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Roger ailes sex

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly says she did the “twirl” before Roger Ailes, too.The former Fox News Channel personality referred to an excruciating scene in the movie “Bombshell,” where John Lithgow, portraying the late Fox News boss, orders an aspiring news anchor played by Margot Robbie to turn around in front of him so he could eyeball her body.Kelly, now a television free agent after losing her job at NBC News, released an online video where she, her husband and three women who had accused Ailes and former anchor Bill O’Reilly of unwanted sexual advances watched the movie and discussed their experiences.“I was asked to do the spin, and God help me, I did it,” said Kelly, a former lawyer who became a prime-time star at Fox before leaving in 2016.She said she couldn’t help but think of how she had gone from law school, arguing cases before appeals courts and receiving an offer to become partner at a firm, to now “performing” for Ailes. “If you don’t get how demeaning that is, I can’t help you,” she said. “I’d give anything if I had said no.”Kelly accused Ailes of forcibly trying to kiss her and wanting to see nude pictures of her on other occasions.Ailes, who died in 2017, and O’Reilly were both fired for sexual misconduct. They denied being involved in non-consensual activities.Kelly, Juliette Huddy, Rudi Bakhtiar and Julie Zann all fought back tears at certain points watching the film and discussing their own experiences. Kelly doubled as the interviewer and participant as they talked about some scenes that were inaccurate and others that hit close to home.The other women expressed anger at a scene they said was fictional, where the aspiring anchor Kayla Pospisil, portrayed by Robbie, scolds Kelly’s character, played by Charlize Theron. Pospisil asked the fictional Kelly if she ever wondered what her public silence following her own harassment incidents meant to the women who came after her.Kelly’s character replies, “look around, snowflake. How do you think I succeeded?”“I saw that scene and said, ‘that was written by a man,’” Kelly said.In real life, it wasn’t until former Fox anchor Gretchen Carlson sued Ailes in 2016 that allegations about his behavior became public. Kelly, who said she’d been harassed a decade earlier, was “outed” in the sense that a leaked news report revealed that she had told her story to an investigation team appointed after Carlson’s lawsuit. She told her story in a book that came out three months later.Kelly’s husband, Douglas Brunt, said Ailes would have survived if she had reported the misconduct after it happened. “You would have blown yourself up for nothing,” he said.But Kelly said she’d spent a lot of time looking back on the experience and wishes now that she had done more.“Even though I was powerless, even though it would have been a suicidal move for me career-wise, what if I had just said, ‘screw it, I’ll go back to practicing law.’ What if I had thrown myself back on the fire? I don’t have to have a career in this industry. Maybe that wouldn’t have happened to you,” she said to Zann. Leer en español Ler em português The recent ouster of Roger Ailes as the CEO of Fox News speaks volumes about our partial progress on issues of sexual harassment in the workplace. For centuries, women were harassed without a name or a remedy for the problem. And when they experienced a “problem” with their supervisor, the problem was always theirs, not his. All that has changed, as Ailes’s resignation reflects. But the fact that his behavior persisted over a quarter century, and involved, by current count, at least 25 women, shows the progress yet to be made. Although it would be nice to believe that Ailes was unique in the persistence of his abuse, the research that I summarize in What Women Want: An Agenda for the Women’s Movement, suggests otherwise. For Ailes, like other abusers, his sexual harassment was only partly about sex; it was also about power. According to one former staffer, Ailes made “jokes that he liked having women on their knees.” Another Fox employee recalled that Ailes told her to get down on her knees, asked her, “Are you Roger’s whore?” and then instructed her to provide oral sex. And as in other cases, only a small fraction of the women Ailes abused came forward – at least initially. Research in What Women Want indicates that only about 5-15 percent of victims formally complain of harassment and only 3 percent of cases end up in litigation. Major barriers to reporting include guilt, shame, fears of retaliation, concerns about loss of privacy, and doubts that an effective response will be forthcoming. Some of the women who Ailes abused have still requested anonymity for those reasons. In this, the Ailes case is similar to other textbook cases of serial abusers. Think of the case of San Diego mayor Bob Filner – in which eighteen women eventually came forward with allegations of sexual harassment – or Bill Cosby, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 50 women. But as with Ailes, most cases start with a single plaintiff. The cascade of complaints exposing Ailes’s abusive behavior began with a lawsuit by just one woman, Gretchen Carlson, a