

Committee: Committee of Collegiate Student Wellbeing and Extracurricular Affairs (CCSWEA)

Topic: Greek Life in Colleges



Theme of AUSMUN 2024

The theme for this year's AUSMUN is "Forging Tomorrow with Yesterday's Lessons". Dating back to 500 BC, great minds such as Confucius have spread this ideal: "Study the past, if you would divine the future". During a typical Model United Nations conference, delegates are expected to learn from their country's past and, in many cases, actively rewrite it. Historical knowledge when used effectively can lead to informed decisions; by reflecting on what has and has not worked in the past, collectively we are able to gain perspective on current and future policy. We encourage delegates to keep this ideal in mind while wrestling with the nuances and complications inherent in the ideas of modern day problems.

AUSMUN is committed to actively serving its community and combating pressing issues. As we continue to expand in numbers, we further seek to expand our positive impact on the world around us. We are proud to announce that we have partnered with Dress for Success, a non-profit organization that enables women to become economically independent by offering professional clothing, a network of support, and the resources necessary for both personal and professional growth. By participating in AUSMUN 2024, in addition to debating "model" policy, you are actively bettering society and changing the world.

The 2024 AUSMUN board is honored to host all delegates for our largest conference yet. We cannot wait to see what delegates bring forward to each committee in their efforts to embody values of collaboration and this year's theme. Looking twenty twenty-forward to seeing you!

Rationale

As society has progressed, college has shifted from an educational sanctuary to a social battleground, where learning lags behind the pursuit of social hierarchy. As teenagers progress through high school, they consider their options and what they want from their college experience. A common tradition for incoming students in the United States is to undergo the rigorous process of joining Greek life. Though fraternities often have more physically dangerous practices, sororities also required significant sacrifices of their members. People all around the country are debating whether Sororities and Fraternities are beneficial or severely harmful to this generation. The risks are significant, but the sense of community it fosters makes members highly defensive of the lifestyle. The United States of America deals with ongoing issues of racism and inequality, and Greek life tends to promote exclusivism and, in extreme cases, racism. It has been said that certain sororities take appearances as a major factor when rushing, which often leads to the alienation of minority groups. Additionally, hazing has caused a great amount of suffering. What started with harmless joking has evolved into something truly dangerous. Male fraternities are often the main culprit of violently "initiating" newcomers, but recent hazing practices have spiraled out of control. Hazing traditions include the abuse of alcohol and other substances, physically beating pledges with paddles, and public humiliation. As a result of these behaviors, hopeful pledges are facing serious injuries, alcohol poisoning, and even death. A large

issue with hazing is the secrecy of the acts. Pledges are taught that “loose lips sink ships,” encouraging future pledges not to speak out against their experience. The intensity of hazing could eventually be the downfall of Greek life, a long-held tradition and experience at countless schools across the country. Accompanied by hazing, alcohol and substance abuse can damage the developing bodies of college students. When it comes to joining a sorority or fraternity, drinking is a social norm, and without it, kids are at risk of ostracism within the organization.

Greek life tends to revolve around parties and social gatherings (College Party Safety Tips). By attending these events, students often are pressured to or willingly get intoxicated multiple times a week. Substance use can cause not only health problems but also legal problems, putting young students at risk of their legal records getting tarnished. Further contributing to the issue, financial situations are a huge factor when it comes to being a part of these groups. College dues are becoming more expensive, and adding sorority payments on top of that is difficult for many families (20 Years of Tuition). This supports the argument that underprivileged students are being denied the opportunities of the wealthy in Greek life. Although there are many negatives, Greek Life has helped many teenagers make valuable connections that have lasted them throughout life and developed a sense of community on campus. Delegates must discuss how universities can maintain the positive outcomes of Greek life while abolishing the downsides of fraternities and sororities.

