

# The RACINE MIRROR

free

A Reflection of the Positive in the Community

August 2019  
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## Inspiring Women Leadership Award



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**Beverly Hicks**



**Stacia Slaughter Thompson**

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## The Woman in the Mirror More Than a Friend

by Lisa Parham

Truly positive relationships of any sort, friend, family or lover are extremely valuable. I would never knowingly hurt a friend. Have you ever met someone, and or immediately clicked, and the two of you began hanging out regularly and quickly developed a friendship, and over time many stories were swapped about your lives and then you find out your new friend was always talking about money problems and every time you talk to her she's at a restaurant or drive-thru or even the mall spending money she says she doesn't have. So immediately I became concerned. I asked her if she was okay financially so, seeing what her habit consisted of I didn't want to say or do anything that would hurt her feelings or our friendship. Although she said she was fine with me asking her questions, she stopped calling me and made excuses not to hang out anymore. Unsure of how to handle the situation I enlisted the advice of several friends (giving no names of course). The consensus was, "Girl if I were you I'd drop her as a friend, or they would say it's not your problem so why should you worry your self about it." Initially, I listened to my other girlfriends and became somewhat annoyed at my new friend for being so touchy, because we had talked about any and everything in the past. But then I realized she was genuinely hurt by my actions. I would never knowingly hurt a friend. So I decided to make the best possible effort to clear the air and salvage our relationship. I called and invited her to events until she finally thawed and realized my intentions were sincere. It took some doing but we are now back on track. I put in the effort to understand her per-



spective and the work to rebuild our trust because I felt the friendship was worth the effort. Too often, we are quick to throw away quality relationships, because of pride, stubbornness or reluctance to make things right. Truly positive relationships

of any sort whether be it friend, family, or lover are extremely valuable. They are your most important possessions, to be treasured above all else. Be sure, however that the people in your life are positive and not toxic. Often, we spend more time trying to save dysfunctional relationships in which we give more than we get. So in my closing put in the effort to save relationships you value. I have been pulled in different directions professionally and personally. So I had to devote time working on preserving my respective. I respect the bond I have with my family, friends, community, and co-workers, and the way in which I labor to protect the relationships I've accomplished. So, when you find yourself in conflict with someone you love, take a minute to think about whether you have benefited emotionally and spiritually from interactions with this person in the past, and if you have and you truly love him or her, don't let ego or complacency prevent you from fighting for the relationship.

Have a great and wonderful rest of the summer!

From the desk of

*Lisa Parham*

Ms. Lisa Parham  
President & Chief Operating Officer

*"I feel that we should all work to continue to make Racine a positive atmosphere for our Younger People. Thank you for helping to be a positive influence in our Community."*



### THE RACINE MIRROR

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#### OUR MISSION

- To uplift our community by being a reflection of what is positive and good.
- To be a vessel of information through our professional interviews, stories, and editorial perspectives.
- To encourage interaction among diverse walks of life.

#### OUR VISION

- To retain a love and understanding for our community and it's members.
- To be a positive influence and a profile for faith and hope.
- To endorse individual uniqueness and promote an appreciation for diversity.

#### OUR VALUES

- Respect
- Integrity
- Positive Development
- Excellence
- Good Stewardship

*The views and opinions printed in The Racine Mirror do not necessarily reflect those of the owner and management. Though articles, letters, and editorial perspectives maybe edited for presentation purposes. The Racine Mirror does not suppress the editorial content or viewpoints of it's writers.*

*Contribute story ideas by calling The Racine Mirror office at 262-633-8677 or you can email us at racinemirror@yahoo.com*

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# PWNS Inspiring Women Leadership Award

Professional Women's Network for Service announces the winners of the 2019 Inspiring Women Leadership Award. The Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, August 2nd at Roma Lodge starting at 5:30pm. For more information contact 262-456-7427, [www.pwnsinc.org](http://www.pwnsinc.org).

## Beverly Hicks

Beverly D. Hicks has been a member of the Racine community for over 70 years. She is a proud graduate of William Horlick High School, and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Dominican College and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She was employed as an educator with the Racine Unified School System for 34 years.

Mrs. Hicks has a true passion for civil rights, education reform and community volunteerism. She has served as the president of the NAACP Racine Branch for four terms and



presently serves on the Branch's Executive Board, Education, and Political Action committees, and is the current President of the NAACP Wisconsin State Conference of Branches. She has also served as a tireless advocate for the NAACP ACT-SO, a high school academic competition program. She has worked to help register eligible inmates to vote at the Racine County Jail and has advocated for the right to vote for homeless citizens. As a retired Racine educator, she formed a volunteer group with retired black teachers committed to sharing their time and talents at Julian Thomas Elementary School. Hicks continues to volunteer in the community, working with youth in Racine and with Harvest Outreach, a community food pantry. She is the proud mother of two sons and one daughter.

## Dr. Stacia Slaughter Thompson

Dr. Thompson was born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin. A 1993 graduate of J.I. Case High School, you could say her community service and outreach activities began back then. She was involved in student government, multi-cultural clubs, athletics and the NAACP ACT-SO competition and the NAACP Youth Council. In 1998 she became one of the youngest Board members of the Racine NAACP and served as the Chairperson of the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics program (ACT-SO). Within that capacity she organized the local competition, and then took the local winners to the national competition each year. Under her leadership she had 2 national medalists.



