



Cactus Needles

Volume 17, Number 10 – October 2010

**Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504,
Phoenix AZ 85069**

<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

Late-Breaking News: Mark & Mahala's grandson, William Lee Michael Cook was born September 30. Talk with the proud grandmother for all the details.

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Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.* **Green Text** indicates an event hosted by our friends at SunaCosu (<http://www.sunacosu.com/>)

Third Saturday of Every Month, 10 AM – **Personal Projects Workshops*** at the Glendale Cascade Mobile Home Park community center, 5747 West Missouri Avenue, Glendale. Bring your current project, socialize, pick our brains, Stitch and B. . . . Contact VP Nyki for details.

October - Feb **Tucson Historic Hauntings** a tour of Downtown Tucson's Historic buildings, Hauntings, and Stories costume are welcome make sure to bring camera \$10.00 per person for info and reservations please contact tuazghostgirl@q.com

October 3 – November 3, 2010 (Sundays 1-4 PM and Wednesdays 6-9 PM) – **Kids Costuming Workshops for Procession of Little Angels** at the Armory Park Center, 220 South 5th Avenue in Tucson, Arizona.

Call to Seamsters/Costumers: the Procession of Little Angels is in need of people with sewing skills and their own machines OR those who have talent with sewless costume assembly to participate in this year's Costuming Workshop series. Come collaborate with families on the creation of their children's costumes for this year's Little Angels festival! Workshops will be held Sunday afternoons from 1pm-4pm, Oct. 3rd through Oct. 31st; and Wednesday evenings from 6pm-9pm, Oct. 6th through Nov. 3rd. Interested individuals need not commit to all dates to participate. For more information on how to join our team, send an email to littleangelsart@gmail.com or call jhon at 520-834-3151. Remnants Drive for Kids Costuming: Spare fabric and remnants donations are needed to add to our communal give-away pile for use by families at this year's kids Costuming Workshop series. Or consider gifting a length of new

material! Anything useful to the creation of a magical ensemble that a child would love to make and wear at this year's Procession of Little Angels would be most appreciated. To make your offering, email littleangelsart@gmail.com or call jhon at 520-834-3151. Re-used/Recycled Materials for Procession of Little Angels: we are now collecting the following re-used/recycled materials for use in the creation of various props that kids will make for themselves at this year's Little Angels festival: plastic water bottles, aluminum pie pans, and cardboard paper-towel tubes. If you would like to save up and donate any of these items to Procession of Little Angels, email littleangelsart@gmail.com or call jhon at 520-834-3151. **CHANGE OF LOCATION:** Many Mouths One Stomach is pleased to announce a location change this year for both the Procession of Little Angels and the kids Costuming Workshops to Armory Park! Procession of Little Angels 2010 will be held on November 6th at Armory Park from 3 pm-7 pm. The kids Costuming Workshops will run Sundays (1-4pm) and Wednesdays (6-9pm), October 3rd through November 3rd inside the Armory Park Center. Armory Park is located at 220 S. 5th Ave. between E. 12th St. and E. 13th St (the park itself is directly across from the Tucson Children's Museum on 6th Ave).

October 8, 2010 - **Steampunk Street!** at Evermore Evermore, 127 W. Main Street, Mesa AZ. For the downtown Mesa 2nd Friday event on October (10/8/10) we'll be placing as many Steampunk Artisans, Costumers and vendors as we can get on the south side of Main Street between Robson & MacDonald. We don't have our web page up for this yet, but we have our initial email blast link. <http://www.evermoreevermore.com/ENSteamSt.png>

October 11, 2010 9PM ABC – Look for guildster Nola Yergen Jennings in the background of tonight's episode of "Castle," which involves a mystery at a fictional steampunk club.

For the adventures of Patricia M. Yulo, another steampunk costumer who participated in the Castle shoot, see her article in the current issue of Science Fiction/San Francisco at <http://efanzines.com/SFSF/SFSF109.pdf> (Thanks Mike for spotting this.)

