



THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

10th anniversary issue!

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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THE MUCKRAKER Speaks!

Well wouldn't you know... the Muckraker is now 10 years old! Imagine where most of you were 10 years ago... barely in elementary school? Not even in Kindergarten yet? Or just recently born? Naturally, to mark this occasion we didn't want to keep the birthday celebration quiet; we wanted to celebrate this glorious day with the entire JFKS community (faculty, parents, administration, alumni, and of course, the honourable students) and thus have released the anniversary edition of the Muckraker. Thank you all for supporting the Muckraker throughout its development and ensuring its survival as the leading student newspaper for the past 10 years.

Anyone that's ever written for the Muckraker will know how independent and sovereign you feel when you write for a newspaper that's dedicated entirely to voicing the concerns and opinions of the students. We pride ourselves in knowing that we're not afraid to be critical, controversial, and confident. Of course, throughout the years not all the muck that was raked gathered acclaim. To give you an insight on these ups and downs, we've asked the founding fathers of the Muckraker to submit their thoughts on the past and future of the newspaper, an honor for both the staff as well as the readers. All of us in the editorial team admire the independence and the eloquence with which the journalists report on things that have inspired, interested, or irritated them. It has been an honour and a pleasure reading what you all have to say and allowing for the rest of the community to do so too. We hope that the next generation of student journalists will continue to rake the muck of our school and our society, always keeping a critical view. Remember, raking muck might not be the friendliest job in the world, but it will achieve its goal of breaking the silence and not letting things go unnoticed.

And, of course, to mark this anniversary, we've made some changes in the newspaper, which some of our most dedicated readers may have already noticed. We've decided to undergo some revisions in the layout to keep a more clear and efficient overview of things going on in school and allowing you to know what's inside the paper with just a glance at the front page. We're open to new suggestions and would be very appreciative of your comments on this new layout. Also, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new students as well as faculty to the JFKS High School! We wish you lots of success and hope your year has been off to a positive start. Once again, thank you for your continuous support and a happy birthday to the Muckraker!

The Founding Fathers Speak

The last issue we read of the Muckraker was online, something that would've seemed unimaginable to us on September 18, 1997. That day, the three of us stayed up all night in Adam's room literally cutting and pasting together the first issue of this

evening (as well as the next morning's first classes) duplicating and folding what we had pieced together. Given how high-tech our original production was, we never thought we'd see the Muckraker online, let alone see it reach this, its tenth anniversary.



from left to right: Seth, Mikolaj, Adam

At this milestone, reflecting back on the Muckraker's first year certainly makes us proud, but mostly it makes us laugh - and sometimes cringe. The now-humorous memories include the time when we finally made the giant leap forward to formatting the newspaper on the computer and spellchecking our articles. We were so sure of the results that we promised a prize - for which we had no budget - to whoever spotted a mistake. Of course, since

we hadn't bothered to proofread the articles the old-fashioned way, the issue was riddled with mistakes and we had to tell the people pounding down our office door that we had already given the prize away.

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Fathers... continued to page 2

HOBY

This year's German Ambassador at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership world congress, Victor, will tell you all about his experiences in the nation's capital and his encounters with some truly inspirational and motivating young people. We especially encourage all the new 10th graders to read about it since they have the opportunity to apply for next year's congress.

on page 6

Teacher Feature

We have a new American principal in town! Thankfully, Dr. Reale found time in his busy schedule to meet with one of our journalists, Lena, and answer some questions about his past as an NYPD police officer, his fluency in seven languages, and his aspirations for the new school year.

on page 4

Clothes

Ever wonder what most girls do during the last couple of days before school starts? Prepare for class? No. Prepare for school? Well, yes. Deciding on the perfect outfit for that first day when you see all your friends again is a challenge most girls face in their lives. And the days after that aren't any easier. Read what Rebecca has to say about this phenomenon.

on page 7

Top Ten Myths

So what exactly do the teachers do in their lounges? Can we eat in the library? And what is class like for those older students? For any of you that have been misled in the past about what you can and cannot do in the high school, read Farsane's Top Ten Myths that you should definitely not fall for.

on page 2

JFKS Life

MUCK of the Month

SCHOOL NEWS

- A warm welcome to 14 new American high school teachers at the Kennedy school this year! Here are our new teachers in over-view:

- The math and sport departments will enjoy some Southern flare with Mr. Anderson from Florida joining them; so will computer class students with Mr. (Dallas) Becker from Texas. Mr. Anderson has more than just experience in teaching: He once worked at a bait pond, selling minnows, worms, leeches, and the likes.

- New biology teachers Mr. Schulze (who loves to skateboard and ride BMX) and Mr. Space (a.k.a. Herr Weltraum) are both from sunshine states: Florida and California.

- Next door in the chemistry department, Ms. Galloway from Texas is joining us. She's also a registered nurse and dental assistant! And those who have her as a teacher might want to ask about the three autopsies she has seen performed.

- We will be seeing music teacher Mr. Boga from Georgia in the green building, and Mr. Boulín (Connecticut) and Mr. Lazar (Spain) in the blue building helping us freshen up our knowledge of history.

