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'THE DUKE' OF EDINBURGH

The Doon School Weekly interviewed *John May*, the Secretary General of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAYP)

DSW: What do you think makes the IAYP so popular in 144 countries and territories?

JMY: I think it's because the award hasn't changed since I was 14. What the award does is that it provides a set of experiences and opportunities for young people that compliments the academics and studies and it's pretty much the perfect co-curriculum program. So, my personal view would be that particularly in schools that don't have the same range of natural experiences that you have at the Doon, the award provides a structure to co-curricular activities. So, it gives young people an opportunity to experience a different range of things. That's first. The second thing that makes the award so special is that, I'm sure you've heard the saying, "It's a marathon, not a sprint." Young people often want instant gratification; with the internet, Youtube and Facebook, everything happens 'now'. Great thing about the award is that you have to make a commitment and you have to really spend time on something and you've really got to put your heart into it. Which means that when you've finally been given your badge, it means something.

DSW: If we're not wrong, is the IAYP going to be put up online? Is there going to be a new system?

JMY: You're right, there is going to be a new system which will start functioning around November or December this year, officially, that will allow young people to manage their award online. The handbook will still be available, but young people will be able to log in and record their experiences on the internet. So that provides us with an opportunity to have a feel of reality of how big the organization is around the whole globe because if you were to say to me, "How many participants are there in the award in the world today?" I truly can't answer that question. I don't know. People keep on giving me numbers, but I can't be certain. We talked about 7 million young people taking part in the award, but how many are doing it right now, I don't know.

DSW: How do you plan to oversee this change with the online system, where people no longer need to use their handbook, but can go online?

JMY: The way it will work is that it will be down to the Individual National Authorities to decide how they will manage that shift. Clearly, what's right for Australia will not be right for Uganda. So you've got to choose the right pace and to a certain extent to how broad broadband is and how accessible technology is. So Individual Award Authorities will have to sign when they want to move on to this new system and some will continue with the dual system, so people will be able to use the handbook and then leaders or people in the national office will be able to transcribe the information from the handbook onto the internet. Ultimately, every national award association can at a press of a button give or gain a report that says how many young people are involved in the program, how many bronze, silver and gold awards have been awarded and also begin to have a feel that the online system is just not an online handbook but also a complete management system for the award scheme within a country. It's a big thing.

DSW: What is your vision for the program?

JMY: We've been doing a lot of talking about that over the last few months. It's very simple. It would be a little presumptuous to think that I have a vision different from the world's leading youth development programs. This is an extraordinary program, and I'm just the secretary general. But, I experienced it as a young man and I know the transformation and what I see is that even though we are in over 144 countries and territories, we are nowhere near accessible to every young man. And my vision, and that is shared by the trustees of the International Award Organization is that in due course, we should grow the award so that it is accessible to every young person in the world. I'm not saying that every young person has to do it, they have a choice and for many it may not be the right time or the right place to take part in the award. Maybe you'll be too busy with your own soccer or whatever you want to take part in, but you should have the chance. So my job over the coming years is to grow the awareness of the award and grow the places where it might be available, so that it contributes excessively to every young person. And if you look at what you can do here at the Doon School and what you are going to experience this afternoon that young people from the community have had the opportunity to take part in the award which they wouldn't have had otherwise. So in many ways what is happening here is pioneering. I would like to see that happening around the world.

DSW: Do you not think that it is a bit idealistic, especially in a nation like India where the government is not being able to provide the basic necessities of life to most children in rural areas? How do you think you will try and extend the award to everyone to pursue?

(contd. on page 4)

HOWZAT?

The **School Cricket Team** played a match against the **Pilibhit Team**. The School Team **lost** the match by 17 runs.

Well tried!

SMASHED

The **School Badminton Team** played matches against **The Summer Valley School**. The senior team **won** seven matches out of ten and the junior team **won** three matches out of seven.

Well done!

CHECKMATE

Sarthak Gupta took part in the **Naurang Memorial International Rating Chess Tournament**. He played nine rounds, winning five of his matches, losing two and drawing two.

Congratulations!

BOOK OF THE MONTH

April



Title: Wicked
Author: Gregory Maguire
Publisher: Harper Collins

(Courtesy: The Library Council)

Unquotable Quotes

Aditya Gupta is the commonest pair.

