

The Valley Weekly

FREE

*"I have made it a habit to be suspicious of the mere music of words."
- Leopold Sedar Senghor*

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Friday, June 2, 2017

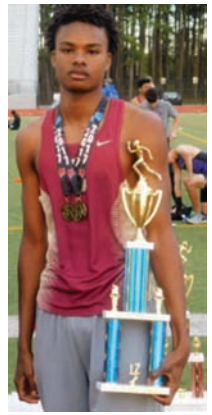
Young Athlete Among Metro's, Valley's Best

Senior JuVaughn Blake of Columbia High School was the leading male scorer at Metro Coaches Association with 40 points, the most points possible since under AHSAA rules athletes are limited to four events per meet.

Blake won the high jump at 7 feet 0 inches, he won the long jump at 22 feet 07 1/2 inches, he won the 110 hurdles in 15.01 seconds and he won the 300 meter hurdles in 39.08 seconds.

In what many coaches

consider the best ever high school track & field season in Alabama history, Blake was also meet MVP at his Section Championships held at Fort Payne High School and at the Huntsville City Championships, where his 7 feet 2 inch high jump set an AHSAA state record for all classes 1A-7A and was the number 2 high school high



jump in the United States for 2017.

At the AHSAA class 6A Outdoor Track & Field State Championships, Blake won four 1st place gold medals. He won the high jump at 6 feet 10 inches, he won the long jump at 23 feet 0 1/2 inches, he won the 110 hurdles in 14.83 seconds and he won the 300 hurdles in 37.63 seconds.

Overall, Blake won nine AHSAA State Championships in his Columbia career. Columbia head coach Ryan Shea has had eight 'Metro Athletes of the Year' at Huntsville, Saint John Paul II Catholic & Columbia, and JuVaughn Blake, a repeat winner from 2016, is his best.

In June, Blake will compete at the New Balance High School National Championships in the high jump and in the 400 hurdles.

Blake's parents, Geor-



JuVaughn, mother (Georgia Harrison) and Coach Ryan Shea are both members of the Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame

Harris Home for Children Executive Steps Down

By Reggie Allen

Antonio "Tony" McGinnis announced that he would be stepping down as the executive director of the Harris Home for Children, *The Valley Weekly* can exclusively reveal.

McGinnis joined the Harris Home in March 2010. During his tenure, the former director helped increase the organization's visibility by building integral relationships with various companies and churches. Additionally, his involvement with the non-profit agency helped raise over \$300,000 in renova-

tion projects. His work would also earn him the Huntsville Young Professional of the Year award in 2012.

"I feel like it's time for me to do something different," McGinnis told TVW. "I feel like I've accomplished everything I set out to accomplish."

One of his last projects was the nonprofit's 63rd Anniversary Dinner which featured a special performance by Grammy award-winning group Kool and the Gang.

McGinnis' philanthropic mindset can be traced

back to his time at Texas A&M, where he majored in journalism and excelled in basketball. The former ball player recalled rummaging through some old college media guides. In one, he was asked what did he see himself doing in 20 years. His answer was simple: "I just want to help as many people have a better life." Decades later, his calling would materialize.

The year was 1997. After a short stint playing basketball in Australia, McGinnis returned to the Rocket City, where he began working with the Boys and Girls

Club of America.

Growing up in Sparkman Homes, McGinnis found solace in athletics, letting in football and basketball at the now closed Butler High School. However, he acknowledged that not everyone was so lucky.

"I was fortunate enough to be a good basketball player, get a scholarship and play basketball overseas, but there are so many people that come from the neighborhoods that I come from that will never get that chance. So, what I want to do is find a way to

give back to community so they can come back and do the same thing."

As this chapter ends, McGinnis said his work in the community is far from over. His next venture is to focus on the inner city and partner up with organizations to help provide vocational training to low-income residents. This would include interview preparation and resume building.

