



THE

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MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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THE MUCKRAKER



Same procedure as every year! Bunte Plätzchen, fröhliches Ständchen, feines Tröpfchen, goldenes Lichterchen, Oh Bäumchen... Oh, may the Grinch steal Christmas! Granted, Glühwein is a solace for all frozen fingers, and Lebkuchenhäuser are a delight to the palate. But spending one twelfth of the year in disgustingly ornamented shopping malls with "the spirit of giving!" flaunted from all advertisement posters, one cannot help but retreat from all this and seek out a more humble, homely mode of celebration at the Senior Class Christmas Market. Luckily, at JFKS, the Herald has more for us to hark than Christmas bells: November and December were eventful months. High-heeled and suited guest students roamed the halls on important business at the BerMUN conference. Some kneaded their brains at the annual student math olympics, others prepared for the big choir performance in the Berliner Dome, some rejoiced about the end of test season on the highly peculiar, amusing wooden, polynomial-function-shaped construction, which students have simply declared a lounge chair, that mysteriously appeared in front of the administration office. As of today, those offices won't look as they have anymore, either. Frau Klemm is retiring after 14 years as secretary to the American high school principal. We wish her and all of you gleeful Ferienkinder all the best!

Cheers,
your editors.

Best BERMUN Ever!

There is Batman, there is Spiderman, there is Superman. And then there is Wonderwoman, the one female superhero known to us from a metier swarmed by men. This critical analysis offered in an opening speech vividly addressed the central theme of the 17th annual Berlin Model United Nations Conference: "Empowering Women: A Prerequisite for Global Development." It was the time of the school year when

around 800 students and teachers from 17 different countries gathered at JFKS to celebrate the youth's interest in global politics. Again, the conference had grown from the year before, causing the Special Conference and Youth Assembly of the MUN program to move their openings to the Indian Embassy, which had kindly opened its facilities. During the opening ceremonies, the students were offered the views

of Caroline Fetscher, a journalist of the Tagesspiegel, Dr. Ulla Mikota from the BMZ, and Dr. Beate Wagner, the Secretary General of the German Association of the United Nations, whereupon the delegates continued by presenting their respective country's opinion on the issue. Pressed for time, the ICJ, ECOSOC, and SC already left the GA to get a head start on their own presentations and debate.

Reunited at the JFKS on

BERMUN, continued on page 6

photo: Farsane Tabataba-Vakilii



Frau Hövermann and Dr. Peterson, BERMUN Directors

Special Feature Frau Klemm

Today is not only the last day of school before the Christmas holidays; it is also Frau Klemm's last day at JFKS. Throughout the 14 years she has spent working at this institution, Frau Klemm has become one of the supporting pillars to the school community. Find out what she has experienced during her time with us, and read more about what she plans to do with her (hopefully) copious amounts of free time.

on pages 2-3

Less is More

In accordance with the recent 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Randolf Carr comments on one of the students' basic rights that does not always seem to be granted: the right to go to the bathroom. Why have student bathrooms been turned into teacher bathrooms? Why are we only discussing the problem of graffiti, and not that of the terrible condition of certain lavatories? And why doesn't the Student Council address these issues adequately?

on page 4

Dom Concert

The Dome Concert is one of the biggest events on the JFKS calendar. Almost 100 students, a handful of teachers, and a whole dome full of audience is involved with the spectacle. Aletta Bühler wrote the annual concert review; go to page 3 to find out how it went this year.

on page 3

Tafelwerk

One of the most important utilities to mastering a science Klausur is without question the good old Formelsammlung. However, who would have thought that it could also verse students on crippling their speech via using internet abbreviations? G 2 p.7 & CIO (check it out)!

on page 7

Teacher Feature: Frau Klemm

Erzählen Sie was von sich!

Ich bin eine geborene Berlinerin, habe mit der Ausnahme eines längeren Aufenthalts in Großbritannien immer in Berlin gelebt, finde Berlin herrlich und kann mir überhaupt nicht vorstellen, freiwillig in einer anderen deutschen Stadt zu leben.

Gibt es was Besonderes, das Sie an Berlin mögen?

Ja, die Auswahl an Kulturellem, Sportlichem, an allem aktiven Leben, und trotzdem drum herum das Grün, das viele Wasser - ich bin unter anderem Wassersportlerin. Im Urlaub geht's dann durch ganz Frankreich über alle Kanäle, in die Niederlande, an die Ostsee. Manchmal treffe ich auch Dr. Hersant mit seinem Segelboot.

