

THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Volume XI, Issue V

Friday, February 1, 2008

Circulation: 500

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The past few weeks at JFKS have been more than just intense. Whoever said the start into 2008 would be easy-going, obviously had no clue. While younger students still struggled with last-minute tests, all students of the 11th grade and up were kept busy with research papers, college applications and that teensy little thing called the Abitur.

If you're still bored, why don't you check out some of the articles in this edition of the Muckraker? Keep yourself politically updated and read about Benazir Bhutto's assassination or the presidential elections in the United States. In case you'd like a lighter read, go ahead and find out what FFF stands for, or read the Teacher Feature on Mr. Connolly. And don't forget to send teacher quotes to the Yearbook (more info on page 4).

Interestingly enough, during that special week in which the library was temporarily closed, our entire school turned into a gigantic makeshift-lounge, as nobody really knew where to go or what to do, other than roam the halls aimlessly or sit on one of the staircases.

Something else that JFKers might be struggling with at the moment seems to be the Berlin weather. "Members of the JFKS rowing team, please note that due to the spring-like weather conditions, we will have rowing practice this Sunday!" Thanks for the laughs, Dr. Hepner... wait! He was SERIOUS?

Yes, its January, although judging by the number of bikes stationed at our bike racks these days, it could be May for all we know (although the daily rainfall hopefully will have stopped by then).

Well, at least some of us will have report cards to look forward to, and others the long-awaited Student Lounge (keep your fingers crossed). With that in mind, enjoy your weekend and take it easy!

Cheers,
your Editors.

"Library-ism" A Cold War in our Midst?

It is impossible to deny that our school has a fundamental problem involving the library. The terms and dimensions of this predicament are so complex that the possibility of finding a solution seems rather dismal and it would be unsound to try to pinpoint a single scapegoat.

First, however, one must define what this "problem" actually is and how different people interpret it. When asking Ms. Rubin to identify the issue she responded: "...We have lost sight of the academic purpose of the library, whose mission is to provide support to the school community, so that means everyone! It is hard to balance. I truly believe that students need a comfortable, warm place during times when there are no classes. One of the main problems, though, is that students (not all) come in and can be disruptive to the atmosphere. On top of that, I have, unfortunately, seen and been the recipient of disrespectful behavior, attitudes and remarks, for which I have very little tolerance."

Amongst the student population opinions



differ quite greatly. Many students are content with having a library as a place of learning and research, while some regard it as a substitute student lounge. A number of students wish to be allowed to eat and drink in the library with the simple reason that it used to be permitted in the past. In order to receive this "right" they behave disrespectfully and inappropriately, resulting in general displeasure.

While food simply does not belong in

Library, continued on page 4

Barbershop & Jazz

What does B&J stand for? If you don't know you weren't at the Barbershop and Jazz Potpourri and you really missed something! The music was good and the Ben & Jerries Ice Cream (or B&J) was even better. Check out Eileen's fabulous review to find out which quartets performed which songs, why the show didn't have a plot, and what the matter was with all those acronyms.

on page 4

Web Filter

In the last Muckraker issue a concern about the efficiency of the web filter was expressed, as Neo-Nazi sites were accessible while harmless sites were blocked. Mr. Dallas Becker, the new computer science teacher for the Mittelstufe, took the time to inform us about the newly installed filtering software that came along with the new Mac server.

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Bhutto Assassination

The news of Benazir Bhutto's assassination shocked the entire world a couple of days after Christmas. Why was she shot? Who is to blame? What will happen next in Pakistan? If her death intrigued you or you haven't watched the news lately and want to know more, go ahead and read Moritz Zeidler's extensive article.

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US Election

Who will be the next President of the United States? This question is currently still unanswerable, but the candidates are already campaigning viciously, seeking to win the preliminaries. Who will be the Democratic candidate? A woman or an African-American? Who will the Republicans choose? Find out more by reading Randolph's humorous update on US politics.

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JFKS Life

MUCK of the Month

SCHOOL NEWS

It is no news that our high school library was closed for a week from Tuesday, the 21st to Friday, the 25th of January. It may be good to reiterate the reasons for the closing: Misbehaviour in the library was discussed at a faculty meeting prior to the closing. The librarian, Ms. Rubin, reported that she had been faced with repeated verbal disrespect by students. The teachers suggested closing the library for one or two weeks in order to let students know that the library is a privilege, not something to be taken for granted. Although Ms. Rubin opposed the idea of a closing because she thought it "would cause a lot of problems and alienate students", a vote resulted in the decision to go forward with a one-week library recess. Ms. Krull urges us to improve our attitude and behaviour, arguing that the librarian is not our babysitter, but a trained professional with the purpose of helping us with research assignments.

The boys have certainly noticed that several of their bathrooms have been locked due to new graffiti. The restrooms will remain closed until the police has photographed the graffiti and taken it down. The goal is to identify those who have anew taken the liberty to vandalize.

Finally, on a positive note: A new activity has been added to our plethora of choices: the environmental activity meets every Thursday 6th period and invites all interested students from 9th – 13th grade to discuss environmental politics, experiment with new technologies and improve our school's ecological footprint.

Lena Walther

Teacher Feature: Mr. Connolly

Please give us a short history of your life.

(Laughs) How 'bout you just make some stuff up about me to make me seem more interesting... No but seriously, from ages 5 to 12 I worked in the Circ des Ole, once I got too big to be shot out of a cannon I left and spent the next seven years living in an ashram in Tibet... Ok the truth is I was born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. I went to schools in Michigan and Colorado...and now I'm an English teacher.

What were your first thoughts entering JFK?

Well I came at the end of the summer...before the "reconstruction" began. It seemed a little rundown at the beginning but that opinion changed, I love this school, it has a great atmosphere! By the way...who is this Shiva person? She is all over the bathrooms!

How does JFK compare to other schools you've taught at?

I used to teach at a huge boarding school in Michigan, 300 acres, it was amazing! I also worked at several schools in Inner City Chicago all of which I really enjoyed! I think JFK is, collectively, as good, if not, better than all the other schools I taught at! The students are great! This is the first time no one in my class is failing; it's a wonderful environment to teach in! I come to school whistling every morning!

How was your own high school experience?

High school...It was a carnival, an amusement park! I had class from 10 to 12:30 every day. I only had four classes my senior year! (Laughs) Way too much freedom, especially since I was an athlete. I think high school is the best and the worst time, I made some of the best friends there. Most of the people who stood up at my wedding were my best friends from high school.

What are your hobbies?

I can't say it's too creepy...no no but honestly I hate to consider writing or even hockey a hobby...A hobby is something you chose to do but I have

to write and I have to play hockey, it's more of a passion. I guess my hobbies would be running and looking at other people's art because I definitely can't paint!

What were your worst and best subjects in school?

Math was definitely my worst subject, that side of the brain is closed for reconstruction!

My best was obviously English.

What is your teaching philosophy?

You tell me, you're my student. (Laughs) I guess it would be... Relate the material to the students, laugh everyday, and prepare them for the next level. I think teaching is 90% caring and 10% knowledge.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Dead. Next question.

