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Connecting

Oct. 31, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Oct. 31, 2022,

Happy Halloween! I trust you – like Ye Olde Connecting Editor - are well-stocked for the influx of trick or treaters who will be at your doorstep tonight. Maybe you're one of them – and if so, Connecting would use a photo of you in costume.

Our colleague [Rachel Ambrose](#) sets us in the Halloween mode with the picture above that she took at Knotts Scary Farm in Buena Park, Calif.

FAVORITE WICK TEMPLE STORY: Last Friday, Oct. 28, marked the 57th anniversary of the completion of construction on the Gateway Arch, a spectacular 630-foot-high catenary curve of stainless steel marking the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial on the waterfront of St. Louis. And it sparked one of my favorite memories of **Wick Temple**, longtime AP executive known and beloved by many of us, who died in 2003.



Wick was AP's St. Louis correspondent at the time, 1965, and he wrote in a wire story:

“One standing joke says that when the last sections are placed, the two legs won't meet. A newspaper cartoon to that effect has been reproduced by arch workmen and pinned to bulletin boards as a reminder that an error of a quarter of an inch could provide St. Louis with a \$29 million embarrassment. “It'll meet,” said Gus Budde, information officer for the National Park Service. “If it doesn't, we'll take up a collection of a million old girdles and stretch it into place.”

Wick's story moved all over the world, and as he would relate later, the park service was flooded with girdles that were mailed to it to help the cause.

Mid-term elections take place in eight days, and we lead today's issue with a note Friday to AP staff from **John Daniszewski**, AP vice president for Standards and Editor At Large.

Have a great week – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

On midterm elections

To AP News Staff, from John Daniszewski, Vice President for Standards and Editor at Large

Colleagues,

Voting has begun in the hotly contested midterm U.S. Elections. Ballots will be cast in advance or in person through Nov. 8. As always, it is crucial that our coverage be fair and fact-based. No one should be able to consume any AP content and come away with a sense that the AP has political leanings.

All of us understand that AP's reputation for nonpartisanship is one of its most valued assets. As our statement of news values and principles says, we report "quickly, accurately and honestly, in a balanced and impartial way."

Impartiality does not mean that we engage in both-sides-ism. Rather, it means that we are fair and fact-based to the highest standard. All our assertions should be fully attributed and based on verifiable facts or documents that are stated in the story.

Any negative stories should contain a response from the side being criticized or show a good faith attempt to get such comment.

Avoid hyperbole or snarky language. Maintain a dispassionate voice. A poorly chosen adjective or adverb will come across as an opinion.

While it is valuable to report on issues and on the mood of voters, resist any temptation to project or predict voting outcomes prior to the election.

After polls close, the AP is the gold standard for compiling results and calling races. Do not post other news organizations' projections of winners or relay other observations about the state of the vote unless reported by the AP. Never post actual vote totals on social media.

In social media, and in any public forum, avoid expressing any opinions that would call into question AP's reputation for impartiality. This applies to all AP employees.

Obviously, AP staff should not have bumper stickers on their cars, yard signs or engage actively in politics in any way. And no News Division employee should contribute to a political organization or a political campaign. Employees outside of News must refrain from political activity and contributions unless they obtain approval from a manager. A supervisor must be informed if a spouse or other members of an employee's household have ongoing involvement in political causes, either professionally or personally.

The above guidelines are spelled out in greater detail in AP's statement of news values and principles, available at www.ap.org or at www.apstylebook.com.

The erosion of trust in news media is a critical problem for our profession. By exercising accuracy, fairness and impartiality in our political coverage, AP stands as a bulwark for journalistic integrity.

Have a good election!

Voting for dad

[Norm Abelson](#) - My most memorable election experience was not as a journalist. It involved a vote I cast some 60 years back.

It was election day when I received a frenzied phone call from my mother, still living with my dad in my home town in Massachusetts. She told me Dad was just hospitalized after suffering a major heart attack, and the outcome was uncertain.

I told her I would leave New Hampshire at once. "No, no, you can't," she said. "Dad is insisting that you vote first, and then come down."

This might seem strange unless you know how politically active my family always had been. Discussions around the dinner table were largely political in tone. Many family friends and participants at the weekly poker game held political office. Dad always worked in campaigns; mom manned the telephone, urging folks to go to the polls. Part of my early civics instruction at home stressed the importance of voting.

