

An Environmental Affair

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June 2006

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the City of Los Angeles.

EAD and LAFD Recognized with 2005 Productivity Award

Annually, the Quality and Productivity Commission recognizes and awards City employee teams for their initiative, creativity, teamwork, cost containment efforts, and entrepreneurial spirit in providing a high level of customer service. The Quality and Productivity Award distinguishes City Departments that have maximized not only their efficiency, but have developed innovative strategies and solutions while partnering with other City agencies to expand their resources.



Front row: Gretchen Hardison, EAD; Rene Herrera, LAFD; Lindsay Goodrich, LAFD; Detrich B. Allen, General Manager, EAD. Second row: Battalion Chief Daniel McCarthy; Department Chief Mario Rueda; Wayne King, EAD. Back row: Randy Perez, LAFD; and Marc Segal, LAFD.

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) were awarded for their Bike Medic Team Project. EAD secured funds to purchase specially equipped bicycles for LAFD. The bike patrols provide immediate medical response to emergencies at venues and large events where ambulances can be delayed due to access constraints. The bikes also carry life-saving equipment, such as defibrillators. EAD has funded twelve bikes of the LAFD Bike Medic Patrol Project, and the LAFD has near term plans to expand to sixteen 2-member teams.

(Productivity Award...Continued on page 7)

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ARB Recommends Against Ozone Generators

Not all air-cleaning devices are appropriate for home use -- some can be harmful to human health. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) recommends that ozone generators, air cleaners that intentionally produce ozone, not be used in the home.

Ozone is a gas that can cause health problems, including respiratory tract irritation and breathing difficulty. An ARB staff report on tests conducted on several models of ozone generators is now available. The report documents testing of ozone air cleaning devices that show generators producing ozone emissions that exceed state and national health-based standards. ARB also has released a fact sheet on ozone-generating devices and a current list of ozone generator brands and models that should not be used in occupied indoor spaces.

Both the report and the fact sheet are available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/ozone.htm>.

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

Big Sunday

On May 7, up to 25,000 volunteers of all ages volunteered at more than 200 different sites for Los Angeles' Annual Day of Service. Volunteers participated in a wide range of projects including landscaping and beautifying schools, rehabilitating and painting homes, cooking and serving meals for the homeless; creating community murals; picking up trash off the street and at the beach, and along the Los Angeles River; assisting animal rescue groups, and more.

Big Sunday volunteers come from neighborhoods all over Los Angeles and all City of Los Angeles employees were encouraged to participate. Several Environmental Affairs Department staff participated in Big Sunday by cleaning up Venice between Robertson and La Cienega (collecting 1,108 pounds of trash and 50 pounds of recyclables), participating in greening events at Elysian Park, and volunteering at community pride events.

Starting out in 1999 as Temple Israel of Hollywood's Mitzvah Day, Big Sunday has evolved into an annual, city-wide volunteer day involving more than 8000 volunteers from more than 100 different synagogues, churches, schools, offices, clubs, and City departments.

Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)

A new voluntary performance standard has been established to help large computer buyers make environmentally sound purchases. The standard has been established to help purchasers reduce the environmental impact of desktop and laptop computers and monitors they buy, use and discard. The new standard offers criteria in eight categories --- material selection; environmentally sensitive materials; design for end of life; end-of-life management; energy conservation; product longevity and life-cycle extension; packaging; and corporate performance.

The new standard is the IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association) 1680TM "Standard for Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products." IEEE 1680 and its product registration and verification system are part of the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT), a project funded through a grant by EPA and managed by the Green Electronics Council (GEC). EPEAT promotes continuous improvement in the environmental design of electronic products and informs purchasers of the environmental criteria of electronic products.

