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"LONDON PATIENT" BECOMES SECOND PERSON IN THE WORLD TO BE DECLARED CURED OF HIV

Robyn Walker-Spencer

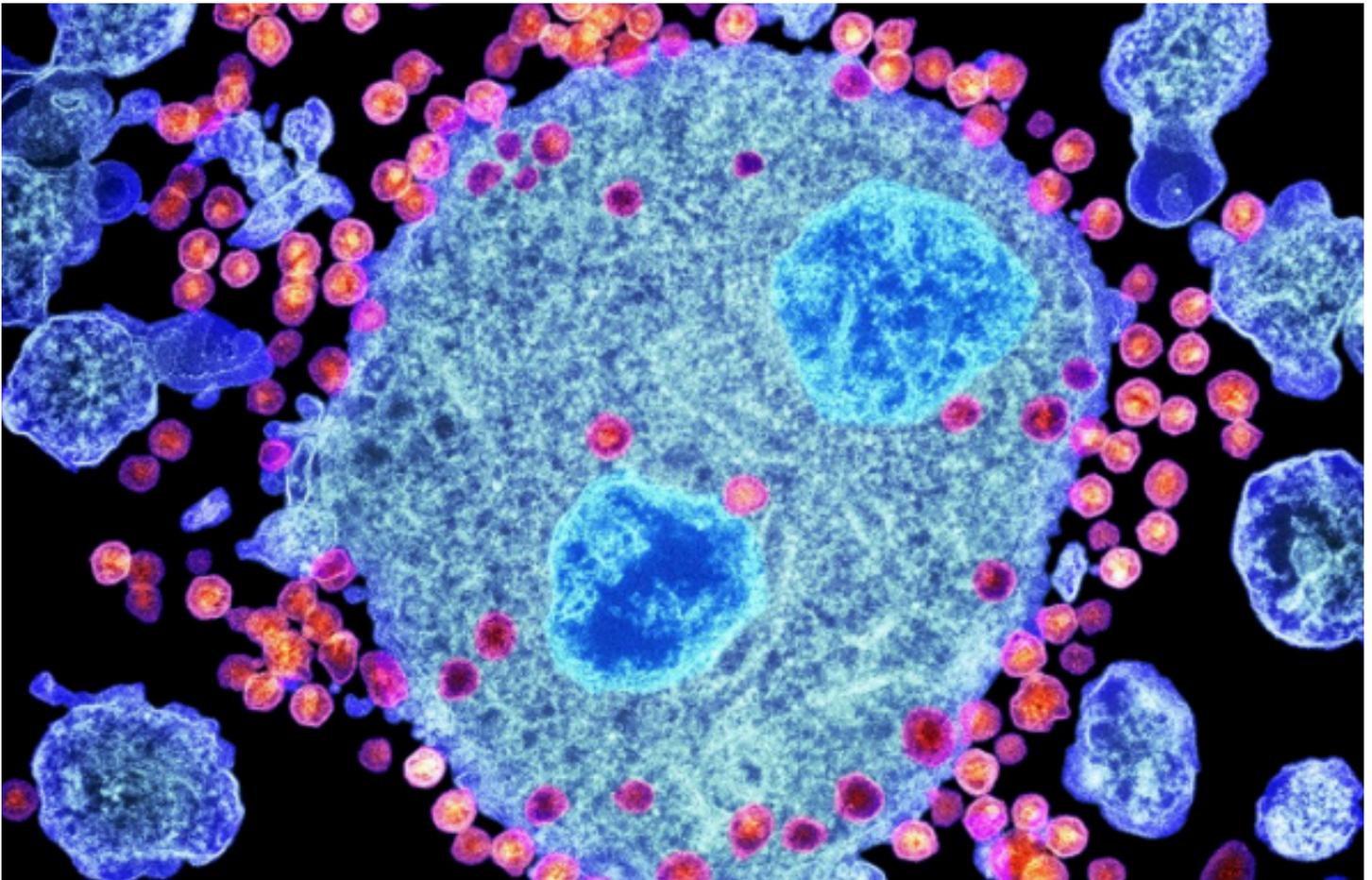


Image from sciencemag.org

*"ON MARCH 4, IN LONDON, ENGLAND, THE WORLD
MOVED ONE STEP CLOSER TOWARDS THE CURE OF WHAT
WAS ONCE CONSIDERED AN INCURABLE DISEASE"*

PERIOD POVERTY

Lack of access to feminine products is not just a monthly problem

Anikka Reinwand



Image from itv.com

ACTIVISTS PROTEST AGAINST LUXURY TAXES ON MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

Period poverty is an issue that has recently become the center of much discussion since the Oscar winning short film, *Period End of Sentence*, was released on Netflix. But despite the increase in discussion, the lack of access to sanitary menstruation products due to financial constraints remains. The *Always* brand of feminine products, as well as many other organizations, have been working to better situations for girls in the U.S as well as for those in need in other countries. By sharing information around period poverty, it can be hoped that there will be an increase in attention paid to this important matter.

The reason women can't get the items they need is because many feel guilty asking for them when their families are struggling with financial issues. Or, as is the

case in many countries, the products are just inaccessible for those facing poverty. Not having sanitary feminine products is dangerous for women. The Nua organization writes that the use of unclean pads can lead to, "Fungal infections, reproductive tract infection, urinary infection and even make you vulnerable to infertility." No woman or girl should have to put themselves at risk of these dangers due to feeling guilty over experiencing something they can't help.

The inability to access menstruation items does not only cause discomfort and infection, it also causes women to miss work and girls to miss school. The nationally known brand of feminine hygiene products, *Always*, states that one in five girls have missed school due to the lack of period protection. No girl

should have to give up her education due to a monthly occurrence.

