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SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS TOURISM PR

The South African Tourism Board is looking for a marketing communications partner to develop a campaign that will inspire American and Canadian travelers to choose South



Africa as their destination of choice over competitor markets.

SATB doesn't project a return to the 2019 level of arrivals until 2024/2025 due to lingering concerns about health, safety and security, coupled with a lack of time

and money required for long-haul travel.

The selected partner will stimulate the travel market by devising and executing a compelling campaign across all platforms to amplify SATB's messaging, enhance the brand and drive sales.

It will target "global citizens" for whom travel is an essential part of their lives.

SATB also sees opportunities to connect with older travelers who "are endowed with time and money" and are mostly fully vaccinated, Blacks, LGBTQ people and remote workers.

It wants a firm based in the US, preferably in the New York region, with a presence in Canada either with an office or an agency alliance.

Proposals are due August 29.

[Read the RFP \(PDF\).](#)

BCW'S O'BRIEN SHIFTS TO SEVEN LETTER

Drew O'Brien, who was executive VP/managing director at [BCW](#), has joined Seven Letter in its Boston office.

At BCW, he also was president of its Direct Impact grassroots communications and advocacy unit.



Drew O'Brien

Washington-based Seven Letter merged with Boston's O'Neill and Assocs. in 2020.

They are part of Public Policy Holding Co.

O'Brien has federal government experience, serving in the State Dept. under John Kerry. He was the State Dept's special representative for global partnerships dealing with outreach to the private sector and NGOs.

Before heading to DC, O'Brien was special assistant to Boston mayor Thomas Menino, chief of staff to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission and deputy chancellor to the University of Massachusetts Boston.

THORNELL SUCCEEDS ISAY AS SKDK CEO

SKDK has named partner Doug Thornell successor to CEO Josh Isay, who will take on the senior counsel role at the end of the year.

The 46-year-old will become highest ranking Black executive at top PA/political consulting firm. SKDK has more than 200 staffers.

As CEO of the Stagwell unit, Thornell will handle day-to-day activities with partners Bill Knapp, Jill Zuckman, Mike Morey and Kerri Lyon.

Thornell joined SKDK a dozen years ago as senior VP in its PA practice. Most recently, he led its paid media and political practice.

During his 20-year career, Thornell was lead media strategist to the Democratic National Committee, spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, adviser to both Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen and the Congressional Black Caucus and traveling spokesman for Governor Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign.



Doug Thornell

CARLYLE NAMES MCCANN INTERIM IR CHIEF

Carlyle Group today named David McCann managing director in Toronto, interim global head of investor relations, effective immediately. McCann succeeds Nathan Urquhart, who has decided to pursue other professional interests.

Urquhart has agreed to stay on through the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition.

McCann joined Carlyle in 2014 from Credit Suisse Securities (Canada), where he was head of asset management distribution.

Interim CEO Bill Conway thanked Urquhart for his "exceptional contributions and dedication to the firm. Conway, a co-founder of Carlyle, took the helm following the August 7 ouster of Kewsong Long.

The [Financial Times](#) reported that Lee quit after the board refused to discuss a \$300M five-year pay package.

A search committee is looking for a replacement for Lee. [Kekst CNC](#)'s Jeremy Fielding and Anntal Silver handled news surrounding Lee's exit.

Carlyle Group has \$376B assets under management.



David McCann

U.S. PR SECTOR GREW 18% IN 2021

In another sign of recovery for the post-COVID economy, the [U.S. PR industry saw impressive growth in 2021](#), according to an annual industry survey conducted by PR merger and acquisition consultancy Gould+Partners.



The Gould+Partners' report, which focused on net revenue growth—calculated as fees plus mark-ups—found that North American PR agencies saw average net-revenues gains of 17.7 percent in 2021, a complete turnaround when compared to the meager 3.1 percent growth the sector yielded in COVID 2020, which was the lowest growth year since Gould+Partners began tracking this data a decade ago.

