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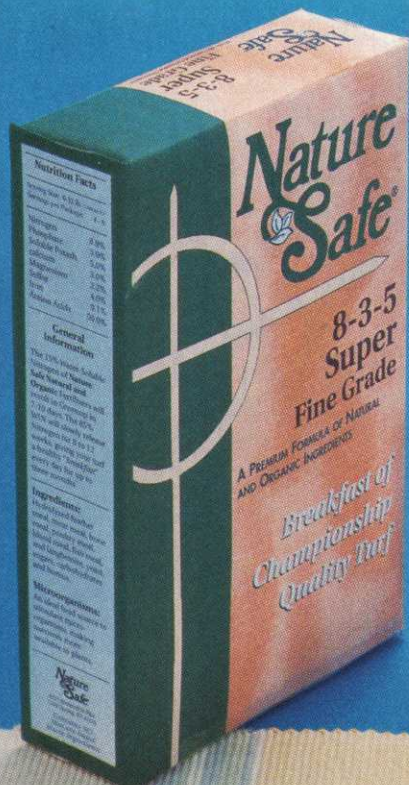
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# Golfdom

SEPTEMBER 2000 • VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 9

## The Putting

30

### The Great Spec Debate

Don't be afraid to try California greens, insists **Mike Hurdzan** of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design. But you can't beat USGA greens, counters **Jim Moore**, USGA's director of construction education.

38

### Inside the Fringe

What's goin' on on the green? Florida superintendent **Joe Boe** cites his top 10 reasons why golfers gripe about greens, Dave Wilber talks about making peace with *Poa annua*, and more.



46

### Field of Dreams

Thanks to several Arizona superintendents, students at a tiny school on an impoverished Indian reservation will get their much-needed exercise by playing and running on turf fit for a golf course.

By Larry Aylward

59

### Let's Get (the Best) Bent

Superintendents want the finest varieties money can buy.

By Mark Leslie



# Surface

## cover story

In this special issue, we cover the gamut on greens — from specs to speed to alternative spikes.

# 30

### About the cover

We found this nifty photograph by Joe McBride of a golf ball moving on a green, like a Mac truck rolling down the highway, from Tony Stone Images.

## 66 Tread Lightly

Alternative spikes have relieved courses from the heavy damage of traditional metals, but new cleat designs have some superintendents concerned.

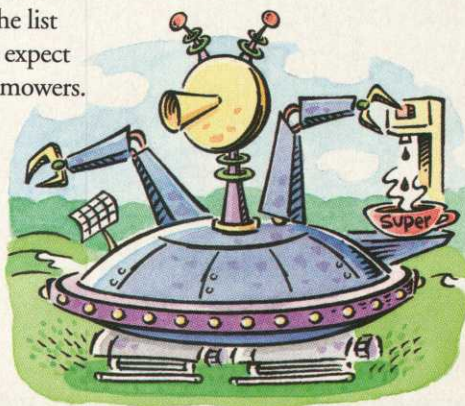
By Frank H. Andorka Jr.



## 70 To Infinity And Beyond

High-tech features top the list of what superintendents expect from tomorrow's greens mowers.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.



### News with a hook

- 14 PDI Permutations
- 15 True Golf Confessions

## columns

- 12 **Flagstick**  
Just Say No to Al, Carol and Joe
- 29 **Shades of Green**  
Don't Get Caught in the Speed Trap
- 44 **Golf By Design**  
Golf's Greatest Green Complexes
- 56 **Money Shot**  
A Little Thunder, A Lot of Impact
- 78 **Talking Tech**  
Shakespeare Never Dealt with the Web
- 92 **Out of Bounds**  
Cyber Shopping for Cars

## real-life solutions

- 74 **TifEagle Flies**  
Florida course's greens now possess 'tournament-like conditions.'

