

## John Gurskey Dies Suddenly

Assistant Professor John B. Gurskey, 44, of the Education Department died suddenly yesterday morning in Columbia University's John Jay Hall, where he had been residing.

He has been at the College since February, 1947 and had just received his tenure this fall. He was in charge of preparing the comprehensive exams given to students going for their master's degree in education.

Dr. Gurskey received his doctorate degree in education from Columbia Teachers' College in 1942. He is survived by his family which resides in Pennsylvania.

# OBSERVATION POST

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232

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1951.

## UBE Repayment Guaranteed By S. C. Loan of 300 Dollars

By HENRY KRISCH

Acting swiftly in the wake of the Used Book Exchange robbery, Student Council has approved a \$300 loan to the UBE to help carry out SC's president's pledge that no student will suffer loss as a result of the theft.

According to a report made to Council's first meeting last Friday night by SC Treasurer Dolores Schwartz and UBE Manager Cecilia Kopito, the Council loan, plus approximately \$700 from the UBE reserve together with contribu-

## Theft Ruins UBE Best Term

By SIM KANTIN

In spite of the greatest sale of books in its history, the Used Book Exchange will not have had a financially profitable semester. All of the reserves of the UBE, accumulated since its inception in 1949, will go towards making up the \$1,202.10 which were stolen

last Tuesday night from the Army Hall Lounge, where the exchange was operating.

The robbery occurred at about 10:05 that night approximately five minutes after the police had been called to escort Miss Cecilia Kopito, manager of the exchange on her trip, with the daily receipts to the Central Treasurer's office in the Main Building.

The police did not arrive until after the theft and a second phone call by Milton Herlich of APO, who was one of three to chase immediately after the thief.

### Thief 'Seen'

Here is how it happened. After having tabulated the money and placed it in a metal cashbox, near the cash registers on the "buying" side of the Lounge, the UBE staff of six people, went to the "selling" side to tabulate the receipts. Leaving the money thus without guard, although for only a few minutes, is a "quirk" in the Book Exchange's system of operation which "had always been done."

Above the noise of the adding machines was heard the sound of a cash-box hitting the floor. Miss Kopito, who says she immediately recognized the noise and became aware of what was going on, turned, saw and screamed. The thief, who was seen bending to pick up "the loot," straightened and ran through the back door which was then ajar.

This back door of the Lounge had been locked by Miss Kopito. However, as everything else in



Photo by Moss.  
Cecilia Kopito

Army Hall, it is old and not dependable. It can be pushed open even when locked, although this would make a noise which normally should be heard.

### Scream Brings Crowd

As the thief disappeared through the dorr, Milt Herlich, Martin Dubin and Robert Myers, assistant manager of the UBE, ran out after him. Cecilia Kopito and Sol Friedman went out through the front doors and Ernst Hauser remained to gather what the thief had not gotten and to keep the curious crowd which had been attracted by Miss Kopito's scream out of the way.

A few minutes later the pursuers returned and waited for the police to arrive. As soon as the police arrived they made every attempt to cover the grounds of

Army Hall before the thief could complete his escape. However, they arrived too late.

Police Detective John O'Brien, who is in charge of the case, in an exclusive interview told *Observation Post*, that a "private citizen who would not disclose his name, saw a man climb over the back wall of Army Hall, remove his gray tweed jacket (possibly to cover the cash box) and walk calmly down the street." He added that he expected eventually to catch the thief and that the case would remain open until successfully closed.

The identification of the thief was made by Nick Pakradonian of the Canteen, who saw the thief clearly before the robbery. The thief aroused Nick's suspicions by his questions about a "book store." Nick, who was, however, unable to identify the thief from criminal files, remains the best witness, since he fully remembers the thief's features.

### A. H. Door Open

There are a few facts concerning the robbery which seem hard to understand. It was noticed that one door of the Cafeteria, facing the back door of the Army Hall Lounge, as well as one on the outside of the building, which at night were usually locked, had been left closed but unlocked. Scarcely fifteen minutes before the robbery, while the money was being counted, a freshman

tour for Evening Session students was led through the UBE. This was one of two nights this semester during which such tours had been conducted through the UBE at that late hour.

