

VIRGINIA CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE



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**The
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The Birth of the [Anglo] American Dream

By TOM HYLAND

Both the title of this article and the content were derived largely from the book, Jamestown, The Buried Truth, recently authored by Dr. William M. Kelso of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project. However, the selection of materials cited and the interpretations applied thereto are solely the responsibility of this writer.

*So we dig,
in faith that these traces bear America's richest heritage*

The words penned above by Dr. William M. Kelso, Head Archaeologist at the Jamestown Rediscovery Project, in his exciting and revealing new book, *Jamestown, The Buried Truth*, aptly describes a more than decade-long effort by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) to rediscover James Fort, the site where “[t]he American dream was born on the banks of the James River.”

The year 2007 commemorates the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown (or James Fort as it was then known), the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Since at least as early as 1837, most historians had come to believe that the original James Fort had eroded into the James River and thus had been effectively lost beyond recovery. However in 1994, when preparations began for the 400th anniversary of that founding, the APVA decided to investigate whether any part of the old fort might still remain. The APVA hoped that an excavation of a specific previously unexcavated area of Jamestown Island might lead to the discovery of artifacts that could help determine the location of the original fort.

These recent excavations at Jamestown—in addition to determining that the James Fort had not eroded into the James River—have unearthed a number of previously unknown facts and confirmed or refuted previously-believed information about the Jamestown settlement (e.g. the fort is now known to be smaller than previously thought) and its settlers. But, as Kelso notes, in the area of historic archaeology, the quest first begins in the library as the archaeologists conduct searches of contemporary historical records that will include such items as maps, manuscripts, ship’s logs and passenger and cargo inventories, wills, deeds, tax records, birth records, family genealogies, property records, and a host of other documents in an effort to learn the names, ages, birthplaces, and other demographic data about the settlers. These records may also help in locating burial sites, the persons who were buried at specific burial sites, and the possible causes of their deaths.

Among the things that have been uncovered by these Jamestown excavations are the boundaries; the palisades (now known to have

been between 11 to 15 feet in height); trenches; other physical design features of the fort; the various buildings located on the fort grounds, including a factory and barracks; cannon placements; wells; and burial sites within the fort.

Artifacts recovered from burial and waste midden sites at Jamestown also reveal much about the settlers including their armor and arms, tools (e.g. iron shovel blades, iron axe blades, etc.), pottery, coins, trade beads, Indian projectile points, tobacco pipes, surgical and medical equipment, glass-making equipment, distilling equipment, apothecary bottles, etc. The settlers’ skeletal remains from the burial sites can reveal approximate ages at death, general health, diseases, injuries, causes of death, the types of physical labor they may have performed, the areas of Great Britain in which they were born and/or resided, the crops they grew and the animals they harvested for food, the foods that comprised their principal diets, etc. Among the more archaeologically-interesting revelations arising from the examination of skeletal remains at Jamestown was a possible homicide and evidence of skull surgery and an autopsy. Burial relics and DNA analysis also have been used in an effort to identify skeletal remains.

Although nearly a million artifacts have been uncovered by the on-going excavations associated with the Jamestown Rediscovery Project, the greater portion of the overall settlement site has yet to be excavated; consequently, there is much more to be learned about the Jamestown settlement and the people who occupied that site.

The premiere event of this year-long celebration will be **America’s Anniversary Weekend**, a three-day festival to be held on May 11-13, 2007, featuring commemorative moments, cultural events, museum galleries, interpretive demonstrations, interactive exhibits, original productions and family friendly programs at Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement and Anniversary Park.

A number of new archaeological collection facilities and exhibits have been constructed near the Jamestown site to preserve and protect. See *The Birth of the [Anglo] American Dream*, continued on page 4

The Native American Side of the Story

By BONNIE ATWOOD

All eyes are on Jamestown, Virginia, this year. As any school child can tell you, it's the 400th anniversary of the official start of the American story in Virginia.

Or is it?

Yes, some major historical events did occur in Jamestown in the year 1607. Karenne Wood will acknowledge that. She is an enrolled member of the Monacan Indian Nation. But that was thousands of years (try 11, 000!) *after* the development of dozens of Indian, also called Native American, sovereign nations. How have so many years of history and culture become so minimized? And, perhaps more importantly, how can that trend be reversed?

Those questions occupy much of the energy of this well-known Indian spokesman. Her resume is long and focused. Wood is a Ph.D. candidate in linguistic anthropology at the University of Virginia. She directs the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities in Charlottesville. She has been the Repatriation Director for the Association on American Indian Affairs, coordinating the return of sacred objects to Native communities. She has worked at the National Museum of the American Indian as a researcher. She was appointed by the Governor to chair the Virginian Council on Indians for four years. And she has served on the National Congress of American Indians' Repatriation Commission. She is an accomplished poet.

When it comes to *Jamestown 2007*, Wood prefers the term "commemoration" to "celebration." And, while she and others have concerned themselves with how Virginia Indians are portrayed this summer, she is perhaps even more concerned with how Indians are treated *beyond* Jamestown 2007.

Wood is among many who are paying close attention to the image of Virginia Indians in this commemoration. But it doesn't stop there. For example, Governor Kaine has included, in his proposed state budget, funding for a one-year Virginia Indian Heritage Program. This budget item failed last year, but made it through this year's budget approval. The purpose of the fund would be to develop a research base and website, a sort of "one-stop-shopping" for Virginia Indian history and cultural information. There is the development of a Heritage Trail. A booklet is forthcoming. Summer seminars are being developed for teachers. Tribes and museums would be invited to apply for grants to develop programming and upgrade exhibits.

For many years now, said Wood, the elders have complained that we have non-Native people who have gotten the story all wrong.

In American history and popular culture, the Indian has often been portrayed as primitive and "bad." And the image, that all In-

dians are pretty much alike in appearance and customs, has been frozen in time.

