



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

March 2006

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## "The Beauty of Basketball and Lent"

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Ah, it's March, the time of year when college basketball reigns supreme in the sports world. They call it March Madness for the enthusiasm engendered in fans by their team's pursuit of a national crown, or merely a moment of glory. Kentucky and Louisville haven't had their customary excellent seasons, but my two favorite squads always come alive when the stakes get high in March.

It brings back memories of the great turnaround jumper by Pervis Ellison that lifted the Cardinals over Duke in the 1986 championship game, and the equally thrilling but totally unsatisfying last-minute shot by He-Who-Should-Not-Be-Named that enabled the Blue Satanic Hoard – er, Duke Devils – to bump my beloved Kentucky from the tournament back in 1992.

March also reminds me of high school, where in Ken-

tucky every kid dreams of a trip to the Sweet Sixteen. I watched almost every game at my alma mater – women's and men's – doing the PA announcing for the former and playing in the pep band for the latter. Announcing the substitutes, baskets, and fouls, I kept my cool. But once in the dog pound of the pep band, I be-



came a completely different person.

For one thing, I had superhuman eyesight, especially compared with those cross-eyed, nearsighted, woefully biased referees. Naturally, with my parents in close proximity, I watched my language, but even their presence could not restrain my heartfelt, voluble concern that the zebras calling the game had too long neglected a visit to their optome-

trist. As I matured, my perceptions shifted, or perhaps my own eyesight began to fade with age, and my tirades subsided. Nevertheless, my treatment of the referees back then, though humorous now, was truly shameful.

March is also the time of year for Lent. This season of penitence, reflection, and fasting often begins in February and occasionally concludes before March expires. But wherever Easter falls on the calendar, March always catches the lion's share of Lent.

One year, as my Lenten discipline, I decided to give up watching television. I failed miserably, so desperate was I to witness in living color a close Kentucky game I'd been following on the radio. They lost. I learned a lot about grace and forgiveness that Lent, and how easily we can be distracted from wholesome disciplines. But what I really learn in

Lent is that I still have a serious problem with the calls from The Referee better known as God.

Like a basketball referee, God monitors the boundaries of our lives and helps us identify our harm-causing fouls. God is a lot more merciful, though, than your average referee. For instance, God doesn't take the ball away when we linger in the backcourt or down in the paint. For better or worse, God apparently allows us an unlimited number of fouls, unlike basketball players who are ejected after accumulating five infractions. God seems more energized about do-overs than punishing turnovers. However, God still enforces rules and boundaries, much like a referee.

And just as I do with the refs on the court, so also I frequently disagree with the Almighty Referee above. "Gee, God, can't you see?!" I plead. "It just isn't fair these limitations you put on me, preventing me from squeezing more than twenty-four hours into a single day, denying me the power to be in two places at once." "What do you mean," I cry, "that I'm out-of-bounds when I judge the hypocrite, criticize the self-righteous, and disdain those who dare disagree with me?!" "Gotta call 'em both ways there, God," I shout. But the calls stand, despite my frantic appeals, and that is why I need Lent.

We set aside Lent for a variety of holy purposes, some less pleasant and more difficult than others. But for me, Lent offers

an opportunity to focus honestly on my disagreements with God and seek reconciliation with wisdom much deeper and vision much sharper than my own. This involves a willingness to wrestle with a God who makes the calls, not in a disrespectful or resentful way, but in a fashion that honors God and helps me renew my trust in the Referee calling our lives.

That can get pretty tense, much like a tight basketball game. Yet wrestling with God is worth it, even when the outcome doesn't validate our preferences. Why? Because it is beautiful, and that is why I love both God and basketball. Even when my team loses and the referees blow the calls, I still enjoy the game because of its elegant grace, the fluid motion, the type of penetrating vision called court presence that the best players exhibit. And that should be how it is in our relationship with God.

Even when we lose an argument with God and need to repent, that interaction is simply beautiful. The very fact that it's even possible for us to connect with God so intimately is beautiful; that God cares enough to listen and respond and occasionally be persuaded, as scripture bountifully reveals. Beautiful! And this beauty makes it worthwhile and enjoyable, even when the outcome we desire is not forthcoming, whether the conversation is tedious or furious or somewhere in between.

