

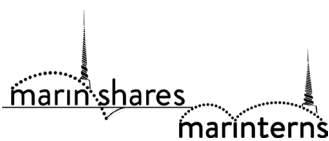
VOLUNTEER NOTES

Lookouts on TV

CBS News Bay Area recently focused on our volunteer fire lookouts. MarinShares volunteer **Michael Fischer** and the lookout team coordinator, Marin County Fire Engineer/Paramedic **Brett Hughes**, were featured. "If a wildfire breaks out in west Marin County, there's a good chance it's going to be seen by a volunteer watching from a perch like this," CBS' **John Ramos** reported from Mt. Barnabe. Quoting Brett, he added, "Humans make better sentinels than the smoke cameras many other jurisdictions rely on." For the rest of the story, visit [CBS News, San Francisco](#).

Where Are They Now?

Natalie Dybeck is attending UC Hastings, pursuing a J.D. in public interest and environmental law. A volunteer Marinfo NOW writer since 2017, she graduated from UCLA in 2019 and then worked for the Marin County Fire Department on a wildfire prevention parcel tax measure, which passed. For the past three years Natalie has worked at Congressman **Jared Huffman's** office as his scheduler, special projects coordinator, intern coordinator, and office manager.



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Youth Volunteer Ready to Rescue Anytime, Anywhere

By Marjorie Grannan

Anytime, anywhere, any weather. That's the slogan of the Marin County Sheriff's Search & Rescue (SAR) team.

Marintern **Kylie Voelker** joined the team two years ago as a San Marin High School student. Her interest in public service led her to volunteer.

"I've always respected those who have the ability to stay calm and collected during an event," she explained. "To always be in the outdoors appealed to me, so it was pretty much inevitable that I would join."

The SAR team has strict requirements and rigorous testing for physical fitness and endurance capabilities. These were no issue for Kylie. She's a water sports athlete who has enjoyed years

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL ST. JOHN

Kylie Voelker smiles after exiting the helicopter that extracted Search & Rescue team members following a successful search in the mountains of Fresno County last October. Kylie was the only woman in the field that day.

Volunteer Stewards Help Improve Pathway Safety and Aesthetics

By Scott Harrop



PHOTO BY KIRK SCHROEDER

Beverly and Mark Birnbaum on the multi-use trail

After completing two cross-country bike rides, but before his third, **Mark Birnbaum** nearly had a collision by his home on the Pacheco Multi-Use Pathway (aka the IJ Bike Path) south of Novato.

French broom, a highly invasive plant which grows up to six feet, had blocked his view around a corner. Having used the pathway for years—cycling to work twice weekly—Mark knew the broom would continue to create line-of-sight issues, so he and his wife, **Beverly Birnbaum**, addressed the problem.

The couple soon connected with Marin County Parks employees **Kirk Schroeder**

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Student Scans Opportunities During Internship

By Natalie Dybeck

PHOTO BY JOY LEIGHTON



Matthew Tom at the plotter, which he uses to scan building plans.

Every Friday, Marin intern **Matthew Tom** arrives at the Marin Civic Center from school. With the recommendation of his teacher at Oak Hill School in San Anselmo, Matthew secured a building-plan scanning internship with the Marin County Community

Development Agency (CDA). He began last November.

“I considered [the internship] as a possibility for the future,” Matthew said. “It’s a great opportunity to build up my work experience and meet others in the community outside of school.”

Matthew’s weekly routine focuses on just that. Along with proficiently performing his tasks,

he has made it a priority to get to know coworkers. “When we arrive, we pleasantly greet the staff, and before leaving I try to say my goodbyes to as many people as I can.”

Matthew’s role involves meticulously scanning paper building plans of all

different sizes and ensuring that the plans are well scanned to digital format so that they can be later referred to correctly. He scans all types of plans, including those for important buildings such as hospitals, fire stations, hotels, and public buildings.

After arriving, “I check for new building plans; I unwrap them and feed them into the scanner one at a time. When I am finished scanning a plan, I place it into a pile separate from the unscanned plans so that I stay organized.