The open doors to the cafeteria, the opened back door of the Lounge, which had been locked by Miss Kopito, the time chosen for the act, and the fact that the thief knew how to get out of Army Hall in a very few seconds mark him as a man familiar with the building, its keys and with the operational procedure and "quirks" of the UBE staff. Despite this Detective O'Brien considers the thief as having been "extremely lucky and happily surprised at the amount he got."

Miss Kopito does not expect the stolen money to be recovered. However, due to a loan made by Student Council and the expected receipts for the remainder of the term, the UBE will be able to operate next semester. Neither the books nor the money of the UBE had been insured, for the insurance company regarded the Army Hall Lounge as unsafe and the protection inadequate, in case of fire or theft. The manager of the UBE, had attempted to find a safer place before the term began, but the lack of sufficient funds kept them in the freely donated Army Hall Lounge.

had been made toward building a joint college community. In addition, SC heard short talks from Prof. Oscar Buckvar, (gov't.) and Deans Corey and Lewis of Student Life.

Election of committees filled the remainder of the meeting, with Howard Young and Gerald Goldstein of the class of '53 being elected to Council's executive committee, and a list of seven including chairman Irwin Schiffres filling out the important judiciary committee. Other committees chosen included facilities, social functions, school affairs, educational practices, rules, budget, and public relations.

Reaffirming its support of the UBE, Council expressed satisfaction with the amount accomplished, declaring that it rivaled any previous first-meeting record.

## Rudolph Halley Talks in Harris Thursday Noon

By WALT PORGES

Rudolph Halley, Liberal Party candidate for President of the City Council, and former chief counsel for the Kefauver Committee will address the Young Liberals and other interested students on Thursday, September 27, in the Townsend Harris Auditorium. Mr. Halley will be introduced by Manny Halper, President of the Young Liberals, at approximately 12:20. Other speakers will be President Harry N. Wright and Professor Oscar Buckvar (Government).

This will be one of the first steps in Mr. Halley's campaign for election to the City Council Presidency. His address, which will deal with problems with which the City College student is faced, will be followed by a question and answer period, during which Mr. Halley will answer any questions that students may have with regard to politics in New York City.

It is believed that Mr. Halley will also devote a portion of his remarks to discussing the recent scandal in the Brooklyn police department.

## Insurance...

The new student insurance plan which has been proposed for the College will only be effective if 1000 or more students register for it. All students are urged to send their money as soon as possible. An application for the plan may be found on Page 2 of this issue. Remember, send your money in NOW.

## Mrs. FDR Address Urges Keeping Informed

By HAL CHERRY

Speaking before an audience of five hundred students on Thursday in Great Hall, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt stressed the importance of keeping informed on vital issues in order to preserve democracy.

"When you have scandals and poor representation I think you can't be too young to realize that it is dangerous to leave your government in the hands of a few... You may feel that you have very little influence and can't do much. It is only as you make your life, your family, your community a good one that you will make a good nation."

Mrs. Roosevelt's appearance was sponsored by the F.D.R. Young Democrats and she was introduced by President Harry N. Wright as "one of the great citizens of the United States." She spoke, without notes, on the subject "The United Nations and Our Relations With Russia."

Reminiscing about the difficulties which faced the delegates to the first UN meeting, Mrs. Roosevelt cited the fact that just the mere use of the term "rights" in the drawing up of the Declaration of Human Rights took up many hours. Part of the blame for these difficulties is due, she said, to the nations' lack of understanding of each other's problems. "How many of you know that in India, for instance the average length of life is 27 years?" she asked.

Of the Russian delegates to the UN, Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I have tried very hard to get to know them personally. They will



Photo by Moss.  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

speak to anyone alone because they must have each other to watch themselves." She termed the friction between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. "unfortunate but

perhaps inevitable" because of the two different ideologies "Our very best weapon is to show them what it means to live in a democracy," she said.

In response to a question asking her opinion of Senator Joseph McCarthy, Mrs. Roosevelt said, "What I think of Senator McCarthy, I can hardly put into words." She called him "the greatest menace to freedom because he smears people without the slightest regard for facts."

