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## PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation receives gift of \$500,000

On February 9, 2015, the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation received a gift of \$500,000 from the estate of George A. Paterakis Family. Mr. Paterakis, a Chicago native and accomplished businessman of Cretan descent, was a civic activist, philanthropist and benefactor to many organizations whose goal has been the promotion and support of Hellenism and its values. Mr. Paterakis passed away on September 1, 2014.



George A. Paterakis

A bequest provision requires that the gift be named "The Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell Music & Arts Scholarship Fund" in recognition of Mrs. Mitchell's musical and artistic contributions to the Greek American Community over the years.

Mrs. Mitchell was a close friend to Mr. & Mrs. Paterakis for many years. The bequest also provides that, from this Fund, two \$10,000 scholarships are offered to students majoring in Music or the Arts, at the Foundation's annual awards ceremony and gala event. Accepting the gift on behalf of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, its Chairman, Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, stated: "We are deeply grateful to Mr. Paterakis for his generous contribution which, among other things, confirms his approval and appreciation of the work of the Foundation. Recognizing the economic significance of this gift for the Foundation, we intend to live fully by his wishes and encourage other members of the Community to emulate Mr. Paterakis' philanthropic act, at any level".

This year, the Foundation will again offer \$250,000 to academically outstanding and financially deserving Greek American college students. Our annual event will take place at the Hilton Chicago on Saturday, June 20, 2015. You are all invited so that together we will admire and applaud this year's best and brightest scholarship recipients of Hellenic descent.

## Greece needs a new narrative

By Stefanos Manos \*

With the help of Greece's international creditors, reality put the SYRIZA-led government on the well-known path of continuous negotiations, in which it is seeking to: a) protect the party's clients – that is to protect those who feed on and are kept afloat by taxes (henceforth "tax dependents") paid even by workers in the private sector – and b) to ensure some kind of financial support from our creditors.

The negotiating goals of the present government are no different than those of the previous administration. The style and intensity of talks has changed, but the narrative remains the same.

By seeking to protect the tax dependents, the former governments of George Papandreou and Antonis Samaras drove the country to recession and record unemployment. By seeking the same thing, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will also lead the country down the same path, and faster.

A lot has been written about what needs to be done but no one has appeared to do it. As European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has so succinctly put it: "We all know what to do, we just don't know how to get re-elected when we do it." Whenever I tried to do it (in the past with the Liberals party and more recently with Drasi) I was thwarted, amid much praise, by the Greek people.

PASOK, New Democracy and SYRIZA tried to deal with the crisis by drawing a big, fat, red line: They refused to fire civil servants or target tax dependents. I firmly believe that the crisis will never be dealt with unless the tax dependents are taken on. "That's the kind of thing you say and then get just 1 percent of the vote!" Indeed. But the 99 percent that did not vote me were wrong. The recession and unemployment are proof enough.

**How would the tax dependents be targeted?**

\* With the immediate abolition of all unnecessary state expenditure. For example, don't reopen state broadcaster ERT now and fill up the empty positions in the healthcare system with doctors and in schools with teachers, and then sack all redundant employees (and there are a lot of them).

\* Abolish privileged early retirements.

\* Abolish all taxes to third parties that benefit the few to the detriment of the many. Taxes to third parties bring in about as much in revenue as the unified property tax and mainly benefit pensioners with special privileges.

\* Immediately establish a systematic evaluation of tax dependents (civil servants and employees at state-owned enterprises) and sack those who do not fulfill the terms of their employment. Taxes are sacred and the tax dependents need to be held accountable for the taxes they consume.

Abolishing unnecessary state expenditure will help growth, because in order to justify their *raison d'être*, the tax dependents create obstacles and complications for those who pay their taxes. Greece needs to produce and export. It needs investment. Anything that helps production and investment is good. Anything that prevents them is bad.

