

# OCT/NOV 2018 Shore News

## South Patrick Residents Association www.spranews.com

### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH

On October 13, 2018 from 10am to 4pm, the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will be hosting the 9th annual Landscaping with Florida Native Plants Garden Tour. The Tour is a fabulous look at what homeowners and public spaces have done by using native plants in different situations and locations. This year, Area 4 October Yard of the Month (YOM) at 340 S. Lakeside Drive, is one of the honorees. Be sure and drive by to take a look! The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the Native Plants and Native Plant Communities of Florida. They also give information to educate the public in the importance and benefits of using native plants in our landscaping. Native plants have been here for 500 years and are adapted to the sun, soil, and temperature. These are also plants that attract bees, butterflies, birds and more! It is extremely important to reduce irrigation and use of pesticides, especially since our neighborhoods are located near the Indian River Lagoon. Clearly, the use of native plants benefits us all. For more info contact [www.ConradinaFNPSchapters.org](http://www.ConradinaFNPSchapters.org)

### NOVEMBER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**Amendment 1: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption** was proposed by the Florida State Legislature. This proposed amendment would increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. In order for a proposed amendment to be adopted into the Florida Constitution, it requires the support of 60% of the voters. For more detailed information on the 2018 proposed Constitutional Amendments, visit the Florida Division of Elections website.

**Amendment 2: Limitations on Property Tax Assessments** was placed on the ballot by the Florida State Legislature. This amendment to the State Constitution would permanently keep provisions currently in effect which limit property tax assessment increases on specified non-homestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10% each year. Non-homesteaded property tax assessments have been limited yearly increases that can hurt renters and businesses. If approved, the amendment would make the existing cap on non-homestead property assessments permanent.

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SPRA is a 501 (c) (4) non-profit

### SPRA TREASURER NEEDED

Mary Lou, our long-time SPRA Treasurer, has been acting as the interim treasurer. She promises to train the next treasurer and pass on all the documents and other important information necessary for a successful transition. Please contact Ayn @ [asamuelson@spranews.com](mailto:asamuelson@spranews.com) for more information.

### SR A1A PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) responded to questions about updating the Berkeley Street/A1A pedestrian crossing and as to whether there are improvements added to the current FDOT resurfacing project of SR A1A will facilitate pedestrian crossing at that location. There will be pedestrian signal improvements at 13 intersections, and Berkeley Street appears to be one of the intersections on the list. The Department will also be providing curb ramp improvements (ADA) at the signalized intersections. Laurie Windham is the FDOT Public Information officer who can respond to additional issues and questions at [laurie.windham@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:laurie.windham@dot.state.fl.us) The following is the link to the Department's CFL Roads website. It will provide more information on the plans for SR A1A resurfacing and related projects. [http://www.cflroads.com/project/428753-1/SR\\_A1A\\_Miramar\\_Avenue\\_from\\_North\\_of\\_SR\\_500\\_US\\_192\\_to\\_South\\_of\\_SR\\_404\\_Pineda\\_Causeway](http://www.cflroads.com/project/428753-1/SR_A1A_Miramar_Avenue_from_North_of_SR_500_US_192_to_South_of_SR_404_Pineda_Causeway)

### BEACHSIDE IRRIGATION WATER – Where Does it Come From? By Jim Langenbach, P.E., BCEE

There has been much interest and many questions due to PFAS detections in groundwater in the South Patrick Shores and Satellite Beach areas with regard to whether irrigation water is safe to use on plants and lawns and where it comes from.

SPRA Community Meeting • David Schechter Center  
Monday, October 8, 2018, 7:15 p.m.  
SPRA, PO Box 372357, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

By Ayn Samuelson

So where does our irrigation water come from? On the barrier island, groundwater that is used for irrigation comes from two potential sources: (1) the surficial aquifer, which is sometimes sub-divided and described as the upper surficial and lower surficial, or (2) the Floridan Aquifer.

