

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 4 1st of June 2007

LOCAL ELECTIONS - SPAIN

Local elections, and some regional ones, were held throughout Spain on Sunday 28th of May. In our region, Orihuela, a total of 31,738 voted, which was 71.79% of those eligible to vote. The voting was as follows - PP - 14,113 votes securing 14 councillors, PSOE - 7,114 votes securing seven councillors, LVPV - 2,829 votes with three councillors and the Clr Party - 1,881 votes - gaining one councillor position. Accordingly, the ruling Partido Popular (PP) were re-elected with an absolute majority. The remaining parties did not secure any seats on the Council and their votes were - CL 1,423 votes, APOR 1,157 votes, PSD 1,149 votes, CLARO 916 votes, EU-IR 417 votes and finally BIA with 112 votes.

Following the scandals surrounding the previous PP mayor who is currently awaiting trial, the PP put forward a new younger team headed by a Playa Flamenca resident Miss Monica Lorente. Miss Lorente, who is now the new mayor, has put forward a full program of improvements for the Orihuela Costa. Previous administrations have totally ignored our Costa, being happy to take our dineros, so it will be interesting to see how many of the promises will be kept.

The "Greens" (LVPV), fared particularly well gaining two seats from the minority parties, electing three councillors in all. CLARO 's performance was somewhat disappointing particularly when viewed against the results enjoyed by the other new parties such as AIM and GRIP, in the nearby municipalities.

In the Cordoba town of Encinarejo, the Partido Andalucista promised free viagra to all pensioners if elected. The party claimed that the policy was only to increase the birth rate in the rural municipality - which says a lot about their common sense. I am sure that Grandma Lopez-Gonzales was not impressed. No doubt at the next elections, some "stiff" opposition can be expected!

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WHAT'S UP?

Not only did Valencia secure the current **America's Cup**, but it also looks like they will host Formula One racing within an urban city circuit next year. However, Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One owner, had stated that he would not sign any contracts until after the recent regional elections. Politics are never far from any sport in Spain, as any fan of Real Madrid or Barcelona will testify. The PP linked the proposed race to their anticipated electoral victory, whilst the opposition PSOE called it blackmail and an electoral stunt. Not wishing to be left out, a group of Valencian cycling clubs, condemned the idea of Formula One racing within the city, highlighting noise levels and the danger to drivers and spectators. It is likely that there will be seven Formula One races commencing in 2008 and ending in 2014.

Valencia is also keen to establish itself as the **premier European film studio** location. Filming is due to start on "Pompeii" in Alicante in August. The movie which will star Brad Pitt is based on the best-selling novel by Robert Harris. The incentives offered by the Valencian authorities are very substantial. A non-returnable grant of 5.4 million euros per film and a rebate of 12 to 18% of the monies spent in the region together with state of the art studios will hopefully entice further blockbusters.

Early last week, a man who bought a flat at auction without first seeing inside, made a macabre discovery. He found the **mummified body** of the previous owner - a 55 year old lady - on the sofa, who is thought to have died six years ago from natural causes. The body was well-preserved due to the flat's proximity to the sea and salty air. The property, on the Costa Brava, was sold at auction when she defaulted on her mortgage payments in 2001. Neither her estranged husband nor her children - who live in Madrid - registered a missing persons report!

On a lighter note, 42 year old Antonio Navarro, has got to be "Man of the Year". Antonio, who is 95% disabled, drives around in his **motorised bed**, which he controls with his mouth. On the 4th of May he got drunk and wanted to visit the local whorehouse. However, he took the wrong turn at the roundabout and ended up on the motorway. He then decided to continue along the motorway so as not to put other drivers in danger travelling 10 kilometres before the police stopped him. Antonio, when sober, advised local newspapers that the signs on the roundabout and across the town were inadequate and should be improved.

(You can see a photo of Antonio and his unique transport on www.typicallyspanish.com/news/publish/article_10356.shtml)

(What's Up continues on page 5)

Remember: The Dream Hills urbanisation fee is payable in June. Interest is charged on late payments.

Income Tax is payable to the Hacienda by the end of June. Late payment incurs a fine.