Parth Aggarwal, nomenclature.

Pass the both them.

Raghav Bansal, to you?

Stop offencing him.

Nachiket Jain, touchy.

He is very ogre.

Manan Pradhan, and you are?

What a lovely new grass!

Akhil Ranjan, getting ready for hockey.

You want a half a pigeon eagle?

Vikramaditya Kapur, what?

You is you.

Harshvardhan Singh, are you?

Circle is a hollow circle

Siddharth Sethi, going around in circles.

Opinion Poll



Do you think that the School needs to provide more support to the technological staff for better maintainence of computer equipment?

Next Week's Question: Do you think laptops should be allowed for junior forms?

(451 members of the School community were polled)

doonspeak

What are the problems with the repair of IT equipment?

There is no point in introducing new technological teaching aids till the time the school does not figure out a way of maintaining the present IT infrastructure. And the onus of maintaining IT infrastructure does not only lie on the technical support staff, it equally lies on teachers as well as students. -SNA

Backup, maintenance and upkeep are not in place. -BKC

The main problem that causes this slow repair work is bureaucratic hassles and not ineptitude of personnel. -PDT

Technology is continuously developing in the world and even in Doon. Today Doon has very modern technology but the problem with this technology is not due to it not being up to date but due to its use and maintainence by the school community. -Nivit Kocchar

The IT maintainince department should speed things up. At times, equipment needs to be fixed during classes and this consumes a lot of time. Apart from that all classes should be equipped with a computer as well as a projector or atleast one of these amenities. -MMR

No sort of professionalism or accountability, which causes further confusion; maintainance of equipment suffers. -Abhishek Bansal

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



The New Trend ?



| Cricket Reports |

Cricket in Scindia

Arjun Midha writes about the School Cricket Team's performance at Scindia School, Gwalior

The School Cricket team took part in the H.H. Madhav Rao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament held between March 29 and April 2. Though the team failed to qualify for the semi finals, we played with unity and showed a great understanding of the game.

The team began its journey towards Gwalior, a tiring and somewhat uncomfortable seventeen hour bus trip. Reaching a day before the tournament, we used the spare time to rest and do a light evening net practice session.

The school team, in all, played three matches, out of which the team won one, and ended the other two in such a way that neither side was sure who would win until the last overs.

The first match was played against Y.P.S, Patiala. Due to the match starting late in the afternoon, the team was worried about the weather conditions as the temperature could reach 40 degrees. The team began by bowling after losing the toss and although the players gave in their best, the team from Patiala ended up with an amazing 197 in 25 overs. Eeshat Tiwary bowled with a great sense of responsibility. When the team went out to bat, it required a batting run rate of 8 runs per over. Both openers, Kabir Sethi and Adhiraj Singh showed exceptional batting performances. Kabir went on to achieve a score of 78. Though the team lost, this match helped each player understand his weaknesses and get used to the conditions of Gwalior.

After a narrow loss, the school team adjusted quickly and won its second match. The match was against the host team, The Scindia School, Gwalior and this added to the joy of the victory. The bowlers showed a great deal of discipline and resilience and held off the host team from even reaching triple figures. Dhruv Agarwal displayed exceptional bowling talent with an economy of less than 2 in the match. The low total made it easy for the batsmen to chase the score of 93 and they did this very comfortably.

The last match was a decider and was contested fiercely by both the teams for the last slot in the semi finals. Losing the toss, the team was put to bowl and restricted the opponents, M.N.S.S Rai, Sonipat to a total of 169. Adhiraj Singh took five wickets, sending down tremors through the opponents' batting line-up. When the team was put to bat the Sethi twins showed their true skill as batsmen, with Siddharth making 60 and Kabir scoring a half century. This was a closely contested match and the team lost only by five runs.

All in all, this tournament proved to be a learning experience for the school team. Even though we failed to book a berth in the semi finals, there was one fact that we cherished; From December 6 to April 1, we had finally managed to play as a team and as the captain had told us before the first match, "We win as a team and we lose as a team and a team of true sportsmen is what we aim to be." The team played with unity and surpassed all expectations when compared to other teams who play cricket year round.

