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Emergency Fund
Future Remains Unsure for SLP

The SLP has received nearly $35,000 in cash contributions since starting its emergency fund drive last October; plus an additional $12,000 from other sources (primarily sales and bank interest).

The $35,000 in contributions came from individual party members and supporters. They are the SLP's sole means of support. There are no foundations or other institutions to supplement their efforts. The SLP is strictly a working class organization. The combined total of $47,000 means that the SLP has raised about 18 percent of the $212,000 it will need to keep its headquarters open and The People in print. But it also means that an additional $78,000 must be raised by Aug. 31, 2002, when the lease on the party's headquarters will expire.

That was where things stood as of Jan. 31. During the preceding four months, monthly income averaged $11,750 while monthly expenses were held to an average of less than $10,500.

Last year, however, monthly expenses averaged $12,000 a month, and although the operating expense for January was the lowest for any month in years ($9,900), we cannot count on holding expenses down to that level in the months ahead. Accordingly, we can anticipate an additional operating expense of between $74,000 and $84,000 by the end of August. If the emergency fund-raising effort is to succeed, the same level of monthly income must be sustained through the end of August. Hopefully, sales of The People and SLP literature will continue to reduce the burden on the party's members and supporters.

If the SLP does succeed in raising the additional $78,000 needed to reach its goal of $212,000 before August 31, its cash reserves should remain stable at their present level. That level ($101,000) is far less than the $153,000 we hoped to reach with a successful $125,000 fund-raising effort, and probably less than will be needed to keep the party's present national offices, or something comparable to them.

Accordingly, it may soon be necessary for the party's National Executive Committee to reassess the situation and to make a determination on scaling down the headquarters.
Poorhouse for Millionaires

By B.G.

The collapse of the Enron corporation, with its slighthand-of-accounting practices, has not only left its thousands of workers in the lurch and destroyed their 401(k) retirement savings, but has enraged people in general throughout the country. Of course, the actual value of the pension plans for state workers in a number of states that had invested funds in Enron stock.

Even President George W. Bush, a recipient of Enron largesse in his guber- natorial and presidential campaigns, has tried to distance himself from his long-time friend, Enron executive Kenneth Lay. Mr. Lay and his wife, Linda, are now the focus of a federal investigation. The layoff rate at Enron is expected to rise to 38,000, or 10 percent of the company’s 350,000 employees.

In the wake of Enron’s collapse, the news media has been reporting on the company’s failed corporate culture and the corruption that led to its downfall. The company’s financial statements revealed that it had failed to disclose significant information about its financial condition and the risks it faced. Enron’s board of directors, led by Kenneth Lay, had failed to adequately monitor the company’s operations and had not taken appropriate steps to address the risks it faced.

As a result of Enron’s collapse, the government has passed new legislation to strengthen corporate accountability and transparency. These laws include provisions to increase the penalties for corporate fraud and to improve the enforcement of existing laws.

The collapse of Enron has also led to a reassessment of the role of Wall Street in the economy. Many people have called for greater regulation of the financial industry to prevent similar disasters in the future.

In conclusion, the collapse of Enron is a wake-up call for the corporate world. It is a reminder that companies must be held accountable for their actions and that those who engage in illegal or unethical practices will be brought to justice. The government’s response to Enron’s collapse has also set an example for the rest of the economy, showing that there will be consequences for those who fail to operate in an ethical and transparent manner.
Global Mine Fires Rage
White Capitalism
Profits
By B.B.

Forty years ago, Centralia was a mining town of 1,100 people in the anthracite region of eastern Pennsylvania. Today, with only 40 inhabitants, it is a veritable ghost town. There is nothing unusual about a mountain town coming into a ghost town. Western states are dotted with hundreds of them. The “boom towns” of the 19th century came and went, and pockets of gold and silver were discovered and quickly played out. That, however, is exactly what happened to Centralia.

According to an article in the science section of the Jan. 15 New York Times, “Smoke and steam now rise from overgrown backyards and cracked, sunken streets, marking the path of subterranean fires that continue to consume buried coal.”