- The English department's undergoing quite a stretch – longitudes from all the way East to far off West: Mr. Cole from North Carolina, Mr. Becker from Kentucky (not to be confused with Mr. Becker from the computer room), Mr. Connolly from Illinois, and Mr. Robertson from California.

- And finally: the library office is now in the hands of Ms. Rubin from Michigan while the the American principal's office is now run by Dr. Reale from Connecticut.

L e n a

Walther

Top Ten Myths about High School

10. All students are allowed to walk over the bridge connecting the white and red buildings in order to visit with the elementary school students.

9. Students are allowed to eat and drink during classes as long as they share with their teachers and peers.

8. Lunch is 65 minutes long, and students are not allowed to have class or any sort of activity during that time. It is meant solely for students to play 4-square according to the "high school rules".

7. All students are allowed to leave school grounds at all times, as long as they bribe the right people.

6. All emergency exists are entirely off limits, especially those in the green building.

5. Absent teachers are never substituted; the substitution board is only a formality.

4. Going to class is not mandatory in the Oberstufe. Since the German "Schulpflicht" ends with grade 10, all

11th, 12th, and 13th graders do is have parties in the park all the time.

3. Students may eat in the library as long as they don't get caught. A jumbo-sized pizza from Liberty Pizza might cause some problems. But if you are willing to share, you should be fine.

2. The teachers' lounge and department rooms are in truth small wellness centers with masseuses and relaxing music, which is why students are absolutely forbidden to go inside them.

1. A "class conference" is simply a class in which you discuss a controversial topic, such as the true meaning of a literary work or the elegance of the number 8. It has nothing to do with "misconduct reports", which are, in essence, long essays written by teachers about how awful a student behaved. They are published bimonthly in "The Misconduct", the teachers' school newspaper.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Fathers... continued from page 1

On AIDS Day, we decided to attach a condom to each copy of the newspaper. Again, we did not have the money for that, so the three of us went to a health clinic that we heard gave them out for free. In the awkward episode that followed, the clinic volunteer was not phased by seeing the three of us together (he assumed our connection went far beyond "just friends") but we did manage to surprise him by telling him about the hundreds of condoms we needed.

We remember how some of the "hiccups" we experienced in our first year of muckraking extended not just to public relations and business matters but even to journalism itself. We introduced the newspaper to the school at a hastily-organized press conference where we promised to quiz the candidates for Student Council president on all the tough issues. There, we didn't even think to ask follow-up questions! We hope that with time, our journalistic skills improved, but we've been particularly impressed with the professionalism of the staffs that followed us.

We also had our share of run-ins with not only the administration but with parents and fellow students as well. The most notable of such incidents was an early issue in which we published the results of our thoroughly unscientific poll of drug use among JFKers. In the storm that followed, we were surprised to learn that our readership included not just students but also parents, teachers, administrators and even alumni, all of whom dropped by to share their (mostly constructive) criticisms. The

lesson in responsible journalism aside, the episode underscores the continued value that the Muckraker brings to the JFKS community by giving voice to the students' view on current issues and events. This newspaper continues to stimulate discussion of these (sometimes controversial) topics and is successful in getting them addressed. That is why we would like to thank all the staffs both past and present for their hard work publishing the paper and confronting difficult issues. Keep raking the muck of JFKS, through the good times and the not-so-good times; the parents, faculty, administration, and most especially the students and alumni greatly appreciate it.

Coincidentally but appropriately, this year was the first time since JFK that all three of us saw each other. Adam is now a lawyer in New York, Mikolaj is working for the European Commission, and Seth is heading toward medical school after a career in finance, but we all happened to be in Manhattan at the same time and got together. Nearly ten years since we graduated from JFK, we spent the weekend sharing the above mentioned (and many more) memories. Our time with the Muckraker and at JFK remains one of the best we've had. We're confident that all of you will equally fondly remember your time here, and hope that the Muckraker will continue to be a part of it.

*Adam Nagorski
Seth Hepner
Mikolaj Bekasiak*

JFKS Life

MUCK of the Month

SCHOOL NEWS

- Here's information Ms. Krull thinks we should know about the lockers:

The first set of lockers the school had was the US army's property. Over time, replacements needed to be made and were financed by the Verein. Since there are more elementary school parents in the Verein, it was decided that it isn't fair that they should have to invest so much money (€100 per locker) in the high school. So now, if you want a locker, you have to either join the Verein (€62) or pay a private company for a locker (€35). Ms. Krull says that for those who don't want to become Verein members because of financial issues should contact her. If you've come to find your lock missing, it's because you haven't paid for it (neither Verein membership, nor company payment). It will still be reserved in your name until September 17th, though. That's the deadline for payment. The book fee does not cover Verein membership fees.

-The bathrooms, we have certainly all noticed, are a clean white, thanks to a group of students from the Student Council and Peer Helpers led by a new teacher, Ms. Lopocz, who was so appalled when she saw the state of our bathrooms that she took on the initiative. Plans about renovating the other bathrooms in bad shape are in the making. If you are interested in helping out, Ms. Lopocz is the best person to contact.

