



**PAX EDUCARE**  
THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR PEACE EDUCATION

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Notes from the Director

Fall 2007

A recent article in *City Journal*, an online journal published by the Manhattan Institute [http://www.city-journal.org/html/17\\_3\\_peace\\_racket.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_3_peace_racket.html), sent to me by my son, Boyce, is a scathing critique of peace studies and of the importance of teaching the concepts of peacemaking and peacebuilding. It is an important work of journalism. Though it is well written in many respects, the author, Bruce Bawer, negates his own arguments frequently by his use of sweeping generalizations, false arguments and quotes taken out of context.

“Peace Racket” is worth a read for what it tells peace educators about the sentiments of those who equate the study of peace with being “soft” on security, those who fear that, in the author’s words, “what we will reap by this movement will be the kind of peace found in totalitarian states and weaken freedom’s foundations”. He writes that the peace studies movement, as such, is teaching students to “despise America, free markets and capitalism...this is a country which is the supreme defender of these values”. I thought sentiments such as Bawer’s had been laid down some time ago in this post Cold War era, using frequent references to fears of Communism. Reading the article was a reality check for me.

An honest read of the article necessitates teasing out what I would consider some legitimate criticisms of the way we teach peace. The author cites several students who have taken peace studies courses and felt that their philosophical and political views, differing from those of the instructors, were not adequately heard. In short, the author equates the study and teaching of peace with a “one-sided”, leftist agenda and believes there is little tolerance for “the other side”. While this is a sweeping generalization, it is worth considering the argument.

How does one teach “the other side”, if indeed, we can say there is just one other side to peace? How do we teach critical thinking, critical analyses and reflection with such a complex, comprehensive topic as peace? How do we engage students in seeing and understanding peace concepts when so many of them, so many of us, in fact, are so steeped in a culture of war (as I believe the author of the article is) that to see outside this perspective is tantamount to, I believe, asking a fish to understand what land is (a foreign concept) and also asking this fish to describe water, in which it lives?

I felt challenged, while reading the article, to come up with new ways of engaging students, new metaphors which might equate peace learning with the new realism needed in our current world. Having just seen Leonardo DiCaprio’s film “The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour” and feeling a sense of urgency with regards to the future of the human race, I am aware that peace educators need to help our students, as well as ourselves, understand that the crisis facing our planet Earth is inextricably bound up with our being steeped in a culture of war. Students need to understand that peace learning is not a “fly by night” political, pedagogical “agenda”. There is real and credible research going on by respected scholars and educators in the field. Part of the task of educators is to see that this gets disseminated and understood not only by academics, but also by those who engage in peace work in our communities, as well as by the general public.

Here at Pax Educare, we invite you to come in and browse some of this research, including journals, newsletters, books and other media, perhaps even to engage in your own peace project. I invite your views and comments on this writing.

Mary Lee Morrison, Founding Director

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*Pax Educare is a resource center for the research, study and teaching of peace*

***The Mission of Pax Educare is to link families, educators, students and community practitioners to partnering opportunities and resources in order to help promote the processes and skills needed to build a more peaceful world. In doing so, we seek to answer the question-“how do we educate for a more peaceful tomorrow?”***

### **WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING OF LATE WITH PAX EDUCARE?**

Another summer of travel saw director Mary Lee Morrison attending the **International Institute on Peace Education** in the Basque country of Spain. A full report on the institute and reflections can be found on the Home page of the Pax Educare web site. Sixty-five invited scholars and educators gathered at Arantzazu, site of a beautiful, mountain monastery where St. Ignatius Loyola is said to have begun his journeys which resulted in the founding of the Jesuit order. Co-sponsored by Teachers College’s Peace Education Program, founded by Betty Reardon <http://www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/>, and Baketik, a newly emerging peace center at Arantzazu [www.baketik.org](http://www.baketik.org), IPE gave ample opportunity to gain understanding of the current conflict in the Basque country, as well as a visit to Gernika, made famous by Picasso in his painting, depicting the bombing of the village. A peace research center and peace museum are now located at Gernika, both dedicated to processes of reconciliation. We were challenged to incorporate the narratives of “the other” into our pedagogical practices.

