

the daily collegian

living

a weekly look at life in the University community

Hershey: the second year...

By MARCY WEISS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A lot of medical students tell you quite candidly the reason they attend the school that they do is because they had no choice.

Eric Newman was luckier than some. He had a choice and he picked the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He is completing his second year at the facility, located in Hershey.

"Hershey really is unique," Newman said. "The pace inside a med school is quick. And when you go to school in New York City and you walk outside, the pace is just as quick."

"Hershey is a much more relaxing, serene atmosphere to study in," he said. "The serenity of rural surroundings may be ideal for minimizing the tension

that can mount in a tough professional school. Being surrounded by three corn fields and a chocolate factory, however, may make the night life a little less than exciting, Newman said.

"It can get to you after a while," he said. "Sometimes you want to go out and tear the town up and there isn't much of a town to tear up."

The usual outlets for recreation and social life are parties, softball and basketball games and student organizations which are mostly student initiated, he said.

"We're the only campus of Penn State that doesn't have one," he said. "There's no place where faculty and students can congregate and interact with each other."

Newman said he also thinks an auditorium for shows and plays is needed. "Other Penn State campuses can get the dramatic events the main campus gets

college and what college you came from too," he said.

"When you get to med school, one of the basic things you have to realize is that you're never going to know it all. It's just a matter of adjusting," he said.

The new facilities and equipment at Hershey are an advantage but as far as student life is concerned, Newman said one welcome addition would be a student union building.

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Newman said he also thinks an auditorium for shows and plays is needed. "Other Penn State campuses can get the dramatic events the main campus gets

but we can't enjoy them because we don't have the facilities," he said.

For those planning to enter medical school or do graduate work in medicine, Newman stressed the importance of taking advantage of campus events and including non-science courses in one's undergraduate schedule.

"It's the last chance you will have to participate in some of those kinds of things, he said.

"As for me, I'm having more fun here than I had in college," he said. "I'm doing what I've wanted to do all my life and I'm fulfilling my goals. It's an exciting thing and I do enjoy it," Newman said.

