

# AYS 2005-2006: An Unparalleled Adventure

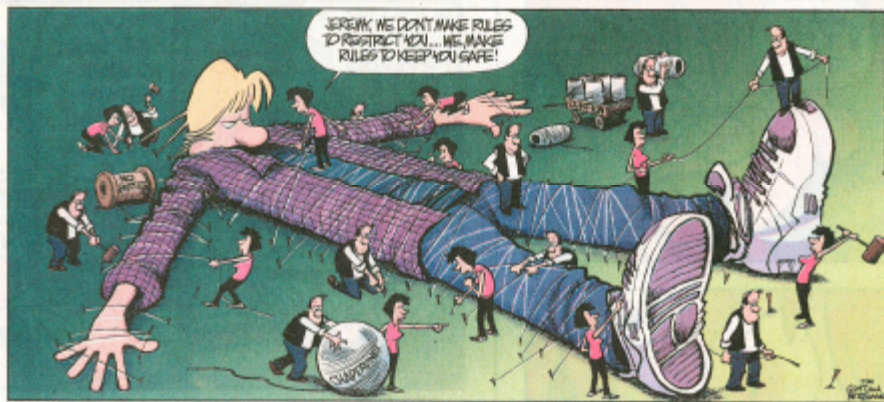
Student Newsletter, September 2005

**Has anyone reminded you lately?** This is the 50th Anniversary of the *Albuquerque Youth Symphony* program, and we have a lot of wonderful activities planned for this year-long celebration. The season's first concert is already upon us, and Luminaria Day, our big fund-raiser, is fast approaching.

**Please tell your parents:** There is an AYS Parents Association general meeting tomorrow night, **Tuesday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m., at Sandia H.S.** We will have important information for parents about Luminaria Day (December 3rd), fund raising, and the Brazil tour. Krystian Zimowski will also perform his concerto solo. Please ask them to attend; you are certainly encouraged to attend, too.

**Our Tour Destination:** Brazil is a land of incredible beauty and diversity, rich culture(s) and history, and tremendous economic potential. It is the fifth largest and sixth most populous country in the world. It has the world's eighth largest economy. It covers almost half of South America and is as large as all of Europe. The Amazon region is the world's largest river basin. On your short visit to this fantastic country, you will be able to step backward into the primordial rainforest jungle, yet peer forward into the Space Age, while experiencing a full spectrum of human history and achievement between those extremes. You can make your travel experience on this fabulous 50th Anniversary concert tour much easier, more enjoyable, and more memorable – in the best of all possible ways – by starting to prepare now.

**Chaperones:** Yes, we're here! In the coming months, you'll have plenty of opportunities to meet all of us: the Clises, Pribyls, Bowens, Myers-Peralta family, and Hartman-Kruchoski family. Our goal is to ensure your trip is well organized and safe so that you can focus on enjoying the musical and cultural delights of Brazil. A good dose of common sense will help make your trip fun without any unfortunate incidents. *(We'll help you with that part!)*



**Trip Preparations:** You will need a passport and visa for travel to Brazil. The U.S. State Department has detailed information at [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_832.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html). The AYSPA Board has agreed to financial support for taking and printing the necessary photos at no cost to you; they would normally cost \$8-12 at most photo shops. We will take the photos before and after practices, starting in mid-October. This should allow you plenty of time to submit your passport application in early December. **We will need a copy of your passport by the end of January 2006.**

**From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/tropsam.htm>), we bring the following health information for travelers to tropical South America (*primarily the Amazon region, not the urban areas on our itinerary*). Before travel, be sure you are up to date on all *routine* immunizations. See your doctor at least 4–6 weeks before our trip to allow time for any shots to take effect. Vaccines or medication **may** be **recommended** for Hepatitis A & B, yellow fever, malaria, or typhoid depending on your personal health. We are investigating the possibility of a short presentation and Q&A session by a travel health professional at an upcoming AYSPA general meeting.

**Remember:** Luminaria Day is *not* an optional activity. We need everyone's full and enthusiastic participation to make this critical fund-raising event a success. If you have unavoidable schedule conflicts, please contact your workhouse immediately. (Workhouses will be announced this week.)

