

# Bare Facts

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38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

## President's Corner

By: Ernie Cooper

The Lake Edun Foundation had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend at our special place. We had several new couples come to celebrate the weekend with us, with visitors coming from as far as Utah. John and I were quite busy Saturday giving tours and greeting our guests. It looked to me that all were having a good time. I am sure that we will get to know several of these folks better as the summer continues.

The weekend following the 4<sup>th</sup> was less joyful. As you will remember, the Shawnee County Court under the direction of Judge Bullock placed a restraining order on our special place over a year ago. This order has been honored by our foundation. We were denied our reunion last year and since the court was unwilling to allow this matter to be litigated and resolved, this year we were forced not to hold it again. It is beginning to appear that the court does not want to allow a solution to this, other than the one they wish, which appears to be, for us to go away.

I am not aware of any other educational, not-for-profit organization that has been singled out this way. Nor do I actually believe that we are in violation of the law or the judge's order. We have always conducted ourselves openly with the county. Even this year in the face of being denied our principle fund raiser we allowed the dates scheduled for Return to Edun to be used by another organization, and notified the county of that intention several months before the event was scheduled. Even this allowance did not earn us an open hearing.

We on the board have suspected for some time that those who oppose us have used our open attitude against us. We are not hiding anything nor are we trying to force our life choices on anyone in the neighborhood, city, or county. We just want to be able to enjoy life at our special place. Our attitude toward our neighbors has always been, if you wish to join us, please come and learn what we know and enjoy our company. If you wish not to come, don't! It's your choice. But please give us the same respect: do not force your personal choices, on us, nor deny us our time together.

The board is currently working on other ways to communicate with our membership concerning our get togethers and activities. Please look for these changes in the near future. Some of them may be cumbersome at first. We need tighter control of our internal information and our membership communications need to be speedier than the newsletter currently allows.

## Random Thoughts And Reflections

Sally has asked us to remind everyone that there will be a pot luck over Memorial Day.

Thanks, Dale P. for the wheel barrow.

Don't forget the fall cherries and plums are coming into season.

## Huge Fishing Contest

This year, in deference to the court injunction, we haven't had any activities to celebrate our favorite activities or dress. In recognition of this, the board has planned a huge fishing contest the weekend of September 8-10. We will, of course, have music and plenty of LEF good times. Prizes will be awarded for the contestant who catches the most fish and the greatest variety of fish. So Don't Miss It!

Fishing, of course, is an agricultural activity not covered by the judges injunction prohibiting any commercial or recreational activities. All contestants will be charged a fee to enter the contest which will be given to our favorite not-for-profit educational foundation. So, even the entry fee is tax deductible.

No advance reservations are required to enter the contest and the entry fee will be collected at the gate. For more information, contact a member of the board.

## Challenge Grant Update

As we pass the mid-point of another wonderful season at our special place, we are less than \$575 away from meeting our challenge grant and beginning the first phase of our road to the west side.

Eduners will recall that we have a challenge grant which will match \$1,000 if we raise an equal amount. We believe this will give us enough to purchase the culvert put a base layer of gravel down.

If you have not made your contribution to our Road Fund, please consider making a generous, tax-deductible gift. It is a way all of us can leave a lasting mark on the place that means so much to each of us.

# Meet Josh

## Our Weekend Caretaker

### Items We Need

- Tops for trash cans
- Non-motorized boats
- Chipper/shredder we can use about once a month

### DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

Aug 5; Sat; 12-3; Open House

Aug 12; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors

Aug 18; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Sept 3; Sun; Battle of Dagorhir

Sept 4; Mon; Labor Day

### Sept 8-10; Fri-Sun; Fishing Contest

Sept 9; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors

Sept 15; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim

Sept 16; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Sept 23; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

Sept 30; Sat; 8-10; Sauna

## **From The Mail Bag**

First of all I want to say Boo for the Judge that stopped the weekend fundraiser of the Libertarian Party. Do Libertarians NOT have rights just like Naturists?????

Now, on with the show so to speak. Once again we have had a great turn out the weekends after the Libertarian fund raiser weekend. We have had many new folks from all over, and some that have not been in a long time.

