



A CANDIDATE'S PLOY

Pro-Abortion Politician Takes Misuse Of Petitions To A New Level

As Facebook users know, many corporations, groups and even individuals advertise on the website. One ad appearing on Facebook is for abortion.com, which offers a list of “abortion providers.” And, needless-to-say, this is the time of year when candidates for public office try to make use of the popular website. Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., currently running for the U.S. Senate, is one of several politicians to do so.

Save Planned Parenthood
shelleyberkley.com



Republicans are on a witch hunt to shut down Planned Parenthood. It's sick. It's ugly. Co-Sign Rep. Berkley's Petition to stop them.

Abortion apologist Berkley's "Save Planned Parenthood" Facebook advertisement.

hunt to shut down Planned Parenthood.” Berkley described their efforts to do so as “sick” and “ugly.”

Facebook users who click on the ad are sent to Berkley’s campaign website. The page features a petition under a “Shelley Berkley for Senate” banner:

PETITION: Stop the Republican witch hunt against Planned Parenthood!

A petition to the GOP:

Planned Parenthood saves lives, and an extreme witch hunt is putting those women in danger. It's sick. It's ugly. And we demand that you stop immediately.

Ninety percent of what Planned Parenthood does is preventative care—including 770,000 pap tests, 4 million tests for sexually transmitted diseases, and 750,000 breast exams just last year.

By continuing this witch hunt, you are telling those women that you'd rather see them be denied life saving treatment than see them get health care without the permission of radical social conservatives.

Stop the witch hunt before women get hurt.

Described as a cross between comedienne Joan Rivers and Phyllis Diller (appearance; not humor or wit), Rochelle “Shelley” Berkley (born Rochelle Levine), 61, is a radical feminist who has been vocally pro-abortion throughout her political career. The former keno runner and cocktail server has a law degree and is one of 45 members of the 111th Congress of the Jewish faith.



Berkley

Berkley has a long history of using petitions to gather names of potential donors. In response to an on-air comment by radio host Rush Limbaugh, in which he referred to a Georgetown University student a “slut” because she wanted taxpayers to pick up the tab for her birth control, Berkley demanded that he be silenced. She posted an online petition aimed at convincing Clear Channel Communications to fire Limbaugh. The first part of the petition was something of an explanation/justification:

Rush Limbaugh can say whatever he wants because the First Amendment says so, but Clear Channel shouldn't profit from putting his attacks on women in front of a national megaphone.

Rush's current contract will pay him \$400 million dollars [sic] through 2016. That's right—Clear Channel showers Rush with over \$50 million a year in compensation.

Why? Because Rush makes Clear Channel money. But this time, he went too far—as of today, over 50 of his sponsors have dropped his show.

Join Shelley and her grassroots organization fighting for women and tell Clear Channel—CANCEL RUSH.

The second part was the message that would supposedly be sent to Clear Channel:

DEAR BOB PITTMAN—CEO, CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS:

We the undersigned demand your company stop giving Rush Limbaugh a national megaphone with which to launch hateful attacks against women—like calling them “sluts” and “prostitutes.”

Dozens of well-respected companies have realized that associating themselves with Rush Limbaugh is bad for business. Yours should be the next.

Don't throw your reputation away by continuing to profit from the traffic and attention Rush Limbaugh's attacks generate—cancel his show, and his contract...

In an effort to tie her opponent in the race for the U.S. Senate to the very conservative and highly controversial Limbaugh, Berkley challenged incumbent Senator Dean Heller, R-Nev., to sign the petition. “Instead of using his

appointed Senate seat to be Rush Limbaugh's water boy, Dean Heller should put his money where his mouth is and join me in demanding his show be kicked off the air for his outrageous comments against women." she said.

In response, a spokesman for Heller told the Associated Press the Senator thinks Limbaugh's words were offensive and have no place in public discourse, but dismissed the petition as a desperate and childish maneuver. "While Nevadans are looking for jobs and a stronger economy, the...congresswoman is running a juvenile name-calling campaign," Smith said. "'Water boy?' Sad."

