



OUR DAYS IN GERMANY

Comenius Meeting
26th February- 1st March 2003

WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY

08:40 Hey! The plane is taking off from Pisa airport! What a wonderful experience is waiting for us?!

10.30 We have just arrived and it's so cold!!!
Let's have something to eat in a shopping centre

16:00 The German teachers are bringing us to the meeting point and let's have a look at our partners! Which one will be mine?? Yvonne, Michelle, Sandra or Miriam? Anyway, hello everybody!

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY

How hard waking up so early in the morning!!!

08:00 Some of us are entering a German school for the first time... I've never seen such a big and new building!

And now let's meet the rest of the group: the Hungarian students..

At this point we are really ready to talk about the project:
COMENIUS PROJECT!

11:00 Visit to the textile factory "Mayer" and then lunch in its canteen all together!

16.00 Now it's time for an important meeting... the Mayor is going to show us OBERTSHAUSEN

The last straw will be the night... we'll join it for sure!

FRIDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY

08.00 Another day in the school attending the lessons and...

10.30 ... the final meeting to discuss the next issue of the magazine ... we are rather excited!

11.00 But what a shame presenting it to the whole institute!

15.00 We're pulling ourselves together only thanks to the wine we have just drunk: actually we are in the Kupferberg distillery in Mainz.

In this mood we'll dance through the whole night: great!

SATURDAY, 1ST MARCH

The hardest waking-up in those days...!

09.00 Leaving from the metropolitan station... we mustn't cry!! (even if we're so sorry about going away!)

10.00 Arrive in Frankfurt and visit to the Rembrandt Gallery

12.00 Let's have a look in the city centre!

20.10 We're in Hahn airport waiting for the plane that doesn't come...



Bye bye and see you soon !

Valentina Frassi, Martina Quagli, Eleonora Grilli, Sara Della Vista IV B/L

THE IRAQI WAR MAP

April 9th

Today happiness is in the air:

- ◆ On one end Iraqi people crowd the streets in exultation and finally have the illusion to be totally free.

But in reality freedom can't deal with pillage or plunders of cities, obviously.

- ◆ On the other, in the Western countries everyone seems to be glad of the war effects, even if first nobody agreed on it.

This general atmosphere of joy is in contrast with the infinity of peace demonstrations that took place all around the world only a few weeks ago, especially to savage the U.S. politics about Iraq.

More than in the past it is time to have no illusions about the real causes of this last terrible offensive.

Just now that so many people think democracy has been set up in Iraq, it's actually easier to believe the Americans are the only and brave defenders of human rights

But how can people persist in this conviction while reading the U.S. are the biggest weapons buyers and they hold the world record in making arms?

They effect 37% of the globe military expenses!
They produce 50% of world-wide war material!

What's difficult to confess is that our economy, like the American one, is largely based on military industry.

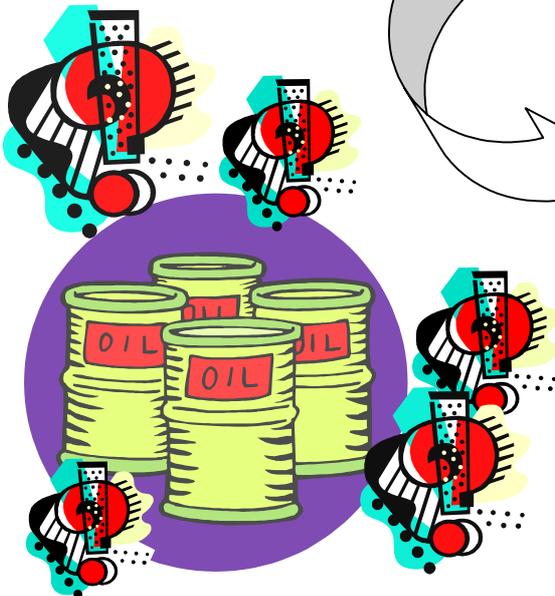
These are the bare facts.

The second world war is often said to have brought the world out of depression.
Some even suggest that capitalism needs wars because without them recession would always lurk on the horizon.
These are, on the contrary, only some hypotheses, but plausible perhaps.

Let's try to put two and two together:
the impact of the 11th September attacks damaged the world economy;
a war was probably necessary to improve it.