Background of the Issue

The first fraternity was founded at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg on December 6th, 1776. For its first 50 years, Phi Beta Kappa existed as a secret social group,

opening up chapters at Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth. Phi Beta Kappa would pave the way for Greek society, creating unchanged traditions such as Greek letter names, Greek mottos, an oath of secrecy, a badge, a ritual, and a secret handshake (The American Fraternity). Several similar ideas popped up throughout colleges, and the concept of fraternity spread throughout the Northeast United States. Thirty-six of the current sixty-three men's fraternities in the National Interfraternity Conference were founded during the 19th century (The American Fraternity). During the 18th and 19th centuries, school education was extremely strict and taxing, and fraternities allowed students to form relationships and recreation. Some universities fostered these student organizations as it allowed students to think freely. Other school clubs did exist at this time, but fraternities consisted of closer, more like-minded groups of people.

When previously all-male colleges began to accept women, these women wanted a sisterhood of their own. Originally named I.C. Sorosis, women's fraternities originated in the post-Civil War era. Patterned after men's fraternities, Alpha Delta Pi became the first women's fraternity in 1851 (Sorority History). When the concept of a "women's fraternity" became "unladylike," the term sorority was created by a Latin professor (The American Fraternity). These sororities were formed to support women in college and life. However, many traditions remained as sororities and fraternities evolved beyond social groups.

As college education shifted away from Classical literature, Greek teachings were minimized in the curriculum. Although Greek life continued on, its members no longer understood the purpose of several traditions. According to Appalachian State's History of Fraternities and Sororities, "Due to this lack of knowledge, some fraternities began to depend on theatrical aspects of ceremonies, as opposed to the deeper, more profound meaning that had essentially been lost." Many suspect that this reliance on uneducated ceremonies was where the

era of hazing began. The concept of hazing has been consistent throughout history, tracing back to Ancient Greek military rituals. Hazing is shown in European universities as upperclassmen forcing new students to act as servants, a tradition carried into America. The issue became worse as “A resurgence and intensification of hazing in fraternities began after World War II with the return of veterans who brought boot camp-style rituals of the military to campuses” (Fraternal Law- A Brief History). And as fraternities grew larger, so did the practice of hazing. Paddling, where older students beat the newcomers on the back with a wooden paddle, continued to be a tradition in fraternities but lessened in popularity in sororities. In some sororities, paddles became more ceremonial, and students would buy and paint blank paddles as gifts to their “big sister.” However, in fraternities, this method of hazing has grown absolutely out of control during the 21st century, and many fraternities have faced legal action. Many university leaders and local law enforcement began to crack down on hazing techniques as it became an extremely dangerous practice. As of current, “although none of the sororities most recently accused of paddling pledges appear to be members of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), the continued practice of paddling as a tool of hazing and violence by other organizations affects the perception of the paddle for all sororities” (Fraternal Law- A Brief History).

Specifically in fraternities, alcohol abuse has become an increasingly relevant issue. Several research programs have found that “members of fraternities and sororities consume more alcohol and experience more alcohol-related problems than non-members” (Alcohol Use in the Greek System). Several circumstances factor into the systematic consumption of alcohol. According to Borsari and Carey, there are five main contributors to fraternity drinking: the continuity of heavy alcohol use from high school to college in students, fraternity members seeking out heavy drinking environments, alcohol playing a central role in fraternity

socialization, fraternity members's demonstrated misperceptions of the drinking norms of their fellow members, and fraternity houses providing an enabling environment for heavy alcohol use. These factors often lead to male fraternity members having significantly higher levels of binge drinking and drug uses compared to their non-member peers(Fraternity and sorority involvement). Underage drinking has become part of fraternity culture, and its effects on students are detrimental, not to mention illegal. The deep history of Greek life in American culture and the dangerous nature of current Greek life make this issue extremely complex and difficult to navigate. Delegates must keep this in mind as they create their position.

Contemporary Evidence

As the percentage of people going to college rises, so does the number of people involved in Greek life. Greek life recruitment looks different for a variety of sororities and fraternities. For girls, joining a sorority begins during the fall of freshman year, when students go through four recruitment rounds. The stages include open house, philanthropy, sisterhood, and pref. From there, if girls don't get dropped, they have a bid day, in which they open a letter and find out which house they have been accepted into. Young women place much value on the acceptance/rejection of their preferred sorority home as it shapes their following years of college. In comparison, boys pledging to fraternities go through a month-long process of tasks and public humiliation (hazing) to be inducted. While some consider Greek life to be buying friends, many call it sisterhood/brotherhood. It might not be joining the sorority/ fraternity that is the issue; it is the hazing and alcohol abuse that can come with it. The effects of Greek life in colleges are becoming more and more relevant. Hazing has become an increasingly prevalent topic, due to its

harmfulness to students. Many wonder if it's time to stage an effective intervention to end the issue. As universities such as Notre Dame and Princeton ban Greek life from their campuses, more conversations about this course of action have begun. As some members would argue that these Greek houses have changed, cases of serious injury and death are still appearing in the modern day.