“One challenge is unrolling the plans and keeping them all together, because the pages are not all the same size,” explained Matthew. “I found that placing medium-sized objects on the edges of the papers prevents them from rolling back up.” The average page size is about 2 by 3 feet, and typical building plans contain 30 to 50 pages. Rolled-up plans can weigh 20 or 30 pounds.

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History Student Examines Roots of Local Housing Discrimination

By Calla McBride

Growing up in a primarily white and privileged community, some Marin students choose to ignore racial discrimination. However, Redwood High School senior and Marin intern **Jack Haubold** is determined to make a difference.

In April, Jack started an internship with the county’s Restrictive Covenant Project, which aims to inform and educate residents on the history of local policies and programs that were intentionally discriminatory and cultivated segregation.

Jack’s assignment is to sift through archived newspapers and pamphlets and identify those with information and anecdotes related to racially restrictive covenants from Marin’s past.

A covenant is a legally enforceable contract imposed in a deed upon the buyer of property, according to the [project website](#). Racially restrictive

covenants prohibited the purchase, lease, or occupation of a piece of property by a particular group of people and prohibited homeowners from selling or renting to anybody of a specific race or ethnic background. While those covenants are illegal today, many remain in local property deeds from decades ago.

Jack’s love of history inspired him to apply for the internship, and the impact he is making keeps him engaged.

“I have a deep passion for history—especially American history, which is a central component of this project,” he said. “I recognize the deep and lasting effects that events of the past can have on the present.

“Without examining the roots of housing discrimination and racially restrictive covenants in Marin, the county, and the country as a whole, will never be able to equitably redress historic and current



PHOTO BY CAROL ACQUAVIVA

Intern Jack Haubold conducts research of archived materials to document past discriminatory practices.

racism and oppression against people of color, which is why I am participating in this project,” he continued.

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Youth Volunteer Ready to Rescue Anytime, Anywhere

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of underwater hockey, local swim team activity, and water polo competition on the San Marin High girls' varsity.

Marin's SAR is the only team in the country with youth members as part of its Mountain Rescue unit. The team accepts volunteers as young as 14 and currently has 40 youth members. They participate throughout California in high-altitude mountain rescue, cliff rescue, and missing-person searches.

The team started in 1966 as Boy Scout Explorer Post 74, focused on outdoor education. During a conference in Washington state, they learned about explorer search and rescue and were inspired to incorporate search and rescue into their mission. They were the first boy scouting group in Marin to accept females. The team was first sponsored in 1976 by the Red Cross. In 1978, sponsorship changed to the Marin County Sheriff's Department.

SAR volunteers are first responders for search emergencies in Marin. They are on call 24/7 and attend regular meetings.

"Kylie, who has been named Explorer of the Year by the Marin Boy Scout Council, has been an important member of the team since she first joined," said Sheriff's Lt. **Pierre Ahuncain**, one of her staff mentors. "She was elected youth vice president last year by her peers and had an incredible 600-plus hours last year alone. Kylie will be a leader in whatever she chooses to do."



PHOTO BY WANDA VOELKER

During a rope technician class, Kylie Voelker (in red helmet) directs a litter across a cove to "rescue" a teammate above Rodeo Beach in southwest Marin.

"My time in the SAR has been an incredible experience," Kylie said. "The members of the team are people that are driven to help. We have the willingness to do whatever we can to make a difference."

Asked about highlights, she recalled a couple of searches—and a special training. In February, Marin SAR, other SAR agencies, and emergency services

personnel facilitated a search-and-rescue bootcamp for the Blaze unit of the California State Guard. Training days were run from the National Guard base in San Luis Obispo. Kylie was the only youth member to go with the team to help with proctoring and presenting. During the bootcamp, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office requested help with a large evidence search. "The following day, we shifted the entire training effort towards the search, taking all 64 State Guard members with us and having SAR team members act in team lead and overhead roles," Kylie said. She was assigned to lead a group of about 10 Guard members. "It was a great opportunity to practice leadership and teaching skills," she said. "It was also validating to see that I was capable of leading in such a situation with teammates that had not known me prior."

Kylie graduated from San Marin in June. Now an honors student at University of Twente in the Netherlands, she is on college leave from SAR. She hopes to provide remote planning assistance on SAR operations as her academic schedule allows, and she plans to serve with the team when she visits home during school breaks.

