

A FAMILY LEGACY

How Penn State men's soccer's Brandon Hackenberg is carving his own path at Penn State

By Andrew Destin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

To outsiders, Palmyra, Virginia, is little more than a town of around 100 people. And despite its small size, it's home to one family whose members have risen from a tiny, obscure town to become athletic stars at some of the country's preeminent Division I schools. The central Virginia hamlet is home to the Hackenberg family, whose six members either currently play, played or are slated to play Division I sports. Included in the bunch are red-

shirt senior soccer player Brandon Hackenberg and his brother Christian, a former Penn State quarterback and second-round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. This pair of Nittany Lions, as well as their younger brothers — Adam, who plays baseball at Clemson and Drue, who is committed to play baseball at Virginia Tech next year — credit their sports-centered childhoods for showing them the route from small-town America to premier intercollegiate athletics. “We were always competing with each other, whether it was basketball in our driveway, base-

ball in the front yard or whatever,” Brandon told The Daily Collegian about growing up with one former, two current and one future Division I athlete in the same house. “It was a great environment to be in, and I think it definitely benefited all of us in the long term.” Like his brothers, Brandon played multiple sports as a child including baseball, basketball and soccer. In seventh grade, Brandon dropped baseball and basketball to focus on soccer, a sport he took more seriously at the advice of longtime University of Virginia men's soccer coach George Gelnovatch. Brandon played on a travel basketball team with Gelnovatch's sons and got to spend a significant amount of time with the Virginia Cavaliers' soccer team due to his relationship with the Gelnovatches. The exposure to high quality soccer helped convince Brandon to finally pursue a sport he had previously only played recreationally. “I remember going to Virginia games and getting to go on the field after and being around some of the guys,” Brandon said. “At that age, it made me kind of really lean toward soccer more. I just fell in love with that environment.” To outsiders, the freedom to pursue soccer instead of a sport like football may have seemed unlikely for Brandon. Brandon's dad Erick is a high

school football coach and former University of Virginia quarterback. Like his father, Christian was the signal caller for three years at Penn State and threw for the second most passing yards in program history. Yet, Christian said his parents, who both played college sports, never pressured him nor any of his brothers to pursue a certain sport or sports in general. “The cool thing was, it was kind of organic,” Christian told the Collegian. “My parents never really pushed [sports] on us. They let us forge our own paths, and I think that was kind of special. They let us pick and they rolled with it and supported us in every way they could.” While Christian and Brandon agreed their parents let them carve their own paths, once they dedicated themselves to their respective sports, there was little time for any of the Hackenberg children outside of academics and athletics. “In terms of time consuming, I don't remember a family vacation that we took,” Christian said. “The summer was always consumed with travel ball tournaments, football camps or whatever it was. We were on the go a lot.” The two oldest Hackenberg children, Brandon and Christian are still separated by four years in age, but that never prevented Brandon from leaning on his big brother for advice. “I consider him one of my role models in life because of every-

thing he's gone through and what he was able to accomplish [at Penn State],” Brandon said. “I'm just thankful and grateful for him. Our relationship is great, and it's hopefully always going to be great.” Brandon learned how to deal with adversity from his older brother, but recovering from serious injuries to his left knee were new experiences. When he was 14 years old, Brandon tore his ACL and partially tore the lateral meniscus in his left leg. A little more than a year later, Brandon tore his ACL again and completely tore his lateral meniscus in the same leg. Both injuries were during primetime recruiting season for Division I schools. Instead of showcasing his skills at soccer camps across the country, Brandon endured grueling rehabilitation programs early in his high school career. “There were times where we were driving down to Richmond for treatment at 4:30 in the morning so he'd be back for school at 8, three to four days a week,” Erick said. Brandon did heal and soon after drew the attention of schools like Penn State, where Christian was leading the Nittany Lions' offense every fall Saturday. However, Christian did not necessarily want his younger brother to follow him north to Happy Valley. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Quarterback Christian Hackenberg (14) darts to the sideline for a first down against Michigan at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.

Dax Hoffman: From walk-on to starter

By Alexis Yoder
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From the time he graduated high school, Dax Hoffman knew he was capable of competing at the Division I level. The problem was, many others potentially questioned that ability. “I still have emails saved from college coaches saying that I was too small to play at the next level or they didn't see me playing at the Division I level,” Hoffman said. After visiting schools at the Division I, II and III level, Hoffman wasn't pleased by any of his offers, and so he ultimately set his sights on walking on to Penn State's varsity men's soccer team. The son of two Penn State alumni, Hoffman dreamt of a Penn State experience that included walking on Jeffrey Field representing the Blue and White, and in the end, he got his wish. Upon his arrival in State College his freshman year, Hoffman made the club soccer team, where he trained for a year before starting his first walk-on period. “I knew Penn State had a really good club team,” Hoffman said. “In my head I always knew I wanted to walk on so I could test myself and if I could play at the highest level. I just needed to push myself to get there.”



Penn State men's soccer player Dax Hoffman during a game. Hoffman spent two years on the club team before ultimately walking on to the varsity team.

During his recruiting process in high school and the first two years of college on the club team, Hoffman kept in close contact with former Nittany Lion standout Owen Griffith. Griffith, a three-year captain, garnered three All-Big Ten honors and led Penn State to consecutive Big Ten titles in 2012 and 2013, two NCAA tournament bids and one Sweet 16 appearance.

