

# THE STATE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES AT CAROLINA

News from Women's Studies at The University of South Carolina

ISSUE III, Fall 1988

## Director's Book Focusses on Resistances in Science and Health to Women and Feminism - Proceeds Will Go to Endowment

Dr. Sue V. Rosser, Women's Studies director and associate professor in the USC School of Medicine (Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health), has recently published a book which received considerable recognition at the June National Conference of the National Women's Studies Association. Entitled Feminism within the Science and Health Care Professions: Overcoming Resistance, (Pergamon Press) the volume arose from a session presented at the 1986 NWSA conference. It includes chapters by USC professors Dr. Joan Altekruise (School of Medicine), Dr. Joan Gero (Department of Anthropology), Dr. Jennie Kronenfeld (College of Health), and Suzanne McDermott (School of Medicine). In a laudable gesture, they and other contributing authors have joined with Rosser in donating royalties from the book's sales to the USC Women's Studies Endowment. The book is available at the USC Bookstore for \$14.95.

Rosser gives an introductory overview of women in science and health care, covering the forces of socialization and education that combine to assign gender roles to children from birth, throughout their school years, ultimately putting distance between most girls and science, and leading scientists and health care practitioners to resist women and feminism. She describes the subtle and not-so-subtle practices which serve to convince many young women that science is unfeminine and inappropriate for them, and to instill in many men the same belief, leading them to discount women's abilities in science. Rosser further describes the current status of women scientists, where even in those disciplines



Dr. Jennie Kronenfeld; Dr. Joan Gero; Dr. Sue Rosser; Suzanne McDermott; Dr. Joan Altekruise.

with substantial numbers of women, their distribution is often skewed, with the most heavily funded and most recognized sub-disciplines remaining male domains.

The book contains reports on women's status in various professions: the physical sciences, archaeology, public health and medicine with accompanying analyses of the forms of resistance to women in each field. The impact of androcentric bias on theory and practice is also explored with a critical look at Science, the leading scientific journal, and "the construction of meanings in the neurosciences." Recent decades of scien-

see SCIENTIFIC (page 2)

## Emily Thompson Award Established

Women's Studies is honored to announce the Emily Thompson Memorial Award in Women's Health, established within the Women's Studies Endowment by friends and family of Emily Thompson after her untimely death last spring. She had recently completed her master's in public health. The Emily Thompson Award will serve to recognize annually the best student project from the nine system campuses which focusses on an aspect of women's health. Details for the selection of the best project will be publicized by Women's Studies.

## A Film About Women in Films

A student project grant made possible by the Harriott Hampton Faucette Fund for Women's Studies is helping Stephanie Thompson produce a film about women in films. A USC senior in media arts, Thompson plans to study how women are portrayed in films and what effect their becoming producers and directors of films is having on these images. She also plans to study how men and women actors respond to women producers and directors. She wants to know where the relatively recent breakthrough by women into film production is taking the movie industry.

see FILM (page 2)

# Internationally Prominent Scholars Visit USC

Collaborating with numerous departments throughout USC, Women's Studies this past year helped to bring various scholars of national and international renown, to campus to address audiences on woman-focussed topics. Dr. Lily Boruszkowski, award-winning experimental film maker, visited from Southern Illinois University to present several of her films with commentaries. Her work often deals with women and their images in our society. She is best known for her films One For Every Month (an answer to Playboy's monthly contests), Grand Prize Showcase (a commentary on game shows), Postcards, Signature Frostless, and Distant Music. Boruszkowski will be an artist-in-residence at USC-Columbia during the spring 1989 semester. The USC Department of Media Arts joined with Women's Studies to bring Boruszkowski.

Dr. Toril Moi, director of the Centre for Feminist Research in the Humanities at the University of Bergen, Norway, and author of Sexual/Textual Politics, spoke on "Feminism, Psychoanalysis and Philosophy: Is There a Feminist Rationality?" Moi represents the post-modernist French tradition of feminist literary criticism. She argues for the deconstruction of dualism and essentialism which she believes Anglo-American feminist critics replicate by asserting the categorical factors of gender in their analyses. This, she believes, merely conserves the status quo, by introducing new dualisms to replace the old ones. The USC Departments of Foreign Languages, English, and Philosophy, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, joined Women's Studies to bring Moi to USC.

