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O'Dwyer's

The Inside News of Public Relations
& Marketing Communications odwyerpr.com

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August 14, 2023 Vol. 56 No. 32

RHODE ISLAND SEEKS TOURISM PLAN

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation seeks a firm to draw up a five-year tourism development plan to support the economic success of the tourism sector and contribute to the quality of life of residents of the Ocean State, according to its RFP.



More than 27M people visited Rhode Island in 2022, spending \$5.3B and supporting 85K jobs. Tourism accounts for one of eight jobs and provides more than \$1.9B to RI's coffers.

The selected PR partner will devise a campaign to increase the number of trips to the state, length of stay and visitor spend.

The development plan will be a blueprint for communities to develop products that will produce a competitive edge while also preserving the authenticity of the region and the state.

Rhode Island's firm will not change primary or secondary staff assigned to the work, except for employee departures, or subcontractors and their staff, without the Corporation's prior written permission.

The Corporation retains the right to interview and approve such new staff assigned to this project.

Responses are due Aug. 21 at RFP@commerceri.com.
[Read the RFP \(PDF\)](#).

STAGWELL 2Q REVENUES SLIP 6%

Stagwell's 2Q revenues slipped 6 percent to \$632.3M and fell 5.3 percent on an organic basis.



Mark Penn

CEO Mark Penn said Stagwell is "facing headwinds caused by economic uncertainty and especially tech client reorganizations, the effects of which we believe are temporary."

He is bullish on the second-half and all of 2024.

"We are beginning to see a return to a more normal business environment, and the emergence of Generative AI is providing a runway for future work that we believe will explode in the next 12 to 18 months."

The company posted a \$10.2M net loss during the quarter vs. a \$24.5M year ago profit.

Stagwell owns Allison+Partners, SKDK, [Sloane & Co.](#), KWT Global and [Hunter](#).

KEKST CNC RECRUITS RETAIL PRO BLECHER

Andrew Blecher, who was chief communications officer at Hudson's Bay Company, North America's oldest company, has joined [Kekst CNC](#) as a partner.

He was responsible for 70 staffers, handling positioning, PA, financial/M&A communications, and crisis management at the Canadian department store chain.

Prior to becoming CCO, Blecher was senior VP communications & event marketing, doing corporate & brand marketing for Hudson's Bay, Lord & Taylor, and strategic communications for Saks Fifth Ave.

Most recently, he was running his own strategic counseling shop.

Jeremy Fielding, co-CEO at Kekst CNC, noted that clients will benefit from Blecher's insights and experience gained from working with some of the most important consumer brands in the world.

"With the retail industry in a continual state of change as a result of enhanced digitalization and personalization, economic cyclicality and the need for flexible strategies to reach new generations, Andrew will be a trusted counselor for boards and management teams," he said.

Blecher will work with Kekst CNC's omnichannel retail, real estate, technology and consumer goods clients.

Publicis Groupe owns Kekst CNC.



Andrew Blecher

BCW ALUM JANACZEK TAKES PN HELM

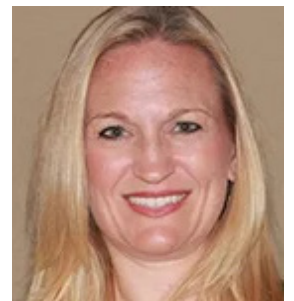
Porter Novelli has named Jillian Janaczek, who was president of BCW's New York office, CEO.

She fills the post that was held by David Bentley, who exited the Omnicom unit in June.

Bentley, who was VP-digital at McKinsey & Co., joined Porter Novelli as CEO in 2020. He succeeded Brad MacAfee, who was elected chief in 2016.

Prior to running BCW's flagship office, Janaczek did a 21-year run at Cohn & Wolfe. She rose to the executive VP-healthcare position.

Earlier, Janaczek worked at Noonan Russo and Kovak Thomas.



Jillian Janaczek

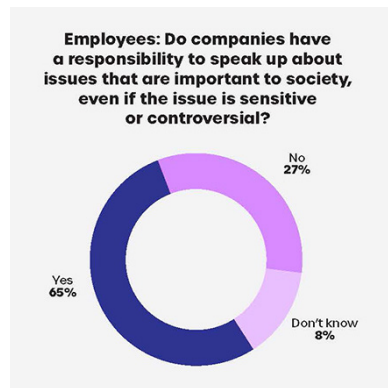
CONSUMERS, EMPLOYEES ENGAGED ON ISSUES

Both consumers and employees increasingly expect companies to be engaged on social topics, according to the results of a new survey from Weber Shandwick, KRC Research, Powell Tate and United Minds.

