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THE SPARK

Nov. 16, 1978

J.B.- an insider's view

Jeff Lupoff, JB Rep., class of 1981

"Until we reach Connecticut College utopia, we must live and work within a system of mutual respect, which is the basis for our honor system." This passage is from the first paragraph of the Judiciary Board Packet. There is no question in my mind that some form of honor committee is needed to hear possible infractions of the honor code, and to take the necessary action once all of the facts are known. Although some flaws do exist, and always will, the Judiciary Board is the best form such an honor committee can take.

At many colleges across the nation no Judiciary Board of similar equivalent exists. In such a case discipline is left to the discretion of the faculty and/or administration. The Connecticut Judiciary Board is often the target of much criticism. It is unfortunate that one cannot get an accurate look at how the Board operates without actually being brought up before it on charges of infractions of the social or academic honor code. During class elections for the Judiciary Board last spring most of the candidates were running on the platform of ending the "elitist" image of the Judiciary Board, and opening up the "private club" as much as possible. This author is "guilty" of running on such a platform. As an outsider it was easy to criticize what I did not know about. Upon being elected to the Board I realized why students had the views they did concerning the Judiciary Board; yet even as a board member there was only so much I could do to change the "elitist" image.

When members of the student body ask me about the Judiciary Board, I can tell them how the Board works, my views on recommendations, and not much more about actual cases. The students must realize that this "lack

of communication" between the Judiciary Board and the student body is not because the nine Board members are arrogant snobs; but rather because they want to protect everyone fairly and equally. The principle of confidentiality is an important and necessary policy. In comparison with the rest of the nations' colleges and universities, the Connecticut College Judiciary Board probably has one of the fairest systems in operation. At Conn., a student found not guilty has no record. A student who is found guilty of an infraction of the honor code has a record kept by the JB Chairman, the Dean of Student Affairs (the JB advisor), and

" There is no question in my mind that some form of honor committee is needed..."

in academic cases, the Academic class Dean. These records are destroyed upon graduation and do not appear on any transcript of the student. Even if a student were to be suspended for an infraction, on the transcript this suspension would be indicated as voluntary withdrawal. This type of Judiciary Board policy is neither strict or lenient, nor liberal or conservative, it is necessary. The purpose of the Judiciary Board is to point out infractions of the honor code, not to destroy someone's future at an early age just because of a mistake or an error in judgement.

The Judiciary Board gives its members weekly lessons in how to deal with people. After deciding on the verdict of guilty or not guilty, the recommendation follows. Many cases are clear cut infractions; but others are more difficult. When a member of the Board makes a motion to give a

student an "F on a paper" or social probation for the remainder of their stay at the college, much goes through our minds. Before some votes such as these we sometimes sit in silence for a few moments asking ourselves if we are going to make the right decision or not. If something good can be said about the whole process it is that it is very rare to find someone brought before the Board more than once; the system does work.

One subject often discussed after an individual has been found guilty is the attitude of the student. When we are considering the recommendation, the attitude of the accused should not enter into our decision. In other words, if a student is found guilty of destroying a piece of dorm furniture and says that they are very sorry about it, and another student commits the very same social infraction but does not seem very concerned about it, they should still receive the same recommendations. Our policy as a Board is not to try to teach a student a lesson by punishing and lecturing them if they have a bad attitude, but to let them know what they did was wrong and make sure they understand why their actions were infractions of the honor code. The

Continued on page 8



editorial

SGA

SGA last week took a huge step towards proving its responsiveness to the student body by including an open discussion on THE SPARK's article, "SGA: An Evaluation". This move is unique for SGA, as the forum on the article, rather than censuring THE SPARK, consisted primarily of constructive criticism, not only of the SGA, but also of THE SPARK. This type of discussion is of great value to SGA, and the only disappointment therein is the fact that no students besides those on Assembly or with THE SPARK's staff were present.