Remember those head feathers that you and your classmates made out of construction paper? They may have been fun to make, but they were not authentic, and they merely reinforced the same old, tired stereotypes, said Wood. Instead of those phony, faded paper hats, she would much prefer that children make corn husk dolls—a real and authentic item related to Indian culture.

Indians have had access to public education only since 1963. But it appears that public education still has much to do to catch up.

"It is up to us to correct the mistakes of the past," said Wood. She and others have made formal comments to the Virginia Department of Education to recommend changes to the history and social sciences portions of the Standards of Learning. Most notably, they have added Powhatan in places where he needs to be included, and they have brought the study of Indian culture from the past, through the *present*, where it is very much alive and well. In questions about the early explorers, they have added the impact on native peoples.

"What happens when 2007 is over?" Wood asked. Will Indians "vanish into the history books?" She said that Indians are the only group of Americans who have not been allowed to adapt over the years. Indeed, while Indians live, work, and play alongside people of all American subcultures, it is only the images of the Indians that remain much as they were centuries ago.

"Indians are supposed to be stuck in the past," she said. "They are supposed to be almost extinct."

Wood recalls non-Indian people asking her to explain just to what degree she is Indian. Would they do this to other groups?

"How much 'black' are you?" one might be asking. Would that question be acceptable in other contexts? Other times, she has been asked, "Do you eat buffalo? Do you ride a horse?"

But some of that insensitivity may drift away as new changes occur. Wood said she and other Indians are now being asked to serve as consultants on scripts and books. She said that certain historians and anthropologists are doing a good job of depicting Indians. She cited "First People: The Early Indians of Virginia," by Keith Egloff and Deborah Woodward (University of Virginia Press, second edition, 2006). She said this is produced by the Department of Historic Resources and is a very good book.

Wood will be a coordinator of summer seminars in Charlottesville, which will teach teachers how to accurately convey the story of Indians. Most of the faculty will be Virginia Indians- cultural experts, and tribal historians. They will ditch the paper headdresses, explode the Thanksgiving mythology, and study authentic history.

"Most people say, 'Oh, we never thought of that before!'" said Wood. They will study language. Why are Indian settlements called "villages," and

English settlements called "towns"? Why are Indian practices called "survival skills" and not "science"? Why is Indian history considered not as legitimate because it is oral rather than written?

And in this age of Global Warming, what can Indians teach all of us about how to protect our environment? "It might be good to learn things from a native perspective," said Wood. "Native people think you should respect all forms of life."

See *The Native American Side of the Story*, continued on page 4



Photo by Deanna Beacham

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tect the James Fort artifacts. One such facility, the Archaearium, will exhibit many of the James Fort artifacts and display two “reinterred and properly commemorated” burials “symbolizing the struggle to establish the [Jamestown] colony.”

In his concluding paragraph of *Jamestown, The Buried Truth*, Dr. Kelso gives us some sustaining food for thought:

So it is that the archaeological remains and the sense of reality they convey reflect the buried truth about modern America’s birthplace. There is evidence that some of the immigrants worked hard and achieved a better life. Those who first met them at the shore [the Native Americans] usually did not share this good fortune. Still, a political system was born and migrated across the seventeenth-century Jamestown landscape establishing principles that would some day make possible a more equal access to that better life. The American dream was born on the banks of the James River, at a place first called James Fort, in 1607. ▣

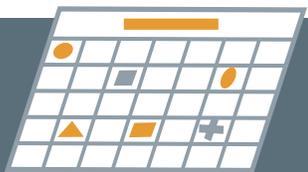
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Wood said that she recognizes that her ancestors did not get asked to speak about these things.

“I have a responsibility to speak up,” she said, her culture is at stake. “At what point do you feel your culture is lost?” she asked. As the Age of Technology envelops us the old ways, the old words become lost. Experts say that 75 percent of languages spoken today are endangered. “We need people to help us protect our heritage,” she said, adding that it is their heritage, too, and what is at risk is even greater than what they imagine.

We asked Karenne Wood if she could imagine us sitting together 100 years from now. Would we be asking the same questions? Giving the same answers? Perhaps the battle for cultural understanding will be lost, or perhaps all these problems will be solved. Either way, Virginia Indians will still be here. ▣

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Our Mission: Creating Education, Training and Employment Opportunities

A Conversation with The New House Minority Leader

By CHARLES C. TODD

On the 46th and last day of the 2007 General Assembly session, House Democrats, in a surprising and unprecedented move, elected Ward L. Armstrong as their Minority Leader. Such action usually follows the fall statewide elections. The Minority Leader coordinates his party's actions in the House, recruits candidates, and strongly influences where campaign contributions to the party are directed.



Armstrong, a Delegate who represents Martinsville and Henry County, talked with me by telephone on the last day of February. Members of the General Assembly and other associates of Ward know that he likes to talk and he does so in committees, in floor debates, and on the telephone.

"It's just part of being a lawyer," he said. There is agreement among constituents that he is well-spoken, articulate, straight forward, and frank, and he handles sharp questions—just like a lawyer.

When asked how he got interested in politics, he explained that he "finished Duke in three years and the University of Richmond law school in two and a half years. Then for a year I clerked for Judge J. Carrington Thompson in Chatham."

"Judge Thompson and I talked politics a lot. He had been a Delegate and Senator and he encouraged me (in that direction). In 1981, I was a delegate to the Democratic caucus that nominated Chuck Robb. Then I became the party chairman for Henry County in 1986. I was Fifth Congressional District Chairman when A. L. Philpott died. I ran for his seat and we had the biggest turnout of voters in history—6,500 on a Saturday—and I won by 200 votes."

In answer to questions about his plans, he said, "We hope to become the majority party. Picking up eleven seats is a tall order. Redistricting has hurt us. We will work hard and field good candidates." Armstrong thinks that his rural background helped him in Virginia, but his concerns are about Northern Virginia and the Tidewater area.

