

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Tue 6/27/2017 9:39:30 AM
Subject: Morning Media: NYT Styles search in home stretch — Heads roll at CNN — 'Studio 360' heads to Slate

By Joe Pompeo | 06/27/2017 05:36 AM EDT

With Hadas Gold and Alex Weprin

STYLES SHORTLIST - New York Times insiders tell Morning Media the company is close to naming a new editor for its Styles section, a high-profile gig that's been open since it became public a few months ago that Stuart Emmrich would be stepping down, after seven years at the helm, for a new position within the Times. Sources familiar with the search told Morning Media a decision is expected as early as the end of this week. The internal favorite is Jim Windolf, editor of the monthly Men's Style supplement; formerly of Vanity Fair and The New York Observer. The two external candidates that Times executive editor Dean Baquet has his eye on, my sources confirmed, are Choire Sicha and Lori Leibovich. As with Windolf, probably neither of them needs an introduction for many readers of this newsletter, but just in case: Sicha is an executive at Vox Media, co-founder of The Awl and a veteran of Gawker and The New York Observer. (He also has written for Windolf at Men's Style.) Leibovich is Time Inc's digital director of women's content, whose previous editing gigs include HuffPost and Salon. (Fun fact: Her brother is NYT Mag chief national correspondent and "This Town" author Mark Leibovich.) As Morning Media reported in April, Baquet had offered the job to New York mag's Stella Bugbee, but she turned it down. The Times declined to comment.

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / [@joepompeo](https://twitter.com/joepompeo). **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** ([@alexweprin](https://twitter.com/alexweprin) / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (clima@politico.com / [@ludacristiano](https://twitter.com/ludacristiano)). **Hadas Gold** contributed to today's newsletter. [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

HARD FAST FALL - Eric Lichtblau had barely gotten up and running at CNN after 15 years as a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter for The New York Times. Now Lichtblau and two of his colleagues are out in the midst of a controversy -- over a retracted article linking Trump ally Anthony Scaramucci to the Russia investigation -- that has cast a shadow over CNN while adding fuel to the anti-mainstream-media fire that's been spreading across the land. The other two journalists are no schlubs themselves. Thomas Frank, author of the retracted story, is a seasoned alum of USA Today and Newsday, as well as a Pulitzer finalist. Lex Haris, who formerly ran CNN Money, had been the editor in charge of a new investigative unit that Lichtblau and Frank had joined.

A tidbit that was making the rounds last night was that the offending article had been submitted to CNN's lawyers for review, and was published despite the legal team throwing up red flags. At the same time, a CNN source told us that, in fact, legal *hadn't* reviewed the final piece, and was concerned/surprised when they saw that it had been published. A CNN rep didn't respond to an email seeking clarification/confirmation. (If you know exactly how it went down, we'd love to hear from you.)

Additionally, a source told my colleague Hadas Gold that Scaramucci called Frank and Washington Bureau Chief Sam Feist on Friday after the story posted, hinting at a potential lawsuit if the piece was not taken down, which it was by Friday night. An editor's note said the story "did not meet CNN's editorial standards and has been retracted. Links to the story have been disabled. CNN apologizes to Mr. Scaramucci." Yesterday evening, CNN said it had "accepted the resignations of the employees involved in the story's publication." No way around it: The whole thing's a bad look for CNN, and a devastating blow for three otherwise well-respected newsmen.

SOUND BITES:

-- "CNN published a bad story, pulled it, apologized. 3 journalists quit. That's impressive and decisive action. Yelling 'Fake News' unfair." [[John Podhoretz](#)]

-- "Inquiring minds want to know: what in the story was bad? Has anyone said? Have I missed?" [[Michael Wolff](#)]

-- "CNN employs Jeffrey Lord. And yet it lets 3 reporters/editors w/ combined 80 years of experience and a Pulitzer go over one mistaken story?" [[Daniel Gross](#)]

-- "Many of our best journalists seem, in news coverage, not just opinion pieces, to be moving away from balance and nonpartisanship. Is this the end of all that is good and decent in American journalism? Nah." [[Mitchell Stephens](#)]

-- "Their briefing room. Their rules. TV camera coverage relatively recent development during Clinton Admin." [[Mark Knoller](#)]

