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BY LAURA

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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail before moving to New York to write for Rupert Murdoch's newly launched Star magazine in 1978; Richard later wrote for New York magazine's "Intelligencer". He continues to make regular appearances on CBS, ABC, and CNN, and moved to Montecito seven years ago.

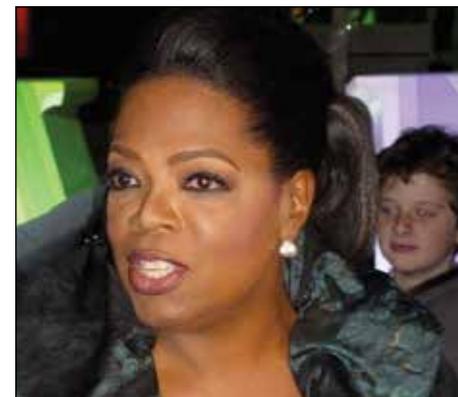
Legends of the Ball

TV talk-show titan Oprah Winfrey is reprising her famous Legends Ball, I can exclusively reveal.

The socially gridlocked bash will be at the Bacara on Thursday, December 6, I am reliably informed, followed by a gospel brunch for the bold-faced name guests at her 42-acre Montecito estate the following day.

"It's going to be the only ticket in town!," says my mole with the martini. "No one will want to miss it."

The last ball was a three-day celebration honoring 25 African-American women in the arts, entertainment, and civil rights in 2005 – including the late Maya Angelou, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Lena Horne, Tina Turner, Cicely Tyson and Coretta Scott King – that got huge international coverage.



Oprah has her Christmas wish list worked out

The white-tie gala, also at the Bacara, attracted the cream of Hollywood and TV, including Sidney Poitier, Tom Cruise, Barbra Streisand, John Travolta, and Barbara Walters.

In the meantime, with only six weeks

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 6)

until Christmas, Oprah has released her much-anticipated Favorite Things for 2014 and, as usual, the list features some very pricey products.

Among this year's picks, which appear in the new issue of *O Magazine*, are Beats by **Dr. Dre** wireless headphones in gold, a set of three jars of bath salts for \$255, and a \$500 tablet developed by actor **Ashton Kutcher** and Lenovo, which has a projector attached.

Many of the items can currently be purchased for a limited time only at a discount online by using the code OPRAH.

Also on Oprah's famed wish list is *What I Know For Sure*, a collection of excerpts from the inspirational column she has written in her Hearst glossy since 2000.

The cloth-bound book, which was published in September, is available on the Macmillan website for \$25.

The most expensive gift idea in Oprah's Favorite Things are the headphones, which are powered by Bluetooth and available for purchase on the Neiman Marcus website,

Of the trendy gadget Oprah writes, "It wants me want to get my dance on.. and will sound as good as they look for years to come."

For pet lovers looking to give their dogs something extra special this Yuletide, Oprah has suggested custom

pillow beds from Charles Fradin Home, which start at an eye-watering \$445.

Famously open about her diet and weight struggles, the 60-year-old billionaire has recently touted SoulCycle as her favorite workout.

For ladies who can't make it to a class, however, she has put a stylish seven-speed bicycle on her list, which comes in sky blue, red, or white, for \$550.

"The bike is a great way to stay in shape while keeping your carbon footprint under control," writes the media mogul.

One of the more unusual gifts on Oprah's list is a deluxe vine and bloom box from High Camp Supply, which contains two dozen gardenia flowers and two dozen vines grown in Hawaii and California.

"Arrange the petals in water-filled bowls for a dramatic look, and place the vines in a vase for a scent that lasts long after the blooms have gone," she says of the box, which costs \$189.

This year's emphasis seems to be on pampering, and there is no shortage of products on the list to help you do just that.

A wellness collection from Wakaya Perfection, which includes ginger powdered tea, body scrub, and a bath soak, costs \$265.

Nothing says relaxation like candlelight, and Oprah suggests a \$240 set



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of four candles from Lafco in wintery scents like Trees and Berry do the job.