“[Pulse on America: Public and Employee Opinions on Business and Societal Issues](#)” asked over 1,000 consumers, as well as 501 company employees, how a company’s willingness to take a stand on such hot-button topics as human rights, gun violence, racism, immigration and LGBTQ+ issues affect their opinion of that company.

On the employee side, job satisfaction appears to be a big plus of corporate activism. More than eight out of 10 (84 percent) of employees at companies with leaders who speak up on critical events and issues reported being satisfied with their jobs. That compares with only 57 percent for employees in companies who leaders do not speak up on those issues.

The workplace itself is seen as something of a haven from



the contentious nature of the current political landscape. While more than half of the consumers surveyed (58 percent) said the general tone in the country today is not “civil and respectful,” 79 percent of the employees said that their workplace remained a civil environment.

However, the 27 percent of employees

who reported having heard their company referred to as “woke” had varying views of the effect of that term. Close to a third (31 percent) said that the “woke” label would make them “proud of my company.” However, 19 percent said that it would make them “embarrassed for my company” and 16 percent said it would make them “ashamed to work for my company.”

A considerable number also said that working for a company considered woke could make the company a “target of aggression and harassment” (27 percent) or could make employees themselves targets (22 percent).

The risks that companies take with consumers when it comes to voicing political or social opinions are a double-edged sword for companies as well. More than half of consumers said they had taken action to oppose or support a company based on its positions or actions. About four in 10 (44 percent) said they had boycotted a company, while 36 percent have steered their purchase decisions toward companies with views that they share. A quarter of them (25 percent) have participated in both activities.

“Silence is an increasingly fraught option,” said Weber Shandwick chief public affairs officer Pam Jenkins. “These findings show that effective leaders recognize meaningful signals and bring clarity amid the noise surrounding social issues. Instead of retreating, they are creating thriving workplaces and earning brand loyalty and strong reputations by listening to their stakeholders and tackling tough issues head on.”

The Weber Shandwick study was conducted between July 7 and 10.

NEWS OF FIRMS

Lippe Taylor partners with **MedFluencers**, a physician-founded health care provider influencer marketing agency, to deliver creative content, influencer and creator marketing strategies that consumers can trust, and other HCPs find credible in peer-to-peer settings. The partnership will focus on several key areas, including benchmarking and pricing standardization for health care provider influencer programming, education on compliance with the Sunshine Act, thought leadership initiatives, and ongoing client work, including creative ideation, joint new business initiatives and creator/influencer development. “This strategic partnership allows us to tap into MedFluencers’ extensive network of physicians, proprietary data, and unparalleled expertise on best practices in the HCP influencer space,” said Lippe Taylor CEO Paul Dyer.



Blue Ant Media and **marblemedia** are merging their production and distribution operations into one unified studio and rights business. With hubs in Toronto, New York, Los Angeles, Miami and London, the merger of these operations sees Blue Ant Media acquiring marblemedia and international sales operation Distribution360. The combined business also includes Saloon Media, Look Mom! Productions and distributor Blue Ant International, provide an expanded scope of intellectual properties across all genres. Marblemedia co-CEOs Mark Bishop and Matthew Hornburg will take the helm of the business, serving as co-presidents and reporting into Michael MacMillan, CEO and co-founder, Blue Ant Media.

North Sixth Group acquires **KRMA**, an AI-enabled digital marketing solutions provider. As part of the acquisition, NSG will merge its marketing services units, including public relations firm N6A and digital content firm Studios with KRMA to form N6 Powered by KRMA, creating a fully integrated offering that combines public relations expertise, technology and cutting-edge digital marketing strategies. KRMA founder & CEO Morgan Harris will come on board as CEO of North Sixth Group, parent company of N6 Powered by KRMA.



WPP and **Spotify** form a global strategic partnership that will provide WPP clients with early access to Spotify’s ad products, first-party intelligence and ways to reach engaged audiences at scale. Spotify will become the first digital audio platform to be integrated directly into WPP’s products and solutions. WPP will work with Spotify to deliver market-leading thought leadership and scaled training programs for its employees and clients that focus on digital audio creativity and Spotify’s ad products. WPP’s teams and clients will also benefit from early access to Spotify’s neuro-insights research focused on audience trends and insights.

