ELECTRONIC REFLECTIONS: DOZING, DREAMING, VOILÀ!

CAITILIN WALSH, CHAIRPERSON, DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

It was a morning in early March, and I was dozing in bed. I really should have been dressing for my down-the-hall commute to finish up those help files for my client, but the Computer Committee had been up late the night before, talking about what it would take to put the NOTIS Directory into an online format. We (Alfred Hellstern, Michael Broschat and I) had come away thinking it wasn’t going to happen anytime soon. Then it hit me: HELP FILE! Data publishing, in the form of a Windows help file, was how the NOTIS Directory was going to go online. Instead of working on my client’s files, I went to work and put together a prototype for an electronic directory. The first NOTIS Infobase, known as NIB, was uploaded to the NOTIS BBS by the end of the month. (And yes, I did get to my client’s files before the deadline, despite the temptation of a new project.)

That was 1994. Since then, we have updated NIB ten times, and the way we distribute it has changed considerably. But the simplicity of that early idea—help files for data retrieval—has remained a powerful and elegant piece of the NOTIS directory package. It allows us to get the word out about our members and their services more broadly than ever before. Other regional groups have commented, in some cases with envy, on the effectiveness of NIB. But NIB is only one piece of the electronic puzzle. Let’s look at the evolution.

In March of 1995, Brenden West generously opened the door for NOTIS to have a presence on the Internet by allowing us to piggyback on his Washington Trade Center site (http://www.eskimo.com/~bwest/). The NOTIS Home Page was born, and NIB moved in. In the summer of this year, the Board approved funds to open an account on CompuServe, giving NOTIS an email address and our own server space for an expanded home page (see page 4). At the same time, NOTIS News gained an electronic version, the “Electronic NOTIS News” or ENN, which can be found on the BBS and our new home page.

Accessible is the key word here. We hope these advances have made your board easier to reach. You can get to us using snail mail, voicemail, the BBS, email, and/or home page feedback (Yes, you can send us mail from the web site!). Our web site means that NOTIS members represented in the Directory are accessible to anyone with an on-ramp to the Internet. And when the NOTIS Board needs to get the word out, we now have a staggering number of options available: postcard mailings, NOTIS News & ENN, BBS postings, emailings, and our web site.

So what does the future hold? As Bill Gates’ vision of a seamless interface between desktop and Internet comes about, the Computer Committee hopes to see NIB progress to an Internet readable format. We envisage a directory that a client can consult online, one where a mouse click can send you an email, and we’re working to make that vision a reality.

The feedback so far has been positive. Please let us know what you’d like to see, and if you’re pleased with the direction we’re going. We’d love to hear from you, and we welcome any members who would like to work more closely with the Computer Committee as we dream up the next steps in the electronic evolution of your Society.
NOTIS NEWS

NOTIS NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kirsten C. Geuin, Marie-Paul Meda, Theresa M. Phillips, Herbert G. Porter, and Maarit K. Reed

FAREWELL

NOTIS bids farewell to Willard Wood, who returns to the East Coast with his family. Thanks for years of faithful service on the NOTIS News Editorial Committee, as Secretary to the Society, and as coordinator for the Literary Special Interest Group. Your contributions will be long remembered and your presence sorely missed.

WELCOME

Welcome to Jochen Liesche, the newest NOTIS Director

THANK YOU

Katalin Pearman and Sheila Harrington for assisting in the proofreading of the new Directory.

THANK YOU

The 1997 NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters has gone to press and will be distributed to over 600 users of language services across the country. The advertising revenues will make a substantial contribution to the cost of publication. Many thanks to all who advertised for supporting NOTIS in this vital aspect of our member services.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

NOTIS has established a Publications Committee to prepare and review materials for publication other than the newsletter. Sandra Burns Thomson has graciously agreed to chair this Committee. Thank you, Sandra, we know your efforts will greatly assist the Society.