"Poured into hand-blown glass, the candles burn for 90 hours – long enough to flicker through the holidays," she writes.

Ever the homemaker, Oprah tends to fill her Favorite Things list with an assortment of kitchen accessories, and this year is no different.

Among her recommendations is a set of three stoneware dishes in lime green from Le Creuset, which costs \$405 altogether. Also featured in the line-up is a set of four dessert plates designed by her friend and fellow TV personality Nate Berkus.

At \$20 for a set of four, the plates are

undoubtedly some of the more reasonably priced items on the list – or, as Oprah puts it, "it's a whole lot of style per dollar."

If you're looking to buy a gift for new parents, look no further than Burt's Bees Baby, which has \$125 gift baskets filled with organic cotton baby clothes in three different color palettes,

Talk show host **Jimmy Kimmel**, who welcomed his first daughter with wife **Molly McNearney** in July, will be getting this from Oprah for Christmas, she revealed.

Also on the list are RedCJewels' mix and match letter stud earrings, which the TV host is giving to all her Oprah

Winfrey Leadership Academy girls for the holidays.

Other accessories that have Oprah's stamp of approval are 22-carat gold-plated astrological star map necklaces from Sequin-NYC, which cost \$48 each...

Low Urine-lysis

Shy bladder sufferers have condemned a DirecTV advert that uses a "painfully awkward" **Rob Lowe** who cannot urinate in public restrooms to encourage viewers to switch from cable.

In the campaign, the 50-year-old

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 19)

actor plays two characters: a handsome Lowe in a slick suit who is a satellite customer and a goofy-looking Lowe who is a cable user.

In one scene, the latter character is filmed standing awkwardly at a urinal with two other men. Unlike his doppelganger's formal attire, he is donning a fanny pack with his hair parted in the middle.

In response to the other Lowe's remark that cable TV makes subscribers wait, he states: "Fact, I can't go with other people in the room," before unsuccessfully trying to relieve himself.

DirecTV, a satellite service provider based in El Segundo, claims viewers should be able to take the advert in the humorous way in which it was intended.

But a shy bladder group – yes, they do have them – has lambasted the company, saying the ad ridicules a serious issue in America, where around seven per cent of people have some form of "shy bladder syndrome."

Steve Sofer, CEO of the International Paruresis Association and a social work professor of the University of Memphis, said he didn't mind "if people have a little fun" with the condition.

But he added: "It's a situation that a lot of people don't understand. In this particular case, the portrayal is making it look ridiculous, that this guy is a loser for having the problem: What if he didn't have a leg or an arm? Are you going to make fun of them?"

Since the campaign's launch last month, members of the association have written to DirecTV asking for the advert to be removed.

But Darriss Gringeri, spokesman for DirecTV, said the service will not be acceding to their request.

"The ads will continue to run for



Rob Lowe's TV ad irks bladder sufferers

the vast majority of viewers who have told us they enjoy the spots and understand that, like all of our commercials, they take place in a fantasy world and are not based in reality," he said....

Wine of the Times

Santa Barbara vintner and restaurateur **Doug Margerum** has been accorded quite an accolade by the magazine *Wine Spectator*.

The popular glossy named Doug's 2012 M5 "Wine of the Day" last month and has also asked him to write the 2014 harvest assessment for Santa Barbara for the national publication.

"Considering how many wines are produced in the world, getting Wine of the Day from the esteemed **Robert Parker Jr.** is big news for my small Santa Barbara County winery," says Doug. "I think it's a testament to the appeal the Margerum M5 wine has.