Sie sagten, Sie haben eine Zeit lang in Großbritannien gelebt. Was verschlug Sie denn auf die Insel?

Als Au-Pair-Girl war ich in Großbritannien. Ich wollte unbedingt raus, auch schon aus Revolte gegen meine Eltern und ohne Geld ging's damals nur als Au-Pair-Girl. Ich habe in einer Familie mit fünf Kindern gearbeitet. Bis heute bin ich mit dieser Familie in Kontakt; ich bin sogar Patenante von einem der Kinder.

Wie ging es denn nach Großbritannien weiter?

Ich wollte immer in der Welt rumreisen und bin dann zu British-Airways gegangen und habe da fast 25 Jahre gearbeitet - wegen des Englischen und des Reisens. Ich habe viel gesehen von der Welt und viel erlebt, u.a. auch eine Flugzeugentführung im Februar 1972. Aber das habe ich inzwischen erfolgreich verdrängt. Als die Mauer fiel, ging die Direktion nach Frankfurt und ich hatte die Möglichkeit bekommen mitzugehen, aufzuhören oder einen anderen Arbeitsplatz entgegenzunehmen, der mir aber nicht gefiel. Weil meine Tochter zu dieser Zeit auch das schulpflichtige Alter erreichte, entschloss ich mich, ein Jahr zu Hause zu bleiben und zuzusehen, wie meine Tochter in die Schule kommt. Als das Jahr um war, wollte ich wieder arbeiten - und zwar in einem englischsprachigen Umfeld, um die Sprache nicht zu verlernen. So kam ich an die JFKS.

Ging Ihre Tochter auch an diese Schule?

Nein, das wollte sie nie. Sie wollte immer ihren eigenen Kopf haben und das hab ich auch akzeptiert.

Sie haben ja ganze 14 Jahre an dieser Schule gearbeitet. Wie viele Kollegen hatten Sie denn nebenan im Direktorenzimmer?

Dr. Hersant, Dr. Olderog und Dr. Reale.



Und natürlich habe ich die ganze Zeit immer ganz eng mit Dr. Hepner gearbeitet.

Und die ganze Zeit waren Sie immer die Ansprechpartnerin für die SchülerInnen... Ja, das eigentlich nur, weil die Tür immer offen stand. ... Kein Problem!

Sie haben sich um alles gekümmert, von lost and found bis schriftliche Arbeiten bis hin zum Pflaster bei dem gelegentlichen Unfall... alles!

All diese Arbeit macht mir wirklich Spaß. Frau Barmeyer findet es auch immer so großartig, wie viel im Büro los ist. Es wird nie langweilig; immer ist man mit neuen Situationen konfrontiert.

Man erlebt auch immer wieder, wie Sie fünf verschiedene Sachen gleichzeitig erledigen. Was ist das Geheimnis des Multi-Tasking?

Das ist, glaube ich, auch eine Spaßfrage. Mir hat das Arbeiten im Büro wie gesagt immer Spaß gemacht. Je mehr Stress, umso mehr Pepp und Thrill ist dabei. Ich habe nie über den Stress stöhnen können, denn ich brauche ihn für meinen niedrigen Blutdruck.

Können Sie sich an irgendwelche besonderen Erlebnisse entsinnen?

Wer mich beeindruckt hat, war Pat Root, meine Vorgängerin. Sie hinterließ mir klare Arbeitsanweisungen. Sie hat dafür gesorgt, dass ich zum Besuch von Hannelore Kohl und Hillary Clinton an unserer Schule mit eingeladen wurde. Dass ich sofort mit einbezogen wurde, hat mich sehr erfreut.

Am allerbesten habe ich aber die Drama- und Musicalaufführungen unserer Schüler in Erinnerung. Unter anderem „Air Raid“. Das hatte Dr. McDaniel gemacht... Auf jeden Fall fand ich es großartig. Was die Schüler hier alles auf die Beine stellen ist beachtenswert. Fängt bei BerMUN an und hört beim Barbershopsingen auf. Wenn ich mir vorstelle, wie sich vier junge Menschen auf die Bühne stellen und ohne Instrumentenbegleitung anfangen

zu singen...Dieses Selbstbewusstsein ist schon toll. Das ist auch, glaube ich, das Besondere an dieser Schule.

