

## UCSD'S ROTHMAN LEADS CHILEAN CARDIOLOGISTS INTO NEW DOUBLE UMBRELLA CARDIAC NON-INVASIVE PROCEDURE

DR. ABE ROTHMAN had a key role in the UCSD mission trip to Santiago, Chile, as an interventional cardiologist in 2001. Children with a hole in their heart, which is central in its location, can now receive a new treatment, which prevents open-heart surgery. Through a small incision in the groin area, a catheter is inserted and threaded to the heart... Rothman used a new device called the "Starflex" umbrella, which is inserted through a sheath. A double umbrella device is deployed on either side of the hole in the heart thus covering it.



Dr. Abe Rothman, Dr. Daniel Aguiar and Dr. Ignacio Hernandez



Dr. Abe Rothman teaching in Grand Rounds

The procedure is much easier on a child's recovery, the sheath is removed immediately and the child goes home the same day. Dr. Rothman performed five interventional procedures and taught these to Chilean pediatric cardiologists during Grand Rounds and left supplies for the surgeons, who now are performing these procedures independently.

Dr. Rothman reports that Chile is a well-advanced country in relatively complex cardiology. One of the interventional cardiologists in Chile, Dr. Aguirre, spent a month at UCSD and is

now presenting the procedures acquired to the South American Congress of Cardiology, as a leading surgeon.

Dr. Rothman indicates that the FDA has already approved one of these umbrella devices and there are others on trial. This is good news for the children Lifeline supports. The surgery is less invasive and will reduce the number of operations needed by infants with complex heart defects.

When UCSD returns to Chile for the next surgical mission, Dr. Rothman anticipates taking twice as many starflex devices for interventional surgeries, some of which he will perform, and to leave a supply for the surgeons in Chile.

Lifeline is very pleased to participate in providing these interventions and supplies, the outcome of which is less invasive for the children whose cardiac condition meets the qualification for the surgery, and it ultimately is less expensive, allowing Lifeline to sponsor more children. ♥

### In Memoriam ♥ April 2002 To: Polly De Hirsch Meyer

*It was a few years ago when you and I met for the last time at your Miami apartment and then went to dinner. I told you about Lifeline and what the Lifeliners accomplish for indigent children in developing countries where the facilities for pediatric cardiac surgery are quasi-non-existent.*

*You simply said, "I will help you."*

*Some time later, we were advised that you had left us a percentage of a parcel of real estate property outside of Jacksonville. The property did not produce much income for some years to come.*

*Jacksonville grew and so did the value of the property. In fact since 1998, we have received an income of \$787,000 from you. This equates to 787 children you have saved during three and a half years or 42% of the children we have operated on*

*since January 1st, 2000.*

*I can only recall how perfunctory were my thanks and how understated was your expression to help. I believe you knew it.*

*We tried to reach your next of kin to honor you by recognizing them, but we were unsuccessful.*

*On behalf of Variety, on behalf of Lifeline, on behalf of the children you helped, we write this in memoriam to express our thanks, our gratitude, our recognition to a great lady without whose help we could only have been able to cater to one half of the children who came to us.*

*With all our love,*

*Salah M. Hassanein, on behalf of Variety and Lifeline*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Variety Children's Lifeline is a program of International Heart of Variety which provides medical and surgical assistance to underprivileged children in developing countries, primarily in pediatric cardiac surgery and newborn intensive care. This is accomplished either by multidisciplinary voluntary missions and/or by forming partnerships with local hospitals in order that they become self-sufficient and achieve independence in their ability to provide appropriate medical care to children within that country. When necessary, Variety Children's Lifeline brings children requiring specialized or highly technical care to appropriate facilities in the United States or other countries. ♥

### " ANOTHER BRIDGE FROM BROOKLYN...



### ...THIS TIME TO ECUADOR"

The Brooklyn Hospital Center arranged to have Nathaly Oronez, a beautiful 2-year-old girl from Ecuador, come to receive a corrective surgical procedure. Nathaly unfortunately was born with what is termed an "imperforated anus". In essence this child was born without an anal opening. The procedure was performed by a team of pediatric surgeons headed by Dr. Eric Lazar from the New York Presbyterian

Hospital. Dr. Michael LaCorte, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and Lifeline Medical Advisor, contacted Lifeline to request that Nathaly be accepted into the Lifeline Program. Brooklyn Hospital Center waived all of the surgical fees, anesthesia fees, etc., and requested only the Lifeline stipend towards the hospitalization.

