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From: Morning Media
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Subject: Morning Media: Press threats at home and abroad --Trump's taking questions -- BuzzFeed 'revolt' -- Governor Scarborough? -- New York Magazine turns 50

By Michael Calderone | 10/17/2017 05:38 AM EDT

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S ATTACKS on The New York Times, CNN and NBC grab headlines, but the effect of his rhetoric may be most felt by reporters on the ground in American cities and contentious spots like Standing Rock, as well as in countries where press freedom is a constitutional guarantee.

- **"The most dangerous place to be a journalist** in America is at a protest," Peter Sterne and Jonathan Peters write in the Columbia Journalism Review, noting that most of the 20 arrests and 21 physical attacks on the press so far this year have occurred at demonstrations. They also tie such mistreatment to an anti-press climate fueled by Trump, writing that "with his near-daily denuncements of the press, the president has helped normalize abuses against journalists by ordinary people."

- **As I wrote Thursday**, Trump's recent suggestion that someone "look into" news organizations over their coverage was at odds with the U.S. State Department's condemnation of Turkey that same day for convicting a Wall Street Journal reporter. Such comments carry "a worldwide price," writes The Washington Post's Margaret Sullivan. Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, agreed, telling Sullivan that "when the president consistently speaks that way, there's a loss of U.S. influence and credibility on matters of press freedom."

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SPEAKING OF PRESS FREEDOM, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has to make a choice in responding to Trump's suggesting last week that NBC lose its "license" following critical coverage: free press or the president. POLITICO'S Margaret Harding McGill reports that "Pai could confront public questions about the issue as soon as Tuesday at a telecom law event in Washington, forcing him to choose between his longstanding defense of freedom of speech and the man who made him chairman."

TRUMP'S IMPROMPTU PRESS EVENTS, like the one Monday afternoon in the Rose Garden, can play to his strengths and the media's weaknesses. POLITICO'S Jason Schwartz writes how it "had not been listed on the president's official schedule and, with scant time to set up chairs, reporters bunched in on the White House lawn. As Trump pointed out to call on different reporters, many took to shouting out their questions over each other." Still, some White House reporters are happy to get the opportunity.

- **"The President is taking questions** much more frequently in recent weeks and that is a good thing," ABC's Jonathan Karl said. "There is no substitute for a formal press conference, but regardless of format, it is important to have the opportunity to ask the president questions and

that is happening much more often." Karl also said that he has "probably had more opportunities to ask questions of President Trump over the past two weeks than I had of President Obama during the last two years of his presidency."

MORE ON TRUMP'S ROSE GARDEN PERFORMANCE, from POLITICO'S Josh Dawsey: "It was the latest instance of Trump bypassing his own communications staff to speak directly to the press, and the public, after weeks of blistering criticism and as White House aides struggle with the increasing possibility that they may end the year without accomplishing any of their grand legislative goals."

BREITBART CHAIRMAN STEVE BANNON will attend an event today in Scottsdale, Arizona in support of Kelli Ward, who is challenging incumbent Republican Sen. (and Trump critic) Jeff Flake for the party's nomination. Laura Ingraham, the conservative radio host whose new 10 p.m. Fox News show will premiere later this month, is headlining the event.

TRUMP HAS BYPASSED CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO: CNN's Oliver Darcy writes on the president's "mysterious absence" from a presumably well-suited medium, and notes how the drought may end. "Last week, as this story was being prepared for publication, CNN asked the White House if the president planned on appearing on talk radio," Darcy writes. "On Monday, a White House official told CNN the president has carved time out of his schedule to participate in a talk radio event at the White House on Tuesday."

WEINSTEIN EFFECT, CONT'D: The Times' Jim Rutenberg, Rachel Adams and Melena Ryzik write on the floodgates opening in Hollywood: "Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were flooded with messages from women who used the hashtag #MeToo to acknowledge that they had dealt with sexual harassment or assault. A tweet posted by the actress Alyssa Milano inspired the online campaign. ... Twitter promoted the #MeToo campaign on Moments, its platform of highlighted stories, and the hashtag went on to be used more than 500,000 times in its first 24 hours by people from all lines of work."

