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ON HER 22ND

STUDENTS, FACULTY ENJOY
COW AMONGUS

MCKINNER DIXON
MAKES A COMEBACK

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TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008
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INTERNATIONAL FASHION
SEE PAGE 6

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Polygamy investigation goes to court

SAN ANGELO (AP)—Nearly four dozen lawyers, many of them not yet assigned to clients, packed a West Texas courtroom Monday as a judge began to sort out the custody of children seized from a polygamist sect.

State District Judge Barbara Walther held the preliminary hearing to prepare for Thursday's expected marathon session, when the state will plea for permanent custody of the 416 children seized early this month from the Eldorado ranch of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon sect.

NATION

Delta, Northwest inch closer to merger

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta and Northwest appeared to move closer Monday to a deal that would create the world's biggest carrier, but the exact timing of an announcement remained uncertain as closed-door meetings continued.

Three people familiar with the talks said Sunday that a deal could be announced as early as Tuesday. One of those people said Monday an announcement could be moved up to Monday night if everything fell into place.

WORLD

Militants kill 11 sleeping Afghan police

MIRANJAN, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants crept through groves of grape vines and pomegranate trees to launch a surprise assault Monday, killing 11 policemen sleeping on a mud floor in southern Afghanistan.

The midnight attack at a small police outpost 15 miles north of Kandahar—the Taliban's former stronghold—was the latest assault against the vulnerable police force.

DEATH TOLL

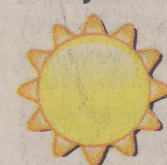
4031

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press confirmed by the Department of Defense

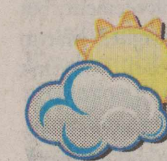
WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 83
LOW 40

Wednesday



CLOUDY
HIGH 85
LOW 46

INSIDE

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Iraq's free budget ride may be nearing end

By ANNE FLAHERTY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iraq's financial free ride may be over.

After five years, Republicans and Democrats seem to have found common ground on at least one aspect of the war. From the fiercest war foes to the most steadfast Bush supporters, they are looking at Iraq's surging oil income and saying Baghdad should start picking up the tab, particularly for rebuilding hospitals, roads, power lines and the rest of the shattered country.

"I think the American people are growing weary not only of the war, but they are looking at why Baghdad can't pay more of these costs. And the answer is they can," says Sen. Ben

Nelson of Nebraska.

Nelson, a Democrat, is drafting legislation with Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Evan Bayh of Indiana that would restrict future reconstruction dollars to loans instead of grants.

Their bill also would require that Baghdad pay for the fuel used by American troops and take over U.S. payments to predominantly Sunni fighters in the Awakening movement. Plans are to propose the legislation as part of a war bill to cover spending through September.

Likewise, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he wants to add a provision to a defense policy bill that would force the Iraqi

government to spend its own surplus in oil revenues to rebuild the country before U.S. dollars are spent.

These senators, who are well-known war skeptics, could find allies in lawmakers who support President Bush's current Iraq policies. In hearings last week, Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., asked Defense Secretary Robert Gates whether Baghdad should start paying some U.S. combat costs, and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., raised the possibility that an anticipated Iraqi budget surplus this year could be used to help Afghanistan, whose \$700 million in annual revenue represents a small fraction of Iraq's \$46.8 billion budget.

Bush has suggested that Congress is

preaching to the choir. Last week, he noted that Baghdad's latest budget would outspend the U.S. by more than 10 to one on Iraq reconstruction, with American funding for large-scale projects "approaching zero."

"Ultimately, we expect Iraq to shoulder the full burden of these costs," he said.

But lawmakers are skeptical. Considering that past predictions in Iraq have fallen short, the legislation would ensure Iraq assumes more of the financial burden, they say.

On the surface, it looks as though the U.S. has about split the costs of rebuilding efforts with the Iraqis: Congress has appropriated about \$47.5 billion since 2003 while the Iraqis have budgeted \$50.6 billion. International contributions have totaled \$15.8 billion.

GATOR-AID

Texas Tech athletics lost more than \$200,000 on bowl appearance

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

A shortfall in travel allowance given by the Big 12 Conference caused the Texas Tech football team to reach into its financial pockets after the team's trip to the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl Jan. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla.

Bobby Gleason, Tech's deputy athletic director, said while the numbers still may fluctuate, the athletic department spent \$202,240 out of its regular operating budget of \$44 million, which goes to show that the public can be misled when it sees the bowl payout numbers.

"Most fans read something that says that the Gator Bowl payout is \$2.5 million," Gleason said. "Most fans think that goes to us because we're playing in the Gator Bowl, but they don't understand that all that money is paid to the conference."