The surficial aquifer is the shallow groundwater that we may encounter when we dig a deep, fence post hole in our yard, or when a swimming pool is being constructed, and it is typically located from about 3 to 6 ft below land surface. The surficial aquifer is comprised primarily of deposits of sands, silts, and shell and extends to a depth of approximately 80 to 100 ft, at which point clay and less permeable silts/sands are encountered.

The clay/low permeability layer (referred to as the Hawthorn Formation) is approximately 100 ft or more thick and forms a confining layer (i.e. restricts movement of groundwater through it). At depths of around 200+ ft, the Florida Aquifer is encountered. The Floridan Aquifer is under pressure on the barrier island, so when a well is drilled into the Florida Aquifer the water level will rise to above land surface, and the water will be free flowing or "artesian".

In the S. Patrick Shores area, the majority of irrigation wells are installed in the Floridan Aquifer. Accordingly, the significant isolation of this aquifer by the thick clay layer (Hawthorn Formation) in combination with the artesian pressure, significantly reduces the potential for spills or releases at the surface from migrating into this aquifer.

Some tell tale signs that your irrigation well is in the Floridan Aquifer, include the following: (1) your well is artesian (free flowing) (2) you have construction information on the well stating that it is over 150 ft deep (3) the water is somewhat salty, and more sensitive plants, such as citrus and vegetables, do not do well when irrigated with this water (4) the water has a rotten egg /hydrogen sulfide odor, which comes from a natural bacteria that produce hydrogen sulfide.

While the majority of wells in our area are installed in the Floridan Aquifer, some residences do have surficial aquifer wells that are used for irrigation purposes. Some tell tale signs that you have a shallow irrigation well include the following: (1) you know the depth of the well and it is less than approximately 80 ft deep (2) the well is not artesian, (3) the water has a low salinity and you can apply the water to vegetables, citrus, etc. (4) the water may cause orange iron staining over time on fences and driveways because the surficial aquifer has naturally occurring iron levels that when introduced to air oxidizes, thus leaving the tell-tale orange staining. While surficial aquifer wells have a higher potential for contamination from such issues as leaking sewer pipes, lawn herbicides/pesticides, and chemical spills/releases, the use of shallow irrigation wells is a common practice throughout Florida and the United States.

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### GROUNDWATER TEST RESULTS PFOA/PFOS

It is critical to distinguish between groundwater samples and drinking water samples, and here we are relating to groundwater samples. Results of water quality samples from County groundwater wells are within health advisory limits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safety standards, for groundwater, according to lab results received by the County Natural Resources Management Office.

Tests for cancer-causing chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), were conducted in County wells located in Satellite Beach and the unincorporated area south of Melbourne Beach, and another test was conducted on the north side of Sea Park Blvd. In addition, the County compared groundwater in residential areas to conservation land in the south beaches.

These chemicals, PFOS and PFOA, are found in many household products including Teflon cooking pans, some food wrappers, stain-resistant clothing, carpet, and foams previously used to fight fires. Tests are finding that even at low

exposures, these compounds are implicated in some types of cancer, thyroid defects, immune suppression and pregnancy complications, according to recent scientific studies.

The U.S. EPA has yet to set a regulatory limit for the compounds, but in 2016, the agency lowered its voluntary health advisory limit to 70 parts per trillion (ppt), warning that exposure to the chemicals at higher concentrations and for long-term exposure, could be dangerous and could increase the risk of cancer and/or other illnesses. One part per trillion is approximately comparable to a grain of sand in an olympic-size swimming pool. Some states set guidelines for the compounds at lower levels than the EPA recommendation for PFOS and PFOA. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Waste Cleanup Program Director is reportedly getting ready to set the health advisory level (HAL) that will be based upon Florida-specific calculations completed by University of Florida for groundwater consumption. It has been suggested that the value will be set at 100 ppt for PFOA and PFOS.

