



NUUK 2016
Arctic Winter Games



4 – March 8 2016

ULU NEWS



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Athlete of the day

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Name: Jada Lea
Age: 16
Team: Alberta North
Volleyball

How has your Arctic Winter Games been so far?

It's been really fun. It's such a new experience, and socializing and talking with different people around the world is really cool.

How do you like Nuuk?

It's so pretty. It's so cute. Every house has different colors. I love it.

How did you like the opening ceremonies?

The opening ceremony was very up-beat and I liked that there was a big stage and the performers were dancing. I really liked the dancing.

What is the best experience you've had during AWG2016?

Uhm ... trading pins and talking with people from places like Alaska, Northwest Territories. Sharing stories and stuff.

What's the worst?

I haven't had a worst yet. I like everything so far.

How did you prepare for AWG2016?

I haven't really prepared myself. I was too excited to do anything. I started packing a day before. But I prepared myself mentally by trying to imagine what it would be like.

How much do you practice each week?

Together as a team, we haven't practiced every week, because we have other volleyball teams to be on. So we practiced together twice before.

Have you made some new friends?

I have met a lot of people, from Alaska, Northwest Territories and Yukon, I think.

Aside from sports, what have you experienced so far?

The dancing and the performing during the opening ceremony. And meeting some people who are here just to play music.

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Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Alberta North won its opening game against Nunavut in the boys' bantam tournament

Faceoff

The first four matches in the hockey competition were played yesterday in two arenas in Iqaluit. For team Alberta North it was a first step towards getting back to the finals

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen
 ulunews@awg2016.gl

Team Alberta North faced off against Nunavut in Iqaluit in the first hockey games of AWG2016 yesterday.

In the AWG arena the bantam boys from Alberta North met Team Nunavut. The match ended 10-3 to the guests from Alberta North.

Alberta North coach Mike Carlsen was satisfied with the result.

"The team has only had about four hours of ice time together. The boys come from many different places in Al-

berta North, so I'm okay satisfied with the first match," Carlsen said.

Alberta North meets Yukon and Alaska today, and, according to Carlsen, the team will be concentrating on getting more shots on goal than they did against Nunavut.

"Team Alaska are favorites to win, but we will give them a good fight. Two years ago the final was between Alaska and Alberta North," he said.



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Team Alberta North takes a rest during the second-period intermission yesterday



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



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Team Alaska
Coach Amanda Del Frate

What are your plans for today?
Mainly shooting and speed tests.

What do you think about the course?
The course is good, it's nice.

How is it compared to your courses in Alaska?

Our courses have more hills. They are steeper. But the course here and the surroundings are great, especially with the mountain here in front.



Ready, aim ... start

By Malik Brøns (text and photos)
ulunews@awg2016

With an unexpected training day in the program today, most AWG2016 athletes were out getting in a final training run, getting adjusted to their venues and testing their equipment.

Out on the biathlon course, we asked the coaches and some of the participants about how the preparations were going.

Biathlon

The biathlon ski and biathlon snowshoe events consist of four disciplines: interval start, mass start, relay and a sprint event. There are two age classes (junior and juvenile) for each of the two genders.

In a biathlon competition, contestants ski around a cross-country course and have either two or four shooting rounds, half in half lying down, the other half standing. Depending on the shooting performance, extra distance or time is added to the contestant's total running distance/time. The contestant with the shortest total time wins.

During AWG2016, the biathlon competition will be held at Qinngorput, near AHL School.





**Team Alberta North
Michael Morgan**

Why the squirrel mascot?

The squirrel is a territorial animal, so we put it here to assert our territory (laughs).

What are your plans for today?

Getting familiar with the site and being active. We're also adjusting our rifles. They've been in the containers and they need to be adjusted. And choosing the wax for the skis.

How is the course here compared to yours at home?

Our courses have more mountains and more trees, but the course here is great overall. They've done awesome work here, we know how much work there is involved in making a course, and they've done really well.



