

Deployed soldiers prove their selflessness through prayer

Commentary by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Lance Kittleston

U.S. Army Reserve, 3rd Corps Support Command

It's amazing what an empty coffee can can do.

After the grounds are gone, coffee cans still have a life in the Army. Usually they end up being butt cans for the far too many soldiers who still smoke. Thankfully smokers, even in the Kuwaiti desert, must exit the tents to designated smoking areas and thus the need for a butt can. The sand for the can is free and readily available everywhere.

The chapel uses these cans as well. Ours has a plastic lid on it with a slot cut in the middle and a hand-printed sign taped to its side that says, "Prayer Requests." A pad lies next to this emptied coffee can that reads, "For prayer requests only" followed by more words reminding all readers that it is a violation of the Ten Commandments to run off with the chaplain's pen.

I doubted that "rough, tough" soldiers would take the time to write out anything, but I discovered otherwise.

Soldiers in desert camouflage and full "battle rattle," as the troops call their weighty field and chemical gear, shuffle in and out of the chapel all day. It is on the way to the mess hall and sometimes they come in to talk, or to look for more Bibles because they have lost their's elsewhere. Occasionally they seek temporary shelter from the biting wind bearing the airborne sand which stings at all exposed skin. They take the Bibles and rosaries and devotionals, and then some glance at the coffee can, pause and stoop over in their Kevlar helmets and slung weapons, take the pen, write a prayer request and drop it in the slot.

Often with a "Thanks, Sir," they stoop to exit through the low tent flap and head down the concertina wire-lined dirt and sand streets of Camp Virginia propelling a puff of dust with each step of their desert boots.

I later gather these requests, and sifting through them I am amazed at the petitioner's selflessness. We older ones lament the self-centeredness of so many young people of America who care, we are told, only for their own personal pleasure and satisfaction.

But these requests do not bear that notion out. Here are young Americans far from home in a combat zone. Some are close to danger and occasionally are very close to danger, but the overwhelming concerns found within the prayer can are not for themselves, but surprisingly for those struggling, in danger and in pain *back home*.

I am astounded as I read through them: The "mom who recently lost her father in death, and a son lost to prison and now a son somewhere in Kuwait and places unknown — for her to be strengthened;" the agonizing prayer of a soldier thousands of miles away from his wife and young son — that his wife's heart might be softened to give their dying relationship another chance; the soldier's friend terminally ill with five brain tumors; a son with a growth on his leg and in need of surgery; a general prayer for safety for their spouses and children back home.

These are not the prayers of narcissistic youth or the hard, uncaring soldiers that Hollywood produces. These are soldiers far from home who are discovering that their safety is a concern far down the list of worries worthy to be laid before their God. Their safety in battle is nothing compared to the

well-being of those they love and care for.

There are many prayers for their comrades, too: "For my fellow soldiers fighting;" "For teams back from a mission and for those going out on missions, that they be strengthened and protected;" a generic prayer for "a whole battalion."

And then there are the sad requests for "the fallen" and their loved ones. Clearly this is not just another exercise or training mission. This is real war, with real casualties and not just in some anonymous place on television halfway around the world. The realization on the minds and souls of these new American warriors is that the latest casualty may have been a soldier who shared a joke with them in the chow line, or who huffed and puffed next to them donning a gas mask inside the Scud bunker, or who after the long wait for a free 15-minute phone call shared his joy at hearing his daughter call him "Daddy" despite his being deployed for three quarters of her young life. The price of freedom — theirs, ours and others — dawns on them, and they pray not for themselves, but for those back home.

Gently I knock the omnipresent and thickening dust off these amazing requests and after the final one I silently intone, "Lord, hear our prayer." Gently I replace these holy petitions of fellow soldiers half my age back in the old red Folgers can on a dusty, crudely constructed table. I think these young troops ought not to say "Thank you, Sir," to me, for it is I who ought to say thank you to them. I stand in awe of their selfless spirits and praying hearts.

As I said, it's amazing what an empty can of coffee can do, especially when the coffee is long gone. (*Editors note: This letter was written March 25 at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, and has been excerpted.*)

Chapels move to new hours

Fliegerhorst Chapel

Sunday

8:15 a.m. Catholic sacrament of reconciliation and confession, 9 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Protestant, 12:45 p.m. Spanish Catholic Mass, 2 p.m. United Pentecostal Church.

Tuesday

Noon Mass.

Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Rosary group.

Thursday

Noon Mass (except third Thursday of the month).

Friday

7 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday.

Büdingen Chapel

Sunday

11 a.m. Family worship ministry.

Pioneer Chapel

Saturday

9 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist.

Sunday

9 a.m. Collective Protestant, 2 p.m. Church of God in Christ.

Education groups

Sunday

9:15 a.m. Protestant prayer, Building 1351, Fliegerhorst; 11 a.m.

Catholic youth education, Hanau Middle School; 12:30 p.m. COGIC Sunday school, Building 1351, Fliegerhorst; 6 p.m. Junior high "Big House," Building 1, Pioneer.

Tuesday

6 p.m. Awana Kids Club, Old Argonner Elementary; 6:30 p.m. Catholic youth group, Galaxy Teen Center.

Wednesday

6 p.m. Senior high "Fusion," Galaxy Teen Center.

Thursday

7 p.m. Adult Bible study, Büdingen AST Conference Room.

Friday

6 p.m. Catholic adult education, Fliegerhorst Chapel every first Friday.

Women of the Chapel

Catholic Women of the Chapel, 6 p.m. the second Monday monthly, Fliegerhorst Chapel; Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible study, 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Old Argonner Elementary; PWOC 9 a.m. Wednesdays, Büdingen Chapel; Gospel Woman's Ministry, 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday monthly, Building 125, Pioneer Kaserne; PWOC, 9 a.m. Thursdays, Pioneer Chapel.



Bulletin board

At the movies April 29 to May 15

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- April 29 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 30 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2-3 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 4 — A Bug's Life (G) 4 p.m. The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 5-6 — The Guru (R) 7 p.m.
- May 7-8 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9-10 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 11 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 4 p.m. What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 12-13 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.
- May 14-15 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- May 2 — Final Destination 2 (R) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 3 p.m.
- May 9 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- May 2 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 4 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 3 p.m.
- May 9 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 11 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

- May 1 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
- May 4 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
- May 8 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 11 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 15 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- April 29-30 — The Hunted (R) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — Antwone Fisher (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
- May 4 — Drumline (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 6-7 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
- May 9 — National Security (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 11 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 13-14 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- April 29 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.



Damien Wayans (from left), Regina Hall and Jamie Kennedy star in "Malibu's Most Wanted."

- April 30 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1 — Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m. Dark Blue (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 3 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m. How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 4 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 4 p.m. Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 5 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 6 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 7 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 8 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 9-10 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 4 p.m. It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m. Deliver Us From Eva (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 11 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 4 p.m. It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 12 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 13 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.
- May 14 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 15 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- April 30 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — The Core (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — A Guy Thing (PG-13) 5 p.m. Dark Blue (R) 7:30 p.m.
- May 4 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 5 p.m. Adaptation (R) 7:30 p.m.
- May 11 — What A Girl Wants (PG) 7 p.m.
- May 14 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- April 30 — Biker Boyz (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 14 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- May 1 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 3 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 8 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 9 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.
- May 10 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 15 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- April 29 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
- April 30 — The Recruit (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 1 — About Schmidt (R) 7 p.m.
- May 2 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m. How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 3 — Spirit: Stallion Of The Cimarron (G) 4 p.m. How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m. Anger Management (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- May 4 — Lilo And Stitch (PG) 4 p.m. The Guru (R) 7 p.m.
- May 5 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 6 — How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 7 — The Guru (R) 7 p.m.
- May 8 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 9 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 7 p.m. Deliver Us From Eva (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 10 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 4 p.m. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m. Dark Blue (R) 9:30 p.m.
- May 11 — Jungle Book 2 (G) 4 p.m. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- May 12 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.
- May 13 — Deliver Us From Eva (R) 7 p.m.
- May 14 — Dark Blue (R) 7 p.m.
- May 15 — Adaptation (R) 7 p.m.

Movie plots

Anger Management (PG-13) — After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Adam Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by Dr. Buddy Rydell (Jack Nicholson). Buddy's unorthodox approach is confrontational and abrasive. Buddy moves in with Dave to help him battle his inner demons. When Buddy finally goes too far Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself.

Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) — Brad "B-Rad" Gluckman (Jamie Kennedy) is Malibu's most unwanted rapper. He spends his days hanging at the Malibrew Coffee Shop busting rhymes about his hard-core life up in "the 'Bu." Immersed in hip-hop culture, B-Rad spits lyrics about his phat life ("Life's a beach and then you die / I could tell you stories, make your caterer cry"). His father, Bill Gluckman (Ryan O'Neal), who is campaigning to be the next governor of California, doesn't understand his son's lifestyle and vows to cure him of rap forever.