Among his goals, he wants "to articulate our agenda and policies before they are presented and after they are reached." He pointed to an example set by the Black Caucus this year. "It laid out its plans: Payday loans, minimum wages, the slavery apology. The members were vocal and wrote press releases and gave reports of their progress. That's how a caucus should operate. Plan, work through, and talk about it."

Part of his political agenda is "working with Brian Moran (the Democratic Floor Leader). We were roommates and the best of friends at the General Assembly. I also have a good personal relationship with Morgan Griffith, (the House Majority Leader). We realize challengers (for elective office) have to struggle for funds. There are no free ads."

While Delegate Armstrong did not identify individual seats that his party may try to take during the fall elections, he did say that "Northern Virginia has a target-rich environment and is getting bigger." He pointed out that Jim Webb and Tim Kaine each received a majority of the votes in this region.

Asked if he had to campaign for his new job, Ward said, "It was a sudden affair. There were conversations. I'm very vocal in debate." As reported by the press, each candidate in the Democratic caucus was given five minutes to speak and then the Delegates voted by

secret ballot. The vote was 27 for Armstrong, 12 for Hall, and one abstention. Frank Hall of Richmond had been Minority Leader for 6 years and had seen the number of Democrats in the House increase from 34 to 40 during that period.

The question was raised whether this was a step toward becoming House Speaker and Ward responded with, "I'm a big baseball fan. If you asked Tony LaRussa last year if he hoped to win the World Series, he probably would have wanted to talk about getting to the World Series first!" The new Leader wants to get the majority of 51 Delegates before talking about the Speakership.

"Looking back," he said, "the party out of power seems restless and changes leadership more often. Clearly, my goal is to shape policy in Virginia. Democracy works best when there is competition of ideas. We can have competition of ideas in a respectful manner. That's a beauty of the process. Everyone can benefit from differences. I enjoy those members on the other side of the aisle. Being different makes life interesting."

Our final issue was the Transportation bill. The new Minority Leader said, "The bill needs major overhaul, not just an oil change! Too much money is being taken out of the general fund; money that could be used for education, law enforcement, health care. It is appropriate to take some money from the general fund but not what this bill proposes."



Ward Armstrong was born in Roanoke and graduated from Bassett High School. He married Pamela Akers and the Armstrongs have two daughters. Courtney Lynn is a second-year student at the University of Virginia and Whitney Akers is a 16-year old high school student.

U. S. Senator Joe Biden might say, "Ward Armstrong is articulate." Charles Todd is a retired public school teacher and administrator. ▮

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- **Hospital Compare**
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- **JCAHO**
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- **Quality-In-Sights Hospital Incentive Program (Q-HIP)**
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BON SECOURS HAMPTON ROADS

Acknowledging with profound regret the involuntary servitude of Africans and the exploitation of Native Americans, and calling for reconciliation among all Virginians: HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 728 & SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 332

Living Up to the Ideals of the Founders

By DELEGATE DONALD McEACHIN

Once again, Virginia, thanks to the goodwill of General Assembly Members on both sides of the aisle, has led the nation. In the weeks since this resolution about slavery and the treatment of Native Americans has passed, we have been contacted by media, organizations and legislators from all over the world. This past week a Tennessee Congressman introduced a slavery apology in the United States House of Representatives.

I was very honored to offer the resolution with a companion bill in the State Senate submitted by Senator Henry Marsh. Senator Marsh was a leader in the Virginia Civil Rights movement and working with him on this and other legislation has been a real privilege for me.

Encouraging and humbling as worldwide attention has been, Senator Marsh and I are most gratified for what is happening right here in the Commonwealth. As the 400th anniversary of the founding of our country and the landing at Jamestown approaches, Virginia will commemorate these events with pride. This resolution communicates to the entire world that Virginia is inclusive of all people and is a beacon of freedom for our increasingly diverse population. During the past four hundred years, Virginia, the Mother of Presidents, has been a leader in this country on shaping and changing policy. Now, Virginians speak to the world with one voice to address some of the most egregious episodes in our history.

Virginians commemorate historical events because of our appreciation and reverence for our shared past. We study history to learn from it and while we have much to celebrate in American history, we also acknowledge some very painful lessons, including and perhaps uppermost, the experiences of African-Americans and Native Americans in our country. The General Assembly has accepted responsibility to offer “profound regret” because these groups were the victims of state-sponsored racism, governmental policies, and institutions of discrimination. The General Assembly is the appropriate body to publicly and formally make a clear statement that these actions are unacceptable and, frankly, a stain on our history. In doing so, they have created an environment for reconciliation and healing.

By acknowledging and expressing contrition for those times, we have made an unequivocal statement to the world that Virginians stand for the highest ideals of liberty and freedom and that we are willing to

WHEREAS, 2007 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas, at Jamestown; and

WHEREAS, the legacies of the Jamestown settlement and the Virginia colony include ideas, institutions, a history distinctive to the American experiment in democracy, and a constellation of liberties enshrined in the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia and United States Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, the foremost expression of the ideals that bind us together as a people is found in the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims as “self-evident” the truths “that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”; and

WHEREAS, despite the “self-evident” character of these fundamental principles, the moral standards of liberty and equality have been transgressed during much of Virginia’s and America’s history, and our Commonwealth and nation are striving to fulfill the ideals proclaimed by the founders to secure the “more perfect union” that is the aspiration of our national identity and charter; and

WHEREAS, these transgressions include the maltreatment and exploitation of Native Americans and the immoral institution of human slavery, policies and systems directly antithetical to and irreconcilable with the fundamental principle of human equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans inhabited the land throughout the New World and were the “first people” the early English settlers met upon landing on the shores of North America at Jamestown in 1607; and

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby acknowledge with profound regret the involuntary servitude of Africans and the exploitation of Native Americans, and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown, the General Assembly call upon the people of the Commonwealth to express acknowledgment and thanksgiving for the contributions of Native Americans and African Americans to the Commonwealth and this nation, and to the propagation of the ideals of liberty, justice, and democracy; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates shall post this resolution on the General Assembly’s website.

