

# Triumph



Special Olympics New York • MAY - JUNE 2003

## SO Shopping is SO Easy

*Just point, click and shop.*

**S**pecial Olympics and WURLD media, Inc. have announced a partnership that provides online shoppers with a free and easy method to help raise funds for Special Olympics. And it's free.

Did we mention that it's free?

Through the Special Olympics Shop & Support Program, shoppers sign up at [www.soshopping.com](http://www.soshopping.com), and they can then visit any one of nearly 500 retailers. A percentage of each purchase is donated by the retailer to Special Olympics. There is no extra charge to the customer.

"We believe that this inventive program has enormous potential for our athletes and for the future of our program here in New York," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "Online shoppers have tremendous buying power, and it is only going to increase in the future."

Saratoga Springs-based WURLD media's BuyersPort Network consists of an affinity program contracted with top online

retailers such as L.L. Bean, Expedia, Old Navy and the Home Shopping Network. The categories include apparel, books, toys, grocery, jewelry, travel, sporting goods, gifts and more. The result is an incentive-based e-commerce portal.

"By partnering with Special Olympics, we hope to not only increase overall charitable contributions to a very fine movement, but also provide a way for our retail partners to demonstrate their own commitment to individuals with mental retardation," said WURLD media chairman and chief executive officer Greg Kerber, whose daughter Alexis was born with Down syndrome and provided the inspiration for the Shop & Support Program.

"WURLD media is thrilled to provide a new avenue of support for Special Olympics," Kerber said. "We believe organizations such as yours offer a unique opportunity for the world of e-commerce and, in return, e-commerce offers a powerful new method to generate substantial financial resources for their programs."



**Special Olympics**

## Shop & Support

Your online purchases at participating retailers help to support our athletes at no additional cost to you.

- 1. JOIN**  
■ for free
- 2. SHOP ONLINE**  
■ your favorite retailers
- 3. SUPPORT**  
■ your loyalty helps



[www.soshopping.com](http://www.soshopping.com)  
[www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

Founded in 1999, WURLD media, a world leader in e-commerce, is the parent company of several unique and innovative technology products that provide business solutions that help companies and consumers realize mutual value relationships. ■

## Hofstra Here We Come

**N**early 2,800 athletes and coaches are expected to participate in the Special Olympics New York Summer Games at Hofstra University. The Summer Games, taking place June 12-15, are presented by UBS, and they rank as New York State's largest Special Olympics competition of the year.

In addition to the 100-plus volunteers who are helping to organize the Games, nearly 2,000 volunteers from Long Island are being recruited to assist during the Games. ■

**The Summer Games are presented by UBS** and are sponsored by: **Statewide Gold:** New York Lottery and Cingular Wireless; **Gold:** Fraternal Order of Police, GEICO, OppenheimerFunds and the Security Traders Association of New York; **Silver:** Insignia/ESG; **Bronze:** Federation of New York Insurance Professionals, GoldmanSachs and New York Sports Clubs; **Media:** Cablevision, Anton Newspapers, The Herald Community Newspapers, KJOY and WLIR; **Support:** Ben & Jerry's, North Fork Bank and Ridgewood Savings Bank; **Friend:** The Badamo Family, Kiwanis International - New York District and LUKOIL/Getty.



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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, [www.specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://www.specialolympicsnewyork.org) and [www.soshopping.com](http://www.soshopping.com)

# A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



The first half of the mission statement of Special Olympics reads: “to provide year-round training and competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation.”

Competition is what captivates most of us. Competition is at the core of our mission, not just because of what it means to our athletes, but because of what it means with regard to advancing our mission.

Special Olympics is year-round, but at certain times of the year there are an abundance of competitions. Spring is that time of year, with sectional competitions, local Spring Games, the Metro Tournament and the Summer Games.

Throw in the World Summer Games in

Dublin and there are literally thousands of athletes from all across New York competing this spring and early summer.

This is good. Athletes strive for competitive experiences, and we’ve done a good job at increasing the numbers of competitions we offer.