"There's a lot of people that are disenfranchised," McGinnis said. "People who aren't able to get jobs that will probably change



the course of their life. And so, what I want to do is find a way to help those people become employable."

The initiative is set to launch in mid-June.

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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



From the Editor

Ahh, Such Honors Worthy of Mention ...

Recently, some of my family and friends have been recognized for their service and contributions to the community, namely Dr. Ernest Knight, Mrs. Peggy Etheridge and Mrs. Mary Hurt. On April 28, 2017, Alabama A&M University honored Dr. Ernest Knight of New York, NY for his many and diverse financial contributions over the years. I can not speak for other donors; however, I believe one would be hard-pressed to find a single alumni donor who has given back more than Dr. Knight. His giving has been generous and consistent, regardless of who's in charge. His record is clear. His loving wife, Marion, and gifted daughters Hope and Faith, have supported his gifts to AAMU. In the world of philanthropy and gift-giving, such is not always the case!

On May 28, a group of about 100 guests gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Largo, Md., to celebrate 36 years of federal service by AAMU alumna Peggy Etheridge. Loved ones from across the United States attended to pay tribute to a Proverbs 31 woman. From her Senior Pastor, Dr. Delmon Coats of the Mt. Enon M B Church in Clinton, Md., to former co-workers and supervisors at both the Defense Mapping Agency and most recently the U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to long-time friends and family, Peggy was honored and revered as a loving woman of the highest ethical, moral and Christian standards. Her love and care for youth and elders were themes throughout the afternoon.

In addition to a number of stalwart local citizens, my dear sister, Mary Hurt, will be honored on Saturday, June 3, at the Ernest Knight Center on the AAMU campus. Many speak of the many organizations and ministries in which I am involved, but they do so because they do not know that I have a sister who never quits. She has the patience of "Job" and does not know how to say "no." From my perspective, she will always be a winner! Congratulations, Mary. I am so proud to call you *Sister*.

Until next week ...

Dorothy



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

You know, sometimes before we can make any real changes in our lives, we have to be motivated by hate. Yes, *hate*. Because hate is a powerful emotion. It means to dislike something intensely. But here is the thing: we should hate what is *evil*. We should hate things that we do to ourselves that cause us harm. When we make resolutions and say things like, 'I'm going to do this better' or do that better, they need to be motivated by a healthy dose of hate.

Because we have to learn to hate the bad things that are going on in our lives. You see, there is a healthy way to hate. We should hate racism. We should hate when people take advantage of other people. Psalm 119:113 says: *I hate the double minded but I love your law*. You see, until we hate something enough, we

will never make the change to do something about it.

So whatever it is that you are struggling with, and you want to make a change, you have to hate whatever it is that is keeping you from being all that you can be ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



A&M's Green Sets Record

DeTorrian Green set out on the 2017 outdoor track campaign with a mission - to make up for missing much of last season due to injuries.

Among his list of goals was breaking the Alabama A&M 200-meter dash record. Well, meet the new school record-holder--DT Green!

"Breaking the 200-meter record was set as one of my goals for outdoor," he said. "I saw as I was running my personal best every week it was about to happen sooner or later."

Green set the record of 20.58 seconds in Friday's Eastern preliminaries of the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field championships.

A junior, Green's season was peaking at the right time. He won the 200-meter dash in the recent SWAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

"The 200 had been a race we were preparing for all year," he said. "I owe all the praise to God and I want to thank Coach (LaShaunda) Jones for believing in me throughout the whole season ... The best is yet to come!"



