

NODA News

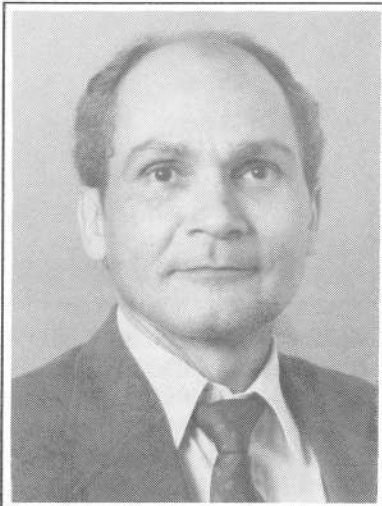
MISSION STATEMENT

To establish and maintain a cohesive organization that serves its membership by promoting the art, science, and professionalism of dentistry, and by communicating the value of oral health to the community.

VOL. 36 NOVEMBER '98 NO. 9

NOVEMBER 18 MEETING AT LSUSD

IS THERE LIFE AFTER SPLINT THERAPY?



DR. MOHAMED

BY DR. EUGENE GOMES
NODA Scientific Committee

Occusal splint! CR splint! Night-guard splint! Orthodontic splint! TMD splint! Shin splint!

Our Wednesday, November 18 general membership meeting at LSUSD will feature Dr. Shawky Mohamed of the LSU prosthodontics department. Dr. Mohamed will review the reasons and rationale for splint therapy, and how this service can be valuable for our patients.

He will discuss splint construction and treatment planning, using occlusal splint therapy.

Can splint therapy verify a pre-operative diagnosis? Does our patient have to wear the splint forever? How can it be

used during the restorative phase of treatment? When (besides nighttime) are nightguard splints recommended? What have several years of TMD research taught us about splint therapy?

Please come out to LSUSD at 7 p.m. November 18 for the answers! Plenty of drinks and sandwiches will be provided for everyone following the meeting. Also, one lucky person will win a \$50 dues rebate in the monthly drawing. (All stubs are retained for the big full year's rebate awarded in May.)

Our sponsor for the meeting is Jack Sloan, CFP, who has a financial planning business. He earns our heartfelt thanks and support. Come out and enjoy the meeting!

Two awards up for vote

December 1 is the deadline for submission of nominations for the NODA Honor Dentist Award and for the Victor B. Marquer Award for non-dentists.

The Honor Dentist Award is in recognition of outstanding contributions and exemplary conduct in the profession of dentistry made by a member of the New Orleans Dental Association.

Last year's recipient was Dr. Terence E. Walsh.

The Victor B. Marquer Award is in recognition of distinguished and dedicated service to the New Orleans Dental Association by a non-dentist.

Last year's recipient was Jerry Bonds, formerly of the Hilton Hotel.

Please send your nominations and your reason for the recommendation(s) to:

Co-chairmen, Honors & Awards Committee
NODA
2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153
Metairie, LA 70001

ADA offers infection control training program

"Effective Infection Control: A New Training Program for Your Dental Office, Video Plus Workbook" is being offered by the ADA.

The video program can be ordered by calling 800-947-4746 or Fax 630-443-9970. The cost is \$99.95. Mail orders should go to: ADA Catalog Sales, P.O. Box 776, St. Charles, IL 60174.

According to the ADA, the self-paced, easy-to-follow training program, which includes a video and workbook, allows your staff members to complete the training program in approxi-

mately one hour. The program can be viewed individually or in a group setting.

"You will be up-to-date on the required OSHA standards regarding bloodborne pathogens," says the ADA. "Completion of this training program will also qualify you and your staff to receive 8 hours of CERP continuing education credit."

The material in the training program has been compiled by scientific and legal experts of the American Dental Association.

What's Inside

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 2 | President's Message | 5 | Chemical Dependency |
| 2 | Molarthon | 6 | NODA Profile |
| 3 | ADA and Me | 7 | Chairman Looks Back |
| 4 | '99 Conference | 8 | Continuing Ed |

President's Message

by KENNETH G. SCHOTT, DDS

As we move into the month of November, I would like to take a look at a few of the things for which we can be thankful.