More competitions also offer more opportunities for

Special Olympics New York, opportunities that are vital to our future success. Every competition provides us with multiple opportunities to invite the community in to our circle – to invite potential athletes, volunteers, sponsors and supporters to share in what we all know is a powerful

movement.

To see our competitions is to see our mission at work, to see our athletes at their best and proudest. We are so intent on making sure that our athletes are training correctly and fine-tuning their skills that we sometimes forget to tell our neighbors what we are doing.

Most of us remember what we thought when we saw the athletes compete for the first time. Many of us became hooked at that moment.

Imagine what we could accomplish for our athletes – and the next generation of athletes – if we shrunk the degrees of separation between those who have never seen us and those who are hooked on Special Olympics.

We all live for the competitions. By raising our voices louder, future generations will live for them, too. ■

## 2003 Calendar of Events

### JUNE

- 1 Long Island Region Equestrian Horse Show
- 6 Long Island Region Victory Dance
- 9 Winged Foot Golf Classic, Mamaroneck
- 14 Long Island Region, Shelter Island 10K Run, 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 12-15 2003 Summer Games, Hofstra University, Hempstead
- 21 LETR Fire Truck Pull, Auburn
- 21-30 2003 SOI World Summer Games, Dublin, Ireland
- 29 Tennis Invitational, Greenburgh
- TBD Day in the Sun, Masthead Yacht Club

### JULY

- 14 2003 Summer Golf Classic, Oak Hill, Rochester
- 18 Tennis Invitational, Orange Community College
- 20 Miles for Medals walk, Saratoga Springs
- 26-27 Satins, Silks & Stars Weekend  
Saratoga Springs
- 26 Silks & Stars 5K Run, Saratoga Springs
- 26 Satins, Silks & Stars Gala, Prime Hotel
- 27 Luncheon, Saratoga Race Course
- 28 Long Island Region,  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Tour for Champions” Golf Outing, Northport
- 31 Long Island Region, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Concert,  
West Hampton Beach

\* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

## Triumph

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## Troy Athlete Featured on Ireland Postage Stamp Honoring World Summer Games

*Ezra Canty and his coach attend unveiling in Ireland.*

Troy athlete Ezra Canty is featured on one of four of Ireland's official postage stamps for the Special Olympics World Summer Games. The stamp was unveiled May 19 at a ceremony in Dublin.

Taking part in the unveiling were the four Special Olympics athletes whose images are featured on the stamps: Shauna Bradley, Michael Breen and Michael Mullins, all from Ireland, and Canty. The stamps went on sale May 20 in Ireland.

"I am honored to be on the stamp. All of my friends can look at it," Canty said. "This was my first time going to Ireland. It was a very good experience."

Canty was joined in Ireland by Tom Nolan, a longtime volunteer from the Capital District.

The 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games will bring together 7,000 athletes, 3,000 coaches and officials, and 28,000 family members from 160 countries.

It will be the world's largest sporting event of 2003 and it will mark the first time in the 34-year history of Special Olympics that the World Summer Games are being held outside of the United States.

Canty will not compete this time around, but he has been a World Games athlete twice before, competing in Track & Field at the 1999 World Games in Charlotte,

North Carolina, and at the 1995 World Games in Connecticut.

Canty also has won numerous medals in Basketball and Track & Field at the state, regional and local levels. He was featured on a Wheaties box in 1997, along with four other Special Olympics New York athletes.

Canty began participating in Special Olympics competitions in 1990.

"Ezra Canty is an exceptional athlete dedicated to his teams, to his sports, and to the countless friends he has made on and off the field," said

Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "His accomplishments truly represent what Special Olympics is all about. This is a terrific honor. We are so proud that Ezra is one of the images of Special Olympics on Ireland's postage stamps."

Thirty-four athletes and coaches from New York state will participate in the 2003 World Games. They will arrive in Dublin by June 16 to take part in the Host Town Program, for which they will stay with host families to rest, practice and participate in a cultural exchange. The Games begin June 21 and conclude June 29.