Luquire joins with qualitative research platform **Sympler** to provide consumer insights for the agency’s clients. Sympler employs conversational technology in the chat environments of Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook Messenger to reveal information about consumers. The company says that in those environments, people offer more candid insights than they do through traditional research methods.

PREPPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PR PROS

As my 22nd year of teaching at the [University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism](#) commences, the anticipation of a new academic term



Stefan Pollack

still ignites the same exhilaration as my first year. The surge of fresh faces ready to dive deep into the dynamic world of public relations is an electrifying experience that never ceases to invigorate and motivate me.

It's an opportunity to share the knowledge and insights I've amassed over 30 years in the trenches of PR and marketing. Yet, it's also a chance to learn from the innovative ideas and perspectives

of a new generation of future scholars. The task of ensuring that the curriculum remains current and relevant in the face of such rapid transformation in the PR landscape is a continuous and sometimes arduous journey.

Of great importance to me is to remain steadfastly fixed on the intersection of where public relations converges with digital content creation. We live in an era where organizations have the power to transform themselves into their own media outlets, creating and disseminating content directly to their target audience. This paradigm shift has redefined how we perceive PR—and the PR professionals of tomorrow must be adequately prepared to navigate the digital terrain.

Throughout this new semester, I'll dive deeply into the revelations of USC's [2023 Global Communication Report](#), analyzing its predictions and insights into the evolving corporate communication and reputation management landscape.

The report emphasizes several vital points that will anchor my classroom discussions. These include the rising importance of consumer reviews and independent rankings, the role of an organization's social purpose, the critical impact of corporate culture and the potential for ESG initiatives to serve as springboards for storytelling.

Equally crucial is gazing ahead at the horizon of PR's future. The profession is becoming inexorably intertwined with technology as artificial intelligence, data analytics and virtual reality reshape its boundaries.

So, to my future students and all the PR professionals of the future, I offer this advice:

Stay curious: The universe of PR thrives on novelty, innovation and evolving narratives. Cultivating an unyielding sense of curiosity is more than just a trait—it's a prerequisite for success in this field. Reading industry publications, attending seminars, participating in workshops and never ceasing to ask questions matters.

Be adaptable: In an era where news breaks in seconds and trends shift overnight, adaptability is a PR practitioner's strongest asset. The tools and tactics that worked yesterday might be obsolete tomorrow. To be adaptable means to be fluid in thought and approach, willing to discard old playbooks in favor of innovative strategies.

Foster relationships: At its core, public relations is about the delicate dance of human interactions. The relationships you foster today might well be the partnerships that drive your success tomorrow. Good PR is as much about listening as it's about speaking. So, always make time for one-on-one interactions, remember important milestones and ensure that

every stakeholder feels valued.

Think strategically: While PR does involve sharing information, it's the strategy behind the dissemination that often determines its effectiveness. PR is as much a game of chess as it's an art—anticipating outcomes, predicting responses and always being two steps ahead.

As we embark on this new academic term, I'm reminded of the wisdom imparted by Benjamin Franklin: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." I look forward to learning from my students, guiding their evolution and helping pave the way for their future success in the dynamic field of public relations.

Stefan Pollack is President of The Pollack Group and an Adjunct Professor at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

JOELE FRANK RISES TO DEFENSE OF USS

[Joelle Frank](#) handles US Steel, which has rejected an unsolicited cash/stock takeover offer valued in the \$7B range from competitor Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.

USS has launched a strategic review and invited Cliffs to participate in the process. The company claims to have received multiple takeover offers.

Cliffs made its offer on July 28 but refused USS' demand that it enter an NDA to evaluate the proposal, regulatory risk and growth prospects of the combined company.

Without the NDA, USS "cannot determine whether the unsolicited offer properly reflects the full and fair value of the company," according to CEO David Burritt's letter to Cliffs chief Lourenco Goncalves.

Cliff looks forward to engaging with USS. Goncalves "is convinced that the value potential and competitiveness to come out of a combination of our two iconic American companies is exceptional."

Joelle Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher's Kelly Sullivan and Ed Trissel represent USS.



EDELMAN VET LEADS BCW POLY CULTURAL UNIT

Jackeline Stewart-Hawkins has joined BCW as executive VP and leader of its polycultural consulting unit.

She did an almost five-year stint at [Edelman](#), rising from VP DC brand, multicultural communications, diversity & inclusion, to executive VP and head of US multicultural communications.

"Jackeline is an exceptional talent who has been leading polycultural and multicultural marketing efforts throughout her career and understands the commercial imperative of polycultural for our clients' businesses," said Mary Corcoran, President, North America, BCW.

