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**From:** Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media  
**Sent:** Tue 5/30/2017 9:43:49 AM  
**Subject:** Morning Media: Latest scary press-attack incident — Down to the wire for LOD and MSNBC — The make-your-own-fake-news craze

By Joe Pompeo | 05/30/2017 05:41 AM EDT

*With Cristiano Lima and Alex Weprin*

**SHATTERED GLASS** - Maybe this is part of a broader pattern, maybe not, but it's disconcerting either way: "Several windows were shattered at the main office of the Lexington Herald-Leader in downtown Lexington, amid suspected signs of small-caliber bullet damage to the building. ... Lexington Police on Monday confirmed that they are investigating the incident as criminal mischief ... 'It's concerning, [Publisher Rufus M.] Friday said, especially given the level of rhetoric directed at journalists recently in the United States and in Kentucky. 'We're going to be vigilant and continue to do what we do ... We're not going to be deterred by this senseless act of vandalism.'" [More via the Herald-Ledger.](#)

**NPR's David Folkenflik on Twitter:** "Hard not to see this in terms of current climate. Last time I know of shots into Herald-Leader was 3 decades ago - after expose of abuses in U of K basketball program"

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**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU** - To everyone who emailed and tweeted and Facebooked on Friday with kind words of appreciation and encouragement marking one year of Morning Media. You make all the bleary-eyed late nights worth it. On that note, today's edition is a bit less jam-packed than usual, as can be expected when you're putting one of these things together at the tail end of a long holiday weekend. We hope yours was restful and reflective. Now onto the news...

**IMMINENT RESOLUTION FOR LAWRENCE O'DONNELL AND MSNBC?** There's less than a week left to go in the anchor's contract negotiations, which spilled into the public in recent weeks as reports swirled presaging a possible breakup with the network. Some MSNBC insiders have been speculating that NBC News chief Andy Lack wants to put Brian Williams in the 10 p.m. slot that O'Donnell has manned since 2010, and there's been a fair amount of head-scratching as to why the LOD negotiations have come down to the wire in such dramatic fashion, fueling a perception of tumult even as ratings have soared thanks to the network's Trump coverage. "Personal dynamics behind the scenes have been chaotic for years," a source was telling Morning Media the other day, "but never like it is now." In any case, expect there to be a resolution any day -- O'Donnell's current contract is up this weekend.

**A network source familiar with the contract talks said:** "We continue to be in active negotiations with the goal of renewal. The discussions have been productive. Lawrence is very

much wanted at MSNBC and he knows that from the seriousness of the proposal."

**This should calm a few nerves over at 30 Rock:** "Phil Griffin, the longtime president of MSNBC, has signed a new contract to remain at the cable news network, a source with knowledge of the deal tells The Hollywood Reporter. ... There had been some speculation about Griffin's future at the network, with some news reports suggesting a rift with Lack, which has been denied by multiple NBC News sources." [THR has more details.](#)

**WE COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE** - That David Gregory guest-anchored CNN's "New Day" yesterday. Might the NBC News vet and former "Meet the Press" moderator be inching toward a larger on-air role at the cable network, which signed him as a political analyst last year? Or has he been guest-hosting now and again and we just haven't noticed until now? (Waiting for clarification from CNN on this.)

**ATTN: MICHAEL FERRO** - A bit of news from our Chicago-based colleague Natasha Korecki that might be of interest to the tronc chairman: "At least two outside parties have shown interest in buying the Chicago Sun-Times, possibly scuttling what was thought to be a done deal with the owner of the Chicago Tribune ... [A] deadline, originally set for this week, [is] likely to be extended." [More here.](#)

#### **MUST READS:**

-- "Snubs and slights are part of the job in Trump's White House" [[WaPo](#)]

-- "Jared Kushner's Role Is Tested as Russia Case Grows" [[NYT](#)]

-- "How Stephen Miller Rode White Rage From Duke's Campus to Trump's West Wing" [[Vanity Fair](#)]

-- "First He Became an American -- Then He Joined ISIS" [[The Atlantic](#)]

