The North Carolina Environmental Internship Program allows students to work for the State in various environmental agencies during the summer months. The program has been conducted during the summers of 1970 and 1971 thus far, and 41 college students have participated. This report summarizes the history and accomplishments of these students in the program, summarizes their evaluations of the program, and offers recommendations for the continuation of the program. (HS)
North Carolina Environmental Internship Program
FOREWORD

This report summarizes the history and accomplishments of 41 college students who have completed environmental internships in North Carolina State Government.

Primary initiative and organizational work in developing and implementing these programs has come from student interest and the Departments of Conservation and Development and Administration.

The N. C. Environmental Internship Program demonstrates that students do contribute worthwhile services and that their experiences with State Government makes possible learning opportunities not available on campus. The news media reports in the Appendix highlight several accomplishments as do the evaluation comments in this report. Of particular interest is the learning significance interns attach to these experiences. Only six of 30 1971 interns sought and received "academic" recognition for their learning. As the departments of State Government open more and more doors for students, the State's public and private colleges have an excellent opportunity to support their students in these community based experiential learning settings.

The North Carolina Internship Office of the Department of Administration and the Board of Higher Education seeks to assist in developing learning opportunities for students in situations of public and community need. As more students seek community based service-learning opportunities, as colleges develop off-campus curricular offerings, and as public organizations open their doors for student service-learning; a melding of these interests can produce creative public spirited young people, renewed higher education curricula, and ventilated active public organizations. The N. C. Internship Program provides important evidence that students can produce, that experiential learning is sound and that a continuing need exists for additional opportunities for students to work at public tasks as service-learners.

Robert L. Sigmon
North Carolina Internship Office
November, 1971
The North Carolina Environmental Internship Program's history began as an idea in the minds of students, leaders in North Carolina State Government, and faculty persons during the winter of 1970. The Program has completed its second summer of action on environmental issues in North Carolina State Government Agencies. A brief sketch of the Program's development follows:

Spring 1970
- State Government leaders and students discuss student roles in Government on environmental issues; meeting convened by Adrian King of Department of Conservation and Development.

May 1970
- Governor Scott supports idea of Environmental Interns in State Government and decides to sponsor initial program.

June 1970
- Five State Agencies appoint 11 Environmental Interns; Charles Jeffress coordinates intern program; North Carolina Internship Office (NCIO) provides administrative support in recruitment, coordination, and follow-up.

Fall 1970
- Interns visit Governor Scott to discuss program's future. Summary reports of interns' work during summer printed and distributed.

January 1971
- Governor Scott endorses Environmental Intern Program for summer 1971.

February 1971
- Department of Conservation and Development convenes meeting of State Agencies, students and faculty to plan intern program for summer 1971.

March - May 1971
- NCIO assumes administrative role in recruitment procedure. William Finnin initiates coordinator activities. Agencies select and contract interns.

June - August 1971
- Thirty interns work on environmental projects in 10 State Agencies. Interns meet for seminars several times during summer. Reports on projects submitted to agencies. Program evaluated by interns, NCIO, agencies and faculty.

As a service-learning internship program, the North Carolina Environmental Intern Program provides immediate student manpower and new ideas to agencies of North Carolina State Government responsible for maintaining and enhancing the environmental quality of North Carolina. Interns are encouraged to seek the counsel of a faculty member in their university or college, and in some cases interns receive academic credit for their work in State Government.
State Agencies participating in the 1971 Environmental Intern Program included:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Administration
- Board of Water and Air Resources
- Board of Health
- Board of Higher Education
- Comprehensive Health Planning
- Conservation and Development
- Marine Science Council
- State Highway Commission
- Wildlife Resources Commission

The 30 Environmental Interns represented a broad spectrum of academic study, skills, and professional training. Their backgrounds included study in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Biology
- Computer Science
- Design
- Economics
- Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Ethics and Theology
- Forestry and Conservation
- Health
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Political Science
- Textile Chemistry

Impact of Interns in State Government

The use agencies have made of several project reports submitted by Environmental Interns provides evidence that students are making substantial contributions to the quality of environmental decision-making in State Government. Several examples drawn from the 1970 and 1971 Environmental Intern Programs illustrate this observation.