Some useful and interesting opinions of the student government were offered pertaining to the article. Tom Beusher was the first to speak, and expressed frustration with the red tape of Assembly; he reminded people that SGA members were not professionals, and that they all were somewhat new to this. He also reiterated the student's lack of concern, as Vuyo Ntshona pointed out, and placed much of the blame for this on the students themselves. Although THE SPARK agrees somewhat with this, it should be remembered that SGA is elected by and represents the student body. Tom also conceded that some members of SGA took their positions and criticism too personally, and thus friction often was created in Assembly. (During the meeting this was especially true of JB Chairman Joel Mishkin; stated Joel, "It wasn't right to do this (print the article)". THE SPARK disagrees, and feels that this meeting exemplifies how necessary and well received criticism can be on this campus.) Vuyo admitted that much of the Assembly's discussion was trivial, but he felt that this is somewhat unavoidable; Vuyo posed the question of "How do we (the SGA) see ourselves," as the main element towards student involvement.

The focus of the discussion then changed to the editorial "The Student Budget". It was clear that many present had either not read or not understood the article, for many felt that the sub-committee work was neglected by the article. However, the article was not questioning at all the integrity of the sub-committee, but was questioning why the House Presidents had no questions at all, either from their dormitories or from themselves, about the huge discrepancies in some of the budgets. Emily Grabel also wondered why no explanations of the individual budgets were given. Beth Hantzes expressed dismay at the budget meeting at which it was approved; she was disillusioned by the closed discussion, of which she said there was "something missing". Emily then agreed that much of the conversation was not relevant in Assembly, and did not think that SGA really had much power.

Many other comments were made concerning SGA and the article in THE SPARK, many negative and many positive towards each. Yet THE SPARK is pleased that such criticism can be openly made and received by those students on this campus who really are concerned about what goes on here. Though it may be true, as Vuyo recognized, that many students have no connection with student government at Connecticut College, it is refreshing to find some who do care about this institute in more than a selfish way. THE SPARK feels that this forum, in which problems and concerns about the SGA were voiced and discussed, is a victory for both the SGA and for THE SPARK. ■

THE SPARK

Volume II/ Issue 4

Thursday November 16, 1978

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All editorials are written by THE SPARK's editorial staff.

Letters

Dear Editor:

We are writing in response to the "SGA: An Evaluation" article appearing in the October 27 issue of THE SPARK. As a Board, we are pleased to see student interest in SGA and welcome objective criticism. However, we feel that this article presents a one-sided view of Student Government.

In late August, the Executive Board formally announce Assembly's goals and operating philosophy for the academic year. In the SGA President's Convocation Address, it was stated that our goals were "for better communication and increased cooperation throughout the entire college community. The 1978-79 Executive Board wants to be more program oriented and will be striving to provide more opportunities for all components of the campus to meet together."

Have we worked towards accomplishing these goals?

First, we have initiated a series of Student/Faculty discussions that have been well received by the entire college community. Second, we sponsored a Financial Aid Forum so that students could express their concern and have their questions answered by the Director of the Office of Financial Aid. This issue affected at least 40% of the student body. Third, SGA is sponsoring a Presidential Forum on November 8. This is an attempt to offer students an opportunity to ask questions of President Ames. Fourth, this Executive Board is organizing the first open presentation with the Board of Trustees to take place in December. Fifth, we are planning a conference with the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges to discuss federal funding of private educational institutions and to increase communications between the schools.

In addition, we are involved in the Ox-Fam Fast, the ERA, and the rights of handicapped students on campus. We have also effectively dealt with the day-to-day problems on campus. The decision of Senior Staff to limit day student dining was reversed largely through the effort of SGA. More liberal faculty dining rights

were instituted after Assembly questioned the new policy. The Hamilton section of Harris officially was restored as a no smoking dining area and a ride service to New London is in the process of being formally established. Many of our efforts are in conjunction with other organizations on campus and we hope this cooperation continues.

We are interested in the concerns of all students on this campus. We have been aware of some concerns through our participation on WENI's "Stern's Comments" Any particular concern of yours may be voiced through your House President or by directly contacting any member of Executive Board. We are available by phone, PO. Box, and at Student Assembly on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Please feel free to contact us individually or at SGA meetings.

