



# Center Court

NOVEMBER 2008

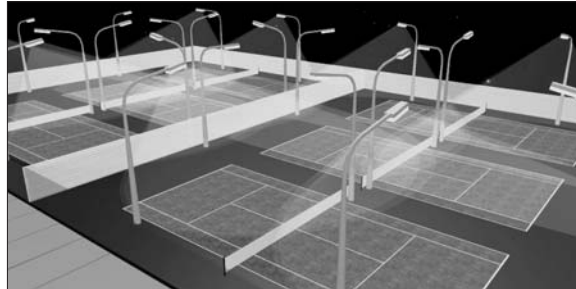
## For The Love of the Game

### BTC Launches Major Fund Raising Campaign

by Dwight Van Slyke, BTC President

Balboa Tennis Club is ready to kick off our fund raising campaign for lighting on the lower six courts and a new backboard. We have \$15,000 committed from the city, but BTC needs to provide matching funds, giving us a total of \$30,000. When combined with our existing facilities budget, that would provide us with at least \$50,000 earmarked for these two projects. We need to raise at least \$300,000 total, including \$158,000 for the lighting and \$89,000 for the backboard.

Several BTC members have already committed to participate in the funding, but we need every member



to participate at any level. Every dollar helps and every little bit adds up. The current fund raising balance will be posted on bulletin boards around the club. All donations are tax deductible through the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council. A website will be available for credit and debit card donations.

We will be submitting proposals to the City, Park and Recreation, the USTA and various foundations for grants to help with our fund raising efforts. The total goal for the campaign is

\$500,000. When completed, these will be two wonderful improvements to our great facility.

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## The BTC League Team Fund Raising Challenge

One of the many benefits of membership at BTC is playing on tennis league teams. BTC currently services over 30 teams from 3.0 - 5.0 skill level during the day, night and weekends. Playing on a league team is one of the true joys of tennis, and BTC has an incredible wealth of league opportunities.

Robin Rodger's Ladies "A" Team has challenged all other BTC teams to see which team can generate the most funds for this major BTC fund raising campaign. Prizes will be awarded. This is a great opportunity to show your club spirit and invest in our wonderful facility, and get a tax deduction at the same time.

The names of the top fund raising teams will be posted on the bulletin boards along with the current campaign balance as the fund raising campaign proceeds. Those team players who have already made donations for this campaign may contact Colleen to be sure their donation is credited to their preferred team.

## Prominent Juniors at BTC Tennis

During the summer months, Eddie (17) and Emmanuel (15) Corvera are seen at the Balboa Tennis Club on a daily basis. Their father, Eddie Sr., brings them to hit with various club members. When they were younger, matches were abundant as the boys were still developing strokes and consistency. Now as their games have become more sophisticated, finding quality matches presents more of a challenge.

"I signed the boys up for a free membership back in 2000," says Eddie Sr. "Many of the senior members used to tear them up for years." Now the tide has turned as the boys games have become more advanced and physical, due to their other athletic pursuits and playing tournaments."

Both Eddie Jr. and Emmanuel, or "Natos" as he is nicknamed, run high school track and cross country for Serra High School. They both agree that running regularly has enhanced their tennis games in many ways. Last year Eddie Jr. and Natos received Southern Cal rankings in their age division and the Men's Open.



Self discipline, instilled by Eddie Sr., seems to be the key factor for both boys. Since their father is retired, he oversees their daily routines to ensure quality workouts. The boys hit the road to run at 4:30 a.m. each morning when they run 10 miles before breakfast each day during the summer. After eating, they swim regularly and loosen up before tennis in the afternoon. Without cable at the house, there's no need to worry about these two sitting at home in front of the television. They are on the go constantly. "They could be as good as any players around if they played tennis all year round," says Eddie Sr. Nonetheless, this isn't their course of action at this time of life.

Academically, Eddie Jr. is preparing for a career in psychiatry as he plans to begin college at Grossmont and then finish up at SDSU San Marcos. "I want to help people," he says. "It's his calling," says his father. As for younger brother Natos, he desires to be a heart surgeon at this time. "It pays the most," he says.

