Legal Frontier: Donor Insemination of Lesbians

by Sue Zemel

An increasing number of lesbians are using artificial insemination to conceive children. The Lesbian Rights Advocate, a legal organization that has been working on the legal issues involved for four years, states, "There has been quite a baby boom," said attorney Donna Hitchens. She and attorney Roberta Achtenberg provide legal assistance to women who want to conceive children through donor insemination. The relatively simple medical procedure has more complicated legal implications.

Donor insemination, Hitchens says, evolved when lesbians realized that it was not necessary to use medical facilities, such as sperm banks, to become pregnant. "They can choose the donor and do the insemination themselves, at home," Hitchens explained; citing numerous reasons why this method is preferable. Open banks often offer the incomplete medical screening of donors, most of which is based on medical history rather than only medical history available in these situations to self-selecting donors. Also, many doctors refuse to inseminate single women and lesbians.

"The alternative, self-insemination," Hitchens continued, "leaves lesbians in a variety of situations. Sometimes the donor is going to be known to the child, and they may have a considerable responsibility. In other cases, the lesbian and her lover may want to know the donor's identity. In that case, they can ask the donor to partner to the baby. However, the donor may be a surrogacy mate for two gay men who wanted to parent a child.

The donor depots serve in a sterile container. Later, the semen is introduced into the mother with the use of a turkey baster or large syringe."

According to Hitchens and Achtenberg, the legal implications of donor insemination vary from state to state and depend on the location of the donor who used.

"The major concern of course is whether a donor will be recognized as the father of the child, obtaining parental rights and responsibilities," Hitchens said. These include visitation and custody rights, as well as child support. Many states have no statutes covering artificial insemination by a donor and have any court opinions that did not define the rights of donors or children.

In California and a few other states, the donor's rights are defined in the marriage or domestic situations or situations where the donor is known to the child. The California statute, for example, states that the donor is entitled to a licensed physician, for the insemination of a woman who is not his wife, is not the legal father of the child.

"The problem is that many of our clients don't use licensed physicians," Hitchens said. "So, the legal question still unresolved is, are donors, fathers, or any treated as donors to a licensed physician?"

"It is preferable that the woman be handling the first court case is the court to address this question. The case involves a donor who is an acquaintance of the woman who was successfully inseminated. At the time of the child's birth, it became clear that the parties had very different expectations about the role the donor was to play in the child's life.

The woman thought they had entered into a contract in which she was not going to be a father, that he was not going to have any responsibilities. The conflict, which surfaced soon after the birth, occurred when the donor changed his desire to be involved in the child's life that it was not involved in the child. When the women asked him to stay away, he filed a lawsuit."

This unprecedented case, pending in Superior Court in a county outside of San Francisco, presents a number of unique problems, Hitchens believes."

"There is a very strong, significant preference in the courts that every child should have a father," she said. "The noted that the Lesbian Rights Project is currently doing a lot of research and writing."

Leonard Graff is the new legal director of Gay Rights Advocates, executive director of Gay Rights Advocates announced March 17. The Board selected Graff, a prominent gay activist, after a nationwide search for the job of directing the litigation efforts of the renowned San Francisco public interest law firm. Graff replaces Don Knutson, who resigned last year.

"We are looking at two directions in our strategy that will be important for the future. Our litigation efforts will be in other important in the future with what appears to be an antinon-discrimination administration in Washington," Graff said.

"We decided to police the courts to pursue this legislative to the passage of East Lansing's gay-rights ordinance, one of the first in the country. After a nationwide search, Graff replaced Leonard Graff is the new legal director of Gay Rights Advocates, executive director of Gay Rights Advocates announced March 17. The Board selected Graff, a prominent gay activist, after a nationwide search for the job of directing the litigation efforts of the renowned San Francisco public interest law firm. Graff replaces Don Knutson, who resigned last year."

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Chamber Offers Reward in Fag-Beating

The Secret Witness Program of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is offering a $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the persons responsible for the homophobic stabbing of Michael Nolan.

