

The Profile: The Italian loose in the White House & Hollywood's biggest dealmaker

Good morning, friends.

It was a long week as I lost one of my dear professors from college, Barry Hollander. He passed away on Monday after a long battle with cancer. Hollander was a staunch supporter of students, and his door was always open. But my favorite thing about him was his snarky sense of humor.

Oh, and [he wrote his own obituary](#), which is just as snarky. Now, a group of University of Georgia alumni & I are working to create a student support fund in his honor. In lieu of a GoFundMe this month, I'm featuring the [Barry Hollander Memorial Fund](#). <3

Thank you to everyone who joined [the Telegram channel](#) last week. Good stuff happening in there. I thought it would be cool to do an "Ask Me Anything" with interesting people (maybe some that have been featured in a profile). Let me know who you'd like to see participate.

Here we go:

- [The grandfather of entertainment](#) **[**HIGHLY RECOMMEND**]**
- [The Italian loose in the White House](#)
- [Hollywood's biggest dealmaker](#)
- [The collapsing American icon](#)
- [The retailer who hates the Internet](#)

PEOPLE TO KNOW.

[The grandfather of entertainment](#): Quincy Jones has an insane story about every famous person you can think of — Michael Jackson, Elon Musk, Frank Sinatra, and Tupac. But nothing compares to the tale of his upbringing. At 7 years old, he had to go out and catch rats so his mom could cook them for dinner. He stops and reflects on the fact that the poor kid who ate rats is now an 84-year-old music legend telling the story from a hilltop mansion. He says:

"Your dreams always have to be big. And mine were huge." [Tweet this story](#).

[The Italian loose in the White House](#): Anthony Scaramucci survived 10 days in the White House and lived to tell the tale. The Mooch went from Harvard to Goldman Sachs to the cutthroat world of hedge funds, but it still didn't prepare him for what was to come. "I want you to imagine the worst person that you've met on Wall Street, the most ruthless and the most diabolical. That's the best person in Washington." He recalls his brief, but colorful, stint inside "the swamp." [Tweet this story](#).

“The swamp is a gold-plated cesspool with no drain.”

Hollywood’s biggest dealmaker: Reese Witherspoon has quietly transformed from a frustrated actress into a big-time producer. Her production company Hello Sunshine has produced female-focused blockbusters, including *Gone Girl* and *Wild*. Now, she has struck one of the most expensive deals in TV history with Apple — \$240 million to produce a series about a fictional morning news show. As she recently said, “Ambition is not a dirty word.” [Tweet this story.](#)

“I thought about my mom, who said, ‘If you want something done, do it yourself. You can sit there and complain about it, or you can do something about it.’”

COMPANIES TO WATCH.

The collapsing American icon: The lightbulb. The jet engine. The X-ray machine. All those technologies were either invented or commercialized by General Electric. But now, GE’s 126-year run might be coming to a sad thanks to a plunging share price, a federal investigation, and possible breakup. It’s somehow possible to be simultaneously dominant and also on the brink of collapse. [Tweet this story.](#)

“Being an icon isn’t worth what it once was.”

The retailer who hates the Internet: Millennials have killed [a lot of things](#) — lunch, marriage, and Buffalo Wild Wings. Their next target? Costco. The wholesale club doesn’t really care about digital nor is it doing much to attract younger customers into its stores. Now, digital-friendly bulk shopping alternatives are popping up because — shocker — millennials prefer to buy their toilet paper online. [Tweet this story.](#)

“Costco has been one of the least digitally forward companies out there. This segment has had its head in the sand when it comes to competing with Amazon.”