Dark Blue (R) — A veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department's elite Special Investigations Squad, Eldon Perry (Kurt Russell) is known for his tough street tactics, fiery temper and willingness to do whatever it takes to bring someone to justice. When the SIS is assigned a high-profile quadruple homicide, Perry is put on the case along with SIS rookie Bobby Keough (Scott Speedman). Investigating the murders alongside Perry, Keough soon learns the grim realities of police intimidation and corruption. Assistant Chief Holland (Ving Rhames) is the only man in the department willing to stand up to the SIS and its powerful, dangerous boss, Jack Van Meter (Brendan Gleeson). The SIS is a tight brotherhood, and no one has ever dared to take them on — until now.

How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (PG-13) — Andie Anderson (Kate Hudson), Composure Magazine's "how-to" columnist, must write a first-hand account of the things women do to inadvertently drive men away. She's on a mission to find a guy, get him to fall in love with her, then make all the classic dating mistakes so he'll dump her. Too bad Andie's target is ad agency hottie Benjamin Barry (Matthew McConaughey), who has just made a high-stakes bet with his boss that he can make a woman fall in love with him in 10 days.

Deliver Us From Eva (R) — A trio of men plot to free themselves of their mates' unattached older sister, Eva (Gabrielle Union), who has been in charge of her younger sisters ever since their parents died many years ago. The fact that they're married or engaged hasn't deterred her one bit from continuing to take charge of their lives. Eva's uncanny ability to interfere in her sisters' affairs has not endeared her to their spouses and partners. They enlist ladies' man Ray Adams (LL Cool J) to romance and distract Eva from her familial duties.

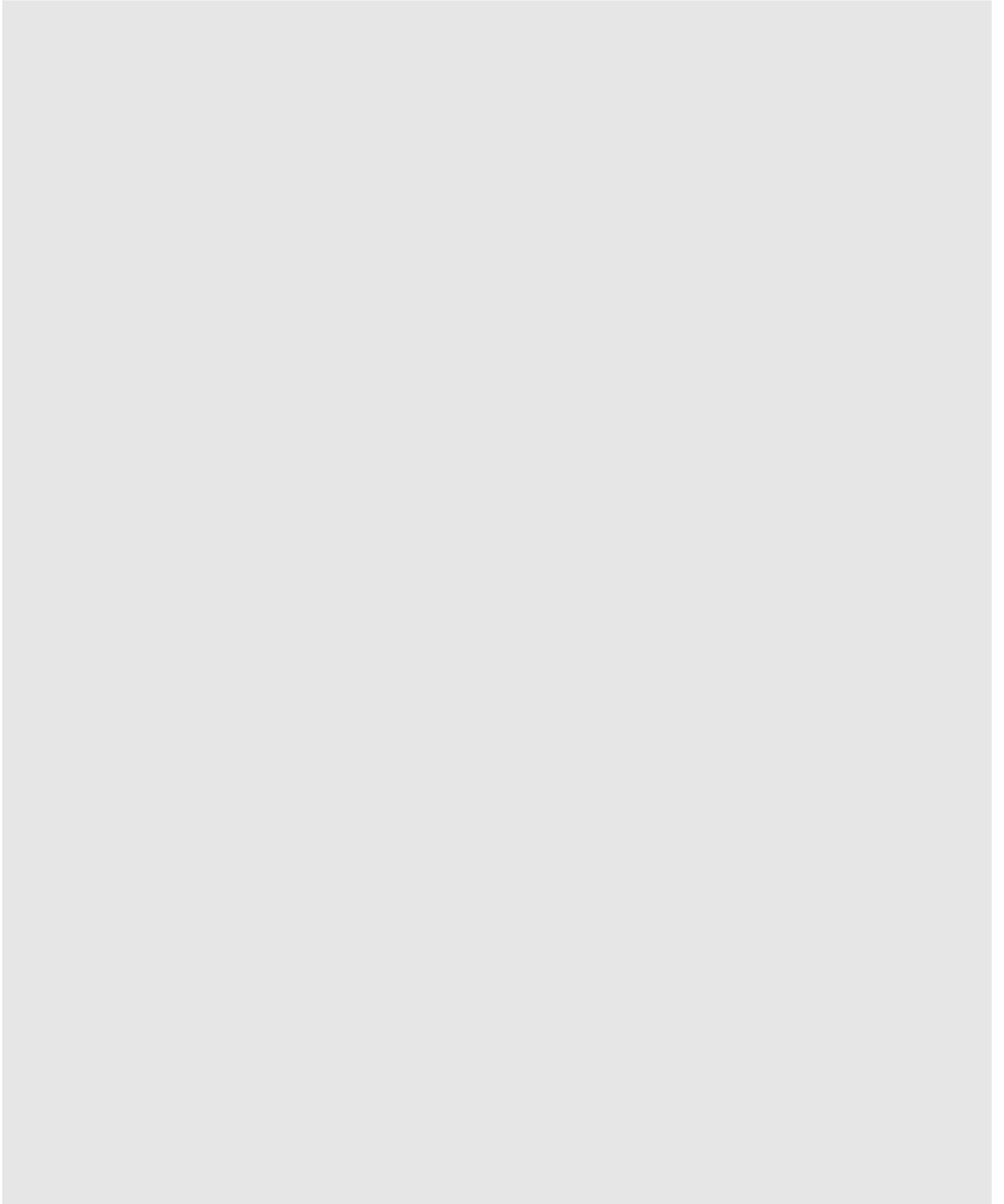
Shanghai Knights (PG-13) — Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson are back in this comic sequel. This time rather than the Wild Wild West, the martial arts action is set in London.