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**Team Yukon
Aidan Adel**

What do you think about the course?
It's small and flat, there are no hills, which we're used to. But the snow is good and the course is nice.

What are your plans for today?
Today we're mainly training and getting to know the course. We haven't had a break day because of the delayed flights.



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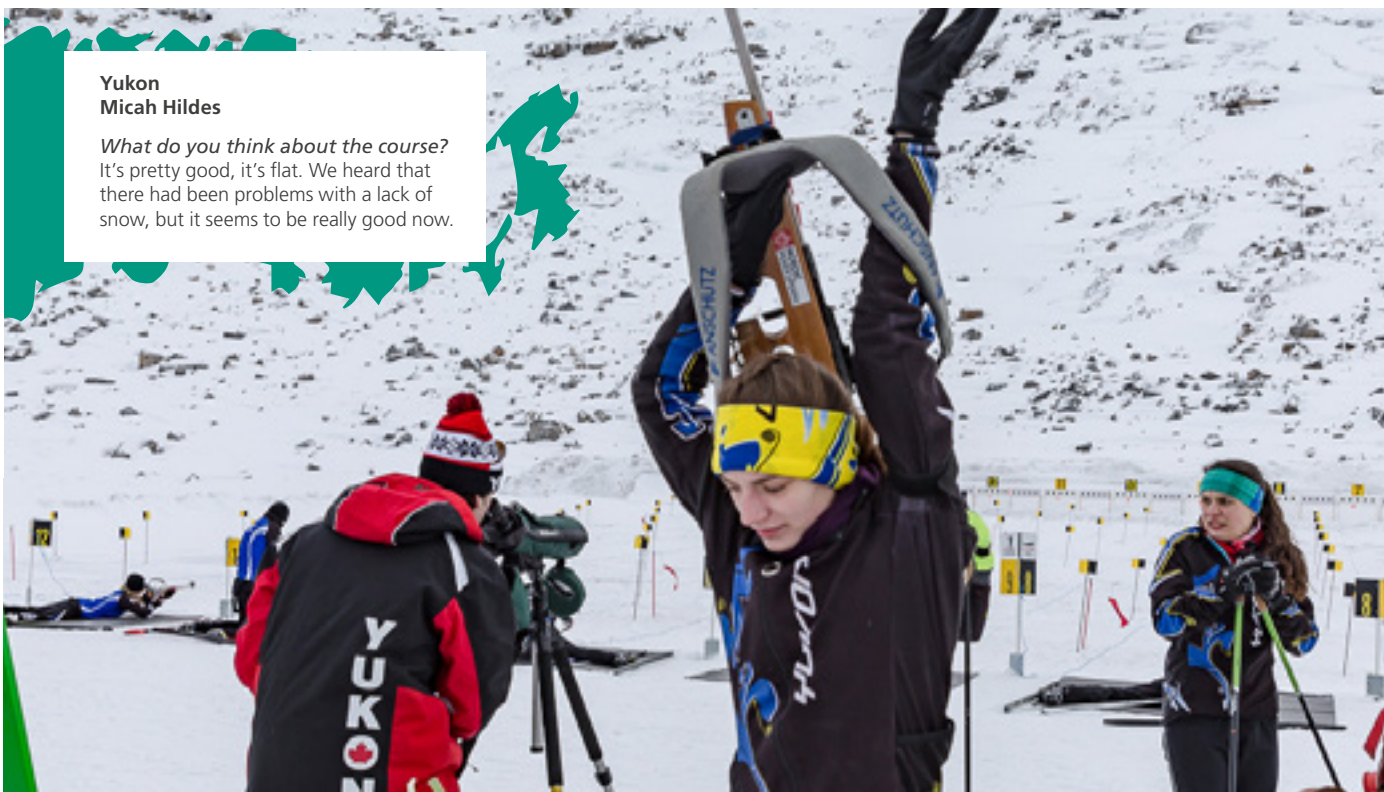
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**Yukon
Micah Hildes**

What do you think about the course?
It's pretty good, it's flat. We heard that there had been problems with a lack of snow, but it seems to be really good now.



