



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



February, 2006

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OPEN Wed. & Sat.

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast

1st Sat. of each month

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 4th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
March 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 20th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
April 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
April 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 17th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., March 1st	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., March 4th	Wilma Gusse	Maureen Schwietzer
Wed., March 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Viere
Sat., March 11th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., March 15th	Celie Donahue	Gene Donahue
Sat., March 18th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., March 22nd	Maureen Brown	Lilian DeClerck
Sat., March 25th	tba	tba
Wed., March 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Margaret Wadsworth

Contact Margaret Wadsworth (786-5791) as soon as possible if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

Don't forget to stop by the Center to check out the latest Gifts available to you. New Items arriving all the time.

Also stop by to pick up a new "electric" Lukken Iron. For just \$140, you can take home a beauty that will cook two to three cookies at a time. With a more efficient method for baking the traditional Belgian cookies, it frees time for you to relax and enjoy life. Don't miss out! Supplies are limited. Visit or call the Center for more information.



Scholarship Recipient Update

The Center was pleased to hear about the experiences of Katie Sleaford's first semester of college. As you may remember, she was one of our scholarship award recipients. Katie graced the Center with a holiday greeting . . .

"Seasons Greetings:

It is hard to believe that my first semester of college and finals has come and gone at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. It has been a fabulous growing experience for me. I currently am on my break and will return to school on January 18, 2006.

My first semester held many new challenges. I have met so many new people and developed new friendships. I have learned many time managing skills. In addition to my classes and studies, I also have two jobs. I have a work study program with the O'Keefe Library and also work on weekends at Movie Magic in Geneseo, Illinois.

My first semester consisted of the following general education classes: English, Biology with lab, Math, Information Literacy, and New Student Seminar. I also had Nursing 150. My next semester, I'll be taking the following classes: Psychology, Sociology, Nursing 160 with lab, Chemistry, and Genetics.

I live at home and travel each day to school. I really feel I have found a school that is a perfect fit for me. My class sizes are usually under 30 students and the teachers are always available if you need them. I am very happy with my choices. Working at the library is a real plus to study needs.

I want to once again thank you for the scholarship you awarded to me. I am very focused on attaining my dream to become a Neonatal Practitioner and look forward to the challenges ahead of me.

Sincerely,

Katie E. Sleaford"

Thank you for the nice greeting Katie, and we all wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors at St. Ambrose University.

Raffle Winners

In the January newsletter, the raffle winners of the Center's Christmas Party were accidentally not included. We apologize for the inconvenience. The raffle was a huge success raising funds for the Center. Listed are the winners and their prizes:

Paul Holevoet – Picture of De Brugges Vineyard

Alma Wyffels – Poppy Placemats

Eleanor De Buysere – Floral Arrangement

Wilma Gusse – Belgian Music Tapes

Mary Mortier – Afghan

Celie Donohue – Isabel Bloom Snowman

Congratulations to all the winners!

Will there be a Belgian Grand Prix?

Taken from thestar.com

This year's Belgian Formula One Grand Prix is in danger of being called off because track improvement works have yet to be completed, a municipal official at Spa Francorchamps has said.

"I can't confirm it, but what I'm hearing from the experts is that it will be difficult, if not impossible" to hold the race, minister-president for the Wallon southern region of Belgium, Elio Di Rupo, told newspaper *Le Soir*.

Citing sources close to Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone, former economy minister Serge Kubla said that the race would not take place this year as scheduled on September 17th because of work delays at the track.

The works which are expected to cost up to 20 million euros include modifying the track, building new paddocks, a new control tower and more seating.

Are you going to college next year and need money to help pay for tuition and books? Then look no further. The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois is now offering applications for its annual scholarships. There are three scholarships, each for \$500, available. You can pick up an application at all local high schools as well as the Center. So get an application today and receive money for what you've already accomplished.

These scholarships are different from the Van Tieghem scholarship which is offered to those who have successfully completed two years of college and plan to further their education.

Prime Minister Visits United States

January 20, 2006, was not just any ordinary day in Chicago. The Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, made a special diplomatic visit to the Windy City. The speech given was entitled "Europe's Strategy in a Globalized Economy." Prime Minister Verhofstadt spoke of the need for a unified agenda when dealing with the economy of the European Union. "It doesn't make sense to have a common currency, a common market, yet have twenty different ideas, goals and objectives. It just doesn't work." The Prime Minister is a leader in the European Union, especially when dealing with reform. "I am a reformer and I'm supposed to point fingers," as he puts it. He dwelt on the fact that there needs to be one common set of goals, objectives, and one common agenda for the European Union's market economy. To him, it would greatly increase profits. "With a combined Gross Domestic Product of over 14 trillion dollars, it simply doesn't make sense," he states.

Prime Minister Verhofstadt also spoke of the need for greater transatlantic relationships between the European Union and the United States. He also made reference to the situation rising in Iran and their nuclear capabilities. "Belgium completely agrees with the United States' stance on Iran and supports them. I met with Dr. (Condoleezza) Rice on the issue, and we both agree on the same issues in Iran. That is good, and we need more of that - more of an increase in transatlantic relations."