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Via Park V Dream Hills (Ground Floor)

Apologies to Gitanos!

40 Gypsies died and went to Heaven.

They turned up at the Pearly Gates and asked St. Peter to let them in.

St. Peter said that they didn't have room for all 40 of them. He only had room for 5, so they should go away and think about who would come in.

A short while later St. Peter went to see God and said "They've gone!"

God replied, "What, the Pikeys"?

"No" said St. Peter, "the blooming gates"!!!!

Guest Restaurant Reviews.

Athena Taverna, 965327415, La Mosca Comercial, above Supercor.

A good Greek restaurant is a jewel - but this one does not sparkle! Having climbed up the many steps to the first floor, (the lift does not operate after 9p.m.) we were shown to the only vacant table by a charming and friendly Bulgarian waitress. The restaurant is very small with some tables "shoe-horned" in, the bar and bar counter area being far too large. We were served a freebie appetiser (who said beware of Greeks bearing gifts?) of a dry and unappetising garlic bread. Still, nothing ventured - nothing gained, so we ordered. The only Greek starters on the menu were Greek salad at €7.95 and Hummous at €3.95.

The "Grouch" ordered Broccoli in a cheese sauce €5.90, and I choose the Hummous, which when they eventually arrived were uninspiring. Although the broccoli was fresh the sauce was watery and the Hummous had too much garlic, with a taste and texture like pollyfilla! These were served with ordinary bread. I asked for pitta-bread but was told that they do not serve it! Hang on a minute, a Greek restaurant that does not serve pitta-bread, with shelves of it in Supercor - below the restaurant!

Main courses ranged from Kleftiko €14.90, Beef with a pepper sauce €14.90, Chicken skewers (Souvlaki) €10.90 to Scampi €10.90 and Sirloin steak €14.90. Various Pizzas were also available from €6.90. I choose the Estifado €12.90, a braised beef dish which came with a small soapy baked potato. It was a reasonable portion but it needed lots of seasoning. The "Grouch" ordered Mousaka €9.90, which was a small micro-waved portion accompanied with a little garnish and which tasted similar to the frozen supermarket varieties.

There was a children's menu priced from €5.95 to €8.90. The real eye-opener however was the pricing of the wine. The ubiquitous Emparrado - the Blue Nun of the Costa's - which is for sale in most supermarkets at around €1.30 was €9.90! Others were similarly marked up.

Good Greek restaurants are like Italian ones, atmosphere and food are king and one should always leaves with a smile on one's face. Maybe they were having an off-night but we were out of smiles!

Meson Los Granainos, 966703983, C/ Gabriel Miro, Torrevieja.

This was recommended to us a good place for tapas although the fare we indulged in was much more substantial. Located on the way into Torrevieja on the beach road by the Skoda garage, you spot a little wooden fence on the left with some tables and chairs.

On entering, there is a deli' facing you and a bar with a few stools and beer taps to the left where one can eat tapas. It is a little claustrophobic here but if you continue on through the archway you come to a small rustic Spanish style dining room, carry on past the barbecue and there is an Andalucian style covered patio which most of the Spanish diners favour.

At first glance the menu, which was in Spanish, looked expensive. A freebie appetiser arrived, some bread with sausage and fatty meats in a pleasant tomato sauce. Tasty, but we left the bits we couldn't recognise. We ordered a mixed salad at €8.50 and bread topped with fresh tomato at €1.50. I also ordered the Chuleton de Ternera (T-Bone steak) at €18 while the "Grouch" went for the Carne Brasa - grilled meats - at €12.00. One of the cooks then went to the chilled counter and removed what can only be described as a side of beef, hoisted it on his shoulder and carried it to the barbecue to cut-off my steak. While we were people-watching the salad arrived and it was very, very large - enough for 3 to 4 people. When my T-bone arrived it was massive! More than 2 inches thick and accompanied by

Patatas bravas and pimientos, about 1½ kilos of meat. His grilled meats consisted of 8 large pork pieces - enough for 2 or 3 people - but no veg or pots. It then it dawned on us that the dishes were meant to be shared - Spanish style. Many dishes were also available as half portions. The menu, which is in Spanish only, features some 70 choices but no fish or rice dishes. Meat, hot and cold, is the speciality of this Meson, together with various types of sausages and cheeses.

