Dr. David Siegel, Professor of Marine Science in the Department of Geography and Director of the Institute for Computational Earth System Science (ICESS), is a coauthor of a major article about climate warming in a recent issue of Nature (Behrenfeld, M. J., O’Malley, R. T., Siegel, D. A., McClain, C. R., Sarmiento, J. L., Feldman, G. C., et al. (2006). Climate-driven trends in contemporary ocean productivity. Nature, 444, 752-755). The NASA-funded study concludes that global warming leads to a corresponding reduction in phytoplankton, creating a potential threat to fisheries and ecosystems. In the UCSB press release, Professor Siegel states: “We show on a global scale that the growth of these plants, called phytoplankton, is strongly tied to changes in the warming of the ocean. Phytoplankton grow faster in a cool ocean and slower in a warm one. The scary part is that the oceans are warming now – probably caused by our emissions of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide.”

The NASA press release, featured on the front page of its Dec. 13, 2006 web site, stated: In a NASA study, scientists have concluded that when Earth’s climate warms, there is a reduction in the ocean’s primary food supply. This poses a potential threat to fisheries and ecosystems. By comparing nearly a decade of global ocean satellite data with several records of Earth’s changing climate, scientists found that whenever climate temperatures warmed, marine plant life in the form of microscopic phytoplankton declined. Whenever climate temperatures cooled, marine plant life became more vigorous or productive. The results provide a preview of what could
The Geography Department, like the seasons, continues to change.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to introduce new hires, such as Deanna Cervantes who has taken a position in the department dealing with purchasing and travel, Kai Lu who is our new Computer Network Technologist, and Professor Martin Raubal who arrived in January and will begin teaching Geography 184c, Geographic Visualization, this spring. A particularly warm welcome goes out to Martin, who left his native Austria and traveled over 10,000 km and crossed the Atlantic to come and join us in Santa Barbara. The Department also continues a process of renewal and is currently interviewing for a new position in Geomorphology, in which the pool of applicants was one of the largest we have ever seen, including some truly remarkable scholars. Change even walks the halls, insofar as the Geography administration will be moving from the third floor of Ellison, where they have been for more than 20 years, to the first floor. This will be a true test of our geographic skills – can the professors and students navigate a new set of floors and halls to find the support staff that have been so critical to our success? I am confident that we can! This move is only the first of many – eventually the entire Geography department will move to Phelps where we can, as a group, be a single department under one roof. While a great deal remains to be done, including the planned renovation of Phelps, we are confident that our geography will improve and that the Department will finally gain the space it merits. Finally, we are pleased to announce the success of our first visiting graduate student open house, in which prospective graduate students were invited to UCSB Geography and given a chance to meet faculty and tour the campus and area. The open house concluded with a barbecue at my house, where prospective graduate students and a selection of faculty and graduate students were given the opportunity to eat tasty tri-tip, barbecued chicken, grilled vegetables, numerous delectable side dishes (including Dan Montello’s famous beans), and home made chocolate chip ice cream. By most accounts, the evening was a success, although a rousing game of volleyball using a blow up model of the Earth did end with the destruction of our home planet.

While many changes have occurred, the department remains committed to excellence in instruction, research, and service. Many of our faculty have taken significant positions in University governance, most notably Dr. Joel Michaelsen who is now the Chair of the Academic Senate. Two events were particularly important this winter: the Program Review Panel (PRP) review and National Research Council (NRC) survey of graduate programs. The PRP review is a process in which all aspects of the department, from undergraduate teaching and graduate training to extramural funding and staffing and facilities, are evaluated. Every department on campus undergoes this process, typically every 8-10 years, to obtain a better sense of how well the department is doing and what it could do better. It is a very time consuming process, but is a critical aspect of self-evaluation and independent assessment that ensures that we remain on track to provide excellence in education. This winter, the Geography department finished the process and appears to have come through with flying colors. Improvements will be needed, most notably in instructional computing and modest changes in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, but the overall review of the department, staff, faculty, and students was glowing. At the same time, the department also participated in the NRC survey of graduate programs. This is a national program that also occurs more or less every 10 years. The NRC survey is critical in that it provides an overall evaluation of graduate programs nationally. In the previous survey, the department did quite well, being ranked 4th in the nation for Geography and achieving the highest NRC ranking of all UCSB departments. This time around, it is our goal to become the top ranked department in Geography. While important components of the survey remain to be completed, the department did well, including a 100% return rate for faculty surveys, far above the national average. Overall, UCSB did quite well, with a 93% return rate, in large part thanks to the efforts of our Dean of Graduate Education, Gail Morrison.

