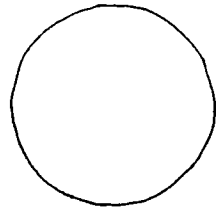
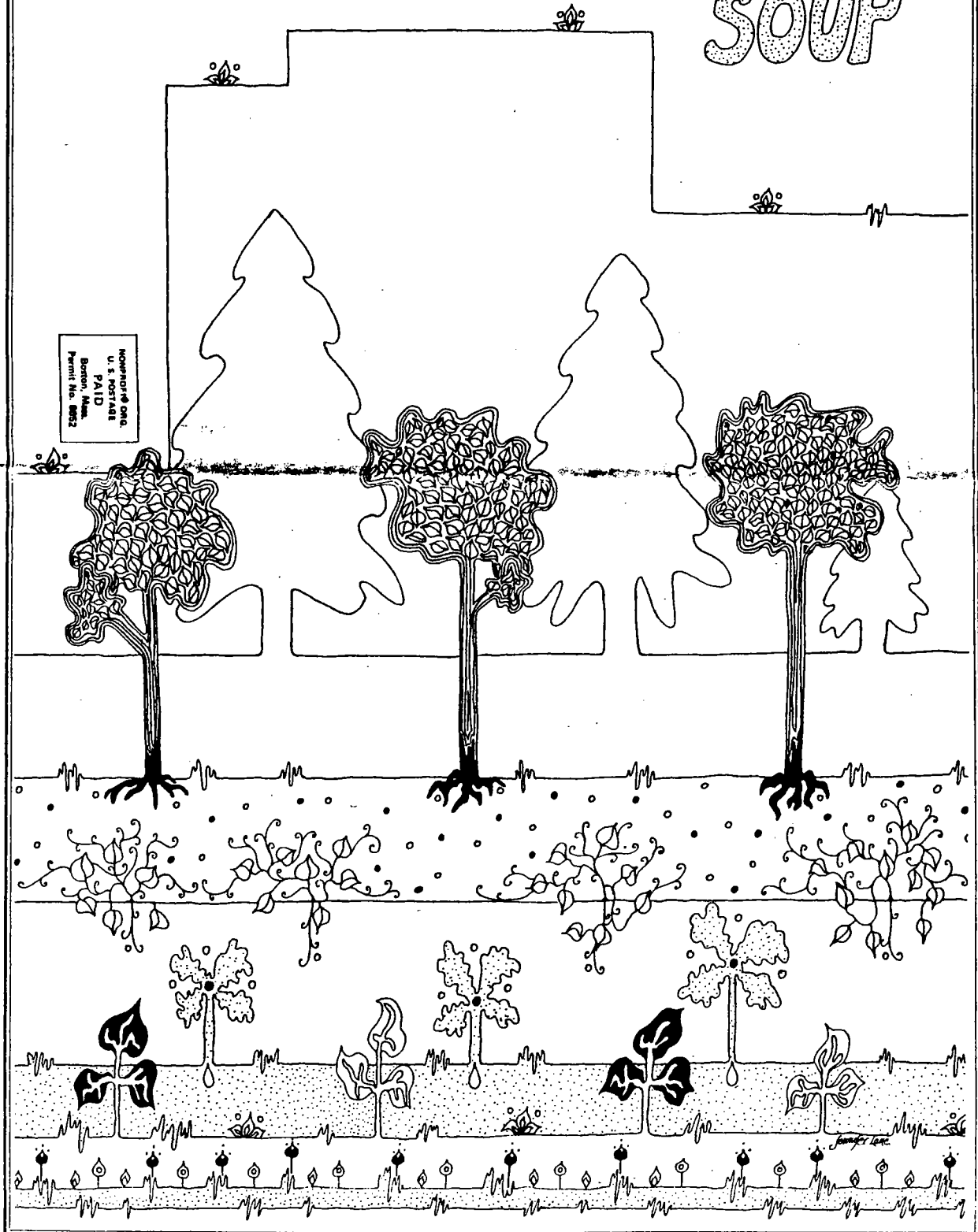


# CREAM OF PEOPLE SOUP

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# SEXUALITY

Sexuality is a deep inner feeling of one's own sex. It is that feeling from which you can relate to yourself as a man or woman, regardless of outside factors. Sexuality should be dealt with in terms of one's whole life, and not just a few romantic moments. Sexuality starts with the deep personal attachment between mother and infant, and continues throughout life. Each person's sexuality is affected differently by his or her own experiences. It allows you to relate to yourself as a man or woman but this is only a small part of its meaning. It covers all aspects of your life, from the day you're born to the day you die. It will affect your life decisions. It is the essence of man and woman as a sexual being.