Nathaly procedure was a success! Lifeline also purchased the piece of equipment, a Pena Stimulator, especially designated for this kind of surgery, as it is a relatively rare case. Again a "bridge" was built between children in need and the collaborative between Lifeline and a hospital willing to dedicate its' medical resources, accepting Lifeline's stipend.

Dr. Patrick LeBlanc, who leads our missions to Haiti, had to postpone his planned visit because of local conditions. A visit is planned this fall. ♥

### NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Lifeline expresses appreciation to these contributors for their financial support of the Lifeline Reception:

*Fred and Susan Friedman  
Fern Primack  
Stan and Jody Reynolds  
Bernie and Muriel Myerson  
Carl Patrick  
Ory and Tamy Slonim  
Al and Fran Blechman  
Jim and June Murray  
Bruce and Rosalie Rosen  
Michael and Patricia Forman  
Salah M. Hassanein*

Lifeline thanks Mr. Allen J. Bernstein, Chairman and President of Morton's Restaurant, and his wife, Lori for hosting **Lifeline's Executive Committee** for their meeting, cocktails and Dinner. Allen continues his long-term support of Variety, thank you! ♥

## PANAMA-PORTLAND-LIFELINE RELATIONSHIP *as reported by Dr. Ross Ungerleider*

THE HOSPITAL DEL NIÑO in Panama City, Panama, is a children's hospital, which provides full service care for the pediatric population of Panama City. The hospital staff handles 250,000 outpatient visits per year and 30,000 inpatient visits. They currently receive assistance in medical care from the United States, Finland, Mexico, France, Germany, Brazil and Chile. They are involved in training members of the medical profession. Currently, the hospital performs pediatric cardiac surgery on a limited basis.

Recently a team from Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, led by Ross M. Ungerleider M.D., pediatric cardiac surgeon, visited Panama. During this visit they were able to identify that the facilities would be adequate for performance of most pediatric cardiac procedures as well as the perioperative management. The hospital has echocardiographic facilities but does not currently have on-site cardiac catheterization facilities. They would appreciate our involvement to help provide high quality pediatric

cardiac care to the children in Panama City. Secondly, they would like our help in developing better teamwork amongst the members of the current organization.

It would be possible to satisfy both of these goals. Dr. Ungerleider, in particular, has a long time interest in developing cardiac surgery teams and the entire pediatric cardiac care program at Doernbecher Children's Hospital is

committed to providing service to improve care to the children in Panama City. We have proceeded with the planning of involvement with Panama City, which will include first bringing several team members from Panama City to Doernbecher Children's Hospital this summer (probably August 2002) where they will spend a week integrating with our team and becoming familiar with the ways in which we can work with each other. The team from Portland will then plan to spend a week in Panama from October 4th until October 12th 2002 at which time it will be our hope to perform numerous cardiac surgical procedures. Because of the existence of a team in Panama City that desires to improve their skills and teamwork abilities, it is our hope that we can help the current Panama City team at Hospital del Niño improve to where they will be able to provide outstanding pediatric cardiac care to the patients of Panama City without heavy reliance upon us within five years. We are appreciative to Variety Children's Lifeline for helping to promote this goal. ♥

LIFELINE



VARIETY CLUBS  
INTERNATIONAL

*One hundred years from now...  
it will not matter  
how much money I made,  
the kind of car I drove  
or the size house I lived in,  
but the world will be a better place  
because I was important  
in the life of a child.*

# LIFELINE MISSIONS REPORTS

ALTHOUGH A FEW LIFELINE MISSIONS WERE POSTPONED FOLLOWING 9-11, ALL WERE SUCCESSFULLY RESCHEDULED WITH CHILDREN IN PANAMA, ECUADOR AND NICARAGUA RECEIVING CARDIAC SURGERIES FROM OUR DEDICATED SURGICAL TEAMS FROM DOERBECHER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN PORTLAND, HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER, DUKE UNIVERSITY AND MERCY-DES MOINES.

