



The Outlook

February 21, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

Vol. 39 Issue 7

Special Visit

Lt. Col. (retired) Lee A. Archer, Jr., 85-year-old former member of the Tuskegee Airmen, signs autographs for children, Soldiers and community members participating in the Black History Month celebrations and luncheon held at the South of the Alps Dining Facility Feb. 15.

Archer, who was the guest speaker for the event, flew 169 combat missions between 1941 and 1952.

On July 18, 1944, Archer became the only African American Ace after shooting down five German Me-109s during World War II.

Archer retired a lieutenant colonel in 1970 as an Air Force command pilot with more than 3,500 hours in jet and conventional aircraft.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



ID check policy changes for Ederle Commissary

By Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

The Vicenza Commissary will begin checking identification of all patrons effective Feb. 28 at the main entrance to the facility.

This added level of precaution is necessary to maintain vigilance in Caserma Ederle's Force Protection program and enhance the security posture at this facility, according to Adeal Frater, director of USAG Vicenza Directorate of Emergency Services.

In keeping with DoD policy, guests will continue to be allowed into the Commissary when accompanied by an authorized ID card holder. However, as specified in the SOFA, these guests will be required to present the appropriate credentials, such as passports, in

order to gain entry. (See Authorized Patrons)

Individuals presenting Host Nation [Italian] passports will not be allowed entrance as specified in the SOFA. Other guests will abide by Army Europe Regulation 600-700 and applicable Italian law prohibiting them from making or directing the purchase of Commissary items, according to Frater.

"We are also asking that authorized Commissary patrons who are holding parties and require large purchases of items, such as meat or deli items, contact the Commissary prior to any event and place an order with the appropriate department," said Roy Hunnewell, Vicenza Commissary manager. "Depending upon the item, it can be here within two days. Perishable

items may take up to four days. For meat requests, orders are placed on Monday to be delivered on Thursday; and on Wednesday for a Monday delivery. So as you can see, depending on the date of your function, turning in your order in a timely manner will ensure its arrival on the appropriate date.

"With the return of our Soldiers, we will be experiencing more traffic in the Commissary and have anticipated this by ordering larger amounts of popular non-perishable items," said Hunnewell. "Regarding perishable items such as dairy, pre-packaged lunch meat, cheese and fresh meat; we can't stock pile these items due to storage limitations. Therefore, if large quantities are needed we prefer that a special order be placed on these items. This procedure is

easy and beneficial to all of our patrons.

"We understand that we have patrons who drive long distances and only shop once a month and need to stock up on items, but we ask that for those who aren't in that situation, to be good neighbors and come in and place an order for bulk items."

Authorized Patrons

Editor's note: According to DeCAD 40-6, dated September 2001, under 3-1 the following determines who authorizes Commissary patrons:

Commissary privileges are authorized for different individual organizations, and activities as defined in the Armed Services commissary Regulations,

Dod1330.17-R, and the Identification Cards for members of the Uniformed Services, their dependents, and other eligible individuals, DoD Instruction 1000.13. DeCA does not authorize commissary privileges and is not responsible for the issuance of the ID cards. The Uniformed Services are responsible for determining whether an individual has entitlement to commissary privileges, and for issuing ID cards consistent with the individual's entitlement.

Host Nation agreements must be complied with in OCONUS locations. Host Nation agreements can modify the eligibility of authorized patrons in OCONUS locations.

See **Authorized Patrons** on page 3

Army modernizing to win Long War, officials tell Congress

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Army needs the support of Congress to win the long war against terrorism and to meet other 21st century threats, Army officials said during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee here Feb. 15.

"In order to sustain the current missions and continue to posture for future commitments, the Army needs the full support of the Congress," Francis J. Harvey, secretary of the Army, said.

The Army secretary said the 2006 Army posture statement - the Army's plan to address current and future challenges - "provides a roadmap to first build a more capable and relevant Army for the 21st century through transformation and modernization, and second, sustain the full range of the Army's current commitments, particularly fighting and winning the global war on terrorism."

"The Army's plan is a total plan to transform the entire Army - active, Guard and Reserve," he added.

Harvey said it is important for the Army to shift its "center of gravity"

to give it broader operational capabilities to meet the complex challenges, such as "irregular asymmetric warfare."

On Sept. 11, 2001, the Army's operational capabilities lacked the "breadth and depth" to win the long war, but the service has spent the past few years remedying this issue by converting an operational Army to a modular, brigade-based combat force, with the objective of increasing combat-ready units, Harvey said. The units are called brigade combat teams.

See **Long War** on page 3

Club Beyond

Pancake Supper - Club Beyond is holding a pancake supper Friday from 5-8 p.m. in the Caserma Ederle Chapel.

While the dinner is free, donations are accepted to help raise funds for Club Beyond's Slovakian mission trip where they will be helping to construct playgrounds for Slovakian children.

For more information about the pancake supper or Club Beyond events, contact Gil Carter, Club Beyond director, at 634-6546.

Seeks Cooks - Club Beyond, the nondenominational program for Caserma Ederle youth, feeds 20-30 teens every Wednesday night at the Vicenza High School cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Club Beyond needs help with the cooking chores.

If you can lend a hand, contact Veronica Sughrue at 320-882-0482 or vasughrue@aol.com. The chapel is providing a funding supplement for food.

Safety Countermeasures – Child Car Seats & Boosters

Steps parents take to protect children in cars

Safety Office
USAG Vicenza

Before you hit the open road, there are a few things you need to take care of. You need to make sure your engine is running smoothly, your tires are properly inflated, and if you'll be traveling with children, you have the equipment to keep them properly restrained.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes are the number one killer of young children. NHTSA statistics show nearly half of the deaths and injuries involving children is because the children were not properly restrained.

One of the mistakes parents make is graduating their children from car seats to seatbelts when they should really be in booster seats. Another mistake is not securing the straps tightly for children who are in car seats.

Countries and states have requirements that infants and children ride buckled up. However, laws do not always mandate the safest way to transport a child.