As the former director of operations for the club team, Griffith spent some time running practices for the club soccer team, which put him in close proximity to Hoffman. Griffith could tell from the beginning that Hoffman was determined to accomplish his goal of making the varsity team. “From the start I could tell that he was a really outgoing, nice

kid with good energy,” Griffith told the Daily Collegian. “From a soccer perspective he was maybe just on the cusp of the level we were recruiting at the time. It was clear that over the course of two years he had zero intentions of letting go of that goal and playing with the varsity team.” Coach Jeff Cook received word from Griffith of the

standout from the club team and decided to give him a shot to walk on the team in 2018. “[Griffith] had been made aware of Dax playing on the club team,” Cook said. “He would occasionally go over and work with the club team and he came back and said ‘there's this great player and he's full of energy and I think he'd be worth a look.’” Hoffman went through that first walk-on period, but fell just short of claiming a spot on the team. “After that, I sort of had this ‘oh crap’ moment in my head,” Hoffman said. “I played all throughout the summer and fall season to prepare myself for this and it didn't work.” His hard work didn't go unnoticed and ultimately enabled Hoffman to receive another shot at fulfilling his goal the following year. “We told him ‘look you're close,’” Cook said. “You're somebody that we think could add something to the squad, but we just don't have room right now so come back next year and we'll give you another good look.” So, Hoffman didn't give in, took Cook up on his offer and gave it another shot. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

West Coast wildfires affect students

By **Megan Swift**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While currently on the other side of the country, some Penn State students have been affected by the large wildfires blazing throughout their homes on the West Coast, especially in California.

Typically, “fire season” in California is considered to range from May through October, with September and October classified as the most vulnerable months due to the seasonal dryness and winds in autumn on the West Coast.

Many experts, however, believe the fire season is slowly extending to span year-round as a new normal, with a beginning as early as January and an end as late as December.

“Honestly, it’s heartbreaking,” Katie Cardella said. “It’s horrible to see everything burnt down.”

Cardella’s (junior-cybersecurity analytics and operations) home in Orange County in southern California is just 45 minutes away from the most recent wildfire in California, the Bobcat Fire.

Firefighters expect the Bobcat Fire, which began Sept. 6, to be at full containment by Oct. 30, but it continues to threaten to destroy more homes until that date.

Cardella explained that her dad lives closest to the mountain where the fire was, and her aunt also lives in the area affected.

“My aunt lives in Sierra Madre, which backs up right against [the fire],” Cardella said. “They were very worried they would have to be evacuated.”

Cardella’s aunt, if evacuated, would have to evacuate all of the animals she owns, which include three goats, five chickens, a hare and two dogs.

“They are fine and okay, but they were on edge when it was happening,” Cardella said. “The local church was filled with law enforcement or people from the fire department [who were] using it as a base to communicate.”

She said that wildfires are “very common” in California because of the dryness, and

residents are used to them.

“The fires just pick up easily, and it spreads very fast,” Cardella said. “I’m honestly used to it; the people who are more afraid are those who live more inland... they probably worry, but they don’t live in fear. It’s more like this can happen, and we have to know how to respond.”

Cardella said though the wildfires are common, people have been posting pictures of deer in the Facebook group from her hometown, which she said aren’t common “at all” in California.

“[The deer are] trying to escape the fires, and they don’t have a home,” Cardella said. “Theirs is being destroyed.”

Cardella would like to do more to help, but she said it’s hard while across the country at Penn State.

“It’s hard that I can’t do anything because I’m... across the country,” Cardella said. “I can donate, but I wish I could help physically.”

She commended the firemen and women for working so hard and said “it’s been good to see” everyone coming together in her community even though she is far away.

Fernando Munoz grew up in San Bernardino County in California and said climate change is another factor in wildfires’ frequency and spread.

“It’s a common phenomenon, [but] you’re hearing more about it when it impacts real communities,” Munoz (senior-international politics) said. “It’s impacted a lot of people, but with COVID, it’s probably been less damaging because people are indoors.”

Munoz said the seasonal Santa Ana winds are a contributing factor to the wildfires.

“You have these high power winds culminating with high temperatures,” Munoz said. “Wildfires have been second only to earthquakes in terms of fear factor; fires are more common, but always outside of communities.”

Munoz explained that the wildfires are starting to impact communities because of the increased urban spread in California of people “trying to find



Graphic by Jessica Hall/Collegian

affordable housing.”

“There’s been a lot of struggle between fire associations and developers who just want to make their money,” Munoz said. “Fires are impacting places that were never supposed to be built upon.”

He said the land being developed experiences seasonal burns, contributing to the affordability for new homeowners.

“Nature will always reclaim their land,” Munoz said. “It’s about better management of properties and housing; if you build high you have earthquakes, and if you build far you have fires.”

Munoz said though the wildfires haven’t affected him personally because he lives more inland in the center of the valley, his friends and family who have houses, ranches or farms in old parts of California have had close calls.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf’s administration issued a warning to Pennsylvania residents in mid-September for hunting and other outdoor activities in the dry weather.

The wildfires have affected Pennsylvania in other ways, too, with rumors that the smoke from the fires, blown from the west, could be seen in the sky on the east coast.

According to the National Weather Service in State College, the sky was “milky” from wildfire

smoke on Sept. 14.

Chris Forest, a professor of climate dynamics in the department of meteorology and atmospheric sciences and geosciences at Penn State, spoke about the wildfires and how the smoke can travel long distances.

“Because of the significant number of [wildfires], the smoke has been getting up into the atmosphere in that area,” Forest said. “With the prevailing winds in the upper atmosphere of 10 km and higher, smoke gets pulled into the jet stream north along the Pacific [Ocean] in a clockwise pattern and gets drawn into the middle of the continent.”

Forest said the Santa Ana winds coming down from the mountains are getting stronger on the West Coast and are “fanning the flames” of the fires, making them more severe. He said climate change contributes to the stronger winds and increased dryness contributes to the severity of the fires.

In the State College area, the air quality “wasn’t affected enough to make a big difference” by the smoke in the atmosphere from the wildfires, according to Forest.

“We saw a dimming of the sun [and] had some beautiful sunsets a few weeks ago,” Forest said. “I don’t think the concentrations [of smoke] were significant down here at the surface; it affected

sunlight [by clouding] the color of the sun.”

Forest also spoke about the air quality specifically in California.

“People would have masks on, and they would get dark and black because of the [soot],” Forest said. “The air quality of the surface was just horrible [in California].”

He explained that his friends who live in San Francisco or Sacramento didn’t have as much soot as other areas.

Forest reiterated that he believes the severity of the fires is directly related to climate change.