Brevard County's recent groundwater test results for PFOA/PFOS were as follows:

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- Samples collected were 26.7 parts per trillion (ppt), 25.8 ppt, 18.7 ppt, and 6.3 ppt along the north and south sides of DeSoto Parkway.
- 6.6 parts per trillion was recorded from a control well in the Coconut Point Preserve area in the south beaches.
- In addition, other tests were taken from other wells as follows: 30.13 ppt in a well at South Patrick Community Park, near Sea Park Elementary, and 22.85 ppt in a well at Jackson Avenue near Satellite High.
- Cocoa Beach samples showed these compounds in its groundwater at higher levels than in the Satellite Beach unincorporated area and within the city limits.

### DRINKING WATER TEST RESULTS

The school board's most recent testing shows results from Flowers Chemical Labs for the samples of drinking water from Gemini ES, Ocean Breeze ES and Satellite HS. These samples were taken at three locations (south, central and north) along the beach at the schools served by Melbourne Utilities. In addition, Flowers Labs sampled the water at Melbourne Utilities' point of discharge. The new school results are consistent with the results of the samples taken at Melbourne Utilities' point of discharge. These samples were dated 08/20/2018 and the Technical Report was dated 09/10/18.

Previous testing of the taps at 13 beachside schools tested "safe" for the chemical in samples taken on July 10, 2018 by Pace Analytical. However, the District decided to run new tap water tests after all nine of the beachside schools on Melbourne's drinking water system tested at trace levels for

a compound called perfluorobutanoic acid, or PFBA in trace level amounts. None of the beachside schools on Cocoa's water system had the chemical in their tap water.

PFBA is a breakdown product of other fluorinated compounds used in carpets, stain-resistant fabric and paper food packaging. The chemical also was used in manufacturing photographic film. As noted above, samples taken the Melbourne Utilities water treatment plant found similar trace levels of PFBA, as did the three schools.

Both Cocoa Beach's and our beachside drinking water comes from sources on the mainland; Cocoa Beach's comes from Cocoa Utilities and our water comes from Melbourne Utilities. There were 28 chemicals that the EPA required all water systems to test for between 2013 and 2015. According to the EPA, neither Melbourne's nor Cocoa's drinking water systems found any of those 28 chemicals chemicals during that testing period.

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – BREVARD

The Florida Department of Health in Brevard has stated that residents may call 321-454-7101 to report cases of cancer. For environmental concerns regarding PFAS/PFOA, residents should email [BrevardPFASComments@flhealth.gov](mailto:BrevardPFASComments@flhealth.gov) Residents can also refer to the website links below that contain general information and many helpful links, including FAQs. Main page - <http://brevard.floridahealth.gov/> Specific page - <http://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/cancer-concerns.html>

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## COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE TO SPRA's PFOS/PFOA CONCERNS

*On behalf of Commissioner Smith, thank you for contacting our office regarding the important issue of a cancer cluster in Satellite Beach and South Patrick Shores area. This issue should be investigated and reported so that the public can be informed of the possible dangers and remedies of exposure to PFOS and PFOA and if there is a connection between exposure and the cancer cluster.*

*The Commissioner believes that a collaborative effort would bring the best results on researching this issue to determine if there is a connection to the ground water. The effort should be headed up by the professionals with the State Health Department, however he also thinks that the Federal, State and Local government could have a part to play. He knows all concerned want answers. I have also contacted our Natural Resources Department and requested that they monitor the investigation as exposure in the ground water may have a detrimental effect on the Indian River Lagoon as well.*

*With the information that is available now, this issue will not be swept under the rug however it is important to wait until the investigation is conducted and the results are published to arrive at any conclusions.*

## SPRA REQUEST FOR GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION EXPERT

**SPRA to the County Commission on August 10, 2018:**

A hurricane-force storm is building out of concern for the health of residents. A proper investigation is critical to fully understanding the potential impacts to us all. In addition, there

is talk of bringing prominent attorneys into this issue, which could be avoided, if we act fast enough to dispel inaccurate information, while placing facts before the residents.

