



THE HAWKS' NEST

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MAY 2026



Courtesy of: Grace Warrington '26
Ponte Vecchio in Florence, Italy where CVU Latin and Art students traveled over April break.

2026-27 CVU School Presidents are Elected

Jordan Kramer-Nison
Staff Writer

In one of the most driven and diverse races in recent years, **Owen Scott '27** and **Alex Jovell '27** have been elected as the co-presidents of the CVU student body for the 2026-27 school year.

Rising from a pool of six initial pairs, Scott and Jovell secured their victory after a competitive week of campaigning and a final run-off.

In addition to our winners, the pairs consisted of **Ally Gutierrez '27** and **Malashie Tonoki '27**; **Olivia Cieri '27** and **Boden Russell '27**; **Treson McEnaney '27** and **Elsa Klein '27**; **Sarah Diguglielmo '27** and **Lily Siedlecki '27**; and **Braedon**

Minehart '27 and **Yuri Grass '27**—although the final pair eventually stepped out of the race.

Throughout the process, all pairs of the rising seniors participated in a week-long intense campaigning period, setting up at tables around four corners as well as in front of the Cores.

Candidates brought fun games, such as golf and basketball. There was also a seemingly endless amount of food and drinks that got most students looking forward to their arrival at school. Candidate Cieri, who brought waffles, ice cream and toppings, noted that her partnership with Russell was about balance. "Boden has been such an

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Fairbanks Frozen

Noah Westman
Staff Writer

Next year, we will all say *au revoir* to Fairbanks house. Yes, the oldest house here at CVU will be frozen for at least the next two years.

Due to fewer incoming ninth graders in the coming years, it has been determined that there will not be enough students to fill all four cores.

Questions such as "Why was this decision made, and how does it affect the future of Fairbanks?" or "What could this mean for its current students and teachers?" are being considered across those in the CVU community.

The decision that a core had to be frozen came from a projected decrease in incoming students for the classes of 2030 and 2031. The number of newcomers to CVU has been deemed insufficient to fill all four cores.

The current practice is to place an incoming ninth grader in the same house as their older sibling who has attended or is attending CVU. Since Fairbanks has the fewest incoming siblings of current students, the least impact would be caused by temporarily freezing this particular house. As for the students that would have been headed to Fairbanks next year, they will be randomly assigned to the other houses.

While some initial reactions to the news were those of disappointment, some expressed hope. Fairbanks Project Adventure and Health teacher **J.P. Benoit** said he believes the loss of community will certainly be felt,

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Bonsai Club

Read about one of CVU's many clubs on page 7.



Arts

Learn about the One Act plays on pages 4-5.



Happy Spring

Enjoy this spring issue!

CVU School Presidents Elected

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amazing co-candidate because he is so willing to commit himself... we're also both very energetic so it has been so fun to come up with ways we would like to make change," she explained.

Although the snacks and games were a hit for the students, the atmosphere in Four Corners resulted in mixed reviews from

faculty members.

Concerns of campaigning refreshments violating health codes and hallway overstimulation have led school leaders to suggest that future campaigns adopt guidelines that can help balance student excitement with respect for the learning environment.

Principal **Katherine Riley** explained, "I was caught totally off guard this year. There was an element of fun, but it was over the top,

and a lot of money. But, kids had put a lot of thought into it, so I wasn't sure whether or not to shut it down, and whether that would be fair. I had students and adults coming and saying [the campaigning] was kind of carnival-ly in a way, and not focused on how they were going to make school a better place. On Tuesday the student council decided that food and prices won't be part of the campaign process. You want everyone to see themselves as having the potential to run and be a part of [the student body elections.]"

On Monday, April 13, the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and faculty members crowded into the gymnasium bleachers to hear the candidates' speeches.

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Fairbanks Frozen

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and many treasured core activities will be sorely missed but that doors have also been opened by this change. He noted that its closing will allow some teachers to have new time slots available to teach.

Teachers have had the opportunity to fill out a form about what classes they would like to teach next year, according to Fairbanks Humanities teacher **John Bushnell**.