IH JUNIOR CRICKET HIGHLIGHTS

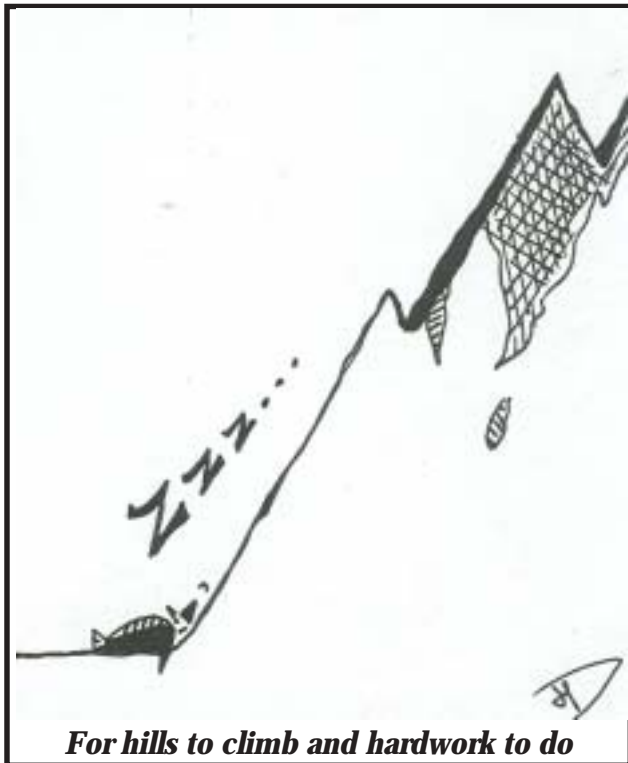
Devansh Agarwal and Naadir Singh write about the recently concluded Inter-House Junior Cricket Competition

This year's Inter-House Junior Cricket Competition was one that saw a more enthusiastic start as compared to previous competitions, primarily due to the intense pressure on juniors due to the senior competition. Winning has always been considered essential but this year whether you won or lost it didn't matter because all teams had put in their best efforts. B formers along with their captains also had to set an example for their juniors. Practices started early this year to ensure that both seniors and juniors got enough time to practice and develop their skills. Having juniors train with seniors was a blessing, this way junior's experienced a relatively higher standard of cricket. Practices came to an end, stakes were sky high and with the house cup in sight, towards the ending of March the much anticipated inter house junior cricket competition began.

The first few matches displayed somewhat of a nervous start by all teams primarily because the level of competition could not be gauged before the actual start of the matches. However, some teams kicked off with an awesome start, winning their matches with a comfortable margin, on the other hand some teams were having trouble finding their feet. Due to the matches being held on the main field, players had a tough time adapting to the comparatively larger boundaries, nonetheless it was only a matter of time before players got the hang of it and soon boundaries as well as sixes were seen. The format now being changed to T20 resulted in closely contested matches and amidst the various matches played, Tata house seemed to maintain a constant victory streak. Kashmir house were tough rivals and were not far behind. After enduring difficult practices and hard circumstances, batsmen, namely, Akhil Ranjan, Rohan Chaudhary and Suryansh Agarwal seemed to take everyone by surprise. Jaipur house seemed to enter the competition with more confidence, having a more experienced team. Hyderabad house had an unstable start but eventually managed to find their true skill leading to better performances. Jaipur house showcased two of the best all rounders, namely Avansh Agarwal and Aditya Bharadwaj. Wickets also seemed to fly because of outstanding bowlers such as Rahul Das, Manan Dhadhanian and Sikander Suri. Oberoi house seemed to put in immense effort but unfortunately did not receive satisfactory results. Finally, after a set of nail biting finishes Tata house emerged victorious with an undefeated Juniors 2 team led by Nitin Sardana.

On the whole, the inter house junior cricket competition was a huge success and now juniors are capable of representing their house and in due course of time their school in various matches to come. Also, after watching the inter-house junior cricket competition this year we can say without a doubt that juniors will be able to carry on the school legacy in their senior years.

