

Council gives kiss of death to CKDU

by Glenn Walton

The Dalhousie Student Council, at an end-of-the-year meeting last Sunday, voted to stop funding CKDU radio next year. A general meeting (see story, this page) called for Monday, April 13, to be the last chance for students to voice their support or disapproval of Council's move.

"There has been no increase in general Student Union revenues for 5 years" said Student Council President Gord Owen, "and we've been cutting across the board, right to the bone. The question was whether all student services were justified. The general reaction was no."

Student Council was asked to approve a CKDU operating budget that provided \$12,000 for operating expenses and \$13,000 for capital expenditures. Student Council Treasurer Scott MacLeod said that the general view on Council was that CKDU is a waste the way it's been operating. "The question was do we fix it up or shut it down. I have the feeling that CKDU only wanted to keep operating, but it's no use not having it go out of the SUB."

Graduate Studies rep. Peter Rans called the decision a "ludicrous solution" to budgetary problems.

"Communication with the student body is an ultimate priority of Council, and CKDU is one of the ways of pro-

viding communication, if money were put into developing it properly." The vote against the radio station was "a further vote in favour of isolationist policies," he added.

Senate rep. Neil Erskine said that councillors failed to realize the principle of student radio, which is to provide alternative and relevant information for students, and predicted that CKDU will view the decision of Council as "an affirmation of Council's desire to abdicate any social responsibility towards the Halifax community."

Council's decision came after it failed to approve the budget at a regular meeting on March 29th. After first reaffirming in principle support for CKDU AM, councillors balked at passing a budget that would have necessitated an increase in student union fees of \$13.50. The budget was tabled, and the meeting recessed to last Sunday. Members were urged to talk to their constituents.

At Sunday's meeting, representatives from Shirref Hall, Health Professions, and Commerce came out against CKDU funding. Marie Gilkinson, Health Professions rep. said she talked to her constituents at a meeting, and asked them which departments should be cut. "I mentioned several options, but the overwhelming consensus was to cut CKDU," she said.

CKDU station manager Mike Wile

voiced criticism of Council's decision, saying he didn't think that people looked at the recent referendum vote against funding CKDU FM as a no vote for CKDU in general. He mentioned that CKDU hadn't asked for extra money, but did take the vote as a sign that they should talk more to students about programming and look more closely at financial arrangements for FM.

Wile added that an estimate of the costs for CKDU expansion put before Council was exaggerated. CKDU had brought in Norman Leadbetter from St.F.X., who told council that the \$23,000 figure provided by technical services wasn't necessary, and that the work could be done much cheaper. (Leadbetter is reportedly suing Owen for \$25,000 referring to him as "an asshole" during Sunday's meeting.)

"A lot of people are prepared not to see CKDU go down the drain," Wile said, and added that messages from several community groups, CBC freelancers, and the mayor of Halifax have been received at CKDU supporting the station.

A Gazette spot poll in the SUB revealed widespread support for the station, but some concern that its programming could be better tailored to students' wishes. "The cost of tuition is so high" one student said, "and a few dollars more won't make any difference."

Communications Committee recommended

by Paul Clark

The permanent establishment of a communications committee is the major recommendation in a report on communications which was passed at Sunday's council meeting.

This committee would both act as a "watchdog" on Dalhousie Student Union (D.S.U.) communications as well as supply people to speak on different areas on campus, according to Peter Rans, chairman of the committee which wrote the report.

Other recommendations in the report include appointment of a Public Relations Officer to disseminate information regarding Council and DSU business, a logo for DSU communications, better distribution of DSU information at registration through mailings and booths, more mobility in the location of council meetings and a referendum day to serve as a "safety valve" for student concerns not addressed by Council.

It will be the responsibility of next year's council to implement these recommendations at their discretion with the \$3,000 that has been budgeted them for communications.

Although the report said that the success of Union communications "may well be the single most important facet of the future effectiveness of the Dalhousie Student Union", it was passed quickly with only minimal discussion at the meeting.

