

The Observer

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1984

'We're not going to let it happen'



2,000 storm Admin building during alcohol demonstration

By DAN McCULLOUGH and THOMAS SMALL
Staff Reporters

Nearly 2,000 Notre Dame students charged through the doors of the Administration Building yesterday after a rally protesting the University's new alcohol policy erupted into near-riot conditions.

Dean of Student James Roemer attempted to address the gathering from the third floor balcony of the building's rotunda, but was drowned out by jeers and shouts of the crowd.

The crowd began to assemble in front of the building at about noon, chanting slogans such as "We are not dry," "Where is Ted?" and "Less filling. Tastes great." Student government leaders appeared 10 minutes later and spoke to the assembly.

Student Body President Rob Bertino began, "I hope you guys are all fired up and ready to say what we feel about this alcohol policy. I've got it right here," he said waving a copy of the 28-page report. "Tell me what you guys think about it." The crowd replied with boos and shouts.

Bertino introduced Cathy David, student body vice president. David said, "This is really something. When so many students can come together with one voice people have to listen." She continued, "The students are tired of being talked down to. It's time for the University to start treating us fairly."

In her speech, David referred to the administration as treating students like "legal infants." She also emphasized unity as the key to student action on the issue.

Next, Bertino presented Dave McAvoy, former student senator. In his speech, McAvoy said, "Today the eyes of America are now upon us. Many say we are a generation in search of a cause. I say to you we have found the cause." McAvoy accused the administration of slowly taking away the capacity of students to make decisions. "The administration is taking away our responsibility and with that goes our freedom," he continued. He concluded his speech by saying, "I say we take action now."

Chris Tayback, president of the Hall President's Council, spoke after McAvoy. "Last night as I was walking back from D-6 (parking lot) ... I heard a lot of noise. So I went over to Corby Hall and I saw 4,500 students screaming. And I was glad." He continued, "If we ever had a reason to fight, this is it." Tayback concluded, "Just remember, we are Notre Dame."

Bertino took the podium next. In his speech he outlined a four-point plan for protesting the report's recommendations. The plan calls for:

- Banners to be hung from every room on campus. "We want you to tell how you feel about this alcohol policy on that banner," he said.
- Petitions and letters to be sent out for signature by every student on campus. "We're not going to just sit back and let it happen like they think. We're going to keep pushing it," he added.
- Black arm bands to be worn at another rally next Friday, April 27. "We want every student to wear one of these armbands on their left arm to symbolize the death of social life here at Notre Dame," said Bertino.
- A Friday night candlelight vigil. "We're going to start at the Administration Building with one candle lit. And we're going to pass this candle around and have everybody light their candle. It will go on all throughout the quad to show the unity of the students," he explained.



More than 2,500 students gathered outside the Administration Building (top) to protest the University's new alcohol policy. Student Body President Rob Bertino (above), one of four students to address the crowd, said, "We're not just going to sit back and let it happen." The demonstration climaxed when students stormed into the building (left) and shouted jeers from the rotunda under the Dome.

Photos by Lev Chapelsky

In Brief

A U.S. Army helicopter carrying two U.S. senators was hit by gunfire in Honduras near the Salvadoran border yesterday and forced down, but all seven people aboard were unharmed, according to aides to one of the senators and State Department officials. "The senator... was in a helicopter that was shot down," said Charles Canady, an aide to Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla. The other senator aboard the aircraft was J. Bennett Johnston, D-La. — AP

The United States yesterday proposed a new treaty banning chemical weapons and Vice President George Bush told the Geneva Disarmament Conference it would eliminate "the possibility of chemical warfare forever." In an address to the 40-nation conference, Bush said the 66-page draft provisions are "indispensable to an effective treaty" and urged the Soviet Union and other countries to adopt "open invitation" provisions allowing on-site inspections of chemical weapons facilities any time, anywhere. In the first direct response to the full U.S. proposal, Victor Issraelyan, the chief Soviet delegate, said it would be studied "like any other paper," but Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko seemed to reject the chemical proposal as a cover for building up U.S. chemical arms. — AP