## REPORT ON UCSD MISSION TO CHILE:

The University of California, San Diego was scheduled to return to Santiago, Chile in April, led by Dr. Stuart Jamieson. Due to problems with ICU space, this mission has been postponed for six months. However, what initially was an alarming need for adequate postoperative care in Chile has been met by extreme benevolence! Mrs. Sheri Kelts, a Lifeline friend is contributing the needed ICU unit, in the name of Variety Children's Lifeline, and this is indeed an enormously generous gift. Lifeline wishes to acknowledge Sheri Kelts in creating this life-giving legacy for the children of Santiago. ♥

## DUKE UNIVERSITY MISSION TO NICARAGUA:

Duke traveled to Leon, Nicaragua January 12-20th 2002, operating on seventeen children and making six referrals to Dr. Aldo Castaneda's Clinic in Guatemala. Duke returns in April and Lifeline recently purchased a portable x-ray machine that is vital to their success, impacting the healthcare of children in Nicaragua. Efforts from the team at Duke, led by Dr. James Jagers and Dr. Stephen Sanders, are endless and their commitment is firm in their 5th year of creating self-sustaining programs for the children with cardiac needs in Nicaragua. We salute Duke and their dedication. ♥

## HAITI UPDATE:

Dr. Patrick LeBlanc, who leads our missions to Haiti, had to postpone his planned visit because of local conditions. A visit is planned this fall. ♥

## NORTH SHORE'S HEART TO HEART 'SISTER HOSPITAL': "INSTITUTO DEL CORAZON" IN COLUMBIA:

In 2001, Dr. Victor Raul Castillo Mantilla of the "Fundacion Cardiovascular Del Oriente Colombio" in Colombia reported to Lifeline 50 successful heart surgeries for children associated with the Heart to Heart program! Lifeline appreciates the dedication of Dr. Mantilla and continues to support his commitment to the children of Colombia. Dr. Mantilla refers only the more complex surgeries to the North Shore Hospital in New York. ♥

## LIFELINE NEWS FROM EUROPE:

"After a considerable delay, we have at long last registered "Variety Children's Lifeline UK".

The Trustees are: Past International President, Salah Hassanein, International President, Jody Reynolds and International Vice President, Neil Sinclair.

The new Charity is in discussion with one of the leading Children's Hospitals in London with a view to building a long-term relationship and intends to expand on this with some of the major provincial hospitals. We are hopeful that the former will take a number of seriously ill children from poor countries for major surgery this year. In due course and in conjunction with The Variety Club of Great Britain, a fund raising event will take place in London and potential Guests of Honour are now being considered.

Finally, Lifeline has been very supportive of Chain of Hope, a UK Charity with similar goals whose patron is Sir Madgi Yacoub, one of the world's leading heart surgeons. Generous donations have been made towards their recent missions to Mozambique and Jamaica."

Neil Sinclair

Lifeline Co-Chair, UK/Europe/Africa

## MISSIONS TO THE YUCATAN:

In February 2002, Mercy Medical Center Des Moines, Iowa continues its commitment to the Yucatan children in need of cardiac surgeries. The mission team headed to Cempeche Clinic for 2 days of diagnostics to select children and perform the needed surgeries. There were 70 families waiting at 8:30 in the morning!

The team set up 4 exam rooms, and had 3 medical teams. The following two days were at Hospital O'Horan with diagnostics and surgeries. Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Becker and Mr. Tim Acton, President of the Foundation, the partnership remains strong with Lifeline in continuing surgical mission teams to the Yucatan and treating the most complex children's cases back in Des Moines. ♥

## SPECIAL THANK-YOU'S:

*Lauren Ina, Lifeline friend, UCSD volunteer to Chile and NBC producer. Lauren generously donated her time and resources to our newest Lifeline video. THANK YOU, LAUREN!*



*One more notable, travel agent Viktoria Voll, of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, works tirelessly for Lifeline, coordinating travel for mission teams, arranging reservations with American Airlines for the "Miles for Kids" program and all of the complications associated with last minute changes.*

*Vicky has waived all her commissions for all of 15 years on Lifeline kids. THANK YOU, VICKY, you certainly have a heart for kids... it shows!*

## ALDO CASTANEDA... THE GUATEMALAN CONNECTION

THE MOST COMPLEX CASES in pediatric cardiac surgery facing our missions in Central America in the past were referred back to the United States. The agreement formed between Lifeline and the eminent Dr. Aldo Castaneda of Cardiovascular de Guatemala, provides an invaluable solution by accepting referrals for complex cases from any of the South American countries including Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Panama and the Caribbean.

