

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In order to avoid breaking my TV/smashing my laptop, I will be live commentating the three presidential debates as well as the vice-presidential debate between 26 September and 19 October, 2016, as they happen right **HERE**.

All commentary will be issued from my couch and, a la Fox News' stellar precedent, will be very fair and balanced, logical, honest, objective as well as bias and intellect-free.

To get started, please urgently read [#DemandFairDebates](#).

2016 Presidential Debates Live Commentary

What's Happening: Debate #1! Hillary Clinton (Democrat) aka Crooked Hillary at least to her opponent, one Donald Trump (Republican) aka the Tangerine Bully on this site. Since there are many Donalds, he has several nicknames bequeathed to him by various politicians - Don the Con, Teflon Don, The Donald etc.

When is it: Monday, 26 September, 2016, 21:00 EST (pre-game commentary started on various TV channels and various media outlets in 1876, such is the build-up and hype around this first-ever male-female, Head girl versus the meanest boy in class presidential showdown)

Where is it: Hofstra University, Long Island, New York, according to Google maps, only 28.5 miles from my couch here in Brooklyn, New York (but a completely different cultural time zone to Long Island)

19:15 - Good evening to you! Wherever you may be, whether you are an American, a quasi-American, a non-American or an anti-American, this election matters to YOU.

So...are you ready to descend into the abyss?

19:42 - First, some facts.

This dismal, insult-laden presidential campaign has been variously called "post-factual," "fact-challenged," and "fact-free." For example, Mr. Trump has asserted several times that the debate will be "rigged" against him because tonight's moderator, Mr. Lester Holt, is a Democrat. This is untrue. Mr. Holt, unlike most African Americans who lean Democrat, is one of those intriguing

conundrums, a black Republican.

Here are some links to some [enlightening facts](#) in case you need to catch up.

Unfortunately, some American voters appear quite indifferent to facts. Many American voters also take American football more seriously than their presidential election. Case in point: more people watch the American football super bowl than will watch this debate tonight even though some over-excited TV newscasters are predicting a possible viewing audience of 100 million.

To add butter and margarine, when the debate schedule was released by the non-partisan presidential debate commission, Mr. Trump (who will be referred to as Mr. Trump at all times during this debate commentary except when he is acting undignified and scurrilous wherein he will be referred to as the Tangerine Bully) immediately complained that the system was “rigged” because two debates are scheduled on the same night as football games. Mr. Trump wanted to change the dates of the debates. Please note that to the best of my knowledge neither Mr. Trump nor a single other person suggested that perhaps the football games should be moved to a different night so that they did not conflict with the (far more important?) presidential debates.

Yes, there we have it, Americans take their presidential race so seriously that no-one entertained the notion of perhaps rescheduling the football games so that they did not conflict with what a small minority consider the more important television show...

20:03 - Pre-Game Histrionics

Are you ready to dive into the sewer?

Before the debate has even started, the Tangerine Bully (TB) threatened to seat Bill Clinton's ex-mistress, one Ms. Gennifer Flowers, in the first row in order to throw Ms. Clinton off her game. The TB (oops, also could mean tuberculosis) tweeted this threat in response to the announcement that Hillary supporter, Mr. Mark Cuban, was coming to sit in the first row in Hillary's camp. Cuban is a tycoon who is a thorn in the TB's side because I think he is richer than Donald.

So right from the get-go, these paragons of maturity are setting the bar at the level of brawling third-graders in an unsupervised playground. This is appropriate because Mr. Trump's distinctive syntax, simplistic phraseology and dissful zingers are pretty much at the level of a subpar third-grader.

20:26 - If you are wondering if this commentary will be biased, it will be. I don't like politicians in general. They are all dishonest, self-serving, power-hungry blood-suckers who have the integrity of your average investment banker. I am far left of Barack Obama and find his foreign policy to be a disappointing continuation of unfettered US imperialism. However, because we are all bundles of contradiction, I have a soft spot for Vice-President Joe Biden. He has a beautiful smile and refers to nonsense as malarkey. I also like Bernie Sanders because he has a great Brooklyn accent and might actually be an honest man. When it comes to Hillary, the ultimate head girl, I have [already written](#) that as a feminist, I admire her strength but when it comes to policy, she is too hawkish in her foreign policy and buddy-buddy with Wall Street in her domestic policy.

But as for Donald...I deeply resent him because as a writer, he leaves me without adjectives. I cannot find words scathing enough to describe the diabolical mixture of misogyny, mendacity, racism, bigotry, dishonesty and disingenuous populism that is his campaign. Heinous, deplorable, odious...none of these adjectives suffice...

Everyone is wondering which Donald will grace the debate stage tonight - free-swinging insult meister or the "presidential," restrained, scripted version. That's already a problem when a presidential candidate has so many personae that we have to ask which one will show up!

20:40 - We're settling our nerves with hot popcorn and pumpkin spice cupcakes. If you're lucky enough to be a drinker, down the whole bottle now!

20:51 - The Voice is still on on NBC...but whether it's BBC, Fox, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, NBC, ABC, CBS or Bloomberg, the TV pundits are drooling about the huge audience expected for this gladiatorial contest. Actually, I suspect one candidate to have a far sharper mind than the other...but disadvantage Hillary!! The American electorate is so anti-intellectual that if Hillary shows that she is too knowledgeable about policy, it could count against her!

20:55 - I haven't seen Melania Trump since the Michelle Obama plagiarism speech. Here she is dressed in black as if for a funeral...

20:56 - All eyes on Mr. Holt! Will he "lauer" the bar and "fallon"-up some softball questions for the inexperienced Mr. Trump? This man is under serious pressure. Hundreds of thousands of people are opining right now about what he should and shouldn't do as moderator.

21:05 - The candidates arrive on stage. Hillary is in republican red and Donald is wearing a blue democratic tie. This debate is all about style. Substance is secondary.

21:08 - Hillary finishes her memorized speech. Canned!

21:09 - Donald is squinting into the camera a la Melania's trademark look. Donald is reciting his normal stunted sentences. Clearly has not memorized his opening speech. Very repetitive.

21:15 - Hillary is on the attack, disses the Donald for the silver spoon from his dad which proves he is an unself-made man. Unlike her dad, the small businessman. Donald cannot resist the bait but is trying to call her "Secretary Clinton" because he wants her to "be very happy." She is addressing him as Donald.

21:19 - A lot of boring stuff on trade. "To be semi-exact," says the Donald. He is a wordsmith par excellence. Next someone will be "a little pregnant."

21:30 - Taxes! Mr. Trump is all bluster. He is getting riled up and becoming more insulting. Ms. Clinton is maintaining her composure and laughing it off.

21:32 - The tax returns question. Mr. Holt is urging him to explain why he is not releasing his taxes even though he could do so despite being under audit. He goes back to his usual line. Where are Hillary's deleted emails? Clinton is all over it. Why is he not releasing the tax returns? Is he not as rich as he says he is? Maybe he doesn't contribute to charity? Maybe there are conflicts of interest? Maybe he doesn't pay tax. TB interjects that not paying taxes makes him smart.

21:38 - According to TB, America is a Third World country now because the airports are not as nice as those in Dubai, Qatar and China.

21:40 - Secretary Clinton is bringing up TB's habit of not paying small businessmen for the work they do for his businesses.

21:43 - Again, TB is plugging his Washington hotel just as he did when he announced the sky is blue and Obama was born in the US. Shameless scoundrel! He says he will get to D.C. one way or another, via his hotel or via the White House.

21:44 - Uh oh...race, policing,criminal justice. Heart palpitations.

21:50 - Trump is all about “stop-and-frisk.” Despite it being unconstitutional racial profiling that unfairly targets African American and Hispanic men.

21:54 - Hillary is strong on police reform, gun reform and systemic racism. Donald is still on leash and calling her Secretary Clinton.

22:00 - Go Mr. Holt! Question: Why did you suddenly accept that President Obama was born in the US? TB is running like a headless chicken. He is running off a cliff here. Hillary says, “Just listen to what he said.” Strong response from Secretary Clinton.