Britain's ambassador to Libya was escorted from the British Embassy in Tripoli yesterday to the home of the Libyan foreign minister, the ambassador's wife said. The British Foreign Office in London later announced that Ambassador Oliver Miles and 24 other Britons were allowed to leave the embassy today, some 24 hours after it was sealed off by Libya guards, and that "some did so." Further information was not immediately available. — AP

Weather

Partly cloudy today and not as cool. Highs in the mid 50s. Partly cloudy and cool tonight, with lows in the low 30s. Mostly sunny tomorrow, with highs in the upper 50s. — AP

Correction

Because of a reporting error, Brother Frank Rotsaert, rector of Holy Cross Hall, was quoted incorrectly in yesterday's *Observer*. Rotsaert did not praise the new alcohol policy, but said, "It appears to be intelligible and coherent."

Student apathy may be over, but cause on unsure footing

Paul McGinn



Inside Thursday

Student government is on the verge of a great mistake. Student Body President Rob Bertino, in drinking a can of beer in front of the Administration Building yesterday, signalled the start of what might be a battle which no students could win.

With great bravado, Bertino openly defied existing University alcohol policies in a seeming effort to stir the 2500 students gathered in front of the Dome. Such a token act of defiance, however, may have unforeseen implications.

If other students also confront administration policy with disrespect, not firm commitments to drink responsibly, undoubtedly they will lose.

Notre Dame administrators, protected by many journalists who virtually idolize University President Father Theodore Hesburgh, are ably armed to counter any such "politics of disrespect."

It would take only one statement to the press from Hesburgh to convince the nation that Notre Dame students are no more than spoiled brats and that administrators are selfless surrogate parents worried that students might turn into alcoholics.

The media have grabbed the confrontation by its bottle neck — all three local television stations carried reports on the student storming of the Dome.

The coverage was not exactly complimentary to the students' cause. But then again, why should it be. After all, Notre Dame students' last protest was over Cap'n Crunch cereal.

Though many students would like to think their rally yesterday resembled building takeovers at Columbia University in April 1968, most of Michiana saw a bunch of children whining for a supposed right to get drunk.

While those students at Columbia may not have been all that altruistic in their opposition to the Vietnam War (their own lives were at stake), they were protesting a policy infinitely more serious than an alcohol directive.

Assuming student leaders can salvage their image as responsible negotiators, they might do well to follow a few tips:

• *Students should avoid expressions which only incite students but which display a less than reflective attitude about drinking.*

Bertino, Student Body Vice President Cathy David, former Student Senator Dave McAvoy and others who make speeches should not rely on slogans or jingles, but upon the actual implications of the alcohol policy.

Demonstrating students, likewise, should shun shouting "Let's get drunk" or drinking in public. Neither

will convince administrators or the media that students can drink responsibly.

• *Students should immerse themselves in the specifics of the alcohol policy statements.*

Student speakers should distinguish between the wording of the 18-page section on the findings and background information in the "Final Report of the University Committee on the Responsible Use of Alcohol," the 10-page recommendation section of that report, and Dean of Students James Roemer's alcohol directive.

Though students should have specific gripes about the alcohol committee's recommendations and the wording of the Roemer directive, they should support fully the legal and moral implications of underage drinking, public drunkenness and alcohol-related injuries.

• *Students should take notes on how the administration reacts to their protests.*

Believe it or not, one day this controversy will die down. But others will arise. Concerned students, having realized new-found strength through demonstration, could use it to accomplish other goals.

To correct the disparity between the University's media image as a defender of human rights and the actual working conditions of its office, dining hall and dormitory employees.

To voice disapproval with University acceptance of military research contracts.

To direct attention to the lack of women and minority students and faculty members at Notre Dame.

To improve relations between members of the opposite sex at Notre Dame by promoting coeducational dormitories.

To provide input to the academic process — including examination, writing and research procedures.

To advise administrators and trustees about investment policies of the University.

Whatever the outcome of the controversy, students now realize that by coming together they can make administrators and the public take notice. And that, in itself, is a victory.



Is black back to stay?

