

Beyond the GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER







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25
JUNE 2017

INSIDETHISISSUE // PG1 // LIVING THE GREY SHIRT - 2015 HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT INDUCTEE, ROBERT WICKHAM // PG4 // LUCKY AND GIBBS, CLASSES OF '68 AND '69, ATTEND FIRST EVER FOBA EVENT // PG5 // IMAGES FROM FOBA AND KAIRI PEOPLE'S "BRING IT COOLER EVENT" / IMAGES FROM FOBA'S "SPLASH 5 COOLER CRUISE" // PG6 // FORM 3 CAREER DAY 2017 // PG7 // FOBA'S INAUGURAL ALL-FOURS TOURNAMENT // PG8 // WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPORTS / UPCOMING EVENTS.

Living the Grey Shirt – 2015 Hall of Achievement Inductee, Robert Wickham

INTERVIEWER: RAYMOND SAMMS

Robert Wickham attended Fatima College from 1981-1988. After graduating from MIT, he strode into Harvard Business School for his MBA; then maintained his meteoric trajectory across the world's business skies: globe-trotting as an airline specialist with Boston Consulting Group; founding a low-cost airline (later sold to EasyJet); joining a tech-based startup (sold to the giant Oracle); through this, taking his career to Australia for Oracle; finally pausing Down Under with the Cloud computing pioneer Salesforce.com.

Robert has blazed his way onto the world stage to make a most credible claim for the title of 'Fatima Renaissance Man'.

- What was the biggest bit of mischief you got up to during your years here?
 Some things are better left unsaid.
- Hmmm. You taught Form 1 Math at Fatima for one year. How about describing that experience in three words.
- A Exhilarating. Challenging. Rewarding.

- Who was the better cricketer: you or Lara?
 Brian was the better batsman. I was the better bowler!
- You have an accomplished sister whom the country admires—Lisa Wickham. Was there any 'rivalry' between you?
- As school kids, Lisa and I had the stereotypical love-hate relationship you would expect from Type A siblings. What is personally gratifying though is to see how our relationship has blossomed over the years where we are genuinely proud of each other's accomplishments and continually find ways to support each other—even though we live on the other sides of the planet.
- Your mother was a Principal. How did that reality shape you?
- A My mother was one of the most influential people in my life. "First things first", she used to say. And academics was always first—no compromise there. This instilled in me, from an early age, the

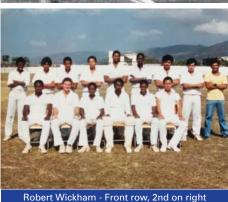


value of education and the benefits of lifelong learning.

- You are not only academically accomplished, but blessed with sporting and artistic skills. What were your major extra-curricular activities in Primary School, and when/how did you start? Who inspired and encouraged you?
- A I loved art and drawing as a child. Apparently, I had some talent. There's an infamous incident in our family where I submitted a painting of Lady & The Tramp for an inter-school competition and was disqualified because they didn't believe I did it! Pitching marbles was also a child-hood hobby—but I wasn't very good at it.
- What influenced your choice of Fatima College for Secondary School?

- Everyone around me insisted that I put CIC as my first choice. The pressure was intense. But for reasons I don't completely recall I was bent on going to Fatima. I was drawn to the reputation Fatima had at the time for producing rounded students and athletes. My mother, in the end, said it was my decision—provided I made the most of the opportunity.
- What are your best and worst memories when you think of your Fatima years... and other that thoughts come to mind?
- I don't have any bad memories from Fatima. Lots of great ones-from staging Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with Troy Gatcliffe & Kwame Ryan, to the inaugural Gary Sobers Cricket Tournament in Barbados. The friendships that were established and endure to this day are really the greatest treasure.
- How did you pull off that incredible balance of: academics (attaining a National Scholarship) with being an athlete; all-levels cricketer selected for National Under-19 duty with Brian Lara; Cadet Staff Sergeant; plus, achieving the distinction of Undefeated Calypso Champion? Surely some things faltered at times?
- I look back now and realize that that time between Forms 4 and 6 was probably the most focused I have ever been. It was easy for me then to filter out distractions-also, I didn't have to contend with the internet nor the interruption-driven life I now lead. In Forms 5 & 6, I spent a lot of





time at the school. I had two goals at that time: to win a National Scholarship, and to make the Under-19 National Cricket team.