former Fox anchor. Fox initially responded in a way all too typical of employers in sex harassment cases: shoot the messenger. Its public relations department went into high gear and strenuously denied the allegations, portrayed Carlson as a disgruntled employee with an ax to grind, released affectionate emails from Carlson to Ailes, and recruited other women at Fox News to come to his defense. At the same time, the company’s legal team sought to move Carlson’s suit to arbitration, which would prevent other victims from publicly testifying in her behalf. Arbitration would also trigger the clause in Carlson’s contract that puts a gag order on all facts related to the allegations, a clause unusual in its protectiveness. What helped prevent the matter from ending there was the steady trickle, and then stream, of other victims ready to tell their stories. They contacted Carlson’s lawyer, and a number spoke on or off the record to the press. The network’s own investigation also revealed that its biggest star, Megyn Kelly, was among those whom Ailes had harassed. That seems to have been the final straw, and Ailes was forced to resign. As is true in many harassment cases, the presence of other victims often lends crucial credibility to a complainant’s story. If Carlson had been alone, the network’s vilification campaign might have been successful. Conversely, other women have lost their cases because testimony regarding other abuse has been unavailable. As a recent documentary on Anita Hill suggests, Clarence Thomas might never have been confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice if other women claiming harassment had been allowed to testify before Congress. According to Ailes’s alleged victims, he was anything but subtle in his demands, explicitly tying his requests for sex to opportunities for advancement — what the law labels “quid pro quo” harassment. He allegedly told one woman who was trying to land a job with the National Republican Congressional Committee, “You know if you want to play with the big boys, you have to lay with the big boys.” When she declined, her job interview was canceled and she learned later from a friend at the NRCC that “Word went out you weren’t to be hired.” In another example, Ailes allegedly told another woman who was looking for a position with the Mike Douglas show, which he was then producing, “I need you to be receptive. We only hire girls who are cooperative.” In Carlson’s lawsuit, she claims that when she met with Ailes to complain of sexist treatment at Fox, he told her that the two of them “should have had a sexual relationship a long time ago, and then you’d be good and better and I’d be good and better,” and maintained that “sometimes problems are easier to solve” that way. The Ailes case is unusual in its overtness. Most sex harassment cases involve much more subtle behaviors. More typical is the kind of sexism that Carlson alleged that he experienced from other Fox employees. For example, Carlson claimed that Steve Doocy, her co-host on Fox and Friends, demeaned her on the air, mocked her during commercial breaks, and treated her like a “blond female prop.” But these cases are much harder to win, because judges and juries don’t think that the behaviors constitute a sufficiently abusive work environment. That is why so many complainants, like Carlson’s, sue for retaliation rather than for the underlying harassment. However, as the outcome in the Ailes case makes clear, when companies respond to sexual harassment the way Fox initially did, they ultimately pay the price in higher turnover, lower morale, legal fees, and reputational damage. Fewer and fewer women are willing to put up with anything like the abuses that Fox tolerated. Retaliation claims connected with allegations of discrimination doubled between 1997 and 2015, and now constitute the most common complaints made to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. To some observers, cases like Ailes prompt an obvious question: What was he thinking? To experts on sex harassment, the answer seems equally obvious. He wasn’t thinking. He didn’t realize that he needed to. As Berkeley psychologist Dacher Keltner has shown, power can create a sense of entitlement and moral myopia that desensitizes people to how their actions injure others. The only way to check such tendencies is to create cultures of accountability in handling workplace complaints, and to protect victims against retaliation. As is typical in cases of workplace harassment, the tone set at the top often percolates throughout the organization. To protect themselves, companies must rein in abusive behavior before it becomes corrosive. Arbitration and secrecy clauses won’t do that. If Fox’s owners are truly committed, as they claim they are, to “maintaining a work environment based on trust and respect,” then they need to do more than replacing Roger Ailes. Their work is just beginning. Gretchen Carlson and Roger Ailes. Photo: Noam Galai; Getty Images; Wesley Mann/FOX Fox News host Gretchen Carlson may be the highest-profile woman to accuse Roger Ailes of sexual harassment, but she is not the first. In my 2014 biography of the Fox News chief, I included interviews with four women who told me Ailes had used his position