

# THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHARD C. BUTLER, SR. CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 5, Number 2

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## Butler Center Receives Grant for Three Projects

The Butler Center is fortunate to have so many dedicated supporters and patrons. Among the many people and institutions who actively support the Center is Dolores M. Bruce of Little Rock, who recently helped fund three new programming initiatives:

*\*Enlarge the Genealogy Collection.*

More than 5,000 people use the Butler Center's genealogy collection each year, a number we hope to double in the next few years. We hope to add more published indices, more resources in digitized form, and subscribe to more online databases.

*\*Arkansas Black History Online.* This project will result in the Butler Center making available on the Internet a substantial amount of primary source material documenting African-American history in Arkansas. These materials, including photographs, periodical articles, letters, legal documents, etc., will be housed permanently on the Library's web server. Educators and students can access and utilize these online materials at no cost.

*\*Handbook of Arkansas.* We need a thorough and comprehensive reference work on Arkansas. For years Arkansas historians have cast covetous eyes toward the *Handbook of Texas*, a wonderful source of all things



Dolores Bruce and Butler Center Curator Tom Dillard with some of the genealogical books purchased by Ms. Bruce.

in Texas. The Butler Center, with Mrs. Bruce's assistance, can now start the process of planning the handbook. The Center also hopes to locate individuals and institutions who will partner with us in this huge undertaking. It is anticipated the handbook will first be published in digital form followed later by a print version.

Tom Dillard, Butler Center Curator, said, "Dolores Bruce is a visionary—a person who wants to contribute both her financial resources and time to improving the quality of life in Arkansas." Dillard said the Bruce grant

See "Bruce Grant" on page 3

## Anniversary of Creation Science Law to Be Marked

Twenty years ago Arkansas was the focus of international attention in the century-old battle between those who accept biological evolution and religious fundamentalists who reject "Darwinism." After a long trial at the Federal Courthouse in Little Rock, Judge William R. Overton in January 1982 declared unconstitutional a bill adopted the previous year by the Arkansas General Assembly to require "balanced" treatment of



Cartoon courtesy: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

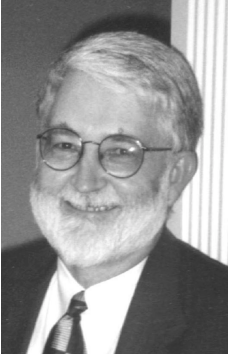
"Creation Science" in the public schools of the state. On September 25 the Butler Center will give a program on the trial as a part of the Library System's Rabbi Ira E. Sanders Distinguished Lecture Series.

Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center Curator, said the program will involve two parts. Dr. Calvin Ledbetter, retired UALR professor, will commence the program by giving a history of Arkansas' anti-evolution impulse. Ledbetter will be followed by a Readers Theater performance in which actors will quote from the various trial participants.

See "Evolution Conference" on page 6

### Inside This Issue

Curator's Column	Page 2
Butler Center Acquires the Biltz Papers	Page 3
Butler Center Staff & Advisory Board News	Page 3
Freund Exhibit Opens in Cox Building	Page 5
"The Bobs" Are Revealed	Page 6
1930 Arkansas Census Available for Use	Page 7
Legacies & Lunch Schedule Released	Page 7
Memorials & Gifts	Page 8



## Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

I love my job! It is 6:35 p.m. as I write this, and here is a summary of my day. Arriving at work at 8:00 a.m., I read all my emails, deleting most of them and responding to the significant ones; then I attacked the pile of correspondence on the desk, answering several letters in writing and one with a telephone call; then at 9:00 a.m. I conducted a meeting to organize a new program, tentatively named "Arkansas Black History Online." This program, for which we have received two grants, will result in the Butler Center digitizing much of its sources on Afro-Arkansas history for placement on our website.

