

# Sports Agents Probed

## College athletes subpoenaed by federal grand jury

By Danny Robbins and Manny Topol

A federal grand jury in Chicago has been convened as part of a broad investigation into the business practices of two New York-based sports agents.

Several current college and former college athletes, mainly football players, were subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury within the next two months.

Although the investigation seems to be focused on New York agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**, and their firm, World Sports and Entertainment Inc., the investigation may be broadened to cover the abuses of sports agency in general in rela-

tion to college athletes, according to sources familiar with the case.

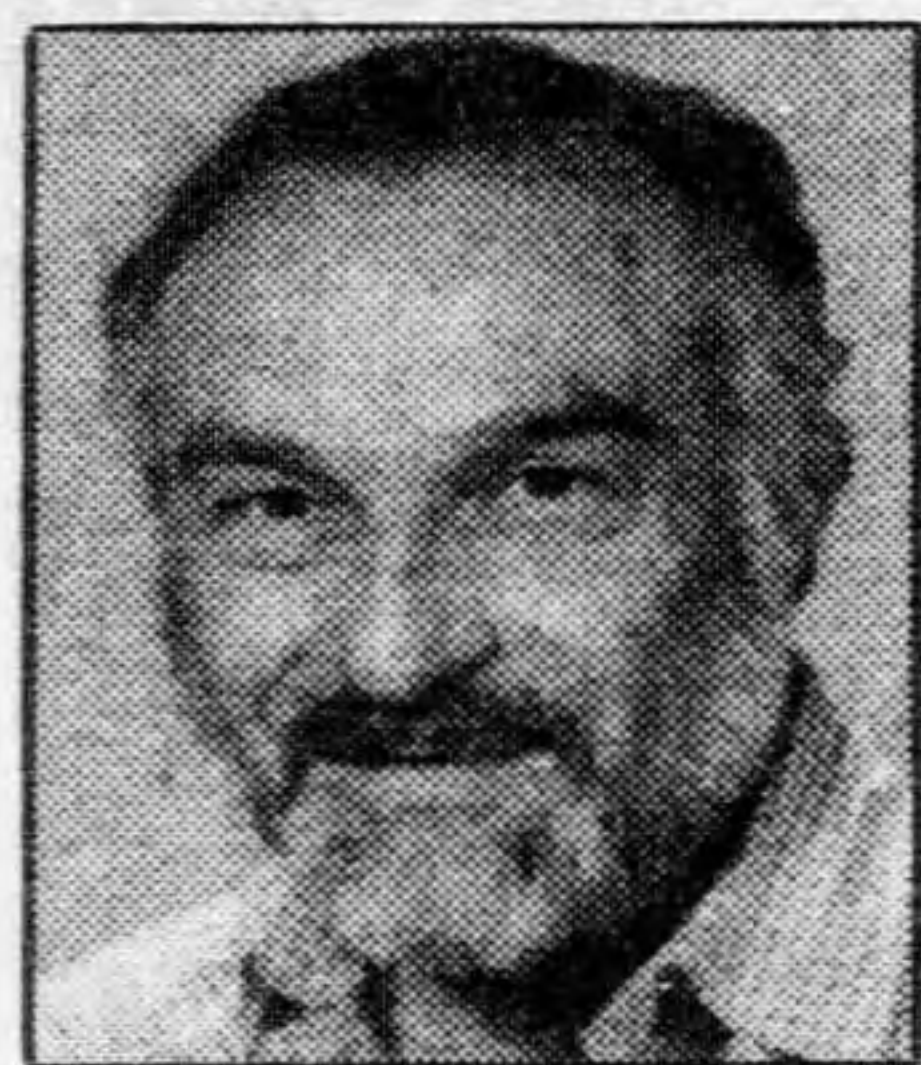
David Berst, NCAA director of enforcement, said officials from several colleges have notified him that some of their current and former athletes have been subpoenaed for the Chicago grand jury.

**Walters** and his firm have filed lawsuits against several former top college athletes from various schools, charging breach of contract. Documents filed in many of the suits indicate that **Walters** has signed players to representation agreements before the expiration of their eligibility and provided the players with large amounts of money while the players still were eligible, a violation of NCAA rules. The FBI in Dallas has been investigating **Walters**

and **Bloom** for alleged threats and **extortion** of some SMU players.

