WIJDR | PUBLISHED COMMENT ANALYSIS

Deep-dive research report | October 6–30, 2026 (UTC)
Prepared from a published-only XML export generated October 30, 2026 at 13:03 UTC. This report analyzes comment content, timestamps, public reply structure, and reaction totals. No commenter identifying attributes, network addresses, account identifiers, or unpublished entries are used.

Executive findings

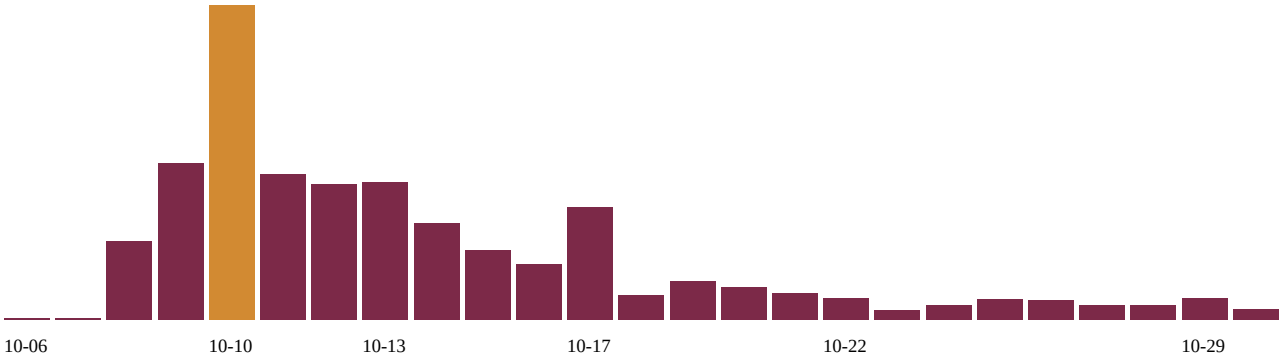
3,286 published comments across **174 page keys**. **2,274 (69.2%)** are replies and **1,012 (30.8%)** are top-level comments. The archive is unusually concentrated: **2,717 (82.7%)** appeared October 8–17. The top day, October 10, produced **656 (20.0%)** comments. October 9–14 together account for **2,058 (62.6%)**.

Both pro-Jane Doe and anti-Jane Doe arguments are present, and the loudest conflicts are interactive. Supportive arguments emphasize intoxication, consent, alleged group coordination, institutional failures, and victim-blaming. Critical arguments question credibility, subsequent conduct, motivations, evidence, and procedural fairness. Opposing commenters repeatedly criticize the site itself. These are positions expressed by commenters, not adjudicated facts.

Important limitation: the automatic stance scan identified 169 strong anti-position signals, 51 strong pro-position signals, 33 mixed signals, and 3,033 not confidently classified. Those numbers are **not** a valid pro/anti percentage of the conversation. Much of the debate uses sarcasm, replies, quotations, indirect disagreement, or short language. Reporting 169:51 as audience preference would materially misrepresent the record.

Volume over time

Daily published comments (UTC); peak = 656 on Oct 10



Date (UTC)	Comments	Replies	Interpretation
Oct 9	327	198	Rapid buildup and active exchanges
Oct 10	656	421	Primary spike; broad sitewide activity
Oct 11	304	223	Continuation of major arguments
Oct 12	283	221	Debate sustained mainly through replies
Oct 13	287	202	Institutional actions and contested evidence
Oct 17	235	202	Second, strongly reply-driven episode

Date (UTC)	Comments	Replies	Interpretation
Oct 29	44	27	Documentary-linked discussion, not mass-volume resurgence

How sentiment and stance were handled

Stance means a substantive position toward Jane Doe and/or her allegations; it is distinct from positive or negative emotional tone. A hostile comment aimed at the website may support Jane Doe. A legal criticism of the court may be neutral about the sexual-assault allegations. Comments that condemn harassment but question evidence can be mixed. The automated scan used explicit phrase patterns only, deliberately abstaining from most classifications rather than guessing. No claim of hand validation or exhaustive machine-learning classification is made.

Conservative high-signal counts: **169 anti** (5.1% of all comments), **51 pro** (1.6%), **33 ambiguous/mixed** (1.0%), **3,033 unclassified** (92.3%). These are lower-bound counts of selected explicit expressions, **not prevalence estimates**. The anti phrases cover more common short insults than the pro phrases, producing an asymmetric detector; comparing the two counts as an unbiased ratio is inappropriate.

Argument map: supportive and critical positions

Pro-Jane Doe / critical of anti-Jane-Doe narrative	Anti-Jane Doe / skeptical of allegations
Intoxication and capacity: accepting some activity does not necessarily establish consent to other activity or continued participation.	Consent and subsequent conduct: some commenters argue earlier expressions of agreement or later communications contradict the allegations.
Alleged coordination: several commenters emphasize claims of group messaging, others joining, and unequal knowledge.	Credibility and motive: allegations characterized by some as regret, reputational concern, money-seeking, or changing accounts.
Institutional response: criticism of Cornell, fraternities, campus enforcement and the handling of sexual-assault reports.	Due process: objections to reputational consequences, the presumption of guilt, sealing practices, and media narratives.
Privacy and abuse: complaints that identification efforts, sexualized ridicule, and the website itself amplify harassment.	Speech and publication: arguments that public records, court transparency, and criticism remain legitimate topics.