FIRST IN MORNING MEDIA: KURT ANDERSEN'S 'STUDIO 360' IS HEADED TO SLATE - The weekly public radio show and podcast has long been co-produced by Public Radio International and WNYC. But the 18-year marriage is coming to an end. "Studio 360," a Peabody-winning pop-culture broadcast, will now be a partnership between PRI and Slate, which has developed its own podcasting operation. WNYC will continue to be one of the 214 stations that distribute "Studio 360," but PRI Chief Content Officer Melinda Ward says the Slate partnership will help the show "realize its full potential as a podcast." WNYC is itself a serious podcast player, but most of its energy/resources in that department go into shows that WNYC started/owns. ("Studio 360" is owned by PRI.) Andersen, who's also a novelist and co-creator (with Graydon Carter) of the legendary Spy magazine, said he "couldn't be more excited" about combining forces with Slate.

Podcasts are becoming increasingly influential both from an audience standpoint and a business one. (A study out yesterday from IAB/PwC says U.S. advertising revenues for the medium are projected to rise 85 percent in 2017 to \$220 million.) Slate, best known as a long-running digital magazine, is one in a number of companies to create a successful podcast network over the past few years, and "Studio 360" will easily be the most high profile of Slate's roughly 30 shows. Andersen and his team will move to Slate's Brooklyn headquarters, where

they will collaborate with Slate staff on the production, distribution, and promotion of both the radio program and podcast.

MUST READS:

-- "Being Donald Trump: the life of an impersonator" [[The Guardian](#)]

-- Jack Shafer: "America's Mayor" [[POLITICO Mag](#)]

-- "What Happened to America's Public Intellectuals?" [[Smithsonian](#)]

-- An oral history of Playgirl. [[Esquire](#)]

MOVE OVER, PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS: SEAN HANNITY IS BEING HONORED WITH AN AWARD FOR 'MEDIA EXCELLENCE'

- Granted, said award is to be handed down not from the ivory tower of an elite journalism school, but from the Media Research Center (a conservative watchdog group) at its upcoming September gala. Nonetheless, it's bound to send a shiver of irony down the spines of many journalists to whom the Fox News anchor's brand of propagandistic anti-MSM fervor and unabashed Trump boosterism is downright anathema. The annual MRC fete, known as the DisHonor Awards, is a cheeky black-tie affair where "dishonors" are bestowed on liberals and the mainstream media, while conservative media types are honored in earnest. Previous winners of the William F. Buckley award that Hannity is to receive include Andrew Breitbart, Charles Krauthammer, Phyllis Schlafly and Charlie Daniels. Rush Limbaugh also is set to make an appearance.

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- **Bloomberg has hired former BBC Economics Editor Stephanie Flanders** to lead a new unit called Bloomberg Economics. From EIC John Micklethwait's memo: "We believe that we can provide a better product if our ... economists and our economics journalists ... belong to one unified team. So in October we will bring them together into one unit called Bloomberg Economics. ... Dan Moss, who has led our economics journalists for more than a decade and built the team into a reporting powerhouse of 100 people around the globe, will soon take on a new role in the world of commentary and analysis." Flanders also is an alum of the FT and The New York Times, and has been with with JPMorgan since 2013.

-- **Two new Washington-oriented hires at Al-Monitor**, a U.S.-based news website that does in-depth coverage of the Middle East. Per the announcement: "Jack Detsch will spearhead our coverage of the Pentagon as we expand our reporting of US military alliances, arms sales and many other aspects of Defense policy. Jack joins us from the Christian Science Monitor ... Bryant Harris has been hired as our new congressional correspondent. Bryant spent three years as an assistant correspondent for Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun."

ERRATUM - My mistake: It was Keith Kelly who first reported, back in January, that David Pecker's AMI was interested in buying Time Inc. (Missed that one!)

SOUNDTRACK: Gang of Four, "[Damaged Goods](#)"

EXTRAS:

-- CBS News says it was the first outlet to broadcast from inside Raqqa since ISIS took control of the city. [[TV Newser](#)]

-- "Taking the pulse of ESPN" [[Sports Business Daily](#)]

-- "Can Journalists Live Without Twitter?" [[TNR](#)]

-- The Washington Post, Bloomberg and the Chicago Tribune are among this year's National Press Club Award winners. [[press.org](#)]

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/06/27/nyt-styles-search-nears-end-heads-roll-at-cnn-studio-360-heads-to-slate-001299>

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>

This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.
