

# AUDINEWS

The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology

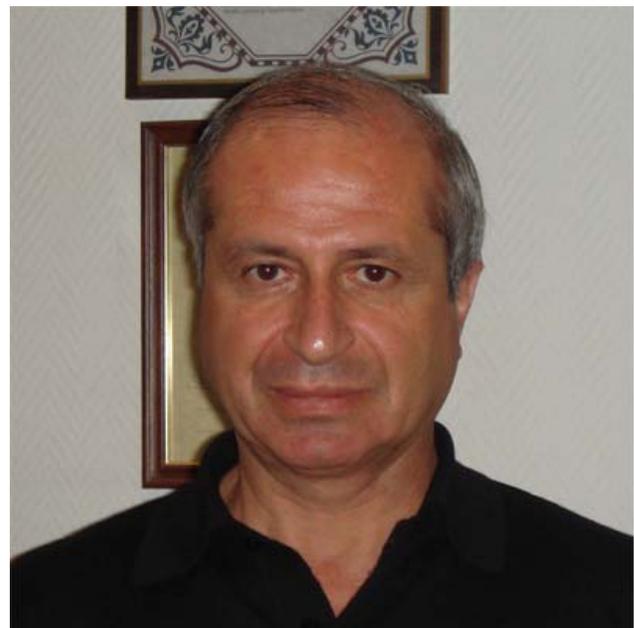
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Number 50 - VOL 6/4 - 2006

## CHANGES IN THE ISA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the General Assembly at the XXVIIIth ISA Congress in Innsbruck (Austria), last September, a few important changes took place in the Executive Committee (EC).

Dr. George A. Tavartkiladze from Russia was confirmed as President of the International Society of Audiology (2006 – 2008). He had been elected as President-Elect in Phoenix and has served on the EC since 2004. Dr. Tavartkiladze – know to most of us as “George T” – lives in Moscow, but his origin is found in the city of Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia. He was originally trained as a physician and as an Otolaryngologist. He later obtained his Ph.D. in Physiology from the Moscow Research ENT Institute. He is currently Director of the National Research Center for Audiology and Hearing Rehabilitation in Moscow, and Chair of Clinical Audiology at the Russian Medical Academy for Post-Graduate Training. Dr. Tavartkiladze is also President of the Russian Society of Audiology and of the Collegium Oto-Rhino Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum (CORLAS). He is a member of the Expert Advisory Panel



of the World Health Organization (WHO) and represents the Russian Federation at EFAS. Dr. Tavartkiladze has had vast experience in research in clinical and experimental audiology, as well as in hearing electrophysiology and rehabilitation. He is also an Editorial Board member of several respected audiological journals and has more than 250 scientific publications. We welcome President George Tavartkiladze and wish him much success as he leads ISA into the future.

The General Assembly also elected Dr. Ieda Chaves-Pacheco Russo from Brazil as our new President-Elect. Dr. Russo holds a Ph.D. in Science and Human Communication Disorders,

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| • ISA Executive Committee: Meet your new officers                          | 1  |
| • President's Message: George Tavartkiladze                                | 3  |
| • Audiology in History: Alexander G. Bell                                  | 4  |
| • ISA Congress 2008: Hong Kong   | 6  |
| • The Research Minute: Auditory Hallucinations                             | 7  |
| • Iberoamerican News (Spanish and English)                                 | 8  |
| • Humanitarian Audiology: Humanitarian Audiology Committee Successful Year | 10 |
| • Editor's Corner  | 11 |



and is Professor of Audiology at the *Pontificia Universidade Catolica* and Associate Professor at the *Santa Casa* of the University of Medical Sciences, both in San Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Russo is currently Director of the Center for Studies on Hearing Disorders (CEDIAU). She is a member, and was one of the founders of both the Brazilian Academy of Audiology and the Brazilian Society of Phonoaudiology. She is a Past-President of the Brazilian Academy of Audiology, and an Editorial Board member of several Brazilian and International Journals. She has published 17 books, written 34 book chapters, and has more than 40 scientific papers to her credit. Dr. Russo is also a Piano Teacher and performer, and is proud to say that she got into Audiology through music. Her main area of interest is hearing, hearing loss and its rehabilitation in the elderly. Dr. Russo will be President of the XXXth Congress of Audiology, which will be held by ISA in Brazil in 2010.

