

STRESSED TO THE MAX?

Tech's Counseling Center offers advice for the abundant end-of-the-term stress afflicting students. Page 11

JACKETS BEAT PENN STATE

Men's basketball narrowly defeated Penn State Tuesday night in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. Page 28

Soap stars visit Atlantic Station

This Sunday, as part of the ABC network's Fun in the Sun Tour, Aiden Turner and Jeff Branson from "All My Children" along with "One Life to Live's" Bree Williamson and Kamar de los Reyes and Natalia Livingston and Tristan Rogers from "General Hospital" will visit Atlantic Station to deliver a warm holiday hello.

Nathan Angelo plays Centre Stage

Local singer/songwriter Nathan Angelo will be performing with Angie Aparo and Gary Pfaff at Centre Stage on Peachtree Dec. 16. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$16 in advance, or \$18 on the day of the show. More information is available at www.nathanangelo.com.

Cirque du Soleil raises big top

Today Cirque du Soleil will raise its trademark blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau in Atlanta, letting all know they are here in preparation for the Atlanta premiere of the new touring show, Corteo. The shows will be held in Atlantic Station beginning Friday, Dec. 15 and running until Sunday, Jan. 21. Ticket prices for the event start at \$40.

G4's Pereira weighs in on console war

By Evan Zasoski
Senior Staff Writer

Kevin Pereira is host of G4's Attack of the Show as well as being an all-around video game expert.

So, naturally, when I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago to interview him for a piece about the then upcoming launch of the Wii and the Playstation 3 and the latest generation of console wars, I jumped right into it and asked him, if he had to pick, which system should gamers spend their hard-earned money on.

"It's a tough question, it's like picking a favorite son, but I...it's gonna be the Nintendo Wii, and that's not to say the Playstation 3 is not an amazing console and that in a year's time it won't be the greatest console ever created or put in anyone's living room, but as of right now the scale clearly tips towards the Nintendo Wii for me," Pereira Said.

Possibly a major component in the potential success of the Wii stems from its relatively low price. At \$249.99, the Wii comes in significantly cheaper than the Playstation 3 with its steep price tag of \$499.99 for the basic system or \$599.99 for a system with a bigger hard drive and more features.

"To actually get your hands on a Playstation 3, because there's only gonna be a few hundred thousand launched in North America, you're going to probably be forced into

buying a bundle, and early reports on these bundles from Wal-Mart, Target and Fry's is that they're over a thousand dollars. After you factor in the cost of one extra controller and maybe the two or three games that they're going to force you to buy. So... it's not just a price difference, in the end, of a couple hundred dollars. It

could be almost a thousand dollar price difference in the consoles," Pereira said.

The Xbox 360, the third contender in this generation's console war, which came out last year, weighs in at \$299.99 for the core system and \$399.99 for a version with a 20 Gigabyte hard drive.

Apparently, Nintendo, after years of hurting for third party support has finally managed to get some developers on board with the Wii. "In talking with developers and looking at third party game developers, I think they're excited and sort of

See Wii, page 19



Photo by Jonathan Agee/Student Publications

Several students play a video game while friends wait for their turn. Many Tech students have been enjoying Nintendo's latest gaming console, Wii, despite its \$250 plus price tag and limited supply.

R E F L E X I V I E W S



Image courtesy of Paramount Pictures

ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) rescues Claire (Paula Patton) because he thinks she key to preventing a terror attack.

Washington returns in *Déjà Vu*

By Brad Herrmann
Contributing Writer

Déjà vu brings a story of fantastical possibilities, tense action, and emotional depth into a surprisingly tight film that entertains, despite potential holes.

Tony Scott (director of *Top Gun*, *Enemy of the State* and *Man on Fire*) tones down the often overly flashy visual style he has recently become known for and instead lets the story develop first, leading to a more satisfying intensity and a good connection with the audience. Perhaps learning from his previous endeavors, Scott brings to the screen his most artistically matured work to date.

Scott teams up, once again, with Denzel Washington (*Crimson Tide*, *Man on Fire*) as *Déjà vu*'s protagonist, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent Doug Carlin. In a lackluster performance, Washington fails to bring anything new to the screen. Though enjoyable in close ups, Denzel plays Denzel: a good cop just trying to do his job. We get a sneaking suspicion we have seen this all before.