Both boys possess different styles of play to match their divergent career paths. Eddie Jr. mimics the John McEnroe style of play as he serves and volleys. Natos is a "big banger" as his Dad calls him, because he plays like Nadal as a powerful lefty, running from side to side in pursuit of every ball and hitting hard.

Why do they like playing at Balboa Tennis Club? Eddie says he likes the variety of players. "It's a very healthy atmosphere and I like competing against adults." Natos agrees that the adults make him think more and with the kids, he can just hit hard and run. Eddie Sr. says the boys are at a crossroads now because they need to be playing tournaments regularly in San Diego and Southern Cal to be competitive with the other juniors. Consistent tournament play is a key to improvement in the rankings.

With abundant athletic talent in both tennis and running, high academic scores, friendly personalities and a motivated father pushing on all cylinders, the sky seems to be the limit in whatever the boys put their minds to in life. "I want to go to the Olympics," says Natos. Wherever their career paths lead, it all began at Balboa Tennis Club.



2221 Morley Field Drive  
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[www.balboatennis.com](http://www.balboatennis.com)

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Board meetings are at 7 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month in the BTC Clubhouse. All members are welcome.

The BTC Main Office is open Monday through Friday.

The reservations desk is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

The club is closed on New Years Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Reservations & Info...	295-9278
Director's Office.....	295-4242
Pro Shop.....	291-5248
Tennis Café .....	299-8787

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.  
Call 295-4242

## The Director's Report by Colleen Clery Ferrell

While I was attending college, I took several psychology courses because I thought I wanted to major in "psych." I ended up receiving a B.A. in journalism with a minor in recreation. Even though tennis was my main priority in those days, the educational courses in psychology and journalism really helped prepare me for this position as Director of Balboa Tennis Club.

Keeping 1,450 people happy and harmonious is a daily challenge. There are times when a third party needs to intervene and help assess situations which arise at our club. If you feel you have been treated unfairly by a fellow club member *who has violated club rules*, feel free to file a complaint at the Reservations Desk. We have forms available for your convenience. *If it's a personal issue or personality conflict with another club member, I recommend solving the problem yourselves.*

My job is to interview both parties and assess the

problem. If the violation is of a serious nature, I forward the complaint to the Ethics Committee which consists of several board members. The Committee makes a recommendation, which is then voted on by all the BTC board members. Anything from a warning to suspension or even expulsion may result, depending on the severity of the violation.

Disagreements and hurt feelings are a part of life which occurs in many social situations. Please be courteous to fellow members and attempt to solve minor problems on your own. I am available to intervene whenever necessary, as well as the Board of Directors. Thank you for your cooperation.



## BTC Board of Directors Wanted

There are two spots open for any members interested in serving a two year term on the Balboa Tennis Club Board of Directors. This is a great way for your voice and opinions to be heard. Incumbents Richard Barndt, Linda Stadelli, Robin Rodger, Barbara Gregorio and Roxanne Drees will be returning for another year of service. Ruth Nutt, Peter Conneely and newcomer Karen Houston have submitted petitions to serve the next term which begins January 2009. The President, Dwight Van Slyke, can appoint two additional people in January at the annual meeting. Please contact Dwight if you are interested.

Special thanks to Don Goyette for his four years of service on the board. Your input over the years has been very much appreciated.

## A Winning Recipe for Success: Wakefield Wins National 80 Indoor Doubles Title

We played this championship in Portland, Oregon at West Hills Club. I played with Janet Hubbard from Huntington Beach, a relative newcomer to tennis who is a baseliner who runs like a rabbit. We defeated an unseeded team first round and from there on, we played all seeded teams. Our toughest match was against the #3 team in the semis, Rita Price and Marion Tyrell. It went 3 sets (4-6, 6-3, 7-6), Our final vs Cathie Hall/Pat Niehaus was 7-6, 6-1. The worst thing was that with 1 point and 1 game to win the quarters, I went up to hit the final shot of the next to the last game and my legs cramped. I twisted and screwed my arms around, yet managed to hit the ball with a crazy shot that flew into the alley to win that game. I received treatment and elected to stay in the match. We lost the first point of the final game and won the others, taking that match. Fortunately, the doubles were not scheduled the next day, so I had a day to recover from those awful charley horses. I drank gallons of Gatorade/water and recovered nicely for the last two days.

