

Biohazard research committee named

By Mike McNamee

Appointment of a faculty and staff committee to deal with biohazardous agents used in MIT research has been completed, the administration announced this week.

Professor of Biology Maurice Fox has been named to chair the seven-member Committee on Assessment of Biohazards, which will review use of infectious organisms in research and will propose guidelines and standards for control of such agents.

Fox chaired an ad hoc group which wrote a proposal last month suggesting that a faculty group on biohazardous agents — viruses which can cause tumors and organisms which have been modified with recombinant DNA — be established. The proposal called for a "technical advisory committee" with four specific functions:

— Establishing and maintaining a registry of biohazardous agents in use on campus, with information on where and under what conditions they are stored and in what research they are being used.

— Collecting up-to-date information on biohazardous agents, and keeping researchers informed of the latest methods of use and control.

— Keeping track of research projects involving biohazardous agents and reviewing the facilities and methods proposed for use and control of them.

— Giving advice on, and objective assessment of, methods of reducing the risks inherent in the use of biohazardous agents.

The ad hoc group had proposed that a full-time staff member be assigned to the committee to maintain records and monitor research projects. Neither Fox nor Provost Walter Rosenblith, who appointed the committee, could be reached to determine what staff support, if any, the committee will receive.

The committee will be responsible for enforcement of any federal regulations on biohazardous agents which are handed down, including the guidelines for research with recombinant DNA which a committee of the National Institutes recently completed. Those guidelines, which will replace an earlier voluntary moratorium on DNA-modification experiments, will be announced at a special scientific conference in mid-February, according to an NIH spokesperson.

However, the committee will probably not become involved in potentially "political" problems, such as whether research with recombinant DNA should be allowed at all or who should control such work. Fox told *The Tech* in an interview last month that he was reluctant "to get dragged into questions" like those which have arisen about the potential for "genetic engineering" in molecular biology. "I really don't know how to answer them," he said.



A Lobby 7 pictorial display honoring Dr. Martin Luther King marks MIT's observance of his birthday.

BSU stages King-week attack

By Gerald Radack

MIT's week-long observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday was the occasion for a press conference Wednesday at which the Black Students' Union (BSU) expressed dissatisfaction with the selection of the man who is to head MIT's minority student recruitment effort and charged MIT with "ineffectual recruitment of black students."

The BSU released a statement calling the process used to find a replacement for John Mims, a black assistant director of admissions who resigned in August, "an attempt to divide the MIT black community."

According to the BSU, John Mack '73 was selected after he, along with the rest of the candidates, was rejected by black student and faculty members who were invited to participate in the selection process.

The BSU, while calling Mack "extremely capable and dedicated," said he does not have sufficient experience to run MIT's minority recruitment program. BSU officials said that they were afraid Peter Richardson would take over personally the recruitment of black students although he has, they say, "little experience in recruiting minorities and zero experience in being Black."

In a reply to the black students' charges, Chancellor Paul E. Gray '54 issued a statement saying that "MIT is fully committed to the recruiting of minority students."

BSU officials also stated that MIT was relying primarily on

direct mail recruitment of minority students. "The two outstanding characteristics of this technique are little success and low cost," the BSU's statement said.

"Minority recruiting trips, as are nearly all facets of minority recruiting, are not logically planned and executed, rather they are the result of a patchwork approach," the BSU charged in the press release.

Gray stated, however, that "experience has taught us" that direct mail appeals are the best way to recruit.

A BSU official complained that "on only one year since 1969 has there been a raw increase" in the number of black entering freshmen, which is 31 this year out of 1100 total entering freshmen. There were about

200 black applicants, the official said, of whom 75 were admitted.

Gray said, however, that five per cent of those minority students whose college board scores "indicate they might be successful here" apply. "The equivalent fraction is only about two per cent among non-minority students."

The celebration of King's birthday will end today with the showing of the film "Legacy of a Dream" at noon today in the Bush Room.

On Tuesday, another film about King was shown. On Wednesday, there was a "silent march" from Lobby 7 to Kresge, where a "memorial observance" featuring speeches, the singing of the "Black National Anthem" and the playing of a recording of one of King's sermons was held.