Directive

This conference will address the current controversy of whether Greek life, such as sororities and fraternities, should occur in a college atmosphere, and, if so, in what form. As a committee, the goal is to come together and discuss a solution to this nationwide debate, dive deep into the virtues of Greek life, and investigate all sides of the argument. As much of this issue is shrouded in secrecy, delegates are requested to take creative liberties and advocate their position. Here are some questions to consider when beginning your research and preparing to discuss during the conference:

1. What standards should all Greek Life organizations be held to?
2. What official guidelines, rules, or regulations should be in place to discourage bad practices, such as dangerous hazing and partying that takes away from education?
3. How do fraternities and sororities ensure equality regarding financial costs for membership? Should they?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining Greek life on campus?
5. How does Greek life build connections on campus?

6. Are sororities and fraternities effectively contributing to the philanthropies they are advertising?
7. Does Greek life further divide races and social groups?

Resources for Delegates

[Fraternity and Sorority Involvement, Social Influences, and Alcohol Use Among College Students](#)

[Americans are divided on the impact of college fraternities and sororities](#)

[Perceptions of cultural diversity within social fraternities and sororities](#)

[Advantages of Greek Life on College Campuses](#)

[Rushing to Get Rid of Greek Life and Social Clubs: The Impact of Bostock on Single-Sex](#)

[College Organizations](#)

[Will Anything Change? Examining Historically White Fraternity Members' Development of Openness to Diversity in Contemporary Times](#)

Delegations

1. **Amanda Barkley** - Amanda Barkley, the 2023 Panhellenic president of Auburn University is passionate about Greek life. She believes it is a unique sisterhood of women from different backgrounds and beliefs; she wants Auburn to be a welcoming place and leave a positive impact on the campus and community. She strives for the women in Greek life to show leadership and academic excellence.

[Auburn Panhellenic president provides advice going into fall sorority recruitment.](#)

[Auburn Greek Life](#)

- 2. American College Health Association (ACHA)-** Since 1920, the American College Health Association (ACHA) has served as the voice for student health and wellness. Through advocacy, research, and education, ACHA stands at the forefront of issues that impact the health and wellness of our college students.

[American College Health Association.](#)

[An Overview of ACHA Recommendations for Fraternities & Sororities - NIC |](#)

[North American Interfraternity Conference](#)

- 3. Andrew Lohse-** Andrew Lohse is a former Dartmouth student who underwent severe hazing practices. Growing up, he was a straight-A student involved in many extracurriculars. Due to his stunning academic record, he enrolled at Dartmouth in hopes of continuing his journey. However, he got wrapped up in the Fraternity life at the college and quickly was forced to do truly grueling actions, turning his life around.

[Confessions of an Ivy League Frat Boy: Inside Dartmouth's Hazing Abuses](#)

[Confessor Returns](#)

[Party at the End of the World](#)

- 4. Caitlin Flanagan-** Caitlin Flanagan is a journalist who focuses on the feminist aspects of Greek Life. She points out that young men in Fraternities tend to take advantage of the sorority sisters, and it is common for sexual assault cases to tie back to Greek Life. Due

to the extreme alcohol intake, rape is more likely to occur and the atmosphere is not safe for female students.