Berkley was surely stunned to find the response to her anti-Limbaugh petition was largely negative. While most self-described liberals have no qualms about controlling the speech of anyone bold enough to publicly disagree—especially if that person is articulate. Still, some were wise enough to realize that backing the petition would expose their hypocritical standards so much that everyone would take note.

Berkley was asked why she did not start a petition drive to silence liberal, anti-Christian Bill Maher who had used similar unsavory language to describe former Governor Sarah Palin, R-Alaska. An editorial in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* (owned by boycott target Gannet Company Inc.) said it is "troubling...that a member of Congress, whose job includes protecting our most basic rights, among them free speech, is trying to convince radio stations to silence one of the most successful radio talkers of the day."

Despite criticism from the left, Berkley refused to back down. "This has nothing to do with the First Amendment. I am merely asking Clear Channel to make a business decision to get somebody who uses and abuses the public airwaves off the airwaves," Berkley said, noting that 30,000 people had signed the petition and 141 sponsors of the Limbaugh radio show had responded by limiting or pulling advertising. "We need to stand up for ourselves as women around this country." The congresswoman also alleged that Limbaugh rules the Republican Party.



Obama used a loophole to resume aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) that Congress had frozen. In this photo Obama shakes the hand of PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

Another petition set up by Berkley demanded that U.S. financial aid to the Hamas-run Gaza be dependent upon the release of a kidnapped Israeli soldier and the cessation of rocket attacks targeting Israeli civilians. The petition was posted after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the U.S. would give \$300 million to Gaza and \$600 million to the Fatah-run Palestinian Authority in Judea and Samaria. Berkley wants to attach strings to

funds going to the enemies of Israel but she has a fit when Republicans want to do the same on funding going to Planned Parenthood and the United Nations Population Fund. (The Jewish lobby is one of the strongest fighting to keep abortion legal. Since Berkley wants to mix her religious beliefs with politics, how would she react if Christians tied financial aid for Israel to the cessation of pro-abortion activism by the Jewish lobby?)



Heller

Far less notable Berkley petitions have had titles such as "Tell President Obama: Hold Banks Accountable," "Tell Dean Heller: Stop Insulting Nevada Hispanics," "Stop The 'Personhood Amendment' In Nevada!," and "Tell The Senate: Pass Paycheck Fairness Now."

Berkley continues her attempts to paint Heller as a leader in the "war on women." The Obama Administration had bowed to pressure from Christian organizations and agreed to give religiously affiliated entities the right to refuse to provide birth control coverage through their insurance plans for employees. In such cases, employers' insurance companies must offer coverage to female employees directly, without charging additional premiums. Berkley was highly critical of Heller for backing an amendment introduced by Senator Roy Blunt, R-Mo., that would have allowed employers with any moral objection to opt out of the birth control coverage requirement or any other service required by the 2010 healthcare law.

DEAN HELLER SUPPORTS RADICAL BLUNT AMENDMENT, RECONFIRMS EXTREME, ANTI-WOMEN AGENDA

BLUNT AMENDMENT SEVERELY RESTRICTS CONTRACEPTION, JEOPARDIZES BASIC CARE LIKE MAMMOGRAMS, MATERNITY CARE, HIV/AIDS TREATMENT

A banner from the Berkley campaign falsely accuses her opponent.

At this writing, Heller has a two to four point lead in the polls. If Berkley continues to talk, Heller's lead is likely to increase.

Berkley is not the only politician to use petitions as a tool for gathering names for fund-raising. She is simply one of the most prolific. Another person using the "petition" scam is seeking reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Deborah Wasserman Schultz, D-Florida, has a lot in common with her Nevada colleague. They have the same religious affiliation and their political views are virtually identical.

Wasserman Schultz came to the attention of pro-lifers when she actively opposed congressional intervention intended to save the life of Terri Schindler Schiavo (see *The Caleb Report* in 2003 [September-October, November-December], 2004 [January-February, September-October], 2005 [January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, and September-October]). LDI also issued seven press releases, which may be found at fightpp.org.



Schindler Schiavo gets a loving kiss from her mother in 2001.