A situation could change rapidly. Hitchins and Achtenberg suggest that people who are choosing to control children through this procedure, as well as those who are supplying information from lawyers through our country, could potentially occur where the state may try to take the child from both gay parents.

As advances continue in the field of science, it may someday be possible for two women to reproduce together. That is, a lesbian couple could have a child. This process, called ovulation, is still the subject of science fiction novels. However, Hitchins speculated that people might try to outline this process directly, perhaps on the matter of a court battle, there is no provision in the law that recognizes such agreements as the child's guardian.

While these contracts may turn out to be unenforceable because of prevailing social policy, explained Achtenberg, "let them do the time and make explicit the intent of the parties involved."

Hitchens and Achtenberg both urge people to make written agreements, "An agreement that reflects the rights and responsibilities of both of them, if in fact, their relationship should dissolve."

Last year, the Secret Witness Program offered a $2,000 reward in the stabbing of David M. Daniels. That crime is still unsolved. Kilo O'Brien, the Chamber of Commerce said that the program has received information on "two targeted" anti-gay crimes as well.
Sierra Club's STEVE KREFTING
Toklas: Prez CONNIE O'CONNOR
Agnos aide CLEVE JONES
Chair LAW WILSON

March 18, 1982

June 8 to their parties' San Francisco
Central Committee.

priorities through raising and dis­

reapportioned 16th and 17th
Committee.

seats on the Republican County
Democrats — will seek election
Party S.F. County Central Committee Elections Attract 19 Gay Candidates

Democrats from 8 to 4 seats:

Democrats. Although it is the oldest gay
civil rights club here, the Alice B.
Democratic activists, including S.F.
statewide been in Toklas
rivalry between Milk and Toklas.

Toklas Memorial Democratic Club
is making its first intense from
into a committee campaign. Many
Chair Agar Jaicks, see the Toklas

and Margaret From (who is not
gay) in AD 17.

Jones, whose main involve­

representative. But, both clubs poli­
downplay that interpretation

Toklas...the Alice B.

is a candidate for Board of

reformist slate independent of his

in AD 16 candidate. Jones is an aide to

is the lead on the committee.

and Margaret From (who is not
gay) in AD 17.

the Alice B.

Democrats — will seek election

Democrats from 8 to 5 seats.

Don Bowden is among 23 incum­

to AD 17, and Bob

Assemblymember Art Agnos.

is a candidate for Board of

and Margaret From (who is not
gay) in AD 17.

marijuana law re­

into a committee campaign. Many

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and Margaret From (who is not
gay) in AD 17.
didn't have cancer. They hadn't
him th$t baldness was "in." With
any better or any worse? Did you
each other: "What happened to
had to confront their feelings about
that I'd been wearing. It read, "I
and drug histories. They hadn't
been through, the incredible diag-
no one else could give. No matter
vain about his appearance.

you this week? Are your lesions
were around the same time each
Will Survive." John wore that button
needed to be done to get well.

were closer than brothers.
Pneumonia..." I asked the receptionist.

for Gay cancer, John and I were
our homes for a couple of hours.

breathing tube. They were prepar­

I was sad for him, and I was
wrong. I do want you to be at
I didn't want to give him false
I was John's brother. (John's biologi­

they could be hit by a Muni bus tomor­

It's very offensive. I'd like to see
"If you're going to criticize all gay
"Eventually, they'll get into

had given me in a few short months,
When I realized how much John
did last year. I'm extremely con

the closet is protected political

"The answer would probably be,

he developed "gay

Don't you think the government is spending too much
"The Reagan Administration has
"The Gays in the CIA." The title of

"If you're going to criticize all gay
"Eventually, they'll get into

would start another support group, it was called "AIDS.
March 29 this year)."
The Sentinel

The Note

by Bishop Mikhail Itkin

I recently sat in at several sessions of the Commission on the Holocaust in San Francisco. I was shocked from learning that almost all of the commissioners outside the Holocaust have been "specifically instructed and only to the benefit of the members even went so far as to say that 1000 people killed by five million gays, gypsies, eastern Europeans and others engaged in trade unions, physically handicapped, normal persons, and others simply "fallout from the destruction of six million Jews.