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Photo: Leiff Josefsen

Edgar Musonda coaching his team yesterday in Godthåbhallen field house

Entering a new world

Futsal is still a foreign word for many of the AWG2016 indoor soccer players

By Noah Mølgaard
noah@ag.gl

Team Yukon's indoor soccer players are entering a new world here in Nuuk. Not only geographically, but also when it comes to their sport.

AWG2016 is the first time the indoor soccer event will be played according to futsal rules, a particular South American variant of the sport that is common in Greenland.

"We'd never heard about futsal before," Edgar Musonda, the Yukon junior boys coach, said.

Instead of the physical contact and sliding tackles of North American indoor soccer, futsal, according to Musonda, requires more ball skills. The ball is also bigger and heavier.

Yukon has been playing futsal since September to get ready for AWG2016. Getting used to the new style took about a month, Musonda said.

As the players have learned the game, futsal has become more popular in Yukon. A new five-team league was set

up in November, for example, but in a territory of 37,000, it will take a while before it takes hold.

"The teams that are playing in the league are getting better slowly. And we will use the competition here in Greenland as a way to help us to see the level we have now and see what we need to work on," Musonda said.

Greenland won gold in the junior boys' tournament two years ago in Fairbanks. Alaska won silver and NWT beat Yukon for the bronze.

"We have high expectations. We want to play in the semifinals and finals. We know the other teams are tough, but we hope that we can compete," Musonda says.

In addition to Yukon, Alaska, Alberta North, Greenland, Nunavut, NWT and Sapmi will be vying for the futsal title. The four best teams in round-robin play advance to the semifinals on Thursday and the finals will be played Friday.



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The Brugseni team is ready

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Drying frame-souvenirs from inmates

Inmates at Nuuk's minimum-security prison created gifts for AWG2016's distinguished guests

By Ane-Marie Petersen
ulunews@awg2016

When you think about inmates in prison, the last thing that comes to mind is handicrafts. But for AWG2016, the inmates at Nuuk's minimum-security prison were asked to make gifts that can be given to distinguished guests this week.

"They have ambitions just like the rest of us, even if their reputations have been hurt by bad choices they have made in the past," said Abigael M. Johansen, a prison employee.

It was Johansen's idea to ask the inmates to make gifts. She knew, for example, that one of them, a man named Mikkel

Brølund, had a reputation for making crafts with Greenlandic designs.

Brølund and an assistant, Mala Pakanak, and about 40 or so inmates have been working the past few months to make the 12 miniature drying frames for sealskins and miniature hunters' tools that will be given away.

"I've never imagined being a part of an event this big. It's an honor," Brølund said.

"Some of them didn't know they were good at making things before they were given the chance to something they cared about," Johansen said.

More than just crafts
In addition to making crafts, inmates at the minimum-security prison have helped get Nuuk ready for AWG2016 by:

- Fixing up the volunteer-center building
- Putting labels on 2,200 sleeping bags
- Marking ski routes
- Production of point sticks for the Arctic sports and Dene Games competitions
- Establishing sleeping halls at Atuarfik Samuel Kleinschmidt School





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Photo: Leiff Josefsen

With a little help from my friends

One of the special traditions of the Arctic-sport competition is that coaches help athletes, no matter where they come from

By Noah Mølgaard
noah@ag.gl

When the Arctic Sport competition gets under way today at Nuussuup Gym today, don't be surprised if you see the Alaska coach giving good advice to an NWT athlete. The tradition, though unheard of in other sports, is common in Arctic sports, and participants consider it a regular and important part of the event.

"Traditionally, and I think still today, to survive in the Arctic you have to be able to rely on another people to do their best so you can survive," said Nicole Johnston, an Alaska Arctic Sports official and a multiple medal winner.