The congresswoman accused then-President George W. Bush of hypocrisy because while governor of Texas he signed a bill allowing health care workers to withhold treatment at the point of “futility” and there is “no longer any hope of survival or of additional health care measures being used to sustain life.” (Medical professionals classify nutrition and hydration—the most fundamental needs—as “treatment.”) Life support could also be discontinued if the patient or family was unable to pay for the care being administered. According to the Cox News Service, the intent of the law was to “protect” medical professionals “in cases in which medical teams and patients’ representatives [family members, et. al.] disagree on treatment.” Wasserman Schultz noted that the law allowed doctors to remove life support from a six-month-old over the loud objections of the child’s family.

Schindler Schiavo starved to death on March 31, 2005, after which Wasserman Schultz released a statement:

The Congress is not an objective body. It is a partisan, political body. Our Members are not doctors or bioethicists. We are elected officials. The Congress is not the appropriate venue to decide end-of-life or any private, personal family dispute. That is why there are court reviews which allow for an objective evaluation of both sides of a dispute. The Congress was never designed for, and our Founding Fathers never intended, the body to make these kinds of decisions. What was lost in the midst of this debate was that this was not about pro-life interest groups, or about the parents or the husband. It wasn’t about the President, or the Governor, or the Republican or Democratic party. It was about a personal family tragedy. I am worried about the direction our country is moving in. I am worried when members of Congress and the President try to overstep over twenty court rulings on a case that had gone on for years. I am worried when special interest groups exploit a family tragedy for political and financial gain. I am worried when the federal government attempts to step between a husband and a wife because members of Congress believe they know better.

Sign Debbie’s Petition



Obamacare is the law of the land! Sign Debbie’s petition if you’re ready to protect it.

Hussein Obama II’s healthcare bill. “Obamacare is the law of the land! Sign Debbie’s petition if you’re ready to protect it.” Persons who click on the ad link are sent to the Wasserman Schultz campaign website.

The Wasserman Schultz campaign ad was headed, “Sign Debbie’s Petition.” The text regarded passage of President Barack

There are two banners on the petition page: 1) Debbie Wasserman Schultz for Congress” and “Tell Republicans; Stop Playing Politics With Our Health”. The text of the petition itself is quite simple, which is really all that is necessary if the goal is actually the gathering of names for fundraising:

PETITION: PROTECT HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Affordable Care Act is not about politics—it’s about my health. It’s about my family.

No one in this country should have to worry about going bankrupt if they get sick. Republicans and the Tea Party—STOP playing politics with people’s health.

Does anybody really believe Berkeley will send the “petition” to the Republican National Committee (RNC)? If so, she would surely try to make delivery of the document a media event—so the campaign can raise more money. But the reaction at the RNC would certainly be hilarity.



Wasserman Schwartz

Does anybody really believe Wasserman Schwartz, who is currently chairman of the Democratic National Committee, will do anything with her “petition” other than raise money? She makes no claim that it will be delivered to anyone. Yet the text implies the message is aimed at the Republican Party and the “Tea Party.” (Leftist politicians often try to associate the “Tea Party” with the Republican Party in the minds of voters.) What a con.

Are we actually suggesting that Berkeley and Wasserman Schwartz are intentionally misleading the public? After all, we do not want to be misunderstood. No, we are making no such *suggestion*. We are flatly accusing them. Unfortunately, many others are also engaged in similar misdeeds.

Note: LDI has often spoken out about the use of petitions that are actually a ruse to collect names for fund-raising (see “Petitions,” The Caleb Report, March-April 2010).

“WE DON’T NEED ANOTHER HERO”

The Spring 2010 edition of *Special Reports* is titled, “Shootout In The Grand Canyon State: Endorsement Raises Questions About Standards And Faithfulness.” It is an exhaustive look at the 2010 fight for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate seat held by John Sidney McCain III. Challenging the incumbent in the primary was John David “J.D.” Hayworth, Jr. After citing many examples of McCain’s failure to stand for pro-life principles, it became clear that Hayworth was the candidate truly worthy of support. Nevertheless, the political action committee of Arizona Right to Life (ARL) endorsed McCain—a move that angered many pro-life Arizonans, most of whom had been active in ARL for many years.