Capped by a cultural night, where participants shared music, poetry and stories from their native countries, the annual institute is, as Betty Reardon notes, truly a “movable feast”.



*(R) Arantzazu, site of Baketik Peace Center*

*(L) Peace is possible when Israelis and Palestinians dance together*



*Patty Roeding, of the Center for Cooperative Principles, attends Mary Lee Morrison’s workshop on networking and outreach at IPE*



The IPE event in Spain was followed just a few weeks later by a celebration of 25 years of peace education and of the work of noted scholar Betty Reardon. This event drew over 300 participants to New York City, 40 countries being represented, for 3 days of workshops, plenaries and opportunities for networking. Despite the first day of intense weather (the city subways were shut down the morning of August 8), the crowd was enthusiastic and exceeded the organizers’ expectations, indicative of the growing recognition of the importance of peace education.



*(R) IPE Founder Betty Reardon addressing a celebration in Dag Hammarskjöld Park, NYC, at which we heard veteran folk singer Pete Seeger*



*(L) Helen Raisz, Advisory Board member, intern Jacob Ritter and Mary Lee facilitated a workshop at the United Nations IPE Celebration on the Community Conversation on Educating for Global Sustainability*

The UN Celebration was followed by three intensive days of strategy meetings at Teachers College, hosted by the Peace Education Program, enlisting the help of a dozen international educators on how to move forward with local peace education initiatives, based on the model of IPE. Initial plans are in the works for a CIPE (Community based Institute on Peace Education) to be held in the New England region in the near future.



(L) Eva Nagy (Hungary), Kathy Matsui (Japan) and Loreta Castro (Philippines) enjoy a few moments of sunshine in New York City during the CIPE strategy sessions

Recent speaking engagements for director Mary Lee Morrison included giving the keynote address for a day-long **teaching peace conference** in Durham, New Hampshire in April, whose theme was “Weaving Peace

Through Curriculum and Community”. Mary Lee’s talk emphasized the importance of community as a key component of peace pedagogy, and she highlighted several local, regional, national and international initiatives which reflect this concept, including La Paloma Sabanera bookstore and café in Hartford ([www.lapalomasabanera.com](http://www.lapalomasabanera.com)).



(R) Melinda Salazar, convener of the Teaching Peace Conference, with R. Dennis Kucinich, who put in a brief appearance as an invited guest

Mary Lee spoke to two classes in peace studies in the Spring: Carol Shaw Austad’s Psychology of Peace Class at Central Connecticut State University, and Sharon Shepela’s Introductory Peace Studies class at the University of Hartford.



In May, Mary Lee was a speaker, with Islamic Scholar and Hartford Seminary professor Ingrid Mattson, on “Women of Faith as Peacebuilders” at St. Patrick/St. Anthony Church in Hartford. The church has been running a dialogue series with Christian and Muslim women for the past year.

Ingrid Mattson and Mary Lee Morrison

Pax Educare was a co-sponsor, in September, of an event celebrating the United Nations **International Day of Peace**, the event **sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the United Nations Association**. Held at the McAuley Center in West Hartford, Mary Lee joined a panel with main speaker Irving Stolberg, President of the Connecticut Division of UNA-USA. For a history of the UN designated day, go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_of\\_Peace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Peace).

Once again, Central Connecticut State University’s Peace Studies program, with Pax Educare as partner, co-hosted the second annual **Peace Studies luncheon** on the campus of CCSU in mid May. Nearly 30 were in attendance from several of the colleges and organizations around the greater Hartford region. We anticipate that this will be an annual event.



