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C.

COLLECTIVE



REPORTER

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THE HAGUE

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EDITORS NOTE

Welcome back. The new Collective Reporter issue greets you with a warm comeback and a handful of information. From political updates, discussions on issues surrounding diversity to healthcare system difficulties. In Collective Reporter we always strive to provide fact-based news pieces whose grounds are deeply founded in research that is ardently conducted by our journalists. The students from The Hague University of Applied Sciences express interest in various areas which has been clearly indicated in their approach to selected topics.

In a world full of overflowing information, this issue delivers concise and up to date articles enriched with passion for knowledge and truth. What may seem as a diverse collection of opinions, the first edition of this academic year promises to leave you captivated and apprised of current affairs.

Wishing you a bright read.

Kristína

Chair of the Collective, Editor, and Writer

With a lot of things constantly happening in our world, it is important to keep an eye on the news and the political changes our society takes. Collective Reporter writers are here to bring the attention of our readers to what they deem important and interesting.

I would like to thank all of the writers of this edition — they worked really hard for this issue to become real. And, of course, special thanks to our design and marketing team!

We want to spark conversations, we want to talk about prominent issues, we want to share ideas and projects. It's a great way to start the New Year and dive straight into what it's yet to bring.

Collective Reporter is constantly evolving, and our writers have so many beautiful things to share. We want you to grow with us, to learn, and to find joy in news things.

All the best,

Pana

Collective Reporter Editor, Events Assistant, and Writer

IS BONE MARROW THE NEW GOLD?

by Kristína Cáková

Across the whole of Europe, a so-called pandemic of scarcity among bone marrow donors has spread.

THE EVER-GROWING NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH LEUKAEMIA HAVE BEEN WAITING TO MATCH WITH POTENTIAL DONORS FOR MONTHS, AS THERE IS ONLY A 25% CHANCE THAT THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS CAN PROVIDE THE CURE TO THEIR ILLNESS.

SUCH SHORTAGE MARKS ONE QUESTION: WHY ARE PEOPLE SO FEARFUL OF POTENTIALLY BECOMING SOMEONE'S LIFE SAVIOUR?

Unfortunately, today's societal values started progressively growing towards self-perseverance rather than community welfare, eluding the ones who are not closely related to us. A similar trend used to be naturally popular in the Western parts of the world, but who would have thought the pattern might also reach the family-oriented mindset of Eastern corners?

A great example of the above-mentioned switch is Slovakia. A country, whose marketing culture once used to thrive at the expense of the community's well-being, is now a country that is severely divided due to its political instability. Effects of such discord have permeated to problems such as bone marrow donation.

Current numbers in the National Register of bone marrow donors reveal 6500 members, an alarming number since for a register to become effective even in a small country like Slovakia, the numbers should reach four times greater results.

Thanks to the realisation of the severity of the problem, an association called Drop of Hope or *Kvapka nádeje* in Slovak was created back in 2010 by a group of initiative individuals. In the past few years, the association has recognised the low donor registration rate and decided to launch a campaign mainly directed at young people called "Are you thirsty?" / "Do you have some saliva?" Due to the campaign name's double meaning, the potential to catch one's attention rockets curiosity of its nature.

The campaign focuses on the simplicity and effortlessness of becoming a bone marrow donor. To become a donor and officially registered in the National Register of Bone Marrow donors all you need to do is fill out a questionnaire and donate your saliva in a small container. What may seem like a bizarre and off-putting procedure can possibly match you with a person whose only chance for survival lies in your hematopoietic cells found in the bone marrow.



Kristína Cáková: "Kvapka Nádeje" volunteers at the promotional stand in Holič, Slovakia, on 22nd July 2023.

So if the process to become a donor is relatively plain, why do people still hesitate? You might have guessed it right, the majority of the interested flees at the idea of having an enormous needle injected into their back. What only a small portion of society knows is that there has been progress in the innovation of the extraction process. Nowadays, the hematopoietic cells found in bone marrow are extracted through the same process as during blood or plasma donation. In the comfort of a chair and supervision of professionals.