First and foremost, New Orleans and our area were again spared any major catastrophe during the hurricane season. Earl was an inconvenience and did have a small impact on the New Orleans Dental Conference. Frances was actually a little worse and did flood some streets and even put some water in some homes. Georges posed the biggest threat. Many people evacuated and many more were without electricity, but compared to what could have been these were only minor inconveniences. I think we all realize how lucky we were and we should be thankful.

I also think we should be thankful for our profession and all that it has brought to us. I know I have mentioned this previously, but I feel it is worth mentioning over and over. Dentistry, and in particular organized dentistry, has enriched my life. I know there are others who share my feelings. Those of you who have not been as involved as you could have been should take a chance and volunteer for a job. I think you will be surprised to see what you have been missing.

Finally, I think we should be thankful for our monthly scientific program and the continuing education benefit it provides. Remember that because of the upcoming holiday season, our schedule is somewhat different. Some events are scheduled earlier in the month than they would normally be held.

Our November program, **TMD Splint Therapy**, featuring Dr. Shawky Mohamed, will be held as usual on the third Wednesday of the month, November 18. Our December program, **Nasty Microbes**, featuring Dr. John Mayo, will be held on **Wednesday, December 9**, instead of December 16. As usual these programs will be held at LSUSD and will begin at 7 p.m. Don't forget that after the scientific program there is always a social so that you can spend a little time with your colleagues. The December meeting is scheduled earlier in the month so as not to interfere with other holiday activities. This allows you to have more time to spend with family and friends, and I hope that makes you thankful. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Ken Schott



The Louisiana State University School of Dentistry has appointed Charlotte Connick, RDH, MS, as coordinator of alumni affairs. A member of the faculty since 1982, Connick, an assistant professor, is also assistant to the director of the Department of Dental Health Resources.

RUN FOR SICK KIDS

Hygienists' Molarthon is Saturday, November 21

That time of year is approaching – time for the sixth annual **Molarthon '98!**, sponsored by the New Orleans Dental Hygiene Association.

This year's race will again benefit **A CHILD'S WISH OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS**, a group that seeks to grant wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses, and the educational fund of NODHA.

The race will be held on Saturday, November 21, 1998 at Audubon Park (Magazine Entrance). Pre-race activities and late registration will start at 8 a.m. at the Magazine

entrance. A Jazzercise Pre-Race Warm-Up is scheduled for 8:15 a.m., with the 1-mile Fun Run/Walk and the 5-K Run & Walk taking place at 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. respectively. VIP packages and official **Molarthon '98** T-shirts will be given to all registrants. As always, a

grand party will ensue afterwards with free beer, drinks, fresh fruit, and ice cream and many prizes. Additional information can be obtained through Southern Runner at 891-9999 or by contacting Molarthon '98 chairpersons Ellen McCoy, Julie Maples, or Danielle Victoriano.

DR. CARY MIDDLECOFF, 1955 MASTERS CHAMPION A Doctor of Dentistry and a legendary golfer.

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NODA News is published every month with the exception of June and August. Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 5th of the month preceding publication. Ads and news should be sent to Dr. Kristi Soileau, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115.

NODA News is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn., 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001. Phone (504) 834-6449.

ADA.

*What does it
do for me? No. 4*

Marketplace and Managed Care Issues

The ADA recognizes that both dentists and patients today must weigh a host of options regarding the dental marketplace and managed care. To educate the public, the ADA Catalog (1-800-947-4746) offers publications on patient considerations in selecting a dental plan and on issues for employers in designing and offering a dental plan. To assist dentists, the catalog contains such resources as A Dentist's Guide to Managed Care Marketplace Information and A Financial Impact Analysis of Plan Contracts, a computer spreadsheet program.

ADA Seal Program

Since 1930, the ADA Seal Program has evaluated both professional and consumer products, granting the Seal of Acceptance to more than 1,300 products proven safe and effective. The Association is proud to provide both members and the public with this useful tool for making informed purchasing decisions. For more information on the ADA Seal Program, call ADA extension 2878.

