



MÉXICO
2006
MÉRIDA, YUC.

Issue 4, Wednesday, August 16th

NEWSLETTER

August 16th, 2006

Today's reminders

- Remember to wear sun block and take your swim suit and towel to the beach.
- Sign up with your guide for Thursday activities that include Special Tournaments Robo Aluxes, Ping Pong, Table Soccer, Balesros, Cuchileta, for everyone.

Today's schedule:

7:00—8:45

Breakfast

9:00—9:15

Bus Boarding at HI, HY

9:15—10:45

Transpot to Progreso Beach

11:00—13:00

Beach Activities (Volley Ball, Foot Ball, Rally, etc)

13:30—15:30

Lunch at The Reef

15:30—15:45

Bus Boarding

15:45—17:00

Beach Activities / Bransport to FA Hotel for deputies

17:00—17:15

Bus Boarding

17:15—18:45

Transport to Hotels / GA Meeting

18:45—21:30

Free time / Dinner

20:30—3:00

Exam Translation for leaders

21:30 — 7:00

Confinment for contestants

1st Day of Competition is Over

Time flies when you are having fun, and the first day of competition is over.

Behind the scenes there has been a lot of effort so that everything goes well. Technical staff kept working until late hours; the

question and answer session was a great success; logistic staff was very careful with the food so that every need was met; the food was delicious and the arrangement of the chairs and tables very Yucateco, Mexican.

Today we will go to the beach and have fun, playing Volley Ball, Football, Kayaking and more.

It will be a great day to make lifetime friends and compete with other countries at a different level.



Relax at the Beach

After all the good work at this event, we all deserve to relax at the beach. Some of you can just lay down, some of you can participate in sport activities, some of you can swim and all of you have fun!!!

Here is the schedule for the tournaments:

Volley Ball Tournament

- **10am.** 2 fields of volley, 6 players per team, sets of 11 points (aprox 96 people / hour)

Kayak Race

- **10am.** 8 teams of 10 players, the goal is to

finish as a team in the minimum time possible.

- 3 elimatory rounds of 5 minutes each

Foot ball, Fast Foot Ball, Tennis courts, Ping Pong Tables available.

Speed Foot Ball

- **11am.** 2 fields, 6 players per team, 2 halves of 15 minutes each.
- 10 teams play the tournament.

Ping Pong Tournament

- **2pm**
- 30 participants

Tennis Tournament

- **2pm**
- 30 participants

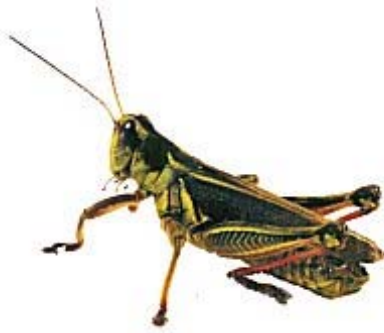
Foot Ball Soccer

- **2pm.** 2 fields, 6 players per team, 2 halves of 15 minutes. 10 teams play the tournament.



Prepare for Prehispanic Mexican Food:

Chapulines, Worms and Ant Larvas



Tomorrow, to celebrate the end of the 2nd exam, we will have prehispanic food for all of you who dare eat insects!

Among the delicacies (because that is what they are in the modern Mexico— although in the past they use to be common food among our dear ancestors) there will

be fried grass hoppers (chapulines), agave worms (gusanos de Maguey) and ant's larva (escamoles).

Chapulines are usually eaten as a snack, fried with salt, lime and salt, garlic, chili, hot spices, etc., there is one recipe for each taste. You can find big or small grass hoppers. They are usually sold at the markets, especially in Oaxaca, where you can find them in big baskets at the market entrance and buy them by kilo.

Escamoles are the Mexican caviar. They are the larva

of black ants. They take on the appearance of cottage



cheese once they are boiled. Escamoles are eaten with a spoon, or for the true entomophage, on a tortilla made from the eggs of many kinds of aquatic Hemiptera.

Escamoles have a very soft and delicious taste.

Gusanos de Maguey are our last featured delicacy. They are pretty expensive since they are hard to grow and difficult to keep. They have a very strong flavour and they are eaten alone, or with tortilla. Sometimes they are also used inside Tequila or Mezcal bottles to give them legitimacy, since Tequila comes from the Agave plant.



The competition is only an excuse

Over the last couple of days, the IOI has somehow changed my vision of the people of the world.

It really made me think about how our fore knowledge of different cultures gets in our way when we actually do want to meet those cultures (and I think it's partly Hollywood's fault).

Let me explain myself, before the IOI you may have had a mental image of how Mexicans and other countries were.