Pax Educare will act as a consultant, joining several University of Hartford faculty, including Donn Weinholtz, Sharon Shepela, Jay Stewart and Helen Raisz, and faculty from CCSU and Saint Joseph College, including board members Alex Mikulich and Carol Shaw Austad, to

convene a series of get-togethers this year with other representatives from the **Consortium of Higher Education**. The Consortium is made up of colleges and universities in the greater Hartford region. Having received a grant from the Consortium, the group will move toward the **goal of establishing a cross-institutional major in peace studies**. We will be engaging David Smith, Senior Program Officer of the United States Institute of Peace ([www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)), as an additional consultant to this process. We are grateful to the Consortium for their generosity in funding this initiative. Mary Lee Morrison and University of Hartford faculty member Donn Weinholtz were interviewed on Farmington Valley Access TV, discussing this and other peace education initiatives by Advisory Board member Helen Raisz, host of her own show which has highlighted local peace and justice initiatives.

Pax Educare continues to be the host site for the monthly **Discussion** series on a variety of topics, convened by Advisory Board members Helen Raisz and Miriam Bergamini. Topics and dates will be posted on the web site.

In early June, nearly 100 participants gathered at Watkinson School for a **Community Conversation on Education for Global Sustainability**. Sponsored by CACE, the Connecticut Alliance of Concerned Educators, and funded by the CT League of Women Voters and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, participants engaged in active dialogue in small groups, after an introductory power point presentation, on how to address the most pressing educational needs to insure the future health of our young citizens and of our planet. A follow-up to this event will be held **October 18 from 6:30-8:30PM at the Lyceum, on Lawrence Street in Hartford**. For information on attending this event, contact Pax Educare. Further information on the Conversation can be found at <http://home.comcast.net/~upholt/index.htm>.

Also in June, theatrical performer Peterson Toscano <http://www.petersontoscano.com/> brought his talents to the Hartford Friends Meeting House in a benefit performance for Pax Educare and True Colors, an organization advocating for gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgendered youth. Peterson's performance, entitled "The Re-Education of George Bush", delighted us with his wit, his insightfulness, lack of rancor, and his ability to bring to bear the power of art to transform.

In early September, Pax Educare, along with many other groups, co-sponsored the **Hope Out Loud festival** in Bushnell Park. This annual event, held since the year following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, is a celebration of the power of peacemaking and of the importance of the arts as pedagogy for building peace.

Last Spring, **Jacob Ritter**, a senior at Goddard College with a major interest in peace education, found Pax Educare by searching the web. Jacob is a West Hartford resident. Goddard, a small liberal arts institution in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, is primarily a distance learning college and students do much of their work as independent study. Mary Lee Morrison began working with him as an informal thesis advisor. Jacob has a strong interest in using Eastern meditation and healing as methods for transforming our educational system. Jake was a facilitator at the June Conversation on Sustainability, co-led the workshop at the United Nations in August, and also became trained in HIPP, leading us in several exercises in meditation during the trainings. Jacob and Mary Lee presented

*Jacob Ritter*

Jacob's theoretical work on **journallogging**, a term he has coined as a methodology for teaching peace, at the annual Peace and Justice Studies conference in Elizabethtown, PA in



late September (<http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/>). The work with Jacob has been rewarding, highlighting the importance of both student-teacher and teacher-student learning, and is a model for the kind of partnering and grass-roots efforts at transformative education we try to create at Pax Educare. For more information on Jacob's work go to <http://eternalnowcenter.blogspot.com/>, his blog site. Jacob's email is [jsrit@yahoo.com](mailto:jsrit@yahoo.com).

In September, Mary Lee and Jacob were interviewed on West Hartford Cable Access television by Cruger Johnson Phillips, Director of Hopeworks, Inc. <http://www.hopeworkscentral.org/> and host of a show highlighting local prevention initiatives.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Save the Date-October 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM** for the **Adaskin String Trio's benefit performance** for Pax Educare. See flyer insert for details. Concert will once again be at the Hartford home of Karen and Phil Will, 227 Girard Street. Donations taken at the door-sliding scale \$10-100. \$30 suggested.