Because of this, *Always* is determined to ending period poverty by taking actions and sparking conversation. In 2018, *Always* joined with Feeding America and was able to donate 15 million pads to keep girls in school. The *Always* Puberty & Confidence education programs reach more than 17 million girls annually and in the past 10 years and *Always* programs have delivered more than 100 million pads to girls who need them most around the world. By supporting organizations doing work like this, we can hopefully put an end to girls and women feeling greater stress and discomfort each month than the displeasure a period already provides.



barefoot
in
denim

Boutique

PLASTIC STRAWS SERIOUSLY SUCK

Gail Curtis

The last time you ordered a drink at a restaurant, or had a school lunch, did you use a plastic straw? They seem like small, essential drinking utensils that we use every day, but recent studies show that they create massive environmental problems. It's estimated that Americans use over 500 million straws a day, and most of those end up in our oceans, polluting the water and killing marine life. For people living on the coasts, a quick walk on the beach can give anyone insight into how overwhelming our addiction to plastic items has become. A calamitous amount of plastic pollution isn't even visible to the human eye, with much of the contamination occurring on a microscopic level. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in only one year, 32 million tons of plastic waste is produced by the U.S. and only approximately nine percent is reclaimed for recycling. This confirms that the majority of plastics end up in landfills and oceans. On the surface of the seas there are an estimated 270,000 tons of plastic floating around, and according to a recent study by researchers at Plymouth University, a staggering 700 different marine species are threatened by its existence. Researchers believe that plastic contributes to rising rates of species extinction.

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PLASTIC STRAWS SERIOUSLY SUCK

Gail Curtis

Every year, one million seabirds and 100 million marine animals die from ingesting plastic. More than half of all species of marine mammals and all known species of sea turtle have been affected by marine debris.

Among other items that cause problems in the environment, such as bottles, cans, bags, cigarettes, and food wrappers, the most manageable to begin banning are plastic straws. Also, like many other plastics, the decomposition process of straws can take over 500 years, but will never be entirely off the Earth, as plastics are not biodegradable. Even worse, the degrading of plastic releases chemicals that are toxic to wildlife and the environment. The movement to prohibit plastic straws and other single-use plastics is growing, with a handful of schools and cities banning them entirely, and companies such as Starbucks and Disney making moves to phase out plastic straws gradually in the upcoming years. Nestle has stated it will discontinue plastic straws in its products, and Coca-Cola has announced that it is replacing plastic straws with paper straws in Australia. New York City, California, and Hawaii have pending straw ban legislation. While the crusade against plastic straws is still growing in America, it has expanded to the rest of the world: Vancouver has prohibited straws, Scotland hopes to halt the use of them by 2019, and Taiwan is banning all single-use

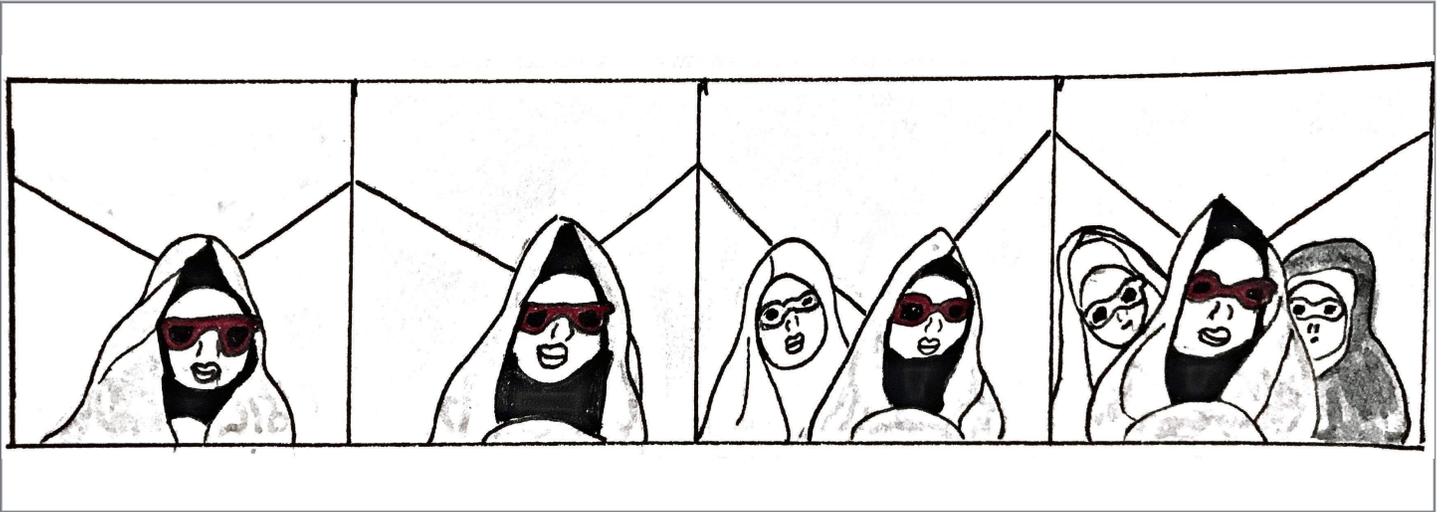
plastic items, such as straws, cups, and shopping bags, by 2030. If a drastic change isn't made now, by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

Despite the negative impact on the environment straws have, many people oppose the banning of plastic straws. Some environmental advocates have pointed out that it wouldn't do that much for the environment, compared with banning plastic bags, balloons, or other single-use plastic items. Although it is true that plastic bags pose a more substantial problem, banning straws are a tremendous first-step on the road to prohibiting other plastics. Plastic straws are the 8th most found ocean trash as of January 2019, and there are an estimated 7.5 million plastic straws on America's shorelines alone, which has driven scientists to believe there could be up to 8.3 billion plastic straws on coastlines across the entire world. Banning them is not a frivolous pursuit. Additionally, many disability advocates have mentioned that straw bans don't consider the needs of disabled people, for whom plastic straws are a critical accessibility utensil. Yes, some people simply require straws, which is absolutely reasonable! There are countless alternatives to plastic straws, such as reusable straws made from stainless steel, silicone, glass, paper, and bamboo, most of which can be found on Amazon.

Good reusable straws are sturdy and easy to clean and will come with a special cleaning brush. However, these eco-friendly options come at a higher price. The price of disposable plastic straws is less than a penny, while compostable plastic straws, which are biodegradable and plant-based, cost about 4 cents apiece, and paper straws are about 6 cents each. Nonetheless, this is somewhat a small price to pay for the lives of countless marine creatures.