IDs may get new look — minus Social Security

By Mike McNamee

If you're afraid of national data banks where anyone can find out everything about anyone else just by knowing Social Security numbers — you're not alone.

Concern over use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) as all-pervasive nationwide identifiers has led MIT administrative offices to question whether the Institute should continue to use them for student ID numbers.

There's no law forbidding MIT or any other institution from using SSNs as "key numbers," identifiers that allow different administrative computer systems to "talk" to each other.

But concern for privacy of records has been in the news in the last year, especially at schools affected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which opened student records for review and challenge. And so MIT's Office of Administrative Information Systems, in the middle of a long-term upgrading of MIT's administrative computer systems, decided it might be wise to get an opinion on whether those systems should be planned with SSN-IDs or some other ID system in mind.

Legally, OASIS was told, there was no problem. MIT could not require a student to give his SSN, but there was no law forbidding SSN use on IDs.

But Professor of Electrical Engineering Arthur C. Smith, head of MIT's new Committee on Privacy, said that that assessment could change any time now.

"With the way things are going, it may be illegal in a couple of years to use Social Security numbers," Smith explained. "MIT has never had security problems with its internal administrative systems, so we're not really concerned with records being breached."

The full Privacy Committee is expected to discuss the pros and cons within the next few weeks, weighing the mechanical disadvantages of changing to a new system against the privacy benefits to be gained. Smith wouldn't predict what the committee would do, but Paul Saia, OASIS systems development manager, offered a projection: "It looks to me like we won't be using SSNs."

If so, MIT will have taken a big step forward in protection of personal records. Some students and administrators, however, would go even further to stop widespread use of SSNs by MIT. Special Assistant to the Provost Louis Menand pointed out, for example, that MIT requires more than 4000 applicants annually to submit their SSNs.

"What high school senior is going to refuse and tell MIT it can't have his Social Security number?" Menand asked. "And what possible use can MIT have for the number of someone who isn't even admitted?"

The Corporation Visiting Committee for Student Affairs will conduct open meetings next Friday and Saturday, Jan 23 and 24. Seven sessions will be held to discuss a number of student-affairs issues:

9am Friday, McCormick Brown Living Room — Discussion of the Office of Minority Education and Student Governance. Open. 12 — Lunch and further discussion. By invitation.

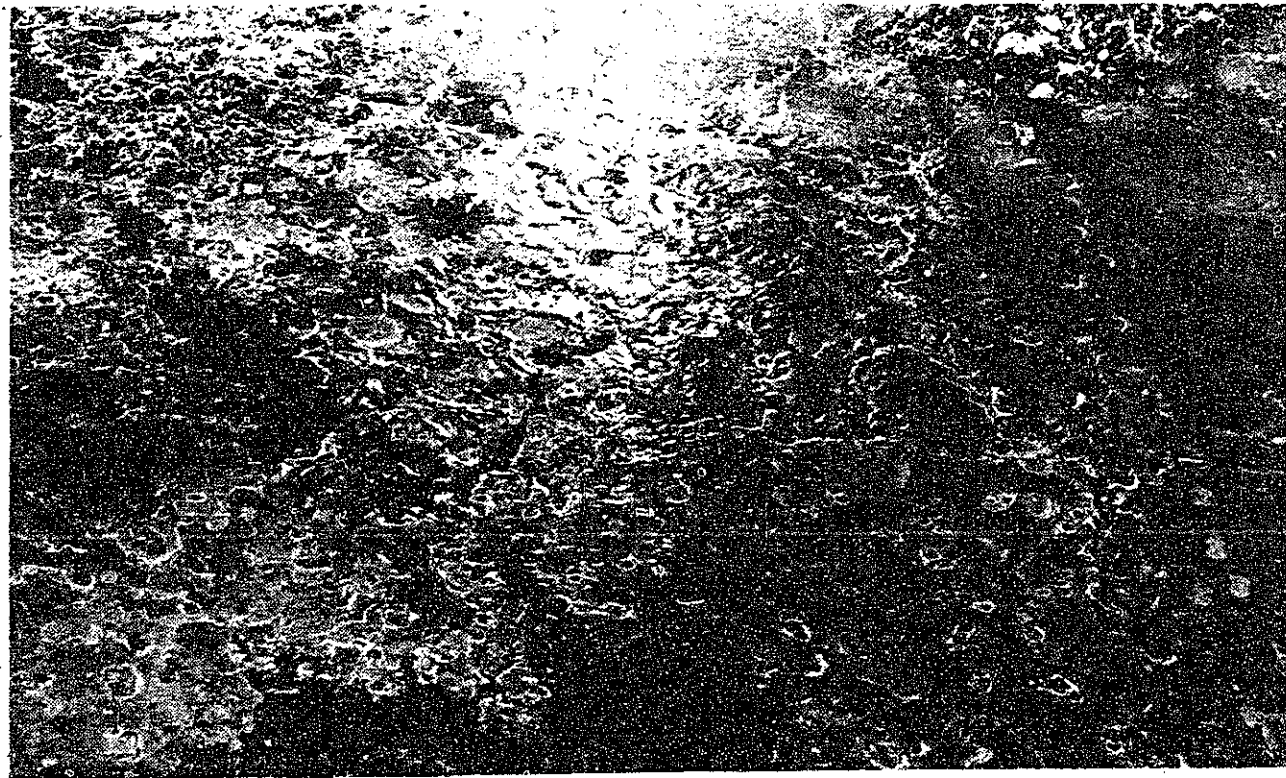
1pm, McCormick — Discussion of Athletics. Open.