If you could invite one historical figure to a dinner party and be allowed to ask him/her one question, who would it be and what would you ask?

Sylvia Plath and "why? Do you realize how much you're depriving us of?"

Who else would you invite?

Salinger, Hunter Thompson, Gordy Howe, and Toni Morrison

What are your favourite movies?

"Slap shot", "Amelie", and "Ponette".

What five books and what five bands should everyone know?

Catcher in the Rye, the Bell Jar, the Great Gatsby, the Bluest Eye, Herland...and bands... Grateful Dead, the Cure, Led Zeppelin, Tori Amos, and Ani de Franco.

What is your goal in life?

To amuse my wife and kids for as long as possible.

Tell us something about yourself that no one at JFK knows.

Up until now I would write my poetry on the walls of my bedrooms.

Leonie Schulte

Comments, Replies?

send your opinions and articles to:

themuckraker@gmail.com

JFKS Life

Alumnus Feature: Whatever Happened to... Anna-Gabriela Cruz Benedetti?

*When did you graduate from JFKS?
Were you in Abitur or Diploma?*

I graduated from JFK in 2002 with the good old Abitur.

Where did you go to college/university and what did you study?

Since medicine takes SUCH a long time until you can finally legally call yourself a doctor I am actually still studying at the RWTH Aachen. I've considered taking a short cut by simply starring on "Grey's Anatomy" instead, but unfortunately all characters were already cast.

What are you doing now?

I am finally nearing the end of my studies. In August I started my practical year and have spent the past 3 and a half months in the surgical unit. In the beginning of December I will then switch to a different hospital to look into gynaecology and will hopefully find the time to continue working on my dissertation.

What are your hobbies?

In the course of my studies I've figured out that nothing can soothe the overworked brain more than an entertaining, not in the least educational TV series. So I guess you could say that's one hobby, at least when exam time gets closer. Other than that I'm trying to keep up some of my English in a discussion group, I like to read and will eventually do sports again when my "innerer Schweinehund" is on vacation. Then there's also going out, spending time with friends, my boyfriend, etc. but I wouldn't exactly consider those things a "hobby".

In what activities were you involved during your school time?

"Back then" - and yes, I'm THAT old - I was involved in quite a few activities. That probably has to do with the fact that I went to JFKS from Vorschule to 13th grade and that gave me some time to try out a number of things. It started with gymnastics in elementary school, followed by my involvement in the swim team, a short intermezzo with the girl's soccer team and a shot at basketball (at which point I decided I wasn't made for sports involving a ball). I was also quite fond of the music department where I started with the legendary Flötenkurs (my poor parents!), joined the choir and smaller ensembles and played



the clarinet. Last but definitely not least I was editor of the Muckraker, I participated in MUN and took part in the leadership class. As I said, I probably had too much time on my hands.

Do you have any favorite memories from the classroom or in an activity?

It's hard to really pick favorites. I have fond memories of being in Mrs. Turczyn's 3rd/4th grade class; I always admired her drawings and decorations of the class room. Then there's legendary Hr. Schur who gave us long philosophical lectures and although he was always subject to a lot of criticism I actually learned quite a bit AND had the best note-passing time with Katharina in his classes. ;o)

Then there's MUN and the awesome experience of speaking in front of so many people. The memory of Dr. Peterson in a frenzy because of all the things we still had to do in so little time always makes me smile. Speaking of which, his musical talent displayed in our History LK still makes me wonder why he didn't make it to Broadway. Last but not least, Mr. Felt... I don't really know where to start (or end) but let's just say being in his class is as entertaining as it is educational.

(PS: Herr Slama, ich werde wohl nie vergessen, wie ich im mündlichen Abi ein totales Blackout hatte. Es zählt zwar nicht zu den positivsten Erinnerungen, aber vielleicht tröstet es ja, dass ich mich mit der Chemie

im Studium nicht so schwer getan habe... :o)

*What was your favorite subject?
Favorite teacher?*

Easy question. Dr. Peterson and History LK tied with Mr. Felt and English Grundkurs.

What were your Leistungskurse?

History and Biology: the perfect combination.

How has your time at JFKS influenced your life?

It definitely has but it's not so easy to pinpoint. I think it has made me a lot more open towards other cultures but also generally open to new ideas and seeing things from another person's perspective. JFK also taught me critical thinking and although that may sound like something that's not worth mentioning, eventually you'll probably find that many people out there never question things they are being told. For better or for worse. Lastly, as you can tell by my activity participation at JFK it helped to form my character and gave me the opportunity to find my strengths and weaknesses (basketball!!!).

Do you have any advice for the current students of JFKS?

When our class tried to find excuses for not doing homework - because it was TOO much - Herr Slama would always tell us that he understands but that in college we'd be going through double the material in less than half the time. We never really wanted to believe that. I still don't want to but unfortunately... it's true.

I'd like to give you the advice that you should use the time you have in school to try out as many things as possible and to appreciate the opportunity to have a bit of each subject. Once you get to college you will be focussing on one field and at least some of you will miss the breadth of subjects.

How soon can we expect to see the headlines: "Anna-Gabriela Cruz Benedetti, Surgeon of the Universe"?

Probably right after you see the headline: Anna-G. Cruz Benedetti wins the Nobel Prize.

JFKS Life

An All-American Night

A Barbershop and Jazz Potpourri

What is so unique about this year's barbershop show? Well, first of all, it was on the 22nd of January, a Tuesday. The drama department has decided that because the actresses and actors who play in the musicals or plays are usually also involved in the barbershop show, the school wouldn't want those students to have extra stress (interesting how the school is so concerned with the students' health).

From now on, the drama department will focus on one show a year, alternating between musicals and barbershop shows. So this year's show was rather short and had no real plot to it – but nevertheless it possessed all the great things that make a barbershop show worth watching: puns that require getting used to, a swinging jazz band, many ladies in pink and gentlemen in suits and above all, marvellous harmonies that transfixed the audience. This year's theme was jazz, and the jazz band, girls' and boys' choruses, ladies' chorus (yes, that was the special surprise) and the quartets did an excellent job at selecting and performing different classic



photo: Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Not Another Music Joke Quartet

pieces. From "Orange Sherbet" to "Orange Coloured Sky", from "Tuxedo Junction" to "Play a Simple Melody", the show was again brilliant in musical education. So who composed "Short People" again? But let us not pretend what the real highlight of the show was: Ben&Jerries Ice Cream. It proves the combination barbershop + jazz + ice cream = superb all-American night. If you went to the show and haven't been traumatized by the many acronyms, I'd say "SYNY" – can you guess the meaning? If you missed the show, I'd say it's "too, too, too, too bad!"

Eileen Wagner

Library, from page 1

such a facility, drinks are forbidden, as they are bound to be spilled occasionally, which can ruin books and electronic equipment. Then at least water should be okay, as it is allowed nearly everywhere, say the moderate revolutionaries among the students. Humans have to drink, and if the library is the students' only refuge on school grounds, as there is no student lounge yet and the lure of the aula is rather dubious, one cannot forbid that basic need. All sides have a sound line of argument. However, this little dilemma does not end at a thorough discussion of the topic. Instead a type of cold, behind-the-back war is waged and continuously sparked up by both sides.