After enjoying the volunteer work that I was doing with ACT-SO, she decided it was time to make a change in profession. Her passion was working with the com-

munity and with youth. Since then she has worked at the Bray Center with the GEAR UP Program, UW Parkside as an academic advisor for Student Support Services and the director of Upward Bound, at Gateway Technical College as the Project Director of the Health Professions Opportunity Program and ACT for Healthcare and Director of Workforce Strategies. While at UW-Parkside she volunteered as the staff advisor of the Black Student Union and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. All of these programs allowed her to continue with her passion of creating educational opportunity programs for the community she lives in. While at Gateway she also assisted with writing and being award an Inspiration

Grant by the Gateway Technical College Foundation to help create a more inclusive learning environment at the college. In this capacity above and beyond her role at the college, she began going from meeting to meeting and classroom to classroom delivering professional workshops on inclusiveness and cultural competencies to Gateway Employees, something that had not been done in the past. Because of these efforts, an official Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee was chartered at the college which now has delivered its first Cultural Climate survey to its faculty staff and students. This work has extended into the community, delivering the same services to the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha. Because of her extensive educational background and workforce development footprint she is often asked to present to various community groups about the new opportunities for training and employment in SE Wisconsin. She is always willing to share opportunities with those will benefit from them, whether it be a room full of people or one of the grandchildren of a fellow church member. She is a member of New Omega Church where in the past she has served as the church historian and served in the youth department. Currently she is a member of the hospitality committee. In addition, she also volunteers her time offering NCAA Clearing house workshops to local sports teams and athletic camps, driving home the message of the importance of educations and success off the courts.



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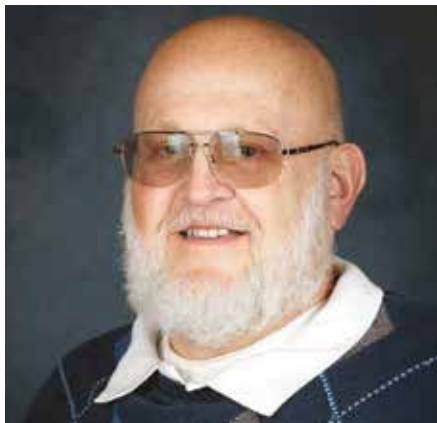
# Sleep in Heavenly Peace

by **Dominique Lambricht**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an American nonprofit 501 organization that builds and delivers beds to children without beds to sleep in. With being the president of the Racine/Kenosha chapter, Mike Prudhom has dedicated his time and energy to helping out with this great mission. Luke and Heidi Mickelson founded SHP in 2012 in Twin Falls, Idaho. As of 2019, the organization has 150 chapters around the United States and has built over 4000 beds. When Mike went to Idaho to learn about this project, he learned all that was necessary to build the beds and how to generate funding for the beds to be built. Throughout the process, he has gotten community funding from churches, banks, and other places that see great value in this mission to help kids without beds to sleep in.

In November 2017, Mike Rowe, who has hosted Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs" and the podcast "The Way I Heard It," featured local nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace on web-based Facebook Watch. Mike Rowe and the production team of "Returning the Favor" came to Rexburg to feature Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization works to provide beds for children who would otherwise, due to their circumstances, have to sleep on the floor. The work of this local non-profit is evident in their motto: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." The episode, running in the second season of the show "Returning the Favor," aired Monday, Feb. 12 at 10:00 p.m. MST.

This is where Mike Prudhom first saw the story and after viewing it asked his buddy if he wanted to build beds. Unemployed



**Mike Prudhom**

and retired Mike was looking for something to do. It was \$750 to go to Idaho and learn how to build these beds. He asked his wife about what she thought, and she told him she would pray on it. Mike knew that he would not bring it up again for another week because, in past experience, it would take about a week for his wife to decide fully on what she thought. Mike said that same night she told him to do it. When he came back Mike got right on things to raise money for this mission. They got money for the tools, they found a place to make the beds (Bane Nelson's Repair space), and June 9, 2018, they built their first bed. As of last Sunday, they have supplied at least 200 kids with beds with 200 still on the waiting list.

Mike spends 40 to 60 hours on these projects a month. He classifies himself as an introvert that now goes up to people to

talk to them about the cause because it isn't something that is selfishly for himself. This is for all those unfortunate kids that need more help than was evident to Mike before starting this. They are always looking to have more volunteers and the best part is Mike has said it is easy to get volunteers. There is a pent-up need for people to become hands-on and help people. Nationally they even have a sponsor for mattresses.

There are "Build Days" that they have that they just build for hours in the morning and the afternoon. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has been on the Kenosha News, Channel 6 and 4, Racine and Me program, and hoping that others can view the achievements and

come help out. June 15, 2019, was their last build day and they plan to have another August 10, 2019, from 9 am to 2 pm. July 27, 2019, Mike is having all the beds moved from Bane Nelson's to Kenosha Achievement. There is still much to get done but Mike is on it and is only expanding with the groups of people that come to help out and move things forward. People can always go online to visit their website and let them know if they need a bed or know someone in need of a bed. Come help out!

Mike Prudhom | Sleep In Heavenly Peace | 456 Madrin St., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301 | 844-432-BEDS (2337) | [www.shpbeds.org](http://www.shpbeds.org) | [www.facebook.com/SHPbeds/](https://www.facebook.com/SHPbeds/)



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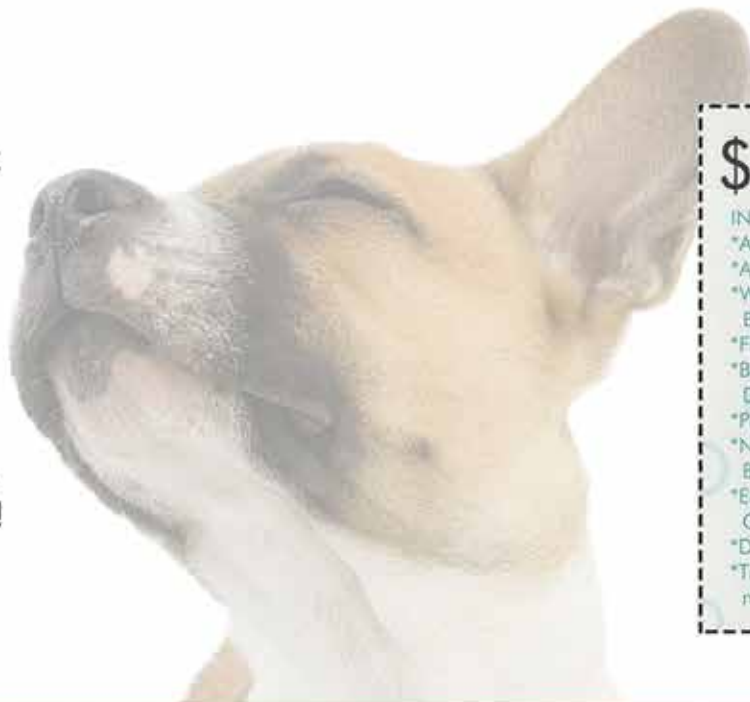
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# Clover Pup

