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From: Morning Media
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Subject: Morning Media: The game changed -- How Fox covered Weinstein vs. O'Reilly -- Dossier media frenzy -- Slate revisits Reconstruction

By Michael Calderone | 10/27/2017 05:39 AM EDT

MARK HALPERIN'S CAREER QUICKLY UNRAVELED after five women accused him Wednesday night of sexual harassment while he was political director at ABC News. First, Halperin stepped back from his analyst role at NBC and MSNBC for a yet-to-be-determined time. Then HBO killed the movie version of Halperin and John Heilemann's forthcoming book on the 2016 election. Finally, Penguin Press canceled plans for the book itself. Now "Game Change," the most lucrative franchise in political journalism, appears doomed. My full piece is [here](#).

-- **More women have already come forward.** Emily Miller, on Twitter, and an unidentified woman journalist [to The Daily Beast](#) claimed Halperin also harassed them at ABC. And Dianna Goldberg, a former ABC News researcher, [alleged that](#) Halperin had urged her to sit on his lap while he had an erection. Presumably, there will be more digging into Halperin's treatment of women during his tenure at ABC News, which ended in 2007, and the following decade in which he assumed high-profile gigs at Time, Bloomberg and Showtime and covered three presidential elections.

-- **As allegations against Halperin mount,** it becomes harder to see how he can come back. Halperin had already faced criticism for his [kid-glove treatment](#) of Donald Trump during the 2016 campaign. Now his 2016 coverage of issues like sexism and misogyny will be seen in a new light, especially his [dismissal](#) of candidate Trump's alleged misconduct toward women and his framing of Hillary Clinton's candidacy. As the New York Times' Jodi Kantor [noted](#), "very few narrators had the power that Mark Halperin did to shape the political discourse -- which was often specifically about gender."

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

"LEON WIESELTIER WAS ALWAYS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT," by [Splinter's Clio Chang](#): "The Atlantic's Adrienne LaFrance called the snowballing around Wieseltier the 'Harvey Effect.' But it should not have taken Harvey Weinstein's downfall to bring Wieseltier to his reckoning. In my conversations with seven former editorial staffers, it's clear that much of his alleged behavior was far from secret. The fact that he faced no consequences in his three decades at TNR shows how sexism and harassment can become so intrinsic to a company's culture that it is rendered completely banal. "

"12 HOURS V. 20 MINUTES: FOX'S UNEVEN SEX HARASSMENT COVERAGE," by AP's David Bauder: "A news organization's instinct to downplay a story that reflects poorly on itself isn't unusual. But in this case, some are attributing the disparity to politics. Weinstein has long been a supporter of liberal causes, while O'Reilly is a hero to many on the right, for whom Fox is the network of choice."

JILL ABRAMSON INVESTIGATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT: The former New York Times executive editor noted her ongoing reporting in a Guardian column: "I've spent the past two weeks investigating sexual harassment allegations at another media company. I've approached lots of scared young women who tell me about awful experiences but won't talk on the record because they've signed non-disclosure agreements or fear becoming unemployable if they talk."

SOUND BITES:

"I think what's hard for a lot of women right now is the confirmation that things are exactly as bad as we thought. There's a satisfaction in knowing you weren't imagining it all, but it's a pretty dark feeling nonetheless." [Jessica Valenti]

"I warned my daughters before they went into the workforce. Wish someone warned me. I thought I was 'the only one' & it was somehow my fault." [Jackie Calmes]

"Let's be very clear-- the one responsible for any sexual misconduct that may have taken place is the man who instigated it. NOT the women who were victims of it, nor their friends and colleagues who tried to support them through it." [Clarissa Ward]

"Yes, there needs to massive cultural change. And there are so many brave, heroic women telling their stories. But it's also ok if you didn't" [Maeve Reston]

"Today alone, 5 people reached out w/ sexual harassment allegations against 5 different media figures. This isn't slowing. It's snowballing." [Dylan Byers]

TODAY: Slate launches "Reconstruction: A Slate Academy," the second installation of the site's "History of American Slavery" series. The first episode of the series will be available to the public, though the rest is exclusive to members of premium program Slate Plus. Chief political correspondent

Jamelle Bouie -- who moved to Charlottesville prior to recent white nationalist violence -- developed the project with Slate history writer Rebecca Onion.

"DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY THE TRUMP DOSSIER FUSS" Bloomberg View executive editor and Trump biographer Tim O'Brien breaks down the recent frenzy: "It's an odd media moment. As interesting as the Post's article might be, anyone who's paid close attention over the last year knew all along that Democrats had paid for the opposition research that turned into the Steele dossier. That fact was part of articles published last October by Mother Jones, then later by CNN, the New York Times and Vanity Fair."

"HOW FACEBOOK, GOOGLE AND TWITTER 'EMBEDS' HELPED TRUMP," by POLITICO's Nancy Scola: "Facebook, Twitter and Google played a far deeper role in Donald Trump's presidential campaign than has previously been disclosed, with company employees taking on the kind of political strategizing that campaigns typically entrust to their own staff or paid consultants, according to a new study."

DAVID RUBENSTEIN, TV STAR: The Washingtonian's Ben Wofford looks at the unlikely trajectory of Carlyle Group's David Rubenstein to Bloomberg TV host: "One might presume that awarding a prime-time slot (Wednesdays at 9 pm) to the most famous billionaire in Washington elevates the town's gratuitousness to new heights. This summation would be correct if not for one thing: The show is doing well. Now in its third season, it's one of Bloomberg's fastest-growing programs. Viewership is up by 67 percent. A new agreement grants PBS affiliates nationwide the option to syndicate, meaning Rubenstein's face could beam into every cord-cutter's living room soon enough."

EXTRAS:

-- Variety profiles Norah O'Donnell.

-- Jacobin editors stress importance of their print magazine, eschew industry fads.

-- BuzzFeed restructures entertainment desk, resulting in four employees leaving.

-- Choire Sicha talks NYT Styles section.

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/10/27/the-game-changed-fox-on-weinstein-vs-oreilly-dossier-media-frenzy-001367>

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