As the potential pitfall of donor registrations may arise from the lack of communication regarding the extraction and registration processes, Drop of Hope also decided to promote the campaign at summer festivals, universities, and high schools – hearths of young people. On paper, the association is doing everything it can, in what seems an effective way, yet still only a few individuals perceive the cause as something they can affect and truly influence.

Our bodies recover from the donation of our bone marrow but the bodies of little kids and young adults will not survive without the transplantation.

Whether you come from Slovakia or any other corner of the world, The World Marrow Donor Association accepts registrations globally, connecting donors with patients in need of their help. So maybe this year, instead of shallow New Year's resolutions such as following a diet, you may think of resolving to become a registered bone marrow donor, getting one step closer to saving someone's life.



Kristína Cáková: View from the "Kvapka Nádeje" promotional stand in Holíč, Slovakia, on 22nd July 2023.



KRISTINA IS A COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT WHO LOVES READING, WRITING AND ENJOYS A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE. SHE BELIEVES IN A WORLD FULL OF EQUALITY AND COMPASSION, SHARED THROUGH STORIES AND KINDNESS.

WHO IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINIA?

by Ju Laclau Massaglia

On November 19, 2023, a new President was announced in Argentina after the third round of votes were scrutinised.

Javier Milei defeated Sergio Massa in a balloting with a turnout of more than 25 million people, which amounts to around 77% of the Argentinian citizens allowed to vote.



Agenzia Nova: Javier Milei winning the elections in November 2023.

These numbers include the 800,000 teenagers between the ages of 16 and 17 allowed to cast their vote due to the establishment of Law 26,774 in 2012. Although the average turnout is above 70%, the announcement of the National Electoral Chamber at 14:00 stating that 59% of the people registered to vote had already done so, marked a clear distinction with the primary elections on August 13 with a turnout of 69%, the lowest in the history of the country.

The elected President has announced a series of measures he intends to focus on after taking office on December 10 and during the next four years of his governmental period.

There has been a special focus on the economic measures aimed at combating the current crisis.

In this regard, Milei has announced a 15% decrease in public spending that will be made possible by a ‘reorganisation’ of the institutions of the State. This would involve a reallocation of public spending that would increase the funding of all national institutions that defend public safety while cutting the money allocated to areas such as education, sciences and health, which he intends to privatise.

He believes all these changes, along with the elimination of several ministries – like the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation – will “increase efficiency and be less costly”.

Additionally, he intends to get rid of the energy subsidies once the economy begins to recover.

Milei has also expressed his intention to get rid of the Central Bank as a means to stop the emission of Argentinian pesos to reduce inflation which is currently at about 142% per year and to reform the laws to allow people to operate in the currency they prefer – a clear contrast to the conversion restrictions imposed by his predecessors.

ULTIMATELY, HE HAS MADE HIS GOAL OF ‘DOLARISING’ THE ECONOMY PUBLIC, WHICH MEANS REPLACING THE LOCAL CURRENCY WITH DOLLARS THAT ARE CURRENTLY VALUED AT 1,000 PESOS A PIECE.

Carlos Rodríguez, one of the economists advising the elected President, has explained to local newspapers that one of the ways in which this switch would be financed is by selling companies currently owned by the Nation. “Everything that can be owned by the private sector will be owned by the private sector,” stated Milei during an interview with journalist Luis Majul.

This line of action has been compared to the steps taken by former President Carlos Menem, who privatised several public companies and fused or dissolved multiple institutions of the State during his time in office. However, remembering the social backlash and the strikes that such measures aroused during Menem’s presidency, Milei has announced he is willing to punish those “who oppose change in order to maintain their own privileges”. The elected President considers these measures unavoidable to prevent hyperinflation and the worsening of the economic crisis.

Regarding the issue of safety — which has become a major issue to the point where 1,200 aggressive robberies resulted in 22 deaths in the Province of Buenos Aires and the capital city alone during the first five months of 2023, — the elected President has stated his intention to reduce the age at which people can be convicted of a crime as well as the deregulation of the gun market and the imposition of a ban that would forbid foreigners with a criminal record from entering the country. Additionally, he intends to strengthen the “professional and moral authority” of institutions linked to public safety, which will enforce his “zero tolerance” policy against crime.