Beautiful, not bleak, that's Lent. Better vision, greater patience, more honest prayer. That's Lent. Thrilling, not boring: welcome to Lent. It might be maddening, but it can be awfully good, too.

## March Celebrations



### Birthdays

- 1 - Carolyn Gaylord
- 2 - Jessica Hughes
- 5 - Gary Harvey
- 6 - Margaret Schober
- 8 - Ellen Bombalski
- 12 - Elizabeth Crouose
- 14 - John McCray
- 15 - Sean Ryan
- 16 - Ollie Kendrick
- 18 - Cleve Corlett
- 19 - Quinton Blanchard
- 19 - Clay Brittain
- 19 - Ryan Leggett
- 20 - Betty Harrison
- 20 - Ken Parsons
- 21 - Phyllis Faas
- 21 - Rin Fraize
- 24 - Bill Teale
- 27 - Jennie Seiler

### Anniversaries

- 2 - Gay & Bill Forloine
- 3 - Donna & Kent Dodd
- 9 - Kathryn & George  
Bridewell
- 14 - Joy & Randy Tanner
- 24 - Ann & Coleman Ragsdale
- 26 - Katrina & Kyle  
Luksovsky

## Spotlight on “Outreachers”

By Carol Goff



Growth seems to be a hot topic these days. Each edition of the local paper carries at least one article about growth in the county, and growth is certainly on our minds here at Hickory Neck as the status of our new worship center can be summed up by the old phrase, "the future is now." For many of us, apprehension about "growing pains" sometimes obscures the silver lining that we know must be in that gray cloud of adjustment to change. When I recently sat down and talked with Bill and Mary Teale in their sunny breakfast nook, I realized that HN's silver lining is people like them who, though members for only two years, have brought added energy and dedication to HN's mission, an invaluable asset during this period of growth.

A little over 3 years ago, Mary and Bill left Northern Virginia (Arlington) after 25 years, retired

to Williamsburg, and discovered their church home quite by accident. Mary was out driving one day, exploring the roads and learning her way around, when she spotted the HN historic marker along Route 60. She parked under the trees and circled the building peeking in each window assuming the door was locked. She reported her "find" to Bill, they visited the next Sunday to get an inside view of the chapel, and stayed on. Like so many visitors, what brought them back was our inspiring rector and a long time parishioner who engaged them in welcoming conversation.

Before long, Mary and Bill waded right in and just two years later are chest-high in the waters of HN activities. Mary serves as lector, chalice, teller, and gardener. Together they are coffee chefs for the Sunday social hour and greeters. Bill is an usher, shouldered the co-chairmanship of the 2005 Fall Festival, was recently elected to the Vestry where he co-chairs the Outreach Ministry, and co-teaches a leadership class. An impressive record of accomplishments and participation in a short time!

I often see Bill and Mary walking in our neighborhood, but I had no idea just how seriously they take their sport. After participating in walking tours of both Wales and Tuscany, last June they walked from coast to coast across England without a guide and covered 192 miles in just 16

days. When they showed me pictures of their trip, I realized this was no easy trek through hedgerows and meadows of Merry Old Britain. They footed it across the northern mountains that divide England and Scotland. In many shots, they looked more like mountain climbers daring steep paths through rugged rocks and cliffs. The picture that accompanies this article shows their happy faces on the day they reached the North Sea and cooled their aching feet in its chilly waters.

Mary and Bill first met in high school where they both attended a Quaker day school in Moorestown, NJ. After college, Bill completed Officer Candidate School and spent 3 years in the Navy, much of it on six month deployments at sea while Mary worked for an actuarial firm in DC. When Bill returned to dry land permanently, they married and started their family by adopting their oldest son, David, from Korea. They are now the dotting grandparents of David's son, Andrew. Ten months after David's arrival, Peggy was born to Bill and Mary and later their second son, Charlie. In June, Bill and Mary will welcome two additional grandchildren--a sibling for Andrew and a son for Peggy (cont'd pg 4).