Regarding Mexico some probably imagined people lying on the floor sleeping against

the wall or on a "hamaca" with a big sombrero covering their head. Or people traveling in donkeys.

But it is something that might cloud your vision a bit, because it may be hard to step out of that image and actually see people as they truly are.

So, now that we are almost half way through the IOI, I can only say to you to use your time wisely, to meet other people, to learn about their countries and the world, and to show others what you are, for the time is brief and the memories are long lasting. *Ana Paola.*

How to say it

Having communication problems? Here are some common expressions in Spanish that may be useful for you.

Si — Yes, **No** — No, **No sé** — I don't know

Uno — One (1), **Dos** — Two (2), **Tres** — Three (3)

Cuatro — Four (4), **Cinco** — Five (5), **Seis** — Six (6)

Siete — Seven (7), **Ocho** — Eight (8), **Nine** — Nueve (9),

Diez — Ten (10), **Cien** — One Hundred (100),

Mil — One Thousand (1000),

Millón — One Million (1000000)

Quiero comer chapulines — I want to eat grasshoppers

Quiero tomar tequila — I want to drink Tequila





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Amulets for luck



While the press team walked through the Lab while everyone was at the exam, we couldn't help noticing something some teams and contestants found very useful:



Their lucky amulets (from which some were mascots too). These were noticeable from the distance.



Some were stuffed animals, some were clocks and even a Rummy cube.



Canada's amulet is the Canadian moose that has come to every olympiad (including Mathematics) and it has a history on its own. There have been several attempts to take it away from the team but fortunately it always comes back to their owners.



Hopefully, these came handy at any stressing moment. When you looked at them, were able to smile and then go on with these very difficult tasks.



Today's birthdays (Aug, 16th)

"Las Mañanitas" for:

- Daver Bonac, Croatia

The favorites to win

There's no doubt that every country has a chance to have good results at this year's competition.

But some countries are considered to be the favorites because of their past performances at the IOI.

We asked some of the contestants, leaders and guests who they think is going to get the medals this year.

The New Zealand team claimed without any hesitation when we asked them: "New Zealand, of course!"

Their leader added with a smile: "We are confident that we are going to have

so many medals that we should share some with the rest of the teams".

Ireland said they expect to win some medals, and they wish the host country Mexico, win some medals too.



Other participants said that the Chinese team has the best odds, since they've won many times before and have great preparation for the test.

Thursday's Balero Tournament

It seems that alternative ways to play a balero have emerged from the minds of our brilliant contestants.

The New Zealand team, thought it was better to grab the big mass of wood and then throw the stick, trying to catch it with the mass. We can call this an upside down move.

Also, another team has come up with the idea of twisting the mass around from one side to the other.

Have you come up with one for Thursday's Tournament?



Strike to the stress



Yesterday, evening activities helped a lot of contestants to chill out after getting their results or just to have fun.

While some decided to go downtown, many went bowling and had a great time. In fact, the response for this



activity was so good that the buses gave a few more rounds to get everyone there.

Though the whole shoes and sign up process took a while and the place was crammed due to Tuesday's promotions (pay for a play and they'll give you another) everybody was having fun.

Even members of teams that are known to be a bit more quiet, like the Bangladesh team, showed up to play some



pool and even gave lessons to some of the guides.

Maybe not everyone displayed a great skill at bowling, but the goal of the night was met. Now the hearts are jollier and the neurons a bit more ready for Thursday.

First impressions about the test

We interviewed several competitors just after the examination: one member of the Iran team commented: "We didn't do well on this part of the test. We were nervous because it started late. In one of the problems I had a mistake and that little mistake made the whole problem wrong".

The members of the Portugal

team didn't even want to talk about the subject, because they couldn't solve all the problems.

Chile's deputy mentioned the whole team expects to have good results.

A member of the Cuba team said: "We didn't do well but we didn't do bad either. We are happy just to participate, and no matter the results, we are making our best effort".



Today's Visit: Progreso Beach

Progreso is considered by people from Merida the best place to go when they feel like going to the beach because of its closeness to the city (it takes just 30 minutes to get there by bus or car).

On the weekends, especially when the weather is too hot, it receives hundreds of visitors who are attracted by the hospitality of its people, its sand and warm water.

The activities to do at Progreso are endless; they include for example swimming, playing volleyball, enjoying a delicious meal at some of the various restaurants in the surroundings, or just take a walk through its "Malecón" and admire its big pyre, the longest pyre in Mexico.

Recommendations when going to Progreso:

Bring comfortable fresh clothing, comfortable supportive shoes, insect repellent, sun block, a hat or cap, a bottle of water, a camera and/or video camera. If you don't know how to swim, don't worry: the water won't get above your knees for the first 20 meters from the shore or so.

