

THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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Once again, the school year is slowly drawing to a close and, amidst the mood-depraving obnoxiousness of pollen allergies, studying for AP exams and Abiprüfungen, and the immense workload teachers seem to pile on us when they figure they haven't done enough of that already, the time from now until July 2nd can't seem to pass quickly enough. In addition, spring has brought about all but bunnies and butterflies in our school environment; instead, the school seems to be filled with sleep-deprived zombies, suffering under their mixed exposure to sunshine and hail, and troubled by their inability to escape due to the volcanic ash circulating our atmosphere.

On a brighter note, the Muckraker is proud to announce its success in being placed among the top student newspapers in Germany after being assessed in a contest. Our prize is a large banner with the newspaper's name and logo on it, which is now sadly hiding in our office for no one to see. And you will never be able to appreciate it in its full splendor – unless you join the Muckraker. We hope that this does not cast any doubt on our abilities, for we did win, but we strongly believe that we don't need a banner to manifest to the public that we are, in fact, awesome. All of this is thanks to our awe-inspiring senior advisors Eileen Wagner, Lena Walther, and Farsane Tabataba-Vakili, who taught us vital lessons in grammar, spelling, witch burning, and telling us that page 3 is important.

Sitting inside on a sunny Sunday afternoon writing the Speaks, the editors are contemplating whether it is actually worth it. In light of this, we would like to perform a test, assuming that no one is reading this anyway. So – you, dear reader, are stupid, ugly, and have bad breath. If you feel offended, please email us at themuckraker@gmail.com and we will be overjoyed to learn that we were not, in fact, wasting our time.

Cheers,
The Editors

Drunken Mistakes

Nuclear energy is like cheap wine. At the time, it seems like a good idea, great enjoyment at relatively little expense. But the next morning, all fun is gone – you're left with a massive hangover, or in the case of nuclear energy, several thousand tons of nuclear waste. So why buy the cheap wine in the first place when you could enjoy a fine brandy, which, though more expensive, is more pleasing in the long run?

On April 24th, 120 000 people, including members of JFKS Goes Green, gathered all across northern Germany to form a 120 km human chain between three nuclear power plants. Creating an emblem of solidarity in the battle against nuclear energy, the people of Germany showed that they are unwilling to tolerate the new government's plans to keep using nuclear power, which would contradict previous legislation. Ten years ago, the red-green coalition government reached a deal with the atomic energy industry according to which the last German nuclear reactor would be shut down in 2020. The German populace was relieved – until now.

So what's bad about buying "cheap wine"? Some claim that nuclear power is an environmentally friendly energy source that produces no CO₂. This is not

true. Mining uranium as well as transporting nuclear material causes greenhouse gas emissions of higher rates than several other energy producing industries, and will increase exponentially over the next decades. Energy industry lobbyists argue



Nuclear power, continued on page 3

Zu Risiken und Nebenwirkungen...

Politiker handeln, man schreit – doch nichts passiert. Der Frust ist verständlicher Weise groß. Das Projekt Jugendhaushalt Steglitz-Zehlendorf bietet nun eine potentielle Medizin. Interessiert? Lust, mitzumischen? *on page 3*

Wir feiern die ganze Nacht!

50 Jahre JFKS; das Jubiläum rückt näher, und die Veranstaltungen häufen sich. So zum Beispiel das Benefizkonzert am 17. April. Wer da war, kann bezeugen, wie gut es war. Für alle Anderen gibt es unseren Artikel.

on page 2

A Canadian Dream

Completely ignoring the Winter Olympics in Canada would have required a great amount of energy. But have any of you ever seen the Canadian perspective on the festivities? Read Alexander Cohen's article on being Canadian and on being great

on page 4

Honor Band and Choir

Take Ankara, add one stage, one conductor and over 200 musicians. And what do you get? This years AMIS International Honor Band and Choir Festival, featuring twelve proud Kennedy students. Read what they have to share with us.

on page 2

JFKS Life

AMIS Honor Choir Band

"Hey, are you guys also here for the AMIS Honor Choir/Band festival?" was the line that greeted the John F. Kennedy students as soon as our feet touched the ground in Ankara, Turkey. We had not been in Ankara for more than a few minutes, yet already we were getting to know students from all over the world. Excitement was almost tangible in the air as we boarded the buses heading to our hotel; it was not long after the buses started to move that students from Egypt, China, and Israel, as well as participants from other exotic countries, broke out singing the songs they had prepared for months on end for the festival. Without having had any rehearsal on the songs together, the group already sounded impressive - little did we know that our songs were going to sound much better in the course of merely 48 hours.