It was especially nice to see some younger (under 50) people come out to join us. There was lots of swimming to cool off and of course one my favorites, lots of cooking on the grill and eating. If anybody got left out Saturday, it's not my fault. Welcome to all the new folks and to the ones returning to us.

As I was on the way home today there was a pickup truck pulling a pop up camper that I had pulled off to the side to let pass because I was so relaxed that I was not even doing the speed limit. Not another mile down the road she blew a tire on the camper, so I stopped to assist. It turned out to be a lady with a couple kids that had been out to Pomona Lake.

While helping her we were talking about where she was going and where she had been as she was sunburned. I remarked she should have used more sunscreen. I told her I was a naturist after she remarked I had a good tan.

Anyway, she remarked that that sounded great and she would look us up on the net and talk to her husband. I gave her my name and number. Once again, ya just never know who might be interested in our great place. If you don't mention it, you will never find out either.

After talking to Sally I think a pot luck on Saturdays would be great. Playing volleyball to work up an appetite would be nice too. Although speaking for myself, I can always eat. Since Ernie tilled up the grass and some roots the sand looks a lot better. Thanks Ernie.

To do the beaches right we are going to need more sand also guys. That's just something else we need done. We also, as some of you know, have a weekend caretaker by the name of Josh that is doing very well. If you have not met him yet please stop and introduce yourselves on the weekend.

- John S.

*[Letters from Edun is a regular feature in Bare Facts from members and friends of Lake Edun. Please, let us hear from you.]*

## **From Where I Sit**

By: Michael

While I'm sitting NIFOC writing, several of you are at Lake Edun for the weekend or the day. I'm grateful that you can be there, and support the right of my fellow American's to assemble peacefully and exercise their freedom to be nude together.

At the risk of being clichéd, Lake Edun is one of those canaries in the mine. The issues are larger than social nudism as I will address later. I support the proposition that naturism is more than a choice for recreation. I am passionately supporting naturism as a legitimate lifestyle that has positive values to offer. The pages of this newsletter have enumerated and elaborated on these values and benefits for many years.

The presence of Lake Edun and all other naturist/nudist parks, beaches, hot springs are a political statement that affirms the essential goodness of the human body in all its parts and functions in the face of a society that denies this value system. We assert that these beliefs and values are sacred to us and are part of what defines us as persons. We assert that we have protection under the constitution to equal treatment under the law and the right to practice our beliefs and values for ourselves and our families.

In spite of all we have endured over many years, we are still here. I am proud of that achievement. Adversity has only served to strengthen our resolve. We will stand together to defend our values. A sizable number of new members are joining with us, having discovered for themselves that what we proclaim about our lifestyle is indeed true. We welcome them and the energy they bring to our cause.

We all are aware that our freedom of assembly is under assault. Simply because we exercise our freedom, others in the community find this hateful and will not rest until Lake Edun ceases to exist. For these people the mere presence of a minority with whom they disagree is sufficient cause to seek their destruction.

Their minds are closed. There is no reasoning, no rationale, no justification that could be advanced that would change their minds. These are the sort of people characterized by philosopher Eric Hoffer as, "True Believers."

At the same time, we are equally not prepared to give up our belief in and acceptance of non sexual family oriented social nudity and body acceptance. However, Lake Edun does not demand community approval, make threats to the community, nor turn to government to force our will on others. We do not seek to impose our beliefs or lifestyle on others and we are perfectly willing to do whatever we can to avoid offense to others.

It was disturbing that even freedom of political speech and assembly were blatantly denied, simply because it was scheduled to take place on the grounds of Lake Edun. This is an alarming action by government on par with the recent Supreme Court decision that effectively ends the entire concept of private property.

To those in the Topeka community who would approve the action of government toward Lake Edun remember: What can be done to Lake Edun with your approval, can equally be turned on you some day. I am speaking directly to the religious community. We are not asking you to compromise your beliefs about social nudity, (a fair hearing would be nice) but to recognize the danger that is upon us all.

You had better read the tea leaves. This country is becoming increasingly intolerant of the historic Judeo-Christian position. The signs of this intolerance are to be found everywhere in legal decisions, legislation, public education, etc. Eventually, who will speak in your defense when they come for you?

