

# A Night in the City: MHS Junior Prom

by Crystal Castro

This year’s junior prom was held on March 28th, 2024, from 6PM to 9:30PM at Castleton Banquet and Conference Center in Windham, New Hampshire.

Junior Class Advisor, Caitlin Canane, alongside the junior prom committee, worked tirelessly for weeks on end to transform the venue into an extravagant cityscape, with centerpieces representing major cities like Las Vegas and New York, that successfully created a both fun and attractive atmosphere for all attendees.

Ticket prices ranged from \$80-\$85, and juniors could invite students from other grades to join them for the night.

Attendees, after being called up by random table selection, were treated to a wide array of food options, including chicken parmesan, chicken broccoli alfredo pasta, macaroni and cheese, bread, and salad, to name a few. The macaroni and cheese was a notable favorite among many.

Guests were met with a sundae bar at the end of the buffet line that offered delicious dessert choices, like vanilla ice cream and brownies, which could be paired with hot fudge and cherries to make a sundae. Water was served at all tables and guests could go to the bar for their choice of fountain drinks and the especially popular shirley temple.

There were numerous photo opportunities, including a balloon arch backdrop with fairy lights, professional photos out in the lobby with Geskus Studios, as well as the notable “Magic Mirror” photobooth, which featured numerous props for guests to pose with and the opportunity to capture everlasting memories with each other.

The rainy weather conditions made for an especially memorable night filled with laughter and bonding. None of it would have been made possible without the hard work and dedication of the student volunteers and faculty involved in orchestrating the event.

# Methuen Scholarship Foundation’s Annual Telethon

by Sloan Farrell

The 33rd annual Methuen Scholarship Foundation Telethon took place on the evenings of March 18 and March 19 in the Arthur Nicholson III auditorium.

At this year's event, over \$50,000 was raised for the Methuen High School class of 2024.

The purpose of the event is to fundraise for the Methuen Scholarship Foundation, which works to help Methuen High School’s upcoming graduates pay their future college tuition.

The event unites students, teachers, parents and the community. The telethon was hosted by teacher and coach, Mr. Delano, and School Counseling Dept. Chair, Mrs. Tatro.

The event is live-streamed, and it included student interviews of their favorite memories and teachers as well as their college plans and how the scholarships would benefit them. Many familiar faces were included in the event.

Students, staff, and even the Methuen Police Department volunteered at the phone bank accepting donations and bids on items.

A special shout-out to the great job done by all the performers! (names and performances below):

Kelsey Garcia, Hip hop dance, *Exes* by Tate McRae

Maribelle Spiridon, Hudson McCaffery, Song, *My Beautiful Country* by Helwa Ya Baladi

Brady Ngyuen, Hudson McCaffery, Song, *Cemetery Gates* by Pantera

Brady Ngyuen, Song, Beethoven: *Moonlight Sonata (3rd Movement)*

Emmanuel Katulege, Ileanna Genao, Song, *I Have Nothing* by Whitney Houston

Fabian Montanez, Song, *Wait for It*, from Hamilton

Jarell Espinel, Song, *Like I Want You* By Giveon

Hudson McCaffery, Songs, *Black Bird* by The Beatles, *Free Falling* by Tom Petty, *Going to California* by Led Zeppelin, *Seek and Destroy* by Metallica

## What's Inside

Page 2

Decades Week

Page 3-4

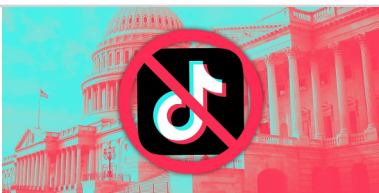
Staff Biographies

Page 5

Interview with Coach Dan

Page 6

Band Jamboree



TikTok Ban



Album Review



Word Games!

# Decades Week 2024

by Kaylie Lam

From Monday March 18th to Friday the 22nd, the MHS staff and students were invited to participate in Spirit Week. Each day of the week was themed a different decade, hence, *Decades Week*!

Spirit days are listed below:

### Monday 3/18: 1960s

“1960s” took place on Monday 3/18. Staff and students were encouraged to wear popular clothing from the 1960s. Freshman Chloe Santarpio participated in this spirit day by braiding her hair and wearing a flower lei to replicate the 'Hippie' style. Chloe said, “It was fun to look up what people wore back then (1960s)! It was almost like a little fashion history lesson!”



