



Liberty News

Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Boulder County

April 2003

"If I Don't Go Right, What's Left?"

By GARY NOLAN

Libertarian Candidate for President

When I changed parties a few years ago, many of my Republican friends couldn't believe it. After all, I'd been a Republican since my first vote. (Far be it from me to imply that I'm getting a little long in the tooth, but I think when that first vote came along, Pike's Peak was a pimple.) I dreamt of the day when the Republicans would win control of the House and Senate. I thought spending and taxes would fall faster than sweat from a fat man's brow on a hot day in Juarez. I thought freedom from government regulation would reign across the land. I thought political expedience in the legislature would come to a screeching halt. It seemed to me that we were but one election cycle away from a return to the values of our Founding Fathers.

In 1994 I got my wish: The Republican Party won majorities in the Senate and House. "Look out America, here comes freedom," I thought.

I'm not sure when I realized I'd been hoodwinked. Maybe it was the passage of one of those expensive Bud Schuster highway bills, or the failure to get rid of the National Endowment for the Arts. It could have been the failure to cut corporate welfare, or the constant caving by the Republican leadership. It might have been seeing all those Republicans fighting for more gun control, tobacco legislation and "campaign finance de-form." Whatever it was, I was through.

I told my friends I was changing parties. I joined the Libertarians, the party with principle. Some of my friends have come to agree with me, and others think I need a check-up from the neck up. (They're both right, but that's another story.) I still prefer most Republicans to most Democrats. But as a party, you'd be safer trusting a rabbit to deliver a carrot than the Republican Party to stand by the Constitution.

It's not too difficult to understand where the Republicans went wrong. They were taught by the Democrats that getting elected is a simple matter of buying the vote. What better incentive to gain votes than promising free healthcare, job training, education and cheese?

But then I began to wonder: How did Americans come to believe that their government could afford to be a benevolent organization? And why aren't Americans angry with the flood of government regulations into their lives? I get angry about regulations every time I flush my government-regulated toilet! There is nothing that the government doesn't tax or regulate! Why don't Americans know more about the Constitution, and how it prohibits all this? (Hmm... could be the fault of the government-regulated schools.)

Of course, one-hundred percent of government benevolence is financed with our money, and government has come up with myriad ways to coerce, drain, and dry up what we earn:

* Every time you accrue interest, you have to hire a CPA to figure out how to fill out your 1040 to explain to the government where it came from, what you did with it, and how many shingles it takes to roof the barn. As a bonus; you get to pay more in taxes. It's like punishing your dog for obeying you. Go ahead and whack your dog when you tell him to sit. You'll see just how well that technique works! And the experts wonder why Americans don't save their money.

* Candidate for the most offensive tax? The wage tax. The harder you work, the more the government takes. Now that's what I call incentive! The entire concept is enough to make the founding fathers spin in their graves like they're attached to a high speed Black and Decker drill.

* While the Founding Fathers are whirring away, big government advocates use class warfare to get more money to spend on buying votes. They don't want to anger the largest voting block, the middle class, so they drive up taxes on the wealthy—and the definition of just who is wealthy gets broader and broader every year.

* The tax code is indecipherable. The government gets to know how much you make, what you spent, what you gained in interest—and then they get to decide how much you owe. You have

to keep receipts and records for years, just in case they decide to pit their guess against your own.

* You can't take your own money with you if you travel out of the country unless you let the feds know in advance. Here in the land of the free—the land of the fee, maybe?—you actually have to get their permission to travel with your money.

Now we have steel tariffs, the "Patriot Act" and more debt than you can shake a bankruptcy file at. I do know what's right and I do

know who's left. Libertarian thinkers, they're right and they're all that's left. Lets take America back

[Ed note: This article reprinted by permission of Gary Nolan's campaign. See more Op-Ed and Opinion pieces, and more information about his presidential race at Gary's website: <http://www.garynolan.com>]

BY-LAWS CHANGES APPROVED AT MARCH MEETING

by Greg Woods

The intent of the by-laws has always been that, while the Board leads the LPBC, it does not have dictatorial powers. Any Voting member has always been able to come to the Board meetings, make motions, and vote on any resolutions. Although in recent years, few Voting members have chosen to avail themselves of this right, we still have no desire to change that basic intent.