Rans said he was disappointed the

report didn't receive more attention, but recognized councillors were "emotionally and physically exhausted" from the prior CKDU debate.

On the subject of CKDU the report had surprisingly little to say, merely recognizing the potential effectiveness of the station in the way of communications but claiming with weakened transmissions to residences its effectiveness had declined considerably in the last two years.

Rans said while he personally wished to emphasize the potential value of CKDU as a communications medium, differing opinions among individual members of the committee on CKDU expansion required that only general references to CKDU be in the report.

Other media reviewed were the Gazette (an appendix on Gazette operations and policy was also in the report), posters and banners, council reps, the president and vice-president and the student handbook. Rans said that Student Union communications reports since 1973 were consulted and that in-depth interviews were done with various individuals presently or in the past active with the Student Union. Because their ad hoc committee was formed only a month ago, Rans said they were rushed and had to work on a very tight schedule.

Rans said he didn't see the report as an exhaustive study of its subject, but the first step in a continuing evaluation of communications. "I don't want it to

be five years until the next one is set up."

Student Union President Gord Owen, who proposed the study be undertaken, said the recommendations were good but perhaps didn't go far enough.

"I wanted some kind of magical solution to this huge problem," he commented, adding he was "congratulatory" to the committee for the results it did obtain.

Fee hike only item on agenda — so far

A proposed six dollar hike in Student Union fees is so far the only item on the agenda for Monday's General Meeting of the Student Union, but the issue of financing to CKDU is expected to come up.

The fee increases which have been recommended by Council require ratification by a General Meeting where all students have voting rights. They include \$3 more to pay for the Health Plan, an added 50¢ for the Yearbook and a \$2.50 increase for General Revenue.

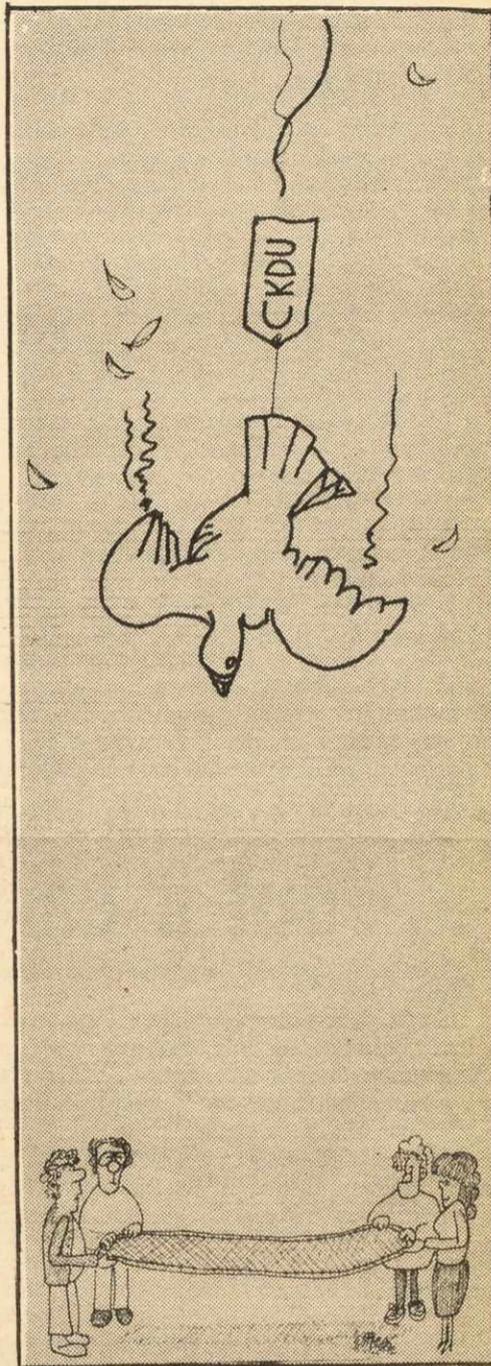
Nothing regarding the financing of CKDU's funding is presently on the agenda, but Station Manager Mike Wile says a motion of some kind about CKDU's budget will be made. Such an amendment to the agenda would have

