



Top Stories



Nebraska Senator sues God

Nebraska state Senator Ernie Chambers has decided to sue God over "widespread death, destruction and terrorisation..."

Germany's minister of defence proposes to shoot down hijacked planes

Germany's Minister of Defence (MOD), Franz-Josef Jung (CDU), has proposed to shoot down planes hijacked by terrorists. If the law is passed, the MOD would give orders to attack if basic principles of the constitution were in danger or if the plane posed a tremendous threat to the people.



Featured story

Greek Socialist party faces leadership issue

The PASOK party faces an internal conflict after the result of Sunday's elections in which the party lost from the conservative New Democracy.



Wikipedia Current Events

The United States Federal Reserve cuts a key short-term interest rate by a half-percentage point resulting in a stock market rally.

- Bangladesh cartoonist Arifur Rahman is detained on suspicion of disrespecting Muhammad. The Interim Government confiscates copies of the Prothom Alo newspaper issue in which Muhammad is caricatured.
- China confirms bird flu outbreak in Guangzhou.
- More than 1,000 Buddhist monks march peacefully in Myanmar as part of a wave of anti-government protests.

•The Bank of England injects £4.4 billion of liquidity into the U.K. Financial System as a response to the Subprime Mortgage Financial Crisis, after £2 billion of deposits are removed from the Northern Rock bank within one day.

•Russia claims to have killed a top Dagestani militant Rappani Khalilov along with another militant in a day-long battle.

•North Korea denies allegations that it is helping Syria to develop a nuclear weapons facility.

•Australia, the second largest wheat exporter in the world, cuts its forecast production by 30 per cent due to an ongoing drought.

•2007 Pacific typhoon season: Hundreds of thousands of people are evacuated from Shanghai,

Wikipedia Current Events

China as Typhoon Wipha approaches.

- Dozens of people report vomiting and headaches after visiting the site of a recent meteorite crash near Puno, Peru.
- The son of Philippine House Speaker Jose De Venecia, Jr., Jose "Joey" De Venecia III, disclosed in a Senate inquiry that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is the "mystery man" behind the controversial \$ 329-million broadband contract with ZTE Corp. in China.

Major League Baseball roundup: September 17, 2007

- Indians 6, Tigers 5, 11 inn: Jhonny Peralta hit two homers (19, 20), including the game-tying homer in the 8th, and Casey Blake hit a walkoff solo homer in the 11th. The Indians (88-62) lead the Tigers (83-68) by 5.5 games in the AL Central; their magic number is 7. The Tigers trail the Yankees in the AL Wild Card by 3.5 games.
- Yankees 8, Orioles 5: Bobby Abreu picked up an RBI single and an RBI double. The Yankees (86-64) trail Boston by 3.5 games (with a magic number of 9) in the AL East, while the Yankees lead the Tigers in the AL Wild Card by 3.5 games.
- Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 1: Frank Thomas hit three home runs (23, 24, 25), driving in five runs as the Red Sox' lead in the AL East dropped to 3.5 games; their magic number is 9.
- Angels 10, Devil Rays 7: Chone

Figgins and Howie Kendrick both hit RBI triples for the Angels (88-62), who lead the AL West by 8.5 games, and have a magic number of 5.

•Mariners 4, Athletics 0: Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer for the Mariners (79-70), who are 6.5 games back in the AL Wild Card race.

•Braves 11, Marlins 6: Andruw Jones hit a three-run homer for the Braves (77-73), who trail the Padres by 5.5 games in the NL Wild Card race.

•Nationals 12, Mets 4: The Nationals scored 12 unanswered runs for the win, dropping the Mets (83-66) to 2.5 games ahead of the Phillies in the NL East.

•Phillies 13, Cardinals 11: Ryan Howard hit a grand slam and a solo homer (39, 40), and Aaron Rowand hit two homers (25, 26) in a wild game; the Phillies (81-69) are 2.5 games back in the NL East.

•Cubs 7, Reds 6: Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run triple to tie the game in the bottom of the 9th, and Mark DeRosa hit an infield single that allowed the winning run to score. The Cubs (79-72) lead the NL Central by 1 game.

