



Kevin McCauley
Editor-in-Chief

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271 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
212/679-2471. Fax: 212/683-2750
www.odwyerpr.com; jobs.odwyerpr.com

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WPP POSTS 8.1% Q1 GROWTH; UPS GUIDANCE

WPP reported 8.1 percent growth to \$3.2B in like-for-like revenues due to strong demand for its digital media, e-commerce, data and marketing technology offerings.



Mark Read

CEO Mark Read boosted overall 2022 guidance from five percent to 5.5 percent to the 6.5 percent level due to the strong start of the year and continued momentum.

The PR group posted a 14.1 percent gain in revenues to \$275.1M as [BCW](#), Hill+Knowlton Strategies and [Finsbury Glover Hering](#), which has completed the Sard Verbinnen

& Co. acquisition, posted double-digit gains.

“Our public relations and public affairs businesses have been the stand-out performers in the first quarter of 2022,” Read told *O’Dwyer’s*. WPP announced on March 4 its plan to exit the Russian market, which accounted for about 0.6 percent of overall revenues.

An agreement to sell the 1,400-member Russia operation is “substantially complete.”

The firm continues to provide financial and other assistance to its 200 staffers in Ukraine, many of whom are now displaced.

WPP’s partnership with the United Nations Refugee Agency has raised \$150M to support Ukraine.

DUBNER TAKES ON BCG’S GLOBAL CCO DUTIES

Russell Dubner, who exited as [Edelman](#) vice chairman in December after a 28-year run at the firm, has joined the Boston Consulting Group as senior partner/global communications officer, a new position at the firm.



Russell Dubner

At Edelman, he served as NY president, US CEO and chairman of the Edelman Trust Institute. He also was in charge of DJE Holdings’ sector specialist shops and had counseled PwC and Genentech.

Dubner will be in charge of BCG’s global positioning and reputational issues and work closely with CEO Christoph Schweizer

“Russell’s experience and expertise, both with trust and leadership and in running world-class communications, will continue to strengthen our role amongst leaders around the world,” said Schweizer.

ILLINOIS PUSHES FOR MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

The Illinois Dept. of Insurance has issued an RFP to educate residents about their rights under the state’s mental health parity law.

It has budgeted \$1.2M for a three-year push that will reinforce the importance of maintaining health coverage.

The statewide outreach will feature targeted messaging aimed at African-Americans, Hispanics, young adults, rural residents and members of the LGBT community.

The vendor will create English and Spanish-language educational ads for TV, radio, digital and transit outlets; maintain a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter; and oversee communications management duties.

The vendor must ensure that all advertising, social media and PR messaging is “culturally and linguistically competent and responsive to changing needs,” according to the RFP.

The campaign is slated to begin in February 2023.

The Insurance Dept. may extend the contract for up to another seven years.

Proposals are due May 6 at the Bid/Buy electronic portal.

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



QATAR MUSEUMS ENLIST FINN PARTNERS

[Finn Partners](#) has a \$1.2M contract with Qatar Museums to handle communications and media relations connected to the “2022 Year of Culture” programming.

The independent firm’s Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors team will help celebrate the achievements of the Middle East, Northern Africa and Southern Asia region with events and projects in Qatar.

Those activities will lead up to Qatar’s hosting of the FIFA World Cup, which kicks off Nov. 21 and runs through Dec. 18.

Polskin will conduct a series of virtual meetings with QM and YOC leadership to develop a comprehensive strategic communications framework.

It will develop story angles and organize media trips to Qatar for press from targeted MENA nations.

The firm will prepare a crisis template and hammer out protocols for specific situations that may arise.

QM is charged with promoting the arts, architecture, archaeological and heritage sites sector in Qatar and organizing cultural projects and exhibitions.

Philippa Polskin oversees a staff of 35 cultural PR pros.



INTERPUBLIC REPORTS 9.8% GROWTH

Interpublic CEO Philippe Krakowsky said Q1 net revenues rose 9.8 percent to \$2.2B due to increases in business across a broad range of sectors and geographies. Net organic growth clocked in at 11.5 percent.