Interpretive caution: consent is conduct-specific and context-dependent. A person can consent to one act and not another; subsequent communications do not, by themselves, settle what happened. Likewise, a lawsuit is not proof of the pleaded allegations, and the absence of charges is not proof the allegation was false. The comments repeatedly collapse these distinctions.

Topic fingerprint: conservative keyword matches

Theme	Comments with match	Share of corpus
consent/intoxication	578	17.6%
credibility/evidence	437	13.3%
courts/due process	346	10.5%
media/censorship	400	12.2%
cornell/fraternities	266	8.1%
class/wealth	169	5.1%
privacy/identity/doxxing	143	4.4%
protest/institutional	90	2.7%
insult/sexual shaming	441	13.4%
documentary	21	0.6%

Theme categories overlap; a single comment can match several. These are reproducible word/phrase matches, **not complete semantic counts**. In particular, some references to “rape” are rebuttals or quotations rather than endorsements of an assertion. The **441 insult/sexual-shaming matches** indicate a material amount of aggressive rhetoric; they do not mean each matched comment attacks the same side.

Conversation mechanics

Replies dominate overall (69.2%) and particularly the Oct 17 wave (202 of 235, or 86.0%). That indicates a **few contested conversations can generate many posts** without an equally large increase in new opening statements. Oct 10 was both the

biggest absolute reply day (421) and a significant top-level-comment day (235).

Largest reply trees by total comments including the initial comment: **59** (Oct 11; defense of Jane Doe and criticism of misogynistic attacks), **45** (Oct 13; off-topic university-access argument), **33** (Oct 8; sexually explicit harassment), **29** (Oct 9; dispute over ability to overpower the accused), **25** (Oct 10; criticism of the blog and reference to the claimant's legal team), and **22** (Oct 17; dispute over identity claims). These thread summaries are anonymized and do not validate any participant's claimed firsthand knowledge.

The second-largest tree is largely off-topic, demonstrating why "most-commented" does not equal "most relevant." The top supportive tree and the prominent blog-critical tree demonstrate that pro-Jane-Doe voices were not absent from the published archive.

Events and temporal alignment

Date	Verified external or site event	Commentary relationship / confidence
Oct 5–6	Cornell campus protests and Day Hall property damage reported by AP/Washington Post.	The export starts Oct 6 with just 3 comments. An opening-stage news climate is established, but no within-export before/after baseline exists.
Oct 8–10	Oct 8 reporting on a party safety monitor; Oct 9 judicial sealing order following misidentification and threats.	Comments jump 164 → 327 → 656. Legal secrecy, free speech, privacy, identity, consent and credibility appear. Strong temporal coincidence; causal attribution unproven.
Oct 12–14	Oct 12 WIJDR article challenging the Oct 9 order; Oct 13 Cornell fraternity-party suspension; Oct 14 institutional leadership debate.	283 → 287 → 201. Discussion includes court process and Cornell institutional issues. No clean single-event attribution.
Oct 16–17	Trustees met; protesters demonstrated; New York Times report Oct 17.	115 → 235. Of Oct 17 comments, 202 are replies; this points to renewed disputes as well as news attention.
Oct 22–23	WIJDR redaction article on Oct 22; judge grants Jane Doe pseudonymity Oct 23.	45 → 20. No large fresh volume spike; important events are not necessarily reflected in sitewide posting volume.
Oct 28–30	Netflix announced the Instadocs installment Oct 28, released Oct 29; WIJDR published a same-day article.	31 → 44 → 22 (Oct 30 partial). Clear topical linkage within several Oct 29 posts, modest total-volume bump.

Timing is expressed in UTC, following the XML timestamps. A comment near midnight UTC may fall on the preceding local calendar date in New York or Bogotá. The October 30 data end at the export timestamp, so that day is incomplete. External articles were independently checked; their publication dates do not establish when each commenter first encountered them.

Distinguishing correlation from causation

For Oct 10, the document shows an unusually broad increase on the home page (205 comments), discussion landing page (110), an article page (40), and multiple individual discussion topics. The evidence fits wider awareness of the website, highly visible controversy and self-reinforcing argument chains. It does **not** isolate whether a specific article, repost, search-ranking change, or judicial action drove the traffic. No page-view/referral history, first-publication timestamps for every post, or platform reach series were supplied.

For Oct 17, the high reply share and large existing-topic contributions suggest conversational reactivation, possibly alongside external reporting. For Oct 29, topical mentions of Netflix show a more direct content link even though aggregate comments remained modest.