•Brewers 6, Astros 0: The Brewers (77-72) trail the Cubs in the NL Central by 1 game.

•Giants 8, Diamondbacks 5: Randy Winn had 4 RBI, including a go-ahead three-run homer in the 8th. The Diamondbacks (84-67) trail the Padres by 1 game in the NL West.

•Padres 3, Pirates 0: Mike Cameron hit an RBI double, and Khalil Greene hit a two-run homer in the win. The Padres (82-67) narrowed the deficit in the NL West by 1 game.

•Twins 5, Rangers 4: The Twins tied the game in the 9th on a Michael Cuddyer homer, and won later that inning on an error by Ian Kinsler.

•White Sox 11, Royals 3: The White Sox scored all eleven runs in a wild fifth inning that saw Danny Richar lead off with a solo homer (6), and hit an RBI triple (2) in his second at-bat of the inning.

Student questioning Senator Kerry is tasered

A 21-year old American student has been tasered by campus police at a political forum held at the University of Florida. Andrew Meyer was taking part in a forum with former Presidential Candidate John Kerry and was asking Mr. Kerry why he did not contest the previous election results.

Mr. Meyer was removed from the crowd, after becoming disruptive when he exceeded his allotted questioning time, and attempted to arrest the man for breach of the peace. He was then tasered. The student can be heard in video clips screaming during his arrest and also shouting for help.

Mr. Meyer was also charged with breaking the peace and was detained overnight by local police.

The move by the campus police has drawn criticism from many including fellow students who have called for the officers concerned to be suspended. A campus spokesman said that an internal review would be carried out to determine if the use of the taser was appropriate.

2007 Rugby World Cup: Scotland 42 - 0 Romania

Scotland 42 - 0 Romania
Scotland defeated Romania 42-0 in Pool C of the 2007 Rugby World Cup at Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Chris Paterson opened the scoring for Scotland in the second minute

when he scored and converted a try. Romania, who rarely looked like scoring, missed a chance to score a few minutes later when Ionut Dimofte missed a penalty. Allister Hogg and Rory Lamont added a try each during the first half to extend Scotland's lead to 21-0 at the interval.

In the second half Scotland continued to dominate and Allister Hogg scored two more tries to complete his hat-trick. Rory Lamont scored his second try towards the end of the match, and Scotland comfortably won without conceding a point.

Scotland have won both games played and are second in Pool C with ten points, behind New Zealand on points difference. Romania have lost both their games and are fourth in the group with one point, behind Italy with four and Portugal with none.

2007 ICC World Twenty20: Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by 64 runs in the Super 8 stage of the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 at Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Bangladesh's bowlers restricted Sri Lanka to 147-5. Mahmudullah caught Sanath Jayasuriya on the boundary for a duck in the first over. Upul Tharanga was caught behind for 23 runs, and Kumar Sangakkara was bowled by Mahmudullah for 20. Sri Lanka were left on 96-5 after Abdur Razzak bowled Mahela Jayawardene (30) and Chamara Silva was trapped lbw by Shakib Al Hasan for just 12. However Tillakaratne Dilshan and Jehan Mubarak shared a partnership of 51 runs from the last five overs to help Sri Lanka reach 147-5.

Sri Lanka bowled Bangladesh out for 83, with Chaminda Vaas taking 2-14 from four overs for Sri Lanka. Opening batsman Nazimuddin was removed lbw by Vaas in the first over without scoring. Aftab Ahmed and Shakib Al Hasan were Bangladesh's top scorers, each with 18 runs, while Mahmudullah scored 16.

The result means that Pakistan will advance to the semi-finals, while Sri Lanka will play Australia for the other semi-final place in the group.

Ontario Votes 2007: Interview with Green candidate Peter Ormond, York Centre

Peter Ormond is running for the Green Party of Ontario in the Ontario provincial election, in the York Centre riding. Wikinews' Nick Moreau interviewed him regarding his values, his experience, and his campaign.

Ormond did not answer three questions: "Which of your competitors do you expect to pose the biggest challenge to your candidacy? Why? What makes you the most desirable of all candidates running in the riding?", "Are the property taxes in your riding at a fair level for the amount of services received in the municipality?", and "Of the decisions made by Ontario's 38th Legislative Assembly, which was the most beneficial to your this electoral district? To the province as a whole? Which was least beneficial, or even harmful, to your this riding? To the province as a whole?"