Philippe Krakowsky

Krakowsky credited IPG's ability to meet the "evolving needs of modern marketers for more digital, precise and data-informed thinking" among the reasons for the firm's upbeat financial performance. He bolstered the outlook for 2022 organic growth from five to six percent.

Interpublic's specialized communications & experiential solutions group, which includes the IPG DXTRA 27-brand collective, enjoyed 11.3 percent growth to \$336.3M. That topped the 9.7 percent increase in the media, data & engagement group and the 9.5 percent uptick in the integrated advertising segment.

On an organic basis, the SC&ES operation was up 12.5 percent.

Andy Polansky, CEO of IPG DXTRA, told *O'Dwyer's* that the PR units achieved high single-digit organic growth during the period. That's up from low single-digit growth.

Golin continued to be a "stand-out" performer, picking up GrubHub. [Weber Shandwick](#) added business from GSK, while R&CPMK picked up business from Apple TV.

PATENT OFFICE MAY HIRE PR FIRM FOR CI²

The US Patent and Trademark Office is considering hiring a PR firm to assist its communications team in promoting the Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²) partnership with the private sector.

Its Office of Communications has issued an RFI to gather interest in the project and to assess available capabilities.

The OoC envisions a "nationwide marketing campaign for the Council RFI is for market research, information and planning purposes. There is no promise of a follow-up RFP or RFQ.

Responses to the RFI, due May 9, go to Emalee Gawrelski, contracting officer, at Emalee.Gawrelski@uspto.gov.

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

FH HIRES BOJO AIDE GREEN

Charley Green, who was most recently head of campaigns in the UK Cabinet Office, is heading to [FleishmanHillard UK](#), where she will serve as an associate director on its public affairs team.



Charley Green

Green will become part of FleishmanHillard UK's public affairs leadership team.

At the Cabinet Office, Green worked on such projects as prime minister Boris Johnson's Skills for Life initiative and the Plan for Jobs effort, which is spearheaded by Chancellor Rishi Sunak. She also worked with No. 10 Downing Street to run digital campaigns for

Black History Month and International Women's Day.

ACCOUNTS IN TRANSIT

[Bospar](#) picks up [Grin](#), a creator management platform designed to help brands build and nurture authentic influencer relationships. Bospar will be handling media relations for the company. One of G2's Fastest Growing Products of 2022, Grin says its platform creates honest connections between creators and brands across all industries, including such companies as Anthropologie, Ipsy, SKIMS, Rockstar Energy and Macy's.



[Decker/Royal](#) adds [Market New Haven](#) and [Holland America Line](#) to its client roster. For Market New Haven, the official destination marketing organization for Downtown New Haven, Decker Royal will serve as agency of record, with responsibility for content marketing, SEO strategy and public relations. The agency will be working as consumer AOR for Holland America Line, with a special emphasis on promoting the line's 75th anniversary in Alaska and its upcoming 150th anniversary. Other new additions to the agency's client roster include Insight Vacations, Adventure World Travel and Luxury Gold.

[DATA Communications Management Corp.](#) lands digital marketing duties for [Habitat for Humanity Canada](#). Building on an existing client relationship, DCM will lead digital strategy and implementation to bolster the organization's digital fundraising efforts. The expanded scope of work will include marketing strategy, email campaigns, paid media, program measurement and data optimization.



[MMGY NJF](#) signs on with [London & Partners](#) and [American Queen Voyages](#). For London & Partners, which is London's international trade, investment and promotion agency, the agency is tasked with generating buzz through the promotion of the "Let's Do London" US campaign, encouraging travelers to visit London now, while also drawing attention to the Platinum Jubilee year and celebrations. MMGY NJF will serve as PR agency of record for American Queen Voyages, drawing attention to the company's river cruises and working to launch its Lakes & Oceans and Expedition itineraries.

[J/PR](#) is named agency of record for the [InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta](#). J/PR will be handling North American PR for the 422-room property, which is set to unveil a complete renovation this summer. The hotel will also be launching an upscale Italian American eatery, The Americano, by celebrity chef Scott Conant, and a state-of-the-art luxury Ila Spa. The agency is also handling North American PR and social media for [Rise Nation](#), which offers vertical climbing workouts. The company has just opened its first NYC studio and is about to open its first Chicago location.