4:30pm, McCormick — Discussion of Student Housing. Open.

8:30pm, Student Center Mezzanine Lounge — Open discussion of Dean for Student Affairs Office. Open.

8:45am Saturday, Student Center West Lounge — Discussion of Talbot House, Freshman Advisory Council, and Housing, followed by Summary. Open.

12:30pm — Executive Session. Closed.



It may look like a plate from *Lives of a Cell*, but actually this abstract form is just a glimpse of MIT's ice-covered campus: Heavy snow followed by rain and cold left thick ice over open areas all around the Institute.

Dave Schaller

Opinion

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Mike Peters

DAYTON DAILY NEWS 1/15/76



The inevitable future(s) of Cambridge

By Michael McNamee

"The ultimate vision of Cambridge in 2000 is an increasingly familiar one: a scarred, glass-and-steel Manhattan of stark angles and contrasts, a concrete, sunless, geometric, sterile city split into two extremes: the poor and the rich, the young and the old, the professional and the janitor. It will become as it was a century-and-a-half ago, a place inhabited primarily 'by students, professors, and the small number of servants they employ,' all living next door to each other encased in towering efficiency apartments and stony city indifference."

The *Real Paper* painted a stark picture last week when it asked "Will There Be a Cambridge in the Year 2000?" Staffer Rory O'Connor traced the history of land development and university expansion back to the 17th century, and then offered his own prediction for the future: division of the city between Harvard and MIT along River Street, with high-technology R&D companies grabbing up the areas on the fringes. Older low-cost housing driven out for high-volume apartment complexes aimed at unmarried and upper-income people. Blue-collar jobs replaced by technical R&D positions. Cambridge's poorer ethnic residents unemployed - except for those needed as service employees, janitors, cooks, and maintenance people.

In the process, O'Connor predicts, the neighborhoods of Cambridge will die, the "suburban ambience" of the city will be replaced by "a city that was only a workplace, not a home," and Cambridge will no longer be a community. A "University Emerald City" with a Mass Ave "canyon of skyscrapers" will replace three- and four-story homes and shops around Harvard Square, in East Cambridge and throughout Cambridgeport. The "Emerald City" will also close in on the river, with high-rise developments - Westgate is given as an example - forming "a wall of concrete blocking the sun."

O'Connor doesn't state explicitly how he feels about these foreseen developments, but it's easy to see where he stands. The tone of the article is disapproving, critical of the "university behemoths" which will

"scar" the city and upset over the death of Cambridge's ambience.

It's just as easy to see where O'Connor lays the blame for the developments he describes: the influx of young, affluent tenants to drive up rents, the bids by land developers to buy up plots in anticipation of the day when MIT and Harvard will let loose with their giant development plans, the concentration of high-technology industry in high-density development in place of blue-collar jobs are all blamed on the universities. All the adverse developments, he implies, can be traced back to university expansion.

