

LA VOZ DE BRAZORIA COUNTY

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The Most Interesting
Newspaper in the County

Volume # 17 Number 10

A Bilingual Publication

October, 2006



**Sisters
Morales in
Lake Jackson
See page 5**

Remember When?

1973

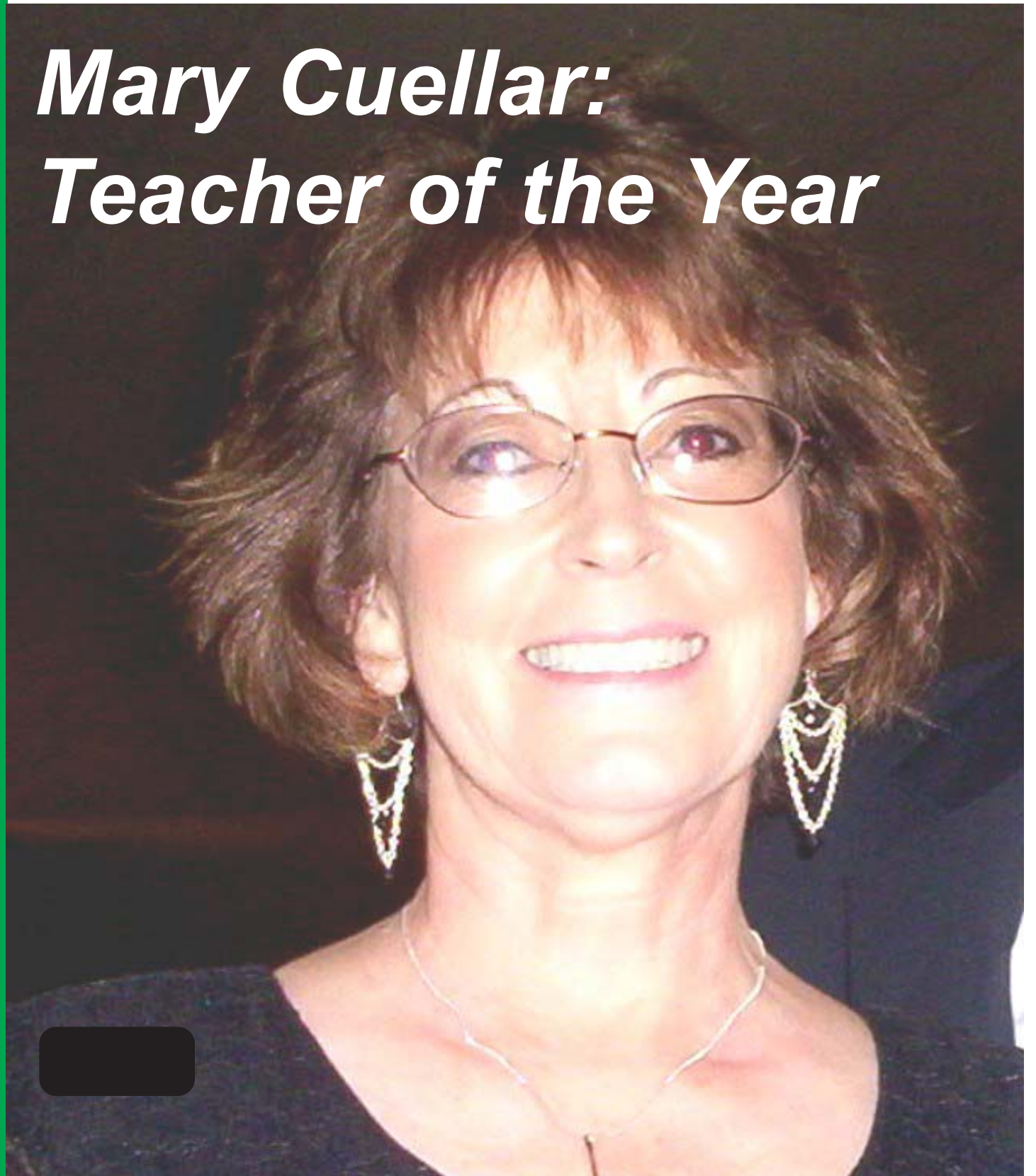
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Mary Cuellar: Teacher of the Year



People in the News



Silvia Serrtuche Begins Work at Palm Funeral

Silvia Serrtuche, was born in **Freeport, Texas** but considers **Angleton** her home. As the second of six children born to **Andres** and **Sarah Rubio**, the number 6 appears to her favorite in that she has six children of her own.