Please be advised that the information below, requesting that a local groundwater remediation expert be hired immediately, was sent to our local school board member, who personally requested this information, to the Brevard County manager, District 4 County Commissioner, and to Virginia Barker at Natural Resources. I have left our local expert's name out of the email, although he lives in South Patrick Shores, and is highly qualified and motivated to help.

The local community understands that an expert who actually lives in our community has the additional impetus to find the answers on our behalf and is more likely trustworthy to properly accomplish the investigation. His connections with the state FDEP and to a national expert would be invaluable to the process of deciphering the facts. In addition, if the FDEP SIS takes over the investigation, then costs to the county and taxpayers would be significantly reduced.

I have known this expert, a local groundwater remediation expert, with decades of experience, for many years. He lives in South Patrick Shores, as do I. He spoke at the Sunday meeting and stated that he would be happy to set up a Q&A session with Dr. Rula Deeb, a nationally recognized expert in PFAS, with whom he works out of his Oakland CA office - at no charge. He also informed me that he would also be happy to make contact with the appropriate FDEP personnel in Tallahassee, as his company is an approved contractor for FDEP. That agency also investigates dump sites, and could look into any suspected areas in South Patrick Shores and



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southward, as well as look into groundwater testing. The County, School Board, and the cities should be taking each step forward together with the input from qualified experts who can get out in front of this critical health and environmental issue, which is an issue that knows no jurisdictional boundaries. Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

#### GROUNDWATER & DUMP SITE UPDATE

##### Highlights of the September 6, 2018 meeting:

- The County now has the draft scope of work from our consultant team, so we have more definitive scope details.
- FDEP is working on sending some files they have from the 1992 investigations that will, hopefully, answer some questions. The state said when the military dump area was investigated in 1992, that although there was a lot of documented debris buried in the area, the state health department (HRS) found "No Apparent Health Hazard," and the EPA published a "No Further Remedial Action Plan." Copies of the reports will be shared with the community and will be posted to a share site. We will have them reviewed by experts in the field to make sure they tested for all the appropriate contaminants at the appropriate detection limits. If not, we will request further investigation.
- The County will proceed with sampling groundwater from several deep and shallow irrigation wells in southern Cocoa Beach and in South Patrick Shores (near Pineda, over the dump

site), and near Satellite High School, as described during the meeting. We will also sample mainland sites, lagoon water, and muck in the Grand Canal.

- We will share our results with the community, and if the samples test positive for contamination, we will send that information to the state and federal agencies who perform site investigations and clean up, along with a request for these agencies to take another look.
- We can also push for more military testing both on and off-site, if warranted.
- In addition to testing all samples for the full list of 24 DoD PFAS analytes, our consultants reviewed the list of tests requested and have recommended a suite of tests for a shallow water well in the apparent area of the old dump site.

#### CLEANING UP PAFB SITES IN 1992 AND BEYOND

In March 1992, John Glisch, then a staff writer with the Orlando Sentinel, wrote about "cleaning up toxic dumps at Patrick Air Force Base" that was planned to begin in the fall of 1992 "with work on a site that threatens wildlife in the Banana River" because of the proximity to the river, the impacts of groundwater and stormwater runoff, as well as its previous use as a fire fighting training area.

Glisch went on to report that, "Soil and ground water at the site - one of 30 toxic waste dumps at Patrick and nearby Cape Canaveral Air Force Station - are soaked with poisonous jet fuel, gasoline and diesel oil." In addition he noted that "If

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the work begins on schedule, it would mark the start of a lengthy project to try and heal toxic damage at Patrick, where hazardous chemicals were tossed into landfills from World War II through the early 1980s. Military and civilian experts have spent nearly a decade finding and studying toxic sites at Patrick, but so far no large-scale cleanup has taken place." After further studying the issue, it was stated that said portions of the surrounding residential neighborhoods had been built over an old military dump. Any cleanup work in the area would first have to be approved by both military and civilian agencies.