[Caitlin Flanagan Calls for the End of Fraternities](#)

[The Conversation](#)

[Caitlin Flanagan: We Need Transparency on the Issue of Fraternity Rape](#)

- 5. Dabney Duncan, *Panhellenic President of the University of Georgia***- The University of Georgia is one of the biggest SEC schools, with a huge Greek system. Duncan oversees and coordinates all Greek events in Georgia. Any hazing issue or conflict goes to her. As there have been multiple issues in Georgia regarding racism and hazing, greek life at their campus has been a controversial topic. However, UGA Greek life has done a lot of good for the community. For example, the UGA Miracle, the official philanthropy for UGA Greek life, has raised over \$9.8 million for the Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

[Panhellenic Executive Council, University Of Georgia](#)

[Calls to abolish Greek life grow louder on UGA campus](#)

[Exclusivity of UGA Greek life stems from class divisions](#)

- 6. Dani Weatherford, *National Panhellenic Conference chief executive officer (CEO)***- The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), the world's biggest trade association tasked with enhancing the sorority experience, comprises 26 women-only inter/national member organizations. Dani Weatherford is responsible for successfully managing the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) to meet the mission and vision, including goals and objectives set by the NPC Board of Directors.

[Meet Dani Weatherford](#)

[About the National Panhellenic Conference](#)

[The History of the National Panhellenic Conference](#)

7. **Dr. Gregory Tomso**, *Vice President for the Division of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs (University of West Florida)*- Dr. Gregory is the vice president of student affairs at West Florida University. The university has banned multiple fraternity and sorority organizations due to hazing or violating schoolwide alcohol policies. Although some organizations were banned, many still exist and have yet to negatively impact their members.

[Unrecognized Fraternity and Sorority Life Organizations](#)

[National Pan-Hellenic Council](#)

8. **Fraternal Law**- Fraternal Law is the only law firm focused specifically on the legal allegations of sororities and fraternities. They partner with multiple anti-hazing committees and are committed to protecting the safety of Greek Life participants. The program has many resources for students suffering from intense hazing rituals, including hotlines and contacts.

[Fraternal Law](#)

[Fraternal Law Partners](#)

9. **Hank Nuwer**- Hank Nuwer was a co-author of “Hazing in Fraternities and Sororities,” which came out in 2023. He also has a current book, “Hazing: Destroying Young Lives.”

He continues to research the issue and speaks out against it. Nuwer has contributed to many advocacy pieces that highlight the fact that people take extreme measures to fit in. His books and projects are influencing people all over the world.

[Hazing- Destroying Young Lives](#)

[Hank Nuwer: Hazing Deaths Clearinghouse, Unofficial](#)

[Longtime Database-Keeper Hank Nuwer on Hazing: It's Not Going Away](#)

10. Hazing Prevention Network- The hazing prevention network works to educate people about the dangers of hazing, advocate for change, and engage the community in strategies to prevent hazing. The organization hopes to end hazing as a whole, not specifically in Greek life in colleges. Although, some of the most severe and common forms of hazing come from fraternities. The network hopes to destroy hazing altogether and has reached over 800,000 students.

[Hazing Prevention Network](#)

[University of Texas Current Prevention Methods](#)

11. JED Foundation- The JED foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to safeguarding the mental health of teens and young adults in America. JED has created many programs at universities that seek to protect students' mental health, and give support to students who may be struggling. JED offers many tools and resources directly to Greek organizations to help strengthen the mental and emotional well being of their members. The JED Foundation believes that Greek organizations play a crucial role in

shaping campus culture. And these organizations can play a crucial role in enhancing emotional well being for their members and all university students.

[Fraternity & Sorority Life Resources | The Jed Foundation](#)

[The Story of JED | The Jed Foundation](#)

[The JED Foundation - Lambda Chi Alpha](#)

12. Jess Turuc, *Director of Fraternity and Sorority life (ole miss)* - Jess Turuc completed her education at Michigan Technological University, where she pledged to Theta Chi Epsilon Sorority. Turuc has spent most of her adult career working for and around sororities at various colleges, such as Michigan Tech University, East Carolina University, and the University of Utah. She hopes to help provide students with meaningful experiences in the premiere fraternity and sorority community in the country.

[Fraternity & Sorority Life](#)

[Meet our Staff - Fraternity & Sorority Life](#)

13. Judson Horras, *President & CEO of the North American Interfraternity conference-* Horras works as the CEO of the North American Interfraternity Conference, a trade association that represents 66 inter/national men's fraternities. He works to advocate for the fraternity experience and advance the development of fraternity members. He, among others, hopes to minimize the amount of deaths in fraternity hazing.