Profound Regret Statement

By DELEGATE JOHN O'BANNON

The final resolution expresses profound regret for prior injustices including Slavery and wrongs to Native Americans. It is similar to a resolution we passed several years ago expressing regret for the practice of Eugenics, something that was “cutting edge” science at the time but was socially and morally indefensible. The parallels are obvious. The resolution is appropriate going into our 400th Anniversary. At the same time, it does not use language which might have been interpreted as supporting reparations-this was a concern for some. All in all, it is a reasonable compromise. We can now move forward to work on other important issues.

One Step in the Right Direction

By SENATOR MAMIE E. LOCKE

The institution of slavery was an abomination that was contrary to all that the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution stood for. I am disappointed that the most we can do is express “profound regret”; but am comforted in knowing that the Commonwealth of Virginia, at the very least, is the first state to acknowledge the atrocity of slavery. It is one step in the right direction of saying “I’m sorry.”

learn from our history and take actions to make our Commonwealth live up to the highest democratic values of our republic. This done, we have a significant and crucial opportunity for greater understanding, heightened appreciation, and critical reconciliation. In the General Assembly, all of us, both Democrats and Republicans, take very seriously our responsibility and desire to leave our Commonwealth a better place for our children and grandchildren. This resolution adds to that opportunity and leaves our children a world with more understanding and less bigotry and prejudice.

Because of the passage of this resolution, at the 400th anniversary commemoration, we will be able to stand proud and tall, confident that we are living up to the highest ideals of the founders and creating a model of freedom, equality and justice for the world and the future. ▮

Where Are They Now?

"Where Are They Now" called four former members of the General Assembly whose service at the Capitol began in the early 1980s. Each of the phone interviews asked these questions: What are you doing? Are you keeping track of the Virginia political scene? What changes have you seen for better or for worse?

While we plan to continue calling former legislators, we extend an invitation to each of them to send us a letter or an email with their permission to print their remarks.

We appreciate Senator Joe Benedetti, Delegate Phoebe Orebaugh, Delegate Joan Munford and Delegate Bernie Day talking with us in March 2007.

The Honorable Joe Benedetti

House of Delegates, 1983-1986;
Senate, 1986-1998;
Senate Minority Leader and Retired as
Senate Republican Leader (Senate was
20 Republicans and 20 Democrats).

Senator Benedetti, what are you doing?

My full time occupation is "retired." When I left the Department of Criminal Justice Services, we moved to Smithfield which had been my wife's home. We live on a creek and golf course. I volunteer for AARP, helping to prepare taxes for lesser endowed seniors. We're involved in lots of social activities. I'm reading a little bit, studying a bit. I read newspapers on WHRO Radio Reading Service (providing a service to 150,000+ blind or severely visually impaired persons in their broadcast area).

Are you keeping track of the Virginia political scene?

Yes, a matter of fact yes. Matt (Benedetti) is pretty much involved. So is Tom (Benedetti). Of course I know most of the people there.

What changes have you seen for better or for worse?

Worse: I am disappointed with the Republicans. They seem to have lost their way. I was strongly opposed to having the Senate work only with the Senate (fundraising, etc.) and not work with the other chamber. They risk changing a red state to a blue state.



The Honorable Phoebe M. Orebaugh (R)

House of Delegates
1983-1985; 1988-1991.

What are you doing?

Church work, volunteer work, like everybody else. I volunteer at the Valley Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center near Harrisonburg. Read lots of books. Play Bridge once a week.

Are you keeping track of the Virginia political scene?

Yes, very closely every single day. Read the Daily News Record and five newspapers online. Help keep an eye on what's going on for my brother, Joe (The Honorable Joe May, member of the House of Delegates from Loudoun County). My granddaughter served as a Page in House this Session so that brought me to Richmond.

What changes have you seen for better or for worse?

Better: Republican majority.

Worse: Inability of the Senate and House to work together and long, long extended sessions of the General Assembly.



The Honorable Joan Hardie Munford (D)

House of Delegates, 1982-1993.
Retired as Chair of the House
Commerce and Labor Committee.

Delegate Munford, what are you doing?

I finally retired. 2006 was quite a busy year as caregiver with my husband quite ill. I'm involved in church work. I'm also reading and practicing the piano, all the things that I put off for years.

I asked about her piano playing and she reminded me that during Governor Robb's years she played the piano when everyone got together at the end of the session.

Are you keeping track of the Virginia political scene?

I am. It's more contentious than when I was there. . . . basic civility walked out the door.

Trying to raise the funds to improve highways reminds me of 1986. We really stepped up to the plate on both sides and looked for middle ground. Personally I am not in favor of touching the general fund. Legislators need to step up to the plate and get it done.

What changes have you seen for better or for worse?

Better: More efficient format the whole way the GA is set up. We were always lugging around big bill books, and now they can carry a small computer.

Worse: Bills killed in subcommittee. Every bill submitted [should be] heard by full committee. Otherwise it does not give the constituent confidence in the system.



The Honorable Bernie K. Day, (D)

House of Delegates, 1997-2001

What are you doing?

Still read a lot. Write some. Spend quite a bit of time trying to divine the future, some predictability, some pattern to things—banking, golf, the stock market, the editorial page of the Times-Dispatch. Having no luck with any of these. Here lately have engaged in a major program of house renovations. Will do that again only when I can't find an empty seat in a root canal clinic.

Are you keeping track of the Virginia political scene?

I do keep track. Sorta. The process is a ceaseless rhythm that our Founding Fathers set us to. To me it is beautiful. To me, it is the rhythm of the fields, of old horses, backs sweated, steam rising from them, unharnessing, exhaling, looking back with satisfaction at the ground they've plowed, perhaps smiling to themselves as they contemplate the new crop of replacement colts, young, prancing, electric with excitement, good, heady colts anxious to get in the traces and take up the bits.

