



Intelligencer

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Master teacher award goes to Missouri prof

The American Journalism Historians Association honored Betty Winfield as the first recipient of its Excellence in Teaching Award at its 28th annual meeting in Seattle in recognition of her exemplary achievements in teaching mass communication history.

Winfield is the University of Missouri Curator's professor in the School of Journalism, where she has been on the faculty since 1990. She is also an adjunct professor in the university's Department of Public Affairs and an affiliated

Betty Winfield stresses a point curing a casual conversation at the annual convention.



professor in the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs.

Before becoming a member of Missouri's faculty, she was a professor of Communication and American Studies at Washington State University.

She has held post-doctoral fellowships at the Shorenstein Center for Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University (1991) and the Gannett Center for Media and Politics at Columbia

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Restrictions placed on panelists

At future conventions, members will be limited to appearing on only one panel to accommodate the increasing number of panel proposals.

On a split vote, the AJHA board approved the limitation.

AJHA President Julie Williams argued against the limit, saying that appearing on panels was one way that members could get their institutions to help pay their way to the convention and submitting their names to multiple panels helped ensure they would get

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How Joanna McPherson took over the AJHA 'Bald and Ugly Club'

Inaugural meet held at Seattle convention.

By David Sloan

As Prof. John Ferré tells it, he came by his ugliness naturally.

"At my father's funeral," he explained at the inaugural meeting of the AJHA's Bald



Sloan

and Ugly Club in Seattle, "my aunt told me, 'Your father was handsome as a young man, but he grew uglier by the year. And you know, John, every year

you look more and more like him.'"

With that, the other founding members of the club — Profs. David Vergobbi of Utah, David Sloan of Alabama, and Jim McPherson of Whitworth — voted to remove Ferré as the club's president and make him its logo.

In a non sequitur, Prof. McPherson observed that often journalism historians seem to specialize in topics with a natural connection to their lives. Prof. Vergobbi from



McPherson

Utah, for example, specializes in the frontier press.

"I know," Prof. Ferré agreed. "I specialize in religion — because I suspect that my mother was a virgin."

"Maybe," Joanna McPherson, the uninvited wife of the professor, suggested, "that was because your father was so ugly."

Since Prof. Vergobbi had already been elected to the office of Founding Mother of the B&U Club, the members voted to appoint Joanna McP.,



Ferré

a licensed counselor, to the office of Troop Leader and Psychiatrist.

In other actions, the members voted to uphold the high standards expected of university professors by unanimously adopting as the club's motto, "Not tonight, Honey — Not ever!"

The club also voted to roast, at the 2009 convention in Birmingham, former AJHA president Bernell Tripp (no relation to former U.S. President Millard Fillmore or Miss Piggy). More details will be provided in June 2009.



Vergobbi

'We don't need media history here'

By Julie Williams

AJHA President

Just before I took over the AJHA gavel, I endured a history-is-useless moment. An administrator at my university commented, "I hear you're big in some media history organization. But we don't need media history here."

He meant that we need someone to teach new media in the Journalism/Mass Communication Department at Samford. In his view, however, we have no special need of a media historian.

Ironically, almost immediately afterward I was asked to speak on the history of the JMC Department. Our department is establishing an Advisory Council to help guide us in curriculum, technology, and other matters as we roll into the 21st century. The organizers thought the Council should know the department's history.

Researching the speech was balm for my bruised media historian's ego. As I

discovered, Samford (then called Howard College) established the Howard College School of Journalism in 1915. At the time it was hailed as the first journalism school in the South, although that title actually belonged to a short-lived program founded by Robert E. Lee after the Civil War. However, Howard/Samford did have the first journalism school in Alabama.

Although the j-school dated from 1915, Howard had featured student media since 1858, starting with a student magazine. Soon followed three student newspapers, publishing simultaneously. In 1909, Jasper Hutto – an editor on one student newspaper and a writer for another – founded the yearbook. This wasn't

enough for Hutto, though; he graduated from Howard and enrolled at University of Missouri's new journalism school. He brought back the concept, opening Howard's School of Journalism.