Adding to this, elected Vice President Victoria Villaruel has publicly supported lifting the ban imposed by former President Raúl Alfonsín after the military dictatorship. This law prohibits the Armed Forces from taking part in operations related to security within the territory of the Nation.



Polar Journal (Dec 11th 2023): Javier Milei and his new vice president, Victoria Villarruel.

Raised in a military family during the dictatorship, she firmly believes in having a “complete memory” under which she describes the military dictatorship as an “internal armed conflict” with two equally guilty parties: the soldiers in charge of the State killings and the “terrorist” left-wing Peronist guerilla who fought against them. However, according to her, the latter has not been punished due to the “dictatorship of the minorities” who have made ideologies such as hers “politically incorrect”.

However, younger members of the military who have been educated during the democracy resent some components of the approach of the elected Vice President, such as the idea of repression which they consider a thing of the past. “We belong to a different generation and we find this upsetting,” a source within the Army told journalist Federico Rivas Molina.

“Why would we return to a discourse that still damages us 40 years later?” asked the source. Still, there are retired members of the army who support this line of thought and who have been promised pension benefits once the new government takes office.

When discussing foreign policy, Milei has stated he wants to form political alliances with “the free world” and leave any economic alliances to whatever private businesses consider best.

ADDITIONALLY, HE STATED THAT HE WOULD DECLINE THE INVITATION TO JOIN BRICS, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES OF WHICH BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE PART.

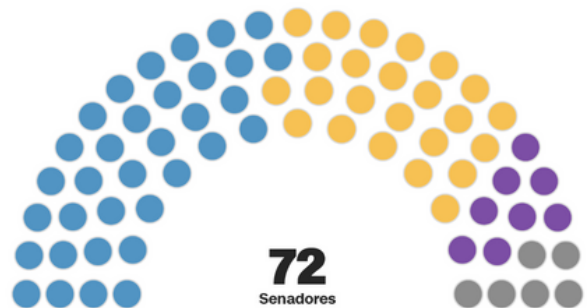
He also opposes the Pope due to his support of the previous government, but clarified that, if he were to visit Argentina, he would be welcomed “with the same honorary treatment as the Head of any State”.

longside Milei and Villaruel’s new positions, new Congress People have been elected for both the Southern Common Market and the National Congress.



JU IS A SECOND-YEAR COMMUNICATION STUDENT WITH A BIG PASSION FOR BOOKS AND WRITING. SHE IS A WORK IN PROGRESS THAT IS CONTINUOUSLY TRYING TO BE A VERB INSTEAD OF A NOUN.

Despite their success in the elections, the new governing party, Freedom Advances, will only occupy 7 benches out of 72 in the Senate and 38 out of 257 in the Chamber of Deputies. Still, due to alliances such as the one he formed with Juntos por el Cambio, the party directed by former President Mauricio Macri, he might be able to acquire a majority in Congress to pass the different laws and reforms he has been announcing.



CNN (October 23rd 2023): New configuration of the congress.

However, 142 seats in Congress, 108 in the Chamber of Deputies and 34 in the Senate will remain occupied by the previous ruling party, Union for the Homeland, headed by Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and Sergio Massa.

THE IMPACT OF HOLLYWOOD'S DIVERSITY QUOTAS: WHY DO PEOPLE SUPPORT AND OPPOSE THEM?

by Elissa Neimy

For a while, it seemed that Hollywood was at its peak. Movies had interesting storylines, talented casts, and well-rounded budgets that properly covered all aspects of moviemaking, resulting in films that tried to give minorities their representation while still prioritising art. They produced cinematic pieces that were enjoyable for everyone. As a key player in Hollywood, Disney has brought wonders and nostalgia all over the world, initially through the first-ever animations, expanding their movie magic through the century. However, in the last decade, despite steady earnings and viewers, Hollywood and Disney have faced remarks across the media regarding their spark, creativity, and credibility. So, what exactly happened and why?

