



The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 21 No.6

Feb. 13, 2004

TOP STORIES

Tax season has begun and the Sigonella Tax Center recently opened to help Sailors file their returns.

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President George W. Bush submitted his FY 2005 budget request to Congress Feb. 2. The Department of the Navy Budget is \$119.4 billion of the total \$401.7 billion Department of Defense budget.

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A new organization on Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG) opened up Black History Month Saturday with a ceremony honoring the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King and other African Americans.

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The Sigonella community will again have a chance to buy signed sports memorabilia at a silent auction outside the Commissary this coming spring. The exact dates will be announced later.

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The Festival of Saint Agatha is a wonderful opportunity to see the culture of Sicily up close and first hand. It's infectious spirit reaches all who attend and creates a memorable experience never to be forgotten.

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Catania expresses devotion to St. Agatha

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

The streets of Catania, Sicily, came alive last week with color, costumes, candy, and most importantly, tradition.

The Festival of Saint Agatha, held in the city's historical center, is a yearly event where the community can express their devotion and gratitude to their patron saint.

People from all over Italy, and other countries come each year to the event, which began this year on Feb. 3 and ran until Feb. 5. On Feb. 3, a large procession of devotees to St. Agatha, large candelores (tall wax candles surrounded by decorations), civilian and military officials, banners from different city organizations and even horse-drawn 18th century Catania Senate Carriages (Carozze del senato) made it's way through the streets.

During the procession, Catanians strained to see the sights through the crowd. "There's a very close relationship between the community of Catania and St. Agatha," said devotee Maria Rosaria Maccarrone, a secretary at a local school who has been coming to the festival since she was a child. "Because on several occasions throughout history the saint has protected Catania, especially during the eruptions. That's why when the eruptions occurred, more than one time, [the saint's] holy veil was taken in procession to stop the lava." One year after Agatha's death in 252 A.D., her veil was placed onto the impending lava flow and supposedly stopped the flow.

One of the major sights during the procession are the large candelori, or tall wax candles, that are lugged around by eight to 12 men. "Each candelore represents a city guild," said Maccarrone. "Fishermen, bakers, butchers and several associations devoted to St. Agatha. In the past they did it for free, now they pay them to carry the candelori. It takes up to eight people to hold it. It takes eight beefy men to do that." The teams have to routinely rest every so often because of the weight of the candles.

Scattered throughout the festival were devotees to St. Agatha, who carry candles (ceri) and don tunics (sacco), skullcaps (scuzzitta) and gloves. "The tradition of the white tunic that is worn by the devotees is celebrating the moving of the relics (remains) of St. Agata, page 12



Two youths watch the fireworks in downtown Catania on the final night of the St. Agata festival.

New underpass to make Mineo trip more safe

By JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer

Capt. Tim Davison, NAS Sigonella commanding officer, recently announced the beginning of a project that will bring a safer commute to residents of government housing in Mineo. Construction of a highway underpass on SP 131 that passes beneath SS 417 is underway, with major work scheduled to begin Feb. 20.

Davison commented on the underpass project on "Feedback," a live television call-in show aired on AFN Sigonella and broadcast simultaneously on AFN Radio Feb. 4.

The project, sanctioned by Italian authorities Dec. 3, is designed to solve safety issues at a major road juncture. The entrance to Mineo housing is on SP 131, which crosses busy SS 417. Mineo residents currently must cross SS 417 to enter the housing complex. Numerous accidents have occurred. Authorities hope that the underpass will decrease the number. "Once completed, this project will make it much easier, much safer to get into Mineo," Davison said.



A view of sp 131 looking towards Mineo housing. This area will soon have an underpass that will eliminate the left turn residents of Mineo now have to make.

The current traffic flow problems at the intersection arise when a long line of cars from Sigonella waits for traffic from Caltagirone to pass before turning left onto sp 131. At peak hours impatient drivers choose

to pass the cars waiting in line rather than wait. If they face oncoming traffic an accident can result.

Leaving Mineo can also be a challenge. Drivers must reach S.S. 417 from sp 131, crossing the busy road where traffic coming from the Caltagirone direction may be moving at high speeds.

The project, at an estimated cost of \$2 million, will be paid for by Italian agencies. "The (Resident Officer in Charge of Construction) team has been working very hard to get some financial support from the Province of Catania and from the state road agency (ANIS)," Davison said. "ANIS is paying 50 percent and the province is paying the other half."

This latest quality of life construction project, like those on NAS I and NAS II, will not come without a price for Sigonellans. "The good news is that the project is started," Davison said. "The bad news is that, as everybody's learned at NAS Sigonella, it be-

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Direct Line

Capt. T.L. Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Alignment rounds out the CNO's Guidance of 2004 to the Fleet. We launched numerous initiatives that keep the Fleet at the center of all we do, that allow us to communicate better, and that enable us to be more effective and more efficient.

Our goal is to enhance our mission accomplishment and deliver a combat-credible Navy now and in the future. That means focusing warfighting commanders on warfighting and improving our joint partnerships. It means developing a requirements process that recognizes the power of joint solutions and integration. It demands enterprise-wide approaches and innovation to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in afloat and ashore operations, readiness and infrastructure. At its most fundamental level, alignment ensures that we share a common understanding of the mission and objectives, and that we speak one message with many voices across the entire organization. We will continue to pursue organizational and operational alignment to ensure that our Navy is consistent and credible.

We joined with the Marine Corps to integrate USN-USMC logistics functions, capabilities, and processes, and we signed the Naval Operating Concept. We began implementation of the Navy-Marine Corps Tactical Aircraft (TACAIR) integration plan. We defined the FORCEnet architecture with standard joint protocols, common data packaging, and strengthened security, redundancy, and alternate paths.

We enhanced our organizational and communications alignment. The establishment of Commander, Navy Installations Command (CND) successfully merged eight installation claimants into one, reducing infrastructure management layers and regionalizing services. We capitalized on our existing Forward Deployed Naval Forces in Japan to create a standing Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) in the Far East. We have established 21 civilian workforce communities for more than 80 percent of our civilians as a first step in developing strategies for enhanced retention and career development.

We fully implemented the Training Resource Strategy (TRS). Enterprise Carrier Strike Group (CSG) deployed combat-ready after completing the entire International Development Research Center (IDRC) using TRS assets. We reorganized Navy Supply Command, including the establishment of the Naval Operational Logistics Support Center to consolidate transportation, ammunition and petroleum management. Realigned resources and billets to support Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command's (CFFC) expanded mission. We added an additional 21 officer and 3 enlisted billets and identified a need for 42 additional civilian billets. Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) executed multiple realignment efforts, to include the establishment of a Warfare Systems Engineering Directorate, Human Systems Integration Directorate, and a Program Objective Memorandum (POM) Integration Group.

We updated the "Navy News Stand" (www.news.navy.mil) to better tell our story to the public. If you haven't checked this website out yet, you are missing a lot. Our public affairs office frequently submits photos and articles on Sigonella so the whole Navy can see what we are accomplishing here.

HEALTHWATCH

How to start exercising

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Huber, MD,
Family Practitioner

Start by setting goals. Setting specific, reasonable goals makes it easier for you to measure your achievements. "I will lose 10 pounds in 3 months" or "I will run in a 10k race by Memorial Day" are specific, reasonable goals. Stating that you will lose 120 pounds in one year or be able to run a marathon at the end of 3 months of training are not possible; however, they are very difficult to do in a healthy fashion. The whole idea is to do something good, not to set yourself up for failure.

Why should I exercise? Regular physical activity can lead to a better life and improved health. Exercise helps prevent heart disease and many other problems, including decreasing arthritic pain and bringing diabetes under better control. Exercise increases strength and energy and can help you reduce stress. It is also a good way to

reduce your appetite and burn calories.

Who should exercise? Regular exercise is proven to help people at all ages of life. Most people can begin light to moderate exercise on their own. If you think there is a reason you may not be able to exercise safely, talk with your doctor before beginning a new exercise program. In particular, your doctor needs to know if you have heart trouble, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, arthritis, or if you often feel dizzy or have chest pains. This includes having these or similar problems that are well controlled on medication. If in doubt, see your physician.

What kind of exercise should I do? The best exercises increase your heart rate and move large muscles (such as the muscles in your legs and arms). Choose an activity that you enjoy and that you can start slowly and increase gradually as you become used to it. In general, novices or people going back to exercise after a lay-off should start with aerobic exercise. Walking is excellent exercise and needs no special equipment. Other good exercises include swimming, biking, jogging, dancing, and using the stair master or elliptical runner. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator or walking instead of driving may also be a good way to start being more active.

What about strength training? Strength training can be unforgiving if you do not have proper technique or try too much too quickly. Most kinds of exercise will help both your heart and your other muscles. Weight lifting is an example of this type of exercise. Exercise machines can also provide resistance training. Your doctor or a certified trainer at a gym can give you more information about exercising safely with weights or machines.

How long should I exercise? Start by exercising 3 or more times a week for 20 minutes or so, and work up to at least 30 minutes, four to six times a week. Increase step-wise by adding five minutes to exercise time or adding a day of exercise each week or so. Exercise is also beneficial if it is done as several short bouts of activity in a day.

Exercise, page 8



CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Feb. 2 — Feb. 8

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 6

Traffic accident with injuries - 1

Car break-ins - 0

DUI - 0

DUI's 2004 - 1

DUI's 2003 - 58

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Tax Center helps Sigonellans get their money back

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

That time of year is here again, the dreaded time to file your taxes.

Why dread and sweat over filing your own? Let the Tax Center on base do all the work for free and sit back and wait for the returns to be deposited into your account.

The Tax Center is a valuable tool to take advantage of according to Lt. Giovanna Mosca, Tax Officer. "Last year it was estimated that we were able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars for tax services... The cost effectiveness of it is invaluable."

Tax Season for military and family members stationed overseas automatically runs two months



AD1 Isacc Burgos is preparing SKNS Tarika Coli's 2003 taxes on the day of the opening of the tax center

longer, until June 15. However, according to Mosca, waiting until the last minute to file taxes could impose a penalty if you owe money to the Internal Revenue Services (IRS).

