

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



**October
2006
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ELECTIONS CRITICAL FOR 2ND AMENDMENT

The national elections next month are critical for the future of gun rights. These elections will determine the make-up of the next Congress, scheduled to convene in January of 2007.

Federal legislation relating to gun rights officially emanates from either the House or the Senate. That includes both pro-gun legislation and anti-gun legislation.

When a bill is introduced in either the House or the Senate, it is referred to a committee charged with consideration of the overall subject matter envisioned by the specific bill. The committee acts or does not act on the measure. If it does not act or defeats the bill, ordinarily the bill dies.

If the committee approves a bill, it goes to the floor of the respective body, where, if the leadership agrees, it is placed on the floor calendar, considered and either passed or defeated. If passed in one house, it goes over to the other body, where it goes through a similar process.

The chairman or chairwoman of the committee has tremendous influence on the disposition of the various bills referred to it. The chair can determine if and when a bill may be considered.

In both the House and Senate, the committee of original jurisdiction for most pro-gun and anti-gun bills is the respective Judiciary Committee in each body. Consequently, the chairmanship of these committees is critical for firearm owners.

One of the reasons the upcoming election is so important is that the majority in each house chooses the individuals who will become the chairs of the various committees.

If the Democrats take control of the Senate, two anti-gun Judiciary Committee members, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Charles E. Schumer of New York, would have great influence in determining the chairmanship. One of them conceivably could be elected Chairman.

We choose the men and women who constitute the make-up of both houses.

It is critical for us gun owners to exercise our right to choose our Senators and Representatives by voting for candidates who support our rights and whose party, if it becomes the majority, will choose pro-gun Judiciary Committee chairs in both houses.

It is important to consider the gun rights position both of the individual candidate seeking our vote AND the position of the individual likely to be selected for Judiciary Chair if the party of the individual seeking our vote forms the majority.

IN THIS ISSUE

Critical Upcoming Elections	1
CA Senate Off the Deep End	2
Texas Reports Show Need for Arms	3
2nd Amendment Clubs	4
Anti-Gun Predictions	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

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HAS CALIFORNIA SENATE GONE OFF THE DEEP END?

When the California State Senate this summer passed a strange "micro-stamping" bill for all semiautomatic handguns, some CCRKBA officials began to wonder if the State Senators who promoted and voted for the measure had really lost it.

Just before the Labor Day adjournment, though, the Assembly, refusing to concur with the Senate version of the proposal, called for its reconsideration and referred it to Conference Committee. Gun grabbers vowed to push hard for the measure in 2007.

Some law enforcement officials also indicated they opposed the bill.

The measure, AB 352, would expand the definition of an allegedly "unsafe handgun" to include any semiautomatic pistol that does not include a "microscopic array of characters, that identify the make, model and serial number of the pistol, etched into the interior surface or internal working parts of the pistol." That information would have to be "transferred by imprinting on each cartridge case when the firearm is fired."

James Fotis, Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America and a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, wrote members of the Assembly, urging them to kill the bill.

"This legislation is an impractical and costly measure that will not improve public safety," he wrote. "AB 352 is a distraction from real and proven crime-fighting efforts.

Fotis' letter, reported Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com), is one of dozens of negative comments written about the bill by law enforcement veterans, including critical letters from the Sheriff-Coroners of

California's Riverside, Kern, Orange, Mendocino, Modoc and Tehama Counties.

Fotis, a retired career police officer, calls the idea of "micro-stamping" shell casings "vaguely described and untested technology."

Anthony Carver, Sheriff-Coroner of Mendocino County, California, said that, "with millions of existing handguns owned in California, the probability of this bill having any positive effect on public safety is absurd."

Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Michael Carona said, "I cannot see any benefit, other than the simple act of symbolism in the passage of AB 352."

Technology to "micro-stamp" shell casings in a semiautomatic pistol as they are chambered or fired is not commercially available, reports CNSNews.com. Firearm experts note that normal wear and tear within even a seldom-fired gun would interfere with such technology. They point out that the part or parts used to "micro-stamp" the casing would also be subject to tampering or easy removal.

In a joint letter, Modoc County, California Sheriff Bruce Mix and District Attorney Jordan Funk wrote that the proposal would "unnecessarily complicate and hinder proven crime-solving strategies."