Delays in the return of value-added tax on exports is bad. VAT needs to be returned immediately. Audits can be held later. Licenses for establishing a new business in a designated industrial zone need to be abolished. There can be one license for the entire zone rather than separate ones for each individual business. Utilities can be connected to the entire zone and not to each business. Another step would be turning over massive swaths of state-owned farmland to the cultivation of exportable products or to wind parks. The privatization of airports, ports, the rail network and energy need to be pushed through and public-private partnerships need to be given priority at major tourism destinations for water, sewerage, energy and ports.

The social security system has hit a dead end. Pensions are low and contributions so high that they prohibit legitimate businesses activity. I had proposed a pension (paid for from the budget) for all people aged over 67 of 700 euros a month without any contributions. Anyone wanting a better pension would have to see to it themselves. They can get it when they want, as they want, but it would have to be their responsibility. The issue is exceedingly complex. It needs to be examined but a decision also needs to be taken within the next year.



## NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

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### THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
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- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
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## Sorry Guys, These Jokes Are On You!

Men often make jokes about women. Some of them are even funny. So I'm sure they won't mind a little fun at their expense!

**Q:** Why do men become smarter during sex? **A:** because they are plugged into a genius

**Q:** Why don't women blink during sex? **A:** they don't have enough time

**Q:** Why does it take 1 million sperm to fertilize one egg? **A:** they don't stop to ask directions

**Q:** Why do men snore when they lie on their backs? **A:** because their balls fall over their butt-hole and they vapor lock. **you're laughing, aren't you?!**

**Q:** Why were men given larger brains than dogs?**A:** so they won't hump women's legs at cocktails parties

**Q:** Why did god make men before women? **A:** you need a rough draft before you make a final copy

**Q:** How many men does it take to put a toilet seat down? **A:** don't know. It never happened **c'mon guys, we laugh at your blonde jokes!**

*And my personal favorite:* **Q:** Why did god put men on earth? **A:** because a vibrator can't mow the lawn.

*Remember, if you haven't got a smile on your face and laughter in your heart. Then you are just an old sour fart!*



One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt.

Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?' 'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?' He yelled back, ' **University of Oklahoma.**' And they say blondes are dumb...

A couple is lying in bed. The man says, 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world.' The woman replies, 'I'll miss you...'

'It's just too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he stepped out of the shower, 'honey, what do you think the neighbors would think if I mowed the lawn like this?' 'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.

**Q:** What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man? **A:** A rumor.

**The Woman's Prayer** Dear Lord, I pray for Wisdom to understand my man; Love to forgive him; And Patience for his moods. Because, Lord, if I pray for Strength, I'll beat him to death. AMEN

## PM says will pursue German war reparations

**Launching debate on new committee, Tsipras speaks of unfulfilled obligations.** Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras Tuesday expressed his government's firm intention to seek war reparations from Germany, noting that Athens would show sensitivity that it hoped to see reciprocated from Berlin.

In a speech in Parliament, launching a debate on the creation of a committee to seek war reparations, the repayment of a forced loan and the return of antiquities, Tsipras told MPs that the matter of war reparations was "very technical and sensitive" but one he has a duty to pursue.



He also seemed to indirectly connect the matter to

talks between Greece and its international creditors on the country's loan program. "The Greek government will strive to honor its commitments to the full," he said. "But it will also strive to ensure all unfulfilled obligations toward Greece and the Greek people are fulfilled," he added. "You cannot pick and choose on ethical issues." Tsipras noted that Germany got support "despite the crimes of the Third Reich" chiefly thanks to the London Debt Agreement of 1953. Since reunification, German governments have used "silence, legal tricks and delays" to avoid solving the problem, he said. "We are not giving morality lessons but we will not accept morality lessons either," Tsipras said. In comments to Parliament later PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos said it was important not to link the issue of reparations with Greece's talks with creditors.



# Women’s Day: To be a Woman

Today is international women’s day (8th of March), when women from all countries, religions and cultures are celebrated for the daily things they do and must deal with. Women have the uncanny ability of dealing with the daily hardships with love and caring, fighting against all odds to create a better world and protect their loved ones with ferocity. Truly, a woman is a special thing.