"We do have a few who file at last minute every year. We like to do damage control early on and let them know what the repercussions are filing late," stated Mosca.

However, the majority likes to file in the peak season, which runs from now until mid-March, so that they can get their refunds back early and keep from running into problems.

Mosca added that if you are filing jointly it is vital to have your spouse with you so that both signatures can be obtained for the IRS, unless there is a power of attorney for spouses to file taxes.

Last year the Tax Center was able to service over 60 percent of community, collecting approximately three million dollars in refunds and processed over \$2,463

in returns. The Tax Center has two returning volunteers from last year. Each volunteer is trained by the IRS for two weeks prior to the opening of the Tax Center so Sigonellans can let others file their taxes in just a few minutes. Returns usually come in about two weeks.

Be sure to bring the appropriate forms when filing your taxes. They include the check-in sheet, the privacy act statement, W-2 forms, a copy of last year's state and federal returns, routing and account numbers for your bank account and other necessary paperwork.

The Tax Center is open from Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. for walk-ins and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. for appointments only. Extended hours will be in effect during peak season and are subject to change depending on availability of the volunteers.

NJP Results

E-5 Violation of UCMJ art. 134 (Adultery). Awarded restriction to the limits of Naval Air Station Sigonella (NAS II) for 30 days (suspended for six months); extra duties for 30 days (Suspended for six months); reduction to the next inferior pay grade.

Communicating love

By Chaplain
Timothy
Moore
Command
Chaplain



Tomorrow we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day that is filled with the wonder and mysteries of love. To some, this is a day that we welcome with open arms. We look forward to doing something special for the one we love, like sending them flowers, candy or a card. Others shy away from the meaning and significance of this day because they do not have someone in their lives that have taken hold of their heart or been pierced by Cupid's arrow.

Still other's shy away from this day because they do not know how to say or understand "I love you". It can be very similar to the look of complete confusion when we are out at the market here in Sicily and we "try on" our Italian language. The local host thinks that we speak the language fluently and responds in a long rapid dialogue that we cannot keep up with or comprehend.

Gary Chapman, in his book "The Five Love Languages," suggests that there are different ways of truly communicating heartfelt commitment to your spouse. The love languages are: 1.) **Quality Time** - making the time you spend together really count. 2.) **Words of Affirmation** - "inspiring courage" or encour-

aging your mate with kind-spoken words that promote a healthy atmosphere where love can grow. 3.) **Gifts** - even the smallest gift can communicate that "I was thinking of you today..." 4.) **Acts of Service** - putting your love in action by "doing something nice" for your spouse. Guys, wash the dishes sometime or do the laundry while she's out shopping. 5.) **Physical Touch** - not sure that I need to go into much detail on this one... - but physical touch can include hugging, holding hands or just "snuggling".

Each of these "languages" help us to communicate to our spouse, our love and affection. If flowers and a card doesn't turn her head - try cleaning the house for her while she's away. If going on a picnic together is not what turns him on, try writing him an essay on "why you're the man for me..." and giving it to him.

Valentine's Day (and everyday) is a day of communicating love. Make sure that you are communicating love and commitment to the one you love and that you are communicating in their language of preference. On that note; if you'll indulge me for a moment... Dear Pam, seventeen years ago today I asked you to be my wife. Thank you so much for saying "yes"! You are my best friend and companion and I know that I could not possibly be the person I am today without you as my inspiration. I love you with all my heart! Happy Valentine's Day, 1-4-31! Tim

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41"
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Service
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 10:45 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

United Pentecostal Church, International
Sunday Noon Chapel, (NAS II)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study

4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-9049.

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Navy News

President submits Navy FY05 budget

By JO2 Kimberly Rodgers
Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — President George W. Bush submitted his FY 2005 budget request to Congress Feb. 2. The Department of the Navy Budget is \$119.4 billion of the total \$401.7 billion Department of Defense budget.

The FY05 budget will deliver the right readiness at the right cost to prosecute the global war on terrorism and broadly support the nation's warfighting needs, shape the 21st century workforce, continue to recapitalize and transform our force and improve productivity.

"The President's FY05 budget strikes the right balance for the

Navy and Marine Corps as we transition to the Naval force of the future," said Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England. "It increases pay for our Sailors and Marines, improves quality of service, enhances the combat capability defined in 'Naval Power 21' and supports the objectives the CNO [Chief of Naval Operations], Commandant [of the Marine Corps] and I have outlined for 2004."

Up \$3.9 billion from FY04, the FY05 budget request doesn't include funds for contingency operations but supports normal operating tempos for training, operational proficiency and deployment.

Readiness is robustly funded with a \$2.4 billion increase in Operations and Maintenance, providing Ship Depot Maintenance an increase of \$548 million and increasing Ship Operations by \$217 million.

The ship maintenance budget reflects the Fleet Response Plan, which lengthens the periods between shipyard availabilities and focuses on continuous maintenance for surface ships to support a surgeable, responsive Navy that can reconstitute quickly. The increase in Ship Operations provides the necessary funds to achieve the operational tempo goal of 51 underway days per quarter for deployed forces and 24 for non-deployed.

"We think we're on the way to properly sizing our force, getting people in the right jobs to do the naval force's mission," said Rear Adm. Bruce B. Engelhardt, Director of the Office of Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Man-

Budget, page 8



Artist's concept of the 210-meter (689 feet) DD(X) destroyer design by a Northrop Grumman Corporation-led team selected by the U.S. Navy to complete the system design for the Navy's advanced, 21st century surface combatant DD(X).

The Energy Block

One fluorescent fixture (68 watts) burning continuously day in and day out will cost \$65.50 per year. A 100 watt bulb would be \$96.36. So if everyone in Mineo left one 60 watt bulb burning 24 hours a day would cost \$23,357.66 per year. A 15 watt bulb would cost \$14.45 per year. This is a difference of \$17,518.25.

One fluorescent fixture or incandescent bulb has very little impact alone, but multiply that with all the housing units here in Sigonella and the results are staggering. The need for each of us to be vigilant in securing our lights in our homes and workplaces has never been higher. Instructing our children to turn things off when not in use will benefit all by maintaining the level of living standards that we all share here.

Would you ever believe that one of the possible benefits of a lunar colony could be fuel? According to Gerald Kulcinski, professor of nuclear engineering and director of the Fusion Technology Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, that is precisely what is there. More than one million metric tons of helium-3, enough energy to provide the World with more than 1,000 years of electricity it is estimated.

Virtually no radioactive by product, nonpolluting, extremely potent, and by mining would produce water, is considered by some as the clean energy source of the future. One load from the space shuttle would supply the United States with enough energy for one year.

Over billions of years solar winds and particles emitted from the sun have bombarded the moon's surface with helium-3. Though no easy task, several meters of sand would have to be baked in temperatures exceeding 700 degrees Fahrenheit, sifted, cooled, stored, and then processed by a power plant that uses large reactors that do not consume more energy than they give.

A large-scale operation, 5,400 square miles a year for 100 years would only touch 3.7 percent of the moon's surface. Machinery would have to be made to move 41 million tons of dirt per day or a few thousand stationary reactors that would last a very long time from the rust and corrosion free environment of the moon, would have to be constructed.

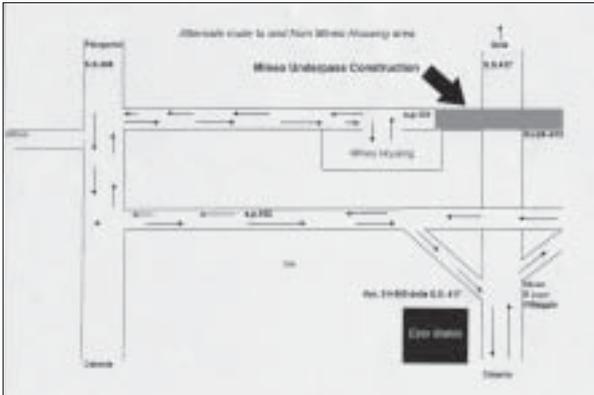
Let's use, not abuse

Mineo from page 1

comes very inconvenient after a period of time." Plans to make the trip home as painless as possible include road signs that will mark the seven-to-10 mile detour route to Mineo housing.

The Mineo underpass project is scheduled for completion in by

the end of June. "The Italians have recognized that this is a safety issue for everyone and they really want to help. They're going to push this through to completion as quickly as possible," Davidson said. The next "Feedback" airs Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. with guest Lt. Giovanna Mosca representing the tax center.



The access road to SS 417 Catania-Gela, from Mineo Complex using SP 131, will be closed starting Feb. 20 to allow the construction of the underpass. The plan is to complete the construction by the end of June 2004 and open the new underpass the week after. The contractor plans to install new signs along the new route from the exit of the complex to the alternative exit on the SS417 Catania-Gela and back, to better indicate the new route. If during the subject construction we have some changes, we shall inform you in advance.

Sexual Assault Victim Intervention

SAVI offers a Sexual Assault Hotline staffed with trained Advocates who man the SAVI Hotlines 24/7. The number is 335-642-8312 or 335-606-6146.

CAU kicks off Black History Month

Story and photo by JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff Writer



Members of the Sigonella community came together to re-enact the 1963 march on Washington D.C. where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I have a Dream" speech. The re-enactment was part of Cultural Awareness Unlimited's Black History Month celebration.

"I have a dream."

These words were uttered by Dr. Martin Luther King in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

A new organization on Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG) opened up Black History Month Saturday with a ceremony honoring the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King and other African Americans.

Cultural Awareness Unlimited (CAU), which formed last November, presented "Celebration of Black History Month" in the NAS I Chapel as the opening ceremonies for the month. After the ceremony, which included guest speakers, dancers, and music by the Sigonella Mass Choir, the group in attendance joined together to reenact the 1963 march on Washington, D.C.

During the ceremony, Capt. Tim L. Davison, NASSIG commanding officer, noted his thoughts on the event. "I think one of my all time greatest heroes, role models, was Martin Luther King." He also noted the cultural diversity that exists in our Armed Forces. "Over 30 percent of our Navy is African American and over 45 percent of our Army is African American," he said. "We have some tremendous heroes and great Americans that serve in our armed forces."