22:11 - “The security of cyber is very, very tough.” TB writes SNL’s lines for them. He says “cyber” the same way he says “African Americans” and “China,” as if it’s a word that might make him sneeze. The couch people are saying that TB talks about policy the same way a kid talks about a book they haven’t read. It is very, very interesting. Some of the characters are very, very bad. Some of them are very, very good.

22:19 - TB is fixated on how NATO has developed a response to terrorism thanks to him. Mr. Holt is telling him he was for the war in Iraq (which he was). Now TB is saying that Sean Hannity, the most partisan partisan in the whole wide world, will vouch for him being against the war. And we should believe Sean Hannity and not the audio interview? Okay, now TB is becoming obstreperous insisting that he has “a winning temperament.” And pigs also fly.

22:28 - Trump’s grammar is as dangerous as a nuclear bomb to my poor brain. He is talking more than Holt or Clinton. She seems to want to allow him to hang himself. This is the last segment. Running overtime. The spin meisters have already started. I will tell you here with clear impartiality that Secretary Clinton has beaten Donald handily. However, that means nothing because everyone is about to start our heads spinning. TB is beginning to lose his grip...he has called her Hillary. Will he crash and burn in the few remaining minutes??

22:34 - Mr. Holt asks TB what he meant when he said that Hillary doesn’t have a “presidential look.” He lies that he meant that she doesn’t have the stamina. This is a lie. He said she did not have the look. A clearly sexist statement from a misogynistic man. TB has said that Hillary “is not nice” because she can afford to run more negative TV ads than he can as his

campaign cannot afford it.

22:39 - Debate over and now the spin begins! The commentators are in shock. The pundits are saying it's surreal.

22:42 - The spin is on! Ms. Clinton has won according to NBC. CBS is saying that he lied during the debate regarding birther nonsense etc. What a surprise. ABC is also saying that Trump was low-energy. MSNBC is saying that Trump's answers were somewhere between "incoherent" and "babble." Back in a second. Choking on my cracker. Don't eat and laugh at the same time.

22:54 - Trump enters the spin-room to spin himself. Unprecedented! Tom Brokaw observes that Trump is not "ebullient" as he walks through the spin room. Melania is following him looking like a hostage. Let's see what Fox News is saying. Oh of course, Mr. Holt is to blame for Trump's lackluster performance.

23:00 - Trump is still spinning in the spin room. He is congratulating himself on holding back from mentioning "her husband's indiscretions." Trump is saying he "loved it," meaning the debate. Although many people are saying he did terribly, luckily Trump thinks he did very well. It's so unusual to see such a modest, self-effacing man brag about his own performance.

23:16 - Apparently, Trump is winning the online polls. Either people are so sexist, they cannot see that Hillary won or the Republicans are the only ones voting. Fox News is declaring it a draw. MSNBC keeps insisting that Trump tanked.

23:27 - CNN's undecided voters vote 18 out of 20 for a Clinton victory. They are very critical of several policy positions but at least they can see that she won! Phew...at least that. This is a very rich country. They have a lot of gadgets to track the voters' reactions in real time, green and yellow lines going up and down. There are no power cuts or internet interruptions so the chatter goes on and on and on...

23:33 - Thank god, CNN's debate watchers, albeit heavily democratic, have voted for a Clinton victory 62% to 27%. Clinton won the debate. I already told you anyways. But there was great fear that Trump would be graded on a curve as they say because he is such a walking disaster that just showing up and not

having a meltdown would ensure him a victory. Sometimes, there is justice in the world.

23:41 - Trump's own campaign manager gives both candidates a grade of "satisfactory." Wow. Shocking. She is always leading the charge for the TB. Good! I hope she can convey to him that he lost.

23:44 - Fox News again blames Mr. Holt for "pressing Trump too hard." Tucker Carlson says he thinks "Trump won because he didn't melt down." See my earlier comment on grading on a curve and the low, subterranean bar for Donald.

23:53 - It's time for bed. See you next week on 4 October for the vice-presidential debate. That might be a real snooze fest. I can't really tell the difference between the two of them with their inoffensive demeanors and one-syllable names. But let's watch any way. The fact-checkers are now eating Donald Trump for their midnight snack!

00:07 - Made the mistake of switching to Fox. Sean Hannity is swooning over the Donald's every word, avidly agreeing that the Donald was always right about the Iraq War. See above - just as I suspected. Now he is interviewing TB'S first-born son. The crush clearly extends to the man's progeny.

The Republicans are cross that the moderator did not bring up enough questions about Hillary's "negatives" - emails, Clinton Foundation, Benghazi etc. Meanwhile, before the debate, they were urging the moderator to refrain from fact-checking and just allow the candidates to go at it. Their candidate did not prepare and hence did not seize on the available time to raise Hillary's "negatives" himself. He had a great deal of time in which to natter on and on. He dodged hither and thither and filled it with a bunch of malarkey. Whose fault is that?

Good night and good luck!

Tuesday 4 October, 2016, 18:00 - Good evening! Couch-casting continues later tonight as part of our ongoing attempt to persuade the American people to refuse to renew the Trump telenovela for another season. Let's make the season finale, November 8th! In three hours, **the vice-presidential debate** will begin.

Dubbed the “Thrilla in Vanilla,” it is between two very normal, older white guys who are pretty milk toast compared to unstable Trump and honesty-challenged Clinton.

It is happening all the way in swing state Virginia at Longwood University (393 miles from the couch here in Brooklyn). It will be home court advantage Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton’s running mate, because he has been the governor of Virginia before (I think. No-one knows or cares much about these guys. Four out of ten Americans do not even know their names) Kaine’s opponent is Trump’s butler, the governor of Indiana, Mike Pence. His main job is to mop up after Trump has verbal diarrhea all over that shrinking thing - human decency.

18:33 - Setting the scene...let’s put on our crash helmets.

Last week, I saw President Obama do a town hall with the US military. It made me realize how stark the differences are between him and Donald.

No, it’s not that one is black and the other orange. It’s not that one is lean and the other flabby. It’s not that one is a self-made man who thrived despite the absence of his father and the [other leant on his father’s fortune to forge his own](#).

No! It’s that Obama’s measured speech is slow and steady as he thoughtfully searches for the right words. Trump, on the other hand, rattles off an endless stream of parenthetical phrases that hit your eardrums camouflaged as sentences. By the time they tunnel their way into your brain, by the way, believe me, they don’t really make sense. As George F. Will, a conservative journalist, politely described him, Trump is “syntactically-challenged.”

Actual conservatives are very distressed by Trump’s scrambling of conservatism with populism, racism, misogyny, demagoguery and a random pot pourri of ever-fungible, ideologically-confused policy positions. Genuine Republicans hope that Trump’s butler will be able to persuade fence-sitters that he is solid enough to keep the erratic, unstable top of the ticket away from his twitter feed and his tongue to prevent him from igniting a world war. The Trump campaign team wants him to remain on teleprompter and not go rogue and say any old thing that lands in his mouth. Mayhem is often the result. And that’s why, I must share this most fascinating factoid. It speaks volumes...

18:56 - Fascinating that not a single newspaper has endorsed Donald Trump. Even conservative papers that have ALWAYS and FOREVER endorsed the Republican candidate have broken with sometimes hundreds of years of tradition and endorsed Clinton. USA Today which has never endorsed any candidate issued an anti-endorsement, urging readers to vote for anyone but Trump. Even the New York Observer which is a newspaper owned by Trump’s own son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has not yet endorsed him. Is that because...

19:11 - ...Trump's campaign has been so ugly?

It has been reported that Kushner is an orthodox Jew and members of his family have complained that he can stand behind Trump, a known bigot.

Now, prepare yourself if you haven't already seen this. Here's a [video](#) from the New York Times that shows some of the thoroughly sickening behavior at Trump's rallies over the months. Racism, anti-Semitism in its fullest sense, rabid misogyny - Trump supporters wear T-shirts here that describe Hillary, a 68-year-old grandmother, in terms of her body parts. It's beyond grotesque.

