

MILL CREEK COMMUNITY NEWS

SERVING MARSHALLTON, MILLTOWN
AND LOWER PIKE CREEK

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Adopt-A-Family needs sponsors to spread holiday cheer

By Andrea Miller
Staff Reporter

When you are struggling to make ends meet throughout the year and have little or nothing left to purchase few gifts for your children during the holiday season, an unexpected donation that lets you to go a store, pick out a toy or clothes, take it home and wrap it yourself, is a joy, according to one greater Wilmington mother who received gift certificates through Delaware's Adopt-A-Family Holiday program last year.

"It was the best gift I have ever gotten," she said.

See **ADOPT-A-FAMILY**, page 4

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Red Clay trims spending, considering asking for tax increase in Spring

By Antonio M. Prado
Staff Reporter

The Red Clay Consolidated School District has cut its 2007 fiscal year budget by more than 1 percent to \$156.8 million in part because it had to borrow money from the state to meet payroll last Summer, among other things.

And, because of several unforeseen rises in costs, the district is also looking at the possi-

bility of holding a referendum in the Spring to ask residents for a tax increase.

The final budget must be approved by the Red Clay Board of Education at its next meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. December 14 at Brandywine Springs Elementary School in Mill

Creek.

Red Clay has to keep a mini-

mum of \$8 million in reserves in order to meet its payroll for July through October, said Chief

Financial Officer J. Brett Taylor. Tax revenue does not come in until the Fall, and low cash reserves caused by unanticipated cost increases created a deficit.

Red Clay gets its local tax receipts in October and has to make them last through the

Summer months when expenses are the highest, Taylor said.

"This year, we had a three-pay month in September and next year we're going to have the same problem. We'll have a three-pay month in August," he said during a budget workshop for the school board held December 7 at Brandywine Springs.

"We're accelerating our costs

See **BUDGET**, page 32



THE LOST HIGH SCHOOLS

Part 4 of a 5-part series that focuses on the lost schools of New Castle County



The Conrad basketball team in 1937-38 included (all left to right) back row - Richard Burke, Ray McKendrick, Clifford Jedlicka, Bill Bowman, Tommy Stewart; front row - Coach Frank Loucks, Steve Burke and Manager Harry Baines.

Graduates remember good times at Conrad High

By Andrea Miller
and Antonio M. Prado
Staff Reporters

Henry C. Conrad High School in Woodcrest brought a lot of excitement to its community before it was turned into a junior high in 1978 as part of a federal desegregation order.

One of the traditions that always excited neighbors was when the renowned Conrad Redskins band would march through the neighborhood, with the drum major or majorette donned in an Indian headdress as part

of their grey and scarlet uniform. The band would play one of its two trademark songs, "Love and Honor to Old Conrad."

Or it played "Cherokee," a song that moves graduates like Faith Carter (1965), of Wilmington.

"When we hear the Alumni Band perform 'Cherokee' at any local function, it takes us back to our days at the school," she said.

The Redskins band and mascot were high school traditions that no child should be deprived of, said

See **MEMORIES**, page 9



Conrad High School to return next year

By Antonio M. Prado
and Andrea Miller
Staff Reporters

Henry C. Conrad High School will return by the 2007-08 school year, mixing a focus on biotechnology and allied health career programs with a traditional program.

The last Conrad students to graduate from the high school in Woodcrest, near Newport, are members of the class of 1978, the year a federal court order for desegregation led to the closure of several schools to reassign students.

The Red Clay Consolidated School District has partnered with Delaware Technical & Community College, Christiana Care Health System, the Delaware Biotechnology Institute (a unit of the University of Delaware) and the DuPont

See **CONRAD RETURNS**, page 8

A statue of the Conrad Indian, representing the school's mascot, was displayed at a 2005 press conference announcing the re-opening of the school.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CONRAD RETURNS – from page 1

Company to create the new school.

Although some Conrad alumni say their alma mater can never truly return, the overwhelming majority of them are excited about its resurrection as a high school.

“Can you imagine in a few years being able to see a Conrad football team?” said Joan Enslin, a 1975 graduate who lives in Granogue near Centreville.

The school would include grades six through 12, following the same, successful model



implemented at Red Clay's Cab Calloway School of the Arts, said Red Clay Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Andrzejewski.