The event included inspiring speeches by guest speaker Capt. Warren Barkley and mistress of ceremonies Mamie Evans. An interpretive dance by Charnee Harris and a poem read by Sheryl Davis received standing ovations as well.

Evans spoke on the importance of remembering King. "I remember people crying that day," Evans said during the ceremony. "He left such a wonderful legacy. His time on earth was so limited but his impact was so profound. Please don't let your children forget this man."

OS1 Wayne Shelton, who lead the Sigonella Mass Choir, gave an emotion-filled rendition of Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech. "Just like 40 years ago, he was saying that he had a dream that he wanted to go free, he wanted his children to be free," Shelton said. "He didn't want us to be judged by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character. That still holds today. It was emotional because we're still fighting that fight for freedom and equality even in today's society."

After the event in the Chapel, everyone gathered outdoors to reenact the march of 1963. They marched from the Chapel to the front of the Golden Anchor where a replica of the Washington monument was placed. Evans recounted the events on that day. "When they marched people were spat upon, called names, hit and hosed with those powerful hoses that we put out fires with, but they didn't give up or turn back," she said during the ceremony in the chapel. "This is why we can do what we're doing today. People who forget their past are destined to repeat it."

Shelton felt inspired by the reenactment. "Personally it inspired me to want to just live out the dream of Martin Luther King," he said. "It paved the way so that I could be standing here today."

The festivities ended with a "Mama's Soul Food Kitchen" dinner at the Golden Anchor. "The money that's raised will be used as donations for a scholarship at Stephen Decatur School," said Cynthia Nicholson, CAU president. The new organization addresses a need Nicholson saw. "I felt last year that we didn't have enough things going on for the black history month," she said. "Last year, when I had the idea, we said lets come up with an organization, so we came up with CAU."

This was the first event presented by the group. Other activities this month included an Old School Versus New School Dance on Feb. 20 and a Talent Showcase on Feb. 28.

News Briefs

WIC Office Moved

WIC Overseas has moved from the old location on NAS III to building #319 on NAS I (building across from Stephen Decatur School). Once inside the building, their offices can be found within the Fleet & Family Support Center on the first floor. The new number is 624-3198.

AAA Meeting Rescheduled

The monthly session of AAA Driver's Improvement which was scheduled for Feb. 13 has been rescheduled and will be held on Feb. 20. Class will be held in Bldg. 545B, next to Da Michele's at 8 a.m. Call the Safety Department at 624-5630 for more information.

Volunteer Football Coaches

MWR is looking for volunteer football coaches for Sigonella's youth ages 10 to 15 years. MWR Youth Sports Flag Football Camp will run from Feb. 18 to March 26. Practices will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Scrimmages will be held on Fridays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. All activities will be held on NAS I at the Little League Field behind the Hospital. For more information, please call Stacy Greer at 624-2710 or 335-7861952.

Volunteers Needed

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is currently looking for individuals that are E-6 and above who are responsible, caring individuals who would be able to assist us in carrying our after hours. Call Nohealani Pakola at 624-4212 or stop by the office.

Football coaches wanted

The Catania Elephants of the Italian National Football League are seeking coaches for the upcoming season. The season runs from March until June. The Elephants play in the Italian Football 'B' league. Italian language skills are not required. Anyone interested is asked to contact head coach Davide Giuliano at coach@elephantcatania.it or 340-7887421.

Central Texas College Term IV

CTC is now offering an Associates Degree in Applied Science. For term four, CTC will be providing classes for an AAS in Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Professions, and Emergency Medical Technology (EMT). Term IV registration is from March 15 to 26. Official evaluations will be done from April 22 to 23. Call Carly Gutierrez at 624-6407 or stop by the office located next door to Navy College.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Sciaccia's Carnival, an ancient tradition of merry-making

As the Sicilian proverb goes: "Carnalivari tutti *lifesti fa turnari*" (carnival brings back all holidays), a month after Christmas and the Epiphany, it's again holiday and fun time in Italy as many colorful and happy carnival celebrations are held throughout February.

If you want to have a joyful and lighthearted good time ("A *Carnevale ogni scherzo vale*" or At Carnival time, every prank is fair, Italians say), plan a visit to Sciaccia's Carnival and join Sicilians in the *fiesta* or *fiesta* for two weeks of pure merrymaking during which people disguise themselves, put on crazy masks and have a blast.

There are many Carnival celebrations in Sicily, but the Carnival in Sciaccia, is definitely one of the best. Sciaccia is a beautiful town located on the famous archaeological road between Selinunte and Agrigento.

According to historians, the word *Carnevale* (Carnival) derives from the Medieval Latin word *Carne Levare* or Cessation of Meat. The term refers to the period preceding the beginning of Lent, a 40-day time of deprivations during which Roman Catholics abstained from eating meat, which was celebrated with balls, masquerades, bonfires and all kinds of excesses in food and fun.

But Carnival's origins seems to be also rooted in the ancient *Saturnalia* festivities that Romans celebrated to honor God Saturn in the hope of procuring plentiful harvests. Celebrations included feasting, gift giving, drunkenness, big meals and pranks. Masked parades of merrymaking young men and girls on board allegorical floats were also held through the streets of the cities. It was a time when masters and slaves exchanged roles. Accord-

ing to tradition, on the last night of the festival, Romans used to burn the effigy of the "King of the Saturnalia." It was a grotesque puppet that embodied the feast and after a time of glory was publicly burnt. Today, this practice is still performed in many countries. In Sciaccia, a puppet named *Peppi 'Nuappa* is burnt on the night of Shrove Tuesday.

Sicilian clergyman Mario Ciacio was the first historian to describe the Carnival of Sciaccia in 1890. However, historic sources tell us that the carnival has been actually celebrated since the 17th century.

At the beginning, Sciaccia's Carnival was mainly a celebration of country life with food and wine. Peasants, fishermen and herdsmen with painted faces and funny hats, played pranks and exchanged insults, played role reversals and made political satire. This was called *lu gabbu* (the mockery). Nobody was offended because that was what carnival was all about.

The grand finale for the celebrations was the burning of *la Nanna*, (today named *Peppi 'Nuappa*) a straw dummy who represented the manifested spirit of carnival. Doing so, bad luck and sins were burned away, leaving the town pure and filled with hope for good things to come.

Today, the allegorical *carri* or floats are the highlights of the celebrations. Associations including amateur musicians, ceramists, costume designers, poets, craftsmen and decorators begin creating these majestic parading paper-mâché floats after the summer. At the end of every working day around midnight, everyone who is involved in building a float gathers for the *schitchio* (dinner among friends). This is an important social moment as it enhances group cohesion.

The *carri allegorici* (allegorical floats) depict political and social satire. Ballets and performances are held during the parades.

Traditional Carnival food

In Sciaccia food is a big thing at carnival. One can indulge in eating before Lent begins. Like every other

holiday in Italy, there are traditional foods and *dolci* associated with *Carnevale* and they include *cuchitielle* (cookies made with pumpkin and covered with frosting), *canoli*, *chiacchere*, (irregularly shaped pieces of dough, fried and dusted with powdered sugar) *maccarruna di zinu* (*macccheroni* with pork ragu sauce) *pasta con le sarde* (pasta with sardines) among others.

During the festival, stands selling typical carnival food are open all day long at the *villa comunale* (public gardens).

An exhibition of 230 carnival historic postcards from all over the world (hosted in a historic building located in corso Vittorio Emanuele n.1) and stands featuring traditional Sicilian pottery (housed at the Tommaso Fazello Complex also located in corso Vittorio Emanuele) are also among the celebrations' highlights.

Float parades schedule

Here are some of the must-see events of this amazing carnival running from Feb. 19 through 24. This year, the Sciaccia carnival is twinned with the Carnival in Salvador Bahia.

Amazing parades of dazzling masqueraded groups start touring the city's historic heart at 4:15 p.m. on Feb. 19. A music show follows at 9 p.m. in piazza Scandaliato, the main square.

Mesmerizing allegoric float parades are held throughout the historic center on Feb 21 (leaving from via Cappuccini), Feb. 22, 23 and 24 (leaving from viale della Vittoria) at 3:30 p.m.

On Feb. 24, celebrations come to a spectacular sym-



The parades featuring the majestic *carri allegorici* (allegoric floats) are among the best Sciaccia's Carnival events running from Feb.19 through 24. These marvelous paper-mâché vehicles have mainly political themes. However, many floats are also inspired by religion, daily life national and international political events from the past year.