The white supremacist/neo-Nazi subcultures that have felt repressed by "political correctness," "the liberal mainstream media" and the shock of a black president are emerging from the shadows. Jewish youth are [encountering increasing intolerance](#) and [attacks against Muslims are on the rise](#).

20:46 - The opinionators are opining on every channel. Everyone is terrified that this debate may be about policy and substantive issues. No-one wants that. The public is now conditioned to a very low-level of sewer-trawling, thanks to guess who. But this Debate Commission official is boasting that these debates are "beacons" for emerging democracies around the world which long to replicate this civil tradition. Did this guy see the last debate in which Hillary trounced the Tangerine Bully?

If you haven't seen the brilliant movie Idiocracy, watch it sooner rather than later. It's set in the future but who knows, the future may be upon us. In the film, a champion wrestler becomes the president of the US, a country full of media-addled dum-dums. There is an impending famine because big corporations have brainwashed the population into believing that water is only for the toilet and a Gatorade-like drink is all that is available for human consumption and watering crops. Hence the crops are dying...

20:59 - These are the stakes of this debate: Hillary's buttress aka Tim Kaine has got to a) make white guys feel more secure with the idea of going from a black man to a white woman president
b) he has to paint Trump's butler into a corner from which he cannot escape.

Will Pence be able to explain away how Donald descended into a spiral of insanity after losing the last debate?

What caused his meltdown? Syrian peace deals falling apart, the death of Shimon Peres?...No, Trump fell apart because Hillary accused him of calling a former Miss Universe fat.

Will Pence be able to explain his way out of Trump's meltdown or will Kaine be able to keep up the pressure to emphasize how unqualified and unstable his master is?

In short, who can win over white guys who feel that America is very un-great right now and white (college-educated) women who might just be equally turned off by Hillary's lies and Donald's inanity?

21:11 - Opening statements from each. Who remembers what the question was?

Kaine = Hillary is sane. Trust, trust, trust, we trust her so much. Trump is unfit/unstable/doesn't have the temperament. The thought of him being commander-in-chief is terrifying.

Pence = I'm so honorable and normal. Donald Trump...who is that?

21:12 - Hillary's buttress already on the defensive. Why should we trust Hillary, asks the moderator. Kaine is practiced. Says why he trusts Hillary and then pivots to selfish, narcissistic Trump.

21:14- Oops. The moderator hits Pence with the temperament question. Isn't Trump too erratic to be president? Pence doesn't answer. Accuses Clinton-Kaine of running an insult-driven campaign. Classic Trump tactic. Reverse the attack that has been used against you.

21:15 - Uh-oh, this is an open discussion. Kaine is interrupting Pence. Attack dog! Oh no. Now we can't hear anything because they're talking over each other.

21:19 - Pence is fantasizing about an economy that has never existed under "Trumped-up" trickle-down economics and will never exist.

21:20 - Kaine is rightly saying that Trump and his butler are against a federal minimum wage. I see that Hillary's buttress is trying to tear down the image of Trump as the "blue-collar billionaire" who is going to be the "champion of the working people."

21:21 - Trump's MIA tax returns. The moderator pounces. The three pages of leaked tax returns suggest Trump has not paid federal income tax for 18 years. Pence fails to answer this question. How can he? Has he seen the tax returns?

21:23 - The moderator asks if it is fair that Trump doesn't pay taxes. Kaine, oops, I mean Trump's butler, Pence is trying to answer. But it's a tough one. He continues to propagate the myth that Donald Trump is a good

businessman. [Check out the sad truth](#) about Trump's poor record. He is hardly a "job-creator."

21: 26 - Team Hillary won on taxes. But shame. Pence did not have the ammunition to defend his running mate because it is simply indefensible that Trump has not released his taxes.

21:27 - Pence is a great admirer of Reagan and slips in a Reaganesque, There you go again...

21:28 - This moderator is doing the Top 40 of major issues and each one seems to get 120 seconds. We've already been through social security, the national debt and now issues around policing.

21:33 - Team Trump is all about law and order. Yeah, whatever. We shouldn't "blame the police." The police have no "implicit bias" against black men. Yeah, whatever. Team Trump along with the Addams' Family escaped demented uncle, Rudy Giuliani, are all about "stop-and-frisk," a form of racist and unconstitutional racist profiling.

21:36 - This moderator has got these guys on leash now so they're no longer talking on top of each other. Pence, however, cannot answer the question regarding the black US senator who is always being pulled over by the police because he is black. He can't answer the question because he does not admit that there is implicit bias. Sad!

21:37 - Pence is caught flat-footed. TEN POINTS TEAM CLINTON. Kaine lists a string of Trump's insults against women, John McCain, Mexicans etc...the usual suspects. Same old hits. Pence does not respond... He is now trying to respond. He is denying that Trump has said all these things. Really? Now Pence has caught Trump's contagious disease of denialism. Pence tries to throw it back by pivoting to Hillary's basket of deplorables comment.

21:42 - Kaine has said correctly that Hillary apologized for saying half of Trump's supporters were deplorable. Then he reiterates damning list of Trump's insults against more than half the world. Kaine takes it to immigration. The possibility of a deportation force. Pence cannot answer because Trump has flip-flopped on whether or not he will deport undocumented immigrants. Poor Pence.

21:46 - Kaine's major play: How can you defend your running mate when he calls Mexicans rapists and an Indiana-born judge of Mexican heritage unqualified because of his heritage?

Kaine's strategy: How can you defend a racist and stand behind him?

Pence is again silent. Can't wait to see what the Donald of Trumped-Up Self-Importance is tweeting. He must be fuming. But I think his family/campaign team has kidnapped his phone. So the tweets will be "curated."

Kaine just has so much ammunition. Pence has barely an arrow...

21:50 - Pence cannot defend the Donald's bigotry. So he quickly pivots to fear.

Pence's strategy: America is so unsafe now. So much less safe under Obama (than it was under Bush when 9/11 happened?). Fear, fear, fear. Bad leadership, poor victimized America, betrayed by poor Obama-Clinton leadership. They did it, they did it all. Iran, Iran, Iran.

21:51 - Moderator ain't got no time. Moves on to Trump's "extreme vetting" of immigrants to improve safety. Moderator rightly points out that recent attacks in Orlando and New Jersey were done by Americans...Hence "extreme vetting" won't be able to stop that. Pence cannot defend. Kaine interrupts.

21:54 - UNCONSTITUTIONAL to discriminate against Muslims or people of certain national origins.

Pence = fear, fear, fear

21:59 - Syrian refugees. Mike Pence loves to refer to Trump's leadership as "broad-shouldered." I think he is trying to displace the "small hands" image that so clings to Trump who by the way, is tweeting that his butler is dominating this debate. Typical Trump confusion. He still thinks he won last week's debate although all the scientific polls showed that viewers 3 to 1 and 2 to 1 believe Hillary won. Which she did.

22:04 - In case you didn't know, Hillary is the sole architect of the Syrian war.

Kaine goes low and says that Trump is a fool and a maniac. Does he lie?

Pence is scoring points on Iran. I think.

22:09 - Kaine is attacking Trump for his bromance with Putin. The butler is lying saying that Trump has never praised Putin's leadership. This is a flat-out lie. Don and Vlad sitting in a tree...

22:12 - Hillary gave birth to Vladimir Putin and raised him to be quite a rascal.

22:13 - The Vlad doesn't respect Hillary or Barack. But Pence claims that the Vlad will respect the Donald because of "strength, pure strength."
HAHAHAHAHA.

22:15 - North Korean threat. Pence = more military. Trump's strong leadership will stop more belligerence. Everyone will respect America when the Tangerine Bully is in charge gold-plating the White House. Oops..Pence is floundering. Pivoting to the Clinton Foundation. The Republicans will kiss him afterward. They have been so depressed that at last week's debate, the Donald forgot about the foundation because he was too busy talking about how "fat" Rosie O'Donnell is.

22:20 - Kaine has to talk about the difference between the Clinton Foundation, a charity, and shady Trump Foundation with its illegal contributions to politicians to stop them investigating Trump University (google Pam Bondi). Kaine runs out of time to talk about North Korea. Tries to get back to North Korea.