Under the new changes, e-mail votes would be permitted under two different conditions: first, if the amount of money being spent is \$100 or less and there is a time deadline involved that would make it impractical to wait until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to vote, then the Board members may vote by e-mail. This will allow the Board to participate in outreach events that come to our attention too late to wait for the next monthly meeting.

Secondly, an e-mail vote can be taken if a resolution authorizing such a vote is passed at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Any Voting members present can vote on this resolution just like any other, and any Voting members present at the meeting who have an e-mail address and provide it to the Chair and indicate their desire to do so, may participate in the e-mail vote when it is called. This provision allows us to delay a decision on a resolution that might be waiting on a crucial piece of information, but without having to wait another month to act.

The new version of the by-laws with the changes incorporated into them, can be seen at <http://www.lpboulder.org>.

FULL TEXT OF BY-LAW CHANGES

HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES

Section I. Name and Address

The name of this organization is the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, or LPBC. The LPBC is a Political Party Committee under the Fair Campaign Practices Act, duly registered with the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder's office.

The legal address of the LPBC is:

2525 Arapahoe Ave., Suite E4, PMB 427
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Section V. Board of Directors

Paragraph H. Election of Officers of the Board

Subparagraph 3.

Votes will be cast at a meeting of the membership held in the month of July. Votes may be cast in person, or by mail using the ballot provided with the July newsletter, if such ballots are signed and dated and received by the Secretary on or before the day of the July meeting.

Section VI. Duties of Officers

Paragraph E. Newsletter Editor

Subparagraph 4.

Interface with editors of other Libertarian publications to ensure that appropriate information and features are shared and kept current;

New Paragraphs:

G. Campaigns Director

1. Co-ordinate all political campaigns of the LPBC;

2. Identify political races and ballot issues;
3. Recruit and qualify candidates;
4. Identify and/or assist in candidate training opportunities;
5. Assist candidates with "paperwork" (e.g. filing and reporting requirements).

H. Fund-Raising Director

1. Initiate and operate fund-raising activities (e.g. bowl-a-thon, fund-raising letter campaigns);
2. Report income and expenses to the Board.

I. Outreach Director

1. Lead outreach efforts to expand LPBC awareness and help grow membership;
2. Identify suitable outreach events (e.g. Boulder Creek Festival, city/county fairs, gun shows);
3. Initiate and co-ordinate LPBC-sponsored events (e.g. guest speakers, Tax Day protests);
4. Organize LPBC participation (e.g. register for events, solicit volunteers, supervise activities);
5. Maintain/enhance LPBC outreach materials (e.g. outreach booth and its associated supplies, brochures, banners, etc.).

Section VIII. Endorsement of Candidates and Initiatives

Paragraph B.

Any candidate seeking nomination to public office must have signed the Libertarian Party Pledge or Statement of Principles, and in addition have been a registered Libertarian Party voter or a dues-paid Libertarian Party Member, for a period of not less than 60 days prior to the last date on which the party can file its certificate of designation with the appropriate election official.

E-MAIL VOTING

Section V. Board of Directors

Paragraph C.

The Board shall have full powers to conduct all business of the LPBC, including authorizing the spending of funds belonging to the LPBC. No spending of funds or official action of the LPBC may be undertaken except by

1. Passage of a resolution introduced at a scheduled meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present, OR
2. A vote of Board officers taken by e-mail, where the votes are formally collected by the Chair and saved for a period of one year and made available to any Voting member on request. E-mail votes are only permissible if:
 - a. The matter being voted on requires an expenditure of \$100 or less and does not involve any changes to the by-laws, and there is a time deadline involved that makes it impractical to wait until the next scheduled board meeting; OR
 - b. A resolution is introduced and passed at a prior scheduled meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present specifically authorizing a later e-mail Board vote on a specific issue, which vote must be taken prior to the next scheduled Board meeting, or a new resolution authorizing it will be required. Any voting member who is present at a meeting where a resolution authorizing an e-mail vote is passed may participate in the vote, by providing his e-mail address to the Chair in writing, and will then be included when the Chair calls for an e-mail vote.