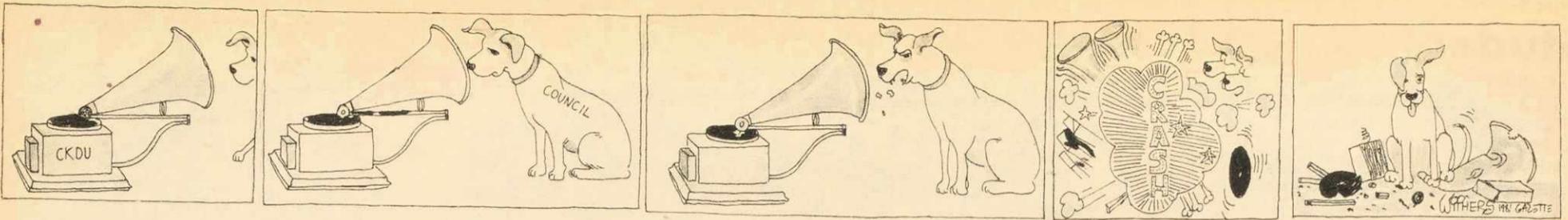
to be passed by a two thirds majority. Motions regarding financial matters cannot be made at a General Meeting,

according to Council Chairperson Steve Campbell's interpretation of the Student Union constitution, but a motion forcing Council to reconsider withdrawing funding to CKDU is possible. This motion is not binding on council, however, and can be overturned by a simple majority.

"But it would at least force them to debate the issue," he said.

Failure of the student fee increases to be ratified will send the budget back to Council for reconsideration. If fee increases are again necessary they will have to be passed at yet another General Meeting.





Editorial Council's decision to cut CKDU was a mistake . . .

Council's decision to withhold funding from CKDU for the 81-82 year smacks of the logic of the man who wanted to exterminate the human race in order to get rid of war, poverty and injustice — the goals of their actions were lost on the road to achieving them.

Communication, promotion and entertainment are three of the desiderata of all student unions and are three attributes lacking in our own. All year long council has struggled valiantly through entertainment deficits and ad hoc communication committees — to achieve these goals.

Everyone agrees that building a strong CKDU-AM would be a giant step toward reaching these goals. It would communicate information about student and non-student affairs on a local, regional, national and international basis; it would promote Dalhousie Student Union and non-Union activities; it would entertain through its music programming, interviews and documentaries.

It follows, then, that a reasonable council would take the measures it most reasonably sees fit to build a strong CKDU to obtain the goals it has set itself. Unfortunately council did not act reasonably.

Instead of constructively addressing the problems inherent in the now weak CKDU — a small broadcasting range, pressing capital expenditures of unknown quantity and (presumably) programming beefs — council has ignored the great potential of CKDU and decided to simply scrap the station. By quashing one of the few hopes they have of serving students, they have effectively given up. To use another analogy, they are like the sailors who chose to jump their ship and drown rather than repair it.

A far more constructive approach would be to combine efforts with CKDU's newly formed Board of Directors and investigate, in an uncontentious manner, ways and costs of expanding the station's operations onto other areas of campus. Student criticism, alternate sources of funding, the viability of establishing new transmitters in the Dalplex, Life Science Building, Fenwick, etc., all these matters could be looked at over the summer and dealt with. This is the road any student council with long term goals for the Dalhousie Student Union should follow.

. . . but it can be changed

Council's decision is not yet final. There are a few ways by which CKDU may yet be saved.

CKDU's salvation rests with a general meeting of the Student Union to be held this Monday. At this meeting, where all Dalhousie students have voting privileges, the decision not to finance CKDU next year will **not** be up for debate. Students, however, can indirectly affect this decision through their voting in other areas.

In order to maintain existing services other than CKDU council needed to support a student fee increase of six dollars. These increases must be ratified at the general meeting.