The link between Lifeline-Duke University-and Guatemala is stalwart. Duke, on their missions to Nicaragua are now making referrals of complex cases to Dr. Aldo Castaneda's Heart Clinic in



*Maria Jose Machado-Guevara, 5 month old. Referred by Duke because of a congenital heart problem. Underwent cardiac surgery, performed on November 12, by Dr. Juan Leon. Maria did very well after the surgery and returned to Nicaragua to the care of pediatric cardiologist, Dr. Nubia Berrios.*



*Maria with Dr. Juan Leon, the surgeon who performed the surgery. Two babies went to surgery that day, he is holding both of them.*

Guatemala. Dr. Castaneda, formerly Head of Cardiology at Harvard, has performed 4 surgeries for Lifeline upon Duke's referrals. This alliance provides for surgeries for children in Central America. It is less disruptive for families to be treated in a sister country and "culturally kinder" than bringing these children to the U.S. Lifeline is most grateful to Dr. Castaneda for allocating his expertise and resources. Duke University is moving into their fifth year of creating a self-sustaining medical infrastructure in Nicaragua. We wish to thank the Duke team for their outstanding dedication and Aldo for his continued devotion! ❤️

**VARIETY CHILDREN'S LIFELINE HONORS DR. VINCENT PARNELL, NORTH SHORE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, MANHASSET, WITH THE SIR JAMES CARRERAS AWARD, SPONSORED BY OUR OWN MAUREEN ARTHUR-RUBEN**



On April 26<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Variety International's 2002 Convention in Palm Springs, Lifeline honors Dr. Vincent Parnell. Many of Dr. Parnell's colleagues will join in this event. Special guests attending: Dr. Parnell's wife, Beverlee; Ralph Nappi, President, Long Island Jewish Health Foundation and wife, Maureen; Dr. Richard Ishmael, Queen Elizabeth Hospital/Barbados; Dr. David Bratt, Trinidad; Sister Dorothy, North Shore University Hospital; Dr. Michael and Dr. Meena LaCorte, Medical Advisor Lifeline/Brooklyn Hospital; Dr. Stuart Jamieson, University of California, San Diego, Mrs. Sheri Kelts, Lifeline friend; Dr. Mark Sklansky UCSD/ Lifeline and wife Lauren Ina, Lifeline Volunteer and an NBC producer; Dr. Thomas Becker, Mercy, Des Moines/ Lifeline ; Tim Acton, President, Mercy Foundation- Des Moines, and wife, Sandra; and Dr. Fredrick Bierman, Dr. Robert Boxer and Dr. Devyani Chowdhury, all of North Shore Hospital.

Vincent Parnell, as of this date, has operated on over 1,000 Lifeline children... **"THANK YOU, VINCE!"**

## A LETTER RECEIVED IN THE NAME OF ALL YOU LIFELINERS

This young boy, Francisco Javier Moreno Monroy from Tijuana, had leukemia. Francisco has recovered. Although Lifeline's primary focus is pediatric cardiology, we have assisted in Francisco's treatment. His parents write:

*To: Lifeline From: The Family of Francisco*

*"We want to thank you for everything you have done for our son. You can't believe how much this means to us and to his health. And we thank God that you have brought him to good health. We will never forget your help.*

*We cannot pay you for your generosity, but you will always be in our mind and we would love to keep contact with you. And we would love that you will not forget us. And each time we can communicate, believe me, even though the boy is only a kid, he understands how generous your help was to him.*

*Okay sir, for now, that is everything, and when you receive this card we hope that you understand how much this meant to us. We hope God will give you a full life and that God will grant you with whatever you wish.*