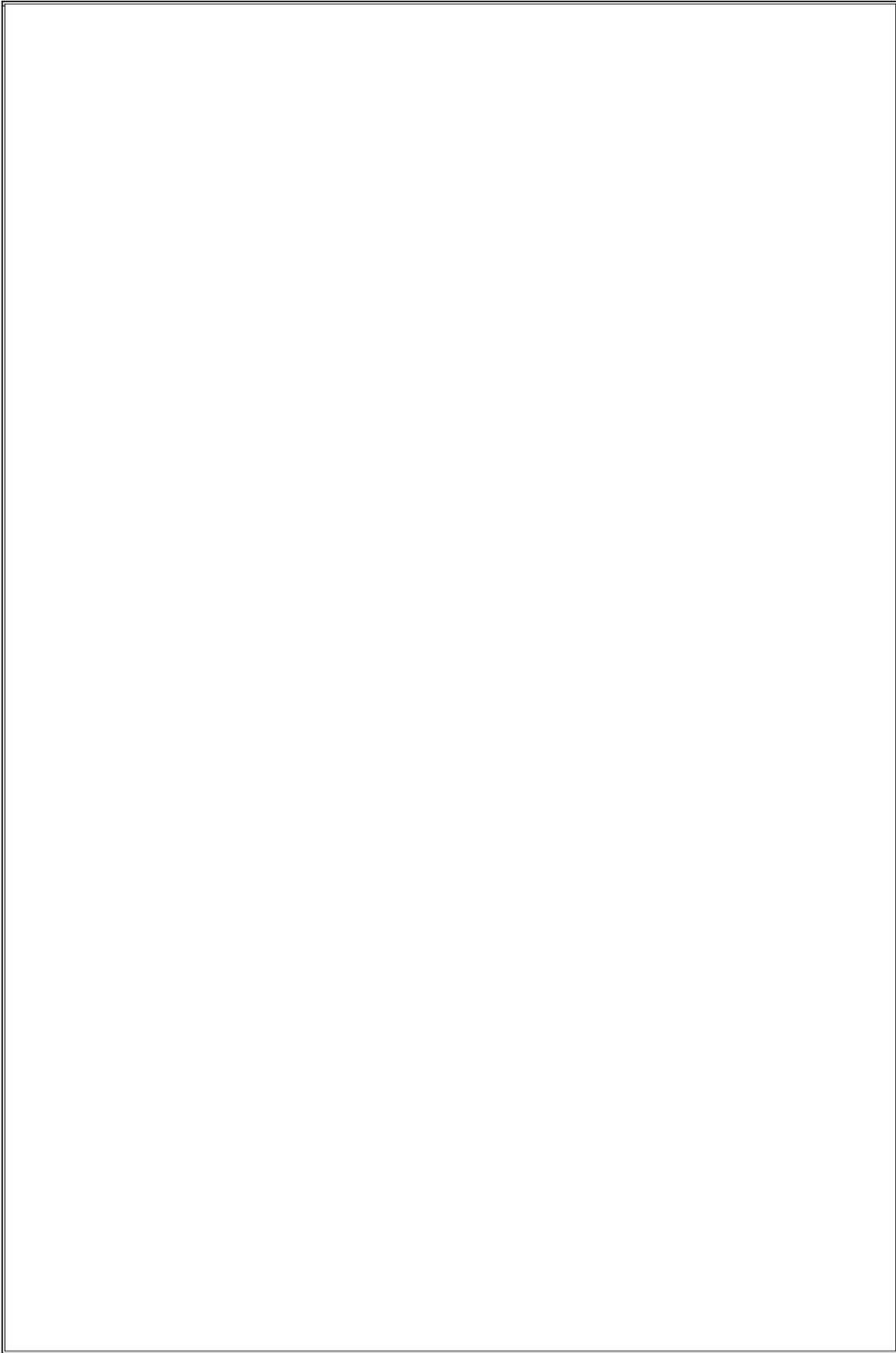
bolic end around 2 a.m. with the burning of the *Peppi 'Nuappa* puppet in piazza Scandaliato. I know it's late but really, it's worth it!

For more information and detailed schedule call the following numbers: Sciaccia City Hall 0925-20477/8 or 0925-86219 and Sciaccia Tourist Office 0925-22744 or 0925-84121.

How to get there

Sciaccia is about two hours and half from Catania. It is fairly easy to reach. Exit Caltanissetta on the Catania-Palermo highway. Take the Agrigento-Caltanissetta national road. Once you get to Agrigento.

Take the Agrigento-Sciaccia and follow directions for Sciaccia.





SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb						13	Black Facts Knowledge Bowl noon to 4 p.m. JOX	14	Valentine's Day Dinner ITT Call 62-4396				
						15	Ladies Sunday Special every Sunday in Feb., Ladies bowl for free including shoes	16	Presidents' Day	17	Scrapbooking Club 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Teen Center	18	205 Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing Youth Center
22	Wintertime Flea Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. NAS I Gym	23	Board Game Day Mineo Rec Center	24	Craig Karges: Extraordinist 6 p.m. free admission theater	25	205 Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing Youth Center	26	Photo Safari Meeting 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-3718	27	International Polar Bear Day 11 a.m. get a free Polar Bear Ice Cream Sandwich while supplies last at Take 5	28	Palermo ITT Call 624-4396
29	Agrigento Valley of the Temples & S. Ieone Beach ITT Call 624-4396	1	March	2	Intermural 5-on-5 Soccer Starts Today	3		4		5	International Dineout: Catania by Night & Japanese Restaurant ITT Call 624-4396	6	Goofy Golf Tournery: 4 Person Scramble tee time 9 a.m. Il Picciolo Golf Club Call 624-2710

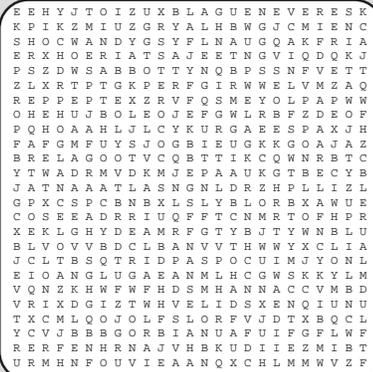
THURSDAY	Sat., Feb. 14	Mon., Feb. 16	Tues., Feb 17	Thurs., Feb. 19	Fri., Feb. 20
Friday Call	Treat your special someone to an enchanting evening. ITT will provide transportation to a romantic restaurant for a Valentine's dinner with your sweetheart. Call 624-4396	Washington's Birthday	Hit the slopes of Piano Battaglia in Palermo with AU. Choose from skiing, snowboarding, sledding or just playing in the snow. Call 624-4396. Celebrate Michael Jordan's birthday at 11 a.m. Free cake and party favors in Take 5 while supplies last.	Witness the festival of San Corrado Festival in Noto. Then marvel at all the baroque architecture. Call ITT at 624-4396.	Ladies Night from 4 to 9 p.m. Latin Night from 8 p.m. to midnight at The Crater Pub
Fri., Feb. 13	Go on a shopping trip to Catania with ITT. Be sure to bring plenty of Euro. Call ITT at 624-4396				





Word Find

Famous Pairs part two



- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| ABBOTT | BEN | FAUNA | HYDE | WATKINS |
| ABEL | BUGS | FLORA | JACK | |
| ADAM | BURNS | GRETAL | JECKYLL | |
| ALLEN | CAIN | GUENEVERE | JERRY | |
| AMOS | CLEOPATRA | HANNA | JILL | |
| ANDY | COSTELLO | HANSEL | LANCELOT | |
| ANTHONY | CROSBY | HARDY | LAUREL | |
| ASTAIRE | DAFFYDUCK | HOLMES | PEPPER | |
| BARBARA | EVE | HOPE | SALT | |

Palermo
ITT
Call 624-4396

Fri., Feb. 20

SCHOOL NEWS

Auction for sports memorabilia coming

By Senior Lekisha James



Shoppers peruse the items for sale at last year's yearbook auction.

The Sigonella community will again have a chance to buy signed sports memorabilia at a silent auction outside the commissary this coming spring. The exact dates will be announced later.

Since the beginning of the school year, the Stephen Decatur High School yearbook staff has worked diligently writing various sports teams and companies asking for donations or signed goods. Although there were many great things offered at the first auction in November, there will be much more selection this time around.

Unlike the first auction, the yearbook staff has an idea of what the people want and what they do not want. Signed memorabilia was the favorite. This time around the yearbook hopes to have more signed memorabilia, not just from sports teams and players, but from famous people and NASCAR Racing, which happens to have many fans at NAS Sigonella. NASCAR Racer Larry Foyt has already donated five signed hats, four signed shirts, and a signed uniform shirt, which he wore in his 14th place finish at Homestead. Other people and companies that have been contacted are Microsoft, Quaker Oats,

and basketball all-stars.

At a silent auction, the prospective buyer lists how much he or she is willing to pay for the item. Others may then beat the price until the auction closes when the last and highest bidder gets the item. The highest price paid at the first auction was \$375, which was for San Diego Padres game-worn jersey. Other items went for as low as two dollars.

Not only auctions are new for the staff this year, but the computer program used to design the yearbook is new as well. The yearbook students promise a bigger and better yearbook. It is going to feature 32 pages of color and ads in the back. Like last year, the color pages will include senior pictures and student memory collages. Whole page or part page ads will be sold. For ad prices contact Shawn McCarthy at sigyearbook@hotmail.com

The money earned through auctions, fundraising and sales to date is still not enough to cover the cost of the yearbook. Mr. Shawn McCarthy, the yearbook teacher, and students of the yearbook class, are now selling yearbooks. They were sold for \$40, but that was the Christmas special, and now the books are back to their normal price of \$45. Without fund raisers, yearbooks would cost \$65. Support for fundraisers makes the yearbook affordable for everyone. The Yearbook Staff would like to thank all that supported the first auction and hope that you will join them again for the next one. If you have any items that you will like to donate for the auction or know of anyone that would be able to help the yearbook staff obtain items for the auction contact the email address above.

TRIVIA

- 1) Who was the Civil War's youngest general?
- 2) What Arizona city is named after a local Indian tribe legend?
- 3) Who is known as the father of existentialism?
- 4) What is Rhadophobia?
- 5) Representing "cheerfulness" or "fidelity," topaz is the birthstone of which month?

(Answers on page 11)

Movie Connection

2004's Theater Schedule

<p>Friday, Feb. 13</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Stuck on You (PG-13)**</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>Paycheck (PG-13)**</i></p>	<p>Monday, Feb. 16</p> <p>3:30 p.m. <i>Paycheck (PG-13)</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. <i>The Missing (R)</i></p>
<p>Theater Closed Tuesdays</p>	
<p>Saturday, Feb. 14</p> <p>1 p.m. <i>Honey (PG-13)</i></p> <p>3:30 p.m. <i>Love Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13)</i></p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Stuck on You (PG-13)</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, Feb. 18</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Timeline (PG-13)**</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>Some Things Gotta Give (PG-13)</i></p>
<p>Sunday, Feb. 15</p> <p>1 p.m. <i>The Haunted Mansion (PG)</i></p> <p>3:30 p.m. <i>Timeline (PG-13)</i></p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Paycheck (PG-13)</i></p>	<p>Thursday, Feb. 19</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Veronica Geurin (R)*</i></p> <p>8 p.m. <i>Love Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13)</i></p>
<p>Friday, Feb. 20</p> <p>6 p.m. <i>Paycheck (PG-13)</i></p> <p>8:30 p.m. <i>The Last Samurai (R)**</i></p>	

** Future Release ** Sneak Preview ** Last Showing
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at x4248)

I Thought My Spirit Could Fly

The assignment was to write a poem from the perspective of a captured African who is sitting in a prison cell on the west coast of Africa in the late 1700s. The poem describes what the individual was doing prior to her capture, the capture itself, her journey to the west coast of Africa, and the conditions in the holding cell at the slave port.