Annual Session

Join your colleagues each year for the premier dental meeting in the world. The ADA's Annual Session features the most comprehensive educational programming and the largest dental exhibition in the country. As an ADA member, you'll pay a reduced registration fee. For details on Annual Session, call the ADA's 24-hour information line: 1-800-232-1432.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS

Anyone knowing of any dentist who has made a significant contribution, gained an elective or appointive office, written an article, delivered a paper, or rendered unusual public service, please call or write Dr. Kristi Soileau, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115. Phone: 899-2255.

Nominations for '99-'00 officers are still open

The Nominating Committee of NODA will announce its slate of nominees for 1999-2000 officers at the December 9 general membership meeting at the LSU Dental School.

At that time additional nominations may be made from the floor or by vote. Dr. Guy Ribando, president-elect, is chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Officers to be elected are: president-elect,

first vice president, second vice president, secretary, one member of the Board of Governors, and one director to the LDA.

The official election meeting is February 24 at Carlone's Restaurant. It will also be the annual dinner welcoming new members of NODA.

Next year's officers will be installed at the March 27 Installation Dinner at the English Turn Golf and Country Club.

Gum disease more serious threat than previously thought

(From the LDA)

According to the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), a new analysis of recent research has revealed gum disease may represent a far more serious threat to the health of millions of Americans than previously realized.

These studies found that periodontal infection may contribute to the development of heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death, increase the risk of premature, underweight births, and pose a serious threat to people whose

health is already compromised due to diabetes and respiratory diseases.

To help people learn more about this health concern, the AAP is launching a national public education campaign which will include a toll-free consumer information number, interactive web site where questions about oral health and gum disease will be answered by an Academy periodontist, and educational materials on the link between gum disease and the serious medical conditions mentioned above.

State board announces new rules for mobile clinics

(From the LDA)

Comprehensive new rules promulgated by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry to regulate mobile dental clinics in Louisiana became effective as of August 20, 1998.

Among other things, the new rules stipulate that applicants for a mobile clinic permit are required to:

- post an emergency follow-up care agreement with an area dental facility.
- maintain an official business with a physical address.
- have the proper equipment for communication, sterilization, etc.

For a complete copy of the new rules, con-

tact the LDA office. For detailed information about the permit application procedure, contact the LSBDD.

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To Our Non-Member Colleagues:

This issue of *NODA News* is sent to you with the compliments of members of the New Orleans Dental Association as our invitation to you to join our Association. We'd like to have you as one of us. A glance through *NODA News* provides a glimpse of the many activities and benefits of membership.

From the wide-ranging New Orleans Dental Conference (your registration is covered by your NODA dues) to the monthly lectures, interspersed with enjoyable social events, to the numerous benefits and programs of the ADA and LDA, the advantages of membership are substantial.

For information on dues categories, etc., call Mona at the NODA Office, 834-6449. (Incidentally, dues may be paid by Visa, MasterCard or in monthly installments through our Automatic Bank Draft program.)

Plans already underway for 1999 N.O. Conference

"Go for the Gold" is the theme of the 50th Anniversary New Orleans Dental Conference September 15, 16, 17, 18, 1999 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Twelve clinicians have already been invited and more will be added in the coming months. In addition, no less than 70 booths have been reserved in the Exhibit Hall, even though the conference is still 11 months away.

Dr. Melanie Andrews is general chairman. Another gala social program is being planned to augment the impressive clinical program.

Clinicians invited so far are Mike Bellarino, oral photography; Dr. John Burgess, dental materials (operative); Ms. Mary Costello, Dam

it, It's Easy; Dr. Rella Christensen, infection control; Dr. Harold Crossley, pharmacology; Dr. Robert Edwab, oral surgery; Dr. Henry Gremillion, TMJ/occlusion; Annette Lindner, hygiene practice management; Dr. Michael Siegel, oral pathology; Dr. Bruce Small, esthetics & occlusion; Dr. Steven Snow, cosmetic dentistry, and Dr. John West, endodontics.

