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INTERPUBLIC GROWS 4.7% IN Q2

Interpublic's Q2 net revenues grew 4.7 percent to \$2.4B as CEO Philippe Krakowsky reported gains across all regions, client sectors and operating units. Organic growth was up 7.9 percent.



Philippe Krakowsky

The specialized communications & experiential solutions unit, which includes IPG DXTRA, DXTRA Health, [Weber Shandwick](#), Golin, Jack Morton, Momentum and Octagon, reported 8.5 percent growth to \$348.4M. It was up 11.1 percent on an organic basis.

On the PR front, Weber, Golin, Current Global, DeVries Global and R&CPMK registered mid-single digit growth. DXTRA Health landed global enterprise agency of record duties for Moderna.

Weber Shandwick picked up significant assignments from major brands, including expanded business from Mars for its Skittles, Orbit, 5 and Extra brands. Group Black, a collective that supports Black-owned media properties, hired Weber for external marketing and communications services. Golin became the agency of record for West Monroe, a digital consultancy. Krakowsky notes the communications business faces a period of macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty, and the limited visibility that comes with such an environment. IPG expects full-year organic growth to top 6.5 percent.

BCW'S JOSEPH SWITCHES TO KETCHUM

Former [BCW global](#) president Jim Joseph is coming on board at Ketchum as global chief marketing and integration officer, a newly created position.



Jim Joseph

In addition to working with Ketchum's teams worldwide, Joseph will collaborate with agencies across the Omnicom Public Relations Group and overall network to develop client solutions and drive thought leadership. Most recently, Joseph served as chief customer solutions officer at IPG Health. He has also been CEO at [Citizen Relations](#), and president and partner at Lippe Taylor. His client-side positions include marketing manager at Church & Dwight (Arm & Hammer) and product director at Johnson & Johnson.

NC NEEDS PR FOR BROADBAND DISCOUNTS

North Carolina's Department of Information Technology is hunting for a firm to develop a communications and public outreach campaign to promote the federal program that offers discounted broadband service to low-income households.

About 600K NC households are eligible to participate in the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program because they have to spend at least two percent of their monthly income on a \$60 per-month subscription. Less than a quarter (22.4 percent) of qualified households in the Tarheel State are enrolled in ACP.



NCDIT wants a communications partner to increase awareness of and enrollment in ACP, especially among qualified households with school-age children.

It plans to award a one-year contract with an option for two additional one-year terms.

Proposals are due July 28.

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

RIDGELY WALSH VOLUNTEERS FOR UKRAINE

Ridgely Walsh, which was founded by the well-connected DC Republican PA consultant Juleanna Glover, is providing PR and media work for Ukraine on a volunteer basis.

The firm has arranged media interviews and panel presentation opportunities for Ukrainian government officials.

RW set up a June 22 meeting at Washington's La Tomate Restaurant of a delegation of Ukrainian pilots with the WSJ's Sharon Weinberger, Vox's Jonathan Guyer, Defense One's Jacqueline Feldscher, Yahoo's Alexander Nazaryan and Karina Bafradzian.



Juleanna Glover

The Ukrainians stressed the need for US support of their country's air defense network and the establishment of a training program here for Ukrainian pilots.

Glover served on the staff of president-elect George W. Bush and as press secretary to VP Dick Cheney. She advised John McCain on his presidential run and co-founded the Ashcroft Group with former attorney general John Ashcroft.

She is part of the RW's Ukraine team that includes associate Elizabeth Sean Lyons, director Elizabeth Glover Sullivan and senior director Veronika Velch, a native of Ukraine.

RW receives no compensation for its Ukrainian service.

FINN PARTNERS AIMS TO CUT GUN VIOLENCE

[Finn Partners](#) has signed on to provide earned media and marketing support for the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area on its 120 Initiative effort to address gun violence.



reduce gun violence.