Another interrogator asked whether an alliance with Spain weakens our moral position. Mrs. Roosevelt replied, "I don't like it because it does strengthen Franco, and yet I have to accept the opinion of the military people who are obliged to think of how we would defend our country in case of World War III."

# The Opium Den

By AL T. FIBRING

A word of wisdom to the entering Freshmen in these trying times.

No need to worry about your stay at City College. You'll find that things will more or less take care of themselves. If they don't, the Committee on Course and Standing will take care of them for you.

Forgetting to show up for classes, aside from being an indication of "belonging," is a good way to increase the scarcely enough time you have to spend in the cafeteria asking classmates what happened in the class which you just missed. Naturally the classmates you approach will assure you that they weren't within hailing distance of the classroom, being conscientious objectors. If they did happen to attend they did so merely to not take notes or to not pay attention or to walk out in the middle of the professor's grand summation. So be skeptical of answers they give you on exams.

One advantage of attending City College is not having to worry about exams. Exam grades are raised, put on a curve, weighted very heavily or disregarded, or any combination of these. The final grades of course are determined by the instructor's memory for faces and whether or not he has taken a liking to your particular kind of face.

The best a poor student can hope to do is to have the instructor confuse him with a student of "A" calibre. His chances are bettered if he answers to the other student's name and accuses

the other student of being an imposter. But good grades build up the resentment of mediocre students, who comprise the entire student body save the speaker of the moment. These mediocre students obtain revenge by giving you wrong answers in the Great Hall the following term, so don't work too hard to achieve good grades.

Grades are merely a step in the direction of Dean Gottschall's office, and the sooner you meet Dean Gottschall the sooner you'll be able to become an after dinner raconteur with tales of "What happened when Morton and I got together to discuss my academic inconsistencies."

The most important things to remember are: take your electives first because God knows when you'll ever finish the required courses. Mr. Wohlberg has a particularly morbid sense of humor, so never answer his R.S.V.P. invitations to chat; don't be surprised if after four days of salami sandwiches the cafeteria makes it up to you with fish on Fridays; if you don't pass the Speech Exam you can get an engineering degree with a major in education, which is recognized for high paying teaching jobs in New Jersey and all of New England; save up all your drops for one appearance at the Bursar's two-dollar window, for there is often a long line of repentants.

For excellent advice try the Freshmen Advisory Committee in Army Hall's basement. Their experts have gained their experience by enrolling in specific courses term after term. The instructors fail them because they resent the students' knowing more than they do.

## Dramsoe

Dramsoe, the dramatic society of CCNY Uptown, takes pleasure in announcing that its fall production will be Moss Hart's "Light Up the Sky." It will be remembered that this play had a very successful run on Broadway during the 1949 season. Casting for the numerous roles will be conducted this week.

## ARMY HALL

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## City College Cafeteria

MAIN BUILDING

## Register Now for First Aid Course in 307 Stadium

In cooperation with the American Red Cross and the City College Civil Defense Committee, the Hygiene Department will offer classes in first aid this semester, it was announced by Professor Frank S. Lloyd, chairman. The non-credit course, leading to

