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VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

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# paper\*

\*TheHighSchoolforthePerformingandVisualArtsNewspaper

## Honoring Ms. McNeil

On June 13, 2021 we lost beloved teacher and alumnus Ms. Mekeva McNeil to cancer. We knew her as a member of the Theatre faculty and spring all-schools FELA! and The Color Purple, as an educator, theatre artist, confidant, and role model. She constantly asked questions and pushed her students to find the truth of human behavior. She changed the way I view my art and introduced me to a new form of creative expression. Her work has stuck with me and I often observed that her passion could bring out the best in others. Ms. McNeil always seemed genuinely interested in what you had to say and encouraged honesty and openness in her classes while maintaining an air of acceptance. She profoundly changed every person she interacted with.

I wish to honor her impact on all of us. The best representation of her effect on our school wouldn't be my own, singular perspective but that of those she taught.

"She presented a nonjudgmental environment [that gave] me insight and [filled] me with hope and purpose. She taught so many of us to be kind to our bodies and how to listen to them. She taught me how to flush out my nerves and become one with myself...I started using methods that we learned in class at home to stay positive during the time of her passing."

- Haylie

"Ms. McNeil was the person who most impacted my view of what the theatre community could be and even who I could be as a person.....She helped me realize I didn't have to shape myself to exist in the world, but rather my world was shaped around myself"

- Anonymous

"Ms. McNeil believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself. No matter how many times I failed or fumbled, her trust in me never wavered...When we were doing our online shows, I submitted design auditions for McNeil's show The Bat, soon to be changed to Lysistrata. My design was just a 3x5 drawing of an old woman in a chair. She loved it. She asked if she could keep it, and I said yes. She wanted me as a costume designer for the show. Even though I struggled a lot with that show, she would tell me how much she loved what I created and how much she wanted my designs to represent her show. I was told that she kept that little 3x5 drawing on her desk all year. It makes me happy to know that that silly little design she loved so much got sent to her family. I don't really know why."

- A Level 4

"My freshman year, our class was doing a challenging group exercise. I was having a hard time, and when Ms. McNeil noticed this, she singled me out and made me redo the exercise until I did it with confidence. When I finally made it to that point, she looked me in the eye and said, "Don't underestimate yourself," Those words stuck with me the whole year. McNeil believed in me when I didn't believe in myself, and I never got to thank her for it."

- Scout

"She made me feel seen whenever I was around her. At first it made me uncomfortable; however, over time I was able to find comfort in the fact that I mattered enough to someone to feel seen....She reminds me of waking up naturally and enjoying a nice warm cup of coffee. She always seemed content and "living in the moment." Once, a level one came up to me and told me that Ms.McNeil told them that they reminded her of me. Honestly, I never thought I ever inhabited a place in her mind out of class, but this changed my view on the matter. I realized that even though I wasn't always around her and very close to her, I still existed in her mind."

- Robin

By Adelaide Fairbanks



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# The 2022 Winter Olympics

By Carmina Andrade

## Opening Ceremony:

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony focused on sincerity over flashiness. Choosing to employ an LED screen for most of the ceremony rather than rely on human displays, the East Asian country aimed for hope and unity amidst a turbulent political climate. It opened with images representing the 24 terms used to describe the Lunar Year, beginning with the coming of spring. Interestingly, China opted to have one of the two flamebearers be of Uyghur descent, despite China's human rights abuses of this Chinese minority.

## Figure Skating:

The United States typically dominates figure skating at the Winter Olympics, however, the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) won gold in the team event, while the US won silver. Fifteen-year-old Russian Kamila Valieva became the first woman to land a quad jump at the Winter Olympics, but tested positive for substances, which cost her a place on the podium. Meanwhile, American prodigy Nathan Chen won the men's short program in the team event. After placing third in the men's free skate, Vincent Zhou of the U.S. Olympic team tested positive for COVID-19 and was forced to withdraw. Madison Chock and Evan Bates won the ice dance portion of the team event with their Daft Punk routine. Moving on to the men's short program, Donovan Carrillo made history as both the first Mexican skater to compete at the Olympics in 30 years and as the first Mexican skater to advance to the long program. Nathan Chen took home gold, after breaking the world record for highest score. In the free skate final, Nathan Chen won gold (as expected), with 18-year-old Japanese prodigy Yuma Kagiyama taking silver and Shoma Uno winning bronze. Two-time Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu stalled at fourth, missing out on repeating his streak.

## Speed skating:

China was accused of cheating by South Korea in the men's 1000m semi-final, lodging a complaint with the International Olympic Committee. The country was also accused by Olympic fans of cheating after overtaking a Canadian skater during the women's 500m. As for the gold medalists, Nils van der Poel won the Men's 5000m, giving Sweden its first speed-skating gold since 1998. The sport has been historically dominated by the Dutch. Irene Schouten won gold at the Women's 3000m and will attempt a second gold at the Women's 5000m.

## Skiing/Snowboarding:

Matthias Mayer from Austria won the Super G Event, becoming the first male skier to win three gold medals in successive Olympic Games. American Ryan Cochran-Siegle took 2nd place in the event. American-born Eileen Gu scored a gold medal for China in the Big Air skiing event. American Mikaela Shiffrin skied out of Giant Slalom, despite winning the event in Pyeongchang 4 years earlier. Chloe Kim, who won gold in Pyeongchang at 17, repeated her success in the Women's Halfpipe.

# Through a Feminist Lens: Empowering Motherhood

By Alayna Davis

Is it possible that a female who runs her home should be celebrated as much as one who runs a company? When unpacking the complexities of the feminine footprint in society, we must acknowledge the bold struggle women have confronted together for millennia. Women have been making courageous impacts on society since 400 BC ancient Greece, when the first female gynecologists chose to specialize in reproductive health at a time when menstrual cycles were deemed dirty by their male counterparts.

Of course, society has progressed significantly since then. To our mothers' delight or horror, many of us girls are pursuing more in life than marriage—from local business start-ups to social media empires. Introducing Independent Women. Introducing #Girlboss. Introducing Goodbye Earl. It's a celebration of femininity—a surge of adrenaline pulsing through this nation, a small crack in an ancient concrete dam, and the flood is imminent.