Hutto founded our current college newspaper, *The Crimson*, as a lab for his students – who, by the way, were required to have *TWO* classes in media history.

Fast forward to 1973. *The Crimson* covered a bitter controversy involving Samford's plan to develop some property. The administration killed the story, so the *Crimson* staff resigned and started an alternative newspaper, *Another Voice*, to cover the issue. A local black newspaper gave the Samford kids use of the press and facilities at a cheap rate, allowing them to put out a professional paper. *Another Voice* eventually was

recognized as pretty much the top college newspaper in the nation that year. Alas for the young editor, however, the college president stripped him of his scholarship, and he never graduated.

When my presentation was over, I went home, leaving the council to its further business.

On Monday I was elated to find out that the media history presentation had been the electric spark that drove the Advisory Council. One council member said we should be marketing the JMC program as the oldest in Alabama. Another insisted that we put the history show on the department's web site. Someone else hoped we could contact the current university president with a view to at last graduating the editor of *Another Voice*. Someone wanted to send the show on disk to potential donors. Others were thrilled about the *Another Voice*-black press link, as Samford is anxious

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Black press scholar wins 2008 Kobre

AJHA awarded Patrick Washburn its prestigious Kobre Award at the 28th annual meeting in Seattle. The award is given annually to a scholar for his or her lifetime achievement in media history scholarship and teaching.

Washburn, a former AJHA president, is a professor in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, where he has been on the faculty since 1984, and was assistant director of the school from 1989 to 2000.

Washburn has been an active AJHA member for more than 20 years. Along with serving as president in 2002-2003, he has been a member of the board of directors, chair of the research committee, and a member of numerous other committees. He has edited *Journalism History* since 2001 and served as co-editor of *Media History Monographs* from 1997 to 2000.

David Abrahamson of Northwestern University, who nomi-

nated Washburn for the award, said that Washburn represents "the best and most worthy ideals of the professional calling." He praised Washburn's scholarship on the Black Press as "illuminating" and said that the work "will continue to open up useful avenues of inquiry for important further research."

2007 AJHA president Tamara Baldwin said that Washburn "exemplifies the teacher-scholar model that others of us strive for" and that he has "had such an impact on the study of journalism history through his own research and his fostering of the research of countless students over the years."

Throughout his career, Washburn has chaired 25 dissertations and 59 theses. Nine of these projects have become published books.

"Pat is a very careful historian. He teaches his students to be excruciating careful with facts and the arguments they build from those facts," said Michael Sweeney, a former



Patrick Washburn, 2008 AJHA Kobre winner

AJHA president, who was a doctoral student of Washburn's and who has published eight books.

David Davies, chair of the AJHA Awards Committee that selected Washburn, said the competition for the annual award is always quite high, given the high standards of the award. "Pat represents exactly the kind of recipient the award is intended to honor – a faculty member whose lifetime of achievement has benefited the profession of media history as a whole."

Washburn has written two

history books and co-authored a third. He received the inaugural Tankard Book Award in 2007 for the best book published in the previous year by an Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication member.

He has also spoken about the history of the black press at the Smithsonian and at the National World War II Museum and numerous universities. Washburn also has served as chair of the AE-JMC history division.

Others find out media history is important

Continued from Page 2

to connect with the minority community.

I got an e-mail from a member of the Advisory Council: "We were blown away that this was our actual history. You have no idea how crucial it was, and it spawned what I believe will be a resurgence of passion and effort on behalf of the JMC program. People just kept talking about how 'they had no idea.' The people in our

breakout would have brought you to tears, talking about ways to go through historical documents to find past contributors, subjects, authors, etc. – to build a family."

The lesson was clear: yes, we DO need media history – in a *significant* way. History is the context – no; it's the actual *means* -- by which we understand the future.

You already knew that. But it was a thrill to see others find it out, too.

Southeast AJHA symposium set for Jan. 30 in Panama City

The 2009 AJHA Southeast Symposium will be held Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Paradise Palms Inn & Resort in Panama City, Fla.