As the newest employee of **Palm Funeral Home** in **Angleton, Texas** **Silvia** says she enjoys her job very much and looks forward to assisting and working with everyone who has a question about funeral arrangements or related services. As a fully bilingual individual she is able to translate from English into Spanish and vice versa. If anyone with a question please contact **Silvia** at (979) 849-4343

Silvia Serrtuche ahora se encuentra trabajando en la funeraria **Palm Funeral Home** en **Angleton, Texas**. Para cualquier pregunta no deje de llamar a **Silvia** en el teléfono (979) 849-4343. Ella también se encuentra trabajando después de la cinco de la tarde.



Rowland Garza Named Outreach Director for Chris Bell Campaign

Rowland Garza from **Del Rio, Texas** has been named the Statewide Latino Outreach Director for the **Chris Bell for Governor Campaign**.

Garza received his bachelors degree from **Sul Ross State University** in 1999 and a masters degree in political science, also from **Sul Ross State University** in 2004.

He has worked on numerous political campaign both in and out of **Texas** and as the Statewide Latino Outreach Director with the **Chris Bell** campaign, his job is to help increase voter turnout in next month's general election.

Garza says that the winner of this Governor's race is not going to need 50% of the vote in order to win. With five candidates running, the winner is going to get in the 30% range. He believes that this race is very doable for **Bell**. To contact **Garza** please call 830-703-0043.



Garces Featured in Harvard Publication

Former attorney **Liliana Garces** had a second article published about her in the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** website. See the article at: www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2006/09/26_garces.php

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Editorial

El Presidente Bush al fin ha decidido firma la ley que va establacer una cerca entre los Estados Unidos y Mexico. El costo de esta cerca va hacer alrededor de 1.2 billones de dolares. Supuestamente la cerca va a prevenir la cruzada de milles de personas.

Ahora le voy hablar francamente. Esta cerca si va a reducir la llegada de mucha gente . . . por un tiempo. Pero va pasar lo que pasó en Alemania cuando hace más de 40 años cuando construieron una cerca para devidir a la gente.

La gente va buscar y va encontrar la manera de llegar a donde ellos quieren ir. ¿Por qué? Porque el hambre es canijo. Dime tu, quien en sus cinco sentidos quiere riesgar la vida viendo a un país donde la idioma es diferente? Dondo a uno le discriminen nomas por el color de su piel. ¿Quien quiere dejar a su familia y la experencia de ver a sus hijos crecer?

La respuesta mis amigos es nadie. Nadie quiere hacer esto. Pero el hambre, la necesidad de mantener a la familia, lo obliga a uno tomar acciones donde se encuentra en peligro.

Todos sabemos de personas que han tratado de caminar por los ranchos en Tejas. Unos llegan . . . y otros no. Esta cerca no va dar el resultado que se espere. Esta cerca va ser la causa de muchas problemas en el futuro. Hoy es la cerca. Mañana las acciones del gobierno van hacer más peligrosas. Es demasiado importante que uno le presta su atención a este asunto. Va caer mucha tierra.

President Bush has finally signed into law the legislation that will allow construction of a 700 mile wall between the United States and Mexico. It is estimated that the cost of this fence will come in at right around 1.2 billion dollars. The purpose of the fence is to prevent the crossing of thousands of persons.

Now I wish to speak frankly with you. This fence will indeed reduce the arrival of many people . . . for

a while. But what is going to happen is what happened in Germany more than 40 years ago when they built a fence to divide the people.