It seems that the practice of using anthracite mines as reservoirs for mountains of trash, the offal of capitalist society, is responsible for the fires that devastated Centralia. The town people abandoned the town after the trash was set ablaze and ignited unmined coal seams. The fires have been burning for years, and according to the Times, they may burn out of control for another century!

That’s nothing. In a remote sector of Australia, “Burning Mountain,” a peak sometimes mistaken for a volcano, has been on fire for approximately 2,000 years, most likely as a result of lightning, or spontaneous combustion, “when pyrometers, anthracite and other related minerals in coal are exposed to oxygen.”

The difference between “Burning Mountain” and Centralia is that the latter was the result of human neglect, or, to be precise, characteristic capitalist indifference, ignorance and anarchy, all born of the profit motive.

Centralia is not unique. Similar fires can be found in other parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Utah, Colorado, Kentucky and Wyoming, and that’s not the half of it. Worldwide, thousands of similar fires are consuming exposed coal seams. They can be found in Mongolia, China, India, Indonesia and eastern Australia.

Most of these fires also are the result of careless mining practices. They are set to allow the recovery of coal, to trap carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and baking the earth until vegetation shrivels and lands sink.

The following reveals the magnitude of the problem:

• Seven hundred coal fires are burning in the Jharia mining area, India, alone.

• In China’s sprawling northern coal regions, hundreds of fires are burning an estimated 20 million tons of coal, which is equal to one-fifth of the country’s annual production. China’s coal fires, according to the Times report, emit as much carbon dioxide as all the cars and trucks in the United States.

• Hundreds of thousands of poor workers live in impoverished conditions next to those fires.

• In India, once the “jewel” of British capitalism, the Jharia mining complex, rich in low sulfur coal, has been ablaze since 1916. The region’s 150,000 miners, truck drivers, train loaders and other workers toil stoically against a backdrop of orange flames and thick smoke.”

Stanley R. Michalski, senior staff geologist for GAI Consultant in Mountain View, Calif., has been developing plans to douse such fires for the past 20 years. He has also surveyed the fires in the Jharia coalfields since the early 1970s for the World Bank, which wanted a plan on what to do.

Such a plan was developed. Typically, however, nothing was done. The bank continued collecting data and report and never released a red cent.

This is how capitalism works. Studying a problem gives the illusion that something is being done about it. It’s cheaper too.

While conceding that a lot of money was spent, Mr. Michalski said the Jharia fires: “It’s a loss of valuable resource, it’s an environmental disaster, it’s devastating. But this fire is so complicated and so widespread that India could not really afford to extinguishe it.

“Afford”? What this really means is that the profit system always constrains the collective will to solve a social problem. As long as the collective will is harnessed to the ideological framework of the capitalist system even improving disasters that threaten human life on a massive scale will be neglected.

No matter how poor, experts, paid consultants, environmentalists, or their organizations, can effectively address this type of environmental hazard. It is a systemic problem.

Organizations with limited goals and imbued with the narrow social tinker with capitalism and make it socially responsible are dissipating their energies and talents in a hopeless endeavor. However, it doesn’t have to be that way.

Bringing those energies and talents together in a single organization that aims to root out the cause of all the problems generated by the profit system would guarantee that they would not be spent in vain.

To undo the horrific damage being done to our planet, the collective will requires the resolve and organizational will of those at the point of production, namely the working class.

To rationally address the global mine fires raging throughout the world requires the establishment of a new economic system based on the collective power of the working class organized at the point of production for the benefit of all, which is the property of all society, that is, the means of produc tion.

The Socialist Labor Party is the only organization with a program—the Socialist Industrial Union program—which is capable of uniting the one power that is great enough to stop capitalism from ruining the planet.

Socialist Reconstruction of Society

A speech delivered by Daniel De Leon in 1905 after the founding convention of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

This classic statement on the role workers must organize politically and industrially to abolish the capitalist system of wage exploitation and establish a socialist society.