THINK RENEWAL

Reminders for membership renewal will be sent before the end of the year, but NOTIS can save postage and time if you renew early. Membership rates remain the same for 1997: $35/yr. for Individual and Institutional members, and $50/yr. for Corporate members. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your address and phone number when you renew.

NOTIS News is published six times yearly in odd-numbered months. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Submissions become the property of NOTIS News and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society or its Board.

Editor Pieter Zilinsky (206) 932-5118
Editorial Board Willy Evans Katalin Pearman
Pagemaking Annegret Keller-Davies (206) 820-6523
Production Assistant Ursula Zilinsky
Deadline 10th day of month before issue

NOTE: Due to printing and postage costs only one complimentary issue of NOTIS News is offered to non-members. Subscriptions for non-members are $12.00 a year.

Send check, payable to NOTIS, P.O. Box 25301, SEATTLE, WA 98125-2201

Membership in NOTIS Individual & Institutional $35.00 a year Corporate $50.00 a year

For membership information write to NOTIS or call NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 781-5848.
E-mail: NOTIS@compuserve.com
Home Page: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/NOTIS

NOTIS is a Washington State non-profit organization
NEW NIB

The Winter update to the NOTIS InfoBase will appear at the beginning of January. Look for it on our own BBS, the Translators Library on CompuServe (GO FLEFO) and on our home page (http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/NOTIS). The deadline for changes to the next update is December 15.

CALL TO CARPOOL

Claudia Kellersch has proposed setting up a network to coordinate rides and carpools to NOTIS events. She is willing to act as coordinator for this service. If you can benefit from this service please call Claudia at (206) 562-7055, Fax 24 hr. (206) 562-2991 and e-mail 74145.535@CompuServe.com

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

NOTIS is looking for a volunteer to coordinate hospitality. NOTIS members and members of sister organizations who live outside the greater Seattle-Tacoma area and wish to attend mid-week meetings would be able to find hosts through this service. In the past such information has provided a valuable service to our members and colleagues. If you are interested in this proposal please call Claudia Kellersch. Her numbers are listed above.

MISCELLANEOUS

Congratulations T&I Graduates

Courtney Searls-Ridge and Susana Stettri Sawrey, administrators of the Translation & Interpretation Institute at the Academy of Languages, are delighted to announce the names of the first four students to complete the certificate program in translation: Sandra Burns Thomson (German>English), Melissa Meier Tarkki (French>English), Christian Schmitz (English>German), and Amy Ryan (French>English). Sandra, Melissa, and Christian will be awarded their certificates at the 37th Annual ATA Conference in Colorado Springs. Amy is in France and will receive her certificate when she returns. All four are extremely talented, and we are confident that they have the skills to be successful translators.

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank NOTIS for your support of the T&I Institute program since its inception in 1994.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Directory Mailing Party

The annual Directory Mailing Party will be held on Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the home of Claudia Kellersch in Bellevue. NOTIS members and friends are invited to help send out 600 copies of our Directory, one of the most effective of the services we offer our members. The party will include music for Christmas and seasonal refreshments. If you can lend a hand, please call Claudia at (206) 562-7055 to RSVP and get directions.

Accreditation Workshop

NOTIS will again offer an Accreditation Workshop for the annual April ATA Examination on January 25, 1997, 1:00 - 4:30 pm. University of Washington, Denny 216. Presented by NOTIS, this workshop will help you prepare for all the “major” and “minor” do’s and don’ts of the exam. Participants will be given a general briefing, will take the practice test, and then will discuss the test in language-specific groups. Register by December 13, 1996 at a reduced fee: $15 for members of NOTIS, SOMI and WITS, $20 for non-members. Late registration—NO LATER THAN JANUARY 4—$20 for members, $25 for others. To register, call Jean Leblon at (206) 778-9889 and leave a message with very clear mention of your name (spelled out) and telephone number.

Editing Workshop

The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society and the Washington State Court Interpreters Society are co-sponsoring another workshop: Revising, Editing, and Proofreading Translated Texts. This workshop should be of interest to freelance translators, editors, and production managers.

