



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



April, 2006

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Josh Lyphout
jlyphout@mchsi.com

OPEN Wed. & Sat.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast
1st Sat. of each month

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
May 6th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
May 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 22nd	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 April schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Sat., April 1st	Millie Kale (a.m.)	Maureen Schwietzer
Wed., April 5th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., April 8th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., April 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., April 15th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Wed., April 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., April 22nd	tbn	tbn
Wed., April 26th	Louis Slinninger	Georgia Slinninger
Sat., April 29th	Elaine Hendricks	Bob Hendricks

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.

Our Deepest Sympathy

The Center for Belgian Culture wishes to extend its sympathy to the Krumdeick family. George Krumdeick passed on February 10, 2006. Please keep his wife, Mary, and his family in your prayers.

Belgium Rising to the Top!

Taken from Business Memo

Belgium On Top of Logistics

Belgium tops the list of the 10 most desirable locations for semi-industrial and logistical buildings, the newest European Distribution Report of real estate company Cushman & Wakefield/Healey & Baker concluded. Belgium's assets are low rental costs, strategic location and optimal access to the most important European markets. (www.cushmanwakefield.com)

Brussels 35th Most Expensive City in the World

Brussels occupies only the 35th spot in the world ranking of most expensive office locations, according to a study by real estate advisor DIZ. DIZ's ninth annual Global Office Occupancy Costs survey is a guide to accommodation costs in major prime office locations covering 117 business districts in 46 countries worldwide. Ranking for the 2006 survey is focused on a per workstation basis to better reflect the costs of accommodation. London (West End) occupies the first place (18.74\$ cost per work unit) for the sixth year in a row followed by Washington, DC (15.37\$) and Hong Kong (15\$). In Western Europe, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Dublin and Luxembourg are all in the global top 10. (www.dtz.com)

Belgium 5th Most Productive Country in the World

Belgium is the fifth most productive country in the world, according to The Conference Board's figures for 2005. The Conference Board is a global business research and membership organization. Its productivity ranking, calculated on hours worked, is a leading indicator of economic activity as it provides an income per person in each country. According to the Board, Belgium created 40,000 new jobs last year, mainly in the service industry. (www.conference-board.org)

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!

Television Fusion

Taken from Business Memo

The Belgian TV production company, Kanakna, has entered into a joint venture with Telepictures, the TV department of United States media giant Warner Brothers, producer of very popular shows such as *The West Wing* and *ER*. The newly created Kanakna USA, headquartered in Los Angeles, will format European programs for the United States television market. Kanakna, founded in Belgium in 1993, has produced European counterparts of *Temptation Island*, *Extreme Makeover*, *the Bachelor*, and *Survivor*.

What is next for Kanakna USA? They are beginning the process of producing a television show where U.S. celebrities take a trip along the Indian holy river Ganges, called *Peking Express*.

To learn more, visit www.kanakna.com

Belgian Eyetronics in Demand

Taken from Business Memo

Eyetronics, the provider of high resolution scanning services and animation ready-3D models for feature films, television, commercials and computer games is in increasing demand by the U.S. film world.

The high-tech spin off from Leuven University, with offices in Los Angeles, announced that 2005 was its most successful year since its creation in 1998. Eyetronics 2005 list of credits include: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Batman*, *Racing Stripes*, *Blade Trinity*, *The Brothers Grimm*, *The Land of Zorro* and many others. It has also been used in the James Bond movie series.

The company's volume of scanning projects doubled in 2005 from 2004, and 2006 is looking even better for growth with 3D scanning in all areas of visual entertainment. Many movies being released in 2006 have given their business to Eyetronics. Some of these new releases include: *Garfield II*, *Dr. Doolittle 3*, *The Reaping*, *The Guardian* and *Poseidon*.

To learn more about Eyetronics and the technology they use, visit www.eyetronics.com

Not Just Your Normal Astro-Turf

Taken from *Business Memo*

If you watched the Super Bowl this year, you were either fans of the teams or were watching it for the half-time show. Normally, people don't watch the games for the grassy field the teams play on. But next time you see a game, take a good look at the turf. Chances are, it was made in Belgium!

What do the Pittsburgh Steelers (Super Bowl XL champions) and other NFL teams like the Broncos, the Eagles and the Packers have in common? They all play on the DD-Grassmaster field, a patented system of Desso DLW Sports Systems from Dendermonde, Belgium. The field is a combination of natural grass and synthetic grass. The annual conference of the Sports Turf Masters Association (STMA) even proclaimed the Denver Broncos' turf to be the best in the U.S. The award is highly valued because the stadium managers themselves judge each other's field. DD Grassmaster systems are in use in over 250 installations and stadiums and training facilities worldwide.

