

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

The DisHonors Awards: The Best Yet

Dear Member,

The MRC's annual DisHonors Awards was a smashing success!

The DisHonors were held on March 27 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., and by all accounts it was the best awards dinner we've ever had. I've never received as many compliments from supporters and guests, whose most common comment was "how will you top this?"

While the dinner, awards ceremony and concluding concert by The Charlie Daniels Band were riveting fun, the event had a most serious purpose: to make a national statement about the leftist press. The C-SPAN cable network filmed the ceremony, which enables us to ultimately reach millions of people with our message. In addition, the coverage will also allow many of our supporters who were unable to join us in Washington to see what an effective, prestigious organization you've helped create.

The DisHonors event is modeled after the "Oscars" awards, except the "winning" journalists were selected on the basis of how biased their comments or reports were during the preceding year. This year, there were five major awards, followed by the "Most Biased Quote of the Year Award."

MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER

Nominees for each category were selected by the senior staff at the MRC, who combed through our massive archives to find 2002's most biased quotes. The quotes were placed into five categories and provided to a distinguished group of 14 judges that included Rush Limbaugh, William F. Buckley, Jr., Robert Novak, Michael Reagan and William Rusher, among others. The judges voted for a winner and two runners-up in each category and, the "winners" were announced at the DisHonors.

As a fun touch, we invite a top conservative leader to "accept" the award on behalf of the winner.

More than 900 conservatives from around the country attended this year's Dishonors and our participants were a literal who's who of the conservative movement. Sean Hannity, the co-host of Fox News' *Hannity & Colmes*; Laura Ingraham, the host of the country's third-highest rated conservative radio talk show; and Anne Coulter, the best-selling author of

Slander: Liberal Lies About the America Right, were our Presenters. Rich Lowry of *National Review*, Steve Moore of The Club for Growth, Judge Robert Bork, author Mona Charen and the *Washington Times*' Tony Blankley were our Accepters.

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President Bozell greets a cheering audience.



The Charlie Daniels Band got the house out of their seats and on their feet.

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America's Media Watchdog

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Cal Thomas, the famed syndicated columnist who hosts *After Hours with Cal Thomas* on Fox News, was the emcee for the second straight year and he opened the event by noting that it was “our night to slice and dice the liberal media.”

The first Presenter to “slice and dice” was Fox News star Sean Hannity. Hannity received a standing ovation as he stepped to the podium and presented “The Ozzy Ozbourne Award for the Wackiest Comment of the Year.” (The full quotes and the Accepters’ remarks have been printed on pages four and five.)

Hannity also presented the “The I’m Not a Geopolitical Genius But I Play One on TV

Award,” a category composed entirely of Hollywood celebrity insults about conservatives and President Bush. “Not since the days of...Ronald Wilson Reagan, has the radical Hollywood Left been more upset, more pugnacious, more obnoxious – and let’s be honest – more amusing,” Hannity told the audience.

As Hannity left the stage, he thanked the MRC for our work in fighting liberal bias. “What you do is a national treasure, a national resource,” he said.

Laura Ingraham was the second Presenter and handed out the “And They Called It Puppy Love Award” and “The Ashamed of the Red, White and Blue Award.” Ingraham was followed by Ann Coulter, who was responsible for dispensing the “I Hate You Conservatives Award.” Known for her sharp wit, the best-selling author delivered. “Watching [Bill] Moyers on PBS makes you long for something a little more fair and balanced, something like Al Jazeera,” she said to uproarious laughter.

After Coulter’s presentation, an audience vote was held to determine which journalist would win the “Quote of the Year.” To learn the answer, you’re going to have to go to page five.

When the awards were over, it was time for The Charlie Daniels Band to take the stage. Why Charlie Daniels? Daniels had caught my attention last summer when PBS refused to allow him to play “The Last Fallen Hero,” a song he had written in honor of 9-11 victims, at the 4th of July concert on the National Mall. Daniels courageously refused to be censored and pulled out of the event altogether. Since that time, Daniels has been outspoken in his condemnation of Hollywood critics of the war in Iraq, writing on his web site’s “Soapbox” that they are ‘a bunch of pampered, overpaid, unrealistic children’ and “the most disgusting examples of a waste of protoplasm I’ve ever had the displeasure to hear about.”