Stay tuned for further interviews; every candidate from every party is eligible, and will be contacted. Expect interviews from Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, New Democratic Party members, Ontario Greens, as well as

members from the Family Coalition, Freedom, Communist, Libertarian, and Confederation of Regions parties, as well as independents.

Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process? Why did you choose to run in this constituency?

We read about the green revolution in newspaper headlines, yet we continue to pursue mega-projects that do not benefit society, the environment, or the economy. I live in Hamilton Centre, and therefore naturally chose this riding.

What prior political experience do you have? What skills and insight can you bring to office, from other non-political positions you may have held?

I have canvassed for various candidates in past campaigns. This includes the Liberals and NDP. Now I realize that to actually start moving towards a sustainable Ontario, innovation is required. The Green Party has that ability to make this transformation happen.

Remember that all issues are interdependent through the social, economic and environmental pillars.

What do you feel are the three most important issues to voters in your riding? Are these the same top three issues that are most important to you? What would you do to address these issues?

Remember that all issues are interdependent through the social, economic and environmental pillars. Key issues in Hamilton are: Poverty and Homelessness
Local Green Jobs for Sustainability
Transportation

More details are available on our website www.gpo.ca

What should be the first order of business in the 39th Legislative Assembly?

A moratorium on all new nuclear facilities and upgrading of any existing ones.

How can the province lead the way in stimulating job creation?

Local projects. Keep the money in the communities. Education and training of immigrants of the underemployed. Get the citizens engaged in projects that improve neighbourhoods. This includes local manufacturing. For example, in Hamilton, deployment of solar hot water systems would be a tremendous opportunity to align local manufacturers and train installers. Then each household saves a few bucks that can in turn be invested in the community. No more paving of valleys. No more mega-projects. Decentralization is where it's at.

What are your views on the mixed member proportional representation (MMP) referendum? The Green Party supports electoral reform fully. This will bring a balanced and representative voice to parliament.

What role, if any, does "new media" play in your campaign, and the campaign of your party? (websites, blogs, Facebook, YouTube videos, etc) Do you view it as beneficial, or a challenge? We're working on it.

Meteorite blamed for mysterious illness in Peru

On Saturday a meteorite slammed into a field outside of Carancas, near Lake Titicaca in the Puno region of Peru on the border of Bolivia. It emitted a sweet but noxious odor. It has now been blamed for a mass illness of "nausea, vomiting, digestive problems and general sickness,"

according to a local health department official, Jorge López. "Boiling water started coming out of the crater and particles of rock and cinders were found nearby. Residents are very concerned," said López.

Police officers who went to investigate the meteorite are among those who have fallen ill and been taken to Desaguadero Hospital. The impact of the meteorite left a crater 18 feet deep and 30 yards across in the Andean territory that is home to less than 1,000 people. Originally, the villagers thought a plane had crashed. Under consideration is the declaration of a state of emergency, and experts from Peru's Geological Mining and Metallurgical Institute are reportedly traveling to the site to evaluate whether there is a health risk.

Villagers are said to be avoiding the local water out of fear of contamination. Sulfur and other elements common in meteorites can react with ground water to produce fumes.

2007 ICC World Twenty20: Australia vs Pakistan

Pakistan defeated Australia by six wickets in the Super 8 stage of the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 at Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Australia lost early wickets, with Matthew Hayden caught on one run in the first over. Adam Gilchrist made 24 before being removed in the fourth over. Andrew Symonds and Ricky Ponting added a 48 run partnership but Shahid Afridi bowled Symonds for 29 runs and Mohammad Hafeez bowled Ponting, who made 27. Michael Hussey (37) and Brad Hodge (36) shared 63 runs to help Australia to

164-7, while Sohail Tanvir took 3-31 for Pakistan.

In response Pakistan were reduced to 46-4 in the seventh over as Australia's bowlers made breakthroughs. Stuart Clark took three wickets, dismissing Imran Nazir, Mohammad Hafeez and Younis Khan cheaply, while Salman Butt fell lbw to Mitchell Johnson. However Shoaib Malik (52 not out) and Misbah-ul-Haq (66 not out) claimed victory and a likely semi-final place for Pakistan.