But do we lose sight of the reflection cast into this vast puddle by glancing past a shining example of empowerment that historically defined the female population? Is it possible that the now-trending version of feminism has begun to place certain career paths and ambitions at a higher value than others? Are mothers, their struggles, and their voices lagging

behind in this forward moment? Or have we left them?

Women contend with significant physical and mental health risks in pregnancy and childbirth. While it is necessary that we continue to separate ourselves from the derogatory historical narrative relegating a woman to cook, clean, marry, bear children, and die, we should also work to celebrate women who choose to focus on motherhood and ensure they are not aligned with those misogynistic values. For many, motherhood is empowering, and though it is a struggle, it shows the same bravery and strength that all young girls can look up to today.

The female fight will continue. We will continue to become Presidents and CEOs, small-business owners and artists. We will continue to birth and nurse the generations to come, to bear the pain we have since the formation of our species, to die in labor and hold children, to marry and live a life of joy if that is our choosing. If I choose to become a mother, will I be empowered as an advocate of courage by my fellow females? Would you nod in support of me clutching crying children on a plane, or sigh in annoyance? What is feminism, what is this act of empowerment if we are selective in our marches, if we continue to demote the caretakers of society, the ones still standing to bring life into a dying earth?

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# Spotlight on Spotlight

By Vera Caldwell

In a cramped back room of the library, there's a filing cabinet containing every physical edition of *paper\**, dating from spring 2020 all the way back to...the fall of 2009.

Isn't that a little recent, considering that PVA was founded in 1971? Well, yes. And, to my knowledge, there aren't any earlier school newspapers in the library. *paper\**'s earliest editions make no reference to a previous publication. Whatever *paper\**'s predecessor was, its memory amongst students was gone by 2009.

I became curious about this while doing research for HSPVA 50, an archival history project for PVA's fiftieth anniversary. Amy Evans (Visual Arts '89), HSPVA 50's project director, saved a 1988 edition of *Spotlight*, PVA's newspaper from her time here. It reads like it could have been printed yesterday. Well, almost.

1980s PVA and 2020s PVA do have similar preoccupations. An article in this issue about Creative Writing's isolation parallels a *Spotlight* article about the lack of Visual and Media Arts student involvement in the all-school musical. In both newspapers, alumni write in with college advice, and students review new movies and TV shows. Though alumni of both eras give takes on Rice and UT, in 2022 we're writing negative reviews of *Euphoria* instead of *Scrooged* (Willy Golden, class of 1980-something, said even Bill Murray couldn't save *Scrooged*. I'll take his word for it).

There are a few differences, though. *Spotlight* contains more satirical pieces than *paper\** ever has, as well as more reporting on school events. Most of *paper\** is cultural analysis and arts reviews. Nobody goes to *paper\** for up-to-date performance announcements, nor Gail Collins-esque sendups of the administration's failure to repair the parking lot in a timely manner.

Editor Shaila Dewan's crack about the Houston Post calling PVA "hip" feels charmingly outdated. We still have

our bohemian reputation, but our new building feels more art gallery than art school, and by all accounts we're under significantly more academic pressure than past PVA students. With this context, *Spotlight* makes for wistful reading. As we take *paper\** out of this year's slump, it's worth reflecting on its identity. *Spotlight* is another version of what a PVA newspaper could be. It's nice to have something to take inspiration from. It's also a connection to our past and a reminder that the articles we write now could be important to the PVA students of 2060.



# The Power of Fonts

By Kate-Yeonjae Jeong

Something I'll stand by forever is that the type of font you opt for defines the quality of your work. Is this scientifically backed? Probably not, but the slew of Google Docs in my drive say otherwise.

I like to think that each font has a distinct personality. Simply put, writing an essay in Times New Roman is not the same as writing it in *Comic Sans*. Nothing against *Comic Sans*, but I can guarantee that you wouldn't be able to write a serious academic paper with it. That being said, below are my recommendations for selecting specific fonts when crafting your next writing piece:

**Times New Roman:** Academic papers and stuff filled with fancy, glossed-up words that you probably dug around for in the thesaurus. Don't forget to make it point 12.

**Calibri:** The perfect match for Google Sheets. You could even call it the better Arial.

**Arbutus Slab:** What I wrote this exact article in.\* Cute but not too informal. Has just the right energy for a non-serious article about a serious subject.

**Lato:** No-nonsense, straight-cut writing. Excellent for text-heavy presentations. The Zoom font.

**IM Fell DW Pica:** Feeling poetic? Opt for the Taylor Swift Folklore font to embrace your inner philosophical, moody writer.

**Arial:** The default font. Could be more exciting.

**Courier:** For playwriting and playwriting only.

**Pacifico:** If you're feeling extra. Whatever you do, don't type in all caps.

**Jost:** The perfect tiny lettering for little captions in graphics. AKA the go-to Canva font.

**Sacramento:** If you're looking for a cursive you could only find in a second grade handbook, this is it!

\**paper* is written in Helvetica Regular. Boring, yet readable

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# The HSPVA 50 Project

By Vera Caldwell

The HSPVA 50 Project is an oral and archival history project in Creative Writing that covers significant aspects of our school's history. It is led by documentarian, author, artist, and PVA Visual Arts grad Amy Evans. Nine Creative Writing juniors and seniors are participating: Ben Authur, Harrison Buck, Vera Caldwell, Edlyn Escoto, Meghana John, Elijah Kennedy, Meg Lockhart, Hank Odell, and Heather Smith. The project is meant to develop potential material for a book that will be released to commemorate PVA's fiftieth anniversary.

A few cool things we've discovered while working on this project: a 2010 paper\* interview with David Sedaris, decades-old spooky stories about the ghost of the rabbi, the spaghetti recipe used at the first Spaghetti Suppers, and pictures of Happenings and performances long past. Though we might not use toaster-like computers or film cameras anymore, and our sleek downtown campus is a world apart from the beautiful chaos of our first two buildings, many things haven't changed. For one, the student body's fashion sense has remained mostly unaltered since 1971. We still have Happenings, spontaneous music in the halls, and relative independence compared to other high schools. People still come to

PVA because they love art and need to pursue that crystalline thing that inspires them, that touches them most deeply.