Bush's original justification for the military offensive was Iraq's alleged possession of weapon of mass destruction.
But, if Iraq's capacity to deploy such weapons militarily was already doubtful, now that war has ended it's more and more doubtful, considering that the arsenal expected to be found hasn't jumped out!!!

One thing's for sure:
Saddam misused his power to Iraqi population's detriment.
However, he's one among many dictators...
So why this dogged determination against him? Maybe because of oil interests???



WOMEN'S DAY

A misused feast



On 8th March we celebrate women's day. This happens every year... but ...do we really know why? Originally, on this day, people remembered the tragedy occurred in 1908, in New York, where several women, who worked in a textile industry, went on strike to protest against their bad working conditions. After some days, their employer shut them up in the factory and set fire to it, making everybody die. It was Rosa Luxemburg to propose this date in commemoration of those women.

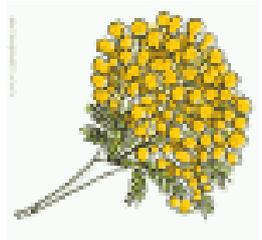
Nowadays unfortunately 8th March means for women to receive presents or go out for a meal with friends. It has become a consumer celebration; in fact florists and confectioners increase their sales and make huge profits.

Anyway, on this day, some female unions arrange marches or meetings to make public opinion aware of women's conditions in our society.

Not all around the world this tradition exists, but there are also some countries where it has different features. For instance, in Northern Greece husbands and wives swap roles on 8th January: it's an unusual and extreme festival, during which men are not allowed to go out because they have to stay at home doing the housework.

It goes without saying that one day a year isn't enough to improve women's condition as they need help and support in each moment of their life: under these terms, 8th March is misleading. We are wrong when we forget the conquests gained by the feminists at the beginning of 20th century, spoiling them with our shallow materialism.

We can conclude saying that women's day has lost its importance and its original and real meaning...is it necessary to behave like men to celebrate 8th March??...



Alice Citi and Martina Quagli IVB/L

On the 8th of March people celebrate the women's day. This is because on the on the 8th of March of many years ago, a fire broke out in a factory in Japan where only women worked. In the fire many women died.

Through the years the festivity has assumed a strange and different significance and the commemorative festivity has become a commercial venue. So it has been a tradition for many years that men and boys give women and girls a spring of mimosa.

Then, in recent times, a new tradition has been started.



Nowadays women and girls go with their friends to celebrate in pubs and discos in the evening or during the night, while their husbands or boyfriends stay at home.

On this day people remember the civil rights of women and make processions, meetings and give speeches about the issue.

But the real significance of this festivity and the memory of the dead women are disappearing.

Samuele Fabbri III C/L

GREAT INVENTORS OF TUSCANY



We have selected some of the most important inventors from Tuscany. We're very proud of them..!!!
Some of their inventions represent something we can take advantage from still today!

Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo was born on 15th April 1452 at Anchiano near Vinci in the Florence area. He was the illegitimate son of a notary and a young woman. He spent the most of his life in Italy, especially in Florence, but he moved to France in the last part of his life and he died there, on 2nd May 1519 at Cloux and was buried in the Church of St. Valentine at Amboise.

His great inventions, projects and discoveries can be divided into 4 main groups:

WAR MACHINES, such as the armoured car, the ladder for besieging walls, the scythed chariot, the ballista for hurling stones.

FLYING MACHINES, such as the flying ship, the anemometer and the anemoscope.

WATER AND LAND MACHINES, such as the boat with paddle wheels, the deep-sea diving suit.

Leonardo was also a great architect. Among his projects, we can mention the **Ideal City** and the **Castle Corners with Triple Defence System**.

Antonio Meucci

Antonio Meucci was born in Florence in 1808 and died in 1889 in the neighbourhoods of New York. In 1857 he projected his first great invention: the telephone and he got the patent over 10 years later. He was ignobly cheated and he was opposed by poverty for the renewal of the patent, and his invention was effectively exploited by professor Graham Bell, who swore the false and obtained all the advantages and the merits. The real importance of Meucci's contribution was lately avowed (1886) but in the meanwhile he spent the last days of his life in misery and poverty.



Galileo Galilei



He was born in 1564 in Pisa and he was the son of Vincenzo Galilei and Giulia Ammannati. His life was characterised by a continuous and profitable research in scientific field, especially astronomy and physics.

Among his inventions we can find the telescope, which is the greatest one because it let him make a lot of important discoveries in the astronomical field. He was able to see other planets such as Saturn and Venus.