The next Search & Rescue boot camp will be held in early 2023. Pre-application orientation meetings (required) are scheduled in September, October, and January. Visit [Marin SAR](#) for details. Teens and adults of all backgrounds are welcome to apply.

History Student Examines Roots of Local Housing Discrimination

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Jack spends most of his volunteer time at the Civic Center Library's California Room, where he has access to archived materials and records. "Often, it takes significant time to come across relevant newspaper articles in these archives... Without creativity or perseverance, it would be difficult to persist in reading many articles at a time without finding a relevant one," he says.

Jack's internship supervisor, **Crystal Martinez**, an aide to District 2

Supervisor **Katie Rice**, is part of the county team leading the Restrictive Covenant Project. Crystal admires Jack's strong work ethic and ability to work independently. Reflecting on the Marinterns program, she said that "student interns are the future of Marin and will help shape what Marin looks and feels like in the years to come."

Besides interning, Jack enjoys playing piano, cooking, and running. He loves traveling and cites northern Michigan,

Utah, and Hilton Head Island as favorite destinations.

Jack plans to further his knowledge and volunteer more.

"I hope to have the opportunity to travel the world and experience cultures that I have never been exposed to in my life," he said. "Next year, I hope to continue with the Restrictive Covenant Project or intern in another Marin program, such as the Public Defender's Office."

Volunteer Stewards Help Improve Pathway Safety and Aesthetics

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and **Audrea Bocchi**. Kirk is a volunteer program coordinator and Audrea is a supervising park ranger. It did not take long for them to notice the Birnbaums' motivation and exceptional work ethic, and what began as a single project developed into much more.

Since becoming official county Marin-Shares volunteers, the two "have removed trash from the pathway corridor, tackled a variety of invasive plant and fire fuel related projects, and have been outstanding contributors to our stewardship and park watch programs," said Kirk, their staff supervisor.

Three years later, "every twig of broom is pulled—all [with] hand tools," Beverly says proudly.

The Birnbaums also cooperate with CalTrans, and when they learned that residents whose homes back up to the path were unsatisfied with official responses to requests for vegetation clean up, they responded. The neighbors were thrilled to get rid of non-native blackberries and ivy that were choking trees.

Beverly also joined the Tuesday Broom Pullers on Alameda del Prado, a group organized by Marin County Parks Volunteer Program Coordinator **Greg Reza**. The group helped clean up the area north of Zenni Optical along Alameda del Prado in Novato.

Mark, a Pasadena native who stayed in Northern California after studying at Chico State, observed that bike paths only get the "scraps and leftovers" in terms of maintenance. Meanwhile, bicycle traffic has increased with the advent of electric bikes, which Mark also supports.

Beverly met Mark in Oakland before she went to nursing school and while he was completing his Certified Public Accountant requirements. They moved to Napa, where she worked at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, then in 1988 came to Novato, which was closer to more job opportunities.

Mark, who writes occasional articles describing his cycling adventures, is something of a philosopher. He notes that although riding can be a meditative

experience, "a good part of cycling is obstacle avoidance, even if a lot of that happens subconsciously." He frequently combines riding with public transport, for example, taking the SMART train to Larkspur, then cycling to his office in Tiburon. "It's a relaxing way to commute," he says.

Their supervisor, Kirk, describes the pair as "very dedicated, patient, detail oriented, hardworking, and determined. This rare combination of attributes not only impresses our staff but also leaves us at times in a state of disbelief at the sheer magnitude of their efforts." Kirk noted that in their first three years as volunteer stewards, the Birnbaums "have staged orderly piles of plant and tree material for staff to process—hundreds of privet branches and trunks and well over 10,000 pounds—five tons!—of material in total that they single-handedly generated and placed in strategic locations for removal."

Interested in clearing invasive plants and restoring native habitat? Visit [Marin County Parks](#) online or email Parks Volunteer Program Coordinators [Kirk Shroeder](#) and [Greg Reza](#).

