

The Fieldston News

OCTOBER 5TH, 2016

SPECIAL EDITION

Upcoming Special Assembly: Politics and the Media

On Thursday, October 6th, the Fieldston News will be hosting five panelists for a conversation about the role of the media in this presidential election. Our four distinguished guest speakers are: Maggie Haberman, Alex Burns, Howard Wolfson, and Larry Schwartztol. The first 45 minutes will be a panel discussion moderated by the editors of the Fieldston News: Alex Greenberg, Keerti Gopal, and Emma Mitnick. We will cover a variety of topics from racial justice, sexism, the democratization of the media, the recent debate performances of the candidates, and how these themes are impacted by, and intersect with the media. The last 30 minutes will be a Q & A where students will be invited to ask panelists questions about their views and their professional experiences in their respective fields. After the assembly, students may go to the Stu-Com for further conversations with our panelists. Our deep thanks to Sam Caplan (IV) for organizing this assembly. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!



Maggie Haberman

Maggie Haberman is a Fieldston alum, class of '91. She currently works as a presidential campaign correspondent at the New York Times, and a political analyst at CNN. Haberman attended Sarah Lawrence College and worked for the New York Daily News and Politico before joining the New York Times.



Alexander Burns

Alex Burns is a Fieldston alum, '04, and former Fieldston student body co-president. Professionally, Burns began his career at Politico and currently works at the New York Times as a correspondent for politics and Metro and as a political analyst at CNN. He attended Harvard University.



Howard Wolfson

Howard Wolfson, Fieldston class of '85, has spent his career as a Democratic strategist. Highlights of Wolfson's career include: working as the executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and communications director for multiple Senate campaigns, including Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton. Wolfson was the communications director for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and the Deputy Mayor for Government Affairs and Communications under Mayor Bloomberg. Currently, he works at Bloomberg where he leads the Education program at Bloomberg Philanthropies, runs Bloomberg's Super PAC, and is a senior advisor to Bloomberg. He attended University of Chicago and received a masters in U.S. History at Duke University.



Larry Schwartztol

Larry Schwartztol is the Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program. He previously worked at the ACLU as a Staff Attorney in the Racial Justice Program and National Security Project. He has worked on cases involving the "school-to-prison pipeline", economic justice, educational equality, and racial justice. He attended University of Chicago and Yale Law School.

Then

Founder's Day Speech (Excerpted)

BY ALEXANDER BURNS, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2006

Good morning. Founder's Day is a time for celebration. It is a time to think about what this school is as an institution, to consider what our goals are, and to appreciate the scope and responsibility of our moral mission. Most of all, though, Founder's Day is a time for questioning, a day on which we try to clarify for ourselves the nature and character of our community, and ask pressing questions about the nuances of our identity. Today, I have such a question.

The fundamental uniqueness of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School comes from its desire to produce graduates who are not just academically competent, but who possess a desire to improve their world. People who seek to reform, not just to succeed. This definition of our identity is one that we know well. I wonder, though, how it is that Fieldston students learn, to be agents of social change. What is it about the Fieldston community that allows Felix Adler's progressive ideology to find new devotees year after year?

It is certainly not a community-wide willingness to embrace

change. Reform happens slowly within the walls of our school. Too often, when it does happen, it must be imposed from the top down. But though the tone of our school may not completely match up with our liberal ideology, Fieldston continues to produce reformers and activists of all kinds. How is this possible?

Our ethics and community service programs certainly help. The open-minded discussion of moral problems and admirable service to those less fortunate than ourselves go a long way towards turning out the kind of graduates Felix Adler would have admired. But there is more. I believe our community succeeds in producing agents of social change because of the phenomenal role models we have in our midst. There are students, teachers, and administrators at this school who give new meaning to the term "active participation," and it is in no small part thanks to their inspirational presence and work that Fieldston succeeds in its mission.

Now

After a Disappointing Debate, Donald Trump Goes on the Attack (Excerpted)

BY ALEXANDER BURNS AND NICK CORASANITI

September 27, 2016
(New York Times)

Donald J. Trump lashed out on Tuesday in the aftermath of a disappointing first debate with Hillary Clinton, scolding the moderator, criticizing a beauty pageant winner for her physique and raising the prospect of an all-out attack on Bill Clinton's marital infidelities in the final stretch of the campaign.

Having worked assiduously in recent weeks to cultivate a more disciplined demeanor on the campaign trail, Mr. Trump cast aside that approach on Tuesday morning. As Mrs. Clinton embarked on an ebullient campaign swing through North Carolina, aiming to press her newfound advantage, Mr. Trump vented his grievances in full public view.

Sounding weary and impatient as he called into a Fox News program,

Mr. Trump criticized Lester Holt, the NBC News anchor, for asking "unfair questions" during the debate Monday evening, and speculated that someone might have tampered with his microphone. Mr. Trump repeated his charge that Mrs. Clinton lacked the "stamina" to be president, a claim critics have described as sexist, and suggested that in the future he might raise Mr. Clinton's past indiscretions.