So if you miss your core teacher from Fairbanks, this may be your lucky chance to see a familiar face! However, there is not much clarity as to what will happen to the current core in the coming years. The assets in question are the four core Fairbanks classrooms, House Office, Fishbowl, and lockers. Many decisions have not yet been publicly disclosed.

The decision makes sense to some, such as Benoit, who believes it will be beneficial in the long run, saying, "You have to make decisions that will benefit the whole community."

However, some believe cutting a house won't help, stating that smaller, calmer classroom environments are better for ninth graders. A four-core system has been the norm for quite some time, so a change like this could be jarring for both students and teachers. While the future of Fairbanks is uncertain, there is a real possibility that it will be reinstated in future years.

The decision has been made based on incoming population projections, which are only reliable for about two years into the future. Beyond that we know very little, leaving the possibility for an unfreezing of Fairbanks.



Courtesy: Karmen Wilbur '26
Fairbanks Core as it stands today

What will happen to the positions of teachers if Fairbanks is unfrozen is another question, and may also influence the decision.

Some teachers—such as Fairbanks Science teacher **Sarah Strack**—have already found out where they ill be teaching next year. (Strack will be moving next door to a position as the Chittenden core science teacher). With so many reassignments, reinstating Fairbanks would be a tricky task.

There is still a lot to learn about this change, and many positives may come from such news. While there are arguments for and against Fairbanks freezing, the change that will be brought about may indeed be a breath of fresh air for people. While not much is certain about the future of Fairbanks, it is clear that in its wake, opportunity, and positive change will arise.

The Hawks' Nest

*The student-run newspaper of
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CVU School Presidents Elected

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One by one, the pairs spoke up in front of the majority of the student body, expressed their connections with each other and the community, and their motivations and goals.

“It can be hard to communicate to our faculty and staff unless you are a member of student council,” candidate Klein explains. “We want to be the ones that can relay and amplify student voice, specifically through advocating for more C3 time and changes to the Friday advisory schedule.”

Many of the speeches also included altering C3s, as well as turf field advocacy, parking improvements, and bringing more school spirit to CVU events.

Shortly after a Google form was sent out, the results came in, and a run-off was held between Scott and Jovell, and Gutierrez and Tonoki. For Tonoki and Gutierrez, their personal experience was what fueled them

to make change at CVU.

“Coming into high school, especially as two Black women in a predominantly white school, it took us a long time to find where we belonged,” they shared, explaining that their leadership style is built on “care, intention, and real connection.”

Although there are only two rising seniors crowned the title of student body co-presidents, it is evident that CVU has an abundance of qualified, charismatic leaders.

It is hopeful that those who didn’t win the student body co-presidential title will still take part as exemplary students to better their school. Shout-outs go out to all candidates for their courage and for the impact they make on CVU every day.

In regards to our winners, Scott and Jovell are focused on helping to bring a turf field to CVU. They say this is important for CVU’s community because of “...its impact on multiple sports, and its use for classes like PA, as well as other community

events.”

If they are able to contribute to the turf project, that will have an immense impact on CVU’s highly valued sports culture as well as the environment and citizens of Hinesburg. They are additionally going to work with school leaders to expand C3s so that they resonate more with students and align with their interests.

They explain, “[We] hope that this effort will bridge more connections and create a stronger, more united CVU community where everyone can find a place and group for themselves.”

As the 2026-27 school year approaches, the school community looks forward to seeing how these new leaders will turn their campaign promises into a reality for CVU students.

Scott and Jovell will be taking over from current co-presidents **Jack Bryan '26** and **Cooper Guerriere '26**.

Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief

Crossword

Answers on page 8

Across

1. Lost all patience
6. "Yeah, right"
10. _____ Eight
11. Interleukin 6 or Rocker Simmons
12. Worshiper of Jah
13. Grub
14. Cars singer Ocasek
15. Clever remark in Cannes
17. "Sorry, boss"
19. Universal event?
21. "Really? Who'da thunk it"

23. Absorb, with "up"
25. Hindu Festival of Colors
26. Is _____ (probably will)
28. Across Fanning of "Sentimental Value"
29. South American ostriches
30. Shambles
31. Not clean

Down

1. Munster mister
2. Actor Delon of "Il Gattopardo"

3. "Fame" necessities
4. Addams family member
5. Lipton products
6. List for a meeting
7. Champ's saltwater cousin
8. Really digging
9. Con
16. Like airplane wifi
18. Montreal and Burlington, e.g.