The Observer

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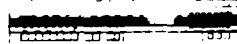
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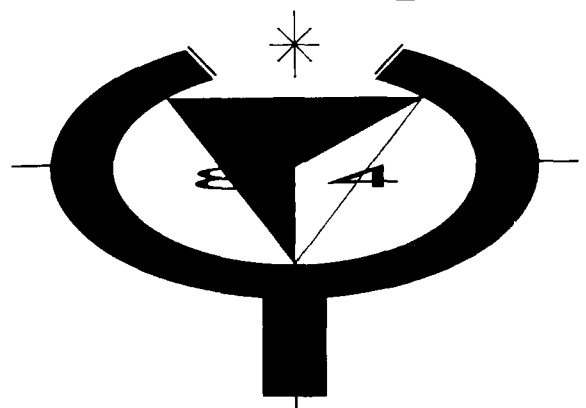
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The protests are for more than just beer

Dean of Students James Roemer thinks Notre Dame students have a "sense of humor." What a great joke . . . demonstrating in the Administration Building and chanting clever phrases. But to us, it's not a laughing matter. Convincing everyone else of that fact will be the most difficult task we'll face.

The first battle was won yesterday at the Administration Building. Local and national media picked up the story of students in protest, and those working in the normally staid Dome found it hard to ignore the shouts of more than 2,000 angry students. The point was made — the alcohol policy is unreasonable and we will not succumb.

The yelling, the shouting and the demonstrations are coming from a student body that is tired and finally has risen to say, "Enough." Crackdowns in all areas of student life have made a mockery of the administration's claim of providing "responsible living." Does every new rule really help preserve the Catholic nature of this place? We see such reasoning as quite lame.

Yet, after watching the news coverage yesterday, we are concerned that many people will per-

ceive this issue as merely a fight for Michelob, whisky and gin. Beer cans hoisted high above the crowd made for great television shots, but they also helped to downplay the real reason for the protest.

The issue is not purely the right to drink alcohol on campus. The issue here is a social life that depends so much on alcohol that it will die without it. With the restrictions, students believe — and are trying to convince the administration — that Notre Dame will be a very boring place to live.

The alcohol committee has put the cart before the Clydesdale by cutting off alcohol-based socializing before providing any alternatives. The student center is inadequate, and administration officials are themselves inebriated if they believe a revamped Oak Room or another play or two will fill the social void.

The alcohol committee admits as much. Its report states that the effectiveness of the recommended alcohol policy is contingent upon the implementation of "a comprehensive plan for social life on this campus." Where is this plan? Who is

making it? Will it take more than 10 months to complete, as did the alcohol policy? Major improvements in this area seem at least a year away, but the restrictions will take effect in August.

Father William Beauchamp maintains that the issue is closed; no appeal will be accepted. After spending all that time studying the issue, he has no desire to reopen debate. But the students must not let such wishful thinking deter their protest effort. Beauchamp's statements and threats of a dry campus are coming from persons who are clearly worried.

We always can appeal; we must maintain the momentum while making sure that the cause is true. Do not be placated by changes designed to resemble major concessions, such as allowing bars or larger groups in rooms.

The policy itself is flawed, and the sooner the administration realizes that the protests are not about cans of Stroh's, the sooner the two sides earnestly can work out a solution.

— The Observer

P. O. Box Q

Deprived a choice

Dear Editor:

Morality simply is something which cannot be dictated. It must be acquired by those who hold it.

When I came here last fall, I had the opportunity to acquire my own morality. I was free to make my own decision concerning drinking. I chose, of my own free will, not to drink. Making my decision in this manner makes my choice so much more genuine. It was the right decision for me. However, I really wonder if the same will hold for those future students who will be deprived a choice.

We have been robbed of many our rights. Foremost is the rule which limits the number of persons we will be permitted to have in our rooms, regardless of whether there is alcohol or not! Such a rule is an abomination.

Let's face it, the social life is not fit for humans. There are only two non-studying activities from which one can choose on the weekends. The first option is partying, which the alcohol policy eliminated. The second is playing such games as "Trivial Pursuits." However, with the restrictions on the number of rooms, this option is not even an alternative.

Though I do not drink, I plan to take action. We are adults and we demand the administration treat us as such.