October 15-17, 2010 – **Wild Western Festival** at Sahuaro Ranch Historical Park, 59th Avenue, north of Olive in Glendale, Arizona. http://www.wildwesternfestival.com/WWF_Home.htm

October 15-17, 2010 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. Began as a celebration of Tombstone's 50th anniversary in 1929! Street entertainment, Chili Cookoff, carnival, Live Music, Parade on Sunday. Free <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Helldorado-Days-81st-Annual>

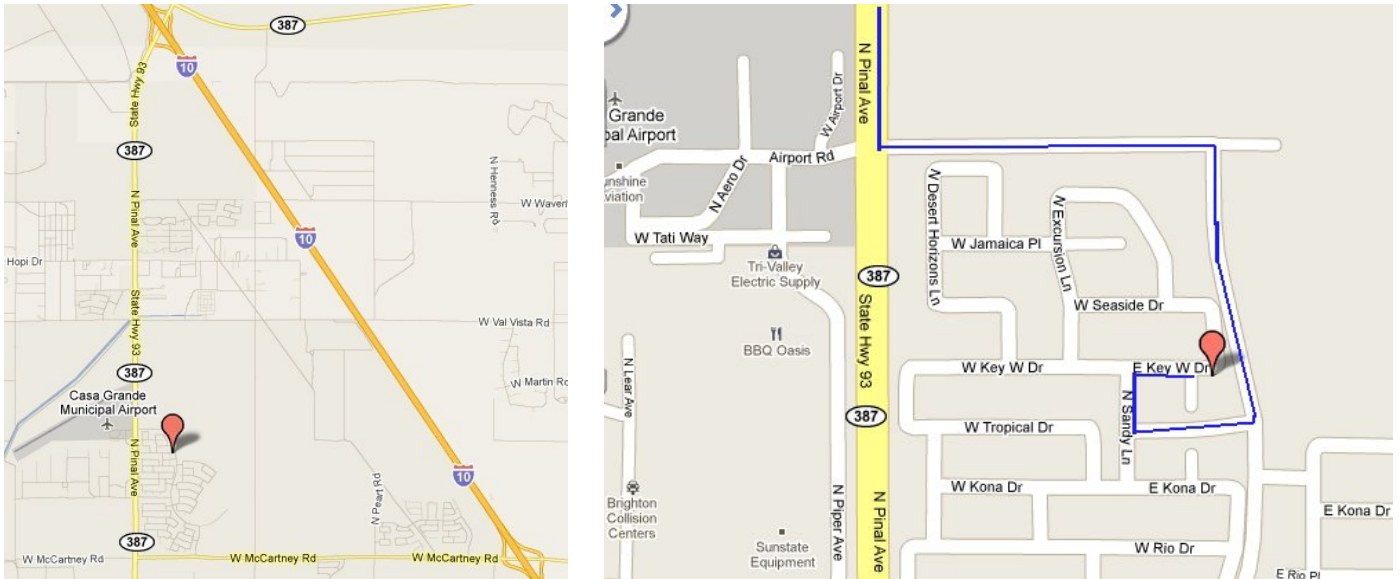
October 17, 2010, 11-7 – **Dr. Who TARDIS Party** at Atomic Comics, Chandler Fashion Center, 3155 West Chandler Blvd, Chandler. Costume contest, trivia contest, and all day screenings of Dr Who episodes. <http://tardis-az.blogspot.com/2010/09/doctor-who-tardis-party-at-atomic.html>

October 23, 2010 – **State Fair Demo***. From Lyn: "We're still scheduled for State Fair the second Saturday (Oct 23d) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone planning to show up, **in costume**, should come through the 17th Avenue Gate; your parking pass and fair pass will be at that gate."

