Buthelezi, III

Radical Change

by Ketan K. Shah

This is the last of three articles on South Africa inspired by the recent visit of the President of the Republic of the Zulu Federation, Chief Buthelezi, to Caltech. Last week’s article described the conditions under which the Nationalists, Pres. T. N. K. Vorster, and the Zulu Leadership were negotiating the future of South Africa among various South African groups.

In his Caltech speech, Chief Buthelezi called for radical change without “destroying the growth basis of the South African economy.” He was one among major black leaders of South Africa in calling for open debate on all development by foreign investment. This stance is patently contradictory to those who see the future of apartheid carried forward through fundamental reforms that include the dissolution of institutional barriers in Western countries, where apartheid laws have long protected large and small businesses, especially those employing thousands of black workers, like mining companies.

In the 1960’s and ’70’s, the South African economy underwent rapid growth that brought about the involvement of Afrikaners in large-scale industry previously dominated by English-speaking whites. Along with an annual growth rate of 5-6% predicted for the 1980’s, the South African economy has serious bottlenecks in skilled labour. The government must seek skilled workers in Western countries, but the shortage of skilled labour has been caused by ignorance, prejudice, and the discriminatory anti-black legislation. It is against the law in South Africa to train blacks for most jobs that require skills and to give them employment in jobs reserved for whites.

There has caused a major brake on growth and since there is an estimated shortfall of about 700,000 skilled workers, the economy now has to rely on a full scale industry previously dominated by English-speaking whites. Along with an annual growth rate of 5-6% predicted for the 1980’s, the South African economy has serious bottlenecks in skilled labour. The government must seek skilled workers in Western countries, but the shortage of skilled labour has been caused by ignorance, prejudice, and the discriminatory anti-black legislation. It is against the law in South Africa to train blacks for most jobs that require skills and to give them employment in jobs reserved for whites.

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The tide of evolution may carry everything before it, said Stephen Jay Gould. It is perhaps more worrying about the tide of creationism, said Gould. The deportation of a full Bechuanan Auditorium Tuesday night that he is much more worried about the tide of creationism. Gould, the 1985 Buwalda Lecturer, gave his talk on “The Fact of Evolution and the Politics of Creation.” The lecture was jointly sponsored by the Divisions of Geology & Planetary Sciences and Biology.

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Gould’s talk was divided into three sections, the first of which concerned the evidence for evolution. This evidence comes in three basic forms. Small scale direct: What one can see directly about evolution (e.g., the development of heavy body parts in sea urchins, the penguin, or the famous puffin moths). Small scale direct evidence shows no progressive trends. This kind of evidence is so obvious that creationists must accept it, but they claim that it does not imply that evolution is correct theory.

Large scale direct: Primarily the fossil record, which shows many of the structurally intermediate forms of evolution. Creationists argue that because there is no complete unbroken chain of evolution shown by fossil record, the record is meaningless. Evolutionists can point out many intermediate intermediary forms (such as the archaeocytoptes) and relatively unbroken chains (such as the chain of evolution from reptiles to mammals). Also, so many animals (such as man) fossilize so poorly that we cannot expect to find a complete record.

Indirect: The study of living organisms and their geographical distribution. This evidence, Gould believes, is the most convincing of all. He argues that perfect structures are useless to study, because their perfection covers history (any kind of mutation could not be helpful and therefore would probably not survive). What we must look for, then, are strange imperfections in nature, such as the panda’s “thumb.” The panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca) leaves from bamboo by slipping the twist between its fingers and thumb. The strange thing is that it is a well known rule that carnivores do not have manipulable thumbs. Close inspection shows that a panda indeed has five digits, one of those being the expected non-manipulable thumb. The pseudo-thumb is actually an elongated wrist bone. It does not make sense, then, to the panda to have had to develop a poorly designed “thumb” unless the panda is indeed descended from carnivores and therefore has a “useless” true thumb. As Gould put it, “If God made it, it would work better.”