Item: Interns Tarplee and Weber in Wildlife Resources conducted a study during summer 1970 on the "Effects of Channelization on Fish Populations in N. C. Coastal Plains Streams." This study, published early in 1971, became the basis for a moratorium on channelization in eastern North Carolina and is part of the public record in Washington, D. C. federal hearings on channelization.

Item: Interns Tarplee and McBride conducted follow-up study for Wildlife Resources Commission during summer 1971 on the "Effects of Stream Cover on Fish Populations in Channelized Streams." This study will be published early in 1972.

Item: Intern Robert Horton, 1971 intern in Department of Agriculture, completed study on environmental and economic aspects of disposal in North Carolina of edible garbage. Commissioner of Agriculture James Graham said of Horton's work, "We have had glowing reports on Robert. He has earned the respect and acceptance of groups in industry and government. It is reassuring to me that college students are serious and view problem situations in an objective manner. It's also healthy to exchange ideas with them. They many times give us older folks a fresh approach." 8/18/71
Item: Interns Finc, Ploumey, and Carrili with State Parks Division of Conservation and Development during 1971 summer program submitted joint reports on future policy directions in their Division in the areas of land acquisition, site selection, and park management. Their reports will form the basis of the reorganization of their division in the Department of Natural and Economic Resources during fall, 1971.

Item: Interns Burns, Davis, and Salmonsen, 1971 Interns with Comprehensive Health Planning, conducted a study of environmental and health impacts of subdivision development in North Carolina. Their report will be widely distributed this fall.

Item: Intern Bill Eagles with the Board of Higher Education compiled a report of all academic programs related to environmental studies in all North Carolina institutions of Higher Education supported by State funds. Eagles' report will be widely circulated this fall.

Item: Intern James Wellborn's project for the Board of Water and Air Resources, a study of the role of forests in North Carolina water resources, will become Chapter 16 in the forthcoming North Carolina Water Plan Document.

Reports and Papers of Environmental Interns Available

During the two summers of the North Carolina Environmental Intern Program a wide variety of papers and reports have been generated by the interns. These project reports evidence the high caliber of work students involved in State Government activities are capable of contributing to the agencies sponsoring their work. Reports in the following list are available from the agencies noted in parentheses.

1970:

Van Amerson, Henry, "Air Pollution and Vegetation," (Board of Water and Air Resources) William Knight, Project Supervisor.

Burney, David, "Pollution by State Agencies and Institutions," (Department of Administration) Paul Judson, Project Supervisor.


1971:

Smith, Faithel, "Classification of Water Treatment Facilities," (Board of Water and Air Resources) Julian Taylor, Project Supervisor.

Staton, Alexander, "Waste Treatment Plants Owned and Operated by the State of North Carolina," (Board of Health) W. J. Stevenson, Project Supervisor.


Horton, Robert, "Edible Garbage: Disposal in North Carolina," (Department of Agriculture) Pete Lane, Project Supervisor.

Wellborn, James, "Forests and Water," Chapter 16 of N. C. Water Plan (Board of Water and Air Resources), Col. Thomas Harton, Project Supervisor.

(At the time of this printing, additional reports are expected.)

1971 Program Evaluation Summary

At the end of the summer, interns evaluated several aspects of the Environmental Internship Program. A summary of their responses to items on the evaluation questionnaire follows:

Recruitment and Selection:

Interns learned of the program from a variety of sources - college professors, word of mouth, newspaper articles, etc. Slightly over half of the interns were interviewed by only one State Agency. Most interns either worked with "their" agency to determine their project or accepted a project which the agency outlined for them.

Project and Agency Perceptions:

Most interns seemed satisfied that their project was relevant to their agency's work in the area of environmental concerns and that the project results would be of some use to the agency in accomplishing its mission in the State.
Project Support and Assistance

For the most part, interns indicated a close working arrangement with their agency project director. They saw the project director as a source of information, support, advice, contacts, encouragement, and constructive criticism.

