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From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 9:48:19 AM
Subject: Morning Media, presented by the National Confectioners Association: Greg Gianforte, aka the Montana Slamma — An EIC for Apple News — No Murdoch pressure on Hannity

By Joe Pompeo | 05/25/2017 05:46 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

THE PRESS FREEDOM INCIDENT TRACKERS MUST REALLY BE WORKING OVERTIME THESE DAYS!

We shouldn't even joke, because there's nothing funny about this incident. Via POLITICO's [Hadas Gold](#): "Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte allegedly 'body-slammed' a reporter on Wednesday at a campaign event. Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte 'body-slammed me and broke my glasses' at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana. Other reporters on the scene confirmed via Twitter that they witnessed some sort of altercation between the two and that police were called to the scene." [Head over to The Guardian for all the gory details, including the jaw-dropping audio.](#)

Eyewitness account, via Fox News: "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the man, as he moved on top the reporter and began yelling something to the effect of 'I'm sick and tired of this!'"

A flack statement to behold: "Tonight, as Greg was giving a separate interview in a private office, The Guardian's Ben Jacobs entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions. Jacobs was asked to leave. After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them both to the ground. It's unfortunate that this aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist created this scene at our campaign volunteer BBQ."

In case it wasn't obvious, no one is buying that. [Matt Cooper](#): "Gianforte should admit he did it. I know @Bencjacobs. The candidate's account is ludicrous plus on audio G doesn't deny it's a 'body slam.'" [Sen. Chris Murphy](#): "Uh...there's an audio tape, Shane. This isn't what happened. Your guy went berserk when asked about the CBO score."

Jacobs spoke with Chris Hayes last night on MSNBC. "It was the strangest moment in my entire life reporting." [Video here.](#)

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people manage their sugar intake and ensure that they feel empowered to make informed choices. Learn more at AlwaysATreat.com. **

REVOLVING DOOR: APPLE NEWS IS GETTING AN EDITOR IN CHIEF - And it's a move that's sure to raise eyebrows not just in Silicon Valley, but in Manhattan media circles as well. Morning Media has learned that Apple has given the job -- a new position at the Cupertino-based company -- to Lauren Kern, one of New York magazine's most high-ranking editors and a former deputy editor at The New York Times Magazine. It's unclear what exactly the role will entail, and Kern declined to comment. But at the very least, it would seem to suggest that Apple has ambitions for its two-year-old aggregation app, which replaced the Apple Newsstand in 2015 but hasn't really gained traction in a big way. We look forward to hearing more about this once the lid's off.

Elsewhere....

-- **Observer Media, the company owned and operated by Jared Kushner since 2006 before he entered the White House with his father-in-law**, said last night that it's on the hunt for a new editor in chief following Ken Kurson's resignation. Kurson, a longtime Kushner friend who was tapped in 2013 to lead the newsroom of The New York Observer newspaper -- which was shuttered in print last year but continues to publish a website called Observer -- announced his departure yesterday afternoon in a [staff email](#) first reported by HuffPost's Michael Calderone. CNN's Dylan Byers [reports](#) that Kurson is headed for the strategic communications firm Teneo as a senior managing director.

MUST READS:

-- "Aleppo After The Fall" [[NYT Magazine](#)]

-- "Trump wasn't always so linguistically challenged. What could explain the change?" [[Stat](#)]

-- "The life and death of the Seth Rich conspiracy theory" [[WaPo](#)]

-- "Deported To Mexico, US Veterans Are Pressed Into Service By Drug Cartels" [[Task & Purpose](#)]

THE MURDOCHS DIDN'T PRESSURE SEAN HANNITY TO BACK OFF THE SETH RICH CONSPIRACY THEORY - That's what the Fox News host [told Michael Calderone](#) : "I did it out of my own heart. ... Nobody tells me what to say on my show. They never have and frankly they never will. I'm not that type of person you can say, 'Go on air and say this.' That's been the beauty of Fox News all these years. They leave me alone." On the advertiser pressure Hannity now faces, as with Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly before him: "There is an attempt, at this moment in time, to absolutely shut down the Fox News Channel and render it, frankly, a shadow of its former self. ... I'm like the last, sole remaining person there from the old guard." Full interview: "[Sean Hannity Sees Liberal Attempt To Drive Him Off The Air](#)"

AN OVERSEAS PRESSER? NAH - [via AP](#) : "In his first big tour on the world stage, President

Donald Trump is choosing caution over his usual brand of chaos. ... The president appears likely to go his entire nine-day trip without holding a full news conference, a break from presidential foreign travel precedent. That's allowed him to steer clear of the steady stream of new revelations about his dealings with ousted FBI Director James Comey and the federal investigations into his election campaign's possible ties to Russia. And it's left no real opportunities to push the president beyond his talking points on some of the trip's most complex issues."

WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MAGGIE HABERMAN GOT A BIG ELLE PROFILE - It's in the magazine's July issue : "Journalists have become part of the story in the Trump administration, enablers and heroes of a nonstop political and constitutional soap opera, and last year Haberman was the most widely read journalist at the Times, according to its analytics. Many of the juiciest Trump pieces have been broken by her ... While the president and the reporter couldn't seem more different ... the points at which their histories and personalities converge are revealing about both the media and the president himself. Trump wants what she can give him access to -- a kind of status he's always craved in a newspaper ... Haberman, for her part, has become a front-page fixture and a Fourth Estate folk hero. 'This is a symbiotic relationship,' says an administration official. 'Part of the reason' Haberman is so read in the Times 'is because she is writing about Donald Trump.'" More: "Wanna Know What Donald Trump Is Really Thinking? Read Maggie Haberman"

SOUND BITES:

-- "It's hard to view Gianforte's brutality toward a polite journalist as unrelated to Trump's incitement of assaultive hatred toward the media." [[Laurence Tribe](#)]

-- "If you consider a phone "shoved" in your face to be sufficient provocation for assault, perhaps you shouldn't be a politician. Or free." [[Jamil Smith](#)]

-- "Anyone who's studied how Hitler's SA treated opponents and journalists will find this analogous" [[Bill Grueskin](#)]

-- "The @maggienyt cult is now forming chapters in magazines, newspapers, and cities everywhere. Soon to be beatified." [[Jack Shafer](#)]

-- "Jeff Bezos is f-cking with us all and the future is chain bookstores and big city daily newspapers." [[Matt Yglesias](#)]

FIRST IN MORNING MEDIA: BUSINESS INSIDER IS ON THE MOVE - To Lower Manhattan, a real estate refuge to which numerous New York media companies have fled Midtown over the past few years, trading higher rents for the promise of a revitalized hotspot in the area around Wall Street and the World Trade Center. Morning Media has learned that the Henry Blodget-led web publication, which was acquired in 2015 by European media titan Axel Springer, will shack up on two floors of 1 Liberty Plaza come November. The space is nearly twice the size of BI's current Fifth Avenue digs (78,000 square feet versus 42,000), and will feature enhancements like a new video studio and an auditorium to host events and speakers, as well as plenty of space to grow the New York-based staff of 325 and counting. We needn't

remind you that BI began its life 10 years ago with three employees squatting in another startup's loading dock. "We had to squish over every time the Fresh Direct guys arrived," Blodget recalled to Morning Media. "That was fun." Now their neighbors will include fellow Midtown expats like Condé Nast, Time Inc. and the AP. "It's going to be great," said Blodget.

IN OTHER WORKPLACE-RELATED NEWS - The New York Times has a new "Remote Working Policy," which is "designed to provide employees with the flexibility to allow them to be their most productive," according to an internal communication last week from EVP of talent Ellen Shultz. "Under this new policy, employees can apply for manager approval to work remotely. We hope that this approach will help those employees whose circumstances don't always allow them to come into the office to remain productive and engaged. However, it is important to remember that: All remote working agreements are subject to approval by your manager; Some job functions are not suited for remote work; Performance standards must be consistently maintained while working remotely."

SOUNDTRACK: Stevie Nicks, "[Beauty and the Beast](#)"

EXTRAS:

-- Fox News is pushing back hard on the Andrea Tantaros lawsuit, dismissing the former host's allegations as an "outright hoax" and "demanding sanctions for Tantaros and her lawyer, Judd Burstein." [[The Hollywood Reporter](#)]

-- As MTV, A&E and WGN weather production cuts, one can't help but wonder if "the Golden Age of Television losing its luster." [[Bloomberg](#)]

-- Facebook has inked a deal with BuzzFeed, Vox and others for original new video shows. [[Reuters](#)]

-- The Manchester Evening News is raising money to support the families of those killed or injured in Monday's terrorist attack. [[Press Gazette](#)]

**** A message from the National Confectioners Association - #AlwaysATreat:** We've always created transparent, fun, and great-tasting treats. By 2022, Mars, Wrigley, Nestlé USA, Ferrero, Lindt, Ghirardelli, Russell Stover, and Ferrara Candy Company will work together to make half of their individually wrapped products available in sizes that contain 200 calories or less per pack. And, 90 percent of the best-selling treats made by these companies will have calorie information printed right on the front of the pack. During the same time period, the newly established [AlwaysATreat.com](#) will evolve into a digital resource full of easy-to-use information for consumers to better understand the unique role that chocolate and candy can play in a happy, balanced lifestyle. Learn more at [AlwaysATreat.com](#). **

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