Although not cheap, this venue offers reasonable value for money on the food items, especially when ones realises that a full course or "racion" is large enough for two or more people. Drinks are a bit more expensive than in similar establishments - small water €1.50, Jar of Sangria €11.00 and house wines €10.00.

Very little English is spoken by the staff. Very enjoyable!

**WINDOW
CLEANER**

606745727

32nd America's Cup

The America's Cup is the most famous and prestigious regatta in the sport of sailing, and the oldest active sporting trophy in International sport, predating the FA Cup by two decades, and the modern Olympics by 45 years.

The first race, in August 1851, took place around the Isle of Wight and was won by the yacht America. The trophy was donated to The New York Yacht Club and held as a "challenge" trophy to promote friendly competition among nations, the first defence taking place in 1870. It later became known as the America's Cup although in the early stages it was known as the 100 Guinea Cup and the Queen's Cup. It is referred to affectionately as the "Auld Mug" among the sailing community.

The Cup remained in American hands at the New York Yacht Club from 1851 until 1983, when the Australians sailing Australia 11 ended the longest winning streak in history. The winning country gets the honour of hosting the next regatta, ownership of the Cup being transferred to the winning team's yacht club. The Cup was won in 1997 by New Zealand, where unfortunately it was smashed with a sledge hammer and thought to be beyond repair. Fortunately the original silversmith's firm, Garrards of London, restored the Cup to its former glory - free of charge!

The winner of the previous America's Cup gets a bye to the following America's Cup competition. The Louis Vuitton Cup competition is designed to select the challenger from all the other twelve teams, to race against the current America's Cup holder. The two finalists in the Louis Vuitton Cup this time are the Luna Rosa team from Italy and the Emirates' Team New Zealand. These will compete against each other from June 1st until June 12th, when the first team to win five matches will be awarded the Louis Vuitton Cup as a prize for the winner of the challenger series. They will then race against the current holder of the America's Cup.

The current holder is the Swiss team Alinghi, who defeated the previous holders New Zealand. This immediately created a problem as the landlocked Swiss could not host the competition as the rules state that it must take place in open sea. Over sixty candidates put themselves forward as a venue including Marseille, Naples and Lisbon. Subsequently, deals were done and the Swiss finally choose Valencia as the venue for the current challenge. Interestingly, one of the sail-makers for the Swiss team is a son of an English couple who own in Dream Hills.

The economic impact of the event has not been lost on Valencia. They have built a brand new 700 berth marina called Port America's Cup to accommodate the participants. Also thirty-six new hotels have been built in the City since 2003 and an estimated thirty-five thousand jobs created. A total influx of several hundred billion euros into the Valencian economy is expected.

As one would expect, the budgets of the teams competing are also very substantial. Some put the average spend per team at around sixty million US dollars although the total spend of the US team - BMW Oracle - is thought to be nearly two hundred and seventy million US dollars! And, they have not even reached the Louis Vuitton finals!

Although the racecourse is relatively short, 22.6 miles, the smallest error can ensure defeat. Although the race is a test of design, teamwork, stamina and experience, tactics remain the key factor, particularly in the positioning just seconds before the start of the races. Fortunately Sky Sports are showing the whole competition.

The Louis Vuitton Cup Final - June 1st to June 12th - first team to win five matches goes through.
The America's Cup - June 23rd to July 7th - winner of the Louis Vuitton against the Swiss team - Alinghi -first team to five wins will take the cup.

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THE OTHER CUPS

One day, the police telephoned Arsene Wenger, the manager of Arsenal -

"Hello, Mr. Wenger, Inspector Shifty here. I am sorry to report that a gang of burglars have broken into the new Emirates Stadium."

"Good God!" replied Arsene, "The Cups! Are they safe, Inspector?"

"No problem," responded the Inspector, "They never went near the kitchen, and all the "mugs" were on the pitch!"

What's Up - continued from Page 2.

