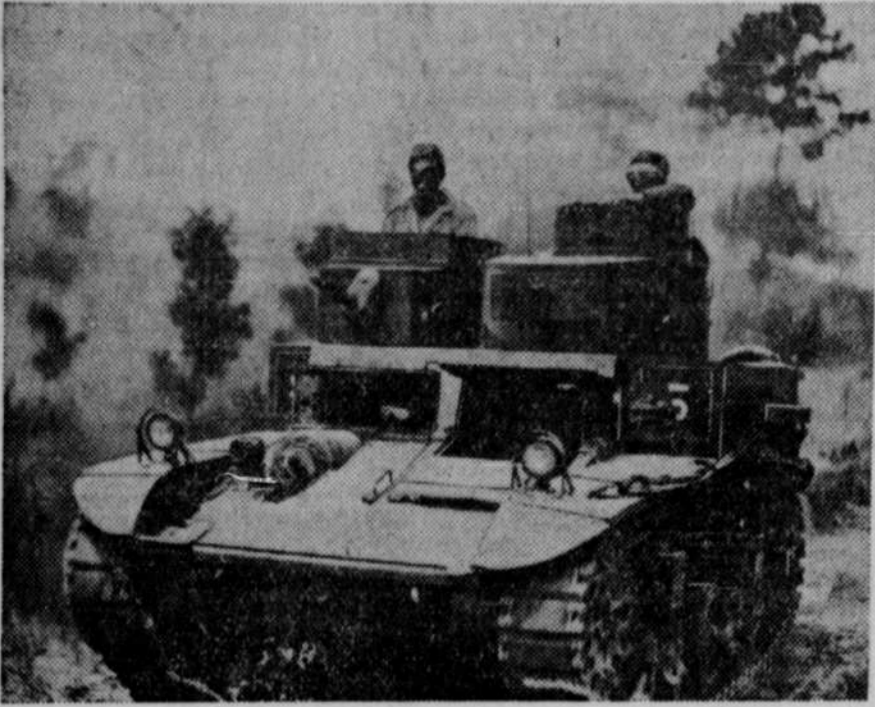


WAR SCHOOL

Mustache, Wife Taboo But Cadets Prosper



West Pointers taste real army life. At Fort Benning, Ga., members of the first class of the United States military academy to undergo 10 days of special infantry school training, ride in the "crow's nest" of the army's new tanks. A total of 457 members of the class took part in the training last fall.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

"The importance of this post is so great as justly to have been considered the key of America."

So wrote George Washington about West Point 153 years ago. He referred, of course, to its strategic value as the Gibraltar of the Hudson, the fortress which prevented the British from splitting the colonies in two along the line of the river and then destroying the halves, one at a time.

Lay a straightedge on your map, passing through Albany and New York city, and you will have marked the general course of the Hudson river. Yet, about 50 miles north of New York, there is a small double bend, a scant quarter-mile diversion from the north-south line. On the inner or western side of that bend lies the town of West Point.

Historic Mementos Preserved.

The visitor today sees relics of the Revolutionary defenses all about him. From water-line to the craggy summits of guardian peaks, the crumbling parapets of earth and moss-covered stone tell their story. At Trophy point on the grounds of the academy hangs a part of the huge chain, with links more than two feet long, which was stretched across the river to trap British men of war under the guns of the forts. But Washington saw in West Point something more than a fortress. He knew that America's future armies must be built around a nucleus of trained officers. On his recommendation in 1793 congress created the grade of cadet and assigned the new men to an engineer unit stationed at West Point.

Here was the germ of the present United States Military academy, but no more than that. The real birth of the academy came in 1802 when congress instituted the corps of engineers and made its chief the superintendent of the military academy.

Later the academy was allowed to languish, but in the disasters of the War of 1812 the nation learned one lesson it has not forgotten. Congress made antonement in 1816 by reopening the academy.

To the West Pointer, Major Sylvanus Thayer will always be the "father of the military academy."

As superintendent from 1817 to 1853, Major—later General—Thayer established a program based on stern discipline and a rigid moral code.

Discipline Easily Maintained.

The honor system could be established and can be maintained only because of the full acceptance of a high ideal by the corps of cadets. Discipline can be enforced by a superior upon his subordinates; integrity is a bond uniting equals.