## SCIENTIFIC (from page 1)

tific research reveal the negligible (though increasing) impact of feminism on scientific theory and practice in contrast with the significant impact and acceptance feminism has had on critical theory in the humanities. Rosser notes the need to overcome a similar resistance to science by some feminist scholars who view science as incorrigible.

The health care system and health education are the subjects of the final critique, with a repudiation of the ways in which the ideals of the women's health movement have often been coopted by medical business which now views women as a market to be exploited. The "selling of Women's Health Centers" sometimes ignores the opportunity to empower women with complete information to make better choices for themselves concerning their health. Among other things, the authors criticize the greater concern for the income such centers often generate, and the lack of concern for the large populations of women, who for religious restrictions, cultural preferences or lack of money are not among the centers' clientele and whose health needs go unmet and unresearched.

Rosser concludes that women are greatly needed in science and health care, and just as importantly, feminist critical theory is greatly needed, to challenge the deeply rooted biases which have caused science and health care not to benefit women as it might. The issues of reproductive technology and nuclear research are examples Rosser cites of the critical decisions which must be influenced by women's needs and concerns as defined by women themselves. She calls on feminists who reject science to accept the challenge to improve it.

Dr. Ursula King, senior lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leeds, presented two lectures, one on "Theological Reflections on Global Ecumenism" and the other on "Women and Spirituality: Contemporary Voices of Protest and Promise." Dr. King has published widely in the areas of pluralism, inter-religious dialogue, spirituality, and women and religion. The USC Department of Religious Studies joined with Women's Studies to bring her to USC.

Dr. Karen Offen, of Stanford's Institute for Research on Women and Gender, spoke on "Defining Feminism: A Comparative Historical Perspective." Using her background in the history of modern Europe, she traced the development of feminism as a word, concept, and theory in Western thought from its earliest recording in the early 1800's in France, viewing masculine as the norm. By the 1880's, there was attention to masculine chauvinism. Feminism eventually evolved into an ideology and movement based on male privilege in any particular society. Feminism in its current stage posits gender as a central factor and seeks to remove masculinist hierarchy, but not sexual dualism. According to current theory, to be pro-feminist is not to be anti-men, but rather to challenge male authority and hierarchy over women. Offen described three criteria of modern feminist thought: 1) recognizing the validity of women's own interpretations of their experiences and their values; 2) experiencing discomfort or anger over institutionalized

see SCHOLARS (page 5)

## FILM (from page 1)

Central to Thompson's film will be extensive on-camera interviews with Pat Berman, a local film critic, whose travels, movie clips, promotional films and personal contacts in the industry will be material to Thompson's project. Women producers considered in the film will include Sherry Landsing.



Stephanie Thompson

Thompson points out that though 'women as sex symbols' (such as Mae West) have been a stock feature in the film industry since its inception, many actresses fought from the beginning to rid themselves of the stereotypes assigned them. Thompson's interest in the topic grew out of a Women's Studies course, 'Women in Media' with Media Arts Professor Sandra Wertz. Dr. Wertz is now directing Thompson's independent study. A screening of the film is planned during Women's History Month next March.

# Two Friends of Women's Studies

Each newsletter will profile one or more friends of Women's Studies, sharing the diverse interests and experiences of individuals who support the Women's Studies Endowment.



Jean Wallace Blount

Jean Wallace Blount, chief executive officer of Wallace Concrete Pipe before her retirement and presently vice president of USC's Educational Foundation Board, followed in her mother's footsteps when she took over managing the family company. Her parents together owned Wallace Concrete Pipe, and from her earliest memories, she followed all that happened with the business. When her father was killed in World War II, her mother took over running the company. "Now my mother was a pioneer, to be a woman chief executive in those days."

Jean Wallace married Bill Blount and together they eventually became owners of the company. When Blount's children were raised, she took on the position of CEO, as her mother before her had done. Her husband became vice president and general manager. She learned a lot "by doing" and became competitive in the bidding for state agency contracts with suppliers, encouraged greatly by the Women's Business Enterprise legislation, which required 2% of bids for government contracts to be from women.