A number of weaknesses flaw O'Connor's cry of city-rapé. The first, and most glaring, is his refusal to consider any force of historical factor other than university land-grabbing to explain the changes in Cambridge. Ironically, he might have done a deeper analysis if he had read the interview which appeared in the first few pages of the same issue of the *Real Paper*, an interview with Kirkpatrick Sale, author of the book *Power Shift* and a leading proponent of the Yankee/Cowboy Northeast/Southwest theory - "the movement of people, industry, wealth and power from the northeastern United States to the South and West... the Southern Rim." Among other things, Sale told the *Real Paper*:

"Industries are fleeing the Northeast because of cramped space, high-priced labor, decaying railroads. The Southern Pacific and the Southern Line are the two most successful railroads in the country, and most of the Southern Rim states are right-to-work states. People are moving because the living is easier there... they still have more space, a better climate, more privacy and fewer social restrictions. It's the first mass migration for hedonism..."

Sale agreed with Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis that "if present trends continue... New England will be the next Appalachia." The most important of the "present trends" is job loss to the South - job loss that has been going on for 20 years at an accelerating rate, job loss which is destroying the Northeastern economy. Blue collar industries simply can't locate and expand in crowded New England with its high labor

and living costs; industries here are finding the same powerful incentives to leave.

University expansion has been a factor in driving up land costs in Cambridge, as O'Connor pointed out. Such expansion is a circular process - as the need to expand drives up land costs in one area, it becomes more difficult and less economical to maintain low-density housing or space-intensive heavy industry in surrounding areas. As a result, low-density industry finds it too expensive to locate in Cambridge to create blue-collar jobs, and the housing market can't maintain "suburban" Cambridge.

But Sale's comments seem to indicate that O'Connor has put the cart before the horse. Examination of specific cases will show that those empty plots of land and missing jobs aren't results of university connivance, but of industry desertion. In two cases with which MIT is closely concerned, the federal government's attempted development of low-density industry in Kendall Square flopped, and free enterprise failed Cambridge when the Simplex Wire and Cable Company decided to cut its losses and run for Maine - where labor costs less - leaving its 19-acre plot vacant.

In Kendall Square, MIT has lent planning aid and federal credits to try to get that land - potentially extremely valuable property located half-way between Harvard Square and Government Center on a subway line - developed usefully. In Simplex, MIT stepped in and bought the land when there was no other taker; the Institute is still paying taxes on Simplex, although there has been no development of the land during the recession.

The second major flaw in O'Connor's argument is his failure to ask what other chances, other than development, the city has of surviving. According to Sale, the Northeast's choices are pretty limited; he offers two political solutions - elect Teddy Kennedy President and build Northeast power in Congress - aimed at increasing federal aid to the region, and one developmental proposal: "completely reorient the economy to modern technological industries depending on air transportation." "The attempt to establish a technology center on Route 128 was a step in the right direction," he said; elimination of blue-collar jobs is an inevitable part of such

a development, but use of increased federal aid for retraining and educational programs could take up the slack. The high-technology R&D forms that O'Connor saw wrecking the city hand-in-glove with the universities may be the only realistic hope that Cambridge - and New England - has for economic survival.

Finally, O'Connor seems to dismiss without mention any possibility that universities might plan intelligently and wisely. He makes repeated references to university attempts to create "suitable environments" near their campuses without seeming to realize that those attempts are far more vital to Harvard and MIT, which can scarcely pull up roots and move to Lexington or Lincoln, than to mobile industries or individuals. He doesn't seem to realize that the institutions have an enormous stake in the city - not to mention the stake that the city has in having the institutions here - and that "scarred, glass-and-steel" development is no more in MIT's interest than in Sully Salvadore's.

O'Connor decries inevitable development of the city - land worth thousands of dollars a square foot in the middle of metropolitan Boston cannot economically support single-family housing forever - because of an ugly scenario which he created for himself, never admitting that some other scenario might exist, that someone may have more vision and perspective than he does, that something good might rise in a New Cambridge great enough to justify the loss of Old Cambridge.