by Dominique Lambricht

Allison started up Clover pup in November of 2016. When she thought of the idea, she wanted to change the industry. Most people view dog grooming places as small, crowded, with a dirty vibe. She wanted to bring a modern take to the comforting and warm experience. She creates more of a homey place for the dogs to experience. She loves that she can work with the dogs one on one as opposed to having them in cages waiting for their turns and becoming all stressed out. The dogs all have their own private appointment times, they always get the same groomer so they can build relationships with the dogs and they feel more at ease every time they come to the shop. Most of the time it is 2 hours in and out. They get a bath,

blow-dry, clipped nails, and their hair cut.

The community has been amazing to Clover Pup and vice versa. They love the community, atmosphere, and the animals especially. Allison came all the way from Illinois to open up her shop because of her love for Wisconsin. The workers are trained in animal behavior. When they watch the dogs they are understanding how to handle them with knowing when and what to do if things got out of control. They try to keep the environment as stress-free as possible. And a little fun fact, a lot of shops don't take pit bulls or big dogs because of their reputation. They love the pit bulls and the big dogs, they will take on any dog.

People in the neighborhood come to just sit in the shop and watch the dogs. The owners can stay and watch the dogs get groomed, so the process is very transparent. Allison wants no one to feel like they're hiding anything they're doing with their dogs. One day, they would like to expand within themselves. What this means is hiring more employees, they have 11 as of right now, as well as trying to open a grooming school.

Because of the love for the community, Allison and Clover Pup have contributed so much. They have donated gift certificates for raffles, sold canine bandanas for Mt. Pleasant police department, donated \$500 towards candy for Easter, free haircuts for foster dogs, free baths for police dogs, sponsoring sports teams for the local high schools, and donated candy to Stronger Treat. Another thing they participate in is Lakeside Creative Services. They took on a girl named Stephanie with special needs. She did a 3-month internship and then



they hired her, she has been working there for a year now. Stephanie loves it there and is treated very well. She also works 2 times a week with a person to assist her if needed and is hoping to work more.

In Allison's free time she spends as much time as she can with her kids. She has an 11-year-old daughter and a four-year-old daughter. She loves to knit, read, skydive, and take care of her own little doggies she has. A Yorkie and a Westie, both Terriers. Clover Pup was well organized and the dogs were so well behaved. I had been in dog groomers before and I would have to agree that she did change the environment for the dogs and the owners. I'd recommend her place of business.

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# Lashes De' Yami

# Momentum Counseling

by **Dominique Lambricht**

Momentum means to propel forward and in Monique's business, she feels that she can help people make the changes to move/propel them forward in their life. The owl in her logo represents change and transition. The perfect symbol for what Monique loves to do. Monique moved here in 2008 and started her business last year in November of 2018. While in school she achieved her undergrad in Psych and then got her master's in social work. Once she was done, she had her first experience in clinical practice with Veterans with PTSD. She was certified in training for trauma, substance abuse disorders, and men-



tal health. In North Chicago, she went through this training. Today, along with her own practice, she still works with Ascension. She worked in the inpatient psych unit and then moved to work with the outpatient unit.

When Monique lived in Northern Louisiana, she got into finance to help people. She thought that money would help people. She was wrong and discovered that helping people with their issues was more important. Mental health is very important to her. She learned that people make more growth in their lives when they deal with their issues first. Individual counseling is the specialization, but sometimes, Monique will take on some couples and limited families. She takes pride in being one of the few practices that accept Medicaid and Medicare because people shy away when they think that they can't afford it. And Monique always goes the extra mile, she exhibits and is very open with the concern she has with her clients.

When working with Monique, anyone can benefit from her counseling, but she has found that most people have an underlying depression/anxiety medical issue. There are many people with PTSD and most people at the hospital are recommended or referred by someone. She finds it most interesting when people seek help on their own. It says that they know something is wrong and they want to do something about it. Often her clients tell her she is easy to talk to and trustworthy. They're very grateful for this because often



people don't know how to articulate what is wrong with them and they can't make it go away. Though there are those who know what is wrong with them but are confused as to what it is. This is where the DSM5 comes into play; Diagnostic Statistical Manual 5th edition. Monique will go through this and help the clients truly understand what may be wrong with them.

There is a collaborative approach where Monique literally works with each client to find a solution to their problems. Monique never tells her clients how to move forward and live their life. Instead, she talks and uses what's important to the client to help them understand better from their own experience and perspectives. Part of connecting with people is normalizing what they go through daily. She talks more about the reality of what is going on and not the theories that most people come up with. In doing so, Monique absorbs a tremendous amount of energy and has to create time for herself for self-care. She practices what she preaches to her clients and that also sets her apart when clients talk to her. This is greatly helped by having a strict no family and friends policy because of the difficulty and balancing the boundaries.

After speaking with Monique, I was very impressed with the way she presented her knowledge and I even felt very comfortable talking to her. The atmosphere is professional yet very comfortable and this helps in the line of work she does. The best part about



Monique is that she is 1 of 3 minority clinicians in the city that specializes in anxiety and trauma, which is very beneficial because she has access to connections and valuable resources to help her clients properly. I would recommend her to anyone needing any mental health healing.