Nick Mathioudakis
Freshman

We are Notre Dame

Dear Editor:

As a student vehemently opposed to the alcohol policy and the administration's constant attempt to eliminate student freedom and rights, I participated in yesterday's noontime rally under the Dome. Two phrases the crowd yelled, "Go to hell Roemer" and "This place sucks," upset me very much.

This is a Christian institution which purports Christian ethics, and many of us are Christians striving to live ethically. Christ intended us to love our enemies as He loves us. Roemer and the administration may be our enemies right now, but wishing them to hell is an immoral contradiction of the Christian ethics we reconfirm every time we pray to God or call ourselves Christians.

No matter what they try to take away from us or how oppressed we may become, we need to stand stronger than ever behind our morals and beliefs, especially in the face of the administration and its alcohol policy.

The second chant is a phrase which many of us have uttered more than a few times. Notre Dame is not the paradise or perfect place the administration ostensibly aspires it to be, but Notre Dame does not "suck." It has many problems which are continually exacerbated

by administrative policies (and the alcohol policy is just one of them), but this nation and the world are full of complex problems.

Cynicism is the number one enemy that needs to be avoided, especially now. Instead of falling prey to cynicism, fight it. Stop and reflect on the positive assets of Notre Dame and how Notre Dame has changed your life to your advantage.

Rather than dwelling passively on the problems here, like this absurd alcohol policy, fight to change what you don't like, what you see as detrimental to the Notre Dame community. And if the problems remain, then remember the good things at Notre Dame, especially the students here. The administration and its alcohol policy are not Notre Dame. We are Notre Dame and we do not "suck."

Diane Yoder
Junior

Solidarity forever

Dear Editor:

Hooray, Notre Dame students have finally done it. Yes, they have finally shed their complacent image and rebelled against the patriarchal authority of the administration. It's refreshing to know that the students have joined hands for such a noble cause.

Never mind the injustice of South African apartheid or the precarious nature of the escalating nuclear arms race or even the simple inhumanity of starving Appalachian infants; somehow these issues don't seem real to the average Notre Dame student — they, after all, don't directly affect him.

But alcohol, dammit, that's something to get riled up about. Hang the posters, christen the rallies, heighten the rhetoric and raise almighty hell! The administration can take away our senior exemptions, threaten to close down our foodsales, and expel naughty students for breaking parietals. But try to curb our alcohol consumption — never!

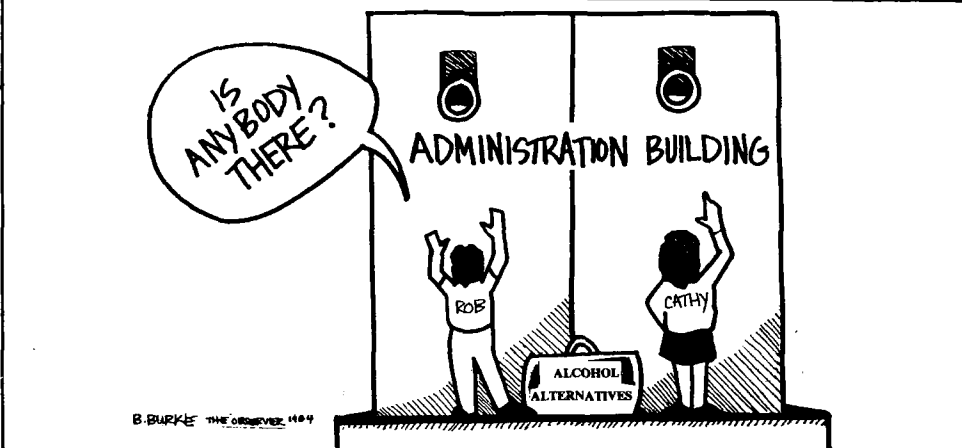
The rights of the Notre Dame student are in peril. Join hands with your neighbor in alcohol solidarity. Burn your bras women; gentlemen, set fire to your jocks. Send the administration a signal they'll never forget. Invite the media to our protests, shuttle in the cameras. Indeed, show the authorities — show the world — that what really matters to the Notre Dame student of the '80s is the ever important issue of alcohol.