[Amendola Communications](#) is selected to manage PR, media relations and thought leadership for [Iris Telehealth](#), which provides telepsychiatry services for community mental health centers, community health centers, hospitals, and health systems across the US. Amendola's efforts will be focused on showcasing Iris Telehealth's value proposition, services, accomplishments, customer wins, and industry partnerships. The agency kicked off the relationship by supporting the company's recent Series B funding.

FED'S MISCOMMUNICATION MANGLES MARKET

Federal Reserve Board chairman Jerome Powell thought he had a “problem.” Then he made a few comments on an April 22 International Monetary Fund panel. Now he’s got a “crisis.”



Fraser Seitel

After months of reassuring the markets that the Fed could engineer a “soft landing” from the rising prices and wages and wars that have afflicted the nation, Powell abruptly changed his tune and warned that rates would have to move higher more quickly to stave off the recessionary ravages of runaway inflation.

Predictably, the Dow Jones average tumbled nearly 1,000 points, margin calls resonated through Wall Street and investor confidence was shattered.

To regain credibility and trust, the Fed must embrace the principles of crisis management that have guided public relations counselors for decades.

Be flexible.

Preparation and planning, standby statements and tabletop exercises are all obligatory in contemplating a crisis. But no amount of preparation can adequately prepare you for all the unpredictable moments that accompany the glare of perpetual public attention.

As Powell learned at the IMF meeting, stubbornly reasserting that the Fed’s plan would avoid recession isn’t wise in the face of equally-stubborn price increases. There’s a difference between inspiring confidence and wishful thinking.

Speak with one voice.

In a crisis, words count. So, organizations must shut down communications channels and speak with one voice, to avoid discordant opinions that, at best, confuse the public, or at worst, promote panic.

Such is the case today with the Fed, where officials other than chairman Powell keep talking, whether or not their words enflame an already-incendiary situation.

Don’t answer every question.

It’s also important in a crisis to judiciously limit public comments. Stated another way, just because people want you to say something doesn’t mean you have to oblige.

Squawk if you’re wronged.

On the other hand, it is equally important to speak up in opposition if false information or misleading opinions are widely disseminated. In a crisis, a false assumption left uncorrected becomes a “media fact.”

Lose the battle, but win the war.

All eyes will be on the Fed as it raises the federal funds rate by a one-half point, the largest such increase since Alan Greenspan two decades ago. Chairman Powell should seize that opportunity to map out the expected interest rate increase trajectory through the rest of this year and into the next.

He should do so to avoid “surprises” as the battle continues. That kind of candid, yet confident, crisis management ultimately will reassure the markets and win the war.

Fraser P. Seitel has been a communications consultant, author and teacher for 40 years. He is author of the Pearson text “The Practice of Public Relations,” now in its 14th edition, and co-author of “Rethinking Reputation” and “Idea Wise.” He may be reached directly at yusake@aol.com.

FINANCIAL FIRMS REBOUNDED IN 2021

The top-10 firms specializing in financial PR and investor relations accounted for a total of \$291 million in net fees in 2021, according to [O’Dwyer’s 2022 ranking of financial PR firms](#), a \$25 million gain from 2020’s \$267 million.

New York-based [ICR](#) claimed the number-two spot in the rankings, accounting for \$97.8 million in finance-related fees last year, up 61 percent from 2020’s \$60 million.

ICR co-founder and CEO Tom Ryan told O’Dwyer’s that the agency’s growth in 2021 was driven by new client retainer wins and the firm’s ability to smartly advise on transactions.

Ryan said long-term acceptance of the SPAC structure, continued demand by institutional investors for ESG progress, new and disruptive technologies and a complex and contentious communications environment will require expert advice and communications strategies in the coming year, he added.

[Prosek Partners](#) had a strong year in 2021, and this was evident in its finance/IR earnings: Prosek climbed to \$70 million in finance-related fees in 2021 to claim the number-three spot, with 30 percent growth from \$53.9 million the year prior.

