

Good Afternoon Twitter, This is James (Aka Sir James), and I wanted to take a moment to address a dossier of offensive tweets that re-surfaced in the wake of Twitter closing my account. I'd like to first acknowledge that these posts are not new, and I have addressed them individually over the course of the year since they re-surfaced.

As of the last composition of tweets containing 27 posts from the now deleted jkh 2 account from 2009 to 2016, I will say again that these are real posts to that account that I continue to take responsibility for and grow from.

Regardless of the source of this dossier, the intent behind it, or the aggressive nature in which it has been used to target me and my followers on Twitter, I must bear the weight of my own words and again apologize for the hurtful nature of my insensitive and often racially charged and crass remarks.

While I'm humbled by the mention of these sentiments I expressed whether in misguided jest, confusion or pain... I am encouraged by my growth over the last 10 years and Have learned to use my flaws and faults as a measuring marker for ways in which I can aspire to grow.

While I will not repost this document on my sources of social media, I will address what they assert because I feel it's important. These posts represent failed moments in my choice of free expression which I believe comes with responsibility, so as someone who aims to teach sensitivity and discuss racism in an open forum, I feel it necessary to use myself as an example. From the time I opened my Twitter account when I was in a severe state of depression after returning from work in West Africa to finding myself unemployed and seeking work, I used the account primarily for the purpose of joking with friends from undergrad and often letting off steam. My account was never private, and I can't say that I regret using it as a digital journal because I never thought it would ever amount to anything. Between 2008 and 2016 a lot changed, I started and finished grad school, opened up several businesses (photography), moved to New York and back and worked all over the globe as a photographer. Many good times, and some regressions of angst and aggravation.

I look back at these 27 tweets and see some aspects of who I was, some quotes from my favorite movie Mean Girls, some inside jokes between friends, and then about a dozen deeply offensive mischaracterizations and stereotypes about members of other ethnicities/genders and mostly women. The creator of this particular dossier did a good job of arranging the quotes by the offended group so lets start at the top.

In 2012, I evoked a disgusting stereotype about members of the jewish faith to express displeasure in the way a potential client (not Jewish) worked to aggressively negotiate a price despite having a much more generous budget for other aspects of the program.

This was bad. I have learned that the use of all stereotypes is bad regardless of the nature of the meaning. I've grown from this experience and haven't since used that phrase online. It was never meant as an assault, was more an expression but it doesn't excuse the pain associated. For that I am deeply sorry.

In December of 2016 several dozen members (or accounts) of the DSA sought out this tweet from above and used it to claim that I was an antisemite who hated all Jews and that was the only reason I hated Sanders so much and secretly worked to elect Trump by vocally supporting Clinton. I was being accused of Nazism for invoking what to me at the time was a commonplace stereotype.

I was embarrassed, I was shocked, I was hurt and I was angry. So I defended myself and in my defense I put my foot in my mouth with a mention of a biblical character known for betrayal. A friend (Probably Queen Man) reached out and said "ya know... that's not good" so I deleted, but it was too late and it had been immediately added to the dossier (or at least the pile on that would later become this dossier of 27 tweets). While in my personal life I would use the mention of this character in jest to express mild disappointment in a friend who didn't agree on pizza toppings with me or choice of beer to get in a pitcher, I had to learn that these weren't my friends and that hurtful stereotypes are just what they are. They don't need context to be offensive, they are just wrong. Since I have been much more careful about how I discuss everything. The final tweet in the top row was a bad joke referencing United Airlines. I think the composer added this as padding to insinuate that I was calling for Sanders to be abused by the airline and y'all know the only plane jokes I make about Bernie refer to Lobster Sliders and the Pope. I do not believe that these three tweets illustrate a pattern or personality of an antisemite, and so I want to express my sincerest apologies to anyone who was offended and in taking full responsibility for those three tweets simply affirm my commitment to doing better in the future.

The next 7 tweets illustrate a pattern of discussing Mexican stereotypes. One from 2014 includes the use of the pejorative "illegals" in describing day laborers. I regret the use of that term. I think we've seen Mexican Americans be targeted by politicians for decades, but never before have I seen it in the attacks from a man seeking the office of President as with Trump in 2016. As early as 2015, he launched his career with his speech claiming all Mexicans are rapists who bring drugs and crime. I do not believe these things. I never want to be aligned with these beliefs, and in my quest to stop this campaign and its assault on Mexican Americans, I've had to learn the proper terms "undocumented" and grow from past misconceptions and hurtful stereotypes about Mexican Americans. While it's certain that the composer of this dossier searched my user name with the word "Mexican" and added all the tweets that arose, I cannot deny the shameful way these 7 tweets appear to paint me as someone who doesn't hold Mexicans in a high regard, some inside jokes, some a part of TTs (used to be a thing), some poorly worded

political takes about sensitive topics (I'm better at crafting statements now). I am sorry, I have learned, I want to be in the fight to protect All Americans from the assaults sent down from the White House, I will aim to continue this advocacy and hope to earn the forgiveness of all.