So what is the safest way? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants always ride in the back seat – in rear-facing car seats until they are at least a year old and 20 pounds. Switching a child to

a forward facing car seat too soon could result in an unnecessary injury.

There are a number of car seats on the market that are considered safe for babies at the in-between stage. So-called convertible car seats can be used as rear-facing until the child is up to 35 pounds, or forward-facing until they are around 40 pounds. They typically come with three different types of restraints: 5-point harness, T-shield, and overhead shield.

When your child reaches the top weight or height allowed for his or her car seat, that doesn't mean it's time for them to switch over to a regular seatbelt.

At 3 or 4 years of age, most children are still too short to be safely secured by a seatbelt. If they are not at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, they need

the added protection of a booster seat.

Despite the best intentions, parents don't always install or use the correct car seat. Follow these guidelines for each of the listed seats to ensure your child's safety:

Infant Seats: Must be used in a rear-facing position until child is at least 12 months old and weighs at least 20 pounds. Never place this type of seat in front of an airbag. The preferred location is in the back seat in the middle of the car. Never hold your baby in your lap when the vehicle is in motion. Your child's head should be at least 1 inch below the top of the child seat. Rear-facing infant seats reduce the risk of fatal injury in a car crash by 71 percent.

Toddler Seats: Should be in the forward-facing position for children between 20 and 40 pounds and over

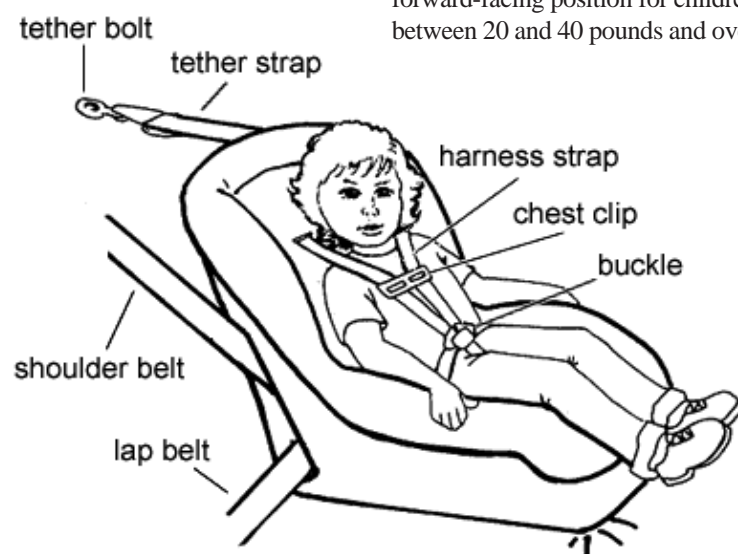
1 year of age. The harness should fit snugly with room for no more than one finger between the harness and your child's collarbone. Forward-facing safety seats for toddlers reduce the fatality risk by 54 percent.

Booster Seats: Use forward-facing only. High-back booster with built-in harness: for children between 30 and 40 pounds. Harness should be replaced by adult lap and shoulder belt when child reaches 40 pounds. Always use both shoulder and adult lap belt when using booster seats. Shoulder belt should cross the chest, not the stomach. Make sure seat belt fastens and there is no slack.

Another critical factor is to properly secure the seat itself in the vehicle. It is estimated that 8 out of 10 seats are improperly installed. Read the instructions carefully and double check to be certain you have installed the seat correctly. Check the seat to ensure it has remained secured prior to each trip. Children can and have managed to undo the seat belt or the car seat harness without the parents knowing.

For more information, visit the NHTSA Web site at www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Traffic Safety" than "Child Passenger Safety." There are many informative links on this site.

Also visit the American Academy of Pediatrics Web site on child seat safety at www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm



Seat & Booster Tips

- Use the right seat for your child's weight and development.

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for correct car seat installation and use.

- Be sure to secure your child correctly. Make sure harness straps are snug and tight. Use a tether strap with a forward-facing car seat. Keep children away from active air bags. Children 13 years of age and under are safest in the back seat.

- Use caution when buying or using a pre-owned child car seat. Buy new, or from someone you know, and check it carefully. Make sure the car seat has:

1. instructions and all necessary hardware
2. not been in a collision
3. not expired or is not older than 10 years
4. no discolored (stress) marks or cracks and the harness is not worn or torn.

(Editor's Note: This information was obtained from the Ontario, Canada, Minister of Transportation Web site at www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/carseat/choose.htm)

Community

Action

Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The CAC will be hosted at the Caserma Ederle Chapel on March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Issue: Untimely Processing of Applications – In early October [2005], I

submitted a self-nomination for an appropriated fund position. It is now the second week of November [2005], and I have yet to hear anything on this matter. It's ludicrous to me that the people responsible for generating these lists cannot do so in a reasonable amount of time and evidently are in no hurry to do so. I am more than willing and able to work but this has been such a frustrating experience and I'm sure there are others here who feel the same. Are there no set timelines after a position has closed that require these potential employee lists to be forwarded to the proper agencies?

Recommendation: If not already in place, there should be an exact amount of time following the closing of an announcement in which these lists are generated. If this is too much work for a single person to do, then it should be dispersed to others in the same office.

Response from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center: Thank you for your concern. The Army does have performance measures established that the Civilian Personnel Operation Centers should meet. The metric for rating of applications is within seven-10 days of the closing date of the announcement.

That being said, many factors can influence meeting the DA-established metrics. Such factors can include such things as the number of resumes received, the time needed to verify information, the workload and manpower available to meet peaks periods of work, the management criteria/processes used to interview/select the best qualified candidate and the time a selectee needs to decide whether to accept/decline a job offer.

Issue: Pricing in MWR Facilities – How do MWR facilities come up with their prices? I brought two projects to the Arts & Craft Center to be custom framed. The cost to replace a mirror that broke during my last move would have been \$74.80. For the second order, a print, with two mats, the frame, and the glass, the staff quoted a price of \$212.50.