With these final words I would like to wish our newest hires the best, and I know we all look forward to another wonderful spring in Santa Barbara.

Sincerely

Dar Roberts
“The scary part is that the oceans are warming now – probably caused by our emissions of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide.”

Phytoplankton are microscopic plants living in the upper sunlit layer of the ocean. They are responsible for approximately the same amount of photosynthesis each year as all land plants combined. Changes in phytoplankton growth and photosynthesis influence fishery yields, marine bird populations, and the amount of carbon dioxide the oceans remove from the atmosphere. “Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere play a big part in global warming,” said lead author Michael Behrenfeld of Oregon State University, Corvallis. “This study shows that as the climate warms, phytoplankton growth rates go down and along with them the amount of carbon dioxide these ocean plants consume. That allows carbon dioxide to accumulate more rapidly in the atmosphere, which would produce more warming.”

The findings are from a NASA-funded analysis of data from the Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor (SeaWiFS) instrument on the OrbView-2 spacecraft, launched in 1997. The uninterrupted nine-year record shows in great detail the ups and downs of marine biological activity or productivity from month to month and year to year. Captured at the start of this data record was a major, rapid rebound in ocean biological activity after a major El Niño event. El Niño and La Niña are major warming or cooling events, respectively, that occur approximately every 3-7 years in the eastern Pacific Ocean and are known to change weather patterns around the world. Ocean plant growth increased from 1997 to 1999 as the climate cooled during one of the strongest El Niño to La Niña transitions on record. Since 1999, the climate has been in a period of warming that has seen the health of ocean plants diminish.
Research by Dar Roberts Featured by NASA and the BBC


NASA data from earth observation satellites is helping build the capability to determine when and where wildfires may occur by providing details on plant conditions, according to a recent study. While information from sophisticated satellites and instruments have recently allowed scientists to quickly determine the exact location of wildfires and to monitor their movement, this geoscience research offers a step toward predicting their development and could complement data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather satellites used to help calculate fire potential across much of the United States.

By studying shrublands prone to wildfire in southern California, scientists found that NASA earth observations accurately detected and mapped two key factors: plant moisture and fuel condition - or greenness - defined as the proportion of live to dead plant material. Moisture levels and fuel condition, combined with the weather, play a major role in the ignition, rate of spread, and intensity of wildfires. “This represents an advance in our ability to predict wildfires using data from recently launched instruments,” said lead author Dar Roberts, University of California-Santa Barbara. “We have come a long way in just the past 5 to 10 years and continue to gather much better data on the variables critical in wildfire development and spread. Improving the role of satellite data in wildfire prediction and monitoring through efforts like these is critical, since traditional field sampling is limited by high costs, and the number and frequency of sites you can sample. This new data on the relative greenness of a landscape also allows us to see how conditions are changing compared to the past.”