Last fall, PVA 50 organized a visit to the school from our first ever biology teacher, Birdia Churchwell. She met current STEM and art area teachers and spoke to students about her experience at the school, including her pioneering pedagogical notion of "correlation" (combining art area interests with academic subjects for a more engaging learning experience). She also discussed PVA's role as a pioneering integrated school; when it was founded, much of HISD was dragging its feet to desegregate. Mrs. Churchwell was excited to reconnect with two of her former pupils: Mr. Sneed and Ms. Hall. Through experiences like this, PVA 50 will help members of our school's community rediscover old connections and make new ones, heightening our consciousness of our identity and history.

You can check out some of our Project's findings and musings online. Our Instagram handle is @hspva50project, and our blog can be found at [hspva50project.wordpress.com](https://hspva50project.wordpress.com).

## Mr. Lozano's Top 10 Niche Obsessions

By Kate Yeonjae-Jeong

You know Mr. Lozano- the man, the myth, the legend. His niche interests are taking the PVA world by storm, and he has been unleashing a wave of trends that's making a concrete impact on our school culture. (See: that one time the English faculty all dressed in denim, inspired by Mr. Lozano himself. That was not a coincidence.)

You could even say he's the Regina George of PVA (but much nicer), which brings us to his curated list of ten obsessions\* so that you all can stay inspired:

**Emily St. John Mandel:** As an English teacher, this is no surprise: Emily St. John Mandel is an all-time favorite of Mr. Lozano's- her novel Station Eleven is even a part of his curriculum.

**Japanese Breakfast:** Mr. Lozano's favorite band of all time is the official class jam; we listen to it all the time.

**Almond Milk Lattes:** It's no secret that Mr. Lozano is a coffee aficionado- it's practically his brand. So, it's quite fitting that this makes the list. However, it has to be specifically "iced until the temperature is in the 50s."

**Fancy boots:** I couldn't agree more: fancy boots are a very nice type of footwear. Might I add: it's high time we all started incorporating fancy boots into our everyday lifestyles.

**Pets with ridiculous names:** Mr. Lozano loves pets with hilarious names- even his dog is named Sauce! (cue the awws.)

**The Bermuda Triangle:** Mr. Lozano said it best: Why aren't we talking about this anymore? Airplanes used to go missing quite often over this specific section of the ocean- but why has it stopped? So many questions.

**Que Pasta:** If you're wondering what Que Pasta is, Mr. Lozano has an answer for you: it's his hypothetical Mexican-Italian Fusion food truck-yum! Also, the word play on "Qué pasa (What's up)" cannot go unnoticed.

**ALIENS!! (all caps, two exclamation marks):** As our favorite film buff shares: "Independence Day was the first film I ever saw in theaters, which explains a lot about me."

**Gus' Fried Chicken:** Gus' World Famous Fried Chicken is world famous for a reason- hence why it's on this list. However, do note, Mr. Lozano enjoys "all the fried chicken tbh."

**All Things King Arthur:** Only in Mr. Lozano's class would medieval-inspired Dungeons and Dragons be assigned for your midterms. Add the fact that he studied abroad in Europe for medieval history and it all makes sense.



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# Alas, Poor Stanford Street!

By Ronen Wenderfer

I knew it, the old school, a building of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. Although we were only there for one semester, the old building holds a special place in the heart of every member of the senior class. When we graduate, we leave behind a school of students who never got to experience and appreciate the wonders of the old school. I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce, and to share the trials and tribulations of the old PVA with the next generation.

**The Windows** - Or lack thereof. No matter where you are in the new building, the sun is always there to blind you with a ray of light through one of our hundreds of windows. We never had to deal with that at the old building. Every classroom was an enclosed box lit with nothing but the fluorescent lights that kept us focused on our work. Even the one wall of windows we had in the Commons had a tree to protect us from the harsh UV rays. We may have suffered from Vitamin D deficiency, but we never got sunburns.

**The Commons** - Everything about them. Truly a common area that the entire building was centered around, the Commons were an integral part of PVA culture. Regardless of where you wanted to go, you always had to walk past the Commons to get there. They were a perfect place for dancers and actors to rehearse their shows, alleviating the need for any high-quality rehearsal spaces. High above it all were flags from around the world, proudly declaring HSPVA as an international school that attracts students from all over the world. And Freshmen, I speak from experience when I say, with that grand staircase, it was once possible for you to see the Happenings!

**Water Fountains** - A few years ago, there was an article in paper\* that ranked the top five water fountains at PVA. Why not more? Because there were only five water fountains at PVA. Nowadays, we are spoiled with more than five water fountains per floor. At 4001 Stanford, we had to work for our hydration, but the effort made the reward that much more enjoyable.

**All the Red** - Every inch of the old school was accented in bright, bold red. The doors, the trash cans, those magnificent old-fashioned Denny Theatre signs. This color scheme is so ingrained in that building that it's hard to accept the fact that the old building is now green. Yes, that's right. Green. HISD painted our beautiful building a gross, gut-churning, god-awful green.

**No Bells** - Do you hear that? No, you don't. That's the sound of a building full of students and teachers simultaneously realizing that the period is over and quickly moving to their next class. This may seem impossible, but it worked. Back-to-back arts classes could continue uninterrupted. The bell did not dismiss us, the teacher did. That all changed when we came to the new building. Our peaceful harmony was disturbed. Many a sleep-deprived student has been startled from their slumber by the ear-piercing shriek of the bell. I must admit, however, that we would never be able to figure out the various PLC and Wellness schedules without bells to set us straight.

**Vending Machines** - Any soul desperate enough to walk all the way across HISD's smallest high school campus, trudge their way up one whole flight of stairs, and dodge the flying ping pong balls of death would find themselves face to face with the legendary PVA vending machines. When they worked, the vending machines were a great source of snacks throughout the day. When they worked.