Was könnten denn Ihrer Meinung nach Gründe sein, weshalb die JFKS Schülerschaft anscheinend so engagiert ist?

Sicherlich liegt es stark an der Grundhaltung der Lehrer hier. Sie fördern Diskussion und geben keine Befehle. Der Grundtenor ist eine liberale, offene Diskussionshaltung. Außerdem wird Leistung auch belohnt. Zum Beispiel die Fahrt nach Den Haag mit MUN oder die Honor Choir & Orchestra Reisen. Abgesehen von der Zeugnisnotiz, die nachher für die Universitätsbewerbung nie verkehrt ist, bekommen die Schüler Auszeichnungen für ihre Einsätze.

In dem Zusammenhang kann ich nicht verstehen, wenn ich sehe, dass einige wenige versuchen, die Schule mit Graffiti zu beschmierern und Gemeineigentum zu beschädigen. Das ist dann wirklich hirnlos und blöd. Oder Toiletten zu verstopfen. Im Vergleich mit den Berliner Schulen sehen unsere Flure - bevor die Reinigungskräfte abends durchgehen - schon richtig schlimm aus. Das ist ein komischer Widerspruch: Da wird so ein schönes Gebäude offeriert und dann wird es nicht entsprechend angenommen und bewahrt.

Was auch ein schuleigenes Problem ist, ist der enorme organisatorische Aufwand, der nötig ist, um allen die Vielfalt an Kursen zu ermöglichen. Haben Sie da dringende Verbesserungsvorschläge?

Das würde ich mir gar nicht zutrauen. Ich weiß ja, wie lange dieses Stundenplanbauen vor und in den großen Ferien dauert, wie daran gekniffelt wird, hier und da noch mal gedreht. Das ist so schwierig, da würde ich nicht wissen, was man da besser machen kann.

... ein schwieriges Optimierungsproblem, auch für Computer.

Uns würde natürlich interessieren, was Ihre Pläne für die nächste Zeit sind...

Also, da muss der Keller aufgeräumt werden... Nein. Ich habe zu Hause einen Schreibtisch, der ist soo voll.

Generell nehme ich mir alles vor, von dem ich gesagt habe, „Später kannst du!“. Ich liebe es, zu reisen; ich habe einen kleinen Garten. All die Sachen sind vernachlässigt worden. Allein die Tatsache zu wissen, ich muss nicht mehr in den Schulferien verreisen, finde ich so schön! Nicht mehr die hohen Preise, nicht mehr die vollen Flüge oder Züge... wunderbar.

Außerdem bin ich Tennisspielerin und freue mich wahnsinnig darauf, vormittags spielen gehen zu können.

Klemm, continued on page 3

JFKS Life

Klemm, continued from page 2

Wissen Sie schon, wer die Arbeit nach Ihnen auf sich nimmt?

Es ist eine sehr gute Kraft, die erst Ende Januar/Anfang Februar hier anfangen wird, weil der Senat es noch genehmigen muss. Sie wird allen gefallen, ist bestimmt ganz prima und kompetent. Die Zwischenzeit wird durch Frau Rübiger, einer MAE-Kraft, abgedeckt. Ihr werde ich so viel wie möglich zeigen. Ich hab dafür gesorgt, dass zumindest mein Büro nicht leer ist.

Haben Sie irgendwelche Tipps für Schüler, die nicht mit Ihrer Abwesenheit umgehen können?

Oh nein! Überhaupt kein Problem! Alles wird so laufen wie bisher, im Gegenteil, jünger, schneller und flexibler.

Man wird Sie vermissen, da sind wir uns ganz sicher!

Haben Sie den Überlebensstipps für die Nachfolgerin? Gibt es eine Gewöhnungsphase?

Nicht Gewöhnung, aber es dauert halt recht lange, bis man den Durchblick bekommt. Ich hinterlasse detaillierte Arbeitshinweise für alle größeren Vorgänge, was man wo findet, wie man was anfasst und behandelt, ich hoffe also hier ganz viel Hilfe vorher zu geben und dann ist meine Handynummer auch für jeden erreichbar. Die Nächste, die hier sitzt, wird auf jeden Fall zurechtkommen.

Am besten veröffentlichen wir die Handynummer gleich... Nein, dann werden Sie keine Freizeit mehr haben!