So, vote I did, and then headed south with a heavy foot on the gas pedal. Among Dad's first words to me when I got to the hospital were – yes - "Did you vote?"

Thankfully, he survived, though I'm sure he wasn't happy that he hadn't been able to cast his ballot.

Something for the Nixon Library

[Dennis Conrad](#) - Today, Friday, I got an email from a National Archives archivist with the Nixon Library in California, seeking a roll of film I have kept for nearly a half century.

I first brought it to their attention by providing a copy in 2018 to see if they might be interested in it but for a variety of reasons —including the pandemic — their acquisition of it has been delayed.

[Here you may access a copy](#) of the black-and-white movie I made while I was a sophomore at George Washington University during the height of the Washington Post coverage of the Watergate break-in. It was taken the week of President Nixon's second Inauguration in January 1973 when there were antiwar protests and then days later a funeral service for former President Lyndon Baines Johnson that was attended by Nixon. Needless to say, it was the most historic footage ever taken by me and it was with the first roll of film I bought for an \$85 Kodak movie camera I had purchased as a military dependent at the base exchange at Andrews Air Force Base. At the time, I was living in the Eton Towers apartment complex across from the church where LBJ's church service was, so I was able to get close enough to capture an image of Nixon rubbing his nose. Meantime, my roommate, a journalism/political science major who was an enthusiastic Nixon backer and activist with Young Americans for Freedom, opted for trying to get a bird's eye view from atop our apartment building - a move Secret Service agents would make clear in the strongest of terms that they did not appreciate. LOL.

The next year, while on an exchange program as a University of Florida student in Poland, I came close to getting a spectacular shot of a Cold War enemy. On July 22,

1974, I had my camera busy for much of the massive celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Polish People's Republic, with tanks, missiles, planes and soldiers everywhere along with huge crowds and Communist slogans spread throughout the capital of Warsaw. But I didn't have the camera for the greatest shot I could have had that day as Soviet Union leader Leonid Brezhnev and Polish Communist Party boss Edward Gierek incredibly rode right in front of me in an open-air limo as they opened up a new highway for the occasion. I could only think: Dallas, November 22, 1963.

On getting the news from despotic places

Dan Perry - The difficulty in getting news out of Iran has again focused attention on the question of how to get information out of despotic places. As the Middle East Editor at a time when AP was among the few to have a bureau in Tehran, I was invited to discuss this on Israel's international news channel I24 (where I am indeed a frequent guest). So many fascinating issues arise: clearly reporting in these areas -- this applies as well to Gaza, and also in other regions like Russia, North Korea and in a way Cuba and certainly China) cannot be genuinely free. At what point do we draw the line? What are we to make of journalists allowed to continue to operate like Russia's Anna Sobchak -- are they fig leaves? And, of course, this factors into the great debate about social media: on the one hand a conduit for information to flow, and thus a genuine service to humanity -- and on the other, an echo chamber turning us into infantile radicals.

Click [here](#) to view.

Celebrating Terry Anderson's 75th



[Terry Anderson](#) - AP alumni at my 75th birthday: Nick Ludington, Don Mell, Jean Mell, Edie Lederer, Eileen Powell, me.

Former presidents at the SPJ convention



Front row: AP retiree Carolyn S. Carlson, Patti Gallagher Newberry, Reginald K. Stuart, Georgiana Fry Vines, Hagit Limor, Al Cross, Sonny Albarado. Back row: Fred Brown, Steve Geimann, Irwin Gratz, Rebecca Baker, ABC correspondent Pierre Thomas (speaker at SPJ Foundation event), Kevin Smith.

Thomas, who covers the Justice Department and related topics, said Friday night in Washington that many good things about our craft, the need to do good work in order to defend it at a critical time, and the need for journalists to lift each other up. “We need to celebrate each other,” he said. “I am always amazed at the dedication of my colleagues . . . it is always inspiring.”

Shared by Connecting colleague Al Cross.

Ed Williams, Ron Johnson among first class of Associated Collegiate Press’ Pioneer Awards

Two of our Connecting colleagues are among 101 journalism educators and advocates honored with the Associated Collegiate Press’ inaugural Pioneer Awards at the Fall National College Media Convention on Friday in Washington, D.C.