A significantly large minority of students show disrespect towards the library staff and property, resulting in the quite frequent distribution of misconducts. The level of animosity steadily increased, due to which the librarians saw the necessity in instituting new rules, and the faculty decided to close the library for a couple of days to make a statement. The new rules, in turn, caused greater dissatisfaction on the side of the revolutionary students, leading to the distribution of badly written, rather provocative, and unsound flyers demanding that students unite to overthrow the library.

The notion of eating, drinking, and being

loud in the library seems to be the major cause for this conflict. If food and drink would never have been allowed in the first place, if previous librarians would not have let the situation go out of hand for several years, we would probably not have this problem with disrespectful behavior now. In the past the students had been given the "inalienable permission" to have their lunch (or breakfast) in the library, and they got used to it. It was only a natural reaction to be somewhat angry upon being deprived of one's previous freedoms. However, the extent of the reaction is quite inappropriate.

Yet the question remains as to how the problem can be solved. Ms. Rubin commented on the need of cooperation, saying that "administrators, teachers, students and library staff all need to recognize the value of the academic mission of the library, be respectful of others, and be willing to be a part of the solution." The Muckraker urges all parties in this conflict to talk the issue through and find a sensible compromise in the best interest of all the members of the JFKS community. We humbly ask that the students behave themselves in the library and respect its staff to ensure that the JFKS library will still be accessible to students in the future.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

-Staff-Box

Founding Fathers:

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Seth Hepner
Adam Nagorski

Senior Advisor:

Samira Lindner

Editors:

Ina Fischer
Eileen Wagner
Lena Walther

Layout Editor:

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Journalists:

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Guest Journalists:

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Teacher Quotes

Do your teachers occasionally make funny remarks in class? No? Oh, come on! Write down some good anecdotes and email them to jfksyearbook08@googlemail.com by February 15 so that they can be included in this year's YEARBOOK!

Notes from the SC Presidents

This year's Student Council (SC) believes that the key to improving the students' view of the SC is by strengthening the communication between the student body and the SC. Therefore we will aim to inform you with our new column in the Muckraker "Notes from the Presidents" which will keep you up to date on the SC's ongoing activities.

The first semester was a widely successful one for the student council. We managed to make progress on the Central Abitur or JFKS Abitur debates because we were able to not only inspire a healthy discussion amongst the student body but we ensured that our voices would be heard and taken seriously by the faculty. In form of a very successful student-led and organized debate as well as an info session for 12th and 13th graders, we gave you all information on the new JFKS English Abitur. Although we already made significant changes in how the students are consulted on this topic the student body can rest assured that the fight for the student favored Central Abi will continue to be at the very top of the SC's agenda.

Furthermore this school year's SC organized an extremely diverse and interesting Christmas season filled with several SC 20 min. break activities, distributed the Buzz Books, embarked upon a new tradition in form of the very first Student Council Sports Tournaments (SCST) ever with the dodge ball tournament kicking off the festivities, had the honor of organizing a farewell for Mr. Bakke and hosted the first dance of the year with the "Boogie2nite". However the biggest achievement of this school year is the fact that the SC in co-operation with the Administration and the formidable help of the Verein and Ms. Rubin's support will be opening a Student Lounge for all Oberstufen classes starting in February (2nd Semester). It took the SC very long to secure the Lounge and in part was only agreed upon after much discussion and lobbying from our sides during our weekly meetings with the administration. We therefore hope that the student body realizes that both the Lounge and the library are privileges and should students disregard any rules the Lounge will be closed.

The SC would lastly like to thank a few individuals for their assistance throughout this semester although they are not SC reps. These students include Mats Schade (11th), who helped greatly with this year's buzz book, Erik Wiedenmann (11th), who created the Buzz Book cover and Jennifer Flöter (12th), Farsane Tabataba-Vakili (11th) and Stefanie Gebele (11th) for their help with the English Debate.

Should you have any questions or remarks be sure to email the SC at: scpresidents@gmail.com.

Victor Boadum

Update on the Web Filters

In regards to the article concerning Neo-Nazi websites, I wanted to address the issues surrounding web filters in simple language: our current web filter, Time for Kids, works in two ways. Firstly, it uses a blacklist which is a simple list of web addresses that are blocked. We can add or remove things from the list manually. Secondly, it uses wildcards which are combinations of words and site registration data sets. This is how it decides what is a 'porn' site or what contains graphic violence. As most students know, wildcards don't always work and can be very frustrating.

On Monday, January 21st, we are installing a new server that has an advanced filtering system. The new filter gives a teacher ultimate control over what is blocked. It also allows us to unblock sites without shutting down the server. In regards to your valid concerns about elementary school students we will now be able to use different logic for different users. We could, for example, design one set of very strict rules for 5th graders and a loose set of rules for 12th graders. This isn't currently possible.

We will start a blacklist immediately and will also begin the process of 'training' the filter to recognize inappropriate sites. It generally takes about a year to properly train a filter, so please be patient.

The major issue with the filtering of Neo-Nazi sites is that they are virtually impossible to distinguish from legitimate WWII sites. All the keywords are the same. We have to deal with them through the blacklist process which means that we need help from students. I will work with your student council to establish a mechanism for reporting inappropriate sites.

Throughout my career, I have followed the principle that students should be given freedom based on responsibility. In other words, I will take a liberal approach to web filtering as long as students don't abuse that approach in such a way that threatens the learning environment or reputation of the school.

Dallas Becker
Computer Science Teacher

Rütli-Wear:

A New and Improved Label for a Neukölln School

In 2006, the Rütli School of Neukölln became the archetype of dysfunctional schools in Germany. Today, Rütli students are fighting to give their school a better image - by dressing it in their very own "Rütli-Wear".

A March 2006 letter by a Rütli school teacher to the Schulverwaltung flamed nation-wide media madness, catapulting the Reuterviertel school from unknown to infamous. The teacher urged the administration to close the school, describing daily acts of violence - a student body out of control. What a story! The media jumped right on, competing for brassy headlines. The BZ won the race (no surprise there - scandal is its middle name), branding the school a "Terrorschmiede voller Hass und Gewalt" (a terror forge full of hate and violence). The more reputable newspapers and stations initiated debates on the German school system, school violence, and integration of immigrant kids. The Rütli school became the poster child for problem schools.