A man with this kind of conviction was a natural for the Dishonors and we felt it was right for the MRC to bring him back to Washington. His concert was an energetic, patriotic performance that suited the mood of the room perfectly and he brought the house down.

It was a great evening, and a successful evening, and one that was only possible because of your support.

Until next time,



L. Brent Bozell III

“The network news and many of the large newspapers in this country have a liberal political agenda and they know that if the news is presented fairly that you’ll be less likely to swallow their line. Thank God for the work of the Media Research Center, who has exposed their left wing bias.”

~ Charlie Daniels ~



Cal Thomas presided over the evening’s events.



Singer Kim Polote left the audience speechless with her rendition of “Amazing Grace” and “God Bless America.”



Sean Hannity had the crowd laughing and begging for more.

“Regardless of your political bent, you had to admire the production values. Huge video screens surrounded the banquet room, giving attendees larger-than-life glimpses of their media heroes. Flag-waving country music legend Charlie Daniels tore through a blistering set of patriotic tunes to close the show”

**Michael Coleman ~April 6, 2003
Albuquerque Tribune (NM)**

For more on the DisHonors...see page 4, 5, and 6

Media War Predictions: More Egg on Their Faces

On April 9, the very day Baghdad fell to U.S. forces, the MRC issued a special “Quote and Gloat” *CyberAlert* that highlighted the ridiculous predictions many journalists had made about the war. The *New York Post* ran several quotes and the April 13 *Washington Times* did a front-page story on the special issue, complete with an interview of MRC Vice President of Research and Publications Brent Baker.

Length makes it impossible to include all the quotes, but here are some of the worst predictions, questions and comments made by journalists during the war.



The War Plan Is a Disaster

“Now America is re-appraising the battlefield, delaying the war, maybe a week, and re-writing the war plan. The first war plan has failed because of Iraqi resistance; now they are trying to write another war plan.”

—NBC/MSNBC/National Geographic Explorer correspondent Peter Arnett’s comments on Iraq’s state-controlled television, March 30.

“With every passing day, it is more evident that the allies made two gross military misjudgments in concluding that coalition forces could safely bypass Basra and Nasiriya and that Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq would rise up against Saddam Hussein...’Shock and awe’ neither shocked nor awed.”

—R. W. Apple, Jr., in a March 30 news analysis in the *New York Times*.

Aid and Comfort For the Enemy

“Within the United States there is a growing challenge to President Bush about the conduct of the war and also opposition to the war. So our reports

about civilian casualties here...help those who oppose the war...”

—NBC/MSNBC/National Geographic Explorer correspondent Peter Arnett’s comments on Iraq’s state-controlled television, March 30.



It Will be a Long, Costly, Vietnam, Quagmire Sort of War

“...Success will come at a significant cost. Forget the easy victories of the last twenty years; this war is more like the ones we knew before.”

—Ted Koppel, ABC’s *Nightline*, March 24.

“You fought in Vietnam. Are you getting any feelings of deja vu?”

—CBS’s Lesley Stahl in a March 25 interview with former Secretary of the Navy James Webb.

“Do you think they [Iraqi troops] are under duress or do you take from this that this is going to be a long, protracted, quagmire of a war?”

—Diane Sawyer interviewing Dr. Shafreeq Ghabra, President of the American Kuwait University, on *Good Morning America*, March 25.



John McWethy: “...U.S. intelligence sources are saying that some of Saddam Hussein’s toughest security forces are now apparently digging in, apparently willing to defend their city block by block. This could be, Peter, a long war.”

Peter Jennings: “As many people had anticipated.”

—ABC’s *World News Tonight*, April 4.

Why Aren’t the Iraqis Welcoming Us?

“What happened to the flowers expected to be tossed the way of the Americans? Was it a terrible miscalculation?”

—Question from Diane Sawyer on *Good Morning America* on March 25.

“...Does the President have any judgment as to whether...these are Iraqis who believe they are acting as patriots defending their country from an invasion?”

—ABC’s Terry Moran at a White House press conference on March 28.

