



Brazza Buzz

U.S. Embassy Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

July 1, 2008

TRIVIA PURSUIT CONTINUES IN THE CONGO

On June 19, 2008, more than 100 young English-speaking Congolese gathered at the American corner in Pointe-Noire for a trivia pursuit game. Only a month ago, the same game was organized in Brazzaville for the same category of people. The first game was very well received in Brazzaville, so the Embassy's public diplomacy (PD) department decided to organize a similar one in Pointe-Noire, the economic capital.

To start off, four teams of six participants each were set up representing English clubs. Each participant rolled dice to select the type of questions he/she had to answer. Questions ranged from Congolese history to the recent world cup. Teams were supported by members of their respective English clubs and were allowed 30 seconds to discuss their answers and to present a united response. T-shirts with American flags were given to all participants.

Chargé d'Affaires Cindy Gregg presented French-English dictionaries, literature books and Forum magazines to the teams based on their ranking position. It was a fun and an intense two hours of trivia pursuit.

Like the game organized in Brazzaville, this one was part of the Embassy's public diplomacy program to empower youth and enhance their skills and general knowledge. The Embassy plans to replicate this type of game in high schools in Brazzaville in the near future.



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VOTING WHILE OVERSEAS

VOTING WHILE LIVING OVERSEAS: CLICK, REQUEST, VOILA!

The three most common questions asked of the vice consul these days:

"Who's going to win the election?"

"If Obama is president, will all Africans get visas to go to America?"

"How do I get my absentee ballot?"

The first two, of course, come from every conversation with a Congolese citizen. The last one comes up in every conversation with an American citizen living in the Congo. With no crystal ball to answer the first question, and with a simple, "Um, no" sufficing for the second, let's talk about the third one.

Bookmark this site: <http://www.fvap.gov> The site, for the Federal Voting Assistance Program, contains a clearinghouse of information on the absentee ballot process, has links to all 50 states' election divisions and covers a wide range of questions and information on voting while living overseas.

Basically, you need to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) - found on the [fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) site - and send it to your local elections office. (Mailing addresses for your local election office can also be found via the links on the web site.) Each state has different deadlines for requesting an absentee ballot so pay careful attention to the rules governing your state. Typically, a voter must request an absentee ballot at least 45 days before an election - which means by Sept. 27 in order to vote in the Nov. 11 general election.

As the web site says, it's never too early to request your ballot. Your ballot will be mailed to you according to each state's election rules, but typically no more than 30 days before the election.

For would-be voters who are not yet registered, the FPCA also allows you to register at the same time you request your absentee ballot. (See the Frequently Asked Questions portion, covering "citizens living outside the United States.") The Consular section has paper copies of the FPCA and federal law allows every voter to send his/her ballot requests via the diplomatic pouch or DPO systems. We receive American citizen services on Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Embassy. (Please email Consular.Brazzaville@state.gov to make an appointment.)

We also have copies of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, which you can use if your requested ballot hasn't arrived and Election Day is near.

Remember: www.fvap.gov, and happy voting, everyone!

WHAT'S UP AT VILLA WASHINGTON

JULY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Thursday July 3, 2008** **English Club** (*Speaker: Brandon Snow*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Monday July 7, 2008** **Movie Night** (*The Constant Gardener*)
5:30 p.m.
Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz give electrifying performances in this gripping suspense -thriller. A diplomat on the hunt for his wife's murderer uncovers a treacherous conspiracy that will destroy millions of innocent people.
- Thursday July 10, 2008** **English Club** (*Speaker: Joachim Mbandza, Director of La Semaine Africaine*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Saturday July 12, 2008** **Children's Learning Day** (*Movie: Incredible Mr. Limpet*)
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 14, 2008** **Movie Night** (*Hotel Rwanda*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
Don Cheadle with Sophie Okonedo and Nick Nolte give the performance of lifetime in this remarkable and profoundly affecting true story of one man's brave stance against savagery during the 1994 Rwanda conflict.
- Thursday July 17, 2008** **English Club** (*Speaker: Mohammed Lawal Yusuf, Counsellor, Nigerian Embassy*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Saturday July 19, 2008** **English Practice Club (EPC)** 6th anniversary celebration party
1:00—5:00 p.m.
- Monday July 21, 2008** **Movie Night** (*Finding Forrester*)
5:30 p.m.
Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown) is a talented 16-year-old basketball player in New York City whose secret passion is writing. William Forrester (Sean Connery) is a reclusive Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who never gave the world a second novel. After an accidental meeting, Forrester becomes Jamal's unlikely mentor, providing guidance to help develop the young man's exceptional skills.
- Thursday July 24, 2008** **English Club** (*Speaker: Allie Floyd*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
- Saturday July 26, 2008** **Children's Learning Day** (*Movie: James and the Giant Peach*)
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
6:00—7:30 p.m.
Concert Night of jazz and classical music with the Salvation Army Band of Ouézé
- Monday July 28, 2008** **Movie Night** (*The Gods Must Be Crazy*)
5:30 p.m.
The peaceful co-existence of a small Bushman community is destroyed when a Coke bottle falls from the sky. They have never seen as strange an object and think it a gift from the gods. It is decided that Xi will travel to the end of the world to re turn the bottle to gods.
- Thursday July 31, 2008** **English Club** (*Speaker: Kelly Daniel, Distel Kandza, "How To Ask Questions" Night*)
5:30—7:00 p.m.
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July 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3 <i>Villa Washington (VW) English Club, 5:30 p.m.</i>	4 Independence Day (Embassy Closed)	5
6	7 <i>VW Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.</i>	8	9	10 <i>VW English Club, 5:30 p.m.</i>	11	12 <i>VW Children's Learning Day, 9:00 a.m.</i>
13	14 <i>VW Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.</i>	15	16	17 <i>VW English Club, 5:30 p.m.</i>	18	19 <i>English Practice Club, 1:00 p.m., VW</i>
20	21 <i>VW Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.</i>	22	23	24 <i>VW English Club, 5:30 p.m.</i>	25	26 <i>VW Children's Learning Day, 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Concert Night, 6:00 p.m., VW</i>
27	28 <i>VW Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.</i>	29	30	31 <i>VW English Club, 5:30 p.m.</i>		