There were four of us in the meeting, and as it progressed we all got more and more excited about this new program. One person suggested we include our nice African-American photograph collection. Another excitedly suggested the importance of including at least a sampling of the WPA Slave Narratives from Arkansas. We all agreed that we could not overlook legal documents, such as bills of sale for slaves; we must document slave resistance through runaway advertisements. Then there is a won-

derful article by Scipio A. Jones in which the Little Rock lawyer attacks the prevailing peonage in the post World War I Arkansas delta. Of course we must include a transcript of Phillips County leader William H. Gray's remarks before the 1872 Republican National Convention, the first time in American history a black person addressed a national political convention.

No sooner had this meeting ended at 11:00 a.m. than two guests arrived for a meeting to discuss the Butler Center publishing a book written by one of them. We analyzed the manuscript, which both the Deputy Curator and I had read; we went over possibilities for pictures to illustrate the book; we discussed marketing strategies. I spent some time reassuring the author that she had the capability to re-work the manuscript and correct some of the problems. Then, at noon, I took the guests to lunch—just like the New York publishers do, except we dined at the affordable and less-than-chic "Pour House." Returning to the office, we established a timeline for producing the book, whereupon my guests departed.

Just as I was settling down at my desk to complete some paperwork, I was informed that Mr. Archie Moore had brought some materials to donate to the archives. Archie was a history student of mine when I taught at Hall High School in the 1970s, and I take considerable pride in his deep and abiding interest in history and historical materials. On this particular occasion, Archie had a variety of materials for us, including a 1919 membership certificate in the Little Rock chapter of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America. Among other items, Archie also gave us a 1942 Christmas card with a color photograph of the altar of Christ Episcopal Church in Little Rock—which noted that this was "the

church of General Douglas MacArthur's baptism."

After writing a thank you note to Archie, I opened an envelope from Mr. Bill Sayger, an historical sleuth of Biscoe, Arkansas. Inside was a letter from Bill, handwritten and wonderfully literate as usual, in which was enclosed a photograph of William S. McCullough, owner of the Brinkley Hotel, who had, in the years immediately after the Civil War, been Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau at DeValls Bluff. Like a kid under the Christmas tree, I revel in opening such gifts.

The rest of the day I spent editing lesson plans on various Arkansas history topics. The Butler Center has an ongoing fellowship program whereby we commission teachers to prepare materials to improve the teaching of state and local history. On top of the stack of plans was one by Sherry Tipps, a Butler Fellow from Conway, dealing with prehistoric salt mining by the Caddo Indians of southwest Arkansas. Another lesson plan, written by Fellow Julie Hill of Conway, dealt with "Arkansas Novaculite: More than a Whetstone." Did you know that nine commercial novaculite quarries are located in the Hot Spring vicinity? These lesson plans are expensive in both time and money, but the Butler Center is committed to lifting Arkansas history education to an important place in the social studies curriculum.

I failed to mention a visit by a scholar from Alabama who was seeking research leads on the history of the Arkansas delta.

Yes, it was another day of rushing from one thing to the next, but it was also a day full of joy as the Butler Center strives to fulfill its mission of preserving the history of the state—and, more importantly, making that history available to all Arkansans. I welcome your help in fulfilling this mission.

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## Butler Center Acquires Papers of Priest, Social Activist

The Butler Center recently acquired and processed the papers of the late Rev. Joseph H. Biltz. The Biltz Papers contain the personal and professional records of Rev. Biltz, a Catholic priest known for his social involvement.

Joseph Henri Biltz was born May 29, 1930, in Little Rock to Maurice and Hilda Rumbach Biltz. He studied theology and philosophy at St. John's Seminary in Little Rock and earned a doctorate in moral theology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Rev. Biltz did post-doctoral work at Academia Alfonsiana in Rome.

Rev. Biltz was ordained a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Little Rock in 1955. He taught theology at St. John's Seminary in Little Rock and Mt. Angel College in Mt. Angel, Oregon. In 1978, Rev. Biltz was appointed Director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Little Rock, a position he held until his death.

