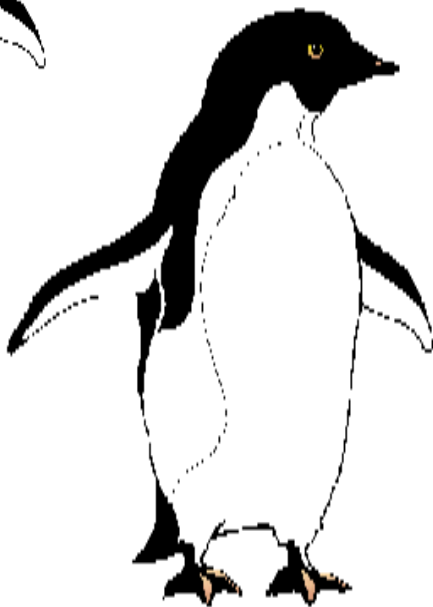


# *Momentum*

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 26 No. 8

March 2007



# New Hampshire Mensa

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# Out of My Mind

## LocSec Claire Natola

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Once again, I'm writing this long before you're reading it...so I cannot yet legitimately say what a wonderful time we all had at the RG. The full report will have to wait until next month's issue.

Although RG planning takes up much of the time of our intrepid volunteers at this time of year, not all that goes on behind the scenes in our chapter in winter involves RG planning. This is prime judging time for scholarship essays! Scholarship Chair **Ed Stevens** has done a phenomenal job of wrangling 100 submissions into order for our judges. His gratitude and mine go to **Rob Roy, Frank Matranga, and Katja Swift** for serving as judges this year. I trust that their job has been as fulfilling as it is important. Many thanks to them!

I had the pleasure of visiting Birmingham, Alabama in January to attend a quarterly meeting of the American Mensa Committee. (That's American Mensa's board of directors, for all our newbies.) I stayed with Steve and LeAnne Porter, Chairs of the 2007 Annual Gathering. (Their home was featured in the January issue of *Mensa Bulletin*.) Steve and LeAnne were gracious hosts, and they gave us a tour of the 2007 AG hotel (the Sheraton Birmingham). I cannot come up with words sufficient enough to describe how excited I am about this year's AG! Abundant hospitality, affordable room rates, a great hotel...not to mention the fact that you can fly from Manchester to Birmingham VERY cheaply on Southwest Airlines. It's tailor-made for we frugal yet fun-loving Yankees! If you have never been to an Annual Gathering, this is the year to treat yourself to one. Visit <http://www.ag.2007.org> for more information. July 4-8...I'll see you there!

Another event to seriously consider attending (particularly if you are a game lover) is Mind Games®. On April 20-22, Mensans will congregate in Pittsburgh to play and judge dozens of new games. It has been 12 years since Mind Games® has been held this close to New England; who can pass up the opportunity to go? Visit <http://mindgames.us.mensa.org>.

Speaking of Mensa events on a national scale, it's not too late to sign up for the Colloquium being held in Chicago in a few weeks (March 23-25) on Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter (<http://colloq07.us.mensa.org>). Did you know that the first Colloquium was held right in our backyard (Boston) in 1982? Wouldn't it be great to open the doors of northern New England to Mensans nationwide by hosting a Colloquium in our chapter? I think autism would be a fascinating topic, but I'd like to hear your ideas!

The more I travel for Mensa, the more recognition I hear from people nationally about what a great chapter we have. I've been approached about presenting proposals for New Hampshire Mensa to host events like Leadership Development Workshops and AMC Meetings. In fact, the idea of putting together a bid for Mind Games has come up at our ExComm Meetings in the past. Would you like to help us put together a proposal for a future Colloquium, Mind Games®, or other national event? I'd love to hear from you about it! It would be a great opportunity for members of our chapter to have an event such as this occur right here at home!

I'll take this opportunity to remind everyone whose memberships expire in 2007 that you should have received your renewal packets in January. I encourage you to renew as soon as possible; if funds allow, please think about a multi-year or life membership! And please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss what you'd like to get out of your membership. If I were to say that this is an organization by the members, for the members, etc. you might accuse me of sounding trite...but it's true. If I can help YOU make YOUR Mensa experience a more rewarding one, let me know. And I'll see you out there at many of these great events!



## What's Cooking in Region 1

**Region 1 Vice Chair Margherita McBean**

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Winter's sting is back: as I write this it is 11 degrees F with a minus 8 F wind-chill. The second queen bee froze, and hopefully the other bees will be able to survive the frigid temperatures. The groundhog was wrong, very wrong this year.