Lest I forget. A wonderful time was had by all at the Lessman farm and lake. We are grateful to this family for opening up their home and property to us. Others and I pitched our tents and enjoyed the music, stars, good conversation, and the lake. In fact, it was so enjoyable we have a standing invitation to do it again!

## The Numbers Are In

A poll published in the July/August issue of a women's health magazine looked into bikini related numbers:

Bathing suits the Average Woman (AW) owns: 3  
Bathing suit the AW wears at the beach: A two-piece  
Percentage of bikini wearers who don a thong: 2  
What the AW would rather do than go swimsuit shopping:  
Get dental work

Percentage of women who have been to a nude beach: 9  
Percentage of those women who've let their top down: 41  
Percentage of women who think they look better tanned: 61  
Number of women who avoid tanning altogether: 1 in 2  
Top three activities that dominate the AW's beach time:

1. sunbathing
2. reading a magazine
3. napping

Percentage of women who actually swim at the beach: 9  
Odds the AW will be lunch meat for a shark: 1 in 11.5 million

Percentage of women who have gone skinny-dipping in a lake: 53

Percentage of women who have gone skinny-dipping in the ocean: 35

Top three things the AW would ban at the beach if she could:

1. smokers
2. screaming kids
3. people in unflattering suits

## Without A Name

Early in the history of this nation, actually before it was a nation, one of our founding fathers addressed his grievances against the British crown by writing under a pen name. Silence Do Good. Later, Samuel Clemens used the same ploy in order to keep aloof from the people of his time, hence Mark Twain became an American favorite!

Whether to hide for political or societal reasons, pen names can be useful. Ghost names are used even today for writers who need for one reason or another to keep their personal name out of the public eye.

Pen names are not the recommended means for signing articles in the naturist venues of the country. After all, we contend that we have nothing to hide or fear, and so need not hide behind pseudo-names. Would that was actually true.

Unfortunately many who enjoy the naturist lifestyle find themselves between a rock and hard place. Be open and forthright with their choices about social nudity and perhaps lose employment or social status in the community, or remain ghosts who can not be tracked by snoops, do-gooders and internet searchers.

Sometimes individuals mean only the best for us when they "find out" that we are engaged in what they think is an unorthodox at best, or perverted at worst choice in activity. Such is my position at present.

Someone whom I held in high regard has decided that my choices are less than what someone with my education and position in life should choose. Such is my dilemma at present. It is the same as others have found themselves in the past, and the same place some of you will find yourselves in the future.

Perhaps I should have taken an alias when I decided to write on the naturist issue so that those who would want to research everyone they deal with would not have been able to connect me with LEF. Perhaps I should break with a group that is so insensitive.

I am not one who runs from trouble. I am one who picks his fights. I think that many of the problems of our youth today could be blunted, if not eradicated, if they had healthy body acceptance principles in their lives.

So many that start out of curiosity end up involved in activities they would have spurned as unhealthy and destructive if they had just known what we naturists take for granted. Adults who teach youth and parents would benefit from naturist principles in their lives, even if they chose not to participate in naturist activities. That is why I will not separate from them. I need to teach them as much as I can. However in order to accomplish that goal, I must yield my openness about social nudity.

Perhaps the time will come when things will change. I think we all hope that it will!

Not Named!

## Amuse Your Muse

Just for the fun of it I did a web search for naturist fiction.

As you might imagine, Google didn't present me with thousands of web sites to pour through. But, a couple of sites of interest are worth sharing with you.

The first is Naturist Story Archive, <http://www.bvtime.com/>. The object is to bring fiction to the world of naturism. All stories are narratives with non-sexual nudity present.

The Naturist Story Archive presents a couple of extended stories, one is "Stephanie Conner's Diary," the other is "How Kristen Spent her Summer Vacation." Both are maturely written and interesting reads.

Naturist Story Archive does more than just showcase a naturist story. It seeks to give aspiring writers assistance in how to write a story. They offer suggestions and guidelines for what is acceptable content; story formats; and how to write a story.