Paper and panel submissions should be uploaded to David Davies by Dec. 19 (dave.davies@usm.edu).

Only one faculty panel will be chosen. It's topic should be one that helps graduate and undergraduate students.

Six papers any one institu-

tion (and no more than two being undergraduate) may be submitted.

The symposium remains distinctive because of its emphasis on getting students involved. Student work should be submitted by faculty members.

Need more details, call Pete Smith at 662-325-0983 or email him at gsmith@comm.msstate.edu.

Breakfast

'Seniors' look for ways to increase interest in annual event

By Maurine Beasley

AJHA should continue to feature a senior scholars' breakfast at its annual convention but take concrete steps to ensure the event draws both old and new members and facilitate an exchange among them.

This consensus emerged from a discussion to redefine the purpose of the breakfast at the Seattle convention. In previous years the breakfast has featured a presentation by the winner of the Association's book award. This year AJHA officers moved the book award winner to the closing banquet, raising the question of whether future breakfasts should be scheduled.

Some 40 persons registered for the Seattle breakfast. Those attending were asked to fill out a survey to solicit their views on continuation of the event and programming for it.

During a lively discussion, attendees said the breakfast was a pleasant social gathering, although it was unclear who was considered a senior scholar and whether the gathering was open to all. Several pointed out that the breakfast had been started as a way for experienced scholars to mentor those coming into the field, but that little effort had been made to meet this objective.

The group agreed that the breakfast should be more clearly

described on AJHA convention registration forms and all interested invited to attend.

Suggestions were made to modify the registration form to match those seeking mentoring with those willing to offer it. Others called for greater emphasis on two-way communication between members in different age categories.

Patrick Cox, Texas, proposed that the breakfasts be used to raise money for graduate students as a means of augmenting AJHA's non-profit status. No consensus was reached about the need for formal programming, although it was not ruled out.

Sample comments from the survey:

"Make sure seating is mixed, that is, have each table reflect a mix of older and younger members";

"Change name to something without 'senior'";

"It might be nice to allow time to talk re issues or concerns...David Sloan [Alabama] always does a great job leading his panels – perhaps lead at least part of breakfast that way";

"Perhaps have a senior scholar give a short talk";

"Assign a senior scholar to a specific graduate student – 'host' and 'mentor' at convention";

"Perhaps give first- and second-time AJHA attendees a free ticket to the breakfast.

Author discusses history of top Pulitzer prize

By Roy Harris

AJHA's "senior scholars," coming together for the traditional Friday convention breakfast, probably weren't expecting to hear about a new book on the Pulitzer Prizes. But, thanks to Tamara Baldwin's invitation for me to share my experiences, the scholars got an earful on Oct. 3.

My topic was *Pulitzer's Gold: Behind the Prize for Public Service Journalism*, the first book examining the 91-year history of America's greatest newspaper award: the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, which takes the form of a gold medal.

A practicing magazine editor—now at The Economist's CFO title in Boston, after a 23-year career writing and editing for The Wall Street Journal—I wrote "Pulitzer's Gold" over

five years while still on the job.

While designed for general audiences, it aims also to give students of journalism history and investigative reporting a behind-the-scenes look at

how U.S. history's greatest newspaper projects came to be, and how they

were developed by reporters, editors and publishers.

The cases include some very familiar ones, such as the New York Times's Pentagon Papers reports and the Washington Post's Watergate coverage, honored with Pulitzers in 1972 and 1973, respectively.

But many are less well-known, including recent tales of how the Boston Globe

pursued the story on Catholic priests who were sexually preying on youngsters (winner in 2003), and how the New Orleans Times-Picayune and Biloxi, Miss., Sun Herald,

covered Hurricane Katrina (winner in 2006.)

During questioning, the scholars wanted to

know about how the book came to be. It grew from a talk I prepared for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch staff in 2002 about the five Pulitzer Prizes for Public Service that the paper had won in a remarkable 15-year period of journalism from 1937 to 1952. As it happened, my own father, who died in 1980, had been involved with four of those

prizes.