Fotis advised that, instead of "pursuing AB 352, which is costly, unproven, unnecessary – and ultimately would be shown to be ineffective in stopping crime – law enforcement would rather see the money and legislative effort spent on increasing prison space and helping cops on the street break the backs of gangs!"

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) said passage of AB 352 is ill conceived and will result in a ban on ammunition sales in the state, burdening sportsmen, hunters and firearm enthusiasts. NSSF noted that microstamping is a patented process that laser engraves the firearm's make, model and serial number on the tip of the gun's firing pin so it imprints the information on discharged cartridge cases.



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"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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TEXAS REPORTS SHOW NEED FOR FIREARMS

"News reports this summer of Texas sheriffs' warnings regarding the dangers of illegal immigration into the United States from Mexico underscore the continuing necessity of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms," observes John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director

According to a Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com) article, "the chief law enforcement officers of several Texas counties along the southern U.S. border warn that Arabic-speaking individuals are learning Spanish and integrating into Mexican culture before paying smugglers to sneak them into the United States. The Texas Sheriffs' Border Coalition believes those individuals are likely terrorists and that drug cartels and some members of the Mexican military are helping them across the border."

Snyder notes that, "this is not the first time that American law enforcement, intelligence or military authorities have attempted to warn us that we face a determined and resourceful enemy committed through a peculiar religious fanaticism to the destruction of our nation, our people and our culture. It would be foolish, absolutely foolish, to ignore this situation. The war is international, including on our own territory. The attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. graphically illustrate this. So do the multiple arrests recently in Great Britain of terrorists planning to attack commercial passenger airlines headed from the United Kingdom to the United States.

"Fortunately, we have already a

means with which to combat this enemy - our armed citizenry. According to some estimates, over 80 million American citizens own upwards of 200 million firearms - handguns, rifles and shotguns. Should the need arise, Americans are ready, willing and able to make fast work of the terrorists, potential terrorists and future terrorist immigrants within our midst."

Snyder adds, though, that "one thing may be lacking, and that is enlightened leadership from American politicians, media personnel, business executives, educational authorities and ecclesiastical prelates on this issue. Too often, leaders who really ought to know better prefer to do nothing. Often, they wring their hands, or promote gun control and resist efforts to weaken restrictions on law-abiding citizens' access to firearms. They even shudder at the thought of law-abiding American citizens using guns to protect themselves, their loved ones, their country and their culture from this alien terror.

"Their cry at this crucial and critical time in world and national history really should be: TO ARMS! TO ARMS! This is as true today as it has been at previous times in our Nation's history, beginning with 1775 in Lexington and Concord."

According to the CNSNews.com report, Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez of Zapata County, Texas "said that Iranian currency, military badges in Arabic, jackets and other clothing are among the items that have been discovered along the banks of the Rio Grande River. The sheriff also said there are a substantial number of individuals crossing along the

southern border who are not Mexican. He described the individuals in question as well-funded and able to pay so called 'coyotes' - human smugglers - large sums of money for help gaining illegal entry into the United States.

"Although many of the non-Mexican illegal aliens are fluent in Spanish, Gonzalez said they speak with an accent that is not native. 'It's clear these people are coming in for reasons other than employment,' Gonzalez said."

At least one pro-gun U.S. Representative has expressed concern about the situation. Congressman Tom Tancredo of Colorado told CNSNews.com that, "for years, Muslims and other 'Special Interest Aliens' from places other than Mexico have been streaming into the United States across our porous border. These people are not paying \$50,000 or more a head just to 'take jobs no American will do.'"

Rep. Tancredo said, "terrorists are working around the clock to infiltrate the United States. Congress and this administration must address this gaping hole in our national security and they must do it now."

Kevin Mooney of CNSNews.com reported that "some of the more high profile pieces of evidence pointing to terrorist infiltration of the United States have been uncovered in Jim Hogg County, Texas, which experiences a high volume of smuggling activity, according to law enforcement.

"We see patches on jackets from countries where we know al Qaeda to be active,' Gonzalez explained. The patches appear to be military badges with Arabic lettering."

CCRKBA EXTOLS CAMPUS 2ND AMENDMENT ACTION

Following reports of developing right to keep and bear arms movements on college campuses, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated, "this is a most encouraging sign.

"For some years now, we have read and heard about so-called educational experts and publishers using their mandatory access to colleges and high schools to undermine the traditional, individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms."