By Miah Saunders, 8th Grade

As we ran, we laughed, my friends and I on that hateful day.

The sun shone bright and clear, kissing our skins with its hot rays, while the breeze cooled them like whispers of secrets, that we can never tell.

We walked slowly through the forest, just talking and laughing.

Kia, Mare, Luki, and I, had been playing together, away from everyone. Away in our own little world.

My world turned upside down as soon as the bird could lift its wings and fly. Men jumped from the bushes and the rest was like a blur.

We tried to fight, but they were too strong. Rope wrapped around our necks and arms like claws trapping you in its clutch.

There were five tall men. Two of their skin was light and the other's skins were dark.

Just as a blow struck my head I had time to wonder why someone so horrible, and mean could have the same skin as mine, before my world clouded to black.

I woke as a sharp sting flared on my back to my hips, making my eyes water. Hot pain. Hot agony. Another strike and I surged to my feet, murder in my eyes.

As I was unconscious the men had worked the four of us into chains. The chains weren't only chaining my body, but my spirit and soul as well. The chains jingled as I shifted, the shackles around my wrists biting through the skin. Pain, so much pain.

My right arm was chained to Kia and my left arm was chained to Luki. Our necks were chained together. The silver glittered in the hot sun as it fell on us, no longer holding the warmth as before.

The chains clinked as a whip cracked again on my back, urging us to move. Pain, pain, pain.

We walked, as our captors walked and rode on wagons. Pain enveloped my legs in a tight blanket, but I refused to stop. My throat burned from the lack of water, and my tummy. Even if I tried I would have been severely beaten with those whips. So I stay quiet and silently hate all those who have done this to me.

The sunset, glowing blood red, and night came, and day came again, and the night came again. Four weeks passed and still we walked, our feet busted and bleeding. Through it all my anger burned brighter.

We had past the trees two weeks ago, and were crossing the treeless forest. Dust crunched under my feet, and my anger turned into cold rage.

We arrived at a stone castle, we were not in Gambia any more, my home country long behind us. We were in Banjul, or "Elminia" as they called it.

They locked me and my friends in a crowded cell filled with others like us. Captives. Many cried hysterically pleading, praying, to be saved. The poor souls didn't know that they were not going to ever be free.

A smell of urine, waste, and vomit reached my nose and finally I let loose. I retched. My heart shattered, and finally I saw the truth.

I will never leave here, and if I did I would never see my family, my village, my beloved home ever again. My body felt cold and detached. My mother had once said my spirit was so carefree that it could fly like a hawk. I had believed her. But as I huddled near my friends for warmth I realized my spirit would never fly again.



Budget from page 3

agement & Comptroller, Director, Fiscal Management Division (NS2).

With a 3.5 percent pay raise across-the-board, continued improvements in the basic allowance for housing (BAH) and family housing, and a clear path for advancement, the budget aims to improve Quality of Life for Sailors and their families.

BAH programs are funded to further reduce out-of-pocket expenses from 3.5 percent to zero. The budget also supports public-private venture initiatives continuing to reduce inadequate family housing, in order to meet the goal of zero inadequate family housing units by FY07.

Training Transformation funding was also included, to continue improving professional development through transitioning training concepts and methods from traditional schoolhouse classroom instruction, to more efficient processes involving advanced simulators, trainers and computer-based interactive curriculums.

The FY05 budget sizes the force to levels that reflect technology and efficiency existing in today's Navy and the Navy of the future, providing a deployable Battle Force of 290 ships for FY05. LCS and DDX programs will help achieve the right mix of ships to meet changing asymmetric threats and increase ship construction rate to 9.6 ships per year from FY05 - FY09.

New manning practices, including altering the workforce mix and efficiencies gained through technology, supports the projected reduction in manning to an Active Duty End Strength reduction of 7,900 personnel.

High in priority are investments in shipbuilding, aircraft procurement and transformational capabilities and technology.

Exercise, page 8

Exercising during a lunch break or on your way to do errands may help you add physical activity to a busy schedule. Doing your exercise routine with a friend or a family member can help make it fun, and having a partner to encourage you can help you stick to it.

Is warming up and cooling down absolutely necessary? Yes! You should always start an exercise session with a gradual warm-up period. During this time (about five to 10 minutes), you should slowly stretch your muscles first, and then gradually increase your level of activity. For example, begin walking slowly and then pick up the pace.

After you are finished exercising, cool down for about five to 10 minutes. Again, stretch your muscles and let your heart rate slow down gradually. You can use the same stretches as in the warm-up period.

Stretching exercises for you legs should be done during the warm up and cool down periods. Flexibility is just as important as strength and becomes even important as you age. If you are going to exercise your upper body, be sure to use stretching exercises for your arms, shoulders, chest and back.

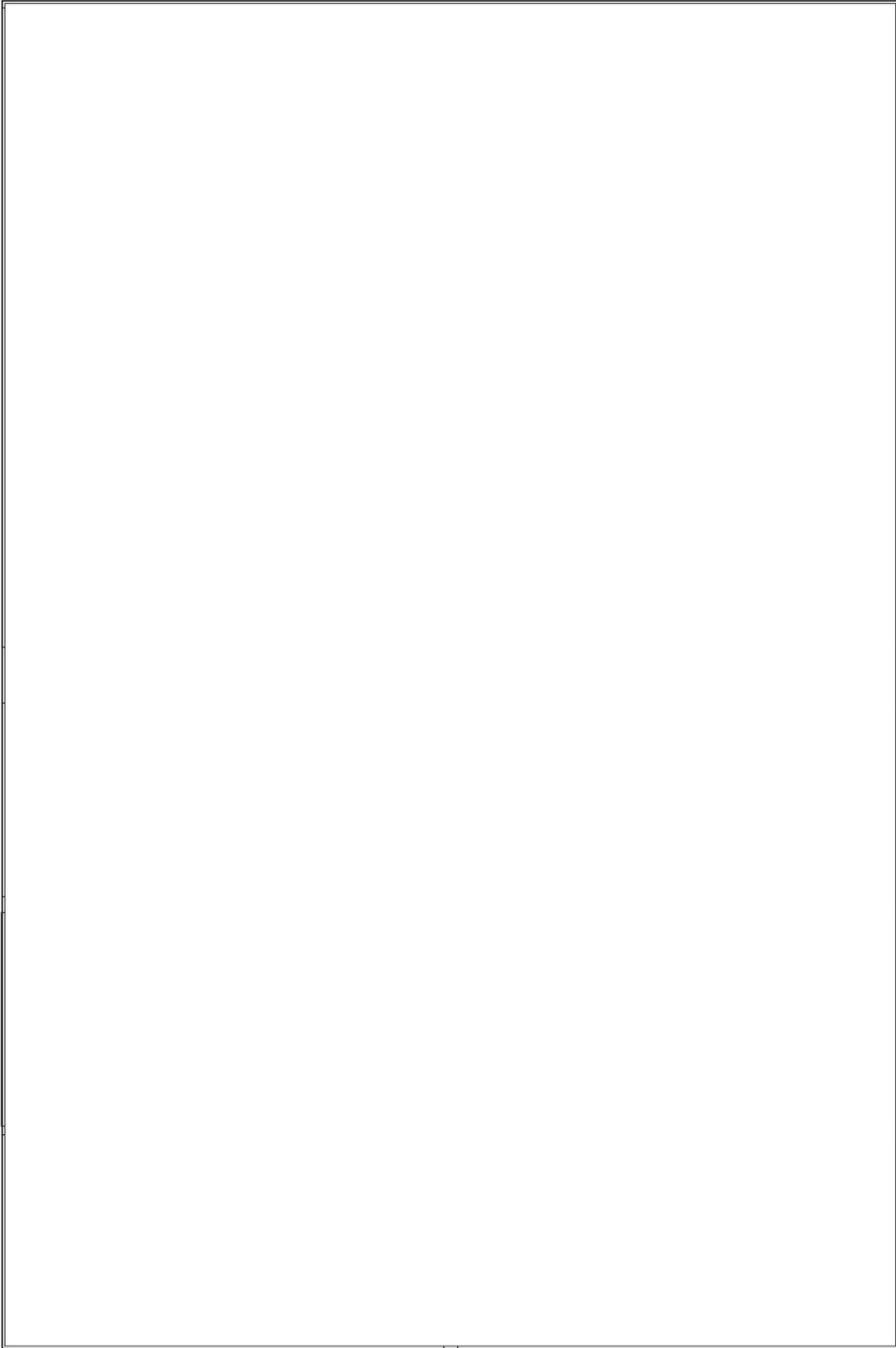
How hard do I have to exercise? Even small amounts of exercise are better than none at all. If all you can do is five minutes a day, start there and work up. Start with an activity you can do comfortably. As you become more used to exercising, try to keep your heart rate at about 60 to 85 percent of your "maximum heart rate." To figure out your target heart rate, subtract your age in years from 220 (which gives your maximum heart rate), and then multiply that number by 0.60 or 0.85. For example, if you are 40 years old, you would subtract 40 from 220, which would give you 180 (220 - 40=180). Then you would multiply this number by either 0.60 or 0.85, which would give you 108 or 153 (180 x 0.60=108 and 180 x 0.85=153).