20. Hinted to
21. 1954 movie involving giant, mutant ants

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
10						11			
12						13			
14				15	16				
	17		18						
		19						20	
21	22						23		24
25						26	27		
28						29			
30						31			

22. Courtney Love's band
24. Bunch of flowers
27. _____ Beta Kappa band

Arts

Lena Ingalls
Staff Writer

One Acts: The World of Shakespeare

In old Shakespearean times, plays were viewed along a wide wooden stage with an open roof, no seats, and booths for only the particularly wealthy. Though our customs have changed, centuries later the art of theater has not diminished, instead having evolved into a display of modern creativity and passion.

On April 10th, 11th, and 12th, the One Acts were performed by CVU students and directed by the members of the graduating class of 2026.

The Shakespearean world expanded in the minds of imaginative teens with the plays *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*.

Each One Act had their own story, told with comedic twists and sorrowful monologues. The One Acts are an incredible experience for the Seniors to expand on their leadership skills and direct a play.

The CVU director and teacher of Acting and Improvisation and Public Speaking **Elisa Van Duyne** was interviewed and asked how this experience helps seniors with their independence and life skills. She also elaborated on how the process works.

Van Duyne shared “I send out an email to all the seniors to find out who's interested and then in December they present their ideas to me. Then I hold a directive workshop with the seniors who are directing, and it's sort of directing 101. We talk a lot about concept, vision, how they design their sets, their costumes, their props list, makeup, and how they analyze the scripts. What is the plot synopsis and what is the character development, that way when their actors come to them, or their tech director asks them a question they will have a clear vision of their expectations. Then in January we dive a little deeper and we do another director workshop, where we'll talk about rehearsal process and blocking, color schemes for costumes, color schemes for the set. They meet with whoever the student designer is, in this case it was Parker for the set design they'll meet with Greg who's their tech director and meet with each of the heads

of the departments.”

She also mentioned how the “Last week of January are the auditions and then it's usually an 8-9 week rehearsal process after they've cast the show and then we have tech week and then a weekend of shows usually the first or second weekend of April.”

Van Duyne's perspective on how the One Acts contribute to helping the seniors with their independence, and life skills is that there is more initiative. She explained, “They have to take command of their choices, and collaborate with other seniors. They have to be leaders amongst their own peers which can be a little challenging and it develops a lot of empathy for the directors. They often come to me afterwards and go ‘Oh I get it now, it's difficult.’ Yes, it is difficult, there's a lot of planning, a lot of logistics involved, and a lot of communication both email, and physical communication between both adults and students.”

Her final comments about the One Acts were on the community it creates: “We

spend less time making sure that it looks stunning, and more time on how we are respecting each other, and how we are making a collaborating community, an inclusive community, and a community that fosters self advocacy.”

This year's *Romeo and Juliet* was directed by **Stephanie Miskavage '26** and **Isabelle Schwendler '26**, while *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* was directed by **Molly Silvia '26** and **Eva Fewell '26**. When interviewed, Silvia and Fewell talked about their overall experience of directing their show, and the dynamics of being in different roles in the theater world over the years.

Fewell said about the origins of the show: “We met in fourth grade and that was when we first became friends, and Molly's Shakespeare obsession was strong. I didn't really care about Shakespeare, so we had a lot of fake disagreements about our thoughts on him. In ninth grade we were thinking that if we ever direct we have to do this show because it's perfect. It has the aspects of making fun of Shakespeare in a way.”

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Courtesy of: Marina Hallisey '27
Nora Brady '29 and Harrison Melo '28 as Tybalt and Benvolio in Act 1 of *Romeo and Juliet*.

One Act Plays

Continued from page 4

“And then the actual Shakespeare part which I like,” Silvia then added.

Silvia noted how she found inspiration from her mom. “My mom actually did this show when she was in college. That’s how I found out about it,” she talked about her love of Shakespeare as well.

“I have also always loved Shakespeare, which is why I was like, this is such a funny wonderful show to do, and Eva still to this day has a strong dislike for Shakespeare,” said Silvia.

