

## STATEMENT FROM LARRY J. SABATO

Following an appearance on MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews on Monday, September 25, 2006, some individuals misinterpreted comments I made on the show to suggest that I had personally witnessed or had been a first-hand party to George Allen's use of racial epithets during the 1970s when we were both students at the University of Virginia. At no point during the show did I make such a statement, and it was not my intention to suggest that I had personally heard George Allen use the n-word.

While George Allen and I were not friends during our concurrent years as students at the University of Virginia, we did have mutual friends and acquaintances, some of whom have remained in contact with me over the years.

Over recent months – and particularly so during the weeks following George Allen's use of the word "macaca" to single out a University of Virginia student of Indian descent – some of these mutual friends were among several people who contacted me to relay their first-hand accounts of George Allen using the n-word while he (George Allen) was a student at the University of Virginia.

As I have done on countless occasions over the last 25 years when credible individuals have contacted me with information on a host of political issues and/or matters related to political candidates and elected officials, I encouraged these individuals to contact the media if they expected their information to reach the public. As we now know, some of them did exactly that.

As far as I am aware, the first public report of George Allen using the n-word while he was a student at UVA appeared on Sunday, September 24, 2006, in the online magazine Salon.com. When I appeared on Chris Matthews show the next day (Monday), to my knowledge, Matthews was not aware that I had been contacted previously by individuals relaying their first-hand accounts of George Allen's use of racial epithets. There were then, and there remain even now, several who have either not yet spoken to the media or have decided not to use their names in the stories that have been written to date.

Chris Matthews was also not aware that earlier in the day on Monday I had also been contacted by two reporters from major publications who had shared details with me of related stories about George Allen's use of the n-word which would contain new information that had not yet been reported, but were expected to appear in those publications the following morning.

- more -

When Chris Matthews asked me on his show whether I knew George Allen had used racial epithets in college, my response was not intended to suggest that I had heard such statements from George Allen directly. Here again, I never said on his show that I had.

Because I was not going to leak one journalist's yet-unreported story to another journalist, what I was not able to share at the time of the broadcast with Chris Matthews was that in addition to these credible first-hand accounts relayed to me, I also knew about the story that would run the next day in other publications, such as The New York Times.

My only intention was to convey that I believed the stories to be true. On Monday when I appeared on Hardball with Chris Matthews I believed in the credibility of the individuals who offered to me their first-hand accounts of George Allen's use of racial epithets while he was a student at UVA. I continue to believe in the credibility of the individuals who contacted me about their first-hand accounts of George Allen using racial epithets during his time as a student at the University of Virginia. Some of their accounts, along with their names, have now been published by state and national media.

###