Visit Hickory Neck's web site at [www.hickoryneck.org](http://www.hickoryneck.org)

(Outreachers cont'd)  
and her husband. Bill and Mary should be highly qualified to walk those two new grandbabies!

Along with family and church activities, Bill continues to act as a consultant for the Management and Sales company he started in 1990 after leaving a long career with IBM. He spends many hours on the phone with clients as well as overseeing training materials. He finds that pulling out of a company he founded, with all its personal and professional bonds, is taking more time than anticipated. Along with his Vestry responsibilities, he doesn't think of himself as a retiree just yet.

Mary and Bill, we honor you this month for becoming devoted "partners in service" to Hickory Neck in a very short time. You inspire us with your energy and your willingness to contribute a large portion of your time and talent toward making Hickory Neck's growth period a silver-lined cloud.

### SHROVE TUESDAY

Don't forget the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the Toano Women's Club  
6:00 P.M.



## Men's Breakfast Saturday March 18 at 8:30

### Come and Rediscover George Washington

With Ward Burian

To most of his contemporaries including his principal adversary, King George III, George Washington was considered the greatest man in the world. For close to 200 years, Americans revered him with his portraits in their homes and classrooms. Historians have written millions of words about him, and yet to many biographers he remains an impenetrable mixture of ambition with diffidence and confidence with self-doubt. Very few of us today realize that Washington had but the equivalent of an eighth grade education but went on to change the world almost single-handedly. He was appointed Commander in Chief of a non-existent army but defeated the strongest army in the world. When he was elected as America's first president he was also the first president of any country in the history of the world. Yet, do we know where he came from and what formed his remarkable character? Do we really understand the enormous burdens he labored under while he carried the fate of America on his shoulders? And with his triumphs we should know that he never took credit but simply thanked the Almighty and those who worked with him. Or can we appreciate his unswerving faith in man's ability to overcome adversity and govern himself? (Cont'd pg5)

George Washington left us over 135,000 written documents - more than any president in the 230-year history of our country. He devoted 45 years of his life to civic service and saved a fledgling country from foreign oppression and domestic strife. His many acts of leadership are still being discovered and studied making it impossible to cover a lifetime of extraordinary achievements in a limited time. Nonetheless, we will begin by looking at his ancestry and formative years as well as a brief analysis of his personality and reputation among his peers.



### New Members

D. J. , Sara and Jamie Seeterlin  
Pamela Maddox-Jefferson  
Ron and Laura Kindley, Parker and Ray

### Births

Anthony Joseph Casanave, Jr.  
January 18, 2006

### Deaths

Chuck deLormier February 18, 2006



## Mountain-top Highs and Valley Lows

The Reverend Lauren R. Stanley

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

RENK, Sudan – Incredible euphoria and indelible grief were on simultaneous display here last week.

In the space of 24 hours, we experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, and somehow, we got through both. Last Thursday (Jan. 19), we raised for the first time the new flag of South Sudan at the Renk Diocese Basic School. This flag, a modification of the one flown by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army for 22 years, has just been adopted by the parliament of South Sudan as the new national flag of the south. Raising it at 8:30 that bright, crisp morning, and watching the wind first catch and then flutter it, signified a new beginning in this part of Sudan, the part that is the border between North and South and often feels more like a no-man's-land, we are so forgotten here by the rest of the world.

As the flag went up, those of us gathered – the several hundred children in preschool through eighth grade, the far-too-few teachers, the superintendent of schools and some of the local clergy – were reminded, first in song and then by our Bishop, Daniel Deng Bul, that this day had been proclaimed more than two millennia ago in the biblical book of Isaiah, chapter 18:

“Ah, land of whirring wings

beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, sending ambassadors by the Nile in vessels of papyrus on the waters! ... All you inhabitants of the world, you who live on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, listen!”

The signal has been raised, the bishop said. The trumpet is being blown. Let all the world hear, the bishop proclaimed, that here in South Sudan, a new day is breaking.