Their dynamic duo on stage made everyone in the audience laugh and smile as they introduced the show they had worked very rigorously on. “I oversee more things and I get to pull from that experience, but I also feel like in a way it’s such a hectic time,” said Fewell.

“It’s more work on the organizing and keeping tracks of things, way less work on the memorization,” Silvia mentioned. She also shared that being a director impacts her sleep more.

Both agreed that the actors have been wonderful to work with and have made this experience outstanding. “The actors have been so incredible to work with and I feel like I’ve gotten to connect with them a little

bit more than I’m able to as stage manager,” Fewell explained.

Olivia Searson '26, who has many roles in the theater community, talked about their jobs during a show or the One Acts and how they feel as a senior leaving CVU.

Searson shared, “Right now I’m actually working in all three of my departments that I head, which is sets, ... crew, and stage management. Sets are wrapped up for the most part, [as we’ve] finished building everything. The tech side of things outside of rehearsal mostly involves spread sheets and physical construction, only tangentially related because it’s a lot of like putting flats together.”

A question many seniors were asked was how they felt personally, that this was their last year participating in CVU theater. “Kinda used to the changing in and out. Now it just feels like I’m one more person who’s graduating. That being said I am going to be constantly checking my email in August and going ‘Wait a minute, I don’t have to come into school early anymore,” said Searson.

Searson also mentioned that they have already made eight promises to different people that they will return to watch upcoming shows.

“The One Acts, specifically my favorite part, is definitely seeing actors step into a tech role and go ‘Oh my god, there’s so much to do.’ I feel like from an outsider’s point of



Courtesy of: Marina Hallisey '27
Miranda Stewart '26 in The Complete Works of Shakespeare

view it doesn’t really seem like there’s too much tech, because we like to have fun Tuesdays and Thursdays, there’s a lot of blasting Kesha,” said Searson when asked what their favorite part about the One Acts were.

As Searson reflected on the experience overall, they shared that the “Theater experience overall, though I think this might sound kind of weird, but the amount of time and effort put into it is really satisfying to me. Because with EVD [Elisa Van Duyne] at least every year, I spend so much time in the theater and then I hear about the money we’ve made from the musicals and EVD’s like ‘Another record breaking number’ and I’m like ‘Yes! Those seventy hours a month were worth it!’”

They also commented that “We need more stage managers! It teaches you good life skills because you have to learn time management fast!”

Overall, the One Acts were a roaring success and brought satisfaction and happiness within the audience, along with the cast and crew. This year’s One Acts went off without a hitch and brought the audience enjoyment and entertainment, with the loud crowd of applause echoing down the halls of the school.

The CVU theaters were very packed this year. Though we may never reach the Shakespearean-era level of admiration for the Early Modern English language, we can certainly try!



Courtesy of: Marina Hallisey '27
Owen Scriver and Joseph Janetti as the title characters in Romeo and Juliet in The Complete Works of Shakespeare.

Is Art [Grading] in The Eye of The Beholder?

*Lily Gruber
Managing Editor*

How gradable is art? Students, by definition, study. They learn, and improve, and are largely measured on that improvement. The ability to complete a math problem correctly will earn you a check. An essay with no thesis will warrant a comment. However, when it comes to art, is there a true recipe for numerical rubrics?

For **Emily McLean**, a multidisciplinary art teacher at CVU, rubrics are a matter of equitability. When explaining the expectations of a project to students, it's helpful to point to a grading scale and say, "this is what we're looking for." She later added: "It's about your ability to communicate [your idea] visually."

Art can be deeply personal to students—and a grade isn't meant to judge an experience, McLean noted. Instead, "I can kind of point to it and say, you know, great idea. But here's the part on this, these little criteria that I'm assessing you on that it didn't quite succeed as well as it could have," she described.

"It does work, to a certain point and with specific assignments," **Grace Ylonfoun '28** said, as she flipped through a stack of photo prints. For Ylonfoun, grading has pushed her to become a better photographer.

Arthur Chiaravalli, Fairbanks House

Arts

Director, Head of Essential Arts, and founder of Grow Beyond Grades voiced contrasting thoughts.