I would arrive early to work on academics (Troy Gatcliffe and I commandeered the back of Fr Girod's office as a study zone) and stay late to practise cricket (sometimes by myself, bowling to one stump against the shed where the new 6 Form wing now sits...much to the annoyance of Fr. Power!). After that, I would get a meal from Mary (who would have cooked for the priests!) and then I'd spend a few hours studying before my Mum collected me around 8pm.

- What was your Calypsonian sobriquet? Did you write any songs? How about giving us a line from your favourite rendition?
- Can't remember if I had one; if I did, it obviously wasn't memorable! In the first year, my sister and I used the same song for our respective competitions (debatable to this day which one of us wrote it). I won, but she didn't...which was not a good domestic scene for quite some time. In subsequent years, I collaborated with Kwame Ryan. We took it very seriously, and even to the extent of having 'writing retreats' at his Dad's place down

the island.

Favorite line: "Power, power, power is de cry; the whole world of politics, is a lesson for you and I." Taking some grammatical/ poetic licence there, but a civics analysis still applicable today it seems.

- Which teacher positively impacted your school experience and life the most, and which one did you give the most trouble?
- There were many that positively impacted me. Mr. Ramdass gave me a hard time at cricket practice but I realize now that was his way of getting the best out of me. Mr. Garcia is probably the reason I discovered and went to MIT. I am eternally grateful



- to Mr Aloysius Joseph (RIP) who coached me through writing my MIT application essay while sharing many boneless rotis! Mr. Achille cultivated my love for Math and Science.
- How did you select the subjects that would lead to your career choice? When did you know what path you wanted to embark on professionally?
 - I interview prospective MIT students here in Melbourne and I always get asked this question. In hindsight, it was less me choosing the subject but rather the subjects choosing me. You are naturally drawn to subjects you are interested in. This creates passion, which allows you to get better at these subjects and reinforces the cycle. In the end, I advise the students I interview to focus less on specific subject and careers (unless you have a strong passion for a specific vocation such as medicine or law) but rather follow your interest and passions, and develop fundamental skills that will serve you well in life-skills such as resilience, ability to handle complexities, to learn, to break down a problem into first principles, etc.
- What is the one aspect of Fatima culture you hope will endure for the lifetime of the school?
- The balance between sporting and academic excellence.
- Give us a synopsis of your athletic and cricketing exploits at Fatima. What key rivalries do you remember? What is your most enduring memory?
- I always looked forward to Inter-Class football. I was a fantastic goalkeeper (in my own mind!). Most enduring memory is breaking my wrist while (as an under 14) trying to save shots from the First Eleven Team. My mother wasn't impressed.
- As a member of the T&T National Under-19 Cricket Team in 1987, you were captained by your classmate at the time, Brian Lara. Tell us about that time. What was your team position? What were the team dynamics like? Did you all sense that Brian would go on to be the global superstar that he did? Did you all ever prank him and do you keep in touch with Brian now?
- Playing for the under-19 team continues to be one of my fondest memories. Our first match was against the tournament favorite Barbados and the starting 11 was not to be announced until the morning of the game. Brian whispered to me the night before though that I was starting and to get prepared. I took an amazing div-

ing catch in fine-leg to dismiss star batsman Roland Holder, which I later learned cemented my position on the team for the remaining matches.

My other favorite memory was also from this first match. After T&T had dismissed Barbados for a low total, I sat next to Scott Rodriguez (both of us were batting low in the order) to relax and watch us chase down the total—at least so we both thought. Within a flash, we were both padded up as our lineup was succumbing to Barbados' ferociously fast bowling. Brian was still batting but was quickly running out of partners. Soon I was in the middle with him. With intense eyes, he greeted me with, "I don't care what you do, just get me the strike!" Not an easy task, because I couldn't even see the ball as it whizzed by! From my vantage point however, to see Brian dispatch that very bowler for multiple boundaries made it clear to me and all of us that he was not only a cut above, but headed for greatness.

