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From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
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Subject: Morning Media, presented by MSNBC: The good and the bad of the NYT public editor — Peter J. Boyer joins The Weekly Standard — A new deal for Lawrence O'Donnell

By Joe Pompeo | 06/01/2017 05:39 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin

IF YOUR TWITTER FEED LOOKED ANYTHING LIKE MINE YESTERDAY

AFTERNOON, then the sense you would have gotten about The New York Times eliminating its high-profile Public Editor role, after nearly 15 years and six iterations, was that a whole lot of prominent journalists and media figures think it's a bad idea, while a smaller number of these types of people were all too happy to say good riddance. I was chatting with an in-the-know Times source who reiterated the company's official position that, in an era where readers can interact with and hold a publication accountable in so many different ways on so many different platforms, the Times' has essentially outgrown the public editor as a sort of singular, all-powerful ombudsman. Two other things emphasized in our conversation: this wasn't about money, and it wasn't about the performance of the latest public editor, Liz Spayd, whose brief stewardship of the position proved particularly controversial both inside the newsroom and out.

The upside of a public editor, per HuffPost's Michael Calderone, who broke the news:

"[B]y being in the newsroom, public editors and ombudsmen can often get responses from management on editorial decision-making that outside reporters and critics cannot. While an outside reporter covering the Times may not get calls returned, the public editor ... can literally wait outside a Times editor's office. And Times management typically responded to the public editor's queries, since failing to do so would call into question its commitment to transparency."

The cynical take, via Tom Scocca, writing for POLITICO Magazine: "The majority of the public editors were bad because the public editor's job was designed to be badly done. ... [T]he work of minding the Times fell to a series of timid people, dull-witted ones and bores. Only the fifth public editor, Margaret Sullivan, broke with that pattern and did her job energetically enough that she ended up being hired as a real media columnist, at the Washington Post. ... The public editors were a flagellating instrument, meant to sting the paper on its surface, never to cut to the bone."

IN OTHER TIMES NEWS - The latest round of buyouts is at hand, and this time it is targeting the most behind-the-scenes layer of editors with the goal of generating enough savings to hire up to 100 new journalists. Layoffs could happen if there aren't enough takers. As the FT notes, the move could cost the Times between \$17m and \$23m this year.

Statement from the union that reps Times journalists: "The announcement ... is devastating for our members ... and though we're heartened to hear that they intend to invest more in reporters and content, it comes at an unfortunate cost. ... These Guild members don't simply correct comma splices, they protect the integrity of the brand. They are the watchdogs that ensure that the truth is told. The "Paper of Record" should value their importance. We have

asked for a meeting with Times management to discuss how they intend to restructure their editing process, as we fight to keep our members and their institutional knowledge in the newsroom."

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)). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

REVOLVING DOOR: PETER J. BOYER IS JOINING THE WEEKLY STANDARD -

Morning Media has learned that he'll be a national correspondent at the 22-year-old conservative publication, as part of what EIC Stephen Hayes is calling a "big staff expansion." Boyer is an illustrious magazine veteran who has done tours at Vanity Fair, The New Yorker and Newsweek. But his most recent job, as an editor at large for Fox News, included a brush with controversy, as it was revealed that Boyer was present for a series of "war room" meetings in which Roger Ailes plotted a smear campaign against biographer Gabriel Sherman. After exiting Fox amid the network chief's sexual harassment scandal last summer, Boyer resurfaced earlier this year working on a piece for Esquire. Presumably he's happy to have all the Fox drama behind him and to get back to magazine deadlines.

A NEW DEAL FOR LAWRENCE O'DONNELL? - It sure sounds like MSNBC's 10 p.m. host Lawrence O'Donnell has inked a new deal to remain with the cable channel. On his show last night, O'Donnell told a guest "You know where I'll be next week? I will be sitting right here talking about the James Comey hearing and everything else that happens next week and everything that happens for the next couple of years." He added on Twitter later, "Yes I will be saying hi to Rachel @maddow at 10pm for the foreseeable future." O'Donnell's contract negotiations had come down to the wire, with his current deal set to expire this weekend. MSNBC hasn't announced anything yet, but don't be surprised to see something official today.

WHAT THE OFFICIAL CBS ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SCOTT PELLEY *DIDN'T* SAY -

via Page Six : "Furious fired CBS News anchor Scott Pelley ordered his assistant to clear out his office on Tuesday after he clashed with the news division's president David Rhodes. Pelley, who is away on assignment in Syria, had already learned of his firing from the 'Evening News' and decided to take action on his own, well-placed sources tell us. Rhodes and Pelley have recently had a rocky relationship, mostly due to Pelley's poor ratings and his reluctance to shake the broadcast up by moving away from his traditional delivery ... The source familiar with the matter said that even CBS News chiefs were taken by surprise when Pelley's assistant brought in the removal crew Tuesday and started shipping out his belongings."