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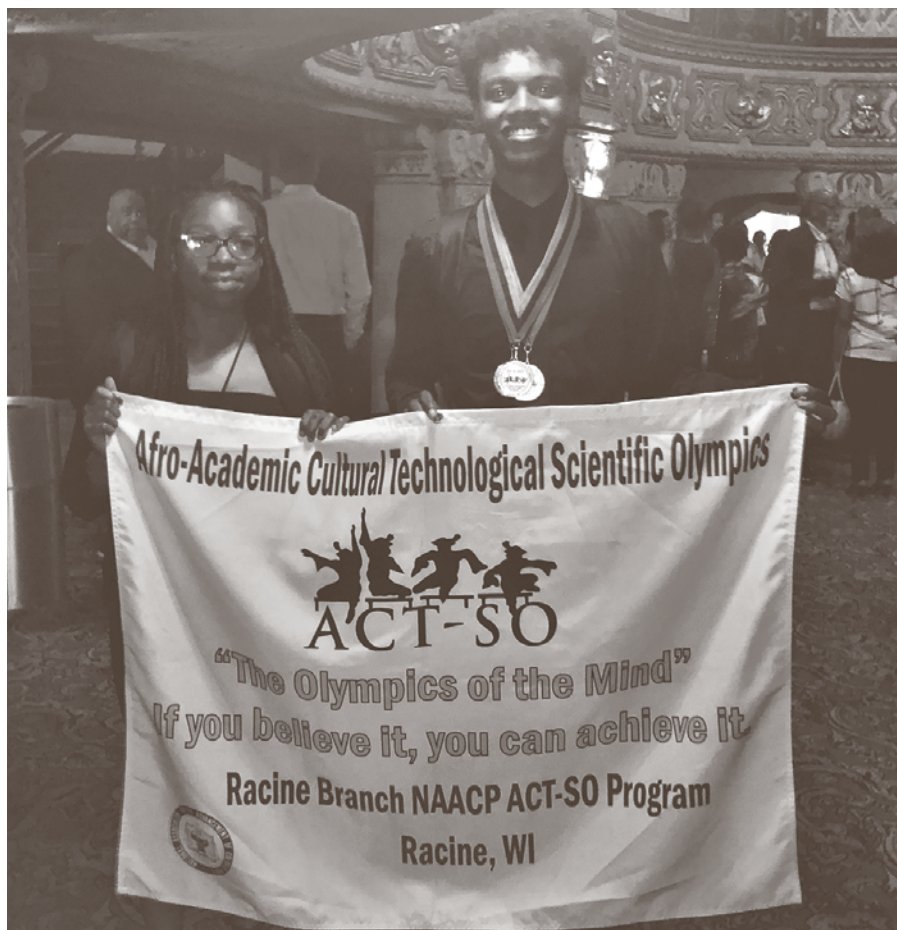
# Local Businesses and Churches Sponsor National Competition

Racine NAACP ACT-SO local gold medalists and observers recently attended the national competition in Detroit, MI with the help of area businesses, churches and patrons. Jada Patterson, who earned a gold medal in the local competition last spring competed in Music Instrumental – Classical and received a certificate of participation. Jada graduated from Case High School in June and plans to attend UW Parkside in the fall. Nicholas Daly, who earned gold medals locally in Music Vocal – Contemporary and Classical and Playwriting earned a gold medal in both vocal categories and a bronze in Playwriting. Nicholas received a total of \$5,000.00 in scholarship money and an iPad Air for his placement in the competition. He graduated from Bradford High School in Kenosha and will attend the University of Michigan in the fall.

The following local businesses, churches and patrons contributed to this year’s attendance at “nationals”:

- Community Women’s Club
- Dominion Church of God in Christ
- Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home
- James T. Kimmons
- Mack C. Davis Club, Inc.
- Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home
- Modern Woodmen of America, Chapter 129
- N & L Properties, LLC
- New Omega Baptist Church
- Professional Women’s Network for Service
- St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
- Walter and Vallie Rogers
- Wayman AME Church

ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological Scientific Olympics) is a competition program designed to encourage and improve academic achievement and cultural awareness among minority high school students. For more information contact VaLisa Harmon at racinactso@gmail.com.



Jada Patterson (L) and Nicholas Daly (R) at NAACP ACT-SO Awards Ceremony in Detroit, MI

## ACT-SO Mission

The goals of ACT-SO are:

- To mobilize the adult community for the promotion of academic and artistic excellence.
- To recognize creative talent and academic achievement.
- To provide and assist students with the necessary skills to establish goals and acquire the confidence and training to make a successful contribution to society.

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## U. S. Congress Passes New Minimum Wage Bill

# Don't get too excited

by Ed Mohrbacher

Our United States Congress just passed a new minimum wage bill increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. Before you get too excited let's consider a few things. The first of which is that the U.S. Senate will more than likely not affirm the change.

Now let's take a look at the potential effects of what an increase like this means to both business owners and employees.

Firstly, from the business owners' perspective. Businesses have to operate profitably to remain in business for a multitude of reasons. The first is that if they are not profitable, they go out of business and the employees and the owners are now unemployed. Profits in a business are used by the owners as income to live on. No profit, no income. Those profits are also used to reinvest in the company for items such as maintaining or upgrading equipment or facilities. Out of profits, the owners must also pay any loans they have taken against the business. If the business is less profitable or loses money, the owners are not able to sustain their businesses and/or pay back the loans they have taken to support it. One common argument is that business owners "make too much money". Please keep in mind that in most cases, when a business owner takes out a loan for the business they sign a personal guaranty that simply states, if they don't pay it back from the business, they have to pay it back personal-

ly. That guaranty puts all of their personal assets at risk. By personal assets we are talking about houses, cars and any other possessions they may have. If employees are willing to accept some of that risk and pledge their personal assets against loans of the business, then maybe you could justify the statement of owners making too much money.