The story takes place in post-Katrina New Orleans, a fact almost pushed on us throughout. Following a terrorist bombing of a sailor packed

ferry, Carlin is brought in to investigate. Evidence is collected and a police drama reminiscent of a visually enhanced *CSI* case begins to build. Things begin to get interesting when the FBI (represented by a sadly uninteresting Val Kilmer) approaches

**Déjà Vu**

Cast: Denzel Washington, Val Kilmer, Paula Patton
Director: Tony Scott
Running time: 126 min.
Rating: PG-13

Carlin with a "unique opportunity" to use a newly developed technology to get a second look at what may or may not have happened.

Dipping into the realm of science fiction for a bit, Denzel keeps the underlying themes of the film grounded. Resisting taking the overdone paranoid spin, the story smartly develops a single narrative of

Doug Carlin and the bombing. The deeper he gets involved in the case, the more he is intrigued by one of the victims, a woman named Claire Kuchever (played by relative newcomer Paula Patton) who's washed ashore body may hold the key to the identity of the bomber.

A high concept race against time unfolds with twists and surprising density. We are drawn to the edge of our seats for the entire second half of the narrative.

In familiar territory for a Bruckheimer production, the action is both engaging and lavish. With his patented cool, Washington must race to solve the case, while revisiting through several clever plot sequences which attempt to impress rather than to leave with too much head scratching.

Déjà vu is engaging and visually elaborate. With an emotional undertone and a patient development, Tony Scott has created an interesting film that takes its pretense and runs with it.

Though not entirely original, the scientific explanation and interwoven script doesn't insult the audience and makes a commendable attempt.

Not to be deceived by its tagline, *Déjà vu* is worth a look that fans of Scott's previous work will enjoy.

Colder weather lures indie rock musicians to the South

Pretty Girls Make Graves visit Centre Stage for their fifth ATL stop since 2001

By Jonathan Saethang
Contributing Writer

Bathed in the red hue of stage lights, Seattle's Pretty Girls Make Graves brought their unique brand of indie rock to Center Stage in Midtown. Supporting She Wants Revenge's current tour, PGMG returned to Atlanta for their fifth time since forming in 2001.

The *Nique* had a chance to discuss touring, growing as a band, and enjoying our own Dirty South with bassist and

back-up vocalist Derek Fudesco, and lead vocalist Andrea Zollo; guitarist Jay Clark, multi-instrumentalist Leona Marrs, and percussionist Nick Dewitt round out the quintet.

Named after the Smith's song and Jack Kerouac quote of the same name, PGMG venture on their second tour of 2006, this time as a supporting act, at the request of She Wants Revenge.

When asked to compare headlining a tour earlier this year with their current supporting roles, Fudesco stated the experience was less stressful and more enjoyable.

This is not the first time PGMG, signed to Matador records, has toured with major label acts; previous tours have included the likes of

such radio-popular acts as Death Cab for Cutie and Franz Ferdinand. Matador is also home to Atlanta-native Cat Power.

PGMG released their third LP, *Élan Vital* earlier this year. The band derived the title from the French philosophy regarding the hypothetical force to cause development of organisms, which fits as *Élan Vital* takes a decidedly different approach.

With the departure of guitarist Nathan Thelen in 2004, and the introduction of Marrs, PGMG's music evolved from a founda-

tion of dueling, frantic guitars to a layered sound, involving more keyboards and the inclusion of an accordion, courtesy of Ms. Marrs.

When asked about fans reaction to sonic evolution presented in *Élan Vital* both Fudesco and Zollo agreed that a majority of younger fans lost interest. While this may spell financial disaster in an industry that often prays on the fickle teenage dollar, Fudesco is indifferent: "We don't care," he said.

For an act with half a decade of experience, three full-length releases, and tours with major-label bands all under their collective belt, do PGMG plan to make

the expected migration to a major label? "No. Matador is really good to us... everyone is really cool," Fudesco said.

