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From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Thur 6/8/2017 9:45:35 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Comey time — 45 fuels GOP media-bashing trend — Behind NYT's latest c-suite shuffle

By Joe Pompeo | 06/08/2017 05:43 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

PASS THE POPCORN - If you're a company with some negative or unflattering news to announce, this morning around 10 a.m. is probably as good a time as ever to drop that press release, because the chances of anyone watching or reading or tweeting or talking about anything other than James Comey's Senate testimony are pretty slim. You can tune in on any of the broadcast or cable-news networks and there will be live-streams galore.

As The New York Times notes: "[M]illions are expected to pause on Thursday to take in a spectacle already being compared to other political-cultural touchstones, like the Army-McCarthy hearings and Anita Hill's testimony about Clarence Thomas. ... By the time details from Mr. Comey's prepared remarks surfaced on Wednesday ... the hearing had leapt from Beltway curiosity to required viewing, a cliffhanger episode of the nation's real-life reality show." More: "[Must-See TV: Free Drinks and Canceled Meetings for Comey's Testimony](#)"

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BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE LATEST NYT EXECUTIVE SHUFFLE - OK there's not too much between the lines, as far as I can tell, but consider this: When the prominent media executive and NPR refugee Kinsey Wilson joined the Times in early 2015, and [swiftly accrued a stunning amount of authority for an outsider](#), he was seen as something of a white knight for the Times' digital future. Two years later, Wilson's position of EVP for product and technology has been eliminated, and Wilson is leaving the company's employ apart from an ongoing advisory role. Several Times sources I spoke with yesterday cautioned that the decision wasn't so much about Wilson, who brought in big digital talent and spearheaded high-profile initiatives like an expanded audio strategy, as it was about his position, which apparently no longer fit into an evolving org chart in which other key players have consolidated influence.

First and foremost, there's Meredith Kopit Levien, whose promotion to chief operating officer was the headline of yesterday's [Times Company announcement](#). Since she left Forbes in 2013 to lead the Times' advertising department, Levien's rise has been strong and steady -- "The appointment clearly puts a potential succession in place" for when CEO Mark Thompson eventually steps down, Ken Doctor [writes](#) -- and in her new role, Levien will take ownership of the digital portfolio that had been Wilson's bread and butter. Then there's publisher-in-waiting A.G. Sulzberger, who will bring the perspective of a digital native to a job in which the 36-year-old newspaper scion could potentially succeed his father as early as late 2017. That's to say

nothing of ascendant newsroom figures like Cliff Levy, Alex MacCallum and Sam Dolnick (also a Sulzberger family member) who have carved out bigger digital footprints over the past couple of years. As one insider noted, "the newsroom is very different" than when Wilson came on board, "and the company is also pretty different."

MUST READS:

-- "West Wing aides fearful of directly attacking Comey" [[POLITICO](#)]

-- "Trump's Interests vs. America's, Saudi Arabia Edition" [[The Atlantic](#)]

-- "The Kids Are Alt-Right" [[BuzzFeed](#)]

-- "Climber Completes the Most Dangerous Rope-Free Ascent Ever" [[National Geographic](#)]

45 FUELS GOP MEDIA-BASHING TREND - [HuffPost's Michael Calderone](#) : "Trump vilified the press during the 2016 campaign and, as president, has continued dismissing critical coverage as 'fake news,' infamously dubbing the media the 'enemy of the people.' Though Trump can't be blamed for everything a local politician does or says, he has set the tone from the White House by routinely mocking journalists in highly personal ways while disregarding the press as a vital part of a functioning democracy. ... Anti-press rhetoric will likely escalate as Republican strategists plan to make opposition to the news media a key part of their 2018 midterm elections strategy." Lots of examples in the piece, which you can read [here](#).

Related: Newly elected Montana GOP Congressman Greg Gianforte has agreed to donate \$50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as well as issuing a formal apology, as part of a civil settlement with Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs, who Gianforte assaulted. [Details](#).

THE IVANKA SUPERMARKET FACTOR - American Media Inc., which is run by Trump pal David Pecker, was perhaps hoping that this [Adweek interview](#) with longtime Us Weekly publisher Vicci Rose would be its P.R. highlight of the day. Instead, everyone was making fun of Us Weekly for giving a sloppy wet kiss to Ivanka Trump on one of the magazine's first covers since AMI closed its deal to acquire the checkout-line staple from Wenner Media. Behold: "Ivanka Takes a Stand: WHY I DISAGREE WITH MY DAD." [Maggie Haberman](#) : "Someone pretty familiar with Ivanka Trump's thinking about her WH role is talking to US Weekly."

MIKE PENCE ABRUPTLY CANCELED A 'PBS NEWSHOUR' INTERVIEW -

Correspondent Miles O'Brien was all set to sit down with the Vice President on his 58th birthday yesterday, at the Johnson Space Center in Texas. The interview was set up in advance and promoted on Tuesday's edition of "NewsHour." But Sara Just, the program's executive producer, told POLITICO's Hadas Gold that they "received word the interview was cancelled just before it was to take place." She referred us for comment to the VP's office, which said in an email: "Running late. Committed to finding opportunity to reschedule."

SOUND BITES:

-- "Does the spokesman who smeared Ben apologize too as part of deal?" [[Maggie Haberman](#)]

-- "More 'anonymous sources'. The Fox leakers are so obvious. Just pathetic knowing who they r. Gutless Saboteurs." [[Sean Hannity](#)]

-- "[W]e've done a bad job of explaining to the public that there is a difference between news and opinion and who on their screen is there for which purpose." [[Sally Kohn](#)]

-- "I'm not in journalism. I'm just a guy with a lot of flaws." [[Marc Maron](#)]

AOL-YAHOO BLOODBATH - [Kara Swisher reports over at Recode](#): "According to sources, layoffs are expected to take place across AOL and Yahoo that could number up to 1,000 jobs. That is less than 20 percent of the combined company, according to sources. This action is not unexpected, given that both companies have a lot of redundancies, including in human resources, finance, marketing and general administration. The merger between the two companies ... is expected to be completed in the next week."

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- **As Morning Media reported in April**, New York magazine's Stella Bugbee recently turned down an offer to become The New York Times' next Styles editor. It appears Bugbee's loyalty has served her well: She's been promoted from editorial director to president and editor in chief of New York's fashion and women's website, The Cut, a role in which she will be responsible for "[strategic direction and plans for further growth](#)."

-- **Garrett Graff, a prolific freelancer of late and the former editor of POLITICO Magazine**, has [joined the website Longreads](#) as a "contributing writer covering border security and immigration, federal law enforcement, and the mechanics of how government works."

SOUNDTRACK: Jets to Brazil, "[Sea Anemone](#)"

EXTRAS:

-- The Center for Public Integrity and ProPublica have joined forces to create a searchable database of financial disclosure forms from members the Trump administration. [[CPI](#)]

-- Kurt Bardella: "I used to work at Breitbart. Here's why I think they fired that reporter over a tweet." [[Vox](#)]

-- "The One Big Reason Why BuzzFeed Needs to Break Into TV" [[Bloomberg Businessweek](#)]

-- Condé Nast is making the tech website Backchannel, which it acquired last year from Ev Williams' Medium platform, a part of Wired's website.

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/06/08/comey-time-45-fuels-gop->

media-bashing-trend-behind-nyts-latest-c-suite-shuffle-001287

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