Hollywood is a name well-known and respected worldwide. From iconic classics to hit franchises, Hollywood has covered just about every genre and become a symbol of the American Dream. However, over the last couple of decades, moviemakers have faced significant backlash regarding the lack of sufficient diversity in movies, TV shows, award nominations, and award winnings as well as the stereotyping and occasional misrepresentation of minorities in the cinematic universe. These outcries sparked gradual changes across

Hollywood, as women and other formerly underrepresented groups began to see a steady rise in inclusion. At some point, however, the method of trying to create movies with more diverse casts and crews became polarising.

Many are enjoying the refreshing representation changes in cinema. According to Zippia, in 2023 32.5% of Hollywood actors are female, which is a good start with their other statistic showing that 13.2% are black — corresponding with the US's 13.5% African American population. Additionally, reports from the UCLA social sciences study show that “People of colour accounted for 21.6% of the leads in top theatrical films for 2022.” This is great news on many fronts. While some deem the representation to still be insufficient, there is also an appreciation for the progress made — though it fluctuates.



Ministère de la culture (October 26th 2022): Movie theater

Having films led by minorities is a wonderful representation of society's diverse landscape. Representation is important for many reasons. Firstly, many young children do not have the opportunity to see people who look like them on screen. The characters we see on our screens have a heavy impact on our perceptions. We laugh and cry with them and relate to them.

We create connections and grow with many beloved movie characters and so they influence how we see both ourselves and the world around us. Seeing someone who looks like them on screen has a significant effect on the way children grow up. They see themselves as equal and central to society and see their stories and experiences represented in film. This helps them understand themselves and create even deeper and more meaningful connections to stories and productions. Additionally, this has an impact on the rest of society. According to Black Illustrations, representation fosters understanding and tolerance. When people can create connections with characters of a different race, it makes them more likely to be receptive towards other ethnicities in real life and grow up with more understanding, respect and empathy; valuing the place of minorities and seeing them as the integral part of their surroundings that they are.

THE ISSUE OF REPRESENTATION DIVIDES THOSE WHO WANT IT AND THOSE WHO DON'T. NEVERTHELESS, THE TWO MAJOR SUBGROUPS WITHIN THOSE WHO VALUE IT DIFFER IN THE METHOD IN WHICH THEY WISH TO SEE THIS REPRESENTATION.



House beautiful (March 12th 2023): The Oscar's Stage 2023

Recently Hollywood, and more specifically Disney, has been increasing representation in their films by replacing white characters with ethnically diverse actors in the live-action remakes. In fact, this method of inclusion began long ago in a much more subtle way. For example, the 2010 remake of the Karate Kid starring Jackie Chan and Jaden Smith. Or the 2014 remake of Annie, which replaced both leads with African American actors, Quvenzhané Wallis, and Jamie Foxx. Even more recently, the Spiderman remakes starring Tom Holland and Zendaya — for which many had something to say about the new take on MJ's personality and debated which of the 3 remakes (including which Spiderman, MJ, or Gwen) had a more interesting cast. This is a method of inclusion that has made many very happy. It has been heartwarming to see African-American children respond so beautifully to the emotional connection of seeing a black Little Mermaid, for example. As many observe, it is wonderful for the self-esteem and development of these kids and gives black actors who have the same nostalgic connection to these wonderful characters a chance to play them.

Furthermore, many argue that having an actor of a different race does not change the original captivating storyline nor does it erase the original movie. Those who prefer that version still have it and now ethnic minorities have a version of their own. However, there is also another point of view to consider in the latter part of the subgroup that values representation in film.

Many are now worried that these changes are not for the greater social good but rather a political, money-making move. That cinema is no longer a way to comment on politics or challenge it but rather a reflection of it, which diminishes the essence of artistry and creativity. Meaning, that instead of taking an artistic licence with movies because it feels right, because it will elevate the movie or because it will showcase a new angle of the story or message, these changes are no longer subtle and are being made to fill a quota.