The Chicago investigation was started because of a bizarre incident involving a competitor of **Walters**. On March 16, Kathe Clements, a business associate of sports agent Steve Zuker, of Skokie, Ill., was stabbed and beaten unconscious in her office by an intruder wearing a ski mask and gloves. Zuker, who represents Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, said he signed three of **Walters**' former clients, including former University of Washington defensive end Reggie Rogers, the Detroit Lions' No. 1 pick in the April draft.

Police investigating the attack on Clements said — Continued on Page 167



Steve Jacobson

The Dwight Gooden return at Tidewater was one of the great paradoxes of sports. Teams crave the spotlight and the Mets knew it would be there, but they tried to dodge it.

Gooden would not speak; there would be a news conference without him after his three innings. It was conducted in the outdoor batting cage, all surrounded with strings, and almost nobody could hear.

And when Gooden's retinue left for the airport, the head of the Tidewater operation ordered gates to the ball park closed. "Nobody gets out," Dave Rosenfield repeated to a gatekeeper.

"He had press credentials," she explained.

"Nobody gets out," he said. "Especially them."

### ■ Minor-league dream

That Gooden is a recovering patient was partly obscured. "My guys were excited coming here on the bus," said Richmond manager Ray Majtyka said. "If they never make it to the big leagues, they can say: 'I hit against Dwight Gooden.' This is a once in a lifetime for them."

### ■ Look at them

Are the Gulf + Western people discovering that basketball coaches the world over are really not clamoring to work for them?

A toast to Isiah Thomas on his graduation from Indiana University, six years after leaving for pro basketball.

What will the Yankee pitching be like in August when Tommy John and Joe Niekro have had 20 starts?

Isn't Lou Piniella beginning to look like he's been locked in an ice cream factory with a spoon?