“Extreme dry, extreme heat and extreme wind are three major issues that affect these wildfires,” Forest said. “The region of the west has been undergoing drying because of drought conditions, and there’s not as much moisture in the soil because of the lower levels of snow pack, which is directly related to climate change in that area.”

Forest believes that there are “management practices” that can help alleviate the severity of the wildfires.

“Climate is not the cause,” Forest said. “Climate is the multiplier effect; it makes [the wildfires more] severe than they would be otherwise.”

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Pennsylvania voters could determine who wins presidency

By **Lilly Riddle**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As the general election quickly approaches, Pennsylvania is widely considered to be one of the most important swing states in the country — potentially holding the power to determine who the next U.S. president will be.

With 20 electoral votes up for grabs, Pennsylvania is, like many other states, divided sharply along party lines from county to county, with the surrounding areas of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia voting for Democrats — Allegheny and Philadelphia county, respectively — and the rest of the state solidly red.

State College remains somewhat of a swing town, although in 2016, a majority of Centre County voters cast their ballots for Hillary Clinton. This year, however, Penn State’s shift to hybrid instruction — along with the hurdles many Penn State students may face when trying to vote — could change the county’s outcome.

Michael Berkman, an associate professor of political science at Penn State and the director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy, said it’s “reasonable to assume” there won’t be as many students voting in Centre County this year — a core blue constituency in the area.

Additionally, Berkman said Pennsylvania’s role in this November’s election is “absolutely critical.”

“I don’t think there’s really any path for the president without Pennsylvania,” Berkman said. “I would say, right now, that [Pennsylvania] is the pivotal state.”

Berkman added that he thinks the areas in the state where the election will be most fought over will be the suburbs — namely, the areas surrounding larger cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

According to the website FiveThirtyEight, which uses statistical analyses to determine the likelihood of either presidential outcome, Pennsylvania is the state most likely to deliver the decisive vote in the Electoral College, at 27.4%.

Eric Plutzer, a professor of political science at Penn State and the academic director of the PSU Survey Research Center, also said Pennsylvania is currently considered the most important state in the U.S. with concern to the election.

“Most campaign experts feel that neither campaign can lose Pennsylvania and still win the election,” Plutzer said via email. “As a result, more money will be spent here than anywhere else.”

While Plutzer said it is difficult to predict the future, Republicans



Collegian file photo

Students line up outside of Heritage Hall to vote in the midterm elections in the HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018.

could potentially grow their support in urban and suburban areas by campaigning for the support of their residents. In doing so, however, they could alienate their base support in more rural counties.

On the other hand, Christopher Beem, an assistant research professor and the managing director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy, holds that Florida will be the most important state to win this November.

FiveThirtyEight gives Florida’s electoral votes a 13.7% percent chance of determining the election. “If [Trump] loses both

[Pennsylvania and Florida], there is virtually no way for him to [win],” Beem said.

The coronavirus pandemic will also play a major role in this November’s general election in Pennsylvania. State election laws mandate that ballots cannot be counted until the day of the election, and because of the large expected increase in the use of mail-in ballots, it could be days or weeks before an official outcome is determined.

Research shows that most voters planning to use mail-in ballots are Biden supporters, and most voters planning to vote in person

are Trump supporters. Because it takes longer to count mail-in ballots, many political analysts are worried about a “blue shift” or “red mirage,” meaning it may appear as though Republicans have won the state when Democrats have actually won.

Trump has expressed numerous times that the outcome of the election should be determined on election night, despite county officials across the country warning it will take longer than usual this year to get the results.

Beem said he would be “shocked” if Pennsylvania’s results were announced on the night of the election.

“If it were a blowout win for Biden [in] in-person voting, or an even bigger landslide for Trump, they could call it, but that is just not going to happen,” he said.

Ultimately, the fate of Pennsylvania as the tipping point state resides in individual voters’ decisions. With a pandemic continuing to spread across the country, Berkman said the election will serve as a “referendum” on the president and his handling of the virus.

“A lot of people are really, really hurting,” Berkman said. “We just don’t really know.”

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Out-of-state College Democrats, Republicans share why they vote in Pennsylvania

By **Brendan Morgan**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Of all Penn State students, 42% come from outside of Pennsylvania, and when it comes to voting in the presidential election this November, those students will have to decide if they should vote at their home or school addresses.

Sam Ajah, a member of the Penn State College Democrats, is from New York, but is choosing to vote in Pennsylvania.

“I feel like here in Pennsylvania, the stakes are much higher than back in New York,” Ajah (sophomore-aerospace engineering) said. “Where I live in my district and my Senate, and all those things, it’s very stable in terms of what’s going to happen during the election year. It’s very predictable.”

Ajah said he feels there is more opportunity for surprise in Pennsylvania when it comes to the presidential election, because the race seems to be less clear-cut than in many other states.

“I saw on [the news website FiveThirtyEight] that if Biden

wins Pennsylvania, it’s a 96% chance of him taking the presidency, or if Trump wins Pennsylvania, that’s an 84% chance of winning,” Ajah said. “In terms of what’s going on within Pennsylvania, stakes are astronomically high.”

Collin Foster (sophomore-cyber security), a member of the Penn State College Republicans, said because his home state of Virginia tends to lean to one side, he will be casting his vote in Pennsylvania.

“In 2016, Pennsylvania was definitely one of the key swing states, and Trump ended up winning Pennsylvania, and it was a pretty close margin compared to the margins back in my home localities,” Foster said. “I just think my vote would mean a lot more and count a lot more if I expect to vote in a swing state.”

Abby Wincott, also a member of the College Republicans, said there are multiple reasons why she will be voting in Pennsylvania, one being that she is very confident in what direction her home state of Florida will be voting.

“One hundred percent, Florida is going to be an easy red state,” Wincott (freshman-political science and criminology) said. “Just being from Florida, every single person has Trump flags outside of their houses, on their boats, there’s Trump boat parades every weekend. Everyone has their gear. It’s incredibly patriotic and incredibly pro-Trump. I feel like my vote would just kind of join all the others, and it wouldn’t really do anything, whereas here it’s a big toss up.”

Wincott said although State College usually votes for the Democratic party, she feels the tide is changing.