Doctor Buddy Rydell (Jack Nicholson, left) and Dave Buznik (Adam Sandler) engage in some unconventional therapy in "Anger Management."

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Herald Union classifieds



Focused on education in Hanau

Keeping students engaged in reading, cultural pursuits

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Despite current events it's pretty much business as usual at Hanau Middle School, said principal Georgia Fitzpatrick.

School officials are prepared to cope with any deployment issues. "We have a school psychologist, as do all the schools, and she heads our crisis intervention committee," said Fitzpatrick. Teacher handbooks prepared in house and guidance from outside support agencies have helped teachers and administrators keep their focus on education.

"The Army Community Service folks were great," said Fitzpatrick. They met with her teaching staff to discuss what they could do for the school and find out what teachers' and administrators' concerns were.

"Things are pretty steady on," said Fitzpatrick. She described a recent School Advisory Committee meeting where about a dozen parents laid their concerns on the table. "One of the things they said to us, very emphatically, was that they did not want this stuff shown on television like with 9-11. If there were parents who were going to war, they did not want them to show that to the kids. And we did not."

A second point made by parents was that the school should do what it could to preserve an atmosphere of normalcy. That can sometimes mean handling behavior problems with special delicacy. "Sometimes we're caught kind of in the middle," said Fitzpatrick.

Students and staff have innovated other outlets as well to express their feelings and relieve stress. Under the supervision of para-educator Myron Kingsberry, about 35 students made videotaped statements for the record in which they talked about how they feel about their parents deploying.

"They did a really good job. They were not prepped, they were not told what to say," said Fitzpatrick.

The school's 430 or so students have other matters on their minds as well. A book fair that opened in mid-April has drawn droves of students both during class time and lunch periods. "We sold almost over \$1,000 worth of books the first day," said school secretary Ramona Wunsch, ascribing the fair's popularity to the wide range of available titles.

Students came to browse and compile wish lists, and had a period of several weeks in which to place orders. So what are Hanau students reading?

"It's just like my free time, my hobbies and stuff," said sixth-grader Amanda Napoli, browsing the fair with her classmates April 17.

"I'm reading 'The Lord of the Rings.' I'm in the seventh chapter of the second book, 'The Two Towers,'" said Krystal Rodriguez.

"I would say I read a lot of epic novels," said Felicia Fields. "The Harry Potter series is my favorite. I love that."

The latest Harry Potter title, J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," could also be ordered at the book fair. Stu-

dents who purchase the book also receive a poster and a hat, said Wunsch, and each copy purchased brings \$9 back to the school's coffers for other activities.

Sixth-grader Patrick Santiago said he enjoys reading about "cars, spaceships and airplanes," though he was also in the middle of the class' current assigned title, "Island of the Blue Dolphin."

"It's more an adventurous book. It's really good. I already read it a few times. I already read it twice in Oklahoma," said Erin Karns.