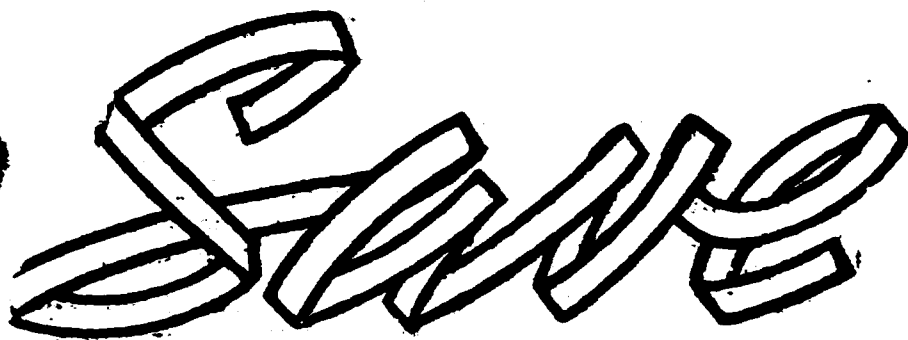
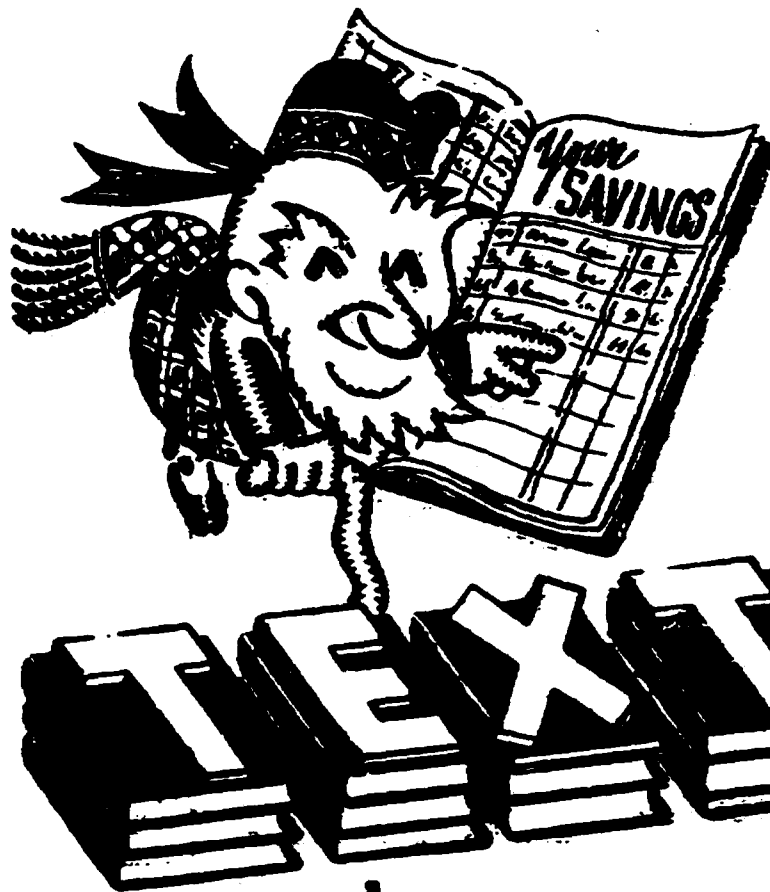
a Red Cross First Aid Certificate, is offered as part of the nationwide program to increase the number of trained personnel in case of emergency.

Classes in two sections of the course will begin next Monday, September 24, and will continue

for 9½ weeks. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday from 2 to 3 P.M. or Tuesday and Friday from 1 to 2 P.M.

Students who wish to enroll should report to Professor Nyquist in Room 307, Stadium Concerts Building, at the first session of the class.

**Join OP**



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This publication is supported by student fees.

## UBE

The tragedy of the UBE theft is heightened by the fact that there is no prospect of ever effectively locking the barn door. Student activities dealing with cash will continue, and the danger of crime still exists. We cannot afford private protection, insurance is not worth while, and police protection is a joke. Comes the winter, the emphasis will be on dealing overcoats. We must resort to what we haven't enough of in the past, individual vigilance. Unfortunate as it may sound in an institution of higher learning, we just have to be crime conscious. Let's not leave money unguarded. Let's not leave our coats lying around. Let's not trust anybody, especially the people that wander in from the neighborhood.

We too would like to echo all those who have told Cecilia Kapito that she need hold nothing against herself. She's done a terrific job this term and is to be congratulated.

The proposal for prepayment offered by Student Council President Gerald Walpin certainly puts Council on the right road to a great term. The plan to lend UBE enough money to fill the deficit between their reserves and the stolen money will avoid taking any funds from fee plan activities, and a bothersome and most likely ineffectual classroom collection. Good work Jerry.

## ROTC

We're waiting for all the facts in the ROTC case to develop, but as of this writing, we're still not too sure whether or not ROTC is supposed to be inveigling people into joining, or into not joining. Let's get it straight fellows.

## Club Notes...

**ARME** ... The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will meet Thursday at 12:30 in 10(Tech). Films on Diesel and Automobile engines are on the agenda.