Image courtesy of Blue & White Staff

Freshman Chloe Santarpio wearing 1960's attire.

### Tuesday 3/19: 1970s

“1970s” took place on Tuesday 3/19. Staff and students were encouraged to wear popular clothing from the 1970s. Freshman Isabella Buco enjoyed the spirit day but noticed a lack of participation from staff and students and commented, “I think 60s and 70s are harder to participate in. The last 3 days [1980s, 1990s, and 2000s] will be a lot easier to participate in.”

### Wednesday 3/20: 1980s

“1980s” took place on Wednesday 3/20. Staff and students were encouraged to wear popular clothing from the 1980s. Freshmen Emily Amico and Chloe Santarpio both participated in this spirit day, wearing iconic rock band shirts. Emily noted, “I loved the 1980s, I thought it was a great decade! The music and outfits were amazing! I love hearing stories from my parents about the 80s and how they were always out with their friends. The 80s was an amazing decade!”



Image courtesy of Blue & White Staff

Freshman Emily Amico and Chloe Santarpio rock the 80's.

### Thursday 3/21: 1990s

“1990s” took place on Wednesday 3/21. Staff and students were encouraged to wear popular clothing from the 1990s. Freshman Layla El Hamaoui noted the many different outfits representing the 1990s and said, “Unfortunately, I did not dress up but I think the 90s were probably one of the best decades in history. There were lots of fun colors, great music and great style. The 90s were the peak of music because it was most fun to listen to people like Britney Spears and Whitney Houston. Overall, the 90’s were a colorful and playful [time] to live in.”

### Friday 3/22: 2000s

“2000s” took place on Friday 3/22, which was a half-day. Staff and students were encouraged to wear popular clothing from the 2000s. Freshman Elier Jacquez Guante enjoyed this spirit day and said, “I didn’t see many people participate in it [spirit day] but I see how it can be a cool concept. I just feel like it was hard for people to participate in it. I feel like there wasn’t that much advertisement for it and even if a lot of people knew about it, they wouldn’t have much of an idea on how to dress.”

## Good Friday-More Than a Day Off

by Jay Ortega

What is Good Friday? Good Friday is a celebration that all Christian denominations have. It is a day of reflection on the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. As such, it recalls the most important event that paved the way for the salvation of believers.

It is also known as Black Friday, Holy Friday, Great Friday, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord, and Great and Holy Friday.

Good Friday is celebrated in three parts: the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Holy Communion. According to Wikipedia, the Liturgy of the Word is the first part of the Eucharist, centered upon the proclamation of the Word of God, preceding the Great Thanksgiving.

The Adoration of the Cross is the adoration of Jesus Christ. This is a ceremony contained in the Good Friday liturgy in which worshipers comes forward and kiss a crucifix to show their love

and adoration to Christ. Many worshipers, though, might just go to church in the morning and pray.

On Good Friday people tend to eat fish, as it’s become a tradition in Christian culture. People tend to eat fish over meat because Jesus sacrificed his flesh on Good Friday. This is why traditionally, people abstain from meaty flesh on Good Friday.

You might be wondering why Good Friday is so important and why some schools have the day off during it. According to an article in the academic website, TheCollector, Good Friday tells us the commitment of God, his love for humanity, the atonement between God and man, and humanity’s way to redemption and salvation.

John 3:16 a line of scripture from the Bible, sums the holiday up best, explaining, “for God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

In conclusion, Good Friday is an important holy day for many Christians around the world. It celebrates how Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins.



## Meet the Staff!

**Sloan** is a grade 11 student who has been in *the Blue & White* since 2023. Her interest in *the Blue & White* came from her enjoyment of the investigation and interview process that comes before writing. She is also involved with the Italian Club and Science Club. In her future, Sloan is interested in pursuing a career in civil engineering. Sloan is interested in physical sciences and her favorite subject is physics.