**LATEST MEDIA CRAZE: MAKE YOUR OWN FAKE NEWS** - [Apparently this is a thing now](#) : "Channel23news.com isn't an isolated make-your-own-fake-news site. Using domain registration records, BuzzFeed News identified two separate networks that together own at least 30 nearly identical "prank" news sites and that published more than 3,000 fake articles in six languages over the past 12 months. They're also generating significant engagement on Facebook: The sites collectively earned more than 13 million shares, reactions, and comments on the social network in the last 12 months. ... A Facebook spokesperson told BuzzFeed News it will continue to roll out programs and product updates to make it harder for spammers and fake-news creators to make money from its platform."

**EMMANUEL MACRON BRINGS NEW MEANING TO THE TERM 'NO EFFS GIVEN'** - [Per our colleague Nicholas Vinocur in Europe](#): "French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday called Russian state-backed media outlets RT and Sputnik 'agents of influence' that spread falsehoods about him during his election campaign -- while standing next to Vladimir Putin. Macron said the two media organizations 'did not behave like press outlets, but behaved like

agents of influence and propaganda' which spread 'serious falsehoods,' Macron said. 'I will never give in to that.' It was Macron's first time meeting Putin."

**REVOLVING DOOR:** Recode has nabbed Teddy Schleifer from CNN, where he has been a Washington-based politics and campaign finance reporter. At Recode, Schleifer will be a senior editor based in San Francisco. From a memo that came over the transom last night: "Teddy's focus will be to aggressively follow the money in Silicon Valley, covering capital, power, and influence. His job will be to break news and tell the stories behind big investments, fast-rising startups and executives, interesting characters, power struggles, winners and losers, side hustles and ambitious hobbies, long before there's a press release or cover-up."

**SOUND BITES:**

-- "If this quote was not identified as being from Hicks about Trump, it could pass for a North Korean quote about Kim" [[Daniel Dale](#)]

-- "Journalists are not the real target of Trump's war on journalism .... We are the highly-visible collateral damage." [[Peter Maass](#)]

-- "Watch network TV, you learn things. They still make Tom Cruise movies. And some lady is making weird tent jackets." [[Brian Braiker](#)]

-- "A DUI mugshot pretty much guarantees the front page of the New York tabloids." [[Pat Kiernan](#)]

**R.I.P. FRANK DEFORD** - "Through nearly four decades, at least five presidential administrations and seemingly countless Super Bowls and World Series, NPR listeners could depend on at least one thing in the ever-unpredictable world of athletics: Frank Deford. A mainstay on Morning Edition, the Hall of Fame sportswriter was public radio's scholar of sports for some 37 years before hanging up his cleats earlier this year. Deford died Sunday at the age of 78 at his home in Key West, Fla., his wife confirmed to NPR. He leaves behind an astonishing 1,656 commentaries for NPR." [NPR's obit.](#)

**AMAZON INVESTIGATES** - [Berkeley j-school professor John Temple writing in Frederic Filloux's Monday Note newsletter](#) : "[A]t the Investigative Reporting Program (IRP) at UC Berkeley ... We've set up a nonprofit company to produce, distribute and monetize the stories developed by our staff and students. And that new company, Investigative Reporting Productions, Inc. (INC), has signed what's known as a 'first look' deal with Amazon Prime Video, which is paying for the right to consider our stories before any other outlet sees them and then develop them. ... We're not sure where this will lead. ... But we do know ... that our agreement with Amazon gives our work the possibility of reaching a bigger and broader audience while creating a new revenue stream for public interest journalism and higher education."

**SOUNDTRACK:** Steely Dan, "Peg"

**EXTRAS:**

-- It's not every day that the New York Post and the Daily News have the same cover. But today is one of those days. [[Hat tip: Azi Paybarah](#)]

-- Emily Bell: "NYT's publication of leaked Manchester material reveals transatlantic differences; When it comes to making decisions about national security coverage, US journalism follows a different set of priorities" [[The Guardian](#)]

-- "Denver Post Columnist Fired After Racist Tweet About Indy 500 Winner" [[Deadspin](#)]

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