Learning by Any Other Name

*All my heroes had the heart
To lose their lives out on a limb
And all I remember is thinking
I wanna be like them.
Ever since I was little
Ever since I was little it looked like
fun
And it's no coincidence I've come
And I can die when I'm done.*
+CeeLo Green
(from Knarls Barkley's, CRAZY)

Every day it is more apparent that most of us are in search of that something that makes us feel alive. Alive beyond mere existence into the realm of truly living. I remember as a child, the first time I climbed a gnarled stout tree in the corner of my parents' backyard. Although I was only about four years old I still remember the feeling so clearly. From the way that gray-brown textured trunk held my soft baby hands to the sensation of leaving the ground in the distance, boosted upward by my own curiosity and sense of new found power. I'd discovered a place right in my own backyard, an uncharted way beyond the norm. This stationary living thing rooted in the earth bore the weight of my body, my dreams and aspirations and a blossoming craving for adventure. Yet still it bore its own fruit, a life lesson it shared without uttering a single word.

That day something sprouted in me, at least that is my clearest memory of that thing that has never allowed me to rest in the bosom of the status quo. In grade school my body was in the building but my own thoughts were running with the wind that that tapped on the windows calling, or the birds in who's song I heard come with us, you too have wings. I was the bear in a Disney moving or the swash buckling hero in the continuous films that played inside my head. The

world of nature and the books served as my points of departure, where I'd leave my skinny little form and embody anything I imagined. Imagination is magic.



It makes the seen unseen and the unseen seen. It can give people a glimpse into a world beyond their own and it helped me make sense of mine. At some point I picked up a pencil and it began to spread that magic out before me like a feast to a starving man. I stood up inside myself. This was my voice. I had found it buried beneath old toys, painful memories, not so happy endings or beginnings, and the weight of trying to fit in.

Art had become the wand through which I could channel this magic, a portal through which divine inspiration could flow. However, it took some time for me to accept the power of this gift. I've wandered this plane like the prodigal son. Searching for what I've always had become a way of life for me as it is for many of you reading this right now. In that searching I was led within.

In that darkness, I began to see. There were others out there like me. So frantically I tried to find ways to tell them, to impart the knowledge of who they are

through this program and that. I wanted to remind them but, in my quest, I was caught up in the "saving process" and lost myself once again.

It took a tremendous storm in my life to lead me back to the calm of the within space. The space that's been right there all the time. I'm learning to carry my peace with me. It led me back to that divine imprint and the unraveling of that line to be created by that magic wand. In all its twists and turns life is still just one line, one story of experiences connected by the unit that is you. The other day I sat in a meeting with a panel of educators and administrators. We sat there and determined the outcome of a talented child whose grades would not allow her to remain in our "program".

In the cacophony of voices, I zoned out, my mind was called

elsewhere. And out there I heard her voice, not the one they could hear but that soul sound. The sound of the wind calling from outside the window or the birds

singing she can fly with us, she has wings too. I was brought back into the room by a teacher calling my name, then saying, "Lord, Moore, where are you?" I needed to sign the paperwork acknowledging my presence in the meeting. I signed it, although I knew I wasn't fully there.

The young lady said her piece trying her damndest to be strong about it. In a shaky voice, she announced her plans to drop out of school. A day before that she had mentioned that to me, stating that she was too far behind to catch up. I'd suggested rather than quitting, direct that energy into passing her classes. Even as I spoke those words, they were dead, stillborn. Possessing neither breath nor breadth of life. I knew it and she knew I knew it. She didn't need my words at that point. She needed me to do what I do. Climb that tree, open that

portal, discover that path beyond the norm.

Eyes turned to me when asked whether I had anything else to add. The say had been said. The die was cast and I felt somewhat like a Pontius Pilate dipped in a thin layer of Socrates. I said that it was a classic story of an insanely talented person not fitting into the created boxes. It's unfortunate that we toss them out when they don't run the dictated rounds ... One day we will have schools for children like her. As I ended my spiel, her father's nodding head reminded me of church. Then he spoke in agreement. That was the first time I'd seen that man show any emotion beyond a stone. Perhaps he too had been one of those children. Tried to fit in and cropped his wings in the process. How many are out there?

That question brings me to this leg of my journey. This summer will take me to the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation. Soon after, I'll land in the windy city to spend weeks at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. I'm going to open that studio/academy here in Huntsville.