Ed Williams, Auburn University, and **Ron Johnson**, Fort Hays State/Kansas State/Indiana University – were among those honored as distinguished journalism educators and advocates who have provided exceptional leadership for collegiate

media programs and made exceptional contributions to collegiate journalism and to the association in its service.

The Pioneer is the only award ACP presents to journalism educators.

Click [here](#) for complete list of those honored.

More stories of your dream car - **'It was quite a ride'**

Tom Tait - It was silver-gray with a black vinyl top - 327 cubic inches of power.

The first ride of my life led me to the love of my life.

That 1968 Chevrolet Impala SS - T-bar shifter, white vinyl bucket seats - was the beginning of a journey of first jobs and first kisses, cruising Whittier Boulevard on hot summer nights in a hot car with the girl who would go on to become my wife.

The car had been my dad's and I wanted it to be mine, to ditch the clunky white family station wagon for something cool and fast. Perfect for growing up in Southern California.

I took a summer job at A&M Appliance, a secondhand appliance store selling used and barely refurbished refrigerators to unsuspecting customers. While my friends went to the beach, I cleaned up the shop, helped with deliveries and saved my money for the Impala. All summer I worked, six days a week, for \$1.65 an hour - in cash and under the table. It wasn't always easy.

It was hot and it was dirty work.

Once or twice my dream of getting that Impala almost collapsed. Once while pulling a side-by-side up the steps I slipped, and the big unit tumbled down while the owner screamed at us from her second-floor apartment.

Another time, when moving the company truck, I misjudged the mirrors and took out a freshly refurbished white refrigerator on display in front of the store. But I kept my job and I kept my dream.

By the end of summer, I had saved the \$650 my dad wanted for the Impala.

I had an automatic transmission. Still I fired it up, stood on the brakes and smoked the tires. It roared.

I was a high school junior with long hair, a hot car and a pretty girlfriend.

We cruised the boulevard, drove to the beach and did our share of making out in that Impala.

I sold the car two years later to buy a new candy apple red Ford van.

But I married the girl.

It was quite a ride.

Baseball, docs and old folks

Bruce Handler - Paul Albright's note about a baseball lineup and doctors and others who take care of old folks reminds me of the funniest line I ever heard on this topic.

It was during an incredibly slow and boring Chicago White Sox game a couple of years ago. The Sox' excellent TV play-by-play announcer, Jason Benetti, and his sidekick, former Cy Young award-winning pitcher Steve Stone, started talking about how baseball is a young man's sport. Yes, a few superstars still play on into their 40s, but generally, careers on the diamond end in the mid-to-late 30s.

They contrasted this with golf, where pros on the Seniors Tour still can be competitive in their 60s.

Then one of them said, What if we had a Seniors Baseball League? Of course, there would have to be some rule changes.

Suggestions:

- 1) A nap and bathroom break after every two innings.
- 2) Ground balls would be outs, because the senior players couldn't bend over to field them.
- 3) No running. Only brisk walking on batted balls in play.

And so on...

Then there was the question of how to evaluate senior players' performances.

In regular baseball, there is an analytic metric called WAR - Wins above replacement.

In senior baseball, there would be a WAR-H: Wins above hip replacement.

Ha, ha!

More of your autumn shots



Paul Albright - From our neighborhood in Boulder, Colorado, on Oct. 28.



Sandy Johnson - Johnson sisters last week atop Big Schloss in the Virginia mountains.



[Bruce Lowitt](#) - In Newton, Mass.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
AP breaks stunning story of child caught in custody battle between Afghan couple, US

Marine



The story was nothing short of shocking: An Afghan baby, the only surviving member of her immediate family following an American attack on their home, was brought to the United States for medical treatment only to be taken from the Afghan couple who raised her as their own and — against the couple’s wishes — placed in the custody of a U.S. Marine and his wife.