**November 10 Conference: Building Peace: Women Making a Difference. University of Hartford Gengras Center; 8-5:30. Sponsored by Pax Educare, Inc. and the Women's Education and Leadership Fund, of the University of Hartford, a legacy fund from the Hartford College for Women.** Speakers to include Mishkat Al Moumin, former Iraqi Minister of the Environment and member of the Women Waging Peace Network ([http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/82\\_women\\_waging\\_peace\\_network.cfm](http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/82_women_waging_peace_network.cfm)), Lina Nealon of the Initiative for Inclusive Security ([http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/7\\_the\\_initiative\\_for\\_inclusive\\_security.cfm](http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/7_the_initiative_for_inclusive_security.cfm)), and Rachel Myanja of the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/>). Workshops, resources, HartBeat theatrical performance. Registration material is enclosed or can be obtained online at <http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/peaceconf/>. Details of the conference are on the web site. Workshops to include nonviolent communication, community organizing, anti-racism, global sustainability, women's peacebuilding initiatives, art for peace, youth for peace and empowering ourselves for community and social change.

The 1995 Beijing conference, the Fourth World Conference on Women, marked a shift in global consciousness, in that the contributions of women began to be recognized in a more public way as crucial to building a culture of peace. We are now midway through the Decade of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, passed as a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly and by a manifesto signed by all of the living peace Nobel Laureates. The precepts of the Culture of Peace emphasize the importance of women and men partnering in moving forward for global peace. Security Council [Resolution 1325](#), passed unanimously in 2000 is the first resolution passed by the Security Council specifically addressing the impact of war on women and children, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Building on these initiatives, this conference will highlight some of the contributions of women globally, nationally and locally, examine the important question "Do women do peace better?", and teach diverse and practical peacemaking skills. Organizations that have affiliated so far, in addition to those mentioned above, include the New England Peace Studies Association, Central Connecticut State University Peace Studies, Brandeis University Peace and Co-Existence Studies, the United Nations Office of Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), United Nations Association-USA, Greater Hartford Chapter and The Culture of Peace News Network. Pre-registration deadline is October 19<sup>th</sup> for fee of \$20, \$30 after that. Students free. Thanks to the grant from the WELF Fund, registration fees are being kept low. Volunteers are needed for a number of activities. Please contact us.

## **NEWS FROM HIPP (HELP INCREASE THE PEACE PROJECT)**

**HIPP Goes to South Africa**, written by Diane Weinholtz, Head of Watkinson Middle School and Pax Educare, Inc. board chair

During July 2007, HIPP facilitators from Watkinson School, Emma and Mason Bracker packed their bags complete with HIPP manuals and traveled with their family to Johannesburg, South Africa. While there, they visited the *Leadership Academy for Girls*, ([http://www.oprah.com/presents/2007/academy/academy\\_main.jhtml](http://www.oprah.com/presents/2007/academy/academy_main.jhtml)), founded by media star Oprah Winfrey, where their grandmother was the interim Head of School. They also had the opportunity to visit the *Holy Rosary School for Girls* and conducted 3 HIPP classes for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They chose the theme, Cooperation and Trust, and designed the classes using the Trust Walk, Human Knot and Lap Sit. "Hearing the girls say they didn't think they could do it and then seeing their reaction at end when they had done it." was one of the most gratifying aspects of the workshop for Emma. Both Mason and Emma agreed that the way the girls reacted and were willing to accept them when their teachers stepped back and turned the class over was amazing! Mason said, "I will always remember how they respected and trusted us so quickly."

(R)Emma and Mason lead a HIPP Light and Lively

Visiting both schools and seeing how welcoming and honest the girls were towards them was a highlight of the trip. Emma observed, "We always had something to talk about- classes, music, Hip Hop and boys. I didn't expect them to be like the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls back home. We were halfway across the world, and we talked about the same things I do with my friends at home." Mason shared, "One day we played *Scrabble* with them. We found many more similarities than differences."