of power to make either unwanted sexual advances or inappropriate sexual comments in the office. And it appears Carlson won’t be the last, either. In recent days, more than a dozen women have contacted Carlson’s New Jersey–based attorney, Nancy Erika Smith, and made detailed allegations of sexual harassment by Ailes over a 25-year period, dating back to the 1960s, when he was a producer on The Mike Douglas Show. “These are women who have never told these stories until now,” Smith told me. “Some are in a lot of pain.” Taken together, these stories portray Ailes as a boss who spoke openly of expecting women to perform sexual favors in exchange for job opportunities. “He said that’s how all these men in media and politics work — everyone’s got their friend,” recalled Kellie Boyle, who says Ailes propositioned her in 1989, shortly after he helped George H.W. Bush become president by serving as his chief media strategist. Six of the women agreed to speak with New York publicly for the first time. Two spoke on the record; the others requested anonymity for reasons that include shame and fear of retribution. “I didn’t tell my husband, it was so mortifying,” said Marsha Callahan, a former model who says Ailes harassed her in the late ‘60s, shortly before he would become Richard Nixon’s media adviser. Ailes is clearly trying to keep these stories out of the press and the courts. Late on Friday, his lawyers filed a motion in federal court in New Jersey seeking to move Carlson’s lawsuit to arbitration, which would prevent witnesses from being called in court. “Plaintiff’s ploy of filing in Superior Court to justify her shameless publicity campaign against Roger Ailes should not be countenanced,” Ailes’s lawyers argued. Carlson’s lawyers responded in a statement: “Roger Ailes is trying to force this case into a secret arbitration proceeding … Gretchen never agreed to arbitrate anything with Mr. Ailes.” Ailes’s spokesperson Irena Briganti did not respond to requests for comment. (Update: Ailes’s outside council, Barry Asen, has now responded to the new allegations. His statement can be found at the bottom of this post.) Here are the women’s accounts: Kellie Boyle, 54Former Republican National Committee field adviser This was back in 1989. I was 29 and living in New Jersey. My husband worked at CNBC and he said, “Roger Ailes is coming in to be interviewed — would you like to meet him?” I said yes! I’d worked in political communications for the Republican National Committee, so Roger Ailes was like a god. I’d read his book, You Are the Message, and I used it for a lot of training I did for candidates. I introduced myself in the green room, and he was very charming and said, “Would you like to visit my office downtown sometime?” A week or two later I went in and mentioned to him I was going down to D.C. the following week to sign a major contract with the National Republican Congressional Committee. He said, “I’m going to be in D.C. too. Would you like to have dinner before you go in?” So we had a nice dinner at a restaurant in Union Station. There was nothing untoward about it at all. He had a driver and a car, and after dinner he said, “Can I take you to your friend’s?” So we get in the car and that’s when he said, “You know if you want to play with the big boys, you have to lay with the big boys.” I was so taken aback. I said, “Gosh, I didn’t know that. How would that work?” I was trying to kill time because I didn’t know if he was going to attack me. I was just talking until I could get out of the car. He said, “That’s the way it works,” and he started naming other women he’d had. He said that’s how all these men in media and politics work — everyone’s got their friend. I said, “Would I have to be friends with anybody else?” And he said, “Well, you might have to give a blow job every once in a while.” I told him I was going to have to think about this. He said, “No, if you don’t do it now, you know that means you won’t.” The next morning I show up to get my assignment and was told the guy I was supposed to be meeting with was unavailable. Back in New Jersey, I got a call from Roger Ailes. He said, “How’d your meeting go?” I said, “Actually, he wasn’t available and I’m hoping to hear back from him.” He said, “Ah, well, I’m sure you will. Have you changed your mind yet?” I said, “I’ll have to pass, Roger. I’m married and really committed to my husband. No offense.” He said, “Well, we’ll be in touch.” And that was that. A couple weeks later, I called a friend who was very high up in the RNC and I asked him what happened. He said, “Word went out you weren’t to be hired.” Marsha Callahan, 73Former model This was either ‘68 or ‘67. At the time he was producing The Mike Douglas Show, and I had a call from my modeling agency about the show. I got a call directly from Roger asking me to come down and to make sure I wore a garter belt and stockings. This was right after pantyhose came into use, and I said, “Why would you want me to do that instead of pantyhose?” He said, “If your legs look good in a garter belt, I’ll know you have great legs.” So I go into his office and right away he says, “Sit on the sofa and lift your skirt up.” I had to do these different poses. And then, I recall very clearly, he said