It has been 35 years since I won a gold ball (hard court in the 45 doubles). This really was sweet. My partner, Janet, ran all the deep balls down and I hung around mid-court waiting for the chances to put them away. It worked. You know, that is exactly how Mary Shelton and I won the hard court title years ago, too.



## Helping the Blind Experience Tennis

by Pat Newman

Being community oriented is what many of us in the BTC family share. Let's reach out to others who would enjoy our presence. Several of us at BTC would like to enrich people who attend the San Diego Home for the Blind. We're devising a game using tennis balls with bells in them. The game might be bouncing, catching, whatever fun idea(s) we devise for this event. The objective is team work. A group of us from BTC will go to the SD Home for the Blind once a week beginning in January through February. Several students from Granite Hills HS as well as retired adults from Mt. Miguel Covenant Village will also be joining us in our fun.

Let's face it. It doesn't take money to make our holiday wonderful. Why not spend a little time to bring some happiness to all our lives and perhaps do something none of us has ever done before? Let's do more than play tennis this Holiday Season. Let's do something for OTHERS!

For more info, call Pat Newman at (619) 463-6503(619) 417-1844 or e-mail me at cpatnewman@cox.net.

### Cell Phone Courtesy

Please remember to turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate while playing tennis on the court. This is a courtesy to players on your court and those around you. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 63rd San Diego Metropolitan Tournament Results