In 2010 I graduated with my masters degree, and I was salty that the Indian announcer, couldn't pronounce my ethnic middle name and as a result simply neglected to say my name at the ceremony. This was hurtful and in jest I referenced her ethnicity by using the phrase "red dot" (which I learned from a very popular Jay-Z song) but that's neither here nor there. It was petty and offensive and I was pissed. I obviously didn't react to this person in real life but I tweeted about what went through my mind but I should've never posted this.

The next 7 tweets were posted between 2009 and 2012 contain offensive stereotypes about Asians. During these years I lived with a roommate in Atlanta from Japan and later moved to New York. I can unequivocally say that this man was the roommate from Hell by way of a small suburb of Tokyo. He came to my house for Thanksgiving and brought wine, he joined my friends and I for a number of dinner parties, and he included me in his New Years traditional dinner of soba noodles and umeboshi. It was a growth experience and though we learned a lot from each other, we also learned that we were not compatible roommates. At times I took to twitter to express this frustration. I elicited many Family Guy references and tonalities in doing such. I wasn't a very funny person in college, I basically just quoted Stewie Griffin over and over. These aren't excuses, rather me showing a space in my life where I chose to be uncomfortable in order to learn. Similarly with my move to NY and in 2003 my choice to attend a PWI were deliberate attempts to expose myself to more than I grew up around. I grew up in West Africa (no white people) and then in College Park GA (ALL BLACK People). I really didn't have any experiences with other ethnicities until I started college and I learned a lot and I'm still learning. I obviously didn't want WW2 vets to Kill my roommate, it was a very bad joke, I don't believe all asians look the same, I shouldn't have invoked that sentiment in jest, I shouldn't have said the owner of the laundromat at Bedford and Putnam was a b-word. She's not a b-word, she's actually super nice. I frequently took to twitter to say really dumb things that contained offensive language. I'm sorry. I truly have learned to take these things more seriously and I want to apologize to my asian friends (especially in real life) for these posts because they don't illustrate any resentment toward you or your race.

The last 9 tweets in the dossier contain offensive language about women. They contain words that are singularly repulsive and offensive to women. For that I am sorry. The context of these statements is irrelevant as far as the pain associated with them in inflicting pain on women for centuries. I apologize categorically to my sisters in the resistance and in real life and I'm deeply embarrassed to be confronted with these

words. Alas I must address them here.

I want to minimize this, and I want to make the bruise left as small as possible, that's obviously my goal because I don't want any work I've done or opinions I've expressed in support of women in business, the arts, politics and life to be invalidated because of these tweets, so I'll do my best to explain each, because you all deserve as much.

On The day after the 2016 election a user who described herself as "biracial" messaged me to taunt about how she didn't vote for Hillary Clinton as revenge for Bernie Sanders. I'm sure many of you received similar sentiments, but this user chose the day that we were all reeling in pain to offer her take as a woman of color to explain to me why she voted against women of color the day before to punish us.

I was sad, I was angry, On Nov 9th 2016, I was afraid for my life, and scared to even leave the house. I know many of you felt this pain as well. I felt abused. I believed this user was continuing that abuse and so I reacted in a matter unbecoming myself or the presence I aim to have in any platform. After replying and calling her out of her name, I blocked her from Twitter, and proceeded to block hundreds of other users. But the end of that day, I had 2000 followers, not 19000. I had blocked 400 including that user. I regret what I said to her, I wouldn't say it again, I deleted it but I also have grown to be more responsible and aware of the weight of my words since my follow count has grown.

Between 2009 and 2012 (as above)

In 2012 there is a tweet about someone emailing me back. I can't tell you that I remember what that was about. It was following the election of Obama, I was in NY but I'm drawing a blank with regard to context here. At any rate, I never used that language over an email exchange, just expressed frustration to the Twitterverse and I regret the language I used.

In 2011 I again took to Twitter to discuss at large a personal encounter I was having with a potential client. I would never respond to a client this way, but I instead vocalized it on Twitter. I regret it.