Blount served from 1984-1986 as treasurer of the United Way of the Midlands. She had helped set up the United Way Voluntary Action Center and worked with it for nine years. She also served with the United Way's Palmetto Society. Blount is also on the board of the Salvation Army, and serves as chair of the Advisory Committee for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, an arm of the Council on Aging. She has been actively involved with the Congaree Girl Scout Council for over 30 years, serving as a scout leader, and vice president of the board. She is presently serving on their board as chair of the the finance committee.

Blount is one of the prominent community leaders currently serving on the board of the Central Carolina Community Foundation which is fast becoming the main clearinghouse matching philanthropic interests with community needs. Her history with USC includes years of service on the Carolina Scholars Selection Committee and the USC Educational Foundation, and goes back to her transfer as a rising sophomore from Mary Baldwin in 1946. She entered the College of

see BLOUNT (page 4)



Jennie C. Dreher

Jennie C. Dreher looks at life through a double lens, one historical and one civic. Native Columbian and civic worker, she has devoted much of her life to uncovering the historic value of Columbia houses and locations and preserving them as part of our cultural heritage. Her tenure as president of the Historic Columbia Foundation 1962-67 and 1970-71 included the fund raising drives which resulted in the purchase of the 1823 mansion designed by Robert Mills, the restoration of the premises and its declaration as a National Historic Landmark. For twelve years she continued on the Advisory Board of the Historic Columbia Foundation. As secretary of the Richland County Historic Preservation Commission 1962-77, 1986-present, she was instrumental in forming the Richland County Historic Preservation Commission through which a number of important houses have been saved, including the Lace House, the Boyleston House, the Woodrow Wilson boyhood home, and the Mann-Simms Cottage. Dreher's efforts have also helped secure the Hampton-Preston House.

Graduating with an AB in Education from the University of South Carolina, Dreher later earned a USC Certificate in Fine Arts. In 1975 she was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by the University of South Carolina. Dreher's civic activities have included two terms on Winthrop College's Board of Visitors (one as chair), work with the Palmetto Society of the United Way, service as Ambassador of the Year for the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce (1978) and service on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. She is presently on the Central Carolina Community Foundation Board of Directors.

An active member since 1961 of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Dreher served as chair of its board of advisors (with a seat on the board of trustees) and on many committees, including one responsible for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. She was given the National Trust Advisor Emeriti Award in 1978. She remains involved after serving two years on the US President's Advisory Council for the National Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Dreher was awarded the National Amy Angell

see DREHER (page 4)

Business Administration and studied secretarial science, unaware that she would one day be president of her own company.

Her initial interest in Women's Studies at USC began in 1985 in response to a call for inaugural donors to launch the Women's Studies Endowment. Encouraged by the prospect of an academic program to improve knowledge about women, and by President Holderman's decision to lend significant support to the program, she put her good faith and influence as a major donor behind the campaign.

Thinking back to those first efforts, she says, "My understanding about it (Women's Studies) is much clearer now. I've been amazed at how many people have been ready to seize this opportunity. I'm gaining a personal vision of what Women's Studies can do as it filters down to the beginning stages of our educational system. It will give more young women a chance to develop stronger self-esteem, and better options for their lives. There have been strong women all along whom we haven't been taught about. Thought processes will have to change, not only in young women but in young men, too." Here, Blount adds a thought which gets to the crux of the challenge before Women's Studies: "We have to begin teaching the teachers."

Commenting on USC's role in Women's Studies, Blount says, "Women's Studies is becoming a more important part of USC. It can't be just an afterthought. I look to the day when the study of women will be generally accepted as a natural part of academics." Blount frequently laughs with surprise at how much things have changed in her generation. With support like hers, Women's Studies will be able to insure that such change improves our understanding of women in all their diversity.

## USC Scholars Share Research on Women

The Women's Studies Research Series has continued to focus attention on the research on women that is being done by USC faculty in their respective fields.