“I feel like there’s a lot of Republicans coming in this year, either from out of state or just students in general that have switched up recently,” Wincott said. “It could be a toss up.”

Bevan Harbinson, originally from Washington and also a member of the College Democrats, said he wants his vote to have the most effect on the national election as it can, but voting locally matters to him since he spends much of the year in State College.



Collegian file photo

A sign that reads “Vote at the HUB” is flanked by two American flags along Pollock Road on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

“I want to have the most effect nationally, and I want to have the most effect personally,” Harbinson (sophomore-material science) said. “That’s why it matters that I’m voting for the county and the county officials that I’m living under for three quarters of the year.”

Ajah expressed the same sentiments about voting in State College.

“At this point, it kind of makes more sense trying to vote here because it’s like I live in this community more than I do my other

community,” Ajah said.

Foster said that swing states have a huge impact on the outcome of the overall election, which shows the importance of every single vote.

“Every vote counts,” Foster said. “No matter where you end up voting, if you’re voting in your home state, or if you’re voting where you go to college — every vote counts.”

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How Graphic Mundi is teaching with comics

By Rachel Suga
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Comic books are not just for fun anymore — some aim to save lives through education.

Professors are using graphic art to teach medical students about their fields while also educating the general public about topics such as diseases and disorders, death and other parts of life that may be traumatic.

Kendra Boileau, assistant director and editor-in-chief of Penn State University Press, created a project titled “Graphic Mundi,” which brings medicine and other serious topics together in comic book form. The project will be launched in the spring of 2021.

“[Graphic Mundi] will house graphic novels that are [focused] on graphic medicine topics and also graphic novels that go beyond the medical topics to engage in other serious topics like the environment, social justice, war narrative, migration narrative [or] any of the serious topics that are current these days that people are interested in learning more about,” Boileau said.

Boileau and her colleagues have studied graphic medicine for years, as she began working for Penn State University Press in 2010.

Through Penn State, Boileau said she has been able to learn about the medium while also pursuing this passion of hers.

“There’s something about the medium that engages the reader and allows the reader to identify with protagonists,” Boileau said. “It’s a good medium for

drawing the reader into the story, especially when it’s about really difficult topics that are hard to talk about, like death and dying, or even things like climate change...”

She said relatability is a common goal of graphic medicine, especially in her collaborative Graphic Mundi project.

She said by working with others and networking her way through her career, Boileau was able to meet Susan Squier, who is a Penn State professor of women’s, gender and sexuality studies and English.

Squier had been studying and developing what would be graphic medicine when Boileau first arrived at Penn State about a decade ago.

Squier went on to work with various other professionals all over the world, she said.

After publishing a handful of articles about comics and medicine, Squier’s work was noticed by doctor and cartoonist Ian Williams.

“A core group of us decided that we wanted to write a book together called ‘Graphic Medicine Manifesto,’” Squier said about her beginnings. “We started putting together a proposal to go to the press for a book that would combine individually authored chapters on our own experiences teaching with or working with comics in the areas that related to medicine and health.”

Michael Green, a professor of humanities and medicine at Penn State’s Hershey campus, is also a graphic medicine pioneer.

As a professor, Green has used graphic medicine to teach his medical students large topics in a way that is easier to digest — through comics.

“Graphic medicine is particularly good at showing the experience of health, disease and illness and representing it visually and telling stories about people who have come in contact with the medical system,” Green said.

Green said it’s not easy to understand what some experiences are like if one has not encountered it firsthand.

For example, the average person may not know what it feels like to have cancer or to experience a traumatic event, but could have a better understanding through a comic that explains the process in a simpler way than a textbook might, according to Green.

“You can get all sorts of stories from the patient’s point of view, the doctor’s point of view, the medical student’s point of view or of a family member,” Green said.

“Those stories help us understand better what it’s like to be healthy and sick...”

Though graphic medicine is a relatively new concept, having only evolved in the last 15 years or less, Green said he’s hopeful it will continue growing and gaining popularity as new projects like Graphic Mundi develop.

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Student uses ‘Men in Black’ movie to meet new people

By Josh Chu
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Don’t be alarmed if you see a “Men in Black” agent on campus — it’s just a Penn State freshman trying to meet new people.

Many students are struggling to find ways to socialize under social distancing guidelines.

The restrictions on public gatherings and visitors in residence halls are some of the rules students have to follow.

This was particularly tough for student James Gans who was excited to meet new people during his first full year at Penn State.

“I know I was excited to hang out with my friends in their dorms and hang with them there,” Gans (freshman-computer science) said.

Gans said he found the new rules restrictive and limited his ability to interact with others.

His solution?

Gans dresses up in a suit and tie, puts on a black baseball cap and dons a pair of sunglasses. His goal is to replicate an agent for “Men in Black,” and he’s offering “Men in Black therapy” for \$5.

During a therapy session, Gans meets with a client one-on-one and provides conversation and advice while in character as

an agent from the “Men in Black” film franchise.

“I had this suit, and my roommate had an extra pair of sunglasses,” Gans said.

The Men in Black films follow members of a top-secret organization monitoring alien activity. Gans borrows terminology and tropes from the franchise while communicating with a client such as “checking with headquarters” or that “he wipes his memory after a session.”

“I don’t have an actual memory wiper, sadly,” Gans said.

Gans’ inspiration did not initially come from the “Men in Black” films. He said the main idea for this project came from a random YouTube video he saw while on campus.

“I stumbled upon a YouTube channel called Anthpo where he dressed up as a cow [for cow therapy],” Gans said.

After asking his roommate for advice, Gans thought a similar concept would be a weird yet fun way to meet new people. Knowing he brought a suit to dress up as a “Men in Black” agent for Halloween, Gans’ idea was finalized.

With his idea ready, he began to put up several posters across campus through places like the HUB and his residence hall. Gans noticed people finding the

advertisements amusing, which made him happy.

“People are seeing it in a weird time of COVID, and when they can’t do many things,” Gans said.

Despite incorporating some of the film into his sessions, Gans mostly drops the character while talking to someone face-to-face.