AP investigative correspondents Juliet Linderman and Martha Mendoza, and enterprise writer Claire Galofaro broke the extraordinary story of the little girl, now 3 1/2 years old, caught between two families: the Afghan couple that raised her after the rest of her family was killed, and the U.S. Marine attorney they accuse of abducting her. Such a story would have been remarkable under any circumstances, but it was made even more so by the speed with which the AP reporters turned it around — less than two weeks.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER
**AP connects news membership,
Indigenous media with first Native
American woman in space**



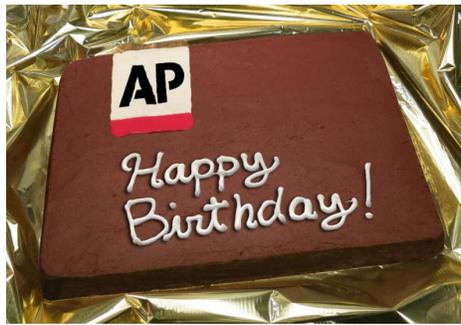
Astronaut Nicole Mann shows her dreamcatcher during an interview with The Associated Press from the International Space Station, in an Oct.19, 2022 image from NASA video. The first Native American woman in space said Wednesday that she's overwhelmed by the beauty and delicacy of Mother Earth, and is channeling "positive energy" as her five-month mission gets underway. NASA VIA AP

On Oct. 19, the first Native American woman in space conducted her first interview from space with AP writer Marcia Dunn. The format was unique: All the questions came from AP members and Indigenous news outlets — an AP first aimed at helping local media connect with major news sources.

Dunn had been presented with a challenge: Would it be possible for the AP to connect Indigenous and other local newsrooms with Marine Col. Nicole Mann — and do it while she's in space? The longtime aerospace journalist did not hesitate: She came up with a format, employed her deep sourcing at NASA and quickly set up what became a first-of-its-kind, beautifully executed and widely viewed event.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Gene Blythe](#)

[Betsy Brenner](#)

[Mike Graczyk](#)

Stories of interest

Musk tweets link to an unfounded conspiracy theory

(AP)

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elon Musk on Sunday tweeted a link to an unfounded rumor about the attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, just days after Musk's purchase of Twitter fueled concerns that the social media platform would no longer seek to limit misinformation and hate speech.

Musk's tweet, which he later deleted, linked to an article by a fringe website, the Santa Monica Observer, an outlet that has previously asserted that Hillary Clinton died on Sept. 11 and was replaced with a body double.

In this case, the article recycled a baseless claim that the personal life of Paul Pelosi, the speaker's husband, somehow played a role in an intruder's attack last week in the couple's San Francisco home, even though there is no evidence to support that claim.

Musk did so in reply to a tweet by Hillary Clinton. Her tweet had criticized Republicans for generally spreading "hate and deranged conspiracy theories" and said, "It is shocking, but not surprising, that violence is the result."

Read more [here](#).

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Journalistic Objectivity Is Overrated. What Really Matters Is Transparency, Accuracy, and Fairness (Nieman Reports)

By Issac J. Bailey

Whatever happened to values voters?

Were they wiped off the face of Earth like dinosaurs? Hitched a ride on unidentified interstellar object Oumuamua, which Harvard astrophysicist Avi Loeb thinks might be evidence of alien intelligence, and are now on the other side of our rapidly expanding universe? Chased Bigfoot into the woods or old Nessie into mysterious waters?

Maybe “values voters” never existed. Or we should admit that all voters are values voters, an acknowledgment that would render the term useless.

Or maybe the media’s insistence upon using the term “values voters” to apply to only a slice of the electorate is evidence of the futility of trying to practice a form of “objectivity” that satisfies everyone, especially those who don’t apply similar standards to themselves?

Same can be said of the recently released Nina Totenberg memoir about her friendship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whom she also covered as a reporter for NPR.

Read more [here](#).

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Opinion What journalists should do if Trump returns to Twitter (Washington Post)

By Megan McArdle

Until it happened, I didn’t want to go out on a limb and say that Elon Musk would definitely buy Twitter. I am reluctant to make firm predictions about anything Musk does. So, until he actually walked into Twitter headquarters carrying a sink, I treated his acquisition of Twitter as a thought experiment, like Schroedinger’s cat — maybe it is alive! Maybe it is dead! The only way to find out is to wait and see.

But now he’s gone and done it, and it’s time to start grappling with the problem that might soon be upon us: What to do if Musk allows former president Donald Trump to rejoin Twitter?