Snyder said that, "hopefully, these recent reports indicate that the 'educational' anti-gun campaign may not be having its desired effect. At the very least, the reports show that the effort to undermine the Second Amendment is facing college student opposition, on some campuses at any rate.

According to a report in *The Washington Times*, "college students have organized clubs on dozens of campuses to defend their Second Amendment rights – and to have fun with guns."

Michaela LeBlanc, a senior at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, said, "we go to the gun range because it's fun and educational." She says that during this autumn semester the group will seek recognition from Smith as an official club.

Farther south, Dax Dixon founded the Tar Heel Rifle & Pistol Club at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He reportedly said he thought other students at the university would benefit from shooting, a skill he said he started learning as a real youngster, even before attending

elementary school. His club sponsors lectures on Americans' rights as recognized by the Second Amendment as well as gun safety and travels to shooting ranges so that club members can practice shooting disciplines.

The university, Dixon said, provides funding for speakers and shooting supplies on the condition that club members use all ammunition on the same day they purchase it.

Among the organizations that offer assistance to college students starting gun clubs is the Leadership Institute in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1997, the institute formed its Campus Leadership Program "to assist conservative students in the forming of independent groups on their own campuses," said the organization's founder and president, Morton C. Blackwell. A former official in the White House during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, Blackwell is the Republican National Committeeman from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

He said also that field representatives from the Campus Leadership Program work with students to develop the leadership skills to maintain their organization.

Blackwell said that about 45 of the active groups with which the program works are dedicated to Second Amendment issues.

Second Amendment Sisters, Inc. focuses on teaching women to shoot but also supports college gun clubs.

Mari Thompson, founder and president of Second Amendment Sisters, said, "guns have been so demonized" to college students. "We want to make sure that (students) know what the facts are, so they will carry on when we are gone." Thompson said the organization is looking for campuses

with enough interest in forming student groups.

At St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Damaso Torres and Ryan Bragg founded Students for the Second Amendment because, according to Torres, they "wanted to do skeet and trap shoots for students twice per year."

The Students' Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program trains college students to become NRA-certified instructors. Through close ties with the firearms industry and product donation, the group offers instruction at a heavily discounted price. In the past academic year, it trained "4,100 kids in around South Texas," said Torres. It also has three certified NRA counselors who are qualified to train personal instructors.

Torres said Students for the Second Amendment has established a group at every campus where it has made the effort and experienced little resistance from school administrators. He said, "there are a lot of students that think the way we do."

Torres said the campus chapters let students realize they are not alone in their views and give them support to speak up in class and defend the Second Amendment.

Funding comes mainly through an independent effort. Torres credits an interest group on the social network MySpace.com for attracting many of the 2,000 members.

In Northampton, Massachusetts, Michaela LeBlanc at Smith College said the gun club "will be a great tool to educate students about the Second Amendment" and it will help "take away the stigma" about firearms.

CCRKBA SEES LIES IN ANTI-GUN PREDICTIONS

Thanks to a remark by Robert Cornwell, Executive Director of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, it now is clear that the gloom-and-doom predictions about licensed concealed carry in Ohio were all lies, said CCRKBA.

Cornwell was quoted by the Associated Press as noting that, "those with the concealed carry licenses have been good, law-abiding citizens. The worst-case scenarios that were put out there about the gunfight at the OK Corral didn't come to fruition."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said, "that's the way it always is. The wild-eyed forecasts of blood in the streets never come true. Of course, anti-gunners who tradition-

ally fight such laws know this, which means that they aren't simply wrong in their predictions, they are liars."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron noted that the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association has reached the same conclusion other honest, open-minded law enforcement officials have about such laws in other states.

"Given the test of time," Waldron said, "concealed carry laws give gun owners a chance not only to fight back, but also to prove to skeptics and the media that they are responsible citizens.

"At the end of the day," he continued, "opponents of self-defense have only emotion and falsehood on which to base their prejudice against

armed private citizens."

Gottlieb observed that, "demagogues in two states, Wisconsin and Illinois, continue to treat gun owners as second-class citizens. Time and again, their opposition to concealed carry laws can be summed up as nothing more than social bigotry against individual reliance and self-defense. How anti-gunners like Governors Jim Doyle in Wisconsin and Rod Blagojevich in Illinois get a pass from the press on this issue is a mystery.