Rev. Biltz was an outspoken social activist and a leader in the human rights movement, including migrant worker issues and opposition to the death penalty. He also advocated reform in the Catholic Church. These issues



Rev. Biltz, 1955

often drew criticism and confrontation with both Church and civil authorities. However, he did not allow public opinion, nor threat of religious censure determine his stance on important issues.

Rev. Joseph H. Biltz died on November 29, 1987 on the grounds of St. John's Seminary. He was survived by a sister, Mary Mobley of Conway.

The Biltz Papers were processed by Manuscripts Assistant Carolyn Cash and cataloged as MSS 01-02. The collection is available for research, and a finding aid provides for ease of use.

*"Bruce Grant" continued from page 1*

has already allowed for the purchase of a wide variety of new genealogical resources, including many printed indices to U.S. census records. He said work has already started on digitizing black history sources for the website, including a variety of legal documents. Noting that Mrs. Bruce will match two-to-one each dollar contributed to the Butler Center for any of these three

projects, Dillard urged Butler Center supporters to "help us take maximum advantage of Mrs. Bruce's generosity."



## Butler Center Staff & Advisory Board News

❖Curator Tom W. Dillard received an award from the Arkansas Historical Association for "Best Business History Article of 2001." Tom's article on Vestal Nursery in North Little Rock was published in the Fall 2001 issue of the *Pulaski County Historical Review*.

❖Deputy Curator Tim Nutt recently began full editorship of the *Pulaski County Historical Review*. Martha W. Rimmer, long-time editor and Butler Center Advisory Board member, retired after serving a 22-year stint. Tim is also the editor of the *Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter*.

❖Manuscripts Coordinator Brian K. Robertson was also honored by the Arkansas Historical Association for his editing of a Civil War journal. The journal, held by the Butler Center, was written by John Price, a soldier in the 8th Arkansas Infantry. Brian's article appeared in the April/July 2001 of the *Independence County Chronicle*.

❖Butler Center Advisory Board Member Judge Morris S. "Buzz" Arnold was awarded the inaugural J.G. Ragsdale Book Award at the annual Arkansas Historical Association conference for his book, *The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers 1673-1804*. The Ragsdale Award is given annually for the best non-fiction book length historical study on any aspect of Arkansas history.

❖Mike Polston, Cabot High School Teacher and Butler Center Advisory Board Member, was recently featured in *Voices*, the Alumni magazine of Arkansas State University. The article focused on the award-winning museum that Mike and the Cabot High School History Club operate.

❖Rob Seibert, Special Collections Librarian, has accepted a position as archivist with the Clinton Presidential Materials Project. He has been with the Butler Center for two years, mainly processing and providing reference service for the Jay Miller Aviation History Collection. Rob will be missed, but we wish him well. The Clinton Presidential Library is scheduled to open in 2004.



## Photographs of Little Rock Confectionery Are Sweetest New Acquisitions for Butler Center



The Butler Center recently acquired two photographs of the B. Heinze Confectionery & Ice Cream Parlor, located at 718 Main Street in Little Rock, circa 1895. Although we are pleased to receive both photographs, having images of both the exterior and interior of the shop makes the acquisitions even sweeter. If you are interested in donating photographs to the Butler Center, please contact Manuscripts Coordinator Brian Robertson at 918-3094. The photographs of the Heinze Confectionery have been processed and are available for perusal.



## And the Winner is.....

The Butler Center hosted a night of history and fun at its second annual "Arkansas Jeopardy!" contest on June 15. The nine contestants, representing varying professions and areas of the state, deftly answered the Arkansas trivia questions. Emcee Skip Rutherford both entertained and admonished the contestants and audience during the nail-biting rounds.