Many people fight change, even if it benefits the environment. Is significant environmental evolution possible? Camden Hills Gazette surveyed 185 people asking whether or not they would be inclined to use an eco-friendly alternative option to plastic straws. Of the 109 people that answered, 92% would be willing to make the change to biodegradable material for straws. One student that answered stated that he would definitely make the transition to an different type of straw as long as it was simple and accessible to use. I don't want to have to carry around a metal straw. The only noteworthy difference between plastic and biodegradable straws is that the latter is extremely better for the environment and its wildlife. Over 100 students are ready to make this change, which proves that positive innovation can be made, and it can happen right here at CHRHS.

MONTHLY VINE



LITERARY

Nicole Pendleton

Margaret has a black thumb. She has never been able to make anything grow. She transplants all manners of cuttings and they blossom for a day or two, then wither and die. When she plants seeds, nothing happens. They don't even break the ground. Her house plants, torn apart by cats desperate for the great outdoors, hang bedraggled and limp, branches broken, leaves frayed. Every year, she tries to plant the live Christmas tree she buys. Every year it dies.

One spring, Margaret noticed that her neighbor across the street had a whole garden full of tomatoes. She was envious. If the neighbor can grow those beautiful fruits and vegetables, why can't she? She's an intelligent person. She's not totally incompetent. The soil is the same on this side of the street as it is on that. She ought to be able to grow freaking tomatoes. And then an idea came to her.

Many years ago when she was a little girl, her aunt came to visit for the first time. Now her mother never really liked Aunt Caroline, and she definitely didn't want her sister around a young Margaret. But she couldn't keep making excuses forever so one day Aunt Caroline came to visit. And by the time she left, little Margaret had learnt the beginnings of witchcraft. Her mother quickly threw out and burned all of the books that Caroline had brought over, but she missed one. Margaret had looked over it many times but had kept her promise to her mother to never truly try the witchcraft.

Digging through the attic she eventually found the leather bound book with no title and no decorations. Just a simple brown book. She flipped through the old

pages the smelt of rosemary, Margaret could only hope that a spell to grow some stupid tomatoes was in the book.

There was. A rush of excitement and nervousness sent jitters down her spine. It was actually quite simple, all she needed was one dried tomato, some honey mixed with water, the sap of a tree, and some dirt from the bottom of the tree that she got the sap from. She gathered the ingredients rather quickly, eager to get some tomatoes and test out some magic.

The instructions were rather easy as well. Mix the honey water with the sap. Pour it over the dried tomato and wait an hour to let it absorb the liquids, then dig a hole to put the tomato into. Before she would cover up the tomato with the soil from the tree she had to recite some weird words. Appello tu tera. Whatever that's supposed to mean. After finishing the spell, which was very under dramatic, she waited. Nothing happened. She tried turning the dirt one more time but nothing happened. So she went back inside

The minute she set foot inside, the drought began. It is the worst drought the southeast has ever experienced, weeks without rain. Drinking water dries up. No one is allowed to water their lawns, washing your car is a criminal offense. Margaret stares, distraught, at the place where there should be tomatoes plants. She broke her promise to her mother for this? Just when she gives up, it begins to rain. From drought to monsoon in one easy session. Every day, she came home, opened her umbrella, dragged her briefcase inside and battened down the hatches for the evening. Water seeped into her shoes, her roof leaked, so did her car. It was so wet outside, even

the cats didn't bother to leave the house. She forgot she ever tried magic.

Finally, the rain stopped. There was a stunning sunrise. The world looked green and beautiful. She came home from work in the afternoon and got out of her car, grateful that she didn't have to wrestle the umbrella into submission. She was about to go inside when something caught her eye, a flash of red.

And there it was, beautiful as a waxed fruit, a bundle of perfect two-inch tomatoes where nothing but dead grass used to be. The plant had blossomed with leaves and the tomatoes decorate the green foliage. She stared at the fruit.

They are the same size the next day, and the next. They don't seem to grow, but it is spectacular. Afraid that they will start decaying, she plucked the tomatoes and took them inside. Her first home-grown anything. Albeit with a bit of cheating.

Margaret decided to try her hand with some more magic. Later that day she started practicing with the book that she used for the tomatoes. This time, results were much faster. Soon she had roses, lettuce and even trees growing ten times faster than normal. Yet, messing around with plants is boring. So, after dinner, she calls her aunt for the first time ever. After a couple minutes of pleasant conversation she finally asks the question. "Hey Caroline, you wouldn't happen to have any more books on magic would you? At least one that isn't about growing plants?"

DRAMA FEST WITH YOU & MIA

Alice Moskovitz



Image by Marti Stone Photography

LEAD ACTRESSES KATIE SOUTHWORTH AND ROBYN WALKER-SPENCER PERFORM THEIR FINAL SCENE

With every year, our world is progressing more and more with LGBT+ representation and acceptance. This year, our very own Tatum Dowd wrote and directed a beautiful play about a coming of age relationship. The cast and crew has worked tirelessly since December on bringing this love story to life. *You & Mia* was performed on March 9th, in Caribou, Maine for the 2019 Regional Drama Festival. Although the team was disqualified for performing 15

seconds overtime (guidelines of competition include a 40 minute time limit), they were a crowd favorite and to quote the judges "Brought us into your world".