(lacht) Ich wünsche Euch viel Glück, ich lese den Muckraker mit Freude. Ich finde es toll, welche – auch kritische – Sachen angepackt werden. Dass auch jeder seine Meinung haben kann wenn er mal quer denkt. Diese Offenheit und Toleranz, die ist ganz großartig und das sollte auch unbedingt so bleiben. Nie jemanden ausgrenzen, nur weil er anders denkt oder anders gekleidet ist. Das ist so dumm und so unwürdig, wie es nur sein kann!

Frau Klemm, wir bedanken uns recht herzlich für das Interview und noch viel herzlicher für ihre Arbeit hier an der JFKS. Die Schülerschaft schätzt Sie sehr; in jedem Fall konnten wir uns an Sie wenden und mit Hilfsbereitschaft und außergewöhnlicher Freundlichkeit und Jovialität rechnen!

Wir wünschen Ihnen alles, alles Gute auf Reisen, auf dem Tennisfeld, im Garten... Und hoffentlich kommen Sie uns irgendwann mal besuchen!

Eileen Wagner
Lena Walther

Christmas Market Review

Who knew it only takes two hours and a bunch of helping hands to transform the large Aula – concert seating, choir risers and music stands inclusive – into a festive bazaar? When the first visitors of the second annual JFKS Christmas market started pouring in around 11:30 on Saturday morning, little of the large Aula's usual uninviting and spiritless charm was left to see. It had made place to over 20 booths offering games, activities, self-made holiday artefacts and of course, food and drinks. Apart from the Senior Class 2009, which organized and hosted the event, various groups and activities were represented on this day. Our school's Best Buddies chapter offered alcohol free punch and cookies to the visitors, who then had the opportunity to participate in a round of Wii sponsored by the 11th grade class trips. Booths by the THIMUN delegation, 13th grade, Community Service Activity and Boy Scouts Troop 895 supplied guests with baked goods, while yours truly, The Muckraker, made sure they always had a hot beverage on the side.

However, no Christmas market goes

without entertainment for the young ones. Together with members of the Senior Class, children could decorate cookies, engage in arts and crafts, and paint their own pottery. However, even activities such as Dosenwerfen and face painting couldn't outdo the highlight of the day – taking pictures with Santa Claus.

Through the support and contributions of many dedicated individuals, the event turned out to be a great success. The Senior Class Fundraising Committee would like to thank all involved students, parents, and teachers for their input and generous donations. Not only was the Christmas market a foretaste to the long-awaited holidays, it also contributed towards the Senior Class fundraising, ultimately responsible for events such as Prom and Graduation. Cookie-decorating, face-painting, and picture sessions with Santa Claus aside, the event brought the Senior Class together and made the idea of Senior Class euphoria more tangible.

Ina Fischer

Dom Concert

Every year, our music department organizes a concert at the Berliner Dom, and this year was no different. On Wednesday, December 3rd, the JFKS choirs and orchestra participated in the 16th annual advent and Christmas caroling service. The performers arrived at the Dom around 3 pm to rehearse once more and then spent the re-



maining hour on the nearby Christmas market, relaxing or with a sandwich-eating contest. At 7 pm sharp, all choir members took their positions in the isles between the packed rows of visitors to accompany soloist Amanda Halgrimson Walzer with the first song. Time during service flew by. The choir sang beautiful lullabies and carols, the orchestra accompanying them, and every once in a while, the audience would get a chance to show off their own vocal talents with some traditional hymns. The three di-

rectors, J. Boga, Dr. J. Curtis, and A. Shefelbine, did a beautiful job while also enjoying the service. "It was the first time that I have been able to relax and not worry about what could go wrong," Dr. Curtis told his students in choir practice after the concert. The performers are anxious to top this successful performance next year and are looking forward to your attendance at their coming concerts.

Aletta Bühler

JFKS Life

Less "Open SC", More Open Bathrooms!

"Open Student Body Meeting, 13:05, W309" read one of the posters advertising an open-to-all Student Council meeting. I decided that, with nothing better to do, I would take the initiative and attend that meeting. When I reached W309, I found a sign that redirected me to B209 – no problem, since the large amount of space in W309 would have been wasted on the 15 students that showed up at the meeting anyway. Ms. SC President Frances Copeland proceeded with the sparsely attended meeting by announcing several projects that the Student Council appeared to be planning. This revelation surprised and appalled me at the same time – my Student Council representatives had never informed me about any of these endeavors. When Frances had finished presenting the current goings-on in the SC, I found myself at liberty to bring forth any concerns I might have about school.