MIDTERMS 2012



For hills to climb and hardwork to do

Destination : Chopta (Oberoi House B form)

Distance Trekked : 35 km

Anvay Grover

This term our tutors decided to take us to Chopta-Tungnath for our midterms. All of us were looking forward to the midterms because we had been told that we might experience snowfall, especially the ones who had never had snowball fights. Our destination Ookhimath did not fail to enthral us. We were left enraptured by the scenery around us. The highlight of the trip was our trek to Deoria Tal, a very deep lake right in the middle of a clearing in the jungle and Tungnath. It turned out to be extremely enjoyable, owing to the fact that it actually started snowing on our way to the top. All in all, a wonderful midterm trip with a close encounter with nature.

Destination : Dayara Bugyal (Kashmir House and Jaipur House B form)

Distance Trekked : 24 km

Devansh Agarwal and Arnaav Bhavnani

We woke up early on April 3, and headed towards Dayara Bugyal on a twelve hour long bus journey. We were informed that students from the King's College, Jordan would be accompanying us. On reaching our destination, all of us went into our tents for a nap. Waking up early the next day, we trekked from Barsu towards Barmala carrying our rucksacks along with us. Day 3 saw us trekking up to Dayara Bugyal, the snow clad valley. After completing a six kilometre trek as well as fooling around in the snow, we trekked back to Barmala after taking pictures of the majestic snow capped peaks. Day 4 and 5 were mostly travelling in the bus and the only relaxation of these two days was staying in comfortable hotels. Having endured difficult treks and also having made new friends from Jordan, these midterms surely left an indelible mark in our hearts.

Destination : Harsil (Oberoi House A form)

Distance Trekked : 50 km

Arjun Kamdar

We embarked on a twelve hour journey to Harsil at 4o'clock in the morning. With quick stops for breakfast and lunch, we reached Harsil, an enchanting hamlet situated on the banks of the crystal clear Bhagirati, surrounded by pines and snow capped peaks. After settling into a GMVN Guest House which was situated on the bank of the river, we looked around the place, coming across a scorpion in the process.

The next day we went on an excursion to *Sat Tal*, a group of seven lakes situated on a nearby mountain. However, of the seven lakes, we could see only two, for a few had disappeared and a couple of them were beyond our reach as we had to turn back due to the weather turning bad.

On the way back we saw quite a few finches flitting from tree to tree and agama lizards scurrying into the gaps between rocks at our arrival.

The next day, we went on a day hike to Gangotri, the origin of the holy river, Ganga. Our guide kept us away from the water by telling us that a Dosco had drowned only the year before, and we too would end up drowning if we did not listen to him!

The next morning we went for a walk to explore Harsil and ended up seeing an unoccupied Buddhist village, evident by the Tibetan prayer flags fluttering in the wind. We then boarded our bus to go to Uttarkashi where we stayed for the night, leaving for School the next morning at dawn.

Destination : Dodital (Jaipur House A form)

Distance Trekked : 42 km

Rakshit Sinha

Accompanied by SSW and ARM our form left for Dodital in the early hours of the morning on the 3rd of April. We travelled by bus for 6 hours to Uttarkashi where we stopped for a meal. We had to go further down to Sangamchatti which was another two droning hours. The same day we trekked for about 6km and reached a village called Agoda where we stayed for the night. Early next morning, we faced a tough trek of 5 km with the steep slope up to Manjhi, which was our base for the night. The 10 km trek up and down to Dodital was wonderful as we came across a lot of snow, which was perilous at times. The lake is the birthplace of Hanuman, and it lived up to it's name with it's breathtaking beauty. Unluckily we were unable to trek up to Darbatop, the peak as the area had been cordoned off due to a lot of snowing the previous night. We had a snowball fight amongst ourselves with the masters also joining in at point of time for about an hour or two. Due to predictions of bad weather we had to trek further downhill deviating from the original plan and camping in Agoda instead of Manjhi. The next day we trekked down to Sangamchatti where we boarded our bus for Uttarkashi, our abode for the night. On the last day of our midterms, we set off for school before stopping at Astley Hall for some fast food.

Overall, it was a fantastic midterm and one of the best we have had so far.

(contd. from page 1)

JMY: I don't know how that can be done. I think there is a difference between having an ambition and having a vision and having a strategy for how that will be achieved. The way the award works is that it will be different for India, than it will be for Australia than it will be for Brazil. Politically there are differences, of course, there are differences in term of infrastructure. There are differences on the budget that can be spent on education. But that doesn't stop one from having a vision and an aspiration and an ambition and in my view ambition should always be big, hairy and audacious. Because if they're not, then why bother having them? So, to answer your question, I don't know enough about the specifics of India. Yourself, in the future, as a leader of the nation will have to work out how you deal with a changing society that's developing very fast and is shifting from having a pyramid of poverty through to a pyramid of success. But only you and your peers will be able to find the answer.

