

NATO SKYWATCH

Volume 21, No. 20

NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

4 November 2005

Students in high spirits with new room



E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt welcomes the students to the new multi-purpose room.

€ 5,700

For weeks the students raised money for the Hurricane Katrina victims.

A €5,700 cheque was presented during the opening ceremony.

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

Seventeen months after the first shovel found its destination in a grassy area behind the school campus, the children from the James Van Dierendock Elementary School were able to enter the new multi-purpose room on 24 October.

Due to the steady rain that felt down on the small and tall shoulders from the audience, E-3A Component commander Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt kept his speech short. "Congratulations to everybody on this super new building. But keep aware, you students; the normal rules apply here too. No food fights, and have fun!" After this, Brig. Gen. Schmidt and

Grade 5, Student Council President, Hanna Stadler had the privilege to cut the ribbon.

The new room is a huge improvement. "All of us are very, very happy with the modern room", says School Principal Dr Terry Emerson. "The building includes a gym, a cafeteria, and a stage." Especially the food area is a real improvement. Dr Emerson: "Up till now the lunches had to be transported from JFC HQ Brunssum; now we can prepare them under our own management."

The stage is an advantage too. "With the stage we can show theatrical productions," explains Dr Emerson. "When the ordered chairs arrive we will have the capacity to accommodate

400 persons." The area is multi-functional. Besides theatre performances the facility can be used also as a meeting room for the international community. It's anticipated that any member of the international community can use the new multi-purpose room on a space-available basis. Information and arrangements can be obtained through the school administration office.

The total cost of the new facility, which replaced the Bubble Gym, was two million Euros. It was a co-operative project between the E-3A Component, the U.S. Department of Defense, and German contractors. Constructors from the local area performed the actual building work.



Student Council President Hanna Stadler cuts the ribbon.
Photos MSgt. Mark Boggess

Frisbee Club Christmas Market

The 5th Frisbee Club Christmas Market will take place from Monday, 14 to Wednesday, 16 November.

Sales booths from Component members will show handcrafts, decorations, artwork, gifts and seasonal items. Also Christmas accessories from different nations can be purchased.

The event in the Club will take place each day from 1000 to 1800 and is open to all Component members and their guests.



**Next NATO Skywatch:
18 November
Submissions due by:
10 November**

Also in this issue:

NATO assistance for Pakistan continues

See page 4.



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VIP Visit

The Turkish General Staff (TGS) Personnel Division Chief, Lt. Gen. Servet Yoruk, accompanied by his wife and TGS and NMR-TU personnel, paid a visit to E-3A Component for a meeting with the Turkish Personnel on 18 October 2005.

He was welcomed by the Turkish Senior Representative (TU SNR), Lt. Col. Deniz Kartepe, and the families of Turkish Personnel, along with the TU SNR Col. Recep Unal from JFC HQ Brunssum, the Netherlands, his staff and their families.

It was a great opportunity for the personnel to host the annually planned visit, which covers posts in all parts of Allied Command Operations. During the very tight schedule of the visit, the group was very happy to receive the hospitality and events taken care of by Base Support Wing and Logistics Wing in coordination with the Turkish NSU, which were very much appreciated by everyone.



As a souvenir of the visit of Lt. Gen. Servet Yoruk to the E-3A Component a photo was taken in front of an AWACS aircraft.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

In Memoriam



It is with deep regret that I must announce the death of one of our international NATO Civilian staff members, John "Jimmy" Carter, who passed away on 18 October 2005, aged just 54 years.

Jimmy was born and raised in Paisley, Scotland. He had been employed by the NAEW&CF E-3A Component since 1 January 1982, following 12 years of service with the Royal Air Force. Throughout his employment he worked in the Electronics Squadron of the Logistics Wing as a Radar Specialist/Technician and he was well known by those who worked with him to be quiet and always helpful.

Jimmy was a popular and highly respected member of the E-3A Component's international community. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all who knew him.

The Component extends its sincere condolences to his wife and children.