The January American Mensa Committee (AMC - Mensa's national board of directors of which I am one) meeting in Birmingham Alabama was lively, with a great deal of attention paid to the Local Group Charter Committee's proposal. As Chair, the committee and I have received input, often conflicting, from lawyers, auditors, and our members. The decision to postpone a vote until a more simplified, understandable document is created was taken by the committee as a strong signal that sometimes less can indeed be more. What had started out as a one page "clarification of the relationship between American Mensa and its local groups" blossomed into a twelve page affair full of legalese. Legal opinions should be respected, but often they can contain an element of overkill. I feel confident that the next AMC meeting in Chicago will see a kinder, gentler Local Group Charter.

The city of Birmingham has lots of steep hills which make for an energetic running experience. I was able to visit the Civil Rights Museum which offered a moving historical perspective on segregation and the civil rights movement which moved into national awareness during the 1955 Montgomery Alabama bus strike initiated by Rosa Parks. If you are planning to attend the Annual Gathering, this would be an excellent visit destination, as well as the Birmingham Museum of Art which has one of the best collections of Wedgwood in the world.

As a twenty-two year volunteer reader for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic ( , I am happy to report that this worthy organisation will be the national Make-A-Difference Day (27 October) project for American Mensa, as approved at the AMC meeting. There are studios in many parts of the country, and five in Region 1: New Haven, CT; Lenox, Williamstown, and Cambridge, MA; and New York City. I would urge all of you to consider volunteering!

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership by 31 March! Besides enjoying another year (or better yet, \*years\* - consider a multi-year or life membership) of Mensa, it will guarantee that you will be eligible to vote in the upcoming national elections this spring. As many of you know, I am running for Chair, so I do have a personal stake in voter turnout.

"Irish" and "potatoes" are almost synonymous, so Boxy is a great addition to your St. Patrick's Day menu. These pancakes are similar to the latkes served at Hannukah.

### Boxty (Irish Potato Pancakes)

1 lb. (450 g.) potatoes, peeled and grated

6 oz. (170 g.) flour

½ tsp. (2 g.) baking powder

¾ tsp. (3 g.) salt

4 oz. (125 ml.) milk

1. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Mix with potatoes.
2. Add the egg and enough milk to make a thick batter.
3. Drop tablespoonfuls of batter into a hot greased frying pan. Cook each side 3-4 minutes or until brown.
4. Serve hot with butter and, if you like, condiments: sauteed onions, chutney, etc.

To see this and past articles visit <http://region1.us.mensa.org/cooking.shtml>

Marghretta

"We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding. Understanding creates love. Love creates patience. And patience creates unity."

-- Malcolm X



## Bits and Pieces

### Young Inventors' Competition

Tilton, NH Winnisquam Regional High School, Saturday, April 7, 2006 8am- noon.

Join the Academy of Applied Science and fellow Mensans and check our young minds at work. Students from across the state will display and demonstrate their inventions. Volunteers needed to judge - no experience needed. For more information, contact Pamela Hampton at [Phampton@aaas-world.org](mailto:Phampton@aaas-world.org) or call 603-228-4530. Join fellow Mensans for lunch afterwards at the Century Buffet restaurant. For directions, call Joe Zanca 603-286-4157.





# ExComm Minutes of January 16, 2007

## **Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt**

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Voting Members Present: John Bauman, Mark Becker, Wayne Eddy, Liz Modesitt, Claire Natola, and Deb Stone.

Others Present: Alicia Andrus, Elizabeth Becker, and Ric Werme.

The meeting was called to order at 7:53 p.m.

We have a total of 518 members, with 342 members in New Hampshire and 176 in Maine. This is an increase of 8 members from December 2006.

Claire Natola reported several items that affect the chapter, as follows:

1. Gary Goodnight from Hooksett died.
2. We have received 65 scholarship application essays to date.
3. The Local Group Subsidy per member has been increased by National, and secondary members will now count fully towards calculating the total subsidy.

The pricing for printing *Momentum* at Office Depot is not what it should be according to the rates originally quoted to us, and also based on the information from National regarding our discount. Until Claire Natola can reconcile this difference, the proposal to pay for having *Momentum* stapled by the printer has been tabled.

Wayne Eddy is continuing to work on the Dues Subsidy Policy, but a formal vote on it was tabled until at least next meeting.

There will be an RG Planning Meeting on January 18, 2007 to finalize several details and plans for the RG.

John Bauman gave the Testing Coordinator files to Claire Natola, who will bring them to the new Testing Coordinator Lynn Fox.