Named to honor the more than 120 Americans who are killed on average every day by gunfire, the Initiative will recruit experts in public & mental health, advocacy, technology, and polarization to review research to develop evidence-based recommendations to

Darryll Pines, University of Maryland president, said colleges got involved in the Consortium because they are a source of change and progress. “Guns are now the leading cause of death for young people, and we are charged with shaping young minds to tackle the grand challenges of our time,” he said.

Margaret Dunning, who leads Finn Partners’ higher education practice, is overseeing the Consortium effort. She noted that there had been at least 314 mass shootings since the start of 2022 and more than 23,500 deaths as a result of gun violence through suicide, domestic abuse and other assaults.

Consortium members include UoM, Georgetown University, Howard University, Catholic University, Prince George’s Community College, Marymount University, Montgomery College, Gallaudet University and George Mason University.

MELIÁ HIRES RABEN FOR US/CUBA STUDY

Spain’s Meliá Hotels International has hired The Raben Group to conduct interviews with US policymakers on the status of US policy towards Cuba as it impacts foreign countries operating on the biggest island in the Caribbean.

It is specifically interested in the potential of changes to the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, which extended the US embargo on Cuba to foreign companies, in the event that Republicans win control of Congress following the 2022 midterm elections.

Meliá has 40 hotels in Cuba. They are located in Havana, Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo, Cayo Largo, Cayo Santa María, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Varadero, Camagüey, Trinidad and Cienfuegos.

Estuardo Rodriguez, Raben co-founder, leads the Cuba research and reports to Juan Ignacio Pardo, Meliá chief legal & compliance officer.

Raben staffers had met with State Dept. officials, including Mara Tekach, coordinator/director of the Office of Cuban Affairs; Ricardo Zuniga, deputy secretary of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs; and Danny Meza, undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment.

They are “to conduct due diligence to understand what circumstances policymakers and officials would be supportive of the goals of Meliá Hotels International, at no point will payment or financial support of candidates be offered or paid in return for such support,” according to the firm’s contract with Meliá.

The pact covers the period from May 16 to August 15. It is worth \$35K per month.

NEWS OF FIRMS

DH, a Spokane-based strategic communications, social change and marketing firm, acquires **Nyhus Communications** in Seattle. The acquisition includes Nyhus’ client list and nine-person team, with the combined agency numbering more than 50 people, with offices in Spokane and Seattle. Nyhus CEO and founder Roger Nyhus retired following the close. Nyhus president and partner Marc Berger will become executive vice president and Seattle market leader for DH. “Having partnered previously with Nyhus Communications on advocacy campaigns, we knew our firms’ values and teams aligned,” said DH chief executive officer Michelle Hege.

FTI Consulting’s tech segment launches a suite of solutions within its Information Governance, Privacy & Security practice that is intended to help clients navigate emerging data privacy challenges in digital advertising and online consent management. FTI Technology’s integrated suite of advertising technology privacy solutions includes such managed services and solutions as AdTech Risk Assessment, AdTech Privacy and Governance Model Development and Consent and Preference Management. “To compete and thrive in this ‘AdTech 2.0’ world, organizations will need to realign their marketing strategies with data privacy best practices,” said Todd Ruback, a managing director in FTI Technology’s IGP&S practice.

Tug, a digital marketing agency with offices in Sydney, London, Toronto and Berlin, opens a Singapore office. The agency previously worked with clients in the South-East Asia region through its London and Sydney locations. Tug Singapore will be led by Karen Soo, who has previously served as head of Reprise Digital Singapore and digital director at OMD. Soo will drive new business across South-East Asia.

MHP/Team SI, an integrated communications firm with offices in Little Rock and Rogers, AR, launches its Content Studio, a hub that will encourage brands to think like online creators. The studio was created to focus on short-form vertical videos and authentic photography. It offers a space for brands to produce videos made specifically for such social media platforms as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. The agency has hired influencer Chris Bell-Davis as the Content Studio manager to oversee social content and strategy development.