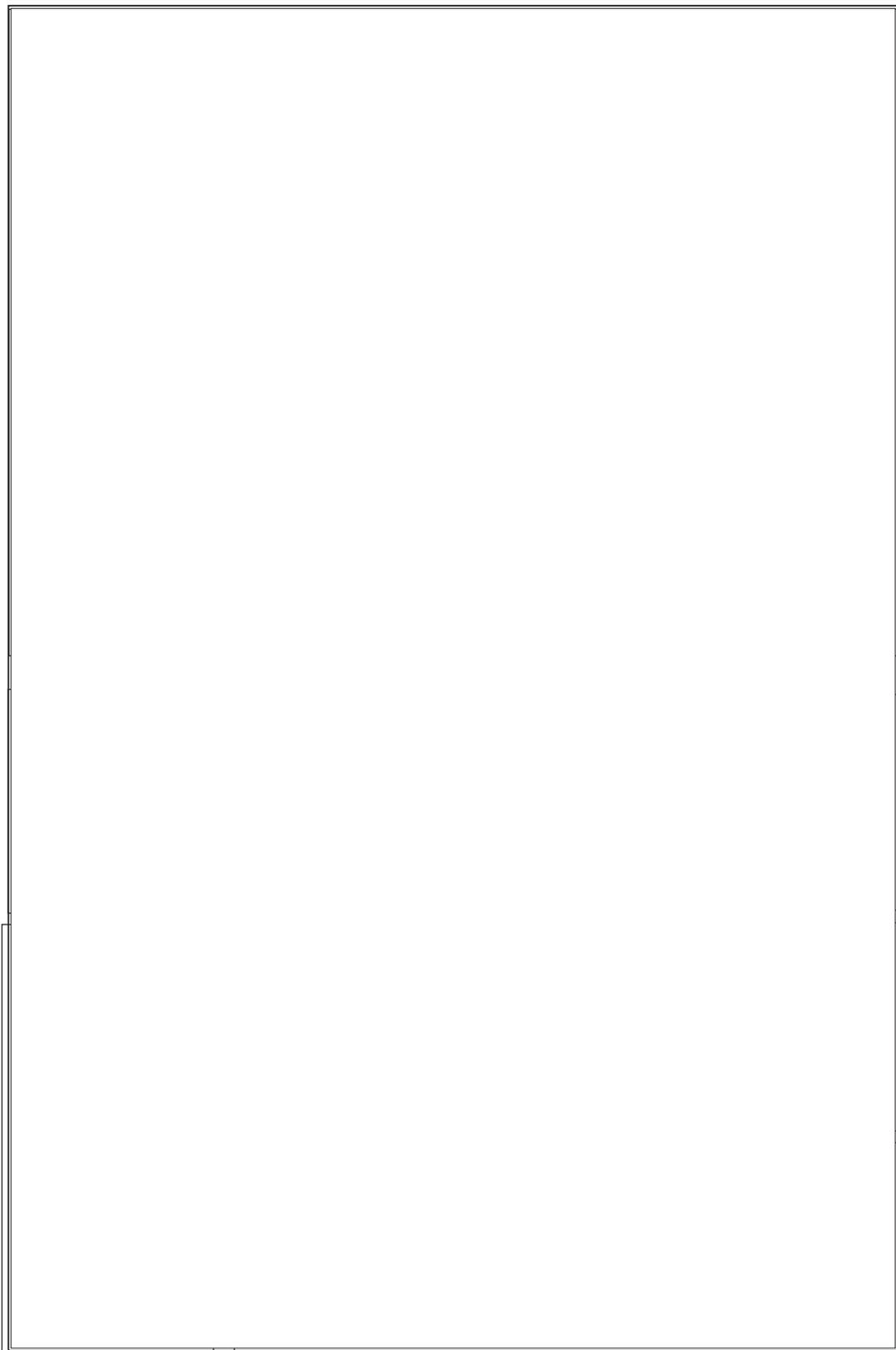
When you first start your exercise program, you should use the lower number (0.60) to calculate your target heart rate. Then, as your conditioning gradually increases, you may want to use the higher number (0.85) to calculate your target heart rate. Check your pulse by gently resting two fingers on the side of your neck and counting the beats for one minute. Use a watch with a second hand to time the minute. You should be able to carry on a moderate conversation while exercising. If you are too short of breath to do this, lower your intensity.

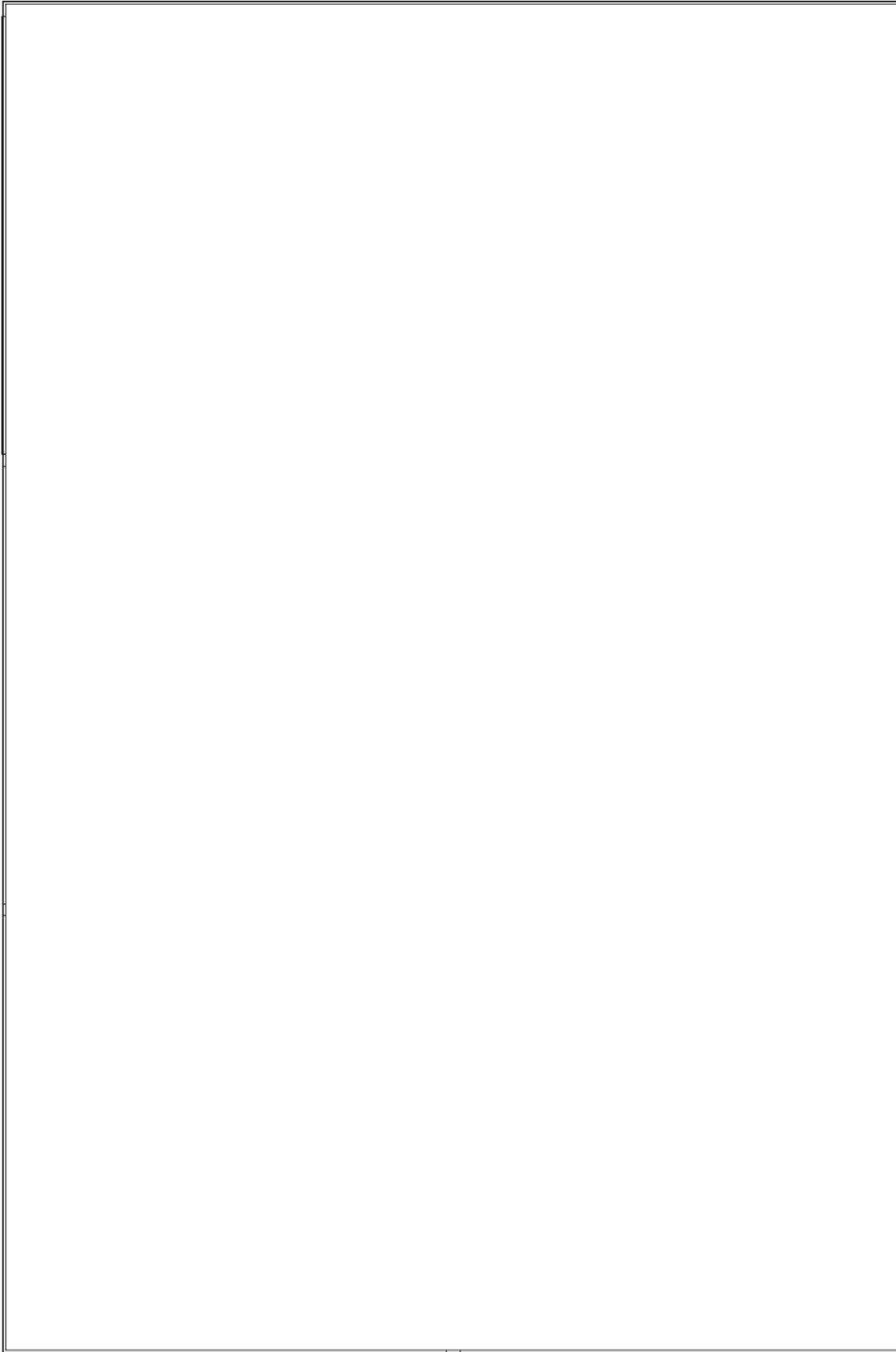
How do I avoid injuring myself? The safest way to keep from injuring yourself is to avoid trying to do too much too soon. Begin with an activity that is easy for you, such as walking. Do it for a few minutes a day or several times a day if you cannot do a sustained 20 minutes. Then slowly increase the time and level of activity. For example, increase how long you walk over several weeks. If you feel sore or excessively tired, ease up somewhat on the level of exercise, or take a day off to rest. It is okay to feel sore. You should not feel too sore to function at home or on your job. Try not to give up entirely even if you don't feel great right away! Talk with your doctor if you have questions or think you have injured yourself seriously.

What else can I do to help with exercising? Stop using tobacco. This includes smokeless tobacco, pipes, cigars, and cigarettes. Stop it all. If you don't do anything else for your health, do this one thing. Stopping tobacco use is one of the healthiest choices you can ever make for yourself and your family.

Where can I find more information? If you have access to the Internet, you can go to www.familydoctor.org, www.hoptechno.com/book11.htm, and health.yahoo.com/health. This article is adapted from a handout found at www.familydoctor.org entitled "Exercise: How to Get Started."







*By Lt. J.g. John Ferrari
Staff Writer*

St. Agata from page 1

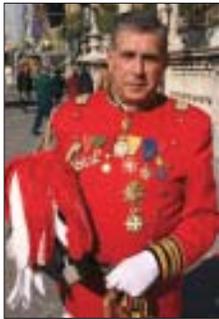
St. Agatha from Istanbul to Catania," Maccarrone said. This took place during the year 1126. "They were wearing nightdress" and everyone came out into the street to see the relics when they came to Catania. So that's why now we have these white tunics." Women wear green tunics and men wear white.

"Everything revolves around the concept of voto," Maccarrone said. "Voto is what you ask to the saint...for example you ask for a grace for somebody that you care about to heal. Then, if you receive this grace from the saint, you in turn make the promise to carry this candle. It's to thank the saint for something you received."

Taking part in the festival is of importance to the various organizations. "It's a great satisfaction because it comes from our devotion to the saint," said Don Antonello Di Benedetto, Prior of the Sovereign of the Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem. His group has been attending the festival since 1994.

The streets were lined with vendors selling things as diverse as plastic cartoon characters, to candles, to traditional candy. One could see vendors actually making the traditional torrone, or candy nougat, near the procession. Another tasty treat is the Olivette di Sant'Agata, or Saint Agatha olives. These represent the olive tree that miraculously sprouted where Agatha had stepped when she was on her way to stand trial before the Roman governor Quintianus.