Gleason

said, in turn, the Big 12 Conference disperses a formula-based travel allowance among the teams attending bowl games.

"With (750) people traveling, it gets very expensive very quickly," Gleason said. "So we basically hope to break even on that travel allowance each year. We hope that we spend a little bit less than what it is, but it does take most of that money to travel."

Gleason said because the Gator Bowl is a tier-one bowl—a level below a BCS bowl—the formula provided Tech with a bowl appearance fee of \$925,000 and a reimbursement policy that gives \$199 per mile traveled.

According to the bowl's financial report, the trip to Jacksonville equaled \$239,198 in reimbursement money, so Tech received just under \$1.1 million.

To put it in perspective, Gleason said the appearance fee for a BCS bowl is \$1.5 million along with the reimbursement policy.

According to the report, Tech subtracted nearly \$74,000 after ticket sales did not equal the total price of complimentary tickets used by the university.

Gleason said Tech used about half of the 12,000 tickets that were available to sell.

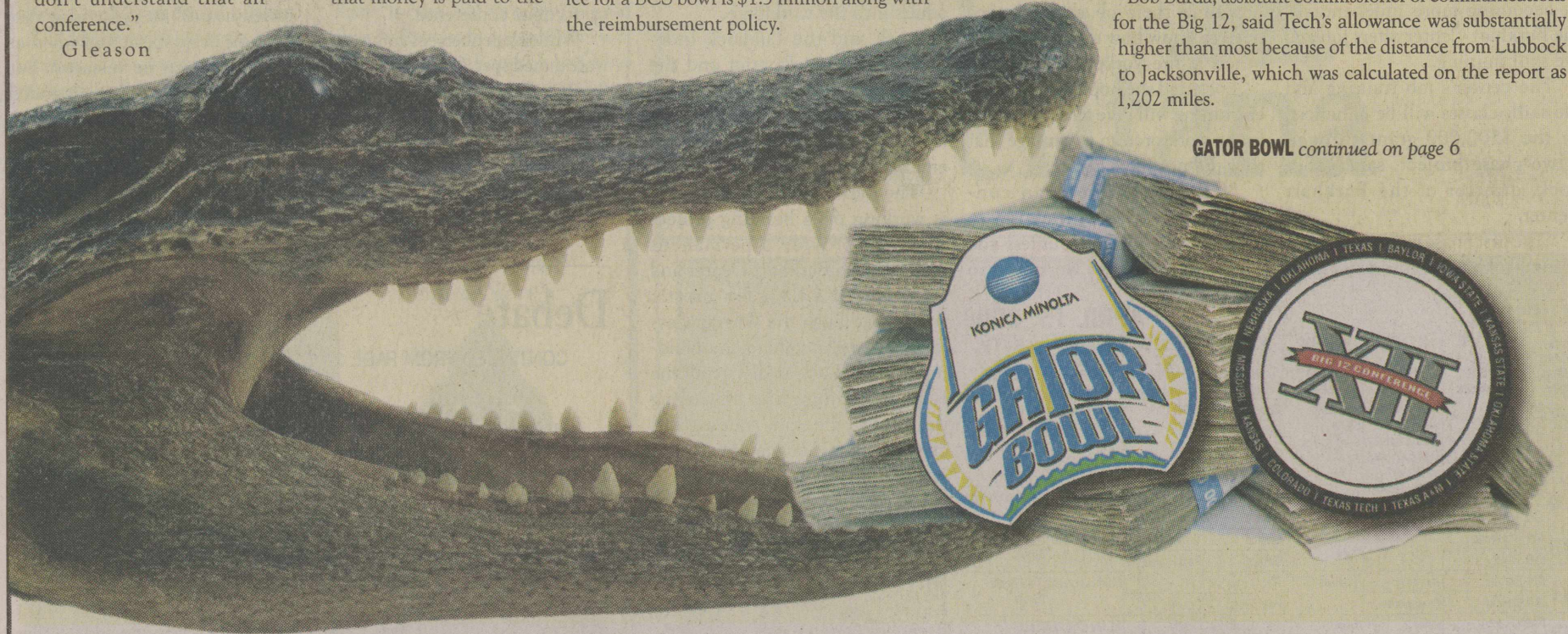
The financial report indicated that Tech spent approximately 68 percent of its allowance on transportation, meals and lodging, while roughly 27 percent went toward awards and extra compensation for staff.

"If you take away what we paid for the extra work effort, whatever the people devote to the bowl," Gleason said, "then that gets you back closer to a break even point."