The students who attend this meeting, then, will have the power to pass or defeat the recommended student fee increases. If they are defeated, council will be forced to pass a new budget at the council meeting that evening. If student fee increases are again required (and this will be almost certain according to President Owen) another general meeting must be called to ratify them.

The power that this general meeting indirectly has over the budget gives students who support CKDU the opportunity they need. Conceivably they could defeat the increases in student fees and pass a motion reaffirming support for CKDU. While council would not obviously be constitutionally forced to finance CKDU after this motion, it seems clear that a failure to finance CKDU would not be complying with the intent of this motion to support the radio station. If council makes up any excuse not to follow the results of this general meeting it could rightfully be charged with both accepting and rejecting the results of its own democratic processes at its own whim. This is where free government leaves off and fascism sets in.

In the end the final decision rests in the hands of those concerned students who show up at noon on Monday in the Green Room for the Union's general meeting. If you believe (or disbelieve) in an expanded CKDU-AM you should be there.

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The Roar of the Crowd

Interviews and photography
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Kathleen O'Neil
2nd Year Russian

The cost of tuition is so high that a few dollars won't make any difference. You need some campus media . . . if they stay they should move to the ground floor.



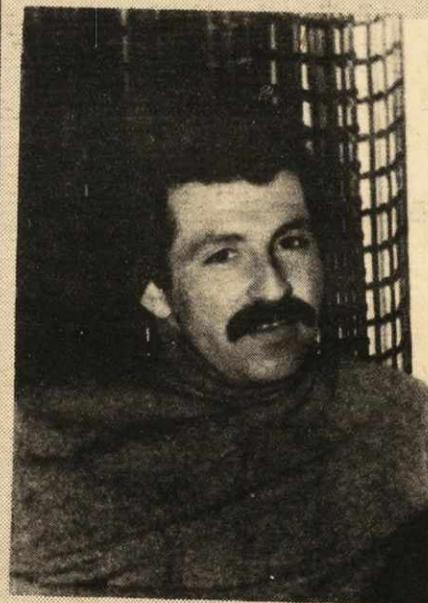
Helen Macdonell
4th Year English

No, I don't think Student Council should stop funding. The problem with fees is tuition not Student Union fees. I don't mind paying \$10 more on Union fees; it's the hundred dollars more in tuition that I don't like.



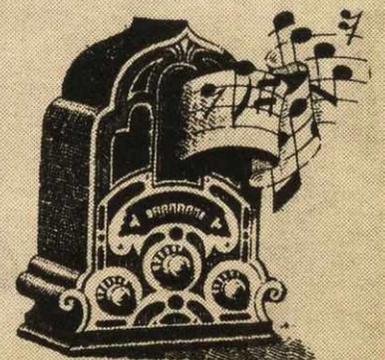
John Russel
3rd Year Arts

I'd hate to see it go but I'd hate to see it remain as is.



Mike Mackin
Education

No, they shouldn't stop the funding. Media students should have such a tool to use to air their positions and ideas. Also interest groups must have other venues than just the Gazette. It should have gone FM. An FM station could have brought Dal to the rest of Halifax.



Student Union fees go up six dollars if decision accepted

by Cathy McDonald

Dalhousie student fees will go up \$6 if last Sunday's student council vote is ratified at a general meeting. The general meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, where all students have a vote.

The \$6 is down from a \$12.50 hike previously under consideration by council. Full-time students will pay \$65 each, while part-time students pay \$13.50, up a dollar from last year.

Budget slashes eliminated CKDU financing and payments into a Student Union fund for capital expenditures.

Students are asked to approve a fee hike that reflects some increases in services, inflationary costs, and the elimination of the student radio. An increase in fees and a decrease in services is only to be expected as prices go up, said Scott MacLeod, Student Union Treasurer.