Dr. Carol Myers Scotton's linguistic presentation on "Why can't a woman be more like a man? Why women speak the way they do" drew a large and interested crowd. Scotton, director of USC's linguistics program, discussed features of women's speech and competing hypotheses for explaining the differences between men's and women's speech. She argued for a "rational actor" hypothesis, stating that because women have access to fewer sources of potential status than men do, women make the most of the opportunities they do have. These are largely opportunities to build strong interpersonal relationships with other women (and men) and to receive status as standard dialect speakers.

Dr. Shirley Kuiper of business administration reported on her work on "Sex and Gender in Corporate Publications." Her analysis of pictures in a sample of Fortune 500 Corporate Annual reports for 1983 and 1985 revealed that females were underrepresented by approximately 32%, and males overrepresented by approximately 37%. Experimental representation and subjects' assessment of corporate climate suggest that increased representation

Collier Montague Medal for civic achievement in 1971 by the The Garden Club of America, following a two-year term as national director.

Dreher was married for thirty years to James Franklin Dreher, Columbia attorney and USC Law professor, until his death in 1972. Both were active in Columbia's Town Theatre. Their daughters, Ann and Jane Dreher, have both continued in the tradition of dedicating themselves to the needs and culture of their city. Jennie Dreher remarried in 1978, to Thomas A. Evins, a Spartanburg attorney.

Dreher was one of the early major donors to the Women's Studies Endowment. She had an earlier appreciation of the significance of Women's Studies than most in the community, because daughter Ann Dreher, senior instructor with the USC Department of Theatre and Speech, was teaching Women's Studies courses on women in western culture and society. Jennie Dreher joined with Jean W. Blount to co-chair the original advisory board to the Endowment campaign as it was being launched in 1986. Together, their enthusiasm and confidence were instrumental in the first efforts to carry the message of Women's Studies to alumni and the statewide community.

Dreher says, "A strong Women's Studies program is essential for this last decade of the twentieth century. If the program is successful in uncovering the contributions of women through the ages and in validating a female method of problem solving, the twenty-first century student might enjoy a curriculum free of gender bias. If the program proceeds at its present successful pace, it may one day make itself obsolete."

of females tends to correlate positively with favorable perceptions of corporate climate. A tentative conclusion is that corporations may benefit, and certainly will not suffer, from equitable presentation of males and females in corporate publications.

Dr. Laura Woliver of government and international studies presented a paper "Grassroots Politics and Black Female Religious Leaders," exploring the activities of Black women in local politics through the connections they have to their churches. Drawing on recent scholarship on the contributions of Black women in the civil rights movement, Woliver's study focussed on the connection between the women's political participation and their roles in the religious community. Woliver conducted interviews in 1987 and 1988 with Black female religious leaders in Columbia, which further documented the enduring importance of their activities in charity work, candidate recruitment, and interest group pressure tactics. The findings display Black female church members as cornerstones of Black politics in America.

Dr. Virginia Lee of the USC Student Health Center and Department of Preventive Medicine

see RESEARCH (page 8)

## Women's Studies Awards Go to USC System

Two USC faculty have received Ford Curriculum Development Awards through the Duke-UNC Center for Research on Women which services Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Dr. Joyce Cherry, USC-Aiken and Dr. Laura Zaidman, USC-Sumter, have been selected for grants to support the development of two new courses which introduce a woman-centered critique and perspective. Cherry plans to develop a course on "Non-Fiction Writings of Black and White Women in Early America." Zaidman plans to develop "Children's Literature" with a critique of the images and roles of females in such work. Both faculty will work closely with a consultant from the Duke-UNC Center, which was established in the 1970's by the Ford Foundation and continues to receive Ford funding for curriculum revision.

## National Women's Studies Association Conference Draws Nearly 2,000

A substantial representation from the Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) joined nearly 2,000 women attending the 1988 NWSA annual conference "Leadership and Power: Women's Alliances for Social Change" held June 22-26 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. For the first time, SEWSA has one of the largest regional memberships in the NWSA. (SEWSA's coordinator is Dr. Sue V. Rosser, Women's Studies director at USC).