22:22 - Trump owes money to Bank of China. How will he stand up to them?
Ten points.

22:26 - Kaine is a good Catholic. Pence is a big Christian.
Will Pence attack Kaine for being pro-choice?

Oh yes, he is going there...I don't know why Republicans always insist that abortion counters their belief in the "sanctity of life" but the death penalty does not.

Pence is trying to score big points with the evangelicals here going on and on about how can Kaine be pro-choice...Oy vey!

Kaine explains that he cannot mandate women not to have abortions. EXACTLY. And yes, Donald Trump said that women should be punished when they have abortions. Kaine has a strong response.
Pence cannot deny that Trump said that.

22:31 - Kaine: Why don't you trust women to make the decision about abortion themselves?

Thank you, Mr. Kaine.

22:32 - Moderator asks about this divisive campaign. How will the country come together after election? Yup, especially with those gun-wielding Trump supporters who are constantly told by Trump that the election will be "rigged" and there is a high likelihood of "voter fraud" (all studies show that has never been a problem in the US but the Donald is allergic to facts). The Donald should watch the Vlad and make sure he doesn't hack the elections. Both Kaine and Pence have lost me in their response because they are just trying to hit their talking points again, throwing together more word salads.

22:35 - That moderator was very good towards the end. Elaine Quijano of CBS news.

22:36 - Now the spin begins...what will Wolf say?

22:37 - Wolf hands it over to Jake Tapper. Jake thinks Pence is more polished as a debater but Pence "declined" to defend Trump's horrible statements.

22:41 - The narrative is consolidated within minutes because the US media is all about group-think.

22:46 - CNN pundits are all about Pence. Undecided voters, however, think Tim Kaine won. Clever normal people. Except not that clever if they are still undecided.

22:47 - Pundits now upset. They seem to think that because Pence was "smooth" and "unflappable" he won. Kaine was more frenetic. But he seemed more passionate.

22:50 - MSNBC is saying that Pence was "smoother." But Pence will be caught out in fact check for misrepresenting past statements of him and his running mate. Let's see what Faux News is saying.

22:58 - Narrative consolidating is that Mike Pence did more for himself than he did for Trump. He is starting his campaign for 2020. He didn't much defend Trump but he did attack Clinton.

23:00 - From the couch we can definitively say that Tim Kaine had much more ammunition with which to prosecute the case against Trump. Pence was smooth but that can often come off as a little smug and insincere. Kaine was hyper at the beginning of the debate but he became calmer as the debate went on.

23:07 - Trump (re)tweeted 44 times during 90-minute debate. That's once every two minutes. Can Donald Trump bear not to be the center of attention? As Pence complained about the Clinton-Kaine "insult-driven" campaign, Trump tweeted out more insults.

23:09 - Faux News is interviewing Trump's campaign manager. She is uttering a basketful of lies. I don't want to get a headache. Back to CNN.

23:10 - Oh no, CNN is interviewing Trump progeny. Off to MSNBC.

23:25 - I vote for Van Jones, very handsome and articulate, and Paul Begala, eternally witty and wise.

23:36 - Why is CNN not releasing their poll results? I am very sleepy!

Mike Pence's horrible anti-gay views did not come out tonight.

In sum, the pundits are scoring the debate on style and awarding it to Pence. I am scoring on punches landed hence I have to give it to Kaine. A debate is not a ballet dance. It's a boxing match!

23:39 - CNN Poll gives it to Pence, 48% to Kaine, 42%. John King is speculating that Trump's butler will have maddened his master because he won his debate and the Donald did not. Also, as aforementioned, Pence did not defend Trump.

23:43 - Faux News is "fact-checking." HAHHAHAHAHA.

23:51 - Here is a place to [fact-check](#). CNN's undecided voters say that Tim Kaine won on substance. But claim that Pence won on demeanor. Come on American people! What is more important? Substance or style?

Anyways, none of this matters. The most important thing that will come out of this debate is how Saturday Night Live spoofs it.

0:01 - See you on Sunday 9 October for the next showdown between Hillary and Donald. Hillary's buttress and Trump's butler were not as boring as expected...let's see how the Donald handles Pence's "disloyalty." The problem for the Trump campaign is that Mike Pence is a competent adult and the contrast with Donald will do him no favors. He looks more and more like the crazy uncle who suffers from Tourette's disease and lives in the attic.

Will he have another 3 a.m. Twitter meltdown?

Will there be more October surprises such as more of Trump's taxes or will Wikileaks dump a Hillary-damaging email? It's a topsy-turvy campaign.

Good night and good luck!

LIVE BY THE MIC, DIE BY THE MIC

NOON, Sunday 9 October, 2016, couch-casting for the second presidential debate has to begin **NINE** hours before the debate because we do not know **IF** there will be a debate.

It is supposed to take place at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri (986 miles from the couch). The media vultures are already gathered there preparing to feast on the corpse of Donald Trump's candidacy.

How long ago was the vice-presidential debate? Five days or five millennia?

The tectonic plates underlying the political-media landscape have shifted so greatly, there is an entirely new geography of this presidential campaign.

In sum: Donald Trump will lose. The question is when?

After the release of the most disgusting, obscene, revolting tape from a show called Access Hollywood that exposed Donald Trump bragging in 2005 about his exploits as a sexual predator/groper/assaulter, the Republican Party finally decided enough is enough. After months and months in which we have had unfettered access to Donald's misogyny and racism, the Republican Party decided to suddenly take note. I wrote on 6 June, 2016, in the [today](#) section:

Dear Republican Party...

The word hypocrisy does not begin to describe your actions. Endorsing the Donald of Trumped-Up Self-Importance is tantamount to treason. You know very well that his divisive demagoguery can only be destructive for your country's long-term interests. But you're so desperate to win the White House, you have used the excuse of party loyalty to justify your sudden support for a misogynistic thug with a bad hairstyle who lacks both character and the conservative ideals you claim to cherish.

Country before party, patriotism before power. If nothing else, be pragmatic! In the short term, the dangerous Donald may win the presidential election in November. But in the long term, this bigoted bully will obliterate whatever integrity your party may have ever had. Not only will he alienate Mexicans, Muslims, African Americans and women but all people of principle. It's a losing strategy, Republican Party. You're on the path to self-destruction.

Clearly, the Republican Party did not listen to me. I can't imagine why not.

In the first debate, Donald complained that his microphone wasn't working properly. In the leaked audio-video, his mic was working beautifully. It has provided a crystalline picture of a grizzled, old man who believes that because he is a celebrity, he has the right to force himself on any woman he deems worthy of his unwanted attentions.

How did Donald become such a celebrity? Donald's ascent to the candidacy was due to the mic gifted him by the NBC show, The Apprentice. Now, NBC

shows like Access Hollywood and Saturday Night Live are trying to slay the monster their network created and high-level Republicans are, finally!, calling for the Tangerine Bully to step down. Will he withdraw from the race before tonight?

Or will he stay and try to salvage his floundering campaign by trying to use the relativist argument that what he did was bad but not as bad as the actions of Hillary's husband, Bill. This strategy as [I have already written](#) is UNBELIEVABLY SEXIST AND OFFENSIVE.

In all honesty, this presidential race makes me want to vomit.

13:49 - It is a full-time job trying to keep up with all the breaking news of the last few days. Here on the couch in Brooklyn, there is much obsessive channel-flipping and more than 50 pages are open on the iPad. I am constantly refreshing the Twitter feeds of various journalists and news sites with a variety of political biases, ranging from conservative to progressive, trying to measure the political temperature.

Every political watcher is on Code Red, hunkered down and armed to the teeth with a plethora of devices attempting to stay on top of the information siege.

14:21 - Rudy Giuliani aka the demented uncle escaped from the set of the Addams Family

"Gosh almighty," repeats Rudy Giuliani who claims to be a Catholic. He is all over every channel claiming that the Trump we saw in the Access Hollywood video is not the real Trump. The Trump of 2005 was a mere 59-year-old youth who has now, a la St. Augustine, seen the light on the road to the White House. Whilst Donald has been launching boulders from his glass tower in Manhattan at every defenseless creature possible, Giuliani keeps reminding the viewers that we in glass houses should not throw pebbles. Specks and logs in the eye etc.