”Women have always been courageous... They are always fearless when protecting their children and in the last century they have been fearless in the fight for their rights.”  
Women have an energy that astounds men every time. They face challenges and solve problems without losing the love and joy they have.



”Women have always been the strong ones of the world. The men are always seeking from women a little pillow to put their heads down on. They are always longing for the mother who held them as infants.”Coco Chanel  
Women may smile when they should cry, may sing when they should weep, laugh when they should be tense and cry when they are happy.  
”Any time women come together with a collective intention, it’s a powerful thing. Whether it’s sitting down making a quilt, in a kitchen preparing a meal, in a club reading the same book, or around the table playing cards, or planning a birthday party, when women come together with a collective intention, magic happens.”  
Women fight for their beliefs and values, fight against an ancient injustice. They won’t accept a ‘no’ when there is a better way.  
Women will cry in joy when their children achieve, they are happiest for others they love. They will cry over bad things happening, but will know to find comfort in their loved ones.  
”A woman is like a tea bag - you can’t tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.”Eleanor Roosevelt



Women are true survivors and have resources they themselves don’t even know about, until the time comes to call upon them.  
They will deny themselves things so the family doesn’t go without, and will sacrifice the last drop of their blood for their children.  
”God gave women intuition and femininity. Used properly, the combination easily jumbles the brain of any man I’ve ever met.”Farrah Fawcett.

# PICTURES OF THE WORLD



**The Incredible Colors of the Peacock**  
Some may argue that the peacock is the most beautiful bird. Some may pick another. But there is no disputing this claim - the peacock is an amazing specimen of nature, showing off the myriad colors and designs only the natural process can produce. Its grace, its feathers and its signature royal walk are what makes the peacock a unique natural phenomenon, and one that is oh so beautiful to behold.

## Heaven Lake, Tianchi, bordering China and North Korea



Lakes, mountains and valley are all beautiful features of nature, but what about volcanoes? You might recall lava and eruptions, but the aftermath of these explosion leaves the world with stunning bowl shaped craters, also known as calderas. When these fill with water, they form mesmerizing crater lakes, adorned with pure shades of blue and green.

## Rare and Spectacular Species of Birds



The art of bird-watching is one prized by many millions across the globe. However, in order to see the most spectacular species of birds, you will have to do a lot of traveling! Here is one of 15 of the most beautiful and rare species of birds that, unfortunately, are nearing extinction. Take the ultimate bird watching tour right from your seat . This rare bird called the stream fisher lives in Africa and is one of the few species that sees in color. Its eyesight is fantastic and can estimate even the depth of the water with great accuracy.





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# 3 Surprising Ways To Help Bring Him Closer

Have you ever found yourself falling for a man you were dating and wondered if he was feeling the same way? Did you find yourself trying to prove what a great catch you are by being sweeter, funnier and smarter in hopes that he would fall in love with you? Focusing on what a man wants and ingratiating yourself in this way may feel like the natural thing to do, but it's



the worst way to try to make a man feel romantic love for you.

Love isn't a reasonable emotion - and being "nice" and "understanding" and "a good sport" won't get you where you want to go. Here are some ways that will:

**Tip#1: Don't give a man more than he gives you**

Love, and inspiring a man to fall in love with you forever, is all about you being able to receive love.

Most of us only know how to give. We give for

lots of reasons - because we're taught that's the way to get to a man's heart (it isn't) because we see other women do it, and because deep down, it feels uncomfortable and scary to be vulnerable enough to really get love.

"A man is actually turned off when he gets more from you than he gives."

A man is actually turned off when he gets more from you than he gives.

When you shower him with affection, attention, dinners, gifts, and always go out of your way to drive to his place, it makes him think of you as a mother or a friend instead of inspiring his emotional desire for you.

**Tip #2: Don't give away exclusivity if he hasn't yet committed**

We become totally, emotionally invested in a man when we're exclusive with him because he has all our time and attention. There's no way we can stop wondering about where the relationship is going. But the more we think about it and talk about it, the more we push a man away.