Consider attending this workshop if you want to:
1) Understand the differences between revising, editing, and proofreading
2) Learn to revise, edit, and proofread your own work
3) Learn what is expected of you when you are asked to edit or proofread someone else’s work
4) Discuss how to charge for editing and proofreading services
5) Get recommendations for resources on style and usage
6) Enjoy an interactive workshop with other translators

Participate in hands-on exercises to:
1) Make your life easier by using style sheets
2) Improve your ability to manipulate the target text
3) Sharpen your proofreading skills

Continued on page 6
MEETING REVIEW
NOTIS ANNUAL MEETING 1996

Alan Rafael Seid

A warm welcome by Ann Macfarlane, NOTIS President, was followed by a valuable summary of membership by Caitilin Walsh, Vice President, who reminded us that dues are the largest source of income for NOTIS. NOTIS now has 239 members (239 individual, 3 institutional, 23 corporate) in four states.

From Washington 218, 19 in Oregon, 1 each in Idaho and Montana. Informational packets do have an impact. Of 77 sent out recently 42 harvested new members. That’s well over half. Caitilin also pointed out that many people request that their names appear in the NOTIS Directory but fail to return their information sheets in a timely manner. If you have not returned your sheet, do it now.

The 1997 NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters is ready to go to press and will be distributed to over 600 users of language services nationwide. The advertising revenues, triple those of last year, will cover a substantial portion of the publication cost. Contact Elsa Brodin if you are interested in advertising your message in the Directory. It is a great way to get the word out about your services, and it helps to cover the cost of another vital service, your Directory. In the Directory you will find 81 language pair combinations among the 137 NOTIS members who chose to be listed for 1997. Aside from its print identity, the directory also has a digital identity known as the NOTIS InfoBase or “NIB”. The NIB is available through the NOTIS BBS, the Translator’s Library on CompuServe (GO FLEFO), and from NOTIS’s World Wide Web home page.

And still on the digital front, here are some ways to electronically reach NOTIS: E-mail: NOTIS@compuserve.com New Home Page: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/NOTIS

The NOTIS home page offers: the opportunity to provide feedback, access to the NIB (NOTIS InfoBase, see above), the Electronic NOTIS News (ENN), an events calendar, information about membership, and links to other sites.

On the financial front, Jean Leblon, Treasurer delivered good news: NOTIS is solvent. Hooray NOTIS!

Nancy Thiele, Program Chair, examined programs, past and future. 1996 programs satisfied the desire to provide meetings, workshops and other events that would be informative and insightful for NOTIS members. Four slots are open for 1997. Programs are divided into three general categories: business, technical and craft. A business program might include a Saturday job-fair for businesses and translators/interpreters to meet, or a Wednesday session on how to author your own home page, (which could also fall under the technical category). A technical program could be about certain computer-related or terminology-related topics. A program under the craft category may be about the subtleties of literary translations or about editing your own or someone else’s work. If you have ideas for programs you would like to see or would like to offer, please contact Nancy Thiele, Program Chair.

NOTIS News editor, Pieter Zilinsky, would like all members to know that in order for NOTIS News to continue doing an effective job, you are encouraged to submit your ideas, wit, tips, stories and articles to share with all the other NOTIS members and with the translation/interpreting world in general (nine of our articles have been reprinted in other publications) and please, no run-on sentences like this one.

Now, to part II of the annual meeting: revisions to the bylaws.

As the author of this article is quite sure, every member of NOTIS carefully studied the revisions which were proposed to the Society’s bylaws. With this fact in mind, it will be enough to say that these revisions, which were enclosed with the last issue of NOTIS News, passed 45-1. The one vote against was an absentee ballot.

Lively discussion on a proposed amendment (which was not passed) resulted in a different amendment being proposed and passed. You really had to be there. Watching this group of people effortlessly and impeccably follow “Smith’s Diagram of Parliamentary Rules” was, in itself, heartwarming. If anything, this one handout made the whole three hours worth it. Seriously, the process was very lively and there were some well thought out arguments and meaningful questions raised.

