



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Volume 21(2)

THE LATERAL LINE

December 2000

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cooperation. In a word, it is simple. In meaning, it defines the foundation of most successful endeavors. We all depend on it and, at some level, we all give it.

However, we seldom dwell on it until we need it the most. Last spring I was given the opportunity to ponder what it means to me.

The clear, cool morning found me sitting beneath a cottonwood tree watching for an approaching gobbler. Warm rays of sunshine soak into my drab clothes like water into a sponge. As the tom inched closer, his keen awareness saved his demise. Was it the glint of light from my gun's barrel? Maybe it was my fierce blinking in the presence of a pesky gnat. Whater the reason, my quest would continue as the day was still young.

I saw him many more times before dusk, weaving between the shinnery and sumac. It seemed like the world was his ally. Crows, bluejays, and even a bobcat seemed to tip him off to my location.

I never bagged the bird but I did enjoy one of my best days afield. All alone, I spent the day exploring a forgotten piece of western Oklahoma and created a book of memories that I open from time to time. As I wandered back to the truck my rumbling stomach anticipated a hot meal.

When I stated toward home my truck began to spit, sputter, and surge. I was out of gas. But how? The tank was $\frac{3}{4}$ full that morning. Sitting ominously on the side of the road I had time to investigate. Someone apparently needed the fuel more than me and siphoned it out. They even left the piece of hose in the truch bed as if to say "got you!" In an instant, my ability to depend on myself was compromised. After walking several miles toward the glow of town I realized—I need help. Someone must stop and take me to get a gallon of gas. The need to rely on others for help is also evident in our fisheries management activities. This has been obvious throughout my experience working in ODWC's stream management program. Funding and staff limitations dictate that we constantly

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seek assistance from other folks with our agency and from outside ones. Whether we are installing habitat structures, rehabilitating stream banks, sampling fish, or paying bills, the job simply could not be done without a cooperative effort. The good news is that our peers are always up to the task.

Cooperation is also a necessary element of any state AFS chapter. Chapter business (e.g., committee work, meetings, resolutions, etc.) requires that members pitch in and help. Since my involvement with our group started the level of cooperation necessary to meet our needs has been achieved. You have been willing to do your part to see that the Chapter is alive and well.

The elected officers and committee members in our group also want to work to meet your needs. However, this level of cooperation requires you to communicate with us. We are sure to function successfully in the traditional activities of our Chapter (e.g., annual meetings), but the skilled participants within our ranks could offer much more if asked. Let us know how we can be of service to you.

The next big push for support will be the 2001 Annual Meeting. We are already planning for the event and, with your help, it will be a hit. Be ready to hear from your Vice President (Bill Wentroth) concerning presentations, activities, and other needs that he will have to make things work. Meanwhile, keep being the good neighbors that you are by remembering the spirit of cooperation that brought our profession to where it is today. Like my experience last spring, you may be the next one on the road that needs help getting to town. If you thumb a ride from a natural resource professional, and history is indicative of the future, they will more than likely be willing to help. You might even make it home for dinner.

Paul Balkenbush
President, Oklahoma Chapter AFS

Contributions to *The Lateral Line* are always welcome. Any information of interest to chapter members is appropriate and appreciated. Please send information that you would like to appear in the next issue to: Maureen Walsh, OK Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 404 LSW, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078; phone 405/744-6342; fax 405/744-5006; e-mail wmauree@okstate.edu

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TREASURER'S REPORT

1 January 2000 – 1 November 2000

Starting Balance \$4,013.97

CREDITS

Membership	300.00
Pond Booklets	27.00
Cash Mgmt. Dividends	227.72
2000 Annual Mtg. Registration	1,600.00
T-shirt sales (sub-unit)	214.00
Silent Auction	241.00
Pigg Estate	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,609.72

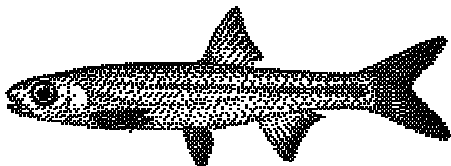
DEBITS

Newsletter Printing and Postage	176.49
Student Scholarships	200.00
T-shirt purchases (sub-unit)	225.64
2000 Annual Meeting	911.38
Coop Unit Equipment Services	42.30
Atlas Pens (For OKAFS Mtg.)	389.13
Omniplex (2000 Annual Mtg.)	135.00
Donation Gift (Sheri Bolton)	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,129.94

Previous Balance	\$4,013.97
Total Credits	\$3,609.72
Total Debits	<u>-2,129.94</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$5,493.75

INVESTMENTS

Franklin, Inc. Dividends	<u>460.81</u>
Franklin, Inc. Balance (10/01/00)	\$9,564.48
Global Allocations Dividends	<u>37.75</u>
Global All. Balance (10/01/00)	\$3,168.83



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities Committee - Barry Bolton

No new information to report.