At the end of the day, a large fireworks display lit up the sky, as if to show St. Agatha that there are people down on earth still thinking of her.



Top: The various organizations and associations throughout Catania display their colorful banners during the procession on Feb. 3.

Top left: Several Candelori line the street outside Piazza Duomo (Elephant Square) waiting to enter the piazza.

Middle of page: Don Antonello Di Benedetto, Prior of the Sovereign of the Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Above: One of the many heavy candelori (tall wax candles surrounded by a wooden structure) that were carried through the streets of Catania.

Right: The bishop of Catania waves to onlookers during the Feb. 3 St. Agatha Festival procession through the streets of Catania.





Photo by CCI Steve Vignare



Photo by PPI/SVA Steve Cournois



Photo by CCI Steve Vignare



Top: Girls dressed as angels walk past a crowds of onlookers during the festival near Elephant Square in Catania.

Top middle: Many of the heavy candelori (tall wax candles surrounded by a wooden structure) are carried down Via Etna for the giro interno (internal tour) of Catania.

Bottom middle: One of the 18th century Catania Senate Carriages (Carrozzu du sinatu) waits in the street during the Feb. 3 St. Agatha Festival while curious onlookers pet the horses.

Bottom: City of Catania flag wavers and bands

The Spirit of the Festival

By Alexis James
Staff Writer

I just moved to Sicily. Fortunately someone in our office decided they trusted me enough to send me out—with another volunteer journalist in the office—to the Saint Agata (Agatha) Festival.

After arriving to a deserted Piazza del Duomo and finding people walking in every direction, some accommodating Sicilians must have felt sorry for the so-obviously-American-journalists. They attempted to help us find the hoards of people we had been told would be following the remains of Saint Agatha, but being here for only two weeks doesn't allow much time for learning the language. No one should have trusted that our broken Italian would get us through the streets of Catania!

Finally, we were forced to call back to the office, ask for one of our Italian speakers and hand the phone over to the unsuspecting Sicilians. In the end, our new friends wanted to keep in touch with us through e-mail, in spite of the fact they spoke as much English and we did Italian.

Still unsure of the exact location of the Saint and her followers—Italian street "signs" are, well, seemingly non-existent when looking for a desired street name—we began following the people in white robes who we knew had something to do with the festival. I recalled reading something in the "Sicilian News" section of the Signature about the meaning of the different colored robes, and wished I could remember that information. We feebly asked several more people for directions, and communicating through gestures and nods, found our way to the correct alley.

I had perused the brightly colored pictures in the Saint Agata brochure many times, it had been lying around our office for weeks. But even those depictions, showing hundreds of pilgrims gathered around the cart which holds the remains of the Saint, did not prepare me for what met my eyes when we turned the corner.

Robed participants formed what looked like a thick, white line leading from the cart with Saint Agata's remains, all the way down the street. Local devotees pushed in around the people in robes, making it nearly impossible to get closer to the Saint.

We forced ourselves as close as we could, then waited. All around us, people were chanting, following the lead of those in the robes, giving honor to their patron Saint. They were offering candles, money, even lifting their children up to through the procession to be blessed by Saint Agatha.

As the cart carrying her remains drew closer, we saw a golden image of the Saint adorning an ornate gold box. All around were candles and flowers, and more were being added with each person the cart passed. People pushed harder, the chanting became louder and more frequent, and although I couldn't understand the words, the sentiments they expressed were obvious.

This was their Saint, their heroine—they wanted nothing but to honor her, be close to her. The feeling of awe and reverence was infectious.

And I was glad that I had been given the opportunity to come to the Festival. It wasn't a reporting assignment, it wasn't an article that had to be written. It was an experience.



Photo by PPI/SVA Steve Cournois

A priest holds a child over to touch the effigy of St. Agatha during the Festival of St. Agata in Catania.

2004 SEABEE Ball March 13

Tickets on sale now
 PRICES: E5 AND BELOW \$10; E6: \$15;
 E7 - 04: \$20; 05 - 06: \$25;
 Government Employees: \$20
 UA3 - UA1: \$15; UA4 and all UC: \$10



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Ads must be 40 words or less.
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Job offer as sales representative in Sigonella Main Sale Electronic Department for Video and Hi-Fi. Open to American Retired or dependent. Fax info to 082-3762859.

Automotive

Peugeot 405. 1800cc. A/C. Motor in good condition. 1,500 Euro. Call 339-4011979.

1987 Volvo 240. Mechanically sound. \$1000

O.B.O. Call Joe x5630 or 335-7475013.

1994 BMW 318i Cabrio. Black. 147.00 km. Asking \$7,500. Call Stefano at 340-6005063.

Mercedes 300 se. Metallic beige. A/C unit, two alarms, hi-fi + CD player, full optional, perfect condition (body & engine). Asking 5,500-Euro O.B.O. Call 340-8218708.

1989 BMW 325-IS. US SPEC, automatic, motor and body in good condition. \$2,950. Call 335-6428248.

1992 Renault Chamade 19. 16-valve engine, black, 4-dr, 5-speed. New rebuilt transmission, new radiator, and new muffler. PW, PS, A/C and brand-new AM/FM CD Player w/new speakers. Runs great. \$2,500 O.B.O. Call Ray at x5005 or 339-7586675.

1991 Mitsubishi Mirage. A/C, PS. Comes with safety vest and triangles. AFI plated w/Italian cover plates. Needs a little work, but runs ok. Asking \$1,700. Call Craig at 095-309911 or 333-1322523.

1991 Fiat Tempra. Just put on new tires. Brand new clutch only six months old. Replaced the head on the engine and just put in a new battery and has a 12 disc CD changer. Great running car has some body damages but very reliable. \$1,500. Call Matt at 340-5930599.

1991 Ford Escort Station Wagon. Red. New engine. A/C, AM/FM/Cassette Radio, PWSW, PW. Not AFI plated. \$1,500 O.B.O. Call Rosanna at 6698.

1968 Fiat 500 Giardinetta. Beautifully preserved, totally original vintage Fiat 500 Station wagon. Suicide doors and convertible top. Runs and drives great! \$4,000 O.B.O. Call x4599 or 093-1985084.

1994 Ford Ranger XLT Extended Cab. V-6, CD changer w/mtx subwoofer system, great reliable truck, body has been lifted 2". Asking \$6,500 O.B.O. Call Jason at 095-522242.

1990 Opel Kadett Station Wagon. Metallic gray, in very good conditions. Asking 1,000 Euro. Call Dante at x6041 or 347-7252937.

1982 Porsche 924. Silver color. Sunroof, good condition. \$2,000. Call Lilian at x5459 or 333-2733562.

1986 Jeep Suzuki Santana 4sJ41. 5-speed, comes with four road tires plus four off road tires. Excellent conditions. Asking 3,500 Euro O.B.O. Call Daniela at x3897, 335-5788131 or email idarico@sig.med.navy.mil.

2000 Volvo S40 (160 hp). Manual transmission, miles 48,900, automatic air conditioning, leather, check control panel, dual front side air bags, ASD (Anti Sliding Device), ABS (4 Wheel), AM/FM Stereo, oil & filters, just changed. Full optional and great conditions. \$10,800 O.B.O. Call Rick at x4690, 338-5326171 after 5 p.m.

1997 Honda Civic EX. Manual transmission, custom paint job black/blue, new battery, two new tires, sunroof, A/C, power windows/locks, alarm system, CD player, spoiler, lots of extras! \$6,700. Call x4576 or x3569 after hours.

1988 Fiat Panda. Red, AFI plated, standard transmission, brand new battery, great working condition, perfect for Sicilian driving, great on gas mileage. \$1,700 O.B.O. Call x4576 or after hours x3569.

1990 Fiat Croma. Grey, 4-dr, 2.0ltr. Fine Family Car, dependable and easy to maintain. New tires, battery, muffler, tune-up, fuel pump and more. Asking 2,000 Euros. Call 340-6003960.

2002 Honda Motorcycle. 650cc, 5-speed, shaft drive, hard bags, and fairing. Call x2725 during working hours, after hours, 335 8010257.

1995 Alfa Romeo 155 model. Twin spark, metallic dark gray. Full accessories. Excellent condition. 2,500 Euro. Call Sebastian at 339-5230640.

1998 Ford Windstar GL Van. 108,300 miles, great condition, fully loaded, AM/FM cassette stereo, A/C PW, PL, v-6, 3.8l. Comes with TV and VCR. Asking \$6,200 O.B.O. Call Ron at x0202 or 335-7385880.

1998 Honda NSR. Perfect beginners bike, great shape, new paint job. \$1,650 O.B.O. Call Ryan at 340-5743968 or 347-6962383.