Yeah, whatever Rudy. The Trump defense is that Trump's words are nothing compared to Bill's actions.

Trump's words referred to his actions. They are indefensible and perhaps even criminal. Bill's actions were also indefensible. Two wrongs don't make a right whilst we're here in the lush land of hackneyed clichés.

Rudy, your candidate is indefensibly grotesque. That's why you're the only one on TV defending him. Where is the rest of Team Trump?

14:57 - Team Trump is fast decreasing. The remaining characters are in crisis...

Who was actually scheduled to be on the Sunday shows ahead of this evening's debate? Trump's morally-compromised campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, was originally supposed to appear. Normally, she is all over the air waves, consistently lying (euphemistically called spinning) about Donald's manifold transgressions. Today, she has finally refused to show up but after two days of Twitter death (48 hours sans one single tweet), she did tweet this morning. She is not gone yet but she might be one foot out the door.

The head of the Republican National Committee (RNC), Reince Priebus, has also withdrawn from his appearance on the Sunday talk shows because he also cannot defend his party's candidate. The rumor is that if Donald tanks in tonight's debate, the RNC will walk. So as of now, 16 Republican senators have already "unendorsed" (a neologism) Donald. Unprecedented! But if Donald has a meltdown tonight, the whole party with all its resources will sprint away faster than Usain Bolt. The Trump campaign does not have the resources or the "ground game" to purchase expensive TV advertising or actually get voters to the polls. That would be another nail in Trump's coffin.

However, the most important possible defector is Mike Pence. Do you remember Trump's snow-haired butler from Tuesday night's debate? Well, it looks like he is temporarily (perhaps permanently) on strike from his job of cleaning up after Trump.

Mike Pence cancelled a campaign appearance yesterday and issued a statement that he is not going to defend the indefensible! As of now, he is still officially employed as the butler, but many high-level Republicans are calling on his master to quit the race and let the butler take his place...

...Pence is playing a wait and see like so many Republicans to see if Trump can redeem himself tonight. Although Trump has issued two "apologies," or as SNL mocked him, aapuulaagies, they were so insincere that no-one believed them. If Trump had mastered [the art of the apology](#), would he be Trump? Is he constitutionally capable of recognizing his own wrongdoing and then seeking forgiveness?

15:07 - The Stakes

Bad news, Republicans! Even if you wish Pence could ascend to the top of the ticket, it is legally and practically impossible to replace Trump. But realistically speaking, Pence, who is playing the long-game with an eye to running in 2020, may walk...and that would surely sink Trump's candidacy.

15:17 - Ana Navarro is one of my fave commentators. Although she is a Republican, she has something very few of them possess: integrity. Not that the Democrats are much better. Here is one of her hilarious tweets:

Ana Navarro @ananavarro 1h1 hour ago

Friend: U doing debate analysis tonight?

Me: Yes. On CNN-E & Telemundo

Her: How do u prepare?

Me: By watching, "Sex, Lies and Videotapes".

15:51 - Both candidates have left rainy New York and arrived in sunny Missouri. I advise you to break out the alcohol now if you're lucky enough to be a drinker. I am carb-loading as a non-drinker. Yes, this is stress-munching. Is it right? No. But this coconut cake sure is delish!

16:03 - Poor President Barack Obama, a fundamentally decent family man. Now even he has to address the crude obscenities of the Donald? Puke.

16:39 - **NEWS ALERT: Faux News plunges into deep depression**

Fox News is sad, guys. They are so very disillusioned. As we know, their motto is "fair and balanced." They are depressed that the mainstream media (n.b. from which they separate themselves) has spent so much time focusing on Donald's sex tape and barely any covering the latest Wikileaks that reveal Hillary to be exactly who we already know her to be: a mealy-mouthed politician.

Faux News was desperate for Hurricane Matthew to wreak more destruction in order to drown out Donald's delinquent behavior but no such luck. Donald dominates this media maelstrom. Everyone is enjoying being self-righteous about the Donald (and no-one more than me) but people should stop calling Donald Trump a pig. Pigs are very cute.

But, shame, for the sake of Fox News, let's discuss what Wikileaks revealed about Hillary (although the Dems are not admitting these Russian-hacked emails from Clinton aide John Podesta are genuine. Yeah, whatever, Dems. Betcha they're genuine.)

So, Faux News should know that the American people, prurient yet prudish, sexually-repressed and thus sex-obsessed, care most about sex.

Sex trumps the economy, jobs, national security, climate change etc. Thus they are fighting a losing battle. I, myself, have wasted a lot of time trying to write about Trump's policy contradictions e.g. [why are his grandchildren learning Mandarin when he is supposedly going to shut off trade with China](#). No-one cares!

Pundits and politicians should stop saying that the American people want to "get back to the issues." No, they do not! They are relishing this entertaining telenovela with all its tawdriness.

So in sum, Wikileaks could have been damaging to Hillary - especially during the primaries when Bernie was giving her a real run for her (Wall Street) money - but even if there was no sex tape, Wikileaks was not a shock to anyone. Hillary doesn't lead a middle-class life. What a surprise. She is pro-free trade, recommends having a private and public position on issues, and she is very down with Wall Street.

These are all unfortunate truths about Hillary which is why we all [like Bernie so much better than her but we already knew all of this](#). Hillary is almost a Republican of the pre-Trump order: in bed with Big Money, hawkish when it comes to US military interventions.

But will she sell out the middle class as much as the Republicans? I certainly hope not!

19:07 - The reason there is such a political divide in this country between the elites and non-elites is because of neoliberal policies that began under Reagan's supply-side, trickle-down economics in the 1980s. These policies were continued under Bill Clinton and Bush and Obama. That is why this country is experiencing such vast income inequality. However, Trump's proposed policies, as far as anyone can tell from the less than satisfactory details on his site, would be more Reagan trickle-down. These policies are lethal for the middle class. Clinton and the Dems have policies that would help working people far more.

19:11 - Here's [a list of Republicans](#) who are breaking with Trump. Ted Cruz's timing was off. He only just endorsed the Donald after holding out for months despite the GOP's rancor. He endorsed and then a week or so later, his party switches course. I would feel sorry for him if he were actually a man of principle (albeit principles very different from my own). But alas, Ted Cruz is no such thing. However, we should feel very sorry for...

19:33 - [Spare a thought for the daughters](#)

An autumn chill outside but here on the couch, all cozily curled up with more

coconut cake and calming herbal tea. What will be the temperature inside the debate hall? Too hot, too cold or just plain poisonous?

If I were the daughter of Trump or Clinton, I would rather hide on the couch. How painful this must be for the daughters.

They were born, through no fault of their own, to men who have failed their mothers time and time again. Trump's first wife even accused him of rape and then walked it back to say she felt "violated." Tonight, the daughters will have to hear about their fathers' infidelities and sexual transgressions as they sit there in front of a live audience and millions and millions of viewers worldwide. It makes me shudder.

It's even worse for Ivanka Trump who is on camera refuting a woman's allegations that her father sexually harassed her. Ivanka says definitively, "My father is not a groper." But now, according to his own words, yes he is and this must make us reexamine all the cases pending against him, including the accusation that [he raped a 13-year-old girl](#). In the aftermath of the sex tape, muckracking journalists are going through past Howard Stern tapes in which Donald Trump is admiring his own daughter's "voluptuous" breasts. He doesn't take offense when despicable Stern refers to his own daughter as a hot "piece of ass."

I have no words. There is no bottom to Trump's depravity.

19:38 - The Tangerine Bully came to the first debate utterly unprepared. He has done much more preparation for this second debate in one aspect only. He has spent a great deal of time researching Bill Clinton's past infidelities. Now he is appearing in a panel with several of Bill Clinton's accusers!!! Did he fly them to Missouri to have this press conference?