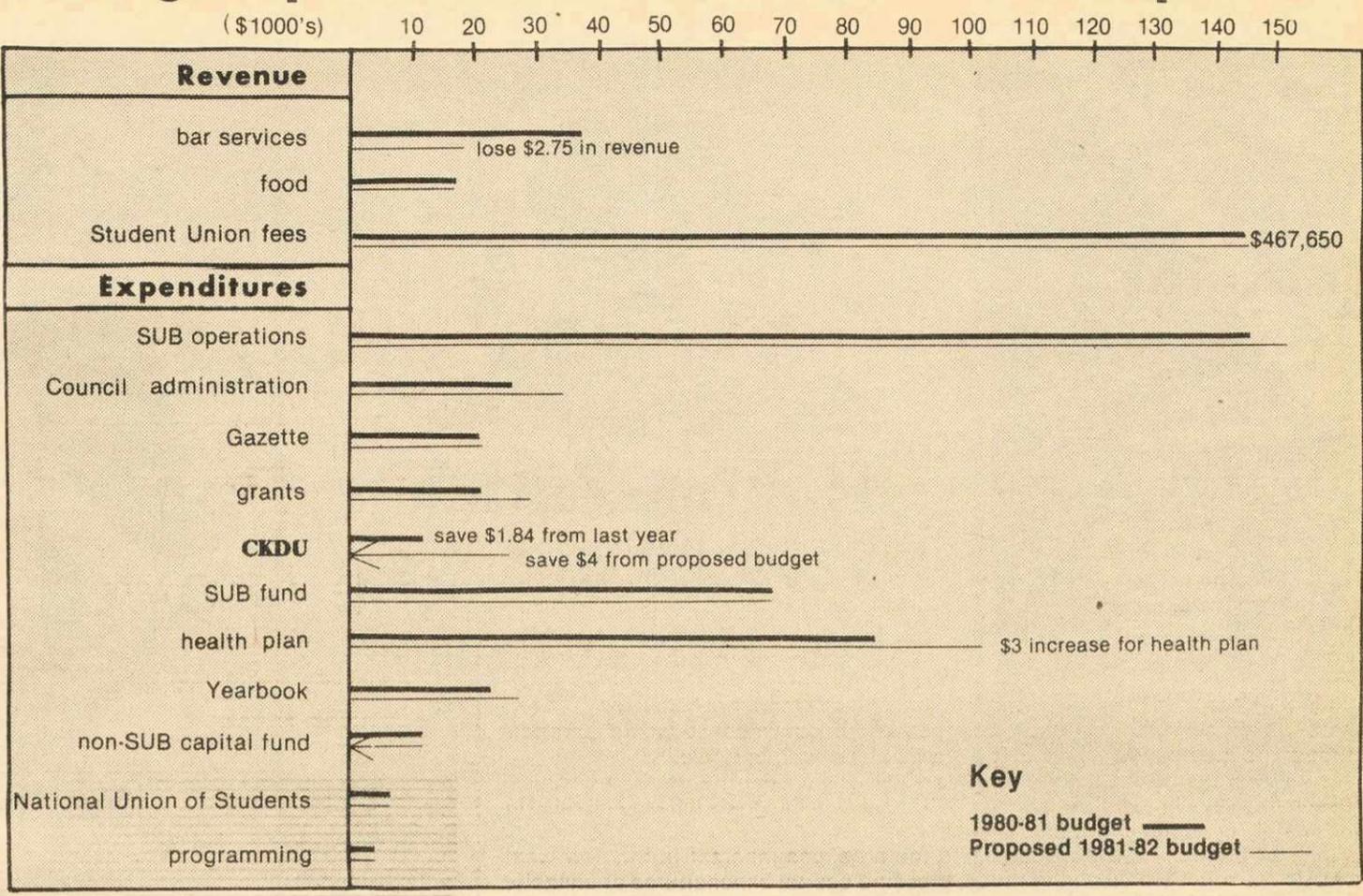
The budget reflects three major alterations over last year. Bar services will only bring in a projected \$19,000 instead of \$38,500 of last year, necessitating about \$2.75 more per student to make up lost revenue. Low attendance at entertainment events is also responsible for \$5,000 or about 70¢ per student allocated to programming, previously on a break-even budget.