Mrs. Jacqueline Moore, nicknamed "**The Black Widow**", was found guilty of murdering her husband and sentenced to 10 years in jail, this week. The victim, an abusive alcoholic, was beaten unconscious by his step-son in October 2002. Mrs. Moore then smothered her husband with a pillow and buried the body in her garden in Cartagena. She told the court that it was what he would have wanted! One year later, she dug up the body, dismembered it, and burned the remains in a barrel used for barbecues. The crime came to light when Mrs. Moore boasted about it in internet chat rooms.



A 21 year old British **man** was **drowned** in Playa Flamenca last week. The strong Levante winds stopped him from swimming to the shore. The currents, which are notorious on this part of the Costa, then carried the body to another bay. Lifeguard supervision does not start on local beaches until June 15th. Readers are reminded that the currents off the Costa Blanca are very dangerous and several people are drowned every year.

A new study has indicated that **diet** in the Valencian Region is too high in meat and low in fruit. Each "valenciano" eats 57 kilos of meat a year, which is more than twice the recommended intake of 24 kilos. The consumption of pulses and vegetables are less than half the recommended levels and the average annual consumption of 85.5 kilos of fruit is described as "poor for a balanced diet."

Spain now has the highest divorce rate in Europe. Last year, approx. 142,000 people were divorced, a rate of 3.16 per 1,000 people. Possibly linked to that is the incidence of domestic violence which is also said to be the highest in Europe.

Arthur and Mo S., tell me that there is an artists impression of the new commercial centre due to be built opposite **DH2** in the piso pilota. It appears that Consum and Aldi have signed up for two of the plots.

The National Institute of Statistics has revealed that fifteen towns in and around Alicante are now populated by more foreigners than native Spanish. Another statistical organisation has estimated that the population of the Valencian community will rise by a million before the year 2030, placing severe strain on the infrastructure and resources.

A poll of residents in **Murcia** by the local university has revealed that the majority find living in the city stressful. Most thought the streets dirty and the provision of cultural and leisure events to be "mediocre." The high volume of foreigners and low wages were also cited as problems.

Spain will be implementing the Advanced Passenger Information System(**API**) at all airports from June 13. The simple system obliges passengers to state their full name, date of birth and passport number before entering Spain. To avoid unnecessary delays, the majority of airlines are requesting passengers to provide this information when booking flights on the internet or by phone.

A Barcelona traffic officer **fined** a driver 60 euros for taking a bite from a croissant while he was stopped at a set of traffic lights. Strictly speaking, it is illegal to eat and drive.

Ángel Fenoll, the owner of COLSOR, was arrested yesterday, with his son and 13 others. COLSOR is the rubbish collection firm for Orihuela Costa. Mr. Fenoll is understood to have links with Medina, the former disgraced mayor of Orihuela Costa.

Expats can now apply for the new **residence certificate** at the National Police Station in Orihuela.

Applicants require a completed form EX13 together with a photocopy of the completed form, a passport and NIE number. The form is available from the Help Association or the National Police Station.

The Adventures of Beaugard and Hortense

Beau and Horty were experiencing a severe cash shortage. Beau's part time job - losing the new telephone application forms at Telefonica - had come to an end. "It's no good," said Horty, "I will just have to try my luck at the "dartboard" roundabout with the girls." "Only if you are sure!" replied Beau. So Horty "tarted" herself up and set off for the roundabout. Beaugard spend several hours anxiously pacing the floor, worrying and waiting for his wife. Eventually, Hortense returned and was in a dreadful state - hair all over the place, blouse torn, holes in her stockings and one heel missing. "How was it?" said Beau. "Don't ask", replied Hortense. After a cup of tea Beau enquired as to how much she had made. "Thirty euros and fifty cents", was the reply. "Good God," said Beaugard, "who gave you the fifty cents?" "Everybody," replied Hortense.

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Snakes, Scorpions and Spiders!