LPBC Board - July 2002 - July 2003

Position	Name	Phone/Email	Address
Chairman	Bo Shaffer	303-776-3007 (h) chairman@lpboulder.org	7411 E County Line Rd Longmont, CO 80504
Secretary	Dan Underkofler	303-665-0939 (h) 303-661-2663 (w) secretary@lpboulder.org	
Newsletter Editor	Eva Kosinski	303-666-5872 (h) newsletter@lpboulder.org	1301 Jackson Court Louisville, CO 80027
Treasurer	Greg Woods	303-666-5872 (h) 303-497-1295 (w) treasurer@lpboulder.org	1301 Jackson Court Louisville, CO 80027
Outreach Director	Open	outreach@lpboulder.org	
Publicity Director	Open	publicity@lpboulder.org	
Fund-Raising Director	Open		
Membership Director (Acting)	Tom Parker	303-665-2150 (h) membership@lpboulder.org	829 Welsh Ct Louisville, CO 80027
Campaigns Director	Open	campaigns@lpboulder.org	

Libertarian Party of Boulder County

2525 Arapahoe Ave, Suite E4, PMB 427 • Boulder, CO 80302 Phone: 303-776-3007

Web: www.lpboulder.org • Email: info@lpboulder.org

April/May Activities Calendar

April/May 2003	day	time	event description	location
04/04/03 - 04/06/03	Friday Sat/Sun	after 5 all day	Colorado Libertarian Party Convention	Ramada Inn Colorado Springs
04/07/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
04/10/03	Thursday	7:00 pm	LPBC Board Meeting	Cheng's Garden-Louisville
04/14/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
04/21/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
04/28/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
05/05/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
05/08/03	Thursday	7:00	LPBC Board Meeting	TBA
05/12/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
05/19/03	Monday	12:00	Weekly lunch	Jin Chan - Boulder
05/24/03 - 05/26/03	Sat - Monday	all day	Boulder Creed Festival LPBC booth	Boulder Creek Festival area

LIBERTARIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Affiliate/Position	Name	Phone
LPCO Board		
LPCO State Chair	John Berntson	719.532.0118
Fund-Raising Director	Walter Schlomer	
Campaigns Director	Norm Olsen	303.277.9967
Outreach Director	Tony Ryan	303.410.0902
Treasurer	Gaar Potter	303.691.0938
Public Information Director	Mike Seebeck	719.382.9529
Legislative Director	Floyd Bilderback	303.773.5101
Information Director	Margaret Alia Denny	303.680.1741
Publications Director	Jim Vance	303.947.5777
Publications Advisor	Kris Halbersleben	
Local Affiliates		
Broomfield Libertarians		
Chair	Wright Morgan	303.465.9676
CU Campus Libertarians		
	Brian Schwartz	
http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/libertarians/		
National Libertarian Party		
2600 Virginia Ave NW #100; Washington DC 20037		New members: 800.353.2887 202.333.0008
National LP Web Site: www.lp.org		

Anyone up for an FAC?

Greg Woods and Eva Kosinski would like to host another Libertarian FAC at their home in Louisville on Friday, April 18th. If you aren't familiar with FAC, its "Friday Afternoon Club," an old tradition in which one spends time after work, brew (or favorite beverage of any kind) in hand, discussing life the universe and everything. Now that we are living in "interesting times" there is more than ever to talk about. Sure, some of us get excited, and have strong opinions, but we are celebrating that freedom of expression they spent a great deal of time protecting when this government was put together. Its our right, and we might as well enjoy it. Any time after 5:00 pm is fine.

Spend some time with fellow Libertarians after work on Friday the 18th. Bring whatever your favorite beverage is, and we'll come up with light supper food. (if you have diet preferences, bring whatever you need or let Eva know ahead of time - see p 3 for contact information).