The second site is appropriately called Naked Fiction, <http://www.nakedfiction.net/>. The site started as a message board that has grown. The interesting feature of this website is that all the stories are collaboratively written by website members. That's right. One person starts a story, goes as far with it as they can, then it's up to anyone that has an idea for continuing the story, to add to it.

While all the stories are in English, for some authors English is a second language. To be fair, several writers who appear to be from English speaking countries can't always put a coherent sentence together, nor spell either.

Be warned, this is a very uneven collection of stories.

Some stories are very amateur in their writing style, and have highly improbable story lines. Further, too many are written from the perspective of pre teens and teens. Still, aspiring writers have to start somewhere.

## **Surfing the Net**

With a billion or more websites and no end in sight, there's always something of naturist interest to look at.

This month's offering starts with a fun little web site called the Naked Munros (<http://www.nakedmunros.com/>).

When I first saw the name Naked Munros, I thought it was going to be about some naturist family. Well, sort of it is. As it turns out, a Munro is the name given to a Scottish mountain over 3,000 feet tall.

Stuart and Karla are married and live in Scotland. Their goal is to climb every Munro in Scotland nude, weather permitting and photograph themselves. So far, they have bagged nine Munros and brought back the photographic evidence.

Stuart explains that taking nude photos on top of munros which started out as a joke on one mountain, has grown into something a lot bigger, for both of them.

First of all, its fun! Walking naked heightens the senses, and makes a trip to the mountains a whole new experience.

Second, it's about getting back to nature.

Finally, it's a political statement. Nudity is shunned in modern society outside of commercial and sexual reasons, rarely involving anything other than women with perfect bodies.

This distortion ends up with thinking that if you're not a woman with a perfect figure, your naked body's a bad thing, to be hidden away. Well stuff that, Stuart exclaims, that sort of attitude makes fat people ashamed, and gives young girls eating disorders. We should all see a lot more naked people of all shapes and sizes, and stop being so damn hung up about it.

## **Serious Camping**

Some time ago I came across a unique product line for the well equipped out of doors enthusiast. Stephenson's Warmlite of Gilford, New Hampshire (a town so small it isn't on my road atlas), <http://www.warmlite.com/start.htm> manufactures sleeping bags, tents, and raingear. Of course, a lot of other people make these items also. What draws my admiration, beyond the quality of their products, is the use of nude models demonstrating their gear.

On a personal note, they claim that their warmest sleeping bag can protect to -80 F. My wife tells me that this may be sufficient to keep her comfortable in summer.

## **Still there? And Growing!**

What's up with Lake Edun? We still get calls and emails from people who wonder whether or not we are still there! We are! And guess what? We have been visited by many couples and families so far this year.

We have had new couples from the Kansas City area, Salina and Wichita in just the past few weeks. Many express interest in becoming members of the Lake Edun Foundation, and we hope they do.

We are even told by couples that have visited other venues that they really like our place above others! Mostly because of our Lake Edun families warm welcome to each one! So keep it up!

## **Wholesome Swim Wear**

Caution! Reading what follows may be dangerous to your mental health.

First, I came across this: <http://www.wholesomewear.com/> which is a site dedicated to selling, "Modest clothing for wearers." The owners of the web site have come up with a product line of swim wear for females which consists of a neck to knee spandex undergarment bodysuit. Over the undergarment is a loose fitting Taslan outer garment which, "limits cling and adds modesty and style." This swim outfit can be had in culotte and skirted styles with a variety of colors.

Next, I found this article from Turkey: The beaches of Turkey currently filled with bikinis and topless women, are now seeing a new phenomenon: neck-to-ankle swim wear worn by what are described as, "... increasingly confident Muslim women."

The suit is described as a full body suit and a hood that is pulled over a tight bonnet. Over 25,000 of these suits were sold in the past year.

In Turkey, women's clothing is a matter of politics, as well as fashion. In Turkey, headscarves are banned in the universities and for civil servants. However, wearing scarves is a symbol of rebellion (seeking a return to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Ed.). Now, Muslim camp sites, spas and beach resorts are springing up catering to the revival of conservative Muslim religious sentiments.