The remaining five percent was spent on promotion and advertising, media guides, and training room supplies, according to the report.

Bob Burda, assistant commissioner of communications for the Big 12, said Tech's allowance was substantially higher than most because of the distance from Lubbock to Jacksonville, which was calculated on the report as 1,202 miles.

GATOR BOWL continued on page 6



Mayoral candidates debate; analyze mistakes, look at future

By MAGGIE KIELY
STAFF WRITER

Broadcasting to a live audience on Lubbock Independent School District's TV station, mayoral candidates David Miller and Tom Martin did their best to answer questions Monday evening at a debate sponsored by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

With incidences like the Chippendale's dancers getting arrested in Lubbock and visitors being harassed by security at the Lubbock International Airport gaining national media attention, candidates were asked how they would improve the national reputation of Lubbock.

Miller said even though it may not be the mayor making the mistake, it is ultimately up to him to take accountability for local embarrassments and get the whole story out.

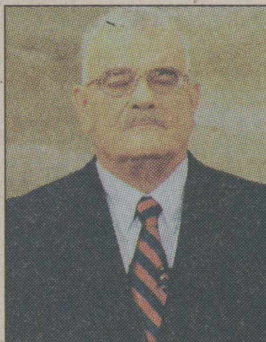
"The buck stops at the mayor's desk; the mayor needs to take responsibilities for things that come his or her way," Miller said. "I will tell you that I will always publicly support our police and the rest of our staff."

Martin said he believes taking the Giant Side of Texas Program to a state and national level would shine Lubbock in a positive light.

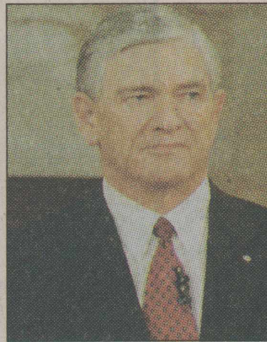
"Originally, the program was designed to educate our own citizens on the history of Lubbock and the good things about Lubbock. I'd like to see that program expanded," Martin said. "People are proud of their city and they want to tell that to others."

When it comes to placing items on bond packages, both candidates said they agreed that ultimately it is the residents' choice what is and what is not included.

"Lubbock is a very conservative city, (residents) want to see progress get made, but they



MARTIN



MILLER

understand you can't do it all at one time," Martin said. "Voters have the final say."

While the candidates agreed on some issues, when it came to dealing with controversial city issues, Martin and Miller differed.

"Sometimes things that are proposed may be better left not done," Martin said, citing the failed red-light camera program as an example of business better left untouched.

"This council has never dogged a single tough issue," Miller said in response. "This council has refused to pass on future problems to future councils."

As part of Lubbock High School's Future Leaders of America Promote the Vote project, students were asked to submit ques-

tions to the debate.

One question selected from the students asked the candidates what they would do to keep young people in Lubbock after finishing their educations.

Miller said it was not the local government's responsibility to create jobs, keep families together or make sure people are entertained, "but is Lubbock's job to create an atmosphere where those things can take place." He said he believes creating partnerships with organizations like the Lubbock Economic Development Association is important to creating quality jobs.

"We have to have a thriving local economy," Martin said in response to the question, "and a very well-run city."

Looking toward the future, candidates offered their opinions about what they believed Lubbock would be like in 2020.

DEBATE continued on page 2

Tech authors give advice on writing novels

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech welcomed three accomplished authors to speak to students about the pitfalls and plus sides of writing a novel Monday in the College of Mass Communications.

Tech students and faculty members received writing advice and industry critiques from Randy Black, Pete Brewton and Linda Francis Lee. Lee and Black are Tech alumni, and Brewton is a visiting assistant professor.

The purpose of the event, "So you want to write a novel," was to inform students of the process of completing a novel — from finding the desire to write, to character development, all the way to publishing, according to a university news release. All three authors passed on their experiences in writing and publishing to Tech students who have a desire to be published authors.

Lee graduated from Tech in 1981 with an advertising degree. She had become a published author even before receiving her diploma.

While attending Tech, Lee said, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, and as a freshman and sophomore, could not imagine what she would do after college.

However, as a junior, Lee "fell in love with mass communications."

"After I was published, I began to love having the ability to sell what I wrote," she said.

Lee, who has written 19 novels since graduating from Texas Tech, said one of her most recent books, entitled "The Devil in The Junior League," caught the eye of actress Jennifer Garner, who is producing and starring in a film based on the novel.

Lee said her advice to students desiring to be published authors is, "if you want to make a profession of it, you have to be willing to do the work."