When I checked on the economy, I found prices to be substantially lower. I paid 13 euros to have the mirror replaced and 74.50 euros to have the print framed. Not only did I save 60 percent off the cost, but the materials, such as the frame and the mats were identical. In addition, the waiting time for my picture and mirror was only one week compared to four weeks at the Art Center.

I know that as an alternative, the Art Center offers a do-it-yourself program, where customers pay only for materials they use. However, purchasing the materials at the Arts and Crafts Center and finishing the projects on my own would still have cost approximately \$40 more, compared to having them professionally framed on the economy.

I realize that services on post are often more convenient, but prices should be compatible with what local businesses charge.

Recommendation: I suggest (a) adjusting prices to reflect prices charged on the economy; and (b) implementing a price guarantee, similar to the one AAFES offers, to match competitors' prices.

Response from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation: We appreciate your question about how MWR sets prices. Very recently, IMA Europe distributed new guidance on price-setting in MWR facilities. We will report this guidance to you and how this will impact all local MWR prices at the next CAC.

In addition, we thank you for your concerns about the Vicenza Art Center. We are reviewing, restructuring and amending the pricing structure in line with new IMA-E guidance. We are also reviewing our product and service offerings to make sure we are operating our business efficiently and effectively – and meeting customer needs. We have also asked our higher headquarters to conduct an assistance visit to make sure we are operating our Art Center in accordance with Army policy and guidance.

We apologize for the longer-than-normal framing time. Many times, our staff work on other Art Center projects, including supervision of the do-it-yourself framing studio and educational classes. We will work to improve the turn-around time and appreciate your continued feedback.

We will provide you an update on the future of the Art Center at the February CAC.

Issue: Reconciliation of UTEP Bill – We received a bill from the UTEP office and wanted to have a record of our account from the organization. Before we PCSed, my husband paid what was due, and I thought he paid above that to cover whatever else came in. He is active duty. We are still receiving bills from our telephone account which we formally requested to be closed in April and was, in fact, closed in April.

I wanted a summary of the account activities from the start of our account to the date in question. I may not be accurate, but I thought some of those functions were not done within the UTEP office, but taken care of at another facility within the post. If it would have been more appropriate for me to communicate with them, then I would like to have known. The process of closing accounts and receiving final bills causes Soldiers to incur hardship and also expend much time trying to reconcile bills.

Response from DMWR: On April 30, 2005, the Telephone Tax Exemption Program was discontinued due to difficulties with the Telecom Italia in providing timely billing and less than adequate services. Customers should not receive any charges for fees or calls incurred after this date.

The last invoice for TTEP program is documented by the 4th bi-monthly cycle, relative to the April-May 2005. This invoice was received and billed to our customers in November 2005. Should customers receive invoices with charges for fees or calls after the period ending April 30, 2005, they need to contact the Tax Relief Office at 634-7905/7080 or e-mail: tax.relief@setaf.army.mil.

The CAC will be hosted at the Caserma Ederle Chapel on March 22 at 9 a.m.

DoD proposes Tricare hikes for younger military retirees

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department is proposing that working-age military retirees and their families pay higher premiums to help address rising health care costs that have doubled over the past few years, senior DoD officials said here Wednesday.

The proposed changes would apply only to eligible military retirees under age 65 and their families, officials said. There would be no change for active duty military or their families, or military retirees age 65 or older and their families.

When the Tricare health care program for active duty and retired military members and their families was established in 1995, retirees then were contributing about 27 percent of the cost of their benefit, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health

affairs, said during an interview with Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters at the Pentagon.

However, military health care costs doubled from \$19 billion in 2001 to just over \$37 billion in the 2006 defense budget, Winkenwerder said. And today's average military retiree contribution for health care coverage has dropped to about 10 to 12 percent, he said.

"Their contribution did not change, while the value of the benefit continued to rise," Winkenwerder said. If approved by Congress and signed off by the president, the proposed Tricare rate hikes for retirees under age 65 would be phased in over fiscal 2007 and 2008. That should bring up younger retirees' share of Tricare costs closer to the 1995 level, he said.

By comparison, Winkenwerder said, civilians under private plans generally pay between 35 and 40 percent of their health care costs.

The current Tricare Prime annual enrollment fee for retirees is \$230 for individuals and \$460 for families for both enlisted and commissioned military retirees, according to DoD documents. The proposed changes would increase Tricare Prime enrollment fees for junior enlisted retirees at pay grades E-6 and below to \$325 per individual and \$650 for families by October 2008.

Enlisted retirees at pay grades E-7 and above would pay \$475 for individuals and \$950 for families by October 2008 under the proposed changes. And retired officers of all ranks would pay \$700 per individual and \$1,400 per family.

After that, the share of health care costs paid by military retiree would be indexed to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that covers federal workers and retirees.

If nothing is done now, then DoD could be paying \$64 billion for military health care in 2015, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today during his

testimony before the House Armed Services Committee.

Another reason for increased DoD health care costs, Pace told the committee, is that many younger military retirees are using their Tricare health care benefits at the behest of their civilian employers, rather than access company health plans.

Finding ways to manage increased military health care costs "is something we just have to face up to, because it's an enormous amount of money," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, at the same House hearing with Pace, said to committee members.

The alternative to not raising rates, Winkenwerder said, would be to degrade a first-class benefit for retired military members and their families.

"You can see our benefit is a much better benefit, and we want to keep it that way," Winkenwerder said.

AUTHORIZED PATRONS:

ID check policy changes for Ederle Commissary

From page 1



A family member presents her identification card to Roy Hunnewell, Vicenza Commissary manager, at the check-in desk at the main entrance. Beginning Feb. 28, all patrons entering the Commissary will need to show proper identification to enter the facility. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

Suspected Privilege Abuse—An authorized commissary patron who makes commissary purchases for others who are not entitled to commissary privileges risks sanctions associated with abuse of the commissary privileges.

Anyone who has reason to believe that an authorized patron is abusing the commissary privilege may provide the specific of such matter to appropriate installation authorities.

Commissary management has a responsibility to notify the installation police or appropriate investigative agency when privilege abuse is suspected.