M2M PR & Partnerships, which works with entertainment, music and consumer brands, launches a division focused on the health & wellness industry. Led by West Coast vice president Eileen Mercolino, the new division will serve clients in the personal care, beauty, global health and nutrition, wellness tourism and physical activity sectors. It will execute targeted influencer campaigns, digital marketing, speaker engagements and trade show support services.

Messner Media Group, a woman-owned PR firm specializing in aerospace, defense, technology and transportation clients, launches in Falls Church, VA. The agency is led by Kristina Messner, who was most recently senior vice president of public relations and social media at DC advertising agency Focused Image. In addition to public relations, Messner Media Group’s services include social media, internal communications, thought leadership and media training.



SKILLS TRAINING IS A TOP JOB PERK

For Millennials and Zoomers starting out in a public relations career, one of the most important considerations factoring into any decision about what job to take is a future employer's commitment to leadership and skills training.



Kathleen Toussaint

Of course, there is no shortage of outsourced opportunities for professional training offered by industry associations such as the Council of Public Relations Firms and the Public Relations Society of America. But when an agency itself is willing to invest in upskilling employees, that speaks volumes about its standards for client work quality and commitment to staff.

I recently completed a six-month leadership and skill training program developed and administered by my agency. Since I joined this firm as a college intern three years ago, I have been promoted twice, most recently to the title of senior associate. That promotion followed the completion of a training program.

Subjects addressed in that course included understanding the client perspective, forging working relationships with journalists, optimizing content development, enhancing management skills, and gaining a better understanding of both crisis and mergers & acquisitions (M&A) communications.

Skills training should be made widely available to everyone. The PR agency world is littered with examples of firms unwilling to devote the time and financial resources to education. That is disappointing and shortsighted, but when conducting your job search it's important to keep in mind.

When on a job interview, don't be shy about turning the tables and asking the interviewer what the firm offers in formal skill and leadership training.

According to Gallup's State of the Global Workforce report, employers providing workers with regular training opportunities will continually upgrade the quality of their workforce, offering individual firms a significant competitive advantage in the short term.

Of course, developing knowledge and skill sets is something each professional will inevitably do, to some extent, throughout her career. However, in today's digital age, when the pace of technological change is so rapid, taking a passive approach to skills development could impede one's career growth.

Those in the communications industry, in particular, must make a concerted effort not only to proactively seek out opportunities to learn new skills, but also to keep abreast of external developments on an ongoing basis.

In a media environment where change is the norm and the role of the PR professional continues to expand and evolve, ongoing professional development will be increasingly essential for PR pros across all levels of experience.

And in the PR agency world, an abiding commitment to staff training is a sign of enlightened management. There is a strong tie between a commitment to training and an overall employment culture that values each individual. All soon-to-be college grads or recent grads, if given the opportunity, would do well to choose a PR agency with an effective training program. Those who do so will dramatically enhance their opportunity for job satisfaction and career advancement.

Kathleen Toussaint is a senior associate at RooneyPartners.

OHIO COUNTY SEEKS PR FOR 'RELIEF BUS'

Hamilton County, which includes Cincinnati, is looking for a firm to handle PR, marketing and community engagement for its 513 Relief Bus.

Funded by the American Rescue Plan, the bus provides no-cost vaccinations and access to economic and social services to people living in vulnerable and underserved communities.

From June 19 through December 16, 2021, the bus traveled to 79 locations, administered about 1,600 vaccines, served more than 4,000 people with economic/social services, and distributed more than \$15M in rent, utility and mortgage assistance.



A new bus will hit the streets during the fourth quarter, with expanded offerings including dental screenings, critical healthcare referrals and possibly substance abuse/mental health services.

The selected firm will bolster awareness of the bus and the services that it offers via earned/social media, websites, community partnerships, emails, text messages and development of marketing materials.

Hamilton County will issue a one-year contract for the bus promotion campaign.

Proposals are due August 5.