In the century since Major Thayer's regime, wars have caused their furies from time to time. During the World War, classes were graduated so rapidly that at one time the four-year course had been reduced to a year or less.

The United States Military academy is better known to the American public now than at any previous time in its history. The motion-picture camera, the writers of history and fiction, all play their part in telling his story.

Flirtation walk, the mile and a half of romantic pathway winding down the cliffs to the river, was to figure importantly in one picture largely filmed on the academy grounds, and an officer asked when the cameramen were going to shoot those scenes.

"Oh, we're not going to use your Flirtation walk," was the reply. "We can build a much better one in Hollywood."

Congressmen Appoint.

A youth may obtain appointment to West Point through his senator or representative, many of whom hold competitive examinations; or he may enlist in the regular army or national guard, and after one year's service qualify by high standing in a stringent examination.

There are special quotas of appointments for Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the territories, the President and the vice presi-

dent; also a quota for honor graduates of picked military schools.

In 1935 congress authorized additional appointments which increased the total potential enrollment from 1,374 to 1,960.

The cadet gets his education at the expense of the government. His pay is \$780 per year and one ration per day, equivalent to 80 cents. From that income he purchases his uniform, books, and supplies, pays his board, and meets all other expenses. Actually, he sees no money except when he goes on leave; the treasurer keeps his accounts and sets aside \$14 per month for purchase of an officer's uniform and equipment on graduation.

Nothing Personal.

The first day in a new cadet's life is an experience never to be forgotten. The plebe has scarcely dropped his luggage in his room in barracks when an upper-classman confronts him.

"Mister, you came here to be a soldier. Your slouching days are over."

And in five busy minutes he learns the "position of the soldier at attention."

Whatever the mental turmoil of the neophyte in these first strenuous hours, he gets a grip on himself when, assembled in formation with his classmates late that afternoon,



Secretary of War Harry S. Wooding presents diploma to Cadet John Robert Jannerone, top scholar of the 1938 West Point graduating class.

he raises his right hand and takes his oath of allegiance to flag and country. That moment he belongs.

It is this new-born pride in a common ideal which carries the fourth-classman through the long first summer of practical work and drills. He tells himself, "I'm as good a man as this upper-classman who is always riding me about my slouch, and I'll prove it." And he does.

But never is his ego allowed to get out of bounds. Any moment an upper-classman may stop him, order him to attention, and inquire, "What do plebs rank?" And woe to the plebe who does not know the answer:

"Sir, the superintendent's dog, the commandant's cat, the waiters in the mess hall, the hell cats, and all the admirals in the whole blamed navy."

A cigarette is a "skag" (and cadets may not smoke in public). A dance, of course, is a "hop." A young lady is a "femme" or "fem," or, if escorted by a cadet, a "drag," (though he is not allowed to walk arm in arm with a girl). Or she may be the OAO—the One and Only.

Your "wife" has been defined as "the cadet who smokes your skags, eats your boodle, borrows your clothes, and uses your last postage stamp—your roommate." (You may never refuse him a dance with your drag when he comes to a hop as a stag.)

There are many things that a cadet may not have or do. "No horse, no wife, no mustache," is literally true. He may not ride in an automobile after 10:30 p. m., sit in a parked car, or carry a red comforter or blanket on his arm—to name some at random.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by **CARTER FIELD**

Mr. Field gives a vivid picture of how the various issues between congress and the White House appear to him... Electric industry on the spot to prove or disprove the charge that its delayed spending has been important factor in holding back prosperity.

WASHINGTON.—Sentiment on a number of issues between the White House and congress is crystallizing. The lines are not based on the relief appropriation battle. Some of the President's supporters on that will desert him on other fights, and vice versa. Sometimes he will have a majority. Sometimes a minority. The big point of the relief fight was not the amount of money, it was loss of face and prestige by the President. It ended the six years of utter confidence in his direction and faith in his administration so far as spending is concerned.

Here is the way the issues look now:

Devaluation—The President will win. Congress will continue his present power to cut the gold value of the dollar down to 50 per cent of its pre-Roosevelt status. Silver state senators swing the balance here in combination with the loyal bloc. The price of their votes will be extension of subsidy for domestic silver.