The second section of the lecture concerned the history of the primate of the school, was (ii) to test the law. The teacher, Scopes, later admitted that the only reason he was still in Dayton (instead of by tesano nonori)

Gould spoke in a completely full Baxter Lecture Hall (with people packed into the aisles, standing in back, and forming at least 10 rows of seats up front). Harvard Professor Stephen Jay Gould spoke in the History of the Life, the first of two given at Caltech this week. Gould spoke about his views on evolution.

Gould first discussed two former theories of evolution before presenting his own. The first was the “chain of being” theory in which life is viewed as an organized, unilinear progress towards perfection (from amoeba to humans). The second was Darwin’s theory, characterized by the concepts of local adaptation and competition. Darwin’s theory says that local adaptations (biomechanical improvements) will accumulate in time to yield progress that in a full world, the only way in is by pushing another out, so the best organisms will survive.

Although Gould believes the greatness of Darwin’s theory lies in his belief that small-scale changes amount to large-scale changes in time, he thinks that it is a paradox and that progress is not cumulative. “We cannot look at time in Darwin’s way. We would do better if we looked at progress in terms of three tiers of time,” he suggested. The three tiers of time are: (1) the ecological moment, (2) geological time, and (3) mass extinctions.

The paradox of the first tier, which deals with the struggle for survival of an individual in a population, can be summarized in the question, “Why is there no accumulating progress in my back yard?” If there exists this constant struggle, shouldn’t we see changes in already existing organisms as well as completely new ones?

The two other tiers of time account for no explanation of progress, but rather for mass extinctions. In reality, the story went something like this: The ACLU advertised in 1925 for somebody in Tennessee to teach evolution so that the constitu­

Gould ended his lecture with an analogy to trends in baseball. He asked the audience why the batting averages of the players are almost never over 400 anymore, while the mean batting average has hardly changed since the beginning. The answer is that variance has declined from both ends: no one has as low a average as some did when there were 400 batters either. This regulation through time is a common property of all systems, concluded Gould.

The lecture was one of a series of lectures sponsored by the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences held annually in memory of their late founder (in 1925), John Peter Buwalda.

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The Caltech Y Fly-by

Friday ... March 8

Noon concert, Melissa, in celebration of National Woman's History Week, Noon on the Quad, Sponsored by the Caltech Y and the OWC.

Philharmonic Trip, Tonight!
Sign up for Spring Break sailing!
Sign up for Spring Break skiing!
Sing up for Cinderella.
Pick up Cats tickets by March 12, if you won.
Sign up for Philharmonic trip which will be on March 15.

Sunday ... March 10

"Penn & Tellor, Bad Boys of Magic," the magic show for people who hate magic shows, 3 pm. If you signed up, go.

Friday ... March 15

Noon concert, Jimmy and the Mustangs. Be there.

Philharmonic trip. the program includes works by Vaughan Williams, Barber and Hindemith.

Saturday & Sunday ... March 16 & 17

Decompression: Food! Fun! Films! Games! and Grillfest! 6-12 pm, Winnett Lounge.

Over Spring Break:
There are several different plans, why not come be and ask.
Sailing: 5 days for $60 (approx) Sign up by March 15. (Blissly) Information at Gables Theatre, March 23, tickets $20.
Steve Taylor and PETRA, March 30. Be there.

Next Term:
Cats.

For more information, contact the Caltech Y at 356-6163, or just drop by.
The details are sketchy and not much is in, but here's the story as of this hour:

"It all happened so fast. One minute, everything was fine. The next, my son was on fire! My son! My baby boy!"

"I heard the whole thing from the Lounge. It was as if a thundering herd of wild beasts just came in and..."

"No, no. It was quiet at first, then there was a great "GASP" as the curtains fell down, don't you know?"

"Yeah, I heard about dat. Aw, gee, dat's too bad. Hey, kim I have a extra dessert?"

"Of course, being in the responsible position I am in, I just sat there with me hands clasped, didn't say a word..."

"I miss it. What happened? .. Who? .. Really? ... Snorting what? .. No! Well, ... I can't believe it."