The show starts out with a organized representation of a typical teenagers morning, illustrating some key characters. Mia (Katie Southworth) is pushed on by her friends Julie, Abby, Kim, and Liv (Elaine Landry, Abi Hammond, Alice Moskovitz, and Robyn Walker-Spencer) to pursue Landen (Caleb Edwards) a boy

who likes her. Mia is internally dealing with jealousy over her best friend, Liv dating her new boyfriend, Luke (Kyle Hicks). Mia tries to bond with Landen, even going to one of his and Ben's (Bradlee Watts) baseball games. There she talks to Grace, Kathy, and Charles (Alyson Shook, Lexi Smith, and Sam Maltese) who also support the potential relationship. After an eye opening two days including classes, play rehearsals, and sleepovers, Mia opens up about her sexuality to Liv, after

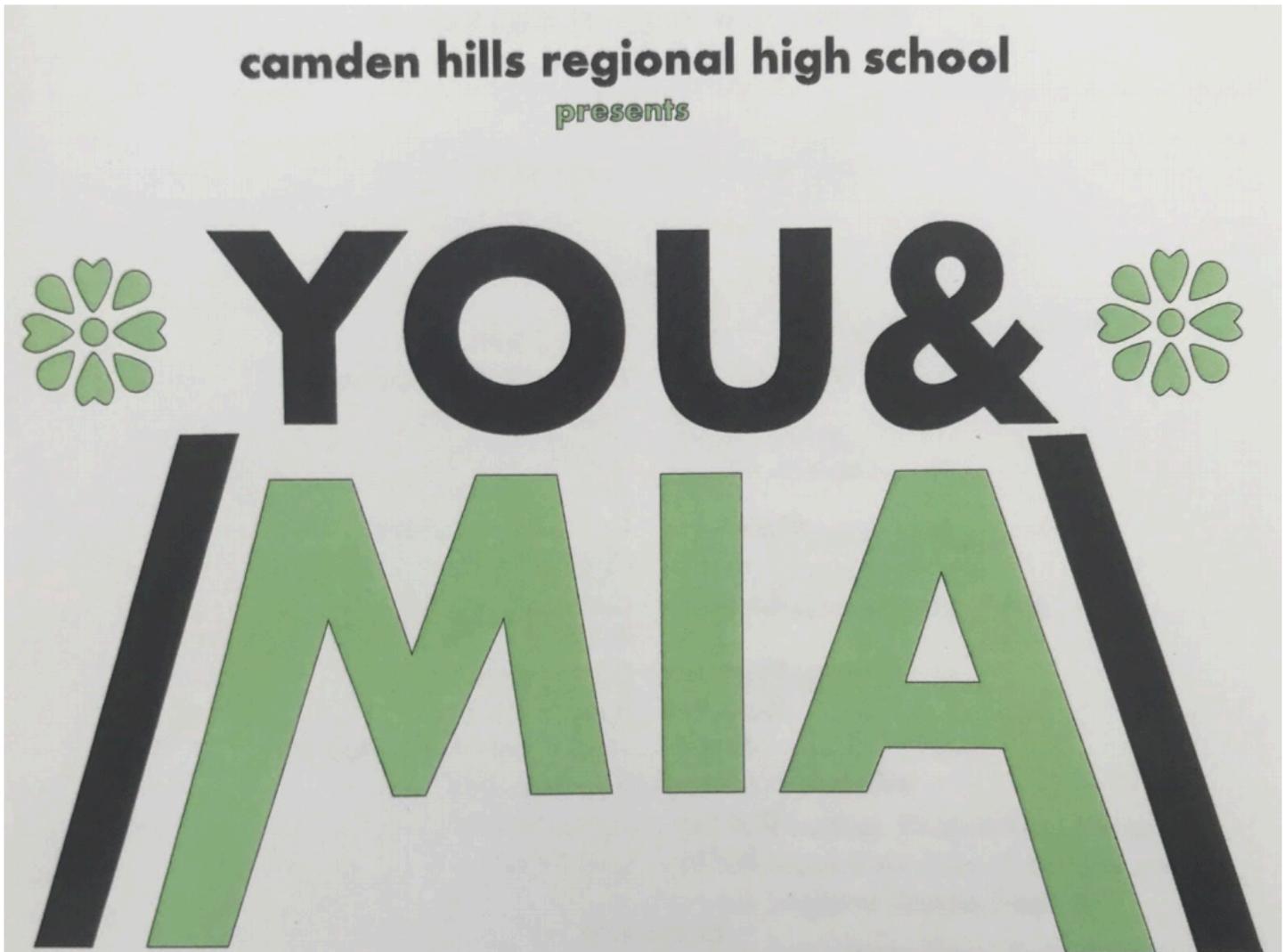


Image from CHG

“IT WAS COMPLETELY THE SHOW I HAD SET OUT TO MAKE AND THE CHARACTERS’ STORIES I WANTED TOLD.”

Luke leaves her for Mehghan (Cora Maple Lindell). They confess their love for each other in a heartwarming final scene that leaves the audience feeling warm and fuzzy. When Tatum was asked why she was inspired to write this show she answered, “I was inspired by the constant jokes of ‘I could write a better show than this,’ that

we as a cast encountered throughout idiot and the Oddity. I wanted to put money where my mouth is and had also been brainstorming for months with friends. I also came up with the working title ‘Fifty Shades of Play’ and just really wanted to use that for something.” After the final show, she said, “It was completely the show I had

set out to make and the characters’ stories I wanted told.” Tatum is hoping to continue writing and directing throughout college and will wait and see what happens beyond that.

Chg offers our warmest congratulations to Tatum and the cast and crew on their amazing work with You & Mia!

“LONDON PATIENT” BECOMES SECOND PERSON IN THE WORLD TO BE DECLARED CURED OF HIV

Robyn Walker-Spencer

On March 4, in London, England, the world moved one step closer to the cure of what was once considered an incurable disease- an HIV-positive man in London became the second ever person to be declared free from AIDS. The man, known as the London Patient to maintain anonymity, had previously been diagnosed with cancer. A successful bone marrow treatment to rid his body of cancer resulted in what doctors consider to be a remission from AIDS.

The virus known as HIV originated in West Africa, and is believed to be transmitted from chimpanzees to humans via a transfer of blood while hunting in the 1930's. The immune disease, AIDS, which is caused by contraction of the virus HIV, spread through Africa and eventually the world. But it wasn't until the 1980's that the rest of the world became aware of the disease. In 1981, unusually high rates of rare cancers and pneumonia appeared among gay men in the United States. As a result of this initial discovery, the disease was originally dubbed “gay-related immune deficiency,” or GRID. When other demographics contracted the disease as well, it was renamed “acquired-immune deficiency syndrome”, or AIDS, in 1982.