Cambridge must be developed. Inevitably, it will be developed. Whether it will be developed as O'Connor sees it - ugly, lifeless, sunless, sterile - or creatively - efficient but open, businesslike but human, modern but with room for the past - depends upon everyone involved understanding the inevitability of development, and efforts by all to turn that trend to the best possible advantage of the city. Scare articles won't stop development, and they won't help that understanding or those efforts. They only make things worse.

Letters to The Tech

Nuke Safety

To the Editor:

In the recent article "Scientists doubt nuclear safety," Nov. 18), the author made much of the point that 2300 scientists had signed a petition against the construction of more nuclear power plants. Yet, he failed to mention that the petition was sent to over 12,000 members of the Federation of American Scientists. Placed in perspective, the results of this poll are not too surprising. A Harris survey this past summer revealed that 19 percent of the general public were against the construction of more nuclear power plants. The polled percentage of scientists and of the general public are interestingly the same.

The two polls illustrate an important point which the MIT community should recognize. This is that when dealing with issues outside their field, scientists are generally no better informed than the general public. Their response to questions on these issues is, therefore, no more or less important than that of the non-scientist. The response of the 12,000 scientists is a good example of the fact that scien-

tists are people, and that people have opinions. However, to imply that one's position - be it a scientist or whatever - gives his opinion more weight on issues outside his field is false and misleading.

Pascal De Laquil III, G
Nuclear Engineering

Art?

To the Editor:

The subject of this letter is Louise Nevelson's "Transparent Horizon." First, I quote from *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*: "art - the conscious use of skill and creative imagination esp. in the production of aesthetic objects."

"Transparent Horizon" was not produced through the conscious use of creative imagination. (See *Tech Talk*, Dec. 10, 1975, article entitled "Notes on the Sculpture".)

It is also not an aesthetic object.

I therefore submit that "Transparent Horizon" is not art.

Keith Kasunic '79
Dec. 13, 1975

IAP Blood Drive meets last year's standard

By Gerald Radack

The Technology Community Association's (TCA) IAP blood drive ended Wednesday with 324 units of blood collected, "just about where we were last year," according to blood drive co-chairman Kelvin Okumura '77.

Vacation shortage of TCA staffers prevented publicizing of the drive, and only those people who indicated at the fall drive that they wanted to be notified were contacted, Okumura said.

A drive is normally held during IAP, Okumura explained, because "generally there is a critical shortage of blood after the Christmas holidays," severe enough sometimes to force postponement of elective surgery.

Although there was fear last year that MIT might lose some of its coverage because of declining blood donations, there does not seem to be a problem

this year. "The fall drive was way ahead of last year's. This should improve our status, if anything," Okumura said.

MIT community members and their immediate families are currently covered for unlimited blood.

Major blood drives are held at MIT in the fall and spring, with smaller drives during R/O Week and IAP.

There were 1679 units collected in the fall drive and about 1300 collected last spring. Okumura noted that in the past, up to 2000 units have been collected; however, "as far as we know, we are ahead of blood drives in other schools."

The spring blood drive will take place during the first two weeks of March.

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Sports



Dave Schaffler

One of the keys to MIT's recent basketball success has been Senior Peter Jackson, shown here against Haverford. The 6'3" forward from St. Louis leads the team in both scoring and rebounding after 8 games.

Basketball has promising 2-1 week

By Glenn Brownstein
Hard work and discipline are two things needed to produce a winning basketball team. After showing only small flashes of either attribute in December, MIT's varsity basketball team has gotten down to business. Two wins and a loss last week pushed the team's record to 3-5, and the possibility of a winning season gets better and better.

Last Thursday night, MIT had a rare breather, routing NJIT, 92-63. A 31-5 burst in the final nine minutes of the first half was

the key to the easy win.

For the first time this year, all members of the MIT squad saw considerable playing time. Peter Jackson '76 and Cam Lange '76 led MIT with 19 and 14 points, respectively.

Although MIT was badly out-matched against major college Northeastern Friday night, the Engineers played some of their best basketball of the season, losing only 92-74 to the far superior Huskies.

NU opened up a 12-3 lead in the first seven minutes, but

could not lengthen it for another ten, as MIT hustled and played a deliberate, patient offense. A late burst near halftime gave the Huskies a 43-29 lead after twenty minutes.

