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From: Morning Media
Sent: Wed 11/1/2017 9:38:15 AM
Subject: Morning Media: The Atlantic turns 160 -- Fox News staffers 'embarrassed' -- Heilemann 'shocked' -- Top NPR editor takes leave -- Palm Beach papers for sale

By Michael Calderone | 11/01/2017 05:36 AM EDT

IF EMERSON, LONGFELLOW AND STOWE returned to present-day America, they probably wouldn't "believe we're still talking about Robert E. Lee," Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, told me. "To abolitionists, this was a settled question" as the Civil War began in 1861.

- **The three eminent abolitionist founders** of The Atlantic launched the magazine 160 years ago today, just four years before the North and South would collide over slavery - a fact that suddenly seems unsettled in 2017. White House chief of staff John Kelly said Monday night on Fox News that Confederate General Lee was "an honorable man," and claimed that it was failure to "compromise" that led to the Civil War, an inaccurate view some historians consider "strange" and even "dangerous." Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders defended Kelly's remarks at Tuesday's briefing, with White House reporter April Ryan left asking whether the Trump administration believes slavery is wrong.

- **"It's an interesting moment to be at The Atlantic,"** Goldberg said. "It seems as if many of the issues we thought have been settled in our national discourse are actually quite unsettled and they go to the core of what The Atlantic has been about."

- **One of The Atlantic's most read stories Tuesday** was Adam Serwer's "The Myth of the Kindly General Lee," a piece originally published in June in response to the debate over removing Confederate statues. "Even if one conceded Lee's military prowess, he would still be responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans in defense of the South's authority to own millions of human beings as property because they are black," Serwer wrote. "Lee's elevation is a key part of a 150-year-old propaganda campaign designed to erase slavery as the cause of the war and whitewash the Confederate cause as a noble one."

- **Even assuming The Atlantic's founders would be mystified** that Lee and the cause of the Civil War were up for debate 152 years after it ended, Goldberg said he thought they'd consider Serwer's piece in keeping with The Atlantic's DNA: "to be a magazine of the American idea, to stand for certain things in American life and world affairs, but ultimately to be a place to argue the meaning of America and what its role in the world should be."

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media. Please send tips to mcalderone@politico.com and @mlcalderone. Jason Schwartz (@JasonSchwartz) and Daniel Lippman (@dlippman) contributed to the newsletter. [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

FOX NEWS STAFFERS 'EMBARRASSED' BY MUELLER COVERAGE: CNN's Oliver Darcy reports that some employees were "embarrassed and humiliated" by how the network framed Trump campaign officials being indicted in the ongoing Russia investigation led by

former FBI chief Robert Mueller. "I'm watching now and screaming," one Fox News personality texted Darcy. "I want to quit."

- **"It is another blow to journalists at Fox** who come in every day wanting to cover the news in a fair and objective way," one senior Fox News employee told CNN. The person added, "Fox feels like an extension of the Trump White House."

RELATED: "A week of Fox News transcripts shows how they began questioning Mueller's credibility," by Vox's Alvin Chang.

FOX NEMESIS TESTIFIED OVER MURDOCH'S U.K. DEAL: CNN's Hadas Gold reports: Media Matters president Angelo "Carusone told CNN that he hammered 21st Century Fox on several fronts during the hearing. He cited examples of Fox News publishing inaccurate information as a problem. He also said he told the regulators it's troubling that Fox has commentators who have a direct interest in the matter they speak about, but do not acknowledge the conflict of interest, and said he brought up what he says are Fox's blurred lines between what is news and what is commentary on air."

HEILEMANN 'FLABBERGASTED' BY HALPERIN ALLEGATIONS: John Heilemann, who has worked very closely with Mark Halperin over the past decade, including co-writing two books, starting a politics site and hosting a daily TV show, says he was "shocked" that more than a dozen women have leveled sexual harassment accusations against his longtime collaborator.

- **"I had never heard of, been exposed to** or had any inkling of the notion that he had engaged in any behavior that could be described in even the broadest sense of being sexual harassment or sexual assault," Heilemann told the New York Times.

- **The partnership is over**, but it unclear what happens to the unpublished work. The pair already conducted nearly 300 interviews for the next "Game Change" book, which was canceled last week by Penguin Press (along with HBO killing the film version). "We've done reporting that touches on important things both for history and for the current national dialogue," Heilemann said.

NPR'S TOP EDITOR ACCUSED OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT: The Washington Post's Paul Farhi reports that two women have accused Michael Oreskes, NPR's senior vice president for news and editorial director, of making "unwanted physical contact" when employed two decades ago at The New York Times. NPR said Oreskes has been put on indefinite leave.

- **The quick decision** follows accusations, made in the aftermath of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, against several prominent media figures, including Halperin, Leon Wieseltier and Hamilton Fish.