The virus attacks the immune system's receptors by attaching itself like a key in a lock to white blood cells (CD4's), which are responsible for fighting infection. The HIV virus then inserts its DNA into the nucleus of the cell, taking it over, and copies itself to spread throughout the body. The CD4 cell is responsible for signaling other types of cells in the immune system to multiply. When the CD4 cell is attacked, the number of cells able to fight the virus go down. People with HIV/AIDS most frequently die from AIDS-related diseases: contracting pneumonia or otherwise treatable

cancers can be fatal as the immune system is compromised. HIV/AIDS can be contracted through blood products (unclean needles or unscreened blood), from mother to fetus in pregnancy, and through the shared contact of certain bodily fluids.

By 1995, AIDS peaked as the leading cause of death in the United States for adults. In that same year, approximately 50,000 Americans died from AIDS-related causes. But despite the high number of deaths, a massive stigma existed around AIDS. It was known as the gay disease, and was ignored by President Reagan for four years before he took any action against the epidemic. By the time he mentioned AIDS for the first time, 85 countries had reported 38,401 cases of AIDS to the World Health Organization. Today, approximately 36.9 million are living with HIV around the world. Close to 636,000 people in the US have died of AIDS since 1981.

A number of treatments for HIV have been introduced since the 1980's. In 1997, highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) was introduced as a new treatment. As a result of the medication the death rate declined by 47%. Now there are almost 20 different treatment options, including generic drugs with lower costs. The FDA continues to fund research for a cure. While none of the treatments (up until more recently) have been the key to an “AIDS cure,” they have become progressively more successful and allowed for an improved quality of life for those with the disease.

The declaration of remission from AIDS for the London Patient earlier this month shows massive amounts of potential for the future of treatment. He is the second person to be declared as such, and followed a similar treatment pattern as the original patient. The first person to be declared cured of AIDS was a man named Timothy Ray Brown, who originally was known as the Berlin Patient. Both patients

underwent bone marrow transplants that successfully rid their bodies of AIDS- but both underwent the treatment for a different reason. It was intended to cure cancer, not AIDS.

After the Berlin Patient was declared cured in 2007, scientists set out with the goal of replicating the treatment, testing on cancer patients with HIV. But patient after patient resulted in failure, and the treatment was disregarded as simply a fluke.

In undergoing his cancer treatment, Mr. Brown almost died. The combination of chemotherapy and radiation ravaged his body, and he needed two bone marrow transplants. He had complications from the surgery, and at one point was placed in an induced coma and came close to dying. Because the Berlin Patient's near-death experience was along the path that eventually led to a cure, scientists thought for years that it would take near destruction of the immune system for the transplant to work. This belief set scientists back in their progress as they took care to be gentle with their patients immune systems. Some of the drugs Mr. Brown used during his treatment are no longer in circulation.

The London Patient was able to disprove the near-death theory during his treatment in 2016. He had Hodgkin's lymphoma, a rare cancer of the lymph nodes, and underwent a similar treatment to the Berlin Patient. The London Patient underwent a bone marrow transplant as well, and also took immunosuppressive drugs. The drugs he took, however, are updated, safer versions, and he responded well to the treatment. In September of 2017 he stopped taking anti-HIV drugs. This month marks his eighteenth month of being free from HIV/AIDS, making the London Patient the first person to be free of the disease for longer than a year since Mr. Brown.

Both the Berlin and London Patients received a bone marrow transplant with stem cells from a donor that has a mutation of the CCR5 gene, a rare mutation that scientists believe led to the cure. The CCR5 gene is used by AIDS as a way to enter cells, but with the mutation, there is no receptor for HIV to attach to. A bone marrow transplant wipes out the current immune system and replaces it with a totally new one - one without the correct receptors for HIV to attach to because of the mutation. By successfully undergoing the transplant, both patients made it impossible for the virus to continue reproducing. The mutation is rare, found in those from Northern European descent (known as delta 32). There is a database of about 22,000 donors with the genetic mutation.

The London Patient was part of a larger group of 38 currently being tracked by doctors. Each patient had contracted HIV and is currently undergoing bone marrow transplants. 32 of the patients received stem cells with the CCR5 mutation. More time is needed to determine the success of the transplant for other patients, but one patient (known as the Düsseldorf Patient) has gone without HIV medication for four months. Four months is too short of a time period for conclusive results, scientists say, but biopsies of his lymph nodes have shown no sign of HIV. The Düsseldorf Patient could prove in the future to be the third patient officially declared cured of HIV, a promising sign for the future of HIV/AIDS research.

Scientists remain optimistic, but are aware that a bone marrow transplant is not a global solution. Anton Pozniak,

the president of the International Aids Society, spoke on his hopefulness. "Although it is not a viable large-scale strategy for a cure ... these new findings reaffirm our belief that there exists a proof of concept that HIV is curable," he said. "The hope is that this will eventually lead to a safe, cost-effective and easy strategy to achieve these results using gene technology or antibody techniques."

Drugs exist today that have proven to be extraordinarily successful in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The FDA recently approved a combination of three drugs in a single pill that suppresses the virus and lowers the odds of infecting others to almost zero. And the drug PrEP, which prevents people from being infected, has become more widely available with a generic version available to reduce costs. But while these drugs are widely accessible and effective, the AIDS epidemic cannot be dismissed. It is incredibly difficult for a population of over 36 million people infected to continuously be able to afford expensive drugs, as well as to continuously take them for what could be a lifetime. There is also some difficulty in affordability for developing countries, especially those with leaders that reject AIDS as a legitimate problem.

This is where the CCR5 gene comes in. Bone marrow transplants are not accessible on a larger scale (many HIV-positive people do not have a need for the expensive transplant in the first place), but scientists are taking the information learned from the London and Berlin Patients for

research in the future. Earlier this year, a Chinese scientist received global backlash for the gene editing of babies still in the womb. The global response was that it was "unnecessary and carried risk," as the fetuses were perfectly healthy. But the gene he was editing was the CCR5 gene to control HIV receptors. While gene editing in babies brings up ethical and moral concerns, Professor Ravindra Gupta from University College London, the lead author on the paper about the London Patient, believes there is potential in editing of this gene. "What this second case says is this is a bonafide research target and probably the most promising we have for any HIV cure," he said. Gupta believes that gene editing is the way forward to progress in a cure for this disease.