Firms of all sizes surveyed in the study—from the largest PR shops to the smallest—reported increased net revenues, according to the survey. Firms bringing in between \$10–\$25 million in annual net revenues were the most profitable last year, growing an incredible average of 24.7 percent. The largest PR shops—or agencies boasting more than \$25 million annually—also saw big gains in 2021, at 17.2 percent. The smallest firms polled—those with under \$3 million in net revenues—grew at an average of 16.4 percent. Firms with net revenues between \$3–\$10 million saw growth of 15 percent.

“What this report validates is that, contrary to what may be happening on a national level, that we are in a ‘recession,’ the PR industry is not in a recession and, if anything, is on a growth trajectory,” Gould+Partners Managing Partner Rick Gould told *O’Dwyer’s*. “Every indication I have had, based on our three major surveys, and discussions with PR firm executives, is that 2022 will be another year of growth and profitability.”

The Gould+Partners report also found that among ten regions ranked, PR firms stationed in Northern California grew the most in 2021 (27 percent), followed by firms located in the U.S Southwest (24 percent), Southern California (22 percent), the Washington, D.C. area (20 percent), the New York metro area (17 percent), the U.S Northeast (16.8 percent), the Midwest (15.4 percent), the Northwest (13 percent), the Southeast (12 percent) and Canada (8 percent).

Gould+Partners' 2022 “Net Revenue Growth Report” was based on responses from 241 PR agencies located across North America.

LAMBERT HIRES FIRST HORIZON’S WARD

[Lambert](#) hires Julia Ward as a managing director. Ward joins Lambert from First Horizon Corporation, where she served as senior vice president of investor relations. She was previously VP and senior investor relations officer at Zions Bancorporation. In her new role, Ward will work to drive strategy, growth and account management initiatives for the financial services division within Lambert’s capital markets group.



Julia Ward

“Julia’s expertise and relationships in the financial services industry are critical to developing and executing strategies that differentiate our fintech, banking, and payment services clients from the competition to create long-term shareholder value,” said Lambert CSO Mike Houston.

ACCOUNTS IN TRANSIT

[French/West/Vaughan](#) picks up [The Advertising Checking Bureau](#), which offers turnkey channel marketing solutions. FWV will provide strategic PR planning, messaging development and targeted outreach to key industry contacts, building upon ACB’s established presence by increasing visibility with potential new brands. The agency’s efforts will target ACB’s biggest verticals: the advertising technology, retail, auto and pet industries. Founded in 1917, ACB oversees B2B and B2C incentive programs in over 25 industries, partnering with more than 200 manufacturers and brands.



[QUINN](#) is now handling PR efforts for [Macerich](#), an owner, operator and developer of major retail and mixed-use real estate. The agency’s work will focus on the company’s East Coast retail destinations, which include the Kings Plaza Shopping Center in Brooklyn, NY; Queens Center Mall and The Shops at Atlas Park in Queens; and Green Acres Mall on Long Island. Macerich currently holds 44 market-dominant properties across 15 states, with more under development.

[Cognito](#) wins [Thoughtworks](#), which has 49 offices in 17 countries. The firm’s senior advisors will deliver corporate, financial and digital communications advisory to Thoughtworks NA marketing and communications team. Sean McCarthy, executive vice president and head of corporate communications for Cognito U.S., will lead the new partnership. “We searched for a public relations agency partner to help us write our next chapter. The Cognito team impressed us with its equally collaborative and inclusive culture, passion for excellence and fresh approaches,” said Thoughtworks head of global public relations Linda Horiuchi.

[Mardiks Public Relations](#) picks up [nib Group](#) (nib Travel), Australia’s third largest travel insurer and a global distributor of travel insurance. The agency will implement an integrated media outreach and advocacy program to build awareness for World Nomads, the company’s global travel insurance brand. In addition to such core travel insurance coverage as emergency medical insurance and medical evacuation and trip protection/cancellation, World Nomads also covers 150 activities and sports.