Peter A. Graham
Senior

Don't be intoxicated

Dear Editor:

In Monty Python's "Life of Brian," there is a scene in which Brian, in a frenzied attempt to escape the Roman centurians, stops at a stall to buy a fake beard. The proprietor refuses to sell Brian the beard until Brian "haggles" with



him. You know, the owner asks an outrageously high price for the beard, and Brian is supposed to offer a ridiculously low price. Then, the two hagglers come to some compromise price where both give up a little ground. The lesson to be learned here is that the person in control, the owner of the beard, always asks for much more than he really wants so that the naive buyer will feel he has won a moral victory when, in actuality, he is paying exactly what the owner originally wanted.

Now, the administration is not stupid. Father Beauchamp and his committee knew we would be upset by the new alcohol policy and would demand it be rescinded. So, in the spirit of the ancient art of haggling, the administration has added a few ridiculous articles to the policy with the intention of conceding them in a show of "rationality" and "benevolence."

The first signs of this basic policy-making maneuver appeared in the April 18th issue of *The Observer*, in a statement by Dean of Students James Roemer who said the administration is willing to negotiate on some points (all minor).

The message: Don't let yourself be intoxicated by small victories over insignificant issues which the administration has inserted into the alcohol policy as a diversion. Remember, too, that the administration is most afraid of damaging its reputation as a rational, concerned body of adults and they will do their best to place the burden of irrationality on the "hot-headed" student body. They will tell us (and more importantly, they will tell the press) that they are willing to give a little if the students will give a little as well.

So let's haggle a little. The administration wants their policy implemented in toto, and we? Well, we want every right we have now, plus the legalization of kegs on campus.

But don't worry, Father. Who knows, we may even give in on the kegs.

Philip Allen
Junior

How wrong they are

Dear Editor:

I would like to publicly congratulate the administration for successfully sweeping the al-

cohol problem under the proverbial carpet. By restricting drinking to the extent that they have done, they have superficially "restored" the pristine image of Notre Dame.

The problem has not been eliminated. In fact, it has not even been addressed. The "social drinker" with no problem can now look forward to imbibing behind closed doors, indistinguishable from the true alcoholic. The truth is the students will continue to drink. Unfortunately, the administration sees this type of statement as a threat rather than as the reality that is.

I think it is noble for Fr. Beauchamp and the Board of Trustees to try to cure a society-wide problem by restricting alcohol use on this campus, but because the problem permeates society at all levels it is unrealistic. The blatant hypocrisy of the administration is that they call us intelligent adults (most from the top 10% of our high school classes, outstanding boards, etc.), yet continue to establish rules and regulations in an authoritarian manner.

As intelligent and responsible adults it is our unalienable right to discuss such matters in the open and to have the power to affect them. The administration, however, disagrees.

The University is now safe from lawsuits stemming from alcohol-related accidents, for they have condemned and restricted drinking. What they fail to realize is that they have indirectly condoned both closet drinking and nighttime driving to and from off-campus parties with the intoxicated "problem drinkers" sharing the road.

The University also sees itself as safe from student protest, for we have no real power. It should be interesting, however, to watch if the future alumni of Notre Dame retaliate when it comes time for donations to our alma mater.

In response to outside pressures of legal liability as well as their need to see the "Notre Dame image" restored, Fr. Beauchamp, et al., have effectively sidestepped the entire problem. The irony of the situation is that the administration sincerely believes that what it has done is in the best interests of everyone involved. How wrong they are.

Charles D. Beretz
Freshman

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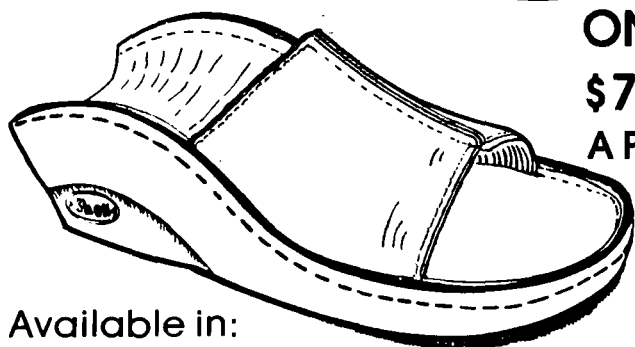
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Beauchamp downplays protest

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Yesterday's noontime alcohol policy protest at the Administration Building drew mixed reactions from administrators.