Mason and Emma, trained as HIPP facilitators in May 2007 during the Watkinson/Burr HIPP workshop sponsored by Pax Educare, and both plan to continue traveling and spreading peace through HIPP work. This year, they will be part of the continuing work with Burr and Watkinson as we train a new group of Middle School students.

**06- 07 HIPP Trainings**-With the cooperation and partnering of Watkinson and Burr Schools, a series of 6 trainings in nonviolence and building social change were held throughout the 06-07 year at the Village for Families and Children and at Watkinson. The trainings were co-facilitated by several of the trained youth, with board chair Diane Weinholtz, as well as Raul and Laura Matta, two young adult facilitators associated with the American Friends Service Committee of Western MA. We now have a cadre of over 40 trained facilitators, most of whom are youth. It was a busy and productive year. Thanks to the Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, Trustee, for its help in funding the workshops. We are hoping for future additional funding to insure the ongoing trainings for this year. We also hope to develop and maintain a HIPP network for New England, so that those individuals and organizations seeking trainers can find one easily. **Please contact us if you would like more information on HIPP.**

William Boudreau, University of Hartford doctoral student, under the direction of Professor Donn Weinholtz, has been working with us, researching HIPP, and has provided an initial, positive assessment of the trainings and of HIPP's transformative potential as pedagogy for peace. If you would like more information on Will's work, contact Pax Educare.



(L) Youth facilitator Allan Rogers enjoys a light moment with Annalise Kieley



(R) Maman, Mason, Winnie and Caitlin are the last "standing" players in a HIPP Light and Lively

**PEACE ANGELS-WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATION OF TIME AND ENERGY  
BY THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS**

Miriam Bergamini, Helen Raisz, Miriam Butterworth, Francine Ungaro, Fay Alberg, Kiki Eglinton and Krista Ostaszewski; Peterson Toscano, Hartford Monthly Meeting, Martha Vinick, Gretchen Upholt, Bill Upholt, Carolann Boucher, Karen and Phil Will, the members of the Adaskin String Trio and Sally Pinkus, Diana Desnoyers.

**GOOD NEWS**

We like to feature positive stories, activities and initiatives which help build a more hopeful world. Here are just a couple.

- **Local Food** 101-Bloomfield, CT's local "food dude" ([http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/cgi-bin/discus/board-profile.cgi?action=view\\_profile&profile=tim-users](http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/cgi-bin/discus/board-profile.cgi?action=view_profile&profile=tim-users)), former restaurant chef and head of the district's food service, Timothy Cipriano, has teamed up with the high school's agriscience teacher, Joseph Rodrigues, to serve the school's locally and sustainably grown produce, eggs and chickens (engaging students in this process), supplemented with other regionally and locally grown food for school lunches. Says the chef "food is a great teaching tool" (*Hartford Courant* article)
- According to a recent article in YES magazine, Claremont Graduate School, in California, now has a program in the **psychology of positive thinking**.
- The **InterRelations Collaborative**, based in Hamden, CT, has teamed with fiber artist and sculptor Faith Reingold, in a project engaging New York city youth to depict images of peace in story and art <http://www.inter-relations.org/quilt.htm>.

**PEACE LINKS**

- **News from the Global Campaign for Peace Education.** Now as part of a collaboration between Teachers College's Peace Education Program and Global Education Associates, under the direction of Tony Jenkins, the Campaign and its monthly newsletter bring the latest peace education activities from around the world. To sign up go to <http://c-i-p-e.org/elist/?p=subscribe&id=2>. Highlights from the August posting include an interview with Peruvian peace educator Betty Evans, upcoming world-wide trainings and events, and the latest research on peace and listing of jobs and internships.
- **Peace Jam-** Peace Jam introduces youth to the lives and work of Nobel Peace Laureates. Barry Felson, New England coordinator, sent the following information: **PeaceJam Northeast Slam: November 3 at Elms College in Chicopee, MA.** More details on these events are on the web site ([www.NextGenLeaders.org](http://www.NextGenLeaders.org)). In the spirit of lots of advance notice, the PeaceJam Northeast Youth Conference will be April 5-6, 2008, at Elms College. We do not yet have confirmation of who the PeaceJam Northeast Nobel Laureate will be for 2007-08. Expect that news soon.