Past NODA Honor Dentist Recipients

- Dr. F. Harold Wirth
- Dr. Victor B. Marquer
- Dr. Allen A. Copping
- Dr. Meffre R. Matta
- Dr. E. Harold Faget
- Dr. Eugene J. Fortier, Jr.
- Dr. Edmund E. Jeansonne, Sr.
- Dr. Robert H. Charbonnet
- Dr. Vincent N. Liberto
- Dr. Frank L. Herbert
- Dr. F. Ralph Dauterive
- Dr. John D. Shea
- Dr. Louis G. Grush
- Dr. Terence E. Walsh

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CONFRONTING A PROBLEM

Chemical dependency often goes undetected

BY DR. JAMIE MANDERS

(Chairman, Dentists' Well-Being Advisory Committee)

The Dentists' Well-Being Advisory Committee functions both on a state and a local level. Its purpose is to identify and assist dentists who have fallen victim to the disease of chemical dependency, and occasionally other disorders.

Chemical dependency affects approximately 10 to 20 per cent of the dental profession. It often goes undetected by the community because dentists are often very isolated in their dental offices. In contrast, physicians, who are affected in numbers similar to their dental colleagues, often work in hospitals, and the aberrant behavior often associated with addiction to drugs can more easily be observed by their peers.

Although chemical dependency is often not noticed by the community at large, it rarely goes undetected by the dentist's immediate family and his or her office staff. The Well-Being Committee's charge is made more difficult by the tendency of the dental family and staff to deny the condition and to cover up the dentist's

unusual behavior.

This occurs because the family and staff of the dentist is dependent on that person for his or her livelihood. The fear of discovery of the dentist's problem directly affects the security of the family or staff member. However, in actuality, this denial is contrary to the dependent's best interest. If addiction proceeds unchecked, it always leads to disability or premature death.

When the affected dentist is brought to the attention of the Well-Being committee, a thorough investigation is conducted, and the dentist is intervened upon. This usually results in the dentist receiving therapy for his or her addictions, and the return to a more productive and rewarding life as well as dental practice. The Committee scrupulously protects the dentist's privacy, and acts as the dentist's advocate should his or her chemical dependency ever be brought to the attention of the State Board of Dentistry.

The Committee functions primarily as an ad hoc committee, and is composed of many individuals throughout the state. Many of the dentists who have volunteered for the Well-Being Committee are themselves recovering from

chemical dependency and therefore bring a unique insight into the plight of the dentist being intervened upon.

The Well-Being Committee is also trying to accumulate the money to establish a loan fund for the purpose of paying for treatment for this disease. Very often, a dentist who has a chemical dependency problem has used most of his or her financial resources to support the habit. For about a year, the Committee has been trying to assemble a cookbook to be sold in order to raise money for our loan fund. Although we have a wonderful network of dentists available for interventions, we suffer from a chronic lack of volunteers to work on our cookbook. I would very much like to solicit someone who would volunteer to assemble a subcommittee to take on this project. If you would like to volunteer, please call me at 361-0550. Thank you.



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NODA PROFILE

NODA News continues a series of profiles of members of all ages and various lengths of membership in the Association. You may be next! Dentists are selected at random.

Busy, and he loves it

Dimetry Cossich is a man who likes to work. Dentistry? "I love it," says Dr. Cossich. "If I won the lottery tomorrow, I'd stay right here." He adds with a smile: "I might take a little longer fishing trips in a little bigger boat."

Fishing is another of his loves. He keeps his 28-foot Lafitte skiff in a building next to his office in Buras, the fishing and oil service town where he has practiced since 1989.