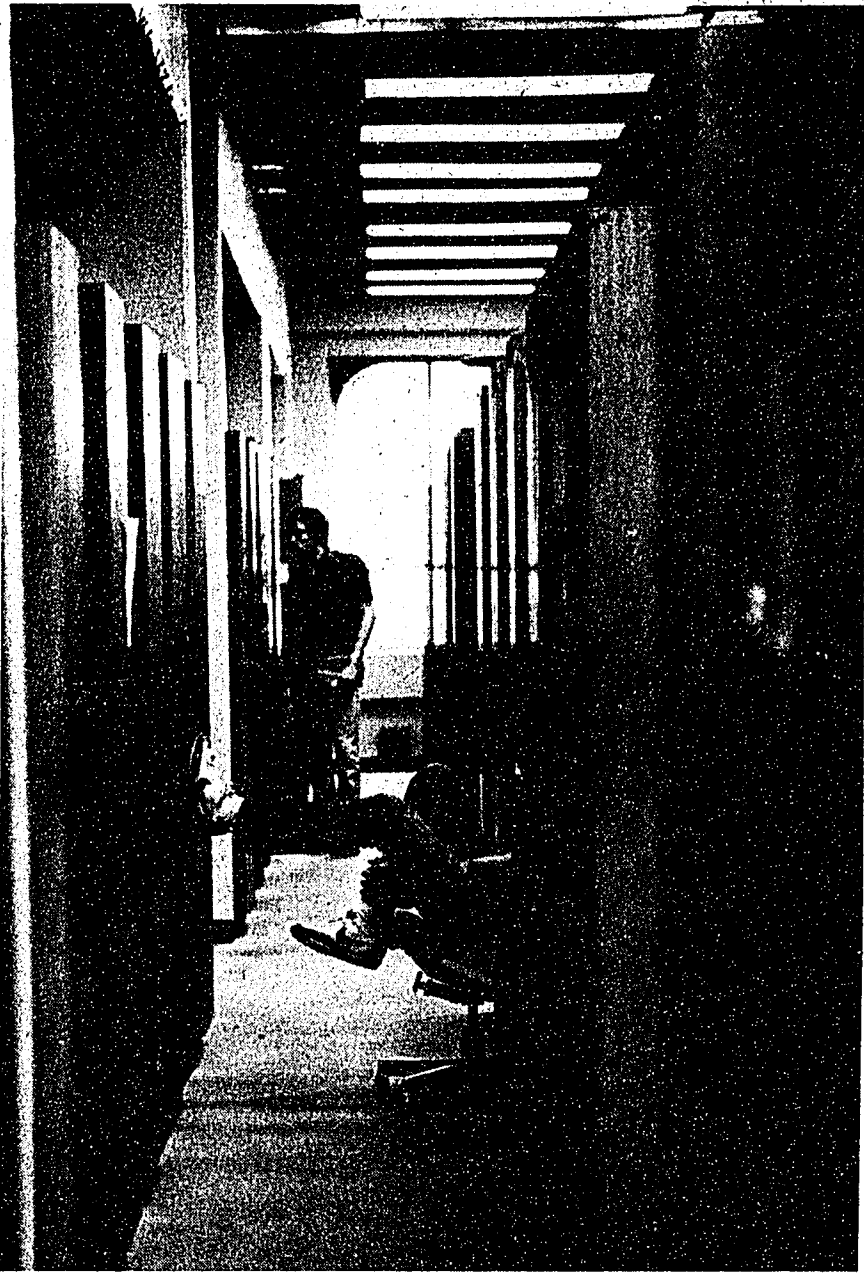


Photo by Stelios Varas

Medical students at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center are each given an office to study in. When taking a break from the books, they sometimes lounge in the hallways. Courses are graded on a pass/fail basis only, but studying still holds a very high priority.

...and fourth year students

By MARCY WEISS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The stereotype of the medical student working 16 hours a day and having his ego ripped apart is not really accurate, at least according to one fourth-year student at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

"We don't work as hard as people think we do; we're not as mentally ill as people think we are, and we're not obsessive-compulsive — though there is a higher risk," Jean E. Sidorov said.

"He said students learn to handle the pressure after they realize that they have to work as hard at med school to pass as they did in college to get an A."

"Sure, the libraries are usually filled up, there are students studying in all of the rooms, exams are coming up and

there's this mentality, 'I gotta study, I gotta study,'" Sidorov said.

Stress becomes a problem for a lot of students, he said, and he said he thinks there should be more programs to help students deal with stress.

"The student has to learn to recognize the symptoms in himself and in his colleagues," he said.

Sidorov said he is basically pleased with the education he is receiving at Hershey, but he said he thinks some of the instruction should be evaluated.

"Many topics are taken for granted. Health problems such as pneumonia are not discussed but hours of lecture are spent on rare, academically interesting diseases, but diseases that are useless to the average clinician," he said.

And he said there are piles of lecture

notes.

"You get through a set of notes once for an exam, and maybe you go over some sections twice," Sidorov said.

"Academically, the adjustment was tough. I came here assuming that because I was such a good student at Villanova and since it was pass/fail here, I wouldn't have to work as hard to maintain good grades," he said.

"The pass/fail system, however, does seem to cut down on competitiveness," Sidorov said.

Students seem to lead a relatively comfortable existence at Hershey, he said. "There's always a pick-up basketball game and you can always go out on the Susquehanna or go out for a jog. And we can go to parties and not talk about medicine all the time."

Sidorov said, however, that there is not much of a feeling of unity with the University's other campuses, especially University Park.

"Officially, I'm a grad student at Penn State. I get football applications and a Penn State I.D. card and on Saturday when there's a game on T.V. we'll root for Penn State and go as berserk as anyone," he said.

"Being on the main campus and having the stores and the night life would mean a big change in atmosphere," he said.

He also said, "I do think we're really into our work, but there seems to be the mystique about med students killing themselves in med school."

"Frankly," Sidorov said, "I don't believe it."



Photos by Stel Varas

A Hershey nursing student conducts laboratory tests, above, while Paul Ratz, a graduate student in physiology, intently views the pumping of a rabbit's heart. He's looking through an electron microscope, which, when coupled with a special camera, produces photographs of the inner workings of veins and arteries of the heart.

The medical center is a seven-story, semi-circular building. It was built in 1967 and it houses the college, a 350-bed hospital and extensive medical research facilities.