It was my desire to learn more about that prize-winning coverage in St. Louis—and to explain it to the Post-Dispatch journalists of today—that got me started down the path of investigating the entire Pulitzer public-service body of work going back to 1917.

Thus, the book was born. And to complete it, whenever possible I interviewed "surviving" journalists about the Aha! moments that had led them to pursue their stories, and how the journalism played out for the public good.

The book weaves the near-century of such cases into what became a journalism-based U.S. history, as well. The University of Missouri Press published *Pulitzer's Gold*, which came out in January.

I interviewed "surviving" journalists about the Aha! moments that had led them to pursue their stories and how journalism played out for the public good.

Members in Seattle



Amy Mattson Lauters handled registration at the convention with finesse.



Top left, Bernell Tripp and Shirley Biagi. Top, Paulette Kilmer and Meg Lamme. Left, President Julie Williams and her predecessor, former President Tamara Baldwin. Photos by Vanessa Murphree



Back issues of journal to be digitized, indexed

The AJHA board created an editorial board for *American Journalism* to aid the organization's bid to be included in the ISI Database.

Gaining access to the database will give the AJHA journal a position in the National Communication Association rankings and more exposure.

Fred Blevens reported that the journal is on a short list for inclusion in the database but ISI guidelines require journals to have editorial boards.

The board will consist of the voting members of the AJHA board of directors and others as

appointed by the president.

Back issues of the journal will be digitized and indexed for inclusion in the EBSCO database. The board approved spending \$5,000 for the project.

AJ editor Jim Martin reported that the organization receives about \$8,000 a year from its EBSCO contract. AJHA receives income based on how many users of EBSCO access articles from *American Journalism*. Martin said the income is enough to cover the cost of producing the journal each year.



Fred Blevens, Dolores Flamiano and Janice Hume show comradery at the 2008 convention.

Winfield got high marks in every criteria category

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University (1988-1989).

Barbara Friedman, chair of the AJHA Education Committee and an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, said Winfield received the highest rating in every category of the award.

The award was established earlier this year to recognize and honor excellence in the teaching of journalism and mass communication

history. The evaluation criteria included teaching quality assessment, philosophy of teaching and teaching methodology, service to the teaching profession, service to students, professional growth and endorsement by administrators, alumna and colleagues.

"AJHA understands just how important top-notch teachers, colleagues and mentors are to one's academic career,"

Friedman said. "It is the dedication of people like Betty that helps advance the study of journalism history and foster an enthusiastic cadre of teachers and young scholars."

Throughout her teaching career, Winfield has mentored hundreds of students and served on numerous master's and doctoral committees.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association

seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history.

Through its annual convention regional conferences, committees, awards, speakers and publications, members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society.

Number of panels up

Continued from Page 1

at least one panel appearance. Others countered that limiting members to one panel expanded opportunities to more members.

Second Vice President Earnest Perry reported that the number of panel proposals has increased over the past few years, making the acceptance process difficult.

At the Seattle conference, 10 panels were presented from the 17 proposals submitted.

The board also instructed the Research Committee to develop clear guidelines and submission forms for panels and research-in-progress papers. Thirty-five research-in-progress papers were submitted for the Seattle conference; 16 were accepted.

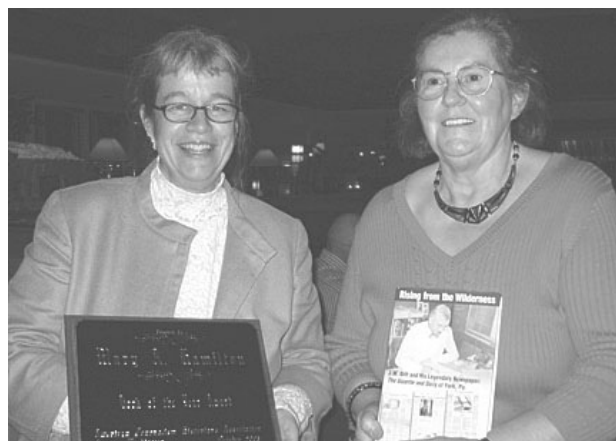
In other business, the board:

- *Created an Ad Committee to combine fundraising efforts for the convention into a unified plan. Most of the fundraising is directed toward securing advertisements for the convention program. Former President Fred Blevens will head up the committee. Other members will be Kim Mangun, Katherine Bradshaw, Karla Glover, and President Julie Williams.