**Crystal** is a grade 11 student looking at becoming a medical research scientist with a specialization in immunology. She currently serves as *the Blue and White's* editor-in-chief and has been involved for the entirety of her high school career, since 2021. Crystal became interested in the school newspaper because she intends to minor in English in college and wants to remain informed about events in the school community. Crystal is also involved in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Club, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Asian Cultural Awareness Club, and Stage Door 22.

**Emma** is an 11th grader who has been a staff member for three years. She is also involved in Stage Door 22's set crew, Asian Cultural Awareness Club, and National Art Honors Society. In her future, Emma is interested in pursuing a career in graphic design. She became involved in *The Blue & White* because of her sister, who was a former editor.



**Chloe** is a grade 9 student who joined *The Blue & White* this year. She enjoys writing and takes pride in her writing. Chloe is also involved with Colorguard, Winterguard, the Ranger Band, French Club, and Student Council. Her favorite subject is Biology and she hopes to pursue a career in medicine or astrophysics.



*Staff bios continued...*

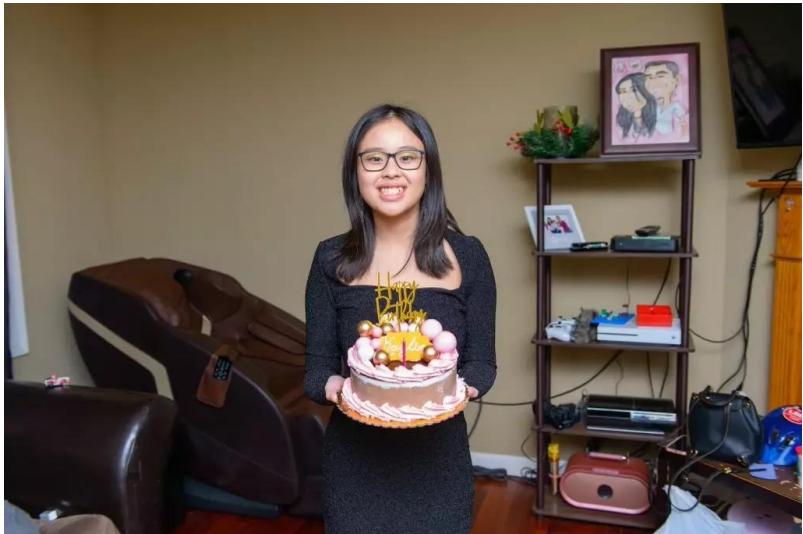
**Janely** is a grade 9 student interested in anthropology and journalism. This is her first year involved in *the Blue & White* and she became interested in the newspaper because she enjoys writing and is generally interested in journalism. Janely is also in the *Books and Bagels* book club and she is interested in liberal arts, such as English and history.



**Nas** is a grade 11 student who has been involved with *The Blue & White* since 2023. He joined the staff because the extracurricular appealed to him and he wants to stay up to date on current events. Nas is interested in sciences and his favorite subject is physics. After high school, he looks to obtain a degree in particle physics and pursue a nautical career. Nas is also involved in the *Books and Bagels* book club, Science Club, and Asian Cultural Awareness Club.



**Eleanor** is a grade 9 student who joined *The Blue & White* this year. She joined *The Blue & White* because she loves writing about events and news. Eleanor is also a part of French Club, SADD, the Ranger Band, and the percussion ensemble, Dirty Hands Ink. She is interested in Biology and hopes to pursue a career in STEM.



**Kaylie** is a grade 9 student who joined *The Blue & White* this year. Writing has always been something she enjoyed, and she hopes to expand on it with this club. Kaylie is also a part of Student Council, the Ranger Band, Jazz Band, and is Freshman Class president. Her favorite subject is Biology and she hopes to pursue a career in medicine.



# Interview with JV Coach Dan

by Sarah Fairchild

It all started back in college.

Dan Favreau, a teacher and coach here at Methuen High School, has been a coach for over 30 years. This all began after he became a coach in 1989, during college.

“I have been coaching high school sports since 1989 when I was a senior in college,” he said. Coach Dan also stated that he has coached in both Vermont and Maine at several other high schools.

When asked how he became a coach here at the high school, he said, “I had coached softball before and a position opened up at Methuen. I love the competition but also working with the student athletes.”