Once again, we look forward to constructive criticism from the media in the future. However, we do hope that all sides of an issue will be researched before articles go to press. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, the 1978-79
Executive Board
Janice Mayer, President
Vuyo Ntshona, Vice President
Joel Mishkin, JB Chairman
John Azarow, SB Chairman
Beth Michelman, Sec'y Treas.
Lisa Shaw, Parliamentarian.

reply

In our editorials, we did not feel that we were taking sides; the only side is that of the good of the school in all respects. The article represents the sentiments of THE SPARK's editorial staff, and was researched to the extent that THE SPARK has attended every SGA meeting and function, and has talked at length with many members of Assembly about the problems and virtues of SGA. We are sorry that Executive Board must feel so defensive towards criticism and suggestions. Concerning SGA goals, we see none demonstrated during any particular session, and feel that this was the major problem with both the "room entering policy" and the "budget" meetings. We do appreciate all responses made at any time, and encourage this type of communication.

THE SPARK ■

Gentlemen:

In reply to your Editorial comment on the Student Budget, in the issue dated Oct. 27, I feel that on behalf of the Sub-finance Committee it is imperative to correct some of your erroneous assumptions.

It is important to realize that in formulating our recommendations to assembly, a great deal of time and a number of meetings were spent. Contrary to your assumption that the various budgets were "padded" the committee overwhelmingly felt these budgets represented modest increases that stood up to the keenest-scouting. Infact, of the 15 budgets only 3 were cut for reasons other than the fact that they were "padded". Generally the increases were justified by a) an assumption of greater responsibilities, b) an expansion in proposed programmes, c) and not least of all, inflation that is currently running at an annual rate of approx. 6-7%.

It is indeed true that the Sports Club Council requested \$7575.00 and was allotted \$6310.00. Amongst other factors, this was precisely because the council had overlooked their balance of \$864.00 not despite that fact as you erroneously suggest. Furthermore, their increased budget is due to the inclusion of a \$2000 request from the Hockey Club and also the inclusion of 13 clubs all entitled to \$100 each.

I found your reference to the Theatre One budget equally as misguided. It is true Theatre One had a balance of \$1000 which was carried over to this years increased budget, but what you continually seem to overlook in your treatment of the student budget is the basic fact of the expanded programmes of some clubs and other factors that I have alluded to. In the case of Theatre One, they propose to do 12 projects an increase of 3 from last year.

The intention of the committee is not to penalize a club for showing a surplus or a profit from their previous budgets. On the contrary, by putting this surplus or profit back into their budget, it is hoped this will act as an incentive to be frugal and will also save the student body as a whole valuable money that

Continued on page 6

Civil liberties: in disarray

Bob Landau

Civil liberty comprises generally the conditions of individual freedom. A free society attempts to secure individual autonomy, self-development and self-expression, and the protection of all persons and groups from unjustified coercive actions by the government and private parties. Civil liberties in the United States has the distinctive trait of not being contingent of the compassions or discretion of a legislative body or a popular majority, but rather belong to each individual, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, as "inalienable rights" that transcend the politics and passions of the day. However, our society today has lost sight of the fundamental premises put forth by the founding fathers of America and our most precious document, the Bill of Rights, is becoming more and more disregarded. Polls have consistently shown that most Americans are in disagreement with the first ten Amendments of our Constitution except in the case of special pleading.

This decline in respect of the Bill of Rights can be contributed to the social and political climate of the day. There is no one issue confronting Americans that possesses the unifying and provocative nature and loyalty of a Watergate or Vietnam which successfully generated a strong commitment and loyalty for the Bill of Rights. The large numbers of people who considered themselves civil libertarians and who jumped on the impeachment bandwagon have now been caught off guard in the face of the complex and intimate civil liberties issues of today. In the sixties and early seventies issues for the supposed civil libertarian stimulated more of a reflex action as the issues were far from home; civil rights in the South, the war in Southeast Asia, and Watergate in Washington. It was clear to these people that the rights of American citizens are being violated as the Bill of Rights was held in the highest esteem. The issues confronting today's society, however, hits closer to home and the once firm commitment to the Bill of Rights has now

faded. The current issues such as affirmative action, women's rights, busing, children's rights, abortion and pregnancy disability, may not be as constitutionally clear but they nonetheless regard rights which are protected by our Constitution. The civil libertarian of the sixties who once held a firm commitment to Constitutional rights now has abandoned that ideology in light of the contemporary issues and will now recognize civil liberties only when they do not infringe and alter their life pattern.