And people devoured the sinister scraps thrown at them through television and radio - except Tom Hansing, a 27-year-old university student who lives only a few paces away from the school. He was repulsed by the media's gross exaggeration and exploitation of the situation of Rütli school students. While the school faces integration struggles with over 80% immigrant students and 53 severe acts of violence committed on its

premises since 2005, he felt the media were generalizing and sensationalizing. Especially because the school is unstable, shattering its image to hopeless seems irresponsible and unjust toward the school's students. Hansing was determined to counter the negative with creative publicity: he founded "Rütli-Wear" and now runs the project with fellow college students and students from the problem school itself. The provocative outcome of these students' efforts are t-shirts, sweat-shirts, and other items of clothing sporting capitalized "RÜTLI". It's a campaign...wearing Rütli shirts is a statement against the media's incrimination and for a more positive awareness; designing the shirt is a boost of confidence and hope for Rütli students. Contests were held at the school - the student body voted for the contestant who's design best represented the school. Principal Helmut Hochschild supports the campaign and says he is being flooded with offers to help (albeit not always sincere offers) and says, "I like the practical approach that furthers students' creativity."

"Rütli-wear" is still aspiring, hoping that students from all over the city will purchase their products. The message is: let's not leave it up to others to label our school, let's create our own label and shape our environment ourselves.

Lena Walther

Culture / Opinion

The "Do" of Hand and Foot

All You Ever Wanted to Know about Taekwondo

Half a dozen people stand in a line with bowed upper bodies. A loud, piercing yell, a "kihap", echoes through the gym. He runs, jumps, and soars through the air, over the heads of his peers and through a hula-hoop with his right leg



stretched out in a Yop-chagi – a side kick. Two 23mm wooden boards crack precisely in half. He lands on his feet and bows to the audience. Applause.

A taekwondo performance generally further includes kicking apples off knives and swords, self-defensive fights against armed attackers, sparring, and various board-breaking exercises with different parts of the arms and legs, such as the elbow (palgup) or the fingertips (Sonkut).

Although such performances are very interesting to watch, taekwondo comprises a lot more than merely a form of entertainment for curious onlookers. It is a life-style with 2000 years of tradition. Although the martial art originated in Korea, it has gained international fame and is an Olympic discipline since 2000. The World Taekwondo Federation has active sportsmen throughout the continents and continuously hosts tournaments worldwide.

As a beginner one starts with the white belt and learns the basic foot (tae) and hand (kwon) moves. Upon mastering the most basic techniques, one learns the first poomsae (a step-by-step fight against four imaginary opponents), Taeguk-Il-Jang, and practices sparring (light and full contact fighting) against one's peers. Several times a year one has the opportunity to take part in a Geub belt examination in order for one to move on to the next level. The order of belt colors is white, yellow, green, blue, brown, and black. There are two belts of each color and nine degrees of black (Dan) belts, totaling to

18 student and master degrees that take nearly a lifetime to obtain. After successfully completing such a test one receives an official certificate together with the according belt and slowly learns the next poomsae.

A usual training session starts out with warm-up running and stretches, followed by several forms of kicking practice, full and light contact sparring, poomsae, and all sorts of strenuous workout. – Pushups remain to be an all-time favorite.

If you're interesting in trying out taekwondo you can feel extremely fortunate because you don't have to search for a dojang and attend classes in some far away outskirts of Berlin. The JFKS Sport Club has its own taekwondo department with Grandmaster Chung Sun-Chai (8th dan) and his team of black belt instructors training three classes twice a week. The "grown ups" group (age 14+) trains Wednesday from 6 to 7pm in the old gym and Saturdays from 1 to 2pm in the new gym. The younger groups train an hour earlier, respectively. Students as well as teachers of all ages and degrees of fitness are welcome to attend free practice lessons and participate in training regularly if they find it enjoyable.

You will benefit from this sport not only by becoming fitter and more able to defend yourself, but it will also result in you being able to concentrate a lot better and improve your academic or job performance.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

A Very Special Holiday: FFF

It is understandable that many of you have had enough acronyms lately (especially after the Barbershop & Jazz Potpourri), but here's another one, just for the fun of it: FFF.

Possible answers are: Fight For Freedom, Foo Fighters' Fan, the Fluffy Friendly Federation, and even forte fortissimo for the musicians. But no, it stands for an upcoming event: the Fifth Friday in February!

Let me explain why this is so special. February, in a common year, always has 28 days. 28 divided by 7 is 4, which means that February can only have 4 weeks. But 2008 is a leap year (why? Because it is divisible by 4. But be careful: if it's divisible by 100 then

it is a common year again – except if it's divisible by 400, like 2000).

So that gives us one more day in February. And since the distribution of weekdays is periodic, this happens every 28 years (one more day every 4 years, each time a different weekday). How often do YOU celebrate holidays that occur every 28 years?

So join us and celebrate the FFF. You may drink champagne if you're over 18, and if not, you can still bake cookies and bring them to school. Chocolate chip, if that's alright.

Eileen Wagner

The Cynic's Dictionary

FUTURE

- That period of time in which our grades are better, our friends are true and our happiness is certain.

Feeling cynical, too? Then submit YOUR definition of the word BEAUTY! The Muckraker will publish the most cynical definition. Send it to themuckraker@gmail.com by Feb.11th!

Eileen Wagner

The Second of the Nothings

It is generally acknowledged that a difference exists between who someone is in private, and who they are in front of others. I know a man who believes that between a person and the world, there exist six walls, the last one of which never comes down. This implies that an actual self exists, though it is hidden from the public. If you factor in self-denial and comfort-lies, then the self is equally hidden to its owner. A strange idea - that the "ultimate I" is present but completely invisible. If we don't know ourselves, and no one else does either, then do we exist? There is, of course, also the issue of maturity. While coming of age, in that painfully swift, yet agonizingly slow time, a true identity, if it indeed exists, may fade in the face of turbulent emotional and intellectual changes. Perhaps a self will emerge later, when the individuals find their raison d'être and the life in which they belong. Looking around a classroom, I can only guess where life will take my classmates: the guy across the room will marry some girl with more breasts than brain, and she'll make him Macaroni and Cheese on Friday nights and drive his kids to little league, and they'll be happy together. The girl beside him, always wielding her camera, will surely become a paparazzo and make an easy million with her shot of Maddox Jolie-Pitt kissing Harlow Madden. A couple of seats down sits the guy who you'll one day see in a stainless steel and tinted glass office, with a tropical plant in the corner. To my left sits a future missionary, to my right a famous singer or a women's basketball star. But though I can imagine these people in the roles they will someday fill, their true selves are hidden from me. I can only wonder if they know themselves...

Anna Zychlinsky

Culture / Sports

"I see life again"- Slum-TV offers moral support for Mathare

Mathare- one of the largest slums in Kenya, maybe even Africa: 700 000 inhabitants without electricity, sewage, running water, or proper housing. Outbreaks of violence and police brutality are daily calamities; survival of the fittest is the only law known on Mathare grounds.

It's a distant tale to us...pictures in the National Geographic or occasionally the newspaper that evoke a strange jumble of impressions: disbelief, a tinge of morbid interest, perhaps, sometimes distant, obligatory sighs of compassion, other times sincere rage, Weltschmerz, and youthful change-the-world-zeal, heroic determination, or quiet guilt.

Whatever we feel, we are apt to lay to photos aside, glad to return to our reality, glad to leave the uncomfortable state of not knowing what to say precisely when it seems most important to say or do something meaningful. But what?