McShane

One demonstration of a secret disdain for the concerns of pro-life Americans came in an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" earlier this year. McCain was asked if he thinks "there is something of a 'war on women' among Republicans." In his response, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee referenced the Obama Birth Control Mandate, which has been opposed by pro-life and Christian groups:

I think we have to fix that. I think that there is a perception out there because of the way that this whole contraception issue played out—ah, we need to get off of that issue, in my view. I think we ought to respect the right of women to make choices in their lives and make that clear and get back onto what the American people really care about.

"Republicans should take the 'war on women' attack quite seriously," said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. "Created by pro-abortion groups and advanced by the media, it is designed to paint pro-life lawmakers as anti-women's rights. This strategy needs to be taken on with deliberate speed and skill." Scott said that ignoring the attack or otherwise failing to respond "with great vigor" will only allow it to spread and "make 'anti-women' synonymous with 'Republican.'"

Let us not forget that McCain is blaming his 2008 loss to Barack Hussein Obama II on running mate Sarah Palin. In fact, he has gone so far as to publicly mock and ridicule the former Alaska governor. In an appearance on "CBS This Morning" this past April, co-host Erica Hill asked McCain about potential running mates for Mitt Romney, R-Mass., who is the presumptive Republican nominee for President. "There's been some talk about the choice of a vice president for the eventual nominee and what that choice will entail," Hill began. "Sarah Palin has said that she thinks the nominee, if it is in fact Mitt Romney, should 'go rogue.' What's your advice?"



McCain laughing it up at Palin's expense on "CBS This Morning"

"I think it should be Sarah Palin," McCain responded—while laughing. Hill and co-host Charlie Rose also laughed at the tongue-in-cheek remark. In other words, doing so would be such a colossal mistake that even the thought is laughable.

After naming a few possible serious contenders who could join Romney on the Republican ticket, McCain laughingly said, "Obviously it's a tough decision"—a reference to the "mistake" he made in selecting Palin.

In an appearance on CNN's "Starting Point," host Soledad O'Brien asked McCain what advice he would give Romney as the presumptive Republican nominee for President prepares to select a running mate. McCain said

he would "obviously" tell Romney "not to rush for judgment, for one thing." McCain endorsed Romney's candidacy the day after former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum's stunning victory in the January 2012 Iowa Caucuses. McCain was not about to stand by and let the socially conservative Pennsylvanian win the nomination.



Dole

After losing the presidential election to William Jefferson Clinton in 1996, former U.S. Senator Robert K. Dole, R-Kan., made strong disparaging remarks about the Pro-Life Movement. He either blamed the Pro-Life Movement for losing the election, which is ridiculous, or the Republican leader was merely *politically* pro-life, but not *personally* pro-life. In other words, like McCain, the goals of pro-life Americans were not his goals. The plight of preborn children held an infinitesimal place in Dole's heart, if it was there at all. The same is apparently true of McCain.

"I have grown weary of politicians who demonstrate a lack of honor when it comes to pro-life principles," Scott said. "I used to say to myself, 'I don't believe anybody actually *deserves* to be President, but if anyone did, it would be John McCain.' I no longer feel that way because I have lost a lot of respect for the man."

McCain was particularly upset over interviews Palin did with Charles Gibson of ABC News and pro-abortion Katie Couric of CBS News. In the former, conducted in September 2008, Gibson asked Palin about the "Bush Doctrine":

Gibson: Do you agree with the Bush Doctrine?

Palin: In what respect, Charlie?

Gibson: What do you interpret it to be?

Palin: His world view?

Gibson: No, the Bush Doctrine enunciated September 2002 before the Iraq war.

Palin: I believe that what President Bush has attempted to do is rid this world of Islamic extremism, terrorists who are hell bent on destroying our nation. There have been blunders along the way though. There have been mistakes made. And with new leadership—and that's the beauty of American elections of course and democracy—with new leadership comes the opportunity to do things better.

Gibson: The Bush Doctrine as I understand it is that we have the right to a preemptive strike against any other country that we think is going to attack us. Do you agree with that?

After Palin made it clear that all options should be on the table when dealing with foreign countries, Gibson repeated the question, saying he had gotten "lost in a blizzard of words."