DSW: **I'm not too sure how the award functions around the globe, but in school itself you count hours for everything you do. How do you think the system of counting hours effect say service, physical activity or skill that you must be a part of to complete the requirements of the award?**

JMY: It is an interesting question. There's a balance to be struck between the length of time that you've spent doing something and the effort you've put in. I've spent my life often spending hours sitting at my desk daydreaming and not actually having anything productive for the team. You might have sat on a desk trying to do some work in the past and you've put lots of hours into it and nothing comes out really well. However, there's the other end of the spectrum. So the way to make sure of the award is to set standards. It is only when you achieve those standards that you will have successfully completed your award. I don't think that works either, because when I was taking the bronze award as a young person, I was not very sporty. No hand eye coordination. It was really difficult for me to achieve the necessary standards for my bronze, where as my best friend, who was very sporty was able to achieve it straight away with no effort at all. So that is not right either. You know, it's about doing your best and it's about putting the right commitment for yourself. It's a marathon, not a sprint. The award is achievable by everybody whether they are differently abled, whether they have learning difficulties or whether they are highly academic, highly physically abled. So the use of hours, is to have some kind of understanding of a commitment that has been spent reaching the award standards. So, I think I remain in favor of counting hours.

DSW: **There is a possibility of someone not actually doing something and counting hours. How do you want this to come to a minimal level?**

JMY: I think there's a question of quality assurance and to a certain extent the work that we do. But ultimately, the only person that you're fooling is yourself. You're not getting a financial reward for undertaking the award, you're given a little pin badge and a piece of paper. Of course, it has some currency, but you're fooling yourself and it's my view that it will be very hard if you didn't do the right thing particularly amongst your peers in school and to wear that pin badge if you personally feel that you haven't earned it. I think it's about trusting people.

DSW: **To end, would you like to say something to all the young people in school?**

JMY: First of all I'm so delighted that people have made the commitment to be a part of the award. It is something that is truly worldwide in terms of the program. It is unique because of that. By being a participant you are joining a family of young people around the world who share the same desire to become committed citizens ultimately.

* * *

THE JUST ASSASSIN

Shubham Khemka elaborates on the Dramatized Reading that was held in school on March 27.

World Theatre Day carries a special meaning to all those involved in dramatics. This year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World Theatre Day, the Hindi dramatists of School decided to stage a dramatized play reading to demonstrate the magic of this performing art. Under the direction of MHF, ten students performed a reading of the play 'Jayaaz Hatyare' which is an adaptation of 'The Just Assassin' by Albert Camus. They were helped in their initiative by SKD, the producer, and DNJ, the technical director.

Firstly, this was not a full-fledged play but rather a dramatized reading, with limited movement and no action at all. The actors convinced the audience through the power of their voice alone. The play was about rebellion against tyranny and it was intended by Camus to possess a relevance to contemporary European politics. This adaptation explored the same issue in the pre-independent Indian scenario.

The protagonist of this play, Vimal Kumar or Vimi (Shubham Khemka), along with a revolutionary group consisting of Onkaar (Saif Ali), Sukhen (Shubham Dhingra), Vivaan (Sanat Verma & Himanshu Todi) and Devika (Vidit Sidana), plot to assassinate the British governor. The task is given to Vimi who is a new member of the group much to the dissatisfaction of Sukhen. Vimi is rearing to go but is unable to do it the first time as the governor's niece and nephew are sitting in the car with him. After a lot of debate it is concluded that Vimi was right in not throwing the bomb and is given a second chance. He does not let go of this opportunity and does the job. He is then taken to jail where he befriends Fazal the prosecutor (Rishabh Sharma). He then undergoes an interrogation by the chief of police (Shivank Singh) and the guard (Mihir Kiran). He is also confronted by the governor's widowed wife (Sanat Verma). Ultimately, he is given the death sentence for pleading guilty and not disclosing any information. The main aim of the play was to question violence and whether violence led to peace or more violence.