They may be submitted electronically at <https://www.bidsync.com/hamilton-county> or mailed to: Issuing Officer; Hamilton County Purchasing Department; 138 East Court Street, Room 507; Cincinnati, OH 45202

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

BOJO AIDE HICKMAN SLATES MOVE TO TENEO

Alex Hickman, business advisor to outgoing British prime minister Boris Johnson, is expected to take a job at Teneo in the UK.

Sky News reported that Hickman is expected to lead Teneo's UK government affairs unit and advise clients on how to deal with the new PM once he or she assumes power in September.

Hickman's move to Teneo is subject to scrutiny by Whitehall's advisory committee on business appointments.

The committee has been criticized "for adopting an excessively soft approach to facilitating moves into the private sector by former ministers and officials," according to Sky News.

Hickman would replace Craig Oliver, who was former prime minister David Cameron's communications advisor, at Teneo.

He exited Teneo last year for Finsbury Glover Hering, which is now FGS Global.

Hickman, a noted Eurosceptic, joined Johnson's team in 2020 to help rebuild the economy after the COVID-19 lockdown.

Earlier he was CEO of Business for Sterling, which lobbied against the adoption of the Euro, and outreach director for Vote Leave during the 2016 Brexit referendum campaign.



Alex Hickman

CEOS PLAY BIG ROLE IN SHAPING US FUTURE

Large businesses have a major role to play in shaping the future of the United States, according to a new study from [FTI Consulting](#), and stakeholders expect the CEOs of those businesses to take their responsibility to the country seriously.

[FTI surveyed institutional investors and professional employees](#) and found a considerable amount of consensus on the importance of corporate responsibility.

More than 84 percent of both investors and professionals surveyed agreed that large-sized businesses help to shape the country's future, just about even with state government (83 percent of investors, 84 percent of professionals) and federal government (81 percent of investors, 83 percent of professionals).

Respondents also said that corporate CEOs should cooperate with government authorities during moments of national crisis or major social change (85 percent of investors, 81 percent of professionals).

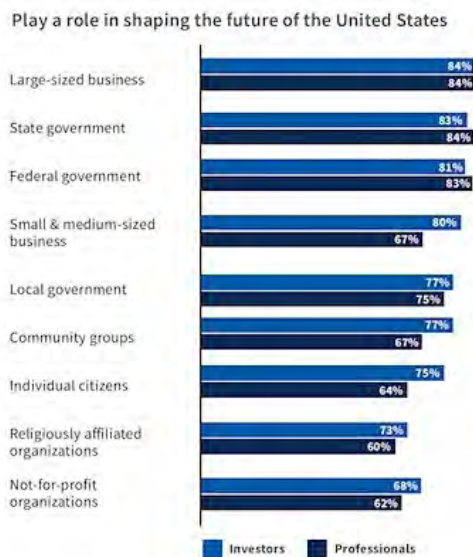
However, the opinions of professionals when it comes to the involvement of CEOs in political issues were a little more variable. Only 38 percent of those surveyed said they thought CEOs should engage in politics. That number was a little higher for respondents who were Millennials or Democrats (both registering at 52 percent).

Many respondents also said that they want to be on the same page as the leadership of the company where they work. Almost six out of 10 of the investors surveyed said that they would not work for a CEO whose social or political views were at odds with their own. For professionals, that number is not nearly as high (38 percent), but it rises to 50 percent for those that are Democrats and 51 percent for Millennials.

There is also general agreement that CEOs should do their homework to make sure that any political stances they take are in line with the corporate values of their company (86 percent of investors, 79 percent of professionals) and the opinions of their customers (84 percent of both groups).

Investors and professionals differed on what topics were the most important ones on which they thought CEOs should speak out. For investors, the top three are the US economy, data security and environmental issues. Professionals prioritized healthcare costs, ethical business practices and minimum wage.

FTI Consulting's survey polled 1,012 employed professionals from companies with more than 250 employees and 253 institutional investors.



OMNICOM POSTS FLAT Q2 REVENUES, NET

Omnicom reported flat second quarter revenues of \$3.6B and net income of \$348M, respectively.