Defying conventions of political civility, Mr. Trump leveled cutting criticism at a beauty pageant winner, Alicia Machado, whom Mrs. Clinton held up in Monday night's debate as an example of Mr. Trump's disrespect for women. Mr. Trump said on Fox he was right to disparage the former Miss Universe because of her weight.

"She was the winner and she gained a massive amount of weight, and it was a real problem," said Mr. Trump, who was the pageant's executive producer at the time.

Mrs. Clinton has already been broadcasting an ad highlighting crude remarks from Mr. Trump about women; she answered his taunts about her marriage with a rhetorical shrug, telling reporters Mr. Trump was free to run whatever kind of campaign he preferred. On board her campaign plane, she plainly relished her moment of apparent triumph, and poked fun at Mr. Trump's morning lamentations. "Anybody who complains about the microphone," she said, "is not having a good night."

Mr. Trump's setback in the debate represents a critical test in the final six weeks of the race. Having drawn closer to Mrs. Clinton in the polls, Mr. Trump now faces an intensified clash over his personal temperament and his attitudes toward women and minorities — areas of grave concern for many voters that were at the center of the candidates' confrontation on Monday.



Maggie Haberman and Alexander Burns in conversation with the Fieldston News during 2012 Politico Assembly. PHOTO BY TOBY HIMMEL

Donald Trump Leans Into Rough News Cycle

BY MAGGIE HABERMAN

September 29, 2016
(New York Times)

When presented with the opportunity to move past a difficult news cycle, Donald J. Trump has struggled to do so throughout the campaign.

The topic of Alicia Machado proved no exception for Mr. Trump and his team on Wednesday. Hillary Clinton invoked Ms. Machado, the 1996 winner of the Miss Universe pageant, which Mr. Trump used to own, during the first general election debate Monday night to illustrate the Republican nominee's disparaging comments about women.

Mr. Trump, Ms. Machado has said, called her "Miss Piggy" for gaining weight after winning the crown.

Most politicians would find a way to move away from a dam-

aging story line. But Mr. Trump has dug in for two days, as have his supporters, on the notion that he did nothing wrong — and that a Miss Universe should not gain weight in the first place. One of those surrogates, Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, has struggled with his own weight.

So, for that matter, has Mr. Trump, who conceded on "The Dr. Oz Show" while discussing his health that he needs to lose weight.

None of this seems helpful to Mr. Trump as he is facing a historically wide gender gap. But it is reminiscent of what he has done when faced with criticism over incendiary or insensitive remarks, such as one about the federal judge overseeing a case involving Trump University who has Mexican-born parents, or one about the Muslim mother of a soldier killed in Iraq.

Focus Turns to Early Voting in Key States

BY MAGGIE HABERMAN

September 30, 2016
(New York Times)

In a race that polls show will cleave to ideological lines, a major focus this week has been how many people vote, and how early.

Hillary Clinton was in Iowa on Thursday to promote the kickoff of early voting in the state, which polls show has moved toward Donald J. Trump.

In-person voting has begun there, and in places like Florida, a critical swing state, early voting will start in the coming days. At the same time, voter registration efforts are underway on college campuses and elsewhere, including one called TurboVote, a nonpartisan effort with 35 technology firms and other companies that have pledged to try to bolster voter rolls.

The reality of modern elections is that a large chunk of the outcome is determined before Election Day, including through absentee ballot requests.

Mrs. Clinton has been buoyed by public opinion polls that have showed her handily winning her first debate against Mr. Trump in New York this week. It was a performance that helped slow Mr. Trump's momentum after a difficult period for Mrs. Clinton following her diagnosis of pneumonia.

As votes are beginning to be cast, Mr. Trump is locked in one of his worst series of news cycles of the general election, after he doubled down on descriptions of a Miss Universe winner (he used to own the pageant) as overweight. He has sought to shift off that discussion, but has done so by raising questions, both himself and through surrogates, that cast Bill Clinton's marital infidelities as a character issue for his wife.

Trump and Clinton Move From First Debate Into Swing States

BY MAGGIE HABERMAN

September 28, 2016
(New York Times)

Hillary Clinton will try to press forward with party unity on Wednesday, and Donald J. Trump will make a pitch in the Midwest, two days after their contentious first debate, in which the Democratic nominee was widely seen as outperforming her Republican opponent.

Mrs. Clinton will appear with Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the rival she beat in the race for the Democratic nomination. The pair will be in New Hampshire, where polls have tightened between Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump will appear in Iowa and in Wisconsin. The first is a state that polls indicate he is likely to

win, and the second is one he hopes to make competitive.