In addition to three plenaries and almost three hundred workshops and cultural events, a highlight was the poetry reading given by Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich as part of the Writer's Series. The Heritage Series, sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, enabled participants to glimpse the ethnic heritage and diversity of women artists and scholars from Minnesota. The 1989 NWSA conference will be at Towson State in Baltimore.

## SCHOLARS (from page 2)

injustice over women as a group by men and 3) seeking to eliminate such practices that assign privilege to men over women. Women's Studies arranged to bring Offen to USC.

Dr. Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, director of women's studies and professor of history at Emory addressed a large audience on "Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South." The previous holder of numerous nationally prestigious fellowships, she has developed curriculum materials as general editor of a four-volume Restoring Women to History and has published articles on gender and identity in the autobiographies of Afro-American Women, on slave women, and on women and the enlightenment (on becoming visible). Fox-Genovese's USC lecture focussed on parts of her upcoming book by the same name. She shared mostly from the diary and writings of Sarah Haynesworth Gale, a wife and mother who managed a plantation in the early 1800's in Alabama. Slave women's perspectives on some of the same issues and

events, very difficult to recover for this book, will provide some of the first comparative insights to Black and White women of the Old South. The USC Department of History and The Institute for Southern Studies collaborated with Women's Studies to bring Fox-Genovese.

Dr. Barrie Thorne, professor of sociology at the University of Southern California, had a large audience for her lecture on "Missing Voices in Traditional Knowledge." According to Thorne, a feminist critique of knowledge has called for scholars to take women's experiences seriously--as knowers, as actors, and as subjects. It has also called for rethinking concepts using gender as a category. Feminist critical theory, she says, makes the invisible visible. In sociology, for example, paid domestic work was absent from analyses until feminist critique raised issues of gender, race and class. Work/leisure categories did not account for housework. Thorne described the work traditionally done by women that is often ignored in analyses and impact studies: the early release of the elderly from hospitals has impacted tremendously on women, for the work of caring for the elderly transfers to them. Caring, feeding, and provisioning work, linking separate paths of family members into a common experience, is generally work done by women. Kin work, maintaining family ties, is generally done by women. None of this was every accounted for without a feminist critical theory.

Thorne addressed the tension between the modernist view, or standpoint theory, based on a revalued dualism, and the post-modernist view that believes gender should be deconstructed so as to remove dualistic ways of analysing men and women. Thorne presented the ultimate problem: talking about man/woman is not strictly nor necessarily talking about biological male/female. We have to build complexity into our analytical tools to better understand gender. Women's Studies was joined by the departments of Sociology, Anthropology, English, GINT, Philosophy, Psychology, the College of Library and Information Sciences, and the dean of Humanities and Social Sciences in bringing Thorne.

Dr. Dorothy Ann Bray, a visiting fellow in Celtic studies at the University of Durham, England, presented a lecture on "Women in Early Irish Christianity," where the archetype of the female religious leader and saint is St. Brigit. Bray pointed out that in the early Irish Church (as elsewhere) female sexuality made women, in the eyes of misogynist monks, sources of sin and instruments of the devil. Women were acceptable to the Church only by denying their femininity and their dangerous capacity for evil. With very little recorded at all about women of the church, the facts of Brigit's life are few: she is known mainly through a series of miracle stories, and made legendary by the convergence of qualities attributed to her and to the pagan Celtic goddess Brigantia. A secular sister to Brigit in Irish culture is Medb, who possesses the same strength and psychological freedom, but with human passions. The model of womanhood in Irish myth, found in Brigit and Medb, is not that of the Virgin Mary. Medb brings sovereignty and authority to Irish kings through sexual union. Brigit does not bestow authority on the hero; she is the hero, a Christian saint.

see SAINT (page 7)

# Friends of Women's Studies

The following is a cumulative listing (as of September 1988) of friends of Women's Studies who have supported the Women's Studies Endowment by contributions.

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**SAINT (from page 5)**

The image and legends of St. Brigit demonstrate how native Irish traditions and perceptions were combined with Christian beliefs to create a new tradition. Bray was sponsored by Women's Studies and the departments of Religious Studies and History.

Women's Studies also joined others in assisting the Latin American Studies Program to bring Dr. Carmen Ramos Escandon to USC. Ramos is Professor of History at El Colegio de Mexico, and spoke on "The Family in Latin America: A Historical Perspective."