The pathetic truth about American attitudes towards the Bill of Rights is that it is supported only when it

"Civil liberties are often prone to be unappealing, inconvenient and tormenting..."

can serve the best interests. To the working American, civil liberties has become expendable and un consequential when entailing the hiring of a gay or female colleague. To the said liberal minded undergraduate student, civil liberties has become expendable and un consequential if it means an equally qualified minority can be accepted into law school before them or if a younger brother or sister is being bussed across town. To the politician and legislator civil liberties has become expendable and un consequential when the promoting of federally funded abortion programs of veterans disability benefits will have an unappealing economic impact. What became of the fundamental rights and inherent freedoms of the ideal America? The right for the nations discrete and insular minorities to have access to the American mainstream for which they have so long been excluded; or the right of a woman to have sole authority over her own body; of the rights of homosexuals, criminals, veterans, and women to be equal before the law. Should their freedoms and rights be ig-

nored if the price tag is too high or if they perpetrate a conflict with personal interest?

Even the easily discernable first Amendment issues of recent years have been at the hub of a tremendous amount of resentment and controversy as personal mind has clouded the law.

The recent defense of free speech for racists and totalitarians has been subject to much vehement and vindictive criticism. There have been constant efforts throughout our history to suppress and ban these offensive groups. A majority of Americans view these right wing extremist groups, and justifiably so, as revolting. But should the rights of these repulsive groups be suppressed and conformity coerced? Are not suppression and coercion alien to our most cherished traditions? The prevalent contention that these right wing extremists are an actual threat to come to power and in turn suppress all of America exemplifies our country's self-doubt and confesses to a loss of faith in the validity of our institutions.

Furthermore it is this self-doubt and threatened feeling that lies at the root of Americans apparent ignorance of civil liberties. America is content with the "good old days" and that explains their interest in only selective civil rights and civil liberties. The civil liberties and rights which will maintain their dated interest and attitudes are supported while the ones that pose contrary beliefs such as the rights and freedoms involved in a Skokie or a Seabrook or a Bakke.

The words of Milton and Voltaire, of Thomas Jefferson and John Stuart Mill, are as true today as when they were first written one, two and three centuries ago. History teaches that neither this nor any other generation of Americans can long afford to sleep upon its freedoms. The civil liberties issues of today have come under hard times for they are no longer simple or distinct. But we must not permit the values of freedom and our consti-

A long way from home

L.C.S.

tution to be lost from sight. The various factions in our society who feel threatened and fragile must be educated to the Bill of Rights. That despite their own prejudice and self interest there is a place for affirmative action programs to help alleviate the many racial and gender inequities in our society; that despite how wrong and repulsive it is there is a place in their lives for free speech; that despite their hatred and passions there is a point to protecting unreasonable search and seizure and due process of law. Civil liberties are often prone to be unappealing, inconvenient and tormenting but they are essential and are of paramount importance to our society. The founding fathers of our country understood the tendency to repress dissent and to seek order at the price of liberty. They gave us a Constitution and a Bill of Rights to resist these tendencies and to keep us free. ■

There were six young cadets from the Coast Guard Academy standing in front of the dormitory. It was a little after ten on a Friday night when I saw them. They looked lonely, and I got the feeling that they were a long way from home-- from their high school sweethearts in Galveston, Texas or Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They stood there, in front of the dormitory, trying to kill their loneliness on a Friday night in New London, Connecticut. As I walked by them I could hear some of their conversation.

"Well, ther ain't much cookin' up here."

"That's for damn sure."

"What do you say we go to G's instead?"

"I'm sick of that place"

"Well, nothing's going on around here."

"But it's my birthday. I gotta do something decent tonight."

"I didn't know that. How old are you?"

"Nineteen."

"Well, we gotta celebrate then."