So I took the opportunity to ask about the "situation of the bathrooms in the second floor of the white building". What situation? Let me explain. There are a total of 5 restrooms on the second floor of the white building: 2 student bathrooms and one teacher bathroom on the left side of the hallway that leads away from the main white building staircase – and two student bathrooms in the back of the chemistry/biology area, one on either side of the second staircase. Rather, there used to be. Because a couple of weeks ago, these two bathrooms next to the second staircase were converted into "Lehrer Toiletten", which are of course inaccessible to students. This new development leaves the teachers with 3 bathrooms on the 2nd floor of the white building and the students with only 2. One need not be in Math Leistungskurs to figure out that this distribution is not appropriate considering the teacher-student ratio. Moreover, the 2 lavatories in question were practically the only ones in the entire school that were still in an acceptable state (that is: having toilet

paper, paper towels and soap on more than 3 days a week).

Of course this irrational development prompts the question: Why do the biology/chemistry teachers need 2 additional bathrooms? Do biology teachers tend to have weak bladders? Are chemistry teachers especially susceptible to prostate ailments because of exposure to all the various chemical substances? Hardly. I was unable to find any logical reason for this whatsoever. And this newest incident is only an extreme example of an ongoing trend of toilet injustices: On Thursday, December 11, out of 6 boys' bathrooms in the entire high school building, only 3 were open, probably because they were in a particularly decrepit state. The boys' bathroom across from the Student Lounge has been lacking a mirror for almost 3 years now. The door in the one on the 3rd floor of the white building does not lock properly, while the doors in the bathroom in the 2nd floor of the blue building open in both directions, instead of only one. The girls' bathroom on the 2nd floor of the white building seems to be locked most of the time. I could go into more detail if I would frequent the girls' bathrooms more often. I can't blame students for starting to get pissed off.

Our school has a strange way of solving such problems: Instead of fixing them, they lock the doors. The administration is presumably still in denial.

But back to the Open Student Council meeting... Upon my mentioning the bathroom situation, Frances answered, "We've looked into that". I couldn't help but feel that a lot of initiatives that shouldn't be are going down the drain in the SC. Let's hope that our Presidents decide to get their hands dirty on this bathroom issue and not just "look into that", so that we can walk into our bathrooms again.

Randolf Carr

Yearbook Notices

Please submit your teacher quotes to teacherquotes@hotmail.com or yearbookies09@gmail.com no later than January 9th, 2009.

The Academic Section of the Yearbook needs your pictures. Please take photos in your courses and email them to yearbookies09@googlemail.com. If you want to see yourself and your friends more prominently represented in the Yearbook 2009, it is up to you to send

us pictures! Take your camera to school every now and then and take pictures of your classmates in action (e.g. students drawing in an art class or raising hands in an English class). The deadline for these pictures is February 13th.

All Seniors are reminded to submit their Senior Page by latest January 15th.

*Stefanie Lehmann
Farsane Tabataba-Vakili*

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1. Come to our weekly meetings in the 20-minute-break on Tuesdays in B214
2. Send in your articles to themuckraker@gmail.com
3. Join the Muckraker Yahoo! Group
4. Drop a note in our mailbox or approach us randomly in the hallways

JFKS Life / Columns

Greater Tuna

The play "Greater Tuna" was definitely a great success. Many people came to see it and judging from the reaction of the audience, enjoyed watching it. Yet what is the story behind "Greater Tuna"? In an interview with Mrs. McDaniel, I decided to find out.

"So, what is the moral of this play?" was one of the first questions I asked her. She furrowed her brow thought. I could almost hear the gears of her brain working furiously. "Erm..." she finally said after about 30 seconds, "well... I guess the moral is to live your life as best as you can and to stay out of other people's business. But it doesn't really have a moral", she concluded.

"Why did you choose to perform 'Greater Tuna' and not some other play?" was my next question. "I chose Greater Tuna because it was fun", she replied. "Greater Tuna" definitely is popular with the audience. It is a play where you don't have to think and can just sit back and laugh out loud as you watch the inhabitants of Tuna go on with their daily life. Plays that teach you something, however, are not as fun to watch. Consequently, less people would come to see it and the drama department would earn less money. "Yet, of course, the educational value of a play is important, too", says Mrs. McDaniel.