Coach Dan continued on to explain why he became a coach in the first place, stating, “I love sports but more importantly I enjoy teaching the sports I coach to others. It is great to see students [and] athletes succeed.”

I asked Coach Dan if he played baseball or softball growing up. His response was, “I played baseball growing up and then played on men league softball teams as an adult.”

Softball is not the only sport he coaches, as, “[he] also coach[es] baseball and soccer at Methuen High School.”

Coach Dan also explained that he coached varsity softball for a couple years in Vermont and was also a boys varsity soccer coach for 9 years. He also stated that he had the opportunity to win 4 state

championships with that soccer team.

Due to Coach Dan being a JV softball coach here at MHS, I asked him some questions about what he expects in a team.

“I expect that they will come out everyday and work hard but also together,” he stated. When asked about his goals for the season, he then replied by saying, “to get better as a team each game we play.”

Coach Dan, a 4th year head JV softball coach, is amazing and fun to be around at the fields. He is also a great teacher here at MHS.

Don’t forget to come and support your schools softball teams when they have games to show your school spirit!

# TikTok Ban?

by Cierra Tucker

In March of 2024, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill that can effectively ban TikTok.

The major argument from the US government for banning TikTok is that the app poses a threat to U.S. national security. The United States thinks that China is stealing user information, and is also worried that China could influence elections with TikTok content. The US wants to ban TikTok unless its parent company, ByteDance, sells it to a United States company.

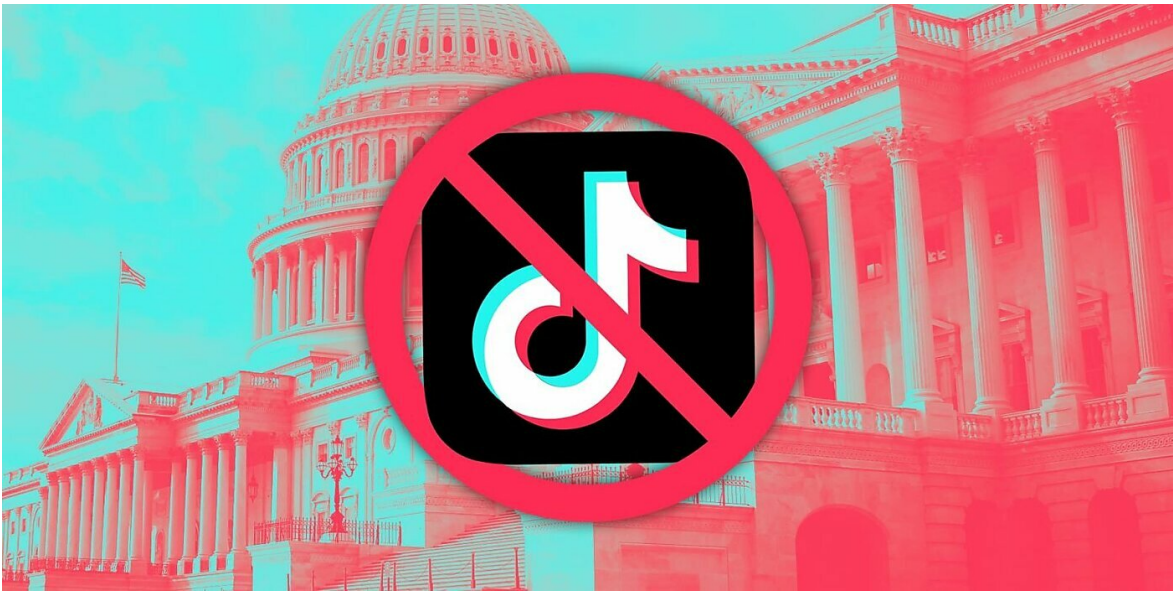
According to an NBC News article, “The House voted Wednesday [March 13th] to pass legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S. as Republicans and Democrats alike sound the alarm that the popular video-sharing app, owned by a China-based company, is a national security threat.”

The bill received surprising bipartisan support, as it passed with a 352-65 margin. According to the article, “50 Democrats and 15 Republicans voted against the bill. Among them were progressives like Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash.; Ro Khanna, D-Calif.; and Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., a Senate candidate, as

well as conservatives like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., who lamented that she had previously been banned from social media.”