Stephen D. Schmidt
Brig Gen USAF
Commander, NAEW&CF E-3A Component

International Canine Biathlon and Civil Guards raise money

During the weekend of 28-29 May 2005, competitors from several nations took part in the International Canine Biathlon at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. Each year during this event, the Component Civil Guard raises money through draws and raffles to be donated towards a charitable organization.

Mr. Hans-Willy Dohmen, Civil Guard Supervisor and an organizer of the event, states "Each year, we try to donate the monies raised during the event to an organization that benefits children and canines". This year, the Civil Guard donated €500 to the Canadian Military Police Fund for Blind Children (MPFBC).

The MPFBC aids children and young adults who have visual disabilities. It supports them by assisting with costs associated with medical needs, equipment and guide dogs.

The Canadian MPFBC wish to thank the International Canine Biathlon organizing committee for their generous support.



Members of the Canine Biathlon organizing committee present Capt. Christine Stacey (middle) with €500 for the Canadian Military Police Fund for Children. The funds were raised during the 8th annual Canine Biathlon. On hand for the presentation are: (from left to right) Mr Dohmen, Mr Hensgens, Mr Probehaj and Mr Mey with Bruno. Photo Andrea Hohenforst



Trick or Treat

"Trick or Treat" Component members heard on 28 October when children were strolling on base to collect sweets from 'princesses' waiting for them at various buildings.

All the kids were wearing costumes. A great start for the later at night Halloween party at the Frisbee Club!

Photo MSgt. Mark Boggess



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NATO assistance for Pakistan



The Alliance has decided on 21 October to enhance its assistance to Pakistan, in the wake of the devastating earthquake. As the Secretary General states, NATO has, from the beginning, been doing what they can to help Pakistan to deal with this disaster, as part of the overall international effort.

NATO set up a major strategic airlift operation of relief supplies to Pakistan – something unprecedented in its history. The airlift is taking over tons and tons of relief supplies to Pakistan, provided by UNHCR, NATO nations and other countries as well.

The airlift is well under way, using NATO 707s, an Antonov carrying a UNHCR base camp, and C-130 transport aircraft from Incirlik, which have moved tons already, with more constantly on the way. Also C-17 flights are used to bring goods from two NATO airfields in Germany and Turkey.

But Pakistan needs more help and NATO agreed to do more, as part of the overall international effort. To boost its assistance to Pakistan it deploys forces on the ground to assist in the relief effort including engineers,

multinational medical units as well as a deployable headquarters.

NATO forces arrive in Pakistan

The first elements of NATO's enhanced assistance to Pakistan arrived on 24 October, as the Alliance continues to lift supplies into the country via air bridges from Germany and Turkey.

The headquarters arrived on Monday, 24 October, to pave the way for the arrival of the other forces and co-ordinate with Pakistani authorities the areas where both the headquarters and forces will be deployed.

NATO also deploys three water purification plants, and a number of helicopters are added to those already in Pakistan from NATO countries.

Meanwhile, the Alliance continues airlift operations from Germany and Turkey to transport supplies donated by NATO member and partner countries and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. On 28 October 25 flights have lifted approximately 300 tons of supplies to Islamabad, and about 800 tons were waiting to be lifted.

All offers from NATO and partner nations are being co-ordinated by the

An Antonov cargo aircraft delivers a base camp donated by the Swedish Government.

Photo NATO



Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), which is working in conjunction with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the European Union and the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels.

NATO Response Force prepares for fresh arrivals

Two days after its arrival in Islamabad, the Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters, led by Vice Admiral John Stufflebeem, commander of Joint Command Lisbon, was co-ordinating with Pakistani authorities the areas where the NATO Response Force troops will be deployed. Several options are being considered.

Advance elements of a Dutch

medical unit arrived in Pakistan on 28 October and were ready to start work a few days later. The advanced party of Spanish engineering troops left for Pakistan by 30 October followed by a Polish engineering company. In total, the NRF is planning to send more than 1000 troops, focussing on providing engineering and medical support.

In Islamabad, following the consultations that took place between Vice Admiral John Stufflebeem, commander of the NATO Response Force, and Pakistani authorities, the Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters is evaluating the areas of operations identified by the Government of Pakistan.

