what they wanted, and though there will be more dairy exported to them (a major sticking point), this is not much more than they had already agreed to under the TPP, which Trump had torn up. *The Toronto Star* reported, “Canadian sources said the deal would include significant protection for Canada against the auto tariffs Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose. A Canadian official said the first 2.6 million Canadian car exports to the U.S., significantly higher than the current 1.8 million, would be shielded from tariffs. Trump could hypothetically impose tariffs on cars above that number, but the threshold is so high that the Canadian official said Canada had been effectively exempted....

“Both sides said Trudeau made a concession on dairy, giving U.S. farmers more access to the protected Canadian market than the 3.25 per cent Canada granted its partners in the earlier Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. A Canadian official said the U.S. would be given 3.6 per cent. The Trump official said Canada had also agreed to eliminate its ‘Class 7’ pricing system for certain milk

ingredients, an irritant to farmers in Wisconsin and New York.” <https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2018/09/30/canada-us-reach-nafta-deal.html>

C. But ***The Washington Post*** reported that major US industries will benefit, to the detriment of American consumers. “The winners include oil companies, technology firms and retailers, but chief among them are pharmaceutical companies, which gained guarantees against competition from cheaper generic drugs.” [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/trumps-usmca-delivers-big-wins-to-drugmakers-oil-companies-and-tech-firms/2018/10/02/2d68ad10-c66f-11e8-b1ed-1d2d65b86d0c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/trumps-usmca-delivers-big-wins-to-drugmakers-oil-companies-and-tech-firms/2018/10/02/2d68ad10-c66f-11e8-b1ed-1d2d65b86d0c_story.html)

D. Toronto’s ***Globe and Mail*** was skeptical that the deal will really change much of substance in North American trade. “The overriding emotion provoked by the news that Canada and the United States have reached a tentative deal on a renegotiated North American free-trade agreement should be one of relief. Our negotiators, led by Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, have restored a modicum of certainty to Canada’s trade-dependent economy. What should not be forgotten in this moment of calm, however, is that the storm was the invention of one man. Canada has concluded an unnecessary and absurdly belligerent negotiation that was provoked by Donald Trump and impelled by a collection of outright lies about NAFTA that the U.S. President repeated ad nauseum.

“No, NAFTA was not the cause of the decline of American manufacturing. No, the United States does not run a trade deficit with Canada. No, America wasn’t poorer for the deal, and no it wasn’t the worst trade agreement in history. But Mr. Trump said all these things while campaigning, and his disinformation tapped into a populist, anti-trade wave that he rode to victory.” <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-globe-editorial-with-usmca-canada-holds-its-own-in-the-unnecessary/>

E. And in the US, ***Bloomberg Opinion*** also sees the agreement as more cosmetic, and of course a moment for a staged triumphal march for Trump. See “**Globalists Will Love Trump’s New Nafta Deal**: Despite the fanfare, the agreement doesn’t change much.” “[A] modest shake-up of U.S.-Canada dairy trade and rules-of-origin changes that [affect a handful of Mexican-made car models](#) don’t sound like much...until they’re announced with ministerial fanfare and a greatest-ever Presidential tweet.” <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-10-01/globalists-will-love-trump-s-new-nafta-deal>

F. And of course **the deal will have to be ratified by Congress**. As *Politico* reports, “Democrats and their backers in labor unions and environment groups will be looking for a deal they feel can be adequately enforced in terms of

upholding worker rights and environmental protections.” <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/09/30/nafta-trade-canada-819081>

8. Trump will use this Nafta victory to play to his base, saying he fulfilled a campaign promise and has protected American workers. But overall, says one commentator in *The Washington Post*, “**Don’t be fooled: Working Americans are worse off under Trump.**” The analysis comes from Robert J. Shapiro, the chairman of the advisory firm Sonecon and a senior fellow at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business. He was President Bill Clinton’s undersecretary of commerce for economic affairs. “Despite robust economic numbers during the Trump presidency, the American public has seemed curiously unmoved by such good news as the [lowest U.S. unemployment level in nearly half a century](#). Its enthusiasm might have been dampened by this underappreciated economic reality: The typical working American’s earnings, when properly measured, have declined during the Trump administration...”