[Interfraternity CEO Judson Horras addresses hazing](#)

[NIC CEO- Judson Horras- Fraternity Hazing Expert Witness](#)

14. Kari Murphy, *Assistant Dean for Sorority and Fraternity Life (Illinois University)*-

Kari Murphy is the assistant dean for Greek life at Illinois University. She supports the Greek life community. She is also the dean on duty and critical incident response team. Notably, Murphy and the University of Illinois want to provide a safe and welcoming place for the LGBTQIA community.

[Kari Murphy, M.A., CSAEd-FSL.](#)

[Kappa Sigma vandalizes sorority fraternity houses with homophobic slurs](#)

15. Lawrence Ross - Lawrence Ross is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in addition to being the author of “Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America’s Campuses” and “The Divine Nine.” In these books, he details the presence of racism on campuses across the nation, and he discusses hazing in fraternities and sororities. Ross is a big advocate for racial equality on campuses and specifically in Greek Life. As a person of color who was involved in a fraternity, Ross is able to advocate for the need for racial equality in Greek Life.

[Lawrence Ross discusses college campus racism - Technique](#)

[Lawrence Ross - Biography - IMDb](#)

16. Marc Mores, *president of the Hazing Prevention Network*—The Hazing Prevention Network is a nonprofit dedicated to empowering people to prevent hazing. Its goal is to educate people about the dangers of hazing, advocate for change, and engage the community in strategies to prevent hazing. Marc Mores, the president of the nonprofit, is a known public speaker on issues such as alcohol abuse and hazing dangers.

[Board of directors](#)

[Hazing Prevention Network](#)

[Who we are](#)

17. Marilyn Russell, *Director of Sorority and Fraternity life at the University of Texas-*

Marilyn Russell has been working in roles surrounding Greek Life on campuses for many years. She currently serves as Director of Sorority and Fraternity life at the University of Texas in Austin. UT Austin is one of the nation's largest public universities, and its campus houses a large Greek Life program. In the history of Greek Life at UT there have been many controversies which have led to many students not involved in Greek life to view the organizations negatively. Marilyn Russell works to ensure the safety and happiness of all students involved in Greek Life on UT campus.

[Frat Party Fallout: UT tries to address allegations of racism - News - The Austin Chronicle](#)

[Office of the Dean of Students - Sorority and Fraternity Life - Friends and Family](#)

[Facts About the Sorority and Fraternity Community](#)

18. Mary Pat Root, *president of the Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity council-* Kappa Kappa

Gamma (KKG) is one of the oldest and biggest sorority chapters. The Chapter is dedicated to connecting people, respecting and embracing differences, leading with optimism, staying true, building and applying knowledge, and rising to the occasion together. Mary Pat Root is the leader of this chapter, which means she oversees over 50 Kappa Kappa Gamma chapters.

[Kappa Kappa Gamma](#)

[The Notorious KKG](#)

19. Max Gruver Foundation- The Max Gruver Foundation was created in memory of Max Gruver, one of seven young men to die due to fraternity hazing in 2017 alone. The Foundation works to stop hazing through awareness, education, legislation, and policy. Since drugs, alcohol, and bullying are frequently utilized in hazing incidents, they are included in the education and awareness campaigns. The foundation was created by his family and has made significant changes to the Greek system.

[Max Gruver Foundation](#)

[Parents of L.S.U. Student Who Died After Hazing Are Awarded \\$6.1 Million](#)

[Roswell father speaks out 5+ years after son died in LSU hazing incident](#)

20. Megan Pepper, *lead Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (Penn State)* - Megan Pepper, the lead office of the fraternity and sorority life at Penn State since 2022 makes sure the community promotes the university's core values. Penn State's Greek life missions are to do service, create brotherhood and sisterhood, show leadership, excel in education, and show responsibility.

[Megan Pepper to lead Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life](#)

[FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE PURPOSE AND MISSION](#)

21. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) - MADD is an organization aimed to reduce the amount of drunk drivers on the road. As a program, they educate teenagers about the

risks and consequences of driving under the influence. They emphasize the lifelong issues that come with drinking underage and how peer pressure is the sole reason why kids do.