OMG! Bill Clinton is NOT on the ballot. Secondly, if Hillary Clinton "retaliated" against these women, it is not equivalent to what Trump's sex tape reveals.

FALSE EQUIVALENCE: Hillary can in no way be equated to Donald the sexual predator.

Do you remember how I just said moments ago that there is no bottom to Trump's depravity? Let's make it into an acronym. #TNBTD. It boggles the mind.

GOP, this is your fault for allowing a Reality TV star to become your presidential candidate.

19:49 - He wants to bring these women into the debate! WOW! WHO IS ADVISING TRUMP? This is disgusting.

19:56 - The Tangerine Bully is such a disgrace. How cynical is he?

I feel very rattled. How must Hillary be feeling? The Republican Party will never recover from this.

I am going to vomit. Sorry to share this. Then I am going to have the first of several showers.

20:04 - Donald Trump has already lost this debate. He was going to lose any way but he is not capable of losing gracefully. He wants to taint us all with his sordidness and raze the whole country!

20:11 - This is soooo slimy! Team Clinton was prepared for Trump to "go nuclear." He has? Remember the first debate when everyone wondered which Trump would show up? Well, now, everyone is expecting a "wounded animal" which is "capable of wildly lashing out." As I said before, why compare Trump to any animal? Animals have much more integrity.

20:21 - Every Republican should immediately repudiate Trump. No need to see the debate. Bill Clinton's accusers should have their day in court (but haven't they already?). However, this is not the time nor the place and it is not why they are there. They are merely props in Trump's desperate scorched earth political stunt.

Amazing how Trump disrespects women. Whether objectifying their bodies or their pain, it is all about satisfying his own needs and desires.

No amount of coconut cake can see me through this vile spectacle. I have lost my appetite.

20:32 - Feel so sullied. How can one detox from this kind of depravity?

The pundits on TV are saying that Trump campaign staffers like Kellyanne Conway and David Bossie were part of the 1990s "Clinton Wars" when the conservative establishment tried to take out Bill Clinton. They failed then. But are trying again now. Very frightening!

20:49 - These old white people in the Presidential Debate Commission are so dignified and upstanding. Do they have any idea of the kind of slime they are letting on the stage?

Will Hillary Clinton shake Donald Trump's hand?

20:50 - Hillary looks remarkably composed as she arrives at the debate venue. Ten minutes until the candidate and the corpse (his campaign is over) enter the debate hall and take the stage.

20:53 - Last minute cold feet. Should we just change the channel? This promises to be so ugly, so painful...The first ten to fifteen minutes are so high stakes.

20:56 - Bill Clinton, looking very uncomfortable, shakes hands with Melania Trump and Trump progeny. Moderators are taking the stage. They must be cursing their bad luck for being chosen to run this slime circus. They are telling the audience that they shouldn't make any noise. I agree except they should boo the Tangerine Bully. Bill's accusers are sitting in the hall next to Trump progeny's spouses.

21:06 - The candidates arrive on the stage...no handshake! Hillary nods and says hello. Donald looks ruddier than usual. I can't really understand the first question. Something about Hillary being a role model? Hillary is composed, dignified and mature.

21:09 - Trump is also answering the same question. Lamenting all that's wrong with America. Making up numbers. Sniffling again. Rambling.

21:10 - Anderson Cooper asks Trump if he understands that what he said on the sex tape was about sexual assault. Trump says no it wasn't. Locker room talk. Moves to ISIS chopping off heads. Will knock the hell out of ISIS. Hillary looks FURIOUS.

Anderson pressing him. He asks if Trump has ever done those things. Trump says no he hasn't and is embarrassed but he is going to secure the borders. Secretary Clinton, do you want to respond?

21:13 - Clinton is crucifying him on the video. Trump is getting more and more ruddy. He might explode. This video represents who Trump is and further underlines why HE IS NOT FIT TO BE PRESIDENT. Clinton is rock solid in this answer.

21:15 - Trump responds: Hillary "is just words." She failed to "bring jobs to upstate New York" when she was a senator. Tangerine Bully says that he will work for African Americans.

21:16 - Moderator Martha Raddatz interrupts him and asks when did he change if he has changed. Trump cannot be contrite for more than 20 seconds. Has gone after Bill Clinton and now, Hillary Clinton is also guilty. Trump says he is only about words. References women in the audience. Wow! Hillary should be ashamed of herself. Audience applause??? What are they applauding?

21:20 - Hillary's mouth is dry but she quotes Michelle Obama, When they go low, we go high. Much louder applause. Doesn't answer any of Trump's allegations. Talks about Trump's many infractions.

21:21 - Wow! Trump is swimming around the toilet bowl. Now, he's blaming birtherism on Hillary. He's throwing all his ammunition at her - "I didn't think I would say this. If I win, I will instruct a special prosecutor to look into your case." On and on about the emails.

21:24 - Trump says that "she would be in jail," if he was in charge. Audience cheers. WHO is this audience?

21:25 - Hillary is surprised by audience reaction. Trump is pacing, scowling and squinting.

21:27 - Trump is on the emails. Like a tick. Hillary is shaking her head, and laughing, looking exasperated.

21:29 - Trump is beginning to melt down! Complains moderators are against him. "Three on one," he complains. As Hillary tries to answer audience question about Obamacare, the Tangerine Bully (TB) stands behind her in a very intimidating fashion just after claiming that he would let her go first because "I'm a gentleman." So many lies in one debate.

21:34 - TB is saying that Obamacare is a disaster. Not sure what his plan is. He is pacing and trying to dominate Hillary and the space. Swaying like a demented man. It's a little frightening. He is very large. If he had practiced, he would have worked on this body language.

21:36 - Trump is rambling. Anderson Cooper is pressing him for details on his insurance policy. Hillary is sighing and looks very confused as she tries to understand Trump's plans. She smiles condescendingly.

21:37 - Question from an American Muslim. How will you help protect me from Islamophobia.

Trump's answer is full of nonsense. I can't write this out. We have to make Muslims report if they see "things." He is definitely losing this voter. Sniffing. And going on about "radical Islamic terrorism." Basically, his answer was, "Yeah, Islamophobia...Sucks to be you. Not sorry."

21:42 - TB complaining that Raddatz interrupts him. She is asking him to answer the question if the "Muslim ban" still stands. He is talking about "extreme vetting." In his Christian way, he says he doesn't want any Syrian refugees.

21:45 - Hillary, what will you do for Syrian refugees? Clinton will let in refugees after vetting them. Donald looks apoplectic. He is interrupting, lying again that he was against the war. Now, he is moving on to denigrating Mexican migrants. Rambling on about "the border. She's got bad judgment."

21:49 - Wikileaks question. Public/private position. Can a politician be two-faced? Hillary's answer: she was taking about Abraham Lincoln. Pivots to Russian hacking. The Vlad's bromance with Donald and we need to see his tax returns to see how much money he is getting from Russia.

21:52 - Donald says he has "no loans with Russia." He is hanging himself on his taxes. Claiming that he pays taxes. No, he doesn't.

21:53 - Question on taxes. What specific tax provisions will you change for the rich so that they pay their fair share? Trump is unable to answer the question. Blaming Hillary. She has been there for 30 years.

21:56 - Hillary is trouncing him on taxes. She voted to close loopholes that the rich use when she was in Senate.

21:58 - Donald is saying that he doesn't pay taxes but neither do Hillary's friends Soros and Buffett.

21:59 - Anderson Cooper: can you say how many years you've avoided paying taxes?

22:00 - Donald Trump is rambling - from taxes to Benghazi and ISIS. He is getting paler. Pacing like a grumpy old man in an assisted living facility, interrupting her, Anderson is telling him to stop. Hillary is talking about her 30-year record.

22:02 - Martha Raddatz shuts up Trump to move to question about Syria and Aleppo.

22:09 - Finally, TB commits a big mistake. Says he disagrees with his butler's position on Syria. Raddatz asks, what do you think will happen if Aleppo falls? He has no clue. Says he thinks it's fallen. Then moves on to Mosul. Raddatz engaging him on details. He is talking about his endorsements. Trump's inadequacy is becoming more and more apparent. Talking himself into more stupidity.