The snacks were most tasty. Thank you to those responsible! And, of course, one of the primary purposes of these gatherings was fulfilled: the opportunity to meet, converse, and spend time with translators and interpreters, who, at least in the opinion of this writer, will always be one of the more interesting cross-sections of humanity ever to be encountered.

Alan Rafael Seid grew up bilingual and bicultural in Mexico City, Mexico.

WHAT’S ON THE NOTIS WEB SITE?

Feedback: Send e-mail to NOTIS.
The NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters: users can download NIB or order a print directory.
The Electronic NOTIS News (ENN): In an Adobe PDF (portable document format) file.
A Calendar of translation and interpretation events: local and worldwide.
Membership information: an application for membership and links to our corporate members’ sites.
Links to other sites of interest to translators and interpreters: resources, languages, organizations, etc.

Put us on your list of favorites: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/NOTIS
When the keynote speaker is billed as “The man who knows more about China than any other living American”, a question arises like a shadow before the curious listener. How can living in foreign lands for many years, 16 of which were spent in prison in solitary confinement - be patterned into a recognizable and usable form in the space of one hour? Dr. Sydney Rittenberg, a labor and civil rights worker, wartime soldier, instructor to Chinese journalists and translators and eventually interpreter for and friend of the top leaders of China; Chou En-lai and Mao Ze-dong, and currently a teacher and business consultant, quickly engaged his audience.

Today’s translators and interpreters, and those who seriously consider joining their ranks, must know that “nothing is more important or challenging” than the continuing effort to bring individuals, institutions and cultures to a point of common understanding. From that elevated and elevating viewpoint Dr. Rittenberg deftly employed American baseball metaphors and Chinese adages to illustrate the essence of an interpreter’s obligations; to be eloquent, to solve problems, to “deliver exactly what the speaker calls for”, and to discern and transmit the style of the speaker. A fascinating domestic image, a clothesline, became the equivalent of a mental process. “Always look out for the main point” and then attach fitting ideas, facts and feelings onto that main line.

Dr. Rittenberg cited some of the quick-sands of interpreting and translating. Is the speech that of country or city, the idiom literary or political, the register one of reasoning or pleading? Humor is always problematical, for in Chinese, humor cannot “be lost” on the listener, as it obviously can very easily be in English. The expression of passion demands precision. Chou En-lai corrected his interpreter by saying, (in English), “I was angry and upset but, I did notify into a rage”.

A subtle perception of the gap between the “wonderful work of translating a classic” and the power and elegance of the original must humble the translator. A version of Shakespeare in Chinese may indeed be wonderful; it is not the equivalent of the original but a new recreation.

In spite of accuracy and faithfulness to the words of a speaker, a very potent threat to good communication is the failure of the interpreter to read correctly a hidden agenda. Periphrasis may be a veiled and safe way of saying “yes”, especially in political environments.

Professional interpreters and translators must become increasingly specialized, and seek mastery, not merely competence. When they do so, they will feel exultation. “Nothing makes me feel as proud as being a telephone wire between two cultures.” In the face of our current worldwide problems; power struggles, nuclear unease, and ethnic clashes, the highly trained, conscientious, sensitive performance of interpreters and translators “knits the relationship between different peoples and cultures.”

Yes, humility too, is a necessary ingredient in the make up of those who help to build bridges of community. Pretending to know instead of asking, “Please repeat it?” or “Please explain it?” will almost always guarantee a misunderstanding if not an eventual disaster.

Interpretation and translation, “a replication of reality” is always exciting. “Every time I have butterflies.”

Dr. Sydney Rittenberg, in that brief hour, presented us with a masterfully executed triptych; a multi-horizontal landscape of cultures, a central portrait of the interpreter-translator and a well formed panel of ideas, drawing on the unity of the human mind.

