

**GETTING DEFENSIVE**



**LOTS OF** Pacifica High School defenders take down ball carrier from La Canada while one of his teammates (at right) is probably glad it's not hm. The Knights and Mariners met Friday night in the CIF-SS first round football playoff contest at Bolsa Stadium. For results from this and other games, go to **Sports, page 6** (Orange County Tribune photo).

**Consolidating of special ed programs is mullied**

By Jim Tortolano  
Orange County Tribune

■ **GARDEN GROVE SCHOOL BOARD**

A proposal to consolidate two special education projects at an expanded Mark Twain School goes before the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education when it meets on Tuesday night.

The board will consider plans to move students with "moderate to severe" special needs from the Jordan Adult Transition Program (18 to 21 years old) and the Special Education Center at Mark Twain serving preschool to adult

(until age 22) with exceptional medical needs into a facility at the latter school that will include the addition of classrooms, office spaces, play courts and an expanded parking area. The school is located at 11802 Loara St., north of Chapman Avenue.

The change is reported to become necessary because – according to a staff report – the adult transition program at Jordan has exceeded its capacity and

Continued on page 2

**In The Trib**

**Here's the pitch: Shohei will, but not for a while**



SPORTS Page 7

**'Pain' a pleasure**



ARTS & LIVING 5

**Election 2024**

**Some Races Tighten But Some Don't**

**Steel is beating Tran but Min leads Baugh**

contested elections are beginning to come to a resolution and some are tightening.

According to the Orange County Registrar of Voters, Rep. Michelle Steel (Republican) has opened up a 7,500-plus vote lead over Democratic challenger Derek Tran in the 45th District race.

An estimated 98,000 votes remained to be tabulated as of 5 p.m. on Friday.

A different result may be developing in the 47th Congressional District as Democrat Dave Min has grabbed a slim 1,000-vote lead over the Republican candidate Scott Baugh with 103,000 votes yet to be

Continued on page 2

**A bomb threat at the Orange County Registrar of Voters in Santa Ana Friday evening forced an evacuation of the premises and a short suspension of ballot-processing.**

**The Orange County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad responded, swept the building and found no explosives.**

As votes are still being counted from Tuesday's general election in Orange County, some closely-

**Mobile home park rent control on the agenda**

Should the City of Stanton create a rent control program for mobile home parks in the city?

That's one of several issues going before the Stanton City Council when it meets on Tuesday. Councilmember Don-

■ **STANTON COUNCIL**

ald Torres requested on Oct. 22 that the topic be brought forward for discussion.

Rents are at historically high levels in Orange

Continued on page 2

# Election 2024 updated tallies

Continued from page 1

counted.

In the race for the Garden Grove mayor's post, Councilmember Stephanie Klopfenstein has a 1,547-vote lead over former councilmember Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen (13,254 to 11,707).

The District 6 seat on the Gar-

den Grove City Council may still be up for grabs as Ariana Arestegui has closed to within 52 votes of Tri Lam (2,524 to 2,472).

And, with reference to the presidential election, Orange County voters are favoring Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, over former president (and now president-elect) Donald Trump by a slim margin: 48.75 percent to 48.45 percent. That's a difference of a bit over 3,000 votes.

Check back for updates on [www.ocvote.com](http://www.ocvote.com).

# GGUSD board

Continued from page 1

has used locations at the comprehensive high schools in the GGUSD, the Lincoln Education Center and at Mark Twain as overflow campuses.

Additionally, the change would "provide a more centralized location with room for growth to our neediest special education students and their families."

Also on Tuesday night, the announcement and presentation of honors to the district's employees of the month will be made, as well as recognition of Simon Scholars. The latter program is for economically disadvantaged students and provides a variety of academic and other assistance for their junior and senior years in high school.

The board meets at 7 p.m. at 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.

# Stanton council

Continued from page 1

County and mobile home residents – who typically rent space in parks for the units – are considered especially vulnerable to rising costs because many of them are on fixed incomes.

