

The Thielensian

The 2024 Presidential Debate: Who Was Honest?

By: Hannah Stoughton

Sept. 17th, 2024: Presidential candidates Donald J. Trump (R) and Kamala Harris (D) debated on national television on September 10th, 2024.

After a tumultuous and unpredictable election preparation season, Democrats have nominated Vice President Kamala Harris for the presidential candidacy, and Republicans have nominated Former President Donald Trump to represent their party. Harris picked Tim Walz, the Governor of Minnesota, to be her running mate, while Trump opted for JD Vance, the junior Senator for Ohio. The confirmation of Trump by the GOP was anticipated by Republican party members, but the confirmation of Harris was unexpected, as most believed President Joe Biden to be candidate once more on the Democratic ticket. Due to the President's desire to drop out of the race, another Presi-

Kamala Harris.



dential debate was held – the first between Trump and Harris.

Each candidate attacked key issues within the debate. Fact-checkers from across the country dove deeply into each statement, particularly the hot topic issues. Here is what they have to say about the nominees' statements regarding each major talking point:

Claim: 21 million people have poured into the U.S. during the Biden administration (Trump). False.

Fact: In the fiscal years of 2021, 2022, 2023, and until August of 2024, 10,680,891 documented encounters at the border have occurred (U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Stats & Summaries). This is contradictory to the claimed 21 million, as well as Trump's prior claims of 15 million (Green Bay, Wisconsin Rally, 33:35) and 20 million (Interview with Elon Musk, 20:23).

Claim: A lot of these illegal immigrants coming in, they're trying to get them to vote. They can't even speak English. They don't even



Donald Trump.

know what country they're in practically and these people are trying to get them to vote, and that's why they're allowing them to come into our country (Trump). False.

Fact: USA.gov states that no noncitizens are able to vote in U.S. elections. The Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Case analysis displays 25 total election fraud cases since 2003 in any election.

Claim: Donald Trump left us the worst unemployment since the Great Depression (Harris). Misleading.

Fact: The highest unemployment rate in The Great Depression was 25.6%, and since then, the highest unemployment rate was 14.8%...

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...during Covid. It is technically true that Trump had the highest unemployment rates since The Great Depression, but he did not “leave” the Biden-Harris administration with these rates; the Dec. 2020 (just prior to the Jan. 2021 inauguration) unemployment rate was 6.7% (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis).

Claim: Economists project that Trump's tariff proposals would cost middle-class families about \$4,000 more a year (Harris).

Technically True.

Fact: Trump has stated multiple times that if he were elected president, he would implement tariffs on imports and Chinese goods. Economists have released statements and analyses that show that it would cost average Americans more money annually, but not all agree on the amounts. Liberal think tank The Center for American Progress Fund and conservative think tank American Action Forum both released estimates of \$3,900 being added annually to middle-class incomes, whereas institutions like the Tax Policy Cen-

ter and the Peterson Institute for International Economics have estimated figures like \$1,800 and \$2,600 respectively.

Claim: Sixteen Nobel laureates have described Trump's economic plan as something that would increase inflation and invite a recession by the middle of next year (Harris).

Mostly true.

Fact: A letter (provided by Axios) supporting Biden's economic strategies over Trump's was released prior to Biden's withdrawal from the electoral race, and it was signed by sixteen Nobel laureates. That being said, there was no mention of a recession within the document, only implications of strong negative impacts associated with a Trumpian economy.

Claim: The former president has said that the climate change is a hoax (Harris).

True.

Fact: Trump has often stated that climate change is a hoax, including on X (formerly Twitter) in November of

2012 (“[T]he concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive,” X), January of 2014 (“Snowing in Texas and Louisiana, record setting freezing temperatures throughout the country and beyond. Global warming is an expensive hoax!” X), and during a rally in North Carolina during the 2016 election campaign (“Obama's talking about all of this with the global warming and ... a lot of it's a hoax. It's a hoax. I mean, it's a money-making industry, okay? It's a hoax, a lot of it,” 35:37). He also withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement, a global climate agreement that aimed to decrease negative impacts on the environment globally, during his presidency.

Claim: In Springfield, Ohio, immigrants are “eating the cats, they're eating the pets.” (Trump).

False.

Fact: After a viral Facebook post claiming that Haitian immigrants are killing and eating the...

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...animals (particularly pets) in the Springfield, Ohio, area, Trump has repeated this claim, despite no evidence coming forward to support this headline. Springfield Mayor Rob Rue has stated that the claims of geese being caught and killed are unsubstantiated, as well as the claims about cats and dogs also being caught and killed for food.

Claim: The former governor of Virginia “said we put the baby aside and then we determine what we want to do with the baby.” (Trump)

Misleading.