THERE ARE NEW RULES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF TAXES AND BUDGETING FOR HOLLYWOOD MOVIES. MOREOVER, THERE ARE SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR MOVIES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN AWARDS.

The Oscar is one such example. On their official website, they state a list of diversity quotas movies must reach in all areas of production, preproduction, and postproduction – in order to be eligible for a nomination.

“TWO out of FOUR of the following standards will be required in order for the film to be deemed eligible”. This includes “Standard A: On-Screen Representation, Themes and Narratives”, which dictates the cast and storylines.

“Standard B: Creative Leadership and Project Team Standard”, meaning a diversity quota to be filled in postproduction (editors, directors and the like). “Standard C: Industry Access and Opportunities”, meaning internships and apprenticeships. As well as “Standard D: Audience Development”, which includes “Representation in development, marketing, publicity, and distribution”. To many, all of the above scream “Diversity hire!”

As a result, in their eyes, movies have no interest in being diverse and making art that better reflects the worldwide social and ethnic background. Classics – like *The Princess and the Frog*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Black Panther*, or the wildly successful live-action Disney remakes like *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, and *The Jungle Book* – that feature diverse casts while being true to the story and the audience who have long-loved the films no longer have a place in Hollywood. The race to signal virtue and be eligible for awards has cheapened the quality of movies and the imagination behind most of the recent storylines. Like, for example, the live-action Disney remake of *The Little Mermaid* sparked similar opposing stances on the method of representation. For many, having an African American Ariel added no depth to the story. Despite Halle Bailey’s talent, many argue that she wasn’t all that impressive as Ariel. She didn’t bring a new dimension to the character that warranted such a drastic change in the iconic redhead’s appearance.



Talking with Tami (May 22nd 2023): Halle Bailey (Ariel), Rob Marshall (Director), and Melissa McCarthy (Ursula) at the movie premier of the little mermaid

In fact, African-American critic Wesley Morris titled his review of the film in the New York Times “The Little Mermaid’ Review: The Renovations Are Only Skin Deep”. He brought up that the film was lacking in many aspects and voiced his opinions saying, “ It reeks of obligation and noble intentions. Joy, fun, mystery, risk, flavor, kink – they’re missing. The movie is saying, “We tried!” Tried not to offend, appall, challenge, imagine.” The diverse and singular backgrounds of all her sister mermaids additionally, seemed unnecessary and confusing and made the iconic characters unrecognisable. Furthermore, though talented, Javier Bardem may not have been the right fit for King Trident as he seemed to lack the forcefulness and intimidating aura that made him so mesmerising in the original animation, an opinion many voiced and a casting choice Mr. Morris also questioned in his article.

As one may argue that with made-up characters appearance doesn’t matter, others say that it brings so many layers to a production. After all, the term “look the part” was coined for a reason. The appearance of a character tells us their social background, history and culture.

It affects the background of the story and the location setting. It would have been, admittedly, incredibly awkward to have a white man play Aladdin, for example. “Why is he in ‘Agrabah?’”, “How did he end up there?”, “Why doesn’t anyone else look like him?”. Or, potentially worse, “Why does everyone look like him? Isn’t the setting somewhere in the Middle East?” Without addressing these questions, such a change would have seemed out of place, while addressing them would have impacted the theme of the movie. Furthermore, the more prominent argument is that these characters, no matter their race, have a nostalgic feel and are connected to many memories for the people who were waiting for the remake.

Moreover, a popular opinion that appeared repeatedly across media platforms was that if representation was truly important to Hollywood, they would allocate a budget, effort, and time to write new POC iconic characters which everyone would enjoy and make them the original. An additional question to ponder is “If remaking an iconic movie with diverse-race actors was so in demand, why not remake wonderful movies like The Princess and The Frog, Pocahontas, or Lilo and Stitch?”, which may make one wonder whether those be remade soon as well and then have all the modern remakes featuring non-white leads? Understandably, this raises concerns about this method of inclusion in movies.

Although it is true that people of colour should have the opportunity to play beloved characters, TikTok was up in arms, often taking a sarcastic or comedic tone, typical of Gen Z, to question whether it would be acceptable for white actors to play iconic ethnic characters.