Environmental Concerns - Ken Collins

No new information to report.

Continuing Education - Steve Spade

No new information to report

Fund Raising Committee - Brandon Brown

No new information to report

Nominations and Awards Committee - Kim Erickson

Kim would like to announce nominations for the following awards and positions:

JIMMIE PIGG STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

STUDENTS!! STUDENTS!! STUDENTS!! This is the first and last call for students who would like to go to a professional meeting on someone else's money. The Chapter will again award the **Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarship** to a student or students who are involved in fisheries research studies and who are planning to present their findings at an upcoming AFS meeting. Last year, Barbara Adams, a graduate student from the University of Oklahoma was the recipient of a \$200 travel grant from the Chapter.

This prestigious award is named in honor of the well-known, well-respected late aquatic biologist and educator Mr. Jimmie Pigg, who donated the initial Chapter funding to create the award. Jimmie will always be remembered as a dedicated professional and active fisheries conservationist who loved his work and his students.

Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic discipline is eligible to apply. Recipients are selected by the Chapter Nominating and Awards Committee and are presented the award at the annual Chapter business meeting. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, contribution to fisheries and the applicant's demonstrated desire and need for the grant.

Awards are based on merit and are not necessarily given each year. Interested students should contact the Awards Committee Chair, Kim Erickson at 405-521-3721 or via email at kerickson@odwc.state.ok.us for more information and to obtain the appropriate application forms. Deadline to apply is January 26, 2001.

OUTSTANDING OKLAHOMA FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Nominating and Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the OKAFS highest award, **The Oklahoma Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award**. The award is presented annually to an Oklahoma fisheries professional who has made significant contributions in the field of aquatic resources conservation, management, research, culture or education. Fishery workers in Oklahoma have, over the years, amassed a multitude of achievements and advancements in fisheries science. This award recognizes their efforts.

It's time to give a meaningful pat on the back to an individual among us who truly deserves the special recognition this award brings. The Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award in 1999 went to Dr. Bill Fisher of OSU.

Please take a moment and think about who deserves the award for 2000. Nominations should include a descriptive justification, giving examples of work excellence and stewardship. Let us know why your nominee deserves this coveted recognition. Submit your nominations via email at kerickson@odwc.state.ok.us or mail to: Kim Erickson, ODWC, 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being taken for Chapter President-Elect. Bill Wentroth will be taking over as President at the annual meeting in February, 2001. **THE CHAPTER NEEDS YOU** or someone you think can lead the Chapter in the future. The successful candidate will become the Program Chair for the 2002 annual meeting to be at a date and location of their choice (with suggestions from the Excom Committee, of course).

If you would like to be considered or wish to
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nominate someone for this position (must be a member of the AFS Chapter and the Parent Society), please contact Kim Erickson at 405-521-3721 or by email at kerickson@odwc.state.ok.us.

MEMBERS' OPINIONS

It's never too late to say "thank you"

One thing my mom taught me as a child (as I'm sure most of your parents did) was to say "thank you." And if I didn't thank a friend's parents for inviting me to his birthday party before I left or thank a relative for a present, mom made me get on the telephone and call them to say thanks. Calling was difficult and oftentimes embarrassing, but I felt better after doing it and so did my mom (I guess).

So, it is with some guilt and much pride that I say "thank you" for the Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award. I quietly said "thanks" after receiving the award at the 1999 meeting in Oklahoma City, but I want to now say "thanks" out loud! It was truly an honor to receive the award, and I felt a great sense of pride and humility as I reflected on it during the days following the meeting. I also want you to know that I am honored to have had the opportunity to get to know and work with many of you over the past decade. I respect your work and dedication to the fisheries profession, and I brag on you to other professionals whenever I get a chance. So, I want to share this award with you, because I truly believe ALL OF YOU are outstanding fisheries workers.

In my opinion, AFS is a first-class organization because it provides its members with so many opportunities (chapters, divisions, sections, etc.) for professional involvement. I do not know of another professional society that is so inclusive. I am proud to be a member of AFS and truly thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding group of fisheries workers in Oklahoma.