"It's actually kind of the same, but 'The Lord of the Rings' has more action in it," said Rodriguez.

"The main character is like Harry Potter because she's an orphan, both of her parents die," said Fields.

"It's kind of interesting. It makes your mind think you're inside the story. You're like the director," said Santiago.

The school year has seen the development of a number of interests, said Fitzgerald. "One big thing this year was starting to celebrate all the heritages. We started with Hispanic Heritage Month in September. We got a student committee that came together to form the activity for that month."

Student interest and involvement have continued through the year, she said. "We brought the idea of a Black History wax museum, and that was very well received," said Fitzpatrick.

Students are presently preparing for special Asian-Pacific Heritage Month activities that will take place in May.

"It's important that what the kids see as important should be celebrated, because we see that from a different angle as adults," said Fitzpatrick.

"They're so excited because it's the first time they're exposed to the culture," said Paterno Fernandez, eighth-grade language arts and Spanish teacher. "I've been busy with the kids teaching them folk dances such as the bamboo dance. I think learning about a culture is really important, where you come from. It's important not to be ashamed of your background. Kids need to know that as Americans we have different cultures, like a salad in a bowl."

What aspects of Filipino culture excite his students most? "The fiesta, the party, the celebration. It's basically the family bonding. The family ties are very, very close. It's very



Photo by Karl Weisel

Hanau Middle School sixth-graders browse for reading material during the school's book fair that began in April.

different from other cultural models, for instance the nuclear family. It's more the extended family thing, which is similar to the Spanish people," said Fernandez.

He also manages to incorporate aspects of history and linguistics into class work. He has taught the children about the *pensionados*, Filipinos brought to the United States in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War to be educated in the English language and returned to the Philippines to become the foundation of a national civil service. The *pensionados* also served as catalysts of cultural change. Fernandez likened them to an early, informal kind of Peace Corps.

Language is key

"They practically introduced the language, and of course what goes with the language—the culture and everything. Back then, from the first grade on, the language used was English," he said. "That was the beginning of their exposure to the language, culture, education, everything."

While getting children excited to learn, Fernandez conceded that world events have intruded on his classroom.

"Yes, behavior-wise, kids act out. They tend to space out and I'm sure they worry about their dads. We try to explain to them, try to understand and be patient with them. It's a critical age. Patience is very important. We try to manifest it to kids so they feel loved and wanted and they don't feel threatened," he said.

School bits

Apple for teacher

Take a moment to thank a teacher who's made a difference in your life or the life of someone you love during National Parent Teacher Association Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-11. Sponsored by the NPTA since 1984 Teacher Appreciation Week lets teachers know their students and families value the difference they make in the classroom. For information on programs contact your school principal or PTA president.

Top scholars named

A kudos to Gen. H.H. Arnold High School students elected to the National Honor Society: **Jessica DeVan, Nora El Oueslati, Emily Ferwerda, Charles Fletcher, Amanda Janek, Chris Kitterman, Natalie Klotsko, Lawrence Laugesen, Daniel Lohmer, Sean McCoy, Donal McRae, Melissa McRoberts, Lauren O'Gara, Michael Perez, Gabriel Riddle, Christina Russell, Stephanie Snow, Steven Spurgeon, Karene Takamura, Joseph Tennant and Craig Tyler.**

Teacher of the Year

Department of Defense Dependents Schools across the 104th Area Support Group are gathering nominations for the 2004 Teacher of the Year. Nominating letters from fellow teachers, administrators, parents or students should be addressed to the school principal and explain why the nominee should be considered. Each DoDDS school district will select one teacher to be considered as the Department of Defense Education Activity ToY in October.

UMUC graduation ceremony set

The University of Maryland University College will hold commencement exercises May 25 at 2 p.m. at the Village Pavilion on Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village for undergraduate and graduate degree candidates from Maryland in Europe institutions.

Raider reunion registration

Alumni of Kaiserslautern High School will gather Oct. 9-12 to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. Register now for the extravaganza that will include a reception, banquet and the school's homecoming game. For details email Linda Irvine at thereunionbrat@tx3.net.



Register now for fall semester

Pre- and re-registration for children who will attend 104th Area Support Group schools beginning in September is under way. All returning students must re-register. For details contact your child's school.