- Something many may not know is that our school offers contact teachers who focus on substance abuse. Mr. Finstad and Frau Beelitz are both willing to talk, help, and answer questions.

Lena Walther

Fehlende Lehrer

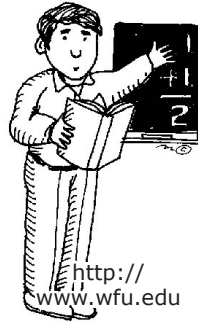
Seit Beginn dieses Schuljahres fehlen bei uns in der Highschool Mathe- und Physiklehrer.

Damit bin ich schon fast beim Thema: Lernerfahrung.

Es geht um Bildung im weitesten und direkten Sinne.

Wir stellen uns die Frage, ob es der Lernerfahrung dient, wenn man über längere Zeit Ausfälle in den Bereichen Mathe und Physik hat. Viele Schüler werden mehr oder weniger „nachhängen“ und das Lernziel für die nächste Klassenstufe nicht erreichen. Es wird gegen Ende des Jahres in der Klassenstufe niemanden geben, der im normalen Sinne gut, schlecht, richtig oder falsch lag, da die Chance des Lernens in diesen beiden Fächern schlicht nicht gegeben war.

Normalerweise läuft es bei uns in der Schule so, dass durch das Lernen das Klassenziel erreicht wird – der Schüler bekommt eine gute Note. Diese gute Note wiederum bringt eine Motivation mit sich; Interesse für das entsprechende Fach und damit Punkte für das Abitur. Vielleicht sogar Interesse für ein



<http://www.wfu.edu>

eventuelles Studium. Es werden neue Horizonte entdeckt.

All dies kann aber nur passieren, wenn diese Fächer auch in der vorgesehenen Weise vermittelt und gelehrt werden.

Wir Schüler der John-F.-Kennedy-Schule wollen auf diese positiven Erfahrungen nicht verzichten.

Gibt uns die Anregung die wir brauchen. Gebt uns die Mathelehrer. Gebt uns die Physiklehrer.

Statt mit Mathe und Physik befassen sich die Schüler nun mit der Frage nach dem Verbleib der Lehrer:

Es könnte doch sein, dass sie sich in den Weiten des Alls aufhalten.

Die Milchstrasse wimmelt nur so von Außerirdischen, vielleicht sind unsere Lehrer vom Erdenweg abgekommen und tummeln sich stattdessen dort? Suchen womöglich nach einer Schule? Sollten dann aber nicht die Sternwarten Wind davon bekommen haben? Irgendwie? Oder sie haben längst entlang der Milchstrasse eine Schule gefunden, in der es ihnen viel besser gefällt.

Viele Dinge kann man auf Erden nicht erklären und außerirdisches Leben konnte bislang noch nicht bewiesen werden, doch vielleicht sind wir die Ersten, die dazu bald in der Lage sein werden?

Anissa Nehls

Why Do We Bother?

Why do we bother to strive for individualism? We dress differently, speak differently and act differently in order to be taken out of the crowd and seen as something else. I would say we all define individualism in the same way, or at least in a similar way. Individualism is something that could be seen as habit of believing in our individual thought, and we seem to define ourselves by expressing our belief about how to act and behave as well as how to cope with challenges. But by putting ourselves in this position and calling ourselves and others different, don't we end up as a group of people, rather than individuals acting together? We all strive for the same thing; we have categories in which we put ourselves to be who we think we really are, or rather who we would like to be. We can't say

we're individuals when we all strive for an idealistic way of being rather than just expressing ourselves the way we should. The reason we all strive for this certain individualism is because we are very aware of the fact that we get judged about our appearance and so we judge others about theirs. The first impression we get of someone usually depends on their appearance, therefore we want to make a statement with the way we look. We put a label on our character. We call it "emo" or "goth" or what not. But that doesn't separate us from everyone else. It just sums up how we feel, act, and look. We get put into a group, get accepted or rejected. Will we ever be individuals with our own distinct characters? I doubt it.

Samara Bentlin

THE MUCKRAKER is an independent newspaper. The opinions expressed here in no way reflect those of the administration of the John F. Kennedy School.

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Staff

Teacher Feature: Dr. Reale

Along with a wave of 25 other new American teachers, Dr. Reale made his way across the Atlantic to become our new American principal this year. He is glad to be in Berlin. He says it's "an exciting time to be living in the city that's still suffering growing pains and reinventing itself after the fall of the wall". Moving to Germany's capital also feeds the interest in German culture and language that has been a part of him since high school.

Dr. Reale grew up in Connecticut and then attended high school in Massachusetts. It was then, in grade 12 that he had his first encounter with the German language.

"When I was a senior, I wanted to attend the school's wood shop course. But since college application time was drawing near, the counsellor warned me. He said that wood shop wouldn't look good on my transcript and gave me a list of alternative classes. The only thing that sounded remotely interesting was German! I chose it and I loved it. I've always enjoyed learning languages and for German I had a special affinity." In fact, he became so drawn to German that even though he had only had a year of it in high school, he decided to study it in college.