Nebraska Senator sues God Nebraska state Senator Ernie Chambers, who represents legislative District 11 in North Omaha, filed an unusual lawsuit on Friday. According to court documents obtained by Wikinews, Chambers has decided to sue God, looking for a judge to issue a "permanent injunction" against the highest power.

Chambers says in his suit that God has spread fear across the globe causing "widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants. [God also caused] fearsome floods, horrendous hurricanes, earthquakes, plagues, famine, genocidal wars, birth defects, terrifying tornadoes and the like" and he wants the courts to order God "to cease certain harmful activities and the making of terroristic threats."

The suit is in an apparent retaliation for a recent ruling where the words 'rape' and 'victim' were banned from a recent criminal case involving a sexual assault incident. The woman who was assaulted, Tory Bowen, filed a lawsuit against Jeffrey Cheuvront, a district judge in the city of Lancaster when he banned the use

of those words in her criminal case. Chambers says that her lawsuit is "frivolous" and he filed his suit to show people that "anybody can sue anybody."

"This lawsuit having been filed and being of such questionable merit creates a circumstance where my lawsuit is appropriately filed. People might call it frivolous but if they read it they'll see there are very serious issues I have raised," stated Chambers. "The Constitution requires that the courthouse doors be open, so you cannot prohibit the filing of suit. Anyone can sue anyone they choose, even God," he added.

Richard Kopf, a U.S. District Judge has ordered that Bowen must show evidence to support her lawsuit, saying that her case does not have "any legal basis whatsoever" until she does so.

It is not known when or if any additional hearings have been scheduled.

God could not be reached for comment.

Greek Socialist party faces leadership issue

The PASOK party faces an internal conflict after the result of Sunday's elections in which the party lost from the conservative New Democracy. The 38,5% of the votes is the lowest percentage of PASOK since 1981 and many top party members accused the President of the party, George Papandreou. After the elections' result, former Minister of Culture and MP for the region of Thessaloniki, Evangelos Venizelos expressed his will to be candidate for the presidency of PASOK, however, it is not final whether Papandreou and Venizelos will be the only candidates. At the same

time, PASOK's National Committee meeting from 22-23 September will prove decisive, while the new president will be elected in the two or three following weeks.

As per an opinion poll, conducted by GPO company and commissioned by Television station Mega Channel, four out of ten civilians hold G. Papandreou responsible for PASOK's defeat, while 73% of the voters considers Mr Evangelos Venizelos the most suitable leader for the party and 15% Mr George Papandreou. A former Prime Minister Kostas Simitis' statement about PASOK's poignant defeat has caused sensation. Mr Simitis appeared willing to guarantee the party's unity and democratic procedures for the election of a new president, setting the party's restructuring its top priority.

Other potential candidates, according to Greek media, are ex-Ministers Michalis Chrisohoidis, Kostas Skandalidis and Theodoros Pangalos as well as the former EU commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou.

2007 ICC World Twenty20: England vs New Zealand

New Zealand defeated England by five runs in the Super 8 stage of the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 at Newlands Cricket Ground, Cape Town, South Africa.

New Zealand slumped to 31-4 in the sixth over. Brendon McCullum was caught behind for 4 runs in the first over, while Peter Fulton fell lbw to Andrew Flintoff for a w:duck (cricket)duck in the third over. Ross Taylor was dismissed for seven and Lou Vincent was caught behind for 13. However Scott Styris scored 42 and Craig McMillan added 57 as New Zealand recovered to 164-9 after twenty

overs.

England started brightly, with Darren Maddy and Vikram Solanki opening with a 62 run partnership. However Solanki fell for 24 runs, while Maddy was run out after reaching fifty. England lost three quick wickets as Paul Collingwood made just three runs and Kevin Pietersen was bowled by Daniel Vettori for 24. Andrew Flintoff was run out two balls later. Despite 21 from Owais Shah and 24 from Luke Wright, three wickets fell in the penultimate over and England could only make 159-8.