Shapiro points out **that BLS statistics showing rising wages are misleading.** “They focus not on how much an average working person earns but on the ‘average earnings’ of all employed people. In times of rising inequality, employees at the top pull up ‘average’ earnings. Shift to the bureau’s earnings data for an average or ‘median’ working person, and most of those claimed gains disappear. Another catch: The data used by the White House doesn’t account for inflation. Adjust the median earnings data for inflation, and the illusion of progress evaporates.”

“Adjust the \$876 in median weekly earnings in the quarter ending June 30, 2018, for the 3.32 percent inflation that occurred in the 18 months from the first quarter of 2017 to that date. The result: \$876 in June 2018 had the same value as \$848.20 in January 2017. **In real terms, the weekly earnings of a typical working American fell \$16.80, or 1.9 percent, during Donald Trump’s first 18 months as president.**” [emphasis added] [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-be-fooled-working-americans-are-worse-off-under-trump/2018/09/30/f789f198-be82-11e8-be70-52bd11fe18af\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-be-fooled-working-americans-are-worse-off-under-trump/2018/09/30/f789f198-be82-11e8-be70-52bd11fe18af_story.html)

9. It is difficult to watch. *So a warning:* this is the video of a president of the United States mocking a woman who came forward, at great risk to herself, to accuse a powerful man of sexual assault. A woman whose testimony that president himself had said was “very credible.” He is also seen working up the crowd into a frenzy of communal mockery. We provide the video link for those who may not have seen it; it is perhaps important, for judging the event, to see how the crowd reacted and the tone of the remarks. (*Of note here: For those who can be dispassionate in analyzing the political rhetoric, in the full clip Trump evokes men’s fears that women will accuse men of anything, particularly powerful*

ones, on little evidence. This is the context: Trump has always assumed the accused are innocent; he is stoking the fear that the women's movement is meant to destroy men by any means, fair or foul. This is effective demagoguery; and we believe a full viewing of the whole clip, beyond the mockery being replayed in the media, will be instructive. It will also be disturbing to many. –Ed.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=809yRtq1cp8>

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10. **Good news for the Underwood and Casten campaigns.** *The Chicago Tribune* reported on Thursday that **“The House Majority PAC aligned with U.S. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi is pouring more money into the suburbs’ two pivotal Congressional campaigns in an effort to flip two Republican-controlled districts.** [emphasis added] The group on Wednesday announced it’s spending \$887,000 for a 30-second campaign spot targeting Republican U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren in the far west suburban 14th Congressional District, giving a boost to Democrat Lauren Underwood. The buy represents the first big spending by outside Democrats in the district, suggesting they might try to make a push for the seat in the last month before the November election.

“And the same group is spending about \$1.9 million for a new commercial targeting U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam in the neighboring 6th District, where Democrat Sean Casten is challenging the incumbent in an expensive duel drawing significant national attention.

“Casten outraised Roskam in the third quarter, according to the campaigns, raising \$2.6 million compared to \$1.3 million for Roskam. But Roskam had more money in the bank at the end of the summer, reporting \$2,337,558 to \$646,750 for Casten.” <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-met-morning-spin-thursdaysay-20181003-story.html>

11. **Sean Casten has released a new 30-second ad** attacking Peter Roskam on health care, particularly Roskam’s support of a Trump plan that would kick 30,000 people off health insurance in the district: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNONx0b3JGo>

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Best wishes, and Peace,  
Mark  
The Indivisible DuPage Research Team

***“Rise like lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number—  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you—  
Ye are many—they are few”***

—From "The Mask of Anarchy. Written on the Occasion of the [army] Massacre at Manchester [1819]", By British Romantic Poet Percy Shelley