Andrzejewski grew up in Woodcrest, and served as Conrad Middle's principal from 1991 to 1993.

Although he graduated from Salesianum School, he remembers Conrad High as a fine school with strong community spirit.

“We're hoping that by bringing back the school, that spirit will come with it as well,” he said.

Conrad High is designed for various types of students, who will eventually enter the workforce as blue collar or white collar workers.

“Our focus as a school district is really to try to find a way for our students to enter the workforce, whether it's before

college or after college,” Andrzejewski said. “And we're hoping that, with the help of our partners, this program will open doors to opportunities for students as well as be a source of pride for this community.”

Students who graduate from the new Conrad would enter the workforce immediately, pursue a two-year degree at Delaware Tech or pursue a four-year degree at the University of Delaware or another college, he said.

Some community

members are concerned that the students in Conrad Middle School's current attendance zone, primarily a blue collar area, will not seek secondary education at the newly revamped school.

But district officials counter that they have done several things to make the Conrad community aware of the changes under way and, what's more, Andrzejewski has repeatedly said the Conrad attendance zone will have preference when it comes to determining enrollment.

In June, the Red Clay Board of Education approved a plan to disperse Conrad Middle students who choose not to attend the new program to the district's other middle schools. At that meeting, school board President Irwin J. Becnel Jr. said the new Conrad program “is destined to be one of the premiere high schools in the state.”

The attendance zones were criticized because they did not adhere to the spirit of the Neighborhood Schools Act. But Andrzejewski said that many Conrad families have already been using the choice program to send their children to other middle schools, and the new attendance zones reflect those patterns. Conrad has a capacity of more than 1,000, but it only had 652 students in 2005. In the 2006 Delaware Student Testing Program scores, it consistently ranked last or next to last among Red Clay's middle schools.

Charles M. Cavanaugh, on the Red Clay board since its inception in 1981, said that if anything, the new program at Conrad will stop the loss of students it has experienced.

“It's time we gave them a choice back in,” he said.

1965 graduate Connie Nichols Marro, of Rehoboth Beach, would love to see Conrad become a high school again. But, she would rather see high schools return as neighborhood schools.

But alumni like Carmine Balascio, a 1975 graduate, said choice or charter programs are the way to go in today's open market. Balascio has not been impressed with the quality of Delaware's regular public schools.

“If things are the same when our daughter is old enough for high school, we would consider Wilmington Charter School,” he said. But oth-

erwise they will probably look only at private schools.

“I support reopening Conrad as a medical tech school with enthusiasm. That sounds like a school my wife and I might consider sending our daughter to.”

But Conrad High School sweethearts Rich and Terry Henderson (1964 and 1967, respectively) have reservations about having a sixth through 12th grade format.

“I have a problem when you have young children mixing with older children like that because I have a granddaughter and I notice that when she is around older children, she tends to pick up things that she doesn't really understand,” Rich Henderson said.

But 1976 alumna Ellyn Stanek Hutton, of Greenville, thinks “it would be great to utilize this building to serve the needs of the community.”

“As a nurse, I especially realize the need for a larger nursing pool to staff our hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and home care agencies,” she said.

Barbara (Green) Webb, a 1975 graduate of Newport, is not sure as a parent if she would like sixth graders intermingling with high school children. But, she loves the concept for the new school.

Tinker Simpers, a 1973 Conrad graduate, said she has no faith in the overall management of the public schools with the exception of charter schools. But Simpers does not support a combined middle-high school for Conrad, thinking it would be a social disaster.

Lois Jeanne (Harvey) Baillargeon, of Rehoboth Beach, a 1960 graduate, disagreed.

“I think it would be a better use of the school,” she said, “and add a new spark to the area around Conrad.”

Next week:

H. Fletcher Brown Vocational High School graduates remember their closed alma mater and express sadness that the New Castle County Vocational Technical School District decided not to name its newest school in honor of Brown. Also, Gunning Bedford, Jr. Senior High School graduates reminisce about their school, which was turned into a middle school.