[The Pollack Group](#) positions executives at [RPM](#) as thought leaders on current economic issues. TPG will also support the firm’s CSR strategy and increase its industry visibility through conferences, events and awards. Founded in 2012 in Royal Oak, Michigan, RPM leverages its shipping network and advanced digital capabilities to support all modes of transportation across a diverse suite of industries. “We’re proud to amplify a brand that is moving the needle in so many ways,” said The Pollack Group president Stefan Pollack.

[62 ABOVE](#), a San Diego-based agency, signs on to run global public relations programs for [OOLY](#), an arts, crafts and school supply brand. The agency will support OOLY’s in-house marketing team in raising awareness among consumer and trade media and with target audiences. Founded by CEO Carol Pankiw, OOLY says its mission is to provide fun, unique and quality products to inspire creativity and self-expression for all ages.

EVOLUTION OF SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM

Activist shareholders used to target companies primarily when they were showing concerning losses, reducing dividends and making foolhardy financing decisions. In today's complex and dynamic sociopolitical and economic



(L to R) John Christiansen, Jared Levy & Bryan Locke co-authored this article.

environment, however, shareholder activism has evolved into much more than identifying points of improvement and issues in

a company's financial results. Delivering growth and profit remains paramount, but only part of a list of items for which boards and management teams are being held accountable.

At the same time, the expansion of the stakeholder economy is multiplying the strategic risks and challenges that companies face.

Management teams are being asked to explain how their political contributions and viewpoints align with their company's mission and values. They're increasingly expected to comment on topical social issues, such as what they're doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across their supply chains, make workplace conditions and wages more fair and equitable and transform the business for the future while delivering strong shareholder returns today.

The stakes are high: Public debates with activist investors can tie up resources, distract employees and divert management's attention from its strategic plan. Worse, they can hurt the company's reputation, impact stock price and drive volatility. To win, companies need to plan early and react quickly.

An expanded threat matrix

Environmental and Social considerations—commonly encapsulated under the broader “ESG” label—have dominated conversations among management teams, government officials, media and investors both large and small. So far in 2022, shareholders have filed 172 environmental proposals at public companies' annual meetings, up 39 percent over 2021.

ESG issues will continue to take center stage as proposed changes to SEC regulations will result in more shareholder proposals as well as contested annual meetings. Fueling this trend is the sharp increase in funds that claim to apply sustainable principles to their investment goals, which today have total assets of \$35 trillion, according to data from Bloomberg Intelligence.

In the past, activists demanded disclosures for issues such as environmental impact and gender/racial pay gap. Today, these firms want specific targets. Tomorrow, they'll demand accountability if the targets are not reached. Companies considered to be engaging in “green-washing” will likely take a hit to their reputation; companies need to be vigilant in setting ambitious but realistic targets and monitoring their progress.

Traditional economic activism also remains strong. First-time activists accounted for 37 percent of all campaigns launched in the first half of 2022. Newcomers and established activists continue to critique companies' executive teams, compensation packages, strategy, operations and capital allocation, reinforcing the need for companies to be increasingly forward-thinking in their anticipation of activist demands.

Despite a challenging investing environment, the total number of campaigns launched in the 2022 proxy season is on pace to match recent years, and changes such as the SEC's mandated use of Universal Proxy cards in public solicitations beginning in September are expected to lead to more campaigns, particularly from new ESG activists, unions and ex-CEOs/Founders seeking to gain representation on a company's board. After the new rule goes into effect, shareholders will be able to launch campaigns at a fraction of the cost, and campaigns are expected to more frequently result in at least one or two dissident directors winning board seats.

As such, management teams should continue to educate themselves on the current activism landscape, analyze key trends specific to their industry, evaluate their potential vulnerabilities and understand their shareholder composition and sentiment. While companies are most vulnerable when shareholders can submit proposals or nominate directors, the traditional proxy calendar has expanded, with activists making initial approaches well before the annual meeting season.