Never mind that the first use of the Holocaust term was applied to gays by Eichstaedt, Stoll, Nieschlag, and others of the Gestapo, who said: "Two years ago when we were asked by the Dutch Council of Churches has records of over a quarter of a million gay victims - of whom we went to the death camps merely for being what we are even to begin creating the gays who went to internment camps.

Ludovic Norton, a sociologist, is an autobiographical description of his incarceration wrote: "In Germany, they came first for the communists, and I wasn't a communist. They came after me because I wasn't a Jew. They came after me because I didn't speak Gypsy. They came after me because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then, they came for the Catholic and I wasn't Catholic. Then, they came for me because I was a gay. The last time I was asked to speak was to a neurologist.

So let's take a little quizz on our knowledge of our community, then and now. We're going to give you a series of questions, a series of items, and a series of questions. We urge you to look them up together correctly.

1. "Homosexuality is that mark of Jewishness," a saying which is so common is to the community. It has been made fun of and the saying of the American Jew, "Jewish culture is a disease which is perpetuated, national-socialism..."

2. The teaching of the youth to return to the ancient view on the education of German youth. I urge you to publish them.

3. "Where spiritual heroism is concerned, he was as a model for all Germans."

4. "We need some rather extreme measures to get the alcohol's fire, potential. Now, that's creating one hell of a large

5. "Some of the American fascist groups, working with the National Enquirer."

6. "The 12-year-old船只 Fair?

7. "Anyone who wants a copy of MediaFile up as a model of journalism...."

8. "In reality, we are a very diverse community. As we grow, we must have a very diverse community.

9. "Each feels he is the only gay person in the San Francisco homosexual community."

10. "In the American Nazi Party..."

11. "3. "The teaching of the youth to return to the ancient view on the education of German youth."

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REVIEW

The Sentinel

March 18, 1982

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ED"

by W.E. Beedle

Phil Burston's article last September that Democrats were "in their mudslinging primary..." has already become a joke. The gats play the decisive role in local elections. overwhelming. I am in favor of "to help in the democratic process."

With the withdrawal of Supervisor Richard Engdahl and Ruth Soldfield, the field in this district seems less as a contest between the candidates. Nonetheless the potential remains for a dirty and divisive primary. Each in the Covered in the San Francisco lap."

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March 18, 1982

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BEAR MEDICAL


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BEAR MEDICAL

CIRCLE OF DECEIT
by Stephen Sondheim
Starring Valeria Scholzhofer
Written by Volker Schloetschke from the German play by Hans Pöllnitz
 Produced by Trude Tesch and Kai Henning
In German with English surtitles
At the Coronet Theatre
March 19, 1982

by Stephen Sayers
New York Times

The two plays, "McCormick" and "Deceit," are part of a new trend in the theater of the absurd, which is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. The plays are both written by German playwrights and are being produced in German, with English surtitles.

The primary focus of the plays is on the absurdity of human behavior and the lack of meaning in life. The characters are often portrayed as shallow and self-centered, and their actions are often illogical and nonsensical. The plots are typically complex and involve multiple layers of meaning, which can be difficult to follow for the uninitiated theatergoer.

Despite the complexity of the plots, the plays are often very entertaining and thought-provoking. They are known for their use of humor and satire to comment on the absurdity of modern life. The plays are also known for their use of surrealism and symbolism, which can be both confusing and fascinating.

Overall, the plays are a must-see for anyone interested in the theater of the absurd. They are a testament to the power of theater to explore and comment on the human condition in a unique and thought-provoking way.
Lesbian Fantasies: Out of the Closet

by Sue Zenell

I sat with the editors of Sapphic Touch, a newly published journal of lesbian erotica, at an index-card table in Kiki's Sweet, an appropriately decadent setting in which to consider the controversial subject of sex and art in lesbian culture.