New Castle County Department of Land Use - WWW.NCCDEL.U.ORG

Below you will find information on matters being considered by the NCC Land Use Department and its public boards. Plans are available for public review at the New Castle County Government Center; Mon - Fri from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 p.m.. Call 395-5400 or Email Us: Landuse@nccde.org We encourage you to double check the advertised day and date for these agendas. Be sure you do not miss any meeting in which you are interested.

Exploratory plans under review

Council District 1

*SE of the intersection of Boxwood Rd and Jackson Av. Parking Plan to reconfigure parking and bus loading areas. Conrad School of Science. S Zoning. (App. #2006-1204-S)

*E side of Old Capitol Trail, 503 ft S of Newport Rd. Rezoning Plan to rezone .361 acre of tax parcel 07-041.10.007 from S to CN, add .361 acre to tax parcel 07-041.10-107. David and Nancy Leager. S/CN Zoning. (App. #2006-0894-S)

Council District 2

*W side of intersection of Kennett Pike and Barley Mill Rd. Resubdivision Plan to revise previously approved open space designations. Greenville Place. NCap Zoning. (App. #2006-1193-S)

Council District 6

*SE corner of Rt.40 and Wrangle Hill Rd. Minor Land Development Plan to construct 42,170 sq ft addition to existing shopping center and revise parking. Shoppes at Fox Run, Section II. CR Zoning. (App. #2006-1189-S)

*S side of Churchtown Rd. 1,300 ft E of Dickerson Ln. Minor Subdivision Plan to subdivide parcel into 5 single family residential lots. 708 Churchtown Rd. S Zoning. (App. #2006-1190-S)

Council District 7

*E side of Churchmans Rd, 300 ft N of Kings Av. Resubdivision Plan to phase previously approved improvements and update the proposed stormwater management facility. Halko; CR Zoning. (App. #2006-1194-S)

Council District 8

*N side of Wistar St. S side of Palace Av. 200 feet west of Manor Dr. Minor Subdivision Plan to subdivide an existing 0.39 acre parcel into two single family lots. 4 Wistar Street NC6.5 Zoning. (App. #2006-1191-S)

*NW corner of April Ln and Sunset Ln in the Village of Ardencroft. Resubdivision Plan to reconfigure three existing single family lots with a total of 1.62 acres. Village of Ardencroft. NC10 Zoning. (App. #2006-1192-S)

Council District 11

*W side of Salem Church Rd, 700 ft N of Bradley Dr. Site Plan to convert existing dwelling to a daycare center. Land of Lidia Vela. NC 21 Zoning. (App. #2006-1180-S)

*SE corner of Dawson Dr and McMillan Way. Resubdivision Plan to add additional parking and restripe existing paving. Delaware Industrial Park, Parcels 16 and 19. I Zoning. (App. #2006-1201-S)

*S side of GBC Dr, 2,000 ft E of Delaware Rt 896. Resubdivision Plan for a proposal to construct 35 additional parking spaces at an existing 30.12 acre office site. Hologic. OR Zoning. (App. #2006-1203-S)

Council District 12

*S side of intersection of Rt 71 and Rt 13. Minor Land Development Plan to construct parking canopies and eliminate septic system and existing storage facility. Red Lion Mini Storage. CR Zoning. (App. #2006-1179-S)

Board of Adjustment

Thurs. Dec. 14th NCC Gov Ctr 6 PM

Council District 1

* 307 S. Maryland Ave. Wilm; Area variances from the minimum lot area requirement of 20,000 sq ft to develop a lot with 7,500 sq ft of lot area; from the 20 foot side yard setback to maintain a dwelling 7.4 ft from the NE property line and 17.3 ft from the SW property line; from the 10 ft paving setback to allow paving 0 ft from the SW property line; from the minimum landscape surface ratio of 0.50 to allow 0.29; from the req'd 0.2 opacity to provide 0 adjacent to the NE property line and 0 feet from the SW property line. John & Tammy Corrigan. (App.#2006-0861-A) TP# 07-043.10-163.

Council District 3

* 847 & 851 Mount Cuba Rd, Wilm; Area variance from the 2 acre minimum lot area requirement, exclusive of any areas attributed to protected resources to create two lots with 0.66 acres for Lot 1 and 0.79 acres for Lot 2. DDS Investments, L.P. (App.#2006-0862-A) TP# 07-022.00-060.