AIDS has long to be thought to be an incurable disease. In 2017 alone, 940,000 people died of complications. It is estimated that 693,000 people have died in the United States alone since 1982. But the stigma around the disease has reduced immensely since the beginning of the epidemic in the 1980's, with millions of dollars going towards treatments and research. Trump recently announced a plan to end the epidemic of AIDS in the US, with more funding directed to research and new programs. With another patient officially declared cured of this disease, there is a new hope for the future. This discovery and the success of the bone marrow transplant opens up a new world of possibilities, and brings us one step closer to a world without AIDS.

THE TROUBLES

CHILDREN AT WAR

Phoebe Walsh

"We're soldiers. We know how to use guns... I shot at British troops and I've been shot at by them. I fought hard against them." Finnegan* was a member of the IRA, or Irish Republican Army, during a brutal period of guerrilla warfare known as the Troubles. His father, brother, and other family, were also members of the IRA. Finnegan grew up at war.

20th century Ireland was a war zone, the culmination of hundreds of years of British imperialism and the religious persecution of the Irish Catholics by the Protestants. In the 1920s, Ireland was divided by a ruling of the British parliament, the South would be a free Irish state, the North would remain a part of the British empire. The Catholic Irish still in Northern Ireland sought independence from the British, while the Protestants remained loyal to the Monarchy. This divide was the catalyst for the following three decades of violence that would define Northern Ireland up into the late 90s.

Finnegan was born at the dead center of this violence- Belfast, Northern Ireland. His father was a unit commander for the IRA, he

grew up with prominent politicians, such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. As a young kid he was a runner, hiding guns and delivering messages for IRA members. Finnegan should have been playing games with his friends, instead he learned to shoot a gun and avoid British soldiers. In the place of cartoons, he watched car bombs, beatings and kneecappings. "It was complete chaos sometimes, bombs going off, tanks rolling down the streets."

As he got older, Finnegan would become more involved with the IRA. His brother turned to politics, becoming a member of the Sinn Fein, an Irish republican political party. His father remained an active paramilitary commander. When Finnegan was 16, the British shot his father. When he was 18, they killed his brother.

Up to that point, Finnegan had seen many losses. People in his life tended to disappear. "One of my best friend's brother, just never came home. Just was gone. And that could've been, y'know he was definitely all Catholic, it could have been a Protestant group snatched him and

killed him, and buried him somewhere." But it was the death of his father that ultimately turned him towards the IRA. "It was a turning point in my life because at that time I was considering really getting involved in the IRA more... And when that happened, I decided, yeah, that it was on."

The British and the Protestants were well aware of Finnegan and his family. He had always been a target, his increased involvement furthered this threat. And two years after the murder of his father, an assassination attempt on Finnegan's life would instead take the life of his brother. "Him and I, we got into an argument, he took my favorite hat and went to the movies and was killed because they thought it was me. They shot him in the back of the head.

"That sent off a wave of violence that was pretty legendary, even for Ireland. There were reprisals." Finnegan fought hard in response to the deaths of his family.

**Names have been changed due to safety concerns*



IRISH BOYS PRETEND TO SHOOT AT BRITISH OFFICERS

Violence was all he knew. "That's why over the years I have developed some very strong friendships with the Basque people, they went through the same thing with Spain and the Franco Wars. With the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] going through it with Israel..." While Finnegan's story is unique, it is shared by countless children currently growing up in wartorn countries.

There are over 40 active conflicts worldwide according to the Global Conflict Tracker. That's 40 places where children are starved, orphaned, and killed by the circumstances surrounding them. 40 places where kids become soldiers to survive. The trauma and chaos these children are subjected to can result in a continuation of the brutality they witness. When bombs drop on Syria, when the Israeli Army shoots into a

peaceful protest, when Rohingya Muslims are massacred, the children watch. And because they are children, they learn. They pick up guns. They learn to build bombs. They fight.

These kids are soldiers, the result of being born into war.

When Finnegan was arrested, shortly after the death of his brother, he remembers "the one guard saying, 'you're designed for this.'"

THE ARTS

PHOTOGRAPHY



SEA SMOKE, By Max Moore



LIGHTHOUSE, By Havana Lyman (A journalist with CHG!)

THE ARTS



UNTITLED, By Carlton Richards



CAPTAIN MARVEL

Jesse Bifulco

The cinematic powerhouse of the movie industry, Marvel, has gone and released another high-budget blockbuster. The first of 2019, but certainly not the last, *Captain Marvel* was another box office success focusing on the origin story of the titular hero of the same name. Featuring Brie Larson and a CGI-based young Samuel L. Jackson, *Captain Marvel* is a decent film, but fails to stand out amongst the seemingly never ending onslaught of new superhero movies.

The Good:

Ever since comic book movies became a billion dollar industry, there has not been any specifically bad blockbusters from Marvel. *Captain Marvel* is no exception. The plotline is engaging, relatively easy to follow, and chock-full to the brim with CGI, explosions, and the fate of the world being at stake once again.

The dynamic between purported alien warrior hero, Captain Marvel, and 90's lowly SHIELD officer, Nick Fury, is entertaining enough to carry the majority of the movie, which is exactly the case.

Between the short-but-sweet fight scenes, creative cinematography, flashy effects, and witty one liners that Marvel is known for, this movie is up to all of the consistent standards set by all the previous films in its class.

The Bad:

Captain Marvel just does not stand out to me. Maybe it is the ever-growing budget that Disney pours into releasing dozens of comic book movies, the protagonist's own infallible nature, or the massive purple elephant in the room that Infinity War's ambitious scope makes all other Marvel movies seem like a walk in the park. Whatever the reason, *Captain Marvel* was a better than decent movie in a time that Disney has been cranking out better than decent movies--which suddenly makes all of them decent. Thor: Ragnarok, Black Panther, and yes, even Ant Man & The Wasp were all great movies, but line them up with the rest of Marvel's ever-expanding roster and suddenly they all lose their charm. The one exception is the uniquely casual nature of the new Spiderman movies, but that is a review for another time.