## departments

- 6 Going Postal
- 11 Events
- 14 Off the Fringe
- 26 Hole of the Month
- 80 Tips: Sampling
- 86 Leaders
- 87 Company Line
- 90 Classifieds



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**B**EFFICIENT **B**CLEAN **B**POW  
**B**QUIET **B**EFFICIENT **B**SM  
**B**EFFICIENT **B**CLEAN **B**POW  
**B**QUIET **B**SMOOTH **B**SLEEK  
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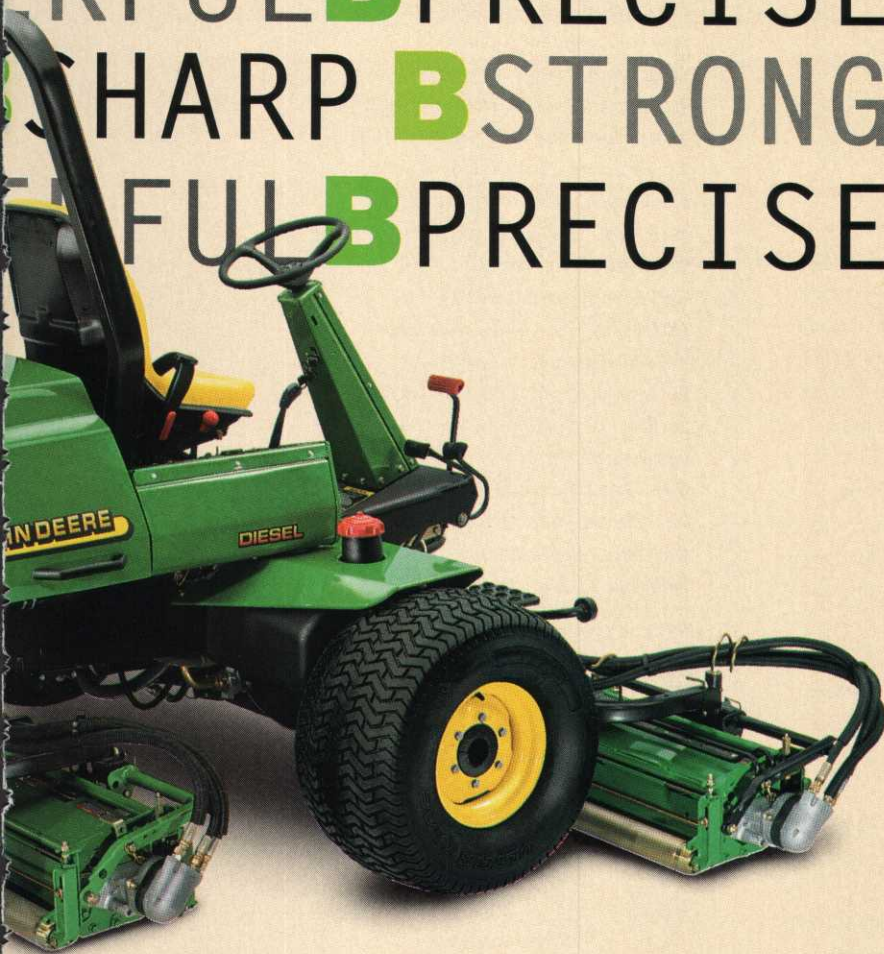
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Excellence has a new letter. The new John Deere 3215B Turf System I and the 3235B Turf System II take lightweight fairway mowers to new heights of efficiency, cut quality, and grass collecting. Both machines boast new 22-inch bed-knife-to-reel cutting units. These units have larger reel motors than the previous generation for improved power. (The 3235B can be equipped with ESP cutting units for use in lush, warm-season grasses.) A new yoke and ball joint design on the cutting units improves grass collecting. And the cutting units can be easily removed for servicing. A more efficient new triple pump has one inlet instead of two. That means less leak points and fewer parts. It also has 12-tooth gears for a lower internal pressure drop and improved flow dynamics. A standard electric fan drive improves engine cooling performance while reducing sound levels to an all-time low. And to cap it all off, both the 3215B and 3235B sport new streamlined, fiberglass hoods. To see the new John Deere Lightweight Fairway Mowers in action, call 1-800-537-8233 for your free video today. Then call your local John Deere golf & turf distributor.