- *Approved developing procedures to allow proxy or absentee balloting to be used in the 2009 election.

- *Proposed creation of the position of Registrar to handle registration with clearly defined duties. This would be an amendment to the Constitution and By-laws and will be voted on at the 2009 convention.

Book Award



President Julie Williams presents a plaque to Mary A. Hamilton (right), for *Rising from the Wilderness: J.W. Gitt and his Legnedary Newspaper: The Gazette and Daily of York, Pa.*, which won the AJHA Top Media History Award.

*Heard from out-going Treasurer Ross Collins that AJHA continues in good financial condition with about \$94,000 in several accounts. Income from membership continues

to be about \$14,000 annually. Other income includes \$5,000 from EBSCO and \$1,167 from donations. AJHA broke even on the Richmond convention in 2007, Collins reported.

'Impressive' proposals capture research grants

The American Journalism Historians Association recently awarded four research grants to scholars with distinguished and creative research agendas in media history.

The recipients are Dolores Flamiano, an associate professor at James Madison University; Brain Carroll, an assistant professor at Berry College; Janice Hume, an associate professor at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia; and Jane Marcellus, an associate professor at Middle Tennessee State University.



Flamiano

Flamiano's grant will support a book project examining social reform photojournalism during the 1930s and 1940s. She will analyze the work of Hansel Mieth, a *Life*

photographer, and other photographers of the time and "trace the historic convergence of social reform photography and commercial journalism." Flamiano explains that the photographers used pictures as "a weapon against social injustice."

Hume is also working on a book project. Her research addresses public memory and the heroes of the early American press. Her research will identify regional icons from the Revolution and analyze magazine and newspaper stories published before 1880.

Hume notes that before the emergence of recognized historians, "the press provided a 'history' of the new nation." These press accounts then served as the primary source for future historians and



Hume

created an often-embellished public memory.

Carroll's research will explore the relationship of Howard Griffin, author of *Black Like Me*, and his editor at *Sepia* magazine, Ben Burns. *Sepia* published Griffin's 1959 account of chemically darkening his skin and living as a black man in New Orleans.

Carroll will also look at Burn's identity as a white man who worked and lived among blacks, his contributions to black publications, and his work training writers.

Marcellus plans a book-length study of Sophie Treadwell, an American author, playwright, and journalist who was known for "her willingness to break conventions by focusing on women's emotional



Carroll

experiences in a world of rigid social codes. . ."

The book will focus on Treadwell's journalism accomplishments, which tend to be overshadowed by her theatric efforts. Marcellus says that Treadwell developed a "serious empathetic style" that earned the trust of "difficult sources," such as Mexican Revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.



Marcellus

The selection committee awarded the \$1,250 grants to applicants whose proposals represented originality and significance to mass media history.

Mike Sweeney, chair of the selection committee, says, "The judges were impressed with the quality and broad range of the research proposals. We look forward to seeing these projects develop into publications."

Opinion section editor given local journalist award

Post-Intelligencer editor noted for work to promote cultural awareness in media.

The American Journalism Historians Association named Mark Trahan, editor of the editorial page at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the recipient of its Local Journalist Award, an honor recognizing the work of a journalist in the region of the AJHA's annual convention.

AJHA honored Trahan at the convention's opening reception on Oct. 2 at the Madison Renaissance Hotel.

"We are delighted to honor Mark Trahan," said 2007 AJHA President Tamara Baldwin, professor at Southeast Missouri State University. "His long record in tribal and mainstream media and his commitment to diversifying the



Mark Trahan

news business are important contributions to contemporary media. He has assumed an important position in the shaping of news history."