As charming as the old building was, a building so close to completely falling apart is not conducive to the creation of art. We romanticize the idea of struggling artists working with what little we've been given. Here on Austin street, we don't have to do that anymore. Leaving the old building, we have lost some of what we considered to be the character of PVA. But, we have gained the opportunity to create art free from the limits of our building. Looking back, it is important to realize that we have resources that past generations of PVA kids never did. Underclassmen, it's up to you to make the most of it.

# Simu Liu: From Stock Image to Superhero

By Callisto Lim

On September 3rd, 2021, Simu Liu delivered an amazing performance as Shang Chi, Marvel's first Asian superhero. Shang Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings features other prominent Asian actors like Tony Leung, Akwafina, Meng'er Zhang, and others.

Although a successful actor now, Simu Liu doesn't have a conventional career. In 2014, before his Hollywood success, he was a stock photo actor, appearing under tags like "East Asian," "business person," "smiling," "cheerful," and "coworker." They've been used in advertisements and textbooks worldwide, something that he frequently jokes about.

Liu's next break had him in Kim's Convenience, a sitcom about a Korean-Canadian family and their convenience store, which first started airing in 2016. Now, he is a Marvel superhero, with many more roles to come.



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# What Kind of Wordle Are You?

By Lila Mankad

Oh, Wordle. Everyone knows it. The viral phenomenon. The once-a-day word puzzle. The game you see people playing in 2nd period. For those who don't know, Wordle is a daily word game in which you try to guess a five-letter word in six guesses, gaining new feedback from each guess. Soon after its sudden popularity, spin-offs began popping up. Which one are you?

1. You gain the power of teleportation. What do you do with it?

- a) Appear in the corners of people's eyes to drive them crazy.
- b) Become a multitasking god!
- c) Beeline towards the nearest lab so they can study me.
- d) Travel to all the places on my bucket list! No visa required.
- e) Attend all of Taylor Swift's concerts. Teleport to the front row.

2. What writing utensil is your favorite?

- a) A fountain pen. Nice in theory, spilling on your hands in practice.
- b) Those rainbow clicky pens that change color.
- c) A mechanical pencil.
- d) A rainbow set of highlighters.
- e) A Sharpie. Or a quill. Either one.

3. What kind of cake are you?

- a) "Fruit" cake (for real, what is in those?)
- b) A wedding cake, with the little bride-groom topper
- c) Mousse cake. (not moose!)
- d) Cupcakes!
- e) Confetti Birthday Cake

4. What is your first-word strategy for Wordle?

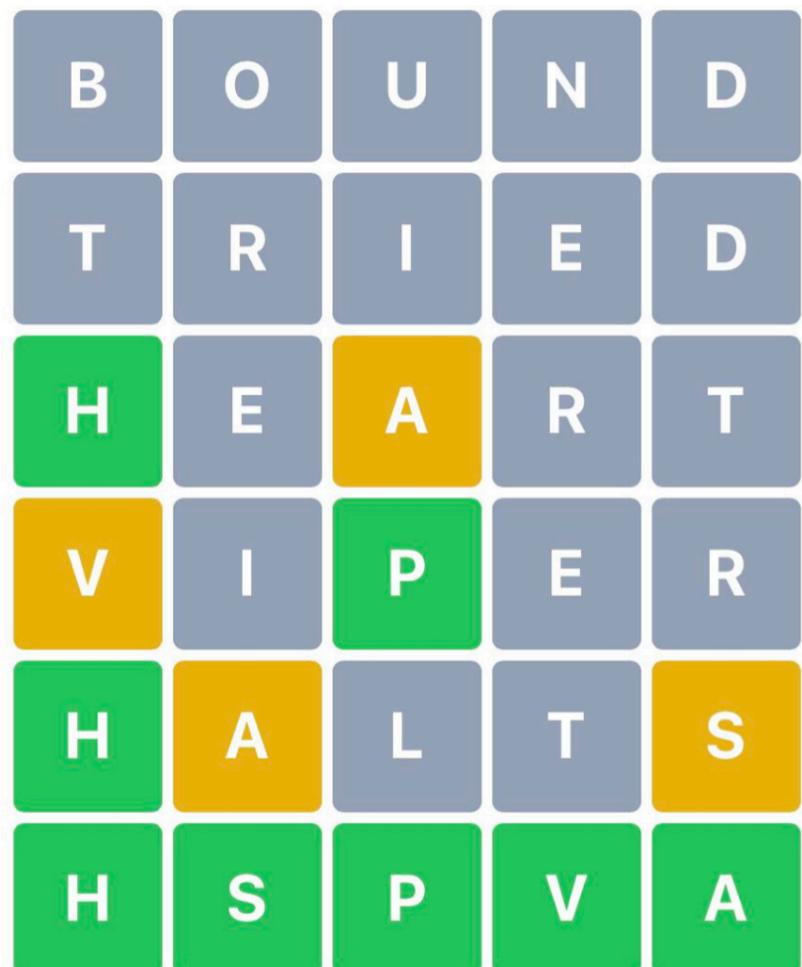
- a) I'm spontaneous- it changes every day!
- b) Two strategic words I rotate between.
- c) Use the statistically most beneficial word every day.
- d) Same word every day, hoping to one day get it in one.
- e) A pop culture reference.

5. What other kinds of games do you like to play?

- a) Friendship-enders. Uno, Sorry, Monopoly.
- b) Skill. Scrabble, Hungry Hungry Hippo, Blackjack.
- c) Strategy. Chess, Catan, Risk.
- d) Worldbuilding. D&D, Pandemic, escape rooms.
- e) Performance. Charades, Poker, Exquisite Corpse

6. Pick a floor.

- a) Second Floor
- b) First Floor
- c) Fifth Floor
- d) Fourth Floor
- e) Third Floor



Mostly As: Absurdle. Like Wordle, but eviler. It doesn't start with a predetermined word; instead, changing it as you go to make it harder. I'm sorry, but you are the kind of person who cheats on board games. But hey, you gotta do what you gotta do.

Mostly Bs: Dordle. Two grids instead of one, but you still only get six guesses that must be used for both. You make life a little bit harder for yourself than it needs to be, but overall scarily impressive. You are a multitasker.

