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Ten academic programs make a pitch for up to $500,000 as Programs of Distinction.

By Lisa Rosenthal
Staff Writer

Let's play "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," academic version. How would USF St. Petersburg faculty and staff spend the grand prize? Dr. Ray Arsenault knows what he would do—he'd start with three professors of Florida Studies. Dr. Mike Killenberg thinks professors are a grand idea, but they should teach visual communications and science journalism. Dr. Steve Lang says hiring is fine, but not without new software and computers.

To make a good program one of international caliber, all it takes is money-half a million, to be exact. Ten departmental groups at USF St. Petersburg are vying to get a share of that to become Programs of Distinction, otherwise known as PODs.

Interim vice president Ralph Wilcox initiated the program when he took office in September. "We can't be all things to all people," Wilcox said. "We have limited resources, so instead of saying we'll have one of these, two of those, let's identify our strengths and establish a distinctive identity in the areas we're already good at."

The campus received $7.1 million from the state for academic enhancement, $500,000 of which Wilcox has allocated to PODs. By the end of the semester, he will choose from one to three programs to each get a portion to develop a new or enhanced program. The purpose is to give USF St. Petersburg a unique academic and scholarly identity.

The campus has been fighting to establish its individuality. See Programs on Page 3.

Congratulations on your graduation from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg—a member institution of this nation's small and most select group of Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities. As interim vice-president and campus executive officer, I share with everyone here our deep pride in your accomplishment.

At this exciting time, I encourage you to pause and reflect on those who have helped you reach this important milestone—your family and friends, faculty, fellow students and others. You now join the proud ranks of USF Alumni. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to join the USF Alumni Association, a terrific way to further develop a network and make contacts which will be so essential to your continued academic and professional growth.

Furthermore, joining the association is a meaningful way to support your alma mater and is the very best way to stay in touch with USF St. Petersburg. We care very much about you and your future accomplishments. Your active participation in the Pinellas County Alumni Chapter will, I know, support your professional career advancement.

In a way, our alumni are USF St. Petersburg's best advertisements. Indeed, your success is a measure of the quality of our institution, and so I hope you will share your experiences and achievements with us in the future.

Moreover, please remember that learning is a lifelong endeavor, and I hope that we will see you again on campus for classes or alumni activities—there will always be a place for you at USF St. Petersburg, whether in graduate school or at homecoming.

I trust that we have prepared you well for future success in an ever more competitive marketplace and changing society. I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Ralph C. Wilcox, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President and Campus Executive Officer
Opinions
City should keep airport open, but changes are necessary
By Matt Nelson
Guest Editorial
Some people around campus would have you believe Albert Whitted Airport should be put to good use by being rezoned for parks and USF expansion. But the airport has valuable use for the current owners and the city. The airport is an important part of St. Petersburg and brings money in the city coffers. Although it's true that the wealthy five percent of St. Petersburg own the planes, it's equally true that many businesses rely on the airport to stay afloat, and those businesses may be one bad month away from closing. Should college students or dog walkers take precedence over a business and a family relying on that business for their income? Probably not.

Rick Baker said that he believed how big Tampa has yet to show support for its current owners and the city. The airport does have adjacent land to build upon but not to keep it in its current form.
Cassie Hawkins hopes to make student government a more visible part of campus life.

By Joe Wisinski
Crow's Nest Editor

For someone who never planned to get involved in student government, Cassie Hawkins has come a long way. Hawkins, 23, served as USF St. Petersburg student government president this semester and recently won reelection for next semester unopposed. Hawkins outlined some of her goals hopes to accomplish on campus during her next term.

One of our goals is to let students know that student government is there for them, she said. Hawkins also plans to increase students influence in campus operations. If a decision is being made, students should get to have a say, she said.

Hawkins also is working toward attaining more space for student activities. This is a huge goal, she said. We'd like to see a study lounge, TV room and a game room. Many students leave campus between classes; we'd like to try to get students to stay here.

Among her first-term accomplishments, Hawkins listed a barbecue held early this semester. It doesn't sound like a big deal, but it was, she said. It's a big deal for student government on this campus to hold an event like that, where almost 500 people attended.

Hawkins also is proud of November's homecoming events, completed with the help of an organizing committee.

Director of student affairs Nancy Coscia said Hawkins' hard work may help her reach her goals. Cassie is dedicated to student government and the role it plays on campus, Coscia said. She has worked very hard to ensure that the student voice is heard on campus. Cassie also works hard to continually move student government forward to fulfill its role on campus.

Hawkins credits Phyllis Lenahan, who at the time was College of Arts and Sciences representative, with urging her to get involved in student government. Phyllis was known for pulling people into student government, Hawkins said. She pulled me in and I was hooked.