Artist Lukas Pusch must have been facing similar questions when he decided to take his "Vienna Vodoo" to Africa. Dressed in a white smoking, he traveled to Nairobi and the slums in its outskirts. He wanted to make no secret of the world's crude inequalities- he came to display it as it is. And display it as it is led to a bigger idea: slum-TV.

The vision was this: weekly news and entertainment shows produced by a group of Mathare youths - about Mathare, for Mathare, and a platform for the slum.

Pusch decided to go through with it. Not much later, a crew of European artists assembled in Mathare to run a two-week workshop with interested youths about camera and editing skills. The Mathare Youth Sports Association, founded by an NGO, also the only respected institution in the area, helped the team find participants and provided its library as a room for the workshop to take place in. With a laptop, a digital camera, a microphone, and 12 eager young people enrolled, the project was ready for take off.

The slum-TV team was taught through practice. The first reportages were put together; the local drama group acted in the first Mathare soap opera. Most Mathare inhabitants looked on with curiosity - some were a bit skeptical. "Some people think we're police spies. There are a lot of illegal activities going on in the slum and those have to be kept secret", says Pauline, age 23, one of the Mathare girls involved in slum-TV. The team itself saw and sees great potential for



photo courtesy of www.slum-tv.info/

the project. 21-year-old Peter said: "Through my films, I would like to show what people feel and how they overcome problems. This way, others could learn from them". Fred, age 23, thinks reflection through film could ease tensions in the slum: "Through the project, we want to help people distinguish between good and bad."

The workshop was a success; slum-TV could make its grand premier.

However, just before everything was ready to go, the setting of the project again became painfully obvious: Due to brutal shootings, the first screening had to be moved to a site outside of Mathare. Despite these obstacles, a beamer provided by an NGO projected the footage open air- no one owns a television in Mathare- and 100 people came to watch the spectacle. Enthusiasm was written on the audiences' faces...

With anticipation, the Mathare people and TV team await slum-TV week by week. "I'm at home where the worst happens every day...but I want to become someone and slum-TV is the best thing that's ever happened to me...The greatest thing would be, if I could someday make a career of it", says 21-year-old Peter.

(title quote: 23-year-old Pauline)

Lena Walther

Football Update

Heartbreak, tragedy, and the usual playoff spirit. Oh, and not to be forgotten, an extraordinary season for the Patriots who have not had heartbreak, tragedy, or the usual. Especially not the usual... because Brady has been picked off 3 times in the first 3 quarters. This is close to his season's total. Even though his stats have slacked, his and his team's game is still at the same level. However, defences have found a

way to slow down Moss, Brady, and Co. They cover it tight up front and keep at least a dozen eyes on Moss whenever he goes deep. The Patriots are going to face off against the Giants. Nobody expected the Giants to make it this far. They had Dallas and Green Bay on their schedule. When Giant's head coach was asked how they had defeated Dallas, he simply explained that they had the better team, even though Dallas clear-

ly has the better players and with this concept, the Giants are going to attack the undefeated Patriots and stop the historic run.

To make it this far, the Giants have defeated the Packers 23-20 and the Patriots have defeated the Chargers 21-12.

Julian Graham

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Culture

Pakistan und der Bhutto-Fall

„Eine Feige Tat“

„Die Vereinigten Staaten verurteilen diese feige Tat mörderischer Extremisten, die versuchen Pakistans Demokratie zu unterminieren, auf stärkste Weise.“ Das sind die Worte, mit denen US-Präsident George W. Bush im Zusammenhang mit der Ermordung der pakistanischen Oppositionsführerin Benazir Bhutto von den Medien wahrscheinlich am häufigsten zitiert wird.

Benazir Bhutto - Tochter des ehemaligen pakistanischen Premierministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto - war der Stern der Opposition, eine der beliebtesten Kandidaten in der für den 8. Januar 2008 angesetzten Parlamentswahlen Pakistans. Doch dieser Stern erlosch am 27. Dezember 2007, als ein Attentäter bei einer Wahlkampfkundgebung zweimal auf sie schoss und sich anschließend selber in die Luft sprengte.

Nun ist eine der wichtigsten Fragen: Wer verübte den Anschlag? Doch ein strittiger Punkt im Rahmen dieser Debatte, welcher noch zu klären ist, ist: Wie lief der Anschlag ab? Wie starb Benazir Bhutto?

Es gibt zunächst die offizielle Variante der Regierung: Der Attentäter - ein Mitglied der Al Qaida - schoss zwar zweimal auf die Anführerin der PPP, verfehlte sein Ziel aber. Durch die Wucht der Sprengung wurde Bhuttos Kopf gegen das Dach des Fahrzeugs, in das sie gerade einsteigen wollte, geschleudert, sie erlitt einen Schädelbruch und starb an dessen Folgen anschließend im Krankenhaus, gedeckt wird diese Theorie angeblich durch Röntgenaufnahmen.

Doch der Pakistanische Al Qaida Chef, dem man die Planung des Anschlages vorwirft, weiß sämtliche Vorwürfe zurück und beschuldigt seinerseits die Geheimdienste der Regierung, und auch die Anhänger Bhuttos bezweifeln die offizielle Darstellung. Sie beharren darauf, dass Bhutto durch einen der Schüsse getötet wurde. Tagesschau.de z.B. berichtete, Sherry Rehman, eine Parteifreundin Bhuttos, habe gesagt, sie sei im selben Auto wie Bhutto gewesen und habe gesehen, wie die Kugel hinten in Bhuttos Kopf einschlug und vorne wieder austrat. Was ist der wahre Tatablauf? Wie sahen die letzten Minuten Benazir Bhuttos in Wirklichkeit aus? Wer ermordete Benazir Bhutto?

Wer ist Schuld?

Die Frage der Schuld ist und bleibt ein weiterer wichtiger Bestandteil in der Debatte um die Ermordung von Benazir Bhutto. Nun mag mancher sich sagen: „Aber mit der Antwort auf die Frage ‚Wer ermordete Benazir Bhutto‘ ist doch auch die Frage nach der Schuld geklärt!“ Doch das stimmt nur teilweise. Denn eine wichtige Frage ist, ob man Frau Bhutto einer solchen Gefahr wirklich hätte aussetzen dürfen. Bhutto und ihre Berater wussten, dass ihr Leben

in Gefahr war, denn schon am 19. Oktober, kurz nach der Rückkehr Bhuttos aus dem Exil, war ein Anschlag auf sie verübt worden. Über 139 Menschen starben, sie selbst überlebte nur durch einen Zufall.

Einige Menschen werfen ihrer Partei nun mangelndes Verantwortungsbewusstsein vor; der Regierung wird vorgeworfen, sie unzureichend geschützt zu haben. Und die Frage bleibt: Wer ist schuld?

Demokratie oder Autokratie?