“Tells *Meet the Press* just before the war, ‘We will be greeted as liberators.’ An arrogant blunder for the ages.”

—*Newsweek*’s April 7 “Conventional Wisdom” column item on Vice President Dick Cheney.

Saddam Was Really Popular

Diane Sawyer: “I read this morning that he’s also said the love that the Iraqis have for him is so much greater than anything Americans feel for their President because he’s been loved for 35 years, he says, the whole 35 years.”

Dan Harris in Baghdad: “He is one to point out quite frequently that he is part of a historical trend in this country of restoring Iraq to its greatness, its historical greatness. He points out frequently that he was elected with a hundred percent margin recently.”

—Exchange on ABC’s *Good Morning America*, March 7.

U.S. is Killing Too Many Civilians

“...There is too much civilian death going on here and the U.S. military flunked, flunked the test of devising a way to have an inside-out removal of this regime instead of setting up these almost medieval siege situations.”

—History Channel host Arthur Kent, who covered the first Gulf War for NBC News, on CNN’s *Larry King Live*, April 5.



The Media Research Center

Roasting the Most Outrageously

Cal Thomas, the nationally syndicated columnist and host of Fox News *After Hours with Cal Thomas*, emceed the event. Award presenters were Sean Hannity, host of his own radio show and co-host of Fox News *Hannity & Colmes*; Laura Ingraham, the host of *The Laura Ingraham Show*, and Ann Coulter, the nationally syndicated columnist and best-selling author of *Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right*.

Award #1: Ozzy Osbourne Award for the Wackiest Comment of the Year

~ Presented by Sean Hannity



WINNER: “Seven years ago, when the last referendum took place, Saddam Hussein won 99.96 percent of the vote. Of course, it is impossible to say whether that’s a true measure of the Iraqi people’s feelings.”

— David Wright, *World News Tonight*, October 15, 2002.

Rich Lowry, Editor of *National Review*, accepts on Wright’s behalf:

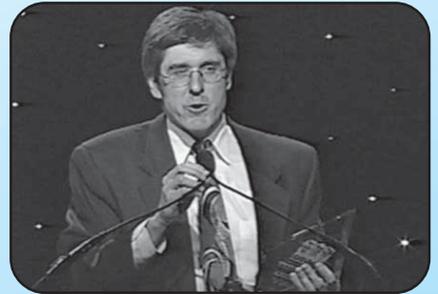
“David is very sorry that he couldn’t make it here this evening. Anyone who works at ABC News never wants to miss an opportunity to spend time with Brent Bozell. David didn’t make it here tonight because he is hard at work...looking at the exit polls trying to figure out what happened to that .04 percent of the vote that didn’t go to Saddam Hussein. Did Saddam go negative too soon? Was it Saddam’s tax cuts for the rich that just didn’t work in the precincts outside of Basra? Fortunately, all these questions will soon be answered because what U.S. cruise missiles are currently engaged in can be thought of as a massive recount...”



Award #2: I’m Not a Geopolitical Genius But I Play One on TV. ~ Presented by Sean Hannity.

WINNER: “I despise him [President George W. Bush]. I despise his administration and everything they stand for...To my mind the election was stolen by George Bush and we have been suffering ever since under this man’s leadership...There has to be a movement now to really oppose what he is proposing because it’s unconstitutional, it’s immoral and basically illegal...It is an embarrassing time to be an American. It really is. It’s humiliating...”

—Actress Jessica Lange at the San Sebastian Film Festival in Spain on September 25, 2002.



Steve Moore, President of the Club for Growth, picks the award up for Lange:

“Don’t you think they were all deserving of an award? I spent my whole life waiting to win some award and this is the first time I’ve actually won an award. It’s just disconcerting that if took Jessica Lange being a complete nincompoop to win...Thank you, Media Research Center for holding not only the media, but also Hollywood, accountable for their lunacy.”

Award #3: And They Called It Puppy Love ~ Presented by Laura Ingraham



WINNER: “For Castro, freedom starts with education. And if literacy alone were the yardstick, Cuba would rank as one of the freest nations on Earth. The literacy rate is 96 percent.”

— Barbara Walters, ABC’s *20/20*, October 11, 2002.