Bill Fisher



ANNOUNCING THE 21ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

The First and Only Call for Papers
February 7th, 8th and 9th, 2001
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Meeting Overview

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will hold its 21st Annual Meeting in Stillwater at the Best Western Hotel (600 East McElroy Road). The meeting will offer a technical paper session, workshop, business meeting and social activities. Meeting registration will be done on-site. Registration and workshop costs have not been finalized at this time.

Lodging

The Stillwater Best Western will be the designated Hotel and meeting site. Meeting participants are encouraged to stay at this facility. A block of rooms has been reserved for the "American Fisheries Society". To make reservations call **1-800-353-6894** and identify yourself as an AFS meeting participant. Room rates are \$40/single and \$45/double. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife employees can request direct billing to the agency. Reservations received after 1/14/01 will be provided on space available basis so don't wait!

The first night of the meeting will feature a social followed by a catered banquet, white elephant gift exchange and auction on night two. To encourage participation, technical session door prize tickets will only be given to white elephant gift contributors!

Bill Wentroth is the program coordinator and is requesting submissions to the technical session. Titles, authors (if more than one, please note which will be presenting) and abstracts may be submitted no later than **January 8, 2001** to Bill at the following: 2125 Berkshire Drive, Ponca City, OK 74604; Fax 580/762-2380; e-mail odwc@poncacity.net. Please indicate if the title is a student presentation. For additional information call Bill at 580/762-2248.

Workshop

The Continuing Education Committee is sponsoring the workshop: "**Oklahoma Fish Kill Investigations**", Thursday afternoon. Ron Suttles, Coordinator of the Natural Resource Section and Melinda Hickman, Natural Resource Biologist, ODWC, will introduce the protocol for assessing fish kill investigations. Field manuals and handouts will be provided. This pertinent information would be essential for field employees from DEQ, ODWC, Water Resources Board and other offices where assessment is required in their duties.

Meeting Auction and White Elephant Gift Exchange

Chapter members need to begin collecting donations of merchandise and services for the auction scheduled for Thursday, February 8th, at the banquet. We prefer large items (fishing trips, hand made crafts, and artwork) and lots of small stuff like lures, T-shirts and caps, which will be used for door prizes. Proceeds from the 2001 Auction will be used to bolster the Jimmie Pigg Scholarship Fund for Oklahoma's fisheries students. Make sure we get a company or individual's name, address and phone number so we can send them a thank you and a tax receipt if needed. Contact Brandon Brown for more information.

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

7 February 2001	Best Western
4:00 – 6:00pm	Registration
6:00 – 10:00pm	Social: Student/ Professional Mixer
8 February 2001	Best Western - Oklahoma Room
7:30 – 8:00am	Registration
8:00am – 12:00pm	Technical Session
12:00 – 1:15pm	Lunch – On your own
1:15 – 5:00pm	Workshop – Oklahoma Fish Kill Investigations
	Sanborn Lake House
7:00 – 10:00pm	Banquet-White Elephant Gift Exchange-Silent Auction
9 February 2001	Best Western - Theater Room
8:00am – 12:00pm	OKAFS Annual Business Meeting

OKLAHOMA STUDENT CHAPTER of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In keeping with the theme of Paul's message, I would also like to discuss the meaning of a particular word, and my word is 'involvement.' Our student subsection offers an award for those who exhibit this trait, but what exactly characterizes involvement and why should we, as students, strive to include this word in our vocabulary?

Here in Oklahoma, there are different levels at which one can become actively involved in fisheries, ranging from participation in your school's fish and wildlife club to becoming a student member of the Oklahoma Chapter. At the state level, you could not only participate in the activities of our student chapter, but also meet the many talented fisheries professionals in our state by attending meetings and workshops, or serving on committees. Moving up a notch, becoming a member of National AFS allows you the opportunity to become even further involved by joining particular sections which appeal to you. One in particular that may interest students is the Student Subsection of the Education Section—a group whose sole duty is to look out for the interests of students within AFS. I encourage everyone to spend some time looking over opportunities in AFS through their terrific website, www.fisheries.org. You can become a member of the Oklahoma Chapter, National AFS, and any sections through this site, as well as browse through the latest issue of *Fisheries*, look over new book releases and journal contents, find out about professional certification, see a calendar of events, and find or post fisheries related jobs (a great resource for students).