Prior to joining Edelman, Stewart-Hawkins worked at Spitfire, developing expertise for the firm in civil rights and racial justice, Opportunity Finance Network and Obama administration as deputy and press secretary for the U.S. General Services Administration.

Stewart-Hawkins, who is based in DC, reports to Corcoran.



Jackeline Stewart-Hawkins

NYC SEEKS INFRASTRUCTURE OUTREACH

The New York City Dept. of Design and Construction's PR unit has floated an RFP for community outreach and engagement for infrastructure projects.



Department of
Design and
Construction

It plans to issue up to five contracts for community construction liaison services for infrastructure work in accordance with task orders drawn up the department's commissioner.

Those services include management, oversight and coordination of community relations program on a variety of projects in NYC's five boroughs.

Construction costs of the projects falls in the range of \$5M to \$60M each.

Proposals are due Aug. 24 at [NYC's electronic procurement portal](#).

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

CBRE'S INGLE SHIFTS TO LINCOLN PROPERTY

Christy Ingle, who was senior VP at CBRE, has joined Lincoln Property Co. as chief marketing and communications officer.



Christy Ingle

CBRE (Caldwell Banker Richard Ellis) is the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm. The NYSE-listed firm has 115K staffers in 100 countries.

Ingle handled PR for its advisory services (leasing, sales, property management, valuations) and real estate investments (Trammell Crow Co. and CBRE Investment management).

Ingle is now responsible for Lincoln's global brand strategy, business development, media relations and internal communications efforts.

Based in Dallas, Lincoln has 3,200 professionals and 35 offices in the US, plus outposts in London, Prague and Warsaw.

CEO Clay Duvall said Ingle's "deep background working for one of the real estate industry's most recognizable brands will be instrumental in helping us evolve our platform and client experience."

SCLAFANI EXITS JAVITS CENTER FOR MERCURY

Tony Sclafani, senior VP & chief communications officer at New York City's Javits Center, has moved to Mercury Public Affairs as managing director.



Tony Sclafani

Based in New York, he focuses on media relations, crisis PR, government affairs, brand building and story development.

Prior to joining the Javits Center, which is among the busiest convention halls in the US, Sclafani worked at the NYC Department of Buildings, where he was associate commissioner of communications and PA.

Earlier, he was press secretary at the FDNY and police reporter at the *New York Daily News*. Omnicom owns Mercury.

ACCOUNTS IN TRANSIT

TURNER partners with **New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development** on various initiatives, including media relations, influencer strategies and experiential events. The efforts are focused on bolstering tourism to the state, as well as amplifying brand awareness and showcasing New Hampshire's unique experiences, attractions and progressive "Live Free" ethos.



By strategically targeting key markets and demographics, the partnership aims to increase visitation from domestic and international travelers.

Ditto Public Relations adds three AI companies—**Ogimi**, **Kidgeni** and **Alchemie**—to its client roster. For Ogimi, a personalized AI-powered meditation coach, Ditto will be providing content, media relations, social media and event planning. Kidgeni, whose app offers an array of AI tools focused on helping children learn how to generate AI art and more, has engaged the agency to provide PR support, media relations, brand awareness, social media, and created content. Alchemie, which leverages AI to improve visual learning of images in textbooks, has tasked Ditto with developing content, executing social media campaigns, providing media relations, and driving thought leadership.

SWPR is selected as public relations agency of record for **Pawlicy Advisor**, an independent pet insurance marketplace. SWPR is overseeing a strategic media relations program focused on generating widespread awareness for Pawlicy Advisor's services in the veterinary and consumer markets. Part of the program is the launch of an in-depth industry survey on the escalating costs of the pet industry. Pawlicy Advisor's data-driven model is intended to bring transparency and simplicity to shopping across top pet insurance providers.

Brandon picks up **Southern Point Co.**, an outdoor and lifestyle apparel provider. The agency will be responsible for developing and executing strategic marketing campaigns across multiple channels, including digital, social media and traditional advertising. The agency will also provide creative services, website management, search engine optimization, analytics and Amazon Store management.



Three Cheers, a 360PR+ agency, signs **DRINKS**, an online alcohol technology company whose proprietary software, services and regulatory compliance expertise help businesses sell their products online. The agency will work to bring DRINKS' story to broader audiences and share news of its expanding services, focusing on Electriq, DRINKS' Shopify-expert digital agency, and the company's patented PAIR platform, which generates AI-driven insights to tailor product offerings and develop brands.