* 400 Haystack Dr, Newark; Area variance from req'd 10 foot side yard setback to maintain a deck with steps 3.5 feet from the E property line. Gary Cotton. (App.# 2006-1097-A) TP# 08-036.30-170.

Council District 8

* 503 Marsh Rd, Wilm; Area variances from req'd 3 ft rear yard setback to maintain a shed 2.2 ft from the E property line; from the 6 ft side yard setback to maintain a deck 0 ft from the N property line. Patrick & Jill Davis. (App.#2006-1096-A) TP# 06-131.00-214.

* 3001 Chelmsford Ln, Wilm; Area variances from req'd 25 ft rear yard setback to maintain an enclosed porch 24.5 ft from the W property line; from req'd 6 foot side yard setback to maintain a carport addition 0 ft from the N property line. Catherine C. Dombroski. (App.#2006-1098-A) TP# 06-025.00-023.

* 10 Mount Vernon Dr, Claymont; Area variance from req'd 25 ft street yard setback to maintain a porch 23.9 ft from the Mount Vernon Dr right-of-way. Ciriaco Pulguese. (App.#2006-1066-A) TP# 06-106.00-315.

Council District 9

* 9 Brookmead Rd, Newark; Area variances from req'd 25 ft street yard setback to maintain a covered porch with steps 18.2 ft from the Brookmead Dr right-of-way; from req'd 6 ft side yard setback to maintain a dwelling 5.7 ft from the W property line. Berton & Jennifer Parker. (App.#2006-1105-A) TP# 09-010.30-137.

* 2401 Tapley Ln, Wilm; Area variance from req'd 30 ft street yard setback to construct a garage addition 20 ft from the Pickwick Dr right-of-way. George Williamson. (App.#2006-1086-A) TP# 08-044.10-080.

Council District 10

* 316 Wilder Av, New Castle; Area variance from req'd 25 ft street setback to maintain an enclosed porch 20 ft from the Wilder Avenue right-of-way. Maxine Baldwin. (App.#2006-1085-A) TP# 10-010.10-039.

Council District 11

* 437 Stanley Plaza Blvd, Newark; Area variance from req'd 40 ft rear yard setback to maintain a deck 23.89 ft from the NW property line. Michael K. Riley. (App.#2006-1095-A) TP# 09-028.20-104.

* 0 Sunset Lake Rd, Newark; Area variances from req'd 40 ft street yard setback to construct a building 25 ft from the De Route 72 right-of-way; from req'd 25 ft paving setback to provide paving 10 ft from the DE Route 72 right-of-way, from req'd 0.5 opacity to provide 0 opacity adjacent to the DE Route 72 right-of-way. Reybold Associates, LLC. (App. 2006-0957-A) TP# 11-018.00-063.

* 0 Gender Rd, Newark; Area variances from the 100% protection level of the riparian buffer area to construct a 10,935 sq ft building for a light industrial use which will disturb 100% of the protected area; from req'd minimum opacity of 0.6 to allow an opacity of 0.5 adjacent to the N property line. 200, LLC. (App.#2006-0960-A) TP# 09-033.00-037.

Council District 12

* 2470-2486 S DuPont Highway, Middletown; Special Use to permit the erection of a 120 foot tele-communications tower on property zoned CR. Bayview Crossing, LLC. (App.# 2006-0673-A) TP# 13-013.40-107.

* 555 Hyetts Corner Rd, Middletown; Area variance from req'd 10 foot side yard setback to maintain a deck with steps 3.5 ft from the east property line. New Castle County Vocational Technical School District. (App.#2006-1084-A) TP# 13-008.00-026.

Design Review Advisory Committees

Claymont Renaissance

Thur, Dec 16 6 PM

Claymont Community Center, 3301 Green Street, Claymont

Council District 8

Old Business/New Business Comments from the committee/ from the public

Hockessin Village

- NO DECEMBER MEETING -

Mon, Jan 22 5:30 PM

Mem. Hall, Lancaster Pike (SR41) & and Yorklyn Rd.