Also on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting are:

- consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the sale of "flavored" tobacco products by tobacco retailers;

- the second reading and adoption of an ordinance prohibiting short-term rentals in all zones in the city as well as banning "bed and breakfast" establishments in residential zones and mixed-use zones.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at 7800 Katella Ave.



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# News & Views

## Licking your wounds, kicking up your heels

Now that the election is over, it should be time for both sides to kiss and make up. Nope, ain't gonna happen. It's a lot more fun to consider how best to troll the other side before we are anesthetized by Thanksgiving turkey, stuffing and football.

The Democrats – still licking their wounds – could perk up a bit with some petty responses.

How about ordering 100 pizzas with anchovies and jalapeños and have them delivered – and billed to – Mar-A-Lago?

Or when you mention the soon-to-be 47th president, always leave off the first letter of his last name. That would really ease the sting of losing the White House by 5 million votes.

Now, if you're a Republican, you might be in the mood to sing about your triumph. Remember that old end-of-the-football game taunt song? As in: "Kam-Ala-Nah-Nah, hey, hey, goood bye!" repeated over and over. Or something not quite so adolescent? Perhaps the Tony Bennett classic, "I Only Won in San Francisco."

Politics is always about winners and losers. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. But it's especially tough to lose when you expect to win. Democracy is the proposition that 51 percent of the public is right 51 percent of the time, so the best possible outcome would be the blue guys becoming more aware of why they lost and the red guys governing so well they don't need to worry about what happened to Harris-Walz happening to them.

Continued on page 8



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

## Fire ravages GG strip center

### Cause of Brookhurst Street blaze under OCFA investigation

About 75 firefighters combined early Wednesday morning to battle and finally extinguish a fire in a strip mall in Garden Grove.

The fire was reported around 3:30 a.m. in the 13200 block of Brookhurst Street (near Central Avenue). Once the firefighters from the Orange County Fire Authority knocked down the blaze, crews remained on the scene to "fully extinguish hot spots."

Traffic on Brookhurst Street was blocked for a time.



**FIREFIGHTERS** mopping up blaze at a strip mall in Garden Grove on Wednesday morning (OCFA photo).

Additionally, an aerial drone was used to check for "hot spots" from the air. There were

no injuries and the cause of the fire is under investigation, according to the OCFA.



**SUSPECTS** in Home Depot robbery try (GGPD photo).

## Four arrested in attempted heist at GG Home Depot

Four suspects were arrested Wednesday by Garden Grove police after a robbery at the Home Depot store at Garden Grove Boulevard and Nelson Street.

According to the GGPD, police were notified of a grand theft in progress. Suspects were seen exiting the emergency exit of the

store with over \$1,800 worth of merchandise.

Officers saw the suspect vehicle leaving the area and conducted a high-risk car stop. The suspects – recognized from previous incidents involving similar methods – were taken into custody and the stolen property recovered.

### ■ AREA NEWS BRIEFS

## Veterans Day events in area

Veterans Day will be observed at several locations Monday in our West Orange County area.

- Stanton: Veterans Park, 10972 Cedar St. (at Katella Avenue), 9-11 a.m.
- Huntington Beach: Huntington Beach Pier Plaza, 325 Pacific Coast Highway, at Main Street, 11 a.m.
- Westminster: Westminster Memorial Park and Cemetery, 14801 Beach Blvd,

### HB thanksgiving event

The Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council's Thanksgiving program will be on Sunday, Nov. 17 at St. Wilfrid Episcopal Church, 18631 Chapel Lane, Huntington Beach.

There will be a musical prelude at 3:30 p.m. and the program begins at 4 p.m. A reception follows in the courtyard. Donations of nonperishable food items, toiletries and paper goods will be accepted for the food pantry, The Stand, at Golden West College.

# NewsUpdate

## Trump Assassination Plot Foiled

### Leader of group still in Iran; two others arrested

An Iranian plot to assassinate president-elect Donald Trump has been foiled by the U.S. Department of Justice, according to the Associated Press.

The murder-for-hire scheme has resulted in the issuance of an arrest warrant for Farad Shakeri, 51, whom the government claims is a man who has served time in American prisons for robbery and heads a group of criminal “associates” used by the Iranian government.

