#### Tentative Program as of 7-10-2024 Send corrections to <a href="mailto:bruce.gentry@gcsu.edu">bruce.gentry@gcsu.edu</a>

- We'll update this program approx. every two weeks until the program goes to the printer.
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# Flannery O'Connor's Second Century: Looking Forward, Looking Back

Registration will be open 3-5 pm on Wednesday, 11 Sept., Heritage Hall (outside of Pat Peterson Museum Education Room in the Georgia College Library)

## Thursday, Sept. 12

Registration 8:30 am–5 pm, Heritage Hall (outside Pat Peterson Museum Education Room) with coffee service

Session 1—10-10:30 am, Special Collections Reading Room

Tour of Special Collections and related rooms in Georgia College Library

Presenter: Jordyn Street, Georgia College

Session 2—10:40-12 noon, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

A Forum on Wildcat

Chair: Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State U
Presenters: Margaret Earley Whitt, U of Denver
Carol Loeb Shloss, U of Pennsylvania

Blue Profitt, Georgia College

The three presenters will talk briefly about some of their impressions of the movie *Wildcat*, and then audience members will be invited to join the discussion. There will be refreshments.

Session 3—11-11:30 am, Special Collections Reading Room

Tour of Special Collections and related rooms in Georgia College Library

Presenter: Holly Croft, Georgia College

Session 4—11:45 am-12:45 pm, Andalusia Interpretive Center Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Book Release for *Flannery at the Grammys* 

Presenter: Irwin H. Streight, Royal Military College of Canada

Streight's book will be available for purchase during this session; he'll answer questions and sign books. There will be refreshments.

Session 5—12:30-1:45 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium X-Positive Heuristics for Liberating O'Connor Criticism

Chair: Richard Utz, Georgia Tech

Presenters: Carole K. Harris, New York City C of Technology, "Biography of a Friendship: Maryat Lee and Flannery

O'Connor"

Jennifer Renee Blevins, U of South Carolina, "Fat Girls, Abjection, and Epiphany in O'Connor"

Jesse G. Swan, U of Northern Iowa, "Sabbath Lily Plays House with the New Jesus"

Session 6—12:30-1:45 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Teaching O'Connor

Session Chair: Jessica McQuain, Georgia College

Presenters: Sue Whatley, Stephen F. Austin U, with Martheaus Perkins, Stephen F. Austin U, and Rae Bynum, George

Mason U, "Ethical Complications with the 'Racist' Label: Recovering Flannery O'Connor through New

Historicism and Reader-Response Approaches,"

Mahailey Oliver, Corsicana High School, Corsicana, TX, "Teaching O'Connor in Public High Schools"

Session 7—1-2 pm, Andalusia Interpretive Center

Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Presenters: William Walsh, Reinhardt U, and Lauren Dose, Reinhardt U, "Andalusia: The Key to Understanding the

Source of Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"

Session 8—2-3 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room Session Chair: **Robert Donahoo**, Sam Houston State U

Presenters: Doug Davis, Gordon State C, "Flannery's Sheroes: Reading O'Connor in the Age of Barbenheimer"

Ashley Massey, U of North Alabama and Tennessee Higher Education in Prison Initiative, "Content

Farming: Flannery O'Connor and the Farm Woman Influencer"

Session 9—2-3:20 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Chair: Monica Carol Miller, Middle Georgia State U
Presenters: Kerry Neville, Georgia College, "Lapsed Catholic"

William F. "Bill" Monroe, U of St. Thomas, "Positivity and Its Discontents: Kate & Flannery vs. Joyce &

Joel"

Heidi Johnson, C of St. Scholastica, "Sisters: Flannery O'Connor's Connections to Women Religious"

Session 10—3:30-5 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Presenters: Jim Sisson, Middle Georgia State U, "'Take it All Off!': Flannery O'Connor's Sacred-Erotic Exhibitionism in

Wise Blood and 'A Temple of the Holy Ghost"

Christine Atkins, SUNY-Corning Community C, "Flannery O'Connor as Queer Artist"

Eric Hughes, Middle Tennessee State U, "Flannery O'Connor and the Discomforts of Home"

Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State University, "Predatory Players / Late Lovers in O'Connor's Short Fiction"

Session 11—3:30-5 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Session Chair: Taylor Black, Duke U

Presenters: Joelle Troiano, Duke U, "The Anagogical and/as the Profane: What It Takes to Talk about God in

O'Connor's 'Parker's Back'"

Clarke W. Owens, Independent Scholar, "'Parker's Back': The Role of Mastery"