October 23, 2010, 11:30 AM - **Contemporary Fashion and Collecting** at the Phoenix Art Museum Join Tatiana Sorokko, *Harper's Bazaar* Editor in Chief, Glenda Bailey, and renowned

couture designers James Galanos and Ralph Rucci for an engaging, not to be missed conversation. <http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

October 24, 2010, 10 AM – **Steampunk Arms Race*** at Mike and Theresa's home, 3146 North Medallion Court, Casa Grande, Arizona. Bring a squirt gun, soft dart gun, or other suitable nonlethal ordnance to paint up and decorate as a steampunk/SF/fantasy costume prop. *See Mike's materials list and advice on painting plastics later in this issue.*



November 3, 2010, 7 PM - **Extending the Runway: Tatiana Sorokko Style** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Tatiana Sorokko, model and contributing editor to Harper's Bazaar, discusses her vintage clothing collection on view. Hear more about her life in the glamorous world of high fashion, her unique approach to style and stories about individual ensembles in the exhibition. Stay for Q&A and a book-signing with Ms. Sorokko after the talk. <http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

November 7, 2010 – **All Souls Procession** in Tucson, Arizona. Capstone of events surrounding the Dia de Los Muertos celebration. <http://www.allsoulsprocession.org/>

November 10, 2010, 12:30 PM – **Color Trends: Unlocking the Code** at the Phoenix Art Museum. From interior design to fashion to automotive, learn how color trends develop. Laurie Clark, senior designer account executive for The Sherwin-Williams Company, explains how color designers interpret, create, forecast and select colors and are influenced by social issues, politics, the environment, the economy and cultural diversity. *Included with Museum admission or free for Museum Members. For optional luncheon, call (602) 307-2011.* Presented by the Museum's Arizona Costume Institute. <http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

November 12-14, 2010 - **TusCon 37** at Hotel Tucson, 475 N. Granada in Tucson, Arizona. Guest of Honor is Jim Butcher, Author of the Dresden Files and Codex Alera novels. <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/> or <http://www.tusconscificon.com/>.

November 20-21, 2010 – **Phoenix Faerie Festival** at Estrella Mountain Park in Goodyear, Arizona. <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

November 13, 2010, 10:30 AM – **Burlesque** at the Phoenix Art Museum. Join ACI Nouveau and local burlesque troupe Scandalesque for a morning of glitter and feather fans! National artist Catherine D'lish, famous for the intricacy of her elaborate stage costumes and for working with superstar Dita von Teese, speaks about the art of burlesque costume design and show garments from her collection. *Included with Museum admission or free for Museum Members.. Included with Museum admission or free for Museum Members.* Presented by the Museum's Arizona Costume Institute. <http://www.phxart.org/events/lectures.php>

November 21, 2010 – **The One-Hour 1940s Hat*** SWCG workshop at Laurie Taylor's place in Scottsdale.

December 12, 2010 (Note change of Date) – **Holiday Potluck*** at Elaine and Carl Mami's in Tucson. Holiday potluck celebration, \$10 Sneakret Santa, calendar planning, and annual officer elections.

January 6-9, 2011 – **MythosCon** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in downtown Tempe, Arizona. This is a convention for fans of H.P. Lovecraft and his works. <https://www.mythoscon.org/>

January 13-15, 2012 – **DarkCon 2012**. www.darkcon.org

January 22, 2011 - **Dillinger Days** at the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Arizona. See where 1930s public enemy John Dillinger and his gang were nabbed in Tucson, with historical reenactments. <http://www.hotelcongress.com/>

March 4-6, 2011 – **Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention** at Old Tucson Studios, Tucson, Arizona. Arizona's first steampunk convention. <http://wildwildwestcon.com/>

March 12-13, 2011 – **Tucson Festival of Books** on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona. <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

March 20, 2011, 10AM – **131st Railroad Silver Spike Festival** at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N. Toole Avenue in Tucson, Arizona. Celebrate the coming of the railroad in 1880. <http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30*** "Sands of Time" at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

Costume-Con 30 Update

We're looking for a few good people to run stuff. We need someone to run the Doll Contest and someone for the Hall Costumes. We also welcome anyone who wants to volunteer for anything at all! Thanks! – Elaine.

Advice for the Steampunk Armaments (Plastic Painting) Workshop
from Mike Contos

Materials:

Paints of your choice
Bottled water (for acrylic paints)
Paint thinner (for enamels)
Paint brushes
Putty
Glue
Bits you want to add to your gun
Any tools you think you may need such as screwdrivers or X-Acto knives.