The people will find a way to get to where they want to be, fence or no fence. Why? Because hunger is a very strong motivator. Tell me, who in their five senses would risk coming to a country where the language is different? Where you are discriminated against because of the color of your skin. Who wants to leave their family and the experience of watching their children grow up?

The answer my friend is nobody! Nobody wants to do this. But the pain of hunger and the need to feed one's children obligates one to make decisions that will put him in harm's way.

We all know of people who have tried to walk across the large ranches of Texas. Some make and others do not. Only the buzzards overheard know how far one was able to walk. This fence is not going to produce the results that are expected. This fence is going to produce more problems than anyone ever imagined.

Today it is the fence. Tomorrow the actions of the government will be even more dangerous. It is very important that everyone pays close attention to these matters. There are more problems on the way.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor

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Jovita's Year Around Tamales



ABOVE: Jovita Gonzales is spreading the masa in the corn husks as part of the preparation for tamales. She learned the art of tamale making many years in the Rio Grande Valley and has brought this talent with her to **Angleton**. For tamales you can contact her at 848-8461.



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La Voz de Brazoria County
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Sisters Morales

Biography

Sisters Morales were born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, spent the past 12 years in **Houston, Texas** and now live in the **Hill Country-San Antonio** area. They grew up around a musical and very Mexican family, which contributed to their diverse tastes in music.

They sang in Spanish before they sang in English. Their first performances included singing with mariachis in Mexican restaurants. They went their separate ways after high school to pursue their own careers, which gained them individual notoriety and awards, but most importantly their own styles.

In 1989, Roberta went to visit Lisa to sing background vocals for a band Lisa put together. Within a month they knew combining their talents would allow them

to create a unique sound. Both women are accomplished musicians and songwriters, each reflecting what she has gone through in her life, and both voices are very different, but their harmonies are strong and tight and sound as if they're made up of the same voice.

The incredible talents of their band members round out the Sisters' sound. David Spencer is one of Texas' finest guitar players. He also plays steel guitar and trades mariachi-style leads on acoustic with Roberta. Vicente Rodriguez keeps the backbeat solid and also adds percussion. Cornbread adds to the bottom end.

With a lot of hard work and determination the Sisters have built quite a following. Their performances are always described as "energetic, emotional and rockin"

Their discography includes:

"Para Gloria" -all mexican traditional released late October 2002

"Someplace Far Away From Here" -Luna Records 1999

"Ain't No Perfect Diamond" -Luna Records Oct , 1997

"Sisters Morales 'Early Sessions' " cassette - 1990

Background vocals for Little Joe's grammy award winning "Septiembre" CD, cassette

The Clarion announces 2006-2007 Guest Artist Series. Subscribe and reserve your tickets to Sisters Morales, Andrea Anderson, Guarneri String Quartet, A Christmas from Dublin with The Three Irish Tenors, John Pizzarelli, Boston Brass, Trout Fishing in America , and Gary Burton Duo. Order today at <http://clarion.brazosport.edu> or call 979/230-3156

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NHLA LANZA CAMPAÑA

“IT STARTS WITH YOU

EMPIEZA CONTIGO”

Washington, DC – El National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA, por sus siglas en inglés)- una coalición sin afiliación política de las mayores organizaciones y líderes hispanos en todo el país [para una lista de las organizaciones miembros visita www.bateylink.org/nhlboard.htm]- hoy lanzó una campaña nacional sin afiliación política en los medios de comunicación. La campaña “It Starts with You/Empieza Contigo,” estimula la participación cívica y la movilización de votantes para instar a latinos a votar en las próximas elecciones en noviembre.

“Los miembros de NHLA han expresado su creciente preocupación sobre el hecho de que el tema de la inmigración haya sido politizado y que los latinos hayan sido demonizados en la campaña electoral del 2006. Estamos diciendo ‘¡Ya Basta!’ a los funcionarios electos que participan de este tipo de ataque agresivo y nosotros trabajaremos para educar a los votantes latinos sobre estos temas”, declaró Ron Blackburn-Moreno, presidente de la junta directiva de NHLA.