This original bill was eventually repackaged into a much larger, \$95 billion national security bill, which passed through the senate and President Biden signed into law on April 24th.

The Chinese government could now be forced to sell the app within nine months



There are many different opinions on banning TikTok. Many people have grown their businesses or have met friends on TikTok, and many of them believe the law will be killing off the American Dream by destroying their business model.

There are many TikTok influencers who fear their careers will be destroyed if TikTok gets banned because it’s what they use for followers and money.

In an interview with Reuters, small business owner Paul Tran said the government is ruining his and many other people's full-time jobs that have helped them make it through many hard times and helped him keep his house.

I feel they should not ban TikTok because it’s the American Dream. So many people enjoy TikTok and watching people's content throughout the world. It wouldn’t be fair for the government to take it away from everyone due to the chance of “our information being taken”.

Courtesy of Google Images

With President Biden having signed the law for a potential ban, TikTok faces its greatest challenge yet to continuing to operate in the US market.

or risk getting banned.

The NBC article continued to explain that, “once [the] app was deemed a risk, it would be banned from online app stores and web-hosting services unless it severed ties with entities under control of the foreign adversary [...]. That means TikTok, which FBI Director Christopher Wray has testified poses a risk to national security, could face a ban unless ByteDance acted quickly to divest it.”

I feel we should all vote and call our senators to not ban TikTok and tell them our reasons why. We can work as a group with people around the United States to keep TikTok up and running!



# Band Jamboree 2024

by Kaylie Lam

The Band Jamboree took place on Wednesday, March 27th and was held in the MHS gymnasium.

The Band Jamboree is a district-wide band concert and is performed by a district-combined 5th grade band, a district-combined 6th grade band, a district-combined 7th grade band, a district-combined 8th grade band, and Methuen’s own Ranger Band. Along with the two musical pieces that are performed by each band, the Ranger Band played a piece combined with the 8th grade band. After these performances, the Ranger Band and middle school bands played *Stars and Stripes Forever* all together while Methuen’s JROTC stood in the middle of the gymnasium, holding a variety of American States flags.

The 5th grade combined band, led by conductor Mr. Shaun Smith, kicked off the Jamboree with *Bandroom Boogie*, arranged by Michael Sweeny, which displayed great drive. Next, the 6th grade combined band, led by conductor Mr. Paul Delabruere, performed *Apollo Fanfare* by Robert W. Smith. Following the 6th grade band was the 7th grade combined band, led by Mr. Nick Abruzzese, who performed *Caribbean Carnival*, written by David Bobrkwitz. Finally, the 8th grade combined band, led by Mr. Brian Fulks, played *The Streets of Madrid* by John Moss.

After the 8th grade band performance, the 5th grade band performed their second piece, *When the Band Goes Marching In* by Victor Lopez. Next, the 6th grade band performed *G-Force Five!* by Ralph Ford. Then, the 7th grade band played *Crunch Time!* by James Swearingen. Finally, the 8th grade band played *The Last Stagecoach Heist* by Travis J. Weller, ending the middle school bands’ performances.

Following the 8th grade band performance, the Ranger Band played two pieces of their own. Led by Mr. Brian McGonagle, better known as G, and Mr. Eric Poster, better known as Poster, the Ranger Band performed *The Great Locomotive Chase* by Robert W. Smith and *Raiders March* by John Williams, arranged by Jay Bocook. After the Ranger Band’s performance, the 8th grade band joined the Ranger Band and performed *Red Giant* by Jorge L. Vargas together.

The Band Jamboree ended with *Stars and Stripes Forever* by John Philip Sousa, arranged by Michael Sweeny, which was played by the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and Ranger Band together. The combined bands played proudly as the MHS JROTC stood in the center of the gymnasium holding a few American States’ flags.



Image courtesy of Blue & White staff

The Ranger Band performing to an audience.

## Album Review: *She Reaches Out to She Reaches Out to She*

by Sloan Farrell



Courtesy of Google Images  
Cover art for Chelsea Wolf's Latest Album.