Representatives from state and local government, the electronics industry, manufacturers, academia environmentalists, and purchasers, developed the new standard with EPA support. The standard was approved through the IEEE standards consensus-based process and recognized by the American National Standards Institute. The GEC will maintain a registry of computer products that meet IEEE 1680 criteria, starting in June 2006. GEC will verify that the information provided by manufacturers is accurate and up-to-date. Federal agencies and private purchasers have already referenced the new standard in more than \$21 billion of IT equipment contracts and requests for proposals. Most of these procurements indicate that the agencies will buy EPEAT-registered products as soon as they become available. The EPA has estimated that over the next five years, purchases of EPEAT registered computers will result in reductions of more than 4 million pounds of hazardous waste (equivalent to 266 elephants), more than 1 million pounds of non-hazardous waste (66 elephants), and more than 200,000 MWh of Energy - enough to power 2 million homes. More information on EPEAT can be obtained at the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/epeat.htm/>.

Gummy Gardening

During March and April, the Environmental Affairs Department visited 12 schools participating in the Gardens for Kids L.A. program to encourage kids to garden. Over 1,500 students learned about the benefits of gardening, nutrition, and recycling through an interactive discussion and a hands-on seed planting activity.

Gummy worms brought the seed planting activity to life as students reached into the mysterious gardening bucket to select a peat pellet. The gummy worms, partly concealed by dirty water, were eventually discovered by a few brave gardeners who reached deep into the bucket.

Students received prizes made from recycled materials, courtesy of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. They were all surprised to learn that their rulers, shoe laces, and pencils were made out of newspapers, soda bottles, blue jeans, and dollar bills!



Mimi Osei (right) and Laura Hunter present at Valerio Elementary School

More information about the Gardens for Kids L.A. can be obtained by calling Laura Hunter at (213) 978-0860. EAD would like to give thanks to the following schools who have participated in the Gardens for Kids L.A.:

- 7th St Elementary School
- Herrick Elementary School
- Griffin Elementary School
- Richland Elementary School
- Mountain View Elementary School
- Nevada Elementary School
- Laurel Elementary School
- Valerio Elementary School
- Lowman Special Education Center
- Selma Elementary School
- Sun Valley Middle School
- Eastman Elementary School

June Gardening Activity

In sticking with our gummy and gooey theme this month, we suggest the following gardening activity: In a small, clear cup, add a small amount of boxed gelatin mixture and refrigerate. After the mixture has hardened, push three sunflower seeds into the gelatin. The seed does not need to be watered while growing in the cup because it draws its moisture from the gelatin. After a week, or once the seed has rooted, take the gelatin and seeds out of the cup and plant them in the ground. This is a fun way to watch the seeds sprout and grow!

Avian Flu

Bird flu and pandemic flu are important topics for all people in Los Angeles County to learn about. Bird flu (avian flu) refers to flu viruses that infect birds and make them sick. Different strains of bird flu are found all over the world, but most strains do not infect people. One strain in Asia and Europe, called Asian H5N1, has infected a comparatively small number of people who had contact with sick poultry. Pandemic flu happens in the world only once every 30 to 50 years. It refers to a virus that causes a worldwide epidemic of flu in humans. Scientists are worried that the Asian H5N1 bird flu might mutate to become very contagious between people, causing a new flu pandemic.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has set up a website for the general public to learn more at <http://www.lapublichealth.org/vet/avianpg2.htm>. To report clusters of three or more dead birds, call the Department's Veterinary Public Health Division at (562) 401-1899.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$
 Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grant Program The California Fertilizer Foundation provides a total of twelve annual grants for \$1000 each to schools throughout California. At the end of each year, one of the 12 recipients will be given a free agricultural field trip and an additional grant of \$1500. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at <http://www.calfertilizer.org/>, or contact Sara Miller (916) 446-3316. Applications are due **June 15, 2006**.

The Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Grant This fund makes grants to grassroots organizations that are working to decrease exposure to toxic substances in neighborhoods and workplaces, particularly in low-income areas and communities of color. Groups engaged in community organizing, applied research, policy advocacy, litigation, or popular education are eligible to apply. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org/ejf/. Liberty Hill will hold two workshops teaching potential grantseekers "How to Apply" for an *Environmental Justice Fund* grant. The deadline for applying is **November 1, 2006**.