"I went to college in New Orleans, with my last year spent at the Hamburg University. I then got married a week after graduation and taught German at a Catholic school for a while." Then, Dr. Reale's life took quite a twist: He moved to New York and became a police officer!

"I wanted to do something to serve the community. I also thought the job would offer a variety of new experiences - something different every day; and it did. But after a while my wife wanted to get out of the busy city and promised me that if we move to somewhere else, I could choose any job I wanted." He chose the Navy. "Throughout my eight years in the Navy, I lived in all different sorts of places. One of my main occupations was to learn Russian and ride in submarines to eavesdrop on the Soviet Navy. This was, of course, during the Cold War." After a few more years of teaching and serving as principal in high school in the US, Dr. Reale joined us here in Berlin at the John F. Kennedy School.

"My first impressions are that this school has a high quality student body. I've had personal contact with the students through the classes I teach and found them to be exceptionally engaged and inquisitive. I know that at many other schools, a large number of students' only goal is to reach that

passing grade. I get the sense that students here aim for greater success and have a good learning approach. I also think the school is lucky to have dedicated teachers who are willing to challenge students."

Dr. Reale explained the only weaknesses at the school are "the lack of cleanliness". "I think that this year there seem to have been improvements. It speaks well for the students here that they respect their peers' work in the bathrooms.



However, cleanliness is still something we have to work on. I brought my US high school German class to Berlin last year and showed them the Kennedy school. When we were back in the States, I said to them, 'Remember the German-American school we visited? Well next year, I'll be working there as principal.' Their reaction was, 'That dirty school?!?' A school is initially judged by its buildings because they're the first things people see. It's a shame people get such a false impression of what the John F. Kennedy School actually is."

Another aspect in the school he thinks has room for improvement is our technological equipment. "In light of American schools' standard, I would like to see our technology grow."

The American principal's job in short is to function as the diploma program's administrative head and to manage the American embassy trust fund - but Dr. Reale has goals beyond that.

"Firstly, I want to support those responsible for technology at our school as best as possible.

Another goal is the retention of American staff. Although part of the idea is bringing in new opinions - fresh

American opinions - you can't have a turnover of nearly 30 % of your staff every two years. An American staff so unstable undermines our school's values. We need some continuity." And our principal has already sent letters to five senators asking them to sign the bill that would eliminate a main reason for the fluctuation of teachers: double taxation. "It's certainly worth a try", he hopes. "If the German congress can pass such a bill without much trouble at all, the US could, too."

"Another barrier that I think gets in the way of the American teachers choosing to stay is the fact that they never really learn the language. The Goethe Institut has a slogan that runs 'Deutsch lernen, Deutschland kennenlernen!'. I think that's absolutely true. Integration happens only if one can speak the language." To tackle this obstacle, Dr. Reale is offering German lessons for new staff members without the commute, costs, or difficulty of learning it in multiple instruction languages of a regular language course.

But his focus goal right now is simply this: "to get to know the culture of the school". He believes that it's not the new guy's job to come in and want to change it all, but rather to be sensitive and perceptive in understanding the character of the school and then to think about improvements that might do the school good.

At the end of the interview, we discussed less serious topics and the principal revealed what he's like outside of school. "I love the Yankees! Baseball has been a passion all my life." Even with a considerable German influence, Dr. Reale has stayed true to American sports. He also plays, he says, "lousily", coaches hockey, and skates.

When he's not playing sports, he puts endurance and strength to the test through renovating houses. So far, he has renovated three. Something to consider if any of you out there have a job around the house that needs doing!