Facilities also include an animal surgery unit, and student apartments which house 248 medical and nursing students. About 400 medical students attend the school.

The core of the building features a cancer research wing, a newly-built animal research facility and a neo-natal intensive care unit.

The college's attachment to the hospital — a maze of 13 operating rooms, critical care units and outpatient facilities — creates an important bond between academics and real-life medical situations.

During the first two years of the program, students participate in classroom and lab work. They spend the last two years in clinical practice.

The college's major student organization is the Student Assembly, which helps to keep faculty in touch with student needs.

Other organizations such as the American Medical Student Association and the American Medical Women's Association offer a chance for students with specific interests to share concerns and act together on them.

Nurses gain clinical experience

By MARCY WEISS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Leaving college with a degree and 27 credits in a major is no guarantee that a student will enjoy his or her work.

The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center tries to help nursing students avoid that uncertainty by offering hands-on experience.

Each term, 30 seventh through ninth term students go to Hershey to live, sleep, eat and breathe the nursing profession.

"They throw you in the water and teach you to swim," Marianne Bukowski (11th-nursing) said. "Once you get out of Hershey, you'll know for sure if you want to continue."

Four required courses and exposure to work in pediatrics, out-patient care, ambulance care and operating rooms, give students a variety of experiences in the field.

"When you go down to Hershey you feel like a student who doesn't know what's going on," Gretchen Waldvogel (11th-nursing) said. "Now, I feel pretty confident."

Students are under the supervision of instructors for a while, Bukowski said. "As we learned more skills, we became more independent and had to handle more responsibility," she said.

The experience at Hershey is the type you cannot get at Mountaintop or other small community hospitals, Lisa Vamote (10th-nursing) said.

"Hershey is a referral center," she said. "We see critical cases that are sent from the smaller hospitals."

Students seem to agree that the mandatory two terms spent at Hershey is a crucial and beneficial part of the nursing program here.

Some students said, however, that a feeling of alienation from the main campus arises, but it could be lessened with more coordination between Hershey and University Park.

"I think the transition from main campus to Hershey could be a lot smoother," Bukowski said. "We weren't told that the required physical for nursing students would cost \$80 at Hershey and that we could get the same service free at Bittenour."

Dorm contracts were another source of confusion, Bukowski said. "I wasn't told until finals week of Winter Term that I'd have a space when I returned in the spring. The administration doesn't seem to realize that we're nursing students still Penn State students," she said.

Aside from the monotony of constant nursing duties, most students seem to have positive reactions toward the program at Hershey.

"Some of the girls were apprehensive," Thomas Petrosky (10th-nursing) said. "I kept telling them they're not going to let you do anything wrong."

"I felt the preparation for Hershey was adequate," William O'Connell (12th-nursing) said. "Tom and I had an edge because we were both medics in the service — we may have been a little better prepared than some of

the others."

Both men said they enjoy being in nursing, which used to be almost solely for women, rather than in another area of medicine.

"I didn't feel any different than the girls felt," Petrosky said. "It didn't make a difference to me or to the patients."

Petrosky, a veteran who spent six years out of school before going to Hershey, said the most difficult thing he had to deal with was the age difference between him and the other nursing students.

"Some of the patients and visitors want to think you're an intern or a medical student no matter how much you insist that you are not," O'Connell said.