**DRUGS: THESE WERE NOT NODDING MATTERS**

Sergeant Koos Dykstra and Detective Robb McLaren, Vancouver City Police Narcotics Unit, represent about 50 years of experience on the subject matter. And it showed.

The audience was regaled by an impressive series of details and case histories regarding all pertinent aspects available based on the speakers’ know-how and, indeed, mastery of the material: types of drugs, including the most unexpected; symptoms and short-and long-range effects of taking the various drugs; the manifold ways of obtaining or synthesizing all kinds of addictive drug systems, even from fairly conventional, almost household, medicines; the enormous latitude in use and adaptation of revolvers, handguns, rifles and various other instruments of selective murder and mayhem. There was plenty of opportunity, at the conclusion of these two fascinating and somewhat awe inspiring talks, to see, touch and further discuss exhibits and related aspects of the Narcotics scene through the lenses of drugs and weapons use.

I left the presentation with additional insight into the wide spectrum of words and concepts that we translators and interpreters have to be aware of when exposed to the unsavory area of arms and addictive drugs use. I also left with the sobering and rather hopeless notion of what a bottomless pit of social malfunction the subject area conveyed. From my own selfish standpoint I hope I will only have to write and speak about it, in the course of providing my language services.
All Events. I write on the eve of departure for the ATA Annual Conference. The fall has been active for NOTIS, with the fourth biennial Cascadia Conference in Vancouver B.C. to celebrate International Translators Day, our Annual Meeting, and now this national event. Some NOTIS members are also participating in the Regional Conference for North America, held just before the ATA gathering.

Cascadia '96. Reportage on Cascadia is given in this issue, but I would like to add a particular word of thanks to our colleagues in STIBC, the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia, and to the active members of NOTIS, WITS (Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society) and SOMI (Society of Medical Interpreters) who assisted with the planning over the last year and a half, and who presented workshops at the event itself. A conference like this can only happen when many volunteers are ready to lend a hand. Welcome also to our colleagues in the newly formed Pacific Northwest Unit of TTIG (The Translators and Interpreters Guild), who have warmly agreed to lend a hand with planning the next Cascadia event.

Regional Collaboration? One of the outcomes of the Cascadia Conference was a proposal to consider some kind of more systematic regional collaboration among the organizations in our area dedicated to translators and interpreters. The boards of the various groups are considering this idea, and we will keep you informed as to further developments.

Annual Meeting. It was good to meet new faces and welcome old acquaintances at the Annual Meeting. The review of our activities over the last year showed that “we too have not been idle”; in particular, NOTIS volunteers have been most active. Newsletter editor Pieter Zilinsky pointed out that ten percent of our membership has written for this newsletter, for example, and the number of volunteers in program, directory and other activities is also high.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to those volunteers.

Bylaws Revisions. Thanks also to all those who participated in the lively discussion on an amendment to the Bylaws Revisions. One of our members proposed dropping the phrase “without substantiation” from Article 3, Section 5, subsection b of the Bylaws: Article 3, Section 5. Expulsion: Expulsion procedures shall be those determined by the Board of Directors. A member may be expelled from the Society for any of the following causes:

a) malfeasance in office as a Director, committee chair or other officer of the Society;
b) conduct or public statements injurious to the Society or the profession, such as misrepresentation in advertising, or public denigration of a colleague in the profession without substantiation;
c) falsification or misrepresentation in the original application for membership in the Society; or
d) violation of professional ethics.

The Society’s discussion on the pros and cons of the proposed revision ranged widely, with a variety of interesting opinions brought forth. In the end, it was agreed to substitute the following language for the clause in question: public libel against a colleague in the profession.

Looking Ahead. All in all, the horizon seems to be broadening for translators and interpreters as we respond to the challenges of an ever more international marketplace. Many thanks to the volunteers who make NOTIS go and grow. I would also like to extend my thanks to our dedicated board, who invest a considerable amount of time and energy in carrying out our range of programs and services. It is a privilege to be able to serve you as President of NOTIS in this time of expansion and new challenges.

