My nights at the cyber meat market

What it's like to go on an Internet manhunt.

Sharan Bass' story begins on page 10

INSIDE

Dressing up the Old Port page 6
Cross-dressing for the taxman page 25
Cross-dressing for the girls page 32
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TALK
A CONVERSATION WITH SUE GHELLI

They have a card. Every time you get 10 gallons of gas, you get your card stamped, and when the card is full, you get a discount.

So you didn't have to do anything special?
No, it's not a special recognition. I just asked how I got my card up. They gave me my name and we got on the drawing.

Did you get any perks with your award?
Well, it's 5 dollars off. You get 5 dollars off anything, could be gas, coffee, food, anything. I got 5 dollars off. After using my name, my people have been telling me, congratulations, congratulations, you're customer of the week. What did you do?

Did they know that you didn't have anything other than buy gas?
No, they didn't know.

Have you ever been honored before?
No, they didn't know.

Did they know that you didn't really do anything other than buy gas?
No, they didn't know. I asked them what I needed to do.

Have you ever been honored like this before?
Not as a regular person off the street. As this one says, my kids got a kick out of it and their friends, too, saying, "What? This really happened?" I put gas in my car and got 5 dollars off. After seeing my name on the drawing, congratulations, congratulations, you're customer of the week. What did you do?

Are you more loyal to the Bowe Avenue Clipper Mart than before you were honored?
Yeah, I think it's good public relations. It makes me feel good that the employees actually recognize you as a customer. Makes you want to go back again. I've been going there about a year. I go because of the employees and the employees are really nice. And at one time, the gas was the cheapest around. Now they're a little more.

How does one become the customer of the week?
I asked. And I said, "Can I have my name up?" And they said, "Tell them your name and their employee will do the drawing, and one of the employees will draw your name." And that's how you become customer of the week.

Su~ GheU, 41, owns Clipper Mart's customer of the week for March 28-29. It is a gas station and mini-shop on Bow~ Avenue in Portland. She has had a Clipper Mart for several years, and drives a Lexus. The gas station and mini-shop is about a year. She works for the Portland Public School system and her name up, people have been telling me, congratulations, congratulations, you're customer of the week. What did you do?

Did they know that you didn't really do anything other than buy gas?
No, they didn't know. I asked them what I needed to do.

Have you ever been honored like this before?
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Skin Solutions from Plastic & Hand has you keep your skin looking its best with the latest medical advances in facial aging management, skin rejuvenation, specialized facial therapies and peas, acne management, microdermabrasion and more. It's obvious that's always tailored to your needs, and with our professional aestheticians working hand-in-hand with our physicians to give you the highest personalized care.

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**STATE STREET CHURCH**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

9:30 am - What Easter Means to Me

Passion James Fletcher and Sophie Calvin and the choir celebrates the risen Christ

11:30 am -

Contemporary Praise and Celebration

with the 1-Street band

EASTER BREAKFAST 7:30-9 AM

MISSION BOARD MEETING

STATE STREET CHURCH

159 STATE STREET, PORTLAND

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**COP on beat**

Still no explanation on police blackout

Ljune 20th, 2003, Lincoln Park, one woman and Gary Wood, the city's attorney to explain why the Portland Police Department continues to defy the law by keeping some 911 calls under wraps. We often talk about our need for an explanation, but Wood apparently didn't have time to respond. Busy, perhaps with yet another police brutality suit.

There is some good news, however. The six women we've had to work for this police report, but when we went to collect it Monday morning, March 25, records showed that 32 were ready available. Still, there was no indication of what help was.

March 24.

The lead note is that the report is still not a priority from the police department's program. Instead, since your read has been added to read the log and type of police action in a spreadsheet, you must have taken these to sample. And there is no way to tell if anyone was arrested, or who was. All we get at the hands of the calls.

This means if you lose or an apartment house someone has a neighboring apartment calls the cops in the event, to report an incident, your address will be published. And everyone in the building could be considered a suspect by anyone reading the police blotter, including your mother.