Work is also still in progress on the revisions to our Chapter Bylaws. Wayne Eddy presented the latest comments from National regarding this process.

The chapter subsidy for our Culture Quest Tournament was discussed, specifically how the money would be allocated if we fielded more than one team. The matter will be tabled until more is known about the composition of our chapter's team(s).

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

# RVC1 Campaign Statements

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RVC1 Campaign Statement from  
WALTER S. WAKEFIELD

Hi I've met many of you at RGs and at the Leadership Workshop, etc.; but, many more of You are as yet un-met Friends I can only reach via print. Our Region has about 6,500 members, so you can see it is not easy to meet each of you, at least in a short period of time. Who am I and what am I doing here? I'm aa motivated, dedicated, competent 27-year member, active on many levels during the past 16 years, hosting many events and dinners, as well as RG co-Chairs. (By the time you read this, many of you will know I can produce a large, fun, RG.) Behind the scenes, I solve short and long term problems, without delay, to help all sides gain fruitful resolution. I have written numerous published articles, bringing humor and (common?) sense to often prickly subjects. Personally I am a widower (but promise not to disappear if I meet "the one"); and, have been a self employed businessman since age 11, founding a bookstore at the same location in Portsmouth, NH for the past 34 years, dealing with individuals, professionals, and institutions in America and abroad. I share Elvis' motto of "TCB" "h" "TgTaking Care of Business"). (For decades, he wore a necklace with (TCB)). I often travel 500-1,000 miles monthly for Mensa, expecting more travel if I am elected as your representative RVC1. I have reliable transportation, as well as providing much of it. I am attentive and even-tempered. It is easy to reach

Dear Fellow Mensans:

I am a candidate for Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) for Region 1. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. My husband, Ron, and I live in Rhode Island. Previously, my husband, and I for while, lived in Troy, NY and as we both have traveled around the region and enjoyed events and RGs hosted by many of the local chapters, I have already met many members of New Hampshire Mensa. We have both particularly enjoyed past Granite Gatherings you remember us—we cut our wedding cake there in 2001. We are already looking forward to Granite Gathering 2008.

I joined Mensa in order to meet people and make new friends and I can honestly say that Mensa has exceeded my expectations. Not only have I made many friends throughout the region, but I also met Ron Norris, at a regional gathering in 1998 and we spent our honeymoon with you at the 2001 New Hampshire RG. We continue to enjoy participating in Mensa events, locally, regionally, nationally and, occasionally, internationally.

I have been an active member of Mensa since I joined in 1990. I have served in many capacities with Rhode Island Mensa including LocSec, Membership Officer, Proctor Coordinator, proctor and acting editor. I have participated in judging scholarship essays and have served as the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. In 2000, I temporarily relocated to the Albany, New York area and served as proctor and Proctor Coordinator for Mensa of Northeastern New York.

Mensa has been a wonderful influence on my life. I am running for RVC to give something back to Mensa. I believe that both my educational background (food service management,

me day or night; and, I have a MENSA DEDICATED TOLLFREE PHONE (877) 436-7250. I promise to bring insight, philosophy, humane humanism to all conduct and writings. And last, but, not least, I promise NO recipes or sports. Please consider me for your VOTE in the April election (ballot and envelope scheduled to be in the April *gMensa Bulletin*).

With Care, Walter S. Wakefield

managerial technology and a law degree) and work experiences (currently I am a lawyer) will serve me well in the position of RVC. I think that I can do the job well. I believe that the most important issue facing both Region 1 and the AMC now and into the future is membership: 1) retain our existing members by meeting their needs; 2) recruit new members, especially "young blood"; and 3) improving public perception of Mensa.

I hope to become your representative to the AMC and would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. Please feel free to e-mail or telephone me to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Lori J. Norris  
Warwick, RI  
lorijnorris@hotmail.com  
401-781-3247

THE  
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**WANTED:** All publications of Mensa, Intertel, I.S.P.E., new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa *Bulletin*, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

Actively BUYING/trading collections/accumulations of old and new books, magazines, comics, sheet music, postcards, photos, prints, music CDs, adult/erotica in all forms.

Bring to The Antiquarian Bookstore at 1070 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1, adjacent to old Yoken's Restaurant), Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-5408 or call Walter Wakefield at 603-436-7250. New Hampshire's largest used/rare bookstore since 1973. Over 1/4 Million volumes in stock. Usually open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Sometimes at club events -- call.) Thank You.

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# Local Writers!