Since then, however, Hawkins has steadily risen through the student government ranks to the top. Not a fan of traditional politics, Hawkins doesn't see her current job as political. I'm in student government because I like to be able to say to campus administration, this is what students want, she said. I can stick up for the student body. I can make a difference.

Hawkins credits former student government president Bobby Koonce with persuading her that student government was not necessarily political. Look what you can do, was the attitude Koonce instilled in me, she said.

Although Hawkins is scheduled to graduate in May

See President on Page 7

Programs

Continued from Page 1

since it began in 1965. At that time, it was merely an expansion of the Tampa campus, a more accessible location for upper-level undergrads and beginning graduate students who lived in Pinellas County. Most attended part time, and they couldn't get a full degree here.

This year, Tina Kerti became the first USF graduate to have taken all her classes in St. Petersburg. Students can also get graduate degrees in journalism studies, education, nursing and marine science solely on this campus. USF St. Petersburg has also earned the accreditation in the near future. Yet to some, the campus still feels, as they said would allow students to do more in the field. Hawkins said.

In addition to strengthening visual communications and science journalism in his department, Killenberg would use POD funds to establish a state-of-the-artreporting lab, which would allow students to do more work in the field. The lab would be located in the Neighborhood News Bureau, which focuses on journalism in the community.

In the education department, POD equipment is even more important. Dr. Jerry Lander, education professor, would like to set up a distance learning program to provide on-line teacher certification.

Florida has the country's fastest growing population of school age children, Lang said. But we're only producing one-third of the teachers we need. We already have a system, developed on this campus, to certify people with college education who aren't trained as teachers. But they aren't going to quit their present jobs until they are ready to teach. The most convenient way for them is online classes.

In addition, his POD would provide secondary education graduate courses and teacher performance assessment.

The environmental science and policy department and the geography department have proposed a POD that would merge the two. According to Dr. Rebecca Johns, geography professor, this would maximize campus resources while offering students, whether they were interested in the policy, science or landscape geography aspect, a holistic background.

"Our students get very applied, technical jobs," she said. We would offer them a core of common classes in which they'd get a background in both environmental issues and in the social context in which problems arise. After that, they would get rigorous specialized training. They would take with them a strong theoretical understanding of how human welfare and the environment are linked.

The funds would also be used for technical support the departments now lack, such as a soils lab, expanded geographic information capabilities and remote sensing equipment.

Business administration's Center for Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting POD would combine management, ethics and fraud prevention and detection not only in undergrad courses and MBA degree, but also with seminars and workshops.

We would be interactive with the business community, Dr. Jerry Lander, accounting professor, said, to find out their needs and provide training in the field. This is the right time to do this, given the current economic and business status with fraud.

PODs waiting to give their presentations include one to teach ethics in education and the community, a linked course learning community, a program in design communication, teacher education and an eco-regional education and conservation program.

But while focusing resources on what we're already good at, bolstering the strongest departments, the approach, by necessity, leaves some out. At other universities, this kind of program has caused strife.

Dr. Kristen Swain, journalism studies professor, was at A&M during this conflict, but feels the PODs program is different. The reward system should build prestige yet meet basic needs at the same time, she said, and that's a tough balancing act. Dr. Wilcox's emphasis on fostering collaboration and dialogue among all stakeholders is a great approach.

Killenberg doesn't see how this program can foster any resentment. Absolutely, enough to get a POD is going to have to produce, he said. They'll have to make the most of this special gift.

True, it's a gift that not everyone is getting to. But Killenberg felt that the process itself has been good for the university. It's a real incentive for all of us to think about the future, she said. No matter how the PODs turn out, it's allowed us to dream and imagine a bit.
USF St. Petersburg establishes bachelor's in fine arts program

Psychology and political science major P.J. Crosby-Miller touches up her painting.

In a first for USF St. Petersburg, studio art classes were offered this fall.

Instructor Lucy Karl is an artist with a master's in fine arts in both painting and drawing. Instruction takes place at the Salt Creek Artworks, 1600 4th St. in St. Petersburg, where two galleries allow students to periodically show their work. "The galleries offer a wonderful opportunity to bring students down here," Karl said.

Weight Watchers Comes To You

Make Your New Year's Resolution Now!

FACT: Every ongoing member of the current USF Weight Watchers Meeting has lost weight! In fact, in only 8 weeks the group has lost 146.6 pounds.

What: Weight Watchers On Campus Weight Loss Program
When: Thursdays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm
Where: Campus Activities Center
Why: Because you deserve it. Give yourself a special gift.