Chiaravalli described rubrics as limiting to students, who, with specific targets, may zero in on "what is going to get them the most bang for their buck." He continued, "I think in the arts, that runs directly contrary to the kind of mindset we want to have."

For students like **Mikaela Montoya '26**, grades have been a discouragement for taking more art classes at CVU. A rigid curriculum and standards-based grading, Montoya described, "makes it feel like you're drawing just to get the grade, and it's not fun anymore," adding, "You couldn't go, like, too crazy with it."

"How are you supposed to grade [art]?" **Izzy Gravina-Budis '26** mused. Objective grading for subjective material can be challenging, and "It doesn't always match up," Gravina-Budis said. **Gwen Irwin '26**, a clarinetist in CVU's symphonic winds, voiced similar concern. "I think it's really hard to grade art in general. It's not always right and wrong."

Instead, at a higher level of playing ability, it becomes about musicality, Irwin described. "Sometimes I feel like [grades] inhibit my ability to take artistic liberty as I'm playing." However, she noted, "you can be playing the

notes incorrectly. You can be playing the rhythms incorrectly".

Design & Engineering Technology teacher **Olaf Verdonk** said that his perspective on grades has changed since becoming a teacher. "Art is whatever is in the eye of the beholder," Verdonk remarked, "I remember thinking that in high school, but then as a teacher, you know, you're trying to teach specific techniques." However, "I would rather have students excited to sort of learn some cool new things," opposed to focusing on concern with grades, Verdonk said.

"I think in the arts, maybe there's a floor, but I don't think that it's as easy to say what the ceiling is," Chiaravalli said. "What is that you're trying to achieve, and it's less helpful to have someone try to superimpose a rubric on top of what you've identified as your vision," he described.

"When we attach numbers, and numbers turn into letters, and letters go on transcripts, it just ups the stakes, and it makes it so that there's a dynamic where people are afraid of risk-taking," McLean said. "How do we encourage people to fail when they might fear failure, because failure equals a two?"

For others, grades can act as an incentive for better work. "Sometimes it's harsh," **Elianna Thibault '27** described, "but because of the grade, I'm trying harder."



Courtesy of: Marina Hallisey '27

Nicki Cogan '26 as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and, Miranda Stewart '26 as Hamlet in *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*.

*Cordelia Thomas and Annika
Scott
Sports Editors*

Sports

Spring Sports Update

Track & Field

CVU Track and Field is having yet another spectacular season, coming in first in many meets, with many talented individual runners. As defending champions the girls team are looking for their third consecutive state championship this year and have many strong individual runners including seniors **Audrey Neilson '26**, **Charlotte Crum '26** and **Lydia Donahue '26**. The boys team is looking to go far this year, led by standout runners **Ben Holoch '27**, **Treson McEnaney '27** and **Cole Hart '27**.

Baseball

The CVU baseball team is having a great season, with an undefeated record and a recent domination over the MMU cougars to mercy rule. Led by captains **Riley McDade '26**, **Ryan Wood '26** and **Thomas Barnes '26**, the Hawks are looking for a strong ending to the season.

Lacrosse

The boys lacrosse team is having a strong start to the season, currently undefeated,

standing with a 6 and 0 record. Led by team captains, **Sebastian Bronk '26** and **Luke Bueler '26** the team is ranked 1st in Division 1 and are expected to continue to dominate.

The girls team is also looking good midway through the season, with notable wins over MMU and Essex. Led by head coach **Tucker Pierson**, the girls are likely to finish the season and post-season strong.

Tennis

Boys tennis is currently in the midst of their season led by head coach **Frank Babbot**. They currently stand with a record of 2-2, and have notable wins over MMU and Colchester. The team is currently ranked 5th in the state and expected to do well in the post season.

Girls tennis is also doing well. They recently had a 7-0 win over Middlebury, as well as a win over MMU, with notable singles winner **Rylee Makay '27**.

Softball

The CVU softball team started off the season strong with a win over Rutland. Since then, they have faced tough competition from teams like Colchester and MMU. New head coach **Tara Simpson** is working to turn things around and build a strong softball program here at CVU. The team recently held its Strike Out Cancer game to honor those battling cancer.

