Swine Flu Prompts Caution Among Students

The H1N1 virus is a new strain of influenza virus which first appeared in April 2009. Nationally, this virus has claimed almost 300 lives according to the Center for Disease Control. As of Oct. 23 the San Bernardino County Department of Health has reported 248 confirmed cases and 17 deaths from this virus.

Originally, scientists believed the H1N1 virus came from pigs in North America. Current studies of this virus have determined that it has two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and bird and human genes.

According to CDC, “laboratory studies have shown that no children and very few adults younger than 60 years old have existing antibody to 2009 H1N1,” which means the virus poses the greatest risk in people under 60 years old. New York Daily News’ Oct. 26 issue said 90 percent of those hospitalized for the H1N1 virus were under 65. John Doyle, an instructor from VVC’s nursing department and a registered nurse, said this is because older generations were exposed to a similar type of flu and built up immunity to it.

Recently, there has been a surge of doctor and emergency-room visits due to flu-like symptoms. In the San Bernardino County Sun’s Oct. 17 issue Dr. Rodney Borger, ER medical director at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, said if someone is showing signs of flu odds are better than 80 percent it is the H1N1 virus.

Though this surge of illness has led to many concerns and nationwide panic “99 percent of those that do contract the H1N1 virus will get better simply by staying at home,” said Doyle. Doyle says that this virus is really only a concern for those who already have a weaker immune system, among those being children and pregnant women.

Doyle said that essentially VVC is not worried about this virus creating a situation where VVC has to close. There have been a few students at VVC who have contracted the H1N1 virus, but they have all gotten better simply by resting at home. “If your fever has been gone for 24 hours you can return to school,” said Doyle.

Symptoms that accompany this virus are nearly identical to those that accompany the seasonal flu, which include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and vomiting. CDC recommends going to the emergency room if symptoms include difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion or severe or persistent vomiting.

Hand washing is a very important step to take in preventing contraction of this virus. Also, doctors recommend avoiding touching the face, avoiding close contact with a sick person and, if experiencing flu-like illness, staying home for at least 24 hours after a fever breaks.

An informative video on this virus is available on VVC’s website at http://www.vvc.edu/offices/public_information/swineflu/.

Rams’ 42-3 Victory Ties Up Record

Ram football has been relatively inconsistent this year. VVC owns a 3-4 record going into the contest against San Diego Mesa, and has failed to put a winning streak together. The timing could not have been better to welcome the slumping Olympians into Victorville.

The Rams were clicking on all cylinders Oct. 31 afternoon as the defense allowed a season-low 113 yards and the offense gained 536 total yards. Led by quarterback Robert Love, the Ram offense was unstoppable on the ground and in the air. San Diego Mesa had no answers for Love as he scrambled relentlessly and connected with his receivers at will.

“My team gave me encouragement today. The offensive line and running game was good. We played well in practice and it paid off,” said Love.

Love wasn’t the only Ram feasting on a struggling San Diego defense. Running-back Mel Carmichel got VVC on the board with a 2-yard touchdown carry early in the first quarter. Love added to the lead after throwing a 28-yard touchdown pass to J. Nimtz and scrambled for another score. Victor Valley increased their advantage to 18 and fans were pleased with the team’s first half performance.

Continued in Rams Football on Page 2
Retractions from the previous editions: Then-News Editor Roderick Gray was incorrectly credited as a reporter.

The American Red Cross in conjunction with the Red Cross Blood Bank of Pasadena made a visit to the Victor Valley College campus Nov. 2 and 3 to hold a blood drive. According to organizers, 120 people were expected to show up to the bloodmobile, which was parked outside the Student Activities Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Efcee Fajarado was the charge nurse and team supervisor on board the bloodmobile. The blood drive was held to “collect blood for the community...the hospitals, and patients need it,” said Fajarado.

There was a multi-step process before being able to donate blood, which included qualifying by weight, reading an informational booklet and completing a questionnaire. After the completion of these, the donors were able to take a seat aboard the bloodmobile. In total the process takes up to 40 minutes.