The night's first act, Los Angeles' Monsters Are Waiting, opened the show. Reminiscent of sugary-sweet female vocals à la Cardigans set against a heavier backdrop of standard distorted guitars, bass, and drums, Monsters Are Waiting warmed the crowd for PGMG's performance. PGMG's live show included an equal serving of tracks from their popular 2003 release *The New Romance* and the more recent *Élan Vital*, with the conclusion coming from the latter's "Selling the Wind," which featured

PGMG's multi-instrumentalist Marrs on accordion. Afterwards, She Wants Revenge assumed the stage.

A fledgling band formed in 2005 of former rap producers and signed to Fred Durst's ironically-named Flawless Records, She Wants Revenge seemed to indicate that sometimes, lighting effects, stage fog and droning bass lines can comprise the majority of a "live" show.

If Depeche Mode and Joy Division left a child for adoption, it would be named She Wants Revenge.

Did PGMG enjoy another visit to the Dirty South? Fudesco and Zollo both share an affinity for southern food, the iconic

southern beverage sweet tea and A-town's own OutKast: "They're hard to beat," Zollo said. Favorite Atlanta hot spots to visit include Little Five Points and The Clairemont Lounge, which Fudesco and Zollo both agree has a very "David Lynch-eque quality."

Initially signed to Lookout! Records, PGMG's first track off their first LP Good Health asks, "Do you remember what the music meant?" Their earnest performance that night answers their 2002 release with a resounding yes. The members of PGMG plan to rejoin their

respective side projects and return to Seattle after the conclusion of their current tour.

Named after the Smith's song and Jack Kerouac quote of the same, PGMG ventured on their second tour of 2006...



Photo courtesy of Dan Monick

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Villebillies delight with folkrap Bands play in Hell

By Lindsay Deal
Entertainment Editor

After releasing their self-titled debut CD earlier this year, Kentucky's the Villebillies have hit the road to promote the album. The ten-member band has evolved through the merging of the original members of the Villebillies with fellow Louisville rock band Plan of Man.

In their recent show at Smith's Olde Bar, despite the lack of standing room on stage, the Villebillies were able to move and groove through an amazing set that brought together an impressive array of musical genres including rock, rap, folk, bluegrass, pop and R&B. And they make it sound good.

Some songs take on a classic southern whisky rock vibe, while others tout a definite rap style. And with at least five vocalists, why not? In addition to the expansive list of

vocalists, the band also includes three guitar players, one keyboard player and one drummer.

With such a large number of band members, the one thing uniting all of the songs is an undeniably good mix of instrumental talent. Though trying to pinpoint exactly where the group fits into the spectrum of genres would be nearly impossible.

"It's kind of a mix of rock, rap, bluegrass and blues. It's kind of, I would like to think, very organic in the way it all comes together. It doesn't sound forced. I think it's kind of a natural thing. We don't go in [to the studio] with the idea of having a certain song... I think that's why it works. There are a lot of people who have tried to mix genres; some of it has been good," said vocalist Demi Demaree.

Demaree said that the music the band has been producing was the result of casual jam sessions as op-

posed to some experiment in mixing different styles of music.

"Until we got along enough that we got our media, I don't think we realized we were doing anything that unnatural or weird. We were just making songs. It wasn't until people really began to hold a mirror up to our work and ask us about it that we realized there was something different with what we were doing," he said.

But what they are doing is definitely different—and it's good. The tracks on their CD are clearly recorded and really let the folksy southern background creep into the rhythmic lyrics, and strong bass lines provide the pulse of the album, keeping everything in sync.

This band is undeniably different—and talented. I wouldn't be surprised if you start hearing a lot more about them in the coming months.



Photo by Robert Combier/ Student Publications

Murder by Death, hailing from Indiana, channeled the late Johnny Cash during their Tuesday night performance at the Masquerade.

By Lindsay Deal
Entertainment Editor

Tuesday night, in the fiery fury of Hell (ok, the lower level of the Masquerade's Hell) three bands delivered a pleasantly diverse evening of music.

This Providence was the first band to take the stage, perfectly equipped with the things that make the audience of the Masquerade (aka mostly female high school crowd) go crazy—shoulder-length hair with sideswept bangs, pants to accentuate the crotch bulge and voices in the soprano range. Their Panic At The Disco-esque whining and overly-zealous jumping during the beginning of the first song did nothing to endear the group to me. The group of sixteen year olds next to me, however, found it necessary to give each other piggy back rides while confessing their undying love for lead vocalist Dan Young.