“I take it pretty seriously,” Gans said. “I try to be an actual friend and listen to them and give them feedback.”

Gans said while talking with one client, he took off the sunglasses and managed to have an “actual conversation” with them.

Additionally, Gans wants to be friendly to all of his clients, avoiding the “stone-cold Men in Black” character.

“I’m just a Penn State student doing this for fun, but you can get something out of it [too],” Gans said. “I don’t make people call me Agent J, or anything. I’m just James to them.”

Gans said “fun” is the number one priority for him due to the coronavirus making it difficult for others to find entertainment with socializing.

Jonathan Rizzardi, a Penn State student and Gans’ mentor from the Penn State LEAP program, was not particularly fond of the idea at first.

“I was afraid nobody would take him up on it, as it was a unique idea to me at the time,” Rizzardi (sophomore-computer engineering) said via email.

However, Rizzardi thinks he’s “been proved wrong,” and has begun to think highly of how Gans is able to safely socialize in a creative way. He hopes people will follow Gans’ lead by finding new and safe outlets for meeting people.

“I think we all need to be a little creative with how we meet new people during this difficult time and James has found a great way to do so with his MIB Therapy,” Rizzardi said.

Gans hopes to keep this going as long as people are willing.

“The first two weeks or so, I was getting a lot of people adding me and Snapchatting me,” Gans said. “I always have the suit and sunglasses ready.”

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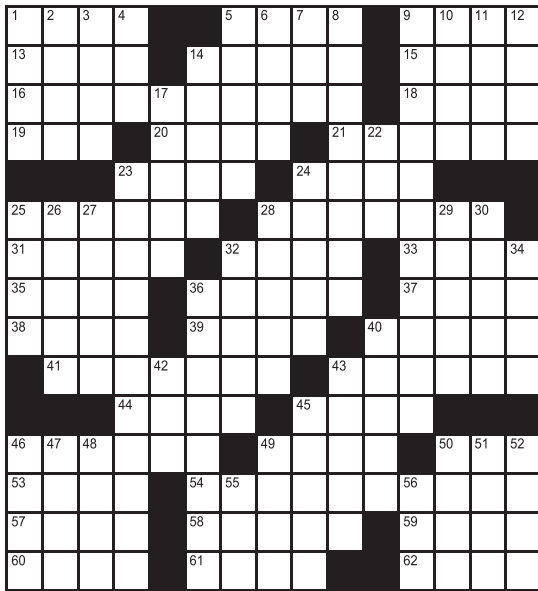


James Gan, aka the MIB therapist who works out of the HUB-Robeson Center, poses for a headshot on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Puzzles

Across

- 1 Tritons
- 5 Thwart
- 9 Bear dipper
- 13 Burn plant
- 14 Figure out
- 15 *Gimme a Break* star, Carter
- 16 Inexorable
- 18 Cripple
- 19 Boy
- 20 Singer Guthrie
- 21 Garments
- 23 Remain
- 24 Bench
- 25 Porter
- 28 More threadbare
- 31 Utopian
- 32 Tree trunk
- 33 Morose
- 35 TV cop Peter _____
- 36 Levered
- 37 Dog food name
- 38 Vitriolic
- 39 Injure
- 40 Make tea
- 41 Flow out
- 43 Panoramas
- 44 Forfeiture
- 45 Footless
- 46 Not outdoors
- 49 German Mr.
- 50 Pride
- 53 Hotel name
- 54 Started
- 57 Downwind
- 58 Not fired up
- 59 Unit of length
- 60 Information
- 61 New Mexico city



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| 62 Shade trees | 14 Dress holder | 36 Terminate gradually |
| | 17 Of birth | 40 Contempt |
| | 22 Crone | 42 Sign of assent |
| | 23 Shocks | 43 Spar |
| | 24 Bay State city | 45 Auspices |
| | 25 Latvian port city | 46 Persia |
| | 26 Draw out | 47 Egypt. river |
| | 27 Fabric | 48 Goulash |
| | 28 Watered-silk | 49 Hawaii town |
| | 29 <i>Exorcist</i> actress Burstyn | 50 And others (Latin) |
| | 30 Pakistani monetary unit | 51 Microbe |
| | 32 Rascals | 52 Likelihood |
| | 34 Cleaning implements | 55 Genetic material (Abbr.) |
| | | 56 Affirmative |

Down

- 1 Nobleman
- 2 Chigger
- 3 Recounted
- 4 Envision
- 5 Indiscretion
- 6 Bread spread
- 7 Sickbed items (Abbr.)
- 8 Weakened
- 9 Consummate
- 10 Bring up
- 11 Incision
- 12 Charity

WORD SEARCH

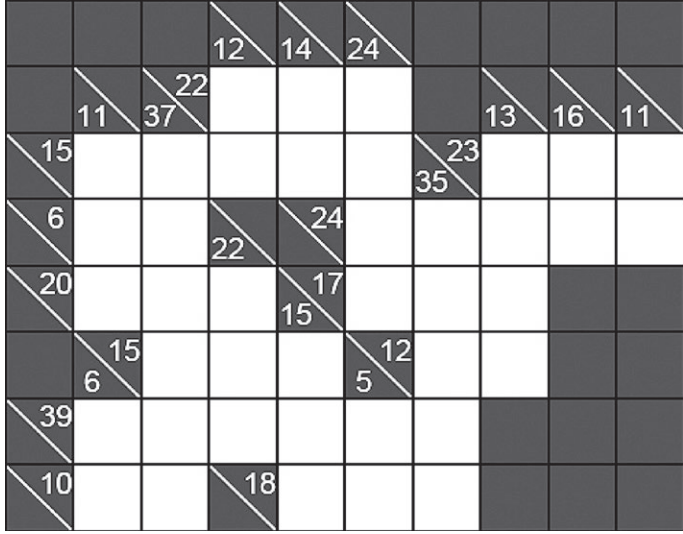
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Musical Instruments

