

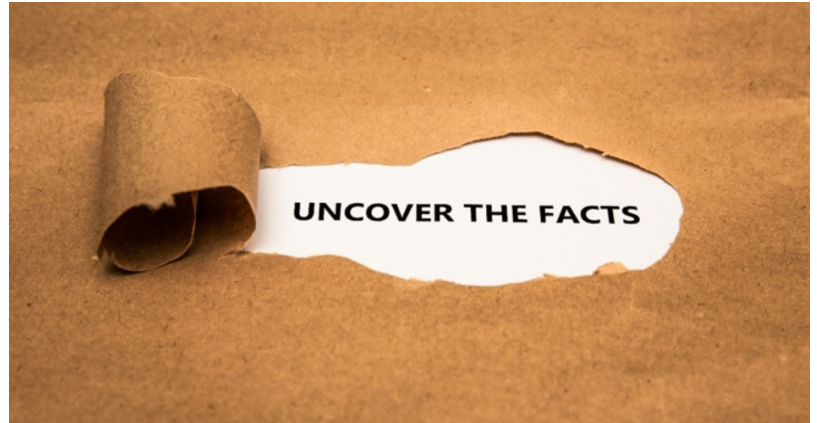


Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on September 26, 2018

New York Times Yearbook Story Hid Anti-Trump Affiliations of Three Sources

The headline in *The New York Times* was this: "[Kavanaugh's Yearbook Page Is 'Horrible, Hurtful' to a Woman It Named.](#)"

Another day, another hit piece aimed at Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. This one supposedly dug up a salacious, coded message, from Kavanaugh and his awful friends, implying lots of sex with an easy girl.



Except the message wasn't salacious or about sex.

A day later, on Tuesday, we learned the identity of one source for the hit piece: a homosexual Democrat the *Times* hid from readers.

But he was merely one of three politically-active Democrats that readers knew nothing about.

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The *Times*' Journalistic Transgressions

The hit piece was carefully crafted to damage the reputation of Kavanaugh and his friends by connecting them to the mysterious term "Renate Alumnus."

[Reported the *Times*](#), "the word 'Renate'" appears at least 14 times in Georgetown Preparatory School's 1983 yearbook, on individuals' pages and in a group photo of nine football players, including Judge Kavanaugh, who were described as the 'Renate Alumni': It is a reference to Renate Schroeder, then a student at a nearby Catholic girls' school."

Renate was "part of the football players' unsubstantiated boasting about their conquests."

The story looked especially bad for Kavanaugh because "Renate" is Renate Schroeder Dolphin, one of the women [who signed a letter](#) backing Kavanaugh after Christine Blasey Ford accused him of rape.

Dolphin was understandably mortified and disgusted, and yet again, Kavanaugh found himself denying an outrageous claim.

Federalist: Homosexual Anti-Trump Democrat Behind Story

Problem for the *Times* is, stories these days are easily checked. [The Federalist's Mollie Hemingway learned](#) that carefully crafted hit piece was scrubbed of a source called "Mr. Madaleno."

The *Times*, Hemingway correctly noted, uses a full name on first reference, proceeding with Mr. or Ms. plus surname thereafter. The sentence in question used "Mr." on first reference, but was removed, [according to a website](#) that tracks surreptitious changes in the *Times*. Given the explosive charge, the proper correction was leaving Madaleno as the source but adding his first name. But again, the *Times* scrubbed the name altogether.

And who might "Mr. Madaleno" be?



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“Richard S. Madaleno Jr., a classmate of Kavanaugh’s at Georgetown Prep, is a state senator in Maryland who recently lost a bid for the Democratic nomination for governor,” [Hemingway reported](#). “He garnered headlines for a campaign ad that featured him kissing his male spouse as a rebuke of Trump. The 30-second spot has him telling viewers he seeks to ‘deliver progressive results and stand up to Donald Trump before listing things he’s done “that already infuriate” Trump.

Madaleno and a *Times* reporter denied his being the provenance of the story, but he did admit he spoke to the *Times*, the *Baltimore Sun* [reported](#).

As well, the *Sun* reported, “The *Times*’ reference to a “Mr. Madaleno” appears to have been an editing error.” The reporter said “the *Times* interviewed Madaleno and planned to use his quote, then removed his comments as redundant. She said the *Times* missed the ‘stray reference’ to Madaleno when cutting the story.”

Maybe, but the question is why the *Times* didn’t use Madaleno’s comments given his prominence, and why did he not divulge the political affiliations of the sources it quoted on the record. For instance, another source was “a campaign surrogate for Madaleno,” [Hemingway reported](#), another undisclosed fact. Nor did the *Times* divulge that another source was an editor of the yearbook in question, or that he was Facebook friends with Madaleno whose “likes” include Anti-Trump Army and Bernie Sanders.

“Devastating” Loss

Most importantly, as with the other allegations against Kavanaugh, key sources for the story, Dolphin and the men who supposedly defamed her, denied they ever had sex. Dolphin emphatically denied, as did the men in question.

“Four of the players in the ‘Renate Alumni’ photo,” the [Times reported](#), said “that they had ‘never bragged about’ sexual contact or anything like that with Ms. Dolphin. The statement ... said the yearbook’s ‘Renate’ references ‘were intended to allude to innocent dates or dance partners and were generally known within the community of people involved for over 35 years.’”

[According to Hemingway](#), the *Times* truncated the first line of the statement, which began this way: “None of us has ever taken part in any kind of verbal conduct or physical actions described by the *Times* and never bragged about or suggested any such thing.”

As well, reported Hemingway, the *Times* “downplayed or ignored” friends of Kavanaugh’s who denied the story.

End result? Attempting to smear Kavanaugh again, the *Times* destroyed friendships of four decades. One member of the smeared group said Dolphin’s anguish is “immeasurable; the loss of her trust and respect is devastating.”

Hemingway withheld his name to stop the *Times* from intensifying its effort to destroy him.

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