When a customer reports suspected abuse, the commissary manager should refer the customer to the appropriate installation officials.

If necessary, the store director should verify the appropriate contact point with installation officials.

Some examples of possible abuse are:

- Customer frequently buying large quantities of cigarettes/tobacco products.
- Excessive number of large orders on a frequent basis.
- A customer who divides purchase and requests separate receipts.
- Buying excessive quantities of an individual item.
- Making numerous purchases in a single day.

Authorized patrons are listed below for information purposes only. Patrons will be allowed to shop if they have a current ID card, and Reservists and National Guard members with a current ID card. This is not an all-inclusive list and DeCA does not grant privileges.

Uniformed Personnel—Uniformed personnel are active duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force,

Marine Corps and Coast Guard. This also includes commissioned officers, ship's officers, and members of the crew of vessels of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and commissioned officers of the Public Health Service.

Members of the Reserve components are also included if they are on extended active duty or on active duty for training.

Retirees—All personnel carried on the official retired lists of the Uniformed Services, who are retired with pay or granted retirement pay for physical disability.

Fleet Reserve Personnel—This includes enlisted personnel transferred to the Fleet Reserve of the Navy and the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, after 16 or more years of active service.

Dependents—Dependents include:

- Lawful spouses and unmarried former spouses who were married to the service member for at least 20 years.
- Children under 21 years of age, unmarried, who are dependent for over half of their support from the sponsor.
- Children who are over 21 years of age, unmarried, who are dependent for over half their support from the sponsor. They must be either incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity, or have not passed their 23rd birthday and are enrolled in a full-time course of study at an approved institute of higher learning.
- Parents, including father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, step-parents and parents by adoption who are, in fact, dependent for over half of their support from the sponsor.

Surviving Spouse—A widow or widower who has not remarried, or who, if remarried has through divorce, annulment, or the death of the spouse becomes unmarried.

Official Organizations and Activities of the Military Services—This applies to official organizations and other resale activities of the U.S. military services (except concessionaires) that are operated for uniformed personnel on active duty.

Non-DoD Government Departments of Agencies in Overseas Areas—This includes organization and individual support. Individual U.S. employees who are hired in CONUS under transportation agreements of a non-DoD federal department or agency and their dependents assigned overseas may

LONG WAR:

Army modernizing to win Long War, officials tell Congress

From page 1

"To date we have completed the conversion or activation of 19 BCTs to the modular design, or approximately 27 percent toward the objective of 70 BCTs," he said.

"To date we have completed the conversion or activation of 19 BCTs to the modular design, or approximately 27 percent toward the objective of 70 BCTs," he said.

Even though the modular-force effort is not complete, it has already increased operational capabilities, and "established the foundation for a rotational force-generation model that is structured, predictable and provides more combat-ready units while reducing stress on the force," he said.

The plan shifts the focus of the Army Reserve from a strategic to operational force, Harvey said, and National Guard brigades are beginning to be transformed to the same modular design as the active Army.

"In essence, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve are transforming and modernizing from an under-resourced stand-by force to fully equipped, manned, and trained operational ready units," the Army secretary said. Harvey also said full funding is needed for the Future Combat Systems program.

"This is really the first major modernization effort in over four decades," he said. "Simply put, the FCS program is the fastest and surest way to modernize the Army."

In addition, Harvey made the point that to preserve an all-volunteer force, funding is essential to maintain the quality of life for those who serve.

"This is the first time in our modern history that the nation has tested the concept of an all-volunteer force in a prolonged war. Full funding and support of Army programs in this way is critical to sustain the finest Army in the

world," he said.

Also testifying before the Senate committee was Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, who began by saying that the Army was stretched, not broken.

"We were severely challenged, if not broken, in the post-Vietnam Army. Although it was filled with great people, we were challenged in almost every dimension," Schoomaker said. "And this Army today, although we are challenged and we are busy . . . some would call it stretched — this is not a broken Army."

"This is a very strong Army, the best that I've been in in my entire service," the general added. "And quite frankly, observing my father's three decades of service, I don't remember one as a kid that was as good as this Army."

Schoomaker noted the Army is on the right path, and that if he were given more resources he would "accelerate" what the Army is already doing, not "grow it bigger."

When asked if either the secretary or general, under the president's budget, would seek a permanent increase in end-strength for the active duty Army, Harvey said the plan calls for an increase of 40,000 soldiers for the operational Army.

Harvey explained that the Army essentially is divided into three parts: the operational Army, the Army that fights the war; the institutional Army, which generates the force; and the "overhead account," which is made up of "trainees, transients, holdees and students," he said.

"I remain confident that with the continued strong support of Congress, America's Army can accomplish its mission and meet our strategic goal of being relevant and ready both today and tomorrow," Harvey said.

The Outlook

Feb. 21, 2006 Vol. 39, Issue 7

SETAF Commander
Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya

SETAF Rear Commander
Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki

USAG Vicenza Commander and Publisher
Col. Virgil S. L. Williams

Editor
Kelli Covlin

The Outlook is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1. All editorial content of *The Outlook* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Public Affairs Office in Building 34 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. DSN

634-7000, FAX 634-7543, civilian telephone 0444-71-7000, fax 0444-71-7543.

Email: editor@setaf.army.mil
The Outlook is published weekly by the USAG Vicenza PAO, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630. It is printed by Centro Stampa Editoriale SRL, Grisignano (VI) 0444-414-303.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of *The Outlook* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Installation Management Agency-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force.

Submissions: The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Submission should be made via email and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication.
Circulation is 2,500.

be authorized commissary privileges.
Civilian Employees of the U.S. Government Stationed Outside the United States—Commissary privileges will be authorized to all DoD civilian employees and

dependents assigned overseas.
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients.
American Red Cross personnel.
United Service Organization personnel.

Celebrating Heritage

Tuskegee Airman shares experiences with community

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

A large crowd welcomed Lee A. Archer, Jr., the 85-year-old former member of the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen, who served as the guest speaker for the Black History Month celebration and luncheon held at the South of the Alps Dining Facility Feb. 15.