The third major change in the ISA Executive was the incorporation of Dr. Kajsa- Mia Holgers, from Sweden, who became representative of ISA Affiliated Societies to the Executive Committee. Dr. Holgers is an MD with a specialty in Otolaryngology, practices in Goteborg, and she is the Head of the Department of Research, Development and Education at the Hospital of Varberg, as well as associate professor at the Audiology Department of the Sahlgrenska Academy. Her main clinical and research interest is tinnitus. She has published and presented important contributions in the area of tinnitus, noise-induced hearing loss, stress symptoms and subjective hearing symptoms in children. She is President-Elect of the European Federation of Audiological Societies (EFAS) and will take office this year during the EFAS meeting in Heidelberg. Dr Holgers was the President of the last and very successful EFAS Congress in Goteborg (2005). We welcome Dr. Holgers and wish her the best in her duties as a new EC member.



Dr. William Noble (Australia) became Past-President. On behalf of all of our ISA members, we want to take this opportunity to thank him for his work as President of the Society since 2004. During his tenure our organization has continued to grow, published three position papers, established the IJA in conjunction with the BSA and NAS, and enjoyed a very successful Congress in Austria. Dr. Noble leaves his post as President with ISA in a much stronger position, in no small part because of his contribution.

Finally, Dr. Juan J. Madriz (Costa Rica) was re-elected as representative of the General Assembly to the Executive Committee, a position he will hold for two more years. Dr. Johannis Verschuure (Netherlands) continues to be our Secretary General. His term expires in 2008 at which time he has indicated he will be stepping down. Dr. George T. Mencher (Canada), our Assistant Secretary General remains in that post until 2010.

ISA maintains its steady pace as a world-wide leader in Audiology and in projecting actions and accomplishments internationally. We need to have more active members

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George A. Tavartkiladze  
President of ISA  
([gtavartkiladze@audiology.ru](mailto:gtavartkiladze@audiology.ru))



Dear ISA members,

Our Society has reached the end of the year 2006 with both good results and excellent prospects. Obviously, the International Society of Audiology (ISA) is healthy and is foreseeing a good future.

The purpose of any organization relies on its development and evolution. To my thinking, one of the lines of such development should be a constant increase of representation from different countries and from all the continents. The maximum involvement of all professionals working under different conditions is absolutely necessary, since their experiences could be unique and invaluable for their colleagues working under similar conditions somewhere else in the world. We must take advantage of the enrichment provided by our experience and mutual elaboration on common approaches to similar problems.

As always, education remains one of the top priorities for ISA. We all know that there are different approaches to audiological education in different countries. It is also well known that "Audiology" is not recognized as a self-contained professional in some countries. The first steps towards the creation of a universal curriculum for the "general audiologist" have been already sketched, as well as guidelines for good practices in adult hearing-aid fitting procedures and rehabilitation services.

We should now move forward in our pursuit of prevention and (re)habilitation of hearing impairment. Particularly, two new initiatives have been outlined – one for Screening Follow-up and another for a Cochlear Implantees Rehabilitation algorithm. We must aim for further improvement and to increase the practical value and application of the existing methods.

Finally, I would like to expect you all had a wonderful recent Holiday Season and to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year 2007.

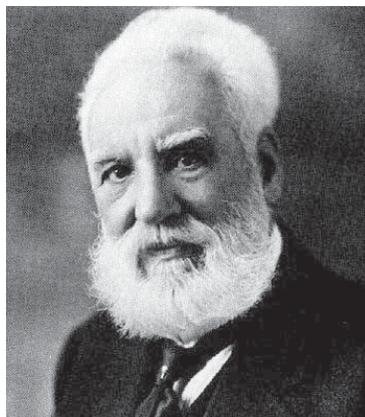
## AUDIOLOGY IN HISTORY

This is a virtual tour of the history of Audiology lived through the lives and work of some of its most prominent protagonists and scientific leaders. This section will present a summarized look to old and contemporary giants of the fields of hearing and hearing impairment. We will remember those whose legacy opened new trails of development and knowledge, and allowed us to experience the magic of hearing and the wonders of technology aimed to serve and ease the hardships of those with hearing disabilities. Welcome to the “time machine” of Audiology.

### ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Alexander Graham Bell was an outstanding scientist, inventor and innovator, born in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1847. He migrated to Canada first and later to the United States, and has been widely recognized as the prime developer of the telephone.

Most people know about A.G. Bell and his invention of the telephone, but few are fully aware of his ties to the deaf community. The telephone and other Bell innovations - like the microphone – were reportedly developed in part to help people with hearing loss.



Bell's telephone developed from improvements made to the telegraph. He invented the “harmonic telegraph”, able to send more than one message over a single transmission wire. But Bell thought that it would be possible to also transmit the sound of the human voice, and in 1875, he and his assistant Thomas A. Watson, built up an instrument able to transmit recognizable voice-like sound. In 1876, Bell and Watson were the first to successfully transmit the human voice. The first telephone company – the Bell Telephone Company – was founded in 1877. Bell also invented the photophone-transmission of sound on a beam of light, a sure precursor of the current fiber-optics.

A great deal of controversy occupies the issue of who really invented the telephone. The names of Meucci and Reis compete with Bell's for this recognition. The U.S. Patent Office granted Bell a patent for a communication device for “transmitting vocal or other sounds telegraphically”. However, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill conferring recognition for the invention of the telephone to the Italian inventor Antonio Meucci. Later that year, the Parliament of Canada reacted with a bill granting such recognition to Bell himself.

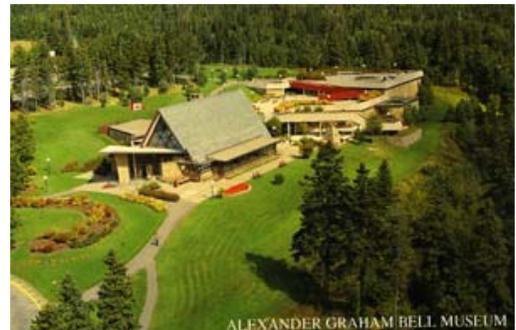
Bell identified himself primarily and foremost as a teacher for the deaf, and taught deaf students at various schools for the deaf (in London, at Boston School for the Deaf Mutes, at Clarke School for the Deaf and at the American Asylum for the Deaf). His wife, Mabel Hubbard, was hearing impaired, and his mother was also a severe hard of hearing person. It has been said that he first turned his attention to the field of acoustics with a view to helping his mother's deafness. It has been stated that the invention of the telephone set the stage for the later invention of the electric hearing aid.





In 1880, Bell won the Volta Prize from France for his invention of the telephone, and utilized the funds to set up the Volta Bureau, a library holding information on deafness. Ten years later, in 1890, Bell helped to create the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, with the objective of promoting oral communication (which later evolved into the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing). Bell became a close friend of Helen Keller, the deaf-blind woman famous in that era. Another major accomplishment was to conduct, in 1890, the first national census of the deaf.

In 1881 he constructed an electromagnetic device to try to locate a bullet lodged in US President Garfield, which became the first crude metal detector. After the death of his newborn son, Edward, from respiratory problems, he designed a metal vacuum jacket to facilitate breathing, and it became the forerunner of the "iron lung" used for the victims of the 1950's polio epidemics. He founded the National Geographic Society in 1888. In addition to Bell's work in telecommunications, he conducted research and was responsible for important advances in aviation, genetics and hydrofoil technology. At the end, he registered 18 patents in his name



Alexander Graham Bell died at his estate, Beinn Bhreagh (see picture above), in Baddeck, Nova Scotia (Canada) on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1922.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY  
AAA CONVENTION