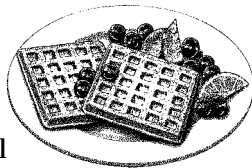
Visit www.dessodlw.com for more information.

Food of the Homeland

from Wikipedia.com

The Belgian Waffle

The modern waffle has its origins in the late middle ages we refer to today as "medieval times." Waffle irons consisted of two metal plates connected by a hinge, each plate was connected to a wooden arm. Some plates had imprinted designs such as a coat-of-arms or landscape, while some had the now-familiar honeycomb/gridiron pattern. The iron was placed over a fire and would need to be flipped manually to cook both sides of the waffle.



These irons were used to produce a variety of different flat, unleavened cakes (usually from a mixture of barley and oats, not the white flour used today). Some were rolled into a horn or tube, others were left flat. In many cities, waffles were sold off carts by street vendors. Judging from extant illustrations, these vendors

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Hitting those High Notes A Musician's Dream

from the Belgian Embassy in the U.S.

Are you a Belgian composer of music and wish to enter onto the international playing stage? The Queen Elisabeth Belgian Competition is now accepting entries again this year for compositions.

Composers aged under 40 years of age may take part in the international composition competition, which will be held in December 2006. The work selected, for piano and either symphony orchestra or instrumental ensemble, will be performed during the finals of the piano competition. The deadline for submitting applications is November 10, 2006.

SABAM is donating the prize for the composer of the winning work: 10,000 euro – there will be 12 live radio and television broadcasts – and the work will be recorded on CD and/or DVD. Prize for the composers of the other four works that reach the final is 1,500 euro. The jury will be Arie Van Lysebeth (President), Frédéric Devreese, Pascal Dusapin, Luca Francesconi, Heinz Holliger, Michael Jarrell and Hanspeter Kyburz.

Interested musicians and composers can obtain the rules of these competitions on the Competition's website or by contacting its secretariat.

Information & Rules:

Secretariat of the Queen Elisabeth Competition

20 rue aux Laines,

B-1000 Bruxelles (Belgium)

Telephone: 32/2/213.40.50

Fax: 32/2/514.32.97

e-mail: info@qeimc.be

website: www.qeimc.be

You are invited to a Reception honoring the visit of The Honorable Renilde Loeckx Consul General of Belgium on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Quad City Botanical Center 2525 Fourth Avenue Rock Island, Illinois

Business attire is requested

See enclosed insert for additional details.

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of Western Illinois, Inc.
712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

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gave people their money's worth, as the waffles in question were about the size of a small pizza, although there was a hidden cost: because of stone grinding methods, there was so much grit in flour that teeth were often worn to the gum-line by middle age.

The Belgian Waffle was introduced into North America during the 1964 New York World's Fair by its Belgian inventor Maurice Vermersch. Observing that most Americans didn't know where Brussels actually was, he decided to change the name from "Brussels Waffle" to the "Belgian Waffle."

Then What about French Fries?

What cafes are to France and pubs to England, friteries are to Belgium. Don't dare say "French" fries here. The Belgians don't only have the best fries, they also invented the fried potatoes.



In 1861, a Brussels entrepreneur named Frits opened a stand selling the fried potatoes in Brussels and

gave the name to the invention. Even King Leopold II, the most outsized figure in Belgium history and conqueror of the Congo, ate frites when he visited fairgrounds and ordered them prepared in the Royal Palace.

Belgians also discovered the secrets of producing crispy, golden fries. They rely on a local variety, the Bintje, which has a soft, sweet interior. Potatoes should be hand-cut daily in thicker chunks than at McDonald's – although many of today's friteries use labor-saving machines. The potato strips are fried in beef fat – not once but twice, to give them the crunchiest exterior.

Why, then, do people say "French fries?" During World War I, foreign soldiers fighting in Belgium discovered friteries. Since the language used was French, the name stuck.

In honor of the visit
of
The Honorable Renilde Loeckx
Consul General of Belgium
The Honorary Consulate of Belgium in Moline
and
The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois

invite you to a Reception and Dinner

on Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Reception ~ 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner following reception

(Prepaid reservation required for Dinner.)

Quad City Botanical Center
2525 Fourth Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

Business attire is requested

The complimentary Reception is hosted by The Honorary Consulate of Belgium in Moline and The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois. The Reception will offer members of the Quad City community the opportunity to meet Consul General Renilde Loeckx during her two day visit to the Quad City area. Following the Reception, you are invited to participate in a Dinner with the Consul General of Belgium to be held in an adjoining dining room to the reception. Cost for the dinner is \$30.00 per person. Prepaid reservations should be made by April 10th as follows:

RSVP for dinner by April 10th
by calling: (309) 797-8112 or e-mail: belgium32@mchsi.com

Mail check payable to: The Center for Belgian Culture
c/o William M. Coopman
1711 - 55th Street Place
Moline, IL 61265.