There are a total of 13 types of snake in Spain of which only five are venomous. You are most unlikely to come across any of them unless you go hill-walking, rock-climbing or walking through mountainous, dry rocky or heavily forested areas. The most dangerous period is in the Spring and Summer as they hibernate during the cooler months of Autumn and Winter. Many snakes are also found around the local salt lakes. The five dangerous types are Seoane's Viper, Asp Viper, Snub-nose or Lataste's Viper, the False Smooth Snake and the Montpellier snake. All vipers are dangerous, but the Seoane's and Asp viper are mainly to be found in northern Spain - Galicia, Leon, the Basque country and the Pyrenees. The False Smooth Snake is found mainly in Catalonia and it is not aggressive. The Montpellier Snake, which can reach six feet in length, has only poisonous rear fangs. Although all the above are dangerous and should be avoided, it is the Lataste's Viper which is the most dangerous and although it is found throughout Spain, nowhere is it common. It prefers dry, rocky areas. However, site clearance for building works disturbs the habitat of many reptiles and they are then forced to move to other areas. Two years ago a "looney" cat in our area brought what looked like a live viper up to "She - who must be obeyed" while she was enjoying her morning coffee. She then broke the World, Olympic and Commonwealth 100 metres record! The cat was later found dead. All the above snakes should be avoided. If walking in dry rocky areas be very careful. Do not pick up anything which looks like a stick and do not put your hands in holes or under logs or where you cannot see. If bitten, remain calm and seek medical help immediately. Keep the bitten area well below the position of the heart. If possible kill and keep the snake so that the doctor can identify the correct anti-venom. (Easier said than done!)

The most common scorpion in Spain is the Mediterranean scorpion. These are by no means rare, and they are often found in dry rocky and open foreshore areas. Some were seen last year outside the pool enclosures and they tend to hide in damaged walls. Although not as dangerous as their African cousins, they can give a nasty and painful sting. If stung seek medical help immediately. There is no scorpion anti-venom but strong pain-killers and anti-inflammatory help. It is a good practise to shake out ones shoes and get the kids to do theirs every morning, especially if smelly trainers are kept outside! Last Summer while slipping on my casual shoes indoors, my toes "met" a large live cockroach!

All spiders bite, it is just that sometimes their fangs are not strong enough to break human skin. Out of the 1,700 species in Spain, there are only three which are harmful. The Tarantula is found in dry arid regions and while its bite is painful it is not dangerous. The bite of the Mediterranean Brown Recluse Spider can start off as a nip that is hardly noticeable, but it then develops into a very painful condition. The most dangerous spider in Spain is the Black Widow Spider which can give a very nasty but not fatal bite. Whilst they are rare, they are commonest in the Valencia and Andalucian regions and are a particular problem in the large plasticulture greenhouses in Almeria. Any spider bite should be reported to the Hospital as they may develop serious complications later. If you are bitten, try to kill and keep the spider so that the doctor can identify the correct anti-venom. (Easier said.....!)

However, you must not let the above alarm you. The odds are against you ever seeing one of the above in Spain, even if you live here for many years. I have been in Spain for four years now and the only "reptiles" or "nasties" I have ever seen here, have been of the human variety!

Grandma

In the dim and distant past
 When life's tempo was not so fast,
 Grandma used to rock and knit,
 Crochet, tat and baby-sit.
 When the kids were in a jam,
 They could always call on Gram.
 But today she's in the gym
 Exercising to keep slim.
 She's checking the web and surfing the net,
 Sending e-mails or placing a bet!
 Nothing seems to stop or block her,
 Now that Grandma's off her rocker!

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UPDATE FROM LA CASITA

Spanish lessons. New teacher! New approach!

As many of you will know, Dani Pons taught Spanish to several groups of students at La Casita. He has moved further away from Torrevieja and has now stopped the lessons.

In looking for a replacement, by asking around, we were introduced to Carolina. She has been to look at La Casita and although the room is large, her way of teaching is to work with small groups of maybe six students so that everyone gets a personal approach. We told her that Dani had students at many stages of learning and this did not present any problem to her.

Posters have been placed on the notice boards, inviting any interested people to come to La Casita at 11.30a.m. on Wednesday 6th June, to meet Carolina and to sort out lesson groups.

If you were in one of Dani's classes, or have previously started to learn and given up, why not come along and try again?