Appointment of Lieutenant General Lance L. Smith, United States Air Force, as Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation

On 19 October NATO's Defence Planning Committee announced its agreement to a request from President Bush to appoint Lieutenant General Lance L. Smith, United States Air Force, as Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation. The appointment will become effective at a future date.

Lieutenant General Smith is currently serving as the Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff, United States Central Command and has been nominated as the Commander, United States Joint Forces Command.

Response Force demonstrates amphibious capabilities

The NATO Response Force tested its capability to conduct complex sea-based operations in NATO's largest amphibious exercise, Destined Glory (Loyal Midas), in the Tyrrhenian Sea, from 29 September to 14 October.

Over 8,500 personnel, 37 ships and 57 aircraft from ten NATO countries took part in the exercise. The key aim was to test and certify the forces that will make up the maritime component of the NATO Response Force from January to June 2006.

"We are focused on our task which is interoperability between our forces and gaining the ability to operate together," said Colonel Luis Martin de la Hoz, Commander of the Second Battalion of Spanish Marines.

A rapid expeditionary force

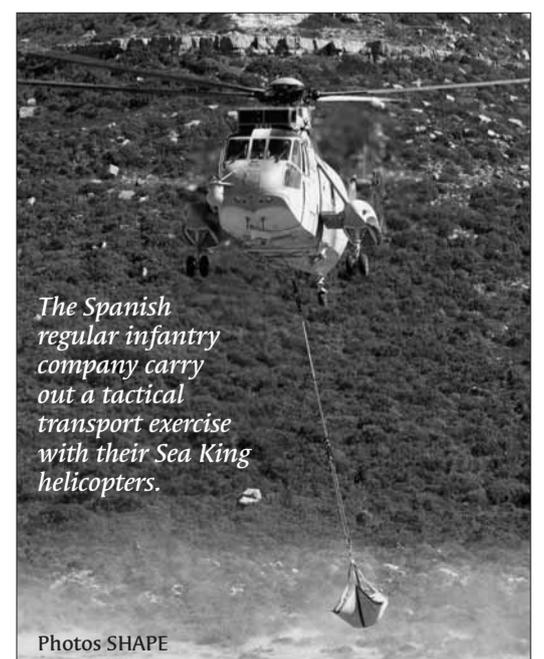
The NATO Response Force is a special, technologically advanced force made up of land, air, sea and Special Forces components that the Alliance can deploy quickly wherever needed.

Building on past Destined Glory exercises, Loyal Midas presented more complex scenarios incorporating increased levels of 'free play', where the commander had to react to unexpected situations.

"In previous years, [the commander] has

had a program to go by; this year he [didn't]," stressed Rear Adm. Cooke, Deputy Commander of Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO.

The forces engaged in a number of missions and exercises, practicing the full range of crisis and emergency response scenarios. This included amphibious units fighting their way from ships towards their land objective.



The Spanish regular infantry company carry out a tactical transport exercise with their Sea King helicopters.

Photos SHAPE



Italian Navy transports troops and vehicles onto the beach from their ship the St. Giorgio.

The Italian ship Etna sends fuel over to the Italian ship Garibaldi during underway refuelling in the Mediterranean Sea.



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Discover Belgium's history at the BELvue Museum

By A1C Daniel Houben

So how much do you really know about Belgium? The country is still young, but already has a very stirring and fascinating history behind it. Would you like to get to know it in a splendid setting? In the surroundings where it all began? Then visit the BELvue museum, the only museum that reveals the history of Belgium right in front of you.