**AudiologyNOW 2007**

April 18-21th - Denver, Colorado  
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Contact: [www.audiologynow.org](http://www.audiologynow.org)

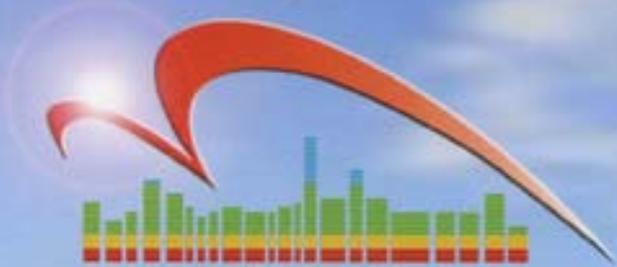
If you have changed your address or if you have problems receiving your  
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please contact

**George Mencher, Assistant Secretary General**

at

[gtmisa@yahoo.com](mailto:gtmisa@yahoo.com)



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## THE RESEARCH MINUTE...

MARK KRUMM ([mkrumm@cc.usu.edu](mailto:mkrumm@cc.usu.edu))



# AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS

Factors corresponding to the etiology of auditory hallucinations are varied. Specifically, auditory hallucinations may occur in conjunction with acquired brain injury, senile dementia, epilepsy or schizophrenia. In addition, patients with auditory hallucinations may have case histories indicating only subtle neurological damage including childhood learning disabilities.

The literature is not clear on how auditory hallucinations occur. However, at least one case study has demonstrated (through MRI studies) that auditory hallucinations may occur in the presence of epilepsy or a poorly developed left hemispheric frontal and temporal lobes. In this study, an eight year old child experienced both visual and auditory hallucinations. The visual hallucinations were less frequent than his auditory hallucinations and characterized by a flying bee and some monsters. His auditory hallucinations consisted of several voices that “talked” to each other and commented on the child’s behavior. These auditory hallucinations occurred on a daily basis. The child’s history was unremarkable except that he would lose consciousness on occasions. In order to treat hallucinations, physicians initially prescribed a carbamazepine 20 mg/kg/day and sodium valproate 20 mg/kg/day treatment. Unfortunately, auditory hallucination behavior increased to the point that the child believed demonic forces were instructing him never to leave his house. In response to these outcomes, his physicians prescribed a trial of risperidone (1 mg/day). After 3 weeks of treatment, the auditory and visual hallucinations decreased and the child improved in his social, reasoning skills and school performance.

Older adults, too, are prone to auditory hallucinations which can be related to dementia or Alzheimer’s disease in older people. Unfortunately, the link between neurological impairment and auditory hallucinations can be weak with some researchers observing signs of auditory hallucinations before obvious central nervous system impairment. Researchers also suggest that audiologists will deal with patients who have auditory hallucinations which may be mistaken for tinnitus. Specifically, approximately 2.5% of adults experience audible voices while other adults will have auditory experiences such as music. Factors pointing toward auditory hallucinations include a growing intensity or frequency of internal auditory experiences and voices criticizing patient behavior. Referral to a mental health physician for medical treatment and cognitive behavioral therapy can improve the patient state. Also, late potentials might offer some clue that auditory hallucinations are occurring as the P300 often exhibits an amplitude reduction in schizophrenic or psychotic patients.

In summary, auditory hallucinations appear to be involved with the pre-frontal and temporal lobe regions. Patients who are high risk for auditory hallucinations are children with diagnosed schizophrenia, psychotic behavior and seizures or adults with progressive neurological diseases. While patients do not frequently comply or respond to auditory hallucinations, they are certainly disturbed by the onset of unpredictable and self generated auditory experiences. Audiologists will encounter a number of patients who have hallucinations and must conduct proper referrals to adequately care for these individuals. Audiologists can offer diagnostic support to patients suspected of this disorder through a hearing examination, tinnitus assessment/therapy, hearing aid fittings and analysis (to rule out inappropriate amplification or malfunctioning hearing aids) or perhaps through late auditory evoke potential testing.