Resource Protection Area

Technical Advisory Committee

Wed, Dec 20 9:00 AM./NCC Gilliam Building

Council District 11

* 0 Gender Road, 200 LLC seeks a recommendation from the Committee, that it is acceptable from an environmental position, to eliminate the riparian buffer protection standard to construct a building and associated parking and improvements. Riparian buffer are 100% protected in accordance with UDC Division 10.100 Table 10.010, Resource Protection Levels. I Zoning. (App. # 2006-1027)

Historic Review Board

Tues. Dec 19th 5 PM/NCC Gov. Ctr.

Council District 1

* 110 North Maryland Avenue; Minor Land Development Plan - Domingo and Maria Singson. (App.#20060444) TP 0704310386.

Council District 2

* 924 Stuart Road; Demolition Permit - William & Kathleen Rubbert/Rosauri Builders & Remodelers, Inc. (App.#200613290) TP0703030007

Council District 8

* 610 Shipley Road (Rockwood - Historic Zoning Overlay District); Proposed Paving in H District- Department of Special Services. TP0613000012.

* 2312 Sconset Road (Ardens National Register Historic District); Demolition of a Historic Structure Without a Permit - Construction Unlimited, Inc. (App.#200611647) TP 2700100571. The board may take additional evidence on this matter.

MEMORIES – from page 1

Betty M. Shockley, a 1950 graduate.

“I loved the school and the super teachers there,” she said. “They cared about their students and there was lots of support from the community too.”

Lois Jeanne (Harvey) Baillargeon, of Rehoboth Beach, a 1960 graduate, was captain of the band’s twirlers her senior year.

“Next to family, (Conrad) was the most important thing in your life,” she said.

High school sweethearts Shirley (Covert) Gardner and Philip H. Gardner, Newark residents who both graduated in 1952, called it “an Esprit de Corps’ that doesn’t exist in most schools.”

Pat Sanders, of Pike Creek, (1969) remembers that spirit.

“To say you were a Conradian had very special meaning to those who said it or heard it,” she said.

Conrad alumnus Laird Logue, class of 1952, made school friendships that have lasted more than 50 years.

“The spirit and friendship from athletic teams continues to this day,” he said. “Our 12th-grade starting basketball team was composed of Dallas Green, Bill Bowen and Harvey Halfen, all of whom I see on a regular basis.”

Conrad sweethearts Rich Henderson (1964) and Terry Henderson (1967), of Pike Creek, still get together with a group of friends from Conrad and former arch-rival Dickinson High for trips together.

“I still get chills when I go past that school,” Terry Henderson said. “It’s the school and the memories. It’s a beautiful building and it’s in excellent shape.”

But in 1978, things changed.

Jim Kelley was about to be a senior at Conrad for the 1978-79 school year when his school was converted into a junior high. The conversion was part of Judge Murray Schwartz’s mandate to begin busing suburban students into the city for three years of their schooling and city students into the suburbs for nine years.

“I loved attending Conrad High,” Jim Kelley said. “But once we were all bused to Wilmington High School, the spirit was gone.

“I never went back to any of Wilmington High’s football, basketball, or



THE LOST HIGH SCHOOLS



Drum majorette Jeanne Feduk leads the Conrad High School Redskins marching band through Woodcrest in 1966, a tradition at the school before it closed.

baseball games but may do so when Conrad becomes a high school again,” he said.

Walter C. Wilson (1957), of Wilmington, was also sad to see his alma mater disappear. His daughter, Leigh Ann Wilson, was president of the senior class, the last year Conrad High existed.

“We wanted our (other) children to attend and graduate from Conrad High, but they went on to other schools,” he said.

Carolyn (Kress) Grant, of Newport, is a 1961 Conrad High School graduate. She too wanted her children to experience the same community-based high school education she had.