Building an action plan

Like any other threat to a company's reputation or performance, companies can prepare to address an activist threat.

Identify your team. Just as companies need a crisis playbook on the shelf, they should also be prepared for public agitation from activist shareholders. After establishing an internal activism preparation team including key personnel across corporate functions and operating segments, engage outside advisors with specialized expertise, potentially including a strategic communications consultant, law firm, investment bank, corporate governance specialist and proxy solicitor.

Maintain a shareholder base with regular touchpoints with top shareholders. Regularly solicit and assess feedback through a mix of normal course investor relations activities, including sell-side engagements, conferences, earnings calls and investor days. Also, make an effort to engage with the corporate governance teams at your passive index funds.

Undertake a vulnerability analysis to evaluate weaknesses and likely angles of attack. In addition to economic vulnerabilities, including performance, corporate strategy, M&A history and operations, consider structural vulnerabilities. Consider how an activist may use these vulnerabilities as angles of attack; take preemptive action where possible and prepare response messaging accordingly.

Develop a comprehensive preparedness response plan. Having an integrated communications strategy and approach, response sequence, key messages and rebuttals to potential lines of attack and a suite of contingency communications materials for each scenario is essential in responding to an activist attack. This plan should solicit input from key stakeholders within your company.

Practice responses with the board and management team. Conduct regular tabletop exercises to stress test the response plan through simulation of likely scenarios, and make sure the plan remains current as the company's strategy, personnel and results evolve over time.

Today's activist strategies are becoming more sophisticated, increasingly leveraging media tactics to win the PR battle and influence proxy advisory firms and shareholders. Any listed company can be a target. The question isn't “if,” it's “how” and “when”—and what measures you have in place to mitigate the threat.

John Christiansen, Bryan Locke and Jared Levy are Partners at FGS Global.

BALTIMORE CO. SEEKS REBRANDING HELP

Enjoy Baltimore County is seeking a partner that can assist in a comprehensive rebranding effort to increase the destination's awareness and bolster the number of day trips and overnight stays.



It has budgeted \$600K to \$800K for rebranding, website design and media/marketing support.

Baltimore County has not had a branding revamp in more than a decade.

It is "in need of a new look and feel, logos, brand guidelines, a website and new photo and digital assets," accord-

ing to the RFP.

Baltimore County's marketing efforts are now focused around rebuilding and revitalizing the travel & leisure market following the pandemic, concentrating on those businesses that were hardest hit.

The selected firm will work alongside Baltimore County staff to not only create and optimize branding and collateral material but will also assist in the development of omni-channel content.

Experience in the travel, tourism and hospitality sector is a benefit, but not required. Baltimore County wants to engage with a shop that is "strategic and creative, has strong design skills and can deliver a fun, innovative and meaningful rebrand."

Baltimore County is targeting the new rebranding for early 2023 in time for the busy Spring/Summer tourism season.

Proposals are due August 24 at bid@baltimorecountymd.gov.

[Read the RFP \(PDF\)](#).

GOODMAN PROMOTES PALEY MEDIA FEST

[Goodman Media International](#) is handling PR for first-ever PaleyWKND media, sports, entertainment and gaming festival designed to help revive midtown Manhattan.

Slated for Oct. 1-2, the free, family-friendly event is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors to midtown and The Paley Museum, which is located on 52nd St between 5th and 6th Aves.

Mayor Eric Adams said events like PaleyWKND "further solidifies New York as the greatest city in the world when it comes to culture and cultural opportunities." It also will "bolster our economic recovery after two years of a pandemic."

A signature event at PaleyWKND will be the first-ever "Crown Jewels of Sports" exhibit featuring the NFL's Vince Lombardi Trophy, NHL's Stanley Cup, NBA's Larry O'Brien Trophy and MLB's Com-

missioner's Trophy.

There also will be exhibits from Meta, Nickelodeon, ESPN, Hearst, Telemundo, Hasbro, Bloomberg, Warner Bros. Discovery, Nintendo, Fox, Mattel/American Girl, Altice USA, New York Red Bulls and the World Surf League.