Founder and CEO Jennifer Prosek attributed several factors to her agency’s success, including the SPAC boom, IPOs and IR, plus a busier-than-usual special situations business.

Prosek thinks private markets will still be a hot growth sector for financial firms this year, and with that will come new spending in communications, marketing, IR and digital.

Financial services specialists [Vested](#) accounted for \$17.5 million in finance-related fees last year to hold the number-five spot in O’Dwyer’s financial rankings, an impressive leap from 2020’s similarly impressive \$12.4 million.

Last year, Vested acquired digital agency Red Lab, which arrived on the heels of the agency’s launch of Financial Narrative, a community of financial CMOs and CCOs.

Looking forward, Kim believes finance brands are going to continue investing in highly intentional and values-driven marketing and communications.

IR/PR firm [Lambert](#) climbed to \$7.4 million in finance-related fees last year from \$6.2 million in 2020 to claim the number-11 spot on O’Dwyer’s financial rankings.

Lambert said the markets are already beginning to correct, and as a result, there’s now a flight from speculative companies and stories to proven profits.

He said another area of convergence in the industry is with the consumer investor: the 130 million Americans who own stock and have a strong affinity to the companies they know and the brands and retailers they shop.

[The Bliss Group](#) jumped to \$5.2 million in finance-related fees in 2021, a \$1.5 million uptick from 2020’s \$3.7 million to take the #15 spot on O’Dwyer’s 2022 financial rankings.



From left: Tom Ryan, Jennifer Prosek, Binna Kim, Jeff Lambert, Greg Hassel

Greg Hassel, senior vice president and financial services Practice Lead, said the success of the agency’s financial services practice is illustrative of Bliss’ overall growth, which saw topline revenue rise more than 20 percent year-over-year.

The agency also launched Bliss Impact, an offering focused on providing counsel, campaign management and collaboration for clients who want to align their strategic priorities and sustainable programs with societal change.

PEOPLE AVOID CHALLENGING FAKE NEWS

Social media users often refrain from calling out misinformation and conspiracy theories they encounter online because they want to avoid conflict, according to a report from [the Everyday Misinformation Project](#), an initiative associated with Loughborough University in the U.K that investigates how misleading information spreads online.

Researchers conducted interviews with more than 100 people in the U.K. and asked respondents about their behaviors when using personal messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger.

The study determined that people widely exhibit conflict avoidance when communicating with family, friends and colleagues on these forums, often failing to speak up when encountering content such as COVID-19 vaccine misinformation, even if they disagree with it.

Respondents said they often decline to engage on the subject altogether, out of fear that if they try to correct what they perceive as false information they'll be seen as provoking conflict or undermining group cohesion.

Others expressed insecurity about their own command of the facts and their ability to adequately criticize that misinformation. This often leads some to instead direct their criticisms of vaccine misinformation only with those who share their opinions or with groups they perceive to be less risky.

Researchers posited that online personal messaging forums encourage what they called "hybrid public-interpersonal communication," where people draw different social boundaries between misinformation they encounter in the public sphere and misinformation they encounter in online messaging forums, where misinformation is often the norm.

Researchers commented on the implications for this dual set of norms, suggesting that, paradoxically, letting online misinformation go unchallenged sends a tacit approval to those who share it, which legitimizes their false claims and increases the likelihood of its continued spread.

BOSTON FIRMS FORM ISSUES MGMT GROUP

Solomon McCown & Cence strategic communications shop and Murphy Donoghue Partners government relations firm have merged to form Issues Management Group in Boston.

Dan Cence will helm the more than 50-member firm, which also has an office in New York.

He said the combination will "enhance our ability to shape the conversation in an increasingly complex media political and regulatory environment."

MDP co-founders Jack Murphy and Roger Donoghue will serve as partners of IMG. Murphy did a 14-year stint in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Donoghue also founded the Donoghue Barrett & Singal law firm. Helene Solomon & Ashley McCown, who launched Solomon & McCown in 2003, are senior advisors of IMG.