Interns Take a Tour Break

PHOTO BY SAVANNAH PORTEUS



Marinterns from the District Attorney's Office pose in front of a Marin Civic Center building model during a special tour last month. Pictured clockwise are **Rebecca Sherry** (with mask), **Colin Eilerman**, **Devin Guinney**, **Erica Payne**, **Savannah Porteus**, **Reese Roberts**, and **Regina Chamma**. The group includes high school, college, and law school students interning with office staff, investigators, and attorneys in the DA's Office. On the tour, students from several departments took a break from their regular assignments to learn from volunteer docent **Jonathan Bernstein** about the architecture and history of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building in which they had been interning all summer. Public tours are offered Fridays at 10:30 a.m., and details are on the [tour webpage](#). Interested in leading tours? Please see the [tour docent](#) role description on the [MarinShares volunteer opportunity list](#).

Student Scans Opportunities During Internship

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Another challenge Matthew faces is time constraint. “I sometimes feel two hours is not enough time; I dislike putting unscanned plans off for another week. But it helps me work on my time management and prioritization skills.”

Matthew recalled one large plan that kept coming out crooked. “I learned to pay close attention on each scan. I remember thinking that a slow good scan is better than a fast bad scan. I’m learning to problem-solve printer and scanner issues.”

In spite of the challenges, Matthew continues to excel and enjoy his internship. “I like my job. I like its repetitive nature and working with digital equipment.

“The most rewarding part of my time at the county is that I hope my contribution helps free up time for the staff to do their important jobs,” said Matthew. “I’m also excited to intern, knowing that I have extraordinary support from people who are instrumental to my success.”

His staff supervisor is CDA Administrative Services Technician **Sarah Williamson**. “Matthew has been doing excellent work scanning large-format plan sets,” she said. “He is interested in learning new things and always brings a positive attitude to the office.”

Sarah said Matthew’s scans can be viewed at a kiosk in the CDA lobby. She explained, “California health and safety code prohibits the public from

downloading or copying plan information without written permission from the drafting architects and engineers, but plans can be viewed in the lobby by the public.”

Apart from his internship and school, Matthew, who lives in San Francisco, is learning to play the piano and reads a variety of books. He enjoys trying different cuisines around the Bay Area.

Matthew raves about his support system: “Never could I have imagined having this once-in-a-lifetime internship. Never could I have dreamed of being where I am today without the inspiration of my family and the compassion and encouragement of my mentors at Oak Hill School.”

Who's New & Welcome!

Colette ‘Coco’ Boyden (Corte Madera), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

Henry Bringard (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Sandra Bushmaker (Sausalito), Ombudsman Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Angela Crivello (San Francisco), Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender’s Office

Madeleine Dawson (Sausalito), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney’s Office

Michelle Detrick (San Anselmo), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Jake Douglass (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Alexis Gasner (Sausalito), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Daniel Giggy (San Francisco), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Damian Hackett (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Naomi Harada (Walnut Creek), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Kevin Hayward (Alameda), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Charles Held (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Burt Hoffman (Novato), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

Macmillan Hudson (Sausalito), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Turner Hudson (Sausalito), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Christina Iriart (San Francisco), Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender’s Office

Salim Islam (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Alena Ivanova (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Samantha Krasner (San Francisco), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Sara Kurtzig (San Anselmo), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Beatriz Lituano (San Rafael), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Christian McIntosh (Belvedere/Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Maureen McManus (Fairfax), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Sioux Messinger (Sonoma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Maxwell Mohan (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Sahiti Namburu (San Rafael), Student Service Intern, South Novato Library

Christina Pathoumthong (Concord), Post-College Intern, District Attorney’s Office

Kai Porter (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Jeffrey Rabkin (Corte Madera), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Christina Righetti (Petaluma), Volunteer Tomales Firefighter, Marin County Fire

Ellen ‘Elly’ Ronald (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Brian Salmen (Ross), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Jackson ‘Jax’ Sandrich (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Howard Solomon (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Matthew Stodolnic (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Calvin Tudor (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Kate Van Hooser (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Reagan Vandenburg (Turlock), Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender’s Office

Brian Witchel (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Explorers Survey Career Possibilities

PHOTO BY KIPCHOGIE BROOKS



Career Explorer **Zion Greenwood** works in a county server room during the Department of Public Works (DPW) Summer Youth Program. Zion and eight fellow students, ages 16 to 18, experienced daily duties in the divisions of radio communications, finance, flood control, printing services, land development, and roads maintenance. Road Maintenance Superintendent **Kip Brooks** said students learned firsthand about public works careers they may otherwise have been unaware of. He noted that DPW is honored to help foster next generation of local government professionals. DPW's program is part of the Career Explorer program, which exposes young people to public service careers across the county organization.