***MAY GOD RETURN IN LOVE AND HEALTH ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND ALL THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN EVERYONE AROUND YOU."***

# THE UMASS FEEDING CLINIC

Lifeline and New England Tent 23 continue to support the Pediatric Feeding Clinic at UMASS in Worcester, which ensures the continuation of quality care as well as continued advancements in the pediatric field specializing in feeding problems. According to the Director of Development, Jenique A. Radin, "your generosity facilitates our quest to provide children with optimum care by combining cutting edge medical technology with

professionals trained in cutting edge medical techniques. In contributing to the continuation and improvement of the care we provide at present, you insure something even more important- a happy and health future for the children who benefit from our community of care". Lifeline sponsored the nutritional care of 25 children last year at the Feeding Clinic and Tent 23, through the good auspices of Matt Sinopoli, took care of a like number.

## TWO MORE CHILDREN CARED FOR BY LIFELINE

**G**erson Corominas, a 7-year-old boy, was presented to the Feeding Clinic of the University of Massachusetts Memorial Children's Medical Center, last year, when he was evaluated by Dr. Stephen Moulton, for problems with poor growth and frequent coughing after feeding.



After any prior investigations had failed to yield any tangible results, Dr. Moulton was able to take Gerson to the operating room, where he performed an endoscopic evaluation of his wind and food pipe. This investigation revealed that a connection between these two chambers was there, undoubtedly, since birth, but had been missed, for these seven years. This tracheoesophageal fistula was able to be repaired in the operating room. Subsequently, Gerson has had improvement in his oral intake, but he is still being followed in our Feeding Clinic, to see whether or not we

can improve on his weight gain. He will undergo some further esophageal mobility studies, to help us ascertain whether there is any other intervention is warranted.

**C**hristian Spiyee is a 3-month-old infant who was brought to the feeding Clinic, after having sustained a cerebral palsy during his delivery.

While in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Dr. Paul Danielson, of the Pediatric Surgical Department at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Children's Medical Center, performed a placement of a gastrostomy feeding tube, as well as a surgical antireflux procedure and a gastric emptying procedure. The combination of these three procedures has enabled

Christian to gain weight and be able to be discharged from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. His is now being followed at the Feeding Clinic, to ascertain whether or not the brain damage that he sustained will improve enough, with better nutrition, to allow him to try to take food by mouth.

The modified barium swallow will be orchestrated by Filomena Connor, at which time; this further determination will be made. The parents are very grateful that we are attending to



this complex feeding problem, and hopefully, over the next several years, we will be able to establish a good feeding regimen for this unfortunate boy.♥  
*Michael Hirsh, M.D.*

## A LETTER FROM GUYANA FROM THE MOTHER OF ONE OF OUR LIFELINE CHILDREN

Although Lifeline and the whole North Shore Hospital in Manhasst, New York, normally cater to complex cases from the Caribbean and Columbia, we have been known to go afield... this time to Guyana.

One of Lifeline's core hospitals, North Shore University Hospital received the *Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services* becoming one of only 42 healthcare facilities across the United States to achieve this prestigious status. The 737-bed hospital is known for the comprehensive care and maintains a steady occupancy rate close to 100%.

Despite this high occupancy rate, Dr. Vincent Parnell and Sister Dorothy Ammon, as the Director of the Heart to Heart Program, continue their vigilance in providing cardiac surgical access to North

Shore for children in developing countries. In 2001, Lifeline supported 53 of these children in receiving life-saving surgeries. A recent letter to Sister D. from a grateful parent of a Lifeline child said:

*"Dear Sister Dorothy,  
Thank you for saving my son's life by sponsoring his heart surgery. I am very thankful to you today that my son is alive and can live a normal life. He has a second chance to life and thanks to you for making this possible.*

*Sometimes, I tolerate myself to imagine if it weren't for you, what would have happened to Ajay. It is not a pretty site to see the number of children who die in our country, Guyana, from congenital Heart Diseases every year similar to Ajay's.*