Painting Plastic

Patience: you never want to begin anything involving paint without making sure you have plenty of this, your most vital ingredient.

Time: Always begin any project involving paint long before it is needed. This allows for the inevitable do-overs, touch ups, etc. to be accommodated without the additional burden of being pressed for time.

Cleanliness: Not yourself of course, so when painting, don't wear anything that you are fond of. However, your subject needs to be as clean as possible. Just about anything that is made from plastic has a thin film of mold release on it and this will interfere with the paint bonding to your subject. Trisodium phosphate does an excellent job removing this and is available at your local hardware store. You also want to remove any other dirt, grease or other contaminants from your subject and, once you have cleaned it, try to handle it as little as possible to avoid re-contaminating it with skin oils.

Dry: Your subject needs to be completely dry.

Composition: Not all plastics are readily paintable. Some of the best plastics for painting are polystyrene, ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) and cast resins. Vinyls and other "flexible" plastics often contain plasticizers that will either cause your paint to peel or stay "tacky" and soft or both.

Soft on Hard: Paints that contain organic solvents (enamels) are "harder" than water clean-up acrylics so, if you're going to mix enamels and acrylics paint the "softer" acrylic over the "harder" enamel.

Temperature Counts: With enamels, if the air temperature is over 80° F, the solvent will evaporate too quickly, creating an "orange peel" finish.

Master Your Mix: Mix 'em up good. In order to get the best coverage/richest color, you need to get all the pigment suspended.

Filling Imperfections, Seams, Cracks, Etc.: Cheaper alternatives to hobby shop putties such as Squadron or Testors are Bondo Spot and Glazing Putty. Since these products need to dry, you

must use thin layers and build up to fill in anything but the shallowest/smallest imperfections. However, you can use “gap filling cyanoacrylate” (super glue) or pack baking soda into the whatever it is that you want to fill and the drop the “extra thin” super glue onto it. For real deep/large areas, there are resin-based fillers that use a catalyst to cure. No drying time needed, so thickness is not a consideration, but they can generate heat and warp some plastics. If possible, scratch or score the region you are filling in to enhance your filler/putty’s bond.

Black and Blue Forever: Once you use either of these colors with a brush, that brush should be dedicated to that color.

Sanding: You should sand areas that need smoothing/shaping down to at least 400 grit. You can polish “orange peel” out of paint with 1500 or finer grit wet paper. If you are using super glue for gap/seam filler you need to sand it smooth as soon as possible after it sets as over time it will become harder than styrene or ABS

Inspiration: The net is chock-full of examples of modified and scratch-built steampunk weapons and ephemera.

Are You a Card-Carrying Member?

Recently, Margie brought it to the guild’s attention that Jo-Ann Fabrics offers a VIP discount card to members of sewing and crafting organizations. It’s worth ten percent off the top of both non-sale and sale purchases at your local store and online purchases too.

To sign up for your card, go to :

http://www.joann.com/joann/common/content_custservice.jsp?catName=discountCardForm
or just go to joann.com and navigate through the menus). After you fill out the online form, they will mail you your discount card.

To activate your card, show it during your next visit to a Jo-Ann store along with photo ID and proof of membership in a sewing organization.

What constitutes proof of membership? I’m too clumsy for a secret handshake. Decoder rings would be a bit complicated and the Arisians haven’t delivered our lenses yet. It’s time to make a membership card!



Your loyal editor has designed a quick and dirty membership card based on our generic business card. These were passed out at the September SWCG meeting. If you’re a local member in good standing and didn’t make it to the meeting, please contact me via <mailto:editor@southwestcostumersguild.org> and we’ll work out how to get your membership card to you (in person or by mail).

Prescott Western Heritage Days

Reviewed by Frances Burns

September 25 and 26, 2010 were the first annual Prescott Western Heritage Days. The event was sponsored by Sharlot Hall Museum and held on Whiskey Row and the Museum. Activities included photo opportunities, Victorian fashion show, costume contest, cowboy and western music and western performances by the Prescott Regulators and the Shady Ladies throughout the weekend. The event concluded with a chuck wagon breakfast and entertainment Sunday morning.