Massachusetts Health & Hospital Assn., Beacon Capital Partners, New England Journal of Medicine, Altrius Health, Rockland Trust Bank and Women's Foundation of Boston are IMG clients.



ON THE MOVE

BCW promotes **Brooke Hovey** to global president. Hovey previously served as BCW's interim President of North America, as well as global chief growth officer. In her new position, she will report to BCW's global CEO Donna Imperato and work with teams across all regions to further develop, operationalize and scale the agency's core services. "Brooke's achievements in running practices, offices and, most recently, our largest region, have paved the way for her to continue to partner with me at the highest level," said Imperato.



Brooke Hovey

FINN Partners named **Maria De Varenne**, who was executive editor of the *Tennessean* from 2011 until 2021, senior partner. During her tenure at the *Tennessean*, De Varenne oversaw a multi-media newsroom with a staff of more than 100 in seven offices in Middle Tennessee. In her new post, De Varenne will be responsible for overseeing earned media strategy and content across print and digital channels for the company's clients throughout the Southeast.

Salient MG brings on former Martin Agency director **Doug Zanger** as SVP of brand, creative and content. Zanger has also served as an editor at *Adweek* and *The Drum*. At Salient MG, he is tasked with leading SMG's industry/content professionals as the firm positions itself to grow its content and creative practice.

CG Life, which works with life science and healthcare clients, hires **Nina Prybula** as vice president of client services. Prybula most recently served as vp of client services at MERGE. In her new position, Prybula will drive integrated marketing and brand strategies for CG Life's clients, strengthen agency teams through leadership and mentoring, and innovate new ways to help its clients reach their business objectives.

Evoke KYNE promotes **Maureen Byrne** to president.

Byrne will take over global leadership responsibilities from David Kyne, who will now oversee development of Evoke's global communications offering. Byrne, who has been with the firm since 2015, was previously a partner. Before joining Evoke KYNE, she was senior director, global oncology public relations at Novartis. "Having worked alongside Maureen for many years, I know she'll not only continue to deliver for clients and our people, but will take the agency to even greater heights," said Kyne.



Maureen Byrne

MTV Entertainment ups **Michael Fabiani** to senior VP of communications. Fabiani previously served as vice president of communications, serving a key role in securing monumental wins and nominations for the group. Prior to joining MTV in 2011 as a senior publicist, Fabiani served as a publicist at Fox.

VectivBio appoints **Patrick Malloy** as SVP, investor relations and strategic communications. Malloy was most recently VP of investor relations and corporate communications at Arena Pharmaceuticals, which was recently acquired by Pfizer. He previously held several commercial and corporate strategic leadership roles at Actelion Pharmaceuticals.

FTI CONSULTING'S PR UNIT JUMPS 15.6%

FTI Consulting registered 15.6 percent growth in Q1 PR revenues to \$69.9M driven by strong demand for its corporate reputation services offering.



Mark McCall

Mark McCall, head of the stratcom arm, said cybersecurity, crisis, ESG and regulatory areas performed well.

Stratcom's transaction business was "good" during the quarter with an uptick in restructurings, according to McCall.

FTI's overall Q1 revenues advanced 5.4 percent to \$723.6M. Net income slipped 8.1 percent to \$59.3M due to higher selling, general & administrative costs and compensation expenses.

CEO Steven Gunby cited the strategic communications unit along with the corporate finance and restructuring practice, which was up 12 percent to \$27.1M, as the strong performers during the period.

Operating income for [the stratcom business](#) surged 62.6 percent to \$14.8M, while billable headcount grew 10 percent to 856 people as of March 31.

TENEO HIRES CONSULUM VET SHORTHOUSE

Teneo has hired Rob Shorthouse as managing director in its Dubai outpost.

Shorthouse was a partner at Consulium, the London-based government advisor firm co-founded by Bell Pottinger alums Tim Ryan and Matthew Gunter Bushell.



Rob Shorthouse

He served as director of communications for the Better Together effort that defeated Scotland's 2014 referendum on independence from the UK, and was head of media & PR for Glasgow's successful bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

He led Consulium's \$6M "Relaunch Hong Kong" PR campaign to bolster the city's image after the government People's Republic of China put a draconian national security law into effect on July 1, 2020. Consulium shuttered its Hong Kong office in January.

