



BIO-FEEDBACK

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

June, 2003 Newsletter

Volume 3

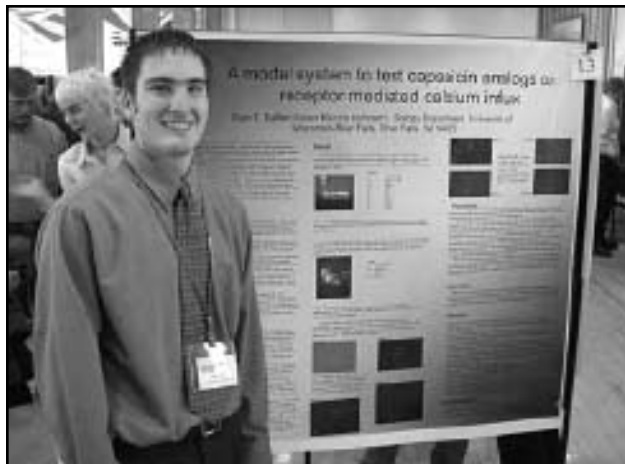
FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Klyczek

This has been an interesting year for the Biology Department. In spite of the state budget crisis and uncertainty about funding, we were able to accomplish many of our goals for the year. You can read about some of these accomplishments elsewhere in this newsletter, but here are some of the highlights:

Remodeling of Room 420 was completed, and we now have a student study area that has already gotten extensive use. We also created lab spaces for student research in cell/molecular biology and ecology. Several Biology students presented their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Salt Lake City, UT, thanks in part to the new student organization (SURSCA) formed to support undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities. The new faculty member hired to support the Biotechnology program, Scott Ballantyne, is off to a good start and has brought new molecular biology expertise to the department. And, finally, after all faculty searches on campus were frozen for several weeks, the biology position was one of the few allowed to go forward. As of this writing, we are interviewing candidates for the Microbiology position.

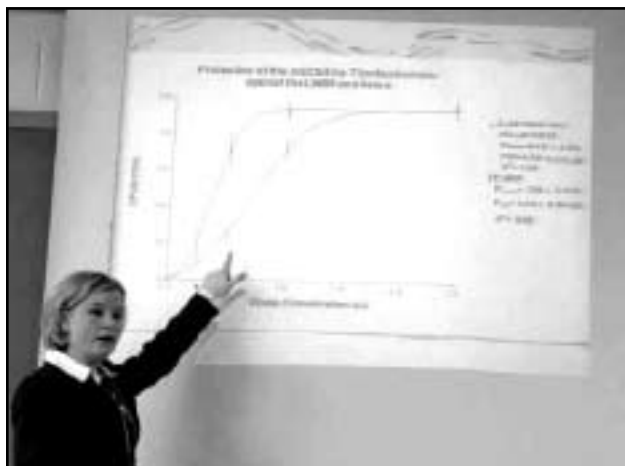
We have enjoyed all of the notes and emails from former students - please keep in touch!



A Poster Presentation at NCUR 2003



A Poster Gallery at NCUR 2003



An Oral Presentation at NCUR 2003

(See SURSCA article on page 5)

CARL FINSTAD

Since retirement in 1994, I've been a volunteer UW-RF football coach, the past seven as halfback coach. The past five years, six halfbacks have been all-conference, five 1st team, one 2nd team. The 2002 season, a sophomore led the conference in rushing, all-purpose yards, touchdowns, and was voted MVP by his teammates. UW-RF football, however, stresses academics: four of the six halfbacks have had 3.0 GPA or better, one a perfect 4.0! I'm also shot clock operator for men's and women's basketball games and work out five days a week in the Emogene Nelson weight room, so the university is still a large part of

“Winter trips have included the Iditerod and dog mushing in the Caribou Hills, Kenai Peninsula, twice, and the Yukon Quest and dog mushing on the Yukon River out of Eagle.”