Galileo's work "Dialogue concerning the two chief systems of the world - Tolemaic and Copernican" was banned by the Catholic Inquisition and he was condemned

after a trial to a lifelong imprisonment, although it amounted to house arrest thanks to someone's comprehension. Galileo died in early 1642 .

Only in 1992, 350 years after Galileo's death, Pope John Paul II gave an address on behalf of the Catholic Church in which he admitted that errors had been made by the theological advisors in the case of Galileo.

Galileo's telescope

This instrument is the result of the combination of two lenses, one plane -concave and the other plane -convex inside a tube. The lenses are placed with one close in the eye (ocular) and the other at the other end of the tube (objective). The invention can be imputed to artisans from Holland, but it was Galileo who improved the instrument, increasing its enlarging power and transforming it into a formidable instrument for astronomical research.

Alessandra Macelloni, Giada Vannucci V C/L

Afghan Women



The condition of Afghan women has remained unchanged for years. For a woman it's still very difficult to divorce from her husband. In fact the word of a man is worth much more than that of a woman, sexual violence is not punished by law because, according to the law if a woman makes resistance to a man the latter can't be accused of abusing her.

Honor right doesn't exist by law, but as a matter of fact, it is a tradition. Fathers can't choose husbands for their own daughters, but they do. If a daughter refuses her father's decision, he can have her put into prison or even kill her.

In Afghanistan women get married at 15 and men can divorce whenever they want , but for a woman it is not as easy. If a woman can't prove that her husband treats her badly she can be imprisoned for 18 months.

Women haven't civil rights. They must be represented by a man in every legal proceeding. If a woman wants to win a trial, she must have the support of all the men in her family, which is difficult as they generally believe that men are always right.

The only work they can do is the housework and bring up children because they are not educated. The birth of a daughter is seen as a misfortune because families in underdeveloped countries, where the question of a woman being the inferior race is rife, need strong sons to do their manual work.



Ferrini Erica III CL

C'EST LA VIE!!!

Today's expectations are terrifying! Everyday you are expected to reach the top in everything. No mistakes or uncertainties are ever allowed.

If you are able to achieve your aims you feel good and very good, but if you are not then you may get depressed and miserable.

In my life I have come to the point that perfection does not exist. Being always at the top is not an easy task because failures may be just round the corner. None of us is perfect.

In order to accept this piece of truth I have cultivated a sort of "Philosophy" which can be summed up with the popular saying "c'est la vie!"

I repeat it every time I face a difficult situation and I am not able to cope with it.

When pressures get too strong, when parents and teachers are too demanding, when you are afraid that you are not what other people expect you to be like, don't loose your heart and just say with me:

C'EST LA VIE!!!!



CARNIVAL TIME - FUN TIME

I'm from Santa Croce. I love my town and the carnival parades which every year take place there. That's why I have decided to describe the parades of this fantastic allegorical event and give an idea of what it is like.

This year is the 75th Santa Croce Carnival



COME ON ...AND HAVE FUN ALL TOGHETER!!!!!!!



Santa Croce Carnival is the oldest in the province of Pisa. A fancy dress parade is held on four consecutive Sunday afternoons. The start of the parade is signalled by a shot from a cannon. On the last Thursday before Lent there is a fireworks display along the banks of the river Arno.

Many of the costumes from Santa Croce Carnival are made of leather, the town's main industry.

We say that even the carnival groups are creations of the tanneries, as they create the leather costumes which are unique worldwide and are first shown in the masked processions through the streets of Santa Croce.

As to the origins of this Carnival, they possibly developed throughout the centuries from jokes and jests into the "serious" business it has now become.

The passion for wearing masks, dressing up and parading on allegorical floats developed and quickly became sophisticated. Carnival means improvisation, jesting, entertainment and irony. People come out of their shell, transgress from everyday life and let themselves go.



Along the parade you can also admire wonderful individual masks who entertain and amuse the viewers. It is an incredible blend of creativity, imagination and irony linked by the careful and irreplaceable work of hundreds of people who prepare the parades which delight the many villagers townsfolk of our province in a new and original way year after year.

It is amazing to see how the need for entertainment stimulates the creativity of such a great number of people who manage to create masks which are real works of art. They stem from a desire for disobedience, freedom, participation in happiness and rashness and the abandonment to activities which are not allowed in other times of the year.

By *SILVIA MARCONCINI III B/L*