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**Editing Workshop**

Presenters:
Melissa Meier Tarkki and Courtney Searls-Ridge. Melissa has a Certificate in Technical Writing and Editing from the UW Extension. Courtney has been editing her own work and that of others for many years. Both presenters are instructors at the Academy of Languages T&I Institute in Seattle.

**Saturday, March 1, 1997, 1-5 pm**

Gowen Hall 201
University of Washington, Seattle.

Cost: Advance registration fee is $20 for members of NOTIS, WITS, SOMI, and TTIG. Non-member fee is $30. Day-of-event registration if space allows is $30.

Advance registration deadline: February 24, 1997.
Please make checks payable to NOTIS and mail to:
NOTIS
PO Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98125-2201.

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**MOVING?**

Please let us know your new address and phone numbers so we can keep your membership record and directory information current. Remember, the electronic directory updates quarterly and we want potential clients to be able to find you!
EXPLOSIVES: WHERE THERE’S SMOKE - THERE MAY BE A CRIMINAL

SHEILA HARRINGTON

Hair, fibers, body fluids, glass, building products, anything that can provide the clues that could tie the accused to the scene of the crime are of vital interest to the forensic scientist. And why would such objects interest an interpreter?

Dr. Alexander Beveridge, member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with a forensic scientist as an expert witness. Complicated acronyms were deciphered. Our speaker’s primary research interest is in the field of analysis of residues from explosives. We followed the evolution of events in the investigation of a baggage explosion at Narita Airport in Japan. Baggage from a Canadian aircraft exploded killing two handlers.

He explained that gases are released after an explosion and what remains are the byproducts, therefore the forensic scientist’s task is to identify these traces. Ultimately, in this investigation, it was the unique combination of nine items found in a stereo case that proved the presence of a bomb. An exciting work of detection performed with methodical application of scientific principles provided us with a most interesting presentation.

DNA TESTING

The afternoon session ended with a presentation from Gail Heuchert who also came to us from the Forensic Laboratory where she is section head of the Biology Section. With close to 25 years in Forensic Biology she has testified in courts in most Canadian provinces and territories.

Her section accepts cases involving body fluid identification and comparison, as well as DNA genotyping. As the flyer that she shared with us explains, genotyping uncovers all the genetic information contained in the chromosomes of an organism. Ms. Heuchert gave us examples of how genotyping has solved criminal cases.

The session was shortened before we were able to enter into issues of admissibility of DNA evidence. “When Science Takes the Witness Stand”, by Peter J. Neufeld and Neville Colman, Scientific American, (May 1990), may provide information about the possible weaknesses that lawyers may plant about the integrity of the test procedures done on DNA typing.

We were fully persuaded that court interpreters must be prepared for complex events in challenging situations.
### CALENDAR

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>TIME &amp; PLACE</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>NOTIS Directory Mailing Party</td>
<td>Mail 600 Directories - RSVP to Claudia Kellersch</td>
<td>9 am - 1 pm (206) 562-7055</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>WITS &amp; Friends End-of-year Social Potluck</td>
<td>Join Colleagues and Coordinators of Agencies, Hospitals and Courts RSVP by November 27, 382-5990 or PO Box 1012, Seattle, WA 98111-1012</td>
<td>12:30 - 4 pm UW, Ethnic Cultural Center Native American Room 3913 Brooklyn Ave. NE, Seattle WA</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>NOTIS Accreditation Workshop</td>
<td>Preparation for ATA Exam Call Jean Leblon by December 13, 1996</td>
<td>1 - 4:30 pm University of Washington Denny Hall 216</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>NOTIS &amp; WITS Editing Workshop</td>
<td>Essentials for Everyone Courtney Searls-Ridge &amp; Melissa Meier Tarkki</td>
<td>1 - 5 pm University of Washington Gowan Hall 201</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16 - 18</td>
<td>18th Annual Conference NAJIT</td>
<td>National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators - All Topics</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington Venue to be announced</td>
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