After all questions were answered and the final scores tallied, Zack Mobley, a Batesville architect, was declared the 2002 Arkansas Jeopardy! winner. His prize was a week-long stay at a beach-front condominium. Gary Crawford, a Conseco Insurance representative, was awarded second place while Amanda Paige, a UALR employee, finished third. Congratulations, however, goes out to all of the contestants for a game well-played.

Proceeds from Arkansas Jeopardy! benefit the Butler Center. Plans are already being formulated for next year's game.



**Arkansas Jeopardy! 2002 Contestants (l to r):** Dr. Don Baker, Sherwood; Paul Sawyer, Little Rock; Skip Rutherford, Emcee; Zack Mobley, Batesville; Jennifer Chilcoat, Little Rock; Lloyd Clark, Powhatan; Amanda Paige, Little Rock; Gary Crawford, Little Rock; Jeff Lewellen, Little Rock; and, Dr. Sondra Gordy, Conway. *Photograph by Nathania Sawyer.*





## Louis & Elsie Freund: Arkansas Treasures

Reita Walker Miller  
Arkansas Art Coordinator

Countless artists in Arkansas, Missouri and Florida owe at least part of their artistic success to the years Louis and Elsie Freund spent teaching, mentoring, and generally giving of themselves. The Freunds' impact on the art and culture of Arkansas is legendary, including the establishment of the art programs at Hendrix College and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the founding of the Summer School of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs.

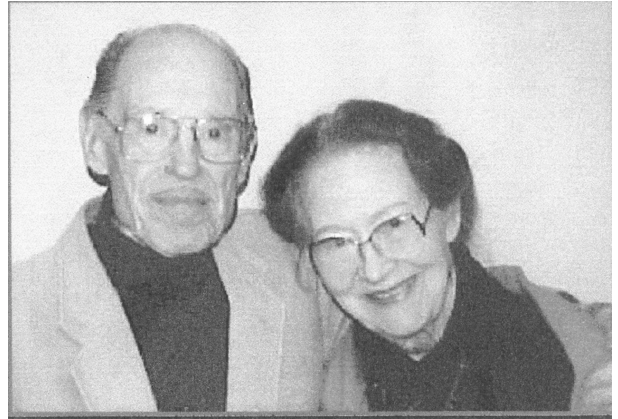
Louis was also the chairman of the Department of Art at Stetson University in Florida, as well as founder of the Art Department at Bishop College in Dallas. The Freunds' activities during their retirement years in Eureka Springs were central to the growth of the area as an artists' colony. Even after their move to Little Rock's Parkway Village in 1994, they remained vitally involved with the arts and culture in the community until their deaths, Louis at 95 in 1999, and Elsie at 89 in 2001.

During much of Elsie's life, Louis's work as a portrait painter, muralist and printmaker tended to overshadow her work in crafts. By the early 1990s the tide began to change. Elsie was

recognized as a pioneer of the studio art jewelry movement.

In the later years spent in central Arkansas, they generously donated many of their artistic works to various universities and institutions. The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies was the grateful recipient of over 70 pieces, including drawings, etchings, lithographs, oil paintings, watercolor paintings, linoleum cuts, sketchbooks, and a fabric mobile.

Today their work is found in major collections throughout the United States



Louis and Elsie Freund

and Elsie Freund—for their body of artwork and their generosity—their lives stand as a legacy to the people of Arkansas.

The exhibit "Louis and Elsie Freund: Arkansas Treasures" will be the first time the Butler Center's collection of their artwork has been shown in its entirety. An opening reception will be held on August 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. A program highlighting the careers and artistic legacies of the Freunds will be presented at 1:30 pm.

The exhibit will premier August 1 and be available for viewing through September 28 in the Showcase Arkansas Gallery on the third floor of the Cox Creative Center. [Some artwork from the Louis and Elsie Freund Estate will be available for sale.]

The Showcase Arkansas Gallery is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday. The Cox Creative Center is located across from the Main Library at 120 Commerce Street.



"Apple Peelers" by Elsie Freund



"From the Bridge" by Louis Freund.