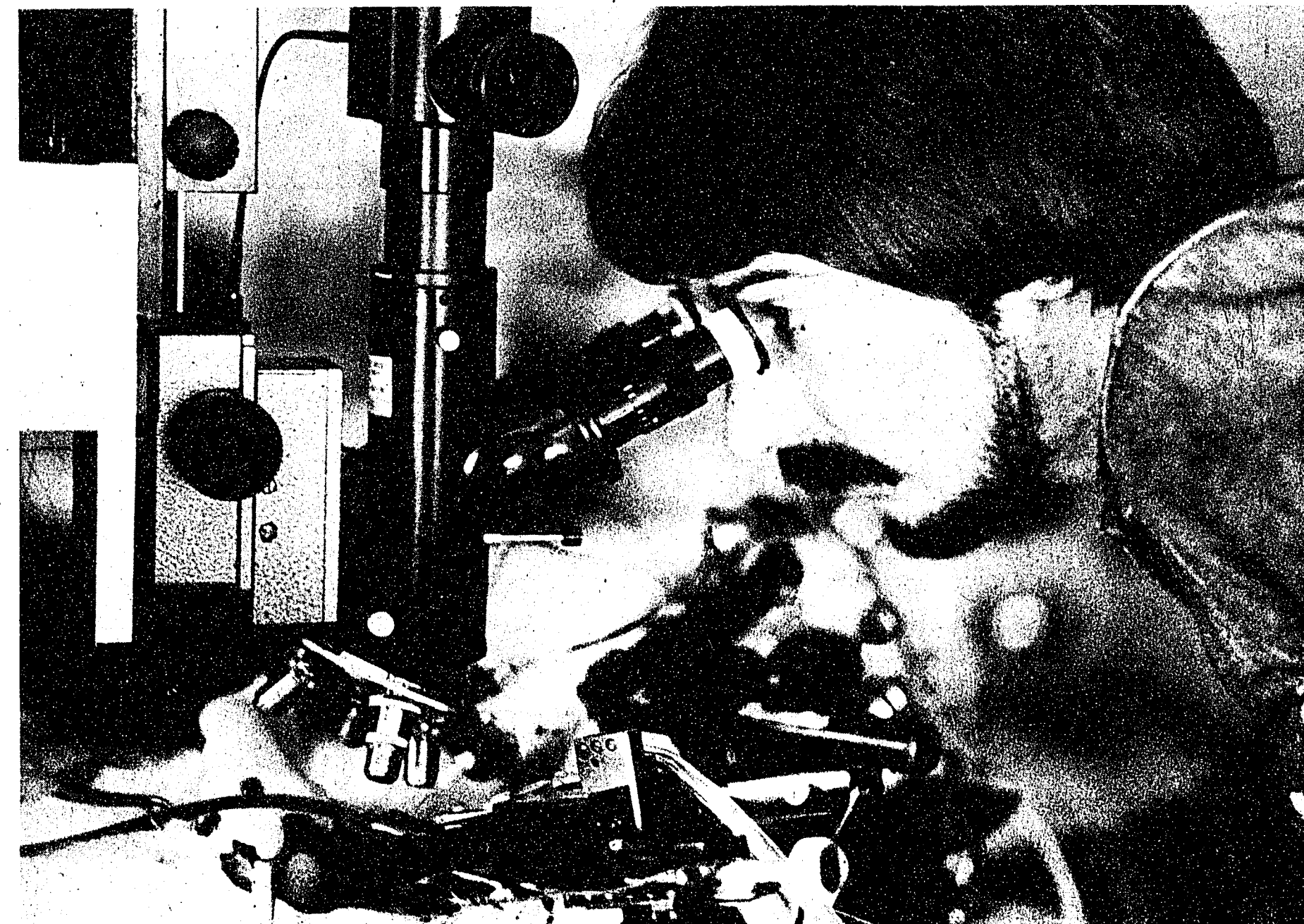
Becoming a nurse was compensation for not getting into med school, he said. "But there's more to nursing all the time. It's looking at a total person," he said.

Waldvogel said, "You see the patients as more than just a disease, but as people. Nursing is growing rapidly, and there is a lot more responsibility than people realize. People think that anybody can be a nurse."

"Learning how to work with physicians as a member of a health care team with the patient as part of that team is a really important concept," Bukowski said.

"Hershey is a teaching hospital. The doctors and nurses are really interested in explaining what's going on to the patient — they're not just interested in getting the day over with," she said.

Bukowski said the medical and nursing students at Hershey really support that philosophy.



The University's number Operators: have question, will (try to) answer

By LAURA BIDDLE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Whether you want to find someone's telephone number, register your bike or learn how to cook a chicken, 865-4700 is the number to call.

"University Information is a general source of information and always tries to keep the lines open," said Jeff Kuhns, manager of telecommunications at the University.

Before the Student Directory came out in the fall, University Information received from 5,000 to 6,000 calls daily.

Kuhns said the number of calls dropped from about 106,000 calls in September to 60,000 calls in November, after the directories were issued.

A student's name will not appear in the directory without his or her permission, he said.

If students do not give their numbers at Fall Term registration, then the information service does not release the numbers and removes any old listings from their records. Number changes are recorded as they are reported.