**Men's Open Singles** Steve Dawson def. Erik Ojala 7-5, 6-3

**Men Open Doubles** Acuna/Chang def. Olobo/Sengendo-Kimera 2-6, 7-5, 6-2

**Men's 40 Singles** Jeff Ray def. Hector Aguire-Cruz 6-4, 7-5

**Men's 45 Singles** Kip Hutchison def. Roberto Ancira 6-3, 6-4

**Men's 50 Singles** Craig Kussman def. Andrew Foster 6-3, 6-1

**Men's 55 Singles** Tony Ybarra def. John Flowers 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0

**Men's 60 Singles** Bryon Smith def. Tom Bryan 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2

**Men's 65 Singles** Leland Housman def. J. Martinez 6-2, 6-0

**Men's 70 Singles** James Perley def. Don Albares 6-1, 6-3

**Women's Open Singles** Anna Yang def. Sheila Weinstock 7-6, (5) 7-6 (11)

**Women's 45 Singles** Lora Mae Stewart def. Aracell Marin 7-5, 7-6

**Women's 50 Singles** Nancy Abler-Sanchez def. Susan Davis 6-1, 6-2

**Mixed Open Doubles** Acuna/Yang def. Chang/Ruman 6-4, 3-6, 6-3

**Father-Son Doubles** Cramer/Cramer def. Frazier/Frazier 4-6, 7-6, 6-0

**Men's 45 Doubles** Dawson/Meyer def. Ancira/Doan 6-3, 6-3

**Men's 55 Doubles** Jackson/Knight def. Aalam/Thompson 6-4, 3-6, 7-5

**Men's 60 Doubles** Knight/Smith def. Byron/Margarita 6-4, 6-3

**NTRP Men's 3.0 Singles** Todd Linke def. Andres Meigar 6-2, 3-6, 6-4

**NTRP Men's 3.5 Singles** Alejandro Villalba def. John Carstensen 7-6, 6-0

**NTRP Men's 4.0 Singles** John Broderick def. Doru Tifui 5-7, 6-4, 6-1

**NTRP Men's 4.5 Singles** Juan Humberto Ibarra def. Laura Palomares 7-5, 6-0

**NTRP Men's 5.0 Singles** Ken Kasitz def. Gil Mahaney 6-1, 6-3

**NTRP Men's 5.5 Singles** Nick Griffith def. Joseph Glynn 6-3, 6-2

**NTRP Women's 3.0 Singles** Kristin Sacco def. Susan Mattson

**NTRP Women's 3.5 Singles** Tomoko Chong def. Leane Richards 6-1, 6-4

**NTRP Women's 4.0 Singles** Mary Greif def. Brigitte Bradshaw 7-6 (5) 6-1

**NTRP Women's 4.5 Singles** Janet Solorzano def. Bethann Barry 6-4, 6-3

**NTRP Men's 4.5 Doubles** Sandknop/Chappell def. Cornett/Dudley 4-6, 6-2, 6-0

**NTRP Men's 5.5 Doubles** Vo/Vo def. Cheng/Tran 6-2, 6-3

**NTRP Women's 3.5 Doubles** Hibbs/Serrano def. Garrison/Spencer 6-4, 6-4

**NTRP Women's 4.5 Doubles** Barry/Cao def. Howell/Stewart 6-4, 6-4

**NTRP Women's 5.5 Doubles** Harrison/Sanders def. Fortman/Newmark 6-1, 6-3

**NTRP Mixed 3.5 Doubles** Rogers/Serrano def. Borkowski /Richards 6-1, 6-1

**NTRP Mixed 4.5 Doubles** Kuba/Le def. Aalam/Horne

# Balboa Tennis Club Holiday Gift Drive

With the holidays around the corner, I wanted to mention in this newsletter about our upcoming Gift Drive for the homeless families at the San Diego Rescue Mission. As many of you know, the Balboa Tennis Club and our members have given very generously at Christmas time for over ten years to centers like Escondido's St Claire's Home and currently the Rescue Mission in downtown San Diego. What started out many years ago as a toy drive in which a handful of USPTA teaching pros throughout the county donated to, evolved into what it is today: *The Balboa Tennis Club's Holiday Gift Drive.*

You can either donate cash, write a check made out to the Balboa Tennis Club's Junior Fund, or you can purchase an item on the wish list here in the newsletter. All gifts need to be received at the club by the 20th of December. We will be bringing all the presents to the Rescue Mission on the 22nd. Thanks for all your support, Geoff



Please have ALL presents unwrapped. Please limit all gift cards to increments of \$50 or less and have them labeled with the amount on each card. Children range from 0-12 years and clothes, shoes, and toys should be in this age range.

## Apparel / Shoes

Pants  
Shirts  
Undershirts  
Onesies  
Sweaters  
Jackets  
Dress clothes  
Underwear  
Pajamas  
Socks  
Shoes  
Boots  
Sandals  
Slippers  
Gloves  
Scarves  
Hats  
Hair Accessories  
Bathing suits

## Electronics

Nintendo DS  
DS games  
Gameboy  
Gameboy games  
Computer games  
MP4 player  
Leap Frog  
Leap Frog Accessories  
Miniature Keyboard  
Little Boom box  
Christian CD's  
PG and G Movies  
Batteries

## Play Items

Dress up clothes  
Play Jewelry  
Play Make-up  
Play-do Sets  
Lincoln Logs  
Big Lego Sets  
Theme Lego sets  
Play Kitchen Set  
Play food  
3 in 1 playpen  
Infant Toys  
Aquadoodle mat  
Dolls (various races)  
Barbies  
Bratz Dolls  
Doll Accessories  
Tech Deck Set  
Hot Wheels  
Hot Wheel Sets  
Musical tea set  
Razor Scooter  
Rollerblades  
Skateboard  
Helmets  
Chemistry Set  
Thomas the Train Set  
Board Games  
Learning Games  
Cards  
Bubbles  
Balls

## Gift Cards

Target  
Wal-Mart  
Game Stop  
Babies R Us  
Toys R Us  
Gap Kids  
Old Navy  
Westfield Malls  
Claire's Accessories  
Barnes N Noble  
Payless Shoes  
AMC Movie Theater  
S.D. Zoo  
Sea World  
Baskin Robbins  
Chucky E Cheese  
Party City

## Extra

Crib Bedding  
Bedding  
Stroller  
Baby Swing  
Baby Bouncer  
Baby Bathtub  
Baby Walker  
Baby Lay N Play  
Diaper Bag  
Backpacks  
Various craft supplies  
Books  
Chalk  
Beanbags  
Rugs



## Bridge at BTC

Mary Cormier has been playing bridge at BTC for 25 years. She and a group of nine players, including bridge guru Bob Petty, get a game together in the BTC Clubhouse, Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. They change every four hands so people are constantly being rotated into the game.