Neutrality—Congress will not interfere with the sale of planes to France. It is impressed with necessity of strengthening France and Britain as surest means of preventing war. But sentiment is also strong against increasing amount of discretion to the President in enforcing the neutrality law. The belief is vigorous that changes of rules after war starts means overt acts, hence endangers dragging U. S. in. Congressional sentiment is not quite "peace at any price" but almost.

Wagner Act—Congress is set on modifying act along lines of A. F. of L. amendments introduced by Senator Walsh. President would like to dictate changes but will probably accept inevitable to avoid further loss of prestige.

Congress Is Opposed to President's Tax Ideas

Taxes—Congressional sentiment is so strong against Roosevelt's wish to restore original tax on undistributed corporation earnings and capital gains taxes that he may abandon fight. The President must ask for more revenue. Congress is definitely set on boosting rates on incomes from \$10,000 to \$50,000, just as definitely against boosting higher levies—because of law of diminishing returns—and doubtful about reducing exemptions. The President will have plenty of chance to study the situation before making any recommendations.

Social Security—Congress will not go as hogwild on old age payments as campaign pledges of successful candidates might indicate. It will boost them, advance date on which they go into effect. It will not reduce payroll taxes, but may force the treasury to contribute to the kitty. The President will oppose the last vigorously.

Government Reorganization—The President will not get the power he really wants to revamp government agencies and departments. Congress will not consent to turning I. C. C., civil service commission, etc., into mere administration underlings. Senator Byrd will continue to annoy the administration considerably by insisting on real economy.

Relief—Senate votes cutting politics out of federal payrolls, though partially nullified by the house, point the way to more trouble for the New Deal in reorganization of the WPA set-up and control of the appropriation for relief in the fiscal year beginning July 1, next.

Electric Industry on Spot As to Delaying Prosperity

The electric industry will shortly give a demonstration of the truth or falsity of the often made charge that its delayed spending has been one of the most important factors in holding back prosperity. Actually, of course, investors in the electric industry may wait a little, to see if the logical steps which might be expected to follow the purchase of the Tennessee Electric properties by TVA are followed up. For example, to see if there will be some assurance that the government will not extend its competition to new areas, and to see if the government will treat fairly other units it buys to avoid duplication and to avoid competition between public and private operation.

But no such problem confronts the public. It can take it for granted that peace is coming, and will spread. The investor might wait to be sure that the Tennessee deal is not just a trap for him. But to the outsider it is unthinkable that the administration would have gone so far as it did in the Tennessee Electric deal with Wendell L. Willkie, if it did not intend to go further, and do whatever was necessary to encourage utility spending. The point is that if one assumes

that the hate which has characterized the administration's treatment of the electric industry previously is still in effect, there would have been no earthly reason for paying the Commonwealth and Southern so much. For the plain fact is that TVA did not have to pay anything like so much. It could have acquired the properties eventually at second hand junk value, the course so consistently advocated by TVA's chief backer in the house of representatives, John Rankin of Mississippi.

The Supreme court had just thrown out the main legal hope of the privately owned utilities. True, the high court has never held the TVA's venture into the electric business to be constitutional. But it is also true that the utilities would have been at their wits' end to find some other method of getting the court to pass on this question. When a majority of the high court held that the privately owned utilities could not claim damages because none of their franchises guaranteed them against competition, the door was rather effectually closed.

Sudden Change of Policy Ordered From White House

TVA could have pressed on, with its strangling competition, with rates which did not return a yield even on the part of its cost which was not allocated to flood control or navigation and free PWA grants on the local systems.

The answer is that there was a sudden change of policy, ordered from the White House. There was a right-about face of the course which David E. Lillenthal had been pursuing. There was an utter rejection of the policies of George Norris and John Rankin so far as treatment of the electric industry is concerned.

The only rational explanation is that the administration wants something more important, and that something is not difficult to see. As a matter of fact W. E. Douglas, chairman of the S. E. C., has been telling the President for a long time—more than a year now—that the utilities have been lagging at the rate of about a billion dollars a year in their new spending. It would seem apparent that the President has decided to see if utility spending, dammed up for four years now according to Douglas' calculations, will not break the business log-jam and revive prosperity in this country.