AVIRIS image before and after the Calabasas fire. Dark areas in the image on the right are exposed ash and soil, showing the fire scar. The fire tended to burn in areas with lower ratios of live vegetation to non-photosynthetic vegetation. Image courtesy of Dar Roberts.
Goodchild Receives GITA Lifetime Achievement Award

On March 5, 2007, the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) announced that Professor Michael Goodchild has been named as the 2007 recipient of GITA’s Lifetime Achievement Award. “This distinguished award recognizes an individual’s outstanding contribution and longstanding commitment to the geospatial industry. A specially appointed blue-ribbon panel of experts -- representing geospatial users, solution providers, academia, publishing, government, and business -- carefully evaluates nominees for this prestigious award using a stringent set of criteria. Candidates for this award include those whose pioneering spirit and demonstrated dedication have contributed greatly to the geospatial industry and whose example serves as an inspiration to others. The Geospatial Industry Lifetime Achievement Award is presented at the GITA Annual Conference. Nominations are open to any current or former member of the geospatial community.”

To quote GITA’s press release, “Goodchild first encountered geographic information systems and computer mapping in the late 1960s, when it was a struggling high-end computing application, and said he’s particularly gratified by the response the technology has received in universities. Goodchild said he’s happy that the general public has reached the point where virtually anyone with a Web browser can make use of geospatial tools; but, at the same time he said that geospatial professionals have only begun to recognize how far they still have to go in giving everyone access to the basic spatial literacy that’s needed to use the tools effectively.” “I’m immensely honored by this award, especially as it comes from an organization that emphasizes the importance of education in the broad and expanding geospatial community. This is a very exciting time to be working in this area, particularly for the younger generation,” Goodchild said (http://www.gisuser.com/content/view/10965/).

Professor Goodchild received a BA in Physics from Cambridge University and a PhD in Geography from McMaster University. He joined the UCSB Department of Geography in 1988, and he has served as Chair of the Department (1998-2000); chair of the Executive Committee of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis since 1997; Associate Director of the Alexandria Digital Library Project since 1994; Chair of the Mapping Science Committee, National Research Council, 1997–1999; and Director of NCGIA’s Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science since 1999. His research interests include urban and economic geography, geographic information systems, and spatial analysis. Considered the father of GIScience, Goodchild’s many honors include being elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002, being awarded the Founder’s Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 2003, and being elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006. For more, see Mike’s web site at www.geog.ucsb.edu/~good.

Golledge Receives AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors

The AAG Council has selected Professor Reginald Golledge to receive the Lifetime Achievement Honors of the Association of American Geographers for 2007. Every year the AAG recognizes outstanding members in research, in education, and for lifetime achievement in geography—no more than six individuals may be recommended for AAG Honors in a given year. Reg’s award will be presented at the AAG’s Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on April 21. To quote the AAG Honors Committee:

Reginald (“Reg”) Golledge is recognized by the AAG for his truly distinguished career as a geographer and AAG member and for his numerous and outstanding contributions to geographic theory and practice. Reg has made important contributions within the industrial, transportation, behavioral, and quantitative realms of geography, and he played a pivotal role in developing behavioral geography. His work on spatial cognition, spatial learning, and “way finding,” especially by people with sight disabilities, has been fundamental.
Professor Oliver Chadwick, considered one of the world’s leading scientists in relating soils to ecology and Earth system science, was recently selected as a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). The award is the highest honor the Society bestows on its members. Oliver is one of 14 individuals selected as a Fellow in 2006 (a maximum of 0.3% of SSSA’s membership base of 6,000 are elected to Fellow each year). The prestigious award was presented at the SSSA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America on Nov. 12-16 in Indianapolis, IN.

The SSSA is part of The International Soil Science Society (ISSS) which was established in 1924 as a private, non-profit organization to foster all branches of soil science and their applications. In 1993, the ISSS was approved as a Scientific Member Union of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and began its transformation to an international scientific union. Since 1998, membership in the new International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) requires national membership through an adhering body. In the United States, this is the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. adhering body for ICSU and most of its 26 disciplinary member unions. The U.S. National Committee for Soil Science (USNC/SS), upon which Dr. Chadwick serves, represents the interests of the U.S. soil science community in the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), a scientific union member of the International Council for Science (ICSU). For more, see http://www7.nationalacademies.org/usnc-ss/index.html.