"We've had people actually watch and learn at the table," she says. "And Bob is such a great teacher. He always helps people to better understand the game."

All interested individuals should stop by the clubhouse during game hours and express interest. The bridge players are a very friendly group. As Mary says, "Bridge helps keep the mind fresh."

## The Evolution of David Ross at BTC

by Colleen Clery Ferrell

David Ross, otherwise known in the City of San Diego as the “Water Man,” began his altruistic career of aiding the homeless in 1996. After running four different Mercedes Benz car dealerships for 27 years, suffering a heart attack and stroke, he packed his bags and headed south to San Diego for a new life. Here in America's Finest City, he found two new loves which have become the foundation of his life the homeless and tennis.

“I always felt in my heart that I wanted to work with people who were disadvantaged,” he said. While living in a motel after the big move, Ross saw a commercial on television featuring Father Joe Carroll of St. Vincent de Paul. He immediately went to the shelter and applied for a job. After earning a good salary for the past 25 years, Ross accepted a position at St. Vincent's as a case manager for \$8.06 per hour. Money had become irrelevant as he began to find riches through helping the homeless who were roaming the City of San Diego.

In addition to his new job, Ross felt like he needed some type of balance in life. “The conditions at work were so depressing,” he said, “so I decided to take up tennis.” Ross ventured to Balboa Tennis Club to find some peace of mind amongst healthy individuals and to get some much needed exercise. He had watched one of his sons play many years ago as a junior so visually he was familiar with the game. Yet as many players know, tennis looks easy until one actually tries to hit the ball consistently.

“I went to BTC one day and hit against the wall,” he said. “I wasn't very good so nobody asked me to play.” With his fun-loving, playful personality, Ross soon befriended some local enthusiasts who agreed to hit with him regularly. He worked his way up to four hitting times per week. He also orchestrated a free clinic for kids from St. Vincent de Paul along with Tennis Director Geoff Griffin. “I wanted to get the kids out of their daily environment and show them there was another side of life.” So he arranged through St. Vincent to have a van shuttle children over to the club every Monday for free tennis. Ross was getting his fix by playing regularly and now the kids were able to share in his joy as well.

In 2005, after nine years at St. Vincent, Ross broke



his ties with St. Vincent as computers and clerical responsibilities began to get in the way of him working directly with the people. “They wanted me to be more of a desk person and I wanted to be out on the streets,” he said. The separation from St. Vincent actually seemed devastating at first, yet evolved into an epiphany as Ross began venturing out on the streets and under the bridges to help the homeless on his own.

One cold and rainy night, he was bringing blankets he had collected at BTC to some people who were huddled under a bridge. A woman asked Ross if he had any water. He remembered he had left a half bottle in his car. When Ross returned with the bottle, the woman reluctantly took it. “She was so dehydrated, she could hardly swallow,” he said. “Yet when she finished, she said to me, 'God bless you David,'” A true revelation occurred as Ross realized, “Here's what people need WATER!!!!” He went out that night and purchased a dozen bottles of water at the store and brought them back to the same location. The response was overwhelming. This is when the Water Man David Ross was officially christened by mankind!

Ross started passing out water and blankets on a regular basis. Each night he loads up blankets, cases of water, snacks and socks to pass out to street people and those under the bridges. Friends at BTC and acquaintances have supported his mission for the past three years. The amount of people whose lives have been sustained and even enriched by the selfless efforts of David Ross is outstanding.

What keeps him going? At 71 years young, Ross believes the balance of exercise he receives from regular tennis workouts, now six days a week, keeps his spirits high. Plus all the joy he relishes from his best friend in life, Topspin, the one-eyed wonder dog who accompanies Ross into the city on day trips to greet his homeless/displaced pals, as he likes to call them, also keeps his balance in life. And most important, all the intrinsic satisfaction he receives from passing out life's necessities and talking to the people on the streets brings true satisfaction. His tennis and spirit of giving keep him going. “I feel better than ever,” he says. “I am so blessed and couldn't be happier.”