Recently, Brian and I have been able to see a bit of each other as he loves to come to Australia for the golf season.

- Have you been able to maintain friendships with your classmates since school? Did your Class Year have a reunion?
- Many of my closest friends are from my Fatima days. Graham Fernandes attended MIT with me, during which time Troy Gatcliffe was also in Boston at Tufts University. Those years certainly strengthened our friendships and we remain in close contact to this day. I had the wonderful (and surreal) experience of seeing Kwame Ryan make his American debut in Houston as well as his Australian debut in Hobart!

My class' 25th reunion was the week that my family was moving from Boston to Australia so I couldn't attend. From all accounts, I missed a real treat. I try to get together with the boys each time I visit. Our class has a core group that plans reunions, and that has rekindled our class spirit. There is even a WhatsApp group, ripe with ole talk.

- After leaving Fatima, you attended MIT where you earned your Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Aeronautical Engineering. Explain that path and describe your time at such a prestigious institution.
- MIT was an incredibly intense and life-changing experience. The calibre of people (students and faculty) was inspir-

ing yet also intimidating. It was like a gym for the mind—a place where you get to exercise and develop certain fundamental strenghts. I made some wonderful friends there from various parts of the world. I was also fortunate to serve on the Board of Trustees after graduating which gave me insight into the inner workings of the institute, including how it maintains such a high standard.

- Since Americans do not play cricket, you decided to play squash while at MIT, during which time, the varsity team was one of the best in the country. Had you played squash before going to MIT? Was picking up squash challenging? What role did squash play in your MIT life?
- A Fr. Defour introduced me to squash the year I was teaching at Fatima and he encouraged me to consider playing at MIT. I remember as a varsity player the tradition that the older professors would come for a hit with the team and take ages to warm up. One professor sensed my frustration and told me "Son, one day you will understand." I have grown to truly love the sport and continue to play competitively in the Melbourne club circuit. Recently I was warming up with a young player and sensing his frustration with my lengthy process I realized I had come full circle.
- You have racked up quite the résumé over the years. What was the most challenging role and which was the most rewarding?
- My most challenging and rewarding role was when I took over running the North American Sales Team for the technology startup I was with in Boston called Empirix. I knew nothing about running a Sales Team, especially one in need of a turnaround. The GM who asked me to take on the role told me he had full confidence in my ability to figure it out. It was very rewarding to see many members of the team grow to become accomplished and successful. One took over leadership of the team when I left for Australia. Seeing people develop and blossom is ultimately the most gratifying part of any of my professional experiences. When that happens, all the other good things follow.
- I must ask...how do you: A. keep going at the pace you have; B. do so many different things from work to volunteerism; and C. maintain a full family life?
- A Well, it's not easy. As my career continues to progress, balance becomes more challenging. I am a creature of habit and routine (as my wife Kristin loves to remind





388 likes

bcl375400 Chilling on the 5th fairway at #nswgc with my Fatima College schoolmate Robert Wickham putting a beating on Graffy and Pete. #Sydney #scenic #golf #windyasrashole #highscores #titliest

me) which helps me restore balance on the weekend. I am learning to say "no" to more things—so as to create space to spend with family and to focus on priorities at work.

- In 2014 you received the MIT Alumni Association's highest award, the Bronze Beaver, which is bestowed on alums in recognition of distinguished service to the institute and/or its Association of Alumni and Alumnae. What did receiving this award mean to you?
- A MIT also played a big role in my life...so to receive this recognition was incredibly humbling and gratifying.
- The following year, you were a member of the inaugural batch of individuals inducted into the Fatima College Hall of Achievement. Not meaning to put you on the spot but how did this achievement feel?
- A This was also a tremendous honor and completely unexpected. It is quite special to be part of this distinguished inaugural batch with contemporaries such as Kwame, Ato and Brian.
- You currently reside in Australia and have an impressive spouse with whom you are raising two children. Could you

introduce them to us and give an insight into how family life has changed you.

Kristin is the yin to my yang. She is an incredible human being. She is a trained artist and is now exploring pottery. She is the rock of our family. Kristin was born in Boston to Australian parents (her Dad was completing his PhD in sociology at Harvard at the time) and grew up in Brazil (where her Dad did his post-doctoral research). As a result, Trinidad feels like "home" to her—especially our Carnival.