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------------|-------|------|-------|------|----------|------|
| V | E | Y | Z | K | U | T | S | S | L | Y | R | E | T | X | V | B | E |
| J | I | L | R | A | U | O | Z | Z | A | K | A | L | P | H | O | R | N |
| G | S | K | D | G | R | K | L | Z | F | X | L | M | W | O | B | O | E |
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| M | N | R | N | E | K | B | W | G | R | L | O | V | T | O | Y | P | M |
| P | P | I | P | N | C | L | E | P | E | U | E | R | U | O | N | F | P |
| E | C | N | N | R | U | O | F | O | C | Y | P | D | K | C | U | E | A |
| T | C | E | S | O | G | H | M | E | O | T | F | H | L | N | D | J | N |
| G | H | T | L | C | O | A | X | T | R | O | M | B | O | N | E | N | I |
| E | R | P | C | L | N | S | O | J | D | K | D | G | U | I | T | A | R |
| U | E | L | O | D | O | P | S | F | E | A | A | P | V | W | E | K | Z |
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| ACCORDION | ALPHORN | BANJO | BASSOON | BUGLE | CELLO | CLARINET | CORNET | FIDDLE | FIFE | FLUTE | FRENCH HORN | GUJAR | HARP | KAZOO | LYRE | MANDOLIN | OBOE |
| PIANO | RECORDER | SAXOPHONE | TIMPANI | TROMBONE | TRUMPET | UKULELE | VIOLA | ZITHER | | | | | | | | | |

Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.



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Mental health should be a priority

Penn State’s decision to cancel spring break shouldn’t come as a surprise to students, as it is the best decision for the physical health and safety of the Penn State and State College communities.

While canceling spring break will hopefully deter travel, it will definitely take a mental toll on the Penn State community.

Breaks from school and work are only standard so people can unwind and escape from stress-filled days.

Fifteen weeks in a row of mixed-mode instruction with no breaks is asking a lot of students and faculty, and some

OUR VIEW

Penn State must make resources more accessible and widely known on campus during the spring semester.

have already taken to social media to express frustration regarding the decision.

Penn State needs to find ways to eliminate academic burnout and keep students engaged, but also mentally safe.

Believe it or not, Zoom fatigue is real. It is exhausting sitting in front of a computer where you are forced to focus so intently on your screen with so many distractions surrounding you.

Zoom-free days,

built-in mental health days or catch-up days could be beneficial for the mental health and wellbeing of students and faculty members.

If Penn State does not want to set up universal “off days,” it should encourage instructors to add breaks to courseloads.

We can’t expect Penn State to solve everyone’s mental health problems this spring semester.

Unfortunately, mental health was already an

issue many college students struggled with, and the pandemic has only made it worse.

According to the American Psychological Association, 41.6% of college students reported being anxious due to changes presented throughout this year and 36.4% reported experiencing depression.

Additionally, 19% of Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors reported

inadequate availability of psychiatric services on college campuses.

Boston University further supported these findings, reporting that during March, April and May, 60% of students said the pandemic made accessing mental health services on campus more difficult.

As Penn State brings students back for a long spring semester, it should make mental health resources more accessible and widely known on campus.

Ultimately, there’s only so much the university can do, but it must do what it can to mitigate mental health problems next semester.



Cartoons by Kaleigh Quinnan

MY VIEW | David Tilli

For Black people, loving America is lethal

In the Sufi tradition, there’s a characterically extravagant metaphor expressing humanity’s quest for the Divine: If believers are moths and God is the flame, then our greatest fate would be becoming so enamoured with the flame’s light that we end up consumed by the very thing we long for and love.

Sometimes, loving America can feel just as lethal.

The original metaphor views the flame as desirable, and there’s nothing desirable or divine about the way America uses up its lovers.

The greatest believers in the American mythos are the first ones to land on the sacrifice altar, bound and heartbroken. They are like moths tossed into a flame that never truly loved them back.

And most horrifying of all, the fire is still enlarged and engorged by the addition.

Devotees end up as nothing more than tinder and true patriots — in contrast to the false variety, whose “love of country” is more accurately rendered as “hatred of the other” — and are thrown into the firepit as kindling.

There’s a large share of these tragic figures in the Black prophetic movement. And even though we often

imagine the struggle as reaching its zenith decades ago, a contingency of martyrs still exist and are still sentenced to premature death.

James Baldwin knew all too well this reality.

He abided in the Black prophetic struggle and provided much of its moral furor in the civil rights era.

Even though Baldwin himself was spared by the flame, many of his partners in the struggle were not.

The 2016 documentary “I Am Not Your Negro” is largely a chronicle of the slow deterioration of the Black prophetic movement, as witnessed through the eyes and writings of Baldwin. This meditation is largely propelled by the murders of various civil rights icons, from Malcom X to Martin Luther King Jr. Each death and each sacrifice rends Baldwin’s hope for liberation and makes a mockery of his desire for a better world.

It’s harrowing and accusatory, much like the Harlem-bred writer himself.

The film is well aware that many of the accusations levied by Baldwin still hold true today: America was founded on a racial subjugation that has jumped from one peculiar institution to the next. The most damning segments occur when Baldwin’s timeless critiques are juxtaposed with contemporary footage.

Snippets of Baldwin’s secular

“America was founded on a racial subjugation that has jumped from one peculiar institution to the next. ”

sermons are read over lynchings both ancient and recent. One scene is a long parade of Black bodies hung up from trees and the few white bodies present are alive and firmly affixed to the ground.

Most glare at the camera with stoic stares, others give it a half-smile. All are ignorant and unrepentant of their cruelty.

“I Am Not Your Negro” establishes a contingency of its own, not just of martyrdom, but the evil that makes martyrs in the first place.

The old-timey lynchers give way to the lynchers of the future. More often than not, the latter sports blue uniforms and golden badges, and now work under the full imprimatur of the state. Grainy videos of police brutality play one after another in the film, and make real and tangible the disappointment in Baldwin’s words.

We are reminded that extrajudicial killings never ceased — the weapon of choice has simply changed. Instead of rope, the executioners have opted instead for bullets or a simple knee to the neck.