The tradition of helping other athletes, according to Johnston, is a way to ensure that traditions are properly passed on to younger generations.

Winning most medals remains the primary goal, but helping and competing are not at odds with each other, she says.

"It depends on the coaching style and

how they teach and if you can communicate exactly what needs to be done or corrected. The best way you can do that is to give constructive criticism, not by saying, don't do this or that."

Johnston is herself a record-holder in the two-foot high-kick, an accomplishment she achieved in Slave Lake during AWG1994. Being an official allows her to keep giving to the sport – and getting something from it.

"A lot of the skills the coaches and athletes get here are used outside of the sport in their everyday lives – in their jobs or other places where they need to learn how to work with a group. We also teach the skills you need to survive daily life and resolve conflicts and how to help people be compassionate and be constructive."

And if, after 22 years, her record falls in tonight's competition, it may just be by someone she has helped.

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Photo: AWG2016



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To swap or not to swap?

It is a custom that AWG participants swap uniforms with someone from another team. Many of the participants this year say they like their uniforms too much to give them up

By Marie Kuitse Kristensen
 ulunews@awg2016.gl
 Photo: Marie Kuitse Kristensen



Jon and Jodi Blaklay
 43, 44, Fairbanks, Alaska

What's the best thing about your uniform?
 The colors are bright, the jacket is warm, and we love it.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?
 Maybe.

Who would you swap your uniform with?
 Alberta North, because I love the color and design.



Julianne Angulalik
 15, Nunavut

What's the best thing about your uniform?
 It's my favorite color, blue.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?
 Yes, but I don't know yet which one. Maybe the Alaska uniform. I like the colors.



Nukannguaq Søholm
 19, Niaqornaarsuk, Greenland

What's the best thing about your uniform?
 The best thing is the sponsors' logos.

Why?
 Because without their support we wouldn't have uniforms.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?
 I'd like to, since it will be a good way to remember the other athletes. But I don't know which team I'll try to swap with.



Joanasi Arnaituq
 15, Kangersujuag Nunavik

What's the best thing about your uniform?
 The fur.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?
 No. I love our uniforms. They are warm and that's why I don't want to swap.



John Flynn
61, Dawson City, Yukon

What's the best thing about your uniform?

The text 'Yukon', because I was born in Yukon, because I grow up in Yukon and because I live there.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

Yes, I'll try to swap with an athlete. It will show the friendship the Games represent.



Richelle Castillo
18, NWT

What's the best thing about your uniform?

I really like our uniform because of the fur in the hood.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

No, I'm not planning to swap my uniform because I like it. The uniform tells about our traditional culture, where we come from.

What kind of fur is it?

It has three different kinds of fur: the white is fox, the brown is coyote and the grey is wolf.



Marte Agersborg Skånhaug
16, Sapmi

What is the best thing about your uniform?

I love the color.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

No, but if I have to do it, I'll swap with an Alaskan one, because of the color. I think it is beautiful.

But I'd rather keep my own jacket though. It's warm ... and nice.



Christopher Church
20, Inuvik, NWT

What's the best thing about your uniform?

The white fur. It's Arctic wolf!

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

No! We have a special jacket with a fur!

Elias Dawson
15, Tuktoyaktuh, NWT

What's the best thing about your uniform?

The color and fur

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

No! Because we have a special jacket.



Anna Van Der Giessen
17, Bezanson, Alberta North

What's best thing about your uniform?

I like our hat the most. It looks cool. It's warm and I love the color.

Are you planning to swap your uniform?

Yes, with Team Nunavik, because I love their hood.

What would swapping uniforms mean to you?

It will mean a lot for me because I can keep it as a souvenir.