I've traveled extensively. Six trips have been to Alaska, three summer and three winter. Winter trips have included the Iditerod and dog mushing in the Caribou Hills, Kenai Peninsula, twice, and the Yukon Quest and dog mushing on the Yukon River out of Eagle. Summer trips have been varied, solo and with groups: A Sierra Club Bird Outing for which I did a plant inventory, now it's listed as bird outing and wildflower, too. World Wildlife Fund by air, Anchorage-Petravpovlovsk, Kamchatka, Russia, helicopter to Valley of the Geysers, ocean by ship, Commander and Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Peninsula to Seward. I've been to Denali twice, flown through a crevasse, landed and walked on Ruth Glacier on the mountain by skip plane. I've traveled by various means: by foot on trails, muskeg, snowshoe, tundra and glacier (Kennicott as well as Ruth); water by kayak, canoe, zodiac, floatplane and ship; air by helicopter and plane from mail plane (I was sole passenger) to commercial jet.

Over land travels have been by van, taxi, bus, train, dogsled and snow machine. Bush plane travels I've landed on river and ocean beaches, airstrips, rivers, lakes, and glaciers. I've been north to Barrow, west to Nome, southwest the Aleutian Islands, south to

Seward, southeast to Kitchikan, east to Wrangell-St. Elias and northeast to Eagle. Other WWF trips have been: Mexico Sea of Cortez and Copper Canyon; Africa's Legendary Wildlife Reserves and Great Rift Valley, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa, including Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Pretoria and Sterkfontein Caves, Johannesburg and a balloon ride over the Serengeti (there were also great views of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Kenya), travel to Kenya-South Africa was by chartered DC-6; Yellowstone in Winter, interacting with wolf researchers and observing nature; Patagonia, Chile and Tierra del Tuego, Argentina, primarily by ship with shore excursions by zodiac and a flight over Cape Horn; and Beluga Whale Watch, Churchill, Manitoba by way of Winnipeg. I've also traveled Yellowstone in winter with Defenders of wildlife, observing wolves (we saw the Druid pack four days out of five and members of the Rose Creek pack two days) and their behavior and interacting with researchers, including Defenders Hank Fisher, who headed the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction. My next trip will be with WWF to Mongolia via Tokyo, Japan and Beijing, China late May and early June.

Otherwise, I visit family in Wisconsin and Christmases with daughter and son-in-law, North Fort Myers, Florida and enjoy reading—mostly science and environmental journals. Off-season, also includes occasional football clinics to better myself as a coach. Future travel priorities include Scandinavia/Iceland/Greenland/Australia/New Zealand; I've barely scratched Canada and certainly, Alaska, again, especially the Iditerod and dog mushing.



Carl Dog Mushing in Alaska

JOHN HUDSON

Greetings to all!

Since my retirement in June of 2000, after 31 years of service with the university, a great deal has taken place.

My wife, Sandra (Manosky, UWRF Class of '75), and I continue to reside in rural River Falls on 26.5 acres in a pre-World War I "Prairie Greek Revival" style farmhouse. We currently share the premises with three horses (two aged Thoroughbred mares and a very large 3-year old Anglo/Oldenburger gelding, all of whom were born on the place), 4 English Setter gun dogs, and a variable and, therefore, undetermined number of barn cats of various and, furthermore, undetermined lineages.

The year 2001, was most eventful. In June, Sandra and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary, bought a new English Setter puppy, and attended the English Setter Association of American National Specialty Shows in Decatur, IL, where we competed very successfully in AKC Obedience classes. We hope to attend, again, this coming fall in Cincinnati, OH.

In 2002, I became a sexagenarian. This sounds like a lot more fun than it actually is! On the occasion of my 60th birthday, I decided to take stock of my health. After trips to the doctor and dentist, they determined that I am still in reasonably good health. I still have all my own teeth (except for one wisdom tooth), and a full head of hair (although it is turning gray at a more rapid pace). In this digital age, I am happy to report that I still have all my original manual and pedal digits (although I have broken at least one of each, and some more than once)! They tell me my vision is still "20/20", but that means I can see at 20 feet what others see at 20 feet. If those numbers were in inches, it would be a different story! Let's just say that my 35" sleeve length no longer cuts it on the morning newspaper! I need reading glasses, now. Other than the wisdom tooth and the near-vision, the only other things I have lost (mental or physical) have been my appendix and some cartilage in my right knee, and I really don't miss either of them!