Six interns arranged with their university or college to receive academic credit for their internships. Therefore, few interns had faculty advisors. Of those who did, some indicated that their faculty advisor was helpful in giving technical and moral support and direction in their project study. Other interns felt faculty support was not needed or felt that there could have been more involvement on the part of the college faculty.

Coordinator's Role

The coordinator was seen by interns as a source of encouragement and advice, technical support, and problem solving. Some interns indicated that they felt the coordinator was not directly useful to them. Other interns indicated that the coordinator helped establish contact with other interns, while others felt more intern interaction could have occurred through the coordinator.

Intern Meetings and Seminars

At the request of the interns during the orientation session, no regular meetings or seminars were set up. The orientation seminar itself was viewed by some interns as useful in meeting other interns and agency personnel. Others felt there was too much information to be transmitted in such a short period of time - about 3 hours. The seminar-picnic at Umstead Park gave some interns opportunities to discuss their projects with other interns and to vent their frustrations. Some indicated that even this meeting could have been less structured. Most interns did not attend all of the gatherings during the summer but selected those they thought most useful to their interests.

Personal Learning Achieved

Generally, those students involved in the Environmental Intern Program viewed their experience as basically positive and useful for their futures. They felt that they had benefitted from working in an agency of State Government; they had gained general and specific information about the problem in their research; some felt they had gained more confidence in their ability to initiate plans and ideas and to carry them through. Some interns felt that they had moved their agency in the direction of improving North Carolina's environmental quality.
Positive and Negative Aspects of the Internship Experience

Positive (Strengths)                     Negative (Weaknesses)
- Involvement in State Government       - Projects not clearly defined
- Jobs and good pay                    - Coordinator position unclear
- Exposed agencies to students         - Job boring
- On-the-job experience                - Sense of impermanence of job
- Qualified labor for State            - No clear expectation from agency
- Contact with environmentally        - No group identity to program
  literate people                      - Money too low
- Chance to evaluate State Government - Poor publicity of work projects
- Work out school "hang-ups"           - Should not be project-oriented
- Develop leadership skills            - Lack of time for detailed analysis
- Freedom to shape own work schedule   - Poor working conditions
- Great learning experience            - Poor project definition
- Interdisciplinary and inter-         - Unenthusiastic project director
  agency cooperation                   - Poor use of resources by agency

Recommendations for Future Environmental Internship Programs

Two summers have passed. A total of 41 students have worked as Environmental Interns throughout the agencies of North Carolina State Government. Reports of these interns and their projects have in some cases resulted in rethought and redirected policies in host agencies. A great deal of learning has occurred—about the capabilities of students in State Government, about issues in environmental preservation otherwise untended, about the usefulness of faculty members as advisors to intern projects. Agency folk have grown in their awareness of the skills, ideas, and enthusiasm of North Carolina students concerned about the environmental issues confronting the State. A question emerges as we conclude this second summer of the Environmental Internship Program: What about the future?

Students need many more opportunities for serious involvement in State Government in the field of environmental issues than they now have. Applications to the 1971 Environmental Internship Program outnumbered places available in the program by more than 3 to 1. North Carolina students, both undergraduate and graduate, are concerned about environmental quality in our State. They are creative in their project conceptions, enthusiastic learners in agency settings, and knowledgeable in the theory of environmental protection. The evidence of these past two summers indicates that North Carolina students comprise a valuable but untapped resource for working out North Carolina's environmental problems.

Agencies sponsoring Environmental Interns have been unanimously positive in their assessment of student intern work in their organizations. Both in conversations and in writing agency personnel have indicated the useful service interns have contributed to their agency's mission. To these agencies of State Government Environmental Interns represent an inexpensive and readily available reservoir of committed skill and talent.
It is essential, then, that the needs of State agencies in the areas of environmental planning and problem-solving be matched with the interests and skills of concerned students eager for service opportunities in North Carolina State Government. It is time to recognize that State Government offers a unique learning setting for capable university and college students concerned about North Carolina's environment. It is time also to affirm the usefulness and effectiveness of student talent in the operations of State Government.