The other problem with this is that if the spreadsheet, called "Calls for Service," is selected for us, it will be an output of the logs. Because of this, there are many spelling errors and the log for any specific occurrence is not a report on the individual but a report of all cases. It often makes a couple of calls to another office.

We can tell you that between March 17 and March 25, there were 24 DOMESTIC disputes and two for DOMESTIC violence. There was only one record of DRUNK DRIVING and one for DOMESTIC violence. There were also three for DRUG OVERDOSE, one DRUG DECLINE, one for DRUG/ALCOHOL and one DRUG/SALAMANDER, which was listed as Non-Park Ave.

The DISORDERLY conduct, one at 22 Portland St, and four discreetly with no report, and four discreetly with no report, and two discreetly with no report, and two discreetly with no report, and two discreetly with no report, and two discreetly with no report, and two discreetly with no report.

The result is that if the department has decided to fill in the log, then it must be filled in.

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From Plastic & Hand

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The Matchmaker is a member of the Better Business Bureau

ASK ABOUT OUR SINGLES NIGHT!
**Beer goggles**

A group of Portland bar owners plans to change the Old Port's sometimes filthy image.

---

**PRIVATE EDUCATION**

**New school in town?**

Saying that Portland Public School officials are too focused on ringing up another attendance, parents are looking to create their own school.

With the private Hill School on Munjoy Hill closing this spring as a result of the school year, coupled with the general downsize of Portland's public school system, a small band of parents is trying to start up an alternative school to begin this September.

The initiative comes from Susan Webster, whose 7-year-old daughter attends Hill, one of the parents helping Webster with the new school project. "As a parent, we would want our daughter to go to public school," said Webster.

Though in the latest stages, the Hill School plan will be followed also similar models rooted in other cities, including Boston, Seattle and Washington, D.C., said Riseman. He said part of the project would include ending the practice of offering classes to students who have been expelled from other schools. "This is the time to step in and put together a school," he said.

Riseman, who has been involved in the Old Port's lively bar scene and the neighborhood's say, has been an influential force in making the Hill School possible. "I see it as a way to keep the Old Port's bar scene and the Old Port's history of being a place of artistic expression alive."

---

**Medical care in Portland**

The Portland Regional Hospital is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a $5 million grant from the Health Foundation of Maine. "This is a great opportunity for us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients," said Hospital President Dr. John Green. "We are committed to ensuring that all Portlanders have access to the best possible care."
TRAFFIC VIOLATORS

Cacky cops? Or one Portland's finest just doing his job.

Erik Peterson and his three-year-old son, Charlie, were walking down Congress Street Monday evening when they noticed a police cruiser go by.

"I asked him why they were pulling over everyone, and he said they were checking for speed," Peterson said. "But it didn't look like the cruiser was doing anything wrong." He said he was surprised by the number of cars being pulled over and the way some of them were going.

"I thought it was kind of a joke," Peterson said. "But when I got home, I found out it was February 14." He said it was a reminder that Valentine's Day is coming up.

"I hope they don't catch my son," he said with a laugh. "But I think it's pretty funny."
**My nights at the cyber meat market**

What it’s like to go on an Internet manhunt

Harlow Bass

"Who wants to date a liar?" I shot back to my emaciated, shriveled-up-e-date, whose online photo depicted a thin, attractive man wearing an ascot.

Condo Sleaze

This one needs No. 1. It looks like a price package. It can even impress your imaginary that for extra swapping spittles with your thin ascot-toting candidate.

---

I was looking for love on the Internet. It’s not easy to find your perfect mate—so even when

It’s not easy to find your perfect mate—so even when

Another problem, men tend to carry a lot of baggage around with them. See the thing is, they don’t know they do. They’re full of people with ample time and dreams to

It always starts the same way. One removes contact with the other through the e-dating site’s messaging mechanism. Or

Mr. Just a Few Pounds Overweight

I actually made the initial contact with Mr. Just a Few Pounds Overweight (I will grant them all numbers to protect their identity). As is all described in his profile type. I pointed out that I flattered this contact, because before long I felt shifting out the real bunch, which means I led you to be corrected.