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Minutes of LPBC Meeting March 13th 2003

Longmont Library

Minutes submitted by Dan Underkofler

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM. Present were Bo Shaffer, Tom Parker, Dan Underkofler, Eva Kosinski, Greg Woods, Paul Tiger, and Norm Olsen.

February board meeting minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Directors' Reports

Secretary's Report:

The next meeting, Thursday April 10th, will be at Cheng's in Louisville at 7:00PM.

Treasurer's Report:

\$406.87 total. Greg submitted a printed summary. With no funds coming in, after the Boulder Creek Festival, only ~ 2 months of newsletter printing funds will remain.

Publicity Director: No director, no report.

Fund Raising Director: No director, no report.

Newsletter Editor:

No responses from mailings to non-members. Decision made to discontinue mailings. Eva got permission to reprint articles from LP presidential candidates. Extra newsletter copied will be distributed as freebies in public places.

Paul Tiger will write an article on the monthly lunches. Paul has written several articles for the Colorado Liberty, which he will submit for the LPBC newsletter.

Outreach Director:

No director, no report. See new business on booth. Eva will host another FAC next month.

Campaigns: No director, no report.

Membership Director:

Currently have 57 members, down from 58.

Chairman's Report: See new business on Bill 1142

Old Business:

Bylaw Revisions:

Revisions passed unanimously as published. Tom will update the web site.

LP National Tabloid:

State party hasn't ordered any. We may need to wait until the new state board is elected for action. Small brochures can be used for the Boulder Creek Festival.

State Bill 1142:

Bill has passed House, and House and Senate committees. It is now up for Senate vote. Norm's interpretation is that it will eventually make us nominate at our convention and hold a primary, which could be good exposure for us. (we could even use it as a membership drive). Effective probably not until 2004.

Boulder Creek Festival: (May 24rd - 26th)

Cost is between \$100 and \$150. Motion passed to register, pay, and attend.

Concern was expressed about staffing the booth. Plan to leave it unattended if required. We have some literature and some items to sell.

New Business:

LPCO Convention and booth display:

We owe \$20 for booth display space at the convention. Plan is to advertise the booth's availability for rent.

We need a flyer with rental info, rules, and rates. (Eva) Tom will check for previous rate decisions and the board is authorized to approve via email vote. Need to keep a calendar with booth reservations - Bo has a Ladies of Liberty Calendar to use for this purpose.

LPCO Board of Director elections: Norm Olsen spoke:

The nomination, selection, organization, and process is weak. A program called "Start Your Engines" is being started. It presents a full slate of candidates who will act. Norm handed out flyers detailing the candidates and platform. Their objective is to re-energize and "make the party work." Many of the activities outlined are already in the works. Norm asked for all to attend convention and vote for the entire slate.

State Party Board Meetings:

Norm will be proposing that the State board meeting be moved about the state.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Opinion

Editorials can be submitted to the newsletter Editor. Preference will be given to succinct, well-thought out discussions of issues that may be controversial even among libertarians

Welfare Reform for the Arts By Barry Poulson

Welfare reform is one of the great success stories of the last decade. It is time to implement similar reforms in welfare for the arts in Colorado.

Welfare for the arts began with the Works Projects Administration in the Great Depression. It expanded with the 1965 creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and a similar federal government endowment for the Humanities. At the state level Colorado has been a leader in creating a welfare system for the arts. In 1989 the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) was created, imposing a 1-cent sales tax on each \$10 of expenditures in the Denver Metropolitan area, in order to directly subsidize the arts.

Like all welfare systems, welfare for the arts in Colorado has expanded rapidly, with supply creating its own ever-increasing demand. SCFD began with a budget of \$14 million, which has now risen to \$37 million. The number of arts organizations subsidized has increased from 154 to 305. Proposing even more growth, the SCFD is seeking to extend the sales tax through 2018.