What changes have you seen for better or for worse?

Changes? I don't know. Long-term, the process is so self-correcting that the best and the worst are beat to the margins. I do wonder sometimes about the money. I've been out of the House for only six years. When I left, the budget was \$48 billion. What is it now? Seventy-five billion? Where the hell is all that money going? ❖



As I See It

By DAVID BAILEY

Ten years ago my column in *IMAGE* magazine, "Take the High Road, Shape the Future," included these words:

One of my favorite Mark Twain lines goes like this: "The lie shall never perish so long as Congress remains in session; that grand old national asylum for the helpless." Of course I love it. Most any day I can proudly engage in more than a little "congress bashing" no matter which party is in control.

At the same time, I shame myself; I know better. I firmly believe that we, the American people, get what we deserve. If our expectations are low, what we receive does not surprise us. What would happen if we collectively raised our expectations?

A few years ago the Rev. Jim Wallis, Editor-in-Chief of *Sojourners* magazine in Washington, D.C., spoke of his experience of going to South Africa during the difficult time when Nelson Mandela was in prison. The political rally had been canceled by the government, so Archbishop Tutu said, "Okay, we're just going to have church then."

The people moved into the Cathedral and the police, seeking to intimidate, entered also and stood along the walls. Wallis depicted the powerful little man proclaiming, "this system of apartheid cannot endure because it is evil."

Then he pointed his finger at those police standing along the walls of his sanctuary and said, "You are powerful. You are very powerful, but you are not gods and I serve a God who cannot be mocked." Then he flashed that wonderful Desmond Tutu smile and said, "So, since you've already lost, since you've already lost, I invite you today to come and join the winning side!" And at that the congregation erupted. They began dancing in the church. They danced out into the streets and the police moved back because they didn't expect dancing worshippers.

That's raising expectations! Years later, "the rest is history."

The Way I See It, we the people sometimes get what we deserve; it's just a long time coming. One thing for certain, "it" does not happen by accident. But in those rare times when people get involved and stand up for truth and justice....

Yes, Virginians, 2007 is another election year, an opportunity not to be missed. Even if you are not invited to the June event, you have a right (at least this year) to help nominate the candidate who will be on the November ballot.

Will we get whom we deserve? Who knows? Those who fail to attend the parties in June and November may attend the wake in '08. [X]



Fair Minimum Wage: A Virginia Value

By SUE CAPERS

While low wage workers in Virginia struggle every day to make ends meet, Virginia lawmakers killed the bill that would have given them their first raise in over 10 years! Minimum wage at \$5.15 was a poverty level wage when enacted in 1996. From that time costs have risen and inflation has eaten away at wages of those least able to absorb a loss. Yet, due to the vote of 53 Republican legislators bound by their caucus, the Virginia Fair Wage Act failed.

Who are these workers? Eighty percent are age 20 or older, 35% are the sole supporters of their household, they struggle to get by and many aren't making it. In emergency shelters throughout Virginia over half of the residents go to work every day. We know these workers, if not by name, by the service they render. Every day we receive the benefits of their work-in schools and hospitals, parking garages and day care centers, restaurants and behind the counters of innumerable businesses, and the list goes on. Yet, they and the value of their work have been denied.

Every negative rant legislators had regarding increasing the minimum wage was answered in a positive way. Now that most states (29) and most workers work for a higher minimum wage than in Virginia we had good data to pass on, and we did-showing increased economic growth and employment in states with a higher minimum wage. It seemed to have no impact; as one surprised advocate at a hearing said, "facts don't seem to matter".

The failure of Virginia legislators to increase the Virginia Minimum Wage raises the question of who are our legislators representing? Not Virginia's struggling low wage workers, not their many constituents who showed their support for this important bill, not the thousands who signed petitions or the 83% polled in Prince William county who voted in favor of raising the wage.

I believe that the vote against raising the minimum wage speaks volumes about our legislators and provides a strong indication of how they will vote on future issues affecting low income Virginians and their families.

This is an election year. The time when we should ask the questions. Who do we want to represent us, who will reflect our values, who will support wage equity, who will be fair and just to all Virginians?

Sue Capers is Coordinator for Public Policy, Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness [X]



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Brothers for Change Speak Out

By CHRISTOPHER MARSHBURN AND JOJO MCDUFFIE

Brothers for Change (B4C) is a community service based organization that was founded at Randolph-Macon College in the fall of 2005 by Leonard Abbott and Joseph McDuffie. The mission of Brothers for Change is to promote leadership, diversity and responsibility throughout the college campus and the community. The vision that the founders still maintain for this organization is to instill qualities that seem to be fleeting among the young men of today. B4C strives to tailor the leadership skills of its members. One of the reasons that we are an all male organization is that often-time we see men in leadership positions who are narrow-minded, egocentric, and are ultimately unfit leaders due to their inability to consider other people's perspectives. B4C is an organization that understands the importance of creating an environment that teaches young men not only how to lead, but how to lead effectively, compassionately and collectively. As previously stated, our organization preaches leadership, diversity, responsibility, and we successfully manifest those characteristics into our work around campus and the community. Some of our events include raising awareness regarding the genocide in Darfur, supporting legislation to reduce biased policing and one of our most recent and successful activities was advocating for the increase of the state minimum wage.



