by Valerie Shore

The first leg of the world’s most advanced cable-seafloor observatory has successfully been installed in Saanich Inlet near Victoria. Live data is now flowing from instruments at the bottom of Saanich Inlet to the University of Victoria.

The Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) project, led by UVic, is a network of scientific instruments connected to shore by power and fibre-optic cable. Via the Internet, VENUS will provide scientists, educators and the general public with around-the-clock biological, oceanographic and geological information and images from the seafloor.

“With VENUS we’re able to see the data flowing from the instruments and into the data archive,” said VENUS project manager Adrian Round following the cable-laying on Feb. 5–8. “As expected, the installation was technically challenging, but thanks to the hard work and planning of our partners and the VENUS team, everything went very well.”

There are five components to VENUS: an array of scientific instruments connected by underwater cables to a central node; fibre-optic cable linking the node to shore; a station providing power and two-way communications to the instruments; a data management, archive and distribution centre; and a network operations centre at UVic.

Working with the VENUS team on the installation were industrial partners Global Marine Systems Ltd. and OceanWorks International Inc. (based in North Vancouver), assisted by Advanced Subsea Systems in Sidney, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which runs the Institute of Ocean Sciences where the cable comes ashore.

Global Marine operates the cable-laying ship, Wave Venture, which spent three days in Saanich Inlet during the installation. OceanWorks designed and built various software and hardware components of the array, including the 2.5-tonne node and the specialized scientific instrument interface modules.

To install the array, the node was lowered from the Wave Venture 100 m to the bottom of Saanich Inlet, approximately 3 km from shore. The fibre-optic/power cable was then deployed from the ship, attached to floats, and pulled to shore by a “messenger” rope guided by dive teams from Advanced Subsea Systems.

Once ashore, the cable was pulled through a specially built conduit and connected to equipment in a nearby shore station. Two days later the VENUS instrument platform was lowered into the inlet, not far from the node.

At 4:45 p.m. on Feb. 8 the instrument platform was connected and the system powered up, signifying the official launch of the VENUS observatory.

Deployment of the next set of instruments took place from the Coast Guard vessel John P. Tully during the week of Feb. 20, using the

SEE VENUS P.2

The VENUS instrument platform was connected and powered up, signifying the official launch of the VENUS observatory.

New network promotes research on B.C. youth

Some of B.C.’s children and youth face medical and social challenges every day that threaten the quality of their lives and their future potential. A newly established B.C. Child and Youth Health Research Network aims to improve the health and well-being of young people in this province and beyond through increased attention to child and youth health research.

By assisting B.C.’s researchers to collaborate with other disciplines and with policy-makers, health authorities and service providers, the network hopes to raise the profile of child and youth health research to a new level.

The network is funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and is based at the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia. It’s co-directed by UVic psychology professor Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater and UBC clinical professor Dr. Robert Peterson, along with a steering committee representing most B.C. research universities.

“Through the network we also hope to raise research on the health of children and youth to a new level of excellence, assist our researchers to strengthen their skills and have a major impact on the policy, practices and programs of government, clinical practice and communities,” says Leadbeater.

“The network emphasizes inter-professional research teams which we expect will address research in virtually every aspect of infant, child, and youth health needs,” says Peterson.

Network-supported teams are currently investigating the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent obesity; the treatment of self-injury in B.C. children and adolescents; the safety of prescription drugs for children; and how to improve services for children and youth with disabilities.

For more about the B.C. Child and Youth Health Research Network and how to participate in its research activities, visit www.cyhrnet.ca.

by Patty Pitts

Like most dog owners, University of Victoria exercise psychologist Dr. Ryan Rhodes can’t resist those pleading doggy looks from his golden retriever, Sydney, when she wants to go walks. Rhodes, who studies the motivation behind exercise and activity, wondered if other dog owners responded in a similar fashion and if there were benefits from being at the other end of a leash.