A section aimed to inform and network audiologists from Latin American, as well as from Spain and Portugal, and anywhere where Spanish or Portuguese are spoken in the world. In these first issues, every article is also presented in English, to make it accessible to the overall membership of ISA.

## NOTICIAS IBEROAMERICANAS

La Audiología en el mundo hispanoamericano continúa moviéndose hacia adelante, lenta pero establemente. El interés por una intervención temprana en el área del diagnóstico de problemas auditivos en niños y niñas recién nacidos, se ha hecho presente en la legislación de varios países latinoamericanos. Tal es el caso de México, que en el 2006 aprobó cambios en la Ley General de Salud que obligan a una identificación temprana en población neonatal. Costa Rica, a su vez ha dado los pasos iniciales para desarrollar medidas similares, preparándose para iniciar en el 2007 un plan piloto de diagnóstico temprano de sordera en bebés recién nacidos.



Durante el año 2007, varios congresos y reuniones audiológicas de gran calidad, tendrán lugar en diferentes lugares del continente. El V Congreso Panamericano de Audiología (PASA) tendrá lugar en Bogotá (Colombia) del 29 de Noviembre al 01 de Diciembre. La coordinadora será la audióloga Clemencia Barón de Otero ([cbaron@cablenet.co](mailto:cbaron@cablenet.co)). El Congreso Mexicano de Audiología y Foniología se realizará en Mérida (Yucatán) del 28 al 31 de Marzo (Contacto: [leyvaroc@yahoo.com](mailto:leyvaroc@yahoo.com)). El Congreso Panamericano de ORL y Cirugía de Cabeza y Cuello tendrá lugar en Quito (Ecuador), del 4 al 7 de Junio del 2008 y puede obtenerse información a través de [www.panamorl.com](http://www.panamorl.com). Y por supuesto, la reunión de la Academia Americana de Audiología (AAA) será del 18 al 21 de Abril en Denver, Colorado. ISA tendrá un cubículo en AAA y les invitamos a detenerse para saludar y conocernos.

Finalmente, la Oficina de Prevención de Ceguera y Sordera de la OMS y la CBM International (Christoffel Blindenmission) continúan desarrollando esfuerzos para estimular a las naciones latinoamericanas a establecer políticas, estrategias y programas de prevención de trastornos auditivos. Una importante reunión ha tenido lugar en Bogotá, Colombia, en este mes de enero, con la presencia de un significativo número de representante de la región.

## IBEROAMERICAN NEWS

Audiology in the Latin American world continues to move forward, slowly but steadily. The shared interest for early intervention in hearing impairment in newborn children has started to be present in the legislation of several Latin American countries. Such is the case of Mexico, that in 2006 approved changes in the National Health Law demanding early identification of hearing problems in the neonatal population. In 2007, Costa Rica will take the initial step to develop similar measures by starting a pilot program for screening and early diagnosis of hearing impairment in newborn babies.

During the year 2007, several important audiological congresses and meetings will take place on different places in the LA continent. The 5<sup>th</sup> Pan American Congress of Audiology (PASA) will be held in Bogota (Colombia) from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. The coordinator will be Clemencia Baron de Otero ([cbaron@cablenet.co](mailto:cbaron@cablenet.co)). The Mexican Congress of Audiology and Phoniatics will take place in Merida (Yucatan, Mexico) from March 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> (Contact: [leyvaroc@yahoo.com](mailto:leyvaroc@yahoo.com)). The Panamerican Congress of ORL and HNS will be held in Quito (Ecuador), from June 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and information can be obtained from [www.panamorl.com](http://www.panamorl.com). The meeting of the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) will be in Denver, Colorado, from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. ISA will have a major booth at the AAA meeting and we will welcome your visit to meet and greet.

Finally, the Office for Prevention of Blindness and Deafness from W.H.O. and CBM International (Christoffel Blindenmission) continue to develop efforts to urge Latin American nations to establish policies, strategies and programs for the prevention of hearing impairment. An important meeting took place in Bogota (Colombia), this past month of January, with the presence of a significant number of representatives from the region.