Thankfully the band's playset wasn't undying, and the next band quickly took the stage.

Murder By Death, the second group to play, seemed to have about

as much in common with This Providence as Kenny Chesney and Metallica.

Lead singer Adam Turla's baritone voice, though at times sounding a bit too forced, was backed by bassist Matt Armstrong, energetic drummer Alex Schrodt, and, surprisingly, a cellist (and pianist) by the name of Sarah Balliet.

Though his vocal range left a bit to be desired, Turla's deep voice soothingly delivered soulful lyrics with an old cowboyish sound—very Johnny Cash-like.

Unfortunately Murder By Death's talent seemed overlooked by those waiting for the night's headlining band, the Hushsound.

Though vocalist/pianist Greta Salpeter's voice was pleasantly soothing, the overall sound of the band lacked in originality.

Overall, their pop rock sound was decent, but Salpeter's Gwen Stefani-like saccharine sweet voice was the only noteworthy aspect of their music. At the end of the night, when the band returned for the encore, I only wish we could have heard more from Murder by Death.



Photo by Robert Combier/ Student Publications

Earlier this month, Louisville's ten-member band The Villebillies performed their signature combination of rap, folk, bluegrass and R&B for an equally eclectic and enthusiastic crowd at Smith's Olde Bar.

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Weekly Activities

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Two Bits

Two Bits damns Physics professors and creepy uncles to the deepest caverns of Hell

I, Two Bits Man, am thoroughly, completely, royally pissed off. (Or, at least I would be, if I wasn't still in a turkey coma from last weekend.) Thus, the theme of today's article is "People who deserve a special place in hell." Lest someone should become offended, I am an equal-opportunity hater. There is room for all types on my little list of condemnation and I doom them to only the most politically-correct, non-religious, non-threatening hell possible. I'm sure what comes next is no surprise to anyone who has ever taken a class at Tech. Three professors happen to tie for first place. Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.

But first, down around the third or fourth circle of hell* are some of my least favorite people—the "smoke while walking" people. Now, it's re-

ally none of my business if you decide to suck smoke, its carcinogens and other particulate matter into your filthy lungs on a weekly, daily, or hourly basis. But if you must smoke, DON'T WALK IN FRONT OF ME while you are doing it. Your smoke then becomes my smoke, even if I'm walking fifteen feet behind you. So stop that, because otherwise someone or something (i.e. me) is going to smite you.

Next on my list is everyone's holiday favorite: the drunken, racist, sexist uncle that insists that he's smarter than everyone else. Yep, he's the one so drunk he can't even play Candy Land with the toddlers hyped up on Snickerdoodles** and sodas. The one who, after every loss, insists that "the last round was a practice round."

But these people are mostly annoyances. We now descend into the lower parts of the underworld



find my least favorite people. Somewhere in the eighth circle of hell*** is a toasty little place for my Physics professor who assigned homework on the

Wednesday before Thanksgiving, due the Monday after Thanksgiving. That happens to be the class students are most likely to skip all year, and he decides to assign homework due the very next class period?! I'm pretty sure this is about revenge on the students who didn't come to class.

I already thought that Tech had something against people being able to see their families on the weekends and holidays— this just confirms it. I had to wait until Thanksgiving morning to fly home, because Tech apparently feels that giving us Wednesday off would be too indulgent. And then I had to spend time doing homework that could have been spent with Two Bits Mom, Two Bits Dad and Two Bits Siblings.

I had considered that perhaps my

professor simply didn't understand American holidays, because he certainly doesn't understand American undergraduates. (No, fifteen hours a week is not a reasonable amount of time to spend doing homework for just your class.) I'm pretty sure he is the reincarnation of Ebenezer Scrooge, before the whole ghosts and turning his life around part.