For more details phone either Peter 966798282 or Richard 966798849

CRAFT WORKSHOP

Starting Wednesday 4th July 2007 from 1.30pm to 4.30pm there will be a craft workshop for children, age 10 and over, at La Casita. The workshop, which will be held on Wednesdays throughout the Summer, will consist mainly of card making techniques: iris folding, die cutting, rubber stamping, decoupage, peel-offs, stenciling, to name but a few.

The cost of each session will be €10 and will include all materials and refreshments.

If you are interested, please telephone Janet on 966 798 816 for further information or to reserve your child's place.

Worth checking out.

Doña Anna's Pasty Shack in Via Park V is planning two of their special Paella Nights for Wednesday June 13 & 27th.

The party night starts at 7.45pm and takes place on the terrace.

Appetisers of fresh bread, alioli, olives, melon and cured ham are included. A full mixed paella (alternative option available) is served, followed by an Ice Cream Sundae of choice.

For every party of four a large jug of beer or sangria is included. The whole lot for just €15 per head. A children's version is available for only €8.

Booking is essential on 649637956 or 649637971

Just Remind Me.

An elderly couple had been experiencing declining memories, so they decided to take a power memory class where one is taught to remember things by association.

A few days after the class, the old man was outside talking with his neighbour about how much the class helped him.

"What was the name of the Instructor?" asked the neighbour.

"Oh, ummmm, let's see," the old man pondered. "You know that flower, the one that smells really nice but has those prickly thorns, what's that flower's name?"

"A rose?" asked the neighbour.

"Yes, that's it," replied the old man. He then turned toward his house and shouted, "Hey, Rose, what's the name of the Instructor we took the memory class from?"

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DARTS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 17 JUNE 3 p.m.

POKER TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 24 JUNE 3 p.m.

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Ayuntamiento	966761250
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Health Clinic – Cabo Roig	965322966
Help Association - emergency	965704282
Help Association - enquiries	965704282
Hospital – San Jaime (Private)	966921313
Hospital – Torrevieja	965721200
Hospital – Veja Baja	966776166
Iberdrola (Electricity)	965710248
Policia Local	966760000
President DH 1 - Stefan	966798482
RENFE Railways Alicante	965262731
SUMA – Tax Office	966761169
Tanatorio	966762249
Taxi	966761088
British Consulate	965216022
French Consulate	965228249
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DREAM HILLS A.G.M. 09/05/07

STEFAN POKROPPA No.557 was re-elected as President.

The following were elected to the committee for the year -

Mr. VINCENT JOHN Mc. LEAVY No. 6
 Mrs. DIANE CLAY No. 65
 Mr. KENNETH FRANN FIGG No. 77
 Mr. MAHMOUD AYESH YACOB AL-KADI No. 93
 Mr. JOHN THOMAS ALEXANDER HALTON No. 229
 Mrs. TONI O'REILLY No. 615
 Mrs. ROBERTS No. 477
 Mrs. IRENE KOWALSKI No. 479
 Mr. PETER CHARLES HEMMING No. 833
 Mr. CHRISTOPHER Mc. NARY No. 859

A committee meeting is being held at La Casita, 10 a.m. on the 1st of June 2007. Area responsibilities will then be allocated to the committee of vice-presidents.

Richard and Marjory Norris were confirmed as being in charge of La Casita.

The official minutes of the A.G.M. have been sent out this week.

Two ladies were sunbathing by the top pool when one turned to her friend and said "Marge, you and your husband have been married a long time. Do you have mutual orgasm?" Marge thought for a moment and replied, "No. I think we have Norwich Union!"

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica - 44 volumes.
 Excellent condition, any reasonable offer accepted.
 Reason for sale - no longer required.
 Got married last weekend. Wife knows everything!

Classified ads are FREE to D.H. & DH 2 Residents except for 'services' business ads from residents which will cost 3 euros. Boxed ads for bars etc cost only 5 euros! Classified ad requests should be placed in the Dream Scene mail box outside of no. 586 in Dream Hills.

Requests for business adverts may be made by phoning 966798847 or by e-mailing mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com

Cut-off copy date for inclusion in the next issue is 23/06/07.

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