The first day of the festival began with an opening ceremony which included a memorable puppet show that boosted the spirits of all participants. After the young musicians received a warm welcome from the staff and directors of the festival, rehearsals began without further ado. The members of both the band and choir engaged themselves in eight strenuous hours of rehearsing and, when the day was over, it was not

difficult to overhear singers and instrumentalists alike tell each other about how exhausted they were. Unfortunately, the following days proved to be even more grueling for the musicians; on the second day, we were expected to rehearse for a whole of nine hours. Thankfully, though, the hard-working participants were awarded with a party at the end of the second day, in which we were able to enjoy performances of traditional Turkish dancers and dance our exhaustion away ourselves while a Turkish DJ, who was not the most fluent in English, yelled, "Are you ready to FUN?" into the room. In the end, though, the final performance left behind the sense that all of our labor was worth it; many JFKS participants commented after the concert that the final performance was "one of the most beautiful things we have ever heard".

Overall, this year's Honor Choir/Band Festival was a "once in a lifetime" experience for most of us; almost all participants from the JFKS confided that the experience helped them to grow in their love for music, and that being part of such immense groups of choir and band taught them very much about feeling emotions together as a team, rather than being individuals among groups of other individuals. At the end,

all of us felt as though we were a part of a family within the band and choir, despite the fact that we did not even know some of the groups' members by name. The festival made all of us aware of the fact that music has the ability to bring numerous people together, and it gave us an opportunity to grow more confident in our musical capabilities. The JFKS students were also able to bond with each other through the festival, and because the group was able to cooperate with one another no matter what, mishaps like some students being booked on different flights than other members of the group on the way back to Berlin failed to faze us. And although the festival proved to be a success because of its talented, dedicated participants, it would not have been possible without the constant support of Dr. Curtis and Mr. Germann; Dr. Curtis, who sacrificed celebrating his birthday with his friends and family, and Mr. Germann, who gave up celebrating his wedding anniversary with his wife to attend the festival. All in all, the AMIS Honor Choir/Band Festival was an unforgettable experience in every way, and will undoubtedly remain in all of our memories for years to come.

Hyerin Park

Die Aula – Jazzclub für eine Nacht

Ausverkauft bis auf die letzte Karte war am 17. April die große Aula. Schon beim Eintreten wurde das Publikum auf einen einzigartigen Abend vorbereitet: Es spielte eine Jazzcombo, bestehend aus drei Mitgliedern des Jazz Ensembles und der von Jocelyn B. Smith rekrutierte Pianist Christian. Nach einigen einführenden Reden kamen die 13 Mitglieder des Jazz Ensembles auf die Bühne. Mr. German moderierte durch sechs teilweise wohlbekannte Stücke (wobei er vor allem das Jazz Ensemble mit kurzen Anmerkungen zum Lachen brachte) wie "What a wonderful world" und "Girl from Ipanema". Dabei gab es nicht nur lauten Applaus nach jedem Solo, sondern auch als mitten im Stück Jocelyn B. Smith auf die Bühne kam und sang wurde laut geklatscht. Auch andere Mitglieder ihrer Band unterstützten das Jazz Ensemble mit Solos und Begleitung, um dann nach dem Auftritt des Ensembles schließlich ganz die Bühne zu übernehmen.

Der Swing, Funk, Bossa Nova und Afro-Jazz brachte das Publikum nicht nur zum klatschen, pfeifen und schreien, sondern riss es förmlich von den Stühlen: Der freie Platz

zwischen erster Reihe und Bühne wurde kurzerhand zur Tanzfläche umfunktioniert – egal, ob schon Großmutter, oder noch zu klein, um über den Bühnenrand zu gucken, dort waren alle Altersgruppen vertreten und ließen sich mitreißen, bis Jocelyn B. Smith etwas langsamere Töne anschluss und die Tänzer sich nach und nach wieder auf ihre Plätze zurückzogen.