After a musical tribute by the entire Vicenza Elementary School third grade and performances by the Vicenza Full Gospel Pentecostal Service Praise and Worship Team and Dancers, retired Lt. Col. Archer was introduced by Brenda Sims, USAG Vicenza Operations.

During some of the air conflicts of World War II, he was a fighter pilot with the 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, who participated in missions such as the one on the Oct. 13, 1944, when he became one of the four men "To Triple" when he destroyed three enemy aircraft during a single mission that day.

Between 1941 and 1952 he completed a total of 169 combat missions.

"I stayed in the service because it was then integrating and the integration was the first integration, it had nothing to do with race," said Archer during his speech.

While he was in the service, in 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equal treatment and opportunity in the U.S. Armed Forces, and eventually led towards the end of racial segregation in the military.

"We had lost so many men in World War II that they had to rebuild the services. All the rest of us were Reservists," he continued.

After going back to school again and completing a series of tests, examinations and



Col. Virgil Williams, USAG Vicenza commander, thanks retired Lt. Col. Lee Archer, 85-year-old former member of the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen, for being the guest speaker during the Black History Month celebration.

records, Archer was one of about 1,000 who became regular officers. As an officer, he was assigned to several bases in France and in the United States.

Archer had a good friend and classmate that shared a special philosophy with him that he has never forgotten.

"His point of view, that I follow and I repeat everywhere nowadays, is that he said in every person's life, male or female, there is going to be an opportunity. When an opportunity knocks, and says 'Come with me,' don't say 'Wait until I get my bags such as education, experience, ambition and training.' Have them packed and be ready, so you can say 'I am ready because the opportunity may never come again,'" said Archer.

Archer said he preaches this great idea to young people as often as he has the chance to. As one of the members of the 450 Tuskegee



Yvonne Lanier (right), member of the Vicenza Full Gospel Pentecostal Service Praise and Worship Dancers, leaps into the air during the Black History Month celebration and luncheon held at the dining facility Feb. 15.

Airmen who flew combat during WWII out of Italy; Archer and his fellow comrades continue to meet today. The surviving members have formed an organization that gives out awards to young men and women who are going to go to college.

"I speak at West Point every year, which is about 60 miles from my home," he said. "Everything I have, I credit to the military service that made me; that nurtured me; and actually gave me the base for doing some of the things I have done since then."

At the end of his no-notes-needed speech, Archer addressed some encouragements to the community participants.

"I firmly believe you will continue to be the leaders and make it even better.

"We old timers – we are looking for you to continue on the progress that Americans have made through the military," concluded the retired lieutenant colonel, more than 60 years after he started his career in the service.

Archer retired in 1970 as an Air Force Command Pilot with more than 3,500 hours in jet and conventional aircraft.

His records include citations from Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, the chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

During his visit to Italy, Archer also spent time at Camp Darby and helped celebrate Black History Month there with a banquet held Saturday.

A touch of Italy colors walls of birthing center

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

A new mural decorates a wall of the Benincaso Mother and Child Pavilion, and clinic members paused for a moment to thank the artist during its dedication Thursday.

It was the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza Commander Col. Bradley Harper's idea to have a mural in the facility, explained Capt. Myong Woo, officer in charge and head nurse of the facility.

"The community was excited about this brand new facility," Woo said. "This mural adds a personal touch, and being located at the entrance; it makes it friendlier, and it gives the birthing center a cozy and calm note."

Artist Karen Schmid, who painted the mural, explained that she met with Harper and showed him a few sketches. The view painted on the wall shows imaginary scenery of an Italian landscape.

Schmid explained that the wall was smooth and that it was already prepared for working on a mural where she used acrylic colors to paint it.

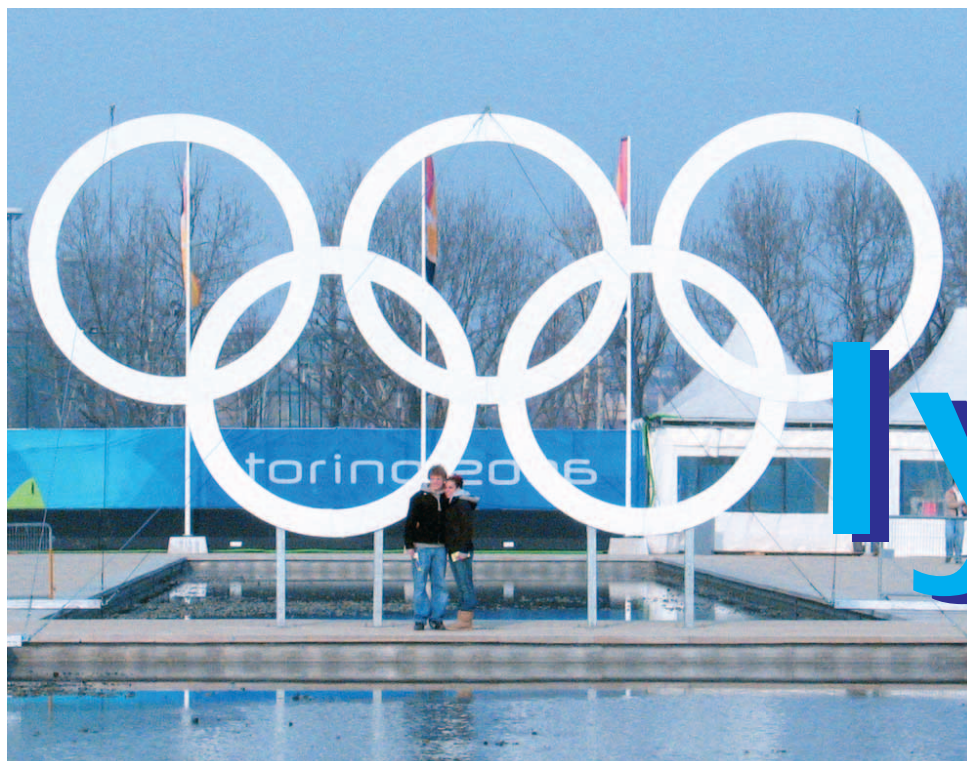
"I have enjoyed working in the Benincaso Pavilion," said Schmid. "I had the chance to get to know the staff and make new friends. I also think it was a way to give something back to the community."