Mostly Cs: Nerdle. Instead of guessing a word, you guess an equation. You might be a bit more on the math-y side but still have plenty of creativity to go around. All of your friends think you are a genius.

Mostly Ds: Worldle. Countries instead of words, and kilometers from the correct answer instead of blue and white tiles. You're only in high school, but are quite world(le)-ly. Has an advantage in history classes.

Mostly Es: Taylordle. Wordle, but with Taylor Swift references only. To be honest, there's not much more that needs saying.

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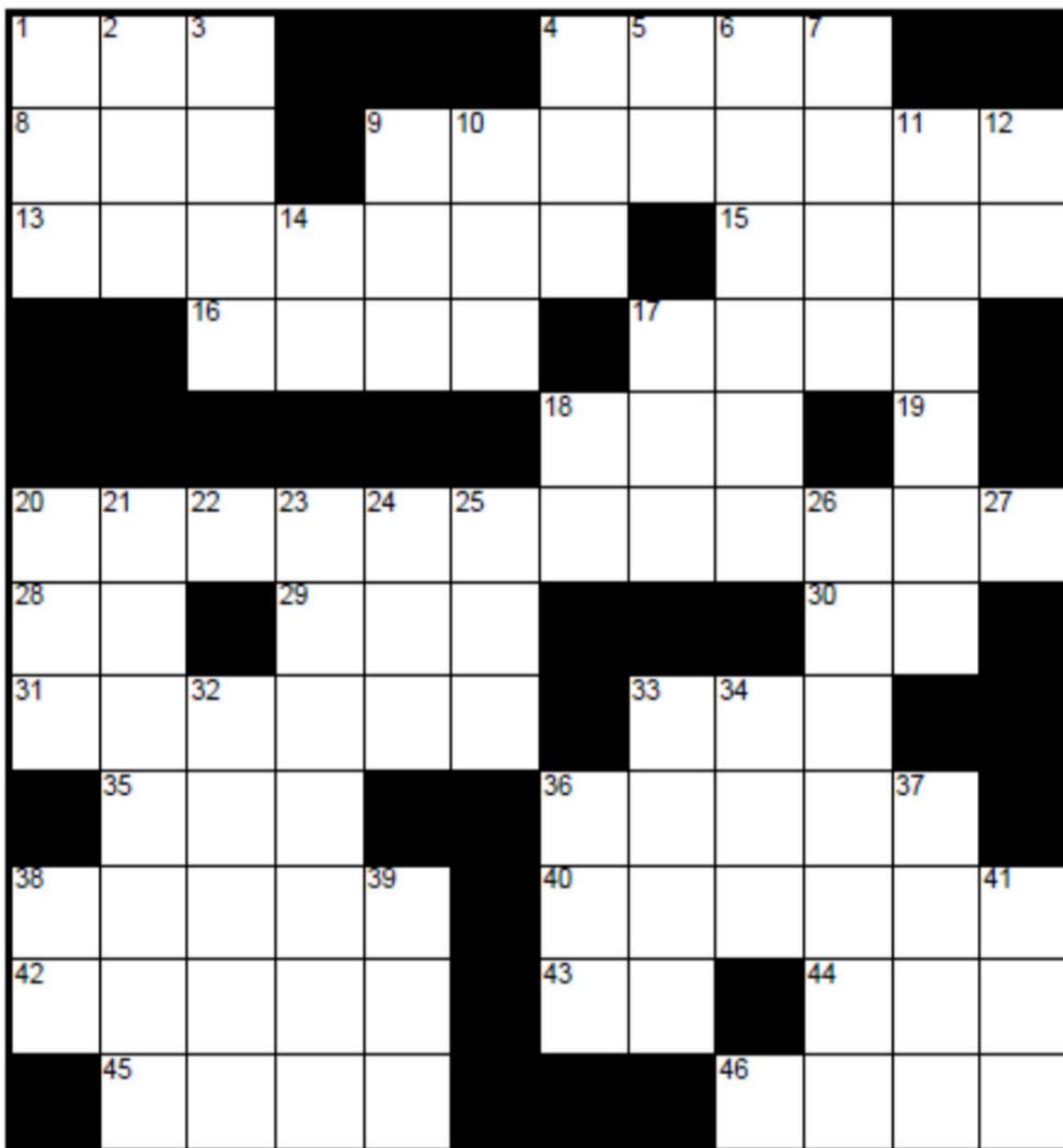
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# Crossword

By Sofia Fontenot



## ACROSS

- \_\_\_ soup (a thick fog)
- Furthest behind
- Boat for animals
- Most likely to compare two things without using like or as, with 13-Across
- With 9-Across
- “Sign me up!”
- “Houston, we have a problem” recipient
- His Roman form is Mars
- U.S. investigatory bureau
- Most likely to be practicing their art in the stairwell
- Robot smarts
- Did a marathon
- Hectoliter
- HSPVA’s \_\_\_ Blanche
- Pinocchio’s nose grower
- Tourmaline, topaz, or turquoise, for example
- Most likely to be an alto, perhaps
- Most likely to be barefoot during a fire drill
- Picnic beverage, perhaps
- A polite way to refer to Samuel
- The kung fu panda
- A young newt
- Prefix for dynamic or space
- With 11-down

## DOWN

- Half of a native U.S. fruit?
- Make a boo-boo
- Like
- Break a \_\_\_!
- Chunkier battery size
- Add to a simmering pot, perhaps
- Clocks keep this
- Not trans
- DNA’s less popular cousin
- Most likely to use a power saw during class, with 46-Across.
- “\_\_\_ garde!” (duel term)
- Like Ms. Sardella OR atomic #73
- Pal on a penny?
- AM alternative
- \_\_\_ the Walrus (Beatles)
- Falls across a border?
- Trolley bus
- What Aries represents
- “Ceci n’est pas - pipe”
- Most likely to be wearing all black
- Like Ways of the World by Harm de Blij
- Crazy, to Sr. Alarcon
- What Saturn’s rings are made of, mainly
- One given special access, perhaps
- It couldn’t be less right
- Creator of a Dungeons and Dragons campaign
- Angsty relative of punk rock
- @@@@@

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# How To Organize Your Planner

By Matthew Jeong

The planner is given to students every year, bound in laminated plastic and colored paper. But not everyone uses our wonderful planners, so if you want to fully utilize the potential yours possesses, please follow these guidelines.