Physical education master’s student Shanee Brown had similar thoughts when walking his adopted mutt, Charlie. Teaming up with Rhodes for a directed study project, the pair did a random survey of 177 men and 174 women between the age of 20 and 80 in Greater Victoria to determine if dog owners are more motivated to get out and if they benefit from leash time with their pooch.

Their co-authored study, published in the February edition of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, concludes that dog ownership nearly doubles the amount of moderate exercise compared with those who had no dog. However, not all dog-owners feel compelled to get off the couch just because Fido is tugging at his leash. “About 25 per cent of the dog owners we surveyed did not walk their dogs,” says Rhodes. "We want to do further study to determine whether the people who walk their dogs have a predisposition to walking, or whether it’s the dog that prompts the activity.”

Despite the findings, Brown said he’s certainly not recommending people get a dog just to help them get exercise. “We’re saying that for those of us who have dogs, or those who are thinking of getting a dog, this is an added benefit.”

The study was funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.
English profs publish academic writing guide

by Patty Pitts

If you’ve ever contemplated the comma versus the colon or pondered your past and present participles, English professors Kim Blank and Michael Best have a book for you. The *University of Victoria Writer’s Guide* is an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand review of all aspects of the English language and formal writing.

“The goal of good writing is, it seems, simple: clarity,” writes Blank in the introduction, and the guide reflects that philosophy.

The guide is an updated version of the 1993 publication *A Writer’s Guide: An Introduction to the Process of Writing*. “It was terrific,” says Blank, “but much of it was geared to first-year English courses, particularly literature courses. It was clear the publication needed updating and expanding.”

The new version explains all aspects of grammar, provides tips for better writing (including a few tips from a term paper to a CV) and acknowledges changes in technology by including advice on writing a PowerPoint presentation. The book breaks down the elements of the essay and offers extensive instruction in the proper use of quotes and citations. Like its predecessor, all proceeds from the book’s sale will go toward bursaries for UVic students.

Although much of the guide is directed to those writing academic papers, anyone who has ever wrestled over whether to use a dash or a hyphen will find useful advice in the guide. It offers proofreading tips, e-mail and memo-writing advice and a list of frequently misspelled words.

“With funding from the dean of humanities, English graduate student Paul MacRae was hired to assist in updating and revising the new guide. While the previous version was published by the professors as a required text for selected English courses, the latest version has been published by Pearson Publishing.

“They gave us $15,000 up front and we hope to off-campus sale to generate more bursary revenue,” says Blank, adding that thousands of dollars has already been generated from the guide’s predecessor to assist students. The guide is available in the UVic Bookstore.

Survey measures library satisfaction among users

How do you rate the UVic libraries? Campus opinions are being polled this month via an e-mail to 4,000 randomly selected students, faculty and staff inviting them to participate in *LibQUAL+*, a web-based survey of library services.

“We’re hoping to get a good response,” Blank says. “This information will help us make improvements and shape our future plans,” says Lisa Hill, libraries assistant. The survey now underway, takes about 15 minutes to complete. Participants who respond by the March 10 closing date are eligible to win an iPod Nano.

*LibQUAL+* is being implement-ed by the Association of Research Libraries, an international organization that will enable UVic to compare its findings against benchmarks for library services. The results will be distributed to interest groups within UVic libraries and the university community later this spring.

Although similar surveys have been undertaken in the past, this is the first in a long-range plan to iden-tify best practices and improve qual-ity of service for the UVic libraries, including McPherson and its branch services. Information will also be used to develop future plans for the Meares Centre for Learning.

Library users not selected for the survey may submit comments or suggestions via the libraries Gateway site (gateway.uvic.ca/topsite/feedback.html) or by requesting a yellow feedback form from staff at the McPherson Library loan or reference desk.

VENUS is in the water continued from p1

ROPOS remotely operated vehicle. These instruments included a hydro-phone array to monitor and track the movements of marine mammals, and a digital still camera system to observe marine life and other subsea phenomena.

The camera and hydrophone arrays complement the other seven instruments deployed on the instru-ment platform on Feb. 6.