Jason Anthony Walker, U of Texas at Dallas, "Buried in Baptism: Religious Trauma, Sacramental Violence,

and O'Connor's Complicated Portrayal of Redemption in The Violent Bear It Away"

Jeremiah Davis, Huntingdon U, "'The Only Way Out Is Through': Despair and Faith in Wise Blood and The

Violent Bear It Away"

Session 12, 5-5:50 pm, Andalusia Interpretive Center Session Chair: **Cassie Munnell**, Georgia College

Presenter: Matt Davis, Washington and Lee U, "The Restoration of Andalusia"

Session 13—6-7 pm, Andalusia Interpretive Center

Keynote Speech by Karen M. Gravel, Lord Aeck Sargent, "Places of Influence-Understanding and Preserving the

Environment of a Writer"

Introduction by Matt Davis, Washington and Lee U

Followed by reception

## Friday, Sept. 13

Registration 8:30 am–5 pm, Heritage Hall (outside Pat Peterson Museum Education Room) with coffee service

Session 14—9-10:30 am, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Margaret Earley Whitt, U of Denver

Presenters: Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, U of Texas at Austin, "Flannery O'Connor at the Harry Ransom Humanities

Research Center"

**Dorian Speed**, U of St. Thomas, "Bad Mentors and Terrible Teachers in Flannery O'Connor's Work" **Joonna Smitherman Trapp**, Emory U, "Teaching Flannery O'Connor: Stories, Archives, and Assignments"

Session 15—9-10:30 am, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Converging at the Crossroads: Benny Andrews, Flannery O'Connor, and Alice Walker

Session Chair: Nagueyalti Warren, Emory U Panelists: Amy Alznauer, Northwestern U

Gabrielle Dudley, Emory U

Tina Dunkley, Independent Cultural Historian, Independent Curator, Artist

Rosemary Magee, Emory U Nagueyalti Warren, Emory U

This panel will explore the various crossroads these three artists encountered in literature, life, and art, and also the various crossroads the panelists encountered on their years-long curatorial journey for the recent exhibit at Emory U.

Session 16—10:45 am-12 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Readings

Session Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College
Presenters: Jessica McQuain, Georgia College
Kerry Neville, Georgia College

Session 17—10:45 am-12 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Using Flannery O'Connor in Creative Writing Session Chair: **Sidonia Serafini**, Georgia College

Presenters: Ranjani George, U of Toronto, "Dear Flannery, Love, Viji: O'Connor's Iowa Years"

Georgia Newman-Powell, Georgia College, "'A Heavy Weight in the Darkness': Channeling Flannery in

the 21st Century"

Session 18—2-3 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Book Release for Flannery O'Connor's Manhattan

Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Presenter: Katheryn Krotzer Laborde, Xavier U of Louisiana, "Come Hell AND High Water: Pulling Together a Book

about Flannery O'Connor (No Matter How Hard the Gods Tried to Stop Me)"

Laborde's book will be available for purchase during this session. There will be refreshments.

Session 19—2-3 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Flannery O'Connor's Letters

Session Chair: Monica Carol Miller, Middle Georgia State U

Presenters: Christine Flanagan, St. Joseph's U, "'Dear Flannery': Investigating Flannery O'Connor through the Lens of

Literary Epistolography"

Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State U, "A Letter to Flannery Regarding Her Letters"

Session 20—3:15-4:30 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Collecting the Past: An NEH Oral History Project on Flannery O'Connor and Milledgeville

Session Chair: **Stephanie Opperman**, Georgia College Presenters: **Stephanie Opperman**, Georgia College

Charlotte Aexel, Geogia College Juliann Mackiewicz, Georgia College

Session 21—3:15-4:30 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Readings

Session Chair: Kerry James Evans, Georgia College Presenters: Peter Selgin, Georgia College

Sarah Gordon, Georgia College

Session 22—4:45-6 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Presenters: Irwin H. Streight, Royal Military C of Canada, "O'Connor's Rock 'n' Roll Rebel, Rufus Johnson"

Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community C, "Down to the River: Developing Tarwater"

Monica Carol Miller, Middle Georgia State U, "'It Was Punk': Reconsidering Rock and Roll Flannery

O'Connor"

Session 23—4:45-6 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Session Chair: Roger Stanley, Union U

Presenters: Colleen Warren, Taylor U, "The First Shall Be Last and the Last Shall Be First: Race Revisions in Flannery

O'Connor's Reconsiderations of 'The Geranium'"

Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State U, "Recovering the Power to Vomit"

Carol Loeb Shloss, U of Pennsylvania, "Regina after Flannery"