[MADD](#)

[Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#)

[America's Charities](#)

22. Nation Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) - NASPA is an organization dedicated to supporting the success of students while working towards the goals of their member institutions. NASPA works to promote equality and foster a supportive and educational campus environment. NASPA has stated that they are committed to helping to grow and improve Greek Life on their member campuses. While NASPA sees the good that Greek Life can bring to universities with the community it builds, they also advocate for further improvements to equality, inclusion, and social justice in Greek life.

[Excellence in Fraternity and Sorority Life Initiative](#)

[About NASPA](#)

[Greek Life is Not in Our Future and Here's Why | The College Voice](#)

23. Nelda Bailey, *Director of Fraternity and Sorority Programs at The University of Tulane-* Nelda Bailey, the director of fraternity and sorority programs, is passionate about the inclusiveness and diversity of the Greek life community in Tulane. She was also involved

in creating a space for students on campus to reflect on and recognize the black Greek letter organizations and celebrate their history.

[The Tulane Hullabaloo.](#)

[Office of Fraternity & Sorority Programs Staff](#)

[Tulane breaks ground on National Pan-Hellenic Council plots](#)

24. Patricia “TUT” Wilson, *the University of Alabama Division of Student Life Fraternity and Sororities executive director*- Patricia Tut Wilson is a three-time University of Alabama graduate. She has done countless good for the school, such as increasing the diversity of the houses and raising large amounts of money for charities. As the University of Alabama is the top school for Greek life, she has a decidedly pro-Greek mindset.

[former UA sorority president named director of fraternity and sorority life](#)

[Fraternity & Sorority Life Resource Manual](#)

[Meet the staff](#)

25. Shawna Eberhard-Smith, *Director of Greek Life at LSU*- Shawna is pro-Greek, and she cares deeply about making people feel like they belong in college. She was a first-generation college student. With her being in a sorority prior, she found out what a community is like and hopes to share her positive experiences with others.

[Shawna Eberhard-Smith](#)

[Louisiana State University--Baton Rouge Student Life](#)

26. Shirley M. Tilghman, *president of Princeton University, is a professor of Molecular Biology and Public Affairs.* Tilghman is the first female president of an Ivy League school. She banned freshman rush in fraternities and sororities and is against Greek life.

[Shirley M. Tilghman](#)

[Policy implementation committee on fraternity, sorority freshman rush ban](#)

27. Sigma Chi Alumni Organizations- As the largest fraternity in the world, Sigma Chi affects a large platform of fraternities. The fraternity currently has more than 130 active alumni chapters in the United States and Canada. As a result, the organization faces many issues regarding hazing. As an alumni organization, this group of people already experienced severe hazing, and have been taught it as a long-term tradition. The Sigma Chi organization has spoken out publicly against hazing, but several alumni members might disagree in private.

[Sigma Chi Alumni](#)

[Sigma Chi Dallas Alumni Chapter](#)

[College of Charleston Lawsuit on Hazing](#)

28. StopHazing organization - StopHazing strives to make college atmospheres more inclusive and safe for students. It is believed that completely abolishing hazing and rushing would achieve their goal. They are committed to discouraging the abusive power that comes with Greek Life at Universities. StopHazing focuses on research and practices in order to gain more publicity and credit.

[StopHazing Organization](#)

[StopHazing](#)

29. The Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee (FratPAC)- FratPAC

advocates for interfraternal freedom of policies. The organization's goal is to persuade members of Greek life to speak up against the rules that schools are enforcing. They believe that the tradition of sororities and fraternities should be preserved and each group should decide its own ideas and practices.

[The Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee](#)

[Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee](#)

[Donate FratPAC](#)

30. Veda Pai- Veda Pai is a student herself at the college of William and Mary. She served as a DEI chair for her sorority Phi Mu in 2020. As a woman of color, she worked to advocate for marginalized voices including LGBT+ people, women of color, children of immigrants, and the disabled community. Pai is an excellent example of a character who worked on the diversity issue of Greek life, but clearly enjoys her time as a sorority member.

[Shaping diversity, equity, and accessibility in my chapter](#)

[Verda Pai Blog](#)

[Phi-Mu: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

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(Gonzalez)