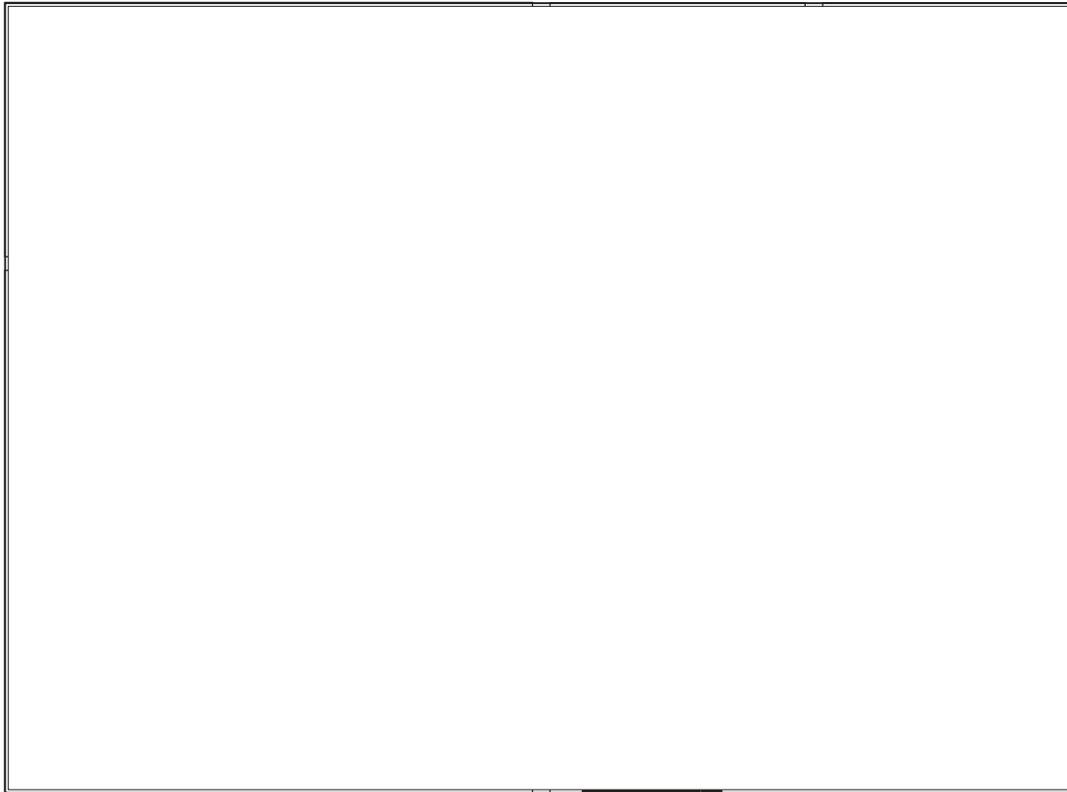
1985 Volkswagen Vanagon GL. Great Condition, newly rebuilt engine. Asking \$2,000 O.B.O. Call Ross at x5966 or 349-5797648.

Toyota Avenis Verso. Seven-passenger minivan. 60,000 km. Silver Sensor for reverse parking. In excellent condition. 19,000 Euro. Call Simona at 095-7274013.

1995 Innocenti 1000cc. 5-dr, radio, bordeaux color. Original owner. Economical, great condition and reliable car. Asking \$1,200. Call Grazia at x2392 or 333-9486354.

2000 BMW 328ci. U.S. specs. 5-speed, immaculate condition. White with black leather int. All options for model year including GPS system. Only 28,000 mi. \$25,000. Call Jon at 333-4010308.

1992 VW Passat. Dark gray. Good condition. New tires and brakes. PW, PS, PL, A/C. Paid \$3,000. Asking \$2,600. Call Jeremy at x5143, 347-5081962, 095-309176 or email kriderj@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.



Send II Mercato advertisements to sigosignature@yahoo.com

1996 Fiat Punto. Blue. Excellent condition. 77k. CD player. Asking \$3,400. Call Mike at x6653. Available after Feb. 27.

1989 BMW318is. Red. AFI plated. 2-dr., A/C. PW. PL, sunroof security alarm. Maintenance records. Great condition, very reliable. \$3,500. Call Jason at x9240 or x1491.

2001 Harley Davidson 1200 Custom Sportster. 12,800 miles, in good condition. Concord purple/diamond ice in color. Blue Book value is \$7,700. Will take \$7,000 firm. Call x0340 or 340-7710523.

Harley Custom Softail Big Bore (95ci) w/ performance heads, Mikuni 42, Andrews TW44G gear Drive cams, fueling oil pump/lifters w/ 14,000 miles on rebuild. Custom wheels, bars, lights and suspension. \$18,000 neg. Call Walt at 339-6932735.

1983 BMW 320i V6. Grey. 2dr with 176461 km. Car is in very nice condition inside and out and runs great. Pioneer CD player with pioneer speakers. Close to new tires, clutch and battery. A/C needs minor repair. Asking \$1,800. Available Mar. 10. Would like to sell and do paperwork a few days prior. Call James at x1418.

1991 Volvo Station Wagon. Manual transmission. New tires, heated seats, A/C and heat, CD player with remote control. Excellent condition. great family car. \$4,000 O.B.O. Call 1274.

1996 Chevy Lumina. 4-dr, automatic, AFI plated, EFI 3.1 V6 engine, 83,300 miles, heat, A/C. All powered, child back doors safety glass/locks, remote locking, kept in excellent condition. Asking \$4,500 O.B.O. Call x0690.

HRO

The HRO announcements and application forms are now on the internet
<http://www.sicily.navy.mil/positions/hro>

Recreation Aid, GS-0189-03, MWR Department, Recreation Services Division, Youth Activities Branch, various location. Announcement number SIG03-RECAID. Open continuous.

Education AID/Technician, GS-1702-03/04, MWR Department, Child Development Center. Announcement number SIG03-EDTECH. Open continuous.

Contract Specialist, GS-1102-13, Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC). Announcement number SIG03-020183. Open until filled.

Materials Handler, WG-6907-05, MWR, Business Operations Division, Warehouse Branch. Announcement number SIG03-024089. Open until filled.

Pets

Free: two adult female spayed cats. Kept indoors. Both active and affectionate. Would like both to go to the same home but will separate if necessary. Call Kenneth at x3558.

Free to a loving home. Frisky, warm and affectionate, and Angora, pure white family cats. All shots up to date and chipped. PCS'ng and cannot bring with. Call 095-306442 or 333-3648723.

Free to good home: 7-month-old female black Lab/Shepard mix and 2-year-old female yellow Lab mix, both very friendly and affectionate, chipped, spayed, and all shots current. Require loving home willing to give them the attention they need. One kennel, leashes, and toys. Call 095-7913144 or 347-8762040.

For Sale

Soloflex home gym combo - two machines for the price of one. Soloflex muscle machine and Soloflex Rockit each with accessories. Asking: \$1,200 O.B.O. Call x1207 or x2821.

Tan overstuffed leather chair, brand new, \$350; tan L-shaped sofa w/ pillows in excellent condition, \$500; Italian queen size mattress. Like new, \$75, free frame; large entertainment unit, light wood color, \$50. Call Matthew or Aimee at x1421.

Brand new Hooked on Phonics Reading and Math sets. Only level I opened all the rest have

never been used. Paid \$900. Call x0138.

55-gallon aquarium, including fish, iron stand, and all accessories complete, \$100. Dining room table and four chairs in very good condition, \$75. Call 095-306442 or 333-3648723.

Two large brand new men's Italian coats. Paid \$500 Euro for both, selling for \$150 each. New Italian jacket, \$35. Call Thomas at 095-7131337.

9x12 burgundy colored carpet, 1 year old. \$100. Bought from the NEX for \$170. In good condition, no tears. From a non-smoking, one child, no pets home. Will need cleaning...selling because of interior color changes. Call Kimberly at x3789 or x3853.

Microsoft eTower 733i with CDrom and 56k modem. Packard Bell full color monitor. Hewlett Packard DeskJet 694C color printer. Keyboard, mouse, standard speakers. Bought two yrs ago for \$700, but need to sell. Asking \$450 O.B.O. Call Jon or Pam at 095-998570.

Burgundy carpet with floral cream color designs 46x70, \$15. Set of nightstand Italian lamps dark wood base with burgundy top material, \$15. Wood base table lamp with cream color shade, \$10. Call Maria at x1365.

Italian made wooden crib and change table for baby. Includes bedding pillows, comforters, sheets, etc. Change table comes with bathtub and plastic mattress. In excellent condition. \$600 O.B.O. and another bathtub called (onda) for newborn, \$25. Call Pat at 095-308510 after 5 p.m.

Yamaha Electric Guitar and AMP, 110 volt only. Just three months old, only played with once. All accessories included. \$150. Brown Ashley couch, only one year old. Asking \$100. Call Jason at 095-522242.

Neptune Officer Jacket 46 R, with liner \$50. New, never worn. Just dry-cleaned. \$70. (NEX price) Sell for \$50. Call Ken x 6957 or 335-7016868.

Love seat, \$50; sleeper sofa, \$125; Papasan chair, \$30; desk, \$5; five shelf bookcase, \$10. Call x1382.

Bombola heaters, \$35; Bombola tanks, \$5; electric heater, \$5; Safety 1st Child bed rail, \$10; Propane BBQ tank, \$10; assorted light fixtures, \$10; Vespa/scooter helmet, \$45; very large Italian made presepe, \$250. Call 095-472199.

Italian bedroom furniture: two nightstands with dresser and mirror. Natural wood finish. In mint condition, very nice. \$450 for everything. Call Angelina at 339-6253052 after 6 p.m.

Pair of Stage 9 Independent Skateboard trucks. Silver with 129-mm/ 7.75 in. axle. Brand new and have never been used. \$34. Call Will at 095-472199.

Blues Clues twin bedding. Includes reversible comforter, printed sheets, skirt, two pillow cases, one set solid red bedding, skirt, two pillow cases and three red Valances. \$75. Simmons maple wood baby crib - no mattress, \$250; oak dining table with six chairs, and extension leaf. Call x0149.

220 Appliances; iron, \$10; waffle maker, \$10; Braun coffee maker, \$10; radio, \$10; juicer, \$5; transformers, \$10; Nintendo 64 w/five controllers and games, \$40; Nintendo w/controllers and seven games, \$35; assorted Gameboy games. Call 095-472199 or e-mail dguarno23@hotmail.com.

AFN decoder box w/satellite dish and cable, \$450; 1000 volt transformer, \$60; 1500 volt transformer, \$75; 220 alarm clock/radio/CD player, \$40; 220 blow dryer (Braun 1800 watt), \$15; 220 iron (Braun 1400 watt), \$30; medium size dog kennel, \$15. Call 335-474533.

Small computer desk/work station, \$80; Weber grill, \$15; Nokia cell phone, charger, and earpiece, \$50; Braun 220v Iron, \$10. Call x1394.

Baby night & day bottle warmer (cools and warms bottles). Computer parts: ATX 300 watt power supply, \$20, Acer Internal CD burner 24x10x40, brand new, still in box, \$45; Internal CD-ROM 32x, \$10; Intel Pentium II, \$25 and Pentium III, \$50; memory chips 64MB, \$10 and 128MB, \$20; MicroStar and SuperMicro Motherboards, \$35 to \$85; Creative SoundBlaster sound card, \$25; Ghost Recon Gold Edition Computer game, \$20. Call x3634 or 095-563634.