Obviously, students (both undergraduate and graduate) are kept very busy with classes, research projects, jobs, and other activities, so it takes a certain level of commitment to become and stay involved. However, the benefits of being involved in AFS or other fisheries groups are really worth everything that you put into them. Appealing to the characteristic empty wallets of students, many awards are offered to students to encourage participation in AFS meetings and activities (two, The Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarship and the Fisheries Involvement Award, are advertised in this very newsletter, and many other awards are offered at the national level). Attending state or national meeting is also a great benefit of being involved in AFS. In addition to learning about research that is going on around the state and country, you never know when someone that you met or was

in the audience of your presentation could turn up again—maybe in a
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

job interview.

While these reasons are appealing, I am certainly not advocating joining groups like AFS only to bolster your resume or further your chances of landing a job.

Joining and being involved are not the same thing! At all levels of AFS, it does not necessarily matter how many names are on the membership list, but how many of those members are actively involved in the group—who attends meetings, who volunteers for positions of responsibility, who is coming up with ideas to not only sustain, but actually improve the group? That is what I mean by involvement.

Although it sounds trite, students who are involved in AFS truly represent the future of this organization and this profession, and it's never too early to get started. My undergraduate university did not have a fisheries club or student subsection of AFS, so I did not become involved in AFS until I started my master's degree, and I have greatly enjoyed my involvement in student, state and national AFS. Here in Oklahoma, the opportunity exists for students from any university to become involved in our group. If you are interested in learning more about how to become involved with our student chapter, please get in touch with me at any time, 405/744-6342, wmauree@okstate.edu.

Maureen Walsh
Oklahoma Student AFS President

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 July 2000 – 1 November 2000

Starting Balance	\$525.87
CREDITS	
T-Shirt Sales	<u>86.00</u>
TOTAL	\$86.00
Previous Balance	\$525.87
Total Credits	\$86.00
Total Debits	<u>-\$0.00</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$611.87

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2001 INVOLVEMENT AWARD

The Oklahoma Student Chapter is currently accepting applications for the 2001 Fisheries Involvement Award. The recipient of this award will receive one year's membership to National AFS, or if the student is already a member of the parent society, the student can opt to receive a subscription to an AFS journal or \$50.00 towards any AFS book. Involvement could be through classwork, paid work experience, or volunteer and outreach experiences.

This award was created by the student sub-unit in 1998 to recognize Oklahoma students who have demonstrated an interest in fisheries biology and management, and wish to pursue a career in fisheries or aquatic resources. It is also intended to promote and encourage the involvement of undergraduate students and new graduate students in the American Fisheries Society at the national, state, and sub-unit levels.

We strongly encourage undergraduates and first year graduate students from all Oklahoma Universities to apply. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Maureen Walsh at wmauree@okstate.edu. Please submit applications to: Fisheries Involvement Award, c/o Maureen Walsh, 404 LSW, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, or submit via e-mail, by January 26, 2001. Winner will be notified by January 31, 2001, and the award will be presented at the OK AFS meeting in February.

CALL FOR 2001-2002 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations are currently being accepted for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The terms of the current officers will expire and the terms of the new officers will begin with the next annual meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter (7-9 February, 2001).

Any interested and enthusiastic student member of OK-AFS is encouraged to apply. If you would like further information about the duties of the officers, or would like to apply, contact Maureen Walsh at

Oklahoma Chapter AFS 7

405/744-6342 or wmauree@okstate.edu.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Members of the student chapter participated in Payne County Audobon Society's Nature Day on October 15, 2000 at the Sanborn Lake Facility in Stillwater. We collected fish from local streams and set up a fish ID station. While the kids certainly seemed to enjoy the many minnows and sunfish, as well as a turtle and some crawfish, they were definitely most impressed with a flathead catfish captured by Dana Winkelman and Melissa Willis as part of a research project on Lake Carl Blackwell. Payne County Audobon's Youth Program Coordinator, Kate Hellgren, sent us a thank you note, commenting, "Your group really came through for Audobon." Thanks to all of our members who helped collecting fish and working at the station!

We're hoping to get some other events underway this spring. First, we'd like to spearhead a clean-up effort of Stillwater Creek that will involve other organizations on campus as well as members of the Stillwater community (plus anyone else who would like to help!). Additionally, we are hoping to hold a children's fishing day once the weather improves. Anyone who is interested in helping to plan or participating in these upcoming events please contact Maureen Walsh at 405/744-6342 or wmauree@okstate.edu.