Chelsea Wolfe released her seventh studio album titled *She Reaches Out to She Reaches Out To She* on February 19, 2024.

The album takes listeners on an atmospheric tour of the artist’s mind, through heartache and apathy.

The songs follow themes relating to relationships, unhealthy and self sabotaging qualities of the protagonist and their partner.

“The Liminal”, track 5, may be about a partner that idealized their lover (the protagonist) and when they began to see who they were really with, they abandoned their love.

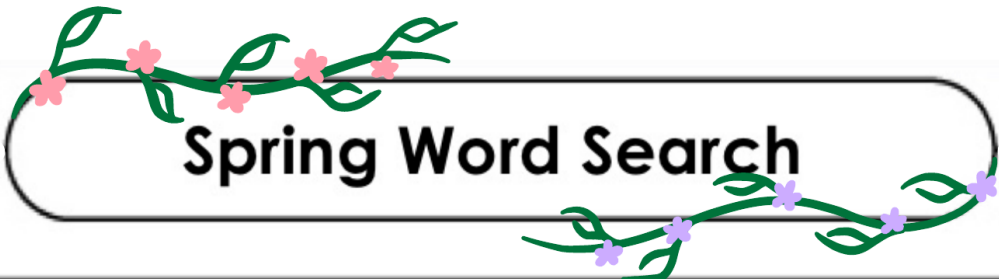
These topics of angst and struggle relate similarly to Wolfe’s previous album, *Hiss Spun*’s, themes of impending doom and the overwhelming feeling of irreparable problems as a linear progression of Wolfe as a person and a musician. As the artist continues to grow, their relationship with the world and their music changes.

While the album holds some of Wolfe’s classic motifs of post apocalyptic living and aspects of the music such as atmospheric sound effects (those of “Whispers in the Echo Chamber”), she also explores a slower, ballad-like structure uncommon in her previous releases.


The song “Place in the Sun”, which is the second to last track, puts greater focus on Wolfe’s vocals and the lyrics, which are much more prominent than in many of her more atmosphere-focused songs. The song tackles the idea of returning “home”, which may be a reference to the afterlife, with the ethereal atmosphere created with bells and quite a bit of reverb on the instruments. It brings listeners on a journey perhaps up the stairs to heaven or down a rabbit hole into another, more whimsical universe.

If you haven’t listened to this album yet, definitely give it a chance!





### Spring Word Search



G	D	N	C	E	B	Y	T	R	E	J	F	S	B	R	H	S	V
Q	M	I	S	E	A	S	O	N	A	B	L	L	P	L	A	A	P
I	S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K	S	B	L	Y	O	R	U	I	I
L	M	A	Y	B	R	E	A	K	T	U	L	O	P	W	I	E	N
Y	P	H	B	R	E	E	Z	E	E	N	E	A	S	W	E	N	K
F	W	A	O	W	A	R	M	I	R	N	G	G	D	S	Y	R	G
L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N	Y	C	P	G	Y	O	G	S
B	F	S	W	M	Q	A	P	R	I	L	S	B	D	S	B	M	D
E	Y	E	L	L	O	W	A	L	L	E	R	G	I	E	S	U	F
E	Z	N	Y	U	T	E	Q	F	P	O	L	L	E	N	D	G	G
S	K	N	M	A	R	C	H	P	L	S	U	N	N	Y	E	F	S
Y	A	L	D	A	O	I	R	L	O	G	P	L	A	N	T	S	Y

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .



ALLERGIES  
APRIL  
BEES  
BLOSSOM  
BLUE  
BREAK  
BREEZE  
BUNNY

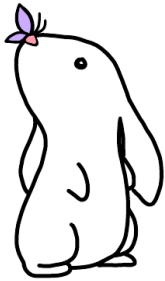
EASTER  
EGGS  
FLOWERS  
LADYBUG  
LEPRECHAUN  
MARCH  
MAY  
PINK



PLANTS  
POLLEN  
RAIN  
SEASON  
SHAMROCK  
SPRING  
SUNNY  
WARM



YELLOW





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The Blue & White is always looking for new students to help with writing, photography, editing, and design.

Email Mr. McKenna at [jnmckenna@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:jnmckenna@methuen.k12.ma.us) for more info!



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