Die Blumensträuße und Geschenke, die schließlich verteilt wurden waren wohlverdient und mit Sicherheit hätte es noch einmal eine kurze Rede gegeben; doch da die Sperrstunde schon nahte, kündigte Jocelyn B. Smith schon vor dem letzten Lied an: „We'll get the Hausmeister rocking!“ und das wurde nur knapp verpasst. Trotzdem mussten alle mit anfassen, die Stühle zu stapeln, damit es dort Montagmorgen wieder wie eine ganz normale Aula aussehen würde, und nicht wie eine Konzerthalle, in der die Stimmung kaum zu bremsen war.

Friederike von Streit

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JFKS Life

Möge die Macht mit uns sein – oder zumindest in unseren Händen

Jugendhaushalt Steglitz-Zehlendorf

„Die Politiker da oben sitzen auf einem Topf Geld und einem Stapel Akten, und alle naselang schütten sie das erste irgendwo hin, wo wir es nicht wollen und das letztere auf uns. Und dazwischen machen sie uns das Leben schwer. Und wir können tun was wir wollen, auf uns hört ja eh keiner“ – das Gefühl kennt wohl jeder. Doch es muss nicht so sein, denn für alle, die sich engagieren wollen gibt es nun das Projekt „Jugendhaushalt Steglitz-Zehlendorf“. Aber: Jugendhaushalt, was heißt das überhaupt? Wer behauptet, er wisse es, ist entweder schon mit dabei oder lügt. Oder beides. Für alle, die nicht zur ersten Gruppe gehören, gilt: weiter lesen.

1989. *Porto Alegre, Brasilien*. Die Stadt ist, wie die meisten anderen Städte Brasiliens, gezeichnet von starkem Einkommensgefälle, Korruption und Güntlingwirtschaft. Doch die Einwohner der Küstenstadt finden eine Lösung: den Bürgerhaushalt. Hier können alle wahlberechtigten Bürger nach einem ausgeklügelten System ihre finanzpolitischen Prioritäten setzen und Vorschläge einreichen, diese diskutieren, und diese dann der Kommunalregierung vorlegen. Nach anfänglichen Schwierigkeiten setzt sich das System durch; inzwischen werden hier zwei-

tellige Millionenbeträge verteilt, und in Porto Alegre hat sich vieles zum Guten gewandelt. Das System macht Schule. 2009/2010. *Freiburg, Köln, Lichtenberg, Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg und Marzahn-Hellersdorf* haben sich Porto Alegre zum Vorbild genommen und ähnliche, in verschiedenen Punkten leicht veränderte Systeme eingeführt. Allerdings werden nur in wenigen dieser Modelle Jugendliche mit einbezogen. Dabei bedeutet für viele „politische Partizipation“ mehr als nur die aktive Teilnahme an Wahlen, Parteimitgliedschaften oder Arbeit in politischen Organisationen, sondern die Teilhabe an den Prozessen des öffentlichen Lebens in Schule, Vereinen und der Gemeinde. Da wird es schnell frustrierend wenn man merkt, dass man seine Vorschläge nicht wirklich einbringen kann.

2010. *Steglitz-Zehlendorf*. Eine Gruppe von Jugendlichen steckt sich ein Ziel: Auch bei ihnen soll es einen Bürgerhaushalt geben – allerdings ausschließlich für die Jugendlichen des Bezirks. Es wird diskutiert, und ein erstes Konzept für den Jugendhaushalt Steglitz-Zehlendorf entsteht. Dieses sieht ein Drei-Phasen-Modell vor, durch das ein bestimmter Festbetrag auf verschiedene Projekte verteilt werden soll: Zunächst werden

online in einem Forum Vorschläge gesammelt, dann wird abgestimmt, dann ausgewertet. Das fertige Konzept wird danach der Bezirksverordnetenversammlung und der Öffentlichkeit vorgestellt.