Fact: In an interview with WTOP on

Jan. 30th, 2019, the former Governor of Virginia Ralph Northam stated, “...there are, you know, when we talk about third-trimester abortions, these are done obviously with the consent of the mother, the consent of the physicians – more than one physician, by the way - and it’s done in cases where there may be severe deformities, there may be a fetus that’s non-viable, so in this particular example, if a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered, the infant would be kept comfortable, the infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians

and the mother” (39:48-40:34). Northam’s team released a statement after confusion occurred, stating that Northam did not support infanticide, but was instead referring to scenarios in which the mother gives birth to a non-viable infant.

Overall, polls show that voters believe that Harris provided more substantial claims than Trump (dataforprogress.org). More in-depth fact checks of the debate can be found at ABC News, The Washington Post, AP News, and PBS.



Get Registered To Vote NOW!



The November 2024 Presidential Election is right around the corner, so make sure that you are registered to vote today! Out-of-state students can still register within Pennsylvania—just put Thiel’s address as your home address when registering. It is important to cast your vote during elections and have a voice in the next president

of the United States. For any questions about registration, how to find resources, and where to go on your election day, visit Vote.org or ask Hannah Stoughton (HStou192@thiel.edu), the campus Voter Registration Information designee, or any of your history professors!

Pop Culture

Colin's Culture Corner!

By: Colin Schroyer

Sept. 19th, 2024: Welcome to the brand new column Colin's Culture Corner! Pop culture of all kinds will be discussed in order to keep readers up-to-date.

Dave Grohl Announces Child Out of Wedlock

On Sept. 10, former drummer of Nirvana and Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl announced with a post on his Instagram account that he had a child with another woman.

Grohl shared that he has become the father of a baby girl to someone outside of his marriage. Details about the identity of the child or the mother have not been revealed.

For many, Grohl had a reputation as an upstanding guy amidst a career rife with rowdy stereotypes and raucous behavior for rock stars. Though generally viewed as a positive figure in the rock space, this was not his first instance of infidelity. His first marriage with Jennifer Leigh Youngblood ended in 1997, and Grohl admitted to adultery.

According to sources who spoke with People magazine, Grohl's wife,

Jordyn Blum, had known about the new child prior to Grohl's public announcement. "She was shocked when she found out about the baby," sources say.

Violet, Grohl's daughter, has seemingly deactivated her Instagram account in the midst of the incident.

Dave Grohl has asked for privacy and respect for all parties involved amidst the aftermath of the announcement and has said that he will try to regain his family's trust.

Renowned Actor James Earl Jones Died

James Earl Jones has died at the age of 93. Known for iconic roles in films such as *The Sandlot*, *The Lion King*, and his iconic vocal performance as Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* franchise, Jones had a prolific career across a variety of mediums.

Jones achieved the coveted EGOT during his life, which consisted of earning an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award for exceptional work in television, music or audio,



James Earl Jones.

film, and stage, respectively. Though the cause of his death has not been made public, Jones had struggled with diabetes in the latter years of his life.

For his many contributions to stage, screen, and beyond, Jones will be remembered and missed.

Diddy Arrested in New York

Sean Love Combs, known professionally as Diddy, was arrested on Monday, Sept. 16, on sex trafficking and racketeering charges.

Diddy worked as a talent director in the 1990s before establishing his own record company, Bad Boy Records, and finding massive success with his first signee, the Notorious B.I.G. Since then, he has been a prolific artist in the music space.

Allegations of...

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...sexual misconduct date back to 2008, with the most shocking development being a series of sexual trafficking investigations beginning roughly six months before Combs would be arrested; authorities raided his Los Angeles and Miami residences, and Combs has continuously received lawsuits within the past year, with the most recent being just last week.

Combs is said to be the head of a corrupt empire of sexual exploitation, violence, and crimes. The most cited instances of these crimes are so

-called "Freak Offs," orchestrated sex acts where women were abused, coerced, and often drugged.

Furthermore, Combs has a reputation for manipulating victims to cover up acts and evidence, which consisted of alleged bribery and the contacting of witnesses and victims to effective-

ly gaslight them. Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Johnson shared that he had an "extensive and exhaustive history of obstruction of justice."

The federal court in Manhattan unsealed the charges and officially announced them on Tuesday, Sept. 17, with prosecutors holding a press conference on the charges. Combs continues to deny any wrongdoing and has offered a \$50 million bond.

Sean "Diddy" Combs



Sports

Thiel Soccer Finds Success to Start Season

By: Jacob Walsh

September 19, 2024: The Thiel Men's Soccer team has started their 2024 campaign off to a hot start, while the Women's team has already captured more wins than last season.

Men's Soccer:

The Men's team finished the 2023 season with only one win in 17

games, along with 15 losses and one tie. Now, coming into the 2024 season, the team has flipped the script, starting the season with four straight wins.

The Tomcats mauled the Carlow Celtics (4-0), Pitt Greensburg (2-1), PSU Beaver (4-2), and Pitt Bradford (3-1) in those four matches. Howev-

er, the Tomcats would ultimately fall to Baldwin Wallace at home on September 11th, with a 3-0 score to mark their first loss of the year.