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# Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

## And the Oscar goes to ...

After reading your July Flagstick column, I couldn't help but share an Oscar Miles story with you. I'm a superintendent of a Chicago-area muni that does about 55,000 rounds a year.

We were hosting one of our local chapter meetings, and I spent the couple of weeks prior nervously running around sweeping dust under the carpet for the "party."

Following the day, Oscar, with whom I had no prior acquaintance, took the time to give me a call and thank me for my efforts, compliment me on our golf course and invite me and three friends to the Merit Club as his guests.

It was a wonderful gesture that I will always remember and appreciate. It doesn't surprise at all me that you chose him as an example of nobility in our profession.

While I never had the good fortune to work for Mr. Miles, I would like to nominate Bob Williams for an "Oscar." Bob is the retired superintendent of Bob O'Link GC in Highland Park, Ill. Bob (Bruce Williams' father) prepared dozens of greenhorns like me for careers as superintendents.

Once Bob took you on his staff, he made it his business to fill in the blanks and smooth the rough edges.

In my case, he took one look at my talents and put me on the remedial track, even to the point of giving me personal instruction on the proper technique of operating a shovel — I'm talking about the manual kind.

Whatever success I enjoy in this crazy and mysterious field, I owe to the patience and ex-

acting standards I learned in the two years I spent working for this fine gentleman. Thanks for reminding me of my roots and my obligation to those who follow.

**Fred Behnke**  
Superintendent  
Mount Prospect GC  
Mount Prospect, Ill.

## Shorter courses require advance planning

I enjoyed "Hacks Long for Short Courses" (Money Shot, June) and certainly agree with many of your comments. There's a place for shorter courses and as you say, "People will come, but they are getting tired of waiting."

We're involved in two First Tee projects that will have shorter courses and a project in Lake Geneva, Wis., that actually has an 18-hole short game challenge course adjacent to the 18-hole regulation course.

The short-game challenge course is one of the strongest selling points of the project and is sure to be a hit. From the beginning, the developer wanted to provide a course that would appeal to golfers seeking an alternative to the par-72, 18-hole big course.

**Doug Hellman**  
Craig Schreiner Golf Course  
Architects  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at [pjones@advanstar.com](mailto:pjones@advanstar.com), fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.**