During the ceremony, Schmid thanked Harper who gave her the opportunity to paint the entrance wall.

"This is just the beginning," added Woo after the dedication. "In the near future the other walls will be painted with the same technique. Maybe some flowers that are also one of Schmid's favorite subjects."



Karen Schmid puts the last touches on the mural she painted at the Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion Jan. 31.



Winter Olympics

Vicenza Students catch Olympic spirit on trip to Torino

Story and photos by
Adam St. Vincent
Vicenza High School
Special to *The Outlook*

Huddled together, half-asleep at 5:45 a.m., the Vicenza Middle and High School students looked anything but energized about viewing the Olympics in Torino. Dense fog covered the sky as they clambered onto the buses; the day's outcome looked bleak.

However, as the three-hour bus ride waned on, the group finally succeeded in shaking off sleep. As they exited the autostrada and neared their destination, the students could scarcely contain their excitement.

Departing from the bus, the group – consisting of students, faculty, and parents from the Vicenza community – were pleased to discover that the fog of the morning had lifted and the sun was out in full.

Everyone convened in a courtyard where they were introduced to five-time Olympic Speed Skating gold medalist, Bonnie Blair. Students were given the opportunity to question Blair about her Olympic experiences.

"It was pretty exciting to meet her," said VMHS senior Grace Pemberton. "I enjoyed hearing about how her interest in speed skating grew as a young child, and about the sacrifices she has made throughout her career."

After Blair departed, students walked a short distance into the center of Torino where they met their tour guide, contracted to provide a tour of the city.

"We saw the Today Show and Al Roker," said VMHS senior Siddiq Toure. "The guide had a good sense of humor — she made the sightseeing fun even though it was cold and windy outside."

When the city tour ended, the group trekked to the Olympic Stadium. As they arrived, they were greeted by several colossal steel buildings erected specifically for the competitions.

"The way the stadium was setup was wonderful," said VMHS senior Chris Stepps. "It was extremely professional. I was surprised to see it so modern and bright, and I particularly liked the banners and art



Five-time Olympic Speed Skating Gold Medalist Bonnie Blair speaks to the Vicenza Middle and High School students about her life as an Olympian.

Top: Students pose in front of the Olympic rings.

Right: A student shows off her Olympic pin.

Far right: Students try out a bobsled and pose for a picture.

that was on the wall showing the Olympic logos."

The group had tickets to view the women's Canada vs. Sweden hockey game at 3:30 p.m., which Canada won 8-1.

"Canada was definitely the stronger team," said VMHS senior Chris Bender. "They seemed to have more experience and confidence. They were dominating the entire game. I predict that it will be U.S. vs. Canada in the final."

After the game concluded, the students and their chaperones made their way back to the bus. Following another exhausting three-hour bus ride, the group arrived home at 11:45 p.m.

"It was like being taken away by a wave," said high school counselor and chaperone, Carol Kabonick.



"The emotional effect of being there really takes you off your feet. It's wonderful with so much violence and terrorism going on in the world to see people coming together in unity and peace."

The trip was made possible because of the cooperation of numerous members of the Vicenza community, particularly those of Les Bryan, Assistant Principal of the high school.

Morgan Vera, VMHS physical education teacher said, "Mr. Bryan really did a great deal of work. He loved the idea the minute he heard it, and he ran like the wind with it. He was very organized and persistent in making sure this activity went well."

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Life of Luxury

At the Verona exhibition grounds, Feb. 25-March 5, enjoy the 4th annual Luxury & Yachts show.

Some of the luxury items on display include yachts, cars, a helicopter, modern and contemporary art, fishing rods, pens, guns and jewelry.

A special section opens Feb. 25-27 on fly fishing and spinning.

The exhibition is open weekdays 3-8 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 18 euro.

79th National Alpini Association Rally

This year the National Alpini Association rally will be held in the nearby town of Asiago May 14-15.

This 79th rally is expected to attract more than 300,000 people.

Plans to attend this two-day event should be made now, maybe booking a hotel in a town or a campsite nearby.

The phone number of the tourist office in Asiago is 0424-462-221, and English is spoken.

Mac Show

No, it's not the golden arches, but the computer company.

In the Basilica Palladiana, in the main square of Vicenza, the exhibition Mac in Show is on display until March 26.

The exhibition follows a course that traces the roots and complete history of modern design with a display of Macintosh computers from inception to today.

It includes Internet Web sites with reference to digital print panels; Apple accessories and objects; magazines specific to the sector and more.

Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. Entrance is free.

Events in Verona

March 21: Simple Minds - Black & White Tour 2006 at the PalaSport. Tickets cost 28 euro.

May 29: The Eagles in the Arena. Tickets cost 46 euro.

Opera season in the Arena opens on June 24 with *Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci*. Other operas of the season include: Aida, Carmen, Tosca, and Madam Butterfly.

Tickets are available online at www.ticketone.com.

Marches and Marathons

Four Bells March: Marcia dei 4 Campanili, will take place in the town of Creazzo, Feb. 26 at 8 a.m. Creazzo is about 5.5 miles west of Vicenza. You have a choice of walking seven, 12 or 20 kilometers, and the start point is from the Alpini headquarters on Via Torino in Creazzo. Cost to participate is 1.50 euro.

Saint Anthony Marathon: The Saint Anthony Marathon is scheduled for April 23. The start time is 9 a.m. from the town of Veduggio, about 26 miles northeast of Vicenza - just after the city of Castelfranco. The time limit for the race is eight hours. Expect all roads to be closed to traffic during the event.

Padova Marathon: Lots of events will be taking place before and after the marathon in Prato della Valle, in downtown Padova, which claims to be the biggest square in Europe. Mini marathons will take place to include a two kilometer race for children that starts from the square.