KIVVIT VET MATOS TO MAD STRATEGY GROUP

[Kivvit](#) veteran Laura Matos has joined Mad Global Strategy Group as a partner at the Summit, NJ-based firm.

The Democratic operative spent nearly seven years at Kivvit as managing director and GM of its Jersey operation in Asbury Park, handling labor, health-care, higher education and coalition management campaigns.



Laura Matos

Earlier, she served as staffer for Jersey governors Jim McCreevy, Richard Codey and Jon Corzine. Current governor Phil Murphy appointed Matos chair of the state's Pinelands Commission.

MAD is the firm of Mike DuHaime, who worked for Republicans George W. Bush, Senator John McCain and Chris Christie, and was political director for the Republican National Committee. He also did a 13-year stint as partner at Mercury Public Affairs, which is part of Omnicom.

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SANTA FE SEEKS TOURISM PITCHES

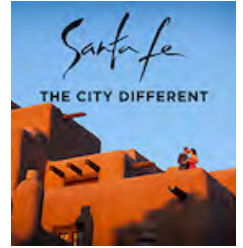
The city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is seeking proposals from public relations agencies.

Tourism Santa Fe is looking for a PR agency that can build awareness of Santa Fe as a premier, one-of-a-kind travel destination.

Scope of the work includes developing a multi-year, national PR strategy; drafting and managing the distribution of pitches, press releases and other communication pieces; reaching out to journalists and influencers; optimizing digital branded content; and reporting goals and key performance indicators. Terms of the contract call for a partnership not to exceed four years.

Proposals are due by 3:00 p.m. (MT) on May 11 and should be submitted electronically to Santa Fe Central Purchasing department, Purchasing_RFP@santafemn.gov, with the subject line: 22/37/P Communications/Public Relations for TOURISM Santa Fe.

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



EDELMAN VET WINER JOINS QUAD/GRAPHICS

Rachel Winer, who previously led [Edelman's](#) Chicago office, has joined Quad/Graphics, where she will lead a new business development team focused on helping the company expand its advertising and marketing offerings.

Winer most recently served as CMO in Residence at talent development accelerator Bonfire. Before joining Edelman as president of Edelman Chicago, she ran the Chicago and Detroit offices of BuzzFeed as a senior vice president.

She has also led brand teams at Leo Burnett, JWT and BBDO.

As senior vice president of business development at Quad/Graphics, she will engage with new and existing clients to promote the benefits of Quad's product portfolio.

"Rachel's experience in the enterprise, advertising and agency space, and her ability to easily navigate between each, make her an optimal leader for our team," said Quad/Graphics executive vice president and chief revenue officer Julie Currie.



Rachel Winer

GORILLAS GRAB GABRIEL

Alex Gabriel, a Democratic strategist who worked on the Biden presidential campaign, has joined Gorillas Technologies as its senior manager for US public affairs.

Berlin-based Gorillas is an ultrafast food delivery service that launched in New York City last year and serves Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn and Queens.

Gabriel served as political manager for the LGBTQ Victory Fund and senior advisor for engagement at Biden for president.

He also did a stint as deputy senior advisor for former NYC mayor Bill de Blasio for the Stonewall 50 celebration and public policy/PA analyst for Airbnb.



Alex Gabriel

COMMENTARY



Richard Edelman

Congratulations to Richard Edelman, who became the first PR person inducted into the American Advertising Federation's Hall of Fame during an April 26 ceremony at Cipriani Wall Street.

He called the Edelman Trust Barometer, which was created 22 years ago, his greatest contribution to the PR business.

Its key finding that business ranks as the most trusted institution comes with a special responsibility to step into the void left by the government to speak out on diversity, equity and inclusion; on sustainability; and on wage levels and re-skilling, according to the CEO of the No. 1 independent PR firm.

Edelman thanked his dad, Dan, whom he spoke with every day during the 35 years that they worked together, for being his mentor, founder of the firm and creator of marketing PR.