“Over the next few weeks, engi-neers will monitor system perform-ance and scientists will review and confirm the quality of the data,” says Round. Meanwhile, data manage-ment specialists will finalise testing of data retrieved from the data storage and on the UVic servers. They’ll also test the generation of auto-matic data plots and data products to quickly display and process live information online.

Live data, acoustics and imagery from Saanich Inlet will be available for public viewing and listening in early April, when a new and more com-prehensive VENUS website will be launched. For updates on the project’s

A squat lobster checks out the VENUS camera in one of the first images received from the depths of Saanich Inlet.
A new provost’s advisory council has been formed to coordinate academic and support services for the success and well-being of UVic students.

“Eventually we hope there will be no such thing as a worse door for students lost on campus,” says Jim Anglin, associate vice-president academic and student affairs. Anglin and Catherine Findlay, assistant vice-president, academic planning, are co-chairs of the new campus council that was formed last month.

Advocacy to Janice Casels, vice-president academic and provost, the new council will meet monthly. It will bring together a dozen senior administrators from a range of campus offices representing student and ancillary services, co-op education, libraries, student advising, campus security, distance education, information services, the administrative registrar, academic faculties and the diversity advisor.

While the council is still clarifying its goals, the overall mandate is to establish a formal link between people in key positions, allowing them to talk, share information, address challenges and streamline support for students.

“In the past, the supportive work across many of these areas often came about through informal and individual relationships,” says Anglin. “But the significant growth in the size and complexity of UVic calls for a more systematic, holistic approach.”

The council includes members of the existing deans’ council, which focuses on UVic’s academic directions. The two groups will operate in tandem to create a cohesive environment, develop an even stronger sense of community and watch for students lost on campus.”

The book takes the position that we need to move from a single body making a decision to taking a more consultative approach,” says Leadbeater. “Often, the permission process involves a private discussion between a researcher and an ethics board. There is no public presentation or explanation about the planned research and the possible benefits. Parents, school administrators and other interested parties are often not part of the process.

Ethical issues recommends that researchers have more open discussions with those whose role it is to protect children and youth, so that both groups can share the common interests they have in improving young people’s lives. Since the various parties realize the long-term benefits of community-based research, says Leadbeater, they can negotiate methods to conduct studies that still protect vulnerable children and youth.

“A study can be designed to give respondents the option of not answering certain questions,” explains Leadbeater, “but we haven’t come up with a process for conducting youth research ethics boards often shut the research down completely rather than allow some flexibility.

For example, she says, a proposed study on HIV prevention never got off the ground because the researchers weren’t permitted to ask young people questions about sexual activity. “It’s not quite one-stop shopping, but we certainly want it to be much easier for students to get what they need, when they need it,” says Mater. “Students with disabilities and special needs, aboriginal students, distance education students, and those from overseas face particular challenges, but all students are likely to need support at some point during their university careers in order to succeed.”

The council expects to glean more insights about the ways in which UVic students currently use and experience campus resources from a national survey of student engagement, sent to more than 3,000 fourth-year UVic students in the past few weeks.

“We hope to use the results to inform and guide our discussions and recommendations,” says Mater.

The president’s planning and priorities council would like to thank everyone who participated in the many consultations on campus to review the UVic Strategic Plan.

Almost 30 consultations have been housed in nine committees across campus since November 2005. Students, faculty, staff, representatives and members of other groups contributed their opinions on the future of the university — opinions that will be invaluable to the council in determining how the plan will be renewed later this year.

Drs. of promotions from the campus community were received by e-mail and on paper by the end of February.

What are the next steps now that the four-month internal consultation process is winding down? Over the spring, UVic President David Brain will continue to receive input from the external community through a combination of regular meetings, individual consultations and breakfast sessions with community leaders, elected representatives, community leaders and business and community organizations, as well as a general request for feedback.

The annual joint senate/board retreat, which takes place March 4, will be devoted to the renewal of the plan. Input will also be obtained from the president’s advisory council on aboriginal education in March.