Maureen Reidy, CEO of the Paley Center, promises "once-in-a-lifetime, memorable experiences for little kids, big kids and kids at heart."

GMI's Lisa Taylor is handling PR for the event.



AMAZON'S KADUSHIN MOVES TO TRIDENT DMG

Peter Kadushin, who handled global PR and issues management at Amazon, has joined Trident DMG as VP.

At Amazon, Kadushin focused on areas including product liability, counterfeit products and fake reviews.

Kadushin has political experience gained from serving as communications director for Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who currently is a senior advisor to President Biden; and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

He also did a deputy communications director stint for New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio, where he coordinated public messaging on high-profile issues (e.g., police-involved shootings, terrorist threats and power outages).

Kadushin also handled PR for the United Federation of Teachers and reported for the *New York Post* and *Daily News*.

Based in DC, Trident DMG was co-founded by Lanny Davis, Eleanor McManus, Adam Goldberg and Joshua Galper.



Peter Kadushin

CALSTART SEEKS PR AIMED AT LANDSCAPERS

CALSTART, the nonprofit dedicated to promoting clean transportation and healthy communities, wants a firm to develop a strategic multilingual communications program targeted at landscaping services businesses in California.

Budgeted at \$600K, the effort will be designed to promote awareness of the Clean Off-Road Equipment (CORE) Voucher Incentive Project's zero-emission landscaping category for landscapers that operate small businesses or are sole proprietors, according to the RFP.

The selected firm will focus on media, content development and events throughout California that demonstrate CORE-eligible equipment, which includes battery electric mowers, string trimmers and hedgers blowers. It will partner with small business organizations, associations, equipment dealers and manufacturers that are approved by CALSTART.

Proposals are due August 19. They go to Jacob Whitson at jwhitson@calstart.org.

[Read the RFP \(PDF\)](#).



W&D AIDS AFGHAN INTERPRETER IN VISA BID

Wiggin and Dana is repping Ahmad Feroz Bakhshi, an Afghan national who served as an interpreter for the US military in Afghanistan, in his bid to obtain a special immigrant visa.

Bakhshi fled Afghanistan after the US military withdrawal from the country and the ensuing takeover of the government by the Taliban. He is currently in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Working on a pro bono basis, the New Haven law firm will contact the State Dept., members of Congress and other US entities to inform them of Bakhshi's exemplary service to America's war effort.

It also will conduct outreach to US media to draw attention to Bakhshi's efforts to gain entry to the US.

The Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriation Act, which went into effect July 30, 2021, authorized an additional 8,000 SIVs for Afghan nationals. A total of 34,500 SIVs have been issued since December 19, 2014.

RUSSIA PROPAGANDA TV TAPS REBEL MEDIA

Rebel Media Productions of Miami has signed on to produce television content for Russia's RT International for distribution in China, India, South Africa and South America.



The firm is not involved in the broadcasting or distribution of the content, which will not air in the US market.

Rebel Media will work on the English language program, "The M.O W/Manila Chan," which deals with how the US and NATO spread

war around the world and how that affects people across the globe, according to its Justice Dept. filing.

"War isn't just about bombs; however, we will also look at the economic warfare waged by the US and its allies and the impact of sanctions on the lives of people globally," it says.

Rebel will produce 50 episodes of the program. Each costs \$25K.

The firm also will product 50 episodes of "The Whistleblowers," "360 View," and "Cost of Everything."

Rebel Media's contract with Moscow's TV Novosti went into effect on Aug. 4.

'COWBOY HAT CAPITAL' SEEKS IMAGE WORK

Garland, which has a population of 225K people, making it the fifth biggest city in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, wants to hire a firm to work on its image.

"The Cowboy Hat Capital of Texas" is the home of Stetson, Resistol and Dorman Milano manufacturing facilities. It wants a partner to conduct a comprehensive analysis of its image, brand, institutions, residents, visitors, business and external stakeholders. The selected firm will detail specific recommendations, activities and projects to enhance the city's image.