New grant allocations to the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society, to graduation and an increase in the Law society grant, totalled approximately a \$1 increase per student towards the grant budget. The health plan referendum approved a \$3 chunk to fees. A further increase of 70¢ per student went to the yearbook.

Council administration costs include executive and the student union manager salaries, plus general costs. A \$3,000 addition was for the newly created "communications" position, an appointment to improve communications between council and the student body, for a total of \$7860, or another \$1 per student.

Cutting CKDU financing represents a \$1.84 saving per student over last year. It cuts a total of \$4 from the projected \$12.50 fee increase as a \$13,000 sum was previously included for upgrading CKDU facilities.

The \$10,200 allocation for a fund for



capital expenditures outside the SUB was cut. A sufficient sum of \$40,000 has already accumulated, MacLeod said.

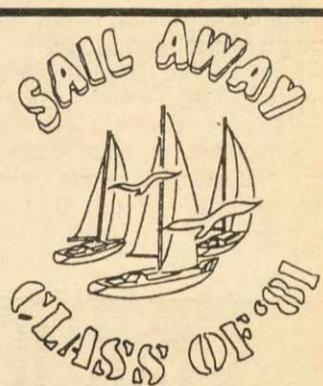
The Gazette will buy its own typesetting equipment with a loan from student council. This enabled a \$2,700 cut from the composing allocation of the Gazette's budget. The Gazette's overall allocation will remain about the same as last year.

Student fees at Dalhousie are among the highest in Canada. John Graham, Student Union manager said Dalhousie students enjoy the highest level of services in Nova Scotia, and pay the lowest fee for it.

"Our operation is very efficient" Graham said, referring to the running of the SUB which the DSU is in the process of buying from the Dalhousie Administration.

GRAD WEEK EVENTS

May 13, 14, 15



Wednesday
"Sail Away" Boat Cruise

\$4.00/person

Pub Night Stages 57

Thursday
Baccalaureate Service

Public Affairs Auditorium

Champagne Reception

Green Room \$1.00

Grad Night in the Grawood

"S.S. Celebration" Ball
Friday \$15.00/couple
\$8.00 single

Tickets on sale At the SUB 11:30-2:30
April 8, 9, 10, 15, 22.
May 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

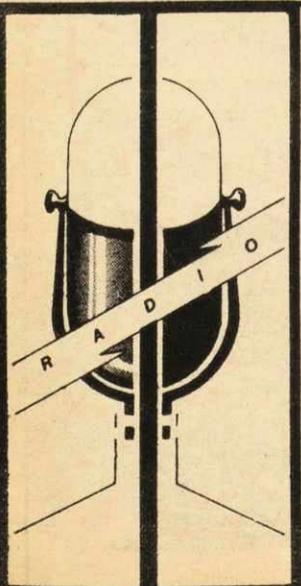
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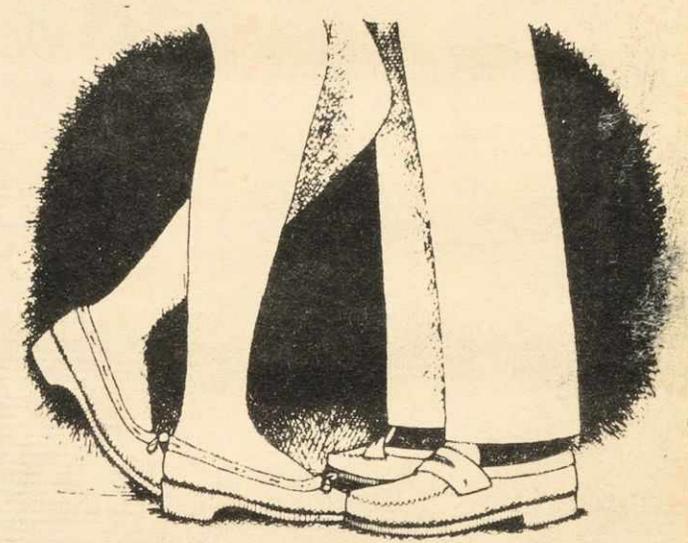
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