According to the American Red Cross website, only 5 percent of the eligible population donates blood, even though someone is in need of blood from a donor every two seconds.

“We urge people to take the time and donate, it saves lives,” said Fajarado.

“We urge people to take the time and donate, it saves lives,” said Fajarado.

The Rams did not miss a step to begin the second half as QB Love scrambled for his third score of the day, only 3 minutes after halftime. He would add another score on his next drive, connecting with wide-receiver Nimtz for the second time. Victor Valley running-back Troy Matautia ended the scoring with a 12-yard touchdown carry in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter. The Ram lead had now reached 42-3.

Not to be overshadowed was the spectacular Ram defense. They continually stymied San Diego’s offense, even forcing a QB switch during halftime. Victor Valley Football Coach Dave Hoover did not overlook his defense’s courageous effort.

“The defense played outstanding, as it has for most of the season. Our offense has really come around the last few weeks. We’ve had some guys really step up of late,” said Hoover.

Asked if there was anything he thought the team could improve on, the coach did not hesitate to respond.

“We need to work on maintaining our intensity for each and every game,” Hoover said.

The Victor Valley Rams have evened their record at 4-4 and play Compton College on Nov. 7.
VVC Bio Instructor and Students May Have Discovered New Species

Seven students and Henry Kaiser from Victor Valley College’s Biology department traveled to Timor-Leste, east of Indonesia, to bring back specimens of what they believe may be a new species.

The species included geckos, lizards and frogs. The biology department has not yet named the reptiles they brought back from Timor-Leste. They will examine all of the evidence of the find, and then set the data to make sure no one else has discovered the species. If the species has not yet been discovered, then they will be able to name it.

The specimens are housed in the biology lab at VVC as well as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

The trip to Timor-Leste was funded by an $800 per person grant from the Associated Student Body, a book fundraiser and monies from the community.

The biology department is looking to find a bio diversity of the reptiles. Biodiversity is often defined as the variety of all forms of life, from genes to species.

The department wants to take care of the environment by finding out what places should or should not be developed.

“I wanted basic research and field research,” said Caitlin Sanchez, a biology student at VVC, this is the reason she went on the trip.

The biology department’s goal is to preserve natural habitats. One way is to not use wood where the reptiles live, instead bricks should be used.

“I wanted to experience field work” said Jester Ceballos who is a biology student at VVC. The students in the biology department are excited about their find and look forward to the survey of the reptiles.

The biology department was able to meet the President of Timor-Leste, Jose Ramos-Horta says Caitlin Sanchez.

“The department will offer trips once a year” said Henry Kaiser. If anyone is interested contact him by email at hkaiser@vvc.edu. The next trip is scheduled for January 2010.

Rams Volleyball Shows Great Potential

Inexperience is the first word that comes to mind when you look at this season Victor Valley Community College Volleyball team. The Rams have 8 freshmen on the team this season. Even with all of the new faces the Rams have still managed a respectable 10-9 record overall and 8-2 record in Foothill Conference play.

Head Coach Christa White who has led the Rams to 5 Conference titles in the last 10 years says that the season has been a good and bad one for the Rams. “The team has impressed me at times and sometimes I think that they could have been better but considering that we have 8 freshmen on the squad this season we still have a lot to learn. There is a lot of room to grow,” said White.

The Rams took on an over-matched Rio Hondo Community College Roadrunners team on Nov. 3. The match was never in doubt with the Rams sweeping the Roadrunners 25-12, 25-16, 25-20. The undersized Roadrunners could not keep up with the size of the Rams and it showed in the results. Credit goes to the Rams though for not overlooking their opponent as they played hard and pulled out the victory against the scrappy Roadrunners.

“We played well. Hard to play a team that doesn’t have our size up front. I think we hit the ball more decisively. It was unusual for us to have a letdown in the third but I’m pretty happy with the performance tonight,” said Coach White.