Baldwin once wrote, “the story of the Negro in America is the story of America.” He concludes the quote, which bookmarks “I Am Not Your Negro,” by stating the obvious: “It is not a pretty story.”

If anything, it’s a horror story. And like any horror story, Black people are the first ones to die.

The deaths and sacrifices that haunted Baldwin continue undaunted and should haunt us just as much. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain and countless others were made to perish by a country that’s grown fat off human suffering and anguish.

The earth groans in unison with the oppressed, and each sigh of the needy is accompanied by all the rest of creation sighing in solidarity. This groaning is often most pronounced and perverse in the land of the free. This sighing reaches its highest pitch here in America, and especially in its trapped communities of color.

Yet, moths still hover around the flame and long for its love and warmth. Either this love becomes requited, or the fire itself will flare up and die out in exhaustion.

David Tilli is a senior majoring in journalism and labor and employment relations and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at dmt45@psu.edu or follow him on Twitter at [@davewithtilli](https://twitter.com/davewithtilli).



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Complaints

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KRIEGER'S CLARITY

Ali Krieger has persevered through a tough year, but remains optimistic about her future in professional soccer

By Madeline Lapreziosa
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ali Krieger had a chip on her shoulder.

The former Penn State women's soccer standout knew deep down that her National Women's Soccer League team, the Orlando Pride, was among the best in the league. But the team was never put to the test when the NWSL resumed play with the Challenge Cup in June.

The Pride had a coronavirus outbreak where 10 people associated with the team tested positive, dashing their hopes of suiting up and proving Krieger's point, forcing the team to withdraw.

Krieger later revealed on social media that she herself yielded a positive result that turned negative just days later, potentially indicating a faulty test. "It was wild. I think all of us have a little PTSD from it," Krieger told The Daily Collegian of the experience.

While Krieger acknowledged that it cannot be proven how the virus infiltrated the team, reports alleged that a group of Pride players had violated team social distancing guidelines by going out to bars.

"You can't really pin it on a group of individuals, but I can say that not everyone followed the protocol as well as we should have, which caused the group to have to pull out of the tournament," she said.

Krieger spoke of the hardship her team endured, evoking the frustration she felt as her opportunity to play again was further postponed.

"It was sad at that moment because we had such a great team to take to Utah, and then watching the tournament, I knew we would have done really well," she said. "I don't care if I say this, we were more prepared than a lot of those teams, and we were very fit and we had worked our asses off to get there."

Krieger candidly expressed her disappointment in the actions of those players and the consequences the team faced as a result.

"It was just unfortunate, but all in all, people have to be trusted in that environment, take it very [seriously], and people have to do the right thing by following the protocols," she said. "And when you don't follow the protocols, that's what happens."

"I'm upset that people couldn't



USWNT member Morgan Brian (center) is congratulated by teammates Ali Krieger (left) and Tobin Heath (right) after scoring during the second half of an exhibition match against New Zealand.

see how well we were playing together in that short amount of time. So, it is what it is, you got to move on."

All of the hardship Krieger has endured is especially disheartening for the former Nittany Lion, given the milestones she attained the year before in 2019.

The Penn State alumna appeared in her third FIFA Women's World Cup and lifted the trophy for the second time in her career.

She then ended the year by marrying her now-wife and teammate Ashlyn Harris.

But 2020 has been a different story, as the world continues to reel from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which brought the sports world to a standstill in mid-March.

Krieger, like everyone else, was forced to adapt to circumstances she hadn't experienced in her 14-year professional career.

"It was really difficult to sit still, because our lifestyle and our livelihood is constantly on the go," Krieger said.

As elite athletes, Krieger and Harris had to navigate the challenge of keeping themselves fit and prepared to retake the field when the time came.

"It was hard as athletes because with our job, you can't necessarily just work from home," Krieger said. "Obviously working means just training and finding a place in the park, riding bikes, or going outside for runs. But it's really difficult to not get injured during those times because the grass is uneven, the roads aren't

necessarily good for your joints to be running on properly."

Krieger and Harris took matters into their own hands by putting together a gym in their home using weights and other equipment.

Overall, spending an unprecedented amount of time at home had its challenges, but Krieger managed to find positives amid the struggle.

"It was nice to be home for that time because normally we're always on planes, we're traveling, we're living out of hotels," she said. "I don't think I sat still at home for over 10 years, so it was enjoyable at times just to kind of take a deep breath and refocus."

Krieger said she enjoyed spending quality time with Harris since their hectic schedules usually keep them occupied.

"Obviously, being stuck with anyone for 24/7 is really difficult and I'm sure people struggle through that, but with our communication, we've done really well through this process."

The pair has motivated each other to not only stay in shape as athletes, but also to focus on self-care through breathing exercises and meditation.

"She's encouraged me more to do that, which has been really healthy for our relationship and also just our mental health," Krieger said.

Krieger had another 2020 ambition denied when the Olympic Games in Tokyo were postponed to 2021.

Nonetheless, Krieger intends

to prepare for what would be her second Olympic appearance after participating in the 2016 Summer Games.

"I'm gonna work my butt off, of course. I really want to go," she said. "This is something I would love to be a part of, especially in Japan, it's going to be such a beautiful [Olympic] Games."

At the age of 36, Krieger continues to play at a high level as a right back or center back, and her endurance and defensive expertise still stand out among the game's best.

"No matter what age you are, as long as you're fit, you're healthy and you're playing well, you have a chance, you have an opportunity."

She recognizes that despite her 107 appearances over 12 years on the USWNT, she still must fight for a place on the 18-player Olympic roster.

"You can't always assume just because you've been on the national team for a certain amount of years that you're gonna make the team," Krieger said.

Penn State coach and USWNT assistant coach Erica Dambach fully expects Krieger to make a convincing case for an Olympic roster spot.

"The thing that's always stood out about Krieger for me is this idea of if you stay fit and ready, then you don't have to get fit and ready," Dambach said. "I have zero concerns about where Krieger is mentally and physically."

Beyond her 2021 Olympic

aspirations, Krieger looks toward the future with one eye on retirement and the other on the few accomplishments she has yet to fulfill, such as an NWSL championship.