Student internships in environmental issues provide one opportunity for combining State needs with available student talent and concern. There is a role of responsible participation in State Government for the student talent of North Carolina. Once the validity of this participation is affirmed, the question then becomes one of how best to actualize the full potential for involving students in State Government. On this organizational question I will suggest several options open at this time to the leaders of North Carolina State Government.

1. The North Carolina Environmental Internship might be set up next year on the same basis as this year's program. The program is decentralized, lacking a continuing budgetary commitment from the sponsoring agencies. Each agency selects and interviews its own interns with the NCIO providing administrative assistance in recruitment, screening and coordination. Ideally the intern and agency "negotiate" a project with the assistance and counsel of a faculty person. Academic credit is an optional "extra." Seminar contact is minimal. The intern is accountable to the NCIO only for a summary of his work at summer's end. There is no year-to-year program continuity; each year the program begins anew.

2. The North Carolina Environmental Internship Program might be organized as an official internship program fully funded by funds appropriated by the State General Assembly on a regular basis. The NCIO might play an active role in the coordination of the program, or another agency might be designated this function. Interns would live together, possibly at N. C. State University, participate in a schedule of regular seminars, and be paid from the central fund administered through each sponsoring agency. Academic credit would be an optional "extra." Projects would be negotiated before an intern began work. Faculty support for each intern would be a prerequisite.

3. The reorganization of North Carolina State Government offers a timely opportunity to explore another alternative for continuing the Environmental Internship Program. In each newly organizing agency there should be an "Office of Student Intern Services" in which the Environmental Internship Program would have responsibility for tasks of environmental import. Such an office will provide a clearinghouse for the matching of agency needs with student skills and talents. Such an office will provide within each agency a budgetary lobby for funds committed to student opportunities for service within that agency.
The agency in such a structure would recruit and select its interns. The agency would provide funds for their maintenance, much as is currently done, but on an augmented scale. Environmental interns would be but one type of intern possible in an agency. Faculty support would be desirable but not "required" and academic credit would be the result of the student's initiative.

It is my considered opinion that until some "permanent" structure is established in North Carolina State Government, little can be done to develop the potential for service and learning which the State needs and student resources present. Therefore, I recommend to the individuals associated with the Environmental Intern Program during the past two years - agency directors, students, program administrators, and faculty support persons - meet together before the close of the year to think through which model for future internship programs, or which elements of all three, make the most sense for future planning. This first step is essential to any further planning for Environmental Internship opportunities in our State.
"N. C. Ecology Internships Continued"

Governor Bob Scott has approved continuation of North Carolina's environmental intern program during the summer of 1971, according to the Department of Conservation and Development.

The program, which grew out of C & D's efforts to recruit students for the Governor's Advisory Committee on Economics and Environment, will employ 16 college students in six state agencies associated with environmental preservation and protection.

In the summer of 1970, a prototype service-learning project brought 10 student interns to work for the state. The governor, recognizing the educational and public service value of the program, authorized an expansion of the program next summer. The interns are paid with unexpended salary funds in departmental budgets.

Of the 16 students, five will work with C & D; four with the State Board of Health; two each in the departments of water and air resources, wildlife resources, and administration; and one with the Marine Science Council.

Seminar Slated

Thursday at 2 p.m. in the C & D Board Room, a special seminar will be held for interested students and government officials associated with the program.

The program is coordinated by Bob Sigmond [sic], internship officer in the State Department of Administration.

The program is issue-oriented, with interns concentrating on a specific problem or project, usually associated with their academic interest.

The 1970 interns studied such varied topics as: pollution by state agencies, solid waste recycling, environmental legislation, wastewater treatment facilities, and channelization effects on stream habitats. (The Raleigh News and Observer, Wednesday, February 3, 1971)
May 26, 1971

Mr. David Mark Brown
207 Avon Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am pleased to welcome you to the North Carolina Environmental Internship Program for the summer of 1971. This program will afford you a unique service-learning opportunity in which to apply your academic and professional skills to current environmental questions in our State.