The Rams offense led by #14 Brittnay Westplat and #12 Jillian Betts, dominated on offense for the Rams. Westplat and Betts have performed well all season long as the teams most consistent hitters. The two of them are leading the team in almost every statistical category and have done a good job of running the offense.

As the season winds down Head Coach White is optimistic about the future of the team. “We have 8 freshmen this season and we are still growing and still learning. All the elements to be successful are in place but it’s just a matter of putting it all together and being one cohesive unit,” said White

With one home game left there is only one chance left to see the Rams volleyball team in action this season. The team closes out its home schedule with a 5 p.m. match against College of the Desert on Fri. Nov. 13.
**Cirque du Freak Proves to be An Entertaining Romp**

With a fun cast of actors and a humorous plot, *Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire’s Assistant* opened on Oct. 23 at the Cinemark 16 in Victorville.

The film stars new actors Chris Massagolia and Jessica Carlson, as well as John C. Riley and Salma Hayek. Josh Hutcherson from *Bridge to Terabithia* takes on the destined evil friend, Steve.

The kooky film was based on the book series with the same title, written by Darren Shan and published in the year 2002. The film is as quick and light-hearted as the book. After the book’s release, the young adult novel slithered through bindings into a manga series in June of this year. Four months later, the film hit the box-office opening at $11 million in its first weekend.

As a young adult movie, the film displayed the textures of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Edward Scissorhands*; colors that were bright, and reminiscent to the eighties. In short, it was right for the ages between 10 and 18, or any age if the viewer is a kid at heart.

The film is your basic good versus evil story about destiny and fantastical elements, all crammed together with light-hearted horror. Characters Darren Shan and his buddy Steve, receive a flyer to go to the Cirque. On arrival, they see a wide array of macabre exhibitions. Steve recognizes one of the performers as a vampire, Mr. Crepsley. Through a series of unfortunate events, Darren is thrust into a world unseen by normal eyes. A deal is made to save Steve’s life that turns the main character into a half-vampire circus freak underling of Mr. Crepsley.

Darren and Steve are eventually shoved in their distinct corners. Mr. Crepsley and Darren represent the aristocratic militant Vampires and the fondness of spiders. Steve is coaxed to run with the decaying peasantry, The Vampanese, after admitting his lust for both power and murder. Both friends’ hidden addictions were apparently written in their DNA.

The fight scenes were right for the film, playfully showcasing both the abilities and the darkness of vampirism. The Speedrunning ability, or “blipping,” was reminiscent of the fading in and out of *Queen of the Damned*. However, *Cirque Du Freak*’s play on the ability looked like a quick moving trail of paint across a live action background. Again, this film is not to be seen as serious as Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.

Overall, I give the movie 3 out of 5 stars. The pace was quite fast, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. The comedy, story, actors and the crazy characters meshed for a great experience. The story fit the young adult audience despite the fact that the film followed the coattails of the older-audience geared *Twilight* saga. I look forward to the crazy *Cirque Du Freak* sequel.

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**Heard Around the Lake**

“How did you feel about having to wait over a month before receiving your first financial aid check?”

“It stunk. It was hard cause you couldn’t get your books or anything.” - Michelle Lee

“That month was difficult cause I had to pull money from other resources that I was depending on for other things.” - Marco De La Rosa

“It sucked because I needed money” - Rachel Aguirre.

“It made my life harder because I really needed to buy books and supplies for school and I wasn’t able to until I finally got my check.” - Raymund Gabriel

“All I can say is I wish we could have gotten at least enough money for books right away, because the book advance wasn’t enough.” - Raymund Gabriel.
**Urinetown is Best Show in Town**

*Story by Alexandria Connor*

*Reporter*

Many people thought Urinetown the Musical was just a weird play with a sick title full of dancing, singing and pee. Of course the title is just an attention grabber with dancing singing and a little bit of peeing. From beginning to end you laugh till you cry at what Urinetown is really all about.