Jojo McDuffie

One of the reasons that B4C got involved with the minimum wage bill was a direct result of working with The Virginia Organizing Project (VOP) the previous year regarding a bill on biased policing. When we contacted Mrs. Cathy Woodson, a VOP representative, initially we planned on continuing work with the biased policing bill, however there was no legislation on that this year. Mrs. Woodson informed us about one of her major projects at the time which happened to be campaigning for Senate Bill 1327 (would allow for an increase in minimum wage) and lobbying support for the bill. With the help of the VOP, B4C launched a two month long campaign where our organization wrote letters to state representatives (encouraged family, friends, and the Randolph-Macon community to do the same!), spoke to newspapers about the issue, and some members even gave testimonies in the Senate and House Committees in support of an increased minimum wage. Overall, our involvement with this bill can be considered happenstance; however, regardless of the way in which we got involved we understood that minimum wage was and still is an issue that required immediate attention from its citizens and politicians. Our organization did all that we could possibly do to encourage representatives to pass this bill and throughout the experience we have stimulated action in the R-MC community to become more involved in deciding the policies that dictate their lives as well as the lives of others.

In addition to activities that affect the more comprehensive community, our organization also participates in outreach programs

that are directed to the immediate Ashland community. We do work with church youth groups, we serve as mentors to students at St. Joseph's Villa (an alternative school located in Richmond, Virginia) and we also hold an annual community day in which we invite the youth of the community to the R-MC recreation center (The Brock Center) to partake in fun and leadership building activities. As a group we are aware of our surrounding environment and we understand the importance of giving back. Over the years there seems to have been a falling out between the community and the college.



B4C views itself as one of the catalysts to re-establish and revive the working relationship between our institution and the Ashland community.

Although we are a community service organization, developing good leadership skills is valued with equal importance. Our ultimate goal is to equip young men with the necessary tools to help them maturely develop into good men, as representatives of their families, community, and country. In the long run, B4C believes that all of our members will be better men as a direct result of their affiliation and participation with Brothers 4 Change!

"Prosperity Through Brotherhood... We All We Got!"

Christopher Marshburn is President of Brothers 4 Change at Randolph-Macon College. Jojo McDuffie '06 is Co-Founder of Brothers 4 Change at Randolph-Macon College. [Logo]



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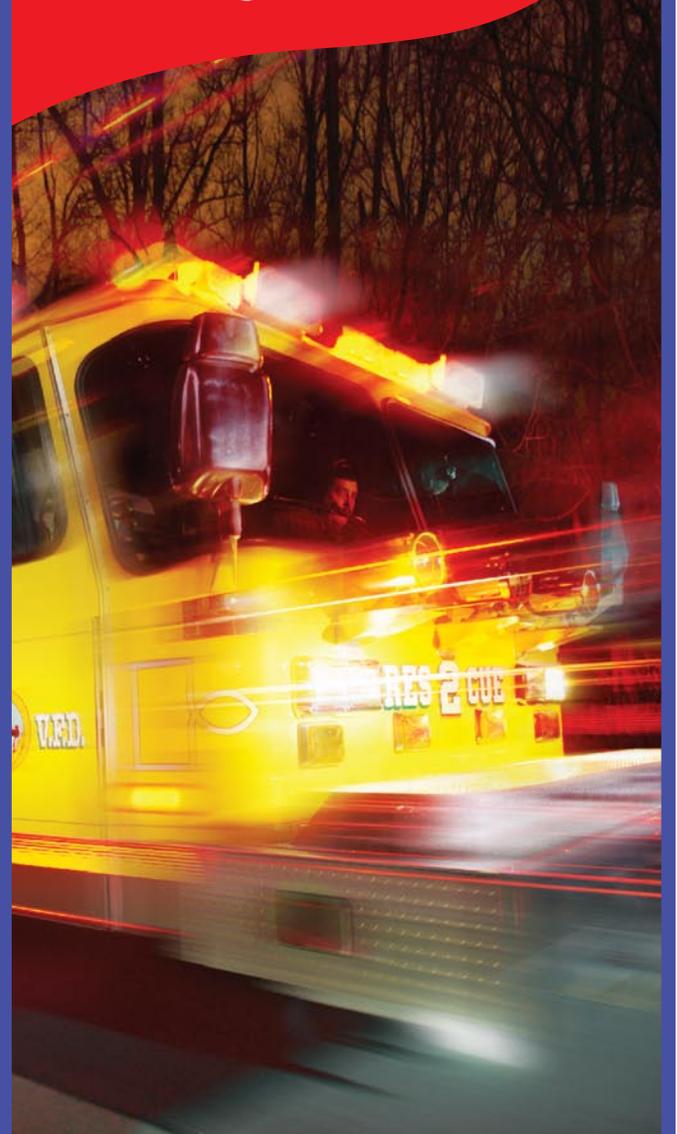
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The Doctor is Always Available

By BONNIE ATWOOD

Do you ever lose sleep worrying about *bird flu...anthrax...Mad Cow disease...the Norovirus...dirty bombs?! You could have it worse. You could be...the Virginia State Health Commissioner!*

Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H., is the state health commissioner. But he handles it all with calm and good humor.

"We handle everything from birth certificates to dead bodies, and everything in between," he says with a twinkle. What the anxiety-prone see as "nightmares," he sees as "challenges," and it's all in a day's work. He has been an epidemiologist for the Commonwealth for 33 years. As Commissioner, he is a principal advisor to the Governor, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Virginia General Assembly on a wide range of health issues.

Looking out on a spectacular view of East Richmond from his corner office in the Madison Building, he speaks at a rapid-fire pace, and yet he seems pleased to share every detail of his fascinating life.

Stroube, 60, earned an undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary, then went on to the Medical College of Virginia to become a doctor. He said he "loved learning," but after three years, he took a year off to work at his father's gas station. He said he learned many life lessons at that gas station. He learned how to "get along with people," and he learned what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. He wanted to attend Johns Hopkins University and study public health. He went back to school and made it all happen.

Stroube worked his way up through the state health system. He has worked as commissioner (acting or permanent) for Governors Wilder, Allen, Gilmore, Warner and Kaine. He has no hesitation to say that he was fired by Governor Allen. But consider that most state health commissioners don't last long anyway—18 months on average—it's one of the most contentious positions of all.