Thiel followed up the loss with a 1-1 tie at La Roche on the 14th. Coming back home on the 18th, the Men's team won against...

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...PSU New Kensington, 4-0. The team now sits 5-1-1.

Senior Hunter Blatt leads with 5 goals and 11 points. Graduate student AJ Trobek follows with 3G and 7PTS. Freshman Mitchell Strauss leads the Tomcats in assists with 3. Defensively, in goal, sophomore Bryce Stefanowicz has only let up 6 goals on 72 shots, holding a .793 save percentage.

The Men's soccer team's next matchup is Friday, September 27th, at 7:30 p.m., when they host the Saint Vincent Bearcats to open conference play.

Women's Soccer:

Like the men's program, Thiel's Women's Soccer finished 2023 disappointed with a 1-14-1 record and losing all ten conference games. So

Imogen DeBlois

far, in their 2024 campaign, the Women's team has surpassed their previous season's win total with X wins.

The team dropped their first match,

hosting La Roche with a 3-0 final.

Then, the Tomcats played the one team they beat in 2023, PSU Beaver.

The Women's team took advantage and blew out the PSU branch 11-0 on September 5th. Seven different Tomcats recorded goals in the triumphant victory.

Unfortunately, the team's fortunes turned for the next three games, as they lost all of them and did not record a single goal. Thiel lost to SUNY Brockport (6-0), Penn College (8-0), and Pitt Bradford (5-0).

The losses stopped on September 17th, when the Tomcats vanquished Hilbert 3-0 at home. A day later, the Women's team beat PSU New Kensington with a score of 6-2. Thiel Women's



Soccer has a current record of 3-4-0.

Freshman phenom Imogen DeBlois leads

Bryce Stefanowicz

the women's team in goals (6) and points (15). Senior Skylar Garlick follows second in goals scored, tallying 3 so far. Another freshman, Stacie Weimert, is second in points with 9; she also has 2 goals.

The Women's soccer team's next match is Saturday, September 21st, at 12:00 p.m., at home against Hiram. Conference play for Thiel Women's soccer begins Friday, September 27th, at home against the Saint Vincent Bearcats, with a 5:00 p.m. start time.



Sports

Steelers Jump to 2-0 to Start Season

By: Jason Walsh II

September 19, 2024: The Pittsburgh Steelers have gotten ahead of their AFC North rivals and most of the National Football League with two wins to kick off their 2024 campaign.

Pittsburgh is one of the nine teams that has been undefeated for two weeks, sharing its spot with Buffalo, Houston, Kansas City, LAC, Minnesota, New Orleans, Seattle, and Tampa Bay. The Steelers are currently on top of the AFC North standings, with the remaining three teams sitting below: 1. PIT (2-0), 2. CLE (1-1), 3. CIN (0-2), and BAL (0-2).

Although Pittsburgh has only scored 31 points combined in two games, their defense has only allowed 16 points. In week one, against Atlanta, Pittsburgh's offense gained a total of 270 yards against Atlanta's 226. However, against Denver in week two, Pittsburgh was outgained 295 yards to 251 but held Denver to only six points.

So far, the Steelers' offense has been led by quarterback Justin Fields, who was acquired through trade this off-season from Chicago. Fields was

given the starting job heading into week one with quarterback Russell Wilson ruled out due to re-aggravating a calf injury from training camp.

Throughout week one, Fields went 17 for 23, with 156 yards passing and 57 yards rushing. In week two, Fields went 13 for 20, 117 yards passing, 1 passing touchdown, and 27 yards rushing.

On the other side of the ball, Pittsburgh's defense has not seemed to skip a beat from last season through the first two weeks. The defense has forced and recovered fumbles, sacked the opposing team's quarterbacks, and intercepted passes.

Minkah Fitzpatrick leads the team with eleven tackles. TJ Watt leads the team with two sacks and three solo tackles. Deshon Elliot, Donte Jackson, and Damontae Kazee all have one interception. The defense has not allowed either team this season to exceed over three hundred yards of total offense.

A standout for The Steelers, who has been vital in their two wins, is kicker

Chris Boswell. Boswell is 8 for 8 on field goals and 1 for 1 on extra points, scoring a combined twenty-five points. Boswell was the sole scorer against Atlanta, scoring eighteen points on six field goals, three of them being from over fifty yards. The kicker broke two franchise records with his 3 for 3 from over fifty and making five field goals from over forty yards. Boswell's longest field goal so far is fifty-seven yards.

Heading into week three, the Steelers are preparing to face their second AFC West team in a row, the Los Angeles Chargers. The Chargers are 2-0 heading into Pittsburgh's home opener under new head coach Jim Harbaugh. The game will kick off at 1 p.m. Eastern and will be broadcast on CBS.

T.J. Watt