Es existieren, um das mal grob vereinfacht zu sagen, zwei wesentliche Regierungsformen auf der Welt: Die Autokratie und die Demokratie, die Alleinherrschaft eines einzelnen bzw. einer einzelnen Gruppe und die Herrschaft des Volkes. Es gibt selbstverständlich zahlreiche Zwischenformen die in der Grauzone zwischen beiden liegen, doch beinahe alle lassen sich in eine der beiden Kategorien eingliedern.

Pakistan hat eine schwierige Geschichte hinter sich: Seit der Staatsgründung am 14. August 1947 gab es vier Militärregierungen, die vorletzte davon endete mit dem Tod von General Mohammed Zia ul-Haq am 17. August 1988. Darauf folgte eine Phase der Demokratie, in der sich Benazir Bhutto und Nawaz Sharif mehrfach als mehr oder eher weniger fähige Premierminister an der Spitze Pakistans abwechselten, bis diese Zeit der Demokratie schließlich mit dem Militärputsch Pervez Musharraf am 12. Oktober 1999 beendet wurde.

Es gibt unterschiedliche Aussagen darüber, in welche der beiden Kategorien das Pakistan von heute einzuordnen ist. Bei Wikipedia wird es als „de facto Diktatur“ bezeichnet, und das ist eine durchaus treffende Beschreibung der Zustände, denn in Pakistan kommt es zwar etwa alle fünf Jahre zu Wahlen, aber die sind keinesfalls frei und gleich: So wurden 2002 z.B. Oppositionsführer inhaftiert und von den Wahlen ausgeschlossen, andere Oppositionsparteien wurden benachteiligt.

„The World's most dangerous Place“

Nun befindet sich Pakistan in einer Zeit höchster Instabilität, und ein instabiles Pakistan tut niemandem gut. Denn eine Zeit von Instabilität ist eine Zeit von Unsicherheit, eine Zeit, die oft Geburtsstunde von unmenschlichen Regimen ist. Das Pakistan von heute ist für viele schon nicht besonders plüschig-fühl-dich-wohl. Doch was, wenn jemand an die Macht gelangt, der mehr vorhat, als mit allen Mitteln an der Macht zu bleiben? Was, wenn jemand an die Macht gelangt, der mehr Macht will?

Pakistan hat als Atommacht einen ungeheuren



Benazir Bhutto

photo courtesy of Tagesschau.de

Einfluss auf das Weltgeschehen. Demnach müsste es aller Menschen Ziel sein, zu verhindern, dass jemand diese Macht entfaltet. Der Economist vom 5. Januar dieses Jahres titelte eine grüne Handgranate, auf der in Großbuchstaben „Pakistan“ stand, worunter der Halbmond und der Stern der Pakistanische Flagge abgebildet waren. Darüber stand: „The World's most dangerous place“.

„The war against Islamist extremism and the terrorism it spawns, is being fought on many fronts. But it may well be in Pakistan that it is won or lost,“ waren die Worte, mit denen der dazugehörige Artikel begann. Denn ein entscheidender Wendepunkt in der Geschichte Pakistans - und vielleicht auch der der Welt - hätte die Wahl sein können, die für den 8. Januar angesetzt worden war. Doch inzwischen wurde diese auf den 18. Februar verschoben - zur Wut der Opposition, und damit wird immer unsicherer, wie vertrauenswürdig die Wahlen wirklich ausfallen werden.

Die Regierung begründet die Verschiebung des Wahltermins damit, dass Randalierer Wahlbüros, -listen und -urnen zerstörten und man aufgrund der Unruhen nicht in der Lage sei, die Wahl glatt ablaufen zu lassen. Doch Bhuttos Partei - die nun von ihrem Sohn und ihrem Witwer geführte PPP - wirft der Regierung andere Motive vor. Denn, wie sowohl The Economist als auch Tagesschau.de meinen, hätte die PPP z.Z. Aussicht auf zahlreiche Sympathiestimmen, was der Regierung logischerweise absolut nicht passt.

Zum Schluss noch einmal zurück auf das Prinzip der zwei Regierungsformen und das Zitat von Präsident Bush. Beide Regierungsformen, sowohl Autokratie als auch Demokratie, haben für bestimmte Menschen Vorteile. Beispielsweise in einer Diktatur: Ein kleiner Kreis von Bevorzugten profitiert durch sie, während alle Anderen leiden. Dieser kleine Kreis von Bevorzugten hat logischerweise eine Hauptangst: Dass der große Kreis der Benachteiligten sie stürzt. Und wenn man aus dieser Angst heraus eine Hoffnung für die Gerechtigkeit wie Benazir Bhutto umbringt, bzw. umbringen lässt, ist man in erster Linie zwei Dinge: feige und verachtenswert. Nun kann man nur noch hoffen, dass in Pakistan gerechte Wahlen stattfinden, die das angeschlagene Land auf den Weg der Gerechtigkeit und Stabilität zurückführen, so dass „the world's most dangerous place“ dieser Bezeichnung schon bald nicht mehr gerecht wird.

Opinion

US Election Update

January 2008 – while President George W. Bush is on his farewell-tour through the Middle East, making up for the promises he didn't make in the last 7 years by making them now, Americans back at home are already in the middle of choosing the person who is going to try to keep those promises. And this time, it seems idiot-proof... because they can't elect Bush again. But still, important decisions have to be made in the coming months, and whenever decisions are made, things can go wrong. In order to understand what all exactly can go wrong, one needs to understand how presidents are elected in the US.

In order to get to the final step of each presidential election, the notoriously exciting one-on-one race between the Republican and the Democratic candidate, each political party has to decide on one candidate who is going to represent their party in the presidential race. Although the only parties one ever hears of are the Republicans and the Democrats, there are other parties in the US, but these are simply to insignificant and can therefore be ignored for all practical purposes. These presidential candidates are determined in the so-called Primaries. In these Primaries, the registered members of each party in each state vote for one of the runners-up for the post of "presidential candidate". The candidate of each party with the most votes becomes the party's presidential candidate. "So who are the potential presidents-to-be?", you might be asking yourself.

It seems that this time, the majority of the candidates comes from political or social minorities.

For the Democrats, there's Senator of New York Hillary Clinton, the wife of former presi-

dent Bill Clinton, a woman (obviously), where women are (sadly) completely underrepresented in politics. If she wins the Primaries, she would be the first woman to get a shot at becoming "Ms. President" – and one would have to invent a new title for her husband, a replacement for "First Lady". Then there's Barack Obama (also Democrat and Senator of Illinois), who is one of the around 40 million African Americans in the USA and could become the first one of them to candidate for presidency. The third major candidate on the Democratic side is former Senator (of N. Carolina) John Edwards. He ran for Vice-President with John Kerry in 2004... and we all know what happened back then.

On the Republican side, the Mormon multi-millionaire from Michigan (no alliteration intended), Mitt Romney, represents the Mormon minority (1.9% or 5.7 million people) in the US, although he emphasizes that his religious views don't influence his politics. Another top runner for the Republican Party is Vietnam veteran Senator John McCain. He belongs to the lucky minority of those who got back out of Vietnam without permanent physical or mental handicaps (or so it would seem). McCain has a reputation of being a maverick when it comes to adhering to Republican policies. The only candidate on the Republican side who seems to "go with the flow" is Mike Huckabee. Huckabee is a minister of the Baptist church and does not believe in evolution, along with 60% of the Americans who are eligible to vote. On the other hand, he plays bass guitar in a band called Capitol Offense, which he formed together with some members of his executive staff.