he’d put me on the show but I needed to go to bed with him. I was a really shy girl, but I was a little cheeky, so I said, “Oh yeah, you and who else?” And he said, “Only me and a few of my select friends.” I said, “Well, if you think I have star quality and you can make money off my looks, I don’t think it’d matter if I went to bed with you or not.” And he said, “Oh, pretty girls like you are a dime a dozen.” The interview ended quickly. I was called in to do the show and I remember passing Roger in the hallway. He pretended not to know who I was. Susan,* 66Former model I was 16 years old, living in Radnor, Pennsylvania. I was sent over for a walk-on part on The Mike Douglas Show in the winter of 1967. It was 6:30 in the evening and the place was totally closing up. Ailes took me into this big office and locked the door with a key. He reclined on a couch in a seating area under a map that had flags of all the cities they were syndicated in. He proceeded to pull down his pants and very gingerly pull out his genitals and said, “Kiss them.” And they were red, like raw hamburger. He was pretty meticulously dressed, with long white shirttails coming out. It was like he was just at the end of a long day and I was supposed to know what to do. I was a kid — I’d never seen a man’s privates before. I jumped up, but the door was locked and nobody was out there. He chased me around the office, and at some point it dawned on him that this just wasn’t going to happen. He finally pulled up his trousers. He was very angry and rushed over to his desk, pulled open a door, and had a reel-to-reel tape recorder going. He said to me, “Don’t tell anybody about this. I’ve got it all on tape.” I think he knew I was 16. Jane,* 62Former model/actress It was around 1984; I was about 30. I had just arrived in New York. My agent was hoping to get me into broadcasting. I had an appointment with Ailes. He had a camera set up and a little desk and a script for me. It was a cooking kind of thing, talking about food and whatnot. After he taped me, he locked the door and said he didn’t want any interruptions. I figured out pretty quickly there was no job and this was just a ruse. He pulled out a garter belt and stockings and told me to put them on. I was very nervous; I didn’t know what to do. He was standing there and I put them on. He wanted me to model them for him. After that, something sexual took place, but I blocked it out of my mind. I don’t know if I engaged with him orally or he engaged with himself. I felt I was being used for his sexual satisfaction. I felt very threatened. He wanted me to take the lingerie home for the next time. I said, “No, thank you, I don’t want to keep it for the next time.” I left and I knew I’d never return. Through the years I felt like a horrible person because I allowed this to happen to me and I didn’t just say “fuck off” and walk out of the room. My husband doesn’t even know. Diane,* 69Media consultant This is something I’ve carried with me and haven’t told anybody. I was just appalled to read about Gretchen’s story and see how [Ailes] is behaving after 50 years. This was so long ago. I was in college doing some modeling work with an agency in the Philadelphia area. This would have been late ‘65 or early ‘66; I would have been 18 or 19 years old. A bunch of us girls at the agency were called over to audition for him for some sort of skit on The Mike Douglas Show. He had a room, and one by one he would take us behind closed doors. When my turn came I went in, and he didn’t waste any time. He grabbed me and had his hands on me and he forced me to kiss him. When I recoiled he said, “Well, you know no girls get a job here unless they’re cooperative.” I just pushed him away and ran out of there. He was like, whatever. So, no job for me. He did hire several of the girls from the group, but I don’t know what they had to do to get the job. Pat,* 65Former TV producer It was 1975. I had a degree in mass communications. A college friend said, “Come to New York.” I got an interview with Roger Ailes. I remember I met him not at some big TV office — it was at his apartment on Central Park South. I don’t remember his exact words, but his message was: If you want to make it in New York City in the TV business, you’re going to have to fuck me, and you’re going to do that with anyone I tell you to. I was afraid he was going to pin me down. He was a big guy and I’m not big at all. He could have overpowered me. I remember running out of that apartment like my hair was on fire and standing on the sidewalk crying, thinking, What’s that guy think I was, a prostitute? In one second, my dreams were shot. He’s going to blackball me everywhere, I’ll never get another interview, I’m not good enough — all that stuff a 20-something girl thinks. It wasn’t, That guy’s a son of a bitch and I should have kicked him in the balls. *Pseudonyms. Update: Roger Ailes’s outside counsel, Barry Asen, has released the following statement regarding these new accounts: It has become obvious that Ms. Carlson and her lawyer are desperately attempting to litigate this in the press because they have no legal case to argue. The latest allegations, all 30 to 50 years old, are false.

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