"It's a Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape-style blend using five grape varieties from the highest-quality vineyards in the county. The "M" is for Margerum and "5" for the grapes used – syrah, grenache, mourvedre, counoise, and cinsault. M5 is always about grenache and, as it is every year, the trick is to balance the crimson, aromatic, lean, bright, tight-based components with the bombastic, dark, plum, tannic,

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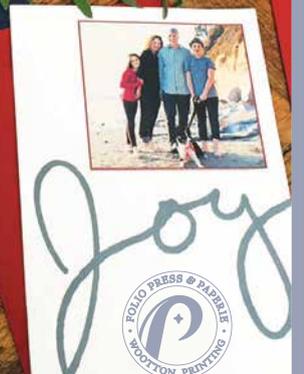
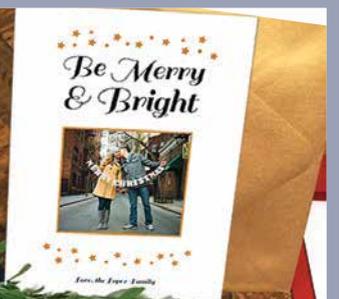
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Sign him up, Robert....

The People's Pickles

After coming runners up for the past couple of years, Santa Barbara's Three Pickles Deli was chosen the overall champs and the recipients of the People's Choice Award at the 5th annual Legal Aid Foundation's Chowder Challenge at the Bacara.

The 21 entries were tasted by four judges, including ubiquitous KEYT-TV reporter John Palminteri, basing their comments on taste, texture and creativity.



Clay Lovejoy and father, Bob, winners of the Chowder Challenge at the Bacara.

"We tweaked the recipe this year, adding new ingredients, which obviously did the trick," says Cody Lovejoy, son of owner Bob.

More than 400 people checked out the selection of chowders and wines from 20 vineyards, raising around \$30,000 for the non-profit, which launched the popular event four years ago at the Montecito Country Club.

Liquid assets, indeed...

Funk Feast

The Arts Fund in the Funk Zone was socially gridlocked when it held its "Feast Your Eyes!" exhibition and benefit reception in celebration of local artists.

More than 100 local artists, both acclaimed and emerging, donated 233

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XWORD SOLUTION Corner

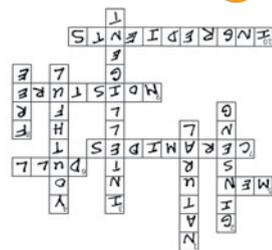


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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 23)

works for the show, curated by **Nancy Gifford**, and each ticket holder was able to purchase a piece of art for only \$300 on the night of the event.

The remaining artwork will continue on display at the gallery for the rest of November and will be available for purchase through a silent auction.

“It is unlike any other fundraiser because the artists themselves are the beneficiaries, not just the art donors,” says **Catey Dunkley**, event chair.

The reception will fund both the community gallery, which provides access and connection between emerging artists and the community, and the teens arts mentorship program that helps young artists explore their artistic talent through training from local professional artists.

Among those checking out the myriad paintings on display were **Mary Collier**, **Leslie Dinaberg**, **Robin Martinelli**, **Stephan** and **Christine Rosenfeld**, **Bruce** and **Tracy Stouffer**, and **Steve** and **Caroline Thompson**.

A real feast for the eyes...

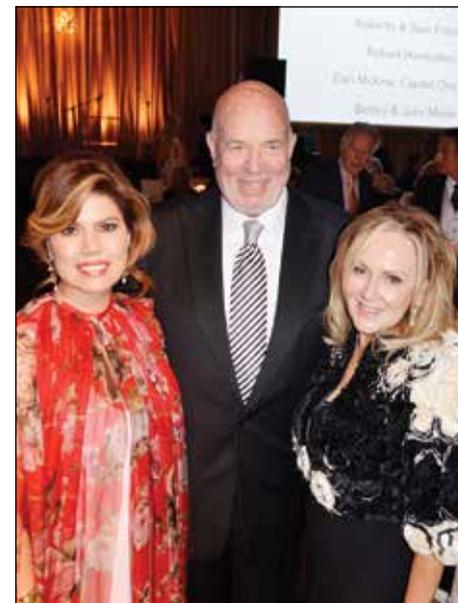
Dream on

It is without a doubt one of the most popular charity fundraisers in our Eden by the Beach, with high-priced tickets being sold out weeks in advance – and it’s no wonder, given the host of celebrities it attracts.