Stretch PR promotes Chicago-based **EWP Architects** to raise its profile in the Nashville market. The agency will also work with EWP to reach potential clients and prospective employees via ongoing social media management. EWP Architects works with building managers, developers, owners, real estate and leasing firms and tenants to redevelop office space.

WA WARNS OF RISKS OF MENTHOL CIGS

The State of Washington is looking for a firm to develop a communications program to educate the public about the health risks connected with smoking menthol tobacco products, and encourage smokers to kick the habit.

The firm will have experience working with distinct and diverse subject matter experts, key stakeholders and audiences.

It will inform Washingtonians about the predatory tactics of tobacco companies, educate communities about the harms associated with the use of menthol tobacco products, and promote harm reduction and cessation tools that will help protect and advance the health and safety of all communities in the state.

Proposals are due August 23. They go to Bids@doh.wa.gov.

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

ICR REPS FC BARCELONA'S CONTENT ARM

ICR is working the SPAC deal that will take FC Barcelona's Barca Media content platform public in a transaction valued at \$1B.



FC Barcelona ranks among the world's most visible and valuable soccer franchises.

Barca Media centralized the creation and production of FC Barcelona's audiovisual, digital and e-sports output.

Its mission is to produce dynamic and engaging content that feeds the team's different distribution channels and can be promoted via FC Barcelona's various social platforms.

Barca Media also licenses content to Sony Pictures, Disney+, Univision, DirectTV and DAZN.

The SPAC transaction has Barca Media combining with Mountain & Co. Acquisition Corp.

ICR has Jacques Cornet and Brett Milotte handling the investment community, and Jason Chudoba, Megan Kivlehan and Matthew Chudoba working the media on the Barca Media deal.

GATEWAY TAPS EX-LABOR DEPT. SPOKESMAN

Joshua Lamont, who was a spokesperson for the Department of Labor during the Obama administration, comes on board at Gateway Group as managing director for Gateway Public Relations.



Joshua Lamont

Lamont was most recently CEO at JRL Strategies, which he co-founded in 2015. Before that, he served as VP, crisis communications at Edelman.

His previous positions include VP, communications at amfAR; VP, corporate giving at Lehman Brothers; and director of communication at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

In his new role, Lamont co-leads Gateway's public relations practice and joins the Gateway Group executive leadership team.

FGS GLOBAL ADDS HARRISON, GASSER

FGS Global appoints Akin Harrison as chief legal officer and Rebecca Gasser as global chief information officer.

Harrison comes to FGS from TEGNA, where he was senior VP and general counsel, overseeing all of the company's legal, compliance and regulatory matters. He was previously associate general counsel at Gannett, and served as an attorney at legal firms Brobeck, Pheleger and Harrison, and Weil Gotshal and Manges, representing clients in mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings and corporate lending transactions. In his new role, Harrison will lead FGS's legal function and contribute to the ongoing development of global strategy.



Akin Harrison, Rebecca Gasser

Gasser was most recently global CIO at Omnicom Health. Before that, she served as VP of information technology at Ferradino & Son and held a range of executive positions during close to 20 years at global pharmaceutical company GSK. At FGS, Gasser will be responsible for overseeing IT across FGS Global's three regions and 27 offices.

MEDSECUREAN REPS INDIA'S DRUGMAKERS

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance is using Medsecurean to advance a closer relationship between India and the US, and investment opportunities for India's drug companies.

Medsecurean will position the Indian pharmaceutical sector as a "critical US diversification supply solution," according to the firm's agreement.

The Great Falls, VA-based firm also will enhance IPA's engagement with the US Food and Drug Administration with respect to foreign inspections and manufacturing innovation. India has the largest number of US FDA-approved facilities outside of the US.

Kathleen Jaeger heads Medsecurean. She is the former CEO of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, and senior VP at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

Medsecurean's one-year contract began Aug. 1 and is worth \$120K.



FTI ADVISES BANKRUPT PROTERRA

FTI Consulting serves as the financial advisor to Proterra, the electric vehicle parts supplier, that declared Chapter 11 on Aug. 7.

The Burlingame, CA company chalked up a \$244M Q1 loss on \$80M in revenues. With the reorganization, Proterra canceled its Aug. 9 earnings call.

CEO Gareth Joyce said while Proterra's "best-in-class EV and battery technologies set an industry standard, we have faced various market and macroeconomic headwinds that have impacted our ability to efficiently scale all of our opportunities simultaneously."