Ultimate Frisbee

As defending champs, the CVU girls ultimate team are looking to earn that title for the second year in a row. They recently had a big win over Middlebury, with **Ella O'Neil '26**, **Mia DaSilva '29**, and **Deirdre Higgins '26** scoring three goals each, and **Myra Ngu '27** with 4 goals.

The boys ultimate team also started their season off with a huge win over Essex 15-1. Runners up the past two years in a row, the boys are looking to break that streak and bring home a championship. The team is led by head coach **Syrus Amadore**, and notable players include **Francis Dasilva '26** and **Will Wallace '26**.

Bonsai Club

Aidan Wisell

The leader of CVU's new bonsai club writes a guest piece for the issue.

Honestly, the CVU Bonsai Club started as just a random idea between me and some classmates.

We thought it would be a cool hobby to bring to school, but it's actually turned into a really great community. It's super welcoming, and the whole vibe is just about being patient and getting to see the reward of your work growing right in front of you.

The mission is simple: We love planting trees.

Bonsai is all about the art of it, and it's honestly been great for me personally because it got me back into a hobby I really

care about.

Since starting the club, I've realized how much I missed working with these trees, and it's been awesome sharing that with other people at school.

If you're looking for a chill C3 where you can actually make something cool and learn a new skill, you should definitely come hang out. We're always looking for new members, whether you know a lot about plants or have never even seen a bonsai before.

The Details:

When: Every Wednesday during C3.

How to join: Just ask your House Clerk to sign you up for the Bonsai Club C3.

Follow us: Check out our Instagram [@cvu.bonsai.club](#) to see what we're working on!



Courtesy of: Aiden Wisell '29
Planting trees as a part of the CVU Bonsai Club



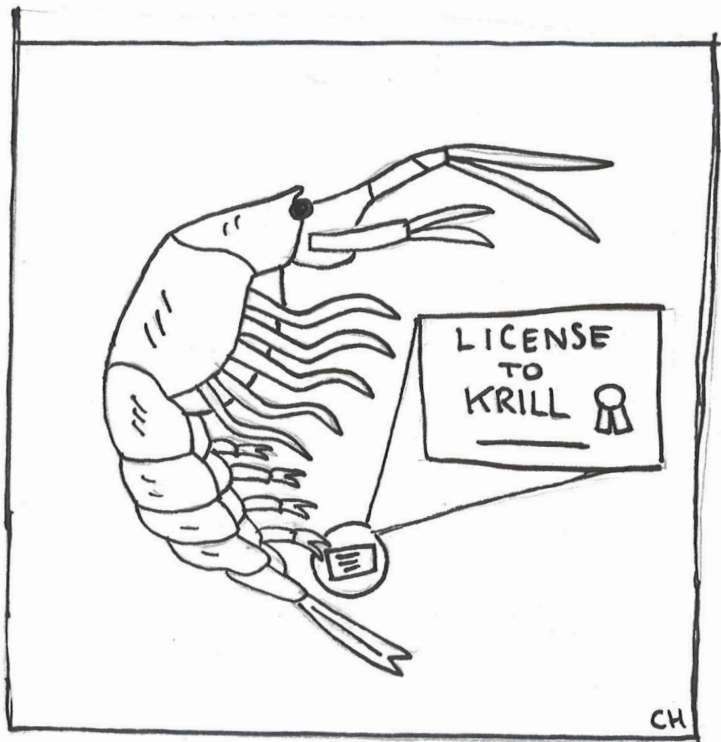
Join us!



Our seniors are graduating. *The Hawks' Nest* will have open positions including Editorial Board positions, Business Manager, photography and staff writing.

Share your voice and perspective with the CVU community.

Courtesy of: Canute Hoehn '26



"Light the third one!"

Answers from Puzzle

From page 3

Y	T	R	I	D		S	S	E	M
S	V	E	H	R		E	L	E	
O	T	A	P	A		I	O	H	
P	O	S		O	S	A	T	H	T
	G	N	A	B	I	B			
		O	D	N	A	C	O	N	
T	O	M	N	O	B		C	I	R
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F	A	S	I		T	I	A	D	H





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