He also credited his mother, Ruth, as the person most responsible for his success—even to the point of rousting him out of bed at 7 am with a whistle, supervising his school football pre-season training.

He also thanked his wife, Claudia, and business partners; sister Renee, and brother, John.

Looking to the future, Richard said his daughters Margot, Amanda and Tory will carry on his work.

Richard has been a good friend of the O'Dwyer Co. for many years.

Imagine if he lost... President Emmanuel Macron of France has won a second term, defeating the far-right leader Marine Le Pen in a close competition, reported the *New York Times*.

C'mon, what's the definition of "close?"

Macron walloped Le Pen, a three-time presidential loser, by seventeen points. Joe Biden can only dream of defeating his 2024 rival by a quarter of Marcon's margin of victory.

In the run-up to the election, the media predicted the contest could be a nail-biter.

It was as if the media were secretly hoping for a victory for the racist and pro-Putin Le Pen, so they could report on the next five years of France-triggered disruption of NATO, European Union and war against its Muslim population. The media also had the gall to play up Le Pen's declaration of "victory."

She claimed the results "represent in itself a great victory" because "millions of our compatriots have chosen the national camp and change." Le Pen overlooked the inconvenient truth that millions more French people totally refuted her views and voted for a guy who vowed to unite the country.

"I'm not the candidate of any one camp anymore, but the president of all of us," said Macron, who became the first French president to be re-elected in 20 years.

What's up with Donald Trump and the Cleveland Guardians baseball team?

The former president believes Matt Dolan, who is running in the Ohio GOP primary race, is unfit to serve in the US

Senate because his family changed the name of the "storied" Cleveland Indians to the Cleveland Guardians.

Retired attorney Larry Dolan, Matt's dad, bought the Cleveland Indians from shopping mall developer Dick Jacobs in 2000 for \$323M.

He succeeded where The Donald failed. The former reality TV show celebrity tried to buy the Indians "on the cheap" for \$13M in 1983. Trump reportedly planned to move that "storied" ballclub to Tampa.

Dick and his brother David, who died in 1992, trumped Trump's offer, paying \$35M for the team.

Trump's rap on Dolan is little more than sour grapes.

In 2021, Trump called dropping the "Indians" name "disrespectful" to Native Americans.

That was hot air. The Cleveland Indigenous Coalition said the name change creates "a place where Native American children and their families feel valued and fully seen."

The Cleveland Guardians franchise is now worth \$1.3B, according to a report issued this month by [Statista.com](https://www.statista.com).

It has done pretty well without Trump.

What a blockhead... Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey must have been a big fan of Lucy van Pelt of Peanuts fame, who always called Charlie Brown a "blockhead."

Dorsey, who was CEO, president and chairperson of Block Inc., filed an 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 20 to amend the corporate bylaws. That revision changed Dorsey's title to "Block Head and Chairperson."

Meet the new blockhead, Charlie Brown.

Jack says he's not a big fan of lofty titles. Block Head will do. My hunch is that his successor might decide to undo Dorsey's revision.

Don't shed a tear for Raytheon Technologies... CEO Greg Hayes told investors April 26 the defense contractor would take a \$750M sales hit due to its exit from Russia's market.

That will trim the Massachusetts-based company's annual 2022 revenues to about \$68B.

On the flip side, Hayes sees a benefit to the top line of Raytheon's missiles and defense business due to Ukrainians firing his company's Stinger anti-tank missiles at Russian targets.

Displaying a degree of modesty, Hayes noted the Stinger, along with the Javelin missiles that Raytheon produces with Lockheed Martin, have been "very successful" in Ukraine.

The US Army has shipped about a quarter of its supply of the Stinger shoulder-fired missile to the Ukrainians.

It also is sending Stingers to replace those that NATO allies transferred to Ukraine.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin wants the military-industrial complex to ramp up production for the expected extended combat in Ukraine.

The Pentagon hasn't placed an order for new Stingers in 18 years, but Hayes says he could begin to replenish the Pentagon's Stinger inventory this year.

The Army plans to replace the Stinger with a more deadly and accurate missile in 2027.

That's more good news for Raytheon. —Kevin McCauley