## HUMANITARIAN AUDIOLOGY (COMMITTEE PAGE)

The purpose of this section is to provide regular articles of interest, announcements and general information about humanitarian efforts throughout the world related to the field of Audiology and hearing impairment.

### ISA HUMANITARIAN AUDIOLOGY COMMITTEE SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Still considered in its infancy, the ISA ad hoc Humanitarian Audiologist Committee has been enjoying the rewards of productive interaction during 2006, as like minded hearing healthcare practitioners have banded together world-wide to not only share practices for providing audiology services, but in promoting best practices in developing regions.

In 2006 there were three formal meetings (Pan American Conference, American Academy of Audiology and International Congress of Audiology) and a number of virtual e-meetings that allowed the committee to formulate various strategies and goals. The group is nearing completion and approval of an application for requesting donated products from industry. Once the application form has received approval from the ISA executive board, anyone engaged in humanitarian audiology work that requires assistance can use the form to request aid and materials. Once posted, it will be downloadable from the ISA website. The form will be a means by which individual humanitarian audiologists CAN demonstrate to industry representatives the strategies and goals of their own personal program, and that they are in accordance with World Health Organization Guidelines. Be on the lookout for the application on our ISA website in mid- to late- 2007.



In improving the ISA – Humanitarian Audiologist webpage, we have moved from the lesser used

“message” board to a “blog” (<http://audiology.blog.com/>) for individuals to share and seek information from other professionals about professional and/or humanitarian audiology. Once on the “Blog” site, one will notice details about the 2007 Biennial International Evoked Audiometry Symposium and the International Journal of Audiology. Please feel free to post any question – large or small for your colleagues to respond to.



Some of the plans for the Humanitarian Audiologist Committee in 2007 will be helping the ISA special committee in formulating much needed guidelines for providing infant hearing screening programs in developing countries.

In addition, the group will be formulating a check-list for individuals (preceptors) who supervise graduate student practicum experiences as part of a philanthropic program in while visiting other countries. This particular project is in its initial stages, and will continue going through the rigorous review within the committee before moving to the next stages.

Once again, we will have a general meeting of humanitarian audiologists during Friday, April 20<sup>t</sup>, 2007 at the American Academy of Audiology annual Conference Center Room 108 – 110 in Denver (participants are to bring their lunches) from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. As time draws closer, we will announce a time for the group meeting at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Federation of Audiology Societies Conference in Heidelberg (June 6 – 8, 2007). In order to be a member of ISA's Humanitarian Audiologist Committee, one need only be a member in good standing with the International Society of Audiology and contact the committee chair, Dr. Jackie Clark (email: [jclark@utdallas.edu](mailto:jclark@utdallas.edu)); to be placed on the committee membership list.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
OF AUDIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

The fourth and last issue of Audinews for the year 2006 is arriving late. We worked hard to have it ready on time, but for many reasons (including the hard working agendas of important members of the editorial team), this was simply not possible. Holiday time and universal thoughts related to the New Year were supposed to reign in the issue. Better late than never we say, so now we insist on sending out positive thoughts and wishes for a prosperous year - 2007. It is valid to hope that the past Holiday Season was good for all of you. Of course, we are totally aware that not every ISA member celebrates Christmas. In fact, since I accepted Editorship of the Audinews, we have made the decision to avoid using the concept of "Fall" or "Spring" issues because we must remember that "Winter" in the Europe happens while it is "Summer" in Australia. If you grab an apple, and cut it with a knife at the "Equator" level, not transversally as we usually do when we eat them, you will discover a five-point star, where the seeds rest. Traditionally and before globalization, Christmas in my country – Costa Rica – was a time of the year associated with the smell of apples, grapes and pears. These were luxury fruits, always imported from North America or Chile, which we happened to enjoy in our family dinners and other celebrations. Next December, I want you to take an apple, and discover the star of hope and peace hidden within it and share this notion with your dear ones. This is a world badly in need of hope and peace. We expect we can continue to convey such a message through the humanitarian actions of our Society in the constant pursuit of sound for those living in silence.



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