"Ohio's experience once again proves that law-abiding citizens who arm themselves for personal protection are not a threat to the police or the public. To say otherwise by perpetuating this 'Wild West' myth is dishonest and deplorable."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

2006 mid-term election is already underway. There has been a major shift over the past decade to absentee, or mail-in, balloting. Mail-in balloting rules have been relaxed to allow most citizens to vote absentee. In many states, ballots go into the mail as early as mid-October.

On the plus side, mail-in balloting at least theoretically allows for a greater voter participation, as travel plans or bad weather on election day might have prevented or discouraged voting by some citizens in the past. For citizens with ambulatory difficulties, mail-in voting eliminates the difficulty of standing in line on election day.

The downside of mail-in balloting, coupled with "motor voter" registration (registration of new voters at driver's license offices where they are precluded from asking for proof of citizenship), is the door is open far wider to potential voter fraud.

But we don't elect the president in the mid-term elections, so why is this election important? The Democrats are within 15 seats of seizing control of the House of Representatives. And many political analysts believe they will take over at least 15 current Republican seats, maybe more, in the mid-term election.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi? House Judiciary Committee chairman John Conyers? A Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Conyers would be a disaster for gun owners. The Speaker of the House sets the agenda and wields more influence over members of the majority than any other member. And John Conyers has a long history of anti-gun activism within the Judiciary Committee.

From now until election day, we need to encourage all gun owners, their family members, co-workers and friends to GET OUT THE VOTE. Whether by mail-in ballot or a trip to the polling place on election day, it is CRITICAL that we retain a Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

GET OUT AND VOTE. IT'S YOUR RIGHT. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

VIRGINIA TECH GRAD STUDENT NAMED GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

In late August, much of the nation was horrified to learn through electronic and print news reports of a horrid event that occurred in Blacksburg, Virginia.

There, William Morva, 24, had escaped from a hospital where he was being treated. He had been jailed while awaiting trial for trying to rob a store last year. After escaping from the hospital, he apparently shed his orange prison jumpsuit and allegedly went on a rampage, becoming the suspect in the slayings of a hospital guard and a sheriff's deputy.

After a massive manhunt, Morva was captured. During the crisis, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) closed down on the first day of the semester, but only after remaining open for morning classes.

The situation gave rise to a questioning of the University policy prohibiting the possession of guns on campus. The school newspaper, *Collegiate Times*, ran several pieces regarding the policy. A Graduate Researcher in Virginia Tech's Department of Mechanical Engineering wrote a perceptive column proclaiming that "arming citizens could help security."

The author, as newspaper editor Ellen Biltz informed *Point Blank*, was Jonathan McGlumphy, the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for October.

In nominating McGlumphy for the Award, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder noted that "it always takes the courage of one's convictions to stand up for what is right against designated and recognized authority. Jonathan has done that with his column. He has stood up in a particular situation in defense of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. He has done it in a forceful but diplomatic manner. We applaud him for it. He most certainly deserves the recognition of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

McGlumphy, who was born on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1979 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, stated, "we must give due criticism to the University for its decisions that put students in greater danger than was necessary. I am not so much referring to the decision to allow morning classes to take place, but rather the decades-old policy that prohibits students, faculty and staff from legally carrying firearms on campus. This ban even goes so far as to include those who have valid Concealed Handgun Permits.

"No doubt many people are thinking: 'Guns have no place in an institute of learning!' The most commonly used argument in favor of campus gun bans is that there are times when emotions run high – either because of an in-class discussion or a dispute between a student and professor over a grade – and someone with a gun could easily lose control and shoot someone else."

McGlumphy pointed out that "the campus gun ban is completely artificial, and relies on the honor

system. Because we don't have metal detectors scanning every car and person that enters the campus, it is impossible to truly prevent someone from bringing a firearm if they are so inclined."

He noted also that, "if your emotions are running high, you don't need a gun to do serious harm to another human being. Common objects such as pencils, large hole-punchers and metal trash cans can be turned into weapons very quickly...Remember that a gun is just a tool, and it takes a human being's free will to use it."

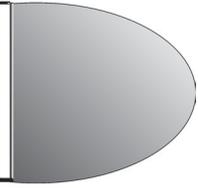
McGlumphy wrote "a person who has a CHP has gone through both firearm training and an extensive background check to obtain that permit. CHP holders are the good guys (and gals), and statistically are less given to violent crime than the rest of the population. If we're concerned about guns in residence halls, realize that in just about every state that issues CHPs, including Virginia, you have to be at least 21 to obtain a permit...A violent criminal who clearly has no respect for other people's lives was running loose on campus, his precise whereabouts unknown. While the police did an excellent job of patrolling campus, they simply cannot be everywhere at once. Is it not obvious that all students, faculty and staff would have been safer if CHP holders were not banned from carrying their weapons on campus?"