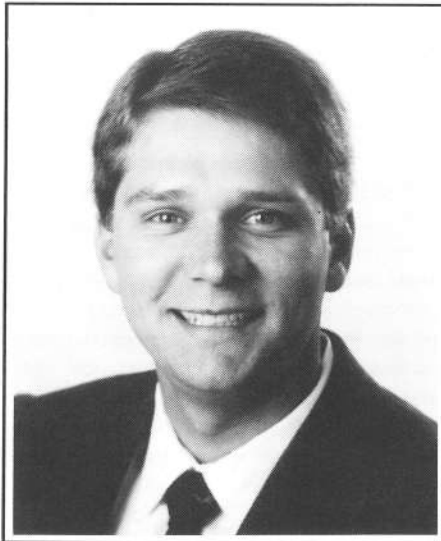
And it's quite a practice. A solo practitioner, Dr. Cossich employs six operators in a formerly burnt-out building he bought and renovated in 1995. His staff includes a hygienist, office manager, financial coordinator, receptionist, and three chairside assistants.

Dr. Cossich's work habits began early. The son of schoolteachers, he graduated from Buras High School in 1978 as valedictorian, winning an academic scholarship to Tulane. There he earned two degrees, a BS in biology and a BA in psychology.

Then came LSU Dental School where he earned his DDS in 1987. He spent two years in the Charity Hospital general dentistry residency program and in 1989 opened up his practice in Buras.

What lured him to dentistry? "It's not hard to say," Dr. Cossich said. "My parents gave me three choices - doctor, lawyer, or dentist - and I've always loved working with my hands. I remember going to our dentist, Dr. Elmer Grundmeyer. Maybe it was because it was such a positive experience being the only one in my family who never had a cavity."

Throughout his Tulane days, Dr. Cossich worked in the summers as a commercial fisherman from May to July. "I made good money, sometimes as much as \$15,000 in a month. Of course, I fished longer and harder than most, seeing as I was only working 45 days a year."



DR. COSSICH

Dr. Cossich has occasionally had associates in the office to assist him. Once a month an orthodontist, Dr. Larry Foster, comes down from Baton Rouge. "I think it's the fishing that attracts him," says Dr. Cossich. "He'll work one day and fish two."

The Buras practitioner is married to the former Emme David of New Orleans. They are the proud parents of three children: Dimetry, Jr., age 10, Elizabeth-Lee, 9, and Joseph, the one-year-old. The family resides in Belle Chasse.

Fishing is by no means Dr. Cossich's only pastime. On a recent vacation in South Carolina, he taught the kids how to water ski and the doctor himself is an enthusiastic snow skier. By the way, Dr. Cossich invites anyone who is interested in some great fishing to give him a call.

Plan your NODA year

NODA GENERAL MEETING
Wed., Nov. 18, 1998 - LSUSD - 7:00 pm
"TMD Splint Therapy"
Dr. Shawky Mohamed

NODA GENERAL MEETING
Wed., Dec. 9, 1998 - LSUSD - 7:00 pm
"Nasty Microbes"
Dr. John Mayo

NODA GENERAL MEETING
Wed., Jan. 20, 1999 - LSUSD - 7:00 pm
"Implants in the Esthetic Zone"
Dr. Hisham Nasr

**NODA GENERAL/ELECTION MEETING
& NEW MEMBER DINNER**
Wed., Feb. 24, 1999 - Carlone's Restaurant
"Can We Do Well While Serving Others?"
Dr. Michael Robichaux

NODA INSTALLATION DINNER
Sat., March 27, 1999 - 7:00 pm
English Turn Golf & Country Club
Dr. Guy A. Ribando

NODA CRAWFISH BOIL
Fri., April 16, 1999 - 7:00 pm
American Legion Home
(RSVP required)

NODA GENERAL MEETING
Wed., May 19, 1999 - LSUSD - 7:00 pm
"New Computer Technology:
A Hardware/Software Exhibit"
Dr. William Davenport

**NEW ORLEANS DENTAL CONFERENCE
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DANNY DORNER MICHAEL BRINKMAN

Chairman looks back on a memorable conference

The 49th Annual New Orleans Dental Conference is over and what a year it has been! First, on behalf of the Conference Committee and the New Orleans Dental Association, thank you, *Earl* for taking a path away from us. What a befitting end to a year of challenges and planning for the unknown!