Das Modell Jugendhaushalt kann mit zahlreichen Vorteilen werben: Zum einen bietet es uns als Jugendlichen die Möglichkeit, unsere Vorstellungen und Wünsche aktiv in die Politik einzubringen, unsere Ideen zu gestalten und umzusetzen; zum anderen ist es für manche der gesuchte Auslass für einen Drang zum Engagement, für andere vielleicht der Köder, über den sie auf den Geschmack kommen. Und zu guter Letzt spielt der Faktor „Lernen“ natürlich eine nicht unerhebliche Rolle: wir bekommen die Chance, an einem Prozess von der Idee über die Diskussion bis hin zum Konsens beteiligt zu sein und am eigenen Leibe zu erfahren, wie schwierig es ist, solche Entscheidungen zu fällen. Am wichtigsten aber ist der rein praktische Vorteil. Wenn du dir in Zukunft denkst: „Dieser Spielplatz muss dringend überarbeitet werden!“ oder du merkst: „Der Park gegenüber bräuchte auch mal wieder eine Überholung!“, dann musst du nicht einfach tatenlos zusehen oder eine aufwendige **Jugendhaushalt**, *continued on page 4*

Nuclear power, continued from page 1

that nuclear power can serve as a bridge technology to a future of renewable energy, which is equally untrue. In reality, nuclear power pushes renewable energy off the market. But worst of all, nuclear energy leaves us with piles over piles of atomic waste, and we have no idea what in hell to do with it. This waste takes a million years to degrade. If you have an idea for how to store this toxic trash for a thousand millennia, please contact us at themuckraker@gmail.com.

On April 24th, thousands of people came together to hold hands. From all over Germany, they travelled North to express their belief in what they know is right. At the end of the day the demonstrators went home, but they left behind them a forceful message. A message to corrupted politicians and greedily depraved energy industrialists: atomic power is not the solution to our problems. It is not the future. It's all just a terrible hangover.

Noah Walker-Crawford and
Carolynn Look

επίδειξη από ταλέντο

(Epidixi Apo Talento: Show of Talents)

The long school year is approaching an end and, once again, the juniors are going on a class trip. In order to finance all the fun that 25 students and two teachers will have while exploring Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Epidaurus, and other breathtaking places, the Greece Class Trip Team is hosting a talent show on May 28th.

Looking for something extremely fun and freshly amusing to do on a Friday night? The students of the Greece Class Trip Team will entertain you with a variety of performances, including a fashion show with self-made clothes, a small skit from a Greek play, and musical performances featuring

piano players, a girls' quartet, and much more. Oh, did we forget to mention the ukulele, which will be played by Mr. Vo? Or the live fencing duel? The entrance fee is 3€ and delicious snacks will be sold before and after the show.

If you enjoy an evening well-spent and want to help the juniors, who are already excitedly preparing to act as tour guides for their trip, just bring your family and a few friends and come to the talent show at 19:00 on May 28th in the Small Aula.

Sarah Lee & Giulia Schäfer,
Greece Trip Team

JFKS Life

Jugendhaushalt, continued from page 3

Spendenaktion starten. Du musst deinen Vorschlag nur beim Jugendhaushalt einreichen und abstimmen. Und wenn genug Leute deiner Meinung sind, wird dein Projekt auch umgesetzt.

Doch noch steckt das Projekt in den Kinderschuhen. Ein erster Konzeptentwurf liegt zwar schon vor, doch der muss noch überarbeitet werden. Es muss eine Lobby für das Projekt geschaffen werden: Unterstützer aus den in der Bezirksverordnetenversammlung vertretenen Parteien werden gesucht, um es politisch auf starke Beine zu stellen; Sponsoren aus der Wirtschaft werden gesucht um in den Topf einzubezahlen, aus dem dann geschöpft werden kann. **Und dafür brauchen wir eure Hilfe: Wenn ihr**

also Lust habt, mitzumachen, meldet euch doch einfach bei jugendhaushalt@kijub-berlin.de oder taucht bei unserem nächsten Treffen am 25. Mai im KiJuB in der Machnower Straße 5 (gegenüber vom Droste-Hülshoff-Gymnasium) auf. Wichtig ist: Jeder kann mitmachen, egal ob 7.-Klässler oder Abiturient; Köpfchen und Hände hat jeder, und mehr brauch man nicht. Dieses Projekt steht und fällt mit eurem Engagement!