"And I keeps yellin' 'Slow down!' 'Stay calm!' But people's yellin' and screaming and crying and..."

"By then the whole lounge was a scalding inferno. Smoke billowed out slug-gishly through the screen door. It kind of reminded of me the Peepool in Moby Dick."

"Oh the EMS Brigade in that PBS series?"

"Yes, kind of. But more like the Peepool."

"And so Daisy kept yelling something about cleaning your own tables or something but no one listened to him because he'd received a blow on the head when the light fell down, don't you know?"

"I'm sorry, I can't believe it."

"Of course, the man was in the responsible position I am in, I just sat there with me thumb up me butt. It was OK."

"I disagree. As fires go it was, well, it was almost good. But all in all I'd say that it just sucked. Barely."

"I trained it. What happened! .. What! .. Really! .. Snorting what! .. No! Well, I heard him. No! Oh yeah! Oh, that commercial .. now, c'mon!"

"Now there's a look in your eyes Shine on you crazy diamond Remember when you wer young"

".......

"You are in the responsible position I am in, I just sat there with me hands clasped, didn't say a word..."


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"Now there's a look in your eyes Shine on you crazy diamond Remember when you wer young"
The Fact of Evolution and the Politics of Creationism

from page 1

Differential Intelligence (Mobility). The "dumb" creatures were too stupid to get away from the water in the flood, and so they were buried first. The "smart" creatures headed for the hills and caught it later.

Unfortunately, none of these propositions is feasible, but the creationists will neither give them up nor come up with workable new ones.

Finally, why should we even worry about the creationists? Why not dismiss them as nuts? Gould argues that:

(1) Creationists will not go away. They will come up with new tactics, and must always be fought.

(2) Creationism does not just attack evolution—it attacks all science. If evolution goes, all science is at the very least suspect.

(3) Creationism attacks all free inquiry. Gould's lecture was well presented and quite fascinating, to say the least. Although some people were turned away for lack of seats, those who came early enough were treated to an enjoyable, humorous, and socially important lecture.

Alternatives to Being

Most students at Tech are often confronted with themselves. Yet few people realize this is unnecessary. There are many alternatives to being (not the least of which is not). In these columns, those that read with their eyes open can see this. But those that do not see this, they are more logical.

Story:

Two zendents were in a park, discussing the properties of quality. The younger zendent said "See this bed of clover? I select this flower, and it is the same as any of the others, Yet I have not selected them."

The elder replied, "You have just taken my eyes, how therefore could I see? But there is no flower, for there is no hand to pluck it."

At this point, the zenistic Charon walked up. Berating the elder zendent, he said, "You have eaten, and yet you do not perceive your comrade is hungry? Your answers do not add one whit to his appetite!" Charon then struck the elder zendent about the face several times, and left.

Moral:

Which zendent was more like the flower, and which more like the bed? Charon knew that the elder zendent had not been speaking to the younger one, so Charon did not speak to him either. Discussions about quality are one thing, but discussions about food are more common.

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH / FRIDAY 8 MARCH 1985

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

TOP DON'T I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOU MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE MOST OF IT IN YOUR LAST EMERGENCY.

SKULLY?

THAT WAS JUST 2000 MILES ON THE DROWN, SAID I, BUT I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE THAT MUCH LONGER.

NO WAY! THAT YOU TOOK A MOUNTAIN AS A MOUNTAIN?

YES! IT'S TRUE! YOU CAME AS A HUMAN!

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Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals at Caltech

by Charles Barrett

The situation of gays (and here I use the term for both genders) in this country has improved measurably in the last several years. The newly-incorporated city of West Hollywood is the nation’s first predominately gay city of significant size, and the majority of their city council is gay as well.

The sizeable gay communities in the nation’s major cities now comprises a wealthy and increasingly powerful political entity, working towards (and frequently achieving) non-discriminatory housing and employment laws with respect to sexual preference.