Lawrence Foundation Grants The mission of the Lawrence Foundation is to make a difference in the world by providing contributions and grants to organizations that are working to solve pressing educational, environmental, health, and other issues. Grants are awarded twice per year. Letter of inquiry required. Letters of inquiry are open to any organization that wishes to be considered for a grant that meets the grant guidelines. For more information, call (310) 451-1567, visit www.thelawrencefoundation.org or e-mail inquiries to info@thelawrencefoundation.org. For December grant cycle (two cycle periods), letters of inquiry are due **Monday, August 1**.

The Healthy Sprouts Awards These awards support school garden programs that use the garden to teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. In this grant cycle, awards will be presented to 25 schools or organizations. Each will receive a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company and a curriculum package from the National Gardening Association. For more information, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts1.asp>. Applications are due **Sunday, October 15, 2006**.



Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation Grants of up to \$10,580 are available in the following categories: agriculture; aviation/aerospace; conservation of natural resource; education; exploration; health; and waste minimization and management. The proposed project should create a balance between the advance of technology and preservation of the natural/human environment. For more information, and to apply, visit www.lindberghfoundation.org/. Applications are due **June 8, 2006**.

Idle Reduction Training and Awareness for School Districts The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) Office of FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies (OFCVT), is seeking applications for projects covering a range of commercial technology deployment and educational activities under the Clean Cities Transportation Sector Petroleum Reduction Technologies Program. This area of interest is for projects that eliminate or reduce idling in school buses through the development and implementation of comprehensive driver education and awareness materials to reduce or eliminate idling. This area of interest is targeted at school bus drivers, fleet managers, and maintenance personnel of school districts as well as students, faculty, and parent-teacher organizations. For more information, contact Jodi Collins at (304) 285-1390 or email jodi.collins@netl.doe.gov. The application due date is **June 8, 2006**.

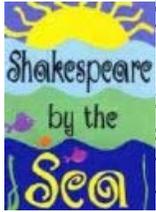
Refueling Infrastructure for E85 and Other Alternative Fuels The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking applications for projects covering a range of commercial technology deployment and educational activities under the Clean Cities Transportation Sector Petroleum Reduction Technologies Program. This area of interest is for refueling infrastructure projects that include new dispensing facilities, or additional equipment or upgrades and improvements to existing refueling sites for alternative fuel vehicles (AFV). For more information, contact Jodi Collins at (304) 285-1390 or email jodi.collins@netl.doe.gov. The application due date is **June 8, 2006**.

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Annual Shakespeare by the Sea Festival



These outdoor performances of Shakespeare are set in an outdoor theater overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Bring a picnic, blanket, chairs, and dress warmly for an evening of lively theater under the night sky. Free. The Bard performs at Point Fermin Park, located at 807 Paseo de la Mar in San Pedro, Thursdays through Saturdays beginning at 8 pm. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Rec and Parks. For more information, call (888) LA PARKS, or visit www.laparks.org.

L.A. River Reborn This timely exhibition at the Skirball Cultural Center features photographs of the Los Angeles



River by internationally renowned contemporary artists Lane Barden, Anthony Hernandez, Helen and Newton Harrison, John Humble, Dana Plays, and Gary Schwartz. This highly-focused selection of twenty-six works captures the unexpected beauty of the River and documents the fragile relationship between society and the environment. Free admission to galleries. The exhibit runs **through September 3, 2006**. The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard in Los Angeles. Call (310) 440-4500, or visit www.skirball.org for

more information.

Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. See a Giant Swallowtail, Monarch, American Painted Lady or even a California Dogface - California's state butterfly. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the Pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues. \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots throughout the day. **Through September 4, 2006**. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit the their website at www.nhm.org.