The public should insist that welfare reform for the arts has to create incentives for artists to find productive employment, rather than staying on a perpetual public dole.

The place to begin is with Tier I, the largest and most successful of our "arts" organizations (broadly defined): the Denver Art Museum, Denver Botanical Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and the Denver Zoo. These organizations now receive 59% of the total SCFD funds. Like most great arts organizations, these institutions began by relying upon private patronage and voluntary donations. With the creation of SCFD they are becoming increasingly dependent upon direct public subsidies. Such subsidies create all the wrong incentives: the public views these facilities as public services to be provided at zero or subsidized prices; artists on the dole begin to respond to government incentives; and private benefactors and contributors assume that the deficits of these organizations will be covered by public subsidy.

The legislature should set a reasonable timetable for elimination of the Tier I SCFD subsidies; a decade does not seem to be an unreasonable period of time. Families on welfare have to get off the dole within five years, so it hardly seems too demanding to insist that large organizations be asked to wean themselves from welfare in ten years.

Over that decade of transition, the organizations would have time to make the changes needed to begin responding to incentives in the private sector and become self-sufficient once again. As William Baumol argued in his classic study, "The Economics of the Performing Arts", arts organizations need to begin paying more attention to the market for the services they provide and the optimum pricing of those services.

Tier II arts organizations also need to be weaned from taxpayer subsidies, but this aspect of welfare reform will prove harder. Tier II includes arts organizations with operating incomes of \$858,290 or more, such as the Denver Symphony. Some of the Tier II organizations, such as Ocean Journey, are very financially challenged. However, there is even more reason to create incentives for these organizations to become financially independent rather than rely upon direct taxpayer subsidy.

For example, I attended a Denver Symphony performance that played to an audience of several hundred patrons. I paid only \$25 for the ticket, and I would estimate that the cost of that performance was more than \$100 per seat. That means that five Denver taxpayers each had to fork over \$15 in sales tax to subsidize my seat. In an editorial, one of the advocates for SCFD suggested that this was all right because each of those citizens would just go out and spend the money on a \$15 tee shirt. Only the cultural elite presume that they can spend our money for us better than we can spend it ourselves.

It is certainly unfair to make all taxpayers in Denver, including low-income families, give up tee shirts so that a few hundred citizens can attend a performance of the Denver Symphony. It may be that some of these organizations cannot become financially independent without direct public subsidies, but that is a test that worthy arts organizations should be required to meet.

Tier III organizations, which receive the least funding under the SCFD, are actually the most deserving of public subsidy. These are the small theaters, orchestras, art centers, and community arts groups. Small arts groups usually face the biggest financial hurdles in becoming financially viable. The rationale for subsidizing them is the same as that for the Small Business Administration subsidizing small business ventures for a limited time until they become financially independent.

If each community in Colorado created its own cultural organization to determine if and how it wants to support the arts, then we would get more diversity in the artists and groups supported, and greater creativity in the ways to provide that support.

All over Colorado, people on welfare have been making the transition from dependence to self-sufficiency. It's time for the organizations that feed off the taxpayer subsidy from the SCFD to begin doing the same. Any renewal of the SCFD should include a plan for phasing out art welfare once and for all.

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JON CALDARA is President of the Institute.

BARRY POULSON is a Senior Fellow at the Independence Institute.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES on this subject can be found at: <http://www.i2i.org>

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From the Chair

Bo Shaffer

The War is just about all anyone is talking about. By the time this sees print, things may be entirely different, but at the time of this writing, many people are asking why? Why are we at war? The rhetoric and double speak from the administration is what the media reports. The President says we must strike them before they strike us. We don't want another Pearl Harbor. While no one wants another tragedy like Pearl.....or The Twin Towers.....put the situation into a slightly different scenario. Two children playing. One hauls off and beats the snot out of the other. The Teacher asks why. Little Johnny says "Well, he was gonna hit me, I could tell....."