If it works, as some friends of the President see the future, business will boom from now until November, 1940; the New Deal will go marching on for the four years to follow. If business continues bad for the next 18 months, a reactionary government may sit in Washington.

Congress Goes Along With President on Preparedness

In actual appropriations for ships and guns, munitions and planes, and training for preparedness generally President Roosevelt will get all he wants from congress. Capitol Hill is much impressed with the notion that the surest way to preserve peace is to be so strong that it would be folly for any foreign country to drag us into war.

But congress does not see eye to eye with the President on some of the purposes of increased national defense spending. It will not go along with him toward possible sanctions against aggressor nations. There is tremendous sentiment for minding our own business and not giving even too much tongue-lashing to the nations that are doing things of which we cordially disapprove.

There is a strong minority, headed by Key Pittman, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, which is for strong economic action against Japan. Senator Pittman is convinced that this country could punish Japan for its action in closing the door of Chinese trade to this country, and could do so without risk of provoking a war between Japan and the United States.

There is another strong minority which favors boycotting of Germany, partly because of Germany's treatment of the Jews, and partly because of her aggressions on Austria, Czechoslovakia, and her keeping Europe constantly in a war scare. A much smaller minority feels the same way toward Italy.

Japan Cuts Purchases of Cotton From United States

In the cotton growing states there is still deadly fear that if the United States should boycott Japan's silk, the price of cotton would drop out of sight. As a matter of fact, Japan has been cutting her purchases of cotton from the United States and increasing her purchases of this staple from Brazil and China. But the fear is still there.

The great majority in congress still has the slogan "Keep out of Entangling Alliances," and is also vigorously against any overt word or act which might force Germany, Japan, or any other nation to pick up Uncle Sam's gauntlet. Part of this is honest reasoning on the part of the senators and representatives themselves. Part of it, perhaps most of it, is from emphatic protests from the folks back home.

Instead of the reaction the White House expected from the emphasis on the necessity of protecting democracy so that religion would be safe, there is a tremendous fear, judging by the mail pouring in on Capitol Hill, that the President may, by taking such a militant attitude, involve this country in some European quarrel.

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Floyd Gibbons' ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



"Danger on the Rails"

HELLO EVERYBODY!

I'm still learning what a terrific beating the human mind and body can take and still survive. The latest one to impress this lesson on me is today's Adventurer—Patrick J. Laffey of Trenton, New Jersey. Pat Laffey, as a boy in Ireland, crawled under a locomotive and was hanging to the undercarriage when the engineer started his train. His description of the heavy steel rods as they started to move, picking up speed, shoving him, battering him—well, read the story!

Pat was just, as he puts it, "a broth of a boy" in 1915, living in Galway, Ireland. On this particular autumn afternoon, he and two companions set out blackberrying. So lovely was the scenery, that they traveled farther from home than they had ever before ventured—some ten miles.

"We dared go no further," Pat says, "lest we get lost in our homeward journey. We were all tired now, so we started home, bringing our collection of berries along."

The boys crossed a few fields, when suddenly they came to a double railroad track. Rather than cross any more fences, or fall into any more ditches, they started home along the track.

They had walked about half a mile when their attention was attracted by a huge engine which lay on the sidetracks nearby.

"To me," Pat says, "who had never seen one before, this huge mass of steel presented one of life's mysteries." The boys watched the aged engineer as he pushed and pulled levers. "How that thing did whistle and shriek," Pat recalls. "I think I hear it now."