"Greater Tuna" was written by three people: Joe Sears, Ed Howard, and Jaston Williams. They started out by writing several separate sketches; short, funny little scenes. Then, they decided to put them together and thus the play was created. Originally, the only actors in it were Ed Howard and Jaston Williams. Therefore, there are only two people in a

one scene at a time. Yet since there are so many students at JFKS who wanted to participate, there were more than two actors in the performance. Each and every one of those actors, however, was chosen to play the role they played. I wanted to know what qualities an actor or actress should have if they wanted to become part of the cast of "Greater Tuna" or any other school play, for that matter. According to Mrs. McDaniel, you've got to try your best and show a great amount of dedication if you want to get cast in a play. When you audition "you've got to really care and really put a lot of energy into what you are doing. You've got to leave the auditions feeling like it's got to be you, and that if the director doesn't cast you, he or she will have made the wrong choice", explains Mrs. McDaniel.

"But what about the acting talent?" I asked. "The acting talent is part of it, too, but it's not enough to cast students who have a lot of talent", says Mrs. McDaniel. "You need to take risks from time to time. Sometimes it pays off, and sometimes it doesn't." Mrs. McDaniel thinks that often it is worth it to take on less experienced actors. Then, one has the chance to teach them something and greatly improve their acting skills.

"Greater Tuna" was certainly a very interesting play. Those who haven't seen it, have missed a good time. I wonder which play the drama department will show us next. But whatever it is, I am definitely looking forward to it.

Lisa Feklistova

Eleventh of the Nothings

The Cynic's Dictionary

WEIHNACHTEN

„Eine Maßnahme zur Förderung der Binnenkonjunktur, die weder den Bundes- noch den Landeshaushalt belastet.“

Maurice Wothe

Feeling cynical, too?

Then submit your own definitions to themuckraker@gmail.com by January 12th.

Eileen Wagner

"You are what you read", they say. Or "Actions speak louder than words". If that's true, then an athlete with gangrene loses an identity along with a limb in amputation. And a painter gone blind who has found himself through art must find himself again. If what one has and what one does equals what one is, then a poet who does not write the truth is really only a rhymer, a mother whose child is gone is only a woman, and a prostitute is by definition only a whore. And so Identity, the daughter of Father Action and Mother Experience, cannot help but undergo some painful changes as life goes on, as habits are born and die, as hopes rise and fall, as talents come and go. However natural change comes, moving on always means moving away and often one looks back, at the person one once was and the things one once

could do. I suppose it is inevitable to turn searching eyes towards the past, to opportunities lost and futures that will never be. Perhaps the only control one has is over the regret or the acceptance that accompany these occasional bouts of remembrance: if the eyes that look back are full of tears or whether they carry a certain smiling understanding. "You are what you do" becomes "You are what you did," but you are also defined by your relationship with those events past. And perhaps it is important, in establishing those relationships, and in outlining present identity, to cleanse yourself of present worries by immersing the mind in the experiences that define you. To bathe, indeed, in memories...

Anna Zychlinsky

Comments, Replies?
send your opinions and articles to:

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Thoughts Aside: Christmas

Santa Claus is dead. I killed him. You killed him. Your parents killed him for you. You don't believe me? Who's giving you your Christmas presents? Do you even have a chimney? Ever wondered how Rudolph could possibly fly? If you ever believed in the existence of a fat man in red and white, those days have long passed.

But let's be jolly and optimistic, shall we. Christmas makes the dark and cold months of winter endurable and even pleasant. We enjoy giving and receiving presents and thereby help the economy, which is wonderful in light of current developments. Any and all Christmas controversy seems secondary to its undeniable commercial benefits. Fortunately, one can nowadays enjoy the Christmas spirit without being Christian, without even necessarily believing in a god at all. It has become a secular, capitalist holiday.

However, in our day and age, religion has not yet become so irrelevant that we can allow ourselves to totally ignore a holiday's history. The supposed birth of Baby Jesus, if also commercialized to a high immoral degree, remains fundamental to Christmas-related values. The charitable act of giving – whether it is food, shelter, or presents – is a vital aspect of this holiday as well as our culture.