80 pp.—$1.50 postpaid
New York Labor News
P.O. Box 218
Mountain View, CA 94042-0218
When President Bush announced what his policy on global warming would be last month he did more than confirm the so-called Kyoto Protocol. He also rejected as “uncertain” the science that says that global warming is a clear and present danger that poses a danger to the species that live on it, including the human race.

Bush based his decision on a report from his Council of Economic Advisers. That report recommended that definable the restraints on power plants that spew such noxious substances into the atmosphere as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and mercury. When it came to the industries that emit greenhouse gases, however, Bush and his council took a different path. Voluntary restraints and a program of “incentives” will solve the problem—if it is a problem.

Speaking before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Feb. 14, the president referred to what he called “skepticism” among those scientists who say that global warming is real and added, “While these uncertainties remain, we can begin now to address policies that can contribute to climate change.”

What “human factors” did he have in mind? He didn’t say. At least not directly, but no doubt he meant to imply that the responsibility for environmental degradation is not distributed equally—rests at the feet of the human species as a whole. But Mr. Bush isn’t countering the species to save its surroundings and its surroundings. What’s needed to get the job done is “the power of market, the means of business,” and, the “scientific method.”

The president said this was “common sense.” In truth, it was perfect non-sense. The source of virtually all environmental pollution is industry and its products. But the human species has no means of control over its products and their effects on the world than slaves in the Old South had over the cotton industry; its products and the terrible tragedy that combination brought about the nation.

President Bush said that the way to stop industry from polluting the environment is to offer “incentives”—not to the human species, but to capitalists. Apparently the prospect of living in a clean and healthy environment is not enough to induce that subspecies of the human race to clean things up.

In short, if it doesn’t pay off in dollars and cents it is unreasonable to expect the capitalist class not to be motivated to change their dirty habits just so we can fill our cans with clean air. It is necessary not only to motivate them but to force them not turn our world into an uninhabitable wasteland.

Credit where credit is due. Mr. Bush knows his class.

But why bother with “incentives” if the science that warns about global warming exists? How did President Bush and his economic advisors reach the conclusion that the science that warns about global warming is real and immediate danger is uncertain and unreliable?

We suspect that they reached no such conclusion. We suspect that the information collected and evaluated by scientists whose background and training in the field qualify them to draw reasonable conclusions from their observations was not even evaluated by the council. Even if we are wrong about that, however, there can be no doubt that the council is qualitatively inferior to accept, reject—or go to heaven with—those findings.

What is the president’s Council of Economic Advisers and who is in it? A trip to the White House Web site provides some answers.

The three men are Mark B. McClelland, Randall S. Kroszner and R. Glenn Hubbard. The last named is also chairman, and all three are “econo- mists.” McClelland is also a medical doc- tor, but that is as close as any of them comes to being a scientist.

The council itself was created by the “Employment Act of 1946.” Its duties, according to the act, are:

1. to assist and advise the president in the preparation of the Economic Report
2. to gather timely and authoritative information concerning economic developments and economic trends, both current and prospective, to analyze and interpret such information in the light of the policy declared in sec- tion 2 for the purpose of determining the extent to which such programs and activities are contributing, and the extent to which they are not contributing, to the achievement of such policy, and to make recommendations to the president on the measures to be taken therein;
3. to develop and recommend to the president national economic policies to foster and protect the free competitive enterprise, to avoid economic fluctua- tions or to diminish the effects thereof, and to maintain employment, production and purchasing power;
4. to make and furnish such reports, studies and recommendations with respect to matters of federal eco- nomic policy and legislation as the pres- ident may request.

Nothing there about the environment—unless growing concern over global warming and the environment generally might be construed as “trends”...interfering, or likely to interfere, with the...policy declared in section 2 for the purpose of determining the extent to which such programs and activities are contributing, and the extent to which they are not contributing, to the achievement of such policy, and to make recommendations to the president on the measures to be taken therein;

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organiza- tion and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialism to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism, its aims and how to bring it about. It requires Industrial Union organizations to unite all workers in a class-conscious industrial force and to prepare them to take, hold and operate the tools of production.