That leads to the question: Was there a comprehensive cleanup program implemented in 1992? Now we are revisiting some of the same issues that impact the environment and human beings. Recent testing on dolphins and gators have confirmed the impact of PFAS and PFOA in animals in and around the

lagoon. In addition, the 2018 DOD report noted that several PAFB groundwater sites were highly contaminated with PFAS and PFOS.

Chemical contaminants, toxic algae blooms, and sewage pollution found in our coastal environment means that stopping the pollution into the groundwater, stormwater, and the lagoon is critical. It should be a primary concern for us all, and the cleanup must involve the local, state, and national levels of government. All three levels must be properly focused and work toward the same goal, and all must reduce their negative inputs into the system in order to stop the decline.

#### MUCK TESTING

SPRA has asked the County to test the muck prior to the demucking project, as many residents have concerns about the muck composition. Because of the nature of the muck,



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core sampling is unlikely, but we have been informed that there are ways in which both the muck itself and the canal water can be tested for contaminants. While the process toward starting the project will continue, the County will also be working on testing for the PFOA and PFOS contaminants. In addition, the County, as per the requirements from state and federal agencies prior to starting a demucking project, has tested for many potential chemicals and contaminants in the sediment of the proposed project. "We've tested for numerous pesticides, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals as part of our permitting process." There are some 360 pages of the sediment report. The County is willing to have questions asked and to answer residents' concerns.

Residents have been working on specifics of the Temporary Use Agreement (TUA) for the proposed demucking side along the south side of the Pineda. TUA specifics are important to ensure protection for residents throughout the project. The County will be moving ahead through the required process toward implementation of the demucking project, but it has stated they will test the muck for PFCs (PFOA & PFOS) and that muck testing results must be received back prior to the actual start of construction.

#### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH** **Defining PFOA & PFOS (2016)**

What are PFCs? PFCs are a large group of manufactured compounds that are widely used to make everyday products more resistant to stains, grease, and water. For example, PFCs

may be used to keep food from sticking to cookware, to make sofas and carpets resistant to stains, to make clothes and mattresses more waterproof, and may also be used in some food packaging, as well as in some firefighting materials. Because they help reduce friction, they are also used in a variety of other industries, including aerospace, automotive, building and construction, and electronics. PFCs break down very slowly in the environment and are often characterized as persistent. There is widespread wildlife and human exposure to several PFCs, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). Both PFOA and PFOS are byproducts of other commercial products, meaning they are released into the environment when other products are made, used, or discarded. PFOS is no longer manufactured in the United States, and PFOA production has been reduced and will soon be eliminated.

More research is needed to fully understand all sources of human exposure, but people are most likely exposed to these compounds by consuming PFC-contaminated water or food, or by using products that contain PFCs. Unlike many other persistent chemicals, PFCs are not stored in body fat. However, PFCs are similar to other persistent chemicals, because the half-life, or the amount of time it takes for 50% of the chemical to leave the human body, for some of these chemicals, is several years. This slow elimination time makes it difficult to determine how changes in lifestyle, diet, or other exposure-related factors influence blood levels.

In animal studies, some PFCs disrupt normal endocrine



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activity; reduce immune function; cause adverse effects on multiple organs, including the liver and pancreas; and cause developmental problems in rodent offspring exposed in the womb. Data from some human studies suggests that PFCs may also have effects on human health, while other studies have failed to find conclusive links. Additional research in animals and in humans is needed to better understand the potential adverse effects of PFCs for human health.

### SEWER SMOKE TESTING UPDATE

Smoke testing was completed for our unincorporated area, the city of Satellite Beach and the city of Indian Harbour Beach. Maps of Satellite Beach (phase 1) and for our unincorporated area and Indian Harbour Beach, (Phase 2), have also been completed, with a few exceptions. Steve Romano, from the contractor, Kimley-Horn, provided a map of those areas. These projects are still underway, and the final report for Phase 2 will be forthcoming. Their course of action is to fully compile and understand the data, and then prepare a final report. Kimley-Horn noted: "We want to be sure that the information we provide to the public is accurate and reliable." It is also important to note that Brevard Utilities is in the process of relining sewer lines in a number of areas on the beaches. Once all the smoke testing results have been crafted, then there may be more lines to upgrade, depending on these results.