But at least he won't be lonely down there. I've sent two of his colleagues with him. They include the professor who decided to make a project due right after Thanksgiving, and his buddy, who decided to schedule a test the same day. Those three can be best friends, dance around a cauldron, cackle equations to themselves, and prophesy low

See Bits page 19

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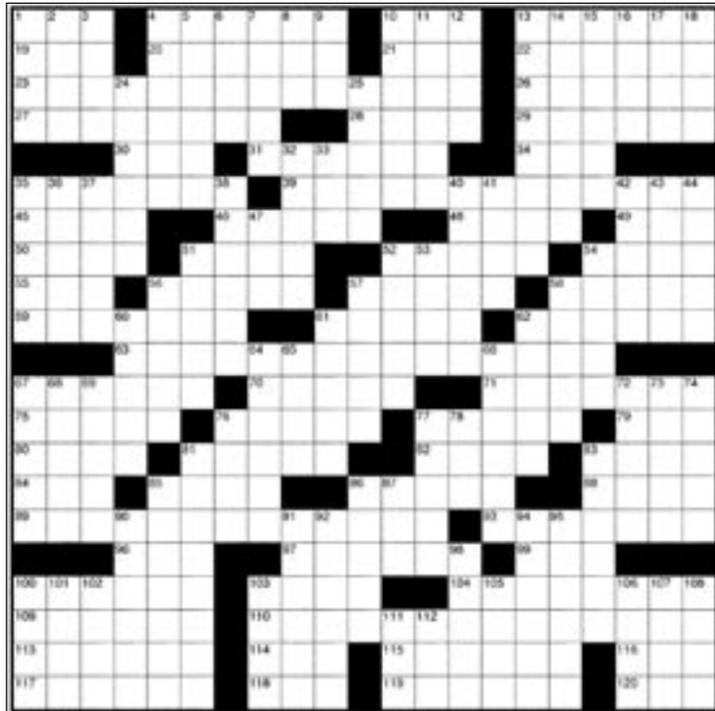
THEME CROSSWORD: POSSESSED

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

1. Swimmer's measure
4. Author Allende
10. Sound booster
13. Tucked away
19. Era
20. Put music on paper
21. Negative
22. Melodic
23. Graham Greene's Cuban novel: 4 wds
26. Rascals
27. Split up
28. Expression of sorrow
29. Monarch's perch
30. "I don't approve"
31. Ireali greeting
34. Big dictionary: abbr.
35. Entrepreneur's need
39. Grant-Russell comedy of 1940: 3 wds
45. Auld sod
46. Soap-yielding plant
48. Louts
49. Language suffix
50. London WC's
51. Hawaiian feast
52. Steeple topper
54. Tabula ___
55. CPR provider
56. More broad
57. "Quiet!"
58. Vaqueros' slings
59. Without

- exception: 2 wds
61. Vermeer's "View of ___"
 62. Scram: 2 wds
 63. Sid Caesar TV series of the '50s: 2 wds
 67. They're found in soup kitchens
 70. Location
 71. Hurried, in music
 75. Boo-boo
 76. Jazz style
 77. Small branch
 79. Salmon delicacy
 80. Congregation's response
 81. Straight-edge
 82. Ashen
 83. Tiny insect
 84. Navy's environment
 85. Red vegetable
 86. "Law & Order" opener
 88. One of a wedding trio
 89. 1987 Kate Capshaw spy film: 3 wds
 93. Heavyweight Kevin
 96. West Bank org.
 97. Name
 99. Realtor's offering
 100. Coveted L.A. address
 103. Cowboy's charge
 104. Open to membership
 109. Slurred over



110. Play inspiring musical "Wonderful Town": 3 wds
113. Raglan or dolman
114. Wolframite, e.g.
115. Presentable, so to speak
116. Clerical abbr.
117. More depressed
118. Capitol Hill VIP
119. Completely: 2 wds
120. Take a sip

DOWN

1. Thailand neighbor
2. Fever
3. Criminal, for short
4. On a treadmill, in a way: 3 wds
5. Beethoven's "Moonlight"
6. Scrapping
7. Bad effects