The following questions are written, one; for LRYers who want a guide to explore their sexuality by, and two; for all those advisors who have tried to lead workshops on serious subject matter. It is intended to be both serious and humorous. The answers to the questions are not the only answers nor are they necessarily the right answers. They are only to make you think.

much love,  
Elissa



Imagine: You're in a church sitting on sleeping bags discussing sexuality. It's quiet and peaceful and the man practicing on the organ is trying to ignore you. Suzy Creamcheese is sitting on your right and Joe Taco is on your left. Ziggy Stardust is sitting across from you. The advisor is anxiously shuffling papers hoping everything is going to work out. The workshop starts.

1. What is sexuality?  
S.C. It's being a woman.  
J.T. It's like how you relate to sex and all that sort of stuff. It's real personal, you know?
2. How does my sexuality affect me?  
S.C. It's like what wants you to make love and get married.  
J.T. Yeah, and it affects how you look at life, you know what I mean? It's kind of like a factor that says you'll do this because you're a man or a woman, and not just a person.  
Z.S. It's that you do things because you're a man or woman, and not just because you want to do it.
3. What is my sexuality?  
J.T. I'm a man, and I really feel great about men, even though I'm heterosexual.  
Z.S. It's just inside man, you feel really great about your sex and you relate to other people's sex.  
S.C. I kind of feel like a woman inside, but I don't really feel sexuality. I might like to have kids. Is that sexuality?
4. How can I determine my sexuality?  
Z.S. Wow, man. Heaaaaveeey. Let's be celibates.  
J.T. You gotta think inside and try and decide how you feel about sex and being a man.



S.C. For a woman it's different, though, because their sexuality is deeper and more intense because like it's always present 'cause they can have kids and they have their period and their bodies are more sexually oriented.

5. Can other people affect my sexuality?  
J.T. If I fell in love with a real dynamite guy my sexuality would be changed.  
S.C. I don't think my sexuality would be changed. After all, I'll always be a woman, won't I?  
Z.S. When I get older somebody will probably change my present ideas of sexuality and we'll settle down.
6. Can I change my sexuality?  
Z.S. Sure man, that's what we just talked about.  
S.C. That depends on what you define as sexuality.  
J.T. If you really wanted to you could.  
S.C. I don't think I could change mine.
7. How does my sexuality relate to being male? female?  
J.T. It's not just like you're a stereotyped male and you play a real masculine role and you're always the aggressor. Sometimes it's just that you enjoy being a male and you find you're own way of being male and relate to the sexuality in other males. How do I relate to females? By realizing the maleness in me I open myself up to the female in them, and I don't have to feel insecure or anything like that.  
S.C. I think he's right, because I never worry about relating to males because of the way I feel about myself.  
Z.S. If you can feel that you're really male or female, its a great thing, and if you're all mixed up, well, you got problems.
8. Can I feel both male and female?  
Z.S. Yeah, man. Sometimes I really get into being male and rowdy and masculine, and other times it's kind of fun to try and be gentle and feminine, especially around someone I dig.
9. Can I label my sexuality? must I? should I?  
J.T. Well, I'm definitely heterosexual. I feel real strong about it. I'd label myself.  
S.C. I'm not real sure. I do love some women and men. A label doesn't matter to me.  
Z.S. I probably come under every label ever created. Hurray for perverts.
10. Do I feel my sexuality?  
Z.S. cough  
J.T. When I'm around girls.  
S.C. When I feel like a woman or that I might want to have kids or stuff like that.
11. Am I comfortable with my sexuality?  
J.T. I feel comfortable most of the time.  
S.C. Yeah.  
Z.S. I feel uncomfortable about it sometimes when I think about all the different people I've been with and the things I've done. It seems like I haven't got any sexuality at all. Just a bunch of sex.
12. What can I do to be more comfortable about my sexuality?  
Z.S. If I sat down and decided what I want-