Every author, Lee said, herself included, has a theme running through every story he or she puts on paper.

Lee's stories all carry the theme of a woman's journey to find herself. Lee said she remembers a time when she was not much different from the characters in her books,

and she struggled to find herself until she was 20 years old, when she realized she wanted to take little stories and make them into larger-than-life novels.

Black graduated from Tech with a degree in journalism, which he used to land a job at the *Dallas Times Herald*, and received honors from organizations including the Society of Professional Journalists and the Headliners Club of Austin. Black is the author of the novel, "Randy Black's Favorite Tales of Siberia," which has been accepted into the 2008 Pulitzer Prize competition.

Black said of all the majors at Tech, journalism gave him the tools he needed to make a living — a benefit he did not realize until after he graduated.

Black's tales came from living in Russia for three years. Similar to the way Lee was searching to find herself, Black said he struggled to discover the meaning of life.

Black explained that he found the meaning of life while in a college dorm room in Russia, while it was 36 degrees below zero.

From this, he said he realized everyone is the same.

His book came from his desire to become a good storyteller, he said. Unlike Lee, Black had a more difficult time getting his book published. After being rejected by many publishing companies, including Tech's university publisher, TechPress, Black decided to self-publish his book through the Web site www.lulu.com.

Black said his advice to students was to not give up when trying to be published, and to self-publish if one must.

Brewton has won almost two-dozen reporting awards and is the author of the recently published, "Lone Star Law," a novel set on the South Plains, and he made it clear to students that writing is not easy.

"I can't tell you how to summon your muse," he said, "but I can tell you that writing is the hardest thing I've ever done."

Because writing can be so difficult, Brewton said, the only way to overcome it is through alienation.

Brewton's advice to writers is to separate themselves from everything else in their lives.

"A strange surrounding stimu-

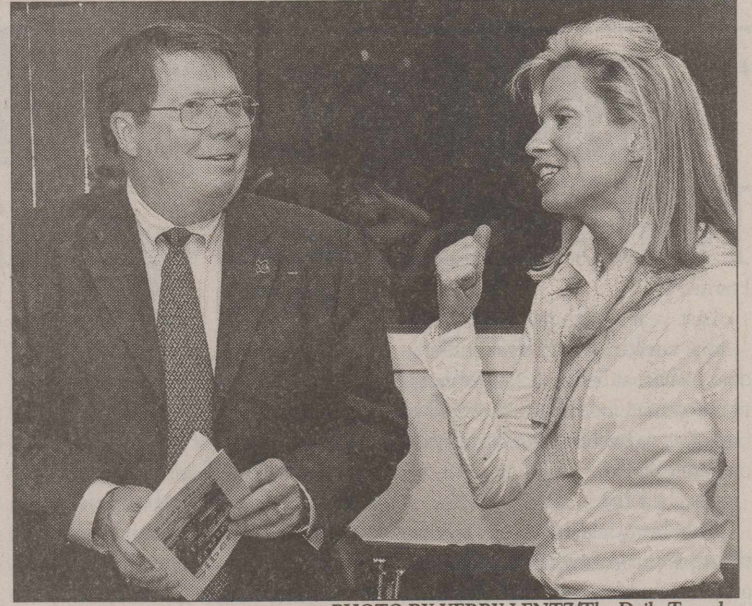


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

AUTHOR RANDY BLACK listens while author Linda Francis Lee tells a story about being in the Junior League that helped influence her in writing her new book "The Devil in the Junior League" Monday in the Mass Communications building.

lates muse," he said, "and that's the only force to get you to write every day."

One thing all three speakers could agree on was that non-fiction writing is a good place for a beginning writer to start.

Lee's advice to students who are

just starting to write is, "if you can become an expert on anything and are able to shed light on that subject, that's a great way to start."

All three authors agree it is easy to write about something one is familiar with.

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Food costs rising forcing food vendors to explain higher prices

NEW YORK (AP) — Steve Tarpin can bake a graham cracker crust in his sleep, but explaining why the price for his Key Lime pies went from \$20 to \$25 required mastering a thornier topic: global economics.

He recently wrote a letter to his customers and posted it near the cash register listing the factors — dairy prices driven higher by conglomerates buying up milk supplies, heat waves in Europe and California, demand from emerging markets and the weak dollar.

The owner of Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies in Brooklyn said he didn't want customers thinking he was "jacking up prices because I have a unique product."

"I have to justify it," he said.

The U.S. is wrestling with the worst food inflation in 17 years, and analysts expect new data due on Wednesday to show it's getting worse. That's putting the squeeze on poor families and forcing bakeries, bagel shops and delis to explain price increases to their customers.