While Sandra is at work as an interpretive naturalist for the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department, I busy myself with the obvious daily chores that are incumbent upon owners of dogs and horses. Mowing 5 acres of lawn and paddocks, maintaining equipment, mending fence, cutting brush, grubbing stumps, stacking firewood,



John with his Winning Setter

cleaning stalls, putting up hay, turning out horses, etc. also help to make the days pass quickly (and you can understand my preoccupation with the preservation of my digits)!

During the winter, I spend an unhealthy amount of time on the computers. We have two ancient (one 5 years, the other 10 years old) Macintosh computers, but I have upgraded both of them. The younger of the two is running the most recent version of Mac OS X, and is now USB and Fire wire capable and can run DVDs. The older one runs not only as a Mac, but boots into the most recent version of Debian GNU Linux, a free, "open source" OS, with which I am now beginning to be reasonably comfortable

and proficient. I suspect this represents the "hot rod" I never had as a teenager! I am learning to use HTML "from scratch" and have a partially completed web page for our kennel devoted to English Setters from the early 1900s "art nouveau" period (I call this "my era")!

I continue to enjoy listening to classical music (mostly Mozart), and have recently taken an interest in opera (something I thought I would never do), as a result of listening to Mozart's operas. I have even started listening to the "hard stuff" (mostly Puccini)! However... Saturday mornings are still devoted to "classic" rock on KQRS! It seems like almost everything I do these days involves something either "classic", "vintage", "legacy" or "old-world". The significance of this phenomenon has not escaped my notice!

We continue to be actively involved with the Minnesota English Setter Club. I am currently serving on the board of directors and edit the club's monthly newsletter. In addition to the time spent in training and competition in obedience and field trial work, we still find time to get in some grouse hunting in the fall. However, I haven't been trout fishing for a couple of years, now, in spite of having a license and living only four miles from some of the best stream trout fishing in the state of Wisconsin! Come to think of it, I haven't gone fishing since the new puppy chewed a hole in the knee of my chest waders (something else I have to fix)!

Please feel free to contact me by E-mail at john.d.hudson@uwrf.edu. I would enjoy hearing from you! My sincerest regards to all of you. Take care!

NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTION

DR. SCOTT BALLANTYNE

Hello! My name is Scott Ballantyne and I would like to introduce myself as the newest member of the biology faculty. I was born and raised in southeastern Wisconsin in the town of Racine. I have an older and younger sister and I was the first in my family to graduate from college. I majored in biology and biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Parkside, in Kenosha. I went on to obtain a masters degree in biology from the University of California, San Diego. I missed winter (see hobbies below) and so my wife and I returned to Wisconsin. I received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1997. I stayed in Madison for the next five years as a post-doctoral research scientist. During this time I discovered that I enjoyed mentoring students even more than performing my own research. I also longed for my undergraduate days when experimental results were celebrated rather than expected. These realizations led me to apply to UWRF.

UW- Parkside and UW- River Falls are quite similar. Both are primarily undergraduate campuses with

I also longed for my undergraduate days when experimental results were celebrated rather than expected.

roughly 5000 students and with faculty dedicated to education. As an undergraduate I benefited from the unique opportunities that such schools offer. I was taught in small classes by professors (not student assistants), and I could always find the instructor to clarify a confusing concept. I got to know my fellow classmates and professors well. I benefited from personalized career guidance. Without doubt the undergraduate experience that most influenced me occurred outside the classroom. I was able to conduct several independent research projects, where



Scott with Walleye

I discovered my own love for science. I am fortunate to have received such an education, and am very excited to now take part in providing a similar experience for students at UWRF.

My research interests focus on how proteins are made, and more specifically how this process is controlled. Genes contain the information needed to make proteins. Proteins are not produced directly from genes, instead an intermediate known as mRNA is employed. Sometimes cells store certain mRNA for later use. So protein is not made from the mRNA initially, but is later on. I am interested in how these mRNA are turned

“off” and “on”. This regulation is common during animal development. I use the African clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis*, to study the process. This frog’s development is well characterized, in part because the embryos develop outside the mother. The hope is that this research will help us understand important developmental events such as how organs form.

