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Founder/PublisherBobbie Dore Foster
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Advertising ManagerChristen McCurdy
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Seattle Office CoordinatorSusan Fried
Photographer

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415 N. Killingsworth St.
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228Telephone (503) 285-5555
Fax: (503) 285-2900

info@theskanner.com

www.TheSkanner.com

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Opinion

Our Parents Lied to Us: Names Do Hurt, Particularly When Used by the Political Right

Bill
Fletcher Jr.*The Global
African*

In the immediate aftermath of the discovery of bombs targeted at Democratic political leaders, media outlets and personalities critical of Donald Trump, I found myself thinking about that old rhyme, "...sticks and stones will break your bones, but names will never hurt you..." Well, it turns out that was a lie; names and words do hurt.

Trump's immediate reply to the discovery of the bombs was to call for unity and then, once again, attack the media, as if the media is the source of the growing political tension. Yet what was missing was any acknowledgement of the impact of his own words. Take, for instance, his support of a Republican Congressman — Greg Gianforte — who assaulted a journalist. To praise such a person, even if Trump was joking (and I have no reason to believe that he was joking) sends a message that physical assault is permissible. Or, consider what took place last year in Charlottesville with the march of the neofascists. When Trump condemned both sides equally, failing to acknowledge that it was the neofascists who not only provoked violence but

killed a demonstrator, he was sending a dangerous signal.

It is not a giant step between approving physical assault and members of his base believing that it is permissible to up the ante and plant bombs.

I hasten to add that as soon

“It is not a giant step between approving physical assault and members of [Trump's] base believing that it is permissible to up the ante and plant bombs

as the bombs were discovered, many Trump supporters jumped forward describing this as a “false flag” operation, i.e., something made to look as if it originated from the political Right but actually came from the Left. This has been the response of the political Right generally when right-wing terrorist plots or actions have been discov-

ered. What we do know is that since 11 September 2001, the preponderance of terrorist actions in the USA have originated among right-wingers (rather than jihadists), so the likelihood is that the actions did arise from the Right.

So, not only do we now know that the alleged bomber was a Trump supporter but that this attempt at mass assassination has coincided with the murder of two African Americans in Kentucky and the massacre of Jewish worshippers in Pittsburgh. Trump's

harassment of various racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, not to mention the harassment and vilification of women. And even when he chooses to condemn any action taken by a domestic terrorist, his words ring hollow, as former President Obama noted last week.

So, let's be clear that this is not a moment to ignore the words of demagogues. This is not a moment to question the thinking of President Trump or his intent. His intent is obvious insofar as he lays the groundwork for his followers to go forth and engage in a range of actions that have no place in a society that calls itself democratic. This is a moment to challenge the words of a demagogue and the actions of his followers directly and create an environment in which racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and religious bigotry is never tolerated. There is no middle ground on this.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the former president of TransAfrica Forum. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com. And look for his new novel, The Man Who Fell from the Sky.

Republicans Change the Script and Now Support Obamacare

Healthcare in 2018 looms as a major national issue, which will determine how Americans will vote for a candidate. The Democrats and President Obama were correct when they implemented the (ACA) Affordable Care Act. There were many problems in executions with the ACA, but 15 million additional Americans were able to get health insurance coverage who were denied earlier.

Once President Obama left office, the ACA has become more popular and the pre-existing conditions provision has Republican states putting ballot initiatives as amendments to expand healthcare programs. The provision for pre-existing conditions has become one of the major issues in the 2018 mid-term election.

“It also has become a focal point in numerous governors' races. The election-day push in conservative leaning states for one of the main aspects of the Obama's healthcare law has surprised many Republican lawmakers after they spent years attacking it,” says Paul Waldman, reporter of the Washington Post.

The Republicans have tried to repeal the ACA at least 60 or 70 times and, as there are only 8 days left before the election, many of the Repub-

Roger
Caldwell*NNPA
Columnist,
On Point
Media Grp*

licans (starting with Trump) are changing their tunes. Some would call this lying and fabricating the truth, but the Republicans consider this good politics.

“The Republicans have tried to repeal the ACA at least 60 or 70 times and, as there are only 8 days left before the election, many of the Republicans (starting with Trump) are changing their tunes. Some would call this lying

isting conditions, and if they don't, they will after I speak to them,” he said on Twitter. “I am in total support.”

It appears that this new initiative is starting to be pushed by Trump and the Republican Party because the Democrats and President Obama were right for the last eight years. The Republicans have tried to destroy and kill the ACA every way they could think of, but Americans are not dumb or sleep-walking, so now they

Obamacare constitutionally. They argue that the rest of the law does not hold up, after the individual mandate provision was rolled back last year.

So, Trump and the Republicans are talking out of all sides of their mouth, and healthcare is a complete mess if Americans follow the party in power. President Trump ran in 2016 on scrapping Obamacare and nearly succeeded in doing so last year. Now, he is lying again, and it is incumbent for the media and Democrats to expose President Trump's lies and call him out as a fabricator.

The Democrats are on the side of truth, and they must continue to present the facts, because the truth will set America free from criminals and corruption.

“Despite the fact that America spends almost twice as much per person on healthcare as any other country, our healthcare outcomes lag behind other nations'. We get poor value for what we spend,” says Sen. Bernie Sanders. Healthcare is a major issue in the 2018 election, vote with the Democrats.

As you vote in this election this year, know your facts, and study the candidate's record and platform. Many of the candidates are lying, and not telling the truth. Don't be fooled.

have flipped the script.

Healthcare should not be a privilege, it should be a right — and universal. As Americans demand universal healthcare, the richest country in the world should be a model for healthcare around the globe.

Even though President Trump says he is supporting pre-existing conditions there appears to be a contradiction in his new imitative. Twenty (20) Republican states have a lawsuit in court challenging