“Estas organizaciones latinas se están uniendo para mandar un mensaje claro a nuestra comunidad: empieza contigo; pon de tu parte y vaya a votar para tu familia, tu comunidad, y tu país. Y, si no pueden votar, pidan a sus amigos y familiares que sean elegibles para votar que cumplan con su deber. Los miembros del NHLA están trabajando juntos de ahora en adelante hasta el Día de las Elecciones para mandar este mensaje por todo el

país”, afirmó Janet Murguía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés) y presidenta del comité para la campaña de los medios “It Starts with You/Empieza Contigo”.

Esta campaña tiene una serie de anuncios de servicio público, editoriales, y otras TOOLS disponibles en las páginas web de los miembros del NHLA para ayudar a crecer la participación de votantes latinos y proveer la información que necesitan sobre los temas de esta elección con un énfasis especial en crecer la participación de jóvenes latinos votantes. [Ve a la página web www.nclr.org/LEAP para un ejemplo]. El National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO, por sus siglas en inglés) Educational Fund, un miembro del NHLA, también ayudará a votantes latinos con información sobre el proceso de votación y proveerle asistencia a aquellos que tengan problemas cuando vayan a votar través de su línea gratuita bilingüe 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA.

“Esto no se trata de un sólo tema o un grupo de personas. Lo que está pasando nos afecta a todos. Latinos salieron en apoyo de los inmigrantes y de una reforma migratoria integral esta primavera. Ahora necesitamos que vayan a las urnas y hagan una diferencia este noviembre”, declaró Manuel Mirabal, presidente del National Puerto Rican Coalition (NPRC, por sus siglas en inglés), un miembro del NHLA.

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An Interview with Mary Cuellar

Maestra del Año

Angelton resident **Mary Salinas Cuellar** has been named the **Junior Achievement Teacher of the Year for Brazoria County**. **Mary** was born on August 14, 1958, in **Alice, Texas**. Her parents, the late **Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Salinas** resided in **Freer, Texas** where she was raised in along with her 6 sisters and 4 brothers.

Mary is married to **Lewis H. Cuellar**, and has two sons, **Lewis Jr.** and **Philip Hunter Cuellar**. **Mary** and her family have planted their roots in **Angleton, Texas** nearly 28 years ago.

Mary graduated from **Freer High School** on May, 1976. She received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from **Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas** in 1986. (Now known as Texas A&M University.) She has been an elementary school teacher for over 15 years and is currently teaching second grade at **Westside Elementary in Angleton, Texas**. This interview was conducted last month.

La Voz: Well the first question we should ask is whether you were surprised when you found out you were being given this award?

Mary Cuellar: I was very surprised! Thoughts like "Why me?" came to my mind. Every other teacher I knew would have been a great candidate. It took the kind words, the support, and the appreciation that my family, friends, co-workers and students gave me to convince me that I was deserving of such a prestigious award. It seemed as though I had stopped believing in myself. I thank the Lord everyday for bringing these special people into my life.

La Voz: When you think back to your first day as a classroom teacher, what has changed the most, you or the students?

Mary Cuellar: We have both changed. I have learned to be more persistent and determined to assist children to reach their highest potential, and have gained more knowledge and leadership competencies. The students are more focused, responsible and communicative.

La Voz: Let's share with the readers some of your early memories of school when you were a student:

Mary Cuellar: I can relate to the quiet and shy students that I get every year in my classroom. These students whom never speak up in class are often left unnoticed. I was one of them. I assure you that these students leave my class at the end of the year feeling special and important.

La Voz: Was there ever a time when you doubted yourself and what you could do?

Mary Cuellar: There was always a time when I doubted myself, but never a doubt of what I could accomplish. I was driven by determination and success!

La Voz: Was college on your mind when you graduated from high school?

Mary Cuellar: College was definitely a priority after high school. My family always emphasized the importance of a good education. As I was growing up, my parents instilled in me that a person without a good education would never know his potential.

La Voz: Who was your greatest influence up this point in your life?