Growing environmental concern across our Nation and State indicates our readiness as a society to seek ecologically responsible development policies at all levels of governmental activity. In our State agencies charged with insuring the environmental future of North Carolina, your active participation will help shape the course of that future.

I am confident that your activities as a North Carolina Environmental Intern will enable you to confront critical environmental problems across the State while increasing your awareness of State Government as a context for both education and service.

I wish you success and satisfaction as you begin your Internship.

Cordially,

Robert W. Scott
Intern Program Is Popular

This summer 30 students from colleges and universities around the state were enlisted by the state government to demonstrate their concern for the quality of the environment by working in the state's "Environmental Intern Program."

They have spent the summer conducting studies and projects in ecology and related fields such as a study of "edible garbage" and writing briefs for the state attorney general's office on the "classification of claims to submerged land and riparian rights in Eastern North Carolina."

This has been the second year in which the state has sponsored an environmental intern program. Each year the state hires about 2,700 interns mostly college students. Last summer's environmental intern program was so successful that its size was doubled this year.

Summer internships seem to be good for both the state and the intern. "The state is provided with opportunities to do things that otherwise could not have been done," said Joe Gentili, an intern working on methods for state parks to acquire land. "And," he said, "we have a chance to apply what we've learned in the academic world to real problems." Gentili, a landscape architecture student at N. C. State University, is from Jefferson City, Mo.

Bob Sigmon, director of the North Carolina Internship Office said there were 83 applicants for the 30 environmental internships this year.

Sigmon said he wants the interns to learn as much about themselves as they can while learning how to solve problems in the community. Through the internship he hopes young people will gain some understanding of the government and insights into their personal commitments.

The environmental interns this year are working for 10 different departments. Sigmon's office provides the framework for the young people to get into state government. The departments for which the interns work pay their salaries.

According to Sigmon there usually has been a good deal of leeway allowed for interns to choose their projects, mostly studies and recommendations. The interns will issue a collection of their reports and studies at the end of the summer.

Clyde Chesney, a conservation major and a senior at NCSU, has spent the summer studying clear cutting for the N. C. Forestry Department. Clear cutting is a method of harvesting timber in which all the trees are cut down in a specific area and none are spared for the future.

Dan Hartzog, a UNC-CH political science major and David Brown, a graduate of NCSU's School of Textiles, are working on a report on "Economic development considering environmental and social factors."
Tom Adams has made the study of state internships his own internship work. Adams has been doing public relations work for the internship program this summer. He is a senior in history at Lenoir Rhyne and is from Albemarle.

Going back to school this fall may be hard for interns to take after an interesting summer.

Too, some of them may be wondering about the note pinned up in Bob Signon's office: "An internship may be hazardous to your academic health." -JOEL HAAS (The Raleigh News and Observer, Sunday, August 22, 1971)
NEWS RELEASE
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
August 18, 1971

RALEIGH - Robert Horton, participating in the Governor's Environmental Internship Program, has been employed during the summer by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Horton is an 18 year old native of Knightdale and a Junior at N. C. State University. He is majoring in animal science and agricultural education.

The purpose of the intern program is to introduce students to state government while allowing young college students to substantially contribute to the state.

Horton's duties centered primarily on disposal of edible food waste. He attacked the problem of conducting interviews and touring public and private institutions where large quantities of garbage accumulate daily.

According to Horton a major point of contention is whether or not garbage should be fed to swine. "All the figures aren't in yet but to date we have compiled a great deal of data. Presently 80 percent of all food scraps are going to feed swine. If that was to be disposed of in landfills it would require 20 acres per year at a cost of almost one half million dollars."

Feeding raw garbage to swine is a prime contributor in the spread of hog cholera and is illegal. Properly cooking food scraps kills the virus and makes a substantial contribution to the swine industry. At the same time it eliminates the high cost of disposing of the waste material in other fashions.

From Horton's data, a study will be made to determine which method of disposal is the most economically feasible.