Gay themes, from the camp to the sensitive, have been presented on stage and screen as well as in television series (Dynasty, for one) and TV movies (like ABC’s Conving Adult). Not only are openly gay artists and performers, like Frakkie Goes to Hollywood and Bronski Beat, showing mass market appeal, but advertisers are now beginning to acknowledge the immense buying power of the gay community (yes, that’s right, all that beer isn’t just for the ladies).

Surprisingly (considering the isolated nature of this campus), these advancements in the outside world have not translated into the progress of the gay community at Caltech. After its name was changed from the Gay Student Union (GSU), the Caltech Lesbian and Gay Society (CLAGS) embarked two years ago on a high-visibility policy, making its name known through liberal poster distribution. The CLAGS dances, with co-sponsorship from the MOSH and the Caltech Y, have been some of the most successful all-campus events in recent memory.

The initial backlash from closed-minded factions on campus has long since subsided, and CLAGS no longer has to fight to assert its existence.

All of this does not mean, however, that acknowledging oneself to be gay is a straightforward (pardon the pun) and painless step in one’s life. With that awareness comes the realization that the role models of the middle-class American dream, the spouse and kids and the house-with-a-two-car garage in the suburbs, do not apply and have not prepared you for what to expect.

In many respects, large and small, life as a professional gay has its differences. The ubiquitous stereotypes of the swishy interior decorator or the leather-boy cruising Santa Monica Blvd. would scare anybody thinking of coming out of the closet, but thankfully are being eroded as doctors, judges, and people from all walks of life are declaring themselves gay. There are engineers and scientists who are gay, and gurus like the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists (LAGALS) provide an opportunity for them to meet and mingle.

There are so many unknowns about how being gay will affect your life. How will your family react? Your friends? Your co-workers? Granted, sexual preference does not have to have a bearing on every aspect of day-to-day life; you won’t stop driving on the right side of the road or paying taxes as a result. You may, however, find yourself talking about your ‘roommate’ when everybody is wondering when you’re going to get married.

College, as a time away from home when you can come to many realizations of exactly who you are, is for many the perfect opportunity for coming to grips with their sexual preference. At Caltech, the academic pressure is intense and takes up most of your time, and as a result many people, straight or gay, put off this kind of introspection and remain a sort of sexual non-entity until ‘the time is right’ (whatever that means).

Those who do become aware that they are gay they then confront the ramifications (not to imply that they weigh the pros and cons to the right and the wrong side, but that they are gay; it’s not a question of choice, it is a state of being), an often times consuming ordeal that can interfere with schoolwork. Worse still, he or she can fall hopelessly in love with a close friend who is not gay.

It does not matter how understanding or sympathetic the friend is (and they often are), the sexual incompatibility makes for a painful relationship of unrequited love, which, like most unsatisfactory love-affairs, can throw a wrench into academic work. This kind of scenario has been the cause of more than one leave of absence from Caltech.

The task of coming out can be made much easier with some support and good advice from those who have walked the same path themselves. As a group the gay community at Caltech represents a broad range of backgrounds and experiences that anyone having questions about being gay can draw upon. Anyone can drop in at a CLAGS meeting (see the Announcements section for time and place), or if that’s too intimidating, there are a number of CLAGS members (like myself) who are easy to get in touch with. The CLAGS mail code is 218—51, and its president is Ralph Wolf in Dotney House (578-9617). In any case, confidentiality is preserved.

Of course, from a sexuality and relationship point of view, coming out is only the first step. Gay relationships, like any others at Caltech, have to contend with the time demands of schoolwork and the barriers that are often present between Houses. Some Houses are open and accepting of gay members and their friends; others are decidedly not.

Opportunities for political and social involvement in the Los Angeles gay community (the nation’s largest, and a prime example of how to get in touch with one’s family, friends and potential partners; on the other, there is the risk of being pigeonholed as gay when in fact they are not and possibly missing out on straight relationships. People just love to categorize other people, and bisexuality does not lend itself to that.

Now that its existence is firmly established, “CLAGS is getting integrated into the community more,” according to president Ralph Wolf, “and it is in this spirit that we are organizing the Sexuality Awareness Week [in May] with the help of the Y, the OWC, the MOSH, the Deans’ office, and the Health Center.” With this whole-campus view in mind, CLAGS would like to see more interaction between Houses, perhaps facilities like an unaffiliated rec room, and by grouping student organization offices in close proximity to one another.