Shakeri is at-large and is believed to be in Iran at present. Charged and arrested in New



**DONALD TRUMP** was the target of an assassination plot tied to Iran (Shutterstock)

York are Carlisle Rivera, 49, of Brooklyn and Jonathan Loadholt, 36, of Staten Island.

Charges include murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and conspiracy to

“launder” money.

Also slated for an attack is Masih Alinejad, a human rights activist living in Brooklyn, for his criticism of the treatment of women in Iran, according to The

New York Times.

The Times also reported that the Iranian government sought to interfere in the U.S. presidential election.

## Case against Trump is ‘paused’ by U.S. judge

Legal proceedings against president-elect Donald Trump for his role in allegedly inciting the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol has been “paused.”

Special counsel Jack Smith requested – and has been granted by a federal judge – a delay until Dec. 2, citing the “unprecedented circumstance” of prosecuting a man who will become president in a little over two months.

According to United Press International, Federal Judge Tanya Chutkan granted Smith’s request “shortly” after it was made. There was a “consensus” among Justice Department officials that there can be no trials of Trump



**JAN. 6, 2021 RIOT**

after the election, says UPI.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing; the Justice Department has made a 165-page “election inference” filing against the 45th president.

### Great Thoughts

“I’m not a member of any organized political party. I’m a Democrat.”

– Will Rogers, cowboy, actor, humorist.

## Who will control the U.S. House of Representatives?

Which party is going to control the U.S. House of Representatives? That’s still unknown as counts in some close races have yet to be tallied completely.

As of Friday afternoon – reports The New York Times – Republicans now hold 211 seats and the Democrats 199. For a majority, 218 votes are needed.

Therefore, the GOP needs to win seven of the remaining races, with the Democrats needing 15.



**U.S. CAPITOL** building at night (Shutterstock).

### Weather: Getting a bit cooler

Cooler temperatures are in the offing for our West Orange County cities. The forecast for Saturday is for a daytime high of 73 with an overnight low of 48 under partly cloudy skies. Sunday will chill to 71(48) and Monday to 68 (52), both under partly cloudy skies. There should be a slight warming to 70 (55) on Tuesday.

# Arts & Living

## Culkin Shines in 'A Real Pain'

A love letter to ancestral Poland roots

By Jocelyn Noveck  
AP National Writer

It's part comedy, part tragedy. It's part road-trip saga, part odd couple-buddy flick, and part Holocaust film. What could possibly have gone wrong?

Yup — everything could have gone wrong. So the first miracle about "A Real Pain," writer-director Jesse Eisenberg's remarkably accomplished film about mismatched cousins on a somber trip through Poland, is how it pulls off the most delicate of balancing acts.

That it does so while also asking intriguing questions about the nature of pain — personal vs. universal, historic vs. contemporary — is all the more impressive. So is the fact that it showcases an Oscar-worthy performance.

That stunning performance comes from Kieran Culkin, and what's striking is that it doesn't overpower the rest of the ensemble. That's a testament mostly to the careful way Eisenberg, who co-stars in the less flashy role, has constructed and paced his film. And as for Culkin, well, if you needed proof that his searing, Emmy-winning work as tortured live-wire Roman Roy in "Succession" wasn't a fluke, here you have it.

The movie, which is only Eisenberg's second directorial effort, stems from a trip the "Social Network" star took some 20 years ago to Poland. There, he found the tiny house his aunt had lived in before the Holocaust uprooted the family. He wondered what his own life would have been like had World War II never happened.

And that's one of the many conversations that David (Eisenberg) and Benji (Culkin) have



KIERAN CULKIN and Jesse Eisenberg star in "A Real Pain" (Searchlight Pictures).

### Movie Review

as they travel through Poland on a mission to visit the house where their grandmother, who has recently died, once lived. (Eisenberg used the exact same house, which tells you just how personal this film was for him.)