CEO John Wren preferred to highlight OMC's double-digit organic growth of 11.3 percent.

The Ketchum, Mercury, Porter Novelli, Marina Maher Communications, Portland and [FleishmanHillard](#) PR unit posted a robust 13.4 percent reported growth to \$392.2. It advanced 15.8 percent on an organic basis.

For the six-month period, the PR operation posted a 13.5 percent rise in revenues to \$753.1M.

OMC's Q2 North American revenues were flat at \$1.8B. Continental Europe dropped 3.9 percent to \$638.5M, while the UK grew 1.8 percent to \$386.4M.

Wren sees better days ahead as OMC helps clients "digitally transform their business, navigate complexity and expand in high-growth areas like retail media and e-commerce."



John Wren

IMAGESHIELD SCOUTS FOR PR PRO

ImageShield is looking for a communications pro to handle its PR and marketing campaigns.

The mission of the Fairfax, VA-based firm is to help people protect the photos and other images they share on social media from being altered, abused or used unlawfully.

It wants a dynamic individual to spearhead its outreach, informing people about the danger of image abuse, how prevalent the problem is, and its potential to destroy one's reputation, livelihood and relationships.

ImageShield monitors the online world 24/7 and reports to users how and where their pictures are being used.

The selected partner will have 4-8 years of marketing communications experience, with experience in crisis communications, social media, paid advertising and public speaking.

The position may be fully remote or hybrid. Resume and cover note go to Mike Gallagher at michael@imageshield.com.

KIMBERLY-CLARK HIRES PRIME POLICY GROUP

Kimberly-Clark has signed on Prime Policy Group as its first outside Washington lobbyist.

The Irving, TX-based consumer giant is celebrating its 150th anniversary and is celebrating by doubling down on its "Better Care for a Better World" purpose.

Its Huggies, Kleenex, Scott, Kotex, Cottonelle, Poise, Depend, Andrex, Pull-Ups, GoodNites, Intimus, Neve, Plenitud, Sweety and Softex brands hold the No. 1 or No. 2 market positions in the 80 countries where they are sold.

The \$19.4B company is using PPG for input on environmental, climate change, plastics regulations, sanctions, tariffs and immigration issues.

PPG's lobbying team includes international head Karen Antebi, who was chief of staff to Mexico's Deputy Secretary of Commerce; trade lead Casie Daugherty; Andrew Terp, ex-aide to Indiana Republican Senator Todd Young; and Ann Adler, chief of staff to the late Democratic Senator Robert Byrd.

WPP owns PPG.



VP HARRIS' TOP FUNDRAISER JOINS INVARIANT

Amanda Bailey, senior advisor to the Black Economic Alliance, has joined Invariant to work with clients to develop CEO and C-suite engagement activities to ensure their outreach resonates with target audiences.



Amanda Bailey

The BEA is a non-partisan coalition of business leaders and advocates pushing for economic development and prosperity for Black communities.

Earlier, Bailey was lead fundraiser for VP Kamala Harris' presidential run and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's campaign.

She also devised strategy for Congresswoman Karen Bass' run for mayor of Los Angeles and Citigroup Global vice-chair Ray McGuire's campaign for NYC mayor.

Heather Podesta, Invariant CEO, said Bailey will help "our CEOs and business leaders break through the noise in Washington and around the country."

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS BEEF UP DEFENSE

The Washington Commanders National Football League team has added Harbinger Strategies and Cyprus Advocacy to its roster for matters related to the House Oversight and Reform Committee probe into the team's alleged toxic workplace culture. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell testified that the Commanders' workplace environment was the worst that he's ever seen in his football career. He refused to say whether he would work to remove Snyder as owner of the team.

Harbinger partners Kyle Nevins, deputy chief of staff to former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); John O'Neill, staffer to GOP Senators Trent Lott (MS) and Chuck Grassley (IA); and Parker Poling (executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee) handle the Commanders' business.

