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‘Not one decent cell in his body’



Newly released correspondence with the late Jeffrey Epstein show the degradation of his relationship with President Donald Trump, in which he called Trump “borderline insane.” STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Epstein trashed former friend Trump in emails

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – “Dirty.” “(Expletive) crazy.” “Borderline insane.” A Mafia don but with the “great dangerous power” of being America’s president and commander-in-chief.

That’s how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender’s texts and emails released Nov. 12 by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing Epstein said about Trump in the 20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

“I am the one able to take him down.”

The White House and Trump himself tried to spin the document release – and a later one by Republicans – as being a giant nothingburger.

On Nov. 14, Trump said on social media he was asking the Department of Justice to investigate Democrats he says “spent large portions of their life



A billboard in New York City’s Times Square calls for the release of files pertaining to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Newly released emails show the late Epstein’s opinion of President Donald Trump as a crook. ADAM GRAY/GETTY IMAGES FILE

with the disgraced financier: “Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, J.P. Morgan, Chase, and many other people and institutions.”

At the same time, Trump railed against Republicans working with Democrats to force the full release of

Epstein’s federal case files, and urged them to stop digging into his relationship with the disgraced financier.

“Some Weak Republicans have fallen into their clutches because they are soft

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Rocket achieves ‘mission success’

Launch a major step forward for Blue Origin

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

After days of delays, Blue Origin’s towering New Glenn rocket thundered into the skies above Florida once again.

It was the spacecraft’s second-ever launch following its debut earlier in January. It was also New Glenn’s first mission for paying customers.

Hitching a ride aboard the powerful two-stage vehicle were twin NASA satellites now making a voyage to Mars in a landmark mission to pave the way for the first humans to reach the red planet. What’s more, in a major test for Blue Origin’s massive rocket, the spacecraft’s booster also succeeded in returning for a landing on a barge stationed off the shores of Florida.

Officials with Blue Origin and NASA alike hailed the launch as a major step forward for billionaire Jeff Bezos’ space technology company, which aims to compete with fellow billionaire Elon Musk’s SpaceX – a dominant force in the commercial rocket launch service industry.

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Officials with Blue Origin and NASA alike hailed the Nov. 13 New Glenn rocket launch in Florida as a major step forward for billionaire Jeff Bezos’ space technology company. CRAIG BAILEY/FLORIDA TODAY

Michelle Obama’s fashion choices inform her legacy

Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY

It didn’t take long for former first lady Michelle Obama to reminisce about the White House’s East Wing.

Obama was speaking about her new book, “The Look,” in front of an audience in Washington, DC, for a live taping of the podcast “IMO: The Look,” when she compared the brightly colored outfits she wore as first lady to the work she did in the East Wing, which President Donald Trump tore down in October to build a ballroom.

“It felt like the East Wing was where there was color and light and joy,” Obama told moderator and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Wesley Morris. The podcast is a companion series to the “IMO” podcast Obama hosts with her brother, Craig Robinson.

She explained that, for her and her husband, former President Barack Obama, the East Wing was about welcoming the American people – both in a literal sense, as it served as the visitor’s entrance to the White House, and through the work they did there.

“We were thinking about those kids

like us who were outside of the gates of the South Lawn looking in ... not knowing what it is to be in the White House ... because a lot of those kids didn’t feel invited in,” Michelle Obama said. “Our goal was to make that house as open as possible, and the East Wing, that was the place where that got done.”

Throughout her White House tenure and beyond, Obama’s fashion choices have been driven by that desire to welcome and embrace the public.

In her new book, written with her longtime stylist Meredith Koop, the former first lady takes readers on a journey

through the evolution of her clothes, hair and makeup from a kid growing up on the South Side of Chicago to her time in the White House and now, as a political and cultural symbol.

“The point isn’t the look,” she said, alluding to the book’s title. “It’s us looking out for the country. It’s us looking out for the nation. It’s us looking out for all those people who are depending on us. ... The look goes both ways.”

During her eight years as first lady, Obama was constantly on the move.

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