When you can think of it in these terms, it's easier to keep your options open and keep your personal power in the relationship. Rather than talking about the relationship or threatening him with ultimatums, you can continue to keep your options open by dating other men. This way, you keep your class, your power, your boundaries, and he has to work to get you!

**Tip#3: Don't give him gifts, make him dinner or pay for dates**

Yes, this sounds unfair, and yet, who pays is often the difference in his mind between friends hanging out together and a "date."

If a man complains about paying for everything, let him know you don't care what you do, you feel great being with him, and you don't want to pay. Walking, hanging out in bookstores, having a picnic in a park can all be fun, romantic ways to get close to a man.

(And forget about cooking dinner, or trying to make dating "reciprocal." A bowl of popcorn and something to drink is fine.)

When you give a man gifts, give him all your attention and energy, and give MORE than you receive, you're OVERFUNCTIONING.

Overfunctioning is doing more than your fair share and stepping up to rescue a man because you know you can do a better job. It's arriving from your masculine energy. It feels aggressive and forward to a man. And it's totally unattractive to him.

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# NEWS FROM GREECE

## Tsipras unveils coalition's first bills

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (center) laughs during a meeting with his cabinet in Athens on Friday.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras set out his government's immediate legislative plans, while at the same time insisting he would continue to pursue debt relief and refuse to sign a third bailout for Greece.



"Some have bet on a third bailout, on the possibility of a third bailout in June. I'm very sorry but once again we will disappoint them," he said in a televised speech to his cabinet.

"Let them forget a third bailout. The Greek people put an end to bailouts with their vote," added the prime minister, who said his government would continue to press for Greece's next agreement with its lenders to include debt reduction measures.

However, the bulk of Tsipras's speech was focused on outlining what legislation his government plans to bring to Parliament next week. The prime minister said that the first bill would introduce measures aimed at tackling the "humanitarian crisis," including the provision of free electricity to 300,000 households living under the poverty threshold.

"Our first task is to assist a society that has been suffering for the past five years," said Tsipras.

The second bill relates to the introduction of a new payment plan for overdue taxes and social security contributions. The scheme is set to allow applicants to pay in up to 100 installments and will mean that anyone owing up to 50,000 euros cannot be arrested over their debts.

The third draft law will protect primary residences with a taxable value of up to 300,000 euros from foreclosures. Finally, the government also intends to introduce legislation next week that would pave the way for public broadcaster ERT, shut down in June 2013, to be reopened. Tsipras stressed that this would not burden the public budget.

A Metron Analysis poll to be published in today's Parapolitika newspaper showed that more than two in three Greeks were satisfied with the way the government was negotiating with EU partners while 76 percent were positive about the government's overall performance so far. It also put support for SYRIZA on 47.6 percent, compared to almost 36 percent that the leftists won in the June 25 elections. New Democracy was second with 20.7 percent.

## Berlin clears extension as lenders ramp up pressure

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is seen during a debate in German Parliament, the Bundestag, in Berlin, on Friday.

There was strong backing in the German Parliament on Friday for the extension of Greece's loan agreement but reports suggested that the country's eurozone partners would continue to keep up strong pressure on Athens.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble admitted during the debate that preceded the vote in Berlin's Bundestag that it was

"difficult" for him to ask MPs to vote for the extension. However, he added that it was in Europe's interests for them to do so.

"We Germans should do everything to keep Europe together," said the 72-year-old.

In the end 542 lawmakers voted "yes" to the extension, while 32 opposed it and 13 abstained. It was the biggest majority for a eurozone bailout since the crisis erupted in 2010 but 29 of the 32 "no" votes came from Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their sister party, the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), meaning there were also more conservative rebels than in any previous such vote.

At times, the criticism of the current Greek government was stinging. "Look at [Prime Minister Alexis] Tsipras, look at [Finance Minister Yanis] Varoufakis: Would you buy a used car from them?" said Klaus-Peter Willsch, a rebel from Merkel's party.