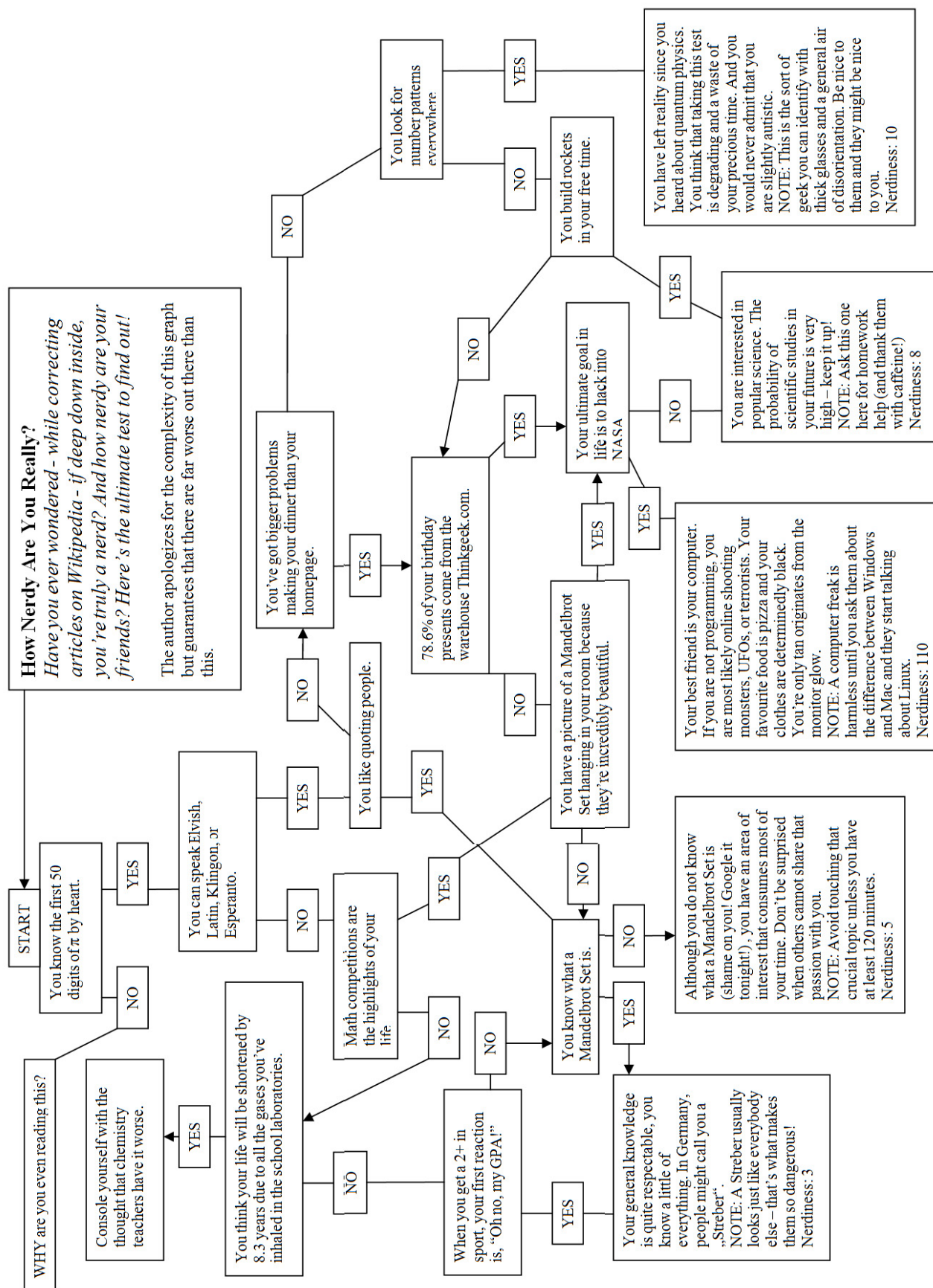
He also exercises his mind.:Dr. Reale speaks French, Polish, Italian, Russian, Spanish and, hopefully before next summer break, Bosnian. He hopes to be able to make some conversation with a student he is visiting in Bosnia by then.

Police officer in New York, member of the Navy, and now our principal...if that isn't something...Dr. Reale, we thank you for the interview and wish a good start at the Kennedy school!

JFKS Life

How Nerdy Are You Really?

Eileen Wagner



Comments, Replies?
send your opinions and articles to:

themuckraker@gmail.com

"Yo, you retarded?" - Best Buddies

**Your opportunity to become friends
with mentally challenged people**

What a shame to hear people use the word "retard" to insult others. If you'd ever meet anyone with mental retardation, you'd never use "retard" in a negative sense again.

Two years ago, Best Buddies, the community service activity that connects a high school student

with a person with intellectual disabilities, was introduced to JFKS. Over the past two years, it

has changed the lives of its the members and the way they view mentally challenged people. A former student at JFKS and Best Buddies member, Johanna Nothnagle, once said, "Just to see your partner be happy makes you happy. I joined to help people with intellectual disability integrate into society, but this program helped me see the other side of the world."

Like Johanna, a member of Best Buddies can choose to be partnered up with a person with intellectual disability and come to the monthly group meetings to watch movies, have picnics, go to the zoo, go bowling, cook together, etc. Members also meet every Friday (not Wednesday anymore) during the 20 minute break in the Muckraker room (B214) to discuss the plans for fundraising events and the next group activity.

Best Buddies is actually a world-wide organization not only for high schools, but also for middle schools, colleges, and other institutions. For example, even Harvard University started Best Buddies ten years ago. So, if you enjoyed Best Buddies at JFKS, you can continue it at college.

People with intellectual disabilities are very nice people; they are shy at first, but once you really get to know them and become friends with them, you will never even think about using "retard" as a negative word again, because in reality, they are the nicest people you might ever meet.

So, come and join one of our meetings and become part of the program!



He-in Cheong

HOBY WLC: Why Youth Leadership Is So Important

Why do the opinions of Young people so seldomly get acknowledged? Politicians across the globe seem to just ignore and underestimate the perspectives and ideas brought forth by teenagers. Luckily for us, actor Hugh O' Brian founded the Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program in 1958 to further this goal of realizing the potential of young people around the world. His inspiration to found this program came from a nine-day visit with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Africa. Dr. Schweitzer had told him that of all the things to take back from this trip, the most important was the goal of encouraging young people to think for themselves.