Reader reaction system: what it can and cannot prove

Reaction	Total recorded	Interpretation
Thumbs up	6,886	Potential approval, not verified stance
Train / clown	5,026	Site-specific symbol; meaning may vary by context
Laugh	3,184	Can be agreement or mockery
Middle finger	2,588	Hostility to comment, speaker, or subject unclear
Gold star	1,327	Potential approval
Trophy	1,204	Potential approval

Total recorded reactions: 20,215. This is a snapshot of reaction counters at export time, **not reactions created on each comment's posting date**. They cannot be dated to news events or reliably reclassified as pro/anti sentiment. The highest-reacted items include a site-feature announcement, a terse criticism of the site, support/hostility concerning sexual-assault claims, and profanity. Reaction popularity does not imply factual accuracy.

Narrative evolution

Opening phase (Oct 6–8): direct accusations about dishonesty and sexual conduct coexist with a lengthy pro-Jane-Doe argument about intoxication, alleged group coordination and delayed trauma recognition. Off-topic link drops are also evident early in the dataset.

Mass-engagement phase (Oct 9–13): the debate widens from the specific incident to rape law, evidence, credibility, feminism/misogyny, press freedom, anonymous speech, judicial sealing, political commentary and Cornell leadership. Comments critiquing the site itself become an important counter-narrative. This phase produces most of the archive.

Rebuttal phase (Oct 14–17): argument depth exceeds opening-message growth. Fights over sources, identity assertions and the meaning of consent persist. Do not infer that a commenter claiming personal acquaintance has verified any identity.

Lower-volume phase (Oct 18–28): overall output contracts to tens of comments per day; legal/privacy and class concerns recur, but there is no second October 10-scale rise.

Documentary phase (Oct 29–30 partial): discussion touches documentary production, Netflix coverage, alleged uneven access or inclusion, and the blog's editorial response. The dated film release makes this link relatively direct.

Quality, risks and methodological boundaries

This is a self-selected, contentious, site-specific audience—not a representative poll of Cornell students, the public, or either party's supporters. Raw entries are not unique persons; the analysis deliberately does not attempt identity matching, deduplication by technical metadata, or coordinated-behavior attribution. The report excludes all nonpublished statuses entirely. Violent fantasies, sexually derogatory remarks and unsupported allegations appear in published comments; they are analyzed as rhetoric, not repeated as factual claims.

A reliable final population-wide pro/anti split would require blind, human-reviewed annotation of all 3,286 comments or a large stratified sample, with separate *pro, anti, mixed, neutral, off-topic, unclear* labels, paired agreement tests and context-aware handling of sarcastic replies. The strong-signal scan included here is a transparent starting point, **not that completed validation**.

Actionable research conclusions

The site functions less like a passive comment wall than a live rebuttal arena. Consider reporting **top-level comments versus replies**, **issue-specific threads**, **civil versus abusive content**, and **stance among confidently hand-coded substantive comments** as separate measures. Preserve comment creation timestamps and publication dates of articles in any future exports. To test spike causes, compare on-site visits, referrals, social shares and post publication dates in the same timezone.

Reproducibility and external source notes

Dataset: WIJDR-all-comments-20261030-130300.xml; root export generated 2026-10-30T13:03:00+00:00. Only comment elements with an explicit published status were included. All dates in the numeric analysis derive from each published comment's created_at timestamp, not updated_at. Replies are entries with nonempty parent_id; root trees are reconstructed using parent links among published items. If a parent is outside the published dataset, tree reconstruction cannot reconstruct that unpublished context.

Source comparison (independently verified URLs, accessed October 30, 2026):

AP/Washington Post, campus protests, Oct 6
https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2026/10/05/cornell-university-rape-investigation/8b072562-c0dc-11f1-8170-681419af1cc9_story.html

Washington Post, sealing order, Oct 9
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2026/10/09/judge-seals-documents-cornell-rape-case-citing-doxing-unrelated-people/

Reuters, Cornell fraternity party ban, Oct 13
https://www.reuters.com/world/us/cornell-bans-fraternity-parties-rest-of-academic-year-after-alleged-gang-rape-2026-10-13/

New York Times republished by GV Wire, trustees, Oct 17
https://gvwire.com/2026/10/17/cornell-trustees-present-a-united-front-amid-crisis/

CBS, pseudonymity ruling, Oct 23
https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jane-doe-can-remain-anonymous-cornell-university-sexual-assault-lawsuit/

Netflix Tudum, documentary, Oct 28/29
https://www.netflix.com/tudum/articles/instadocs-jane-doe-v-cornell-release-date-news

WIJDR, response to court order, Oct 12
https://www.lucycraig.blog/article/jane-doe-meet-jane-doe-we-re-coming-to-court

WIJDR, Netflix article, Oct 29
https://lucycraig.blog/article/watch-netflix-releases-jane-doe-v-cornell-documentary-today

Source hierarchy: counts and thread descriptions are from the supplied published XML; event dates are based on the listed journalistic, organizational or site publications. Self-published WIJDR assertions are treated as evidence of the site's own editorial activity, not independent proof of disputed facts.