Mary Cuellar: I have had many people who have impacted my life at one time or another. But, my mother was my greatest influence. My mother's positive attitude and kind spirit was what helped all eleven of us overcome chronic conditions. She dedicated her life to her family and never asked for anything in return. All of my brothers and sisters have a wonderful belief of life in general, and most important we see the world as an opportunity to grow and love.

La Voz: Was going to college difficult for you?

Mary Cuellar: I managed to put myself through school by applying for grants and scholarships. I commuted 120 miles a day, 4 times a week, from **Freer, Texas**, to **Texas A&I in Kingsville**. I did this for a year and a half. My husband and I would

visit each other about twice a month. My oldest son was 3 months old at the time.

La Voz: How did you decide which college to attend?

Mary Cuellar: That was easy. My two older sisters had just graduated from **Texas A&I in Kingsville** with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. With their support and influence, my path to success was paved for me.

Was being a school teacher on your mind when you graduated from college?

La Voz: Was being a school teacher on your mind when you graduated from college?

Mary Cuellar: Sure, I was taking a heavy load every semester. I had no time to second guess my major at that time.

La Voz: How did you and your family decide on settling in **Angleton, Texas**?

Mary Cuellar: My husband was hired at **Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas**, the same summer we got married. We were married in June 1979. My husband is the backbone of our family. I could not have been able to pursue my career if it hadn't been for his support and encouragement.

We lived in an apartment in **Clute** for 2 years. In 1981, we moved into our first home in **Angleton**. We bought our first home from a realtor named **Molly Santos**. She is still our dear friend. **Molly** was also a teacher at **Westside Elementary** and insisted on getting me hired at that school. I was hired at **Westside Elementary** as a bilingual assistant. This was my first job as an educator. Three years later, I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. God Bless our dear friend **Molly** for being such a wonderful role model and mentor to me and my family.

La Voz: Let's talk about the profession to teaching. What are some of the secrets you have learned over the years about managing your classroom?

Mary Cuellar: Some secrets that I have learned to help me manage my classroom are to:

- approach every challenge as an opportunity;
- come to school with a positive and friendly spirit;
- treat every child as a unique individual; and to
- never give up hope.

La Voz: Are there any parents who come to mind when you think of parental involvement?

Mary Cuellar: I have been fortunate to have had parents whom are supportive of their school, and take their child's education to heart.

La Voz: Are there any particular writers that you enjoy reading?

Mary Cuellar: The most recent book I read was called "Speaking of Women's Health". It was about educating women to make informed decisions about their health, well being, and personal safety. The most interesting chapter in this book talked about "the beautiful you... inside and out." How a healthy smile can make a difference in how women look and how they feel—about themselves, their worth, and their value to the world.

La Voz: Name a place you haven't traveled to as of yet:

Mary Cuellar: The most interesting and fascinating place I would love to visit is Europe.

La Voz: If you had to do it over again what would you do?

Mary Cuellar: Teaching children for the past 15 years has been a rewarding experience. I wouldn't change a thing. I have worked with so many diverse individuals who represent all socio-economic levels, professions, races, and religious backgrounds. My love for teaching has inspired me to contribute significantly to the outcome of making memories in the minds of children.

La Voz: Thank you for taking the time to visit with us.



Quantitative Look at who is Running for Elective Office

There are 902 individuals running for elective positions in Texas in the general elections in November. These positions range from the Governorship down to Family District Judge.

There are a total of 513 elective position that are “open” in November.

Of the 902 individuals who are running, 423 are incumbents.

Of the 902 individuals who are running, 393 are members of the Republican Party.

Of the 902 individuals who are running, 305 are members of the Democratic Party.

Of the 513 “open” positions, 253 have are uncontested races.

Of the 902 individuals who are running for elective office, 138 are members of the Libertarian Party.

8 of the candidates running for elective office are seeking office as write in candidates.


2 of the candidates who are running are doing so as independent candidates


Hispanics Seeking Public Office

Republican Party		Democratic Party		Libertarian Party	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15	8	50	24	6	1

Note: The figures above represent candidates from the top of the ballot all the way down to the family district judges. This list does not include, criminal district attorneys, county judges, commissioners, etc.

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