Mr. JPO was very handsome. He was a real E-Richard in his online photo. Turned out he was a disappointed man. He didn’t take very good care of himself. Mr. JPO had me for a few bad marriages. He was a client master. His second wife was an alcoholic and he had a lie at the first contact. He was handsome. Yes, you need to look up in the face.
and he left the truck to pee but he had a much harder time with you hit the jackpot.

and I mean small of course wouldn't notice his small stature. The thing is, I really didn't have given a damn about his size. It was crack jokes. I think he figured if he kept me laughing, I

it than I did. During our two-date relationship, all he did was crack jokes. I think he figured if he kept me laughing, I was going to get a date with him.

I was near-death experience. This poor soul was a hot fucking candle. His tiny mouth was a quip. We both were

Sitting next to him in his car, I remarked that his thighs were smaller than mine, thinking I was being kind.

Sir Logorrhea

Now this guy I felt sorry for. He couldn't stop talking about everything, which was really nothing. Sir Logorrhea was kind. Very, very lonely.

No, he didn't say he was small. It was crack jokes. I think he figured if he kept me laughing, I was going to get a date with him.

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Mr. (Oops, I Forgot to Mention) forgot to mention that he was not divorced (his personal ad stated he was).

Mr. Nashua Man

After PsychoPig, I cleaned up my act. I got into a scheme I followed my instincts more faithfully. The next cyber candidate I agreed to meet was actually a nice 'guy' with whom I had a flippant snark relationship. The biggest difference was that Nashua Man lived in Nashua, N.H., a nearly 2-hour schlep from door to door. This lured him more than it got me, OK, he did most of the driving, but it did make it

Nashua Man, at 6 feet 6 inches, was the tallest e-man I met. This made standing-up kissing the way he'd analyze everything to death. He seemed spineless about the way he dumped me. That kind of surprised me.

Over Christmas, he called from his cell phone en route to Logan airport. He was going to be late. He said he wanted to save his wife's life. He had lost his teen son years ago in a car crash. His daughter, who was 55 claimed — he was not even close to severing emotional ties with her. He was trying to see her with his new boy, who he said had a monster penis in a city's 13th bathroom, who was in the driver's wheel, involved badly smashed.

"This guy really isn't married, is he?" I asked him.

"No," he replied. I simply dropped my voice and started the music.

Mr. Nashua Man was an engrossing story-teller. Tall, foreign accent in wavy dialect, the arts, food, and a super-smooth operator. He told me I was a quickie, that I know what I was doing and I wanted to be.

The last time I heard from him, he called from his cell phone on route to Logan airport. He was going to be late. He said he wanted to save his wife's life. He did offer. But he never called me. So I continued but looking for an explanation. He claimed he couldn't really have his anorexic wife. She was losing even more weight, according to the facts. You see, he didn't know how I would turn out with his allegedly ugly wife and I was "too beautiful and wonderful to wait." For him.

Trying to withdraw

I was thinking of giving up on my search for my perfect one. Instead, I kept meaning more. I had become isolated. I went through another wave of more meetings after Mr. OPHM. It was a new crop of one-two other girls, two new ones. Another one gig! He offered a slightly soaring tupee, a poly- 1000

وفي

Mr. OOPS, I Forgot to Mention

He warned me, "We sorted out. We tried but it just wasn't possible. He told me it was never truly the money but it was the relationship. His ex-girlfriend was a nurse. He said he couldn't move in. He was afraid of shutting me up.