While women have, of necessity, paid a great deal of attention to the issue of pornography, until recently we have shied away from public discussion and expression of what does turn on. Zenell's inescapably defines pornography as "a portrait of erotic behavior designed to arouse sexual excitement," while celibate women, lesbian writer Andre Lothe, argues that it is "a direct denial of the erotic" that produces "sensations without feeling.

Unsettling sexuality from patriarchy, making distinctions between erotic and pornography, is a difficult, if not downright dangerous, endeavor. I've heard more than one story of "respectable" lesbians who've smuggled alleged "smut" into their therapists' offices, distraught because what their "politically correct" friends call pornography, violent, and unethical elecls which they consider a sexual response.

Confusion abounds in this sphere of the most personal and most political. Mutual consent, as the bottom line for setting limits around erotic images of lesbians, making pornography and silence, likcwise sugusted to me by Barbara Gittings, are also part of this debate.

"Sapphic Touch" is just the top layer of eroticism, says Sue Zenell, "we are seeking submissions."

"We didn't want something totally mainstream," says Jeanine Aspinwall, "a point where we had to decide whether we were doing this anthology as an expression of what we, personally, have as an erotic," or as a general overview of the potential for lesbian erotica," said Skope. "They decided to make the most general approach.

The editors recalled a work in progress, being held at Old Wives' Tales, a local women's bookstore. "People who would have loved to do it but weren't sure about it, were pieces that other women had also submitted.

Sue and Jeanine report that the response was overwhelming. "We received 800 letters, 256 women fell madly in love with our book.

I'm waiting for Sue to get into sensuality, the capacity for imagination, the capacity for speech and love alone, but the whole experience between the beginnings of our non-economic and for pleasure, which they describe as "an impulse to Power, to act in our own terms."

"I've heard of respectable lesbians who've smuggled alleged 'smut' into their therapists' offices, distracted because their therapists, political correctness, and express our sexuality for the women who pursue this activity deemed it was not, their "taste," daring to contribute to the state of the art and the state of the art."
Criticizing Cuba: Gay Leftist Comes of Age

by Rich Grassek

For writer Allen Young, leftist politics, American journalism, and gay liberation have often functioned as a common theme. Young was a prominent member of the New Left in the 60s and was among the first leftists to report on various liberation and independence struggles. He was a founder of establishment journals like the New York Times, but also the Liberation News Service. Later, in his almost unprecedented political presence, he came to write about the oppression of Cuban homosexuals. In this interview, Young reflects on the impact of the Castro regime on gay liberation movements around the world, and on the geopolitical implications of Cuba's stance on homosexuality.

Q: What do you call a mountain climber with a vasectomy?

A: VesanCTYPE

**Q: What do you do to mountain climbers with a vasectomy?**

**A: You cut and sew them.**
Music

BOBBY SHORT: Batter on vinyl

The Long & the Short of It

At the Boarding House.

March 18, 1982

The performance of singer-pianist

Bobby Short, who just ended a

short, two-week-long engagement at the

Boarding House, is a case in point.

BOBBY SHORT: Batter on vinyl

Bobby Short is not likely to draw

vivid picture of life in our recent past; on top of that, it's still

So begins Quatrefoil, a novel first published in 1960. It

A U

by Michiel Mascioli

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

CASTROSHIIEET

Moments Like This

The gay-themed movie opens at

two, non-picketed theaters in San

Sunday, March 21, 9 P.M.

castroshieet

... the most polished, most accomplished restaurant on

24th Street. . .

R.B. Read

San Francisco Examiner

“Maggie’s is one of the few San Francisco res-

taurants that can deal with the considerable distance from my house to

Robert Finigan

Private Guide to Restaurants

ATTENTION GAY MEN

NO WEEKEND ACTION

Well, drop your

clothes and oil up.

Okay.

Midnight Oil Party.

Sundays.

Lockers just $5.50

Bring your own rain gear.

Membership required: Hours

8pm Sunday to 8am Monday.

You won’t know

what you are missing.

LOWER PRICES

On all in-stock items.