After sifting through and analysing the input, the committee will embark upon the renewal of the plan. It hopes to issue a draft of the renewed plan for feedback this September. Later in the fall, the committee will revise the draft in light of comments received, so that a renewed plan can be submitted to the senate and the board of governors for approval in December 2006 or January 2007.

To keep up to date on the process, visit uvic.ca/strategicreview.

Learn what’s NEW
in the Spring/Summer Continuing Education Calendar

• Camosun’s new calendar is out March 16 with over 200 part-time new, evening and fast-tracked programs
• Pick up a calendar on-campus at Camosun College or call 370-4238 if we can mail you a personal copy

The Ring March 2006  Page 3
The small garnet mine in the McKin- non Building explodes with noise as nearly 20 kids thunder across the floor and back in a warm-up exercise. Afterwards, they split into teams and begin a soccer game in which no one keeps score and everyone, even the goalkeepers, cheers with every goal.

“Just for Kicks,” a soccer program for children with disabilities, was cre- ated in 1999 by UVic biology professor Dr. Nigel Livingston. “I used to coach my older daughter’s soccer team, and my younger daughter, Hannah, who has Angelman syndrome, would come along to the games and watch,” says Livingston. “I thought it was a good idea for these kids to be included.”

Livingston says the program couldn’t function without “soccer buddies”—volunteers from UVic and the community. “The kids can’t all play at the same time, and they love sitting on the bench between games and chatting with the volunteers,” says Livingston. “The volunteers are wonderful; they come out week after week and have shown a very strong commitment to the program. It’s deeply appreciated.”

Many of the student volunteers are graduating this year, so the program is looking for new recruits. “The key is that they enjoy being with children; they don’t need soccer experience,” he says. Jennie Crockford, a fourth-year anthropology student, has been vol- unteering as a soccer buddy since her first year at UVic. “I’ve kept going back because of the kids,” she says. “They’re really sweet and I like the fact that you could see how to make soccer a good time.”

Crockford’s enthusiasm encour- aged Joe Ramavaya, a fourth-year biology student, to volunteer. “The kids are so happy to see you. You perk them up. If you’re having a bad day, it’s a good distraction from school,” she says. It’s a very safe atmosphere for them to play and interact with other kids with disabilities, so they don’t feel that they’re being limited by anything.”

Just for Kicks is a drop-in program with no fees and no formal registration. It takes place Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. in the McKinnon Gym. For more information or to volunteer, visit web.uvic.ca/uviclaw or contact Nigel Livingston at 721-7121 rnj@uvic.ca.
DIANA NETHERCOTT
health care options, such as home
ed toward a broad range of senior
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residential care.
with dementia, palliative care,
care for caregivers, care for people
current research embraces respite
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in later years, Chappell has to look
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Her mother, who died last year at
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Local festival celebrates aging
As part of Embrace Aging Month, a citywide festival of events
celebrating seniors and the agencies that support them, UVic’s
centre on aging is hosting lectures, presentations and an art exhibit.
The UVic events include a fabric art exhibit by Vermont artist Deidre
Scherer (Feb. 27–March 21), facilitated conversation circles to talk
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The festival also features a performance about Alzheimer’s and
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To help kick-start Spring to Life Health & Fitness Week (March
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sampling of the health and fitness options in the region.

“Masterminds: A Lecture Series by UVic Retirees” is five lectures
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Building, room 105. Register by calling 472-4743. Plan to arrive
early, because seating will be limited. The series is presented by the
UVic Retirees Association and the centre on aging. See Calendar
Highlights on page 7 for more details.

For more details on the above events visit www.coag.uvic.ca/events.htm
or call 721-6369.

by Beth Haysom
University of Victoria gerontologist
‘Nena Chappell doesn’t miss a beat
when she’s offered a “magic wand”
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by Dianne George

Dr. Gwyn Morgan, who established EnCana Corp. as the country’s largest energy company, is the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award, presented by UVic’s faculty of business board of advisors.

The annual award acknowledges an inspirational entrepreneur who has had a significant and positive impact on the global community through his or her business leadership.