And the 20th anniversary of Dream



Kisa Heyer, DF executive director; Tristan Layton, director of corporate partnerships and marketing; Shelly Piccolo, Outstanding Corporate Partner Award presenter; Tanum Davis; and Troy Cox of Genentech, Corporate Partner Award honoree (photo by Priscilla)



Tanya Callau Thicke, supporter with Bill Nicholson, Humanitarian Award presenter and Sandi Nicholson (photo by Priscilla)

Foundation’s Celebration of Dreams gala at the Bacara was no exception with 500 guests turning out to honor tequila and haircare tycoon, **John Paul DeJoria**, and Genentech, one of America’s leading biotechnology companies, which has been involved with the foundation for eight years.

In the cavernous ballroom, gloriously decorated by Montecito events planner extraordinaire, **Merryl Brown**, former rock star, **Bill Medley** of the Righteous Brothers, and his daughter, **McKenna**, sang his two biggest hits, “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’ and



Nigel Lythgoe, 2012 Humanitarian Award honoree; Jelinda DeVorzon, DF gala co-chair; Hollye Jacobs, gala co-chair; Mireille Noon, co-chair with seated Priscilla Presley, ambassador, with singing sensations Bill Medley, of the Righteous Brothers and his daughter, McKenna Medley (photo by Priscilla)

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Richard Mackin, former dream recipient; Ida Mackin, Eloise DeJoria, and John Paul DeJoria, Humanitarian Award honoree; Christianne Adamik, former dream recipient; and Jonathan Adamik (photo by Priscilla)

“Unchained Melody”, while Scottish Grammy Award nominee **KT Tunstall** performed her hits, “Suddenly I See” and “Black Horse and the Cherry Tree”, and singer-songwriter **David Ryan Harris** singing songs from his album *Lightyears*.

Hollye Jacobs, **Holly Murphy**, **Mireille Noone**, wife of 60s rocker **Peter**, and **Jelinda DeVorzon**, wife of Oscar nominee **Barry**, co-chaired

the 13th annual super soirée, which was expected to raise a whopping \$1 million for the non-profit which has helped achieve 20,000 dreams for adults suffering terminal diseases since its founding by **Thomas Rollerson**.

The ever-present **Andrew Firestone**, with the help of his wife, **Ivana**, conducted the live auction, which included a Napa Valley winery weekend, a



Holly Murphy (left), gala co-chair with guests also celebrating Holly's birthday (photo by Priscilla)

private screening and cocktail party at mega director **Ivan Reitman's** Montecito estate, a villa in Tuscany during white truffle culinary week, a 12-day Crystal cruise from Monte Carlo, a stay at the Hotel Bel-Air complete with a Rolls-Royce Ghost to drive, and a week's stay at the late New York publishing tycoon Malcolm Forbes' private island in Fiji.

Among the guests at the boffo bash were **Priscilla Presley**, *American Idol* TV producer **Nigel Lythgoe**, **Tanya Thicke**, **Kenny Slaughter**, **Bill and Sandi Nicholson**, **Arlene Montesano**, **Layla Khashoggi**, **Corinna Gordon**, **Leslie Ridley-Tree**, **Mara Abboud**, **Hiroko Benko**, **Herb and Bui Simon**, **Ella and Scott Brittingham**, **Stan and Roberta**

Fishman, Debbie Kass, Brian King, Diana and Ralph MacFarlane, Lee and Marla McNally Phillips, Kendall Conrad, Teresa McWilliams, Peri Harcourt, Palmer and Susan Jackson, mayor Helene Schneider, Mary Ellen Tiffany, Eric and Nina Phillips, KETY-TV anchor Shirin Rajae and Steve and Caroline Thompson..

A Toast to Coast

Coast 2 Coast Collection, the charmingly eclectic gift boutique in La Arcada, celebrated its third anniversary with a champagne fueled bash for 175 guests hosted by owners **Bob and Holly Murphy**.