The cost is $159.00 and is payable in 3 payments. Checks and credit cards are accepted.
Registration deadline is December 29, 2002
For more information or to register, contact Sandy Blood at 553-3114 or email her at blood@spt.usf.edu.

Hidden Curriculum Luncheon

Every Wednesday at Noon in FCT 118S

All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend!

Wed., Dec. 4, Noon, FCT 118S
Ethics Across the Curriculum

This discussion will feature George Sherman, who will focus on Character Education as it is currently being offered by public schools in Pinellas County.

Sponsored by the USF Foundation and the Marie E. and E. Leslie Cole Endowment.

Advertise with us!

Call 727-553-3113
or e-mail crownsnceditor@yahoo.com
Urban initiative reaches out to at-risk students

By Lisa Rosenthal
Staff Writer

A n elegant Victorian house sits on the edge of campus, covered with ornate woodwork and stained glass, but with half-renovated rooms within. The Williams House is waiting to start over, like the Urban Initiative program which one day may have its offices there.

Urban Initiative was the plan of Dr. Bill Heller, professor of education, when he was dean of USF St. Petersburg. It combined the talents of university faculty with those of community leaders to try to make St. Petersburg a better place for all its residents, especially those from the most disadvantaged neighborhoods.

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The Oasis Academic Program was one of the first Urban Initiative projects. On the north side of campus, its a school for eighth graders who have a lot of ability but are at risk of dropping out. In a class limited to 12 students, they improve their academic skills with a hands-on approach that uses environmental studies in an interdisciplinary way. They also work with a counselor, and there is mandatory parent involvement.

Improving self-confidence and self-image are just as important as academic skills. "We help them get rid of 'stinkin' thinkin' about themselves and the world," said Debbie McFarlane, the program's director. "A lot of them have had really hard lives. More than hard. We say yes, life can be difficult, but you are the director of your life. We teach, 'If it's going to be, it's up to me.'"}

The program started when Kinder Founders Ron and Virginia Kinder, both giants in the business world, wanted to start an alternate education program for at-risk students. The program is based on the Outward Bound model in which students learn self-reliance and trust.

In November, they took a five-day wilderness trip down Florida's Withlacoochee River. In addition to serving as an outdoor lab for their environmental studies, the trip can have an emotional and even spiritual effect.

"It's based on marine biology," said Sierra, 13, an Oasis student, who's decided she wants to study that in college. "Science and math are my favorite subjects. We get to look at fish and Animals. And being on the river is peaceful. It gives you time to think."

"It frees your mind," agreed Shannon, 13. He wants to be an endocrinologist, to help other people who have diabetes.

Both kids were wearing Oasis T-shirts which said, "Life is a river. Adjust your attitude and paddle."

"They come back seeing themselves as capable to face any challenge. They can go under, over or around to get what they want in life."

Oasis Director Debbie McFarlane

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Later, she wondered if we might have had a role in preventing it if we had been a more proactive campus. We have a responsibility to be part of the urban neighborhood we're in."

His response included a school for at-risk eighth graders, a college entrance test prep program, a construction training program for dropouts, on-campus construction for dropouts, and saving the historic Williams House. While Urban Initiative is on hiatus until it can get more funds, some of the programs it started are still in operation.

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Female students take back the night

By Alicia Wilty
Staff Writer

Imagine living every day in fear for your life.
Now imagine that fear being caused by the person you love and trust more than anyone else—your spouse.
For several domestic violence survivors who spoke at the Take Back the Night rally, that fear became reality. Take Back the Night, held Nov. 15 at Harborside, was a night for women to stand united against domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The event, attended by about 130 women and men of various ages and backgrounds, brought people together for a single purpose: to stop violence against women.

The message was loud and clear as their voices chanted: "No more suffering, no more silence, women united will stop the violence!"

Organized by the Campus Women's Collective, Take Back the Night was the idea of USF sophomore Jessica Grimshaw.

Grimshaw said she'd been to the event at the Tampa campus and decided the event needed to happen at the St. Petersburg campus as a means to unify the student body. "There is a lack of student involvement on this campus," she said. "With events like this happening, I hope the campus feels a little less like a commuter campus."

 Fellow CWC member Merri Fink agrees. Fink, also a USF sophomore, said she feels that Take Back the Night, an annual event at campuses nationwide, is a great way to bring people together while teaching them something they might not know about.

"We hope that the event will not only bring to light women's issues, but will give people a sense of empowerment as well," Fink said. "In essence, we are a generation without sense of empowerment."

Take Back the Night featured guest speakers, local bands and a candlelight vigil, complete with chants and high spirits when it began to rain.