- **Joanna Nieman, trainer in Nonviolent Communication**, sent this description of the workshops she conducts (she will be facilitating a workshop at the November 10 Women and Peacebuilding Conference): NVC has been described as a language of compassion, as a tool for social change, and as a spiritual practice. Its purpose is to strengthen our ability to inspire compassion from others and to respond compassionately to others and to ourselves. NVC gives us the tools and consciousness to see clearly what triggers us, to take responsibility for our reactions, and to deepen our connection with ourselves and others, thereby transforming our habitual responses to ourselves and to others. Ultimately, it involves a radical change in how we think about life and meaning. NVC is based on the fundamental principle that underlying all human actions are needs that people are seeking to meet, and understanding and acknowledging these needs can create a shared basis for connection, cooperation and for peace. To reach Joanna: [joannawm@yahoo.com](mailto:joannawm@yahoo.com). Joanna will be leading an 8 week study group in Middletown beginning in October. If interested, contact her.
- **Culture of Peace News Network**-for a report on world youth peace initiatives, go to <http://cpnn-world.org>. CPNN is always looking for short articles related to building cultures of peace. The web site is an excellent source for educators and students interested in peace studies.
- **UNESCO has a World Program for Human Rights Education**, whose aims are the promotion of a development of a human rights culture, a common understanding of the principles of human rights and to insure a collective frame of action. For more information go to: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/programme.htm>
- **The United States Institute of Peace** ([www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)) now has an online course in peace studies. Beginning with an introduction to a topic, the course offers case studies, illustrating analytical tools used by practitioners.
- **William Penn House, Quaker conference center in Washington, DC, will offer a *Teachers of Peace: Educating for Peace and Change seminar October 18-21st***. For middle and high school teachers and youth leaders. Peacemaking will be explored through the lens of multi-track diplomacy, a holistic framework for understanding peacebuilding. CEU's included. [www.WilliamPennHouse.org](http://www.WilliamPennHouse.org)
- **Colleague Nancy Wrenn**, of the Coalition for a Strong UN, has put together a short interactive session for youth (high school age would probably work best) on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She also has a video to accompany this. This is an hour session. Topics include homelessness, global caste and discrimination, issues of gender, including gender mutilation, violation of human rights in prisons, (including Guantanamo), immigrant issues, and worldwide water issues. To receive a complete copy of the lesson, contact Nancy at [NCWrenn@aol.com](mailto:NCWrenn@aol.com)
- **2008 I Dream A World Art Contest** open to Connecticut high school students with cash prizes. [www.afsc.org/ct/idream.htm](http://www.afsc.org/ct/idream.htm).

### **NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY**

Come on in, browse and check out a thing or two.

- ***A Force More Powerful: the Game of Nonviolent Strategy***. Interactive video game allowing player to wage nonviolent struggle for freedom and human rights. From the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict
- ***Nonviolent Conflict***, a CD for computer use, an educational resource for teaching the principles of nonviolent conflict resolution, as distinct from nonviolence per se. Includes reports by prominent peace scholars.

- *Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System* by Laura Magnani and Harmon Wray. Published by Fortress Press, as a project of the American Friends Service Committee's Criminal Justice Committee. Offers a moral critique of our prison system and a new paradigm based on the principles of restorative justice.
- *Searching for Peace in the Middle East*, DVD accompanied by a book with background information. A vivid and compassionate portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the voices of those most affected. Foundation for Middle East Peace [www.fmep.org](http://www.fmep.org), with Landrum Bolling, president emeritus of Earlham College who has worked extensively in the Middle East.

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS SINCE MARCH**

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*We are available for speaking to community and religious groups and for teacher in-service programs. We particularly like to engage in dialogue about educating toward a culture of peace.*

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