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Getting in the "spirits" are Jeannie Hill, Chad and Ginni Drieh, and Diane Starr Langley with Bob Murphy, owner of Coast 2 Coast (photo by Priscilla)



Personalizing special gifts for guests: Julia Dawson with Vietri Artistian Alessandro Taddeai painting a plate for Roxanna Solakian, with Holly Murphy, Coast 2 Coast owner; Holli Draughn, VP of VIETRI; and holding her personalized gift is Debbie Borden (photo by Priscilla)

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 33)

"We opened on 11.11.11, which we thought was a lucky date and it has really worked well for us three years later," says Bob.

Alessandro Taddei, the "maestro" artist for Italy's Vietri china, discussed his colorful creations and signed pieces of his work, just in time for Christmas.

Checking out the party were judge **Brian Hill**, **Ginni Dreier**, **Debbie Gordon**, **Marilyn Metzner**, **Roxy Solakian**, and **Julia Dawson**...

Art Wars

Director **George Lucas**, who has a beach house just a tiara's toss from Oscar-winner **Kevin Costner** in Carpinteria, has unveiled plans for his \$300 million art museum – and it wouldn't look out of place on the set of *Star Wars*.

The space-age Lucas Museum of Narrative Art was designed by noted

Beijing architect **Ma Yansong**, who was inspired by the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe.

Expected to open in 2018, it features a floating disc above four levels of exhibition space in "infinite loops" and an observation deck with 360-degree views of Chicago and Lake Michigan.

The museum will house pieces from the *Star Wars* creator's \$600-million personal collection, including works by Norman Rockwell and Alberto Vargas, and props from his ground-breaking movies.

It will be "a gathering place to experience narrative art and the evolution of moving images – from illustration to cinema to the digital mediums of the future," says a statement on the museum's website.

As well as the permanent collection, it will host temporary exhibitions, as well as educational events.

Chicago residents have had mixed reactions to the plans. In opinions compiled by the *Chicago Tribune*, readers compared the futuristic structure to Jabba the Hut's desert spaceship, a nuclear power plant, a child's volcano science project, and Space Mountain.

But the city's mayor, **Rahm Emanuel**, is standing by the plans, saying in a statement: "George Lucas has revolutionized the art of storytelling over the last four decades and we are honored to be the recipient of this incredible legacy investment that will allow everyone to learn about and experience narrative arts."

Exit, Stage Left

There was almost as much drama offstage as there was on when Opera Santa Barbara staged Verdi's work *Rigoletto* at the Granada.

An ambulance, lights flashing like a Christmas tree, pulled up outside the theater during the first intermission after an elderly audience member lost consciousness.

As if this wasn't enough, the theater had to be totally evacuated when the fire alarm went off in the second intermission due to a technical malfunction, though the audience was able to return to watch the end of the production after 20 minutes.

"It was certainly quite the evening," says opera director **Steven Sharpe**. "I call it *Rigoletto's* curse! But all worked out in the end."

Black tie supporters, including **Roger** and **Sarah Chrisman**, **Dolly Granatelli**, **Sandra Laby**, and **Corinna Gordon**, noshed on a three-course pre-opera dinner in the McCune Founders room before the show, as well as having post performance dessert with the cast and conductor **Christopher Allen**.

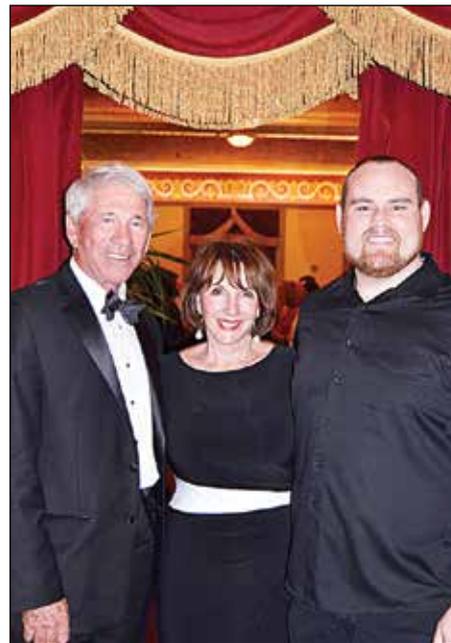
Soprano **Andrea Carroll**, who did an absolutely superb job as Gilda, along with baritone **Evan Brummel** as her