**Economics Society** ... Mr. Joseph Taffet (Eco.) will speak on Thursday at 12:30 in 210 Main. Topic: "Employment Prospects for Economists."

**Education Society** ... 12:30 is the time for Dean Turner's address to the Ed. Society. 312 Main is the place.

**Gov't & Law Society** ... Prof. Hensel (Gov't) will give a talk on "Law as a Career" at 12:15 in 224 Main Thursday. The Gov't & Law Society will hold its first meeting at that time.

**Hillel** ... This afternoon at 3, Hillel will hold its Postwar Hour and feature a film "So You Want to See Israel." Hillel is located

at 475 W. 140th St. An Open House will be held Thursday from 12:30-2:00.

**House Plan** ... All week House Plan is sponsoring a "Committee Rush Week" to encourage House Planners to join them. Free refreshments and social activities are centered in the new Downstairs Lounge.

**Meteorological Society** ... Room 3 (Finley) is the location of the Meteorological Society's functions. The first meeting is Thursday at 12:30.

**Music Club** ... "The Medium" with the original cast, is the offering of the Music Club Thursday at 12:30 in 310 Harris. On records, of course.

**Psychology Society** ... "Racial Prejudice" is the topic of the Psych Society's discussion on Thursday at 12:30 in Webster Hall (5th Floor Main).

## The Age of Futility I

By Andrew Meisels

The opinions expressed below are those of the writer alone and do not necessarily reflect those of *Observation Post*.

We are college students at an odd time. It is a difficult time. The newspapers, radio and TV, relatives, our own minds have clarified our situation so well by now that it would be useless to elaborate upon the world crisis in which we live. We all know our chances of staying in college, of staying alive, and some of us react to this realization by indulging in self pity, some by shrugging of shoulders and some by offering ingenious, often ridiculous plans whereby we may improve our status quo.

But, just how unique is our situation? There have been other difficult times. The college students of 1917 knew their chances of staying in college too. The student of the 1930's realized that every day he spent in college was at a financial sacrifice on the part of his parents. College men in 1941 were not fated to be college men for long.

And yet, the average student in 1917 was anxious to go to war. He either considered it something of a new adventure which he had heretofore only read about or was willing, nobly, to bear his burden so that future generations might enjoy freedom and peace.

The student who attended college during the depression did so in the hope of earning more money when he got out. He did not, as a general rule, believe that "prosperity was just around the corner," but he was old enough to remember the "good days" of the 1920's and knew that the depression would not last forever.

The student of 1941 was living in an age of im-

provement. He had lived in the depression—and through it. He had seen the government take concrete steps to prevent the recurrence of such an economic crisis. It seemed only logical then, that the administration would also take steps to clean up the international crisis and inaugurate an age of peace, as well as prosperity.

In 1917 they had a dream: in 1933 they had hope; in 1941 they had Roosevelt. We have over three decades of blunders to erase. In all fairness to our fathers and brothers, our era is different.

In truth, our age is an anachronism. The present crisis should not have begun until another twenty years had passed. By that time a new, willing crop of college students could have taken up arms for Democracy, Communism etc. We are, somehow, not the correct generation for it.

Born in the depression, we awoke in war. Our counterparts in other lands, of other races, have had enough conflict for a hundred generations. Many of us who have come to the United States of late from Europe, have experienced, first hand, the horrors of an age in turmoil. Others felt it.

Others felt it in long lines at the grocer, in a blue star—or a gold one.

Our age, unique in this century, looks back and sees war. It looks forward and, at first glance, sees a surety of either war or depression. We know by now that neither road leads anywhere.

The props are ready; the actors know their lines; the script is old. Ring up the iron curtain! The stage is set for the age of futility.

Next: *The Student's Reaction*

## Rain or Shine? Finley Hall Oracles Predict Air

By Norm Verkman

Daily, amidst the crackle of lightning and thunder, the CCNY Weather Station ventures to make forecasts. Finley Hall is the proud possessor of this project, and the credit for its existence is due, largely to Prof. O'Connell, who is the director of the Station.