As the night progressed, the event made the move created the most memorable scene of the night. A candlelight vigil, complete with chants and high spirits, set the tone for the rest of the evening.

"The fact that everyone stayed despite the rain was a real testament to the purpose of this event," Fink said. Information tables were set up by various crisis centers, including the Haven, the Center Against Spouse Abuse (CASA) and the Safe Center.

Donations were collected for CASA, a program that provides advocacy and awareness about domestic violence. In addition, CASA operates a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Audrey Wood, a volunteer for CASA and a domestic violence survivor, said that the event makes an important statement: "Take Back the Night shows that there is strength in numbers," she said. "Women and men that are here tonight are doing something to make a difference."

Grimshaw and Fink said they hope to make Take Back the Night an annual event on campus and anticipate that turnout will double next year.

Tips for preventing sexual assault

By officer John Spicuglia
USF St. Petersburg Police

According to the Florida Council on Sexual Violence, the presence of predator drugs is creating a growing concern on campuses across the country. These drugs are sometimes used to involuntarily sedate someone making them unable to resist sexual assault.

Victims are usually unable to recall the details of the assault. Three drugs are being used in these involuntary sexual battery cases: Rohypnol (Roofies), Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB), and Ketamine hydrochloride (Special K).

The following precautions will greatly reduce your risk of being assaulted.

• Never leave a drink unattended.
• Never accept a drink from a stranger.
• Never accept a drink from someone you do not trust.
• Attend parties with a group of friends who arrive together, watch out for each other and leave together.
• Always be aware of your surroundings.
• Do not let yourself become isolated with anyone you do not know and trust.
• Always trust your instincts.

—USF police officer Officer John A. Spicuglia can be reached at 727-553-4140.

The USF Tampa Library is sponsoring the Ruth and Frank Coleman Award for Excellence in Short Fiction Writing. The winner will receive a $350 award, with the first runner-up receiving a $150 award. The winning story may be published in library publications, including their Web site and newsletter.

The judges are Dr. Carolyn Ellis, professor in the USF Communication Department, and Dr. Richard Wilber, a faculty member of the USF School of Mass Communications. Both judges have extensive honorable backgrounds in writing and published works.

Submit your entry to The Ruth and Frank Coleman Award, USF Tampa Library/Advancement Office, 4000 E. Fowler Avenue L1B 122, Tampa, FL 33620-5400. Deadline is January 31, 2003. For more information, contact the Advancement Office at (813) 974-1599.

Contest guidelines:
The contest is open to registered USF students, either published or unpublished authors.

• Only submissions not previously published will be considered.
• Type entries double-spaced on one side of 8 x 11 paper.
• Submit an original and three copies; stories submitted will not be returned.
• Put a title and page number on each page of the manuscript.
• DO NOT include your name; stories are considered anonymously.
• Attach a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, social security number, campus, major and title of work.
Almost 300 youth have been helped, raising their SAT scores by an average of 110 to 120 points.

ETS (the company that administers the test) says it's a miracle," Heller said.

Apparently too much of a miracle for them to believe. One boy raised his SAT score by 200 points, prompting the dubious ETS to fly their own evaluator down to give the student a second, individual test. Adding to the boy's anxiety, the tester showed up a day early. However, he scored the same 200 points higher the second time around.

"Young people need to know that, if given the right support, they can do better," Zubrod said. "This program is much larger than just the SAT. It's about mentoring and developing relationships. It's about building up hope."

Sometimes a program can work and still fail. The construction training program taught high school dropouts a valuable trade, such as plumbing, electrical work or installing drywall. It was successful, with some students still employed on their first jobs. However, the kids needed stipends to spend 10 weeks in the program, since most were too poor to go that long without an income. Urban Initiative couldn't get the funding to make that happen, so the program had to shut down.

"It wasn't costly long term, since these kids would become productive, tax-paying citizens, but it was in the short term," Heller said. "It was human efficient, but not cost efficient."

Lack of funding has been a recurrent problem for Urban Initiative, which is why it's now in limbo. In the past, the funds came almost entirely from external sources, but Heller hopes that will change. He'd like to see the university fund a full-time director and core staff. With start-up money of a few hundred thousand, he thinks they could get grants to leverage it into many million. And he has lots of ideas about what the money could do.

An urban studies program at USF could involve students in the community by having them work within it. The Williams House, which Heller had moved from downtown when it was scheduled for demolition, might have its bottom floor fixed up to hold meetings and receptions for neighborhood groups. A new Urban Initiative could help in the revitalization of 22nd Street, the old center of the black community. Student housing built within the community would get students engaged in the neighborhoods and increase nearby business. Heller has the ideas. All it takes is the funds.