By “us,” I mostly mean journalists. If you are not a journalist, there is an easy way to handle Trump’s tweeting: ignore it. Sure, I understand that you might be anxious about his vile provocations, but your fretting about every stupid tweet isn’t going to change anything. I promise that if Trump does something that you urgently need to

know about — like getting elected president — we in the mainstream media will hasten to tell you about it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Sibby Christensen.

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Served on AP board from 2000-2009 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette publisher Walter Hussman Jr. to retire by year's end

by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Walter Hussman Jr. will retire as publisher of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette by the end of the year, he said Thursday night at the Arkansas Press Association's inaugural Arkansas Press Freedom Gala at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Hussman, 75, rose from placing comics in the Camden News for 25 cents an hour at age 10 to creating the Democrat-Gazette, when as publisher of the Arkansas Democrat he bought the assets of the Arkansas Gazette at the end of the newspaper war in 1991.

He also led the newspaper into the digital age by reserving the newspaper's online stories for subscribers and ending the delivery of print newspapers to households, except on Sundays, in favor of a digital edition delivered to iPads that are provided for free to subscribers.

"The time now is for the next generation," Hussman said Thursday night.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Oct. 31, 2022



Today is Monday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2022. There are 61 days left in the year.

This is Halloween.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (sikh) security guards.

On this date:

In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state as President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation.

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1964, Theodore C. Freeman, 34, became the first member of NASA's astronaut corps to die when his T-38 jet crashed while approaching Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) took the oath of office as the first president of South Vietnam's second republic.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II formally proclaimed that the Roman Catholic Church had erred in condemning the astronomer Galileo for holding that the Earth was not the center of the universe.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito (ah-LEE'-toh) to the Supreme Court. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks was honored during a memorial service in Washington, D.C.

In 2015, a Russian passenger airliner crashed in a remote part of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula 23 minutes after taking off from a popular Red Sea resort, killing all 224 people on board.

In 2019, President Donald Trump announced that he would be making Palm Beach, Florida, his permanent residence after leaving the White House rather than returning to Trump Tower in New York.

In 2020, actor Sean Connery, who rose to international stardom as the suave secret agent James Bond and then carved out an Oscar-winning career in other rugged roles, died at his home in the Bahamas at the age of 90.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama joined New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for a tour of damage along the Jersey coast from Superstorm Sandy; Wall Street was back in business after a two-day shutdown caused by the storm. (Stocks finished mixed).

Five years ago: Eight people were killed when a man drove a truck along a bike path in New York City in an attack that authorities immediately labeled terrorism; the driver, identified by authorities as Uzbek immigrant Sayfullo Saipov, was shot and wounded by police. Netflix said it was suspending production on "House of Cards" following sexual harassment allegations against its star, Kevin Spacey. (Spacey would later be fired from the show, and production resumed without him.)

One year ago: Southwest Airlines said it was investigating after a pilot greeted passengers over the plane's public address system using a phrase that had become a stand-in for insulting President Joe Biden. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said she had contracted COVID-19 and was experiencing mild symptoms. American Airlines canceled hundreds of flights for a third straight day as it struggled with staffing shortages.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lee Grant is 97. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 91. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 85. Actor Ron Rifkin is 84. Actor Sally Kirkland is 81. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 77. Actor Stephen Rea is 76. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 75. Actor Deidre Hall is 75. TV show host Jane Pauley is 72. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 65. Movie director Peter Jackson is 61. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 61. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 59. Rock musician Mikkey Dee is 59. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 59. Actor Rob Schneider is 59. Country singer Darryl Worley is 58. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 57. Rap musician Adrock is 56. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 55. Rock musician Rogers Stevens (Blind Melon) is 53. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 52. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 51. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 49. Actor Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 46. Actor Brian Hallisay is 44. Actor Samaire (SAH'-mee-rah) Armstrong is 42. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 42. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 41. Actor Justin Chatwin is 40. Actor Scott Clifton is 38. Actor Vanessa Marano is 30. Actor Holly Taylor is 25. Actor Danielle Rose Russell is 23. Actor-singer Willow Smith is 22.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

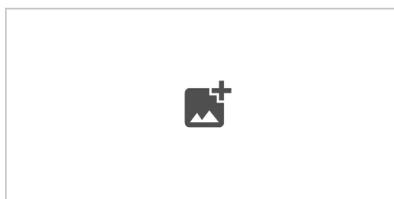
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**

Paul Stevens

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