You are needed in the ranks of Socialists fighting for a better world. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.
A PAGE FROM WORKING-CLASS HISTORY

The Paterson Silk Workers’ Strikes of 1911–1912

The following article from the Industrial Union News of March 1912 is the second in a series of reports on the Paterson silk workers’ strikes of 1911–1912. The Industrial Union News was the official newspaper of the "Detroit IWW." Its articles, such as "Rudolph Katz—Editor," introduce the reader to the background of the strikes and their causes appeared in our February issue. The series will conclude with an epilogue on the significance of the strike and the organization that conducted it.

STRIKE IN PATERSO

The I.W.W. has been organized by a convention held in Detroit, Mich., has no official newspaper, and which expressly cut out double dealing. No "direct action" or any other anarchist method, veiled or unveiled, is ours. If Haywood comes for misrepresentation of the workers, plain language is better than all the reactionary forces operated in concert to bring Haywood into Paterson against the four-loom strikers and Local 25. The notice was given in the form of a handbill, that is being distributed on the streets of Paterson generally.

For the reasons we hereby solemnly announce that the IWW which is conducting this strike, and whose headquarters are in Detroit, Michigan, has no connection with the body that is fetching the organizer of the union, Rudolph Katz, direct to Paterson from Lawrence, Mass., Feb. 23, at seven o'clock, Friday morning.

The wage scale was presented on Monday, Feb. 12, a half dozen weavers, principally English speakers, being retained to work on the following Wednesday the strikers held a demonstration in the form of a meeting at the Lakeview mill of the Paterson I.W.W. in Detroit, the operators of Paterson, N.J., Feb. 27, 1912.

To ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Greeting: A handbill, that is being distributed on the streets and at the meeting places of the I.W.W. broad-silk weavers on strike, announces that William D. Haywood is to speak here tonight on the "general strike" and under the auspices of the I.W.W.

We, the undersigned IWW strike committees, hereby take the earliest opportunity to disclaim and to disavow any connection with said Haywood, and with whatever so-called I.W.W. he may be affiliated with, and we wash our hands from all responsibility for the injury he may do our strike, and the weavers of Paterson.

There is only one IWW in the land—the one with which Local 25 of this city, and which is conducting the strike, is affiliated.

The IWW was organized by a convention that met in Chicago in July, 1905, in which weuarers organized into a union. We then founded the I.W.W. with a social revolution through violence, the weapon with which to scourge the strike. Since Ettor's organization contemplates the leader of the Lawrence strike, throughout the strike, the strikers, wholly innocent though these of the history and methods of the Chicago branch IWW, with which Haywood is affiliated.

Under all these circumstances, we cannot afford to suffer because he is not yet, and at best of the times,” but out from its preamble the clause to unify the workers on the political as well as the industrial field. The theory of that body is that the workers should "strike at the ballot box with an ax." That body repudiates political action, and proposes to bring about a social revolution through violence, the weapon with which to scourge the strike. Since Ettor's organization contemplates the leader of the Lawrence strike, throughout the strike, the strikers, wholly innocent though these of the history and methods of the Chicago branch IWW, with which Haywood is affiliated.

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services deregulation mania which is rotten, root and branch.”

Scared that the reformers be-
gun putting their proposals on the table when more reports of “oth-
er Enrons” began to appear. As a
Feb. 17 Washington Post report put it, “Each day last week brought fresh revelations, or just rumors, of slights of hand at other compa-
nies, while investors and lenders made clear they wanted nothing to do with any firm engaged in Enron-like behavior.” Asset swaps between Global Crossing and Quest Communications came under fire, and IBM was accused of bolster-
ning a quarterly report with a one-
time sale.

“It was a week when everyone
suddenly wanted to know who be-
sides Enron had gussied up bal-
ance sheets with ‘synthetic leases’ (Krispy Kreme), or who had used companies as a mask instead of an anchor-off-book partnerships (Wil-
liams and El Paso),” said The Wash-
ington Post article. “Nothin’, EMC, Edison Schools and WorldCom all announced that they were under investigation by the SEC (Secur-
ities and Exchange Commission) on suspicion of booking revenue
that wasn’t.”