The Democrats have so far campaigned in

Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Nevada (in chronological order). Surprisingly, despite polls indicating the opposite, Barack Obama won the first round in Iowa by a margin of 9%. But after this initial setback, Hillary Clinton went on to win in New Hampshire, Michigan, and Nevada. This puts her in first place among the Democratic candidates ahead of Obama, followed by John Edwards.

The Republicans have already campaigned in 6 states, these being Iowa, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Michigan, South Carolina, and Nevada. Mike Huckabee won the first Primary in Iowa, but was unable to claim any of the other states after that. John McCain emerged victorious from the New Hampshire and South Carolina Primaries. Wyoming, Michigan, and Nevada went to Mitt Romney, putting him at the top of the Republican race, followed closely by John McCain and Huckabee.

But, as we all know, there are 50 states in the USA, so really nothing is decided yet, especially since the states which have voted so far have relatively small populations and the large states with high populations are the ones that will be decisive. Things will get serious when, on February 5th, so-called "Super Tuesday", 24 states, including New York and California, vote at once. The candidates who hold the most votes at the end of Super Tuesday this year is also likely to win the race in the end.

The Muckraker will, of course, keep you informed about the coming events in US politics.

Randolf Carr

Response to the MSN Article

The December edition of the Muckraker included an article representing one particular opinion about MSN in particular and instant messaging in general. Without desiring to discredit or discourage the journalist's opinion the following response will represent a different attitude towards the topic.

Although the "dark sides" of lol, asap, lmao, rofl, afk, and other such abbreviations should definitely be considered, as it might have an influence on one's academic performance, especially essay-writing, one cannot ignore that we live in a very fast age, in which shortcuts and contractions are as essential as a good night's sleep. Unfortunately (or fortunately), not only teenagers use abbreviations, many teachers (and adults in other professions) do, too, even without IM. It would be a waste of chalk or ink to write out words such as homework, meeting, line, page, number, and example. Neither can we credit (or blame) the Internet for creating the notion of IOU, which most definitely outdates MSN, but is as much of a decline in language as LOL.

While people still had the time and leisure to draft letters for hours in the good old days before the typewriter and the QWERTY system (the system according to which the letters are placed on a regular keyboard), the age of Media, Internet, and extensive consumerism depends on the instantaneous speed of email, as letters simply wouldn't make the cut. Email, as well as Instant Messaging is, in a way, about time management.

True, utterly bored teenagers tend to "kill time" by chatting. Time one could "wisely" by doing "HW", reading a good book, or playing soccer. Yet there are millions of use ways to waste one's time and denouncing MSN is not the answer.

The direct correlation between Instant Messaging and obesity is rath-

er questionable. Yes, there is a worldwide problem with overweight; however, the fault probably lies more with McD's and television. The computer is above all a tool used for work, and a laptop can even be carried around! Our culture will hopefully find something else to blame.

MSN (as well as facebook) is a mean of keeping in touch with people whom one would not necessarily give a phone call. Considering that the cellular phone has basically replaced the landline in our understanding of the word "telephone", one cannot expect conversing thus to be the standard, as cell phone bills can be quite ruinous. If one has a DSL flatrate (as most people nowadays do), one easily forgets that surfing on the web costs anything at all.

The only way to eliminate the possibility of receiving a virus is to not have an internet connection at all. MSN, although a great portal for virus distribution is only a minor factor in the scheme of things, as one can get a computer virus just as easily via email or by simply surfing or clicking on the wrong links or buttons. Usually it is approximately as easy to remove a virus as it is to receive one, considering the abundance of such software.

Undoubtedly, MSN has its cons, but so do most things we appreciate. As of now, one can only speculate about the effect cell phone waves have on the human brain and body. Yet one leaves them on 24:7 and carries them around in one's pants pocket in order to be constantly reachable. No matter whether one believes that the pros outweigh the cons or vice versa, everyone is entitled to their personal opinion and free to use MSN or to not even consider installing it.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Culture / Entertainment

Pay It Forward

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." – Gandhi

In our Ethics class, taught by Mr. Cole, we were confronted with the idea of "Pay It Forward". What is Pay It Forward? Does it mean I have to give away the last bit of my scarce allowance? The answer is - no. Pay It Forward has nothing to do with money; instead, it is an idea from a book released in 2000 by a woman named Catherine Ryan Hyde. This book not only inspired a big movement but also resulted in a foundation and a movie by Warner Brothers.

I highly recommend this movie because it is very moving. Not only that, but it also makes you think and even want to act, to do something positive. The movie makes you think of how you can contribute to the earth and assist in changing it. In the film, a boy named Trevor gets a task from his Social Studies teacher. This is what the assignment asked student to do:

"Think of an idea to change the world; and put it into action."

Young Trevor attempts to change the world by the idea of Pay It Forward. I'm tempted to tell you the



end of the story, but that would spoil the whole fun of watching the movie.

So what does Pay it Forward have to do with our Ethics class and JFKS?

We can make Gandhi's ideal of being the change we wish to see in the world become reality.

All you have to do is think of a way to help three people. It doesn't have to be big. Do something good to brighten their day. These three people don't pay it back to you, but in return help three other people. They "pay it forward." This creates an endless chain of people helping

each other like in the diagram:

My friend Leonie Sager, my brother Jonathan Knabe, and I visited Schönow Park and cleaned up trash after the New Year's Eve celebration.

Here are some ideas for you:

- visit a senior citizens' home or orphanage
- help a neighbor walk dogs
- help a peer at school if the contents of their backpack fall down
- plant a tree
- go to freerice.com to combat hunger in the world
- give money or food to a homeless person on the street
- wash someone's car
- bake cookies for a neighbor
- tutor younger students

However, please be sensible and do NOT put yourself in any kind of danger when you help someone.

All I ask you is to pass this on and assist in the Pay it Forward movement. Help make the world a better place- with a better future and better people.

Melina Knabe

I Am Legend

"My name is Robert Neville. I am a survivor living in New York City. I am broadcasting on all AM frequencies. I will be at the South Street Seaport everyday at mid-day, when the sun is highest in the sky. If you are out there... if anyone is out there... I can provide food, I can provide shelter, I can provide security. If there's anybody out there... anybody... please. You are not alone."