Mr. Nashua Man was 55. He liked young women. He wanted his women tall and thin and very beautiful. He disliked exes or he could see his sailboat. I opted for the

Mr. Nashua Man's voice broke as he tried to explain to me how much pain he was in. That while he was physically separated from his second wife- a severe

So, is it worth it? All the messaging and phone calls. All the dates. Scoring about each person. Talking about your own past e-relationships. Getting disappointed over and over again.

One concern said to me before our first meeting, "We all come into this with high expectations. We want the next person to be the right one. We want to feel that click. But the reality is, 99 percent of the time these relationships don't work out.

And in another sense (one has since become a friend) painted out, "In real life most relationships don't work out either." So, push, I guess it's worth it. It's fast, it's actually easy work (sometimes) — and it may have for me — but that's another story.

Sharon Jones can be reached at sharon@mainetoday.com.


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"One man's trash is another man's treasure!"
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A Beautiful Voltron

Portland's A Giant Robot rides the line between rock and stick, and schizophrenia.

In 1997, Portland's A Giant Robot was the first band to release a song for the then crippled Portland State Union, where the group's co-founder and bassist, Mark High, was a student. The band, known for their energetic performances and diverse musical influences, has been featured in publications such as the Portland Press Herald and the Portland Oregonian. A Giant Robot's music is a melting pot of rock, punk, and electronic music, with influences ranging from classic rock to experimental indie. The band's lyrics often touch on themes of personal struggle and social commentary, and their live shows are known for their high energy and interactive stage presence. A Giant Robot is truly a unique and talented band, and their music is a testament to the power of creativity and perseverance in the music industry.
MUSIC

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THURS: NOON
SUN - 2PM
MON - TUES: 9-11PM
FRI - SAT: 9PM
KARAOKE
SAT: NOON - 2PM
SUN: NOON
MARCH LINE UP:
April 24 4:80PM - 10PM
READERS OBITUARY LITTLE EDITION
Prime Cut

In the tradition of high octane, moody electric rock bands like Lord Baltimore and Kyuss comes Swear To Kill. The Portland-based outfit has been busy working on their album for the last year and a half, and they are ready to unleash their powerful and heavy sound on the crowded and raucous town. Swear To Kill's set is sure to be a highlight of the night.
EARTH, WIND & FIRE

Fridays at the House of Blues, 125 Commercial St., Portland, 7 p.m./$10.

CANDY, SALSA, ICE CREAM, ICE, SODA, PAPER, CHIP'S, SODA, WINE, BEER, PAPERS, TOBACCO, NEWSPAPERS, MUGS, ALCOHOL BEVERAGE, WINE & LIQUOR, BEER, SALT & PEPPER, CANDY, ICE CREAM, SODA, CHIPS, PAPER, WATER, WATERFRONT WINE, BEER, & ASSOCIATES

About: GORDON LIGHTFOOT

Gordon Lightfoot is one of those musicians that others in the industry can't help but praise. One of Bob Dylan's favorites, Lightfoot is responsible for country-fried folk tunes that have been covered by Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Cash and Sanitui McLachlan. Recently inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame — which is more of a special — the old man is back on the road, performing classics like "Carefree Highway" and "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." Stay lightfooted at Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, 8 p.m. Tix: 727-5073.80, 842-0800.

Wednesday, April 3

HOWARD NORMAN

"The Haunting of L. F.," the newest novel by Howard Norman, is the third in his series of stories based on1890s, Algonquin Canadian natives. The author is known for his lyrical prose, "The Blackbird," and his novel, "The Long Hot Summer," and his novel, "The Long Hot Summer," is a collection of stories that examine the complex relationships between men and women.

Sunday, March 31

KITTIE

Canadian rockers Kittie is no harmless, household pet. The all-female band is pure metal — thunderous and scathing. The band is responsible for country-fried folk tunes that have been covered by Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand and Michael Franti.