22:13 - I wish Donald would spontaneously combust now. He is holding the mic to his mouth as Hillary is speaking. Shouldn't he be more fearful of mics now?

22:15 - Can you be a president for all the people? Trump is rambling on. He is acting like a little kid, churlish, spoilt, complaining moderators are ganging up

on him. Cannot answer voter's question. He is just blathering on, boasting about the big crowds at his rallies. Hillary is trying to answer the question.

22:18 - Hillary is getting stronger. Donald is displaying that he doesn't have the stamina to keep his cool for this long. Lack of practice. Ad hominem attacks. He is floundering.

22:28 - From supreme court justice, Trump rambles to how he is very rich and "self-funding" his campaign. No, he is not. Most donors have abandoned him. As time goes on, Trump's pettiness, meanness and self-centered bragging becomes more and more apparent.

22:31 - Trump is failing to answer a question on energy. He is a gas bag. Hillary is on it.

22:33 - Last audience question: Would either of you name one positive thing about the other candidate? Donald refuses to go first as he is supposed to. Hillary says she respects his children. Then pivots to what she wants to do. Very heartfelt answer to the question.

22:36 - Donald Trump says Hillary doesn't quit and doesn't give up. Wow! Such a slimy debate ends on a halfway decent note. They shake hands.

22:38 - The spin begins!

22:53 - I really don't know how to judge this debate. Trump promised to be a Banana Republic Dictator and lock Hillary up if he is elected. MSNBC is interviewing Kellyanne Conway. I think she is morally bankrupt and cannot watch her. CBS average voters are talking now. They seem to have a limited understanding of major issues...oh dear! Let me torture myself and check out Fox News.

23:06 - Pundits are pretty unanimous on all the channels: Trump pleased his base of loyal supporters. But he did not sway any on-the-fence, suburban minds.

Well, he did sway a lot on his heels.

23:09 - Oh, Faux News' "undecided" voters claim Trump was great in debate. But they're still upset about sex tape. However, Faux News claims Donald is back in the race...

23:20 - Gaby writes: "I figured it out. The sniffing is him smelling the shit coming out of his own mouth."

23:29 - Megyn Kelly is trying to fact-check Kellyanne Conway about the shaky case of Bill Clinton's accusers. They are both blindingly blonde and wearing

sparkly diamond earrings but their conversation is very dark. This cannot be a referendum on Bill. This battle of the Kellys is very tiring. Conway squirms out of accountability again and again.

23:41 - CNN's poll shows that Hillary won the night. 57% to 34%. Kellyanne Conway is insisting, despite the poll, that Trump won the debate. She seems to live in the same Trump Tower alternative reality as Donald. As for me, there is no winner. The average decent person is the big loser. It's debasing to watch this low-level of discourse.

23:49 - Poor Wolf Blitzer. He is so earnest, so fond of reality. He says to Conway, "You're a pollster. We'll put the results of our CNN-ORC back on the screen. Clinton won 57 to 34." She comes back with, "I watched a different debate." Exactly.

23:54 - Pence is canceling his strike and resuming full-time employment as Trump's butler. I hate when people who claim to be Christians reveal themselves to be such hypocrites.

00:13 - I offer my congratulations to the moderators who did not flinch. They walked into the teeth of very emotive issues. Bold and brave.

00:15 - Now we can dwell on individual confusions put forward by Trump as answers, depression is overwhelming the couch. Saying that if he had been president, Captain Khan wouldn't have been killed in Iraq. First of all, he didn't oppose that war and secondly, his infinite hubris can only hurt his still grieving parents. This is why one feels so filthy after this debate.

00:18 - Faux News and conservative pundits are fooling themselves that the sex tape is behind Trump. No way, Jose! We're going to be dirtied by that for some time.

00:20 - Pugilistic Corey Lewandowski, former Trump campaign manager, is paid by CNN to come on and shout as if he is in a barroom brawl. He is extremely hyper. Don't they realize it's late at night and this aggressive belligerence makes us want to change the channel? Lewandowski is interrupting and bullying dignified and thoughtful Gloria Borger. The Trump campaign is doing a marvelous job reaching out to women. Is [Roger Ailes of Fox News who had to step down after sexually harassing](#) scores of women still advising the Trump campaign?

00:43 - David Axelrod looks like an old labrador fending off a yippy terrier in Corey Lewandoski. MSNBC is reporting that the third debate may not happen. Unclear why.

00:56 - The third debate is supposed to take place on 19 October in Las Vegas. I cannot even imagine what will happen between now and then. The scheduled moderator is Chris Wallace.

He is very professional but after the first debate I saw him on Fox News discussing with revered journalist, Bob Woodward, how Hillary was "gloating" over her victory. Sure, they said, she has the right to a "victory lap" but then they went on to sanctimoniously declare that no-one likes someone who gloats.

Have they heard of a man named Donald Trump who does nothing but gloat about his wealth, his unpaid taxes, his big rallies, his poll numbers, the size of his genitals and his "right" as a "star" to sweeten his breath with tic-tacs and then grab the genitalia of any passing woman?

Yes, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Woodward, no-one likes a gloater. And we detest double standards!

Tonight, thank god, the last debate, Wednesday 19 October, 2016. It's in Las Vegas, so all the lady anchors/pundits are dressed in slinky cocktail dresses. Here on the couch in Brooklyn, we're 2,693 miles away from the debate stage but frankly, that's not far enough. We will still be spattered with all the sewage that is being churned up!

20:15 - Okay, tonight's couch-commentating will be very spotty for several reasons.

a) We're SOOOOOOOOO OVER this election. It is debasing and debilitating to be so constantly exposed to such lowlifes as the Tangerine Bully aka Donald Trump.

b) The couch is full and so we may be distracted.

c) We're totally over this election. CAN IT BE DONE ALREADY??? The only comfort is the strawberry cupcakes that will sweeten the night.

If you drink, buy an extra bottle now.

20:35 - American politics is attempting to become as uncivilized as Zimbabwean politics, as I [wrote](#) yesterday. Tonight, Bill Clinton will not shake hands with Melania Trump before the debate begins as protocol dictates. Team Clinton is afraid that the Tangerine Bully (TB) will try and pull a stunt as he did at the last debate and try and send out a woman who has accused Bill of sexual misconduct instead of his wife. Nothing is too low for

TB. The dignified Debate Commission nixed his idea last time and apparently he was hopping mad.

20:50 - DONALD TRUMP IS A ZOMBIE!

Donald Trump's candidacy is a corpse according to CNN and MSNBC. They say that there is no way he can win now after all the damage he has sustained from the leaked Access Hollywood sex tape in which he confessed to sexual assault, not to mention the nine or ten women who have come forward to share their accounts of how he preyed upon them. So the left and centrist pundits say there is no way TB can win this race now barring:

- a) Donald's BFF, the Vlad, hacking the elections,
- b) unforeseen natural/medical disasters or a humongous "exogenous" event (e.g. a very damning wikileaks)
- c) divine intervention

On Faux News, however, some commentators are claiming that Donald could still have a path to winning the electoral college if he has a great debate tonight. Is he capable of having a "great" debate? That really depends on one's definition of great. Like Make America Great Again.

20:59 - So...Billy Bush who was Trump's interlocutor in the sex tape has been fired for participating in such a disgusting conversation. [Schoolchildren](#) who watch the debate are afraid to repeat Trump's words because they fear expulsion: "We self-censor a lot," said [Connor Felton](#), 12. "I think if you repeat some stuff that Trump says, you could get sent down to the principal's office. Maybe even expelled."

But yet, Donald Trump is still in the running for the presidency...is that not ridiculous!

21:05 - Hillary in flattering cream, Donald in black with a bright red tie. No handshake! Debate moderator Wallace starts off with a sober question about the supreme court.

21:10 - Trump begins by dissing Judge Ginsburg. Now here we go, second amendment. American people, please explain to me why you so adore your guns??? Hillary is defending some reasonable measures to regulate gun owners but of course, she has to be pro-second amendment

21:12 - Donald now calls her Hillary. Not like the first debate where he stuck to "Secretary Clinton."