Order stamps by visiting [www.irishstamps.ie](http://www.irishstamps.ie).



## SO T-shirts

As Special Olympics athletes head to Ireland for World Games (June 21-29), Irish celebrities are doing their part to lend a hand.

Singers Andrea Corr, Samantha Mumba and U2 drummer Larry Mullen



*Corr*

Jr., have all volunteered to design T-shirts to benefit Special Olympics. Each of the celebrities has decided to create a design that will appeal to people in

different markets.

Mumba is known for being a very hip and stylish star, her T-shirt is aimed at the youth market and Corr's style, which is more sophisticated, should appeal to her contemporaries. Mullen has a more "cool" design in mind, said New York newspaper, *Irish Echo*.



*Mullen*

This will not be the first shirt that Mullen has designed; he was the first person to design a shirt for his band.



*Mumba*

The T-shirts will be on sale at Brown Thomas and at the A Wear chain in Ireland. At the time of this writing, it was unclear where online purchases could be made.

These three performers are not stopping at T-shirt designing. They will also perform at Opening Ceremonies of the World Games in Dublin, Ireland, on June 21 alongside Ronan Tynan and others. ■

## Metro Tournament Celebrates 15 Years in New York City

While the Metro Tournament may have temporarily lost the title of "largest Special Olympics event downstate" – that honor now belongs to the Summer Games – it is still the biggest in New York City, and it returned to Riverbank State Park on May 31.

The six-sport Sectional celebrated its 15th year, in which time it has grown from a simple competition at St. John's



University's to a community, media and celebrity event at Riverbank in Harlem.

This year's event included some athlete favorites, such as an emotional Opening Ceremonies with participation from the New York City Fire Department.

Healthy Athletes continues to be an important component of Olympic Village and this year included Special Smiles and Opening Eyes. There was also nonstop

entertainment, interactive games and arts and crafts.

Riverbank provides great facilities for all six sports: Aquatics, Basketball, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Track and Field, and Volleyball. Many of the athletes competing at Metro were preparing for the Summer Games, which take place June 12 to 15 at Hofstra University on Long Island.

To find out more about Special Olympics competitions, please visit [www.specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://www.specialolympicsnewyork.org) or call Melissa Gross at 212-661-3963. ■

# General Electric Signs on as Presenting Sponsor of Satins, Silks & Stars

*Company joins longtime sponsor Price Chopper.*

It's lucky 13 for Satins week.

The 13th annual Satins, Silks & Stars benefit week has received a major boost as General Electric has agreed to be the presenting sponsor for all events.

"GE has been a supporter of Special Olympics for many years. Their employees and retirees have donated time and funds to help improve the experiences for our athletes," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "We are thrilled that GE management has continued to recognize the importance of supporting Special Olympics and has increased its commitment to our athletes."



The Satins, Silks & Stars celebrity week begins July 20 with the inaugural Miles for Medals walk at Saratoga Race Course. It continues Saturday, July 26, with the Silks & Satins 5K Run in downtown Saratoga Springs and the elegant Black-Tie Gala at the Prime Hotel. Sunday brings the Equestrian Demonstration in the Paddock and the Gourmet Luncheon in At the Rail Pavilion.

GE joins a list of longtime Satins, Silks & Stars sponsors, including Price Chopper supermarkets, New York Lottery and Cingular Wireless.

Wayne Hewett, vice president and general manager of GE Silicones, and his wife, Simonne, have been named honorary co-chairs along with Neil and Jane Golub of Price Chopper. ■



Amtrak, Saratoga Water, Garelick Farms, Crossgates Cares, M&T Bank, CharterOne Bank, Niagara Mohawk – A National Grid Company, CDPHP, Columbia Management and Turbo Parts.

## Stars Begin to Align for Satins Week

*Shirley Jones, John James and Betsy Palmer among the headliners.*



Bring your shades to Satins. The stars will be shining bright. Rubbing elbows with the athletes this year will be: Thom Christopher, most recently of CBS's "Guiding Light;" David Andrew MacDonald and Marj Dusay, also from "Guiding Light;" John Gray, from NewsChannel 13; Marty Ingels, former comedian and current celebrity broker; and Academy Award Winner Shirley Jones, star of "The Partridge Family" among a long list of credits.