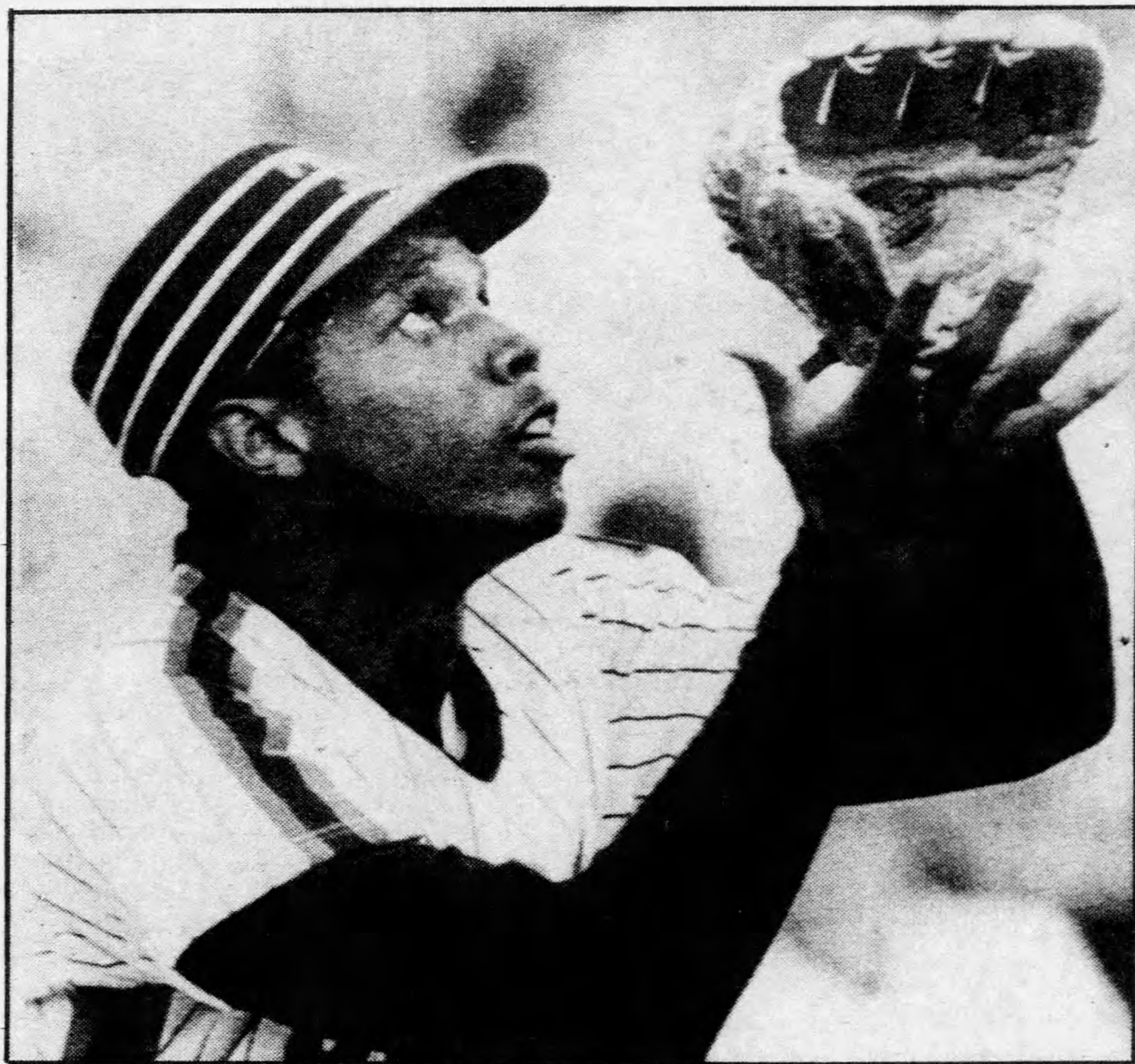
### ■ Missed the point

Lindsay Patterson of New York writes, apparently regarding Darryl Strawberry's missed workout in spring training:

"... He is obviously crying out for help, but his white teammates and white sports writers are too wrapped up in their own subtle hostilities toward blacks to notice."

Perhaps there are other issues yet to be demonstrated. I, however, fail to recognize a racial distinction in showing up for work.

## Mets Want Spotlight Out



AP Photo

Dwight Gooden, shown catching a short fly ball Tuesday with the Tidewater Tides, has been a man of few words lately.

### ■ Some nostalgia

I got an invitation the other day to the induction ceremony of the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Fame, which delighted me. My delight dismays and bewilders some people.

Glenn Miller of Babylon read about the celebration of Jackie Robinson's opening day with the Brooklyn Dodgers and responded:

"... The beloved Brooklyn Dodgers, who not only walked on water but seemingly invented the stuff. . . I have had it up to my eyebrows. . . I would love to read about the days of the Yankees."

"... I would truly like to know why you — and others of your ilk — continue to ignore and otherwise per-

vert the true facts — that the Dodgers, while a good team, choked more often than not. That the Brooklyn team couldn't hold a candle to the Yankees."

I'm proud to belong to the Ilks Club. Well, Mr. Miller is a knowledgeable fan. But when he asks why, my first response is to quote Fats Waller when asked to define swing: "If you have to ask, you'll never know."

I could hardly demean what the Yankees accomplished, I just couldn't love them. They didn't need a fan's tears the way the Dodgers did. Who cried for the Yankees? Nobody I knew lived life like that. It's relevant that through the last four years of the dynasty — through

1964 — when they were alone in New York the Yankees' attendance declined each year.

Life was more like the Dodgers: They worked hard and they were good, but in the end they lost what they wanted most. The negatives Miller cites are the stuff of nostalgia.

The first year I covered baseball I learned to contend with the ice of the Yankees. At the same time Jack Mann, then the *Newsday* sports editor, often told me about the joys of having covered the Brooklyn Dodgers. He told of the electricity crackling around Robinson and of the wonderful humanity of Pee Wee Reese. And I felt cheated.

By the time I got to meet Reese, it was like finally going to see a movie everybody had raved about and being sure it couldn't possibly be that good. Except Reese is that good a guy.

Of course, the truth is that Walter O'Malley created the term "nostalgia" when he took the Dodgers out of Brooklyn. "Untimely ripped," was how Shakespeare put it. If the Dodgers had stayed in Brooklyn, those heroes who remain undimmed in memory would have played out their careers and faded before our eyes as all stars do.

So the nostalgia of the Dodgers fixes those of us who cared at moments in our lives. Like — for me — listening to the seventh game of the 1956 World Series between stations of my Army induction physical. Of course, the Yankees and the Army prevailed.

### ■ Unruly fans

Good news and bad news. The good news: As the last seconds of the Islanders' last home game ticked away and fans pelted the Flyers with trash and some threw beer on them, I saw one man in their midst urging those fans to "show some class." The bad news: They didn't stop.