Moritz Zeidler

Cohen of Canada: Canada's Games, Canada's Change

At the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, the Canadian women's hockey team set a new standard for dominance. They didn't merely beat the other teams, they annihilated them. Italy was obliterated by a score of 16-0, Russia 12-0 and Sweden 8-1. The 6-0 semi-final win against Finland was practically a nail-biter. In any other country, this dominance and fantastic show of excellence would have been celebrated. Not Canada. The women of Team Canada were accused of "running up the score" and being "poor sports". In our nation, excellence was something to be ashamed of. Most expressions of national pride or celebration were deemed "boastful" and "un-Canadian", something that belonged to the Americans or French.

Well, not anymore. Over the course of seventeen days, February 12-28, there has been increased display of Maple Leaves. Singing of our national anthem, which most Canadians used to observe in silence as it was considered taboo to get excited over our country's signature song, has filled the post-Olympic scene, along with more pride in our sports heroes and more appreciation of excellence. But it didn't come easily. It was a long road to get here, starting a short while after Vancouver was chosen as Host City for the 2010 Olympics in 2003. The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) started a program called "Own the Podium", with the goal of having Canada finish first in overall medals at the 2010 Winter Games. In the modest Great White North, this was seen as cocky and presumptuous; it was called "un-Canadian" (whatever that means).

Canada is the only country to ever host the Olympic games and not win a gold medal on home soil. In Montreal 1976 and Calgary 1988 we were shut out, never standing atop the podium. That had to change, and it did. On the third day of competition, Alexandre Bilodeau, a freestyle skier from Quebec, won gold, beating Dale Begg-Smith, an Australian born in Canada, who bolted to ski for the Aussies because the Canadian Ski Team wouldn't let him ski and simultaneously run his Internet business. His feat triggered an amazing moment of national pride, and Bilodeau's touching story of his brother with cerebral palsy inspired the nation. Gold came home. The party had just begun.

But after the first week of the games, it looked as though the critics were right. A week and one day after the Opening Ceremonies, Chris Rudge, chairman of the COC, announced that the goal of being first in all medals would not be met. The next day, Sunday, was a day which was projected to produce several medals for Canada, including one or two gold. Instead, our skiers fell, our figure skaters faltered, and our two speed skaters finished fourth and fifth in the five man race. To cap it all off, the hockey team lost to the United States. British papers called Vancouver 2010 "the worst games ever" and the IOC was investigating our huge track faults. It was a dark day in the cold Canadian winter and one of Canada's gloomiest moments on the world stage. The nation was depressed.

But it wasn't over; our nation wouldn't **Canada**, continued on page 5

-Staff-

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2. Send in your articles to themuckraker@gmail.com
3. Drop a note in our mailbox or approach us randomly in the hallways

Culture

Canada, continued from page 4

give up. This was our time; these were our games. And over the next week, we exploded. The supposed "Super Sunday" took place instead on what was predicted to be "Wicked Wednesday". That day, our two teams went 1-2 in Women's Bobsled, Opening Ceremonies Flag-Bearer Clara Hughes won a bronze medal (becoming the most decorated Canadian Olympic athlete of all time), and our women's speed skating team won gold while the men's hockey team walloped Russia 7-3. The streets of Vancouver erupted into what many considered to be the greatest street party ever and all of Canada experienced an Olympic-sized celebration.

Over the next four days, the medals piled up and our nation gained self-confidence. While it will never stop Canada from being the butt of American jokes, Vancouver 2010 changed our nation. And on the last day, our domination was solidified. In the overtime period of the hockey final,

Sydney Crosby became the newest Canadian hero by scoring on American goalie Ryan Miller and winning the game for Canada. It was our 14th gold medal, a new Winter Olympics record. The nation celebrated long after the closing ceremonies; a parade last week in Montreal drew hundreds of thousands of spectators waving Canadian flags, in a part of French Canada constantly threatening to separate. We are no longer embarrassed to be the best. Vancouver 2010 will be remembered for more than its red mittens, hockey street parties or Steven Colbert's Canadian jokes. It will be remembered in Canada as the moment we stopped wanting to be mediocre, the moment we felt pride in our nation - real, enduring pride. It will be remembered as the games in which we shone and the whole world noticed. People always say, "It's great to be Canadian." Well now, it's Canadian to be great.