The play takes place in a corrupt drought-ridden town where the rich find ways to rip off the poor and get richer, and the poor man does all he can to survive and get rich. What really all about. With its witty characters, impressive choreography and meaningful message, the audience members who understood what was going on left the theater wondering, “What if we lived in a world where we had to pay to pee…? Man, if that was the case where we lived in a drought I think I would start a revolution too.”

Urinetown the Musical at High Desert Community Center for the Arts had some audience members amazed and some confused on what Urinetown the Musical was really all about. With its witty characters, impressive choreography and meaningful message, the audience members who understood what was going on left the theater wondering, “What if we lived in a world where we had to pay to pee…? Man, if that was the case where we lived in a drought I think I would start a revolution too.” said play goer Brenda Tomas.

“This play shows how our society has restraints put on things that are part of our everyday lives; either it being the price of gas or the price of cigarettes,” said Kelly Chien, student at Victor Valley College.

The overall performance kept the small audience entertained with the singing dancing and enthusiastic great performance. The music and costume work fit the mood of the play and for just a small stage the overall set appearance fit as well. The audience received a sense of them actually being in the play with the situations going on; two lovers fighting the odds, a city coming together as one for something the people believe in, and showing that bad people get what they deserve in the end.

“Urinetown is the funniest musical comedy I’ve ever seen. I’ll come back for sure and bring everyone who thought it was just a weird title or joke. They so missed out,” says a local play goer.

Overall I give this musical comedy 5 out of 5 stars.

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**This Is It is a Hit**

*Story by Alexandria Connor*

*Reporter*

*This Is It*, a film by Kenny Ortega, depicts Michael Jackson, known as the greatest entertainer of all time, on stage dancing, singing and coaching what would have been his comeback concert tour. As I watched this film I thought the it was very well put together.

“I was scared to watch the film at first, because I didn’t want to end up crying,” said Morgan Dennis, a fan who recently viewed the film.

Throughout the film, Jackson is seen on stage doing what he always did best: dancing, singing and just having fun with it. He appears to be energetic and healthy, but perhaps not healthy enough to be working towards a goal of performing 50 concerts straight, as was his intention.

There were various special effects which were going to be added to many of his well-known songs such as *Thriller* and *Smooth Criminal*. In *Thriller* there was going to be 3D images behind the stage which would have appeared to be realistic-looking monsters and creatures coming toward the audience. In *Smooth Criminal* there was previous recorded footage of Jackson acting out the scenes sung about in his song. This footage, like *Thriller*, was going to be seen on the big screen behind the stage while Jackson would be dancing and singing on stage.

Watching this film without most of the sets, most of the gears still showing, and from two functional camera angles in front of the stage, we get the flavors of the songs but unfortunately not the majesty of it. And besides this fact, the reality that this was only a rehearsal by Jackson pales in comparison to being able to see him at his best.

At one point in the film he says, “At least we get a film of it,” as he goes through a very rough run of *Billie Jean*.

As the film comes to an end, the audience is left with a sort of sadness. Not because Jackson is dead, although that has an intensity of sadness in its own, but because this great concert, so very well put together, will never be seen as was intended.

The theater was in complete silence as the credits rolled at the end of the film. No one got up from the seats until the credits were completely finished. It was as if the audience stayed in remembrance of Michael Jackson, giving him one last moment of silence.
The Associated Student Body Council made a field trip to Washington D.C. from Oct. 23 to Oct. 26 to speak to the U.S. Senate about the Pell Grant, Independent Age and the Perkins Fund.

The ASB council makes a trip to Washington D.C. at least once a year in order to take part in the American Student Association of Community Colleges Conference. “You don’t typically get married on a first date, so the importance of students continually meeting with the elected representatives and senators to build a relationship where they can share their concerns, as well as issues that could possibly be addressed,” said ASB Adviser Robert Sewell.

Community colleges all over the nation attend this conference, and it is a chance to learn from one another and come together to lobby for issues important to community colleges. The students also set up meetings with the offices of the representatives and talk to them about the issues they know are important to the students.