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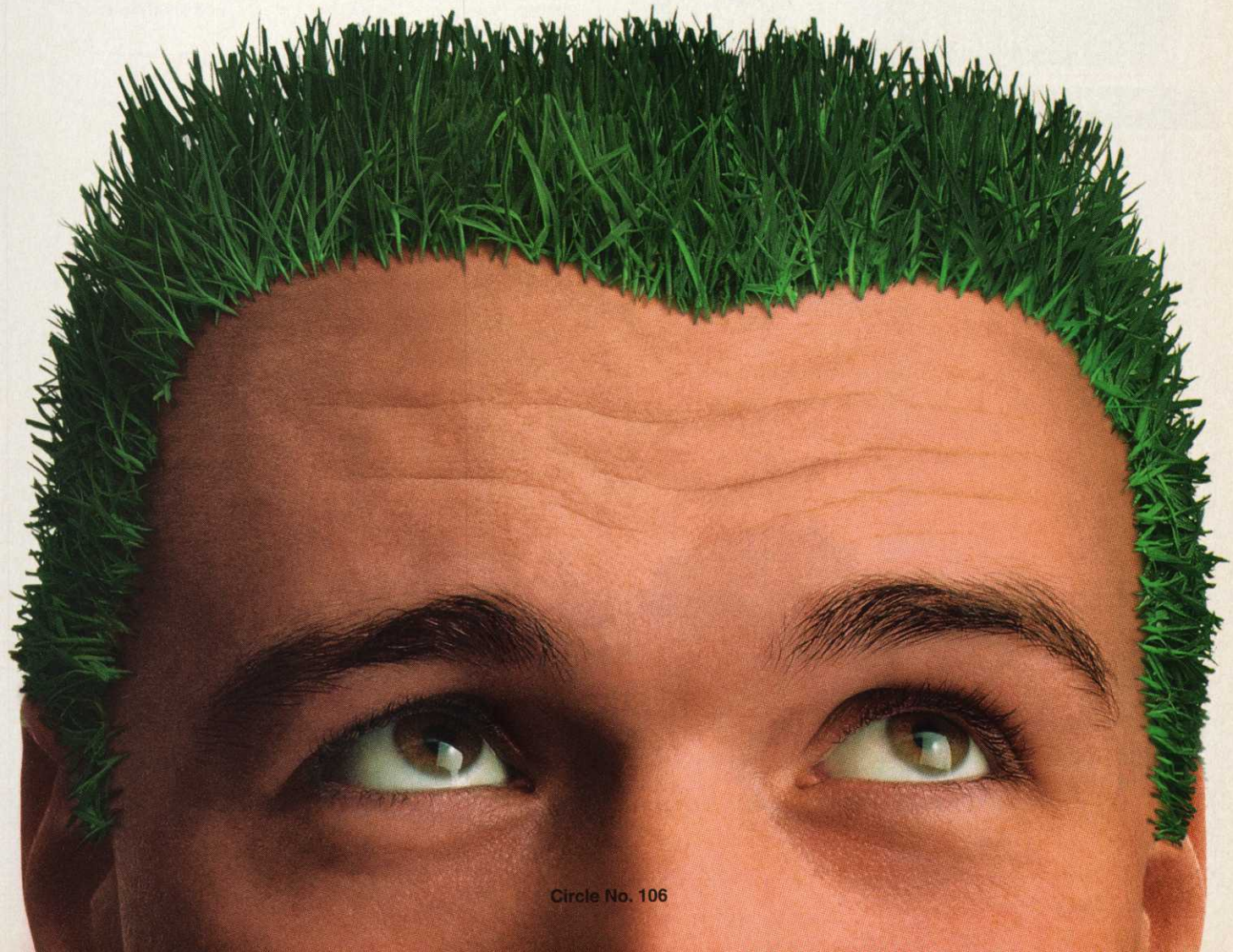


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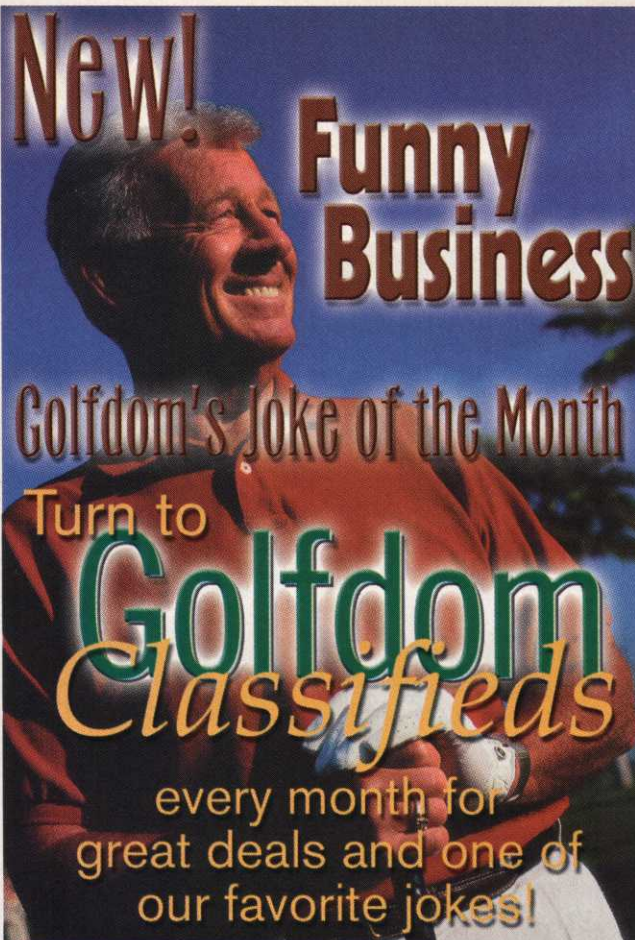