Considering our shared existence here at Caltech, the situation of large, gare, lesbians, and bisexuals in our community does not represent diversity; it represents minority.

As usual, any comments on the column or its subject matter are welcome. Contact Charles Barrett, in Ricketts (1-59 or call 577-8593) or in care of The California Tech (107—51). Next Week: Relationships with non-Techers and people in other Houses.

For more information, contact the Career Development Center, or call Celia Long (collect) at (408) 496-2066. We are an equal-opportunity employer M/F/H.

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH / FRIDAY 8 MARCH 1985

Ars Amore

by John R. Campbell

"Vaya a México con Let's Go!"

(translation: Go to Mexico with Let’s Go!)

Al fin tiene usted un amigo en México

(translation: At last you have a friend in Mexico)

"The granddaddy of all student guidebooks" (New York Times) introduces a brand-new edition for Mexico. Written by students, for students, and filled with cheap-but-safe hotels • inexpensive good eating • in-depth information on Mexico's history, art, and architecture from the Quinamcan ruins of Michoacan to the Colonial churches of Guanajuato, from the snow-capped volcanos of Popocatepetl to the lively port of Veracruz.

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ST. MARTIN’S PRESS
Science Friction
by Nick Smith
Wyrd Times
by Kathleen Sky
Berkeley Books

If you like fantasy, but get tired of stories that are either bad ripoffs of either The Hobbit or Conan the King? If so, then this one might be for you. Wychamisn isn't really quite like anything, but it's most comparable to the better parts of Katherine Kurtz's Deryn books.

The basic premise is an "altern­ate history" sort of thing, one in which the year 1666 didn't mark the conquest of England by Nor­mans, but instead by Witchlords, an aristocracy of ceremonial magi­cians. The isle of Englene, from centuries have gone by, in a time when, for most people, life is a struggle against the elements (though not necessarily against weather); even so, the eight languages and seven cultures, and almost anything else that happens, is handily does make the point that when the whole world, Jarre is also trying to appeal to everyone in it, and the result is a brilliant work that is, unfortunately, hard to describe. But I'll try. . .

"Ethnologist" opens the album with an assortment of voices-reworked-into-melodies, sweeping gracefully between stereo chan­nels. An ominous, machine-like hum comes in; then some gutteral scream. "Whatabout the music?" you scream. "What about the music?"

" Enough introduction! " you scream. "What about the music?"

"Ethnologist" is not to be taken sitt­ing down. Yogi Horton's powerful drums won't let you. Eventually it fades, and "Diva," featuring vocals by perfor­mance artist Laurie Anderson—well, it drips in. And then there are some melodic, um, laugh?—and Laurie comes in, sounding innocent? To a samba rhythm? Wait, isn't this the lady who did "O Superman?" Zoolook is a great album—I would say Jarre's best—but it achieves its greatness in entirely unexpected ways.

Side Two is only marginally more conventional than Side One. Five tracks—each about four minutes long—seem to exhaust the musical possibilities of the process­ed human voice. The melodies and arrangements are similar to those on Oxygene and Equinoxe, but the intuitions are in a more irregularly bizarre. Especially noteworthy (pun intended) are the over­scratched dance track "Zoolookologie" and its moody successor, "'Blah-Blah Cafe."

"Ethnologist II," like the final track (movement) of each of Jarre's compositions, recaps the musical themes of the preceding work and fuses them into a harmonic and hypnotic climax. Magnetic Fields made Oxygene and Equinoxe sound juvenile in comparison; Zoolook hardly does the same for Magnetic Fields. Jarre has expanded his range of in­strum ents to include all of humani­ty, and he has done it without hit­ting a false note. With the help of illustrious contributors (including Adrian Belew, who is difficult to locate at times, but well worth the search), Jean-Michel Jarre's dance tracks have gotten even more danceable, and his weird stuff has Saturn, and the result is a brilliant work that, unfortunately, hard to describe. But I'll try. . .