### SEA PARK SUPPORTER

Causeway Mower is the company that has repaired our Sea Park Elementary lawn and maintenance equipment for free, as well as loaned the Sea Park beautification committee a \$8000 high-end mower that allowed them to mow the entire school area, including the ball fields, playgrounds, and play area. A big Thank You goes out to owner Kevin Shelton, a great community supporter. Kevin's website is [www.causewaymower.com](http://www.causewaymower.com)

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**AREA 1 ►**

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

- A big thank you to Chip and Mary Ann Hines for all the help they do in Area 1. We appreciate you.
- YOM nominations are welcome.

**AREA 2 ►**

RICK DORMINY • 912-223-9020 • rdorminy@spranews.com

- Please take care of our beaches by picking up your trash and picking up after your dog. If your dog poops in someone's yard, please pick it up. Also, try not to park too many vehicles in the road so that traffic flow is not impaired.
- It's great to see all the yards being fixed up. If your neighbor has theirs fixed up, be sure to nominate them for YOM. Please include both the address and name of your nominee.

**AREA 3 ►**

LILLIAN SKINNER • askinner@spranews.com

- Please nominate a neighbor's yard as yard of the month.

**AREA 4 ►**

MARILYNN COLLINS • 773-8490 • mcollins@spranews.com

KREATHA HASTON • khaston@spranews.com

- At print time, the Lift station at Lake Shepard entrance should be complete. The county staff has stated that clean-up and landscaping should start soon.
- Reports were received that the pathway inside our South Patrick Park addition that leads to Holland Elementary, Delaura Junior High, and Satellite High was in disrepair. The chain link fence was hanging down on the sides of the path, and weeds abounded. The

Brevard County School Board responded to our call, repairing the fence and removing weeds. Thank you for your action on this issue.

**AREA 5 ►**

BOB CAHALL • 779-9282 • bcahall@spranews.com

- Nominations for Yard of the Month are needed. Show your neighbors you appreciate them by nominating them for YOTM. Please call or email me with their names and address, and I will start a new list for up coming news letters.
- The 2018 Boat Parade will be on December 15th, so save the date. If you plan on registering your boat for a prize, the deadline is December 9th. You may e-mail hofmanneg@gmail.com. to register. More information will be published in the December Shore News.
- Volunteers are needed for Area 5 projects. Contact me to help make our area better. Immediate needs are: repainting the lighthouse (paint will be provided) and helping to relocate/ remove honey bees from the south entranceway wall, as they have returned. We still need someone to take on the planning and execution of beautifying the Skylark Median.
- If there are any concerns you would like included in the area report or in the news letter, contact me or come to the meeting on October 8th.
- Hope you all had a great summer.

**AREA 6 ►**

CLYDE BERRY • 779-3129 • cberry@spranews.com

- Thank you for your Yard of the Month recommendations. Keep them coming!



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**Please contact your Area Director to nominate a yard for Yard of the Month.**



### ~ AREA 4 ~

John & Lynda Geraci  
340 Lakeside Drive

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018 YOM

**AREA 1:** Richard Pattershall, 130 Heron Drive

**AREA 2:** Debbie & Larry Hall, 194 First Street

**AREA 3:** Lillian Skinner, 525 Fourth Avenue

**AREA 4:** John & Lynda Geraci, 340 Lakeside Drive

**AREA 5:** Mary Lou & Skip Coleman, 417 Finch Drive

**AREA 6:** Jose & Rosa Bermudez, 455 St. George's Ct.



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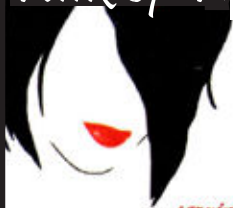
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