Speaking in Board of Supervisors chambers, Career Explorer **Manpreet Kaur** accepts the Dan Daniels Spirit award, which is presented to an Explorer who demonstrates passion in serving others. She worked with staff in the Public Defender's Office this summer.



PHOTO BY KIPCHOGIE BROOKS

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

39 YEARS

Jim Freed (Sebastopol), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

38 YEARS

Karen Berke (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

24 YEARS

Jo-Ann Giunti (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

21 YEARS

Cathy Day (San Anselmo), **Melanie Facen** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

20 YEARS

Madelon Van Lier (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

19 YEARS

Kathleen Holland (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

David Williams (Novato), California Room Docent, Civic Center Library

18 YEARS

Connie Tellep (San Rafael), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

17 YEARS

Cathy Gowdy (Novato), California Room Docent, Civic Center Library

Craig Mirkin (Corte Madera), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, MCSO

14 YEARS

Jillian Robinson (Fairfax), **Mary Schmidt** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

13 YEARS

Gayanne G. Enquist (Inverness), Library Aide, Inverness Library

Marge Jackson (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Martha Nelson (Novato), **Nancy Oliva** (Novato), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, Health & Human Services (HHS)

12 YEARS

Mary Anderson (Tiburon), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Paul Hinz (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

11 YEARS

Karen Hege (Greenbrae), **Michael Yuan** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Steve O'Keefe (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

Alice Rivas (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

10 YEARS

Elizabeth Hannon (Novato), **Ruth-Louise Moran** (San Rafael), **Deborah Salisbury** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

9 YEARS

Barbara Byers (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library

Ted Kreines (Tiburon), **June Miller** (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docents, Cultural Services

Molly Williams (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

8 YEARS

Annamarie Ambuehl (Novato), **Sue Derana** (Novato), **Deborah Gregor** (Novato), **Mary O'Hara** (Novato), **Charles Parmelee** (Santa Rosa), **Sandy Schering** (San Rafael), **Daina Vitols** (San Rafael), **Jackie Watson** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

William Schimpf (Petaluma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Patrick Murphy (Novato), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteer, HHS

7 YEARS

April Forsythe (San Rafael), **MB Fribley** (San Anselmo), **Mary Miller** (San Rafael), **Claire Taylor** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

6 YEARS

Margaret Root (San Anselmo), Marin Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, HHS

4 YEARS

Charles Viebrock (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library

Ruben Diaz Escobar (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

3 YEARS

Haven Allard (Berkeley), **Matthew Baldwin** (Nicasio), **Justin Buzon** (Novato), **Todd Law** (San Rafael), **David Levine** (San Rafael), **Erik Zech** (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Sebastian Bellingham (San Anselmo), **Mikaila Levine** (San Rafael), **Drake Miller** (Mill Valley), **Scott Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

Afsaneh Bohlouli (Mill Valley), Graphic Design Aide and Shelver, Corte Madera Library

Spencer Michels (San Anselmo), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

1 YEAR

Adam Almedilla (San Anselmo), **Oscar Bomse** (San Francisco), **Eli Carter** (San Francisco), **Tariq Williams** (Pinole), Student Service Interns, Fairfax Library

Kendra Messer (Richmond), Workplace Coach, Fairfax Library

Gregg Turner (Mill Valley), Marinfo NOW Newsletter Photographer, Human Resources

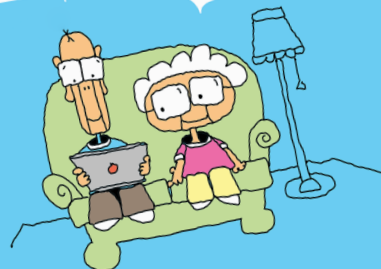
Stella Vazquez (Fairfax), Teen Shelver, Fairfax Library

Luis Dominguez Xala (Berkeley), California Public Health Corps Trainee Intern, HHS

CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHUE

It says here this product will make you live longer.. Guaranteed or your money back!

Sounds like a good deal



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