Flag of Southern Sudan

Later that morning, the new commissioner for Renk District arrived, a man appointed by the SPLM (the movement that is the political successor to the SPLA) to lead this area. The same children who watched the new flag being raised marched to his office to welcome him, along with hundreds of others from the town.

Euphoria reigned supreme, for at last, the provisions of the peace agreement signed more than a year ago between the warring Arab Muslim North and the black, Christian and traditionalist South were being put into place in this northern-most part of southern Sudan.

And then, the crash from the mountain top.

The local Dinka chief, Deng Anyieth, who had been chief of the Dinka Bor since 1972, died quite suddenly that same morning. Someone had stolen a dozen or so of his cattle and was holding them hostage for an unbelievable sum of money. Chief Deng left Renk Thursday morning to go to the area where the cows were thought to be held. Apparently, on the journey, his heart gave out.

When the news of his death arrived, all of the euphoria seemed to go out of the people here, not all of whom are Dinka, not all of whom are from the Dinka Bor clan of the Dinka tribe. For this man, Chief Deng, had been the people's leader for so long, and was so loved and so respected, that his death was enough to drop all into the valley of despair.

(The Dinka have a democratic process of electing their chiefs and, if they don't like them, removing them from office by the same process of public voting. For Chief Deng to have lasted for more than 30 years as their leader, from the time of the 1972 peace accord that ended the first civil war through the long and bloody war second civil war just ended and back to peace again, speaks volumes about his abilities as a leader.)

Hundreds of people began gathering at the chief's house and outside in the street. When his widow brought his body home, there was a maelstrom of grief, so much so that Bishop Daniel and others had to intervene to calm the people.

In one day, the residents of Renk went from the highest high to the lowest low.

The following day (Jan. 20) was a study in those contrasting emotions.

At one end of town, there was deep grief and public mourning. The chief's widow, receiving the condolences of visitors, looked almost catatonic in her grief. People sat quietly in the street, praying and wondering how this could happen, and what would happen next. Who would lead them? What would become of them?

At the other end of town, the euphoria over the arrival of the SPLM government abounded. The long-planned celebration was held in the football stadium, which was awash in people – more than a thousand at any given time – who danced and ululated and sang and listened to speeches and signaled their happiness that the peace process had arrived officially in Renk.

Some of those who were in the stadium had earlier been at the chief's house, mourning. Some of those who were mourning later went to the stadium to celebrate.

These 24 hours of contrasting emotions, of mountain-top highs and valley lows, so very well encapsulate life in Sudan these days. We have good news one moment, followed by bad, followed by more good, or more bad.

Somehow, life continues here. Somehow, the people continue to endure, as they have for so long.

Somehow, they hearken back to the words of Isaiah, and beckon to the rest of the world:

When a signal is raised on the mountaintop, look! When a trumpet is blown, listen!

The Sudanese waited for more than two millennia for that signal to be raised, for that trumpet to be blown. They have endured wars and famine and illness and death.

They have learned how to be euphoric one moment, and grieve the next, and still continue with their lives.

That is, after all, how life goes in Sudan, "the land of whirring wings beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, sending ambassadors by the Nile in vessels of papyrus on the waters."

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(The Rev. Lauren R. Stanley is an Episcopal priest serving as an appointed missionary in the Episcopal Diocese of Renk, Sudan.)



As suggested by Bill Forloine, Nuggets is adding a new and permanent section of the *Hickory Neck Nuggets* newsletter. It will be called "**Nuggets of Appreciation**" and it will be composed of write-in comments that our parishioners send to Nuggets each month. It will be an opportunity to share with the full membership the appreciation of the act(s) of an individual or the service (s) performed by Hickory Neck Church. The comments will be short and specific in nature and will

highlight the "many random acts of kindness or service" that individuals perform on a regular basis. This section will highlight the quality that makes Hickory Neck Church such a wonderful and unique community of worshippers. The sender's name will be omitted to keep the focus on the act and the person being appreciated and not so much on the sender.

With that in mind, here is the first contribution to the new section:

Thank you to **Mark Paul** for preparing the breakfast every other month for the Men's Breakfast Group. He has purchased the food, cooked the meals and has assisted in making the Men's Breakfast meetings such a wonderful part of the life of the congregation.