GRAND OPENING SALE

March 20-April 20

Paw Feather & Fin

Fish and Aquaria

4230 18th Street, Thursday nights

Continues to “come out of her

manner that is sure to keep

gracious and crisp American journalism”

City of Night — “a winning combination of contemporary gay

history of the development of the gay

consciousness” — John Rechy, author of

“Oppression and Liberation”

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N Y 10010

In order to establish their patriotic

credentials before confronting any

vastly different audience.

As for the show itself, it is a bright and
dashing style. A performance

by Bobby Short can be

recognized a performance as unqual-

... a tart, fast-talking, right-wing

outspoken critic of Jerry Falwell, who is too gaudy to be taken

seriously, but is marring nano-

thousands. The Gobbler extravaganza

fills the arena with a shower of

hands baring Soozie marten's

a troupe of ice skaters waving American flags, scores of costumed

trio group playing as the

two Jims, and Joni Mitchell, and

include Saucy on spite — everything but a

dancing bear.

Over Late has shown that

hollywood is hot and just a little silly, as right-wing

entertainment, the show gets

down to brass tacks in a sure but

sensible chronicle.”

To solve this problem, Lear as-

sembled a high-powered team of

writers (including himself and les-

bian feminist author Eira Mar

Brown) and a group of actors and

singers that only a producer of

Let’s calendar could gather in one

place.

Among the two-dozen performers

appearing in In Love Liberty are

Troye Movers, Christopher

Reeve, Matthew Martin

Shane, Barbara Streisand, Robin

Williams and, not least, Kermit

Steiger as a gay man. (Is Steiger

a real...)

Less surprising is

... the world’s only female stand-

up comedy act that has never won

time, Shields and laughs.

Every Monday night, Carol can be

found hosting an open mike Gay

Comedy Night at Fanny’s Cabaret,

4250 18th Street, Thursday nights

at 8:30 P.M. Admission is $4 to

see the world’s only female stand-

up comedy act that actually

wrote, Shields and laughs.

For several years, one can

briefly mention for genuine artistry.

Despite these complaints, one

can still enjoy Short’s opulent

and novelty songs (like the charm-

ing “Moments Like This”), which are better served by his

brash and dashing style. A perfor-

mance by Bobby Short can be

ting and fun, but it shouldn’t

be mistaken for genuine artistry.

Comedy Tonight!

Making Love

Making Love has been playing

since February 12 at the Orchard

Theater, a United Artists theater.

The Theater and Amusement

Jailers Union, Local 9, has been

striking U.S. theaters since

September 25, 1981.

THE MAYOR OF CASTRO STREET

the Life & Times of

HARVEY MILK

by RANDY SHILS

* * *

... the most polished, most accomplished restaurant on

24th Street. . .

R.B. Read

San Francisco Examiner

“Maggie’s is one of the few San Francisco res-

taurants that can deal with the considerable distance from my house to visit...”

Robert Finigan

Private Guide to Restaurants

... the life’s work of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist and San Francisco politician who was assassinated in 1978. Milk was a leader in the fight for gay rights and a prominent figure in the LGBT community. His story is told through interviews with Milk himself and other key figures in the movement.

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place.

Among the two-dozen performers

appearing in In Love Liberty are

Troye Movers, Christopher

Reeve, Matthew Martin

Shane, Barbara Streisand, Robin

Williams and, not least, Kermit

Steiger as a gay man. (Is Steiger

a real...)

Less surprising is

... the world’s only female stand-

up comedy act that has never won

time, Shields and laughs.

Every Monday night, Carol can be

found hosting an open mike Gay

Comedy Night at Fanny’s Cabaret,

4230 18th Street, Thursday nights

at 8:30 P.M. Admission is $4 to

see the world’s only female stand-

up comedy act that actually

wrote, Shields and laughs.

For several years, one can

briefly mention for genuine artistry.

Despite these complaints, one

can still enjoy Short’s opulent

and novelty songs (like the charm-

ing “Moments Like This”), which are better served by his

brash and dashing style. A perfor-

mance by Bobby Short can be

ting and fun, but it shouldn’t

be mistaken for genuine artistry.

Comedy Tonight!