Krieger has established a reputation as not only a hard worker, but also a distinguished leader.

"[Krieger] holds everyone to a high standard, but she also holds herself to that same standard. She wouldn't really ask anybody to do anything that she's not willing to do herself," Orlando Pride teammate Kristen Edmonds told the Collegian.

In spite of Krieger's many achievements on the soccer field, she wants to be remembered as more than an athlete.

"I don't want to be known as just a footballer. I want to obviously leave a legacy and leave the game better than where I found it before I can say goodbye, which I think I've done a decent job at already," she said.

"I still have a feeling of wanting more and wanting to compete and play. I think until that feeling is gone, and I can then say 'alright I'm turning to the next chapter,' I think I'll continue to work hard and have fun."

Stepping away from soccer won't come easily to Krieger, whose livelihood has revolved around the sport since her early days.

"I love the game so much, so it's really difficult to leave," she said. "You see that in a lot of us older players. You have fun when you're winning, you have fun when you're successful, you have fun when you're winning these championships, so it's difficult to just let go of and move on to the next thing because we've been doing it for our entire lives."

She already has ideas of what she wants to do when that time comes, and they range from becoming a sports commentator or sideline reporter, to potentially trying her hand at coaching — anything to allow her to give back to the sport.

"I've tried to perfect this passion for so long that I think I need to give back in a way that still is dealing with the game in some way, shape, or form," she said. "I think I could really be a value in that way because I've been on all sides of the game. I think it would be really fun to create a safe environment with some of the same mentality that I grew up playing and apply that to some of these younger players."

To email reporter: mzl5703@psu.edu.

Follow her on Twitter at [@madz34](https://twitter.com/madz34).

Franklin urges activism, voting

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As one of just 13 Black head coaches at the FBS level during the 2018-19 season, James Franklin feels he has a personal responsibility — a responsibility that extends beyond his role on the sideline.

"Obviously, as one of only a few men of color in my position, I understand the significance of that as well," Franklin said. "I have a responsibility to make an impact in college football, I have a responsibility to help train the next up and coming coach in our program."

Franklin is also pushing for his players to make a difference off the field as well, by voting and being involved in the community.

"We're not telling anybody who to vote for or what to vote, we're trying to get our young people active in the process," Franklin said.

"We want our young people to be active in the process, to do their own research, to have their own opinions and then vote how they see fit."

"That's what we are doing at Penn State. That's what I see happening nationally."

This message to vote from Franklin comes after a complicated few months featuring social unrest and a global pandemic, among a number of other challenges.

"If we're talking about politics, either side, I think we all want our people in our country and specifically those students on college campuses to be involved

in the process," Franklin said. "I think that's important for whatever side of the aisle you sit on."

And through all these challenges, Penn State wasn't quiet — whether it was offensive lineman CJ Thorpe giving a passionate speech at a protest in State College following the death of George Floyd, safety Lamont Wade speaking at a protest in Pittsburgh or the various posts being shared by the team on social media.

The Penn State program is speaking out for what it believes in — and for Franklin, this presents an opportunity for growth.

"There's a tremendous opportunity there for discussions, deep conversations with your team and with your staff and with your neighbors and with your family," Franklin said. "The reality that we're all going to have to find a way to deal with for the rest of our lives is adversity and challenges, and we've had a lot of it in 2020."

One of the reasons players feel so comfortable to speak out for what they believe in is because of the diversity in the program, something Franklin has worked hard to achieve.

"I need to make sure that all 125 guys on that team have someone they're comfortable with and can connect with about a variety of topics and a variety of subjects," Franklin said. "Diversity is important for me as well, when I'm making decisions that I can hear from multiple people, not yes-men."

And while everyone in the Penn State program has a different

approach to these challenges and adversity, Franklin is proud of the leadership shown by the players.

"I've been proud of our players being vocal about things that are important to them," he said.

However, this hasn't come without its challenges, as sometimes these opinions can be met with opposition — an opposition Franklin feels can bring with it an opportunity to learn.

"I think for there to be any growth, and I think for there to be any change, there's an aspect of it that's education and there's an aspect of it that's about making people a little bit uncomfortable," Franklin said. "We talk about it all the time in our program — for you to truly grow, you have to break outside of your normal routines."

Franklin feels part of his job is to challenge everyone in the program to grow.

Whether that be as a student, a football player, or a man.

He does know, however, that it's not always as easy as just making a statement, as often views need to align with the community and the university.

"You got a bunch of 18-22-year-old males, diverse backgrounds and a university that is steeped in tradition and history, which I think is great," Franklin said. "And then you also have the community that we live in as well."

"It's never easy to make everybody comfortable with the process."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Collegian File Photo

Tight end Pat Freiermuth (87) celebrates a touchdown.

Freiermuth details return

By Andrew Porterfield
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Sept. 16, star tight end Pat Freiermuth walked into James Franklin's office to

clear the air on a decision while appearing on national television. That decision: he isn't taking off the blue and white uniform just yet.

Freiermuth announced on the Big Ten Network that he will play for Penn State this fall, ending all speculation on if he would opt out of his junior season to better prepare for the upcoming NFL Draft.

Prior to the Big Ten's announcement to reinstate the 2020 college football season, reports swirled around social media that Freiermuth was following in the footsteps of fellow Nittany Lion Micah Parsons in leaving the program prior to the season.

Before standing beside Franklin in the head coach's

office in the Lasch Building, Freiermuth wasn't planning on announcing his verdict on live television.

Instead, it was a spur-of-the-moment decision the coach and player agreed upon just moments before Franklin was set to speak on BTN.

"He called me and was like 'hey, I'm about to go on the Big Ten Network, are you in the building?'" Freiermuth said. "That was a great idea and an awesome experience."

Freiermuth's unplanned televised moment went viral on social media, as the Biletnikoff Award watch list member gave Penn State fans and college football fans alike hope that many of the top players on the college gridiron would play in a unique season defined by the coronavirus.

While Freiermuth didn't make a decision prior to the Big Ten's return, he and his family did field a few different scenarios.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

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