John James, formerly of "Dynasty" and currently of "As the World Turns," will join the cast, along with legendary actress Betsy Palmer of "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" and "I've Got a Secret."

Yolanda Vega from the New York Lottery also will bring her luck and love of the athletes to the Satins, Silks & Stars week.

The registration fee for the 5K Run is \$18 prior to the weekend, and \$23 on the day of the event. Tickets for the Gala are \$185 each. The Gourmet Luncheon in the elegant At The Rail Pavilion is \$85.

Satins, Silks & Stars week is presented by GE. Silks & Satins 5K Run is presented by Price Chopper and GE.

*To make reservations for any of the above events, call 518-388-0793 or visit [www.specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://www.specialolympicsnewyork.org). Runners also may pick up 5K registration forms at area Price Chopper supermarkets. ■*



## The Campaign for Special Olympics Launches at Stock Exchanges Around the World

Special Olympics New York athlete Rodney Hankins of Brooklyn joined other athletes, dignitaries and sponsors at the launch of the campaign for Special Olympics' Invest in a Life initiative at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on April 28.



The NYSE ceremony, which included the ringing of the opening bell, was attended by AOL Time Warner Chairman Steve Case and Peter Lynch, chairman of Fidelity Management & Research Company. Case and Lynch are co-chairs of the campaign, which has a goal of reaching one million new athletes worldwide by 2005.

Similar ceremonies were held the same day at stock exchanges in: Dublin, Ireland; Johannesburg, South Africa; London, England; Mexico City, Mexico; Mumbai, India; Tokyo, Japan; and Warsaw, Poland.

Since 2000, Special Olympics has experienced a 22 percent increase worldwide in athlete recruitment. Despite the growth, Special Olympics still serves only a fraction of the world's 170 million people with mental retardation. ■

## Mrs. Shriver Honored by NYSUT

Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver was recently honored by one of Special Olympics New York's most committed sponsors, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT).



Mrs. Shriver received NYSUT's highest honor, the Albert Shanker Award for Distinguished Service, at the union's recent policy making conference in Washington, D.C.

NYSUT represents more than 500,000 school-related professionals and health care workers across the state. The late Mr. Shanker was founder of the American Federation of Teachers and a co-founder of NYSUT.

NYSUT President Tom Hobart said Mrs. Shriver's leadership forged "incredible opportunities" for children and adults with disabilities. NYSUT, which has sponsored Special Olympics New York for nearly all of the past 33 years, continues to support year-round training and competition, as well as all fund-raising initiatives. Special Olympics New York Chairman Anthony J. Bifaro is assistant to NYSUT President Hobart. ■

## Cingular Donates \$\$ for Recycled Cellphones

Cingular Wireless recently launched the Cingular Phone Recycle Program as part of its national campaign to support Special Olympics. Cingular has already collected \$28 million for Special Olympics nationally, with more than \$1 million raised in the state of New York.

To support this year's promotion, Cingular will place more than 6,000 collection bins in Cingular retail stores, 124 Simon Malls and Special Olympics offices across the country. For every wireless phone received for recycling, Cingular will donate



*New York Power star Christie Welsh, left of center, donates a phone with Frantz Valez, right, and Cingular's Kristen Berg, far right, in May.*

\$5 to Special Olympics. This year's promotion runs through the end of the year. "We are thrilled to be working with



Cingular again this year to help raise awareness and funds for our athletes and our organization," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "We truly appreciate the support, partnership and commitment Cingular has made to Special Olympics throughout the last three years, and we are looking forward to another great year."