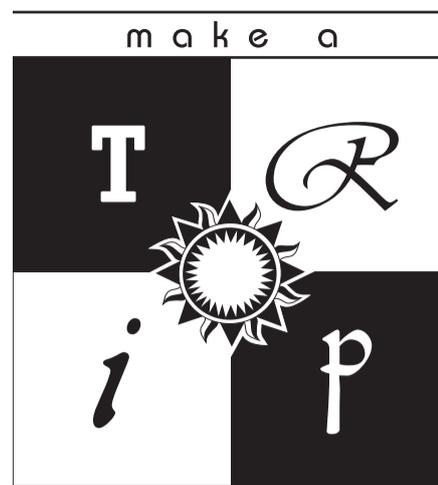
In July the BELvue Museum in Brussels reopened. The name 'BELvue' marks a new chapter for the museum called 'Bellevue' before. It links the words Belgium and overview. It's the first museum dedicated to the history and the State Foundation of Belgium from 1830 till now and the dynasty.

This year it is the 175th anniversary of Belgian independence. But the very location and history of the building itself are also worth a visit. Before it became a museum, the former 18th century luxury hotel was also a royal residence. You will still find aspects from that era. With the recent renovation, the

atmosphere of the old days was restored. BELvue is located next to the Royal Palace in the immediate vicinity of many museums on the Mont des Arts and right across from the Warande Park. You won't find a better meeting place anywhere for art, culture and nature. That is why the voyage of discovery in the BELvue museum is an ideal starting point for foreign visitors.

Visitors will be able to discover twelve rooms dedicated to the major historical periods of the country. Original documents, audio-visual accounts and computer kiosks for greater variety in approaching the subject. Connecting these exhibition areas, a connected walkabout will present the reign of each King of the Belgians through a selection of works and characteristic portraits of the personality of the monarchs and the image of the royal family as perceived by the population.

Three levels of reading matter are designed to appeal to the entire array of visitors, from general background information to the chronological listing of hundreds of significant events - social, military, political, economic,



diplomatic, religious or cultural - and also including the study of a few decisive events in order to understand the Belgium of today.

But the museum is not the only thing to see and go to. There is a museum souvenir shop, a restaurant, a library and the archaeological site. The shop is located in the entrance hall of the BELvue museum and is accessible without admission ticket. You will find a wide selection of books, picture

postcards, reproductions and Belgian articles.

For those who are interested in the history of the Brussels palace there is the archaeological site of the 'Coudenberg'. The Brussels palace was first erected on Coudenberg hill in the late 11th and 12th centuries and was subsequently rebuilt, extended and improved in line with the growing prestige of the Dukes of Brabant, followed by the Dukes of Burgundy, Emperor Charles V and finally the Archdukes Albert and Isabel. The beauty of this palace, the seat of central power for over six centuries, the charm of its gardens and the wealth of its art collections attracted visitors from all over Europe. A huge fire unfortunately destroyed this prestigious monument in 1731 and it disappeared when the district was redeveloped after 1775. A fascinating tour underneath the Place Royale will let you discover the remains of this illustrious palace, unjustly forgotten by history.

Opening times (Tue-Sun) October to May 1000 to 1700. Entry fee: BELvue €3; Coudenberg €4; the two combined €5; children under twelve free of charge.

International Youth Activities

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4954/5, opening hours: Mon-Fri, 0815-1300.



Photos PIO archive

Christmas Moonlight Family Steam Train Ride

Santa Claus and his elf are already planning to join the traditional International Youth Activities` Moonlight Ride for international Component children and their parents on the historic Selfkant Steam Train.

On Friday, 2 December, at 1900 we will get on the train at Gillrath Station, and travel to Schierwaldenrath in the restored antique wagons built between 1889 and 1956.

There will be one short stop on the way, though, when our two special passengers arrive in a carriage drawn by a horse, Santa and his elf will welcome all the children and present them with a bag of Christmas goodies on the journey to Schierwaldenrath.

There everybody has the opportunity to enjoy refreshments in a heated tent listening to Christmas songs, before returning to Gillrath. Tickets at €6 per child and €9.50 per adult include "Brötchen" with coffee, Glühwein, hot chocolate or a soft drink at Schierwaldenrath, plus Christmas goodies for children, and can be purchased at the IYA Office starting 2 November.

Family Christmas Market Trip to Bad Münstereifel and Monschau

The IYA is offering a family trip to the traditional Christmas Markets of the beautiful Eifel hills on Sunday, 27 November, 0930-2000. Our first stop will be the picturesque old town of Bad Münstereifel, from where we will travel on to the splendid historic town of Monschau.