Focus on Hanau Middle School



Sports and leisure

English-speaking flying club

Members of the Darmstadt Flying Club wash one of the club's two airplanes in anticipation of the summer flying season in Europe. The Darmstadt Flying Club is an English-speaking club that operates two Cessnas — a two-seat Cessna 152 and a four-seat Cessna 172 — from Egelsbach Airport, south of Frankfurt, located between Langen and Darmstadt. The club welcomes new members and can help novices earn their wings. For more information about the club call Christine Forberger, club manager, at civ (06151) 963 040, visit the club's website at www.flydfc.de or see an upcoming issue of "Connection" magazine.

Photo by Dennis Johnson



Sports shorts ... Sports shorts ... Sports shorts

Martial arts class

Friedberg Fitness Center offers martial arts classes by an experienced karate and weaponry instructor Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-8 p.m. Classes will cover the fundamentals of competitive kata, kumite (sparring) techniques and kobudo (traditional Okinawa weaponry). Cost is \$35 for adults and \$30 for youths. Call mil 324-3155.

Free fitness classes

Free aerobics classes are held at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center Tuesdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m. (interval step), Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m. (cardio kickboxing) and Thursdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m. (interval body pump). Free spinning classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Call mil 343-7201.

Bowling Tourney, summer league

Hanau's Hessen Bowl on the Wolfgang Shopping Center will hold a **Memorial Day Bowling Tournament** May 24-25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will be an eight- and nine-pin, no tap contest. Call mil 322-8354 for details.

The Hessen Bowl also sponsors a **mixed league** May through September. Teams bowl Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sign up in May at the Hessen Bowl.

On the greens

Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course holds a **Friday Night Scramble** May 9 and 30 starting at 6 p.m. Sign up by 5:30 p.m. The four-person teams scramble experienced players with not-so-experienced players. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Call mil 336-2816.

Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course features a **Spring Open** May 17 with a 9 a.m. tee time. Cost is \$25. Nonmembers must pay a greens fee. Sign up at the Pro Shop by May 14. Call mil 485-7299.

Time to go running

Giessen Sports and Fitness holds a **seven-and-a-half-kilometer run** and **three-K family fun walk** May 31 at the Schiffenberg Castle. Registration is from 9-10:45 a.m. with the race starting at 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 including a T-shirt or \$10 without. Call mil 343-7201.

The 414th Base Support Battalion hosts

10-K runs at Cardwell Fitness Center May 31, Fliegerhorst Fitness Center June 9 and Büdingen July 4. Call mil 322-9045 for details. Call mil 322-9546 for information about the Cardwell run.

Dexheim Sports and Fitness holds a **biathlon** including a 20-K bike race and 10-K fun run May 31. Register from 8-10:30 a.m. Call mil 334-5746.

Fitness classes

Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center features a yoga-based stretching program every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. Aerobics classes are held every Monday and Wednesday

from 6-7 p.m. Cost for either class is \$3 per session or \$30 for a book of 12 coupons. Call mil 322-8197 for more information.

Swing into softball

The 221st Base Support Battalion holds a **unit-level softball tournament** May 2-4. Cost is \$75 per team. Call mil 337-5379.

A **one-pitch softball tournament** will be held in Dexheim May 17 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$175 per team including T-shirts. Sign up by May 14. Call mil 334-5746.

Yoga classes

Wiesbaden's Tony Bass Fitness Center holds yoga classes the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Call mil 337-5379 for information on these and other fitness classes.

Inline skating training

Learn to inline skate every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. with Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation. Inline skates and pads are available to rent for \$5 a pair. Call mil 337-5760.

Fitness certifications

Obtain AFAA or Yoga Fit Certifications at Wiesbaden's Tony Bass Fitness Center May 2-4 and May 9-11. The class schedule includes Primary Review and Choreography May 2 from 4-8 p.m. (\$75); AFAA Primary Aerobics Certification May 3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (\$289); AFAA Step Certification May 4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (\$219); Yoga Fit Certification May 9-11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (\$300). Active duty military, family members and Department of Defense civilians get 25 percent off AFAA certifications. Register at any 221st Base Support Battalion Fitness Center. Call mil 337-5379 for more information.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Runners have a host of different races to choose from in the coming months. See above for details on runs and walks in Hanau, Dexheim, Giessen and Büdingen.

Sports and leisure

Things to do

Fashion Show

Women in the 104th Area Support Group are invited to check out the latest summer fashions at the 104th ASG Summer Fashion Show May 17 at 4 p.m. at the Paradise Club on Hanau's Cardwell Kaserne. The free event will feature clothes and jewelry by local designers. Make reservations at the club by contacting the manager, Mr. Carlos.