Besides the Regulators & Shady Ladies, the Buffalo soldiers, Bill Williams Mountain Men, Prescott Buscaderos, and Prescott Victorian Society were also present and had wonderful costumes.

A surprise was that that the category of Steampunk was included in the costume contest, even though there were only a very few entries, there were 2 that were very good. (Sorry no cameras) One boy had a top hat with silver band, jacket, pants, and an old-style crank phone held on by chains. Unfortunately, by the time we got to the last steampunk entry, a lady in a very nice mix of herringbone and plaid accented with brass buttons and bug beads, catching the details got lost because she was the last person judged. The lady who won the Victorian lady class made a dress using the Burda Victorian pattern (Number 7880) – the fit was marvelous as were the fabric choices.

It was a fun day with quite a bit happening for the first festival.

On the Web

The first electronic issue of ICG Newsletter was released in September, 2010. If you are an ICG member with an e-mail address on file, you should have received the link and password. Otherwise, your paper copy is coming. The issue features Patrick J. O'Connor's incredibly detailed account of how he reproduced Agatha's locket from "Girl Genius," Kathe Gust's review of the Kyoto Costume Institute Digital Archive, reviews of chapter newsletters and Chicagoland Costumers' Guild's web site.

The September issue of Yipe! The Costume Fanzine of Record is now available for free download from <http://www.yipezine.com/>. An extra-long, 58-page issue with an anime'/manga/cosplay theme. The issue is available in two file sizes, with higher or lower-resolution photographs.

Mike suggests these sources of much plastic goodness for costume prop builders:

TAP Plastics - <http://www.tapplastics.com/index.php>

Plastruct - <http://www.plastruct.com/>

Fezzes are Cool!
by Randall Whitlock

It's official. Fezzes are cool. The Doctor said so in this year's season finale of "Dr. Who." Of course the likes of Sydney Greenstreet, Aladdin and Morocco Mole already knew.



A fez is a simple flat-crowned cap in the shape of a truncated cone. They are a part of men's costume in many parts of the middle east and Indonesia. The name comes from the city of Fez in Morocco.

Surrounded by a turban in times past (as seen in Mike Contos' photo of me at left), fezzes are more often worn by themselves in modern styles of dress. The most popular colors worldwide are red, black and white.

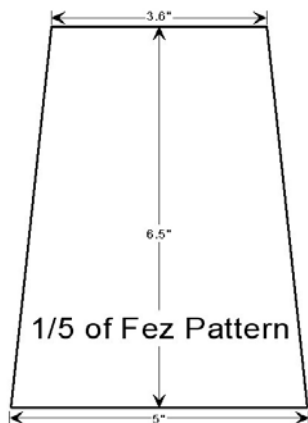
Fezzes as modeled by Mike (right) are becoming popular as novelty headgear in fannish circles. Fez-O-Rama (<http://www.fez-o-rama.com/>) offers a variety of velvet caps embroidered with geekish motifs like robots, skulls, atomic orbitals and the TARDIS. Mike has modified some of these by making his own top decorations to replace the tassel. I particularly like his robot antenna.



Historically, fezzes have been made by forming felt around a block. While effective, this method can be difficult for the home stitcher. I prefer to make fezzes from flat fabric.

The "Middish Posh Hennin" we've built at past SWCG workshops has proportions similar to a fez, so I used its top panel as a starting point. this is a circle 5.75 inches in diameter. Multiply by pi to find the circumference of 18 inches.

Find your hat size by measuring the circumference of your head above the eyebrows. Add a bit for seam allowance and wearing ease. For me, my 23.5-inch measurement was fudged up to 25 inches.

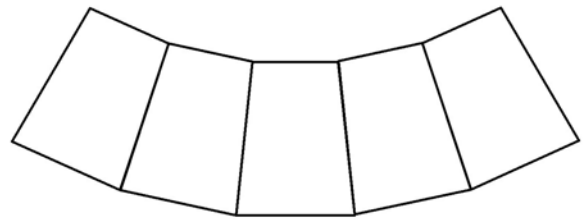


By a bit of trial and error I came to the conclusion that a cap height of 6 to 6.5 inches looks right for most adults.