HOW "'SUPERSTAR' HARASSERS' GOT AWAY FOR SO LONG: The Times' Noam Scheiber writes: "The pattern is so well established that an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission task force, in a report on sexual harassment last year, gave those who benefit from it a name: 'superstar' harassers. 'When the superstar misbehaves, employers may perceive

themselves in a quandary,' the report said. 'They may be tempted to ignore the misconduct because, the thinking goes, losing the superstar would be too costly.'"

SOUND BITES

"Many factors contributed to the Civil War. One caused it: slavery." [[Ken Burns](#)]

"Notion that Civil War resulted from a lack of compromise is belied by all the compromises made on enslavement from America's founding." [[Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)]

"Personally I'm ok with the lack of compromise on slavery" [[Shani Hilton](#)]

"So the WH stance is a 'compromise' could have avoided the Civil War but the compromise of kneeling vs sitting at an NFL game is unacceptable" [[James Poniewozik](#)]

"This next civil war will be fought over the origins of the previous Civil War." [[Dan Zak](#)]

FACEBOOK, TWITTER TESTIFY ON RUSSIA: POLITICO's Nancy Scola and Ashley Gold [report](#) that "top lawyers from Facebook and Twitter said Tuesday that Russian-linked posts and advertisements placed on the social networks after Election Day sought to sow doubt about President Donald Trump's victory."

- **Meanwhile,** [POLITICO's Jason Schwartz writes](#) that 19 major civil rights groups signed a letter knocking Facebook for being all talk and not enough action when it came to combating hateful content on the platform. "We were alarmed to see your platform being abused to promote bigotry, and especially disappointed that it has taken media exposure and congressional oversight to give a degree of transparency into your practices," said the letter, signed by groups like the League of United Latin American Citizens, Muslim Advocates and the NAACP.

TODAY: FLASH BRIEFING on Facebook, Google Hearings: POLITICO and The Information are partnering to offer an insider flash briefing for real-time analysis, key takeaways and the impact that congressional testimony about Russian involvement in the 2016 Election by representatives of Facebook, Google and Twitter will have. Jessica Lessin will moderate a discussion and Q&A featuring POLITICO's Nancy Scola and The Information's Cory Weinberg on the hearings and their impact on legislation, the latest intel about possible connections to the Trump and Clinton campaigns, and insight into how these tech giants are responding to Russian propaganda arms like RT. Sign up for today's Flash Briefing [here](#) (\$1 trial offer for The Information), and sign up for POLITICO's Morning Tech for all latest tech news in your inbox each morning [here](#).

THE MAR-A-LAGO BEAT: Cox Media Group is selling the Palm Beach Post and Palm Beach Daily News, two small newspapers with outsize influence in the Trump era given their journalists' experience covering the goings-on at the president's winter compound. In March, BuzzFeed [noted](#) the Palm Beach papers' influence these days, while Washingtonian [looked](#) the following month at the "must-read" Daily News. Veterans of The Post, like columnist Frank Cerabino, know chapter and verse about Trump's dealings in the area, as he detailed in a [2015](#)

POLITICO magazine story.

- **The president hasn't always been a fan** of the local paper while in Mar-a-Lago. "One of the country's dumbest newspapers - The Palm Beach Post - should be put to sleep," he tweeted in 2013. "It's dying."

- **The Austin American-Statesman**, another Cox paper, and an especially influential one in Texas, is also up for sale. The American-Statesman employs more than 200 people, according its report on the paper's going on the market.

TODAY: POLITICO's Susan Glasser interviews Senator Ben Cardin and experts on how disinformation is used to destabilize democracies. The event is at 8:30 a.m at the Newseum and will stream live here.

TUNE IN: Hillary Clinton will be on "The Daily Show" tonight.

HONORING WAYNE BARRETT: Applications are now being accepted for The Wayne Barrett Investigative Fund, which honors the legendary investigative journalist, who was one of the first to report deeply and aggressively on Donald Trump. "This fund will support ambitious reporting projects focused on Wayne's major areas of interest: politics and corruption in both New York City and on the national stage," the announcement read.

REVOLVING DOOR

- **Sam Scarrow** has been hired as associate communications director at Media Matters for America. He most recently was an account executive at BerlinRosen Public Affairs, where he worked since June 2015.

EXTRAS:

- Forbes is shutting down its opinion section.

- The Daily Beast's Lloyd Grove looks at the "Brooklyn bloggers who brought down Paul Manafort."

- The Atlantic's Megan Garber assesses a new Netflix documentary on Joan Didion.

- In New Jersey, news organizations are trying to connect with their readers over potlucks.

- The founder of Wikipedia is launching a news service.

- The Houston Press reports that former wrestler Brother Love has a hit podcast.

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/11/01/the-atlantic-turns-160-fox-news-staffers-embarrassed-heilemann-shocked-top-npr-editor-takes-leave-palm-beach-papers-for->

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