NATE SILVER QUESTIONS WEINSTEIN-CLINTON FRAMING: "It's amazing to me that both the right-wing and the mainstream media have tried so hard to make the Weinstein scandal about Hillary Clinton when the real scandal is so much worse and implies that the establishment which helped to enable it is deeply corrupt," he tweets. "If you're really 'anti-establishment,' you should be *outraged* by Weinstein in ways that have nothing much to do with Clinton or Democrats."

MANAGING A MEDIA-OBSESSED PRESIDENT: White House aides try to manage Trump with "frequent praise" in public and showing him positive news coverage, as The Washington Post's Ashley Parker and Greg Jaffe report. In addition, they write, "some aides and outside advisers hoping to push their allies and friends for top postings, such as ambassadorships, made sure their candidates appeared speaking favorably about Trump in conservative news outlets - and that those news clippings ended up on the president's desk."

WASHINGTON POST AND "60 MINUTES" GET RESULTS: "President Trump declined on Monday to express confidence in Rep. Tom Marino (R-Pa.), his drug czar nominee, in the

wake of the Washington Post/"60 Minutes" investigation that found the lawmaker helped steer legislation that made it harder for the government to take some enforcement actions against giant drug companies."

BUZZFEED STAFFERS 'REVOLT' OVER ROGER STONE PIECE: Splinter's David Uberti writes: "Several BuzzFeed staffers openly criticized their site's decision Friday to publish an op-ed arguing that GOP political operative Roger Stone and President Donald Trump share 'a long history as an ally of the LGBT community,' renewing questions on the acceptable range of voices in public debate and how opinion journalists balance provocation and facts in the Trump era."

GOVERNOR SCARBOROUGH? MSNBC host and now-political independent Joe Scarborough prompted speculation Friday that he'd consider running for governor of Connecticut, where he lives, after tweeting an emoji in response to a suggestion that he enter the race. But Scarborough tamped down the chatter Monday after being added to a local poll. "No thank you," he tweeted with another emoji. Scarborough, a former Florida congressman, has flirted before with running for office. An MSNBC spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

TRAGEDY: Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who has reported deeply on government corruption and the Panama Papers disclosures, was killed in a car bombing Monday.

NEW YORK MAGAZINE TURNS 50: The new issue, with cover illustrations by Alex Katz, kicks off a year-long celebration for the magazine that includes next month's publication of "Highbrow, Lowbrow, Brilliant, Despicable: 50 Years of New York Magazine."

REVOLVING DOOR:

Kinsey Wilson, who was recently the New York Times' executive vice president for product and technology and remains a senior adviser to president and CEO Mark Thompson, has been named Shorenstein Center visiting fellow for fall 2017 and spring 2018. Shorenstein director Nicco Mele said Wilson's "role in an advisory capacity, as we work on various projects related to the sustainability of news, will be immensely valuable."

Matthew Ingram, a highly regarded writer on media and technology, and most recently at Fortune, is joining the Columbia Journalism Review as chief digital writer.

David Byler, most recently with Real Clear Politics, is joining The Weekly Standard as staff writer and chief elections analyst.

And **Cristiano Lima**, who has contributed to this newsletter, is now a POLITICO breaking news reporter.

EXTRAS:

- The Times' Michael Grynbaum talks to Breitbart White House reporter Charlie Spiering.

- Ex-Obama staffer-turned podcaster Tommy Vietor feuds with Fox News' John Roberts.
- Longreads is looking to raise \$25,000 to help support writers, photographers and illustrators.
- NBC fires "Today" editor over leaked Lawrence O'Donnell clip.
- North Korean hackers targeted British broadcaster Channel 4 over a planned "series about a British nuclear scientist kidnapped in Pyongyang."
- Frank Bruni, Maggie Haberman and other NYTers sing Stephen Sondheim's "Broadway Baby."

KICKER:

"I think it's embarrassing to report on a president like this. It's kind of humiliating in a way to the entire institution - and that institution, the presidency, includes the White House press corps. And so instead of facing full-frontal that fact, I think journalists try to make it seem a little bit more normal than it really is," - *NYU professor and press critic Jay Rosen on MSNBC's "The Beat with Ari Melber."*

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