Giving often entails receiving, which our super-ego (look up Freud, if you are not familiar with the term) tells us has the potential to be degrading and despicable, since charity entails pity. How would society view a person who solely wants to receive Christmas presents but is unwilling to give any in return? He would be categorized as an egotist, who acts against society's norms. Although the moral guidelines that society lays out for us are no ultimate truths, it always remains easiest to conform to them. Hence, we need to conclude that Christmas is about giving and not about receiving.

Listen to your inner-voice and think about what Christmas means to you. The only thing that really counts is your personal ethic. Society remains secondary to the individual.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Movie Review: Waltz With Bashir

Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir* is the latest in a recent string of animated features that go beyond preconceived notions of the medium, exploring their material and themes in new and startling ways. The film follows Folman's real-life attempt to recover his repressed memories of the 1982 war in Lebanon, in which he fought as an Israeli soldier. A unique and versatile style only possible in animation comes to the forefront as he reconstructs real interviews with friends and professionals (many of whom lend their own voice talents as well) and tells the stories that come out of these encounters with hypnotic images, from the initial dream of soldiers bathing in the sea at night that cryptically hides a horrific event, to the climactic scene in which a soldier, in the rush of battle, runs into the middle of the street adorned with posters of Bachir Gemayel (the assassinated president-elect of Lebanon) with a blazing machine gun, dancing the film's titular waltz.

Structurally, there is something to be desired; as much as the scenes of the film are superficially linked together through visual transitions, there is never a strong flow present, and the ending of the film, for all the emotional reaction brought on by the use of real-life news footage, feels unresolved. Though the drawing style is quite good, the animation itself is somehow unsatisfying; it tries too hard to replicate the feel of live-action movement, without taking advantage of the freedom available. "Don't do what the camera can do - do what the camera can't do" is an oft-repeated dictum among animators, and for good reason.

Waltz with Bashir is, on the whole, a rather uneven film. On the one hand, it is a great testament to the emotions and experiences of war, and leads the viewer to a harrowing climax that stays in the mind long after the film has ended. On the other hand, it is lacking not only in the areas described above, but in the fact that the psychology in it is disappointingly superficial. Thankfully, it is by no means pop psychology, but the surreal visions and the engrossing premise lead the audience to expect something much deeper and more complex than what is presented, even if that is an impressive achievement in its own right.

Nikolas Jaeger

BERMUN, continued from page 1

Thursday morning, Max Jürgens, the President of the GA, and Caroline Meder, the Secretary-General, continued the opening ceremony, during which all guests, from Benin to Sweden to India, were welcomed to our school. The keynote speaker, Marianne Mollman from the HRW, rounded off the morning beautifully with her personal appeal to the students to implement gender equality into their own lives and suggestions on how to do so.

Thereupon followed two days of intense discussions and heated debate on international law, on female prostitution, on the situation in Lebanon, disrupted only by the admin's call to lunch and further speeches by the committees' guest speakers. Among the most memorable was the speech of Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Zulfacar, the Afghani Ambassador to Germany, who moved many students to tears through recounting personal experiences to the delegates and the large number of visiting admins in the Special Conference.

True to tradition, the first snow fell on BERMUN Friday, creating much excitement and difficulties concentrating, especially for the delegates from the Middle East. Similarly, the JFKS delegates got their share of excitement when two JFKS alumni, Robte and Eugen, travelled to Berlin to visit the BERMUNers

and were of course immediately put to work by the Student Officer Team.

On the last day of the, once again, way too short conference, all the GA committees assembled in the refurbished New Gym to create a final resolution on the basis of a recommendation by the Special Conference. The final document outlined the steps all Member States will need to take to empower women in their home countries. In a team effort, the delegates came up with four separate resolutions treating different aspects of the issue at hand and promoting the most remarkable ideas the delegates had come up with in their previous discussions. But all too soon, guillotine time struck, and the last round of debate had to be ended. An astounding video by the press team set the mood for the more relaxed closing ceremony, a time during which the Student Officers and delegates enjoyed to funniest and most exciting moments as well as the products of the past four days of hard work in review. After months of strenuous preparation and four days of intensive debate, we can look back and proudly say that it was a Best BERMUN Ever!