The Virginia Department of Health used to be more encompassing than it is now. It used to handle environmental concerns, which are now directed to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

It was back in the old days when Stroube was hit with such environmental disasters as the Kepone pollution in Hopewell and the major tire fire in Winchester. Then along came reports of uranium found in fields near Danville. Uranium, much sought as a source of nuclear power, gives off radon, a dangerous gas.

"60 Minutes followed me around on that one," he recalled, though the television story never aired.



"I have been woken up many times at three or four in the morning," he said. He recalled spending much time with Beverly Orndorff, now retired, who was for many years the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reporter on the science beat. If disasters don't faze him, certainly the media cannot.

And over the past few years, the media have never lacked for subject matter. There was that day some 20 years ago when the James River suddenly turned green and drinking water smelled bad. Fights broke out as grocery stores ran out of bottled water. Stroube assured the community that the green stuff was an overgrowth of algae and that this, too, would pass.

And it did.

Then the world was awakening to the threat of H.I.V. infection and AIDS. Stroube kept us all in perspective. Then along came West Nile virus, which he says has "quieted down" for now. Mad Cow Disease was mostly in England. In the early Eighties, there was a scare from pentaborane found in big canisters in a Central Virginia parking lot. It was making nearby workers sick. The canisters had to be transported to Fort A.P. Hill to be blown up. There was the occasional barrel of oil that, it was feared, would get into the groundwater. There was a drinking water problem in Dinwiddie County a few years ago.

And were you involved in anthrax? Stroube suddenly turns a little more serious. "Big time," he says. Nine-eleven changed everything.

"We didn't know where it would end," he said. There were reports of strange white powders coming in from everywhere. Reports of powder prompted the quarantine of an airplane at Norfolk Airport. There were reports from Roanoke of a white powder around a baby-changing station. There were signs of white powders in Richmond's highest office building, the Monroe Building.

Stroube said there were thousands of these reports. Three cases in Northern Virginia turned out to be real anthrax cases.

"I spent a week without sleep," he said. He said he and his colleagues used beepers, telephones, everything at hand. The world stopped. Additional money became available to the health department, and Virginia's emergency preparation and response were and are constantly ranked one of the best.

Before 2001, said Stroube, the health de-

partment was a nine-to-five government job.

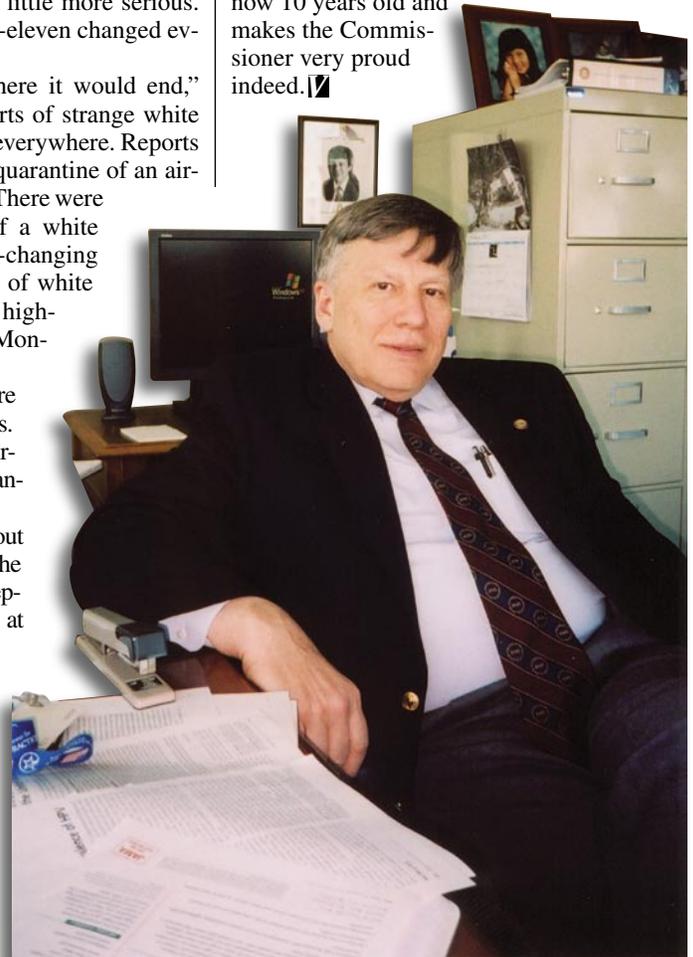
"Now it is 24/7," he said. "It's a whole cultural change." He said he is pleased with Virginia's response to Hurricane Isabel. A command system is now in place.

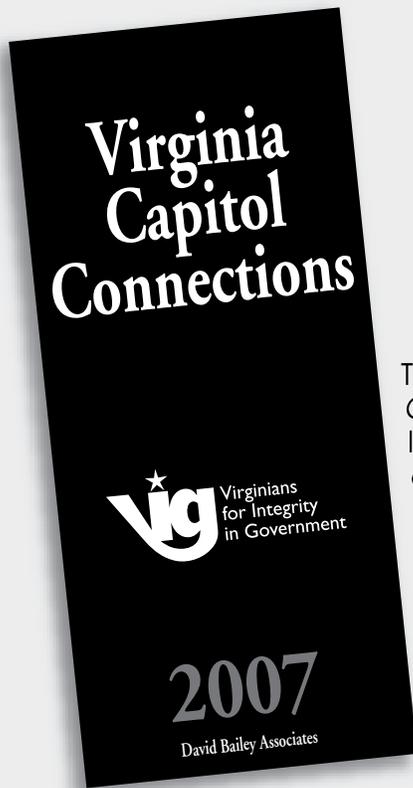
Next up is the so-called "Norovirus," a severe, but usually short-lasting nausea, once associated with school children, but lately spreading in nursing homes and the Richmond City jail. It was named the Norwalk virus, from a virus first discovered in Norwalk, Ohio, and one can only surmise that the Chamber of Commerce there was glad to see the name change.