The vote, however, was unaffected by Varoufakis's comments in a TV interview describing the agreement for an extension as a "fig



leaf" to get the country through the next few months and one based on vague terms because Greece's eurozone partners felt this would make it easier to secure domestic approval.

"We're proud of the degree of ambiguity – I'm using a term here, creative ambiguity," Varoufakis told Antenna TV. "They asked for it. They're saying, 'For us to pass it in our parliaments, our institutions, it's better to leave it vague.'"

However, it appears that Greece's lenders do not have any intention of allowing this vagueness to prevent them demanding results from the Greek side. In fact, one eurozone official who spoke to Reuters said that the creditors would make the most of the fact that Greece is short of cash.

"The liquidity squeeze is being used to push the Greeks to very quickly start discussions on the review and finish that as soon as possible – not even waiting for the end of April," he said. "Eventually they will have no other choice but to adopt the measures, and move quickly."

## A breath of opportunity By Nikos Konstandaras

We are still living in the Greece we know: The government is struggling to explain its retreat in the face of our creditors, the opposition (including dissidents in SYRIZA) smells blood, we are running out of funds and no one knows what the next few months will bring. And this is the positive outcome of last week's negotiations. We avoided the worst, where our state and banks would have no cash and our coun-

try would take a leap into the unknown. The government – like the previous ones – did not cave in because of cowardice nor out of some strategic genius. It had no choice: It would either agree to a four-month extension of our bailout agreement or carry the responsibility for economic catastrophe.

The rigid stand of our partners and the European Central Bank, and the lack of an alternative, forced the government to retreat in order to gain some time. It accepted a basic rule of survival – when your country's fate is in the balance, what matters is not a glorious defeat but managing to fight another day. Greece stayed alive and this is a victory. Our partners got what they wanted too: They allowed us just enough breath to prevent turmoil in the eurozone, but without leaving any room for the Greek government to move. In this way, they minimized the possibility of the Greek "rebellion" inspiring other nations to question austerity and order.

We could say that today we are at a point similar to before the elections, albeit with greater problems because revenues have declined even further and we don't know how we will repay loans to the ECB and the International Monetary Fund in the next couple of months. However, one positive result of the agreement outweighs the problems. For the first time, Alexis Tsipras, the prime minister, was forced to deal with reality, to clash with his comrades in SYRIZA and to discover that he can bear conflict. This was a first step, although he still seems unable to impose a single policy on the party's factions. Maybe the dissidents themselves will solve the problem, by pulling out of the government if not the party. This would allow SYRIZA to forge a coalition which could focus on necessary reforms and not on the imposition of ideology.

SYRIZA had not prepared to govern. Now, the breath that the government has won allows it some time to evaluate the situation, to count its strengths and weaknesses and to plan its next moves. Faced with a dead end in Brussels, Tsipras showed that he can learn quickly – despite the verbal bravado of the past few days. The government must get to work immediately, adopting measures that will give people some hope. Before it finds itself at another impasse at home and with our creditors, and however difficult this may seem, it must work toward gaining the greatest possible consensus in society and in Parliament. This would be its greatest weapon in our battle to stand on our feet and secure our place in Europe with dignity.

## Greece's lenders skeptical on new bills but focus on funding needs

European officials have expressed concern that the Greek government has not consulted with its partners over its plans to bring new legislation to Parliament this week but the greatest focus appears to be on how Athens will cover its immediate funding needs.

"We have not discussed anything with the Greek side," a European official told Sunday's Kathimerini after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced on Friday night that four bills would be tabled in the House this week.

In a televised address to his cabinet, Tsipras said that four draft laws would be unveiled this week in order to tackle the social impact of the crisis, to introduce a new payment scheme for overdue debts to the state, to protect pri-

mary residences from foreclosures and to reopen public broadcaster ERT.

At the Eurogroup on February 20, Greece and its lenders agreed that the government would not adopt any measures unilaterally that "would negatively impact fiscal targets, economic recovery or financial stability, as assessed by the institutions."