"Many exciting opportunities exist in Garland; however, knowledge about what and where they might be has sometimes eluded valued audiences," according to the RFP.

Garland has recently established clear goals and has a defined vision of its future.

"That vision prioritizes growing the city's economic base and eradicating any negative perceptions that currently exist," says the RFP. "Positioning Garland to better realize these goals and creating a solid map to better manage relationships are major objectives of the image management initiative."

Garland expects the image project will run from three to six months.

Proposals are due August 23. Garland wants to receive an electronic version at the Ion Wave portal and a hard copy at: City of Garland Purchasing

200 North Fifth Street, Second Floor

Garland, TX 75046

[Read the RFP \(PDF\)](#).



ON THE MOVE

Mark Allen & Co. names **Hillary Herskowitz** head of media and entertainment. Herskowitz has been a consultant for the agency since 2019. She previously served as a senior-level public relations consultant to Feld Entertainment productions, including Disney On Ice, Monster Trucks, and Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus. She has also worked with such brands as Amazon, Live Nation, Sesame Workshop and Cirque du Soleil. In her new post, Herskowitz will lead the expansion of the agency's media and entertainment division, as well as managing the day-to-day activities of a variety of Mark Allen & Co. clients.

Clarity appoints **Margaret Carpo** as VP, working out of the agency's San Francisco office. Carpo joins Clarity from Engage PR, a tech-focused firm, where she was associate vice president. She has also worked for Next Fifteen agency

Archetype (formerly Text 100). At Clarity, Carpo will serve as senior counsel to existing clients and develop new client relationships in enterprise tech, telecoms, security, health tech and other sectors.

"Margaret brings a truly global perspective and huge dynamism," said Clarity president, North America Jon Meakin.

Syntax, a multi-cloud and mission-critical applications managed cloud provider, appoints former IBM marketing exec **Catherine Solazzo** as CMO. Solazzo was most recently SVP of marketing, Americas at IT services and consulting company TD SYNnex. She was at IBM for over 16 years, holding senior marketing posts including vice president, IBM partner ecosystem marketing. At Syntax, Solazzo will work to help the company capitalize on its robust portfolio footprint and brand equity globally.

Steinreich Communications Group hires **Monica Edwards** as SVP and head of its Lifestyle Brands practice. Edwards was most recently CMO at business consultancy Heydt & Co. She has also held senior marketing positions at Drexel Heritage and Vera Bradley, in addition to serving as head of marketing for Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. At Steinreich, Edwards is tasked with working with clients and account teams to expand their consumer reach. She will also develop new products and services for the firm outside of traditional public relations.

NAVEX, which develops integrated risk and compliance management software, names **Julia Mair** chief marketing officer. Mair was most recently chief marketing, communications & sustainability officer at Clarivate Analytics. She has also served as vice president, consumer marketing and circulation at the *Wall Street Journal*, and has held senior marketing positions at Dow Jones and LexisNexis.

Ironclad, a digital contracting platform, hires **Leslie Henthorn** as chief marketing officer. Henthorn comes to the company from Twilio, where she served as senior vice president of corporate marketing and interim CMO. Before that, she was at Cisco Systems. In her new post, Henthorn will focus on Ironclad's top-line marketing strategy as the company enters its next stage of growth.



Margaret Carpo



Monica Edwards

COMMENTARY



Poor, poor Donald. Ex-president Donald Trump reverted to full victim mode following the FBI's raid on his Mar-A-Lago compound.

"These are dark times for our Nation, as my beautiful home, Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, is currently under siege, raided, and occupied by a large group of FBI agents," whined Trump.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to a President of the United States before."

You got that right, Donald. You are a groundbreaker.

You are the first president to be impeached twice.

You are the first president to inspire a mob to storm the US Capitol—though you reneged on your promise to join the rabble.