There will be musicians in costumes at the famous Christmas Market, and a nativity play will be performed in the courtyard of the castle. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €9.50 per participant.



Orcas Swim Team goes to Spain

By Susan Houston

The International Orcas Swim Team, consisting of children from age 6 to 18 primarily from JFC HQ Brunssum and NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, travelled to Rota, Spain, and successfully competed against Rota and RAF Lakenheath on 16 October. The head coach, Joyce Clements, NL, stated, "The kids did great and I'm so proud of them."

The team was led by an international coaching staff. Twenty-nine youngsters of the 77-number Orcas Swim Team participated at the meet and took part in 48 swim events. The Orcas International Coaching Staff for this meet consisted of Joyce Clements, NL; Michel Driessen, NL; Yutona Siikavaara, USA; and Martin Siedel, GE.

Two of the competitors qualified to participate at the Finals in Italy in February. According to coach Clement, Jaime Tomaszewski, age 9, qualified in 2 events: 50 Breast and 50 Back, while Marie-Alix De Meyer, age 17, qualified in the 100 metre freestyle.

The Orcas Team that participated consisted of 29 kids from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United States. The team came in a close 2nd to Rota, performed very well, and had fun according to Clements. The rest of their Fall Break in Spain the children spent in the ocean, at the pool or touring around Spain.

For more information on the International Orcas Swim Team, please contact Yves Aubuchon at president@geilenkirchenorcas.org or visit our web site at www.geilenkirchenorcas.org.

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IDH, Officers, Frisbee and Sentry Clubs now on the BASS LAN System. Menu information under Public Folders/Base Support Wing/Services Squadron/Clubs or IDH. Also, check out the Services Squadron web page for programme information and upcoming events.

E-3A Component Clubs

Sunday brunch will alternate between Officers'/Frisbee Clubs. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend. Regular prices brunch: Members €9.20, guests €10.70; lunch: Members €6.10, guests €7.65; children 4-12 years half price; reservations should be made NLT 1200 on the Friday before; Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, ext. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, ext. 4994.

- 6 Family brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 13 Sunday lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 20 Hunters' Brunch at the Officers' Club with a special price of €12,80 for members and €14,50 for guests. Frisbee Club closed.
- 27 Christmas Brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

Operating hours bar Monday-Friday 1100-2300; restaurant Monday-Friday 1130-1330, Sunday 1100-1400 (alternating with the Frisbee Club).

Reservations are required for Sunday brunch by 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards required when using the Frisbee Club (ext. 4994).

Lunch Monday-Thursday A la Carte menu served. Monday and Wednesday a vegetarian special also available; Friday Buffet Style lunch.

Throughout the month membership appreciation. One time each month for each Officers' Club member, buy one drink of your choice and get an equivalent drink of your choice free of charge. Club cards required.

Tuesdays 1700-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available; Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.

- 21-24 Game specials during lunch time. The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commanders' Call. Make your reservations now. Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilise the Frisbee Club for breakfast, dinner and Sunday

MWA INFORMATION November

brunch (on an alternating basis between the Frisbee and Officers' Clubs); Club cards required when Officers' Club members are using the Frisbee Club.

Cancellations for Officers' Club events will be accepted up to two days prior to the event on ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.

ALSO: Visit the Officers' Club Web Page on the Component Information Portal, through Base Support Wing, Services Squadron, Clubs, for the latest information.

Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

Make a reservation today at the Frisbee Grill and enjoy the cosy atmosphere and good food. Remember-the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club members (club cards required). Throughout the month Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 1700-1800, Friday with free snacks 1700-1900. Monday nights Steak Night in the Frisbee Grill during normal restaurant times, open for steak dinners only. Normal sized steak €6 and large steak €8. Wednesday lunch times: Mussels.

- 8 Bingo, Skat.
- 10 Belgium Mussel Night with live entertainment (A la Carte restaurant closed).
- 14-16 Christmas Market 1000-1800.
- 17 International Wives Club, Belgian-Dutch event.
- 22 Bingo.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

There will be a carpet sale in the Sentry Club Q&Q Room from Saturday, 19 November until Sunday, 4 December 2005.