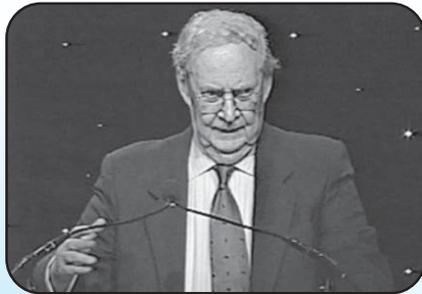
Judge Robert Bork accepts on Walters behalf:

“Barbara Walters told me she was grateful to receive this award but then she said she was grateful to receive any award. She didn’t much care, however, for this quotation that was attributed to her. She said she never said it and what she meant was that literacy is only the first step to freedom and that’s why Castro has created advanced institution for the further study of

Center's Dishonors Awards: Biased Liberal Reporting of 2002



freedom. They happen to have bars on the windows. But I'm told...that the intellectual excitement is so great in these institutions that you can hear the screams day and night..."



Award #4: Ashamed of the Red, White and Blue. ~ Presented by Laura Ingraham.

WINNER: "...We give an infinitesimal amount of our money to people around the world. I think what people around the world would say is it would take so little for this rich country to help and alleviate so much misery and even that is too much for them. We're oblivious to suffering..."

...Iraqis, I think, feel that if we drove smaller cars, maybe we wouldn't have to kill them for their oil."

— Bill Maher on *Larry King Live*, November 1, 2002.

Author Mona Charen accepts for Bill Maher:

"Helen Thomas is devastated because she did not win. However, I have been able to assure her that Media Research Center



next year will award her a lifetime achievement award... Regarding Bill Maher. Let us recall that he said Americans are oblivious to suffering... the only answer can be obviously not, some of us have seen your program..."

Award #5: The I Hate You Conservatives Award. ~ Presented by Ann Coulter.

WINNER: "The entire federal government — the Congress, the executive, the courts — is united behind a right-wing agenda for which George W. Bush believes he now has a mandate. That agenda includes the power of the state to force pregnant women to surrender control over their own lives. It includes using the taxing power to transfer wealth from working people to the rich. It includes giving corporations a free hand to eviscerate the environment and control the regulatory agencies meant to hold them accountable. And it includes secrecy on a scale you cannot imagine."

"Above all, it means judges with a political agenda appointed for life. If you like the Supreme Court that put George W. Bush in the White House, you will swoon over what's coming. And if you like God in government, get ready for the Rapture...."

"So it's a heady time in Washington, a heady time for piety, profits and military power, all joined at the hip by ideology and money. Don't forget the money...."

"Republicans out-raised Democrats by \$184 million and they came up with the big prize: monopoly control of the American government and the power of the state to turn their radical ideology into the law of the land. Quite a bargain at any price."

— PBS's Bill Moyers, *NOW*, November 8, 2002.



Washington Times Editorial Page Editor and McLaughlin Group regular Tony Blankley accepts on behalf of Moyers.

"Bill Moyers...couldn't be here tonight. He is currently embedded in his limousine. When he tried getting around without a limousine, he got stopped for drunken driving and then berated the state trooper who tried to take him under control, so he went back to his limousine. He...is a former preacher, a man of God. He spent most of his career characterizing politics as a nasty business but he



was the guy...who designed that awful, the worst political ad in history, that attacked Barry Goldwater as a man who would start a nuclear war and kill our children. Then he spent the rest of his time after

that being sanctimonious. I think he wins this award and I'll be glad next year to nominate him for the same award."

In an audience vote at the end of the presentations, Moyers' rant was also selected as "Quote of the Year."

The DisHonors is scheduled to play on a future edition of C-SPAN "Perspectives" ~ Saturdays at 8:00. Check your local listings. Or, to watch some hilarious video clips of the event now, log on to:

www.mrc.org/notablequotables/dishonor/03/welcome.asp



By Scott Hogenson
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



CNSNews.com First in War, First in Peace

Before the first bombs fell in the war to liberate Iraq from its dictatorial leadership, the staff of CNSNews.com was on the ground, marking another milestone for the Media Research Center's on-line newswire.