Mother's Day bash

The Full Gospel Holiness Church of God in Christ hosts a Mother's Day concert and dinner May 10 at 1 p.m. at the Paradise Club on Hanau's Cardwell Kaserne. Cost is €25 for adults and €15 for children under age 12. Money raised at the event goes to feed the homeless. Special gifts will be presented to the oldest, youngest and mother with the most children. Call civ (0172) 681 0300 to make reservations.

Mother's Day Brunch

Treat Mom to an all-you-can-eat brunch May 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baumholder's Rheinlander Club. Cost is \$12.50 for adults, \$9 for children age 10-15, \$6 for children age 6-9 and free for children age 5 and under.

Friedberg Outdoor Rec

Register for adventure, sightseeing or shopping trips with Friedberg Outdoor Recreation. Rent roller blades, ski and snowboard equipment, bikes and helmets. The facility, located in Building 3637 on Ray Barracks, is open Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call mil 324-3158.

Ronneburg knights

Step back into the Middle Ages



Step back into the Middle Ages at Ronneburg Castle May 1, 3 and 4.

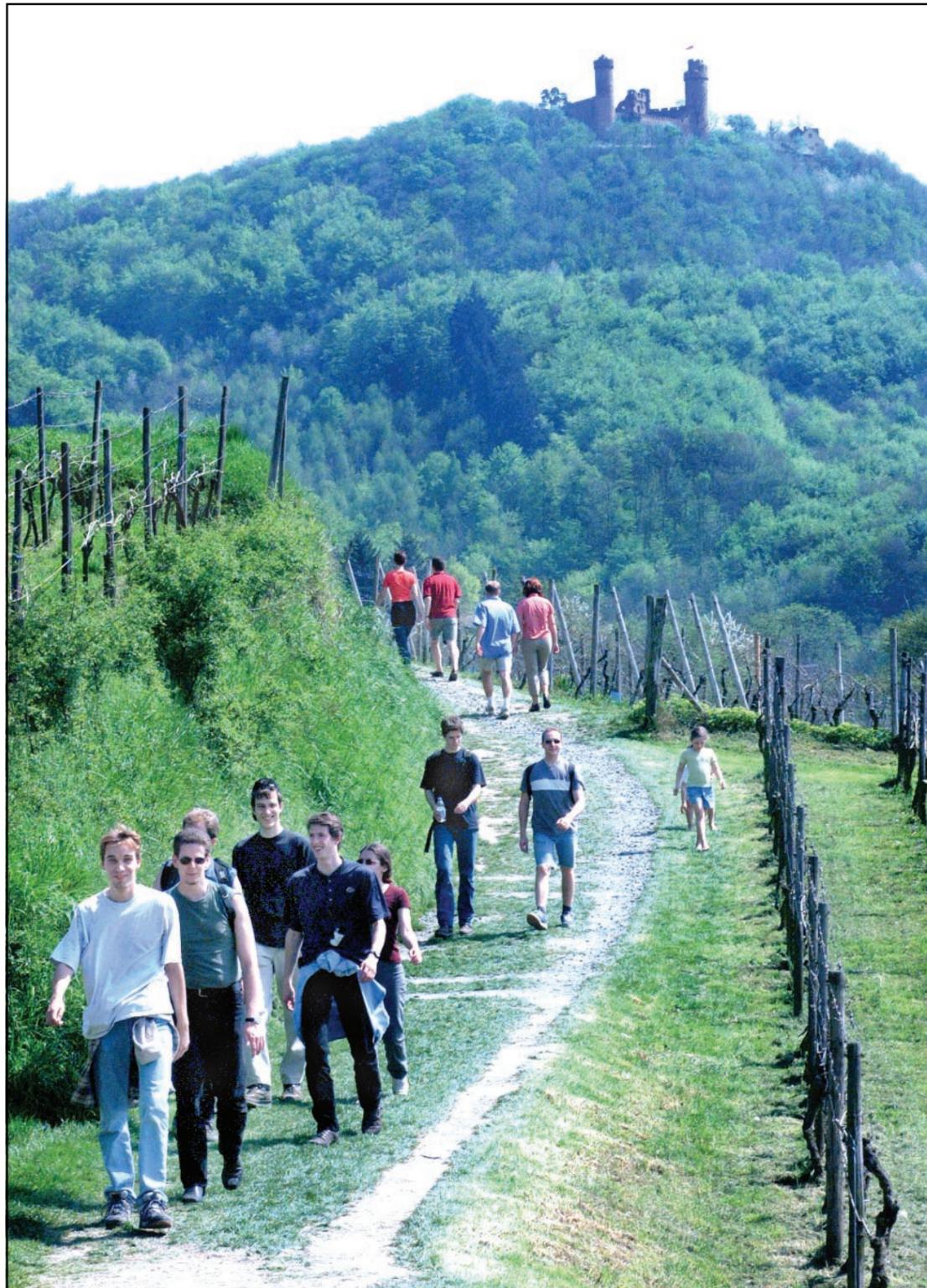


Photo by Karl Weisel

Odenwald wine hike

Sample local wines and go wandering through the vineyards between Zwingenberg and Heppenheim May 1. The annual wine hike features refreshment stands set high up on the hills overlooking the Bergstrasse, south of Darmstadt. Bus and train transportation is available connecting the towns along the route.

May 1, 3 and 4 as re-enactment groups converge in and around Ronneburg castle for several days of jousting, dance performances and medieval handicraft demonstrations. The fair will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ronneburg is located between Hanau and Büdingen.

Bike repair

Get your trusty two-wheeler in shape for summer during Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation's Bike Quick-Fix May 10, 14 and 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. The center is located in Building 1046 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call mil 337-5760.

Family bowling

Bowling centers in the 221st Base Support Battalion feature Family Night every Sunday. Children age 11 and younger bowl for free (must be supervised; shoe rental not included). Wiesbaden bowling centers feature 50 cent bowling (and shoes) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. The Dexheim Bowling Center features 50 cent bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Games are \$1 in Dexheim from 2-5 p.m. weekdays.

In the limelight

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart

Playhouse presents "Snoopy," another musical based on the Peanuts characters May 22-24, 28-30, June 5-7 and 12-14 at 7 p.m. Matinees will be featured May 24, June 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$11 for students. Pick up tickets at the Hainerberg or Wiesbaden Army Airfield USOs.

The International Theater and Theater Unlimited in Frankfurt present the world's longest-running musical, "The Fantasticks," May 13-17 at 8 p.m. The theater is located near the Zoo at Hanauerlandstrasse 5-7. Call civ 499 0980 for ticket reservations.

Frankfurt's English Theater

presents the Alan Ayckbourn comedy "Things We Do for Love" May 10-31. For ticket information call civ (069) 2423 1620.

Live in concert

Neil Young will perform solo at Frankfurt's Alte Oper May 1. Jazz notables Charlie Hayden and Pat Metheny take the stage May 6. The Auryn Quartett will perform works by Britten, Haydn and Beethoven May 8. Hudson Shad sing acapella May 14, Annie Lennox performs solo May 15 and Buena Vista Social Club master Ibrahim Ferrer will appear May 16. Indian sitar player Anoushka Shankar and her ensemble will perform May 20. For tickets call civ (069) 1340 400.

The Frankfurt German-American Choir, Oberursel Kinderchor, Frankfurter Singakademie and others will perform Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" and Glenn McClure's "Caribbean Mass" June 14 at 8 p.m. in the Sendesaal of the Hessischer Rundfunk on Frankfurt's Bertramstrasse. Tickets are €15 and are available at area ticket offices or online at www.ticketonline.de.

The Schwartze Acht Big Band brings swing to Hanau's Culture Club May 4. Tickets are €10. Call civ (06181) 520 520 for information.

Area fests and markets

Frankfurt's Dippemesse runs through May 4 at the Festplatz on Ratsweg. The Hamburger Fischmarkt in Aschaffenburg highlights local specialties through May 4. Darmstadt welcomes day-trippers to the Frühjahrmesse on the Messeplatz through May 4.

Steam train rides in Bad Orb

The Bad Orb Steam Train operates every Sunday and German holiday through Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Catch a ride at the Bad Orb train station on the hour.

AFN exhibition in Frankfurt

Frankfurt's Historisches Museum on the Römer features a special exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of the American Forces Network through June 1.

Paintball in Baumholder

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation organizes paintball games every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$9 with own equipment or \$19 if you want to use theirs. If you'd rather play your own game, rent a set for \$12 which includes the gun, CO² tank and hopper. Equipment is also for sale at the Outdoor Recreation.