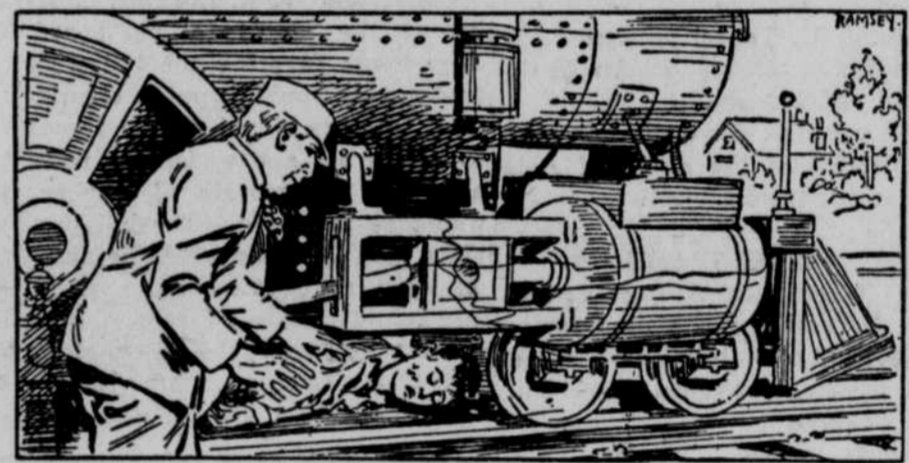
Mystified, Pat Climbs Under the Locomotive.

A little later, the engineer left his position and walked down amongst other cars on the track. The engine was still steaming and hissing. "This," Pat says, "was our chance for a final analysis of our mystery—was this huge thing really alive?"

The more they looked at it, the more confused the boys became. They walked around it, saw its dirty, greasy iron bars, its large, shiny wheels. "And now," Pat says, "my race with death occurred. I feel a cold shiver right down my spine now."

"I myself set the trap for the grim jaws of eternity. It was a foolish act on my part, as I learned later. Now, boys, don't get a fainting spell when you read this, but consider yourself in my position. What would you have done?"

Well, here is the incredible thing Pat did. Being greatly interested in the engine, he examined it as best he could; so did his chums. Rather than miss anything, he crept underneath the huge structure. He was just in there, when the engineer returned. He rebuked Pat's two chums for their presence on the property of the railroad. The boys took to their heels as fast as they could, but



Pat's battered body was on the ground under the engine.

Pat, rather than face the engineer's scolding, tucked himself under the engine, never aware of his life being in the other's hands, listening for every breath, hoping the engineer would soon go away.

He did decide finally to go away, but, as Pat puts it, "not without the engine."

Smoke blew around, irons clattered, brakes shrieked and groaned—and there was Pat, gasping for dear life itself. He clung on with his hands and feet until a huge iron compelled him to lose his foothold.

He now tried to save his head and arms from being ground to pieces. The engine pulled along. Pat expected any minute to be mashed to pieces. A thousand thoughts flashed through his mind—how far was he going—would the engineer ever stop—how long could he hold on?

Soaked With Blood, He Sinks Into Unconsciousness.

To Pat death was inevitable; he could see no possible way to avert it, no means of attracting the attention of the engineer. He remembered he began to shout for help, but his cries were only drowned out by that ever-increasing rattle of the engine. He remembers, too, getting a severe blow on his left side—the cuts of which he bears to this day.

He felt himself getting weak . . . wet with blood . . . he sank into unconsciousness . . .

Days passed, days for which he can give no account, days with life in the balance. Then finally, on the fifth day, Pat again gained consciousness.

There, beside his bed, stood Pat's parents, friends and neighbors, and, in the middle of the group, the unfortunate engineer himself. Needless to say, all were overjoyed to see this response to medical attention in a boy they had literally given up for dead.

Pat afterward learned how it came about that his life had been spared. And again, it was just one of those almost incredible flashes of good fortune—or Providence. The engineer had occasion to throw a switch, and while he was on the ground he chanced to look down at the engine's running gear.

Imagine his horror to see Pat's tattered body lying on the ground under the engine. He signaled the fireman in the cab, the fireman's hand shot to the levers and the immense monster of snorting steel screeched to a stop. The engineer lifted out the unconscious form from beneath the undercarriage.

If any of you adventurers ever want a ride on an engine, take Pat's advice, and be sure you get IN one, and not on the rods, because the odds, Pat says, "are against you."

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Greek Law of 25 Centuries Ago Provides

Fundamentals of Present Day Patent System

The grant of patents for inventions began long before the Christian era. Frank E. Barrows of New York says in a symposium of the American Chemical Society on American Patent Practice and Procedure.

"The earliest patent system of which we have authentic record was in the Greek province of Sybaris and related to inventions of new foods," it is pointed out. "Sybaris was destroyed in 510 B. C., and with it the record of its experience with a patent system, but the Greek historian Phylarchus, writing in the Third century B. C., tells us about the provisions of the system. It provided that any cook or caterer who invented an unusual and peculiar dish was entitled to a monopoly of this new invention for a period of one year.