Session 24—8-9 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

**Keynote** Speech by **Lisa Hinrichsen**, U of Arkansas, "The Haunting Landscape: Flannery O'Connor's Exploration of Humanity in the Anthropocene"

Introduction by **Katie Simon**, Georgia College

## Saturday, Sept. 14

Registration 8:30 am-5 pm, Heritage Hall (outside Pat Peterson Museum Education Room) with coffee service

Session 25—9-10:15 am, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Flannery O'Connor in the Fifth-Grade Classroom: Teaching Writing and Communication Using Author Study, Creative Writing, and Digital Humanities Activities

Chair: Jordan Cofer, U of Minnesota Morris
Presenters: Jordan Cofer, U of Minnesota Morris
Jessica McQuain, Georgia College

Session 26—9-10:15 am, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Lily Murphy, Georgia College

Flannery O'Connor & Race I

Chair: Matt Bryant Cheney, U of Tennessee

Presenters: Amy Alznauer, Northwestern U, "White Girl and Frizzly Chicken: Flannery O'Connor on her Own Racial

Upbringing"

Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community C, "Writing from Across the Tracks"

Patricia Ann West, Savannah State U, "Eracism: Sticks, Stones, 'Bad' Words, and Flannery O'Connor's

Displaced Characters"

Session 27—10:30 am-12, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Flannery O'Connor & Race II

Chair: Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community C

Jordan Rowan Fannin, Berry College, "Anticipating White Tears: O'Connor's Reckoning with the Present

through the Generative Failures of the Past"

William Gonch, Ave Maria U, "The Racial Grotesque: Grace, Irony, and Idolatry in 'Judgment Day' and

'The Artificial [N-Word]'"

Katie Simon, Georgia College, "Traveling While Black: Mobility and Race in Flannery O'Connor's 'A Good

Man Is Hard to Find"

Matt Bryant Cheney, U of Tennessee, "The Space Between Principle and Taste: Mapping Race and

Racism in O'Connor Scholarship"

Session 28 —10:30-12, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Chair: Ann McCutchan, Independent Scholar

Presenters: Randall S. Wilhelm, Independent Scholar, "Darkness Visible: A Closer Look at Flannery O'Connor's

Linoleum Cuts"

Jessica Schnepp, Ave Maria U, "Children of Violence: Grace and the Grotesque in Flannery O'Connor,

Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Martin McDonagh"

Johanna Church, Johnson and Wales U, "Wolves Among Sheep: Religious Distortion and Deception in

Flannery O'Connor's Wise Blood and Davis Grubb's The Night of the Hunter"

Lucy Robertson, Florida State U, "Losing My Religion: The Un-Adaptability of O'Connor's Work, the

Fidelity of Horror, and the Legacy of Southern Gothicism"

Session 29-2-3 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

**Keynote** Speech by **Mab Segrest**, Connecticut College, "How DO Mules Fly?"

Introduction by Katie Simon, Georgia College

Session 30—3:15-4:30 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Readings

Session Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College

Presenters: Michaela Reed, Georgia College

Martin Lammon, Georgia College

Session 31—3:15-4:30 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Nancy Beasley, Georgia College

Presenters: Calvin Coon, U of Arizona, "'Naturally a Hog Should Be on All Fours': Animal Symbols and Animal Lives in

O'Connor's 'Revelation'"

Charlotte Aexel, Georgia College, "A Heap of Things Worse than a Hog: Recontextualizing Pigs in

O'Connor's Fiction"

Song (Joseph) Cho, Liberty U, "Understanding Grace through Biblical Allusions in Flannery O'Connor's

'Revelation'"

Session 32—4:45-6 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: John J. Han, Missouri Baptist U

Presenters: Matthew D. Sutton, Morehead State U, "The Raw Sound of the Human Voice: Flannery O'Connor's

Soundscape"

Nina Laville, Great Hearts Northern Oaks, San Antonio, "'Daddy's Blood': Enoch Emery's Childlike

Vulnerability in Wise Blood"

Benjamin Brothers, U of South Florida, "Punishing Spiritualism and Selling Salvation: Hazel Motes,

Evangelical-Capitalist Propaganda, and Taulkinham's Panoptic Reflex"

Session 33—4:45-6 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Readings

Session Chair: Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College Presenters: Kerry James Evans, Georgia College

Alice Friman, Georgia College

Session 34—8-9 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Keynote Poetry Reading by Mark Jarman, Vanderbilt University

Introduction by Kerry Neville, Georgia College

## Sunday, Sept. 15

Registration 12 pm-4 pm, Heritage Hall (outside Pat Peterson Museum Education Room) with coffee service