*Katharina Nicolai
David Newbrander*

Entertainment

Tafelwerk 4 U

Es ist kein Geheimnis, dass heutzutage Jugendliche etwas anders sprechen und schreiben als Jugendliche vor 20 Jahren. Besonders mit der Erfindung des Internets und den damit verbundenen Zeitdruck neigt der eine oder andere doch zu Abkürzungen. Schließlich hat ein SMS auch nur 160 Zeichen. Nun aber sind diese Abkürzungen offiziell im neusten Tafelwerk von Cornelsen und Volk und Wissen (2003) festgehalten. Fragt sich nur, ob es als Fehler angestrichen wird, wenn man demnächst in einer Klausur folgendes schreibt:

IMHP is e=mc² OTOH you could say that BION F=m*a, HHOJ... 8-)

Eileen Wagner

Abkürzungen

Für die Kommunikation im WWW haben sich zahlreiche Abkürzungen eingebürgert. Ursache dafür waren am Anfang die Kosten für die Rechnerzeit.			
AFAK	as far as I know (soviel ich weiß)	ILY	I love you (ich liebe dich)
AFK	away from keyboard (bin mal kurz weg)	IMO	in my opinion (meiner Meinung nach)
ASAP	as soon as possible (so bald als möglich)	IMHO	in my humble opinion (meiner bescheidenen Meinung nach)
BAW	bell and whistles (unnötiges drumherum)	IMPOV	in my point of view (aus meiner Sicht)
BBL	be back later (komme später wieder)	IOW	in other words (mit anderen Worten)
BION	believe it or not (ob du es glaubst oder nicht)	LOL	laughing out loud (da kann ich nur laut lachen)
BOT	back on topic (zurück zum Thema)	MHOTY	my hat's off to you (ich ziehe den Hut vor dir (Respekt))
BRB	be right back (bin sofort wieder zurück)	MOM	moment (einen Moment bitte)
BTW	by the way (nebenbei bemerkt)	NRN	no reply necessary (keine Antwort notwendig)
CU	see you (man sieht sich)	OIC	oh I see (oh, ich verstehe)
CUL	see you later (wir sehen uns später)	OTOH	on the other hand (andererseits)
FCFS	first come, first served (wer zuerst kommt, ...)	PLZ	please (bitte)
FM	from memory (aus dem Gedächtnis)	PMJI	pardon me for jumping in (entschuldige, dass ich mich einmische)
FOAF	friend of a friend (ein Freund des Freundes)	ROFL	rolling on the floor, laughing (vor lachen auf dem Boden wälzen)
FYA	for your amusement (zu deinem Vergnügen)	TIA	thanks in advance (Dank im Voraus)
FYI	for your information (zu deiner Information)	THX	thanks (danke)
GFC	going for coffee (mache eine Kaffeepause)	WAEF	when all else fails (wenn alles andere schief geht)
HHOJ	ha ha only joking (ha ha, war nur ein Witz)	WRT	with regards to ... (mit Grüßen an)
HTH	hope this helps (hoffe das hilft)		
IAE	in any event (in jedem Fall)		

Emoticons

Mit Emoticons, auch Smileys genannt, kann man Gefühle im WWW übermitteln. Gebildet aus: Emotion (engl. Gefühl) und Icon (engl. bildliche Darstellung).					
:)	lächeln	:>	verschmitzt	8-)	Brillenträger
:-D	lautes Lachen	>:->	boshafte Bemerkung	*:o)	Clown
:-P	Zunge rausstrecken	:-o	oh, Erstaunen	*<:-)	Weihnachtsmann
:-/	skeptisch	:-O	schreien	8:o)	Mickey Mouse
:-(	traurig	:-*	küssen	O:-)	Engel
:-C	sehr traurig	:-x	Kuss	];->	Teufel
:(	sehr sehr traurig	:-X	schweigend	:-!	Raucher
:[	deprimiert	:-]	ernst	8:]	Gorilla
!:(	weinen	:-*)	flapsig/betrunken	8)	Frosch
;-)	ein Auge zukneifen	I-o	langweilig	3:]	Kuh
;-)	augenzwinkernd	(:~...	zu Tränen gerührt	:-~)	Pinocchio

Entertainment

Sudokus!!

Eileen Wagner

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

Easy Sudoku

		6	7					
	2	8		1	3			
4					6	1	5	
	9						7	6
2								9
7	6						3	
	7	2	8					5
			9	3		4	6	
					2	7		

Hard Sudoku

	3				9		6	5
1			7				2	
		6		5		4		
7	8					5		
	6	1				2	9	
		9					7	6
		3		2		1		
	2				1			3
9	1		4				8	

CARTOON CORNER: Christmas

Jakob Marsh



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