We met serendipitously through Fatima alumni Roger Philip (whose three sons also attended Fatima during my stint) at one of his Carnival parties in Melbourne. Our daughter Zoe is 13 and has her mother's artistic talents as well as a knack for academics. She also loves playing tennis. Benjamin (10) is obsessed with sport. He has decided he will focus on golf after he breaks Brian's batting record. I think he's probably the only kid who can claim to have played backyard cricket with both Brian Lara and Viv Richards.

- Your volunteering and philanthropy are driven by mottos similar to your work-philosophy, viz: "There's a lot of fulfillment knowing that you're working to move the needle in a positive direction". What then, are the future areas in which you wish to invest your time, effort and resources to have a community impact?
- I am focused on helping others get access to the type of education I had. It is a true superpower that can bend the curve of your life. That's why I interview prospective students for MIT, as well as financially support both MIT and Fatima.
- What do you see as the biggest challenge for the boys of this era, and what can Fatima do to support them?

Before I started interviewing prospective students for MIT, I asked the Dean of Admission which qualities they are looking for. He replied: "Resilience, intellectual curiosity and excellence." These are the qualities I try to instill in my two children. Resilience—the ability to overcome adversity, to get back up. Intellectual curiositythe passion for learning, a growth mindset. Excellence—the willingness to work hard to become great at something, to invest the 10,000 hours Malcolm Gladwell talks about in his book "Outliers".

But in today's world, many millennials find these qualities difficult to developespecially Resilience. Fatima provided



an ideal environment for me to work on these qualities at an early age through the combination of the various academic and extracurricular activities. Fatima should certainly continue to be intentional in instilling these qualities in the students.

- Do you return to Trinidad often, and what's the first thing you want to do after you land?
- When we lived in Boston we returned at most Christmas holidays. Since we moved to Australia five years ago, it's more challenging to return home frequently. We have only returned once in the past five years. Hoping to change that.

First thing? Get a Doubles at the airport, then go to KFC, regular not spicy. (Note: I never eat KFC anywhere else on the planet!)

- How do you eat your Doubles? What is your 'sauce mix', and where is your favorite Doubles spot?
- Long Circular Road for convenience, as its next door to where my Mum lives. 'Slight', with everything.
- How do you satisfy your need for Trini culture on your side of the world? Is there a Roti Shop in Melbourne, or a Caribbean Carnival? Maybe an All Fours lime, or you get to occasionally drink a Stag or Carib that a friend 'smuggled' in for you?
- Sadly no Roti Shops in Australia. Roger Phillip is the de facto Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago in Australia. He does a wonderful job bringing the locals together often at his house for Trini fare. He also organizes a Carnival section in the annual Melbourne Moomba Parade (which celebrates multiculturalism). I am still perfecting my mother's curry recipe.

Any closing comments?

Even though I now live on the other side of the planet, I still feel a very strong connection to Trinidad and especially Fatima College. I am deeply grateful for the formative experience, and the enduring friendships.



Lucky and Gibbs, Classes of '68 and '69, attend first ever FOBA event

What happens when you curry a stew? You really don't know until you try it! Which is exactly what these two adventurous Fatima Old Boys experienced when they attended the FOBA 2017 Inaugural All Fours Tournament. Despite neither having a partner for the day, nor ever having attended a FOBA event before, they both showed up and jumped into the pot together as the stew-curry duo naming themselves "Lucky Gibbs"

Meet Keith Lucky (Class of '68) and Martin Gibbs (Class of '69). Keith was invited by Noel Aming with whom he had worked at Maritime, and Martin was pulled into the loop through Facebook by his son. The power of the FOBA network in action!

Take a moment to realise that these guys came into Fatima before 1970—when the field was a cow-patch, there used to be academic streaming in the 2nd term of Form 1 (now only Form 3), and 10-cents would get you a juice and a cake!! Keith recalls class mates such as Everard 'Gally' Cummings, Glen Sealey and Keith Simpson: while Martin wonders where Bruce Labarry is, and will never forget the buss-head Wayne Agostini bestowed on him.