It's a poignant but also awkward reunion for the cousins, who were close as youngsters but are on very different paths as 40-something adults. David is the anxiety-ridden but highly

functional type that Eisenberg the actor excels at; he works in tech and lives with his wife and young son in Brooklyn. As for Benji, he lives upstate and is largely unmoored, or undeveloped. He's also a study in contrasts — the type, David notes, who can light up a room when he enters, and then crap on everyone. The death of their grandmother, with whom Benji was close, has taken a toll on his mental health.

The cousins first meet up at the airport in New York. Before they

**Good ★★★**

even get through security, Benji has terrified David by informing him he's secured some really good weed for the journey. (Don't worry, he's mailed it to the hotel.)

In Warsaw, they meet their small tour group and British guide James (Will Sharpe, of "The White Lotus"), a scholar of wartime Poland. Fellow travelers include Marsha (Jennifer

Continued on page 8



### 'Cinderella on stage at the Gem

Rogers & Hammerstein's musical "Cinderella," is now on stage at Garden Grove's Gem Theater. This production will be performed Thursdays (8 p.m.) to Sundays (2 p.m.) through Nov. 24. The final performances will be Nov. 20-30 at 8 p.m.

The Gem is located at 12852 Main St. in the Village Green, near Euclid Street. For more information, go to [thegemoc.com](http://thegemoc.com) or call (714) 741-9550.

# TheSportsPages

## Good news from hardwood to the Big 18

Awakening from my post-election stupor, my binge-drinking of Hawaiian Punch, it seems to me that a lot of my recent columns have been of a critical nature.

It's easy to take pot shots – for instance – at the Los Angeles Angels and their worst-ever season, or the cruel chaos of college football alignment, but not all the news is bad. So, in that spirit, good news ...



**Bronny's Apprenticeship:** The issue of Bronny James being

### Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers, who – by some coincidence – have in their employ, a fellow named LeBron James – has always brought some raised eyebrows.

I mean, it's not unfair to wonder whether a bit of daddy-influence was involved, not to mention the mixed-blessing of playing on the same team as your famous father.

Happily, the Lakers have their priorities straight. This week, the team assigned Bronny to their South Bay Lakers affiliate. He'll make his G-League (translate: minor league) debut on Saturday in El Segundo.

The novelty of dad and lad playing together must give way to proper development of a talented, but still-callow player. He can move back to the Lakers when he's more fully-baked, as it were. Smart move.

**Mixed Blessing:** The football struggles that UCLA and USC have had in the Big 10 (18, actually) have been a dose of needed humility for the Bruins and Trojans, and maybe a splash of reality.

They led the flight from the

Continued on page 8

## Week One Not a Weak One

### Aztecs, Chargers, Mariners, Oilers, Lobos advance

Five local high school football teams have survived their first round CIF-SS games and advance to second round play next week.

On Friday night, the locals won three games, although in doing so, they knocked out another area team.

In Division 5 action, Huntington Beach and Western played a high-scoring contest at Sheue Stadium with star quarterbacks Brady Edmunds and Chance Thomas each putting on a show. The Oilers' Edmunds passed for four touchdowns and ran for another as his team defeated Western 56-39, overcoming two TD passes and one running score by Thomas.

With the win, the orange and black are 7-4 and the Pioneers finish the 2024 campaign at 5-6.

Division 7 action saw Marina (9-2) bested by Yucaipa 35-25 at Bill Boswell Field at Westminster High School.

In Division 10 play, Pacifica won a defensive battle, defeating La Canada 7-3 after being held scoreless for most of the game. The Mariners are now 6-5 after winning six consecutive games and grabbing the Omnicon League title.



**PACIFICA DEFENDERS** wrap up La Canada ball carrier in CIF-SS football action Friday night at Bolsa Stadium (Tribune photo).

In a Division 11 game at Mosoor Stadium, Los Amigos stayed unbeaten and improved its record to 11-0 with a 21-18 win over Perris.

Two of three local high school football teams prevailed in CIF-SS first round playoffs on Thursday night.

In Division 3, Edison (7-4) blanked North High of Torrance 24-0 at Sheue Field on the Huntington Beach High School campus.