21:15 - Roe v. Wade. Does Trump want the Supreme Court to stop abortion? Trump is confused because he hasn't really thought about it.

21:16 - Hillary is pro-choice and wants to prevent the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

21:19 - Donald is not okay with abortion. The couch is full of feminists. They couldn't care less what he is okay with. Hillary is very strong in her response. The couch applauds!

21:22 - Immigration! Will TB tout his silly wall that will never be built?

21:23 - The wall makes a comeback. Trump wants to save us from the "bad drug lords" (are there good drug lords?) and the "bad hombres" pouring across the border.

21:24 - Hillary doesn't want to rip families apart. Hillary says that Donald "choked" when he went to Mexico because he didn't ask the president to pay for the wall.

21:25 - Donald takes the bait. Hyperbole hyperbole hyperbole! TB would make the best deals.

21:26 - Chris Wallace does not allow Donald to ramble. Back to Hillary who gets in another jab about Donald using undocumented workers. Donald says that Obama has deported millions of people - big league (bigly). This is true.

21:28 - Wallace quotes an excerpt from Wikileaks regarding her open borders comment. She says she was talking about energy and then quickly pivots to how Russia is hacking democratic emails. Will Donald reject Russian espionage, she asks?

21:30 - Donald congratulates her on her pivot. He pivots to ISIS and "radical Islamic terrorism." Donald says that his boy, Vlad, does "not respect this person." Hillary disses him well: "That's because they would rather have a puppet like you." Donald defends the Vlad!

21:33 - Chris Wallace asks him if he condemns the Russian attack.

21:34 - Donald says yes but then goes on to congratulate the Vlad on "outsmarting" Obama and Clinton. Hillary pivots to nuclear bombs and how unfit the Donald is. He replies that he has 200 general and admirals endorsing him.

21:35 - Donald is imitating Alec Baldwin imitating him. Is it already Saturday?

21:37 - The Economy! Hillary is all about the middle class.

21:42 - Donald talks nonsense. NAFTA is horrible. I agree with him on that. But the rest of his plan is rubbish, follow links above. Donald keeps interjecting petulantly.

21:45 - Wallace tells him that conservative economists also agree that the numbers in his plan don't add up. Donald says China and India are growing much more than the US, GDP-wise. Donald, answer the question! Your numbers do not add up. He is rambling on to TPP now.

21:48 - Hillary says Donald is crying "crocodile tears" for the working class who have lost jobs to China whilst his companies are buying Chinese aluminum and steel.

21:50 - Ad hominem attacks begin. Donald is dissing her experience. She fires back with her record. He is grumbling into the mic, "Give me a break." Now he is rambling to ISIS (his firewall), Iraq, Iran etc.

21:52 - Fitness to be president! Mr. Trump, you said that you didn't really grope women. Now nine women have come forward to accuse you if as you claim, they are making it up.

21:54 - Trump claims that it's all Hillary's campaign, they are behind all these women coming forward.

21:55 - Hillary is hanging him on his own response to the allegations e.g. the women were not "good-looking enough" for him to harass. He denies saying that. He said it several times. Does Donald know about videotape, where we can see things that he did and said again and again.

21:56 - Donald is saying the ladies' stories have "been debunked." No they haven't. Donald pivots clumsily to her emails. Very clumsy. Hillary says Donald fails to take responsibility and can't apologize. Accuses him of going after a "disabled reporter," he interjects "wrong." Donald, it's a famous clip! Hillary doesn't talk about her emails.

22:00 - Wallace moves on to foundation conflicts of interest with her begin Secretary of State. She is very vulnerable here. She is not apologizing but she should own this. She is not.

22:02 - Donald is asking her to give money back to Saudi Arabia which donated to the foundation.

22:04 - Trump foundation's shadiness. Hillary baits her with his taxes, says undocumented immigrants are paying taxes and he has not. He is losing it now. Can't resist the bait.

22:06 - Mr Trump, you keep saying the election is rigged. Will you accept the result? He says, he will see at the time!!! Total nut job. Wallace lets him talk way too long. Finally, asks him again if he will concede loss if he loses. He REFUSES TO SAY HE WILL. AMERICA, WATCH OUT!!!

22:10 - Hillary scolds him properly. Atukwa! The couch applauds. Watch it on Youtube. Trump should not play around with this nonsense of not accepting election results!

22:12 - Foreign policy. Syria, Iraq. OMG, still 20 mins left of this long, long debate. Syria and Iraq make me cry. Wallace is asking TB now. We discovered in the last debate that he didn't know that Aleppo and Mosul are in two different countries. That's why he is rambling on now about dead generals spinning in their graves.

22:18 - Hillary draws more applause from the couch because Donald tried to diss her and she refused to take it.

22:19 - Wallace says that what he said in the last debate regarding Aleppo was incorrect. Trump is bristling because he is on shaky ground here. He doubles down, insisting that Aleppo has fallen. He is rambling on to Iran now. Donald has no understanding of what is happening.

22:21 - Wow! That was a two-minute-long gourmet word salad which said NOTHING. He ends with, "Thanks a lot, Hillary." She should say, "No, thank you, Donald, for exposing your own ignorance with your trademark flair!"

22:24 - Wallace wants to move on to the final segment. Can we finish? Donald wants to go on and on about ISIS to rally up his base. Wallace is moving on to the debt.

22:26 - Both of their plans increase the debt. Especially the Donald's. Whoever said that is wrong. He will do "tremendous" things for the economy.

22:30 - Blah, blah, blah. We're losing our concentration. We're exhausted...entitlements. Trump can't answer the question. Does he understand it? Pivots to Obamacare. Hillary is answering, Donald interjects, "such a nasty woman."

22:33 - Hillary needs to finish this now. He is so petulant, immature. This is like Einstein versus the class dunce.

22:34 - Unprepared final statements. Debate, please end!!!

22:35 - Hillary's is cogent and polished. Donald wastes time dissing her at the beginning of his one minute. His minute is full of hyperbolic falsehoods.

22:38 - They both shake hands with Wallace, NOT with each other. More breaking the protocols of civility that underpin American politics. Correction: that underpinned American politics, past tense...?

22:43 - Even Faux News realizes that Trump saying that he may not accept the election result is a HUGE NYAYA AND YET ANOTHER REASON WHY HE IS UNFIT!

23:05 - CNN's Trumpsters are so annoying. We are hanging out with Trevor Noah and will see what spin is being spun when Trevor goes to commercial. But Hillary won handily. Donald should retire his campaign and ask Elon Musk for a ride to Mars.

23:14 - Trump progeny spinning on Fox. BTW, the couch does not support the colonization of Mars. That's very settler-colonial and we don't need more of that! But we should send a diplomatic mission and ask if they would be willing to accept the Donald so that we can save our planet!

23:45 - Good job, Chris Wallace. You did manage to insert some substance into this debate, no easy task. Delicious rootbeer float to energize last bit of couch-commentating.

23:49 - Clinton wins the CNN/ORC poll, 52 to 39%. This means she has won all three debates by double digits. Well done, Hillary! Please don't delete any more emails or install any more private servers.

00:00 - Good bye, adios, bon voyage, Donald! Your campaign is over and thank god. It has been frightening. I will never look at tic-tacs or skittles the same way. I suggest you move to a Banana Republic where [your "Third World" campaign tactics](#) may earn you a presidency for life. But stop trying to debase America's democracy. Yes, it is flawed. Yes, it could be better. But please, American people, do NOT take it for granted. You have no idea how lucky you're to live in a country where political opponents do not jail, torture and murder each other, where the election result does not automatically lead to violence, civil war or a military coup. Please don't take it for granted.

Good bye from the couch! Good bye, O Beloved Couch! You have been great. But now we have to go to London, Jo'burg, Delhi. We will be watching...

Please American people, make the right choice and repudiate the Tangerine Bully who says he will keep us "in suspense" while he considers whether to

accept the election result thus threatening to bulldoze the pillar of your democracy.

Make the results so clear that even the Donald will have to accept reality...

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