“Gwyn is an outspoken visionary who established EnCana as a world-class Canadian company,” says David Schneider, chair of the board of advisors. “He’s been instrumental in defining the ethical behaviour expected of leaders, employers and contractors and is a great example to our students.”

Morgan, who stepped down as president and CEO of EnCana last December, describes himself as a “farm kid from Carstairs, Alberta.” He first considered a career in medicine, then biomedical engineering. In the end, he studied mechanical engineering and joined Alberta Energy Company (AEC) at the time of its startup in 1975.

“My first job was to develop its oil and gas business,” says Morgan. “We drilled our first well in 1976. One of my proudest moments was seeing a Canadian flag flying over that first well.”

Now EnCana’s executive vice-chair, Morgan spent nearly 30 years with AEC then merged it with Pan Canadian Energy to create EnCana in early 2002. It’s now North America’s largest producer of natural gas. “EnCana sprang from my desire to keep the Canadian flag flying over a Canadian-headquartered company,” says Morgan.

Morgan was voted Canada’s most respected CEO for 2005 in an end-of-year survey of 250 chief executive officers. In the 1990s Morgan created an ethics/code of conduct for AEC and later developed the EnCana constitution. The constitution defines the company’s business and moral principles and forms a part of each employee’s annual performance review.

“I consider creating an ethical company that is a positive force in the communities and countries where we work to be the heart of my life’s work,” he says.

Morgan’s commitment to healthy living is equal to his commitment to maintaining a Canadian presence in the oil patch. His fitness regime includes running, biking, hiking and a daily dose of yoga. Morgan is no stranger to Victoria. He and his wife, Patricia Trottier, have moved to North Saanich and are making this community the base for the next chapter of their life.

Morgan holds a BSc from the University of Alberta and honorary degrees from the University of Lethbridge and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. He’s also a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Morgan will be presented with the award at a gala evening on May 18 at the Victoria Conference Centre. For more information on Gwyn Morgan, the nomination process and the event visit www.business.uvic.ca/deya.
Friday, March 3

Saturday, March 4
Lansdowne Lecture 11 a.m. Plant Against America: Dis-eases and No-liberals. Walter Benno Michals, Univ. of Illinois. Commons Block, Arthuria/Queenwood. 721-7336.

Asperva Distinguished Speaker Series 7:30 p.m. Global Health and Citizenship. Dr. James Obikwelu, past international president of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders. Univ Center Auditorium. Reserved seating. 721-8480.

Sunday, March 5
Music 7:30 p.m. Donors Concert. A special program in appreciation of those who support school of music scholarships and bursaries. MacLaurin B121. 721-7904.

Monday, March 6

Tuesday, March 7

Lansdowne Lecture 1:30 p.m. The Phantom of the Opera World Barn. Lois Parkinson Zamora, Univ. of Houston. Cornell A125. 721-7413.


Wednesday, March 8
Orion Lecture 1 p.m. Encounters with Dramaturgy. Don Hannah, playwright, dramaturge and novelist. Phoenix Theatre. 721-4694.


Thursday, March 9
Public Issues Community Forum 7:30 p.m. Spinning Out of Control. Speaker Heather Mennes, author of No Time: Stars and the Crisis of Modern Life. Fraser 159. Register 473-4474.

Friday, March 10
Music 12:30 p.m. Fridaysmik. School of music church ensembles. MacLaurin B121. 721-7904.

Sunday, March 12
Embrace Ageing Kickoff Event 1 p.m. The official kickoff to “Spring to Life Health & Fitness Week.” Features a keynote address by PhD candidate Rachel Dean, Uvic, on Strategising for Improving Physical Activity in Daily Life. Strong C121. 721-6256.

Monday, March 13
Lansdowne Lecture 7 p.m. What Have We Learned from Ukrainian History? Mark von Hagen, Columbia Univ. Strong C206. 721-7136.

Tuesday, March 14
Annual Book Fair 3 p.m. A special selection of second-language teaching texts. Hosted by the department of applied linguistics and the division of continuing studies. Continuing Studies 197-4666.