Contrasting then to now, the guys shared their love of the College and how "Fatima made you feel like everyone was equal"; but quietly admitted that "It was better than school these days, as the discipline was better." Now, they are looking forward to hearing about reunions, and meeting more guys from their years. Contact Keith at knettts@hotmail.com/620-0716 and Martin at sledge301@gmail.com/786-0810

Boasting 12 wins on Tournament Day, a couple of Hang Jacks, and connecting with other alumni they can now call Friends... these guys emerged among the day's Real Winners—'with 12 points to go!'

Images from FOBA and Kairi People's "Bring It Cooler Event"

held on Wednesday 18th January 2017



Images from FOBA's "Splash 5 Cooler Cruise" held in collaboration with

Holy Name Convent Alumni Association and St. Francois Girls' College Alumnae, on Wednesday 22nd February 2017



Form 3 Career Day 2017

FATIMA'S ANNUAL FORM THREE CAREER EXPO TOOK PLACE ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE TRINITY TERM (THIRD TERM), ON WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2017. BUILDING ON THE GAINS MADE BY THE REVISED 2016 FORMAT, THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. THE PARENT TEAM ONCE AGAIN ROSE TO THE OCCASION.AS THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR TASK IN A VERY PROFESSIONAL WAY.

Starting with a brainstorming meeting early in the second term, the Parent Team then surveyed the third formers to determine their main areas of interest. In quick time, they were then able to put together the presenters for the various displays, and later, where and how each booth would be laid out.

The Expo theme this year was "My Future, My Career, My Responsibility". The day's proceedings began with an opening prayer by our Principal Father Gregory Augustine, followed by a welcome address by Form 3 Class Teacher Mr. Seaton.

A major highlight of this year's Career Day was the feature address by noted Fatima Old Boy and Trinidad and Tobago's most successful track athlete Ato Jabari Boldon, former 200m World Champion and four-time Olympic Medallist. He emphasized not being afraid to fail and to stay dedicated, never giving up. Ato totally captivated the boys' attention in his presentation as he focused on the various areas of sports, pursuing your dreams, and the importance of an education.

After a small break, the boys visited the different career booths. Several companies participated in the Expo and provided brochures and interactive sessions on their specific areas of industry/commerce. The booths were both informative and educational, and the professionals present shared information to help educate and enlighten the boys on subjects required to enter their preferred profession.

There were 22 booths at the Expo: from MRI of Trinidad and Tobago (who offered the expertise of both a General Practitioner, two (2) Radiologists and several radiology technicians) to UTT's Music Technology Department and Hott 93. Skilled vocations were represented by the mechanic Bad Granny (a notable favourite among the boys) and plumbing in The Water Source booth.

Also present: Look Opticians, RAPSO Imaging, Full Circle Animation and Trinidad and Tobago Pilots' Association for Marine Pilots who all opened the boys' eyes to career paths they might not have even considered. ALTIS Performance Evaluation provided information on Sports Psychology, Sports Medicine and Movement Mechanics; Sheppard Securities



and ACCA Caribbean were on display in the areas of finance, accounting and investment; and T&TEC and Petrotrin demonstrated in the various aspects of engineering.

The world of aviation was presented by PRO ATS (who provided a flight simulator for practice), the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard (decked out in full uniform) and Caribbean Airlines Limited. The Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects was represented by several architects, many of whom (as at most of the booths) were Fatima alumni, very proud and happy to give back to our school. Also present were tertiary level education institutions, e.g. UWI, UTT and Hugh Wooding Law School.

A great deal of positive feedback was received from the boys after the event, and we feel assured that they left the Expo knowing that, with a good education and hard work, their futures will be bright, productive and successful, virtually no matter where their career path takes them.

By **STRIVING**, these Form Three Fatima Boys shall CONQUER! Nitendo vinces!



FOBA'S Inaugural All Fours Tournament 2017

IT WAS SUCH AN OCCASION OF HIGH, LOW, HANG JACK, GAME!

CONGRATS TO TEAM "ON ZERO" ON WINNING FOBA'S INAUGURAL ALL FOURS TOURNAMENT 2017!!