6th ANNUAL FISHERIES TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATION

Officers of the student chapter are currently trying to plan the upcoming fisheries techniques demonstration. This annual event is one of the trademarks of our chapter, and we hope that this year's demo will be as successful as past programs. The purpose of the event is to provide students in Oklahoma an opportunity to observe and participate in the use of common techniques used in fisheries. Although our focus has often been on the use of gear to sample fish, we could also explore laboratory techniques (such as aging or sexing fish), or anything

else that is of interest to our members! We would like to arrange the demo at a time that is convenient for students from other Oklahoma Universities—preferably a Saturday in February or March that will not interfere with class field trips or Spring Break. Therefore, we'd appreciate some input about what dates would be best, as well as any ideas for activities. To contribute ideas for the 2001 Fisheries Techniques demo, or to volunteer to help plan this event, please contact Jason Remshardt, 405/744-6342, remshar@okstate.edu.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

- OSU students Jason Remshardt, Ellen Tejan, and Maureen Walsh gave presentations and James Long presented a poster at the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in St. Louis, MO, August 2000.
- OSU students affiliated with the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Michael Brown, Randy Hyler, Daniel Fenner, Terry Malloy, Jason Remshardt, Cliff Sager, Ellen Tejan, and Maureen Walsh presented posters at a meeting of Unit Cooperators in Stillwater, OK, September, 2000.
- OSU students Michael Brown, Daniel Fenner, Jason Remshardt, Ellen Tejan, Cliff Sager, and Maureen Walsh gave presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences in Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 2000.

We apologize to any students whose accomplishments were not recognized. Please send student news to Maureen Walsh at wmauree@okstate.edu.

AFS BOOK SALE

The American Fisheries Society is currently clearing out their stock of books, with lots of great titles for only \$10.00. Check out the available titles at: www.fisheries.org/secure_order_form.shtml. This is a great way to add to your library of fisheries reference books, or maybe start one! Sale ends December 15, and popular titles are going fast, so don't miss this great opportunity.

OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME:

(last)

(first)

AFFILIATION:

MAILING ADDRESS

(Dept, Bldg, Office, Street, PO Box, Route, etc.)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

DAY PHONE:

E-MAIL:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: 1 Year (\$5)_____ 2 Years (\$10)_____ 3 Years (\$15)_____ Life (\$50)_____

COMMITTEES (please choose at least one): Activities____ Awards____ Continuing Ed____

Environmental Concerns____ Fundraising____

Program_____

Detach, make check payable to OK-AFS, and send to: Brent Gordon, OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer, ODWC, Rt. 1 Box 75-B, Porter, OK 74454

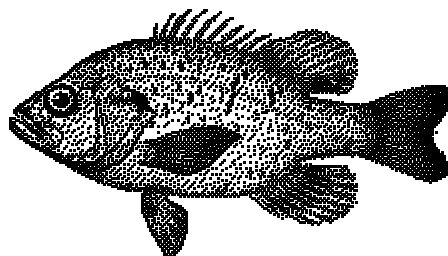
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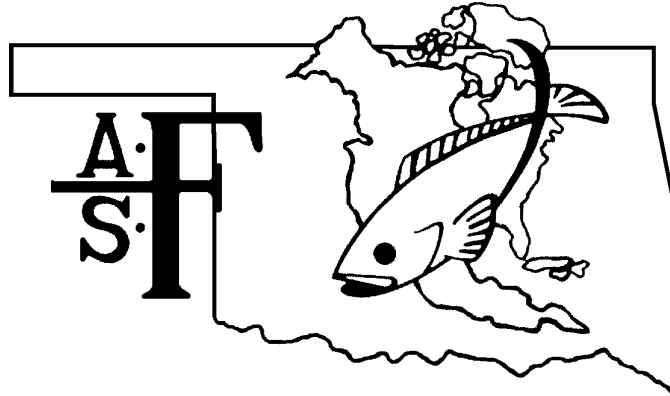
Jan 21–25, 2001—**Aquaculture 2001**. Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Co-Sponsored by the AFS Fish Culture Section. Contact Conference Manager, 425/485-6682; worldaqua@aol.com .

February 7-9, 2001—**Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting**. Best Western, Stillwater, OK. Contact Bill Wentroth, FAX 580/762-2380; e-mail odwc@poncacity.net. Abstracts due 8 January 2001.

February 21-25, 2001—**Ninth Midyear Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries**. Jacksonville Hilton and Towers, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact Larry Connor, 352/742-6438; larryconnor@mpinet.net.ms

August 19-23, 2001—**131st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society**. Crowne Plaza Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Theme for this year’s meeting is “2001: A Fisheries Odyssey—The Journey of Science and Education Continues.” Contact Betsy Fritz, 301/897-8616, ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org. Abstracts due 19 January 2001





OKLAHOMA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

THE LATERAL LINE

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