You are the first president to take the Fifth Amendment and in true Trumpian fashion, you invoked it not once but more than 400 times.

Hopefully, you will be the first former president to serve jail time.

Fox News, which has been cool to president Trump of late, is now fully on the Trump Train in the aftermath of the FBI "raid" of his Florida compound.

Making up for some lost time, Fox on August 10 gave major play to Trump's latest lie that president Biden knew about the raid, which was "red meat" tossed to the red hat crowd.

The Fox bombastic coverage of the FBI incident came on the same day that Trump took the Fifth Amendment in New York's probe into his company.

Fox CEO Lachlan Murdoch doesn't want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. He resumed his role as engineer on the Trump Train.

Murdoch told investors on August 10 that midterm ad spending is expected to exceed the 2020 presidential cycle.

He expects a combination of political races and ballot issues across key Fox markets to bolster the bottom line.

He specifically mentioned high-profile Senate races in Red/Purple States Arizona, Georgia and Florida and gubernatorial contests in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Texas and Wisconsin.

You can bet Fox will give wall-to-wall coverage of those races and amplify any controversy that may arise. That coverage will draw more eyeballs and ad dollars to Fox.

Stop the presses. *The New York Post* made money. News Corp CEO Robert Thomson told investors on August 8 that Rupert Murdoch's pride and joy "formally reported a profit, possibly the first since Alexander Hamilton founded the paper" and is now "on a pathway to increasing profit contribution."

To celebrate this milestone, Thomson should restore the image of Hamilton on its front cover.

The News Media Group, which comprises the Post and a bunch of Australian and UK papers, was the "single largest contributor to the enhanced profit picture" for News Corp's fiscal year ended June 30.

A buoyant Thomson said the Post's upbeat performance

was due to its "brave journalism that has seen it soar far above media mediocrity."

Let's not get carried away, Robert.

Many readers visit the Post's site or pick up the rag out of curiosity. They want to see what you guys can get away with.

President Biden has more legislative achievements in less than two years than what Bill Clinton and Barack Obama had in eight, notes Ed Luce, US columnist for the *Financial Times*.

His Inflation Reduction Act stands as America's first serious attempt to deal with global warming.

Though Clinton and Obama enjoyed Democratic majorities, they failed to win passage of the Kyoto Treaty on climate change in 1999 and the cap and trade bill in 2009.

Biden succeeded with a Senate split 50/50.

He also is the first president to tame Big Pharma's lobbying clout to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices.

Well done, Joe. You can now rest on your laurels and announce that you will not run for re-election to clear the decks for a new generation of Democrats to take over.

Boy, we didn't see that coming. Domino's Pizza is closing 29 stores in Italy because Italians would rather eat "authentic pizza" in a local restaurant than order a commercial pie online.

Domino's swagginto Italy in 2015.

The Ann Arbor, MI-based company promised to "honor the home of pizza with a local menu." That's more than a little condescending.

Domino's expected Italians would swoon over the ability to order a pizza online with a couple of clicks—but it is now exiting where no American pizza chain should have gone in the first place.

There's a reason Olive Garden Italian Kitchen does not have an outpost in Italy.

Aaron Copeland's 1942 classic "Fanfare for the Common Man" would bomb today as Ordinary Joes and Janes get no respect.

Only 40 percent of Americans trust "ordinary men and women," according to an Ipsos Global Trustworthiness Index released on August 1.

Copeland based Fanfare on a speech called "Century of the Common Man" that was given by Henry Wallace, who was VP under Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Wallace, perhaps America's most liberal VP, was the Bernie Sanders of his day.

FDR dumped Wallace from the 1944 re-election ticket after a revolt led by conservative Democrats.

He then appointed Wallace Secretary of Commerce. President Truman fired Wallace after he made a speech suggesting closer ties between the US and the Soviet Union.

Progressive rock band Emerson Lake & Palmer recorded a rousing version of Fanfare in 1977.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Squad should adopt ELP's Fanfare as its theme song.

—Kevin McCauley