- ed sexuality to be for me, I'd probably be a lot more comfortable because then I could head towards something.
13. Can other people accept my sexuality?  
Z.S. No. Not regular society.  
J.T. & S.C. Yes.
14. How does sex relate to my sexuality?  
S.C. Sex doesn't make the woman.  
J.T. Sex doesn't make you a man, either.  
Z.S. That's all I can relate to. I don't have a sexual identity.
15. Does my sexuality entail practical aspects like marriage or family?  
S.C. It does a lot. I think part of sexuality is to provide a deep seated base for secure emotional relationships between two people, regardless of their sex. I think my sexuality will aid me a lot when I want to get married or have a kid.  
J.T. Yeah, I want to get married, but no kids.  
Z.S. No.
16. What affected my sexuality?  
S.C. My parents have a great marriage, and I always admired them even when I was little.  
J.T. Where I come from everyone is heterosexual, and I've always just been that way.  
Z.S. I've been bumming around since I was 12, and every person affected me differently. I don't like traditional stuff much.
17. Should I be aware of my sexuality in dealing with all people?  
S.C. I think I am.  
J.T. I don't see why I should.  
Z.S. What would be the point? What if I felt fatherly towards someone? Should I be aware of that?
18. Do I need to be concerned with other people's sexuality?  
Z.S. You got to be concerned because you could really hurt or offend someone you didn't know.
19. Will my sexuality conflict with anybody else's?  
Z.S. They're always conflicting. That's what the war of the sexes is all about. Hetero's and homo's are always conflicting. Hetero's are always conflicting with everything.  
S.C. I wouldn't let my own sexuality conflict with anybody else's. They have a right to their own sexuality.  
J.T. What about S & M?  
S.C. SICK.
20. Is sexuality sexual?  
Z.S. It is for me.  
J.T. It is a lot for me.  
S.C. It's not so much for me.
21. What causes a feeling of sexuality?  
S.C. Everything.



# BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR

## IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE?

When you wear white, do you feel guilty? Yes, today, in the year 1977, unmarried girls who have lost their virginity are still looked down upon by a major portion of society. This goes along well with the myth that women have very few sexual needs or wants. When a man and a woman get married, society dictates that the woman be a virgin and that the man have the experience to teach his new wife everything she needs to know. Yet, where does the man get his experience? From a hole in a tree? Or from so-called "bad girls"? Luckily, not as many people are following the dictates of society as were 10 years ago. But the practice of prizing virginity



still hangs over us like a curse. Hymns are an interesting aspect of virginity. For years, the little buggers were used to tell whether or not we were "nice girls". Then, doctors and other important persons discovered that bicycle seats, horses, and gymnastics were just as responsible for the "deflowering" of young girls as the infamous penis. I guess, nowadays the guys are having a harder time answering the question that titles this article. There are other clues besides the hymen, though. Does she stand on street corners late at night? As far as I'm concerned, however, the guys I've respected most were the ones who weren't pre-occupied with my "lily-whiteness". Thank you, LRY, for producing more of the above mentioned type of boys, or men, whichever they prefer.

Lisa Adams

## HOW FAR DID YOU GET?

Now, the male side of the experience of virginity. Society's view of a virgin male over the age of 16 is about the same as their view of a male's crying when he is over that same age. Boys are pressured into "becoming men", many times before their minds can cope with the heavy emotional feelings a first sexual experience accompanies. A son is expected to relate more to his father than his mother as he grows older.

Men give women bad reputations, but by chance, not choice. A male will tell his friends that he went to bed with the woman he took out last night, when he may have only kissed her good-night. But what would they say if he told the truth? A few would assume he was gay, and since the majority of society looks down upon homosexuality, that isn't too cool. Some others would say their friend was impotent. But, these "friends" very likely only kiss their dates, during the course of an evening.

The next time someone asks you the question titling this article, you have the right (always have) to say "why do you want to know?" The person you answer in this fashion will be surprised; maybe, and hopefully, enough to think before asking it again.

Lisa Adams

When I went to Star Island I was surprised at the amount of nonbelievers. It was the first time I ever went to a conference so I was withdrawn from the mainstream for a while. Once I started to get to know people I talked about normal everyday talk, but when I aired my views about God, people looked at me like I was from some other world.

I believe in God and Jesus Christ. I pray every night before I go to sleep also. I do not believe God is a male or even a female, but it is a force, a spirit kind of form with no boundaries or limits to what it can do.

I do not believe in organized religion either. Most religions are corrupt. The views are changed to what the chief priest or Pope feels God is. The more redneck he is the more redneck the religion gets.

Recently, when a friend of mine went to Russia, I asked him if he would look into the religion scene for me. We hear alot of how in Russia the government puts down religion and makes atheists out of everyone. The report I got back was interesting. It seems the Russian government feels the churches get too corrupt, thus they persuade the people not to go to church but to stay home and believe in God as they choose.

Many of my friends don't understand why I believe in God because I am gay. But just because I am this or that, does that mean I can't believe in God? I believe God loves everyone for what they are and wants them to open up to developing themselves into whatever they want to be.

I feel confident because I know God is with me, guiding me, if something goes wrong. I do not curse God, but feel that its all for the best and will turn out ok.

I don't know what lies beyond. I am afraid of the transition between life and death, but I am not afraid of death itself because I know God will be there to help me just like it always has.