To create a cone segment, you would scribe a small segment of a solid circle whose upper arc is 18 inches, lower arc is 25 inches and the difference between the radii is 6.5 inches. This math is a bit too complicated for me, so I worked out a compromise construction, previously used in my boot cuff pattern.

Draw an isosceles trapezoid that is 6.5 inches high, 5 inches at its base (1/5 of your forehead), and 3.6 inches across its top (1/5 of the

crown circumference). This is really easy on most graphics software and not at all hard to do with a ruler and pencil. Cut out this shape and trace it onto larger paper five times, matched long edge to long edge. This pattern nicely approximates the two curves described above.



Lay your side panel out on your fabric and cut around the edges. Fold it over right sides together and sew the side seam shut. Cut a 5.75-inch solid circle of the same fabric. Pin and sew the circle to the open top of the hat. Turn the hat shell rightside out.

Cut and sew a second cap from your lining material and insert it into the shell, wrong sides together. Sew the shell to the lining around the bottom edge. Finish this edge by turning under and sewing, or by applying grosgrain ribbon or another trim.

The best fabrics for fezzes have interesting textures, no stretch, and are thick or stiff enough to support themselves. Felts, upholstery velvets and heavy corduroys are suitable. Thinner fabrics may be used if you provide some support from within. Fez-O-Rama uses quilted materials for linings. You might also cut a side panel piece from leather, felt, buckram or pasteboard and insert it between the shell and lining.

A traditional fez is topped with a tassel. Suitable tassels can be purchased at any upholstery department, or you can make your own.



I make tassels by wrapping some yarn around my hand at the base of the fingers, about 15 times. I then tie off the tassel with additional yarn about one inch from the end of the bundle. Once the bundle is tied off, I trim the opposite end and insert a bit more yarn through the loop formed between the knot and the end.



This bit of yarn is attached to the crown of the cap so that the tassel hangs down one side. There are many ways to accomplish this. You could mount a grommet in the middle of the crown or simply sew the yarn to the cap's exterior. I usually poke the yarn through the cap crown with a pointy pair of pliers and tie a knot inside the hat.

Tiny car for driving in parades is optional.

Add a circular or elliptical brim and this pattern becomes an

Elizabethan tall hat, but that is a completely different article.



SWCG Meeting Minutes Sept. 26, 2010

Reported by Theresa Contos, Secretary

The meeting was preceded by a fabric swap at Sharan's club house.

The meeting began at 1:45 with 10 members present. The Treasurer (Lyn) reports no changes.

Old Business: A vote was taken on the by-laws. All present were in favor of accepting the by-laws as is, with the default board of directors being current officers.

Instructions for those helping with the State Fair were given, they are to use the 17th Ave. entrance to park. Randall will make a fancy parchment certificate to award our contest winner and Lyn will present the \$25 check.

New Business: Guild membership cards were handed out to those present so they may go on-line and procure a 10% discount at JoAnn's. Cards may be activated at joann.com, JoAnn's gives a 10% discount on your purchases there to members of approved sewing and craft organizations.

The December meeting was rescheduled from Dec. 26th to Dec.12th. It will be a potluck at Elaine's house in Tucson, directions will be given in The Cactus Needles coming up. Santa gifts will be exchanged of a costumer's theme with a ten dollar limit.

November's meeting will be at Laurie's on the 21st, for directions check the Cactus Needles. There is a possibility of a 1940's style hat class at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.

The Man-Bra is Here

Snarky Comment by Randall

I was relaxing, watching old movies, and writing up the Fez article when an ad for "Slim Ts" ran on television. This is a tight men's' undershirt with stiff spandex panels across the belly and back. With no sleeves, it's technically an A-shirt, not a T-Shirt. (Spelling counts!)

The back panels, touted to improve posture, form a distinctly bra strap-like cross. Let us not fool ourselves. This is a corset. There is plenty of precedent for this, of course, including corsetry worn under Elizabethan doublets and 19th century military dress uniforms. <https://www.getslimitsnow.com/>

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