Session 35—12:15-1:45 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Session Chair: Craig Martell, Osher Institute, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters: Benjamin Crace, Tennessee Tech U, "Finding the Pentecostal Spirit in 'A Temple of the Holy Ghost"

Craig Martell, Osher Institute, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "The Seeds, Roots and Fruits of O'Connor's

Embrace of Carmelite Spirituality"

Sue Whatley, Stephen F. Austin U, and Jill Hernandez, Texas Tech U, "Obligatory Forgiveness, Atrocity,

Process Theodicy, and Flannery O'Connor"

Session 36—12:15-1:45 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Heidi Johnson, C of St. Scholastica

Presenters: John Hayes, Augusta U, "Beyond the Bible Belt: A Skeptical View of the South's Religious and

Nonreligious Landscape"

Ann Ritter, Georgia State U, "O'Connor in 1964: A Firestorm Outside and In"

**Taylor Black**, Duke U, "The New Lost Cause: Re-Reading Flannery O'Connor During the Time of MAGA" **Mary Graw Leary**, Catholic U of America, "Screaming into the System: The Symbiotic Relationship

Between Flannery O'Connor, the Law, and Lawyers"

Session 37—2-3:30 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Session Chair: Taylor Black, Duke U

Presenters: Susan Srigley, Nipissing U, "Death and the Imagination in Flannery O'Connor's Art"

John J. Han, Missouri Baptist U, "Twilight Is Stealing: Aging in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"

Olivia Simoni, Duke U, "Like a Bullet in the Side: Death and the Afterlife in Flannery O'Connor's Short

Stories"

Kathleen Marion Sullivan, Christendom College, "Ars Moriendi: Preparing for Death in Flannery

O'Connor's 'The Enduring Chill'"

Session 38—2-3:30 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Readings

Session Chair: Michaela Reed, Georgia College

Presenters: Jeffrey H. MacLachlan, Georgia College

Jordan Crider, Georgia College Sandra Worsham, Georgia College

Session 39—3:45-5 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

O'Connor and Other Writers

Session Chair: Sandy Dimon, Georgia College

Presenters: Carmine Palumbo, East Georgia State U, "Flannery O'Connor, John Kennedy Toole, and the Last Great

Mystery of Southern Literature"

Rachel Wall, Georgia Highlands C, "Not out of the Woods: Flannery O'Connor Connections in the

Writings of Janisse Ray and Mary Hood"

Simon Ross, U of Mississippi, Narrative Distinctions between 'The Train' and Wise Blood"

Session 40—3:45-5 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium

Wildcat Through Archives

Session Chair: **James S. Owens**, Georgia College Panelists: **Holly Croft**, Georgia College

Jordyn Street, Georgia College James S. Owens, Georgia College

#### **Conference Extras**

Tours of **Andalusia: The Home of Flannery O'Connor** are available each hour on the hour: 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1, 2, 3, and 4 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The hours for tours on Sunday are 2, 3, and 4 pm. Contact Andalusia through its website for information about admission fees. The gift shop at Andalusia is open throughout the conference as well. Andalusia is located at 2628 N. Columbia St., just a few miles north of the Georgia College main campus.

**Barnes & Noble Bookstore**, the GCSU campus bookstore, 135 W. Hancock St., has a collection of O'Connor-related books for sale during the conference. Drop by to check out what's available. They will be offering quite a few books by people presenting in this conference. And, of course, this is a great place to pick up a Georgia College t-shirt.

There's no tour available, and the house is not open to the public, but Georgia College now owns the **Cline Mansion**, 311 W. Greene St., the home where O'Connor lived while she was in high school and college in Milledgeville. Conference participants are allowed to walk onto the yard of the Cline Mansion via the driveway on Liberty St. and stroll about. The current plan is that after substantial restoration and renovation, this building will become the home for the Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities.

Musician **Colin Cutler**, creator of *Tarwater*, will be performing his O'Connor-inspired songs on Saturday, 14 Sept., 9:30-11:30 pm, at Buffington's, 120 W. Hancock St. There will be an admission fee.

**Melanie DeVore** and **Carol Bokros** will have on display in Heritage Hall an exhibit about the weeds that can be found at Andalusia. Imagine how O'Connor's Mrs. Cope would feel. The exhibit will be in Heritage Hall, near the check-in desk, throughout the conference. There is an additional related exhibit to be found in the Natural History Museum in Herty Hall, on the corner of W. Montgomery and N. Wilkinson Streets. The museum is free, open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**Marc Jolley** of Mercer University Press will have a display table in Heritage Hall during the conference. Catch him to chat about the book you want to write for Mercer UP, the O'Connor books you might want to buy.

