**NEWs**

(Scene starts after a daily newsroom meeting at the prestigious D.C. Newspaper Network, or DCNN. As everyone empties the room, the younger journalist, Gary Gonzalez a brown-skinned, long-haired and lanky 20-something with thick rimmed glasses and bright eyes runs up to one of the seasoned political news veterans.)

Gary: Hey Steve, I was wondering if you had any advice for my first Presidential press conference Wednesday, seeing this is my biggest assignment since I’ve made it to the White House beat.

[Steve Stevens, yes that’s indeed his government name, the older head of the White House beat who’s training the newbies is 6 feet tall with a salt and pepper Caesar cut. He wears a loose-fitting button down under the same blue coat jacket he’s been wearing since the 80’s. The shirt is always only half tucked in.]

Steve: Well I guess my first piece of advice would be to stay on your toes. Drumpf isn’t like the others. He’s erratic, insulting, and downright unreasonable. Try your best to keep him on topic. He’s more evasive than Clinton and Nixon combined, and he sure as shit is not as well-spoken as Obama.

Gary: Wow that’s all part of your first piece… Okay, I guess ask really pinpoint questions huh?

Steve: Doesn’t matter, you just must stay persistent. Even if you ask an open-ended question, stay on him. Badger him if you must. We’re on new terrain. You saw how he pretty much shut-down Chuck right?

Gary: Well….uh I mean yeah [Starting to get feverish]
Steve: [Getting more intense] Well he was being a pussy. He let him stop his question. You must be better than that. Especially with his avoidance of his bullshit wiretapping allegations. [Gets right in his face, calmly now] Get your mind right young one, you have 3 days. [Starts storming out]

[The years have not been kind to Steve. He’s kind of a nut job but he’s cool]

Gary: [Quietly] I’ll keep that in mind… Thanks… I think...?

[It’s now the day before the conference. The biggest story leaking now is the absence of any type of wiretaps in President Drumpf’s castle in network. Gary steps into his top editor’s office, the effervescent Janet Jameson. She started became DCNN’s youngest head editor at 28 and commands much respect. She’s strict but fair, funny but not too informal. Basically, one of the best bosses ever. Gary wants her input as well.]

Gary: Hey do you have a minute Janet?

Janet: Anything for you Gar, what’s up?

Gary: Well...

Janet: Lemme guess.. It’s about tomorrow?

Gary: Gee, that obvious?

Janet: Well you’ve been pretty mopey and jumpy for a couple days. Steve really scared you good huh?

Gary: Yeah, he’s pretty intense to say the least.

Janet: Ya know he’s been on the White House beat for before either of us were born. He really should have retired 25 years ago but somehow that man keeps ticking. He’s finally on his way out now and he just wants to make sure his baby will be okay. He loves Washington and politics and doesn’t wanna see it tarnished, especially with kids from your generation. A lot of you guys
are hit or misses. We both think you’re a hit, or we wouldn’t have put you against Drumpf at your age. You’re like Stephen Glass if he wasn’t a narcissistic prick who made up his stories.

Gary: Wow, thanks so much Janet. Seriously I appreciate it.

Janet: You’re welcome, but don’t get a big head and go on disappointing either. Let me hear what you’re leading with.

Gary: The wiretapping. I suspect I can ask it in the middle and be okay. It’ll be a bold move asking him outright so late, but I’m sure everyone else will be walking in ON NOT IN pins and needles so I can spring it on him if I shake this…

Janet: Hey, I just said you’ll be fine. Just man up and ask it. I think it’s a great idea.

Gary: Thanks again Janet, I’ll see you Thursday.

Janet: Good luck Gar, just shut the door on the way out.

[It’s the day of the conference. Everyone starts pouring in with coffees, notepads, and briefcases. After about an hour of fighting in his head Gary is finally almost ready and then he hears:]

Drumpf: Okay uhhh I guess uhh… Next is… DCNN

Gary: [Looks up and down at his notepad to get the right question. He starts out ready to start bumbling but think back to his conversations with Janet and Steven. He has people who believe in him. He is ready now. Asks confidently.] Mr. President, can I please get a comment on what lead you to believe the former President Obama had secret service tap Drumpf Tower?

Drumpf: [Loud and Obnoxiously] OH MY GOD I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE WITH ALL THAT MESS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WASTING MY TIME?

Gary: No. No, Mr. President What I’m saying is…..

Drumpf: FAKE NEWS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
Gary: Sir, if you just…

Drumpf: YOU. ARE. FAKE. NEWS. PLEASE, NEXT QUEST…

Gary: NO SIR, YOU ARE THE FAKE NEWS

Drumpf: Excuse me?! I am your…..

Gary: [Loudly but then quieter as everyone really starts listening very intently.] With all due respect, you are the biggest and fakest thing that has had to do with the media today. You are our lifeblood and oxygen to the fire. You literally feed us by making it so easy to report on your nonsensical and incessant ramblings. But that hurts and helps both of us in the end. We’re in a symbiotic salsa dance that never ever ends like Puerto Rican house party! And don’t even get me started on your supporters! But that’s not my point. The election is over, so it would be in your best interests to start cooperating with us, as we control your image. If you’re so worried about a reporter’s question, then your subsequent answer will be what makes the news fake. People asking questions is what happens at these things and if you aren’t ready for that then none of us have to be there. Actually, in fact and not alternative ones, I’m leaving. [He then calmly turns and walks out of the conference room.]

[Silence]

Drumpf: ….well now that windbag is done who’s..

Reporter: Hey you know what, fuck this. He’s right.

Female Reporter: Yeah I don’t wanna talk to him either. This is stupid.

Another Reporter: Wanna get lunch?

Reporter #4: Let’s do it.

Drumpf: OKAY FINE I DON’T NEED THIS. I’M THE KING…. UH I MEAN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Reporter: What was that? The king? Wow guys I think we have a story without even having to ask him anything!

[Everyone leaves the conference room laughing as Drumpf goes on rambling.]

[News Reports for the next day]

Broadcast Journalist: Gary Gonzalez has become a hero to some and a villain to some. His walkout has gone viral to a universe response.

Another Broadcast Journalist: The nation’s first king? Presidential meltdown after the walkout by Gary Gonzalez.

Another radio station: Drumpf’s approval ratings reach another historic low after his king comment. Analysts believe no one will ever beat this mere 12%.

[Back in the newsroom the next day, everyone is sitting down and Gary walks slowly talking fast. He is the last and latest in]

Gary: Hey guys sorry I’m late my phone’s been blowing up so my alarm didn’t go off at the right ti… [He gets interrupted with a thunderous applause and standing ovation. Everyone meets him and grabs him.]

Steve: [Grabs his arm and pulls him in close] You made the story of the year kid. Great job. This beat is clearly in good hands.

[Janet simply looks at him, gives a huge smile and looks down. Gary knows his future is bright]

[Fin]