U.S. food prices rose 4 percent in 2007, compared with an average 2.5 percent annual rise for the last 15 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the agency says 2008 could be worse, with a rise of as much as 4.5 percent.

Higher prices for food and energy are again expected to play a leading role in pushing the government's consumer price index higher for March.

Analysts are forecasting that Wednesday's Department of Labor report will show the Consumer Price Index rose at a 4 percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, up from last year's overall rise of 2.8 percent.

For the U.S. poor, any increase in food costs sets up an either-or equation: Give something up to pay for food.

"I was talking to people who make \$9 an hour, talking about how they might save \$5 a week," said Kathleen DiChiara, president and CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. "They really felt they couldn't. That was before. Now, they have to."

For some, that means adding an extra cup of water to their soup, watering down their milk, or giving their children soda because it's cheaper than milk, DiChiara said.

U.S. households still spend a smaller chunk of their expenses for foods than in any other country — 7.2 percent in 2006, according to the USDA. By contrast, the figure was 22 percent in Poland and more than 40 percent in Egypt and Vietnam.

In Bangladesh, economists estimate 30 million of the country's 150 million people could be going hungry. Haiti's prime minister was ousted over the weekend following food riots there.

Still, the higher U.S. prices seem eye-popping after years of low inflation. Eggs cost 25 percent more in February than they did a year ago, according to the USDA. Milk and other dairy products jumped 13 percent, chicken and other poultry nearly 7 percent.

USDA economist Ephraim Leibtag explained the jumps in a recent presentation to the Food Marketing

Institute, starting with the factors everyone knows about: sharply higher commodity costs for wheat, corn, soybeans and milk, plus higher energy and transportation costs.

The other reasons are more complex. Rapid economic growth in China and India has increased demand for meat there, and exports of U.S. products, such as corn, have set records as the weak dollar has made them cheaper. That's lowered the supply of corn available for sale in the U.S., raising prices here. Ethanol production has also diverted corn from dinner tables and into fuel tanks.

Soybean prices have gone up as farmers switched more of their acreage to corn. Drought in Australia has even affected the price of bread, as it led to tighter global wheat supplies.

The jump has left people in the food business to do their own explaining. Twin Cafe Caterers in lower Manhattan posted a letter on its deli cooler: "Due to the huge increase of the gas, the electricity, the water and all the other utilities, we had to raise the prices a little bit." It went on to say that all its food prices have risen, too.

US-friendly Berlusconi wins Italy's election and heads into third stint as government leader

ROME (AP) — Media billionaire Silvio Berlusconi won a decisive victory Monday in Italy's parliamentary election, setting the colorful conservative and staunch U.S. ally on course to his third stint as premier.

The victory in voting Sunday and Monday by parties supporting the 71-year-old Berlusconi avenged his loss two years ago to a center-left coalition.

"I'm moved. I feel a great responsibility," he said in a phone call to RAI public television while monitoring election results at his villa outside Milan. Italian news agencies said he had a private dinner with key aides.

Berlusconi capitalized on discontent over Italy's stagnating economy and the unpopularity of Romano Prodi's government.

"I think it was a vote against the performance of the Prodi government in the last two years," said Franco Pavoncello, a political science professor at Rome's John Cabot University. "Berlusconi won because he has a strong coalition and because people feel that on the other side, the government is going to take them

nowhere."

This was Berlusconi's fifth consecutive national election campaign since 1994, when he stepped into politics from his media empire, currently estimated to be worth \$9.4 billion. He has fended off challenges to his leadership by conservative allies, withstood accusations of conflict of interest and survived criminal trials linked to his business dealings.

During his last time as premier, Berlusconi served a record-setting five years until his 2006 defeat. He made notable international gaffes as well as unpopular decisions at home,

such as sending 3,000 soldiers to Iraq despite widespread opposition among Italians.

The Iraq contingent was withdrawn after his 2006 ballot loss, and he has ruled out sending any more troops there. But his friendship with the United States is not in doubt.

Berlusconi once said he agreed with the United States regardless of Washington's position. He calls President Bush a friend, and his return to power is likely to make relations with Washington warmer, no matter who becomes the next American president.

The outgoing government had colder relations with Washington. Prodi never went to the White House, although he did talk with Bush in Rome and at international summits.

Berlusconi has also affirmed himself as one of Israel's closest friends in Europe.

On Monday, he said he would make his first foreign trip as the new premier by visiting Israel to mark the Jewish state's 60th anniversary. He said it would be a show of support for "the only real democracy in the Middle East."

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