In the case of Enron, the problem of dishonest information from U.S. corporations is a pervasive one. That is made clear in a report by a centre for Economic and Business Research Ltd., a British think tank, on a com-
parison of corporate earnings reports from companies in the New York Stock Exchange with statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. As an article in the report in The Financial Post put it last month, “U.S. corporate profits last year were overstated (by corpora-
tions) by about 27 percent.”

The problem is a systemic
one. As The People noted on an earlier occasion:

“Modern capitalist and ethical stan-
dards are a reflection of material
facts and conditions. They are not an expression of what exists for the entire past and are there to be
eternal for the indefinite future. For high moral and ethical standards to exist they must flow from a moral and ethical social base that gives them sustenance.”

But the capitalist system pro-
vides no such base. Capitalism itself—based as it is upon the exploitation and &apos;legalized&apos; robbery of the majority working class by the minority capitalist class—is an immoral system. And it has reached the point where it consti-
tuates an obstruction to positive social progress. It holds back the diffusion of wealth instead of solving the pressing problems of our age—the problems of hunger, poverty, jobs, education, and numerous others—all of which could be resolved given the materi-
als possibilities of our time.”

Reforms cannot change these material realities. To assume that reforms would be enforced by a political entity that serves as a bulwark of the very economic system it is supposed to monitor and “regulate” flies in the face of his-
tory. The practical effect of all reforms is that of window dressing. The worst offenders get their wrists slapped, giving the appear-
ance of enforcement, while the bulk of capitalist industry gets off scot-free. Moreover, even if ethical stan-
dards or reforms could prevent “other Enrons,” what of the conse-
quences of competition, under which it is perfectly acceptable—even desirable—under capitalism for one firm to facilitate the failure of another firm? This is precisely what is happening today.

Business a failure by virtue of the crimes of its owners, or fails by virtue of capitalist com-
petition, is of no consequence to workers.

The thing that is of conser-
tation is that the business fails—
that workers, due to no fault of their own, are put out of work, without health care, without any provision for their old age, with little hope of a retirement from the wage slavery that every mem-
er of the working class is born into. The crucial fact is that under capitalism workers have no demo-
cratic control over the most
important aspect of life—because it provides for all other aspects as well. The economy. Under capitalism, the economy is directed under an effective dictatorship of the capi-
talist class.

The solution to the harmul ef-
facts of capitalism, whether caused by the crimes of particular capitalist,
ists, by competition or by monop-
oly, is that the corrupt and out-
marked capitalist system itself, and all its trappings—must be uprooted and dumped in the ash-
bin of history. That is a task that can only be accomplished by the politcally and industrially orga-
nized workers of the nation. No re-
former can accomplish it.

—K.B.

...Rogers, Robbing Robbers

(Continued from page 4)

with the former. This is the under-
lying principle of class struggle. By virtue of this principle, the private
possessor of some capital has fleeced and fleeced the working class; but by virtue of the identical principle, the private possessor of bigger capi-
tal can and does fleece the private possessor of smaller capital.

And this is what is happening all along, and has lately involved the small hold-
ers of General Electric, New York
and Harlem, and Lake Shore stock.

With the distress of these we
must sympathize. Robbed robers are not a subject for commiseration. We stop long enough before the spectacles to gather encour-
agement at the sight of the capitalist class straining its own members.

...Fund

(Continued from page 4)

...Poor Pushed Aside

(Continued from page 4)

...Fall of Enron

(Continued from page 1)

...Help Break Our Chains!

The private possessor of capital
is a pervasive one. That is made
true when the choice is between
the spectacular growth of wealth
of wealthy white men. Thirty per-
cent of Utahans are living below the
poverty line. Can anyone tell me what is capitalism in America is all about?” We can’t have said it bet-
ter ourselves.

In fact, many other arguments
gave greater voice to those who opposed bringing the games to Utah Glenn Bailey, director of the Crossroads Urban Center, which provides support to the city’s home-
less, said, “This occasion has been
used to enrich a small select band
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The Socialist Legacy
• The Depression's
  infamy—despite numerous follies
  committed, that has been out of print for
  many years.