ZooCamp 2006 at the Los Angeles Zoo Kids can experience another summer of wild ZooCamp adventures. Each day of camp is filled with safe and fun activities, led by the LA Zoo's specially trained staff. Children will have fun while learning about the wonderful world around them. For more information, visit the LA Zoo's website at www.lazoo.org, or call (323) 644-4200. Zoo Camp takes place from **June 26 through August 18 (8 weeks)**. The Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles.

Family Adventures in Nature Summer 2006 at the Natural

The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our website calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

History Museum & Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits Summer Adventures in Nature offers children, pre-K through grade 8, the opportunity to explore a wide variety of museum topics, from the Earth's features, to creatures and cultures from around the globe. Enroll your child in their hands-on, interactive classes, and they will learn about fascinating topics through active encounters that spark children's natural curiosity and creativity. Register on-line at www.nhm.org/register or register by phone from 9 am to 4 pm by calling (213) 763-ED4U.

Star Parties Free public star parties are held monthly with the assistance of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society and the Los Angeles Sidewalk Astronomers at the Griffith Observatory Satellite in the northeast corner of Griffith Park from 2 pm to 10 pm. They are a chance for the whole family to look at the sun, moon, visible planets, and other objects, to try out a variety of telescopes, and to talk to knowledgeable amateur astronomers about the

sky and their equipment. The Satellite is located at 4800 Western Heritage Way in Los Angeles. For more information, visit the Los Angeles Astronomical Society's webpage at www.laas.org/.

THIS MONTH:

Sat, Jun 3

Kelp Forests Lecture at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

From 11 am to noon, learn more about the beautiful kelp forests of the Southern California coast and what is being done to save them. Tom Ford ("Captain Kelp") of Santa Monica BayKeeper will talk about the life history of kelp and the efforts to reintroduce the plants to areas where they once flourished. The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. Free. For more information, contact the Aquarium at (310) 548-7562.

Sat, Jun 4

First Annual "Lummis Day" at Sycamore Grove Park

To Celebrate Diverse Culture and Rich History Of Los Angeles' Northeast neighborhoods with food, music, art, poetry and a trek along the Arroyo Seco Riverbed. Culinary and literary artists of Los Angeles will join together to stage the first annual Lummis Day, a free, public celebration, from 10 am to 4 pm. The event will begin with a poetry reading at the historic El Alisal museum, aka Lummis Home, and will continue with a ¼ mile trek along the Arroyo Seco riverbed to Sycamore Grove Park, where

a full day of food, music, art and multi-cultural performances is planned. Local and internationally prominent musicians, a variety of local restaurants, dancers and other performing artists and the work of visual artists from throughout the Southern California region will be featured. Co-sponsored by the Southwest Museum of the American Indian. For more information, contact the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council at (323) 344-9955. Sycamore Grove Park is located at 4702 North Figueroa in Highland Park.

Sat, Jun 10

Family Storytime: Fabulous Fish



Swim into Central Library for deep-sea stories, poems, songs, and a puppet show. Free.

Family Story Time takes place at 2 pm at Central Library's KLOS Theater. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 228-7000.

Sat, Jun 17

Family Storytime "Father's Day Fun"

Dads RULE in these very cool stories, poems, and puppet show to celebrate fathers. Free. Family Story Time takes place at 2 pm at Central Library's KLOS Theater. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 228-7000.



Weekend Tidepool Walk

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Education staff will conduct tours of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge during weekend low

tides. Attend an informative slide show in the John M. Olguin Auditorium, then come along on a naturalist-led ramble on the rocks. Life ranging from simple sea anemones to mussels, sea stars, crabs and tidepool fishes are revealed. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised. Fee: \$1. Reservations required for groups. The walk begins at 8 am. The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, contact the Aquarium at (310) 548-7562.

Bolo Ties *Let's Make History* at the Museum of American West

lets families with children ages 5 to 12 journey through the Museum's galleries with educators and create exciting take-home projects. Dress to impress! From function to excess, Western clothes have provided some of the most visually stunning items to popularize the American West. Make your own bolo tie inspired by the Western clothing in our museum galleries. Free with Museum admission. The Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Los Angeles. The activity begins at 1 pm. For more information, contact the Museum at (323) 667-2000.