New Zealand will reach the semi-final stage of the competition, while England are facing elimination. England need to heavily defeat India while hoping that South Africa lose their final two matches.

Germany's minister of defence proposes to shoot down hijacked planes

Germany's minister of defence, Franz-Josef Jung (CDU), has proposed to shoot down planes hijacked by terrorists.

Although the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany decided in February 2006 that shooting down a hijacked plane would only be lawful if there were no innocent passengers on the plane, Jung announced in public that he would give the order to attack if the basic principles of the constitution were in danger or if the plane posed a tremendous threat to the people. Representatives of the grand coalition differed in their views regarding this question. A member of the Social Democrat Party disagreed with Jung and advised him against contradicting the court's judgment. The opposition in parliament even called Jung an "enemy of the constitution" and

called for him to resign.

Jung was supported by members of his own party which underlined the necessity of shooting down a hijacked plane in order to save thousands of lives. The dispute between the two coalition partners concerning new laws to ensure the security of Germany remains unresolved.

The pilots of the German airforce have made it clear that they won't bring down a hijacked plane due to fundamental legal and moral doubts.

In the United States and other European countries such as France, Great Britain or Czech Republic laws were passed which give the government permission to shoot down a passenger plane under the control of terrorists.

Britney Spears fired by management company

The Firm, a company which pop singer Britney Spears hired to manage her career just over one month ago, no longer wishes to manage Spears, and has terminated the services they were providing her to promote her new record.

"We have terminated our professional relationship with Britney Spears. We believe she is enormously talented, but current circumstances have prevented us from properly doing our job," said the company in a statement to the media. Jeff Kwatinetz was the manager for Spears. It is not yet known what circumstances caused the company to sever their ties with Spears.

Spears is releasing a new album, scheduled to be put on shelves in November, and her record label, Jive Records, has stated that the

recent incident will not delay the release of her record.

"The label does not comment on artist/management relations. We're gearing up for a Nov. 13 album release date," said the record label in a statement to the media.

Lord Ganapathi festival celebrations begin

This September 15, 2007, being the birthday of Lord Ganesha, marks the important festival of Ganesh Chaturthi for Hindus in India and world wide.

Lord Ganesha occupies a special god status in Hindu tradition, and is considered as the bestower of all auspiciousness and destroyer of all negativity. Typically these festive celebrations last from one to 11 days, concluding with a Nimajjan ceremony (immersing the deity in the waters of lake/pond/river/sea/ocean etc). These celebrations are splendidly carried out in India amidst strict security as thousands participate. However; several Indian Hindu communities spread across the globe from Australia to North America have celebrated with no less pomp.

Notable ones were the celebration in the Scandinavian towns of Roskilde and Skovde, where due to the unavailability of Ganesh Maharaj statue (which are readily available in India), the organizers made a deity with black sticky clay soil collected from local farmlands with no added artificial colors.

This celebration besides having its own religious significance has an added flavor demonstrating the environment awareness in nordic countries. Recently eco-friendly Ganesh immersions are being urged by various environmental

activists in India as well.

Ontario Votes 2007: Interview with Green candidate Marija Minic, York Centre

Marija Minic is running for the Green Party of Ontario in the Ontario provincial election, in the York Centre riding. Wikinews' Nick Moreau interviewed her regarding her values, her experience, and her campaign.

Stay tuned for further interviews; every candidate from every party is eligible, and will be contacted. Expect interviews from Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, New Democratic Party members, Ontario Greens, as well as members from the Family Coalition, Freedom, Communist, Libertarian, and Confederation of Regions parties, as well as independents.

Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process? Why did you choose to run in this constituency?

I have chosen to involve myself in the political process because I am a conservation biologist by trade, therefore I'm passionate about the environment and its limited resources, and I am also passionate about social justice. I feel that I would have much more of a positive effect if I got involved politically than by doing research and writing reports which will only be read by those in the field. I chose to run in this constituency because I am in the riding often for work, and feel that locally, there needs a lot to be done.

What prior political experience do you have? What skills and insight can you bring to office, from other non-political positions you may have held?