Between the play there are references to the biggest Indian revolutionary, Bhagat Singh as Aditya Dhingra reads out quite a few of his letters including his death sentence.

The reading was lauded by members of the audience. It received great appreciation for being an entertaining and a well-produced reading. Even the students, a hard group to please, enjoyed the play and loved its intense drama, not to mention the fun the performers had. In the end, I would like to say that the play embodied the spirit of not only the World Theatre Day, but theatre itself.

| Creative |
OBITUARY

Utkarsh Jha

You may call this an ode

Now they rest in heavenly abode
 For here I mourn the death of three close friends

Who were anyway very near their ends
 Namely Mr. Manners, Mr. Ethics and Mr.
 Common Sense

They had crossed every boundary, every fence

I knew them really well,
 They were not hard to sell.

In schools they would appear
 And win the hearts of all the children without any fear.

Yet towards their end they faded,
 And humanity in pools of blood waded.

Manners; he was with us for many years
 He taught us things throughout our years.

To meet and greet.
 To respect our elders by touching their feet.
 But towards the end of his life, he grew frail.
 His policies began to fail.

His influence began to fade, and there arose
 another cult.

Suddenly, it was all right to insult an adult.
 Mr. Manners who taught me to say "Thank You"
 Was now like the flu.

Something that needed to be shrugged off
 your shoulders.
 After all I felt the need to be cool even to my elders.

Mr. Ethics, he was quite a quiet man.
 Another good friend of mine, who towards the
 end wore a tan.

Mr. Ethics taught me it was wrong to steal, wrong to lie.
 What I am about to tell you, I will regret till I die,
 I found it tough to face the truth and therefore I started
 lying

If he heard this he may be crying
 He taught the people not to exploit.
 And yet they do and at that too they are very adroit.

Lastly, I would like to talk about Mr Common Sense.
 Whose actions in a few words I cannot condense.

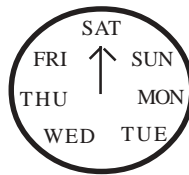
We lost him very early.
 We lost him when the world turned surly.
 When we lost Mr Common Sense, it began to spend
 more than you earn
 And yet for houses beyond our means, yearn, yearn,
 yearn

It became alright for laws such as "Stand Your Ground"
 Even though because of this many a dead body will be
 found.

Manners, Ethics and Common Sense will sorely be
 missed.

Their entire family, Prudence, Reason, Logic, Faith
 Already await them in Heaven.

The doctor said they died a natural death.



*The Week Gone
 By...*

Vikramaditya Kapur

While Chandbagh may have been quiet and without energy for the past few weeks, the week that you have just witnessed could not have been more eventful.

Apart from midterms ending, the AT formers returned as excited S formers, including me, equipped with laptops and haircuts. We also saw the influx of new D formers. It may be true that they did not take part in regular School activities, it is also true that this week they have had all their 'firsts': PTs, Assemblies, classes, Chotta Hazri's, lines, extra-PTs, changes-in-break and the remaining punishments.

Some of the other forms returned from midterms with exciting stories, well, how can I not recount the incident where a shoe was set on fire (actually, it was more of a shoe barbecue!). Thinking about barbecues, it seems that the CDH has finally started pleasing Doscocs. After serving 'second helpings' of the new cereal called 'Krocky Chocky', the Scs were especially pleased. But then again, there was the reduction of the size of the helpings recently, do our nutritionists think we are gaining too much weight? With School back in full swing, we also witnessed the annual school cricket match against the team from Pilibhit. Although the School lost, the match marked the 50 year relationship with the Pilibhit family.

Hockey and swimming have officially begun. Also, it is the last month of PT practices and thus PT Leaders can be heard screaming commands at their squads early in the morning, after lunch, in the evenings and after lights out. While they scream, their squads have pious faces on, praying that it rains sometime soon, and PT gets cancelled! But what stole the show this week, was the return of the

eagle, or should I say the eagles, bringing with themselves good tidings: the rain, storm, falling of trees, a blackout and a disturbing night. The week gone by has been eventful, no doubt, and if the ones to come mimic this one in any way, this summer promises to be interesting!



Before I say goodbye, let me remind you that the PTM is nearing. I guess its time to get the side-parting back and start doing what anyone would generally do in their S Form!

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