Lansdowne Lecture 7 p.m. Do the Helping Professionals Need Help? Notes on the Teacher’s Illness. Deborah Britzman, Univ. of Massachusetts. MacLaurin D110. 721-7799.

Wednesday, March 15

Orion Lecture 1 p.m. A presentation of Barbara Gallucci’s sculptural works. MacLaurin A144. 721-8804.

Thursday, March 16
Lansdowne Lecture 7 p.m. Recognizing Terrorism. Claudia Card, Univ. of Wisconsin. Human & Social Development A240. 721-7511.
**When disaster strikes...**

A UVic admissions officer-cum-firefighter helps Hurricane Katrina victims rebuild their shattered lives

By Beth Hayzom

A paper strapped to his belt is one of two class that Chris Aubrey leads. Aubrey, a Clark Kent style double life at the University of Victoria.

By day he’s an admissions officer. But evenings, weekends and during major disasters, Aubrey switches to his role as a Langford volunteer firefighter responding to emergency calls, rescuing and comforting people.

In spite of the demands and inherent dangers, Aubrey is living his childhood dream: “I love doing this. My dad was a firefighter, so this is something I’ve wanted to do since I was eight or nine years-old,” says Aubrey. “But now it’s different because Langford gets hit in major disasters provincially and internationally.

Along with his fellow Langford firefighters, Aubrey went to New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. He helped to battle forest fires in the 2003 firestorms in the B.C. interior. And last month he spent a week of his vacation in southern Mississippi, helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina to rebuild their shattered lives.

The Langford fire depart- ment, along with three other local fire departments, sent down crews to help out in the Gulfport and Pass Christian areas, about 100 km away from New Orleans but similarly destroyed by the hurricane and the subsequent flooding. It was worse than anything Aubrey had ever seen before.

“I was with a bunch of veteran firefighters driving to our work site on the bus and you could have tasted a pin drop. We just couldn’t believe what we were seeing—miles and miles of utter devastation.”

Aubrey describes vast areas that are still a wasteland of smashed and broken homes, roads going nowhere, whole communities wiped out; twisted McDonalds golden arches swaying above remnants of a restaurant underneath.

The bond with fellow firefighters is often but people here know that there are times when I just have to take off.”

In fact, DAvid Glen, admissions associate registrar and Aubrey’s supervisor, is happy to have such an employee in the department. “It’s great for the university to have someone with these skills,” says Glen. “We’re proud of his commitment to community service and we’re glad to support him when we can.”

The bond with fellow firefighter fits home for Aubrey the day he stood at Ground Zero in New York City and realized the enormity of what had happened at 9/11. That’s the second clue to his double life.

On the wall of Aubrey’s UVic office is a picture of a firefighter and poem written to honour the New York firefighters who lost their lives. The last two lines are: “Keep on climbing,” says his Captain. “Eyes raised, headed for the top.”

And when you’re tired and feel like quitting. Remember them, they didn’t stop!”

That about says it all for me,” says Aubrey.

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**UVic researcher participates in stellar survey**

The astrophysics community is always hungry for new data from the nearer regions of our galaxy, so there was some excitement last month when the Radial Velocity Experiment (RAVE) released its first set of data.

RAVE is an ambitious spectroscopic survey that seeks to measure the radial velocity and stellar atmosphere of up to one million stars near the sun. The project involves scientists from Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S.

“The survey measures how fast nearby stars are approaching or receding from the sun,” says UVic astrophysicist Dr. Julio Navarro, who sits on RAVE’s science committee and is taking a lead role in the conference as part of a research team on EU-governance. Last April, Tömmel was awarded the prestigious John G. Diefenbaker Award from the Canadian Council for the Arts after being nominated by UVic’s faculty of social sciences. Under the terms of the award Tömmel is spending one year at UVic to work on a research project dealing with governance, policy-making and system building in the EU.

The survey’s first data was obtained in southern Minnes-ota, helping the victims of Hurri cane Katrina to rebuild their shattered lives.

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