Couric (l) and Gibson

“John McCain picked a running-mate who had been spending her time dealing with state and regional issues, yet he apparently assumed Palin would know details about foreign policy that she

should not have been expected to know,” Scott said. “I follow politics quite closely and I did not know someone somewhere had given a name to the Bush policy (Was not his ‘if you’re not for us, you’re against us’ remark ‘The Bush Doctrine’?). This assumes, of course, that Gibson did not just make it up to intentionally embarrass the Republican ticket. The way he asked the question makes me think that was exactly what he wanted to do.”

Couric asked about Palin’s opposition to *Roe v. Wade*. She responded by saying abortion should be a matter left to the states. Couric asked Palin to name another decision of the Supreme Court with which she disagreed, but the candidate could not identify a specific case. Asked about the “morning after pill,” Palin said she is “all for contraception.” (The “morning after pill” is an abortifacient; not a contraceptive.) Couric also asked about the theory of evolution. Palin said it should be taught in schools as an “accepted principle.”

“And when it comes to establishing your world view, what newspapers and magazines did you regularly read before you were tapped for this to stay informed and to understand the world?” Couric asked. Palin could not name even one specific publication.



Clearly uncomfortable, Palin listens as Couric asks a question.

“Sarah Palin is not stupid; she is far from it,” Scott said. “But she did sometimes look like ‘a deer caught in the headlights.’ She was clearly unprepared for some of the questions, but not unreasonably so. Some of the questions were rather odd. But rather than pretending to know an answer, it would have been better if she had just said something about the question being rather obscure, where appropriate, or simply ask the reporter to clarify in such a way that the ruse could not continue.”

Scott offered an example regarding the “Bush Doctrine” question. “Governor Palin could have said many policies could be considered doctrines of President Bush. ‘Which one are you specifically referring to, Charlie?’ If she wanted to push back, Palin could have asked Charlie to say who had named the specific policy the ‘Bush Doctrine.’” But Scott said the bottom line is that the media was out to get Palin because of her conservative views. “While Palin could have controlled situations to a certain point, it is not as though reporters would have allowed her to look good regardless of what she did. To a large degree, the governor did not stand a chance.”

Scott said he is disgusted by McCain’s treatment of Palin. “What good does it do for McCain to blame the blameless? What good does it do to publicly ridicule your own pick for a running-mate?” Scott asked. “If Palin was a bad pick the ‘fault’ does not rest with the former governor. The people responsible were senior staff and advisors in the McCain presidential campaign and, most of all, the candidate himself. But the fact is that McCain did not lose the election because of his pick for vice president. Virtually any Republican would have lost because Democrats made the race a referendum on the Bush presidency.”

Palin had endorsed McCain’s campaign for reelection in 2010 even though her politics far more closely resembled Hayworth’s. Scott said he was disappointed when Palin endorsed McCain but understood her reasoning. “It’s too bad that loyalty is a street that runs only one way.”

Why has McCain been so awful—especially lately? “He is bitter but places the blame in the wrong place,” Scott theorized. “But the Senator does not have to defend his behavior to me. He can defend it to Jesus Christ when he stands before Him. And he can try to explain his unwillingness to be a hero for God’s preborn children.”

In 1985 singing legend Tina Turner released the theme song for the motion picture “Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome” called “We Don’t Need Another Hero.” Maybe we do not, but preborn children do—desperately.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for people active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have been weak in their claimed pro-life convictions (subject to change; updates at fightpp.org).

May: **Kenneth Cole**, chief executive officer of Kenneth Cole Productions Inc.; *June:* **John Andrew Boehner**, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who has not stood up to those insisting on continued funding of Planned Parenthood; and *July:* Planned Parenthood apologist U.S. Rep. **Rochelle “Shelley” Berkley**, D-Nev.

KIND WORDS OF ENDORSEMENT

It is always nice—and appreciated—to learn that one of the world’s most highly respected pro-life activists has publicly endorsed the work of LDI. Fr. Peter West is vice president for Missions at Human Life International. He had previously been associate director of Priests for Life.



Fr. West

Fr. West often responds to questions from laity via his Facebook page. One person wanted to know where an accurate list of corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood’s corporate supporters could be found. “Life Decisions International has the most reliable list of corporations and other organizations who support the abortion giant—Planned Parenthood,” Fr. West advised.