The Conclusion:

Captain Marvel is a good movie. That should be expected from any Marvel movie at this point, but that is also what makes it forgettable. It stands strong on its own or even in the face of recent DC superhero movies (whose idea was it to cast Ben Affleck as Batman, anyway?), but when compared to the literally twenty other films that Marvel has produced in their saga (especially Infinity War), *Captain Marvel* fades into dust.

THE OSCARS

Gail Curtis, Alice Moskowitz,
and Bella Gardner

The 91st annual Oscars were something to remember. They were neither a trainwreck or a triumph, but they were filled with some new movements, great speeches, and speculation.

Speaking of new movements, the documentary, *Period. End of Sentence*, is the 2019 Oscar winner for Best Documentary Short. The 26-minute-long Netflix documentary follows women in India fighting the taboos surrounding menstruation and how the installation of a pad manufacturing machine empowered women in one community. It is a huge step in normalizing periods, and it is a must-see. As Rayka Zehtabchi accepted her award she said, "can't believe a film about menstruation just won an Oscar."

One point of controversy during the Oscars was its lack of a host. In the last thirty years, there has always been a host for the Oscars. Originally Kevin Hart (actor) was going to host them, however, considering he had some homophobic scandals they decided against it. In place of a host and their normal 10-minute monologue mocking Hollywood and its actors, there was rock performance, starting with a medley by the surviving members of Queen and Adam Lambert standing in for frontman Freddie Mercury, the subject of Best Picture nominee *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The performance was a heartfelt tribute to Queen, and successfully rocked the audience in the room, where stars like Allison Janney and Amy Adams were on their feet. There were many great speeches, but among the most memorable was Spike Lee's. When he won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for *BlacKkKlansman*, he acknowledged that the U.S. was built on the enslavement of Africans and the genocide of Native people. He also reminded viewers that the 2020 presidential election is fast approaching and made to "make the moral choice between love versus hate" and said, "Let's do the right thing!"

CAMDEN CLIMATE MARCH!

JOIN THE MAINE TEEN ADVOCACY COALITION ON
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TO ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY
IN CAMDEN. WE WILL MEET IN THE
WATERSHED PARKING LOT AND MARCH TO
HARBOR PARK FROM THERE.

JUSSIE SMOLLETT

Lilly Curtis

On January 29, singer and actor Jussie Smollett claimed to be a victim of a racist and homophobic hate crime, that left him briefly hospitalized. A month after this was reported, Smollett himself has been arrested for arranging and setting up this event, allegedly filing a false police report.

Smollett, claimed that two masked men at the entrance of the Loews hotel in Chicago 'beat him up' and yelled racist and homophobic remarks — making references to his show Empire and to President Donald Trump's signature slogan, "Make America Great Again." They also used offensive slurs such as the n-word, and f-word. He said one attacker tied a noose around his neck and poured a substance on him that he believed was bleach, then the two fled.

The media followed every development of this unexpected incident and being well known to the general public, Smollett, who is black and gay, as well as anti-Trump, was flooded with support by the LGBTQ+ community and politicians.

Smollett's story made headlines for weeks but the case has taken shocking twists and turns, revealing to the public that what Smollett's claims were a lie. The assumed tragedy, after investigation by the Chicago police, suggests Smollett helped orchestrate his own attack and paid two men he knew from the Fox drama Empire, in which he plays a character questioning their sexuality, \$3,500 to fake the attack.

What is assumed to be his reasoning to fake his attack was described at a news conference by Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, saying Smollett was unhappy with his salary, and the attack was staged to gain him

recognition/attention through the sympathy of experiencing a hate crime. Further, a week before the event took place, Smollett wrote and mailed himself a homophobic and racist letter but being unsatisfied with the amount of attention it received, he planned an even bigger event.

But with all the evidence and claims being thrown against him, as well as the backlash of the people for him staging his own assault, Smollett stands by his initial claims stating to the cast of Empire, "I would never do this to any of you, you are my family. I swear to God, I did not do this."

Once the truth was unraveled, many people have taken sides, and two separate groups now share their opinions on the meaning of this event to the public today whether through news broadcasts, live discussion, or online. Even after 2 months of this event, it still remains relevant.

One side is appalled by Smollett, the majority in retaliation against him staging his own hate attack. Filing a false report, especially to the extent of Smollett's actions, could grant him three years in prison. Being an actor on a well-known show, will most likely work against him if he is proved guilty, as the whole world stands watching him. There is, however, a minimum who support him, to a greater extent after his false claims now stand clear to the public. This minimum being mostly anti-Trump, almost all believe Smollett's allegation is one of bravery and justice, that when times are desperate, even if it comes to deceit and dirty play, in order to gain recognition on an important subject such as racism, homophobia, and politics, you must do whatever you can to gain attention of the people ... that Smollett in fact did not plan this

crime to gain positive attention for his career but to address problems in America that must be solved. Many still hold Smollett's side whether he lied or not.

Bringing up an important question of today's morals and problems, the answer to solving issues people feel are vital to the success of our country, is discussed parallel to this event. That if people feel change is needed, there are no rules and laws to stop them for the morality of your heart overrides the set in place commandments of your government. That crime is but a social construct and who is to say whether lying to gain recognition on what they believe needs to be resolved, is just as bad as following the law yet ignoring the cancer of this system. That morals are no longer good or bad for they are only as justified as our beliefs, they are no longer set in stone and built into a wall that holds up the safety boundaries of America for we are the ones who built it and have the man-made rights to bring it down, disobey it? That morals are no longer defined by god or paper because we are gods, we wrote the text lying upon parliament we have defined as justice but now we think different. But is it worth the lies? To give up our moral standards and fundamental code to make a positive impact? Or is this reasoning twisted? Justified? Worth giving up the dignity we so value? Is it worth the ignorance of the population to be convinced of change? And now that the lies are discovered, should we point fingers or accept the need to solve our countries problems? Smollett's case is but a realization and recognized difficulty lying upon an entire nation.