Due dates can easily be forgotten and sneak up on you at the last minute. You should always take care to write any assignment or events that have a planned date or time. It’s helpful to mark when to finish said assignment beforehand as well. Plan out every week by writing down the time it is due as well as when to start and finish those activities.

Categories make a planner organized. Every event, assignment, and other activities should be split up and divided into the boxes of your planner. Classes for red days and gray days should always have their respective due dates and notes written in their own specific boxes. Any other events such as clubs can be written below in the blank spaces beneath the classes. This way, you can easily be able to tell what to do from looking at your planner.

Even if your planner is well written, it’s a moot point unless you actually look at it. Therefore, you should constantly check your planner and make sure you follow its schedule. Update it when needed, and carry it with you in your bag both at school and at home. When you finish an activity on your planner, you can cross it out so that you do not get confused about needing to do it later. This also gives a nice sense of accomplishment.

Managing and using your planner effectively can help you use your time to the best of your ability and keep you organized. Through due dates, categories, and usage, your planner can help you be more efficient and structured.

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# paperreviews\*

\*in case you care what we think

## The Farewell

**Saranna Zhang:** This one hurt a lot. Like, a lot. Like, cry in front of your friends and try to hide it by laughing uncomfortably for three minutes a lot.

**Will Newman:** This movie perfectly displays the talent Aquafina has to seamlessly shift from comedic to dramatic tones. Her performance in The Farewell proves that she has a grasp on when to be funny which is important in a movie that I would argue is a comedy. The film is definitely dealing with very heavy subject matter but it still manages to take it's commentary on tradition and present it in a very well written black comedy. The one thing I would have liked more was a more consistent directorial style from Lulu Chang but I think she, with the exception of some choices, was able to balance the mix of tones presented pretty well.

## Too Hot to Handle

**Sarannah Zhang:** I felt myself losing IQ points but I just couldn't look away.

**Will Newman:** I felt myself losing IQ points and I wouldn't have minded looking away.

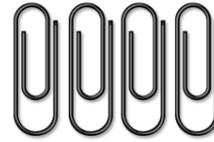
## Matt Hune Bingo 2

Tea	Contradicts himself	"Organic"	References to books/shows he's watching	".....yeah"
"Take a shape"	Ralph Lauren black shirts	Doesn't finish his thought	On his phone when you're working	Phoenicia
Misuses slang	Deep inhale and cross legs	Rec Room	"I don't know"	Tales of his PVA years (rare)
Ike Holter/ Kurt Vonnegut	"Walk around the space"	Wandering in/out of rooms without saying anything	Capitalism bad	*runs hand through hair to make it stick up*
Compositions that don't inform the final piece	*grabs his boobs when thinking*	Wife <3 (and baby???)	"Conceptual"	Brecht/ Stanislavsky/ Meisner fanboy

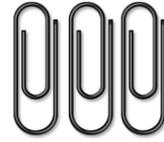
### paperreviews\* ratings



Being Promposed to



Bringing back Winter Ball



Winter Ball being canceled



pvaconfessions



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# Horoscopes

By Gabby Iaroslavitz

## Aries

This season has felt very overwhelming to you, don't worry! Good things are on their way! Look out for opportunities to make money by using your talents and skills. Listen to: Dark Red - Steve Lacy

## Taurus

Life feels very fun and unimportant right now, make sure you are still doing work and progressing towards your goals. And for junior Tauruses make sure you do at least a little SAT prep ;) Listen to: Majorette - Beach House

## Gemini

You are very stressed as of late, make sure you don't overthink the little things. Crying over spilled milk does nothing. Pick yourself up Gemini, you got this! Listen to: Stay Soft-Mitski

## Cancer

Cancer, I am gonna be honest, you're a hot mess right now. Think about what you truly want and sort things out. You are capable of so much you just have to know what you want! Listen to: Gospel For A New Century - Yves Tumor

## Leo

I know this is very uncharacteristic of y'all, but you have been very selfless in the past couple months. Take a second, have a self care night, take a bath, and do a face mask! Listen to: Shut Up and Drive - Rihanna

## Virgo

Are you feeling like a burden Virgo? You are overthinking, your friends love your company, your endeavors are on track and going smoothly. Be gentle with yourself. Listen to: Consideration - Rihanna & SZA



## Scorpio

Scorpio, you've been feeling platonically loving lately. Friendship is so important for support, just make sure you keep things platonic you little rascals. Listen to: Lovers Rock - TV Girl

## Sagittarius

Sagittarius, reach out to an old friend, they miss you! You have been closed off from your previous close circle, you might not be besties anymore but that doesn't mean they don't value your company. Listen to: Teenager - Deftones