They are joined by Cyprus Advocacy's Langston Emerson (aide to Democrats Sen. Carl Levin (MI) and Rep. Mike Capuano (MA) and Chris Brown, (staffer at the House Financial Services Committee).

BCW'S NEAL OPTS FOR ID.ME CCO POST

Terry Neal, who was executive VP and managing director in BCW's corporate affairs practice, has joined ID.me, a secure digital identity network company, as chief communications officer.

Neal previously ran Neal Communication Strategies, and served as a principal at Podesta Group and senior communications consultant at Fannie Mae. Earlier in his career, Neal was an editor, reporter and columnist at the *Washington Post*.



Terry Neal

"Terry Neal is an elite communications leader. He will play a critical role—ensuring the public understands ID.me's mission while deepening ID.me's engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders," said ID.me co-founder and CEO Blake Hall.

OREGON SEEKS TO BOOST DUNGENESS CRABS

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission is looking for marketing support.

The Commission is accepting bids on two separate proposals. One covers image campaigns, advertising and/or lobbying.

The other involves sponsorships and promotional projects.

The Commission emphasizes that it is not trying to sell more crabs.

It wants to bolster the Dungeness Crab brand and share the message of its fleet's sustainable fishing practices.

The Commission will consider proposals up to \$100K.

Responses are due July 29. They go to: Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission; Attn: Authorization Requests Committee; 964 Central Ave.; PO Box 1160; Coos Bay, OR 97420

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



ON THE MOVE

Teneo promotes former Speaker of the House **Paul Ryan** to vice chairman. Ryan joined Teneo as a senior advisor in October 2020. He is also a partner at private equity firm Solamere Capital, president of the American Idea Foundation and visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. In his new role, Ryan will work closely with the firm's senior leadership team to advise clients around the world and support its ongoing growth.

MikeWorldWide promotes **Gina Cherwin** to chief operating officer, a newly created position. Cherwin joined the firm in 2013 and has served as EVP & chief people officer since 2016. Before coming to MikeWorldWide, she was campaign services director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. In her new position, Cherwin will continue to lead the firm's focus on culture and talent strategy, while adding all international operations, resource planning and forecasting, real estate and facilities management, and acquisition integrations responsibilities.



Gina Cherwin

Real Chemistry promotes **Wendy Carhart** to the newly created role of chief communications, culture & purpose officer. Carhart joined Real Chemistry in 2019, previously serving as head of global communications. Before coming to Real Chemistry, she was a SVP at Edelman and VP at WE Communications. In her new role, Carhart will lead strategy for Real Chemistry's communications, culture and employee engagement activities, and her team will advance the company's social impact. She reports to CEO Shankar Narayanan and has joined the company's executive leadership team.

Tractor Supply Company names **Kimberley Gardiner** senior vice president and chief marketing officer. Gardiner was most recently chief marketing officer and senior vice president at Volkswagen of America. Before that, she served as vice president and CMO at Mitsubishi Motors North America and director of marketing communications at Kia Motors America. At Tractor Supply, Gardiner will focus on elevating the company's brand and marketing capabilities. She succeeds Christi Korzekwa, who previously announced her plans to retire.

COMMENTARY



“Woke” companies take a nap on abortion rights. Only eight percent of companies surveyed by The Conference Board issued public statements following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

That’s a sharp contrast to the majority of companies that have made public comments during the past two years on racial inequality (61 percent), LGBTQ rights (44 percent), COVID-related topics (40 percent) and gender equality (39 percent).

Thirty-one percent of the nearly 300 polled companies have no plans to respond to *Roe v. Wade*. They apparently want to move on.

Thirty-eight percent have addressed the women’s reproductive rights issue internally, and another 13 percent plan to do so.

Ten percent of companies remain on the fence, unsure how they will deal with the demise of *Roe v. Wade*.

The Post Office delivers good PR news... Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a guy who typically doesn’t generate much positive PR, earned praise on July 20 for a pledge to electrify at least 40 percent of its delivery fleet. That reversed a boneheaded decision made earlier this year.