### ■ All-Adjectives team

Charles McAlulla, chairman of the English department at East Rockaway High, submits a list of baseball players from, I think, the faculty lounge. My favorite from the All-Occupations Team and the All-Presidents Team is the All-Adjectives Team:

1B — Harry Bright, Dale Long, Bob Hale; 2B — Casey Wise; SS — Al Dark; 3B — Jerry Lumpe; OF — Lee Lacy, Don Young, Ted Savage; C — Earl Battey; P — Bill Short, Bob Grim, Mac Scarce.

Thanks. But what about Eddie Stanky?

# City Sports Agents Probed

—Continued from Page 183

they had no evidence to connect **Walters** to the attack. Sources close to the investigation said the grand jury investigation was sparked by the attack but has gone well beyond that incident in its investigation and will reach into other areas.

Byron Linwood, a former Texas Christian University defensive back who now works as a jailer at the Tarrant (Texas) County Jail, said he was served with a subpoena May 8 by FBI agent Joseph G. Masterson.

Linwood also said the FBI agent who interviewed him told him that about 60 current and former college athletes — all former clients of World Sports and Entertainment — have been subpoenaed and that the expanding FBI investigation was focusing on allegations of **extortion** and **fraud**.

Four former Southern Methodist football players are cooperating with the FBI in its investigation of **Walters** and **Bloom**. The FBI is investigating allegations that **Bloom** threatened to break the legs and hands of former SMU wide receiver Ronald Morris if he dropped **Bloom** and **Walters** as his agents.

The Chicago grand jury summons requires Linwood to testify on June 23.

Linwood played at TCU from 1981-84 and was an all-Southwest Conference selection his senior season.

He was not selected in the NFL draft but was signed in 1985 by the Los Angeles Raiders as a free agent. He was released and no team picked him up.

In an interview with New York Newsday, Linwood said he signed with **Walters** in early December, 1984, after the regular season but before TCU's appearance in the Bluebonnet Bowl. Under NCAA rules — because he signed early — Linwood technically was ineligible when he played in the bowl game.

**Walters** and **Bloom** have been entertainment agents for years and represent many top black music artists. Linwood said **Walters** told him he was the first player they signed as sports agents.

Linwood told New York Newsday **Walters'** firm paid all expenses for an excursion for him and his mother from Fort Worth to Manhattan and a stay at a Manhattan hotel for him to sign with World Sports. Linwood said when he returned to Texas he received a \$2,000 money order from **Walters'** firm.

He said he became disenchanted with **Walters** and **Bloom** the following summer. After he was released by the Raiders, Linwood said, **Walters** and **Bloom** stopped taking his phone calls. He hasn't had any contact with them since, he said.

Another former TCU player, Egypt Allen, told New York Newsday this week that he signed with **Walters** while he still had eligibility and before he was dismissed from the team by coach Jim Wacker. Linwood and Allen have not been linked previously to **Walters** and **Bloom**.

Allen was thrown off the team in the second week of the 1985 season, Allen's senior season, along with six others, after Wacker learned the players had been accepting payments from TCU boosters. Allen signed with the Bears as a free agent last year but was cut and was not picked up by another team. He currently works for a Dallas trucking company.

Allen said he has not received a subpoena but was called by Masterson, the FBI agent.

"He asked me what I was going to be doing May 26, if I was going to be in town," Allen said. "I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Well, we want you to go to Chicago.'" Allen said he would go.

Allen declined comment when asked if he received money from **Walters**.

The jury also has subpoenaed the records of at least one college — Ohio State. A source close to the panel said the grand jury is interested in scholarship and financial-aid records of certain athletes and said the records of other colleges will be subpoenaed.

The FBI also is interested in obtaining a University of Iowa report on the dealings of **Walters** with former running back **Ronnie Harmon**. David Vernon, a law professor at the school and a member of a three-member committee that was appointed to investigate allegations that **Walters** made payments to **Harmon** while **Harmon** was playing at Iowa, said he was contacted by the FBI and asked for a copy of the report. The report said two Iowa football players took money from **Walters** but did not name the players. **Walters** since has identified the players as **Harmon**, now with the Bills and Devon Mitchell, with the Lions.

Berst said he expects the grand jury to call Derrick McKey, the Alabama basketball player who was declared ineligible for his senior season because he allegedly accepted money from **Walters**. The 6-9 McKey was the Southeastern Conference player of the year. Last week he declared for the NBA draft and is expected to be a lottery selection. He said he is considering a new agent — New York-based Norman Bass.

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