Enjoying the intermission are Roger Chrisman, Elsbeth Kleen, Sarah Chrisman, Granada Board president, and Ken Clements (photo by Priscilla)



Ambassador Frank Baxter with his wife, Catherine Baxter, and grandchildren Theresa Baxter and Nicholas Bell (photo by Priscilla)



Rigoletto artist sponsors Bob Urguhart; and event chair Sandy Urquart with their guest artist, Evan Brummel, who played *Rigoletto* (photo by Priscilla)

hunch backed jester father and **Cody Austin**, as his womanizing employer, the Duke of Mantua, joined in the socializing along with bass **Kevin Thompson**, who played the assassin Sparafucile and mezzo-soprano **Catherine Martin** as *Rigoletto's* sister.

Stage director **Brad Dalton**, an alumnus of Harvard University and the National Shakespeare Conservatory, excelled himself, as did scenic designer **Steven Kemp** and costume designer **Martin Pakledinaz**.

Everybody and the rest of the talented cast was clearly in the right aria...

Super Bowls

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County was bowled over when the

17th annual Empty Bowls Lunch took place at the Ben Page Youth Center, next to the Foodbank's Goleta headquarters.

The brainchild of **Danyel Dean**, a longtime ceramics teacher at AdultEd, the event has become enormously popular over the years and more than 1,000 people turned out to buy a bowl and partake of a simple meal of bread and soup donated by many of our tony town's best eateries, including Lucky's, Benchmark, Arlington Tavern, Olio e Limone, the San Ysidro Ranch, Sly's, Bouchon, Brophy's, and Ca Dario.

I chose a cobalt blue bowl with a celadon glaze and porcini cream soup from Downey's, a most delicious combination. The bowl, which I was allowed to take home, is now filled with fragrant potpourri, doing double duty.

The delightfully creative event, which had **Janet Garufis**, **Randy Weiss**, **George Leis**, and **Allan Ghitlerman**, among others, ladling the soup selections, raised around \$140,000 for the Foodbank – which served 144,000 people in Santa Barbara County last year working with 330 charities – bringing the total collected over the past 17 years to more than \$1 million.

Afterward, I was given a tour of the nonprofit's most impressive facility...

Bank Bash

First Republic Bank opened its new 17,000-square-foot State Street branch with a bustling bash for 200 friends and clients.

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The participating event servers: James St. James (Foodbank Kitchen); Paul Wiecekowski (Schipper Construction); Ida Pointer Gomez (Rabobank); Mark Ingalls (Camino Real Marketplace); Brigitte Guehr (Meadow Lark Inn); and Mickey Neal (Green Hills Software) (photo by Priscilla)



Foodbank CEO Erik Talkin framed with picture-perfect granddaughter Mia and Jordan BenShea, surrounded by Phillip and Carolyn Wyatt, and Empty Bowls founder Danyel Dean (photo by Priscilla)



Jon Bull, Karin Napel, Bob Torton, Girlie Edwards, and Jason Moumtzoglou (photo by Priscilla)

offices, it took three years to come to fruition on the site of a former travel equipment store.

Among the guests snaffling the canapés and quaffing the wine from Tom Barrack's Happy Canyon Vineyards, were Frank Goss, Karl Hutterer, Dana Hansen, Nancy Bell Coe, Wendy McCaw, and Arthur von Wiesenberger...

Sightings: ESPN football commentator Keyshawn Johnson checking out the racks at K. Frank, the trendy

State Street haberdashery...Oprah Winfrey's beau, **Stedman Graham**, on his cell phone at Pierre Lafond...**Ellen DeGeneres** and **Portia de Rossi** noshing at Lucky's

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and other amusing items for Richard's column should e-mail him at richardmineards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the Journal •117



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