Women's Studies, the USC College of Health and Cassandra Network joined The South Carolina Coalition For Choice in sponsoring a seminar entitled "Young, Single, and Pregnant: Her Health and Her Rights," featuring Charlotte Brody RN, and Janice Bacon MD.

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# Women's Studies Courses Spring 1989

COURSE	CREDIT	TITLE	TIME	INSTRUCTOR
WOST 112	03	Women in Society	9:30-10:45 AM T TH	Jones, C.
WOST J113	03	Women and Their Bodies in Health and Disease	On Video	Rosser, S.
WOST 399	03	Independent Study --Prerequisite: consent of instructor and Director of Women's Studies	--	--
WOST 714	03	Nutrition and Women's Health	1:00-3:30 PM Wed	Ryan, C.
ANTH 210 Sect. 1	03	Human Life Cycles in Different Cultures	9:30-10:45 AM T TH	Goodwin, M.
ANTH 210 Sect. 2	03	Human Life Cycles in Different Cultures	11:00-12:15 PM T TH	Goodwin, M.
ENGL 770	03	Literature by Women	5:30-6:45 PM T TH	Haig, J.
LATN 324A	03	Topics in Classical Humanities: Women in Classical Antiquity	11:00-12:15 PM T TH	Castner, C
NUR 327	03	Family Health Care	5:30-8:00 PM Thursday	Yaros, P.
NUR 768	03	Women's Health Care I	5:30-8:15 PM Tuesday	Pass, C.
SCCC 383C	03	Gender and Science (Open to Honor's College Students only)	11:00-12:15 PM T TH	Rosser, S.
SOCY 301	03	Sociology of Sex Roles	1:25-2:15 PM MWF	Nam, S.
SOWK 305	03	Social Welfare Services for Women and Minorities	9:05-9:55 AM MWF	Busch, M.
Evening College: (See Master Schedule for other Women's Studies courses)				
Spring I WOST E111	03	Women in Western Culture	5:30-8:15 PM T TH	Boiter, C.
Spring II WOST E112	03	Women in Society	5:30-8:15 PM T TH	Boiter, C.
Weekend Program: (Alternating Saturdays beginning January 14)				
WOST E111	03	Women in Western Culture	9:00AM-2:00PM Saturday	Waters, M.

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## RESEARCH (from page 4)

presented her findings on the effects pesticides may have on pregnant migrant workers. Preliminary results indicate that exposure to pesticides during certain stages of pregnancy (especially days 30-40) may in a limited number of cases result in limb bud deformities in the offspring. Lee pointed out that the deformities and poor health of the babies were not clearly the direct result of pesticides. The mothers' lifestyles, including poor nutrition and poor access to health care, may be significant contributors to the poor pregnancy outcomes.

Dr. Pat Conway and Dr. Miriam Freeman of social work jointly presented their findings on "Strengths and Needs: Single Women and Their Children." Recent figures showed that families maintained by single women in South Carolina accounted for 16% of all families. These families, 53% Black and 46% White, were much more likely to be poor than were other families. Half (50%) of the families maintained by Black single women and 20% of families headed by White single women were below the poverty level. Of Black single women maintaining families, 44% were in the labor force compared to 63% of the White single women maintaining families. Single mothers in Conway's and Freeman's research found the services most needed included affordable, flexible child-care that meets needs of night-shift workers, sick kids, and after school; higher than minimum wage pay; low-rate loans/tax deductions for single parents; affordable decent housing; flex-time to coincide with school hours and job training/education.

Dr. Connie Schulz of history organized a slide presentation and lecture on "The Female Double Image in the Victorian Period: Stereographs and Stereotypes of Women." Her research focussed on the newly invented stereographs of that period which became the foundation for motion pictures with their by-now familiar images of women. Schulz showed how several themes were often repeated with stock characters leading to the comfortable stereotypes (from "virgins to vamps") that ushered in the era of motion pictures. Schulz argued that while there are certainly other sources for society's stereotypes of women, Victorian stereographs represent an unappreciated yet fruitful source for study.

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