Although I have no prior political experience, apart from running for

secondary school student council, I feel I have a lot of energy, knowledge and passion to bring to the position of an elected representative. I am a hard worker and enjoying listening to, learning from and working with people from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Which of your competitors do you expect to pose the biggest challenge to your candidacy? Why? What makes you the most desirable of all candidates running in the riding?

The Liberal incumbent, Monte Kwinter, has a great deal of experience, having been a Member of Provincial Parliament for many years. However, I have youth, energy and a great deal of passion on my side as desirable qualities of all the candidates.

What do you feel are the three most important issues to voters in your riding? Are these the same top three issues that are most important to you? What would you do to address these issues?

The top three issues are education, the environment and healthcare for voters in York Centre riding. These also happen to be the top three issues that are most important to me. I would push for a single, publicly-funded school system, preventative healthcare, bringing back Branson Hospital to fully function as a hospital (not just a clinic), and implement much tougher legislation on renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

What should be the first order of business in the 39th Legislative Assembly?

Tougher legislations on greenhouse gas emissions should be the first order of business, in my opinion.

Are the property taxes in your riding at a fair level for the amount

of services received in the municipality?

I don't believe that property taxes are at a fair level for the amount of services received in the municipality. I would push for "tax shifting" away from income and property and onto the big polluters and resource users, according to the "polluter-pays-principle".

How can the province lead the way in stimulating job creation? If sustainability (not just in the environmental sense) is taken into account in all provincial legislation, more jobs would be created and less would be lost. Also, if money is more wisely and efficiently spent on elementary, secondary and tertiary education as well as job training, students would benefit from having the proper skills to enter the workforce and succeed in it.

What are your views on the mixed member proportional representation (MMP) referendum? I feel that mixed member proportional representation (MMP) is a fairer system that works well in countries like New Zealand. I feel that Ontario should adopt this system for future elections.

What role, if any, does "new media" play in your campaign, and the campaign of your party? (websites, blogs, Facebook, YouTube videos, etc) Do you view it as beneficial, or a challenge? "New media" has definitely allowed for reaching out to a wider audience which was not earlier possible. It is definitely beneficial to the campaign!

Of the decisions made by Ontario's 38th Legislative Assembly, which was the most beneficial to your this electoral district? To the province as a whole? Which was least beneficial, or even harmful,

to your this riding? To the province as a whole?

To the people of the province of Ontario as a whole, the many promises Premier Dalton McGuinty has broken has been most harmful to us, as well as members of York Centre riding, including those of not phasing out coal and nuclear plants by the originally stated dates. Also, the closing down of Branson Hospital has hit the people of York Centre riding hard. Some of the environmental legislations implemented by the 38th Legislative Assembly have been beneficial, but could definitely be improved upon. This is why I encourage you to vote for the Green Party of Ontario in the upcoming election on October 10, 2007.

Today in History

1356 – Hundred Years' War: Despite a shortage of arrows, English and Welsh forces led by Edward the Black Prince decisively won the Battle of Poitiers and captured King Jean II of France.

1692 – Giles Corey, who had refused to enter a plea, was pressed to his death during the Salem witch trials.

1893 – New Zealand became the first country to introduce universal suffrage, following the women's suffrage movement led by Kate Sheppard.

1985 – A magnitude 7.8 earthquake devastated Mexico City, killing at least nine thousand people and leaving up to 100,000 homeless.

1991 – Ötzi the Iceman, a well-preserved natural mummy of a man from about 3300 BC, was discovered by two German tourists.

September 19 is Independence Day in Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983), Armed Forces Day in Chile, Prinsjesdag in Netherlands.

Quote of the Day

All the performances of human art, at which we look with praise or wonder, are instances of the resistless force of perseverance; it is by this that the quarry becomes a pyramid, and that distant countries are united with canals. If a man was to compare the single stroke of the pickaxe, or of one impression of the spade, with the general design and the last result, he would be overwhelmed by the sense of their disproportion; yet those petty operations, incessantly continued, in time surmount the greatest difficulties, and mountains are leveled and oceans bounded by the slender force of human beings. ~ Samuel Johnson

Word of the Day

kinkajou; n

1. A carnivorous mammal of Central America and South America with a long, prehensile tail.

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