MUST READS:

- "Inside the struggle to sway Trump on Paris" [[POLITICO](#)]
- "Looking For Right And Wrong In The Philippines" [[BuzzFeed](#)]
- "The Secret Evangelicals at Planned Parenthood" [[Marie Claire](#)]

-- "The Addict's Next Door" [[The New Yorker](#)]

KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THESE JOURNO BIG SHOTS IN 'HOUSE OF CARDS' -

We haven't yet dug into season 5, which Netflix dropped on Tuesday, but a rep for the show confirmed the following cameos: Charlie Rose; Ann Curry; Bret Baier; Joe Scarborough; Mika Brzezinski; Kasie Hunt; Donny Deutsch; Van Jones; S.E. Cupp; Gloria Borger; Rachel Maddow; and Connie Chung. Aside from the (perhaps no-longer-so-over-the-top-ridiculous-seeming) storylines, part of the fun of the show is keeping tabs on the real-life media figures who make it into the script. In past seasons, journalists like Matt Bai and Ashleigh Banfield were worked into key plot points. Other past appearances have included Chuck Todd, Wolf Blitzer, John King, Chris Matthews and Sean Hannity.

JULIAN ASSANGE IS 'LOOKING INTO' SUBBING FOR HANNITY - Just when you thought things couldn't get more surreal, this happened: "Wikileaks founder Julian Assange told CNN on Wednesday that he is exploring the possibility of guest hosting conservative personality Sean Hannity's nationally-syndicated radio show after Hannity offered him the opportunity to fill in. 'I'm looking into it,' Assange said in a Twitter direct message. 'My physical circumstances means that nothing is easy.'" Hannity's Twitter invite : "If you would like to fill in for me one day I am on over 550 stations and 14 plus million listeners."

SOUND BITES:

-- "The @nytimes might be right in eliminating the public editor but most of its stated reasons for doing so seem like cobbled together nonsense" [[Emily Bell](#)]

-- "Tonight @seanhannity is misleading his audience by suggesting @maddow is part of the NBC News operation, not an opinion host on MSNBC. ...which is funny because he always complains when people don't refer to him as opinion host but make him out to be part of Fox News news op" [[Oliver Darcy](#)]

-- "Next issue of @NYTmag is a special one: all comics, all based on stories from @NYTMetro. Here's the cover. Issue online Friday." [[Jake Silverstein](#)]

NBC AND EURONEWS SEAL THE DEAL - Our colleague Ryan Heath reports from Brussels: "NBC News will [today] close a \$25 million transaction to purchase a 25 percent stake of Euronews, a European media company that claims 52 million daily TV viewers and digital users in 158 countries. The acquisition is the latest in a series of recent NBC investments, including stakes in Snapchat, Vox and BuzzFeed. Company executives told POLITICO a Euronews board meeting Thursday morning will confirm a plan to infuse the multilingual network with NBC's global reach and production values."

From the official announcement: "Euronews has unmatched scale as well as the unique ability to offer international coverage rooted in a local sensibility in every country and language it spans," said NBC News chief Andy Lack. ... Deborah Turness, President of NBC News International, will lead the NBC side of the collaboration, providing editorial and programming leadership as well as strategic guidance."

REVOLVING DOOR, PART 2:

-- **POLITICO is importing its Playbook newsletter franchise to London** later this summer, and we've hired Jack Blanchard, political editor of UK newspaper the Daily Mirror, as the author.

-- **"Liz Garrigan is stepping down as editor of" Washington City Paper**, Washingtonian's Andrew Beaujon reports. "She's returning to Paris, where her husband is still working, says strain of households on two continents was too much"

-- **Mashable has hired Michael Nuñez**, formerly Gizmodo's technology editor, as its deputy technology editor.

SOUNDTRACK: Neil Diamond, "Do It"

EXTRAS:

-- The Roger Ailes comeback that wasn't to be: Bannon TV. [The Daily Beast]

-- As the Trump-Russia plot thickens, the president is increasingly leaning on a friendly face: Fox News Channel. [CNN]

-- CNN has cut ties with comedia Kathy Griffin, who co-hosted the network's New Year's special, over her incendiary video featuring a fake severed and bloody Trump head. [POLITICO]

-- A Daily Caller story about a rally in support of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's statue failed to mention a few things -- like a speech in which the story's reporter praised the white nationalist movement. [ProPublica]

**** A message from MSNBC:** At MSNBC, we recognize that information and facts have never been more important. Each weeknight, Chris Matthews, Chris Hayes, Rachel Maddow, Lawrence O'Donnell, and Brian Williams help you make sense of a complicated time, with insight and perspective that allows you to know that you're in the know. These trusted journalists made MSNBC the #1 cable news network between 7pm-midnight for the month of May. Join us nightly on MSNBC, or catch up at msnbc.com.

*Source: Nielsen; Live SD; 5/1-26/17; A2554; M-F 7p-12a ***

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<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/06/01/the-good-and-the-bad-of-the-nyt-public-editor-peter-j-boyer-joins-the-weekly-standard-house-of-cards-cameos-001283>

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