How do I know there is a God? How do I know there is some other form of life on other planets? How do I know that the trees, houses, etc., are not an illusion? All I have is what I feel.

Am I happy? How can I be truly happy living in a hicktown where I am the only gay person? But I know that if it wasn't for God, I wouldn't have made it this far.

Corny, yes. Alone, no.  
Captain Jack  
13 Leonard Dr.  
Southborough, MA 01772



I'm an obsessed musician. For six years I have not been able to stay away from my music for more than a few hours.

I'm a drummer, guitarist, kyrd player, and conventionalistic as well as avant garde synthesizist.

The people who are now in music have done a lot. While they still are restricted in their ideas as far as their music because of record labels, more and more musicians are acquiring the funds and associated power to make albums which no longer appeal to the average listener. Now, this music is appealing to the musicians who make it. Somewhere down the line, the great talents decided that educating themselves was more important than the education of the majority of the listening audience.

For those of you who are musicians and are associated with LRY, I would appreciate hearing from you. I'm just about to copyright some music and I am installing a 4-track studio in my room. I would also exchange demo tapes with anyone interested. Tell me about your ideas and equipment.

I own a Paia synthesizer and an Ionic organ which I am using for the front end of my polyphonic kyrd. I practice continually on scales, riffs, etc., and have developed a lot of exercises. I also give lessons here in town and enjoy teaching. Take it easy, everyone, and keep on rocking.

Love,  
Robbie Young  
1627 5th St. NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405



Isn't it odd that people respect you or in a sense open up to you or become less cold when you are sick? I know it's not sympathy because most people around my room wouldn't show sympathy if their roommate kicked off.

Recently I had a bad cold. It lasted over 2 weeks, so by the end of the first week I was bitchy as hell. Normally, I am very considerate of other people's feelings, but not then. I was the first to tell them they were a stupid dumbass. For all this, people treated me differently. Some people sort of took me under their wings. I finally became one of the guys. So does it all boil down to making friends mean being cruel? I certainly hope not.

Love,  
Timothy

Dear People Soup and friends,

This is a letter of thanks.

I've been involved with LRY for almost two years. I've had some of the best (and worst) times of my life with these people and for this I want to thank my many friends in my state locals, in Tucson and Phoenix, all the other beautiful people in my fed, and the many wonderful people I shared Continental Conference with. No, I'm not leaving LRY. I still need LRY and can't leave it yet. I'm giving my thanks to these people because they have helped me grow and live through these past two years when things have been really rough for me. Most of last year I spent 100 miles away from my local, and I was very much alone. I was with LRY as often as possible and they helped me. They gave me the will not to give up with their moral and spiritual support. I spent my summer with LRY and got sooo much out of it that I was sorry to leave. Much thanks goes to those who shared their summer with me. This year the space between me and other LRYers has stretched to 250 miles, but I have received their letters, love and support. From here on in, everything is looking better for me. Hopefully, I will soon be back in close contact with LRY. I hope that someday, somewhere, I can give as much love and support to another as these people have given to me.

Hugs and thanks,  
Wesley (O.B.)

# SYSTEM

## SEXUAL POLITICS

To me, LRY is a place for adolescent persons to develop feelings of independence and self-worth, and to build a sense of commitment to others, or interdependence. Sexuality is a pervasive aspect of LRY activities, especially at conferences, because it is a pervasive aspect of adolescence. This not only means intercourse, but interacting as a sexual being with people of the same and other sex.

My wife, Barbara, and I have been LRY advisors for six years. Along the way, we have taught and counseled on matters of sexuality for countless hours, and we have learned at least as much as we've taught. I would like to share one of our observations with you.

Our observation concerns something we call Sexual Politics. Most LRYers voice an interest in the Women's Liberation Movement, and many understand that what is at stake is the right of each person to be regarded as a human being of equal value to all other human beings. Most LRYers would oppose sex-role stereotyping: the fact that, in our culture, men are expected to do certain things and women are expected to do others. Take a few minutes, by yourself, to seriously answer the following questions:

1. In your LRY local, when "nitty gritty" details are involved in carrying out some activity, who is left with the job, males or females?
2. If dishes and cleanup after meals becomes a problem at LRY conferences in your area, who actually gets the job done, males or females?
3. Who planned the workshops at your last conference, males or females? Which sex actually ran the workshops?
4. Among the people at your last conference who were virgins, who was subjected to more pressure to become sexually active, males or females?