The HOBY conferences which initially only took place in Los Angeles for sophomores from California, swiftly grew so popular that in 1968 the first World Leadership Congress (WLC) took place. Each year our school selects and, with the assistance of Riller & Schnauck, sponsors one JFKS student to be the

Smith, who was an exceptional motivational speaker, and, of course, Senator Spelling whose unique outlook on education managed to outshine the other members of the panels.

From all aspects of my experience at the HOBY World Leadership Conference the people I met during these 9 days were by far the most important. This diverse crop of exceptional young leaders managed to leave me in awe each time I struck up a conversation with a fellow HOBY ambassador. The Ethiopian ambassador Abel Ayelew has managed to overcome so many obstacles presented to him by life from losing his sight as a child to living under harsh circumstances he kept on going. Now, at the age of 16, he is founder of a foundation, which tries to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and has actualized one of his dreams at the HOBY WLC: visiting a foreign country. Jonathan Allen stood out in his community by becoming a licensed pastor at his church at

age 16 and attracting masses of people to his sermons on Sundays in his home state of Louisiana. Another example of youth leadership was Keegan Wetzel who was a starter on his high school varsity football team, editor of his school



sole German ambassador at the WLC, which is held from the 19th to the 27th of July in Washington D.C. I had the distinct pleasure of being the 2007 German ambassador and thus was able to have a truly life-changing experience.

We were housed on the campus of the George Washington University for the entire duration of the conference, which was host to more than 400 young leaders hailing from various parts of the USA to such diverse countries as Lebanon, Mexico, Canada, Taiwan, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Argentina, Australia, China, Malawi, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, the Dominican Republic, and the United Kingdom.

Over the course of the conference I was privileged enough to meet and discuss with various pioneers in the fields of technology, government, business and education. Especially memorable were Dr. Robert Gallo, who is the Co-Discoverer of the AIDS virus as well as Marlon

newspaper, and active member of his school's student council all while maintaining a 5.0 GPA during his sophomore year. Of course, all other participants also had an extremely interesting story to tell of how they had portrayed youth leadership and therefore deserved to be a member of the WLC.

I can only encourage all 10th graders to apply for the HOBY WLC this school year. I for one am not all too worried of what the future may hold in store for us after witnessing so many extraordinary young leaders. I hope to make my contribution to further spread and implement the ideas of youth leadership at our school and in my community just as the school's previous HOBY ambassadors have done.

Victor Boadum

17 Outfits Down, How Many More to Go?

"Oh my god! School is going to start in a few minutes!" is the first thought that pops into your mind as soon as you open your eyes in the morning. Not only do you fill up with all the coffee you can find to get going, you cram your head with thoughts like "What will my teachers be like today?", "Do I have all of my stuff?", "Where's my first class?", and "Did I do all of my homework?".

According to the Associated Press, 85 percent of young people said they felt stress at least sometimes. This level is more higher with girls than with boys. That is because we girls have to face one more major task: "What am I going to wear???"

You walk over to your closet, which is full of clothes and tons of different outfits, but still seem to think that you have nothing to wear! While deciding between shorts or long pants, jeans or cord, a tank top or a t-shirt, sneakers or fancy shoes, flats or high heels, a backpack or a hand bag, make up or none, you try to get ready for school, but still continue to think about your clothes.

"Would shorts and a tank top be too cold? Or long pants too warm?", "Can I manage to walk in high heels for 10 hours today?", "What will everyone say to my fancy new clothes? Would they be too fancy?" Is it fine to just wear whatever's comfortable?" Ah! Too many questions! Too many choices!

Guys, on the other hand, walk over to their closets, which include barely a handful of t-shirts and pants. "Who cares what I wear, as long as I can still play soccer!", is their only thought. They throw on a shirt and some pants and they're good to go.

So, overall, a girl's first couple of weeks of school are also her most stressful. Nevertheless, even with tons of homework, the pressure of good grades, extracurricular activities, and community service, as well as the difficulty of finding a classroom in the midst of people mingling around you and your heavy backpack, not to mention the impossible clothing choices, you still need to maintain a positive attitude. Sports, a good diet, enough sleep, optimism, planning ahead, talking to your friends, and especially having fun and laughing, are the ingredients for a guaranteed stress-free year. Even for girls!

Rebecca Jetter

Zeidler Zappt: Verkehrssicherheit

Als ich nach Südafrika gezogen bin hat mich einiges überrascht. Obwohl ich bereits in zwei anderen tropischen Ländern jeweils 3 Jahre gelebt habe, war es nach vier Jahren Berlin doch mal wieder etwas anderes. So zum Beispiel die hohe Kriminalitätsrate, und vor allem die hohe Angst vor der Kriminalität. Irgendjemand hat einst gesagt: „Nur die Angst der Leute vor einer Gefahr macht sie wirklich gefährlich.“ Dadurch, dass man die hohe Kriminalitätsrate ignorieren würde, könnte man sie aber wahrscheinlich auch nicht bekämpfen. Deshalb dazu vielleicht ein anderes Mal mehr. Was mich aber noch mehr überraschte war die unbeschreibliche „Verkehrsunbildung“ einiger Südafrikaner. Was hier so alles auf den Straßen herumfahren darf, ist schon ein Hammer.