Dr. Chadwick became the Chair of the UCSB Department of Geography in July 2006. He is a joint professor in the Geography Department and the Environmental Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His work for the Department of Geography is in the area of soil sciences: soil formation and advanced classification and evolution of soil landscapes. He received his BS degree in Biology from George Washington University, MS degree in Horticulture from Cornell University, and PhD in Soil Science and Quaternary Geology from the University of Arizona. Prior to moving to UCSB, he spent 8 years as a NASA research scientist at JPL-Caltech. Dr. Chadwick’s research covers the following areas: organic and mineral fluxes in soils and ecosystems; soil-vegetation-landscape relationships; evolution of landscapes over Quaternary time scales; isotopic fractionations during weathering and soil development; soil response to change in environmental factors; modeling variation in soil properties in space and time.

Chadwick Selected as Fellow of Soil Science Society

Professor Oliver Chadwick, considered one of the world’s leading scientists in relating soils to ecology and Earth system science, was recently selected as a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). The award is the highest honor the Society bestows on its members. Oliver is one of 14 individuals selected as a Fellow in 2006 (a maximum of 0.3% of SSSA’s membership base of 6,000 are elected to Fellow each year). The prestigious award was presented at the SSSA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America on Nov. 12-16 in Indianapolis, IN.

Reg has been widely recognized, especially for his many research contributions and his efforts to increase the independence of sight-impaired people. Among his many honors are election as President of the AAG, as Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and as Guggenheim Fellow. Reg also won the International Geographers Gold Medal from the Institute of Australian Geographers, Academic Honors from the AAG, and the Grosvenor Medal for Geographic Education.

Reg has been a Professor of Geography at UCSB since 1977, he served as the Department Chair from 1980 to 1984, and he has written or edited fifteen books, over ninety chapters in books, and over 200 journal articles and research reports. The Golledge Distinguished Lecture was instituted in Reg’s honor in 1984 when he became legally blind. For more, see http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/people/faculty/reginald-golledge.php.
Alumni News and Change-of-Address Form

Mail to: Newsletter Editor, Geography Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4060

We would love to hear news of your life and appreciate your taking the time to update us with addresses and phone numbers. If you prefer, submit the information on-line at: www.geog.ucsb.edu/people/alumnus_update_form.htm

NAME: First__________________________________Middle initial___Last name ___________________

Last name when graduated, if different from above: _____________________________________________

DEGREE(S): Please circle the degree(s) you earned in Geography at UCSB and year received.
BA  Year ________ BS  Year _______ MA  Year _______ PhD  Year ___________

CONTACT NUMBERS: Do we have your current contact information? If we need to update our records or if you’re not sure whether we have your latest numbers, please fill in the information.

Street address or P. O. Box _________________________________________________________________

City _________________________State or Province ______________Zip code (or postal code) ______

Country, if not United States _____________________________________________________________

Phone number ___________________________ Email address _______________________________________

NEWS: Please share brief news of a personal or professional nature – marriage, births, jobs, further education, career changes, publications, awards, etc. If possible, limit submissions to 100 words or less.

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The following people and institutions donated funds to the Geography Department
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UC Santa Barbara’s Ellison Hall, a six-story building containing offices, classrooms, and dry laboratories has instituted a new vermicomposting program as part of the campus’ drive towards environmental sustainability under the guidance of the multi-departmental Ellison Hall Sustainability Committee. Vermicomposting is the process of using worms to break down organic waste into soil and fertilizer.

A test composting program has been in place in the Geography department kitchen for about a month, collecting between five and ten pounds of material each week for only one bin. The program is now expanding into the Communications and Sociology departments, as well as the Institute for Computational Earth System Science (ICESS). A similar vermicomposting program has been in place in Bren Hall for several years.

The vermicomposting program is a key part of the new Ellison Hall Recycling Plan, a broad, building-wide initiative to reduce the waste produced by Ellison Hall. In addition to handling standard waste such as copy paper and plastic bottles, the plan will incorporate programs to recycle electronic waste, film plastics, and other lesser-known wastes, and will conduct office cleanouts of recycled material when faculty members move in or out. Reducing Ellison Hall’s waste output is a prerequisite to getting Ellison Hall recognized as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building. In December of last year, UCSB set a goal to have 25 existing buildings receive LEED recognition in the next five years, one of which will be Ellison Hall.