In response to the recommendation, Therese Sander (a Facebook “friend” of Fr. West), said the people at LDI “do their homework.” She continued:

I’ve personally written letters to corporation on LDI’s boycott [list] and received letters back that confirmed they do indeed donate to Planned Parenthood. If their boycott was still free, Planned Parenthood activists and supporters would make them [LDI] go broke fulfilling demands for the list. That’s why you have to make a donation to get it.

Another Fr. West Facebook “friend,” Phup Sieb, also backed LDI. “If you are serious, buy their [LDI’s] bi-yearly boycott list. Many corporations have stopped and PP has suffered much. Good!”

In November 2011 Fr. West posted an LDI press release which included the names of a dozen boycott targets. Initial responders thanked Fr. West for posting the information and asked where he had obtained it. Before he could respond, other people did so.

Earl Michels “dumped” his Amazon rewards credit card because it is administered by perennial boycott target JP Morgan Chase & Company “I asked them why they were donating to Planned Parenthood which kills babies, instead of increasing my rewards.” As is common for the company, his letter was ignored. Michaels also said Amazon.com is a boycott target. This is not the case; just its credit card is targeted because it is administered by Chase. Michaels noted that he has received several pieces of mail from Chase asking if he would like to reinstate his credit card account. (Somebody is apparently not quite getting the picture.)

Michels had a message for boycott target Whole Foods Market Inc. He noted the company’s high prices and made a suggestion. “Why not lower your prices and stop giving to Planned Parenthood...”?



Smith

Mary Smith posted a link to LDI’s website. “You can order the list online,” she wrote. “If you choose not to do business with one of these companies write them and tell them why! I promise it isn’t as hard as you think not to do business with many of these companies.”

Greg Stone suggested a focus on corporate shareholders. “Not sure not buying their products works, as they may not know you are boycotting. Who informs top management? On the other hand, if shareholders are asked to make a decision, the issue gains more profile. The shareholders, in theory, control the policy of the company.” Mary Smith responded to his comments:

Just remember to write them. Tell them you love their food, service, etc. but you can no longer give them a dime of your money until they stop giving to PP. LDI

gives the names and addresses of the *top* people to write to. I’m working on Nationwide at the moment. Our local rep had no idea they gave to PP. She is very pro-life and has contacted... [corporate leadership]. This is another good way to get the message across. Just remember to act as the face of Christ when contacting these folks. I’m very passionate about this [boycott] list, can you tell?

Stone will be happy to know that shareholder resolutions are one part of LDI’s strategy. The only problem is that corporate leadership most often controls a majority of the stock and others generally vote the way leadership suggests. He will also be happy to know that LDI is in regular contract with senior corporate officials.

“Isn’t [the] Johnson & Johnson contribution to Planned Parenthood somewhat of a contradiction?” asked Meghan Fry. As recipients of *The Boycott List* know, but most others do not, Johnson & Johnson’s birth control division (Ortho) has a lucrative contract with Planned Parenthood.



Coffey

Wade Coffey wrote, “Thank you Father! I have been *itching* for a reliable list. God Bless you!” He also said that “a person who effectively avoids shopping and doing business with any of these companies is probably well on the way to becoming a saint.” Coffey noted that “it is so nerve wracking to always feel like ‘gee I wonder if this is another company who seems to think killing God’s innocent ones is OK...makes you wanna be a monk, even if you *don’t* have that vocation.”

We are grateful to Fr. West and friends for their kind words. Thank you!

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Planned Parenthood applauds President Obama for his historic announcement on marriage equality... This president has been a steadfast ally for women’s reproductive health and rights and for the rights of all men and women to participate fully in society. Planned Parenthood believes that reproductive rights are deeply connected to civil rights for all Americans. We have long stood with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender [LGBT] people in the struggle for full equality—many of whom turn to Planned Parenthood for health care, information and education—and today we join LGBT communities to celebrate President Obama’s commitment to equality.”

—Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in an official statement backing President Barack Hussein Obama II’s endorsement of same-sex marriage, May 9, 2012

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