In addition to the daily special, the Sentry Club will also offer a weekend special which will include a soup or dessert as well as the main course. The weekend special will be advertised in the Sentry Club and also on the Component information web page.

Do you need support for conferences or meetings? The Sentry Club can assist with coffee, soft drinks, half Brötchen or freshly prepared muffins. For more information, please contact the Sentry Club management.

Take advantage of the Sentry Club off sale operation. We can provide Warsteiner Beer in 30 ltr and 50 ltr containers, various soft drinks in 1 ltr bottles and tables, benches

and other items to help in organising your party. Please be sure to order in advance as certain items (e.g. tables, benches, beer wagons, etc.) must be ordered from the supplier.

Visit the Souvenir Shop – new items have arrived in good time for Christmas shopping. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

Wednesdays throughout November Volleyball League 1730-2000, New Gym.

- 7 Deadline to register for the Cross Country run (to take place 18 Nov).
- 8 Squash tournament – first games, first round.
- 15 Coaches' meeting for Basketball at 1400 in the Q+Q Room of the Sentry Club.
- 18 Cross Country run.
- 21 Squash tournament – start of second round.
- 26 Post Season Volleyball tournament, starts at 1000.

International Pre-school (SWPS/4957)

- 9 St. Martin's Parade in Teveren – we will meet at the school at 1730 and car pool to the event.
- 23 Thanksgiving Feasts at 1100 and 1500, parents are welcome. Places are still available for afternoon programmes only. For more information call the school on ext. 4957.

Vacancy announcement:

There is a vacant casual position in the International Pre-school for up to 52, €400 per month. Incumbent required to commence mid-October.

Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays and Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400. Volunteers needed. Two volunteers urgently needed to assist in the Thrift Shop with consignments (receiving, pricing and storing). Volunteers would be required Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 0830-1400, have a good knowledge of the English language and be prepared to work in an international environment. Volunteering in the Thrift Shop benefits the entire community. If you are interested, please call Antje on 02451-634919 (Tuesdays or Thursdays 1000-1400 or 02451-7556 any other time).

International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600. The Library offers a large variety of books, periodicals and audio/video material. The regular book collection contains over 10,000 books, in nine language categories (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian and Turkish). As well as the regular collection, there is a small paperback book exchange, the McNaughton book collection, Embry-Riddle University books and a large selection of over 2,500 children's books.

The audio resources include over 200 CDs with all kinds of music (25 new arrivals monthly, rotating every three months). The video resources offer educational videos, geography, sports, history as well as family, children's and classic movies. 100 DVDs are rotated every two months. Additional library services include copying facilities, an Inter-Library Loan Service from other US Air Force and Army libraries and four computers with internet access available free of charge to patrons. A wealth of information can be easily accessed from the Library website- www.usafelibraries.org. Browse book reviews, download tax forms, get help with elementary and high school homework and prepare for and take CLEP tests online.

International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext 4954/5, opening hours Monday-Friday 0815-1300.

Basketball season

The IYA Basketball season for international boys and girls between 6 and 15 years will soon be here. Children and teenagers of all nationalities are invited to learn and play this sport together in our international community. The season-full of fun-filled and exciting games and tournaments-will run from December to February. The fee for the season will be €25 per player. Registration is from 2 November to 2 December.

Volunteers wanted for IYA Basketball season As usual the Basketball programme can only be offered with the dedicated help of volunteers. If you able to help, please call ext. 4955 right now for further information and to sign up as coach, assistant coach or referee for any of our leagues.

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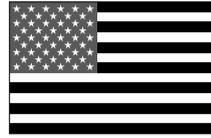
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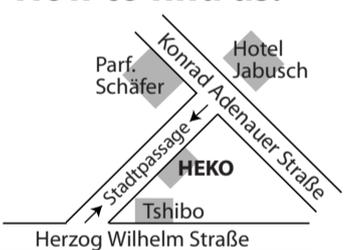
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