8. Suffix for ordinal numbers
9. Meadow
10. Computer type
11. My friend in Paris: 2 wds
12. School orgs.
13. Throwaways
14. Tell, et al.
15. American poet, d. 1986
16. The same: prefix
17. Sports network
18. Rx info
24. Morning prayers
25. Dance in Dijon
32. Time to begin: 2 wds
33. Pipeline delivery
35. Paparazzi target
36. Kitchen attraction
37. Peter, in St. Petersburg
38. Estee of cosmetics
40. Perches
41. Eye protector
42. Started a game
43. Very much so, in music
44. Leavening
47. Miss West
51. "Peanuts" character
52. Spike Jones hit
53. Bridge tactic, for short
54. Celebrity razzing
56. Swain
57. Make it a cinch: 2 wds
58. Furnish with a rug?
60. Hose material
61. Fund-raising target
62. One over par
64. Lissom
65. Cupbearer to the gods
66. Manhattan neighborhood
67. Fido's line
68. French marchers
69. Somber
72. Suspect's defense
73. Carried
74. Daisy
76. Regretful one
77. Hawker's line
78. Grier of "Foxy Brown"
81. Steno's aid
83. Fatal
85. Hold to be true
86. Supermodel Crawford
92. Country address
90. Dug in the garden
91. "___ playing our song..."
92. Jack London's "Sea Wolf"
94. Customer
95. Mackerel's cousin
98. Oust
100. Harry's Mrs.
101. Cinders in old comics
102. Fibbed
103. Health plans: abbr.
105. Nabisco offering
106. Comedian Lahr
107. Make eyes
108. Covet
111. Reagan defense prog.
112. Decimal basis

Wii from page 15

re-energized about the possibility of creating games for the Nintendo Wii. You know, the control scheme is incredibly innovative, and the kind of games they can't make on the 360 or the Playstation 3 are the kind of games they'll want to make for the Wii," Pereira said.

The control scheme Kevin was referring to is the Wii Remote, Nintendo's innovative new controller that utilizes motion sensing technology to allow players to control games in new and different ways, and it may very well be the life or death of the Wii's games.

"You know, a title that sells on the Nintendo Wii that does not take advantage of the Wiimote's functionality will not sell, period," Pereira said. "They know they can't just make a sloppy port of a game, throw it on the Wii, and expect it

to sell." But Sony and Microsoft are far from down and out in this fight. In terms of sheer hardware power, both the 360 and the PS3 are firmly ahead of Nintendo, and by all accounts, the graphics on their system far outstrip those of the Wii, but apparently, that's not the battlefield that Nintendo has chosen to compete on. "People are buying this console for innovative game play. They want something new, they want something different. If they wanted the same experience they could have on the 360 or the Playstation 3 they would go get one of those consoles,



because the graphics would be far superior, and Nintendo wouldn't deny that," Pereira said.

Also, with Sony's then expected now quite real supply problems with the Playstation 3, Microsoft and Nintendo are in a position to take a lot of

what might otherwise have been Sony's customers.

"Another level that makes this the most

interesting console launch ever is that what's going to happen when gamers go into the store: they want a Playstation 3. They can't get it because the consoles just aren't available and they see the Wii. Right next to

that they've got the 360 running 'Gears of War' which looks heads and shoulders better than anything that's available on the Playstation 3 right now," Pereira said.

But even with price and availability issues with the Playstation 3, Sony is still very much in the game.

In fact, all three systems are looking so competitive that there is no generally agreed "winner" expected for this generation, and Pereira was unwilling to predict a loser.

"I think it's going to be incredibly close and as such there's not going to be a loser. I think it's gonna take another generation of shakeout before we see who is really going to win between Microsoft and Sony," Pereira said.

So, with all three systems looking strong and no clear loser or winner in sight, the next couple of years are looking to be particularly interesting for those with an interest in console gaming.

Bits from page 18

grades for all physics students.

So those three professors, with their powers combined (are not Captain Planet****) ruined my break.

*Okay, this one is a bit of a stretch. The third circle of hell belongs to the gluttons; the fourth belongs to the miserly.

**Laughing sketches? No, traditional Christmas cookies.

***But this one I'm sure of. The eighth circle of hell belongs to those guilty of deliberate evil. Keep reading, you'll see what I mean.

****Alright, what's the deal with the dopey "heart" kid with the monkey on Captain Planet?

Why did everyone else get a cool natural phenomenon and he got "heart"?

I think that kid belongs on this list somewhere.

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720 LEGAL SERVICES

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