“It was a very informative way to enhance my citizenship and realize my involvement can and will make a difference,” said ASB Business Senator Eddy Stacy.

Throughout the year ASB works hard to form relationships with local businesses, so that they can provide discounts for the students who purchase the ASB cards. These efforts enable ASB to sell enough ASB cards to do all the things they do for students throughout the year. They contribute to athletics, study abroad trips, student clubs as well as most events held on campus. Although most of the raised funds go directly to campus student activities, they set aside a portion of what they can to represent the students and lobby for issues in Washington D.C. that are important to them.

“ASB uses the Student Rep. Fee to represent the students of Victor Valley College at all levels at state and local agencies,” said President and Student Trustee Mary Ann Mazzola.

The six council members attended the ASACC learned how to lobby for the current bills on higher education. This was the best way to benefit the students at Victor Valley College. Each of the council members also attended workshops.

“It is important to put a face to the federal Pell dollars and to have students express directly to our government how important the money means to funding their goals,” said Sewell. They met with students and advisers from other community colleges throughout the country and attended workshops on leadership, citizenship.
and lobbying and on issues such as the Pell Grant, the Perkins Act as well as the barriers to access. Then they met with the legislative aids of education for Senator Di-anne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman John Lewis and Congressman Buck McKeon.

Their trip was very successful and means a lot to the students at VVC. The legislative aids were all very understanding of the issues they were approached with and they were able to represent VVC well. All of the students from the ASACC Conference were able to make an impact because their power in numbers.

“If we didn’t come together like this we would have been able to make such a mark on Washington D.C.,” said ICC Senator Music Vernola.

ASB’s main goal for the trip was to come together with other community colleges from across the nation, to decide what was important to the students and speak with the representatives of the states. They accomplished what they set out to, plus more because they did not only meet with the senators and congressmen, but they also learned through the workshops at the conference how to do more for the students.

ASB members say that they would love to hear directly from more students about what is important to them.
Zombieland Gives Laughs and Scares

The newest of the zombie horror film genre has emerges as an action/horror/romantic comedy called Zombieland starring Jessie Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson as a couple of last known survivors of the Zombie Apocalypse. Eisenberg stars as Columbus, the shut-in loner main character who describes his survival thus far as due to his lack of close human relationships post zombie takeover as well as his “rules for surviving Zombieland,” which he carries with him and lists at different parts throughout the movie. Harrelson plays Tallahassee, a zombie-slayer who enjoys only one thing more than perfecting the art of killing the undead: Twinkies. His quest to find these “spongy yellow delicious bastards” may be a bit corny, but it is a small element that’s good for a few laughs.

These two characters alone give this picture its share of laugh out loud moments. The film also stars Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin as Wichita and Little Rock, the deceitful sisters whose survival of Zombieland is thanks to their art of scamming as well as trusting only each other.

As you might expect in any zombie film, it is quite full of blood, guts and gore and wastes no time getting down to business. The opening credits are creatively displayed within the hilarious scenes of blood dripping, flesh hungry infected humans chasing the non-infected. This opening scene also provides for a comedic explanation of why there are only five survivors left in a world full of monsters.

The storyline was admittedly slow at some points while the characters’ personal stories were developed, but this was soon made up for in true zombie movie style of brain splattering action. Along with potentially one of the funniest celebrity cameos, this movie did not disappoint. Aside from a slightly predictable plot, and mildly unrealistic character presentations, and as long your stomach can handle the up close shots of blood and gore, from start to finish this picture was a wild ride, fun and entertaining scene after scene.

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Paranormal Activity Scary, But Not Terrifying

Although Paranormal Activity didn’t have me trembling in my seat, or covering my eyes at the end of the movie, it did manage to capture my attention up until the very end.

Rumor about the horror movie spread quickly saying it was frightening, and had people screaming the whole time, which was partly true in my theatre.