"Only the inventor was entitled to

the profit to be derived from its manufacture during this period, and the purpose was not only to protect and reward the inventor but to encourage others to labor at excelling in that field. Thus we have in the Sybaris patent law of 25 centuries ago the fundamentals of our modern patent systems.

"For practical purposes the earliest of our modern systems is that of Great Britain, established by the English Statute of Monopolies in 1623, more than three centuries ago. Our own patent system is next in point of time. It was established in 1790, shortly after the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

"Even before that time patents had been granted by some of the American colonies. The adoption of patent systems has spread and practically all nations have patent systems."

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By **LEMUEL F. PARTON**

NEW YORK.—The WPA barrel isn't like the widow's cruise of oil in the Bible. They expect to be scraping the bottom by next June.

Who gets fired? WPA Trouble and when is a Shooter Finds naturally distressing problem, falling

mainly on Dean Brimhall, trouble-shooter and handyman for the WPA, who looks and talks like Sinclair Lewis and who used to hunt bears in Utah. Officially, he is director of the section on employment problems of the WPA, and just now these problems loom up like the peak range of his native Rocky mountains.

Ax-grinders, angry congressmen, union disputants, kickers, fixers, utopians, and what not see Mr. Brimhall, and when he isn't taking this rap, he is experting and editing administration outputs on labor relations and employment, making surveys on relief technique, or flying in his own plane to some spot where employment is ebbing. A trap-drummer is just snoozing along compared to Mr. Brimhall. Merely getting a bear by the tail was never like this. For relief or nerve tension, he hops into his plane now and then and makes a getaway in the clouds, which seems like a nice idea.

Reared in the Church of the Latter Day Saints—his grandfather trekked west with Brigham Young—he was one of a group of twelve Utah business men, Marriner Eccles among them, who craved New Deal action for some of their ideas. Six of them are still active. On the side, he still maintains a live interest in four different concerns—an airplane company, a railroad company, a lumber business and extensive real estate interests. Ogden is his home town.

He hauled coal to pay for his education at Brigham Young university, and one winter he maintained his family nicely with a shotgun, hunting large and small game. Under McKean Cattell at Columbia university, he studied experimental psychology and later taught that subject at Columbia and Brigham Young. He saw the Wrights make their first European flight and he has been interested in flying ever since—flying and hunting. On every week-end and holiday he's high in the sky, his plane poised and pointed toward his beloved Rockies. But there seems to be no likelihood of his doing a "wrong-way Corrigan."

He says he still could get a living with a shotgun, but instead of his gun he has to shoulder the troubles of citizens less versatile.

THE United States senate, possibly "standin' in the need of prayer," does away with piece-work supplication and puts praying on the regular

Senate, in Need, Daily Schedule. Pats Daily Task Last year, the On Its Chaplain occasional

prayers by the official chaplain, the Rev. Ze Barney Thorne Phillips cost the government \$420 a prayer. Now the rate for each will be about \$16, as Mr. Phillips gets \$1,680 a year.

The change was brought about by a resolution by Senator Neely, by which the senate will be opened by prayer on every calendar day, instead of only on "legislative" days as in the past. The latter are a fiction by which the senate may free itself from things diurnal, as effectively as did Joshua. But, since the senate is entitled to a good prayer on every real, not figurative, working day, it is going to get it. Possibly as a tribute to Chaplain Phillips' prayers, the vote on Senator Neely's resolution was unanimous.

While both parties in the senate have on many occasions claimed divine guidance and inspiration for their side, Mr. Phillips, although a Republican, appointed by Calvin Coolidge in 1927, has been strictly non-partisan. He is a distinguished Episcopalian clergyman, rector of the Church of the Epiphany of Washington, and has discharged his office with simple eloquence and dignity.

Chaplain Phillips, 63 years old, is a native of Springfield, Ohio, educated at Wittenberg college and the General Theological seminary. He engaged in special studies at Oxford in 1910 and 1911 and has served pastorates in Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Philadelphia. His children are named Faith, Deacon and Sallie Hews.

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