If, in answering these questions, you find a lack of balance between the sexes, how does it make you feel about women's rights in LRY? Now, try to answer these questions:

1. At your last conference, how many women did you become good friends with? How many men?
2. How would you compare male and female LRY advisors, from your point of view? Which sex advisor are you more responsive to?
3. Of conference workshops run by men and those run by women, which do you find more exciting and/or informative?
4. Imagine yourself at a conference, where you, among others, have supported and adopted a rule that anyone seen with illegal drugs will be asked to flush or leave the conference. Assume that you are not gay, and that a person of the other sex meets you in a private place in the conference building and offers you a joint. You think you might be sexually attracted to this person. What do you do about the rule?



Now, either imagine, or find out by asking, how a person of the other sex would answer these four questions. Is there a difference?

Sexuality can be used by people as a means of accomplishing certain goals. It can also act as a screen through which we view the world in a biased way. Doing things, or refusing to do things, because of your sexuality, is a political act. It is a reflection on the character of all other members of your sex, and indicates something of how you feel about them.

How do you feel about them? How do you feel about yourself?

Tom Greenspon  
Birmingham, Alabama



### Virgin's Postulates

I'm still a virgin. Is that hard to believe? It seems like whenever I go to conferences, and I say that I don't want to have sex, they give me the following bullshit.

1. Don't you love me?  
Do you have to go to bed with someone to show that you love them? I think there are other ways to show that you love a person.
2. How long has it been since you've slept with a warm body?  
What a line. As far as I'm concerned, I'll sleep with my teddy bear.
3. You mean you're still a virgin?  
Yes, and I'm rather proud of it. Maybe I want to keep my virginity for the special person in my life, not someone I'll probably never see again.
4. Oh, poor ha-bee, I promise you won't get pregnant.  
Oh yeah, and what about the last girl you said that to?
5. Don't you want to have fun?  
I want my first sexual experience to be meaningful, with someone I really love and care for. Most people I meet at conferences are super-nice people, but I've seen too much "sex for the fun of it" and it really turns me off.
6. I don't expect you to go to bed with me on the first night.  
I don't think I should ever be expected to.
7. Everyone else does!  
Then screw with everyone else! I am not against sex. It's just that it's always a hassle when I go anywhere with LRY. The whole meaning of love and sex has been misinterpreted and abused. The people I have been exposed to make sex seem like "something to do on a rainy day." It gets me very confused. Some people I have talked to have had very bad experiences because they were pressured into making love with someone "because it's the thing to do." I feel really sorry for these people.

But they have also said they've had some very beautiful and moving experiences, and when I find Mr. Right, whoever he may be, I'll let him know.

-D.P.-

Dear Soupers,  
I'm 15 (almost 16) and live in Tulsa, OK, and I'm suffocating! In this city squeezed in between the millions of other churches, are two lone Unitarian churches, one not even built yet! It's like a blanket over your head smothering you! I don't know about you all back east, but being a Unitarian on the Bible Belt can be an extremely startling experience!

The first question people ask you is "What church do you belong to?" Before, I wittily reply "What church do you belong to?" hoping to embark on a long speech about their church and leave me alone. "Baptist", is all they say. I scuffle my feet, scratch my head and look at the sky, mumble something about the weather, meanwhile hoping desperately that they'll go away! But they don't. "What church do you belong to", they persist in asking like a broken record. "Oh hell," I think as I answer "It's All Souls Unitarian!"

Stunned silence for a few moments. "You belong to that church? Don't you know it's an atheist church?"

"Oh god" I think, "the guy's going to have a heart attack." I quickly find him a place to sit down and pat his hand nervously. He meanwhile is staring into space as if he's seeing a horrible vision! Finally, he focuses his eyes on me and says, "You have strippers, atheists, noheads and no good drinks in that church!" "Holy shit, how much do I have to take?" I tell him we do not have any such thing in our church. "It's a church where each person can believe as he or she wants to and no busy-body goes sticking his nose in the others people's business telling them what and what not to believe!!!"

My religious friend is now making frantic crosses and trips over himself in an effort to get out the door as if the very devil was after him! Why? I think to myself, "All I want is for people to be tolerant of other people's religions and not hassle them about it. If a person finds his place in the Baptist or Presbyterian or Christian church, fine. I think that's great. But please, don't bother me about my religion!!! I'm not bad or evil. I'm just a normal human being trying to make a way in this world we live in! Sometimes I tell people I'm agnostic, and they wipe their brow and say, "Well, just as long as you believe in Jesus!" I don't usually pursue the matter any longer. All I really want to say is, I'm a lone gull in a sea of hawks, and I'm trapped! I just want to know that there are others out there like me, and would you please write me!? You don't know what it would do for me, so I'm counting on you!

Lots of love and joy,  
Diane Peck  
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