## No More Edisons

by Ric Werme

One of my childhood heroes was Thomas Edison. No, I'm not old enough to know him - but his eldest daughter gave me my first book about him. "Aunt Marion" lived next door to my grandparents was one of my grandmother's closest friends. That book was a biography written for children and gave an appreciation of his entire remarkable life. That was some fifty years ago, and even then it would have been nigh on impossible for another child to replicate Edison's childhood. Today, aspects would be considered child neglect or result in other adults facing criminal charges.

In 1859, when Edison was 12, he convinced his mother to let him sell newspapers on a train that ran between Port Huron and Detroit, 60 miles away. The time in Detroit was frequently spent reading at the library or buying items for his chemistry hobby. Apparently there were no restrictions on what he could buy - just consequences when a stick of phosphorous set fire to the baggage car when its bottle was jarred loose by bad tracks.

Edison never became an engineer or scientist, he remained an experimenter and inventor and several of today's products are still closely related to his original designs.

Suppose someone with Edison's promise were born in 1997, 150 years after the original. How might he turn out? Today's United States is so vastly different it's hard to tell. Edison was a "late talking child," not talking until age four. Today, that is a red flag for autism, though I'm certain Edison's mother would have found Thomas Sowell's book on the subject and realize that description is a better fit.

The new Tom would never become a newsboy on the Port Huron train, in part because it and most other passenger trains no longer run, in part because neither parent nor train operator would allow it. Nor would he have learned Morse code or the telegraph business. Instead, I think he would carve an interesting niche out of the World Wide Web. I've heard stories of motivated teens setting up commercial web sites, and have no doubt a new Tom would readily get the little permission and parental support needed to get a business running. What to sell? Probably not chemicals! Today's EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Homeland Security, and several other federal, state, and local agencies and other distractions have virtually destroyed the home chemistry hobby. They've even created huge obstacles to legitimate R&D. Perhaps in Russia or India a new Edison could grow up with chemistry.

New Tom would embrace electronics and could well build his web business around clever gadgets, peripherals, etc. and reach far more customers than he ever could on a train. Edison was a master at finding new products that would create new markets, even if he had to create the infrastructure to support it. The incandescent light and electricity production is his the best example. The phonograph and the recording industry has parallels with today's iPods and music downloading.

As new Tom's business grows, it would give him the capital to look for new product niches and set about filling them. Genetic engineering or nanotechnology could be the stage big enough to address the myriad ideas, and is fresh enough so that empirical design and experimentation that Edison relied upon might apply to new Tom's work. Science is the process of understanding how the universe works and developing tools to interact with it. Engineering takes

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# Upcoming Testing Sessions

## Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at [nh.us.mensa.org](http://nh.us.mensa.org). Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$30; a photo-ID is required.

Proctor	Date	Location
Bill Alleman 603-529-4446	Saturday, 17 March 10:30 a.m.	Weare, NH
Bromley Baril 603-749-1088	Saturday, 24 March 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, NH Franklin Pierce College

Due to the advanced nature of deadlines there may be other testing dates that did not make it to press in time for this issue. Please refer to the NH Mensa website (<http://nh.us.mensa.org>) or contact the Testing Coordinator (see back cover for contact information) for more up-to-date information.



### Welcome to NH/ME Mensa!

Neil Flynn  
Walter Jasnowski  
Maxwell C. Demilner  
Mark R. Correira

Bedford, NH  
Portland, ME  
Peru, ME  
Derry, NH

### Welcome back to Mensa!

Catherine A. Segedy  
Edward S. Michniewicz  
Jayne E. Britton  
Sherie J. Winslow  
Gary D. Watland Jr.

Loundonderry, NH  
Loudon, NH  
Portsmouth, NH  
Brunswick, ME  
Warren, ME





# Notes from National

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Microsoft's QnA Live and American Mensa have teamed up to create a lively "Ask Mensa" contest for the month of March that will give your brain a workout while raising money for the Mensa Education & Research Foundation.

Our goal is to gather 50 Mensans - 10 teams of 5 people - to log onto QnA Live throughout the month of March to ask questions, give answers and vote for the best answers. (The emphasis is on answering questions, so the public can see how Mensa members respond to their queries.) As Mensa's teams engage more with QnA members, the money rises, until we hit a \$10,000 donation\* to the Mensa Foundation!

How do I sign up? If you have 4 friends in Mensa who want to form a team, appoint a team leader who will then send the names, email addresses, and member numbers of your team of 5 to Catherine Barney at [catherineb@americanmensa.org](mailto:catherineb@americanmensa.org). Please note, your name/email address will be sent to QnA Live. They will keep the addresses on file until the end of the promotion in April.