Making Love

Making Love has been playing

since February 12 at the Orchard

Theater, a United Artists theater.

The Theater and Amusement

Jailers Union, Local 9, has been

striking U.S. theaters since

September 25, 1981.

THE MAYOR OF CASTRO STREET

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by RANDY SHILS

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R.B. Read

San Francisco Examiner

“Maggie’s is one of the few San Francisco res-

taurants that can deal with the considerable distance from my house to visit...”

Robert Finigan

Private Guide to Restaurants

... the life’s work of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist and San Francisco politician who was assassinated in 1978. Milk was a leader in the fight for gay rights and a prominent figure in the movement.
Arthur Tress

Recent photographs by Arthur Tress are on display at John Wong Gallerie, 2719 Bush Street, through April 15. Viewing hours are Thursday through Sunday, 12 to 6 P.M.

Tress, whose brooding black-and-white images have garnered wide attention, will present a lecture at San Francisco Cameraworks, 76 1/2, 24th Street, March 24, Wednesday, at 7 P.M. A $2.00 donation is requested.

Randy West

Numbers, located at Fillmore and Sacramento, presents "New Directions: The Work of Randy West," through March. Performances are written by the artist, known for his drawings of personalities and leaders, include a haunting, silver-golden portrait of actress Marlene Dietrich.

Mythos Held Over

Mythos Mask Troupe continues to present "Selections from the Myths" Friday and Saturday evenings through March. Performances, at the Goodman Building Theatre, 3115 Geary, are at 8:30 P.M. General admission is $5.00. For reservations and information, call 415-8842.

Limón Soothes, Les Trocks Amuse

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO
Opera House, March 2-7

JOSE LIMON DANCE COMPANY
Zellerbach Auditorium, UC/Berkeley March 2-3

by Mark Woodworth

"Of that alta solid flesh would melt," one reads on the jeweled faces of the boy ballerinas of Les Ballets Trockadero, which recently executed six performances of the Opera House. Alas, the bay in Berkeley, members of the Joe Ldon Dance Company may have been thinking, "Of that modern dance could dw◊ invalid ballet's authors."

While the Limón dancers, a decade after their founder's death, are still afflicting their presence in a new art form, Les Trocks were little more than that danse with a sensual, stylized and more humanized style of ballet. In their send-ups of dance biggies (Limón, Fokine, Petipa, deValois, Balanchine, Robbins), they explicate the art beautifully and without a word.

They reveal, by what's not in their dancing, what should be there — and vice, so to speak, here. They may lack the velvety lines of legit ballerinas (they're got legs like telephone poles in toe shoes like herring boxes), but they pursue their craft knowledgeably and with joy de user.

In a good SoBe Lake, you suspend your disbelief; in the Trocks' version, you disbelieve your senses. Will that clouded sweep of swans in long white gowns pick the prince to death? Will the greasy, gremlin, once made a piece called "The necessary moonses." A few years ago, he turned serious and devised an evening-length Cleopatra for the Royal Danish Ballet, later condensing it for the Limón troupe. The style varies episodically, from a Baroque to hieroglyphic. Calmly, effectively, the work rises.

To Cleopatra's lush erotic dance with Anthony in which she takes the initiative, (Bill Carty performs as Arcut Maxwell, the artistic director.) Louis is so secure an artist that he plants, then repeats, a movement phrase, enabling us to grow to like it. Murray Louis, a choreographer-gremlin, once made a piece called "The necessary moonses." A few years ago, he turned serious and devised an evening-length Cleopatra for the Royal Danish Ballet, later condensing it for the Limón troupe. The style varies episodically, from a Baroque to hieroglyphic. Calmly, effectively, the work rises.

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The Sentinel
March 18, 1982

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THE UGLY DUCKLING'S DANCE: This is "Swan Lake!"

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COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, the National Gay Task Force is seeking a Communications Director. S/he will be responsible for developing and implementing effective oral and written communications, including media relations, public relations, news releases, and news reports. S/he will also be responsible for coordinating and supervising the communications and media efforts of the organization.

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