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**, the church attended regularly by the O'Connors, is at 110 N. Jefferson St., just a few blocks east of campus on Hancock St. Here's the schedule for Mass during the Georgia College O'Connor conference: Fri., 13 Sept., 12:10 pm, with a rosary said at 11:15 am Sat., 14 Sept., 5 pm

Sun., 15 Sept., 8:30 am, 11 am, and 4 pm (with the 4 pm mass generally for students—GCSU and GMC—but all are welcome)

Sacred Heart is closed much of the rest of the time. For details about Confession and Adoration times, contact Charlotte Aexel at <a href="mailto:charlotte.aexel@bobcats.gcsu.edu">charlotte.aexel@bobcats.gcsu.edu</a>.

We are also working on the possibility of a presentation at **Sacred Heart** about the history of the parish and about O'Connor's ancestors. A *possible* time for this presentation is Thursday, 9:30-10: 15 am. Check back later.

There is also a **Catholic chapel at Campus Catholics** (211 W Greene St., across the street on the same side of Greene as the Cline Mansion), *and* it has Flannery O'Connor's kneeler. The chapel is open until dark. For more info, contact Charlotte Aexel at <a href="mailto:charlotte.aexel@bobcats.gcsu.edu">charlotte.aexel@bobcats.gcsu.edu</a>.

**Memory Hill Cemetery**, where Flannery O'Connor is buried with her parents, is at 300 W. Franklin St. Finding Flannery's grave: take Liberty Street (beside the Cline Mansion) to the south for a few blocks through the cemetery's main entrance. Head to the left and notice the short fence beside the taller fence along the front of the cemetery. Flannery's grave can be found where the short fence ends. There's a sign with the number 1 on it to mark this grave as well. Visiting the grave is best done in very small groups.

Up the road: 20 miles to the north of Milledgeville on Hwy. 441 is Eatonton, home of the **Georgia Writers Museum** at 109 S. Jefferson Ave. on the downtown square. Call 706-991-5119 for info. The Museum has exhibits on O'Connor as well as Alice Walker and Joel Chandler Harris, and there's Sylvia's Coffee Shop next door. The Museum is open Thurs.-Sat., 10 am-4 pm., and they can explain how to find the Alice Walker sites in the country to the east of Eatonton.

What else? Check the internet for details about other local attractions: the **Old Governor's Mansion**, the **Sallie Ellis Davis House**, and, just a few miles south of downtown Milledgeville, **Central State Hospital**, once the world's second-largest asylum. And visit the website for the **Milledgeville Convention and Visitors Bureau (visitmilledgeville.org)** for more ideas, including the famous **Trolley Tours**, which typically start at 10 am on Friday and Saturday.

<u>AFTER</u> THE CONFERENCE: **The Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home** in Savannah is looking into the possibility of opening for tours at noon and 2 pm on Sept. 16, even though the Childhood Home is typically closed on Mondays. Contact **Janie Bragg** immediately, please, at <a href="mailto:flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com">flanneryoconnorhome@gmail.com</a> if you would like to visit the Childhood Home on Monday after the conference.

AND MORE EVENTS AFTER THE CONFERENCE: Here are some more "Flannery at 100" events.

#### Compagnia de' Columbari's Everything That Rises Must Converge Theatrical Tour

Rome, Italy: "The Power of the Word" international conference, Universita la Sapienza, 16-20 Sept.

Milwaukee, WI: Divine Savior Holy Angels High School 27 Sept.

Houston, TX: 28-30 Sept. or 1-3 Oct. (Venues TBA)

Cleveland, OH: Cuyahoga Community College, 4 & 5 Oct.

Belmont, NC: Belmont Abbey College, 8 & 10 Oct. Ossining, NY: Correctional Facility, 15 & 16 Oct.

Brooklyn, NY: St. Paul's Church, 17-19 Oct.

For more information, check out the Compagnia de' Colombari website: <a href="https://www.colombari.org/productions/everything-that-rises-must-co">https://www.colombari.org/productions/everything-that-rises-must-co</a>

Symposium on Catholicism in the South, 11-12 Oct. 2024 (with the Compagnia de' Columbari performances in Belmont linked to the opening of the symposium). This interdisciplinary symposium will feature historians and theologians speaking on various relevant topics, as well as discussions of Flannery O'Connor and of Walker Percy by literary scholars including O'Gorman, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, John Sykes, Christina Bieber Lake, and Tom Haddox.

Susan Srigley encourages us all to be on the lookout for information about this event:

Flannery @ 100: The International Flannery O'Connor Conference 6-8 June 2025

Fordham Campus (London, UK)

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