In Division 14, La Quinta edged Saddleback 21-20. The Aztecs scored the winning touchdown

with 45 seconds to play when Cooper Starnes ran the ball in from 18 yards out.

Starnes was a star for La Quinta (8-3) as he rushed for 166 yards. Also starring was Michael Palacios, who ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns.

Also in D-14 play, Bolsa Grande lost a shootout with Ganesha 35-28 and finished the season with a 5-6 record. The Matadors (5-6) rallied from a 21-0 deficit and twice tied the game up before losing on a 67-yard touchdown pass by the Giants in the fourth quarter.

## Lakers, Clippers win; Ducks lose again

Le Bron James scored 21 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and handed out 13 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 116-106 on Friday night at home.

Anthony Davis led all scorers with 31 points. He added nine rebounds and one assist for the night.

The victory improved the team's record to 5-4, the same record as five other teams – including the

### ■ NBA and NHL

Clippers – in the NBA Western Conference.

Also on Friday night the Los Angeles Clippers prevailed 107-98 in Sacramento against the Kings. Shooting guard Norman Powell shot well, scoring 31 points but also corralling 12 rebounds and getting two assists. Point guard James Harden had 22 points, four rebounds and

eight assists in the victory which was the Clips' third win in a row.

### Ducks not in a row, lose 5-2

The Anaheim Ducks fell behind 3-0 in the first period at Honda Center Friday night and went on to a 5-2 loss to the Minnesota Wild, a third straight defeat.

Scoring for the Ducks – now 4-7-2 – were Robby Fabbri and Mason McTavish.

# Shohei will pitch, but not right away

No need to rush Ohtani, says LAD management

By Ronald Blum  
AP Baseball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers aren't counting on Shohei Ohtani to pitch at the start of next season and will wait to see how his rehabilitation progresses following shoulder surgery on his non-throwing arm.

Ohtani had a procedure Tuesday to repair a torn labrum in his left shoulder, an injury sustained while sliding during a stolen base attempt in Game 2 of the World Series on Oct. 26.

The two-way star did not pitch this year while recovering from elbow surgery on Sept. 19, 2023. "We're going to take it piece by piece and get through this and then take it in one-, two-week



SHOHEI OHTANI has not pitched since he left the Angels in 2023 (Angels photo).

chunks and make sure that we're in a really good place on each of those benchmarks and

then go from there and not try to say, 'Hey, we need to be ready by this day,'" general manager Brandon Gomes said Wednesday. "We're going to let the rehab process play out."

Ohtani and the Dodgers begin next season in Tokyo, with a two-game series against the Chicago Cubs on March 18 and 19.

After signing a record \$700 million, 10-year contract, the 30-year-old Ohtani hit .310 with 54 homers, 130 RBIs and 59 stolen bases this year, becoming the first player with at least 50 homers and 50 stolen bases in a season.

"I think it's safe that he will not steal 50 bases next year," Gomes said. "I have a hunch. I don't want to count it out because I don't ever bet against Shohei."

Gomes said left-hander Clayton Kershaw had surgery Wednesday but he could not go into details because the three-time Cy Young Award winner was a free agent.

He also said Mookie Betts is likely headed back to the infield next year and the World Series champs would like to reach a new contract with manager Dave Roberts, whose current deal runs through next season.

Ohtani was operated on by head team physician Dr. Neal ElAttrache.

"The rehab stages have different lower-intensity exercises and may just be movement," Gomes said. "Our trainers and performance coaches and doctors are all in lockstep on that and we'll be with him along the way."

Ohtani has stopped his throwing program.

"He probably would have stopped throwing anyway with the offseason, but he needs to recover from this and then get that back up," Gomes said.

Los Angeles expects to have right-handers Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Tony Gonsolin, Dustin May and Tyler Glasnow ready for opening day.

Yamamoto was sidelined by right triceps tightness between June 15 and Sept. 10, Glasnow didn't pitch after Aug. 11 because of right elbow tendinitis, Gonsolin spent all of 2024 recovering from Tommy John surgery, and May didn't pitch this year following elbow and esophagus operations.