For being a “low-budget” film, with a cast of unknown actors, and almost no marketing campaign, the film is remarkably well-done.

The actors Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat use their real names in the film, playing a young couple who, after a short time of living together, begin to experience paranormal phenomena. It starts out mildly with lights flickering and doors shutting on their own, but as the movie progressed so did the unexplainable occurrences during the middle of the night.

Micah decides to capture the activity on film by purchasing a camera and microphones to record what happens as they sleep. As an audience, our point of view is through the camera, and we watch what the couple misses as they sleep.

After a few of the nightly happenings the couple decides to bring in a psychic to help rid them of the looming apparition, and his advice is that they bring in a “demonologist” to exorcise the evil spirit.

Each night the house becomes more frightening, and more chilling, and you can hear the audience gasping or holding their breath. Without giving away the possibly expected ending I can say that the movie was worth my time. I left the theatre with chills, and I’ll admit it creeped me out enough to jump out of bed a few times that night.

I give this movie 4 out of 5 stars.

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Story by
Kirstyn Rainwater
Reporter

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Briefs by Gabrielle Palafox Reporter**

* The Child Development Center is holding a fundraiser selling See’s Candy Nov. 2 through 13, here at Victor Valley College. For more information, call Melina Rodriguez at (760) 245-4271 extension 2618.

* The fall dance concert will be held in the Performing Arts Center Dec. 11 through 13. For ticket information, call the ticket booth at (760) 245-4271 extension 849.

* Various music concerts will be held at the Performing Arts Center Nov. 20 through Dec. 6. For ticket information, call the ticket booth (760) 245-4271 extension 849.

* A book on the history of the Victor Valley by Dr. Leo Lyman, a retired VVC history professor, is almost completed and is hoped to be published within the next few months.

* Friends of the Victor Valley College Library are having their annual book sale. Books are available at the VVC Library at very low costs. For more information, call the library staff at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2262.

* Dangerous Liaisons will be shown in the Performing Arts center Nov. 6 through 8 and again Nov. 13 through 15. For more information, call the ticket booth at (760) 245-4271 extension 849.

* VVC writing center tutoring program is holding a Christmas raffle in order to support the local rescue mission in their holiday food and toy drive Thursday Dec. 10. For More call (760) 955-5958.

* A Thanksgiving food drive is being held at Victor Valley College. There are various red boxes all over campus available for donations. Anyone who donates a gift card for a turkey will be entered into a drawing for an iPod. For more information, email Phi Theta Kappa at ptk@vvc.edu.
GENERAL INFORMATION

The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif. Issues come out approximately twice a month in the two full-length semesters, generally each February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, for a total of 14 issues each calendar year.

The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to the on-campus mailbox of RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for publication. Or, email them to vvcrampage@gmail.com or mail information to RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395 or leave a message at 760-245-4271 extension 2773.

ADVERTISING

The RamPage generally accepts as advertising only 8 1/2 - by -11-inch flyers as inserts. The cost is $100, which covers insertion/distribution of 1,500 copies. The cost and responsibility of designing, reproducing and delivering the 1,500 flyers to the RamPage is borne by the advertiser.

To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

Acceptance of any advertisement in the RamPage does not constitute endorsement by the paper, college, district, board, council or student body.

The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.
Lights of Love 2009

Twas many weeks before the holidays, when all through the college
All staff was bustling with new acquired knowledge;
That the "Lights of Love" were all hung with care,
In Auxiliary Services next to the stairs.

The names of the children for all to see,
Were brightly written out for you and me;
Just pick a light from the window display
The one you want and you're on your way.

Just purchase a gift approximate $10
Wrap it nicely, bring it back and then
We'll log it in and you've done your part
The child will smile and warm your heart.

So don't say, "no time, no money, no way!"
Share what you've gotten; make a child's day
On the "Lights of Love" 323 wait there
For a kind giving soul to remember they're here.

So thank you for taking the time to read,
And we hope we have planted a generous seed,
So just remember before you leave,
That it's better to give than to receive!

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