The Chapter 11 process will enable Proterra to separate each production line to maximize its independent potential, he said.



COMMENTARY



Rishi Sunak

Woof, woof... Is UK prime Rishi Sunak Joe Biden's poodle for following the US lead in isolating China?

Bloomberg reported that Sherard Cowper-Coles, who heads HSBC's public affairs unit, criticized the British government for being "weak" on China for agreeing to reduce business ties with the Communist state.

He cited the decision of Britain to cave to the American demand to ban telecommunications giant Huawei from building its 5G mobile phone network. He wants the UK to prioritize its economic interests, rather than playing following the US's lead.

Cowper-Coles made his remarks at a private dinner that was held in June.

He apologized on Aug. 7 for his "weak on China" statement, saying it was a personal comment and does not reflect the views of HSBC or the China British Business Council, where he serves as chairman.

HSBC, which is based in London, but makes the bulk of its profit in Hong Kong and China, can't believe isolating China is in the bank's best interest.

Cowper-Coles is not a firebrand. He is a charter member of the British establishment.

He's been with HSBC since 2013, working as an advisor to the group chairman and group CEO before taking over the global government and PA mantle.

You can bet many of his peers in the British business community share his view of wanting a more independent UK economic policy.

Sunak must call the next general election by Jan. 28, 2025.

The Labour Party is hammering Sunak's Conservatives by 45 percent to 28 percent, according to a July 31 Ipsos poll.

Tony Blair, one of Sunak's predecessors, destroyed his reputation and political career for his blind support of George W. Bush's march to war on Iraq.

Worldly Tony provided a bit of gravitas to Dubya's cowboy image. But Blair was raked over the coals by the UK media for being nothing more than Bush's poodle.

If he doesn't carve out some space from the US, the same fate may await Sunak.

Going after ESGers... The Republican-led backlash against ESG programs is real and expected to get a lot worse.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that conservative groups who successfully challenged affirmative action programs in colleges are training their sights on DEI in the private sector.

A report by the Conference Board and Teneo found that more than six-in-ten (61 percent) of US companies expect ESG backlash to continue or increase during the next two years.

The Conference Board uses ESG backlash as a term that encompasses a broad range of positions from healthy skepticism to philosophical opposition to issues, according to Paul

Washington, executive director of its ESG Center.

"The most effective response is to ensure the company's ESG positions align with the company's core business strategy, are supported by empirical data and serve the long-term welfare of the company, its stakeholders and society," he said.

The "[How Companies Can Address ESG Backlash](#)" report says backlash prompts companies to sharpen how they make the business case for ESG.

Sixty-three percent of them focus on how ESG connects with shareholder value. Nearly half of the companies adjust terminology used around ESG-related matters.

While ESG resonates with investors, sustainability is better understood by employees, customers and policymakers.

The 2024 election cycle will boost political ESG backlash, while institutional investors pressure companies on ESG risk.

That's why it is imperative for companies to be strategic about how they communicate ESG strategy, said Matt Filosa, senior managing director at Teneo.

AI threatens information integrity. Reporters Without Borders has launched an international committee called "AI Charter in Media," to develop a manifesto aimed at regulating the use of AI in media.

Journalist and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Resa chairs the 21-member group, which will explore how to guarantee the right to reliable information when the majority of texts and images are generated by AI.

Media groups around the world are publishing their own guides to steer their use of AI. There isn't a single standard on using AI tools ethically and judiciously.

Christophe Deloire, RWB's secretary general, sees the need for a "collective global commitment, anchored in sound principles, to uphold the ethics of journalism and harness AI for preserving the right to information."

The RWB committee hopes to issue its report by yearend. Time is running out.

What were you thinking, Steve? I assumed my beloved New York Mets hit rock bottom at the trading deadline after dumping their two best pitchers, Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer for prospects, but things got even worse.

Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump and their kids showed up at the Aug. 9 game against the Cubs. They sat in the front row just behind home plate. That's just Amazin'

Before the game, Team Javanka took photos with Mets players Pete Alonso, Francisco Lindor and Kodak Senga. They also took family shots in the Mets dugout and visited with billionaire owner Steve Cohen's wife, Alex.

Mets fans aren't exactly thrilled with Steve's decision to write-off the rest of 2023 and 2024 and hoping the new kids are major leaguers in 2025.

But cozying up to Jared and Ivanka is the last straw for many of us. How could you, Steve?

Are you trying to recruit Jared as a business partner in your now sorry team? One hears he has great connections with the Saudis.

—Kevin McCauley