**AYS Concert CDs:** The new prices are now in effect – only \$15 for a single concert, \$40 for all three. Deadline for ordering for the first concert is October 17. They make wonderful gifts for your family and will arrive just in time for the holiday season. Order forms are available by email or at the concerts.

**Language:** Brazil is the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world, as the result of the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, in which Spain and Portugal agreed to “divide” newly discovered lands between them. (Unfortunately, an estimated four million Indian natives already inhabited Brazil when Pedro Alvares Cabral “discovered” Brazil in 1500. Today only 220,000 Indians survive.) In the centuries since Cabral’s arrival, Brazilian Portuguese has incorporated European, African, and native influences to evolve into a distinctive dialect. Portuguese is the sixth most common language in the world. Here are some common phrases and words to start:

<b>Good morning</b>	Bom dia	bohn JEE-ah
<b>Good afternoon</b> (until sunset)	Boa tarde	BOH-ah TAH-jee
<b>Good night</b>	Boa noite	BOH-ah NOY-chee
<b>Thank you</b>	Obrigado (male speaking) Obrigada (female speaking)	oh-bree-GAH-doo oh-bree-GAH-dah
<b>You’re welcome</b>	De nada	jee NAH-dah
<b>Excuse me</b> (to get someone’s attention)	Com licenca	kohn lee-SEHN-sah
<b>I’m</b> (very) <b>sorry</b>	Mil desculpas	MEE-oo dehs-KOO-pahs
<b>Please</b>	Por favor	POH-h fah-VOH-h
<b>Rio de Janeiro</b>	Rio de Janeiro	HEE-oo jee zha-NAY-roo
<b>Brazil</b>	Brasil	Brah-ZEE-oo

**Did you know?** The Albuquerque library has free online language courses (called “Rosetta Stone”, normally a \$250 course) as well as cassette tapes and compact disks for home or in-library study. Look for more info at <http://www.cabq.gov/library/online.html>.

**Etiquette:** Some interesting and amusing – but quite important – tips about table manners, courtesy of [www.brazilbrazil.com](http://www.brazilbrazil.com). Put your “best foot forward” by knowing a little bit about the etiquette in our host country.

Do not touch anything with your fingers. Using the hands is considered ill-mannered and unhygienic. Brazilians use utensils for pizza, sandwiches, fruit and chicken. Fruit is often served in a dish or sliced as it is eaten. Wrap food carefully with a napkin before picking it up.

Wipe your mouth after every sip of drink taken. Try to eat in the “continental” style, with the fork in the left hand at all time and cutting with the right hand. Brazilians do not drink from bottle or can, they will always use a glass.

Food should always be shared, even if the amount of food is clearly not sufficient to share, the offer should be made. When offered something in Brazil, one must say “yes” or “please”. “Thank you” indicates a refusal, “No, thank you” is considered rudely blunt. Always offer an excuse so that the offerer is not offended.

The American habit of belching and then excusing oneself is particularly repulsive to Brazilians. Brazilians consider belching highly offensive, and to call attention to the belch after the fact is considered embarrassing for all. The same goes for sneezing and coughing, one should simply leave the table or at least turn completely around, away from the group. Toothpicks (palitos) may be used at the table, but the mouth must be covered with hand or napkin.

Brazilians keep both hands above the table while eating. The American habit of keeping one hand on the lap strikes them as very odd and may spark jokes. When not being held, the knife rests with the handle on the table and the tip on the side of the plate. Never use the fork to cut anything. When talking, rest the silverware on the plate. When finished, place the utensils across the plate.

In a restaurant, patrons may have to call the waiter both to order and/or to get the bill. Waiters are beckoned with the index finger of an upraised hand, saying softly “garcon”. To signal the check, mimic the writing of a bill, and say, if within hearing distance, “A conta por favor.” Snapping the fingers is considered extremely rude! The bill should either be paid for by one person or evenly divided among the group. Brazilians find the American habit of itemizing a bill for each to pay the exact amount petty.

If invited to a Brazilian’s home, you will be expected to eat a lot of whatever is offered. Do not voice any displeasure at any of the food. Acceptance of what is on the plate is tantamount to acceptance of host, country and company.