Alexander Cohen

Eyjafjallajökull

Eyjafjallajökull (nein, ich habe nicht einfach nur irgendwelche Tasten gedrückt) ist der Name des Vulkans, dessen Ausbruch tagelang in ganz Europa für ein riesiges Verkehrschaos gesorgt hat. Der Gletschervulkan, dessen Namen wohl nur echte Isländer fehlerfrei aussprechen können, ist 1666 Meter hoch und der fünftgrößte Gletscher Islands. Unter dem Gletscher befindet sich der Vulkan, der in den Jahren 1612 und 1821 bis 1822 aktiv war und zurzeit wieder Asche spuckt. Die letzten Ausbrüche des Eyjafjallajökulls dauerten teils Jahre; jedoch heißt das noch lange nicht, dass es auch diesmal so lange dauern wird. Die bei den Eruptionen gebildete Aschewolke kam nur zu Stande, da der Vulkan von einem Gletscher bedeckt war. Das Eis mit austretendem Magma führt zu explosionsartigem Verdampfen, bei dem das Magma in feinsten Partikeln versprüht wird. Sobald kein Eis mehr da ist, gibt der Vulkan nur noch einen Magmastrom ab. Die Teilchen und Partikel in der Aschewolke haben eine Sinkgeschwindigkeit von etwa zehn Metern pro Tag, und da die meisten Teile der insgesamt 3000 Kilometer langen Wolke in zehn Kilometern Höhe in der Luft sind, dauert es noch mindestens zwei bis drei Jahre, ehe sie zur Erde herabsinken und die Wolke vollständig verschwunden ist. Einen Einfluss auf das aktuelle und problematische Thema „Klima“ hat die Aschewolke allerdings

nicht. Die negative Auswirkung von Vulkanen hängt davon ab, wie viel Schwefel in die Atmosphäre kommt, und bei diesem Vulkan war es nur eine geringe Menge.

Für die Luftfahrt gilt es, bei so einer Aschewolke auf Nummer sicher zu gehen. Die Risiken sind kaum bekannt und kaum messbar, und solange es keine genaueren Messungen dazu gibt, ist eine umfassende Schließung des Luftraumes die einzige Wahl. Auch wenn die ganze Sache womöglich ganz harmlos ist. In den letzten zwei Wochen wurden deshalb unter anderem die Flughäfen Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, München, London und Paris gesperrt - ein sündhaft teurer Schaden für die Fluggesellschaften: rund 150 Millionen Euro pro Tag! Die Gefahr für den Flugverkehr geht nicht nur von der Erblindung der Cockpitscheiben aus, sie lauert vor allem in den Düsentriebwerken. Die Triebwerke und andere Flugzeugteile könnten Asche ansaugen, und diese könnten im Inneren durch die große Hitze wieder flüssig werden, was die Leitungen verkleben und so zum Ausfall der Geräte führen könnte. Da die Sicherheit der Passagiere bei den Fluggesellschaften an erster Stelle steht, fielen täglich um die 28000 Flüge aus, was die größte Störung des Luftfahrtverkehrs seit den Anschlägen des 11. Septembers 2001 bedeutete.

Victoria Christians



The music department is preparing a performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana to celebrate 50 years of JFKS. The concert will be held on Thursday 7. October at 19.00. Perhaps you are in grades 9-13, enjoy singing in an ensemble but are not currently in the school's choirs. If you want to join the choirs for this one-time project, please e-mail Dr. Curtis at jcurtis@jfkbsberlin.org. He will then send you a schedule of extra rehearsals. We would love to have you as a part of this festival performance involving students, teachers, parents, administrators and former students, teachers and administrators.

Cheers,
Joseph Curtis

The Cynic's Dictionary

Eyjafjallajökull

Editor's note: This definition was censored. It's too early to make fun of it, let's wait until the dust settles.

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Entertainment

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1. Think of a topic.
 2. Write a whole bunch of crap.
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Sudokus!!

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Easy Sudoku

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