So muss ich immer wieder an eine bestimmte Autofahrt denken. Es passierte kurz nachdem ich nach SA zog. Wir fuhren von der Schule nach Johannesburg – warum, weiß ich nicht mehr. Es ging schon an der Schule los. Als wir mal wieder (dank der grotesken Inkompetenz einer Dame, der es nicht gelang die unglaubliche Herausforderung des Verlassens der Schuleinfahrt zu meistern) dort herumstanden und warteten, schaute ich in den Rückspiegel. Das war mein Fehler, denn sofort wurde mir schlecht. Ich sah nämlich eine Lehrerin mit ihrem kleinen Kind. Das war allerdings nicht das, was meine Übelkeit auslöste. Es war das, was im Auto vor sich ging. Doch es löste auch ein Gefühl des Triumphes in mir aus, denn wieder einmal wurde mir ein weiterer Beweis dafür geliefert, dass Lehrer mindestens genauso dumm und inkompetent wie wir Schüler sind. Sie saß nämlich – unangeschnallt, natürlich, wir sind ja in Südafrika – auf dem Fahrersitz. Doch das Beste kommt noch: Auf ihrem Schoss krabbelte ihr Kind herum, patschte gegen die Frontscheibe und war rundweg glücklich. Auch als die alte Dame vor uns ihrer Herausforderung Herr geworden war und wir uns in Bewegung setzten, veränderte sich die Situation nicht. Dazu fiel mir dann nur eines ein: Das Kind muss reichlich ungezogen gewesen sein. So ungezogen, dass ihre Mutter die sofortige Todesstrafe fällt, nämlich einfach einmal scharf bremsen, damit das Kind so richtig schön „schmack!“ gegen die Frontscheibe fliegen kann und dieser einen neuen Rotanstrich verpassen kann

– der vom letzten Kind war ja schließlich schon am verblassen.

Doch es kam noch schlimmer. Als ich mich von meinem Schock erholt hatte, ging es gleich weiter. Auf der Autobahn fuhr ein Bakkie. Wieder: An sich nichts schlimmes, sieht man ja auch in Deutschland immer wieder, aber die Ladung war das Schwindelerregende. Dieser Bakkie war bis zum Überlaufen mit Menschen gefüllt. Bei Madam and Eve heißt es ja immer: Three guys on the back of a bakkie. Wenn es denn wenigstens three guys wären. Aber es waren mindestens ten, wenn nicht sogar twenty guys on the back of that bakkie. Auch hier blühte meine Fantasie wieder auf. Wenn der einmal scharf bremst, dann fliegen die alle im hohen Bogen über den Bakkie und verpassen dem Lastwagen davor einen schönen neuen 3D-Rotanstrich, dachte ich mir. Das, was nicht am Laster kleben bleibt, kann man dann zusammenfegen und an die nächste Dönerbude verkaufen. Natürlich gab es auch dazu noch das nötige Filmmaterial in meinem Kopfkino.

Danach kam es zu dem Höhepunkt der Autofahrt, nämlich gleich eine Doppelvorstellung: Es fuhren ein BMW und ein Mercedes hintereinander. Vorne, im BMW, saß eine Frau am Steuer (für manche Menschen ist das schon schlimm genug; ich gehöre jedoch nicht zu denen), welche mit den Knien steuerte und gleichzeitig im Rückspiegel ihren Lippenstift ausbesserte. Ein weiteres Mal wurde mir schlecht, also drehte ich meinen Kopf ein wenig zur Seite, in der Hoffnung, dadurch meine Innereien beruhigen zu können, doch ich wurde enttäuscht. Dann mein Auge fiel auf den Mercedes dahinter, in dem ein Herr seinen Laptop aufgebaut hatte und sich dort – soweit ich das erkennen konnte – den Film „300“ anschaute. Dazu nahm er dann noch alle paar Sekunden einen kräftigen Zug aus einer Flasche mit einer bunten Flüssigkeit, wobei er diese Momente sehr zu genießen schien, da er die Augen jedes Mal fest zudrückte.

Also: Ich bitte euch alle, macht so etwas nicht. Und wenn, dann überlegt euch bitte vorher gut, ob ihr als appetitlicher Bestandteil eines Döners taugt, denn der letzte den ich hatte schmeckte ekelhaft, viel zu zäh. Und wir wollen doch schmecken, oder?

Moritz Zeidler

Entertainment

Muckraker Tipps

14. September: Gwen Stefani

Im Velodrom um 20:00 beweist uns die „Pop-Prinzessin“ mal wieder ihr enormes Talent.

Weltweit verkauft sie Millionen von Alben, gewinnt Grammy's und nun ist sie wieder auf Tour mit ihrem neusten Album „The sweet Escape“.