The pre-SLP works of De Leon
have been grouped under a head-

ing of “Early Works,” and serve as a political tract circulated by the

“Mugwump” dissidents of the Republican Party in the last years of
  the presidency of James G. Blaine in 1884.

Twenty-five new titles were added to the SLP’s official Web
  site in February. All 25 are works of Daniel De Leon. They include
  several from the period before De Leon joined the SLP in 1890. Also
  included are 20 editorials, most of which have not appeared in any
  form since originally published in The People, and a major speech
  that has been out of print for many decades.

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On the Web

SLP Emergency Fund
Joan Davis D. $400, Section Cook County
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Mugwump dissidents of the Republican Party in the last years of the
presidency of James G. Blaine in 1884. Another on a

mistakes—proved that the working class could administer their plans

For carving up western Africa dates back to
the Comité de Acción Libertadora, founded in 1861.

Indeed, that ferocity is intensi-

The February additions bring to
145 the number of articles, debates, editorials speeches by Daniel De
Leon on the SLP’s Web site, and more will be added in their future.

However, there is much more to be found on the site than those
articles and speeches. There is information about the SLP itself and its
views on the world as it stands for, about its history and about its views on
the world as it is today. If you have not visited the site yet, you
which Daniel De Leon won.

The People
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Christine Box
Barnett Brott $100, B. von
Wandruszka $45, $25 each Dan
Lampkin $25, Bill Deary $25

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Dissenting Reservists Battle Israeli Leaders

By John-Paul Cattoo

More than 200 Israeli army reservists and civilian sympathizers signed a petition recently declaring their refusal to participate in any further military operations to protect Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Most of the 200 responded to a petition signed by 52 reservists and placed as an advertisement in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz. The petition, which appeared in January, also gained the attention of the army's top brass and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The Baltimore Sun of Feb. 9 reported that the initial group of 52 signed the petition because they believed that what they considered "illegal and immoral" military actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip posed no threat whatsoever. Israeliparer talk show.

By B.G. Sun's March 3, 2002

The New York Times

Under socialism, would the people still have the right to keep and bear arms (Article II, Bill of Rights); or would this right be restricted as it is today? This, of course, is a question for the Socialist Commonwealth to answer. We do not know what the answer will be, but we can anticipate how the decision will be made. First, however, we should be clear on why “the right to keep and bear arms with liberty” as chore arms because arms had been essential to them in resisting tyranny. This “right,” of course, has already been undertold. Under socialism, we will still possess arms, and to a certain extent we can “bear” them. However, whatever these arms are for—sports, hunting, personal protection—they long ago ceased to be associated with liberty.

The reason is obvious. The vast change has taken place with the elimination of the frontier and the industrialization of the nation. Indeed, the right “to bear” arms ultimately depends on their being available.

Under socialism, the people will determine what to produce and what not to produce. They may, for example, decide that the arms industry should be nationalized. This could mean that arms must be produced for the nation as a whole, and that they can be used for the protection of the nation's economic life. Indeed, the “right” to bear arms is not a personal right, but a right based on the collective needs of the people.

The right to keep and bear arms, even if not restricted as it is, would have no meaning for us today in terms of winning socialist freedom. To win socialist freedom we must first use our numerical superiority on the political field. We must vote capitalism out, so to speak, until socialism is realized. In the meantime, we must establish socialism in the working class by taking, holding, and controlling the means of production through the working class. This is the task we need, not arms, but organization and an appropriate program.

Once established, socialism will confer on the people a power so greater than could ever be ensured by the right to bear arms. It is the right that inhere in collective and democratic control of the nation's economy. Indeed, the “right” to bear arms ultimately depends on their being available.

Under socialism, the women will determine what to produce and what not to produce. They may, for example, decide that the arms industry should be nationalized. This could mean that arms must be produced for the nation as a whole, and that they can be used for the protection of the nation's economic life. Indeed, the “right” to bear arms is not a personal right, but a right based on the collective needs of the people. This is the task we need, not arms, but organization and an appropriate program.

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