Ocean Conservation Panel: Moving Beyond Reports and Rhetoric to Action

This panel discussion at the Aquarium of the Pacific will bring together experts to explore why ocean conservation is at such a standstill. Learn about both USCOP's *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century* as well as the Pew Ocean Commission report, *America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea*

THIS MONTH: (continued)

Change. Hear about the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. Find out what other initiatives are in place to address how human activities affect the ocean. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. Free. The event takes place 12:30 pm to 2 pm. To make reservations, call the Aquarium at (562) 590-3100, ext. 0.

Sat, Jun 24

Nature by Kayak The birds and wildlife of Upper Newport Bay are special to kayakers all throughout the



year. After an introductory lesson, participants will be led on a naturalist-guided kayak expedition to learn about the plants, geologic features, archaeological sites, marine biology, and more. Both double and single kayaks are available in this off-site class. Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for a morning of gentle paddling in the bay's ecological preserve for an up-close view of nature. Fee. To rsvp and find out more details about the location, call the Aquarium at (562) 951-1630.

Los Angeles Central Library Family Program: "The Peggy and Merv Miller Science Day" Celebrate the fun

of Science! Have a "wheely" good time with Claire and Monte Montgomery, presenting Wonders of the Wheel; meet Wild Things and Animals of Prey with The Lizard Lady; experience hands-on science with the California Science Center; more. Presented by FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature). The event takes place from 2 pm to 4 pm. Free. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 228-7000.

Sat and Sun, Jun 24 and 25



3rd Annual Chinese Food Festival

A weekend outdoor festival spotlighting Chinese food and culture at the northeast corner of North Broadway and College Street, adjacent the Chinatown Metro Gold Line station. Fee. The event takes place Saturday, from 2 pm to 8 pm, and on Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Chinatown Business Council. For more information about the festival, visit www.chinesefoodfestivalla.com, or call the Business Council office at (213) 680-0243.

Sun, Jun 25

Summer's A-Comin' Join a docent-led walk in Topanga Canyon Park to learn how native plants and animals prepare for

summer. Visit the nature center after the walk. The walk begins at 9:30 am. Free. Sponsored by the Topanga Canyon Docents. For more information and directions to Topanga Canyon Park, contact the Docents at (818) 758-1964.

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Meetings

How is the community's vision for the River compatible with current land uses in your neighborhood?

To learn more about the Los Angeles River visit www.lariver.org or call Dr. Ara Kasparian at (213) 485-5729.

Next Public Meetings

GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

- Saturday, June 24, 2006 •
10 am to 12:30 pm
Goodwill Workforce Center,
342 N. San Fernando Road,
Los Angeles, 90031

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AREA

- Tuesday, June 27, 2006 •
6 pm to 8:30 pm
Oakwood School,
11600 Magnolia Boulevard,
North Hollywood, 91601

GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

- Wednesday, June 28, 2006 •
6 pm to 8:30 pm
Evergreen Recreation Center,
2844 East 2nd Street,
Los Angeles, 90033

(Productivity Award...Continued from page 1)

EAD works to provide bicycles and equipment to bike patrols from: Police Department, Recreation and Parks Department, General Services Department, Los Angeles Zoo, Port of LA, and Department of Transportation, and there currently are 450 bikes city-wide. Utilizing two bikes to replace one patrol car over a five year period has reduced air pollution by 12.59 tons. The City will save over \$5 million dollars in vehicle expense during the lifespan of the city-wide bike Program.



HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 978-0888**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

Air Quality

Calidad del aire

South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

Asbestos

Asbestos

Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5100

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes

L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste/e-Waste

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos

L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar

Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 367-9411

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Depositos en los drenajes de desagües

Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moho

Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo

National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

Leaf Blowers

Sopladores de hojas

Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

Infestaciones de mosquitos

L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Recycling

Reciclaje

City of L.A. Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar

Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

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