Secondly, businesses need to operate within a budget so they can remain profitable for the reasons mentioned above. Businesses are not a whole unlike your personal finances. If you don't have enough income to support the cost of something, you cut back so you can make ends meet. For the sake of this discussion, let's say the business has budgeted for 4 employees each earning \$10 per hour and working a 40 hour week. Based on the budget, that allows for a labor cost of \$1,600 per week (\$400 per employee). If you increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, the cost of those same employees balloons to \$2,400 per week, a 50% increase, not including the additional FICA and Medicare tax increases.

If that happens, the businesses have a few options available to them.

1) They could raise prices to their customers to cover the increased cost which would probably cause the business to lose customers and the profits resulting from the sales to those customers. The lower sales drop, the less employees the company will need.

2) The business could make adjustments to stay within their \$1,600 per week labor budget by:

- a. Decreasing the number of employees at the \$15 rate. In this example, the business would have to cut from 4 to 2.6 employees to keep their costs in line. The result.... 1 person loses their job and another gets cut down to 24 hours a week. Seems ok, right? That is unless you are the employee laid off or had your hours cut.
- b. In order to be fair, the other option is that the employer could just cut everyone's hours to 27 and keep costs in line.

In either case, the business remains within budget and profitable, and in business, but the employees don't realize any increase from the new minimum wage and either stay the same or someone loses their job. So, before you get too excited about a minimum wage increase, think of the impact on the businesses and what they will have to do to survive given mandated increased costs. A much better solution is for the employees to help the business become more successful and profitable and trust in the owners to share some of that success with their employees. If the owner doesn't share that success with the employees, then find one that will.

## 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

July 26, 2019 marks the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990.

The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA and ADAAA also assure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.

"We've been assisting individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin since 1974," shared Karl Kopp, Executive Director of Society's Assets.

Society's Assets is a local community-based nonprofit providing services to individuals of all ages with any disability who live in Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Rock, and Jefferson counties. Formed in Racine by people with disabilities, the name Society's Assets was chosen because the founders wanted to be seen as assets to society, as having abilities to contribute to the community.

"Though outreach, training and assistance we can help with ADA compliance," said Karen Olufs, Director of Independent Living.

Society's Assets is the "go to" local resource for free, confidential information, guidance and training on the ADA and its implementation. Call 800-378-9128 if you need support.

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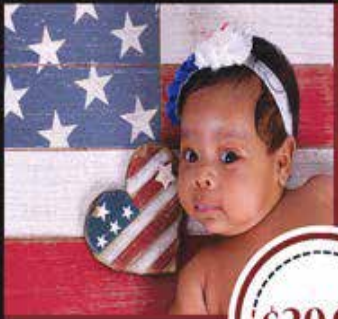
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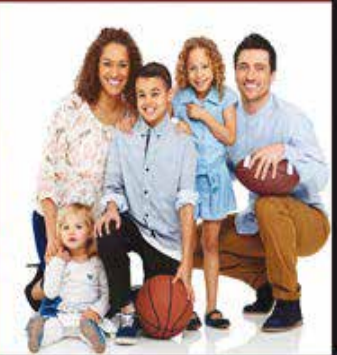


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# Real Talk Therapy: Equity in Education

by D. White

Do you know what equity is? Equity is defined as the quality of being fair or impartial (dictionary.com). For your consideration as the school year resumes, much has been said about equity and disproportionality in our education system. This is particularly in reference to a gap in academic achievement as well as a disproportionate rate of disciplinary action against students of color more often and with more severe consequences than non-students of color. How can we be fair and impartial in a system that was designed to favor those with entitlement and privilege? Somebody is probably going to get mad at me but may I suggest that the parents of students of color begin to take ownership of their children's education? By the way, Wisconsin's educational leader, Dr. Tony Evers, who I've met personally, is running for governor. After doing your research you may want to consider voting for him during the November 06th election.

Yes, I am suggesting that we stop blaming the system and start accepting responsibility for learning how to function within the system. If I said it once, I'll say it one thousand times, when you blame then you b-lame. We need to stop being lame and start stepping up our game! For the record, the system is not equitable for professionals of color that work within it either. Parents need to get actively involved in the education of their offspring. Parents need to advocate for their children. Advocating doesn't mean cursing out school authorities when your child misbehaves. Advocating doesn't mean blaming the teacher when your child is



truant from school and doesn't turn in assignments. Advocating for your child means teaching your child to be respectful, responsible, and safe. I have found that when students do better behaviorally, they also do better academically and vice versa. Isn't it

interesting how that works out? Advocating for your child means teaching your child the value and importance of getting a high quality education whether you have a formal education or not.

According to data compiled by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), in a USA Today article, College graduates, on average, earned 56% (That's over twice as much!) more than high school graduates in 2015, which is the largest such gap in EPI's figures dating to 1973. Since the recession ended in 2009 college-educated workers have earned most of the new jobs and enjoyed salary increases as well. Non-college graduates, by contrast, have had dwindling job opportunities and an overall 3% decline in income, according to EPI data ([www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/01/12/pay-gap-between-college-grads-and-everyone-else-record/96493348/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/01/12/pay-gap-between-college-grads-and-everyone-else-record/96493348/)). Furthermore the United States Government makes money available to any law-abiding citizen that wants to get an education ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)). No more excuses please! Parents

need to be accountable and likewise we need to teach our children to be accountable.