## Capricorn

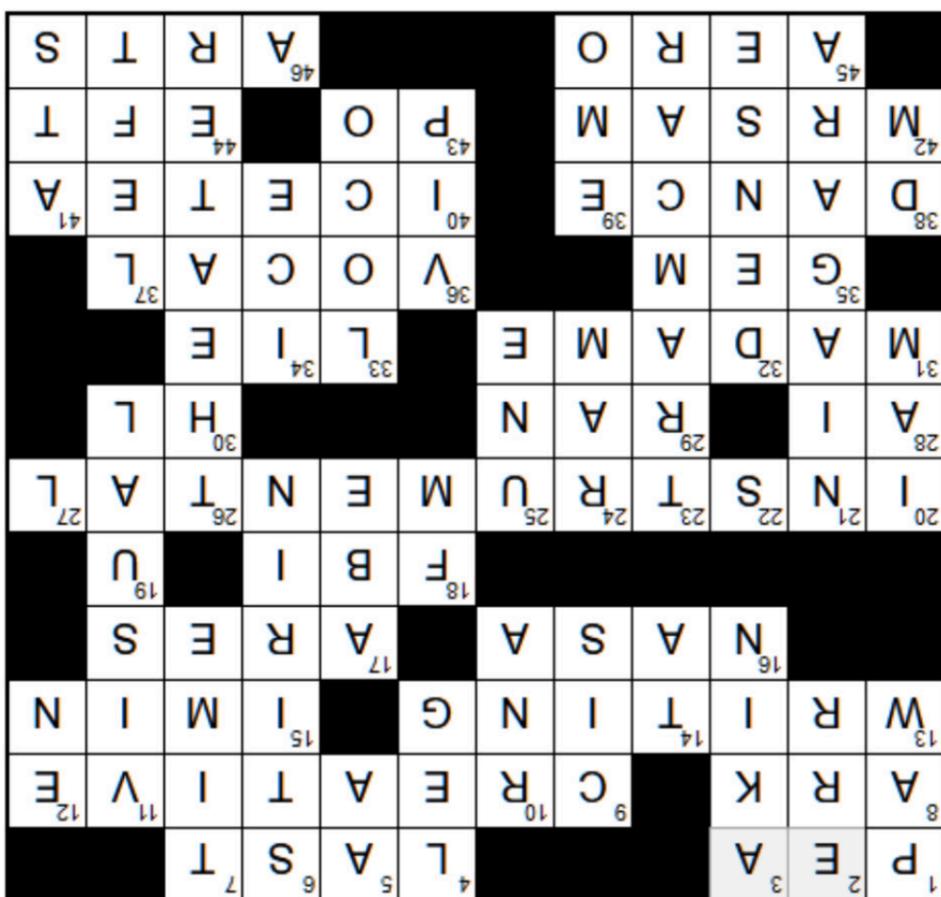
Capricorn, speak up! Say what's on your mind! Your close circle is missing your openness and honesty. Have a conversation with your friends and tell them what's going on in your life. They are feeling disconnected. Listen to: Cherry Wine - Hozier

## Aquarius

Aquarius, you are feeling restless and petty. Don't let this start arguments. You are better than that! Take a deep breath, Drink some water and get back out there. No one likes a short temper, it won't help your case. Listen to: Show Me What You Got - Limp Bizkit

## Pisces

Pisces, don't let your emotions get the best of you. You feel so deeply and that's not your fault, but it's hard to concentrate with those infamous Pisces mood swings. Nothing is that important to get that worked up over, take a beat. Listen to: John Wayne - C.A.S.



<----- Crossword Answers

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# Love Month Mixtapes

By Tobi Carr and Callisto Lim

**“Power Trip” by J. Cole ft. Miguel** - “Would you believe me if I said I’m in love?” For everyone out there with a crush or a lover, Cole and Miguel pour their hearts into this song.

**“I Dare You” by The Regrettes** - This song feels like how conversation hearts taste. Sweet with a punch, “I Dare You” is a skydiver of a song with 10 Things I Hate About You vibes strong enough to not only bring out your inner Kat Stratford, but to force you to find your own Patrick Verona.

**“Marlboro Nights” by Lonely God** - A short love-filled entry into a journal that we all wish would last longer, much like the moments you spend with your special people.

**“Accidentally in Love” by Counting Crows** - Yes, it’s the song from Shrek 2. But most importantly, it’s one of the sweetest Oscar-nominated love songs I’ve ever heard. Whether you’re in a relationship or not, crushing or heartbroken, this song will bring a smile to your face faster than Shrek can say ogre.

**“I Will Follow You Into the Dark” by Death Cab for Cutie** - A song about love that has traveled the world, that will transcend death

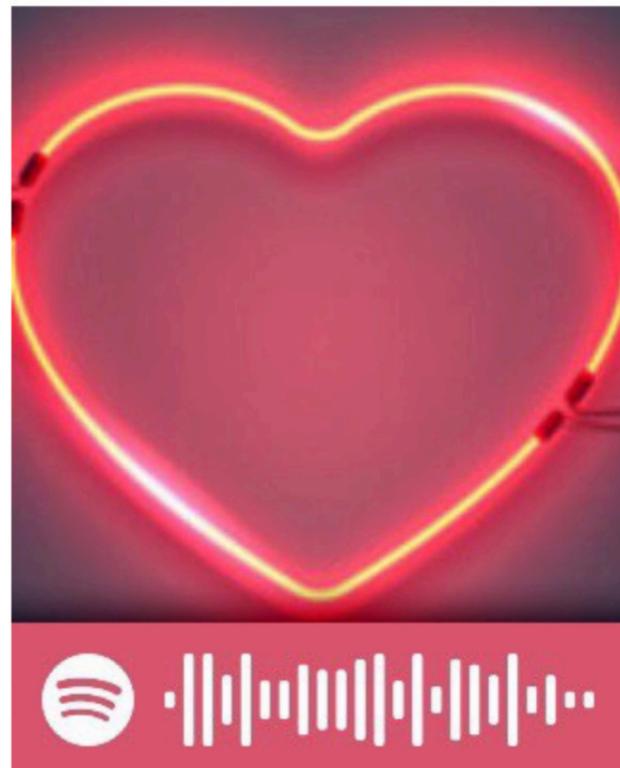
**“Closer” by Tegan & Sara** - Have someone you want to get a little bit closer with? Then look no further than “Closer”, a song perfect for planning your romcom movie moment. It’s synth, it’s fun, an all around 2010s pop classic, and who knows; you might end up getting a little closer to that special someone.

**“El-Shaddai/First Love” by Dylan Sinclair** - One of my personal favorites, Dylan Sinclair starts the song with a slow melody before a beat switch midway through brings out a smooth bass guitar—all while singing about his first love.

**“Crush Culture” by Conan Gray** - Feeling particularly anti-love and need a song to express that? “Crush Culture” is the perfect anthem for those whose hearts have been, well, crushed. And even if your heart is perfectly not broken, “Crush Culture” is still light, fun, and easy to scream along to.

**“Ms. Jackson” by Outkast** - I had to have it. A classic to sing and dance and shout, Outkast’s 22-year-old hit will always have a place in my heart.