A First Strike is not something you can be proud of. Many people think Iraq and Saddam were behind 9-11. That's garbage. Saddam and the Baath Party hate Osama and his kind. No real evidence for Iraqi involvement was ever revealed. The Saudis were as responsible as anyone for funding the 9-11 operation, yet we are strangely silent about that. Does Saddam have WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction)? Possibly. In the Gulf War, he attacked our ally and probably used chemical or biological agents. We fought a good fight then. This time, it's more like we're afraid we didn't do a good enough job last time and Saddam might be thinking of doing it again.....lets teach him a lesson, just in case. Sounds like a bully justifying his fights.

Maybe Saddam has WMD, maybe he'll use them on someone.....maybe he'll use them on us. But does that, in and of itself, give us the right to attack his country? In the old west gunfighter scenarios.....the good guy never drew first. It was how you could tell the good guy from the bad guy. We've always been the good guy before.....

I recommend to all of you out there.....make yourself heard. Attend the Peace Rallies. Show the Administration what Americans think about this War. War is not healthy for children or other living things. War is supposed to be the Last Resort. Was the UN created to be ignored when it's convenient, or does one play by the Rules? Shooting first is less than Brave.

Remember one thing, though. There isn't a single American soldier anywhere, who given the choice of marching to War or marching to Peace, wouldn't take the latter. Good soldiers perform their duty with honor and bravery, but I've never met a single one who wouldn't choose Peace over War, after experiencing both. No one appreciates Peace more than a soldier who has seen the Face of War. I support our troops over there, being the Best they can be, and will try my hardest to bring them back

Bo Shaffer
LPBC Chair
March 25, 2003

Agenda for Board Meeting April 10, 2003 Cheng's Garden, Louisville 7pm

1. Call to Robert's Rules of Order
2. Motions entertained for Directors
3. Reading of February's Minutes, corrections
4. Directors Reports and Statements
 - a. Secretary
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Publicity (act)
 - d. Fund Raising (act)
 - e. Newsletter
 - f. Outreach (act)
 - g. Campaigns (act)
 - h. Membership
 - i. Chair
1. Old Business
 - a. 1142 discussion
 - b. Boulder Creek Festival
 - c. Convention results
1. New Business
 - a. LPCO BOD elections - what does it mean for LPBC
 - b. War discussions - what can we do
 - c. Open discussion and motions

Lunch Anyone?

Paul Tiger

Do you want to know what is happening in your community that concerns your liberty and freedoms? The really current stuff, before you read about it in the local papers. Or maybe the issues that you are never going to see in the papers.

Would you like to discuss the applications of Libertarian philosophy with others from your area? Exchange your views, educate others and be educated?

Would it be easier over a table in private area at a local eatery? Aha! I bet it would. I hardly ever lose my appetite for more Chinese food when in the company of my fellow Libertarians.

Each Monday LPBC members gather together at Jin Chan's in Boulder for some enlightening and outlandish conversations. Quite often we entertain new Libertarians, or people that haven't really decided yet. Between courses of rock salt fish and stir fried green beans, I've learned a great deal about the legislative process; water law; public housing; state sponsored education; and what my town and county are brewing up.

In cases where issues are local ones, this may be your only opportunity to find out what is happening and get involved if you are so inclined. Otherwise you can read about it in the paper as recent history, or not ever know about it until you find that your liberties have been altered.

While it is possible that you can educate yourself via the Internet or other means, you miss out on the social discourse with other likeminded individuals. So pull yourself away from your work each Monday before noon and come to meet and discuss the events that affect our lives. Food for the mind in this case comes with fortune cookies.

In this spot in the coming months we intend to give a review of topics discussed at Jin Chan luncheons. But remember that you will be reading history, rather than being a part of it.

Paul Tiger -- Candidate for Legislative Director
of the Libertarian Party of Colorado
Longmont

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_____ Multi-Year Savings: Join the LPBC *FOR THREE FULL YEARS* for only \$42

_____ Membership Package: Join the LPBC for the small annual fee of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email address: _____

If you wish to be a voting member, please sign and date the following pledge:

“I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the
initiation of force as a means of
achieving political or social goals”

Signature _____ Date _____

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