14-20. September: Berlin on Bike

Jeweils um 10:00 und 15:00 Uhr gibt es Fahrradtouren, die alle Teilnehmern dabei helfen, Berlins geheimste Ecken und Plätzchen ausfindig zu machen. Selbst für Berlinkenner scheint diese Tour ein wahrer Augenöffner zu sein. Fahrt mit und erfahrt wie toll eure Stadt ist!

16. September: ISTAF- Internationales Stadion Fest Berlin

Das ISTAF ist eines der größten und beliebtesten Sport-Treffen Deutschlands. Seit 1937 wird es jährlich ausgetragen. In 11 Disziplinen treten die besten Leichtathleten gegen einander an.

16. September: Weltkindertag

Kinder haben Rechte- ist das diesjährige Motto und soll damit die Aufmerksamkeit auf die UN-Kinderrechtskonvention von 1989 lenken. Rund um den Potsdamer Platz wird das bundeszentrale Fest stattfinden. In Berlins Zentrum wird eine bunte Kinderwelt mit sieben verschiedenen Themenparks und zahlreichen Bühnen erbaut.

Anissa Nehls
Sophie Farthing

Sudokus!!

He-in Cheong

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

Easy Sudoku

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

Das sinnlose Dudeln im Radio

Wir kennen ihn alle. Eigentlich nervt er uns, besonders wenn wir überall auf Leute treffen, die ihn vor sich hin summen. doch insgeheim haben auch wir ihn ins Herz geschlossen: den Sommerhit. Charakteristische Merkmale sind ein relativ einfallsloser Beat, gepaart mit einem ohrwurmwürdigen Refrain, welcher selbst nach mehreren Wochen noch im Kopf herumspukt. Dazu kommen dann einfache, mit aaah's, uuuuh's und yeeaaaah's gespickte Texte, häufig auch auf Englisch oder Spanisch, welche von auf Urlaub getrimmten Sonnyboys gesäuselt werden. Im Musikvideo lassen sich dann unschwer reihenweise blonder Strandschönheiten in knappen Bikinis erkennen, die den (die) Sänger(in) umringen, gemeinsam am Strand herumspringen und den Interpreten anhimmeln, während dieser dabei gut gelaunt zum Playback die Lippen bewegt.

Doch warum mögen wir ihn trotzdem? Fakt ist, dass, wenn man im Urlaub am Strand liegt und die Sonne genießt, die Welt gleich viel rosiger aussieht. Krieg und Armut erscheinen dann weit weg, man hat gute Laune, ist entspannter, lockerer, und sieht die Dinge nicht so eng wie man es zu Hause im Alltag vielleicht tun würde. Während der ganzen Zeit läuft im Hintergrund genau DER Song, den man vor der Abfahrt von zu Hause noch abgrundtief gehasst hat. Doch jetzt erscheint er plötzlich nicht mehr ganz so schlimm, immerhin tanzen abends im Club alle dazu; außerdem summt der gut aussehende Surfer an der Bar ihn auch jedes Mal mit, wenn er im Radio ertönt.

So toleriert man das sinnlose Gedudel und fängt an, sich daran zu gewöhnen, schließlich begleitet er uns den ganzen

Urlaub lang, ob man es wahrhaben will oder nicht. Am Tag der Abreise blickt man dann wehmütig zum Strand, in der Hotellobby auf das Taxi zum Flughafen wartend. Genau dann merkt man: der Sommerhit ist einem ans Herz gewachsen.

Zurück zu Hause lässt man den Koffer demonstrativ unausgepackt im Flur stehen, holt lediglich die Sonnenbrille heraus und geht in die Küche um sich den leckeren Cocktail aus dem Urlaub selbst zu mixen. Zur Enttäuschung schmeckt er ohne Sonne, Strand und Meer nur halb so gut, und man schaltet frustriert das Radio ein. Doch da ist ER wieder, der Sommerhit. Sofort steigt die gefühlte Temperatur in der Küche um fünf Grad an, der Cocktail schmeckt fruchtiger und man meint, in der Ferne ein sanftes Wellenrauschen zu vernehmen. Er hat es geschafft, uns genau dahin zu beamen, wo wir am liebsten sein würden: zurück im Urlaub.

Dies ist auch der einzig wahre Grund, warum der Sommerhit von uns toleriert wird, sobald wir zurück im Alltag sind. Nie würden wir im Club dazu tanzen, aber die Single-CD haben wir uns trotzdem gekauft, um sie heimlich in der Badewanne oder beim Sonnen auf dem Balkon zu hören und den sorglosen Tagen nachfröhen. Wenn wir uns dann mit Freunden auf den Weg zum Baggersee machen und der Sommerhit im Autoradio ertönt, machen wir uns kollektiv darüber lustig. Trotzdem schließen wir die Augen und versinken für zweieinhalb Minuten in den Erinnerungen. Zugabe: insgeheim lieben wir ihn alle, den Sommerhit.

Ina Fischer

Hard Sudoku

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