Finally, this item from the U.K: Yahoo! Search has seen a 700% rise in requests for information on naturist beaches and holidays over the last five years. Could this suggest that after 60 years the bikini is on its way out?

A British tutor in Fashion and Textiles Designs History at the Royal College of Art says, "...the bikini is certainly a garment in need of critical appraisal after 60 years...."

One commentator on the British scene stated, "We are definitely seeing a re-emergence of nudism...the last time nudity was in vogue was back in the 1960's." Images of women in bikinis have been iconic for decades. However, "...it seems that the new way to show your body confidence is to go completely nude in some cases. Maybe in 20 years we might consider the bikini as being really prudish-the same way that the Victorian bathing suit is now viewed."

*[In the ebb and flow of societal evolution, and now the clash of cultures, there is a mix of disturbing and heartening trends. What the future holds for us all is impossible to know. What we do know is that if we do not actively promote our values of non sexual family oriented social nudity and body acceptance, those that want to deny us our freedom will surely advance their agenda of body shame, and we will all be the losers. Ed.]*

**Support The  
Naturist Society  
Your National Naturist Voice**

## Bikini Introduced 60 Years Ago

A momentous event in world history occurred 60 years ago, one that proved to be a major symbol in a social upheaval. Yes! You guessed it, the creation of the Bikini!! So much expense, so little fabric.

At the time the bikini was deemed inappropriate, unseemly. After all, it revealed the belly button! How on earth the belly button was ever taboo I'll never know. Just goes to show the silly arbitrariness of body taboos.

However, in the 1960's the bikini took on an added meaning as part of the sexual revolution. It gained acceptance and clout. As one writer put it, "To bare flesh was to be politically subversive and culturally enlightened."

It wasn't long before the bikini became mainstream. Remember Annette Funicello and Sandra Dee? Both could

look virtuous in their bikinis, not at all loose or exhibitionist.

In 1964, Sports Illustrated launched its first swimsuit issue, featuring a model in a white bikini. This appears to have legitimized the bikini, even if it remained controversial.

For the aging baby boomers, the question of whether to continue wearing a bikini or switch to a one piece is debated. Advocates of the bikini say that, "... the key is feeling comfortable about who you are in the skin you're in, not worrying what other people may be thinking about you. You don't have to shrivel up into a ball and hide yourself as you go into middle age. You can still look good and have a good time."

*[This quote is right on target. Now if they could just lose those dang swim suits! Ed.]*

## What Will We Be Allowed To See?

Item: Controversy swirls in Loveland, Colorado. Artists and their art are finding themselves embroiled in acrimonious debate. The independent Visual Arts Commission approved the placing of a bronze statue depicting two nude males lifting aloft a nude female. The sculpture is titled "Triangle," after the triangular positioning of the three bodies and will be placed in a roundabout You can see for yourself at: <http://www.lovelandfyi.com/Top-Story.asp?id=6088>

Sculptor, Kirsten Kokkin explained she was trying to show humans must rely on one another to succeed. She termed the sculpture as a "ring of humanity, eternally linked together."

Not so fast! object some outraged citizens. It is their belief that the statue is lewd, lascivious, inappropriate and immoral.

One mother finds the statue offensive and that she and her children should not have to see it. "I think it's infringing on my rights...I have to go out of my way to avoid it."

A local church bishop stated his belief that the statue causes immoral thoughts. His concern is those, "...who drive past and the things that will take place in their minds."

One member of the city council reported there have been many comments from people that their children will have questions when they see the piece. However, he couldn't see anything wrong with that. "Kids should have questions...." He added, "It would be a shame not to take your child into the Sistine Chapel because children might ask questions."

Item: Washington, D.C. Recently, a memo was issued by Luis A. Luna, Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and Resources Management to all EPA employees. In it he makes it known the EPA has an issue with some 1930's murals in the headquarters building – the murals depict nudity, and scenes thought to be stereotyping Native Americans. You can see this at: <http://www.gsa.gov/arielriosmurals>

A little background. The Ariel Rios Federal Building was constructed between 1931 and 1935. It contains 25 murals created under the 1934 U.S. Treasury art commissioning program. The murals were painted between 1931 and 1938 as part of the federal government's arts program. This was the first location for the integration of murals in federal buildings for New Deal Era federal art programs.