Among the Prime Minister's accompanying delegation in Chicago were the Ambassador of Belgium to the United States (Ambassador Frans Van Daele, who made a visit to the Quad Cities last April) and the Consul General of Belgium to the United States, (Renilde Loeckx who is making her first visit to the Quad Cities this April). Our very own Patrick Van Nevel, Josh Lyphout, and Jerry Lyphout made the trip up to Chicago to attend this special event. Great times were had by all who attended the event from all over Illinois.

Who is Guy Verhofstadt?

Guy Verhofstadt studied law at Ghent University and began his political career as a member of the Ghent city council in 1976. In 1982, at the age of 29, he became the youngest party leader in Belgian history. Three years later, he entered government as deputy Prime Minister and Budget Minister. Because of his economic views and his young age, he became known as "Baby Thatcher." Other nicknames referred to his rather iconoclastic and outspoken style.

1987 began a period of twelve years of opposition. Guy Verhofstadt wrote a series of Civil Manifestos, trenchant analysis of what was wrong with Belgian politics. He was

re-elected party leader in 1989 and opened his party up to a democratic movement, which welcomed politicians of other persuasions with open arms. He gradually moved away from neo-liberalism and became more of a centrist figure, a change which especially became clear during his first term as Prime Minister. Internationally, he was the rapporteur on the Rwanda genocide in the Belgian Senate and has since taken a keen interest in developments in Central Africa.

In 1999 Guy Verhofstadt became Belgium's Prime Minister, heading a coalition of liberals, social democrats, and greens. It was the first Belgian government without the Christian-democrats since 1958, and the first one with the green parties. Since taking office as Prime Minister, Guy Verhofstadt has successfully modernized the Belgian State apparatus and the country's social organization. The economic situation gave him leeway to raise the lowest social allowances and to lower taxes. Moreover, the "aging Fund" or "Silver Fund" was set up, in order to ensure the maintenance of retirement benefits until 2030. He was President of the European Union in the second half of 2001. In that capacity, he proposed the European Convention, which ultimately led to the European Constitution.

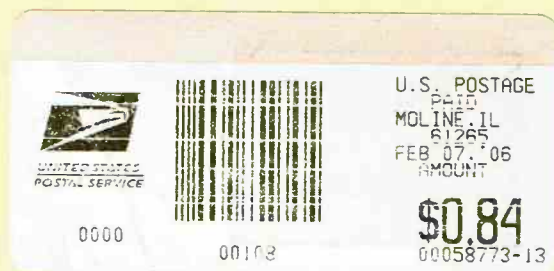
Following victory in the 2003 general elections, Verhofstadt formed his second cabinet without the green parties and with both coalition partners having agreed to abolish the so called "genocide law." Verhofstadt, who has always been very active in European politics, was suggested by some European leaders as a candidate to replace Romano Prodi as the next President of the European Commission.

The Prime Minister is fond of cycling and of Italian cuisine. He is married and has two children.

Have you always had a knack for writing? Then be a columnist for this Newsletter. It's simple! Just write a short article pertaining to local, national, or international Belgian news and submit to the Center or e-mail to belgiannewsletter@yahoo.com. Please keep the article length to a reasonable limit and happy writings!

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**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

December, 2005

Learn Genealogy

Have you always wanted to learn more about Genealogy? There will be classes offered at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, during the week of March 6th to 11th. The presenter, Michael John Neill, is a columnist for the Ancestry Daily News, a staff member for the Genealogical Institute of Mid America, and a faculty member at Carl Sandburg College. Classes offered are:

- March 6th – Online Genealogy Methodology
- March 7th – Over the Pond: European Research Online
- March 8th – Online Searching Tips & Tricks
- March 9th-10th – Using Ancestry.com (2 days)
- March 11th – Advanced Family Tree Maker

For more information visit:
<http://www.rootdig.com/sandburg.html>
E-mail: mneill@sandburg.edu
Phone: 1-877-236-1862, ext 5337

iTunes in Belgium

Taken from *Macworld News-UK*

A new alliance between Belgian telecoms firm, Belgacom, and iTunes has emerged. Belgacom's Skynet Music Club has been available in Belgium since 2002. It sold 1.5 million tracks online in 2005, but the business plan has changed in a move which suggests a path for future iTunes partnerships. Rather than compete with an online giant, Belgacom has agreed an alliance with Apple's music service.

"From now on, Belgacom and Skynet will be offering their online music services via the iTunes Music Store, which means that they will be working with iTunes, the driving force behind the digital music revolution," said Belgacom in a press statement reported by the *Brussels Review*.

Belgacom's decision means the Skynet Music Club has stopped selling music packages, though existing customers have until the end of March 2006 to use up any credit they have left. Existing customers are also being given 20 free iTunes downloads to help introduce them to the service. Belgacom also revealed plans to allow customers to pay for their iTunes purchases through their regular phone bill by the middle of the year.