At present, I am reaching into that tree to get back in touch with that which will help bring it to pass. This journey is really not about the degree but the going into that space to gather the fire. The fire of my own creative practice. The fire that is the seed of that tree with outstretched limbs (studio/academy) rooted in the earth. I am routing the connections needed to bring this school to fruition. It will bear the weight of those who speak that insanely creative art language, their dreams, aspirations, and blossoming craving to live a life beyond the status quo.

- Jahni The Artist



Proud: Brooks with parents, Mr. & Mrs. Everett Brooks, and Coach Dante Dorsey

Local Student AHSAA Champion

A Tennessee Valley teen was named state 4A-5A champion in three track events by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Evan Brooks was also among a group of students recently recognized by the Huntsville City Council for their achievements.

Brooks, a Madison Academy rising junior with a 3.96 GPA, excelled in three events: Indoor 4x200 Relay; Outdoor 4x100

Relay - 42.93; and Top 5 finisher, 100m - 11.28, 200m - 22.84.

In addition to track, Brooks counts among his activities football, Spanish Club and serving as a tour guide.

He has further distinguished himself as a member of the Principals List Honor Roll 9th & 10th Grade, Spanish National Honor Society, Optimist Club Youth Ap-

preciation Award recipient, Delta Sigma Theta Scholar, Kappa League Outstanding Service Award recipient, 3.51+ GPA Award, and recipient of the Jack & Jill Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Brooks has participated in numerous community service projects. He is also a member of Lowe's Chapel UM Church, where he serves as a youth usher and youth worship leader.

Veterans Honored During Memorial Event

The Urban Emphasis Scout Leaders Council (UESLC) of the Boy Scouts of America held the Annual Memorial Ceremony at Historical Glenwood Cemetery on the corner of Hall and Cemetery Streets, Saturday, May 27, 2017, 12 noon.

Initiated by UESLC in 2004, the yearly activity is considered "a fitting tribute to service men and women who have made great sacrifices and served this nation with honor and distinction," commented Col. (Ret) James O. Heyward,

Sr., one of the key organizers of the event.

The ceremony also included the placing of U.S. flags on the gravesites of all veterans in the historic cemetery.

Moreover, the tribute featured a cannon military salute, along with remarks by Chaplain (LTC) Trenton E. Lewis, USAG, Redstone Arsenal, Command Chaplain.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band Brass Quintet, provided music, concluding with the playing of taps and a military

salute.

One of the organizers of the UESLC was the late Albert F. Farrar, Sr., Scoutmaster of Troop 400 and Rosetta James Foundation honoree.

Nelms Memorial and Royal Funeral Homes were among the patriotic event's sponsors.

For additional information on UESLC activities, contact Col. (Ret) Heyward at (256) 881-7999 or Vern Spearman at (256) 656-1126.

Clemens Freshman Top Female Scorer

Freshman Shataeya Ligon of James Clemens High School was the leading female scorer at the Metro Coaches Association meeting with 32 ½ points.

She won the 100 meter in 12.53 seconds; she won the 100 hurdles in 14.94 seconds; and she won the triple jump at 36 feet 03 ½ inches, and was also a member of the 1st place James Clemens 4x100 meter relay team which won in 50.07 seconds.

Ligon went on to win two 3rd place bronze medals at the AHSAA class 7A Track & Field State Championships in the 100 hurdles in 14.79 seconds and in the triple jump at 35 feet 11 inches.



June 2 - CORNEL WEST - Energetic African-American activist, long-time educator, scholar and author. West was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- BlackinTime.info

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FATHER AND SON: Lau'Rent Honeycutt (left) receives congratulations from his father Tharon Honeycutt following the former's team recognition before the Huntsville City Council. Lau'Rent is a center for the Huntsville-based Randolph School championship soccer team.