"I'm most grateful for having the opportunity to learn a little more about state government and environment's relation to agriculture," said Horton. "I feel, too, that I have made a small contribution to North Carolina. Waste is a major problem but when it is properly recycled it can work to our advantage. I believe this study will provide some of the answers to the best and most economical way to handle it."

Horton's co-workers had high praise for his efforts. Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham summed it up this way: "We have had glowing reports on Robert. He has earned the respect and acceptance of groups in industry and government. They have cooperated with him in virtually all areas and have even asked his advice pertaining to problems.

"It is reassuring to me that college students are serious and view problems situations in an objective manner. It's also healthy to exchange ideas with them. They many times give us older folks a fresh approach."
RALEIGH - A beachhead has been carved out in the no man's land between campus and the Establishment territory of state government.

The shock troops were student summer interns, who participated in the day-to-day functioning of agencies in a learning-teaching capacity.

They go back to their classrooms this fall with changed ideas about the theory and practice of government. They leave the state officials and employees who were their co-workers with a better understanding of youthful aims and aspirations.

"I think we have laid the foundation to continue building bridges," said Will Finnin, Duke University divinity student and coordinator for the environmental intern program.

Thirty college students worked in ten state agencies under the environmental program, one of a number based on the service-learning concept. Various kinds of internships involved a total of 2,800 students.

"In numbers alone, it's insignificant when you realize there are 1½-million North Carolinians in the student population group between 15 and 24," Finnin acknowledged.

The significance, he added, is in altered attitudes and in the view of education extended beyond the classroom to include the real world.

From the campus, most students saw state government as a stronghold of the status quo, peopled by bureaucrats adamant against change.

"Once inside, they realized there really are creative and hardworking people in state government honestly trying to do a good job," Finnin explained.

"The flipside is that people in the agencies come to recognize that students have fresh ideas to contribute. There was learning and teaching on both sides."

Gov. Bob Scott created the environmental intern program last year to give service-learning opportunities to students and to provide manpower for the participating agencies. The program is coordinated by the N. C. Internship Office, a joint undertaking of the Department of Administration and the Board of Higher Education.

Intern projects included research on the effects of stream channeling on fish and fresh water life, policy development for state parks, study of the environmental impact of highways, recycling of metals, and others.

A summer highlight was the opportunity for the interns to examine at first-hand the issue of state ownership versus private development for Bald Head Island, lying off the southeastern coast.
Arthur Cooper, assistant C & D director, met with the group for a discussion and slide presentation on the island and its ecology. Later, they went on a field trip to the island.

Students quickly established rapport with Cooper, who described himself as a faculty intern. He came to state government from N. C. State University.

Interns have been used in government and business over the past several years. North Carolina gradually has broadened its participation from a basis primarily of part-time summer help to a sustained program.

Finnin predicted the service-learning concept at the heart of internship programs will flower in the years ahead. Optimum results will come, he added, as there is close faculty-student-state agency involvement, year-round opportunities, and academic credit for intern work.

His background and goals give Finnin an insight into the moral dimensions of government service and environmental concern. He is a Methodist who looks to the ministry of teaching.

"The whole question of values in education is under scrutiny," he said. "Too often, educational institutions have contributed to the fragmentation and frustration of individuals, rather than their fulfillment."

Internships, as a means of integrating life learning with textbook instruction, can lead the student to a whole view of himself, Finnin explained.

Man risks loss of his humanity as he exploits the natural world in denial of his fundamental link with nature, he continued. A sense of harmony can be recovered, Finnin suggested, as man develops respect for his environment and deals with it on the basis of the good of the total community. (The Greensboro Record, Friday, September 3, 1971)
### ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNS

#### Summer 1970

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<tr>
<th>Intern Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Van Amerson</td>
<td>Department of Water and Air Resources</td>
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<td>David A. Burney</td>
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<td>John N. Morris, Jr.</td>
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<td>Kenneth W. Parsons</td>
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<td>Mrs. Faithel R. Smith</td>
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<td>Marshal Alexander Staton, III</td>
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<td>Lawrence Chapman</td>
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<td>Stuart Tyrus Maynard, Jr.</td>
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<td>Thomas L. Adams</td>
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