My hobbies all relate to the outdoors. I enjoy walks with my wife, Suzanne, and our yellow labrador, Spetzler (long story). I am an avid fisherman of both lakes and streams. My wife and I have a cabin on a small lake in northwestern Wisconsin that we escape to when our schedules allow. I love wilderness canoe camping in the Quetico Provincial Park. I hunt waterfowl, upland game, and deer. Finally, my wife and I are amateur dogsledders. So far we have only “rented” teams from other mushers, but our long term goal is to have a small team of our own. If you have any interest in frogs or dogs, or just want to say hello please contact me – I look forward to hearing from you.

New Student Lounge

Brad Mogen



Microscope Comparisons Set Up in New Lounge

The Biology Department now has an official student lounge! It currently houses an older sofa, a couple of tables and chairs, some bookshelves and a small microwave. We're still deciding on which furniture to acquire in order to complete the room. We anticipate an overhead projector will ultimately be installed so that it might also be used as an intimate seminar room. There are already several students who have "discovered" this space and spend a great deal of quiet time studying—either individually or in small groups.

As you can see by the photo, the room can also be used for other functions. We recently had a microscope vendor set up shop in order to demonstrate various models for potential purchase. Students were invited and encouraged to participate and to provide input in the final decision. It is great to finally have a location where Biology students and staff can relax, study, visit and have a bite to eat (without violating some state or federal statute).

New Student Organization (SURSCA)

Following a year-long effort directed toward sending a significant number of students to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR 2003), the UWRf student RSCA (Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities) organization succeeded in helping to send 32 students accompanied by 6 faculty members to Salt Lake City, Utah. This meeting, held from March 12-16, is the premier undergraduate RSCA event in the United States attended by 2500 students, faculty and administrators. This event, which moves to a new location each year, was held in Whitewater, WI last year and will be in Indianapolis, IN in 2004.

At the 2002 meeting in Whitewater, a group of UWRf students, including many from Biology, joined together and formed a new organization which was named the "Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities" (SURSCA). The primary

focus of this group in its first year has been to repeat the successes of 2002 by sending more than 30 students to Utah. This effort was greatly aided by funding and support from Dr. Ginny Coombs (Provost), the UWRf Student Senate and a generous donation from Dr. Daniel Marchand (Chemistry).

In addition to NCUR 2003, SURSCA has been active in encouraging a "culture of RSCA" on the campus all year. These efforts be-

gan in the fall with sponsorship of an evening of RSCA and will culminate this spring with participation in the UWRf RSCA Day on April 22 and the UW System RSCA day in Eau Claire a few weeks later. The future plans of SURSCA include sending a significant contingent to NCUR 2004 in Indianapolis, expanding the "Fall RSCA Evening" to

include more individuals from the arts and other fields of study, participating in RSCA 2004 and developing a significant funding base to assist other students to participate in various meetings and activities associated with RSCA.

SURSCA Faculty Advisor is Dr. Tim Lyden (Biology Dept). For further information SURSCA maintains a website at www.uwrf.edu/surasca.



Part of the Student Group that went to NCUR 2003

DONALD W. DUSZYNSKI (1966) received his master's degree in 1968 and his Ph.D in Zoology/Parasitology from Colorado State University in 1970. Dr. Duszynski has been on the faculty in the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico since August, 1970; progressed through the ranks and served a 10-year stint (1982-1991) as Chairman. Duszynski served on NSF panels, published over 125 papers, monographs and book chapters and has had grants totaling over \$8 million. He is currently teaching Parasitology, Tropical Biology (with a field trip to Belize each March) and Invertebrate Biology. He said he was fortunate enough to be a student in Biology at UW-RF at a time when it certainly had some of the best teachers anywhere on the planet: Robert B. Bailey III (Sociology), Donald Fry (Psychology), Vera Moss (History), Fran Polsfoot (football), Byron James (wrestling), Mel Wall (agriculture) and in Biology; Benny Kettelkamp, Ginny Akins, and Bob Calentine, all who taught him how to love parasites. He remembers one genetics lecture in particular when a student asked Dr. Akins, "Isn't it possible sometimes for a mother and father who are white to have a black baby?" Dr. Akins, without being either intimidated or intimidating, answered, "In such a situation, either the hospital got the babies mixed up or the mother got the fathers mixed up." What a great legacy those folks have left for future students at UW-RF. eimeria@unm.edu