About 1930, Prof. O'Connell began negotiations to acquire a weather station for the College proper. But that time being the midst of the depression, the idea was thwarted till "better times", when discussions with the College and government officials would begin. However, the impetus of the last war proved too much for dissident elements, and the great advances in Meteorology caused much demand on the part of students to be able to take courses. Finally, financial aid, furnished in part through a gift of \$4,000 by Prof. Babor (Chem) at the Centennial in 1947, started the station going.

In cooperation with the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Bureau, and the U. S. Weather Bureau stations throughout the country, the Station is operated in Finley Hall, Room 3. Reports of its daily observations are sent to such places as the Finley Hall lobby, the bulletin board in Lincoln Corridor, and, of course, the Weather Bureau itself.

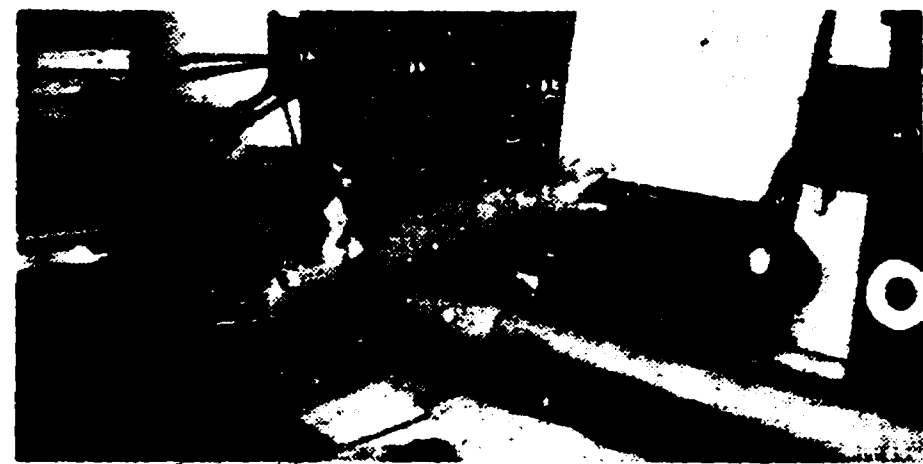


Photo by Moss.

Prior to the postwar years, only one course was offered in Meteorology. Since then, four more have been added and coupled with elective courses being given in related fields in the Physics dept, a full curriculum is provided for the would-be Meteorology major, the 20 credit requirement for Govt. Weathermen thereby being satisfied. And, P.S., those in the know recommend this field as being, "Wide open, empty, and inviting." This latter point was seconded by the reception of a letter from the head of the Weather Bureau in Washington. It inquired as to the prospects of employing graduated students in this field, and requested several additional courses to be given.

Besides housing such jaw-breakers as an anemometer, a hygrograph, a thermograph, a mercurial barometer, and other instruments of interest to the wind-worers, the Station is now having installed a Bendix Anemometer. This latter Anemometer would be extremely useful at certain intervals. It would take a reading of the wind's speed and direction, giving an advance notice where to duck from the ceiling. The sum total of these readings, in the

## Seniors

All seniors interested in applying for the two openings on Student Council from the class of '52 should come to the Class Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 7 P.M. in the Senior Office, Room 120 Army Hall.

Station itself, ought to give a picture of the current weather to be completed by the local Govt. Weather Bureau.

The initial performance of the station was "aided" immeasurably by the presence of government inspectors, mechanics, technicians, etc., and other professional assistants present at the "unveiling." The finance is provided by the College, and donations. The recent budget cut did not harm the Station, nor did the drop in enrollment affect the number and size of Meteorology courses being given. In fact, new classes are being projected to raise the College status in the field of Meteorology.

## APO Smoker

How do all you students and former smokers. Gamma Epsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, the Honorary Seating and Service Fraternity, cordially invites you to their annual smoker. It will be held on Friday night, Sept. 28, 9:30 P.M. at 47 W. 143rd St. Come on down and get to know the brothers and guests a few glasses of beer...

### Application For CCNY Student Accident Medical Expense Plan

To: United States Life Insurance Co.

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60 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I am a full-time day session student of C. C. N. Y. — Please enroll me in the C.C.N.Y. STUDENT ACCIDENT MEDICAL EXPENSE PLAN for the school year 1951-1952. Enclosed is my

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