Valley Calendar of Events

June 2 & 7

Jim Parker's Songwriters Series
Playhouse - Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
6:30 p.m.

June 3

Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon
Downtown Huntsville
Big Spring Park - 9 a.m.

June 4-11

Follow the Fork: Black Restaurant
Week
@BlkRestaurantWk

Huntsville Progressive Alumni
Chapter Annual Leadership Awards
Banquet
Ernest L. Knight Reception Center
Alabama A&M University
6 p.m.

June 10

Family Day of Education and Fun
Sponsor: Alabama Cooperative Ex-
tension Service
Agribition Center
Moore's Mill Road, 12-4 p.m.

June 17

Fun Festival & Expo (Free)
VBC South Hall

July 9

Huntsville Community DrumLine
"iDrum"
1800 Jordan Lane, NW
3-4:30 p.m.

July 13-15

Space Camp SummerFest

July 14

NSBE Professionals Golf Tournament
The Links at Redstone Arsenal
7 a.m.

Thru August 13

Dinosaur Up roar Alive
Huntsville Botanical Garden
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October 10-15

Motown - The Musical
Von Braun Center Concert Hall
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STATE CHAMPION: Taylor Jones (center) attends New Century High School and runs track for Lee High School in Huntsville, Ala. Jones earned the track distinction of State Champion by excelling in 100m and 200m. She is shown with her biggest cheerleaders, her mom Candace (right) and grandmother Faye Groom (left).

Bell Gets "Metro Coach of the Year"

During the recent quarterly meeting of the Metro Coaches Association, James 'Drew' Bell of James Clemens High School was announced as the 2017 Metro 'Coach of the Year' for indoor track/ track & field.

The award is determined by the average best varsity girls and varsity boys team place at the AHSAA Indoor Track State Championships (3rd & 6th), the Metro Track & Field Championships (1st & 1st) and the AHSAA Outdoor Track & Field State Championships (6th & 11th).

James Clemens' average team place of 4.6 was the best for 2017.

Since this award was reinstated in 2014, past Metro 'Coach of the Year' recipients were: Ryan Shea of Columbia in 2014, James 'Drew' Bell of James Clemens in 2015, and a tie between Jacqui Krueger of Randolph and James 'Drew' Bell of James Clemens in 2016.



Read Online!
valleyweeklyllc.com



LONG JUMP: Westminster Christian Academy's Austin Leslie (left) became the State Champion in the Long Jump and earned 2nd place in the Triple Jump. He is joined by Coach Corderyl Sunday and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

All Cars & Trucks Welcome

Annual Car Show

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June 10, 2017 All proceeds will go to The American Cancer Society \$20 Registration

330 Grimwood Road Hazel Green, Alabama 35750 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join Us!

- Admission is free to the public
- Registration is open to Cars and Trucks (Classic, Customs or Current Vehicles) from 9 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. day of the show
- \$30 Late Registration fee after 11:00 a.m.
- Top 20 judging by Car Entry Owners And
 - Pastor's Choice
 - First Lady's Choice
 - Best Work In Progress
 - People's Choice
 - Best Car Club Participation
- Trophies presented at 1:30 p.m.
- \$50 Give-away every hour
- Show-Stopper Grand Door Prize - \$250 Cash
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2017
SOUTHERN
TOUR

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street, NW
Huntsville, Alabama
Saturday, June 24, 2017
6 p.m.

*Attendees will have opportunity to participate in a good-will offering.