Father William Beauchamp, chairman of the alcohol committee said the protest had no constructive purpose and exhibited a "herd mentality." Beauchamp, who was in a meeting during the protest, said he had heard reports of the outdoor rally and indoor demonstration, but did not "anticipate students trashing the Administration Building."

Officials had expected some student response but Beauchamp questioned student motives. "I'm not really sure what the students expect (from the rallies) except voicing their disapproval."

According to Beauchamp, the policy recommended by the committee's report will not change, but the directives that implement that policy can be discussed.

Dean of Students James Roemer,

who made an appearance at the protest, said he is very willing to talk about the directives. "I'd be glad to meet with any small groups. There is absolutely no way to communicate with a large group like that," he said, referring to yesterday's protest.

Roemer characterized the rally on the front steps as "an impressive number and an impressive display of students. They handled themselves well." He expressed concern that the students had moved inside the building and said that was the reason he spoke to the crowd.

"A lot of emotional issues can be resolved at least partially," said Roemer. "I don't mean to imply anybody is going to back off from the committee's report." Roemer urged student groups to approach him with proposals to modify the directives.

Father David Tyson, a member of the alcohol committee, also indicated that the committee policy would not change. "But no appeal doesn't mean that it can't be discussed," said Tyson.

"No one on the committee is adverse to talking with students. I do think it's better done in small groups," said Tyson.

He characterized yesterday's noontime protest as "not vindictive or nasty... I see this issue as one of strong disagreement rather than one of hysteria."

Alcohol

continued from page 1

He concluded: "We want the opportunity choose for ourselves how we are going to direct our social lives here at Notre Dame. This is what we need. This is what we demand. And this is what we will get."

The program of speakers over the students near the front of the steps began to chant, "Let's go in." Soon the group began to move up the stairs and through the tall oak doors of the Administration Building. Cathy David said this action was not planned by the rally organizers.

The protestors quickly filled the top three levels of the building. Ripped copies of the alcohol report and other papers were dropped from the upper levels to the rotunda floor. Cans of beer crashed to the floor from above while shouts and chants echoed off the buildings walls. The floor sagged under the weight of the students, and office workers stepped into the corridor to see what was happening.

Roemer stepped out of his office on the third floor and went to the balcony rail. Between bursts of shouting, Roemer spoke to the crowd. "I appreciate the fact that you all had a sense of humor. May I say one thing? I think one point I'd like to make is when you jump on these floors, you may find that they're going to come down."

At this point the students began jumping up and down. Roemer continued. "I suppose there's no real ability to be able to dialogue in a group," but he was interrupted by noise.

A voice from the upper floor yelled, "Let him speak."

To this Roemer replied, "Thank you. May I say that your student government; we are planning opportunities to talk to you about the issues." The crowd roared, and Roemer turned and walked towards his office.

After the encounter, Roemer said, "This last part is a little bit of a concern because of the safety in the building. When all the secretaries and people in the building, they're quite concerned what's happening. It becomes a little bit of a problem. You're always worried about whether things could get out of hand in a closed situation. The part that was outside was fine, and the inside part becomes more of a concern."

When questioned about the representation of students within the committee that wrote the alcohol proposal, Roemer replied, "There's student representation right from the beginning on the council. There were two people — people elected by you that were on the committee all the way. Now it so happens they're saying they didn't agree, but there was student representation all the way and there will be student involvement through the C.I.C. from here on in."

Director of Notre Dame Security Glenn Terry, who attended the rally in plain clothes, as did other security officers, said he confiscated two bottles of liquor at the rally. He commented, "We'll be wherever we feel we are needed. If we know in advance of any protest we will have someone nearby."

He added there were no special orders and that security would operate in its usual capacity.

The crowd dispersed at 12:45 p.m.

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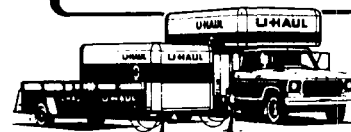
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