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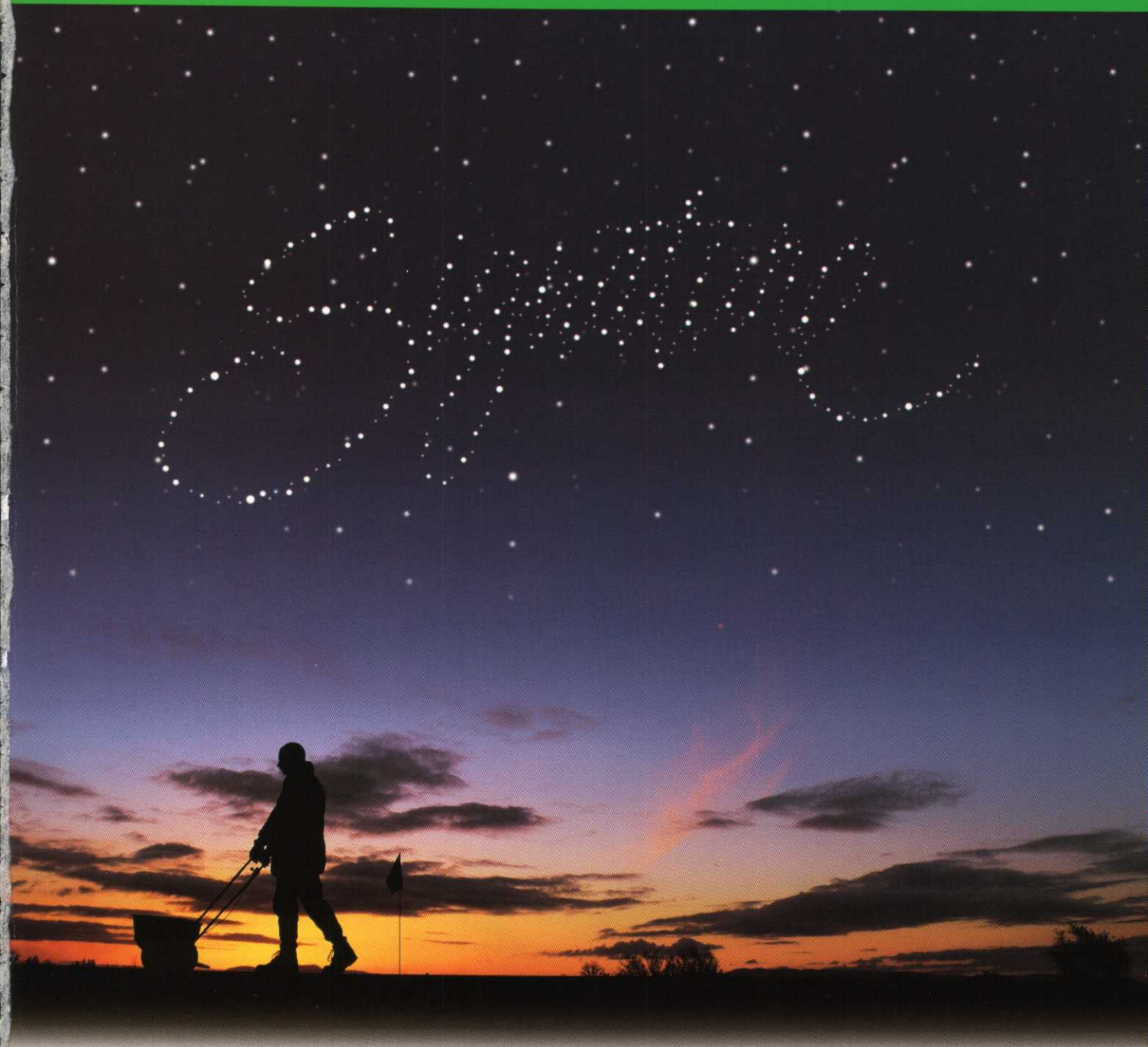
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