BRIAN BELSON (1982) since graduating from UW-RF, Dr. Belson went on to Pharmacy and Medical School on a military scholarship. He is currently a staff obstetrician/gynecologist in the Army, stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and clinical professor at the military's medical school, Uniformed Services Univer-

sity of Health Sciences. He resides in Columbia, MD. docflight@yahoo.com

JAMES YOUNK (1989) resides in Boise, ID, where he earned his master's degree in Biology at Boise State University. He is currently working in Environmental Affairs for Idaho Power Co.

AMY GRANLUND (1991) lives in Greenfield, WI, where she is an embryologist with the Reproductive Medicine Clinic at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI. She has two children, a girl and a boy ages 6 and 3 respectively, and a step-daughter who is 9. Amy is actively involved in developing a pre-implantation genetic diagnosis program in association with the Medical College of Wisconsin. agranlund@fmlh.edu

TIM ROETTIGER (1993) resides in Bethel, AK. He was a fishery biologist in the Florida Everglades from 1998-2001. He is now completing his first year with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Fishery Resource Monitoring Biologist in Bethel, AK. Tim_roettiger@fws.gov

ELIZABETH HAMPTON SAUSKER (1995) resides in Middletown, CT, where she is a scientific analyst for Genaissance Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in New Haven, CT. She graduated with a master's degree in microbiology from North Dakota State University in 1998. Her thesis was "Serological and Genomic Study of Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) Virus in North American Bison (*Bison bison*)."

She has two published journal articles from her master's work that can be found in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* 14: 68-70 and 14: 40-46 (2002). Their titles are respectively, "Seroprevalence of OHV-2, BVDV, BHV-1, and BRSV in ranch-raised bison (*Bison bison*)" and "Polymerase chain reaction and DNA sequencing for detection

of ovine herpesvirus 2 in American bison (*Bison bison*)."

She is also an author (part of the BRAC1 Exon 13 Duplication Screening Group) on a publication from her work at the Mayo Foundation entitled, "The Exon 13 Duplication in the BRCA1 Gene is a Founder Mutation Present in Geographically Diverse Populations," *Am J Hum Genet* 67:207-212 (2000). Elizabeth married Justin Sausker in March 2001 in Eau Claire, WI.

MELISSA LEFEBVRE HILLYER (1997) resides in Coon Rapids, MN with her husband Jack Hillyer (1998). Melissa has a beautiful 9-year-old stepson, Dennis. She is a medical technologist (NCA certified) at Hennepin County Medical Center. talk2mel@msn.com

KATHRYN (KATIE) WINSCHER (1997) lives in Thiensville, WI where she recently graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Science Nursing. She is currently working at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee on a Medical/Surgical Oncology unit and truly loves what she is doing while making a difference. winscher@msn.com

HARVEY ANDERSON (1997) resides in Maplewood, MN. After 3 MCAT's, various classes, 3 applications, and 4 years; Harvey has started medical school. He is married and recently purchased a new home. He is glad to see that the UW-RF Biology Department is doing so well. "What else can you expect with such terrific and dedicated faculty," he commented. DrSideout@yahoo.com

PHILIP HUGHES (1998) resides in River Falls, WI. Rfemti53@hotmail.com

RYAN HARRIED (1999) is living in Bellingham, WA. He is a graduate student at Western Washington University working on a master's thesis in zoology. His research is

seasonal food habits of black bears in the North Cascades.