Betts started the season at shortstop, broke his left hand on June 16 when hit by a pitch and moved to right field when he returned on Aug. 12. His shift to the infield is a product of trying to protect his body and the desire of the 32-year-old, an eight-time All-Star.

## GARDEN GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY STANLEY RANCH MUSEUM

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# Motion picture review: 'A Real Pain'

Continued from page 5

Grey), a divorcee who's moved from LA back east and is trying to reconnect with her past; a Midwestern couple (Daniel Oreskes and Liza Sadovy); and Eloge (Kurt Egyiawan), a Rwandan-Canadian convert to Judaism who knows something about genocide.

In short order, Benji both charms and exasperates the

group — and this turbulent brand of charisma is Culkin's specialty.

At a war memorial statue, he runs up to strike a playful action pose, embarrassing David. But somehow, the whole group ends up joining Benji in the childlike stunt, and David is left taking photos.

Then when the tour boards a train for Lublin, Benji suddenly explodes in anger at the group — how can they be sitting in first-class comfort when 80 years ago, their ancestors were corralled into cattle cars? He disappears to a lower-class car.

And at a visit to a wartime tombstone, Benji admonishes

the mild-mannered guide, furiously, for focusing on statistics and not letting the group feel the pure emotion of the moment. (He's not wrong, as the guide will later acknowledge.)

Eisenberg has said that when conceiving of his film, he was struck by a Polish ad that promised "Holocaust tours (with lunch.)" All these moments feel quite real; such tours are indeed filled with awkward (and rather inevitable) juxtapositions of modern tourist comforts and historical horrors.

Speaking of horrors, by far the most difficult scenes come when the group visits Majdanek, the Nazi camp. There, they walk past unspeakable sights of gas chambers and ovens and piles of abandoned shoes.

One might at first gasp that Eisenberg is leading us here at all; wisely, he keeps these moments silent.

When Benji breaks down, it's on the way home — an acknowledgment that such reactions often come later.

At the end, with the cousins hugging goodbye uneasily in

the same airport where we began, having completed a journey both physical and personal, it's hard not to think back to the title of the movie. Yes, Benji is "a real pain." But there are layers of pain at play here.

There is David's very real pain, an anxiety that forces him to take pills each day. There's Benji's pain, which not long ago has sent him into a very dangerous tailspin.

But, Eisenberg seems to be asking, how "valid" are these types of pain set against the historic pain that the film explores in Poland? A place where, as he shows in a striking shot of empty streets where life once teemed, an entire community was erased by the Nazis.

It's quite a journey for one film.

All credit to Eisenberg, and his superb co-star, for making the road trip so thought-provoking.

"A Real Pain," a Searchlight Pictures release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language throughout and some drug use." Running time: 90 minutes.

## Retorts: Black humor after an election that lacked amusement

Continued from page 3

The real losers are the pollsters. Even the most highly-rated public opinion survey firms skidded into the weeds on this one. You might have better success using a Magic 8-Ball. Or maybe a Magic Marker.

Of course, they always say, "well, we fixed the problems we had in the last election" before bombing in the next one.

But I sympathize with them. It's hard to predict the future. The only certain thing in this world is that the phone always rings when you're in the shower.

## Sports Retorts: Good news

Continued from page 5

Pac-12, kicking off the chaos that followed. Our locals have a combined 7-10 record overall, 4-9 in conference, which puts them in 14th and 15th places.

They led the flight east. Maybe they will soon lead the flight back.

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Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?  
**Garden Grove Rotary**

Who sponsors a defibrillator program to save lives when heart attacks strike?  
**Garden Grove Rotary**

Who recognizes 6th grade students for achievement in academics and scholarship?  
**Garden Grove Rotary**

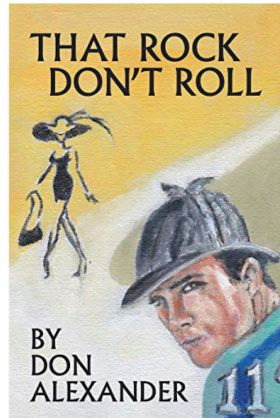
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**Garden Grove Rotary.**

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