### ASH WEDNESDAY Wednesday March 1, 2006

Please join us for Ash Wednesday Services which are Holy Eucharist and Imposition of



Ashes at 7:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:00 p.m.

## Council 2006

By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

The Diocese of Southern Virginia held its annual Council the weekend of February 10-12 at the Hampton Convention Center. Hickory Neck was well represented by its delegation of Steve Snyder, Gay Forloine, and Rick and Bunky Garfield, along with first alternate Nancy Aschiero and several visitors and volunteers, including Alison Bailes, George Johnson, Ben and Bonnie Manning, Lewis Sherman, and Bob Williams.

Five Resolutions came before Council. An ordinary Resolution is like a bill in a secular legislature, and passes on a simple majority. R-1 thanked the Reconciliation Commission for its work and encouraged each parish to study the Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission. (Hickory Neck has already held a five-week Sunday morning study on this document last Lent.) R-2 stated "that the 114<sup>th</sup> Council fully embraces the Windsor Report in letter and spirit." R-3 urged every congregation in the diocese to commit 0.7% of their program budgets toward global development work. (Hickory Neck already meets or exceeds this figure through fundraisers for the Church in the Sudan.) R-4 emphasized the centrality of scripture as the primary authority of our faith and practice. R-5 requested a five-fold increase in the budget of the Anti-Racism Commission, from \$5,000 to \$25,000, for expanded training and programs.

The first four Resolutions passed. The fifth Resolution was rejected by Council. This rejection had less to do with the merits of the Anti-Racism Commission, and more to do with the canonical requirements that the diocese pass a balanced budget. To make an increase in a budget area from the floor of Council requires the diminishment of some other budget item. In the opinion of the house, the proper channel for budgetary requests is through the Executive Board of the Diocese, rather than on the floor of Council.

There were also Five Canonical Resolutions that came before Council. A Canonical Resolution is equivalent to amending the Constitution of the United States, and therefore requires a two-thirds super-majority for passage. C-1 requires all clergy discretionary funds to be audited. It passed. C-2 called for a change in the way Deputies are elected by Council to The General Convention.

In the scheme proposed by C-2, one Deputy would be elected from Convocations 1, 2, & 3, one from Convocations 4, 5, & 6, and another from Convocations 7, 8, & 9. The fourth Deputy could then be elected from any Convocation. It was hoped that this new arrangement would allow for greater representation from the sparsely populated, rural areas of our Diocese, and enable greater diversity of background and theological perspective among the Deputation of Southern Virginia to General Convention. C-2 met with strong resistance along a number of fronts and was rejected.

C-3 involved the reorganization of the Commission on Ministry into four constituent bodies, each assigned a specific task in promoting the ministry of the Diocese. This resolution passed with little discussion, as did C-4, which requires the auditing of financial accounts for all Diocesan organizations by a CPA and also requires each congregation to supply the Diocese with a copy of their own annual audit reports. (Hickory Neck already does this, too.) C-5 requires congregations to complete their Annual Parochial Report by March 1 (which Hickory Neck already does) in order to receive vote at Council, and it passed.

Council also passed a balanced budget for the Diocese of \$1,884,000, a significant increase over the 2005 budget, mainly made possible by enhanced revenue from the parishes and a restructuring of income from diocesan endowments. Major funding increases were apportioned for Youth Ministries and Mission and Outreach Ministries. These areas received the bulk of additional funds, because they were identified as the top priorities in a survey distributed to delegates at the 2005 Fall Council in Powhatan.

The bittersweet climax of Council came Sunday morning, as Bishop Bane presided over his final Eucharist with approximately 500 delegates and guests. As he left the ballroom in procession, the Bishop paused to lay the diocesan crosier – symbol of his pastoral authority – on the altar. The Diocese now comes under (cont'd p 9)

(Council 2006 cont'd)  
 the direction of the Standing Committee, an elected body of three clergy and three lay members, each serving staggered three-year terms. Two new members were elected to this body at Council: The Rev. Stan Sawyer, Rector of All Saints', Virginia Beach; and Mr. Bud Schoolar, recently retired President of the Diocesan Executive Board.