**NUNATSINNI
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Photo: TAWG2016/Bo Kristensen

Sponsors' contributions make AWG2106 possible

Whether it is the food athletes eat or the data the smartphones chew up, a sponsor has probably helped make it possible

By Martine Lind Krebs
 ulunews@awg2016.gl

A total of 43 Greenlandic businesses and institutions are sponsors of AWG2016. Their support accounts for a third of the Games' budget.

"Greenlandic businesses are very dedicated to AWG. It has been an immense gift," said Aviâja Lyberth Lennert, the AWG2016 director of sponsorship.

One of the biggest contributions firms have been able to make is by offering their services. Without them, according to Lennert, AWG2016 would probably not have been possible. The services of Air Greenland and Mittarfeqarfiit helping transport participants is one example. Another is the internet services being offered by Tele-Post.

Sponsors are grouped according to the size of their contribution, and named after Greenlandic animals: nanoq (polar

bear), kissaviarsuk (falcon), tulugaq (raven), aqisseq (grouse).

In total, sponsors have contributed 22 million kroner (\$3.25 million) worth of services, labor hours, discounts and donations, matching the contribution of Greenland's Self-Rule Authority and Nuuk's municipal government.

Cooperative supermarket chain Brugseni is one of the main AWG2016 sponsors. It has donated all dinner meals to the athletes. In addition, 30 employees will help serve the meals. The combined value of both is more than 1.5 million kroner.

"The fact that we are owned by the Greenlandic people almost obliges us to contribute to the Arctic Winter Games. It's an opportunity to show that we can live up to the challenge by pulling together," said CEO Susanne Christensen.

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Learning by workshop

The first of this week's cultural workshops offered lessons into the tradition and history of kayaking

By Gaaba Olsen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

During AWG2016, all of Nuuk's schools are closed in order to make room for the visiting athletes. For many students, it will be a week off, but for those interested in learning more about their country's culture, the Nuuk organizing committee is putting on voluntary workshops.

One of the first, held on the campus of Ilimarfik, involved teaching elementary-school students about Greenlandic kayaking traditions.

One of the more dramatic of them, known as *allunaariaqattaarpoq*, involves doing acrobatic twirls while hanging on to a rope suspended in a frame.

"This was how hunters practiced handling their kayak in bad weather and doing rolls. Nowadays, the something we do in front of crowds," said Elias Inûsugtoq, a coach with Qajaq, a Nuuk

kayaking club.

About 20 schoolchildren attended Monday's workshop where they competed with each other and tried different maneuvers while holding on to the strap.

"A lot of kids are interested, and they learn quick," Inûsugtoq said. "They were asking us if we'd be holding similar events in the coming days."

One of those trying her hand at *al-lunaariaqattaarpoq* for the first time on Monday was nine-year-old Maja Jensen.

"It was hard at first, but you get better. It's a lot of fun," she said.

Inûsugtoq was pleased with the turnout and was hoping that the interests the students had shown in traditional kayaking would keep up throughout the week.

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PHOTO: Mads Pihl, Vest Greenland



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PHOTO: Mads Pihl, Vest Greenland



Living outside the box

Just like not all Americans are fat and carry guns, neither are Greenlanders all dark-skinned hunters

By Paarnaq Hansen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Mia Chemnitz knows a lot about stereotypes. With her red hair and freckles, she looks more Irish than Greenlandic. But, despite not having brown eyes, black hair, dark skin or any of the other traits typically associated with 'Greenlanders', the 22-year-old journalism student is as Greenlandic as they come.

"People wonder, whether I am really Greenlandic. They mistake me for being Danish, because of my looks and fluency in Danish," Chemnitz, who grew up in Sisimiut in northern Greenland, said. "However I feel Greenlandic more than anything else. I was born and raised here. My parents are Greenlandic."

Chemnitz has studied in Denmark, and said that when she began studies there

her fellow students had trouble believing she was Greenlandic.

"People tend to put others into boxes. It simplifies things. That is why people think that all people from the Arctic are Eskimos. Then they put a lid on the box and keep people here, because they can't handle the fact that other people might not fit into a box at all."