For your consideration following are some success principles that I've shared with my students over the years:

**01. Be punctual (be present and be on time). In fact show up early!**

**02. Study outside of school a minimum of 1 hour a day for 5 days each week.**

a. There are 24 hours in a day & you need at least 8 hours of sleep ( $24 - 8 = 16$ ).

b. You spend approximately 8 hours a day in and around school ( $16 - 8 = 8$ ).

c. If you spend 1 hour a day studying then you still have 7 hours to do other things ( $8 - 1 = 7$ ).

d. Is that enough time for you to handle your business? You decide. The choice is yours.

**03. Participate in extra-curricular activities.**

a. Examples: art-club, athletics, band, chorus, drama-club (school plays), etc.

b. Those who engage in extra-curricular activities tend to do better academically.

c. Those who engage in extra-curricular activities tend to have a more balanced & fulfilling educational experience.

**04. Volunteer**

a. Volunteer work is good experience and a wise use of time (Eph. 5:15-16).

b. Helping others builds personal esteem and fosters a wholesome sense of purpose.

c. You should give back to the community because "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)."

**05. Have fun.**

a. Learning is fun.

b. Fun is learning.

Why do we need to be accountable? We need to be accountable because God believes in accountability. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7). God has always held people accountable for their conduct and choices in life. That has not and will not change. God is also a God of equity. "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth." (Is. 11:4). In the parable of the talents those who used their talents wisely were given more talents and the one who was not wise but chose to misuse his talent, had it taken away (Matt. 25:14-30). In other words those that demonstrated the ability to be responsible were given more responsibilities which equates to more opportunities. Now it's up to us to facilitate equity in education!

*Darrell Anthony White Woodard is a school counselor in Kenosha and a Gospel preacher at the Southside Church of Christ and Hampton Avenue Church of Christ in Milwaukee. To schedule a consultation or speaking engagement, please make your request via email: [darrellwoodard@rocketmail.com](mailto:darrellwoodard@rocketmail.com) or phone: (847) 287-5842. Linked In: [www.linkedin.com/in/darrell-anthony-white-woodard-32387837/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/darrell-anthony-white-woodard-32387837/) Facebook: Acrostic Therapy.*



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# The Current Economic Expansion is Now the Longest in U.S. History. What Does This Mean for Your Finances?

by Yvette Stewart

The current U.S. economic expansion recently enjoyed its ten-year anniversary. This means that for the past decade the economy, as measured by the nation's gross domestic product has been consistently growing without a measurable pull-back, or recession. This long expansion follows the very difficult economic decline of 2008 and 2009, a period often referred to as the Great Recession.

If you are a stock investor who has been keeping an eye on recent headlines, you may wonder how long this expansion will last, and what may trigger the next economic downturn or recession. Read on for some perspective.

## Expansions don't die from old age

Fortunately, recessions do not come and go based on the calendar. Often, recessions are the result of imbalances in major economies built-up over a period of expansion, as evidenced by the housing bubble in 2007 and the dot-com bubble in 2001. However, despite the longevity of the current expansion, the U.S. economy currently seems to be on solid ground.

History tells us that in some cases, a specific event may also send the economy into a recession. An example occurred in the mid-1970s as gasoline availability was curtailed



by the OPEC oil embargo. In the early 1980's the U.S. economy also suffered a particularly painful economic downturn after the Federal Reserve moved interest rates sharply higher to finally curtail inflation problems.

## What could create a setback today?

So, if old age doesn't cause an economic downturn, what will? The answer is that many unforeseen events could trigger a recession. Predicting the timing of such an event is virtually impossible. Many analysts and investors are watching key global trends for insights that may be warning signals for what is going to happen in the economy.

Currently, trade turmoil represents one of the most notable risks to the intermediate-term economic outlook. The ongoing dispute between the world's two largest economies, the U.S. and China, has already had a negative impact on the pace of global growth, and the impact could rise. The United Kingdom and European Union also still seek an agreement to lessen the economic disruption of the U.K.'s pending exit from

the Union. Federal Reserve interest rate actions and pockets of geopolitical unrest are also important to watch and something experts monitor closely.

## How to prepare for future uncertainty

Whether the expansion continues on for a while or comes to end in the near term, it's important to remember that it's normal for the markets to move in cycles, with periods of expansion and recession. And historically, the markets have rallied and risen higher after times of decline. That being said, if you're nervous about what a possible downturn in the near term could mean for your portfolio, consider the following four steps:

1. Maintain a properly diversified portfolio that effectively represents your true views on risk.
2. Focus on owning quality investments, which may include well established stocks and high-grade bonds.
3. While a market pullback can be a painful thing, every downturn comes with potential opportunities. While the investments you hold may be dropping in value, the investments you want to buy could be getting cheaper, making it a good time to consider buying.
4. How long you have before you need money is a key factor to how well your port-

folio may withstand future uncertainty. If you have decades before you need to withdraw (such as your retirement savings), it's possible that volatile markets could actually work in your favor, due to the power of compound interest. On the flip side, if you need money in the near term you may want to consider reducing your risk or selecting investments with more downside protection.

5. Talk to a financial advisor who can assess your current financial situation and investments. Together you can discuss whether making any changes could help you be more prepared for what may lie ahead.

*Yvette M. Stewart, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Brookfield, WI. She specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 13 years. To contact her, visit [www.ameripriseadvisors.com/yvette.m.stewart](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/yvette.m.stewart), email: [yvette.m.stewart@ampf.com](mailto:yvette.m.stewart@ampf.com). PH: 262-901-1540. Ameriprise Financial Services, 16650 W Bluemound Rd, Suite 800, Brookfield, WI 53005. She resides in Racine, WI. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2019 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.*

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**From the Pastor's Desk:  
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by Pastor Henry Parham

Marriage is a God covenant between a man and woman not man and man or woman and woman. That kind of marriage can't be fruitful or multiply the way God said it should be.

When you get married you have made your choice of who you want to live your life with, so don't be looking outside your marriage for sexual pleasures, your husband or wife should be happy with each other.