NATE MCMAHON (1999) resides in Menomonie, WI, where he is currently teaching physical science, biology, and environmental biology at Menomonie High School. nmc-mahon@msd.k12.wi.us

JENNY ABRAHAM (1999) lives in St. Paul, MN, where she is a senior at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota, working on her DVM degree. She will graduate in May of 2003 and will marry Keith Niemczyk in September of 2003. abra0050@tc.umn.edu

NATHANIEL WILBAR MORKEN (1999) resides in Maple Grove, MN. Nate.morken@gentra.com

KRISTEN CAMPBELL BENEDICT (1999) resides in Maple Grove, MN. Kristen.benedict@gentra.com

JASON STASZKO (2000) is living in Des Moines, IA, where he is a third year medical student and starting his clinical rotations. He expects to graduate in 2004 and pursue a career in Emergency Medicine. Last year, he became a commissioned officer with the United States Navy and plans to serve his country as a physician in the upcoming years. Jason.e.staszko@dmu.edu

DARREN PETERSON (2000) resides in River Falls, WI. He is having a blast teaching at Baldwin-Woodville High School. He has expanded his teaching to include Anatomy/Physiology, General Biology and Physical Science. He is trying to start an AP biology class but is running into some snags. petersd@bwsd.k12.wi.us

SHAUNA NELSON (2000) resides in Elmwood, WI, where she is continuing her education at UW-Eau Claire in nursing. shaunanelson@wwt.net

KRIS ALAN JOHANSEN (2000) resides in Frederic, WI, where he works for WDNR as a project wildlife biologist in the Northwest Pothole Region of Wisconsin. He is stationed in Balsam Lake and works an 8-county area implementing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant. His major duties are wetland restoration and grassland restoration/establishment. johank@dnr.state.wi.us

ANNA MARSCHKE TRAVAGLIONE (1992) resides in Kellogg,

MN. She has been working for The Nature Conservancy in Southeast Minnesota for the past four years, doing prairie restoration, prescribed burning, and invasive species control. She is married to Paul and they have a son, Anthony Jon (age 2). annapaul@hbci.com

OUTSTANDING ADVISOR RECOGNITION

College of Arts & Sciences



Last May, Dean Gorden Hedahl presented the first College awards for Outstanding Advising to E. Katherine Miller, Biology Department; Bradley Caskey, Psychology Department; and J. Michael Roy, Music Department.

The CAS Dean's Student Advisory Committee, comprised of one student representative from each of the major programs in the College, meets regularly to share news and concerns affecting the students and the college. Most of the students have had very positive experiences with faculty and they wanted a way to recognize those who had provided significant help. Here are a few student comments regarding Dr. E. Katherine Miller: "My advisor has been a huge asset to me throughout my college career...She has always answered all of my questions promptly and given me tips on how to graduate on time. With her help I will be graduating in four years with my last year having only a total of ten credits. Dr. Miller also has more than 100 advisees and she always takes time to meet with me and has never cut me short regardless of how many others she has had to help..My college experience would not have been the same without her."

"Dr. Miller has been a wonderful mentor, listener, and motivator for me in my first two years here at River Falls. She listens to what I tell her and always has great advice, or knows who to contact if I need something. This semester she helped me apply for a major scholarship. I only had a week to get it ready and she also had another advisee she was helping complete the same application. Never-the-less, Dr. Miller had a reference letter for me, met with me several times to discuss the research paper I had to write for it, and taught me how to write it properly. Dr. Miller was right there for me. She already volunteered to help me..over the summer. Dr. Miller is an amazing advisor who has managed to squeeze 36 hours into a 24-hour day. She is well deserving of the "Outstanding Advisor" Award."



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Please let us know what you've been up to. In the next newsletter we will share as much alumni information as you give us permission to do so. You can call us, email us, mail us, or just fill out the form on the web: www.uwrf.edu/biology/alumni-form.html. Don't forget to visit our departmental home page: <http://www.uwrf.edu/biology/welcome.html>.

BIOLOGY ALUMNI INFORMATION

Visit our departmental homepage: <http://www.uwrf.edu/biology/>

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years attended UWRF: _____

May we share this information with your fellow biology alumni? Yes No

Employment or other news: _____

May we share this information with your fellow biology alumni? Yes No



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