Art: Christopher Smith, used in the article on WRAP PRO (July 17th 2023)

And truly, now that we have an image of Princess Tiana (*The Princess and The Frog*) in our heads, or of Esmeralda (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), how would we feel about a white actress in those roles? Most recently, Disney has faced backlash over casting Latina actress Rachel Zegler as Snow White. The backlash was so intense that she is now being replaced. Also, in the works “Peter Pan and Wendy” with black actress Yara Shahidi playing the iconic blonde Tinkerbell. The effect of this new agenda, specifically on Gen Z, should be noted.

Mainly the destruction of their nostalgic associations with iconic and beloved characters. Also, the disinterest and disappointment in the quality of recent productions and the lack of creativity in these repetitive storylines, sequels, and remakes. However, it is tricky as the value of ethnically diverse characters and actors carries so much important weight for current and future generations of movie-watchers and has the power —when done right — to positively impact our societies.

ELISSA IS A 2ND YEAR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT FROM CYPRUS. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT LITERATURE AND STORYTELLING. ELISSA DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN JOURNALISM IN HER TEENAGE YEARS AMONGST MANY OTHER HOBBIES AND SPEAKS 5 LANGUAGES.



The Strike of Violence in Sweden

By Amina Kosovac



Stavanger Aftenblad (April 19th 2022): Cars are on fire at Rosengårdsskolen in Sweden.

THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERNS FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE, AFTER A GROWING WAVE OF VIOLENCE, THAT IS CONNECTED TO A GANG RIOT IN A CRIMINAL NETWORK FOXTROT OCCURRED/SPREAD THROUGH THE COUNTRY.

The network, led by Rawa Majid, also known as “The Kurdish Fox”, emerged at the end of 2010. On one side there is Majid who orchestrates everything from Turkey, and on the other side Ismail Abdo, who seemed to be one of Majid’s closest allies until recently.

There seems to be some bad blood split between Abdo and Majid after a major drug deal went wrong.

The internal turmoil in Foxtrot has made the wave of violence even worse. This is happening while the Foxtrot network has been challenged by the Dalen network about control of drug markets, in other places like Stockholm, Uppsala, and Sundsvall. Multiple gangs have joined forces to stop this war and minimize Majid’s recruitment of young criminals. The Swedish prime minister, Ulf Kristersson, from the conservative party Modertarna, has promised tougher measures on both immigration and criminal policy.

Politicians and researchers stated that the reason why the criminal network had been expanding was the poor integration of newly arrived immigrants into Swedish culture.

Cities like Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Malmö have high immigrant and unemployment density. In addition, Sweden has fewer language requirements to obtain a residence permit, compared to the neighbouring Nordic countries.

Even though Sweden is facing a lot of issues now, the government that was elected a year ago has shown initiative to tackle the crime.

They have promised stricter penalties and more surveillance. They are also pushing for increased investment in social services and the school system. However, there is still a long way to go and it will take some time for the situation to resolve.



NRK (September 10th 2022): Riots breaking out in Sweden amongst gang movements.

AMINA IS FROM NORWAY. SHE'S AN ICM STUDENT, AND LOVES TO READ. SHE HAS STUDIED POLITICAL SCIENCE BEFORE WHICH SPARKED HER INTEREST IN WRITING ABOUT POLITICS FOR THE COLLECTIVE REPORTER.



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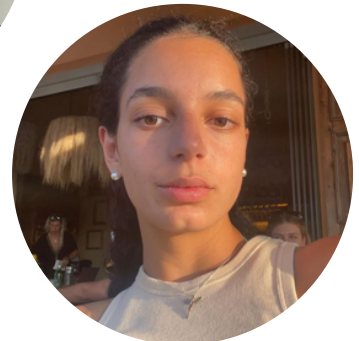
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C.

What is YOUR point of view?

Once you feel ready to share it with the world, reach out to us
and send us what you wrote (anonymous or not).

Contact us under *collective.thehague@gmail.com*

We can't wait to hear from you!

Impressum

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