Registration cost for the children's marathon is 5 euro and includes bib, marathon medal, refreshment and insurance policy.

Information on registration and the event is available at www.maratonasantantonio.com.

The earlier you confirm your participation the less it costs.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Feb. 21	CLOSED	7 p.m.
Feb. 22	Aeon Flux (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 23	Just Friends (PG13)	7 p.m.
Feb. 24	In the Mix (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Casanova (R)	9:45 p.m.
Feb. 25	In the Mix (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Casanova (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	Syriana (R)	4 p.m.
	Ice Harvest (R)	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Feb. 24	Fun with Dick and Jane (PG13)	6 p.m.
Feb. 25	Ice Harvest (R)	6 p.m.
Feb. 26	The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe (PG)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

IN THE MIX - Usher Raymond, Emmanuelle Chriqui - When an African-American man accidentally saves a mob boss's life, his reward is a job protecting the don's daughter. Complications arise when the two begin to fall in love.

ICE HARVEST - John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton - In icebound Wichita, Kansas, it's Christmas Eve, and this year Charlie Arglist just might have something to celebrate. Charlie, an attorney for the sleazy businesses of Wichita, and his unsavory associate, the steely Vic Cavanaugh have just successfully embezzled \$2 million from Kansas City boss Bill Guerrard. But the real prize for Charlie is the stunning Renata, who runs the Sweet Cage strip club.

CASANOVA - Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller - When Giacomo Casanova discovered Francesca Bruni, he met his ultimate romantic match, succumbing to the only woman ever to refuse his charms - until he could prove himself to be the one man worthy of her romantic ideals. Not only a dashing rebel and wit, Casanova is also a vulnerable man who is chasing after love as Bishop Pucci of the Inquisition chases after him. Caught up in a comic whirl of disguises.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Medieval Festival

The 6th *Grande Festa Medievale*, Grand Medieval Festival, will be held in the castle in Bevilacqua, in the province of Verona.

The fest, held March 26, starts at 10:30 a.m., and families can enjoy flag throwers, musicians, archers, falconers, friars, dancers, medieval camp, duels between knights and games for adults and children alike.

The ticket office opens at 10 a.m.,



and entrance fees costs 7 euro for adults; 3 euro for children between 5-10 years of age; and younger than age 5 are free.

At 12:30 p.m. there will be a medieval meal in the presence of musicians, dancers and jesters. Reservations are necessary and cost 33 euro for adults; 15 euro for children 5-10 years of age; and free for children younger than 5. Telephone 0442-93655 or 649521, only Italian is spoken.



'Apprentice' winner credits military training for success

By Paul X. Rutz

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Kelly Perdew was hired as Donald Trump's "Apprentice" in 2004, and he believes his training at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point helped him win the reality TV competition.

Perdew, whose new book, "Take Command," extols the virtues of military training, was here Feb. 15 to sign the book and talk about his continuing connection to the military.

Five percent of proceeds from the book's sales will go to the United Service Organizations, and Perdew appears as national spokesman for the National Guard Youth Foundation's Challenge Program. The nationwide program intervenes in the lives of at-risk youth, ages 16 to 18. The program's 17-month course combines military style training and mentorship to help its cadets become productive adults.

"The military has been an incredible impact in my life," Perdew said. And he has seen it work for others. "I've watched it impact three of my four younger brothers," he said. "It turned them into great young men." He said one brother is a former naval aviator, another is a current Navy petty officer, and the third is an Army officer.

Perdew said the most important lessons he learned at West Point included good habits in time management and the combination of duty

and integrity that has helped fuel his work ethic ever since.

Some lessons came easier for him than others, he said.

"What I had to work on the most in terms of these is flexibility, being able to have the most varied responses in any given situation," he said. "I think that comes - one - with getting older and understanding that different things work in different situations, and - two - trying to use all the different elements of the things that I've learned . . . to see what doesn't work and what does work, kind of trial and error."

After he left the Army, Perdew became an entrepreneur, starting a media company, among other ventures. Then came his chance on the national stage.

"I got asked time and time again after winning 'The Apprentice,' do I think that my military background helped me win the show and in my other business endeavors," Perdew said. "Basically the book is a response to that question."

Perdew said he wrote the book for three reasons: To show corporate America there is "a huge pool of leadership talent" in ex-military people; to reassure the 190,000 people who leave the military every year that they have what it takes to be successful in civilian life; and to make it clear that a person does not have to enter the military to become a good leader.

Giving back to the force that helped him



Kelly Perdew (center) winner of the TV show "The Apprentice," poses with cadets in the National Guard Youth Challenge Program Feb. 15. The cadets, from left, are Derek Brown, Derrick Anthony Derew, Shannon William and Deborah Trotter. Perdew is the spokesman for the program, which offers at-risk kids an opportunity to succeed as adults. (Photo by William D. Moss)

mature is also important, he said.

"I feel extremely fortunate that 'The Apprentice' and all the exposure it got me gave me this kind of quasi-celebrity status, where I could help out some of the organizations that I think are most important," he said.

Perdew became spokesman for the National Guard Youth Foundation after meeting some board members while he was here for the president's inauguration in January 2005. He started working with the group and has

addressed the media, spoken with members of Congress and attended special program events to support the effort.

Since its inception in 1993, the foundation has graduated more than 62,000 young people from 30 program sites in 25 states and Puerto Rico, said Greg Sharp, the group's president. Sharp said he hopes to expand the program to all 50 states as soon as possible.

Eighteen-year-old Deborah Trotter, one of four cadets attending the event, has spent five weeks so far at Freestate Challenge Academy in Aberdeen, Md. She said her brother and cousin had gone through the program before her, and she was impressed with who they became, thanks to the rigorous schedule.

The residential phase of the program lasts 22 weeks and activities include basketball, chess, choir, military drill and triathlon. Most students finish the residential phase with a GED or high school diploma, after which they go back into the community, meeting once a week over the next year with a mentor who keeps them on track to meet their goals.

Maryland National Guard Sgt. Michael Coleman, a member of the cadre that trains these cadets, said most of the children he sees only need a chance to be proud, to learn to work as a team, and they make impressive gains.