Thou shalt not commit adultery, you have made your choice forever until death do you part. You made those vows before God and man. I am talking to saints of God.

If you can't talk about things before you marry, why do you think you can after you marry. If you are hiding things before you marry, it won't stop after you marry. If you are not obeying Jesus Christ before you get married, what make you think you will after you marry. Think about it, man and woman.



Husbands don't try to change your wife. Wives don't try to change your husbands. The marriage covenant is between you and God. If wives don't obey God what make you think she will obey you.

This marrying business is all spiritual not natural. Jesus said if you love me you will keep my commandments. Not man and woman, but husbands must love their wives like Christ love the church. This is to the saint's of God.

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## You Auto Know About Women in the Car Business

by Tom Kral

Last month we introduced the fact that people of color are woefully under-represented in professional car racing. This month the topic is another area where a demographic group is under-represented in the automobile business in general—only this time the group is a majority.

American women are 50.4% of the U.S. population, according to 2014 statistics, yet only 25.4% are employed in the automotive manufacturing sector, and of those 56.7% are found in clerical or office worker positions.\*

In retail sales, i.e., dealerships, women represent a mere 21% of employees. Even more depressing, less than 3% of dealerships are owned by women. That is shockingly low considering that women are now over 44% of primary vehicle buyers, up from 19% in 1990. Even more, some studies indicate that they are the decision makers in more than 60% of all vehicle transactions.

Clearly, women are powerfully influential in determining the present and future of the automobile business. But is anyone listening?

True, in 2014 Mary Barra became CEO of General Motors in the United States and is the first woman to run a major automaker. While her achievement is a hopeful sign, it's far from a game-changer in the overall picture of opportunities for women.

Several factors contribute to this under-representation. One is that women are not being actively recruited into the field. Another is that women do not believe



the auto business is responsive to family commitments. So often in the U.S. economy women are forced to choose between raising a family and a successful career. Apparently the automobile business presents this unhealthy dichotomy.

Women can easily feel intimidated about

entering a male dominated field. At the dealership level some managers are so Neanderthal that they reflexively relegate female job applicants to office positions and believe the "little lady" is only qualified to pick out the color of the new car/truck. Fortunately these concepts are changing, for the better.

In this writer's experience some of the very best automobile salespeople are women. It's not mechanical knowledge that makes or breaks a great salesperson, it's strong people skills and a willingness to work hard. No sex has a monopoly on those assets. Some women buyers feel more comfortable with a female salesperson. Male buyers don't seem to mind one way or the other.

From the manufacturing and design perspective, input from women would seem invaluable, since they make more

than half the buying decisions and likely spend more time behind the wheel than many men. It would make an enormous good sense for manufacturers to recruit women and people of color for corporate jobs and dealer ownership opportunities. Progress has been made, but much more needs to be done.

\*Source: EEOC, "2012 EEO-1 National Aggregate Report by NAICS-4 Code: 3361 - Motor Vehicle Manufacturing," 2012 Job Patterns for Minorities and Women in Private Industry (2013).

### GGT CAR SHOW



Come and join us at the GGT CAR SHOW presented by Greater Grace Temple C.O.G.I.C. Church, 522 N Memorial Drive, Racine, on Saturday, August 31st, 2019 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Bring your classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods etc. Awards for top three best cars. Enjoy good food, music and have fun. For more information call PH: 262-634-6246.

## Over Our Head Players Soliciting Playwriting Contest Scripts

Over Our Head Players is accepting submissions for the "2020 Snowdance® 10 Minute Comedy Festival," now through November 1. "Snowdance®" entry is open to original 10 minute or shorter comedies for the stage. Winning entries will be performed together in one theatre presentation by the OOHP Snowdance ensemble at Sixth Street Theatre for five weeks beginning January 31, 2020. The entire Snowdance production will be presented 24 times during the run. At each performance, audience members can vote for their favorite individual comedy; the audience favorites will earn cash prizes for the playwright. Entries may be sent to

SNOWDANCE, c/o Sixth Street Theatre, 318 Sixth Street, Racine, Wisconsin, 53403. Alternatively, entries may be sent by email to Snowdance318@gmail.com.

Rules for the Snowdance Comedy Competition, which is open to everyone without age or geographic restriction, are relatively simple. In summary, competition is open to unpublished, 10 minute or shorter comedies free of royalty and copyright restrictions. Musicals, adaptations, and translations will not be considered. Entries must be post-marked by November 1, 2018. The writer's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address should be included on the title page

and only the title page. The title page should also include a cast list and a one- to three- sentence synopsis of the play. Plays can have a cast of one to five characters; plays should be easily staged, avoiding elaborate set requirements. Submit one typed manuscript in standard format, securely bound. Complete rules are posted on the theatre website at [www.overourheadplayers.org](http://www.overourheadplayers.org). Any questions can be directed to Rich Smith via the box office, at (262)632-6802, or by e-mail at [snowdance318@gmail.com](mailto:snowdance318@gmail.com). Scripts will not be returned.

The "Snowdance® 10 Minute Comedy Festival" is a competition of original short comedies. Writers from throughout the community, the state, and the country are invited to enter; previous involvement with Over Our Head Players is not a requirement. Scripts will be judged by the Snowdance Selection Committee; selected scripts will be produced in a complete festival performance. Then, in the ultimate interactive experience, audiences vote for the production they enjoyed the most. The votes will be tallied throughout the five weekend festival run, and the Snowdance "Best in Snow" will be awarded after the final performance on March 1, 2020. A \$500.00 prize goes to "Best in Snow", with a \$200.00 award going to second place, and \$100 for third place. OOHP presents Snowdance January 31 – March 1, 2020. OOHP Artistic Director Rich Smith leads the Snowdance ensemble.