Tuesday, April 2

Washington, D.C., artist James Goodman's multimedia works, influenced by his travels through Asia, will be on display during "Imagery", at the Hoy Gallery, 204 Congress St., Portland, from 5 p.m. at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

HOWARD NORMAN

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Thursday, March 28

SPEARHEAD AND SAUL WILLIAMS

Spearhead's lead singer Michael Franti got his start playing bass in the '80s outfit the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy. Since 1994, Franti has hosted his own radio show on the band's label and released several albums. The concert will feature the band's latest release, "The Sound of a Train," which showcases the group's eclectic blend of genres.

Sunday, March 31

GORDON LIGHTFOOT

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DANCE

Contemporary Tour, April 2 and 3, 6 p.m. See Center for Cultural Exchange for address and other Pacific Northwest dates. Tickets are $30.

 отдalak union, the non-profit Edward Albee Foundation presents two performances of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 2. 325 Congress St., Portland. Tickets are $25-$30.

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, March 28

Life Pause Theater: The last picture of our generation, at 8 p.m., Thursday, March 28. The event is free. 24 Exchange St., Portland. For information call 797-2050.

Friday, March 29

Supernatural Theatre, "Man of War," at 8 p.m., Friday, March 29. Tickets are $12. 24 Exchange St., Portland. For information call 797-2050.

Sunday, March 31

Supernatural Theatre, "Man of War," at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday, March 31. Tickets are $12. 24 Exchange St., Portland. For information call 797-2050.

LISTINGS

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle," at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 2. 325 Congress St., Portland. Tickets are $25-$30.

The Southern Maine Chorale seeks singers of all ages and skill levels, at 7 p.m., Monday, April 1. 40 Main St., Bath, 341-3413.

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VISUAL ARTS

OPENINGS AND EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Tina Melani, 322 Congress St, Portland. Opening of "Travelling Man," an exhibition of works by contemporary women artists. Admission by donation. 1-4 p.m. Call 780-1345.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Jane M. Bridge Gallery, 145 Congress St, Portland. Opening of "Artists of New England," a juried exhibition of works by local artists. 5-7 p.m. Call 781-7566.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7


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The Edge of the Sea, 315 Ocean Ave, South Portland. Opening of "Remembrance," a group exhibition of works by Maine artists. 1-4 p.m. Call 781-7566.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Arco Galley, 103 Wharf St, Portland. Opening of "The Art of Food," an exhibition of works by local artists. 5-7 p.m. Call 781-7566.

A BAKER AND A PHOTOGRAPHER STRUT THEIR WORKS

The art gallery at the Clive often serves drinks by Sophites, a nearby bakery run by Stephen Lanzalotta. For upcoming shows, the bakery's paintings will be on display in the gallery. Lanzalotta's luminous oil paintings are part of an exhibit that also features photographs of targets by Jan Peter van Voorn van Brecht. The artist's works show a sense of boldness, but nothing else.

Lanzalotta's compositions on exact Hasselblad are defined by their smooth shapes and subtle interaction of colors. Van Voorn van Brecht's photographs contain a full range of hues, from blue to black, breaking a dramatic mood to the world. The artist's strengths are so similar it's possible Lanzalotta's paintings and van Voorn van Brecht's photography can actually compete with, rather than complement, each other in a gallery setting. This would be unfortunate, because considered individually, both artists' works are transcendent.

Lanzalotta paints with tools he's used during his 30 years as a baker and a carpenter, applying and manipulating paint with a wide, 6-inch brush, identical to the one he uses to cut dough.

"I'm very adept with that tool," said Lanzalotta. "The tools apply the paint and remove it, and I lay layers and shapes of color, adding them. Though building multiple layers may not be the ideal solution, I'm creating a product that can't be done with a brush."

He achieves composition effects, the "painting, "metallic," which means exploration in a balder, exemplifying the same light and shade-dimensions in Lanzalotta's work. The orange and yellow hues are the colors best the eye loves and leaves the texture, revealing the palette as a sculpture, resembling the inside of a Chinese lantern.

Other pieces in the show, such as "Nude" and "Considerate," don't have the same level of incandescence. Instead, they possess lush layers and combinations of colors evoking a strong, similar appearance.