It is not clear if Greece's creditors believe that the bills due to be submitted to Parliament this week fall into



this category but sources suggested that there is concern about the lack of communication between Athens and its partners.

However, the immediate problem that must be overcome is ensuring that the government can meet its funding needs over the next few months, starting with a 1.6-billion-euro payment to the International Monetary Fund in March. On Saturday, Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis went as far saying that Athens would try to negotiate the summer payment of 6.7 billion euros' worth of Greek bonds held by the European Central Bank.

"Shouldn't we negotiate this? We will fight it," he told Skai TV. "If we had the money we would pay... They know we don't have it."

Greece's lenders, however, believe that they may be able to use this inability to pay to their advantage and pressure the government to carry out reforms before the country's funding needs become less significant.

"Now is the time that we can exercise pressure on the Greek government," a European official told Kathimerini.

## Hellas Gold and workers react to Greek gov't decision on plan permit

Hellas Gold and its workers at the gold mine in Skouries, Halkidiki, have vowed to take legal action after the government announced on Friday that it would be recalling the permit for a processing plant on the site and reviewing the terms under which it was issued.

Sources at the company told Kathimerini that they would challenge the government's decision at the Council of State, which has already rejected three appeals against the gold mine.

The workers, meanwhile, issued a statement insisting that they would launch a "relentless struggle until the end. The Energy Ministry said that it took the decision after complaints that the details regarding the processing plant's size, as well as other features, based on which the permit was issued are incorrect. It also said that its decision was aimed at protecting the "environment and national interest."

In their statement, the workers said they would only communicate directly with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras from now on as they claim they had been assured by Energy Minister Panayiotis Lafazanis that he would not take any action before meeting with them in person.



# SYRIZA feeling the pain

SYRIZA is feeling the pain of its transformation from a revolutionary party to a systemic one and, what’s more, to a party of the European mainstream, and this is a problem that the party chief, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, will have to manage. It was Tsipras who elevated the people’s expectations to such lofty levels; its was Tsipras who oversaw the process that led to a “compromise” in Brussels; finally, it was Tsipras who tried to change the way that Europe acts toward our bankrupt country – with little success.



SYRIZA’s biggest advantage over the mainstream Greek parties is that the left is extremely durable when it comes to discussions and analyses. Yesterday’s meeting of the parliamentary group lasted more than 10 hours, with Tsipras having to explain himself the entire time.

The difference with his predecessor, conservative Premier Antonis Samaras, was that the latter would announce his decisions to his party’s MPs.

The kind of language of compromise that is coming from Brussels is peculiar, but it is thanks to the fact that it is vague and incomprehensible – to the layman – that a convergence of sorts has been reached between Athens and the eurozone, which has allowed all parties to save face and for everyone to seem like a winner in their respective countries.

On the surface it appears that the new agreement is aimed at enforcing certain terms of the memorandum that have fallen to the wayside over the past five years. Cracking down on tax evasion and clamping down on corruption and vested interests are measures our creditors had demanded from the start that were never enforced.

Under pressure to secure financing, the coalition government of SYRIZA and Independent Greeks has only one option: to complete the memorandum and to iron out the political and economic kinks that have amassed over decades. SYRIZA’s role as a systemic force in Europe is to crush the Metapolitefsi establishment which formed in the period after the fall of the dictatorship, which is what the lenders wanted to see done as soon as Greece entered the bailout program.


Of course SYRIZA also has its voters to think about and the battle on this front does not promise to be bloodless. But the problem is that Greece has no money and cannot meet its commitments in the coming months as Brussels has said that no more funds will be released unless its terms are met.

We shouldn’t jump the gun. The system is flexible and the first order of business is for the eurozone’s parliaments to approve the agreement. The only thing that’s certain in the meantime is that the nightmare is not over for Greece.



Vladimir Putin has admitted for the first time that the plan to annex Crimea was ordered weeks before the referendum on self-determinatioCrimea was formally absorbed into Russia on 18 March, to international condemnation, after unidentified gunmen took over the peninsula.

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