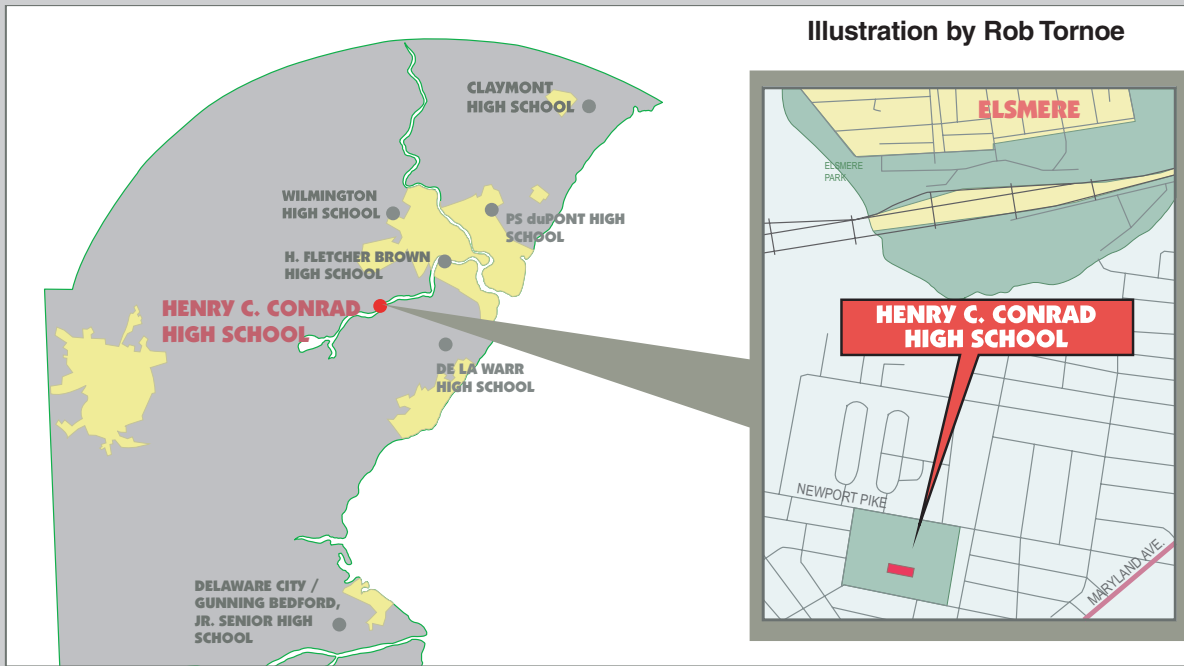
Susan (Wade) Green of Woodcrest, a 1973 graduate, didn’t understand the implications of the desegregation order until it was too late.

“It was like trying to stop a train moving at the speed of light,” said Green, who met her husband, Earl, at Conrad. “It seemed

THE LOST HIGH SCHOOLS

Part 4 of a 5-part series that focuses on the lost schools of New Castle County.

Illustration by Rob Tornoe



High school sweethearts Rich and Terry Henderson look through Terry’s 1966-67 Conradian yearbook. Rich graduated from Conrad in 1964 and Terry graduated in 1967.

They later married.

other than to align the beans. The education system needs to be overhauled completely.”

Jane (Crowe) Gaudio, of Chadds Ford, Pa. a 1965 Conrad High School graduate, agreed.

“To me busing has been a huge waste of time and resources,” Gaudio said. “After school activities are a logistic nightmare for parents. Everyone ends up exhausted. The cost of busing should have gone into education and school improvements.”

that only local communities could see that the order and the state’s plans were going to run the train right off the tracks. It was very frustrating.

“Why couldn’t the judges and those we voted into office see the same looming disaster as the rest of us?” she said.

“I can sum it up in three words: abuse of power. In retrospect, I always say this decision was the beginning of the end of Delaware schools.”

Green would have sent her children to the Conrad that she loved, but not the Conrad it had become.

The change also angered Newark resident Don Quashe, a 1975 graduate.

“Do I agree with a federal judge whose kids are in private school saying we needed to close down Conrad?” he said, referring to Schwartz. “No, I didn’t agree with him and I still

he supported the desegregation order, and taking the high school away did not bother him. But he, he opposed busing.

“It is a Band-aid, and an expensive one at that,” he said. “It serves no purpose

“For example, Mike Brown, who was African American, was an officer of our class,” Baillargeon said. “My friend Carol MacDonald, myself, along with Patrician Harmon and Karen Gardener, both African Americans, had a singing group together for two years.”

Eleanor Badders Steele, of Bear, a 1965 Conrad graduate, felt like a part of her personal history changed forever.

“I know they tear down schools to build other buildings, but for the building to remain and be changed to a middle school affected my pride in my alma mater,” she said.

Jeffrey Irwin, of Lewes, a 1965 Conrad grad, said



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