Ellison Hall’s vermicomposting program represents a combined effort by the custodial staff, the fire marshal, AS Recycling, and the Ellison Hall Sustainability Committee. The Committee is com-
Would You Like To Donate?
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Gifts of support for the Department of Geography at UCSB are deeply appreciated. All gifts, large and small, help us in our mission of teaching and research, and promote the study and understanding of planet Earth and its inhabitants.

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☐ Landon Romano Textbook Scholarship: Landon Romano, 1999 alumnus, established textbook fund to give back to the department that made a positive difference in his career.

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Thank you for your generous support!

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☐ The Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Fund: The Bourdakis Fund was established after the tragic death of Nicholas, who died in February 2001 when struck by a car in Isla Vista. He had just declared Geography his major.

☐ Jack and Laura Dangermond Fund: Jack Dangermond is the founder of ESRI (1969), a GIS and mapping software company. He is considered one of the most influential people in GIS worldwide.

☐ The Jack Estes Memorial Fund: Jack Estes was a Geography faculty member for over thirty years. He built a thriving remote sensing research unit and mentored many students.

☐ The Reginald G. and Allison L. Golledge Distinguished Lecture Fund: Twenty years ago, the Golledge Distinguished Lecture was instituted to bring highly respected speakers to campus to share their research.

☐ The David Simonett Memorial Fund: David Simonett was the first Chair of the Geography Department. He built what has become one of the nation’s finest Geography Departments.

☐ Leal Mertes Memorial Scholarship Fund: The Scholarship will support undergraduate and graduate UCSB students who are planning or are engaged in scientific field research.
prised of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty members. In addition to the vermicomposting program and the new recycling plan, the Committee is working on reducing the energy consumed by computer monitors and lights, and amending department purchasing plans to favor buying environmentally preferable products. Similar committees exist in the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, Davidson Library, the Recreation Center, Associated Students, and Student Affairs.

Press Release by Katie Maynard and Eli Krispi of the Ellison Hall Sustainability Committee. For more about the project (and “Cagney,” the staff’s pet rubber rat), see the December 08, 2006 article on our web site – “The Greening of Ellison.”

Jim Marston (PhD 2002) was at the National Academies’ Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington DC in January, serving on the Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee. He contacted former grad student John Cloud who happens to live a few blocks from the convention hotel and learned that another former grad, Paul Sutton, was also in town on NSF business and had plans to visit John. The next day, amidst 11,000 attendees in three conference hotels, he ran into yet another grad, Paul Sorensen. All four had been Ph.D. students (and matriculated!) in the Department in the mid to late 90’s. Although they had varied research interests, there is a common bond that develops in grad life, such as sharing offices, resources, collegiums, and libations, as well as the search for geographic insights into today’s, yesterday’s, and tomorrow’s events. They all hooked up the next night and spent a delightful evening at “Chez Cloud” catching up, reminiscing, and quaffing wine and John’s famed (infamous?) home made Lemoncello. A good time was had by all (!), and Jim asked each of these UCSB Geography “good old boys” to share their experiences and comments with the department.

John Cloud (Ph.D. 2000) states: “Following UCSB, I had a postdoc appointment in the Peace Studies Program at Cornell University. When I arrived in Ithaca, everyone thought ‘Peace Studies’ was quaint. After 9/11 occurred, it seemed more relevant. I did an additional postdoc research project at Cornell in the Science and Technology Studies Department exploring the roots of GIS technologies and practices in analog map overlay systems and classified Cold War reconnaissance and mapping programs. Because I was one of the few contemporary geographers who know some definitions for ‘geodesy,’ I was hired under contract to NOAA to research and write the history of the second century of the Coast and Geodetic
Survey, the oldest scientific agency in the US government and the oldest element of NOAA. This year, 2007, is its 200th anniversary. NOAA has no budget, and is operating under continuing resolutions. Therefore, I might be continuing on the project, or I may soon hit the mean streets of Washington when the money runs out. But it has been an extraordinary time, and I have learned much. I have a scanning project to secure high resolution digital images of the treasures of the Coast Survey Library and Archives Collection. When I actually find the 1870s topography sheet covering Goleta and Pelican Point (now College Point), I will send the image to Geography for your delight and amazement."