That was all I heard. Once I was out of hearing range, though, I turned around and watched them. They didn't go anywhere for a while. They talked to one another for a few minutes, trying, it seemed, to make the young cadet's birthday worthwhile. How many empty Friday nights they must experience, I thought. Think about it for a minute. When you are at the Coast Guard Academy and given time off, what is there to do? That sunk in as I watched those six young men that night.... Then one of the cadets-- not the birthdayboy-- pulled out a bottle, and he passed it around. They each took a shot or two, except for the birthday boy. He took four

shots. They all stood around for a couple more minutes; then, unable to find anything to do on the campus, they started heading down toward Hodges Square. By now I had ducked into a doorway, but I was still able to watch the cadets as they walked by. The whiskey-- or gin, or vodka, or whatever it was-- had begun to take hold of them, and they were louder now. They still didn't seem happy, though. The birthday boy kept shouting, "I'm nineteen years old. Nineteen years old." And the others started to laugh, wanting to make it a good birthday for him. But the laughter I heard that night wasn't happy... I could see their faces from the doorway; they looked like little boys dressed up as soldiers.

"Let's go to G's," said the birthday boy.

"Sure. Whatever you say."

I didn't hear the voices too much after that. Every once in a while, as they walked down the hill, I'd hear the others laughing in the distance. Then I didn't hear them anymore, for they were on their way to Hodges Square to have a good time.

So I headed back to my room, wondering about the cadets, thinking about their loneliness and how homesick they must get on nights like this. Then I saw a couple walking hand in hand, and I realized that they were luckier than the six lonely cadets. The couple had each other's companionship; the cadets, especially the birthday boy, had a bottle.

Later on that night I thought about the cadets. They're probably still at G's, I thought. The birthday boy must be pretty drunk by now, and he's probably thinking about his girlfriend back home-- wherever home may be. ■

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Letters cont'd.

will go to a surplus fund to be spent in other areas. I am proud to say that this year the Sub-finance committee- due to the co-operation of students in the working of this policy- has established a surplus of \$6000 a substantial increase over last year to be used in other areas if the need arises.

Your assertion that the student body were not given sufficient chance to scrutinize the budget is totally incorrect. The recommendations of the Sub-finance Committee were presented to assembly on the 10/4. It was decided by assembly to postpone voting till the 10/18 so as to give ample opportunity to the students to scrutinize it with their selected representatives. The Sub-finance committee further sent the budget to the papers. I might add here, that in one paper the budget was presented with an error. In the other, the budget simply failed to appear.

The Sub-finance committee welcomes criticism, however we ask that in the future such criticism be tempered with an honest attempt at seeking the truth.

Sincerely
Vuyo Ntshona
Chairman of Sub-finance
Committee.

reply

This letter has been reprinted exactly as it was received by THE SPARK. We would like to take issue with many statements made in the letter. Vuyo never says why those other budgets were cut, and the meaning of his statements is unclear. Why were these reasons not given to the House Presidents? We fail to understand why because a club overlooks a large balance they are given a huge amount of money. Why were these expanded budgets not outlined to the students? We fail to see how putting surplus funds back into the same organization will be incentive to be frugal; it would seem that the incentive would be to spend more, realizing that there is no reason not to. Why was the fact of the \$6000 surplus

not mentioned to the students? We do not feel that the way the budget was presented gave either the students or their representatives any chance to scrutinize it; this idea was clarified in the article, in its introduction. Finally, if Vuyo had read our first issue, he would have realized that THE SPARK is not a newspaper but an editorial journal, and therefore never prints something like a budget; we print only editorials, letters, and creative writing. We feel that Vuyo has missed the entire point of the editorial, and we still as- setain that the budget as presented contained many un- explained discrepancies. We suggest that Vuyo re-read our editorial sometime.

Furthermore, the Spark's staff consists of women as well as Gentlemen. ■

Recycle

this

paper

The flow of things

E.D. Etherington Jr.

I (Yesterday)

You were heat lightening
and I the pole,
but when the moment came
we were inches off
after miles closer.
I stood musing
over a burnt patch of ground-
vaguely aware of the cloud's wandering
and the sky's emptying,
thinking:

For a moment we had something-
we could have touched it
if it didn't shiver so.

II (Today)

A large stream
straining into a river,
winding and twisting from a beginning
and draining to an end-
The flow of things
answerable to nothing.
I was smagged in slimy tree roots
freakish in the eroded bank,
helpless while something of value
drifted on.