A great source of contention today, said Stroube, is the "Certificate of Need" required to open a new health care facility. Stroube works hard on these.

As stressful and scary as his professional life may be, Stroube makes up for it in his spare time. He loves history and he loves travel. He has been to 45 countries, and to all of the states "at least twice." He recently spent three weeks in Antarctica, returning in time for the Virginia General Assembly session. He reads voraciously. He has read all of the fiction winners of the Pulitzer Prize, and the recently published "100 greatest books." He reads literature of all kinds, including plays.

Stroube's family is obviously his pride and joy, and photographs adorn his office. He and his wife, Kathy, traveled to China in 1997 to adopt Ashleigh at the age of 18 months. Ashleigh is now 10 years old and makes the Commissioner very proud indeed. ▣





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This 21st annual legislative directory, *Virginia Capitol Connections* (the "**Red**" **Book**), is available online in Interactive Adobe pdf format. All of the internet and e-mail addresses in the online version are clickable to provide instant access to members of Virginia government!

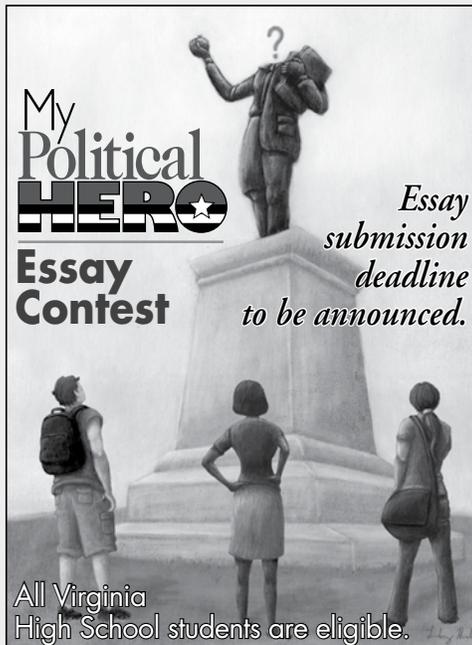
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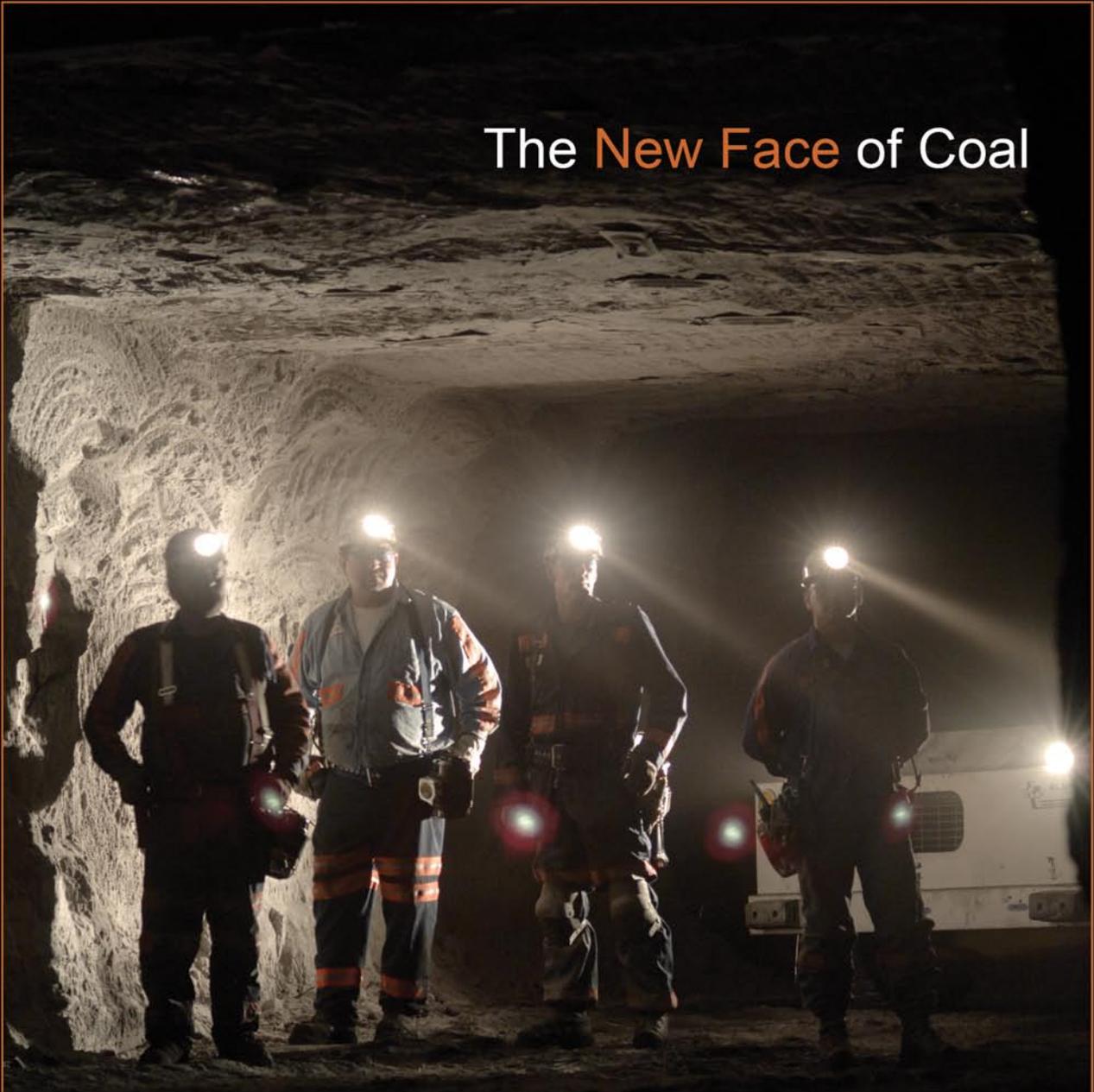
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