In other Council news, Mrs. Elizabeth Cuthbert, The Honorable Robert G. O'Hara, and The Rev. Josephine Taylor were elected to serve on the Ecclesiastical Court, which is the Judicial Branch of the Diocese. The Rev. Ann Dieterle received appointment to the Commission on Ministry, which is responsible for helping people discern vocations to Holy Orders. And I completed my tenure as Diocesan Liturgical Commissioner by preparing the seven liturgies of Council.

All in all, it was much more peaceful than Council 2005 in Richmond, which was a contentious yet pivotal, a necessary venting of pent up frustrations. Debate on a few measures was vigorous, but respectful. There was a focus on the need for reconciliation within our Diocese and with the broader Anglican Communion, and there were serious efforts made to begin the process of healing our Church so badly needs. I also sensed a recognition that our greatest challenges are yet to come in the years ahead, but that a burgeoning hope and trust are starting to emerge that may lead to a stronger diocese.

## WHERE WILL IT HAPPEN? Transitioning to New Space

As we move into the new chapel we will be shifting the site of many activities. Below is a summary of the majority of shifts in space usage.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Where It Happens Now</u>	<u>Where It Will Happen</u>
8:00 Sunday Worship	historic chapel	historic chapel
9:00 Sunday Worship	historic chapel	new chapel
11:15 Sunday Worship	historic chapel	new chapel
Sunday AM Adult class Parish Hall	downstairs, Parish Hall	downstairs, & historic chapel
Sunday AM Coffee Hour the new	downstairs, Parish Hall	narthex of chapel
Parish Choir rehearsals new chapel	downstairs, Parish Hall	nave of the
Choral Scholar rehearsals new chapel	historic chapel	nave of the
Nursery for infants/toddlers of new	upstairs, Parish Hall	nursery area chapel
Vesting for acolytes/LCBs	the landing of the stairwell,	vesting room next

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Please join us for Ash Wednesday Services which are Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:00 p.m.

### LENTEN SUPPERS AND EVENSONG March 8 thru April 5

Beginning Wednesday, March 8, we will be having weekly Lenten Suppers. Evensong will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by a light soup and bread supper. The evensong meditations will be from The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen. Please plan to come for fellowship and worship.



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*"Rooted in history and embracing the future, through Christ"*

## St. Peter's Parish, Blislands "Offspring"

Martha W. McCartney

St. Peter's Parish, our recent partner in Evening Prayer, was established in 1679 and was formed from the western part of Blisland Parish, the ecclesiastical entity in which colonial Hickory Neck was located. When St. Peter's Parish was formed, its northerly boundary line ran up the center of the peninsula formed by the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers and its southerly bounds spanned the Chickahominy River. Like Blisland Parish, which was formed in 1653, St. Peter's Parish ran endlessly to the west. However, as settlement spread inland and the population grew, St. Peter's was reduced in size, giving rise to St. John's Parish (in King William County) and St. Paul's Parish (in Hanover County). Later, St. Peter's Parish, like Blisland, gained some ground when Wilmington Parish was dissolved.

St. Peter's Parish, like Blisland, has its colonial vestry records but more than a portion of its colonial church. The main body of St. Peter's Parish's present church was constructed between 1701 and 1703 by bricklayer Cornelius Hall and carpenter William Hughes. It employs the simple rectangular plan typical of Virginia's earliest Anglican churches. The influence of the Jacobean baroque style is evident in its restored curvilinear gables. St. Peter's tower was added to the church in 1739-1741 by William Walker. Over time, the church's interior, like so many colonial churches, lost most of its original fabric. However, the interior was carefully restored during the mid-1960s. George and Martha Washington were wed in St. Peter's Parish in 1759, possibly within the church building itself. Robert E. Lee and his family worshipped at St. Peter's and helped rebuild the church after the

Civil War. Like Hickory Neck, St. Peter's is now a vibrant, thriving parish that lives in the present but cherishes the past. Also like Hickory Neck, St. Peter's Parish Church is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

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**April Deadline - March 15th**

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