In 2011, there was another disjointed statement. I have no recollection of what or who I was referencing. I apologize for the imagery and language. In 2018 I'd also point out that I've learned to be more sensitive about discussions around wellness as a whole.

in 2011 I quoted Rachel McAdams' character Regina George from the movie Mean Girls. I don't say that to make light of the use of the language, but simply to point out that perhaps this illustrates the lack of sophistication or cognition of the composer (or perhaps nationality) that they would use this to illustrate a pattern of misogyny. Still one of my favorite movies.

The Next 4 tweets contain redacted user accounts. This was back in the day when you had to add someone's name to mention them as opposed to simply replying. They were all from the years 2009 and 2010 when this method of tagging would've been seen as a private communication, not a post. So at least in the first three while I can't tell you who I'm talking to, I can tell you I was having a conversation with 1 specific person.

On December 7th of 2010 I was having a private exchange with a user about the public's reaction to the women who had been revealed to have had an affair with former presidential candidate John Edwards. In the long multi-tweet exchange I came to the defense of the woman but in this isolated tweet you see quotation marks around what I am describing as offensive language that people used to discredit her. These were not my words rather my discussion around the topic. While I think it's important to hold men accountable for hurtful and abusive language, I must in my defense illustrate again where it appears that the system being used to compile these dossiers lacks the cognition necessary to assess what this tweet actually expresses.

In August of 2010, I expressed a horrible take on some musical artist and their specific parenting. I don't remember who it was, or the context but I wouldn't discuss the complexities of motherhood at all now. There's no way I could know what that's like and I apologize for that post.

Second to last tweet represented in this dossier is the second oldest of them all. It's from 2009 and appears to be a response to someone who was harassing me on the platform. I have no idea what about, I have no idea who the person was. I am ashamed of my reaction to this person. Regardless of online harassment and abuse, I call on myself and others to be above stooping to calls for people to harm themselves. I regret this response to this abuser. I regret the mirroring of this response to a user 6 years later who had also been harassing me. I have grown and learned to take time for myself during emotional struggles and not to share or "react" on line. I've learned that when all of the voices and chatter disappear, I'm left to answer for just my own. I would not tweet this again today, and not that it matters but this probably wasn't a woman's account.

The last tweet is from 2009 and not to make light of it but it's the oldest tweet in the dossier. The first two characters are "RT" which for us cavemen Twitter devotees know that there was no automated way to retweet a post, you used to have to do it like that. This sentiment about Halloween costumes illustrates a reposting of a bad joke by an immature college student. I accept responsibility for the hurtful language and words, but again, I believe this post being added to the dossier illustrates the lack of human and language ability of users working to assemble these documents to weaken the voice of Black users, opposers of racism and specifically critics of Bernard Sanders.

(I'd also like to take this point out that this dossier chose to redact some users for protection and not redact others. I take issue with that because it's one thing to link me and what I've said and done to these horrible themes but the elective redaction coupled with the aggressive manner in which they affixed this image to literally thousands of user's posts to get them to not follow me, also put several people in harms way and I want to apologize to other users mentioned and point out that I had no control over the vitality of this campaign. It's also part of the reason why I've chosen not to represent the dossier here.

I can't take these posts back. I deleted them in the years after they were brought to my attention but they are out there and being weaponized against me and my friends online. This is harassment.

In the wake of Twitter deleting my main account, I witnessed dozens of user accounts (many representing the DSA) posting this assembled dossier in threads about Twitter's deletion of my account.

THIS DOSSIER WAS NOT THE CAUSE OF TWITTER DELETING MY ACCOUNT.

Rather an attempt to permanently seek me out on a different account and prevent users on the platform from following this page once the other had been taken down due to systemic and racial targeting. I have to make that clear.

I watched many accounts (some human, some certainly bots) auto-affixing this compilation of 27 tweets which were designed to taint my 10 years of posts and 141K tweets many of which denounced white supremacy and misogyny as invalid. This was an orchestrated attack.

I watched as many users who disagree with my politics to call me names (that's fine) and accuse me of having "unclean hands" and being "as bad as Roy Moore".

I gotta draw the line there. Tweets are not the same as documented acts of molestation, and also I'm not running to be a senator, I wouldn't even want to be dog catcher to most of the people I have to engage with on line in the Trump era. I hold a special regard to politicians who fight for what is right and I wish them well, I'm a photographer, I take pictures.

Many took the tweets so far out of context that they claimed my use of the word "shoot" in discussing a photography session was a threat of violence.

I take this all very seriously, but I also try to use this as an illustration of the type of assault we face in America in 2018.

That said, I'd like to once again apologize for my use of hurtful language, and stereotypes. I have learned and grown and hope that you will see this letter as an expression of clarity and remorse. If you cannot forgive these posts, I understand.