Jim Marston (PhD 2002) is a post doctoral researcher at UCSB who is currently working with a group (Geographer Reg Golledge, UCSB, and Psychologists Jack Loomis, UCSB, and Roberta Klatsky, Carnegie Mellon) who developed a GPS-based Personal Guidance System for the blind (see http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/pgs/main.htm ). He has been researching and conducting experiments to enhance that group’s user interface, testing various methods to deliver route guidance information. They have examined a wide range of interfaces, including a head or body mounted, or hand held tracking compass and a wide range of audio cues, including various sounds that appear to come from the direction of the next waypoint (virtual sound) delivered through headphones, spoken turn directions, and even a vibrotactile stimulation that informs the user of course corrections. He is also involved with a group from Utah State University who are developing a GPS system which also uses wireless hub locations to assist the user when no GPS signal is available. Another of his projects examines trip planning for the blind, including tactile maps and GIS database simulated travel.

Paul Sorensen (PhD 1999) contributes the following notes: “Following the completion of my dissertation, I took a brief hiatus from geography, spending a few years in San Francisco working in the Internet software industry (I arrived just before the dot-bomb bust, so I didn’t have the chance to earn a fortune overnight). Soon I began to miss the opportunity to work on interesting social challenges, however, and I also became increasingly intrigued with the concept of urban sustainability. To pursue this further, I wound up enrolling in the urban planning program at UCLA, where I completed a master’s degree in 2005. While at UCLA, I developed (to my initial surprise) a keen interest in public policy questions. This interest led, eventually, to my current job at the RAND Corporation, where I focus on policy analysis related to land use, transportation, energy, and the environment. RAND turns out to be a pretty amazing place to work, though we could use more geographers around here. The following are a few examples of recent projects that I’ve had the chance to work on: (1) assessing policies to promote improved affordable housing options in coastal Mississippi in the wake of Katrina; (2) developing a methodology for assessing the costs and benefits of alternate physical-design security improvements at LAX; (3) projecting future land acquisition costs and available revenues for assembly of the multiple species habitat conservation plan in western Riverside County; and (4) planning the locations of emergency clinics to dispense medications or vaccinations in the event of major epidemics or bio-terrorist events.

Paul Sutton (PhD 1999) is presently an associate professor in the Geography Department at the University of Denver. Paul was in DC for an NSF workshop on integrating the Social sciences into existing NSF observatories and loved touching base with former colleagues and co-conspirators. Paul fondly recalls playing darts with Reg Golledge at the Faculty Club and wishes DU cared enough for their faculty to even have a faculty club!

Rap sheets on the Boys from DC:
John Cloud John.Cloud@noaa.gov (Ph.D. 2000: Hidden in Plain Sight: CORONA and the Clandestine Geography of the Cold War; Keith Clarke, Chair)

Jim Marston marstonj@geog.ucwh.edu (PhD 2002: Towards an Accessible City: Empirical Measurement and Modeling of Access to Urban Opportunities for those with Vision Impairments, Using Remote Infrared Audible Signage, Reg Golledge, Chair)

Paul Sorensen sorensen@rand.org (PhD 2001: Locating Resources for the Provision of Emergency Medical Services), Rick Church, Chair)

Paul Sutton psutton@du.edu (PhD 1999: Census from Heaven: Estimation of Human Population Parameters using Nighttime Satellite Imagery; Dar Roberts, Chair)
Without geography, you are nowhere.

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