For Mrs. Clinton, appearing with Mr. Sanders is an effort not just to highlight party unity, but also to energize the senator's base of millennial voters who do not seem to have warmed to her. She appeared buoyant and recharged after the debate on Tuesday, while Mr. Trump dug in on some of his harshest attacks of both her and of people unrelated to the 2016 contest, such as a Miss Universe pageant winner who, he said on Fox News, had gained a "massive" amount of weight.

Wednesday gives Mr. Trump yet another chance to regroup after a rough outing. However, on Tuesday evening, at a rally in Florida, he showed little interest in moving on.



Maggie Haberman on ABC News.

COURTESY OF ABC NEWS.

Creating A Clinton Strategy With An Instinct for the Kill (Excerpted)

BY RAYMOND HERNANDEZ

November 13, 2006
(New York Times)

Mr. Wolfson, who can turn from sweet to intimidating in a flash, is no ordinary consultant. As communications director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, he is one of her fiercest advocates in public and one of her most trusted counselors in private, a hard-edged architect of her message. With the Clinton clout behind him, he took his take-no-prisoners approach not only to Ms. Gillibrand's operation but also to other campaigns that he helped propel to victory this election.

Now, Mr. Wolfson can turn more of his attention to his main client, Mrs. Clinton, as she prepares for a possible presidential run in 2008.

In the next few months, as Democrats hoping for the party's presidential nomination jockey for

position, Mr. Wolfson will oversee the fabled Clinton war room as Mrs. Clinton steps further onto the national stage. The operation has a pivotal task: researching the records and backgrounds of opponents, writing Mrs. Clinton's policy statements, responding to criticism from opponents and keeping tabs on the legions of reporters whose coverage of her shapes her public image.

Mr. Wolfson, who is 39, rose quickly through the ranks of political consultants. After covering local politics for a newspaper in Northern Virginia about 13 years ago, he decided to jump into politics himself, going to work for the re-election campaign of an Indiana congressman, who wound up losing.

Mr. Wolfson, who is from Yonkers, eventually returned to New York to work for Representative Nita M. Lowey of Westchester in 1993 before becoming the spokesman for Charles E. Schumer dur-



Howard Wolfson, a political consultant, at his office in Manhattan. As Senator Clinton decides whether to run for president, he has built a formidable reputation. COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing his successful 1998 campaign against Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato.

The trajectory of his career was altered dramatically in 1999, when he went to work for Mrs. Clinton, who was running for the Senate in New York as first lady. From there, he went on to lead the Democratic Party's effort to take back the House as executive director of the

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the 2001-2002 election cycle.

"I was attracted to politics as a means of advancing the kind of policies and government that I believe passionately in," he said. "Politics is the way we effect change."

From The Fair Housing Act to Ferguson: Where You Live Impacts How You're Policed (Excerpted)

BY LARRY SCHWARTZOL

January 20, 2015
(American Civil Liberties Union)

Passed in 1968, the Fair Housing Act is one of the major legislative victories of the civil rights movement. It has helped rid our country of the most overt forms of housing discrimination, such as building single-race housing developments and using lending maps that demarcated black neighborhoods as mortgage-free zones.

But discrimination hasn't gone away — instead, it has subtly morphed, preventing us from creating truly diverse communities.

The most harmful contemporary instances of discrimination can take several forms. Sometimes

policies that are neutral on their face interact with entrenched segregation — typically the vestiges of prior intentional discrimination — to reinforce exclusionary policies. For example, zoning regulations that prevent the construction of mixed-income housing in overwhelmingly white areas often have the effect of excluding non-white families. In other instances, policies create conditions where individual landlords or mortgage brokers apply ingrained stereotypes or implicit biases to treat individuals differently based on race, even if that was not the intent of the underlying policies. And, of course, discriminatory policies are sometimes the product of outright racial bias that a perpetrator knows better than to broadcast explicitly so that the intention to discriminate remains disguised.

The connection between racialized space and racialized policing shouldn't be surprising. Intensive residential segregation very often leads to concentrated poverty, a lack of municipal services, and failing schools — all of which contribute to an increase in certain crimes while also breeding stereotypes about disorder and criminality. These dynamics contribute significantly to the biased policing in predominately black or Latino neighborhoods. At the same time, the existence of identifiably black and white spaces leads to unfair targeting of minority individuals who happen to be in predominately white neighborhoods, especially the nonwhite residents of neighborhoods.

And that brings us back to the future of the Fair Housing Act. The FHA has for decades provided the

most powerful legal tools available for dismantling residential segregation. It has done tremendously important work, but that work is not done. When it comes to addressing housing discrimination in its current forms, the disparate impact standard is an absolutely indispensable tool. It smokes out covert intentional discrimination. More profoundly, it allows courts to carefully scrutinize policies that perpetuate patterns of segregation to determine whether they can be justified.

Removing this pillar of civil rights law would set back equal housing opportunity in dramatic ways. It would also set back the movement to reform bias-based policing at exactly the wrong moment.