*Our country is very poor and we cannot afford the medical facilities for heart surgeries. To add to this, most of our children, who have congenital Heart diseases, their parents (like myself) cannot afford such a surgery due to the high poverty level in Guyana.*

*I only hope and pray that some day there will be a chance for other children in Guyana, whose parents cannot afford the cost of surgery, to have a chance of life like Ajay. I must also thank you for making this possible. Thank you, once again.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Parmadai Lall."*

**SISTER DOROTHY AND  
DOCTOR PARNELL ARE LIFELINE!**

# MISSION TO ECUADOR

## LETTER FROM DR. JOHN L. MEYERS, LIFELINE MEDICAL ADVISOR

I want to personally thank the support the Lifeline program has given in helping us provide lifesaving surgical treatment for Nguyen Pham. Nguyen is an eight-month-old girl who was born with the diagnosis of Tetralogy of Fallot. She has developed increasing cyanosis (blueness) since birth. Her parents had taken her to the Children's Heart Hospital in Vietnam and said they could not perform this type of surgery. We learned of Nguyen's plight through Dr. Richard Lanning, an ophthalmologist in Harrisburg, PA, who travels to Vietnam to perform missionary work. He brought the patient and her parents here to Harrisburg, and contacted us regarding treatment.



Nguyen underwent heart surgery on February 12, 2002. The hole between the two lower pumping chambers was closed with a Dacron patch and the obstruction to blood flow to the lungs was relieved. She made excellent progress following surgery and was discharged on postoperative day number three. She has been seen back in follow-up and continues to make excellent progress.

Thank you once again for all you do in the lifesaving treatment of children with heart defects. ♥

## MISSION REPORT RECEIVED FROM DR. JOHN MEYERS, MILTON S. HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA

**CORRESPONDENT HOSPITAL: HOSPITAL DEL NINO,  
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR**

**DATES OF MISSION: MARCH 11-19, 2002**

A medical team made up of surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, perfusionists and support staff returned to Ecuador to continue our joint mission of healing. This was our third trip to Guayaquil to provide cardiac evaluations and surgery for the children of Ecuador. During this mission we were able to examine between 100 and 130 children as well as perform 14 heart operations. Included were 2 non-pump, or closed heart cases and 12 pump, or open-heart cases. The youngest child was 2 weeks old and the oldest was 13 years old. Upon our departure on March 19<sup>th</sup>, all the patients were recovering well, with several of them ready to be sent home.

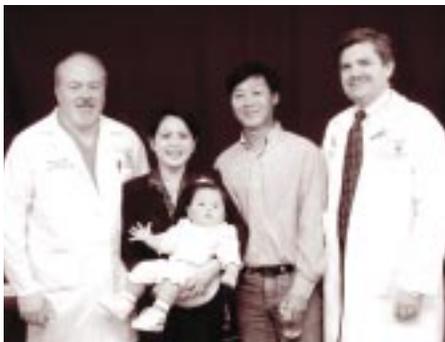
One of our goals is to teach the medical and surgical specialists in Ecuador the latest techniques for treating pediatric heart disease; we are pleased to report the following. During each operation, the surgical team of Dr. Roberto Gilbert worked literally side by side with us. Our surgeons, operating room nurses, anesthesiologists and perfusionists shared their knowledge

and experience with our partners from the Hospital del Nino with excellent results. It is difficult to adequately describe the teamwork that develops under these remarkable circumstances, however it was quite evident that we were continuing to accomplish our goal with great success.

In addition to the operating room team, our two pediatric cardiologists, one neonatologist and pediatric resident were equally involved with their medical counterparts. Although the Spanish-English language factor was present, it provided little difficulty to communicating the vital medical information to maintain our mission of healing.

We once again wish to thank Variety Children's Lifeline for their steadfast support of our missions. With the help of Lifeline, children are given a chance at life and the team at Hershey is deeply honored to be a part of this life-saving project.

**Mission Leader, Dr. John Meyers**  
Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics  
Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery ♥



*Nguyen, one week after discharge from the hospital with her parents, Dr. John Meyers and Dr. Stephen Cyran, cardiologist and Chief of Children's Heart Group.*

For further information on  
Variety Children's Lifeline  
please call:  
858.509.9445

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