Hours after arriving on the scene, the first of dozens of articles and photographs from Iraq and Kuwait appeared on CNSNews.com, the first independent Internet news agency in history to deliver in-theater staff reports from a war zone; a fitting compliment to our being the first independent Internet news agency to be credentialed by the U.S. Congress.

While we're enormously proud of these achievements and your continued support that makes them possible, we're just as proud of our coverage of the war in Iraq, which once again reflected our commitment to reporting news the establishment media neglect.



News like our March 23 dispatch revolving around interviews with Muslims in Kuwait, all of whom wanted to see an end to the rule of Saddam Hussein. While many in the establishment media were content to interview talking heads about the status of "The Arab Street," CNSNews.com was getting to the truth by interviewing dozens of Muslims in their shops and offices.

The major networks devoted a good chunk of their coverage to so-called anti-war protests from San Francisco and New York, but they somehow managed to overlook the pro-U.S. demonstration in Kuwait City, an event on which CNSNews.com reported on March 26.

As American leftists proclaimed their opposition to the war to liberate Iraq, CNSNews.com provided continuing coverage of diplomatic efforts to condemn and end Iraq's repeated missile attacks on Kuwait, which routinely sent people scrambling for bomb shelters and gas masks during the opening weeks of the war.

Before those missile attacks ended, thousands fled Kuwait in fear of Saddam Hussein and his barbarity against fellow

Muslims, and CNSNews.com readers got first-hand accounts of hundreds of Iranians fleeing by boat.

Criticism of America's role in the war received wide coverage in the establishment press, but it was CNSNews.com that reported on the military contributions of the Czech Republic, Great Britain, the Slovak Republic and other nations.

There were also the stories of hope and chaos, like humanitarian efforts by Kuwait Red Crescent volunteers and the delivery of water and food to frantic Iraqis who swarmed delivery trucks amid sporadic machine gun fire.



Our in-theater coverage of the war was beautifully complimented by the tireless efforts of other CNSNews.com staff working around the clock to report on war developments at the Pentagon, Capitol Hill, the White House and world capitals across the globe.



As was the case during other historic events that have touched the lives of millions – the September 11 attacks, the election crisis of 2000, the impeachment of an American president – the entire staff of CNSNews.com turned to during the war in Iraq and brought home the news with pride and professionalism.

I congratulate each and every one of these journalists for their hard work and salute you for the support that makes it all happen.

The Washington Times

DisHonor for Liberal Media

By Christian Toto Tuesday, April 1, 2003, page B8

Conservatives surveyed a “target-rich environment” last week at the Media Research Center’s annual DisHonor Awards, roasting liberal bias in the press with verbal equivalents of bunker busters.

Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter and other right-of-center superstars took turns bashing the likes of Barbara Walters, Helen Thomas and Bill Moyers at Thursday’s dinner at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Media Research Center founder L. Brent Bozell III, whose group keeps tabs on journalists by spotlighting items dripping with liberal spin, beamed as he addressed the ideological faithful.

“They’re aligned with the protest army, we’re aligned with the U.S. Army,” he said to massive applause. “They have the *New York Times*, we have *The Washington Times*.”

He excoriated the antiwar left for failing to support our troops.

“This is not Vietnam, and this time you’re not going to undermine U.S. resolve,” Mr. Bozell said.

Miss Coulter said watching PBS’ Bill Moyers “makes you long for something more balanced, like al Jazeera,” the Arab-based network. (Mr. Moyers, by the way, “swept” the program by winning two of the six awards. Other winners were ABC’s David Wright and Barbara Walters, actress Jessica Lange and comedian Bill Maher.)

Master of ceremonies Cal Thomas let loose with a few haymakers himself, saying many media outlets operate under the mantra “we distort and we decide,” a riff on Fox News’ “we report, you decide” slogan.

A performance by the unabashedly flag-waving Charlie Daniels Band capped the program.

At a pre-show reception, the willowy Miss Coulter alternately puffed on a politically incorrect cigarette and posed for pictures with fans. Ever the provocateuse, the author of the best-selling *Slander* said she couldn’t pick out one media figure who showed bias above and beyond the rest.

“I see them as all a blur...like trying to distinguish one al Qaeda member from another,” she said.