This is one of the pieces of artwork available for sale at the Freund Exhibit.

and abroad. During their long life together, Louis and Elsie were devoted and passionate—to each other and to their work. For their long and distinguished careers in Arkansas, Louis and Elsie can justly be called the founders of the visual arts in this state as well as pioneers in American art.

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is proud to honor Louis



## Arkansas Literature Award, “The Bob” Debuts During Arkansas Book Guys

The “Arkansas Book Guys” program on April 13 was well-received. Bob Razer, CALS Associate Director and Arkansas literature bibliophile, concluded his part of the evening’s program (a presentation on collecting Arkansas books) by announcing some awards. Since it was the season for the “Oscars” and the Academy Awards, Razer followed that example by

presenting his award, the “Bob,” in a number of Arkansas literature categories. Following the program, several audience members requested a list of the categories and “winners” since they could not write fast enough to keep up with all the Arkansas writers and Arkansas books mentioned. So as Mel Gibson might say, “The ‘Bob’ goes to.....”



### Monumental Books on the National Scene That Were Written by Arkansans:

- Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- C. Vann Woodward for several titles, particularly *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* and *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913*
- David Levering Lewis’ two volumes of biography about W.E. B. Du Bois

### Writer Awards:

- Short stories: Lewis Nordan and Richard Ford (honorable mention to Ellen Gilchrist)
- Poetry: Miller Williams
- Fiction: Donald Harington
- Best Arkansas Writer Nobody Ever Heard Of:  
Frank Stanford (poet)  
Henry Dumas (poet and prose writer)

### Regional Work Where Arkansas Has a Major Role:

- John Barry’s *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*

### Biography:

- Robert Cochran’s *Vance Randolph*
- Roy Reed’s *Faubus*

### Art:

- Carroll Cloar’s *Hostile Butterflies, And Other Paintings*

### Music:

- Robert Palmer’s *Deep Blues*

### Memoir, Female Division:

- Shirley Abbott’s *Womenfolks: Growing Up Down South*

### Memoir, Male Division:

- Dee Brown’s *When the Century Was Young*

### Funniest:

- Bob Lancaster’s *Going Down for Gum Wrappers*

### Baseball: (Oscar season is also the start of baseball season)

- Donald Hays’ novel *The Dixie Association*

### “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

- Kenneth Barnes’ *Who Killed John Clayton*
- Grif Stockley’s *Blood in Their Eyes: The Elaine Race Massacres of 1919*

### 400 Years of Arkansas History in Six Books, or Six Books All Arkansans Should Read:

- Morris Arnold’s *The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws & Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*
- Carl Moneyhon’s *The Impact of the Civil War & Reconstruction on Arkansas*
- Bobby Roberts’ & Carl Moneyhon’s *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Arkansas in the Civil War*
- John Graves’ *Town & Country: Race Relations in an Urban-Rural Context, Arkansas, 1865-1905*
- William Cobb’s *Radical Education in the Rural South: Commonwealth College, 1922-1940*
- Diane Blair’s *Arkansas Politics & Government: Do the People Rule?*

### Most Overrated Arkansas Writer

- (The Legal Department still says, “wouldn’t be prudent” on announcing this “winner”)

### “Evolution Conference” continued from page 1

Assisting Dillard in writing the Readers Theater script is Mrs. Shirley Schuette, a recent honors graduate of UALR. Dillard said both sides of the controversy will be included in the program.

Invitations to the program will be sent later in the summer, but readers are urged to reserve the date of Wednesday, September 25, 6:30-9:00 p.m. The program will be free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Dillard at 918-3054.