Jonathan received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in 2002 and now is a doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech. He and his wife, the former Shannon Smartt, are the proud parents of a daughter, Angel Anderson, 7.

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QUICK SHOTS



Joseph (Jody) Powell, Press Secretary to former President Jimmy Carter and now Chairman and CEO of Powell Tate, a Washington, D.C. public relations firm, said recently that in DC, “their streets are awash in guns, while they harass the law-abiding,” reports James Kinsella of the Martha’s Vineyard Gazette. Powell reportedly said laws such as those in Washington place ridiculous restrictions on legitimate gun owners while being totally ineffective in controlling illegal weapons. Kinsella wrote that “not much time passes in the company of gun control advocates, Mr. Powell said, before an individual realizes that the main agenda is not so much to control guns as to outlaw them.”



Judge Carl Barbier of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana this summer denied a motion by New Orleans to dismiss a Second Amendment lawsuit against the city. “We’re encouraged by this ruling,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “For almost a year,” said Gottlieb, Founder of the Second Amendment Foundation, “we’ve been fighting the city’s delay tactics, which included outright lying by city officials that any firearms had been seized. Only when we threatened Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Superintendent Warren Riley with a motion for contempt did the city miraculously discover that they actually did have more than 1,000 firearms that had been taken from their owners” during the crisis last

year following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.



In a recent article on federal gun control legislation in the politically prestigious National Journal, Brian Friel reported that, “those on both sides of the issue agree that Congress is promoting the interests of gun rights groups because they have demonstrated their political power in the last few election cycles. “Some estimates are there are 80 million gun owners,’ said John Snyder, Public Affairs Director for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. ‘Democrats are coming to realize they’ve been wrong on this. They’ve suffered at the polls’...Snyder makes the case that voting for any House Democratic candidate helps put that party in control of the chamber. ‘Supposing the Democratic candidate in a locale was OK on the gun issue or hasn’t said anything about it – a vote for him would still be a vote for John Conyers and Nancy Pelosi,’ he said, referring to the potential House Judiciary Committee Chairman and House Speaker.”



“As a matter of principle,” writes James J. Na in a Seattle Times column, “a free, open society like ours does not, and ought not, preemptively restrict freedom of the general population out of fear that a small criminal minority would misuse

that freedom. Just as the fact that a few pedophiles use the Internet to trade child porn should not move the society to restrict access to the Internet for the public at large, neither should the right of the vast majority of responsible, law-abiding citizens to own and carry guns be sacrificed in the false hope that criminals would then be constrained. Second, as a matter of practicality, such a restriction on guns does nothing to curb violence. Even if legal firearm ownership were completely banned today, no serious person would argue that we could eradicate the availability of firearms on the black market. Those who intend to harm others will still be able to get guns – illegally.”



A break-in at a Richland County, South Carolina home this summer ended with one of the suspected robbers being shot to death, reports WISTV of Columbia, SC. “The homeowner says a friend came through to help stop the crime, suffering a bullet wound. The homeowner tells WIS, ‘I’m sorry he had to get shot in the process but I’m really grateful because my kids were in the house and everything.’ The man, who we’ll call ‘Mark’ showed us where he says two armed robbers hid, waiting for him to come home. Mark says the crooks snuck in through the fence and broke into his Richland County home after his two friends dropped him off.”



4

Publications from the *Second Amendment Foundation:*



Women & Guns:

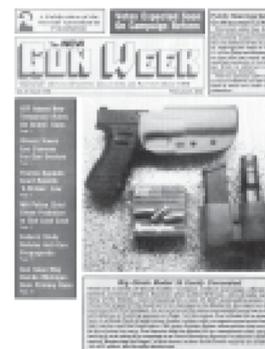
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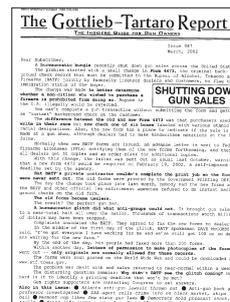
The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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