Mr. Hannity, the dapper New York-based talk show star, said many in the media “still don’t get it.”

“There’s a sick side of me that’s glad...it guarantees my longevity,” he chuckled.

Continued on page 8

The MRC: Quoted Coast to Coast

MRC analysis and commentary was in demand throughout the three-week war in Iraq. Here are some of the stories and topics about which our spokesmen provided commentary.

● The Fox News Effect. The April 16 *New York Times* cited President Brent Bozell in a story about Fox News and how its coverage of the war influenced other networks. The *Times* also carried comments from Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham in a March 22 story on press coverage of the Bush administration.

● *New York Times* negative war coverage. Director of Media Analysis Graham appeared on the April 7 *The O’Reilly Factor* on Fox News to talk about the *Times* negative slant and Clay Waters, the director of MRC’s TimesWatch.org web site, discussed the same issue on the April 10 *Lou Dobbs Moneyline* on CNN.

● Peter Arnett’s near-treasonous comments. Graham appeared on NBC’s *Nightly News* with Tom Brokaw on March 31 in a segment that focused on both Arnett’s firing and war coverage in general.

● CNN’s Baghdad admissions. Rich Noyes, the MRC’s Director of Research wrote a *Media Reality Check* on CNN chief news executive Eason Jordan’s admission that the network withheld some information about Saddam Hussein’s government in order to maintain its access in the country. The *Media Reality Check* led to several radio interviews and an appearance on the April 11 *Joe Scarborough Show* on MSNBC. Noyes also wrote an opinion piece for the April 17 *Washington Times* that focused on CNN’s coverage in Cuba and how it has relayed the government’s pronouncements while doing little to highlight how repressive that regime is.

MRC spokesmen and research were also cited in the *New York Post*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Buffalo News*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Edmonton Journal*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Agence France Presse*, *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, Bill O’Reilly’s radio show *The Radio Factor*, *The Michael Reagan Show*, *The Sean Hannity Show* and dozens of other radio shows since the war started in Iraq on March 20.



Washington Times: Continued from page 7

He went on to call the media's coverage of the war "atrocious," citing the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* for making it seem we were losing the war with Iraq when the opposite appears true.

Mr. Thomas shared a more balanced take on the media's work of late, chiding ABC's Peter Jennings but lauding CBS mainstay Dan Rather for a surprisingly solid job.

That doesn't stop other journalists from ignoring the growing belief that the media tilts to the left, he said.

"I think the ones with the disease are the least able to diagnose it," the syndicated columnist said. "To them, they're being fair and balanced."

Do You Know How Your Assets Will Be Distributed and Used Upon Your Death?

Make Sure That The Feds Don't End Up With The Lion's Share Of Your Estate!!!

Even with the recent changes in estate tax legislation, if you pass away with more than \$1 million in your estate (including homes, investments, retirement accounts, etc.), your estate will be subject to taxation on the excess – with rates as high as 50 percent.

Instead, establish a tax-wise legacy for the Media Research Center through a bequest in your will, living trust or retirement plan. Not only will your receive a deduction for the value of your gift, but you will have the comfort of knowing that your assets will be used to support and defend your beliefs and principles.

Call John Corfield today at (800) 672-1423 for more information including proposed bequest language for your attorney.

Inside the MRC

Sara Fulford



Sara Fulford is the Assistant to the Executive Director, a position that supports both the Executive Director and the Director of Development. Among Sara's many tasks are coordinating trips for development associates and managing Internet fundraising. She also supports the President's Office when needed.

Sara is native of Raleigh, N.C. and a 2000 graduate of William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., where she graduated with a B.A. in government. Before coming to the MRC, she worked for former Sen. Jesse Helms from June 2000 through September 2002. Sara started in Helms' office as a staff assistant and eventually became a legislative correspondent responsible for health care legislation and other health care issues affecting North Carolina.

Sara enjoys working at the MRC and has some personal motivation. "It's no secret that my old boss Senator Helms was often treated unfairly by the media," Sara said. "Hopefully, through my work at the MRC, I can help ensure current and future conservatives get fairer treatment than he did."

Sara is engaged to Jon Causey and the couple will be married in November 2003.



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