THE MOUNTING EXPECTATIONS CHILLS STUDENTS ARE HELD TO

Aniela Creek

In the month of March, the procrastination, loss in motivation, and anticipation for spring is beginning to build up. And with March being an extra long month, with no extra days off, the student body seems to be slowing down a little bit. This is already on top of everything else each student is feeling pressured to do. As a school, we hold our students to high standards, as we should, but sometimes, especially in the sad, weathered, March, it begins to hit all of us.

I recently read a friend's letter they wrote, unsent, to the superintendent or principal (I honestly don't remember who it was to). It was written mid mental break down, at 1am when they were stress finishing a English essay, knowing that they were only making a dent on their overall homework pile that was turning less from a pile and more to a mound. The majority of teachers assign at least a half hour of homework per class, (unless it's an honors course, than it's closer to one or two hours.) This homework adds on at least two hours of homework and at most six or seven, to a seven hour school day. And for many students, there is an additional one-three hours of sports practice. Then, to add onto the school stress, we are told that we should join at least one club, and although newspaper (what I am in, obviously) isn't that hard, it does take up some time, and is

an added commitment and responsibility on a student. So in total that's about a 10 hour day or school, homework, and sports (on the low side of estimating this, it could be up to 14 or 15 hours). Now, again on top of this, most students have the responsibility of getting a job, this is either to support their family, or for personal benefit to get some gas to go those extra miles, to save up for college, or simply go out to dinner one night with some friends. This added responsibility is probably 15 hours a week, maybe more or less. I think that most of us need to take breaks sometimes, msybe take a nap or play a few videogames. And if this takes time away from our responsibilities, so be it. We are under immense amounts of stress, and sometimes those pauses are necessary. These are all expectations that most students have.

All of the responsibilities culminate in many students getting up at 5 am and not getting home until 10 pm (which I seem to be doing a lot more of recently). Despite the consequences, we are all held up to high expectations, which often lead to us breaking down. So we don't get that essay in on time, or we take that F from that test. We do need that break of naps or games at night as a means of decompressing from the high expectations we are all collectively held at.

Want a school opinion covered?

Email me at:

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APRIL AND OTHER CHG NEWS

Dear Reader,

We regret to inform you that we will not be printing an April Issue this month in order to give our writers as much extra time as possible to study for their SATs and AP tests. Our officers will instead be using that time to look into our impact on the school and how we can strengthen our place here! Please look forward to a survey that will ask about your interests and what you would like to see from us.

We will also be holding a bakesale at the end of the day on Friday! You can find our table by the front doors. We hope to see you then!

Sincerely,

Camden Hills Gazette

HOROSCOPES

Greg Cameron



Aries. March 21 - April 19

You are going to die. Your friends are going to die. We all are going to die. Don't wait for the right time to act. Make a difference now. Before it's too late.



Taurus. April 20 - May 20

People are rude, mean, and cruel. But not all. Choose what type of person you are going to be. Be the person that you want others to be.



Gemini. May 21 - June 21

Someone will always be there for you and will protect you. Don't be so worried about taking risk.



Cancer. June 22 - July 22

Hard work pays off. Work hard for what you want and be patient. You are most likely not going to get what you want but you will get something better. Opportunity.



Leo. July 23 - August 22

Carpe Diem. That's Latin for Seize the day. Enjoy every moment of your life. Don't get held down from the small things



Virgo. August 23 - September 22

You have talent. You might not know what it is but one day you will. Your whole life will be devoted to what your talent is and you will love it.



Libra. September 23 - October 22

If someone is nice to you but not friendly, they probably want something from you. Be careful of who trust. Be careful of who you don't trust.



Scorpio. October 23 - November 21

People assume a lot from us. They assume our motivations our life. But the never really understand us and what we do. Know that others are just as confused as you are.



Sagittarius. November 22 - December 21

The news gives us some information of what is going on with the world, but it also can get facts wrong. Don't always trust the news.



Capricorn December 22 - January 19

Stay focused on your goals. You will get distracted by a lot. But don't lose focus on your goals. Keep them in your mind.



Aquarius. January 20 - February 18

School, work, life. Do you ever have time for yourself. Give yourself one hour after school for a full week just for you. Don't get to stressed over nothing.



Pisces. February 19 - March 20

You are who you are. Don't let people change you. Be yourself. People will like you for who you are. Love yourself.

SLIGHTLY SAGE ADVICE

Sage Curtis

Dear Sage,

I am tired all the time. The sun literally sets at 4:30. I go to sleep in the dark. I wake up in the dark. How am I supposed to survive the long winter?

Thanks,
Tired Terry

Dear Tired Terry,

I would recommend coffee, and lots of it. In fact, the best coffee ever is just down the street at 47 West. Open 8-5 Tuesday through Saturday and 10-4 Sunday (closed Monday). They have the best darn coffee, and wait staff is just lovely. Go grab you some jo! #notsponsored

Spons are how I get gas money,
Sage

Dear Sage,

I have a psycho boss. He watches over me all the time as if I'm doing everything wrong, and it makes me really stressed out. He caught me on my phone one time and just about fired me. The job is so boring too, but I need the money. What should I do?

Please, Sage, you're my only hope,
Job Hater Jackie

Dear Job Hater Jackie,

Jobs are like family members: you sometimes hate them, but you will always need them in the end. However, I have heard that many siblings wrestle each other to prove which one is better than the other. I would apply the same logic to your situation.

Violence is sometimes the only way,
Sage

Dear Sage,

Is there any other way of submitting questions? Going through the website is nice and all, but I actually live in the Middle Ages and prefer to hand-write my questions, sending them on a dove which will travel many miles to land in your wise, wise hands.

Thank you,
Middle Age Mike

Dear Middle Age Mike,

I think is very unlikely that the school will permit doves on school property. But by the time this issue is published there will (hopefully) be a box in the library for questions. Don't you worry your pretty little head, because this is not going to be an ugly box. No, it shall be beautiful. I'm going to put glitter, bows, and other "fun" things on it. You won't be able to miss it.

XOXO,
Sage

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