Snowdance has grown each year, frequently featuring international finalists. Over Our Head Players Artistic Director Rich Smith has lead the production since it began in 2005, and he has always believed that its unique format is the key reason for the Snowdance festival's growth. Smith explains, "There are many play festivals and many play competitions, but, as far as we know, Snowdance is the only interactive comedy festival that empowers the audience to vote on the winner! Having the audi-

## Fall 2019 Internship and Career Fair

Thursday, October 24, 10 am-2 pm, Student Center Ballroom, UW-Parkside. Get a head start on recruiting by engaging with students looking for internships and full-time jobs.

This year, UW-Parkside is collaborating with Carthage College to host a combined Internship & Career Fair on our campus Thursday, October 24 from 10 am-2 pm. We are excited to provide employers like you this opportunity to engage with talent from two outstanding institutions under one roof! Don't miss this chance to get a head start on recruiting by engaging with students from UW-Parkside and Carthage College representing all majors and seeking career-relevant internships and full-time jobs upon graduation. This combined event will draw over 300 students and 60+ regional employers.

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Info and registration [www.uwp.edu/live/offices/AdvisingCareer/careerfair.cfm](http://www.uwp.edu/live/offices/AdvisingCareer/careerfair.cfm).



ences vote makes Snowdance unique for both the audience and the playwrights." He continues, "With Snowdance, no subject is off-limits. We respect our theatre-savvy audience and strive to produce material that is being written for any stage in the country. One of our goals with Snowdance is to bring current comedy from around the world to the shores of Lake Michigan, providing a diverse evening for our audience."

Over Our Head Players is a non-profit organization of volunteer talent from throughout Southeastern Wisconsin and operates the Sixth Street Theatre in Racine. Their 28th season includes Chapatti, KRINGLE.... The Musical?, Part II: West of the I Side Story!, Outside Mullingar, and The Roommate. OOHPs has a commitment to original theatre. In addition to Snowdance, previous original works include sold-out productions Kringle....The Musical?, The Cedar Chest Letters, Camp Nelson, It's a Wonderful Lifeboat, Ode to Garlic, Waiting for the Weinermobile™, Big Shoes, Still Haven't Found..., and Real Remembrances of the War in Vietnam.



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

AUGUST 2019

*“And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.” (Matthew 20:30-31)*

Today’s verse talks about two blind men that no one really paid attention to. No one gave them much of a chance — but Jesus did! All through scripture we see that He had such great compassion and mercy, everywhere He went and He still has it today. Maybe you feel like life has overlooked you. Maybe you feel like the people around you don’t really see what you are going through. Today, know that God sees you.

He’ll never overlook you even when people overlook you. He is good and no matter what has happened in your life, remember that His mercy endures forever. Notice what these men did — they called on Jesus. Even when people tried to quiet them, they called even louder. They had confidence that He would hear them and you can have confidence, too! Be bold and step out in faith, call on Him and trust that He sees you and hears you and He will have mercy!

Father I thank You for Your mercy and grace. Today I have the confidence to trust and call on you. Thank you for hearing me in Jesus Name.  
Amen.



Apostle Charles C Jones D.D.  
Presiding Apostle of the  
Word of Faith Christian Fellowship International, Inc.  
Racine, Wisconsin

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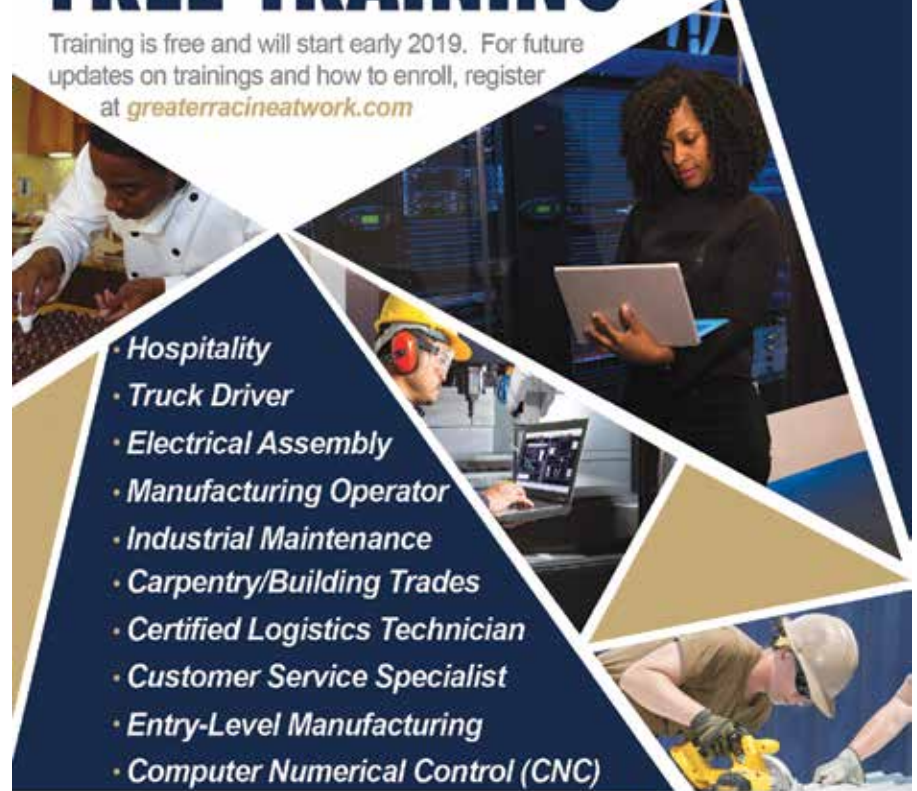
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Wisconsin Fast Forward is the funding partner for trainings.  
SE Wisconsin Workforce Development Board/Racine County Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. If you need this information or printed material in an alternate format, or different language, please contact us at 262.638.6312. Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired callers can reach us through the Wisconsin Relay Service 7-1-1.

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