Cingular is an Official Partner of Special Olympics USA and an Official Sponsor of Special Olympics Team USA. The nationwide effort is the country's most significant corporate philanthropic initiative seen to date, and Cingular is the largest corporate sponsor in Special Olympics USA's history. ■

## Around the State

### Long Island Region

Cassie Mintz, a junior at Half Hollow Hills High School, won the competition for the best poster design for the 2003 Special Olympics Long Island Spring Games. Mintz presented the poster in April along with Renee Wagenberg, assistant superintendent for research at the school, and Craig Ludin, Special Olympics Global Messenger.



### Cayuga/Cortland/Tompkins Counties - Area 17

Ide's Bowling Lanes hosted a fund-raiser to benefit Special Olympics on April 27. Both athletes and volunteers collected pledges from the community prior to the event. All funds raised were donated to the local program.

### St. Lawrence County/Franklin Counties - Area 27

The Adirondack Warriors swept the basketball portion of the Area 27 Special Olympics Spring Games. The Warriors beat the Ogdensburg Blue Devils and the Malone Timberwolves in April to advance to the Sectionals at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. Athletes also competed in the Basketball skills competitions.

### Oswego County - Area 29

Brave plungers raise more than \$5,500 at the second annual Spring Splash for Cash in April. The event benefited Special Olympics programs in Oswego County. The event was postponed a week because of an ice-storm. However, participants eventually jumped into Lake Ontario for Special Olympics and the event surpassed last year's total by more than \$1,500.

### Staten Island - Area 35

For the first time in two years, Staten Island Area Spring Games have been able to take place. The games have been forced to cancel in previous years due to inclement weather. When these Area Games started, they had only eight athletes. At this year's games, though, there were more than 400 participants.

### Warren/Washington Counties - Area 37

More than 400 runners turned out for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Shamrock Shuffle to raise money for Special Olympics. The five-mile race that weaves through Glens Falls took place on March 16 and was sponsored by the Adirondack Runners. The event has raised more than \$2,000 each year to benefit the local program. *Please call, fax or e-mail your area or regional information to Doreen Hand: 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org*

## Bronx Athlete wins Arts Contest



Westchester ARC named Bronx athlete Michael Silverman Artist of the Month for March. He was selected from all of the ARC art students in Westchester County. Silverman, a painter, had three of his works on display at the administration building in White Plains in March. They will be on display at the White Plains Marriott throughout June. A greeting card also may be created using one of Silverman's paintings. ■

## Chautauqua County Coach Ceci Honored as Woman of the Year

Amazed Mary Ceci was named 2003 Women of the Year by the InterClub Council this past March at a dinner in Jamestown. Ceci, a World Games coach who will be traveling to Ireland in June, has coached Special Olympics Roller Skating for more than 15 years.

The Council has given the award to a deserving woman for the past 47 years. The Zonta Club of Jamestown, which Ceci belongs to, nominated her for the honor.

"It's like being in a dream," Ceci said.

"This was the last thing I ever expected. I truly am blessed."

Ceci was joined on stage by four of the athletes she coaches. Jennifer Yost, Melissa Kestler, Kristine Fuller and Pamela Robbins also will join Ceci at the World Games in Ireland. ■



## Global Messenger to Speak on Panel

Craig Ludin is not just any 1995 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School West; he was the first student with Down syndrome to graduate from the district and now, eight years after graduating, he's preparing to speak on the district's Disability Awareness Panel.

Since graduating from high school, Ludin has been given the chance to combine his involvement in Special Olympics with his ability to talk to people, and to touch them. He is a Sargent Shriver Global Messenger.

Being a Global Messenger helps Ludin hone his public speaking skills, and it gives others the chance to hear from one of the people who have been touched by Special Olympics.

Adaptive physical education teachers Irwin Handburger and Nadine Cain were so impressed with Ludin that they have included him as a guest speaker on the district's Disability Awareness Panel. The Panel visits the 11 Half Hollow

Hills schools throughout the course of the year.

Ludin was recently quoted in Long Island's Half Hollow Hills Newspaper. He spoke about some of the ways he has personally benefited from Special Olympics.

"The things I have learned in sports have helped me in my job today. Sports have taught me to be a team player with a positive self-image and a good attitude," Ludin said. "I especially like golf because everyone has a handicap."