At 4 p.m. on that Monday of conference week, I heard over the radio at my office that there was now a Tropical Storm *Earl* in the Gulf and that it would be a hurricane by the time it made landfall *south of New Orleans on Wednesday or Thursday*. Well, I did what any conference chairman would have done – I went to the bathroom because of a pain in my stomach, and then, I thought about nitrous oxide.

All day Tuesday was spent at NODA office packing with the television on, waiting for the next report from Nash (sorry, Mr. Breck), and going "online" with the different weather links trying to make an "informed" decision with my executive council about canceling the conference considering that attendees, exhibitors, and clinicians might not get here. History tells us that the correct decision was made and once again I thank everyone who attended the conference after patiently watching that erratic storm and made our conference a success.

This conference was a first in many ways: the first annual *Dr. Louis G. Grush Distinguished Lecture* was given as our pre-conference course; the first year we held the conference at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center; it was the year we had the largest number of lecture courses; and, it was the first year we went over the 1,250 registered dentist number.

The New Orleans Dental Association should be proud of its conference committee and of the educational and fellowship opportunity it affords to its colleagues via the New Orleans Dental Conference. We all need to continue to attend, promote, and support the exhibitors of our conference. Next

year we "Go for the Gold" on September 15-18, 1999 with Dr. Melanie Andrews as general chairperson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank: Dr. Louis Grush, my Executive Director, for helping me put together a scientific program that was second to none and for all the support, guidance, and legwork over the past few years that helped make the transition to the Convention Center possible; my committee chairmen (Drs. Bob Barsley, Gabe Daroca, Joe Campo, Carol Stuckey, Ron Mancuso, George Marse, Tom McCoy, and Ken Schott); my advisory committee (Drs. Terry Walsh, Patrick Eck, Randy Green, Gerald Williams, and Melanie Andrews); my support committee (Drs. Kristi Soileau, David DeGenova, Joe Kirn, Jim Roethele, Glen Dubroc, and Mr. Charles Brennan); my ladies luncheon chairpersons (Mrs. Angie Green, and Mrs. Cathy Liberto); and to all the clinician hosts and room monitors. My extra-special thanks to Mrs. Normalee Ward (conference executive secretary), and Dr. Debra Arnold (conference assistant executive director) for their untiring dedication, counsel, and friendship during this year – you have my unending gratitude for being there whenever you were needed.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Gwen, for the love, support, and understanding during this past year of extended meetings and phone calls. I consider myself very lucky to have her and to have had the support of all of you . . . Thanks.

Tom Giacona
1998 New Orleans
Dental Conference Chairman

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**Continuing Education Corner**

In an effort to keep you informed about available C.E. opportunities at the LSU School of Dentistry, this area will be devoted to informational updates.

DATE	1998	COURSE / TITLE		COST
Nov. 6		"Preparing for the Aging America" w/Dr. Linda C. Niessen	07 cr. hrs.	DDS \$ 195.00 Auxiliary \$ 95.00
November 21		"Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries" w/ Drs. Thunthy & Hubar	07 cr. hrs.	Auxiliary \$ 120.00
November 14-22		"Oral & Cosmetic Surgery Review Course" w/Drs. Kent, Misiek, Teenier, Block, et alia		Call CE for daily tuition rates.
December 11		"Last Chance Course II" w/Drs. Cade, Lemon, Moerschbaecher, Sadan and Wood	07 cr. hrs.	DDS \$ 220.00 Auxiliary \$ 145.00
December 11-13		"Expanded Duty Dental Assistant" w/Dottie Austin, CDA	24 cr. hrs.	Auxiliary \$ 369.00
	1999			
	January 8-10	March 5-7	April 16-18	
				DDS \$5,495.00
				Auxiliary \$ 995.00
				(Fees cover all three sessions)
January 15-17		"Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist"		Hygienist \$ 979.00
February 19-21		w/Drs. Bert Wood, Janet Leigh and	72 cr. hrs.	
March 19-21		Tony Indovina		
January 9		"Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries" w/Drs. Thunthy & Hubar	07 cr. hrs.	Auxiliary \$ 120.00

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