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Raftery on Roosevelt by Diana Foss

As part of the campus observance of Women's History Week, visiting lecturer Dr. Judy Raftery presented a slide show Wednesday at noon in the Wimett Lounge on the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. The presentation, which was sponsored by the Organization for Women at Caltech, was attended by about twenty-five people.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a truly remarkable woman. Born into a wealthy and influential family, she nonetheless developed a strong social conscience and devoted most of her life to politics and reform. Although she is best known as the wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, she was anything but merely an ex-wife of a wealthy and influential family. Eleanor Roosevelt had an independent political career before she became First Lady of the United States, having been a manufacturing executive and a secretary to a presidential candidate. As First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt broke all traditions. Instead of a tea-serve hostess for the White House, she was a world-travelling emissary for America. The fact that it was kept a secret that FDR was crippled made her travels the more necessary. She was the conscience of the New Deal. Much of its social legislation received its impetus from her, and she insured her friends in the nascent labor movement access to the President.

Her effect on subsequent First Ladies is readily apparent. Lady Bird Johnson's efforts to "Keep America Beautiful," Rosalynn Carter's active involvement in the Carter Administration, and Nancy Reagan's campaign to eradicate drug use among young people are all examples of the President's wife's new role, first forged by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Dr. Clore is teaching a class on American culture in general. The course will cover the whole history of America, from colonial to modern times, and will focus on the way that women, especially immigrant women, have affected the history of this country. This provides an excellent chance to study America's past from a non-traditional viewpoint; rather than who was President when, and who fought in which war, this course will emphasize areas such as educational reform: areas where women have had a large, but often forgotten, impact. Indeed, Dr. Raftery says that one of the things she hopes to accomplish in teaching Women's History is to increase students' awareness of the other ways in which one can look at history.

Dr. Clore has also taught a class at Caltech on Caltech's ethnic history, and says that her interest in women's history is derived from her interest in nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. history and American culture in general. The time is also right for a class in the subject, she feels, because during the last fifteen or so years, women's history has been the object of so much serious scholarly attention, and the body of literature on the subject has grown tremendously.
St. Paddy’s Minus 2

Celebrate early! St. Patrick’s Day Party. Friday, March 15, 5:00 pm. Olive Walk. The Master of Student Affairs will introduce music by Dan Kahan’s Irish Country Band, dancing by the Cripple Creek Cloggers, and a Special Dinner by Serenvation. Dinner will be free for all students on trait or $6, 50 for others. Memo: London Bollor, Spare Ribs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers; Decorated Cakes; Lime Chiffon Pie; Milk, Fruit Melon and Fruit Tray; Cole Slaw; Burgers, Cheeseburgers; Baked Band, dancing by the Cripple by Dan Kahane’s Irish Country band. Call 792-9342.

Bassoon Recital

Phoebe Ray and friends will present a bassoon recital on Saturday, April 6 at 8:00 pm in Dabney Lounge. The program will include works by Vivaldi, Saint-Saëns, Schumann and Prokofiev. Admission free.

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Studenski Memorial

Applications are now being received for the 1985 Studenski Memorial Travel Fund Award. The Studenski Award of $1900 is given each year to an undergraduate at Caltech who will use the money to travel, to reflect on the future course of his or her life.

The objective is to provide the student time and opportunity to weigh academic and career options. The roaming and rummaging ought to involve a concern to com­bine one’s scientific strengths with humanity’s needs.

The Caltech ’85 board of direc­tors chooses the winner on the basis of an essay and interview. The application and supporting materials, typewritten pages, should explain briefly how the student would use the travel money and how that travel would help the student make a better determination regarding future plans. The interview is used to elaborate the ideas which the selection committee deems most appro­priate.

The only other requirement is that the student’s grades be in reasonably good order. The trip can be taken before or immediately after graduating. Application and supporting materials are due Friday, April 5 at 5 pm. Questions will be answered by Huston Horn in the Y office.

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