For more information in the National Guard Youth Foundation's Challenge Program visit their Web site at www.ngycp.org.



CARNIVAL

Carnevale in Venice

Carnevale kicked off in Venice Feb. 18. There are still many events that will take place over the next week. Below is a listing of some events scheduled for *Carnevale* in Venice. For more details and a complete listing of event, visit the Web site www.carnivalofvenice.com. This site also contains information on the history of *Carnevale* and more.

Feb. 22

3 & 5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “The Old Jealousy” by the Venice International Art Company

4 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Mask Parade & Medieval or Baroque Ensemble take place every day during Carnevale

6 p.m. – San Marco: La Moresca: Traditional Costume Show

Feb. 23

3 p.m. – San Marco: La Moresca – Traditional Costume Show

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco – “Il Principe Moro” (Prince Moro), by the Venice International Art Company

4 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Mask Parade & Medieval Ensemble

9 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: “Tales and Songs from Weddings and Funerals” featuring Goran Bregovic and The Wedding & Funeral Band.

Feb. 24

3 p.m. – Venezia: The Treasure hunt of the Carnival of Venice. Three prizes to be given away. Cost to participate - 70 euro.

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “D’Amore Rapito” (Kidnapped Love), Theatre of Comedy- Venice International Art Company

4 p.m. – Historic Centre (San Marco): Contest: The most beautiful mask of the Venice Carnival 2006

5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco – “Il Principe Moro” (Prince Moro), Theatre of Comedy- Venice International Art Company

5:30 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Poets Nancy Galano and Jesus Cos Causse di Santiago from Cuba

6 p.m. – Hotel Bauer (located in piazza San Marco): Dance with the Teachers of Salsa

9 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: South American Salsa and Latin dancers

Feb. 25

11 a.m. – Chiesa San Vidal (San Marco): Baroque Music Concert and Cocktails (in Costume or formal dress)

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “D’Amore Rapito” (Kidnapped Love), Theatre of Comedy- Venice International Art Company

3:30 p.m. – Along the Grand Canal ending at the Casino Ca’ Vendramin Calergi: Watch the Parade of gondolas dressed in costume.

5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “Zuan Villan,” by the Glossateatro Company, in the Commedia Arts Theatre.

8:30 p.m. – Palazzo Pisani Moretta (San Polo): The Doge’s Ball.

9 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: Dance to the tunes of Paolo Belli and the Big Band.

Feb. 26

3 p.m. – *Convitto Nazionale Marco Foscarini* (Cannaregio): Carnival for Children: Pinocchio puppets show

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “Jumps & Jokes,” performed by Company Balagan in the Commedia Arts Theatre.

6 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Concert of Tango and Popular Dance featuring the Tango Extreme Quintet, songs by Eva Encanto, and more.

Feb. 27

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “Zuan Villan” performed by Company Balagan in the Commedia Arts Theatre.

5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “Jumps & Jokes” performed by Company Balagan in the Commedia Arts Theatre.

6 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Band Orchestra 55 – Listen to swing music, SKA, ethnic, boogie, Latin, Reggae and more under the direction of Marco Castelli.

7:15 p.m. – Calle Vallaresso (San Marco): Along the Canals in Gondola (Attire is costumes and cost is 220 Euro)

Feb. 28

3 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “The Old Jealousy” by the Venice Art Company Theatre

5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: “Jumps and Jokes”

5 p.m. – Piazzetta San Marco: Marie’s Feast Contest

6 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: “The Battle between *Carnevale* and Lent” featuring Compagnia dei Folli

8 p.m. – Palazzo Pisani Moretta: International Gala Dinner: The Final Ball of *Carnevale* (Costume required, No price listed)

9 p.m. – Piazza San Marco: Dance of the Taranta

10:45 p.m. – Procession from Piazza San Marco to Riva degli Schiavoni where the closure of *Carnevale* begins

11 p.m. – Riva degli Schiavoni: Fireworks display marks the end of *Carnevale*.

(Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff, of *Carnevale* events from past years)

Carnevale New Orleans Style

A bit of New Orleans is coming to Vicenza Feb. 27. The free Lundi Gras Festival, sponsored by MWR, will happen from 6 -8 p.m. at Club V. You can cook up your favorite Cajun dish and enter the cooking contest (for rules and entry forms call Lori Barteau at 634-6884). AFFES will be serving up samples from Popeye’s, during the event. Children can learn to make a jester hat or a *Carnevale* mask while parents grab some beads and bubbles and partying to the music of a live band.

There will even be floats – mini floats. Enter yours in the contest. For a list of the mini float contest rules, contact MWR Marketing at 634-7343.

Carnevale Parades and Parties

All *Carnevale* activities below take place on Feb. 26:

In the main square of Vicenza, Piazza dei Signori, there will be a *Concerto di Carnevale*, with a start time of 3:30 p.m. Entrance is free.

The town of Quinto Vicentino, located six miles northeast of Vicenza, will have their *Carnevale* parade at 2:30 p.m. with the food stands opening at 2 p.m. At 4 p.m. find *Carnevale* activities in the square opposite the town hall.

Carnevale in Thiene will have its grand finale at 2:30 p.m., when the floats and masked groups will parade through the main streets of the town. They will start in the parking area behind the town’s theater. There will also be a *frittelle* competition and an award ceremony for the best mask. Thiene is located north of Vicenza.

In Bassano on Feb. 25 the *Carnevale* parade will start at 9 p.m. with games for all in the main squares starting at 10:30 p.m. Feb. 26 sees the *Carnevale* parade starting at 2:30 p.m. from Via Velo in the historical town center. After the parade, music groups will play in Piazza Liberta’.

The most famous *Carnevale* parade in the province is in the town of Malo. The floats are lead by a band and majorettes with a start time of 2 p.m. Food stands will also be set up. Malo is located 19 miles northwest of Vicenza.

In case of bad weather, all of the above will be held on March 5. Also note that for a short time, when the parades take place, traffic will be at a stand still.