Mission

- Urban Strings Columbus is a youth orchestra of serious, young, talented, musicians, ages 8-18 who attend greater Columbus city, parochial, charter, suburban, & charter schools
- Celebrating Our 10 Year Anniversary
- Inspiring Your Community To Create A Youth String Orchestra
- Celebrating African-American Music Appreciation Month

Fun Fact: In 1979, President Jimmy Carter created Black Music Month, but the name was changed to African-American Appreciation Month by President Obama



Urban Strings Columbus Premiere



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The Valley Weekly

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Huntsville Metro Track Club Earns Medals in Birmingham

Congratulations to the HuntsvilleMetroTrack Club and its athletes who competed and received medals at the May 27 Club Elite Memorial Day Invitational at Carver High School, Birmingham, Ala. The distinctive winner's

list includes:
Gold-1500m(9-10)girls Hailey Tolbert
Bronze-400m(15-16) boys Hanif Muhammad
Silver-High jump(15-16) girls Kaitlyn Walker
Bronze-High jump(15-16)girls Malaya Brabson

Gold-Shot put(11-12) girls Kalyn Tolbert
Gold-Shot put(13-14) girls Alicia Walker
Silver-Shot put(11-12) boys Juwan Brabson
Gold-Javelin throw(13-14)girls Alicia Walker

Bronze-javelin throw(15-16)girls Kaitlyn Walker
Gold-javelin throw(11-12)boys Juwan Brabson
Silver-100m hurdles(15-16)girls Malaya Brabson

Silver-100m hurdles(13-14)boys Logan Gordon
Gold-800m(9-10)girls Hailey Tolbert
Bronze-200m(15-16)boys Hanif Muhammad
It's time to let the summer games begin!



Juwan Brabson, (11-12)boys, came 1st in javelin throw and 2nd in shot put.



Hanif Muhammad, boys (15-16), came 2nd in 100m: 3rd in 200m and 400m.

Below: Kaitlyn Tolbert, (11-12) girls, (left) came 1st in shot put; Hailey Tolbert, (9-10)girls, right, came in 1st in 1500m and 800m.



Malaya Brabson, (15-16) girls, came in 3rd in high jump.

Kappa Event to Celebrate Special Bond Between Fathers and Daughters

The Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated will be hosting its 2017 Father~Daughter Gala on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 9035 Best Western Plus, Madison, AL 35758.

The Father~Daughter Gala will celebrate the bond between fathers and daughters while providing an elegant atmosphere for fathers to treat their daughters of all ages like princesses, with dancing, dinner, and laughter.

The Father-Daughter event is designed to be an avenue by which fathers or male role models of daughters in all age categories, races and backgrounds come together to celebrate and strengthen the father-daughter bond.

There is no doubt that the bond between fathers and daughters is unmatched and amazing. On Saturday, June 10, Kappas hope to recapture and rekindle some of those precious memories fathers have shared with the "little girls" in their lives.

For additional information, contact (256) 289-3292 or e-mail anthonyrichardson01@yahoo.com

Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.

Sixteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet

Saturday, June 3, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University

Ticket information: \$50.00 per person ~ Reserved Tables \$500.00 ~

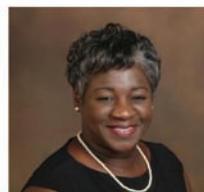
Ticket Information: MarWill49@gmail.com, vanaka1956@gmail.com or 256.726.0432

Music provided by: Dr. Reginald Jackson & Mrs. Monica Phipps Stewart

2017 HONOREES



2017 Honorees, pictured above from left to right: Civic/Community Award, *Mrs. Eula Battle, Free 2 Teach*; Corporate Award, *Colonel (Ret) John Olshefski, Huntsville Utilities*; Educational Award, *Mrs. Delois H. Smith*; Government and Industry Award, *Mrs. Lybrease Ford Woodard*; Government Relations Award, *The Honorable Sybil Cleveland*; Religious Award, *Reverend Perry Clark*; Small Business Award, *Mr. & Mrs. Larry (Kimberly) Lewis, PROJECT XYZ*.



Huntsville Progressive Chapter, Inc. Outstanding Alumna of the Year, *Ms. Felicia Brown*
Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc. Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, *Dr. Richard Showers, Sr.*
William Hooper Council Distinguished Alumna Award, *Mrs. Mary W. Hurt*



*Come Discover
the Magic on
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

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