## Legacies & Lunch Schedule Released For Second Half of Year

**August 7--** "Arkansas' Vernacular Architecture," presented by Jean Sizemore, retired Professor of Art History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

**September 4--** "Who Killed John Clayton?" presented by Kenneth C. Barnes, Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas

**October 2--** "Hattie Caraway: America's First Woman Elected U.S. Senator," presented by David Malone, Director, University of Arkansas Foundation

**November 6--** "Some More Arkansas Stories in Song," presented in musical form by Charley Sandage and Harmony

**December 4--** "A History of Arkansas' Prisons," presented by Bobby Roberts, Director, Central Arkansas Library System

All Legacies & Lunch programs are held in the Darragh Center, Main Library from Noon-12:45 pm. Soft Drinks and water are provided. For more information about Legacies & Lunch, contact 918-3049.

## 1930 Census for Arkansas Now Available for Use

Like staff at other institutions across the nation, the Butler Center employees were eagerly anticipating the arrival of the 1930 census. Released by the National Archives on April 1, the Butler Center received its set of the Arkansas section soon thereafter. Response to the new acquisition has been overwhelming as this is the first census in which many researchers' parents appear.

Although many of the questions asked of respondents are similar to those of previous years, the 1930 census also records whether families owned radios—a new technology. The 1930 census was also the last census in which all respondents answered the same questions. Beginning with the 1940 census, short and long versions appeared.

Arkansas is fortunate to be one of the twelve southern states that has a "Soundex" to the census. Compiled by the Work Project Administration (WPA), the "Soundex" is an index where similar sounding names are grouped, thus allowing easier access to the census.

Although the Butler Center only holds the Arkansas census on microfilm, Genealogy Coordinator Linda McDowell reminds everyone that AncestryPlus, the online database, is systematically digitizing the 1930 census for the entire United States. Census records for previous years have already been digitized.

## New Photo Acquisition Documents Little Rock's Catholic History



Laying of the cornerstone for the new St. Edward Catholic Church, Little Rock, November 10, 1901. The inset is a closeup of the religious ceremony associated with the laying of the cornerstone.



## In Memory Of

**George W. Browning**  
Jamestowne Society-Little Rock Company

**Ladd Davies**  
Dr. Peyton and Betty Rice

**H. Tyndall Dickinson**  
Dr. Peyton and Betty Rice

**Howard Stern**  
Geraldine Chandler  
Dr. Peyton and Betty Rice

**Betsy Taylor**  
Dr. Peyton and Betty Rice

**Judge Henry Woods**  
Brownie Ledbetter

## In Honor Of

**David Edwin Gifford**  
Capt. Basil Gaither Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution

## General Support

**Delores M. Bruce**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Gertrude R. Butler**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Mr. and Mrs. Grimsley Graham, Jr.**  
Rogers, Arkansas

**Dr. John W. Graves**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Rawdon Tomlinson**  
Denver, Colorado

## Books and Materials

**Desmond Walls Allen**  
Conway, Arkansas

**Arkansas Arts Center**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Arkansas Society of  
Mayflower Descendants**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Warrington & Dianne Cobb**  
Bethesda, Maryland

**Mr. & Mrs. J.Y. Davidson**  
Cabot, Arkansas

**Henry de Linde**  
Mabelvale, Arkansas

**Paul Ray Dobson**  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Barbara M. Dossey**  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Virginia Downie**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Carol Eruren**  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Freeborn Family  
Organization**  
Alhambra, California

**Georgia Division, UDC**  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Dr. Fred O. Henker**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Dr. C. Thomas Hill**  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

**Jack Hill**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Ken Hubbell**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Judith Kilpatrick**  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**Edwin Ledbetter**  
Placitas, New Mexico

**Gayle Koerting**  
University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, South Dakota

**Ron May**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Jeanne McDaniel**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Jim McDaniel**  
Dallas, Texas

**Archie Moore**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

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**Bill Sayger**  
Biscoe, Arkansas

**Louise Schreppel**  
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**Kitty Sloan**  
Paragould, Arkansas

**Lucille Swann**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Robert W. Worley**  
El Dorado, Arkansas

**Harvey L. Young**  
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