Van Voorn van Brecht's photographs present Mexico as a world of dark contrasts, a world of colorful bynades or phalanxes, as "High Noon," a lone cowgirl in a white shirt and a hat, sweating down on empty stre. The title obviously references the 1950s movie starring Gary Cooper, and the artist's acknowledgment of the exaggerated drama in his compositions. "High Noon," a world of early white light covers a young girl. The city round, invisible features seem too daring for the harsh light. This juxtaposition augments the photographs' bold context and sharpens its mood.

Van Voorn van Brecht and Lanzalotta could each have solo shows. The benefit of working together is not apparent. But the benefit of going to the gallery is obvious — they will almost surely serve bread from Sophites.

COMPETITION OF BOLDNESS
Daisies springing up from the north

Although these Canadians have found their hometown community and made a couple of West Coast outings, the group is currently in the midst of its first tour out of the Maritimes. The past couple of days in Portland, March 28 at least, has been something like a band originating from such chilly locales should ultimately expect from Portland, and while it’s a different role of the band’s enormous nation rather than our own, we’re wishing no stranger as to the made-it-half-wonder-finding — stuff like that and bodies.

I asked. Daisy princess Rachael Van Zanten, speaking via telephone from Niagara Falls, N.Y., whether the girls are feeling fine.

"Yes," she said. "Cut Glimmer." According to Van Zanten, the forest for packlices exotic trees and flowers throughout the three for the music in Edmonton.

"This isn’t really heavy or a hub for performing bands."

She said. "While the local music community is very self-supportive, as far as writing, bands go, a lot of them focus on, particularly the major-label acts, which profit less to spend on Vancouver and Toronto."

So how did the band originate, anyway? Van Zanten, who wrote half the songs — those not composed by the group’s namesake, Daisy Blue Cuff — said the impetus came toward the end of the group when the second waves were to college. Since both played on the basketball team, "We had a group-scheming day," she said. Van Zanten. "We’d bring our guitars into the locker room before practice. Obviously we were the only ones there on the teams."

After college, the two friends drummer Kim Greer and bassist Cassidy Fornwald. Since they were.Index, the group lives next to the Cook. The current core, "The band meets every week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday night, and creates musical flavors. Tenet Line," a brand new, who’s a "Carpenters" kind of band.

Then there’s the music video for the "99 Red Balloons, "she said. "Walking Down Lin," the latest featuring my sister, which is a guitar playing memory of Van Zanten and the other girls when "the Thought and "the Mellow Blues."

The band now co-ops day-to-day living, stylishly called "Sheep." Although these styles are not together any more, Van Zanten said. "The new album will be a bit more focused, with at least one song that’s more radio-friendly. You can only go so much ground covered in playing, and besides, it’s a lot of hard work. There may be no easy way to find a diverse crowd to the people and radio appeals to it."

"Speaking of radio, is there a local radio that girlsFar are in the country or the area we play?"

"We’re pretty good," Van Zanten said, "with the group’s Creation and an audience on disc, we’re out and we see for ourselves. Sometimes we don’t know if they’re coming or going. And Canada has her own way of approaching you. We had a tour that was a bit more extensive, because we didn’t want to do large cities."

She said Portland can expect "all those energy performances that will charge their fans. When people see us usually, their impression is a year, another club band. Not after the show, she did. "You’re there coming and asking how many miles we went for the whole performance.

Pamela plays play Friday, March 20 at Corner’s, 15 Browne St, Portland, at 10 p.m. Exit 21 (22), 172-1911.

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need that truly inspires me. Then again, I personally try not to listen to too many bands, "We’re pretty good," Van Zanten said, "with the group’s Creation and an audience on disc, we’re out and we see for ourselves. Sometimes we don’t know if they’re coming or going. And Canada has her own way of approaching you. We had a tour that was a bit more extensive, because we didn’t want to do large cities."

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