The Ariel Rios Federal Building is included in the National Register of Historic Places under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

However, objections have been raised by visitors and federal employees at the Ariel Rios Federal Building about the appropriateness of six murals, including complaints that the murals stereotype Native Americans, and that they contain images that are inappropriate for the workplace. The murals are located in elevator lobbies on upper floors through which agency employees and visitors pass.

The General Services Administration (GSA) is seeking information from individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns about the murals. The initial period of public comment concluded on 12-31-2005, but will continue to receive comments. You can see a photograph of each of the objectionable murals, and find the procedure for making your comments in the memo.

The GSA has completed the design of a temporary screen to place in front of the murals. The screen is expected to be ready for installation no later than July 21, 2006.

Numerous contemporary examples could be offered of similar controversies surrounding art and many other things in life, but these two will serve our purpose.

The ugly head of censorship rears up like the hydra slain by Hercules. Ever renewing, ever energized by one aggrieved faction or another, each righteous in its indignation, striving to deny some perceived evil from others for their own good.

No matter their political orientation, Left or Right, each shares the same mind set. What they find offensive must be covered, removed, banished, destroyed, and outlawed. It is as though they believe that their particular "monster" has Medusa-like powers to turn to stone any who would see or hear what is offensive to them.

It is as though we have become a nation of professional whiners, constantly nagging everyone that we have been "**Offended**." Instead of being the land of the free and the home of the brave, we are becoming the land of the panty-waist nincompoops, (both words are in the dictionary, look them up!).

A standard I learned as a child that was to characterize Americans was, "I may strongly disagree with what you say, but I will defend with my life your right to say it." This foundational belief at one time was considered our strength as a free people. This uniquely American principal of value was at one time held with pride as marking us as different from all peoples around the world.

I don't hear this credo anymore, nor do I hear it being defended.

PC is in, freedom of expression is out. Sensitivity is in, reality, harsh or otherwise is out. What is paraded as diversity is in reality only another form of group think. All values are relative, all are granted moral equivalence. Of course, the loudest proponents of these views show a visceral intolerance for anyone that does not share them.

The current American romance with the freedom not to be offended is not without its historic counterparts. It is fully in keeping with the darkest chapters of human history. (It's always comforting to know you aren't alone).

To name a few: The Romans had a wonderful way with Christians at the Circus, don't you think? The Spanish Inquisition is a magnificent example of a legion of cruelties perpetrated in the name of religion, (the rack anyone, – anyone?). Witch burnings, drownings. Ah yes, fond memories of Europe, not to mention Salem, Mass.

I could go on and on, but let's skip to the modern era.

Who can forget the book burnings in Berlin? Now there was a crew that knew what to do when it came to devising "The final solution." Not to be out done Stalin, dear Uncle Joe, well, if he didn't like you, your name and picture were simple cut out of the books. You didn't exist. History is so tidy when you write it Uncle Joe's way.

Personally, I don't like to be offended. However, I do not believe any of us have any right, natural or constitutional, not to be offended. Nor do I believe that my or your individual preferences trump all other considerations.

Whether in Loveland or in the Ariel Rios Building, can't we understand that art is supposed to make us think, and expose us to other visions of the world? Can't we believe enough in ourselves and in the dignity and integrity of our fellow citizens to agree to disagree? Or must we kowtow to a tyranny of either the minority or majority?

The work of the artist valued in one generation may fall out of favor in another. Are the passing passions of the times to be allowed to erase our collective heritage? Should we once again paint clothing on the figures in the Sistine Chapel, or perhaps hack the genitals off Michelangelo's David? Or should we display maturity and exercise our intellect to understand and learn from art from all era's including the 1930's, however flawed it may be, rather than censor it from us all?

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### Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

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### Membership Application Change of Address Form Please Print

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All information provided is strictly confidential. If you are joining as a couple, include names for both people. If you are a couple not living together, make a copy of this form for the other individual. (NB: To promote gender diversity, a couple is defined as one male and one female.) Those willing to assist with upkeep a minimum of 10 hours

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