To create a QnA Live ID, each team member will need to visit <https://accounts.services.passport.net/ppnetworkhome.srf?vv=450&lc=1033>. Please email your QnA Nickname and User Profile URL to Catherine, so your account can be tagged "Mensa" during the month of March. We'll need this information by February 2. If you want to join a team, but don't have enough members, send Catherine your name and we can try to place you in a team that isn't full yet.

Unfamiliar with QnA Live? Visit [www.qna.live.com](http://www.qna.live.com) for more information.  
*\*Each time a Mensa member participates in March, it adds to the total donation, with a maximum donation of \$10,000.*

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*Continued from page 9*

those tools and creates new systems not previously possible. Invention envisions new systems not previously known. What might the new Tom create? I don't know, that's his job. What markets might exist to absorb new products? That's a much easier question! Medical monitoring for the aging baby boomers is one obvious choice. Clean energy production or post production cleanup like carbon sequestration is another. Novel ways of extracting material from depleted ores or waste couples into that.

Some of the best inventions are things that are fairly simple but no one ever considered them before. That's one reason why most predictions about the future fail. When predictions center on improvements to existing technology, the failure can be quite spectacular when new technology comes along that makes existing products obsolete.

Can there be another Edison? Perhaps, but he'll have a different background. Few people are as widely read, as experienced, and as insightful as Thomas Edison was. I've met people who have some of those characteristics and can infuse employees with the intense allegiance needed to join in the 99% perspiration work. However, they have never achieved more than a small bit of Edison's fame and impact. The biggest obstacle may not be personal, but environmental. Until a new "disruptive technology" like nanotechnology opens up thousands of avenues for invention, there may not be room enough for a new Thomas Edison.



# Calendar of Events

## March 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				01	02 Temperance League	03
04	05	06	07 GenX Pub Trivia Night	08 Dining Around Portland	09 The Brady Bunch	10 Games Night
11 2nd Sunday Brunch	12	13	14 GenX Pub Trivia Night	15	16 Winnipesupper	17 GenX SIG St. Paddy's
18 Central M.E. Dining M.A. Bridge Night	19 MSTK3 Monday	20 Pre-FSM Dinner FSM/ExComm	21 North of Boston Dinner GenX Pub Trivia Night	22	23 Appetite for Discussion	24
25 North Country Lunch	26	27 Dinner & Pub Quiz in M.E.	28 GenX Pub Trivia Night	29	30	

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor ([calendar@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:calendar@nh.us.mensa.org)) before the first day of the month prior to your event. ♦ Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area. ♦ It is NH/ME Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. ♦ Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at group-sponsored events. ♦ Hosts of home-based events reserve the right to restrict attendance due to space or other appropriate reasons. ♦ While our hosts endeavor to provide accurate directions, attendees are well-advised to use their mapping medium of choice to determine their own best routes. ♦ In addition to being proper etiquette, R.S.V.P.'ing makes logical sense; it helps the host plan for the proper number of attendees and allows you to be kept abreast of any changes or cancellations.



## A Sampling of Next Month's Events\*



Wednesday, 04 April, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, 06 April, 7:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, 08 April, 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday, 11 April, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, 13 April, 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, 14 April, 6:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, 15 April, 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, 15 April, 6:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, 17 April, 5:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, 17 April, 7:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, 18 April, 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, 18 April, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, 20 April, 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, 22 April, 1:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, 24 April, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday, 25 April, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, 27 April, 6:30 p.m.

Gen X Pub Trivia, Concord, N.H.  
 Temperance League, Manchester, N.H.  
 2nd Sunday Brunch, Keene, N.H.  
 Gen X Pub Trivia, Concord, N.H.  
 The Brady Bunch, Peterborough, N.H.  
 Games Night, Concord, N.H.  
 Central Maine Dining, Location TBD  
 Bridge Night, Dedham, Mass.  
 Pre-FSM Dinner, Location TBD  
 FSM/ExComm, Bow, N.H.  
 North of Boston Dinner, Peabody, Mass.  
 Gen X Pub Trivia, Concord, N.H.  
 Winnipesupper, Location TBD  
 North Country Lunch, North Conway, N.H.  
 Dinner and Pub Quiz, Portland, Me.  
 Gen X Pub Trivia, Concord, N.H.  
 Appetite for Discussion, Portsmouth, N.H.

\*Events are subject to changes of date, time, location or even outright cancellation, as life sometimes gets in the way. Don't forget to refer to next month's *Momentum* for the most up-to-date information.



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