USPS received a lot of heat in February when it announced a plan to buy 165K vehicles from Oshkosh Defense, of which only 10 percent were to be electric.

That move triggered lawsuits from 16 states, Natural Resources Defense Council, United Auto Workers and Earth-justice that charged the gas-guzzling vehicles would have a damaging ecological impact.

The original \$11.3B plan for gas-powered trucks that get only 8.6 mpg was out of step with the spirit of the federal government’s goal to electrify its entire fleet by 2035.

USPS now says due to its improved financial condition, route optimization and network refinements, 50 percent of its new vehicles will run on batteries.

Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project credits the thousands of letters sent to the USPS to protest the original gas-guzzling purchase for nudging DeJoy into doing the right thing.

Britt Carmon, NRDC’s federal clean vehicles senior advocate, said the USPS finally got the message that cleaner vehicles are a win all around. “Investing in more electric vehicles will deliver cost savings for the postal services, cleaner air for communities across the nation, and lower emissions for all of us,” he said.

You made a good start, Louie. Take a bow.

Will Nike, New Balance or adidas win the race to sign Missouri Senator Josh Hawley as a corporate spokesperson? The guy is a natural. Fleet-of-foot Josh was last seen on a video running for his life from the Senate chamber to escape the Capitol Hill rioters.

The millions of Americans who tuned in to the July 22 prime time Jan. 6 committee hearings saw the image of the cowardly scampering Hawley, who earlier that day fist-

pumped the rioters to rile them up. The audience in the hearing room howled with laughter at the sight of the galloping Hawley.

The Hawley campaign uses the tough guy fist-pump image on “Show Me Strong” fundraising mugs, coolers and t-shirts.

Will the campaign now hawk merchandise with an image of Hawley sprinting from the insurrectionists?

“Show Me Shameless.”

A penny short.... Chris Lewis, founder of Team Lewis high-tech PR and digital marketing firm in San Diego, almost pulled off a miracle.

He advised Penny Mordaunt, UK trade minister, in her long-shot quest to succeed Boris Johnson as leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister.

Lewis and Mordaunt co-wrote a book, “Greater Britain After the Storm,” about the UK post COVID-19 and post Brexit.

Trained as a journalist, Lewis rose to the managing editor slot at Associated Newspapers, parent of *The Daily Mail*.

He moved to San Diego with his family during the 1990s and launched Team Lewis, which has more than 500 staffers in 30 offices worldwide. He splits his time between the UK and the US west coast.

As the sole owner of the shop, Lewis paid himself a dividend worth about \$900K in 2021.

Mordaunt was voted out in the race to lead the UK on July 20. The better-known foreign secretary Liz Truss squeaked past Mordaunt by a five-vote margin.

Truss and former chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak will now attempt to win support of the 180,000 members of the Conservative Party, which represents 0.2 percent of the UK’s population, for the prime minister job.

Upon her loss, Mordaunt released a classy statement: “Politics isn’t easy. It can be a divisive and difficult place. We must all now work together to unify our party and focus on the job.”

Keir Starmer, head of the Labour Party, will clobber either Sunak or Truss in a general election.

Familiarity breeds contempt. Former NYC mayor Bill de Blasio has mercifully ended his campaign for the newly redrawn 10th Congressional district, which includes his Park Slope neighborhood.

De Blasio simply wore out his welcome at City Hall. The 61-year-old is old news to an electorate looking for new blood in the Democratic party. We are looking at you, 80-year-old Liz Holtzman, who represented the area from 1973 to 1981 and has mounted a comeback bid.

The former mayor’s Twitter concession announcement was the highlight of his aborted Congressional campaign.

He admitted making mistakes, and best of all, said he understands that “it is time for me to leave electoral politics.” Alleluia! The reality: He also ran out of political jobs to run for.

The only remaining question: Will de Blasio wind up at the BerlinRosen, SKDK or Global Strategy Group PR firm? Stay tuned.

—Kevin McCauley