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Uber video: Another side to the story?

MARCH 27, 2016 BY [HUNTER SWOGGER](#) — 17 COMMENTS

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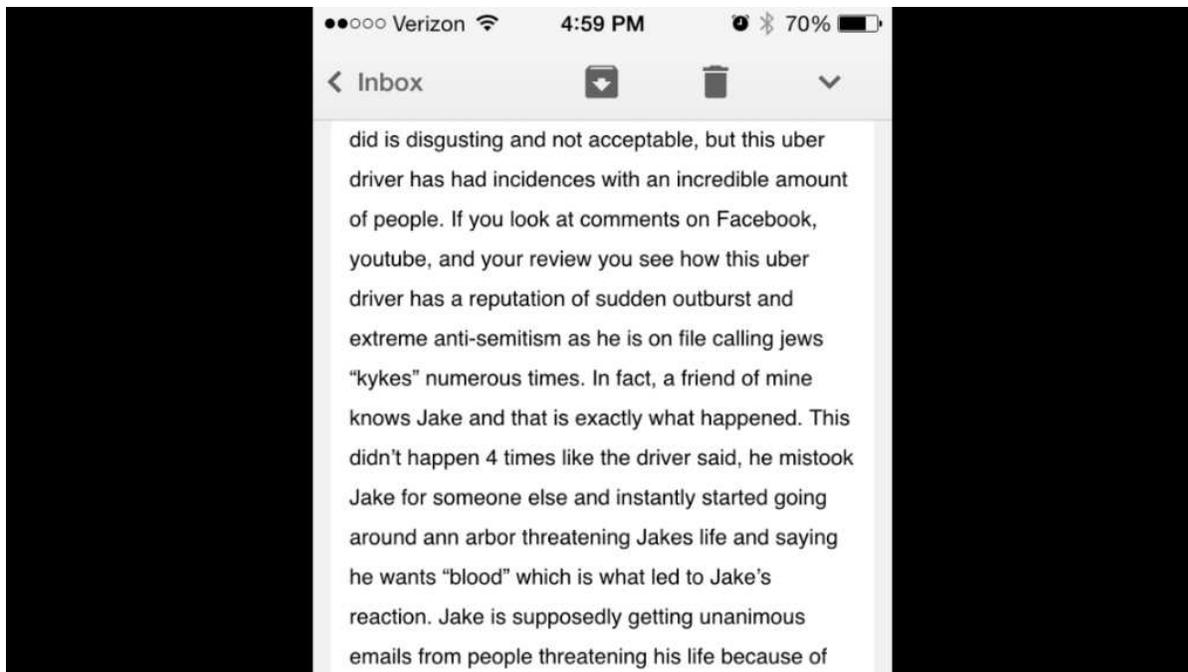
As the [now-viral video](#) of University of Michigan student Jake Croman berating an Uber driver keeps racking up views (over 170,000 as of this posting) and spreading around the internet, a counter-narrative is emerging in comment sections and through e-mails to the Review about what might have set the student off in the first place. They all tend to make the same general claim: that the Uber driver, Artur Zawada, is anti-Semitic.

This one, from the YouTube comments section, is from a user who claims to be a Jewish U of M sophomore who has ridden with Artur before and was personally berated for being Jewish:

I am a sophomore at the university. I have had this uber driver before. I wrote several emails to uber about him to which they responded each time they would "deal with him". This man, Artur, after seeing my name when I got in the car asked if I was Jewish. I asked why it was any of his business. He said "You are. You are one of them. You dirty Jew get out of my car I don't want your dirty blood in here." I was appalled and told him to take his anti Semitic beliefs back to nazi Germany. I emailed uber right away. The next time I had him, my friend had called the car. When we got in he seemed very angry. Neither of us said anything for 6 minutes until he burst out saying, "This city is full of dirt of the earth kykes, I just had two of them in my car". I then realized it was him. I emailed uber again

car . I then realized it was him. I emailed uber once again. Good for this kid for standing up. Yes he used vulgar language but I'm sure what this asshole driver said to him was much worse. Thank you, to this kid who stood up to him.

Another one, from an e-mail to the Review, claims that Artur is "on file calling Jews 'Kykes'" and that a friend who knows Jake said that Artur had called Jake anti-Semitic slurs and threatened him:



Nothing in the video suggests that anti-Semitism was the cause of the outburst. However, it is certainly possible that the clip uploaded was taken out of context.

*This post will continue to be updated as additional information is received.

*The Review has reached out to Uber to comment on any e-mails complaints received about Artur and asking to confirm his Driver Rating (Artur claimed in the YouTube comments section that his driver rating is 4.8 out of 5).

UPDATE (3/27/16, 8 PM): Jake Croman has given a statement to Buzzfeed News claiming that his outburst was provoked by anti-Semitic remarks by Zawada:

"This video shows one side of an argument I had with an Uber driver two weeks ago after he refused to pick me up on the basis of my religion. What you don't see in the video is that the driver had made a number of offensive anti-Semitic remarks that provoked my response. I am not proud of my reaction to his discrimination and I regret my choice of words. Shortly after

the verbal altercation, I filed a complaint with the Ann Arbor police department and they are now dealing with the issue."

An Ann Arbor police spokesperson subsequently told BuzzFeed News they could not locate Croman's name in their reporting system. Croman said he was unable to immediately provide a case number for his report, saying he was away from school.

UPDATE: In another side to the other side, a Jewish friend of Artur defended him in a public Facebook post.



About Hunter Swogger

Hunter is a Senior majoring in Electrical Engineering at the University of Michigan. He is a fan of classic rock, rap, Tottenham Hotspurs, manarchism, and trolling.

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