This was a truly fierce competition—among teams comprising of men and women, of all ages and backgrounds, coming together for the fun of the game, plus the chance to win the Grand Prize of \$3,000 cash.

With names such as "String Him Up", "Star Boys Doh Dead", and "Four Kings", the players in this year's first-ever tournament came determined to win (some even in their own bravely branded team jerseys!).

In the end however, only one team could win... and this year, it was Team "ON ZERO"—made up of Kevin Crosby and Kieron Loregnardwho took down team after team on their way to the title.

FOBA wishes to thank everyone who participated in this year's event, and everyone who made it possible—including: all our sponsors (Albrosco, Angostura, Bryden, Classic Awards Ltd, Hand Arnold, Pi, Woo Ling's Supermarket, Xtra Foods), suppliers, and members of the

Events Committee who also worked so hard to make it a success.

We at FOBA look forward to next year, and similar 'camaraderie'-type events in the future.

For those of you who could not make it to the Tournament, check out the photos on our Facebook Page and FOBA website.

Surprise of the day: nobody raised the matter of 'holding Trump'!



What's happening in Sports

HOCKEY 2016 SEASON RECAP

BY STACEY SIU BUTT - Fatima Hockey

Coach

2016 will be recorded as the most historic year the Fatima Hockey Team have experienced. Their achievements were unsurpassed as they copped all the major titles and awards in the Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board U16 and U 20 Outdoor and Indoor competitions. They were the first school to win a DOUBLE DOUBLE!

The combination of the national players as well as the uncapped players proved to be an unbeatable and unstoppable force for their opponents to overcome. The incredible skills and prolific goal-scoring ability of **Teague Marcano** created numerous challenges for Fatima's opponents. Teague was chosen as the Trinidad and Tobago Secondary Schools "Player of the Year", scoring the most goals as well as claiming the Most Valuable Player Award in both the indoor and outdoor competition. He was also nominated as the Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board "Junior Player of the Year", and represented the sport in the First Citizen's Sports Award Ceremony.

Notable mention must also be made of **Marcus Pascal** who was voted as one of the Top 5 Secondary School Players of The Year, and **Joshua Nieves** who won the award for The best keeper in the outdoor competition.

In the Indoor Competition, **Adian Marcano** won Most Goals in the U16, while **Michael Wong Sing** won the award for The Best Keeper in that division.

In 2016, Fatima College certainly established an outstanding and exceptional record and sounded a serious warning to other schools that they will be a force to reckon with in the future.

* National Duty: Teague Marcano and Marcus Pascal were selected to the Trinidad and Tobago National U-21 Hockey Team that participated in the Junior Men's World Cup Qualifier in Toronto.

TRACK AND FIELD MARCH 2017

Fatima College won the title of Champion Track and Field Team at the Port of Spain District Track & Field Championship

Champion Under-16 4x400m Relay Team

• Ryan De Abreu, Daniel Constantine, Che Nanton, Matthew Newallo

Champion Under-16 800m Athlete

Nathaniel Mouttet

Champion Open 5000m Athlete

Luke Gooding

Silver Medalists

- O Under-18 4x400m Relay Team
- Saeed Pompey, Samuel Conliffe, Michael Lezama, Kion Benjamin

Bronze Medalists

- o Under-21 4x100m Relay Team
 - Kaelon Leggard, Kevin Campbell, Matthew Serrant, Josiah De Leon

APRIL 2017

2017 TTSSTFA (TT Secondary Schools' Track & Field Association) National Track and Field Championship

Champion Under-14 4x100m Relay Team

 Drew Wilson, Chaim Williams, Asafa Ellis, Isaiah Gemon

Champion Under-16 4x400m Relay Team

 Meshach Taylor, Daniel Constantine, Che Nanton, Saeed Pompey

Champion Under-14 Shot Put

• Isaiah Gemon

Champion Under-16 Shot Put

• Gyasi Boisson

Silver Medalist

- o Under-16 1500m
 - Nathaniel Mouttet

Bronze Medalists

- o Under-16 100m
 - Daniel Qui
- o Under-18 1500m
 - Andwele Welch

Upcoming Events



Letters to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters
to the editor of FOBA Newsletter
"Beyond the Grey Shirt" can email
their contributions to:
contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt

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