**“Enchanted” by Taylor Swift** - If you’re gonna have a Valentine’s Day playlist, you need some Taylor Swift... and if you’re going to Winter Ball, there wouldn’t be a better song to make you feel like you’re in an Enchanted Forest then well... “Enchanted.”



## EXPOSE: The Tellez County Regime

If you’re not a frequent visitor or citizen of the 4th Floor Administrative Office, you may not know of the recent bill that’s been passed in Tellez County. The bill in question, posted on the infamous Tellez County Candy Jar, reads “Limit 1 for Theatre Seniors.”

On November 5th, 2021, five measly words were scrawled in lazy scratch onto a post-it note taped to a candy jar that changed the world forever. Frankly, it’s an offense to every Theatre senior.

Tellez sympathizers will attempt to persuade you that Theatre Seniors are roaches- mere bottom feeders that skitter up to the fourth floor through tunnels in the walls, robbing Tellez of his candy without permission. That claim is far from the truth, we use the tunnels in the basement, everyone knows that.

While the nation of the 4th floor office is divided on the subject, I contend that it is discrimination against the Theatre Department. Our founders did not fight for our Downtown land plot for this. The HSPVA Constitution cites that “all departments are created equal,” but how can we be equal when a figure of authority in our community controls us? HSPVA is supposed to be a hub of creativity and freedom, it is certain that a school that prides itself on being liberating shouldn’t deprive its students of the delectable sweet treats of the 4th floor office.

Furthermore, Tellez County’s government is clearly corrupt- who is “The Management?” Hidden power figures of Tellez County, reveal yourselves and be transparent to your citizens, as we all know what happens in the shadows.

The bill is an infringement of our civil liberties, the restriction of candy to the theatre seniors is a disgusting execution of power, and it must be stopped! The Theatre Seniors will no longer stand for it, which is why we formed the People Against Tellez (P.A.T.). Until the Tellez County Candy Jar Bill is repealed, we as a collective must stand in unity against this atrocity. I urge the rest of the student body to stand with us, please do not stand by. We can fix this systemic issue, but only if we unite as one PVA.

Signed,  
Lily Afghani (Class of 2022, Theatre)

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# The New Generation War: Millenials Should Be Canceled

By Adelaide Fairbanks

If you've been on the internet (i.e. tiktok), you may have noticed a fight brewing between Millennials (those born between 1980-1995) and Gen Z (our generation, from 1996-2010), with some going on to call it the new generation war. Insults have been thrown over words like "adulthood" and "heckin doggo", and Gen Z has been calling to end the idea that Millennials represent all young people. And this is well deserved. With each new generation comes the usurpation of the previous one. Teenagers are the foundation on which the entertainment industry is built, and that reliance means that producers look to our generation for inspiration on how to cater to young people, their prime source of revenue. And, though they act like them, Millennials are no longer teenagers. Gen Z has been calling the shots on trends for a while now. Besides, some of the fads that Millennials have spearheaded are.....lackluster at best. The "lol wine and pizza" jokes border on boomer humor and they were the ones who invented cringe culture. Millennials may accuse us of being the idiots who ate Tide pods,\* but at least we didn't give an entire generation an individuality complex with the idea of being "not like other girls." The disingenuous #girlboss movements of old need to end, and with them, the supremacy of their creators.

## Stop Canceling Millenials

By Adelaide Fairbanks

As a wearer of both skinny jeans and a side part, I must come to the defense of Millennials. They have done so much for us. They took most of the ridicule from older generations. They brought mental health to the forefront of conversation. They were the first to navigate the internet as teenagers and made a ton of mistakes for us. Also, almost every celebrity or creator you grew up with and love is most likely a millennial. Though we are our own generation, we are heavily influenced by the one that came before us. This blown up generation war is a perfect distraction from important issues that we as young people should come together to fight against and solve. It's an unnecessarily petty division, and even if it's mostly lighthearted, people prove time and time again that they get butthurt over the littlest thing (i.e. the reaction to "ok boomer"). In order to enact the change that we want to see in the world, we are going to have to work with each other, as cheesy as it sounds. Creating an "us vs them" mentality early on will get us nowhere. And while making fun of people obsessed with their Hogwarts house is fun, we are ultimately stuck with each other for the foreseeable future, and it is in our best interest to make the best of it.

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\*paper asks you to refrain from ingesting laundry detergent

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# Overheard<sup>\*</sup>

\*have you heard? Submit to @hspvapaper on insta!

I thought Nelson Mandela was a basketball player. -Lucie Phillips

Yeet. Yes, I am a 51 year old man. -Mr. Crawford

Every white person has a little Irish in them. -Camryn Corron

I'm good at opinions. -Alia Nadvoretskaya

I thought you were dressing up as Pitbull for Halloween.

- Audrey Tollet

That would require me to acknowledge his existence.

- Mr. Hammon

I'm in the vocal department not the thinking department okay? -Steven Frisby

Someone in the math department is on my body list. -Ms. Chase

To be or not to pee - Mr. Hune

I think being a cannibal would solve a lot of our overpopulation issues. -Charlize Tabrizi

You don't just go to Olive garden, you end up at Olive Garden. -Brian Oliveria

I'm the thickest one here, so be quiet. - Robert Wise

We're just gonna change that 6 to a 5. And that's how politics work. - Sadie Luce

That's what polyamorous means? I thought it was about the people with two heads! - Jaden Madgett

Naked would be great. I just don't have the space for it. - Mr. Hune

I wish they made a sequel to Home Alone 2. - Grant Eason

You mean Home Alone 3? -Raf Pina

Paternal flirting? - Kat Henry

You can't just dance away racism! If you could, I'd be ponying my way to freedom right now. - Skylar Jones

Where is my God mic? -Nic Lam

Racism is not camp - Erick Arakelian

I'm not anti-mask, just self absorbed.- Clarq Balque

God took it back - Robert Wise

Racism is camp - Cortlandt Barrett

They're free tickets if you buy them - Erick Arakelian

I'm barely a straight white man and I'm a straight white man - Mr. Hammon

Periods are not gaydars -Mr. Trout

paper<sup>\*</sup>  
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