"I'm still hopeful," he said. "There's no question it's the right thing for a university in an urban environment like this one to be involved with. The campus needs to bridge to the community, from the past to the present to the future."

President

2003, she may postpone her graduation for a year to study in France, which would include working as an intern for the Council of Europe, the continent's 41-nation intergovernmental organization.

A political science major with a minor in leadership, Hawkins said, "If it were my choice, I'd be taking classes forever, I love school."

Hawkins plans to attend law school at George Washington University, but is also applying to George Washington University, the University of Florida and the University of Virginia.

"I enjoy student government. It allows me to try to right a situation that needs to be changed," Hawkins said. "It's personally rewarding to be student government president and I'm learning a lot.

Student government leaders

These are your student government representatives for spring semester, 2003:

Cassie Hawkins, president
Sue Sietsma, vice president
Kim Chandler, secretary
Trey Moore—open

There are 24 spots for student government representatives; only three are filled.

Anyone wishing to become a student government representative, which pays a $75 stipend, may pick up a candidate packet at 1014 Acad.

Other openings:

Director of Public Relations and Events for SG
Coordinator of all marketing and public relations for SG
Coordinates events, such as barbecues, campus showcase, meet and greets.

Great opportunity for anyone looking for marketing or event coordination experience.

For more information, contact Cassie Hawkins at 553-1147
Coming into the game, the home crowd enthusiastically chanted "USF! USF! USF!" throughout the last home game of the year. The defense responded Nov. 16 by manhandling the then No. 3 scoring offense in the country, the Bowling Green Falcons.

The Bulls followed up their 19th consecutive win at home with an impressive 32-14 victory over Houston, leaving them with a 9-2 record.

Marquel Blackwell finished his record breaking career by manhandling the then No.3 scoring offense in the country.

If the president announced, "Listen, I see an unfairness going on in this country, and I think the USF Bulls should go to the American Bowl," it might help as well.

Leavitt insisted the growing football nation that is the USF Bulls and their ever-growing loyal fans deserve a bowl appearance for the season they just accomplished.

"Really, what do we have to do," Leavitt said. "It's crazy. I told our guys, for us not to get invited to a bowl would be a joke. It should be a no brainer."

A bowl appearance would mean a lot to the team's senior.

"Our play speaks for itself," said Blackwell, who quarterbacked his final game, "call all the coaches of the teams we've played, ask them if we deserve it."

Senior QB Marquel Blackwell, left, and junior Julian Johnson leave the field following USF's victory over Bowling Green. Blackwell will take the field at least once more as a collegian in the Rotary Gridiron Classic in Orlando.

Bull Bits

TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

In addition to playing an eight-game Conference USA slate in 2003, USF has signed deals to compete against perennial top 25 football programs next season.

The Bulls visit "Happy Valley" to play Joe Paterno's Penn State Nittany Lions in Sept. 2003 and have the Alabama Crimson Tide scheduled in 2003 and 2006.

USF also signed a two-game deal to play Florida in 2008 and 2009.

The Bulls fell to Oklahoma and Arkansas this season, but upset Pittsburgh on the road in 2001.

EVER HEARD OF HIM?

"Coming into the 2002 season, Blackwell was rated as the 17th best player in America regardless of class," according to ESPN.com's Mel Kiper. Kiper called Blackwell, "the best quarterback most haven't heard of (yet)."

* Sophomore running back Clinton Crossley and freshman guard Nathan Seay celebrate with fans following the Bulls' final home victory of 2002.

USF SPORTS

Bulls romp over Falcons, Cougars

By Jeremy Soulliere

Staff Writer

Senior QB Marquel Blackwell, left, and junior Julian Johnson leave the field following USF's victory over Bowling Green. Blackwell will take the field at least once more as a collegian in the Rotary Gridiron Classic in Orlando.

Photo by Jeremy Soulliere

USF Bulls Football Final Results

Find more information at www.gousfbulls.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>W, 51-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Northern Illinois</td>
<td>W, 37-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>at Arkansas</td>
<td>L, 42-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>at Oklahoma</td>
<td>L, 31-14</td>
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<td>October 5</td>
<td>at North Texas</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
<td>Southern Mississippi</td>
<td>W, 16-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>at East Carolina</td>
<td>W, 46-30</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Charleston Southern</td>
<td>W, 56-6</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Memphis (homecoming)</td>
<td>W, 31-28</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
<td>W, 29-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>at Houston</td>
<td>W, 32-14</td>
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Where they rank the Bulls (through Nov. 16)

The Bulls received 13 votes in the ESPN/USA Coaches Poll to rank 34th.

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