## Chaz Rebounds after Serious Illness

As BTC Members can vividly recall, Tennis Professional Chaz Griffin endured a serious bout with illness last year when he was stricken with Guillain-Barré syndrome, a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system. The club, family and tennis friends rallied to support Chaz in every way possible as he battled temporary paralysis. After months of therapy and personal training, Chaz is back to full strength and he's very grateful for all the emotional and financial support he received.



"I was able to focus on myself and not worry about taking care of my family," he said. "This took a tremendous amount of stress off me and was one of the key factors of my rehab."

Chaz had a head start in his rehab program as he used to be a personal trainer. Initially, he needed to get back to walking. The paralysis he experienced was totally foreign as his body turned into a "sack of goo," he said. His greatest challenge came from exercising patience as he tried to come back too quickly at times and his body would immediately warn him to slow down. He needed to take baby steps to regain his former abilities.

He started out performing basic duties around the house like yard work. "I kept doing it until I got tired," he said "I put my nose to the ground and kept pushing." In time, Chaz started working out in the gym, using free weights and the machines to regain his former fitness level. "The hardest part was mental," he said. "I was determined not to allow my body to be sick." Diet also became a key factor in his recovery. "I took

a lot of vitamins, protein powder and ate well," he said. "I did whatever it took to get my body to respond."

When he pushed too hard, the numbness would return so Chaz was very conscientious about his level of exertion. Now he's teaching again in the evenings, trying to slowly build up his endurance on the court. He's also beginning to play competitive tennis as he's entered the 40 Nationals with former doubles partner Kip Hutchison.

Chaz says his philosophy of life and tennis has changed since his illness. He realizes he can't teach those 50 hour weeks anymore. "The key to life is balance, on and off the court" he says. Sometimes it takes a life threatening problem to help people and pros see the light. Thankfully, Chaz has rebounded and has a second life.

### **Tennis Tip** by Chaz Griffin **The Return Against a Hard Serve**

As the server is tossing the ball, take a split step and center the racquet in front of your body. When you read which side the ball is coming to, rotate your shoulders and take a short backswing. Keep your weight forward, keep your eyes on the ball, and follow through crosscourt to the spot you have visualized where you want the ball to land. If the net person is moving, be prepared to hit the ball down the line or mix it up by lobbing over the net person's head especially from the deuce court. This will force the server to hit a backhand volley or more difficult back hand ground stroke on the move. One of the big keys is the short backswing to make sure you meet the ball in front of your body and utilize the power of their serve on the return.

### **Membership Dues for 2009**

Due to cost of living increases, membership prices at BTC will be increasing on January 1, 2009. These rates are not for facility improvements, as questioned by some members. The annual budget was projected three years ahead and the numbers necessitated a dues increase to keep up with rising costs. Thank you for understanding. Here are the new rates:

**Adult New - \$200**

**Adult Renewal - \$175 (18-64 years)**

**Senior New - \$135**

**Senior Renewal - \$120**

**Four Month Membership - \$75**

**Junior Membership - \$75**

**High School Team Membership - \$35**

# Calendar of Events

## November

- 1 - 26 Fundraiser for David Ross the Water Man
- 15 Turkey Shoot Social
- 18 BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Reservations closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## December

- 1-23 Geoff's San Diego Rescue Mission Holiday Gift Drive
- 9 BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 17 BTC Volunteer Holiday Party – 6:00 p.m.
- 25 Reservations closed for Christmas Holiday

## January

- 1 Reservations closed for New Years Day
- 10 New Years Round Robin – 3:00 p.m. tennis, 5:00 p.m. food
- 16 SDDTA Annual Dinner – 6:00 p.m.
  - Call the SDDTA District Office at 619-299-8647 for information.
  - This event will be held at La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club.
  - The cost is \$30 per person.
- 20 BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



# Center Court

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**Balboa Tennis Club**  
2221 Morley Field Dr.  
San Diego, Calif. 92104

Dated material

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