It's a matter of chance
this folly
of finding the right current. ■

Oxfam

Allie Lyons

On November 30th, 1978, the students of Connecticut College will have the opportunity to participate in a united effort to confront the problem of world hunger. With the help of the Oxfam-America Project and the Connecticut College Chapel Board, participating students will for one day attempt to share a feeling of hunger with starving men, women, and children around the world by fasting. The day's food money that is saved by those who choose not to eat will be sent to Oxfam-America and will enable them to buy seed for crops, raise flocks of chickens, and build irrigation ditches.

Oxfam-America is a small, nonprofit organization that cooperates with other Oxfams in Quebec, Great Britain, Belgium, and Australia. Over a million people have participated in fasts for world hunger sponsored by Oxfam-America in recent years. Their objectives are not simply to send relief supplies to African, Asian, and Latin American people but to help those countries in becoming food self-reliant and economically viable. Oxfam serves mainly to send contributions directly abroad to development projects.

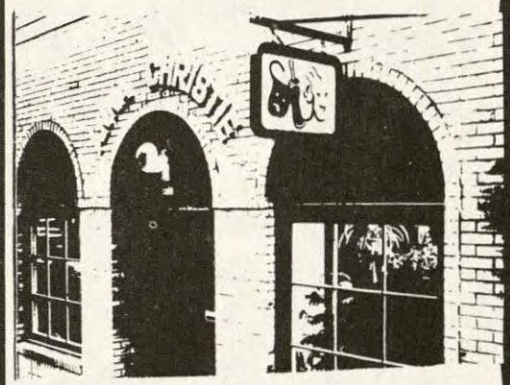
Throughout the final weeks of November the Chapel Board will be sponsoring numerous opportunities for members of the college community to become more aware of the growing necessity to attack sensibly world hunger in terms of long range planning. On November 13th the Oxfam field director for South India will speak on dev-

elopment work there and on November 20th the film "Bottle Babies" will be shown. Then on November 27th the film "3900 Million and One" will be shown, on the 28th there will be a slide presentation on Oxfam-America and also on the same day the Director of Development Education will speak on the role of the multi-national corporation in the Third World. On November 16th and 17th those wishing to participate in the fast may sign up in Crozier-Williams. As well as the Cro sign-up students will be canvassing dorms to encourage people to participate in the fast. Finally November 30th is the day when those willing to give up their food for one day will be able to do so. The day will feature performances by the poet and folksinger Bill Crofut and will culminate later with a break-fast of brown rice and broth.

Certainly giving up one's food for a single day is not enough to alleviate hunger throughout the world. Voluntary fasting, however, is a personal commitment which symbolizes one's recognition of the immense suffering which takes place in the world around us. The day of fasting is not intended to arouse an impropionate amount of guilt in Conn. students. It is an endeavor to fully participate in the educational process which is an important step in becoming aware of the hunger situation. Members of this college community can continually help by taking smaller portions of food and by wasting less. Only by being better informed of the world hunger problem can individuals work towards the goal of eliminating starvation-throughout the world.■

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J.B. cont'd

Judiciary Board does not rubber stamp cases with a precedent. Each and every case is treated as if their were no precedent. This is true because even though the actual infraction of cases might be identical, motives are different. When a student is accused of violating the honor code, he might be doing so as a prank, but he might also be involved in wrongdoings because of personal problems or pressures; these facts must all be taken into consideration.

The Judiciary Board also exists to protect the student. If a student is accused of wrongdoing, the Board is prepared to come to his aid and to let it be known that one is innocent until proven guilty. If any questions do arise as to the honor code or Judiciary Board, one should not hesitate to contact the Chairman or any of its members. ■

Tea time

Patricia Daddona

Do I want tea?
 Nobody ever asks me,
 Anymore.
 Of course, nobody used to,
 Really,
 Until I'd sort of got to
 Making it for myself, On my own.

And now?
 Rubenstein's at the piano,
 And I am reading
 An anthology of poetry,
 Surrounded, in and out,
 By the sighs and soft-spoken
 Admonitions of the poets.
 I don't laugh too loudly,
 Because I'd interrupt
 King Arthur's Chopin...
 And because, of course,
 The pathetic self-debasements
 Of these writers older
 Than myself
 Are so much like my own.

Ha! Some whistle: a soft
 Steam humming (the kettle's
 Broken, you see), and tea
 Has been poured for me.
 I had to ask. ■

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