The 2003 Special Olympics Long Island Spring Games were hosted at Ludin's former high school, where he placed second in both the men's 100M backstroke and 100M freestyle. ■



## Point of View

By Michael Golden

The Fraternal Order of Police had its grass-roots set into motion in 1915 in Pittsburgh. Who would have thought that 88 years later, in the year 2003, the Order would thrive and grow to over 300,000 strong across the United States, making us the largest police force in the world?

Much hard work and strength of character, along with the desire to help perpetuate the need to take care of our own, have built the foundation for what we represent worldwide today.

Our expanse has gone beyond the call to help our brothers and sisters. We try to educate the people we serve about the good will possessed by these men and women who each day go out and risk their lives to make our America a better and safer place to live.

We are made up of men and women of all colors and religious beliefs with dignity and respect for their fellow human beings. They are moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and the list goes on. They go to ball games, watch their children

compete at soccer games and love pizza. They are people just like you and I.

In light of this, one of the special cares that we hold so dear is the desire to see one succeed. Why do we do it? Because it is in our blood and in our hearts. That desire has inspired us once again to support and volunteer for Special Olympics and to share in the triumphs each and every athlete has to give – being New York’s best of the best.

We glow in the spirit that each athlete has to offer and weep and cheer with joy along with the families, friends and fellow athletes.

We have been a proud sponsor both monetarily and as volunteers for many events. Last year’s Fall Classic on Long Island allowed us the privilege of donating \$10,000. We also hosted and served a breakfast for some of the athletes who had to travel a distance to the competition.

This year we are proud to support the State Summer Games at Hofstra University, June 12 to 15, and we hope many other organizations on Long Island will follow our

lead.

There are many potential corporate sponsors who are missing the boat by not being part of Special Olympics New York. Only seeing the competitive desire to win and being counted as a true champion can make the difference. Once you do, you’re hooked forever.

We are honored to be part of this event, the ones we have been part of in the past and the ones yet to take place. We are all God’s children and are only asked to try to do our best with professionalism and dignity, and try we must.

Athletes ... you are the best! Let the games begin.

*Point of View is written periodically. Michael Golden is the Public Relations Director for the Fraternal Order of Police on Long Island. To submit a column idea, contact Doreen Hand at 212-661-3963 or [dhand@nyso.org](mailto:dhand@nyso.org). ■*



## Athletes Prepare for Summer Games at Sectionals

Special Olympic athletes competed in April at the Section 1 and 5 Special Olympics tournament.

The Section 1 Basketball and Aquatics tournament took place at Fordham University. Nearly 500 Special Olympics athletes and coaches participated, with Fordham students providing much of the volunteer support.

Athletes who were not on teams competed in Basketball skills competitions and more than 100 swimmers competed in Aquatics events.

The Section 5 games were held at Canisius College, with more than 200 athletes competing in Volleyball team and skills competitions. Nearly 80 athletes were involved in Aquatics competitions. Canisius College students and local college fraternities were among the volunteers.

“We had more local programs participating this year since we changed the date. Most of the programs have their local Spring Games in May, so we had the event in April,” Sectional Sports Director Jennifer Whipple said. “We have been very pleased with the increase in athlete participation in all of our Sectional competitions this year. By the end of the year we will have provided many athletes with new competitive experiences.”

Many of the athletes from these Sectional competitions will advance to the state Summer Games at Hofstra University on Long Island in June. ■



## Special Olympics New York

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## Staff Updates

- Victoria Stubrin has joined the Development team as an associate director in the New York City office, effective April 1. She previously worked for New York City Meals on Wheels.
- Trish Bergan has joined Special Olympics New York as executive secretary.
- John Salisbury has left to attend law school. Sonya Leon, administrative assistant in New York City, has assumed his responsibilities.
- Longtime coach Debbie Whalen has joined the Long Island Region staff as assistant Program director.
- Chris Grieco was promoted to director of Development, a position previously held by Robert Blaustein, who left.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

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