Her looks, she explained, are proof that Greenland is more diverse than most people think. She's hoping that AWG2016 can help give people a different picture of not just Greenland, but also its people.

"I am trying to plant some new pictures in people's minds – or at least inspire them to be open to new pictures," she said.



How do you develop 1,500 volunteers' competences?

Arctic Winter Games is a fantastic event and a unique possibility for us to develop a lot of people's competences in the Greenlandic society. Mentorix's contribution as a Nanoq sponsor is to provide the AWG organisation with the tools necessary to produce courses for the volunteers. Mentorix's Greenlandic department has made its e-learning platform available for the AWG 2016 and has in collaboration with the AWG organisation made a plan for how the competence development is best executed. Mentorix is part of the AWG because it is fun and because it is important for us to contribute to the competence development in the Greenlandic society.

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Can a seal be athletic?

The mascot for this year's AWG is a seal inspired by a nine-year-old girl's drawing. The biggest challenge, says the artist who came up with the final design, was to make a seal look it like played sports

By Malu Pedersen
ulunews@awg2016

Every Arctic Winter Games have a mascot. This year's mascot is a Greenlandic seal named Kuluk. 'Kuluk' is a term of endearment in Kalaallisut meaning 'dearest'.

To come up with the mascot for AWG2016, the organizing committee held a national competition for primary school students in which they were asked draw their version of a mascot. Kuluk's name was also chosen in a national contest.

Stella Josefsen, 9, from Paamiut, won the competition, and then it was up to illustrator Christian Fleischer Rex to turn her drawing into a full-fledged mascot.

"When you look at the original drawing, and how Kuluk looks today there are differences because the drawing was just a seal, and it had no clothes on. I had to make it look cartoony and give it a distinctive look," Rex said.

The process took about a month. Rex said the most challenging part of the task was to make a seal that looked like it could compete in the different AWG sports.

"It wasn't so hard to get the face or head to work, but what I thought was a

bit difficult was to get a seal that looked athletic. Seals have short limbs, so there was quite a lot of work to make the figure appear as if it runs. I made quite a few sketches before coming up with the final figure."

Rex was also instructed to design Kuluk with an Anorak on, since it is traditional clothing worn in the Arctic. The design process involved making drafts that the organizing committee commented and which he then used to make adjustments. The final result can be seen throughout Nuuk and Iqaluit all this week.

"I am very satisfied with Kuluk's look," Rex said. "And it was good that AWG had a specific idea of how they wanted like the mascot to look. That makes it much easier as an illustrator to develop a figure."

In addition to the basic Kuluk design, Rex has also created versions of the mascot performing the various AWG sports.

The AWG mascot is always an animal. The mascot for AWG2014, in Fairbanks, was a raven named Raavee.



Rex working on Kuluk



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More than a mouthful

Some greenlandic words can be translated into an entire sentence in other languages. Here are some examples of long words the Language Advisory Committee of Greenland could come up with.

Tumaarpaluppog: There is the sound of footsteps.

Utoqqatserpunga: I am sorry.

Tulluusimaarutigaaara: I am proud of it.

Nuannisarisi: Have fun you all.

Sapinngilagut: Yes we can.

World's longest word

Nalunaarasuartaatilioqateeraliorfinnialikkersaatiginialikkersaatilillaranatagoorunarsuarooq

Greenlandic reportedly holds the record for the longest word in the world. It has 94 letters and means something like: 'Once again they tried to build a giant radio station, but apparently it was still only on the drawing board.'

(PH & MLP)



Nalunaarasuartaatilioqateeraliorfinnialikkersaatiginialikkersaatilillaranatagoorunarsuarooq



Encourage your Arctic friend

Danish: Super!

French: C'est cool!

English: That's cool!

Inuktitut: Taimaatsiaq!

Kalaallisut: Torrak!

Russian: клёво! (Klyovo!)

Sapmi: Don leat čaffa!

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