Operators do their best to supply information dealing with the campus, including information about resident assistants, professors, term schedules and building locations, Kuhns said.

"During Spring Term we'll get a lot of calls about bike registration, the P.I. 500 and Greek Week," he said. "Finals week is always busy."

But the calls are limited to students.

"We sometimes get calls from parents who can't find their kids at night," he said, "or from alumni who want to know the football score — or — an hotel, bus or taxi numbers."

State College businesses sometimes call to find out when term breaks are, Kuhns said, but the operators try to keep the

phones open for students from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

University Information employs six full-time and six part-time operators and a chief operator. Kuhns said students sometimes call to talk to a grandmother figure because they are lonely.

Chief Operator Liz Roehderfer, formerly an operator for Bell Telephone, said her old job does not compare to working with University Information.

"The kids are just great and I love it," she said. Roehderfer has worked at the University for 11 years.

If students do not really know what information they are looking for, the operators try to draw it out of them, she said.

"Even when we get calls from students wondering how to roast a turkey or dye their tennis shoes we try to help them," she said.

Telephone operators used to be stationed in each residence hall, and then were moved to Willard Building. The new work in the Telephone Building behind Boucke Building.

Roehderfer said she thinks the system works very well now.

"You never learn it all," she said, "but we do our best to provide the information students are looking for."

Lois Hill (8th-management) said, "I know a lot of people who use the information service. My roommate's boyfriend always calls for information. It's very helpful."

Anne Zoffel (3rd-liberal arts) said, "I found out about the service from my roommate and it was helpful in Fall Term before the directories came out."

"I never heard about it," said Keith Kohler (3rd-computer science). "I don't think it was publicized well enough. But now that I know about it, it sounds like a good idea."

2 charged in check theft

Two residents of Hamilton Hall were arraigned Tuesday before District Magistrate Clifford H. Yorks on charges of receiving stolen checks, a spokeswoman for the Magistrate's office said yesterday.

Ricardo Curry (8th-education of exceptional children) was arraigned on charges of receiving stolen property and criminal conspiracy. Parish Smith (3rd-architecture) was arraigned on charges of burglary, theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property, the spokeswoman said.

Curry and Smith were arrested Tuesday by University Police Services in connection with a Feb. 9 incident in which checks were stolen from a Hamilton dormitory room, the spokeswoman said.

Both Curry and Smith, roommates in Hamilton, were fined \$1,000, the spokeswoman said. She said the two students were released on paying 10 percent their fine.

Curry and Smith will go to a preliminary hearing at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, at the Central Court in Bellefonte, the spokeswoman said.

—by Rebecca Clark

Student still in hospital

A hospital spokeswoman said Peifer is still in the intensive care unit.

Gregory Peifer, a third term Tau Phi Delta fraternity member, remained in serious condition yesterday at Geisinger Medical Center.

Robert Hudzik, supervisor for the athletic fields, told University Police Services on Tuesday that the turf on the 15th hole of the Blue Golf Course was damaged. Hudzik also told police that an experimental evergreen on the Blue Golf Course was bent. Police estimated the damage to the turf and tree at \$410.

—by Rebecca Clark

police log

In Danville, after a flag pole collapsed and struck him Sunday night at Delta Chi fraternity, 424 E. Fairmount Ave.

Sociologist to lecture on race relations

Thomas F. Pettigrew, researcher in the sociology of race relations, will speak on sociology and racism in two lectures today.

"Sociology and Social Policy: Science vs. Reform" will be discussed at 3:30 this afternoon in 124 Sparks.

"New patterns of racism" will be the topic at 8 tonight in the HUB north lounge.

Both lectures are free.

Pettigrew is a professor of social psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has also taught at Harvard University, the University of North Carolina and the University of Natal, South Africa.

His books include "The Sociology of Race Relations: Reflection and Reform" (1980), "Racial Discrimination in the United States" (1975) and "Ethnicity of American Life" (1971).

The lectures are sponsored by the departments of sociology and psychology, the Black Studies Program, the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, the Institute for Policy Research and Evaluation, the College of Education's Division of Education Policy Studies and the College of the Liberal Arts Center for Value Studies and Professional Ethics.

—by John Schlander

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