Trahan, who chairs the Post-Intelligencer's daily editorial board meeting, is recognized as an innovator in trying new ways to reach readers. He conducts a Virtual Editorial Blog,

an interactive process that allows readers to participate in the shaping of editorials before they are written and published in the traditional paper. Trahan also has begun writing daily "news poems" on Twitter, an interactive Web site that allows for quick and very brief instantaneous text communication.

Trahan is former chief executive officer at the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, the Oakland, Calif.-based nonprofit that prepares journalism professionals and managers to operate effectively and creatively in multicultural communities. He continues to serve as board chair of the Maynard Institute and serves as a trustee of the Freedom Forum.

Trahan, a member of Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Tribe

and former president of the Native American Journalists Association, is a former columnist at The Seattle Times, where he wrote a twice-weekly column. He has been a reporter, editor or publisher in Idaho, Salt Lake City, and Phoenix as well as editor and publisher of several tribal newspapers.

He is the author of "Pictures of Our Nobler Selves," a history of American Indian contributions to journalism published by The Freedom Forum. He recently published "The Whole Salmon," essays and poems about Idaho's Salmon River. Trahan's essay, "Who's Your Daddy? Lewis and Clark as a Family Story," was included last year in the book "Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes."

Members pick up awards for conference papers

Paper acceptance rate was 44.7 percent.

Six members took home from the annual meeting in Seattle top awards for papers, articles and service to AJHA.

Dolores Flamiano of James Madison University captured the W. David Sloan Award for best faculty paper at AJHA's annual convention in Seattle.

Flamiano's paper, presented at the conference, was "Japanese American Internment in Popular Magazines: Race, Citizenship, and Gender in World War II Photojournalism."

Best article of the year in *American Journalism* was "Were Those the Days? Revisiting the Pulitzer-winning Efforts of Community Newspapers in the 1970s," researched and written by **John Hatcher**, University of Minnesota-Du-

luth.

The Maurine Beasley Award for the best paper on a topic in women's history went to **Gwyneth Mellinger**, Baker University, for "Hellcats and Frivolous Hats: Women's Struggle Against Gender Barriers in the ASNE."

For a research paper on a topic involving minorities and media history, the J. William Snorgrass Award went to **Dolores Flamiano** of James Madison University. She received this award for the same paper that won her the W. David Sloan Award.

Best student paper went to **Donna Lampkin Stephens** of the University of Southern Mississippi for "The Conscience of the Arkansas Gazette: J. N. Heiskell Faces the Storm of Little Rock."

President's awards went to **Paulette Kilmer**, Toledo, for her service in organizing the Donna Allen Luncheon for the past six years and to **Kathleen Endres**, University of Akron, for her work on the Education CD.

Honorable mentions:

W. David Sloan Award: Rick Jackson, Seattle Pacific University; Gwyneth Mellinger, Baker University; and Doug Ward, University of Kansas.

American Journalism best article: Dale Cressman, Brigham Young University; and Ross Collins, North Dakota State University.

Maureen Beasley Award: Linda Lumsden, University of Arizona; Jane Marcellus, Middle Tennessee State University; and Kimberly Wilmot Voss, University of Central

Florida.

J. William Snorgrass Award: Brian Dolber, University of Illinois, William Gillis, Indiana University, and Bernell Tripp, University of Florida.

Robert Lance Award: Brian Dolber, University of Illinois; William Gillis, Indiana University; and Michael J. Fuhlhage, University of North Carolina.

Research Chair Mike Sweeney reported that the conference received 42 faculty papers, of which 24 were accepted (57.1 percent acceptance rate); and received 39 student papers, of which 13 were accepted (33.3 percent acceptance rate).

There were three joint faculty-student papers received and one was accepted. The overall acceptance rate for the conference was 44.7 percent.

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Got News?

The news letter is published in November, February, May and August. Submission deadlines are Nov. 1, Jan. 15, April 15 and July 15. Email is preferred, but you may also fax or mail to:

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Future AJHA
Convention
Sites

2009: Birmingham
2010: Tucson
2011: Kansas City



The photo processing department of the New York World in 1909.

AJHA Southeast
Symposium
scheduled for
Panama City
Jan. 30 to Feb. 1.
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