In the second half, with the game practically out of reach, Coach Fran O'Brien advised his squad to forget the score and just play the game, and armed with that strategy, MIT kept the game fairly close the rest of the way, cutting NU's lead to eleven on many occasions, and finally losing by 18.

Lange led MIT with 24 points, nine rebounds, and six assists, while Jackson added 17 points and eight boards. John Doyle '76 poured in 14 points and passed off for six more baskets.

In the past two years, MIT has seemed to have an uncanny ability to give away wins in the final minutes. Tuesday night against Lowell, the Engineers went the other way, scoring six straight points in the last 1:07 of regulation time to tie the game, then outscoring Lowell 17-4 in overtime to gain a very satisfying

80-67 victory.

MIT played a lackluster game for thirty-five minutes, coming to life in the final five in turning a 59-51 deficit into a 63-63 deadlock. Key plays in the comeback were four MIT steals in the final four minutes, one on an inexplicable full-court pass by Lowell when the Terriers led by two with 25 seconds left. Lange hit the tying jumper with nine seconds remaining, and the Engineers totally dominated the succeeding extra period.

Jackson had 25 points and 20 rebounds to lead both teams, and John Cavolowsky '76 added 18 points, but the real MIT heroes were guard replacements Tom Berman '79 and Peter Maimonis '77, who forced late turnovers and pulled down some key rebounds.

Lange's 53-point week pushed him within 14 points of the career scoring record held by Harold Brown '72 of 1466 points. Lange will make his bid for the record and MIT will shoot for its fourth win in five January games against Trinity in the Cage tomorrow at 8:15pm.

Foul Shots

By Glenn Brownstein

By now you've probably been inundated with Super Bowl reports, how Andy Russell likes to tackle or Preston Pearson's extra desire to win (he was dumped by the Steelers after last season and picked up by the Cowboys).

If you've got any interest in the game, though, it's probably been cooled by the two-week layoff between games. I may be missing something, but I can't see how an extra week builds the suspense any more, especially since most fans have hockey, basketball, track, and other sports to divert their attention.

I'd like to see the Super Bowl immediately follow the league championships, one week later. Letting injuries heal is a good reason (about the only one) to give the teams an extra week. Yet even this year, when the surprising Cowboys against the powerful Steelers form the best natural matchup since Joe Namath and the Jets against the Colts in Super Bowl III (aren't the Roman numerals a bit much?), two weeks only dulls the suspense somewhat.

Weeb Ewbank, the ex-coach of the Colts and Jets, has correctly predicted the Super Bowl winner all nine years of the game's existence. I haven't read Ewbank's pick yet, but I'll go with Dallas, 17-13. For what it's worth, I think the Cowboys' motivation might just lead to such an upset. Then again, you may remember that I picked the Red Sox to win the World Series in seven games.

* * * * *

Last year, MIT held a women's basketball tournament that attracted many new fans to the game as well as a large segment of the local media. Adding to the tournament's appeal was its intersectional flavor, as the University of Chicago rounded out the four-team field.

The University of Chicago has reciprocally invited MIT to its tournament in Chicago February 5-8, but with the budget being tight, the Athletic Department has not been able to sufficiently finance the trip. As a result, members of the squad have been selling "women's athletic supporter" shirts for \$3.50 and buttons for 50 cents to raise money, but the team is still somewhat short of its needed funds with time running out.

Since many men's teams have been able to make southern and western trips, I think the women's program deserves an equal chance. Shirts and buttons will be sold at basketball games and are also available in the Main Athletic Office (W32-109).

Sporting Notices

This year an indoor IM track meet will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25 beginning at about 10am. Team rosters must be submitted to W32-121 by 5pm Wednesday. Individual entries will be open up to the time of the meet.

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the Boston symphony Chamber Players
Principals of the Boston Symphony Orchestra
Gilbert Kalish, guest pianist
Sanders Theatre Series at 4 pm
January 18
final concert of this season
Mozart: Horn Quintet K. 407
Griffos: Three Pieces for chamber ensemble, op. 5
Musgrave: Chamber Concerto #1
Dvorak: String Quintet, op. 77
Tickets: \$3, \$4, \$5. Available at Symphony Hall (265-1492); the Out of Town Ticket Agency in Harvard Square (492-1900) and at Sanders Theatre on the day of the concert.

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