Robert Neville, U.S Lieutenant colonel, the lone survivor of New York City in the year 2012, tries to discover a way to reverse the effects of a cure for cancer that had been discovered and praised three years earlier. However, it didn't simply cure patients...it caused a virus that mutated humans into zombies that are extremely sensitive to sunlight and highly aggressive. The infected watch Robert's every move just like hunters watch their prey, waiting for the hunted to make a mistake. For his work, he endan-

gers himself and his dog Sam, his only companion. On his road to discovering a way to bring the zombies back to human life, he tries to find survivors that might still be around. One day, a female

survivor and a young boy answer to the message he broadcasts on the radio. At first, Neville has a hard time communicating with them, since the only people he has talked to are mannequins (he wants to date one of them) and a dog. He used to be a brilliant genius who has now become isolated from society. The movie builds up an amazing tension just through its plot, and seeing NYC empty- only inhabited by weeds and animals- contributes to an astonishing atmosphere. However, atmosphere is not enough. "I am Legend" loses a lot of its brilliance because the ending is cheesy. The thing that saves the film's finale is Will Smith's amazing acting. Because of the poor ending, it is not a must-see; but an amazing setting and plot still make this a definite recommendation.



photo courtesy of <http://www.firstshowing.net/>

Julian Graham

Entertainment

Zeidler Zappt – Flug(hafen)stunden

Für uns Diplomatenkinder ist Heimurlaub etwas Schönes. Man trifft alle seine Freunde, alle seine Verwandte, kommt zu den Stellen zurück, die man als Kind der Welt als die Stellen definiert, die manche „zu Hause“ nennen, macht das, was man an seinem jetzigen Posten halt alles nicht machen kann. Kurzum, man reist in seine Vergangenheit, ohne die Gegenwart zu verlassen.

Doch Heimurlaub ist auch etwas Anstrengendes. Man hat enge Terminkalender und fühlt sich häufig geradezu gehetzt. Außerdem muss man fliegen. Und das kann richtig anstrengend werden, besonders wenn man von Johannesburg elf Stunden lang nach Frankfurt fliegt, dort einige Stunden Aufenthalt hat und dann in den Flieger nach München, Berlin oder sonstnochwohin steigt.

Eine schöne Geschichte ereignete sich, als ich mit meiner Familie dieses Jahr wieder aus Deutschland zurückkam. Der Flug von München nach Frankfurt verlief eher langweilig, und auch die 4 Stunden Aufenthalt in Frankfurt verstrichen relativ schnell. Es ereignete sich nichts, und so konnte ich den 7. Harry Potter in Ruhe von vorne bis hinten ohne Unterbrechungen lesen (nur zur Einnahme von Mahlzeiten legte ich das Buch beiseite). Auch der Flug nach Johannesburg konfrontierte uns nicht mit Überraschungen, und so war ich nach einigen Stunden mit dem Buch fertig. Wir dachten schon: „Gleich holen wir uns unsere Koffer, fahren nach Pretoria und legen uns sofort ins Bett.“ Doch unsere Gedanken sollten sich als trügerisch erweisen. Denn in der Gepäckhalle begegnete uns der Terror: Es war voll. Es war berstend voll. Wie dachten zuerst „wenn hier auch nur ein Stück Gepäck reinkommt, fällt das Gebäude auseinander.“

Doch kurz darauf dachten wir anders, denn uns fiel recht schnell auf, dass sich die Leute nur um ein Förderband drängten. Über der Anzeige von „3“ stand:

LH4890 Frankfurt
SA368 Washington
SA 395 Dubai
LTU 763 Copenhagen

BA 4890 London

Und darunter kamen noch etwa ein Dutzend andere Anzeigen. Ein Blick auf die anderen Anzeigen über den Förderbändern „1“, „2“, „4“ und „6“ (wo „5“ zu finden sei, wusste niemand) verriet uns, dass diese „Temporarily out of order“ waren. Also stellten wir uns brav in die Masse derer, die auf ihr Gepäck warteten.

Wie immer tutete die Alarmglocke, bevor das bis vor kurzem stillstehende Förderband in Bewegung gesetzt wurde, wie immer setzte es sich in Bewegung kurz bevor die ersten Gepäckstücke erschienen, ganz anders als sonst hörte das Alarmtuten nicht auf. Es tute weiter.

Während das Hörgerät des Herren neben mir explodierte und eine aus älteren Personen bestehende Reisegruppe das Alarmsignal für einen Bombenalarm hielt und sofort wie auf Kommando ins Koma fiel, standen wir nur vor uns hin und warteten auf das Gepäck. Doch es kam nicht. Denn die gespannten Augen von 273 Erwachsenen, 119 Kindern, 18 Babys und einem Wellensittich (ich zählte sie alle in meiner Langeweile) verfolgten ein einzelnes Gepäckstück, welches niemand haben wollte. Vielleicht hatte der Besitzer des Gepäckstückes auch einfach nur Angst, von den anderen zusammengeschlagen zu werden, denn schließlich sagte eine Frauenstimme „Take it now, we need to go!“, worauf ein kleiner Mann mit dünnem Haar hervor stolperte, den Koffer nahm und gefolgt von den Augen von 271 Erwachsenen, 119 Kindern, 18 Babys und einem Wellensittich neben seiner Frau die Halle verließ.

Daraufhin folgte in meiner Familie ein Gespräch, das sich etwa so anhörte:

[Meine Mutter] Wo bleibt denn das Gepäck?

[Währenddessen die Alarmglocke] Tuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut!

[Mein Vater] Woher soll ich das denn wissen?

[Währenddessen die Alarmglocke] Tuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut!

[Meine Mutter] Ich habe nicht mit dir, sondern mit mir selber geredet.

[Währenddessen die Alarmglocke] Tuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut!

[Mein Vater] Dann musst du das auch deutlich machen!

[Währenddessen die Alarmglocke] Tuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut!

[Eine Ansage] Ding-Dang-Dong! Please move to number 5.

Daraufhin schauten sich 271 Erwachsene, 119 Kinder, 17 Babys (das 18. war trotz des unglaublichen Lärms eingeschlafen) und ein Wellensittich verdutzt um, denn 5 gab es ja nicht. Doch die Erlösung folgte bald in Form einer weiteren Ansage:

„Ding-Dang-...“ (hierauf folgte eine kurze Pause, vermutlich hakte das Band) „...dong. Please move to number 6“

Also stürzten sich 271 Erwachsene, 119 Kinder, 18 Babys und ein Wellensittich auf Nummer 6, dessen Förderband sich auch bald in Bewegung setzte. Doch es tauchte kein Gepäck auf. Dafür kam eine andere Form der Erlösung: Die Alarmglocke wurde heiser und hörte auf zu tuten, wodurch der Lärmpegel allerdings nicht sank, da 271 Erwachsene, 119 Kinder, 18 Babys und ein Wellensittich diesem Sieg über die Technik applaudieren mussten.

Und kurz darauf tauchten auch die ersten Gepäckstücke auf. Ein blauer Koffer, ein grüner Koffer, eine rote Tasche, dann wieder ein grüner Koffer...

Nach und nach erhielten so 269 Erwachsene, 117 Kinder, 18 Babys und ein Wellensittich ihr Gepäck und konnten die Halle verlassen. Nur zwei Erwachsene und zwei Kinder blieben. Wir. Denn unser Gepäck war nicht gekommen.

Wir fragten beim Infostand nach, und nachdem wir zweimal durch das komplette Flughafengebäude gejagt worden waren, erfuhren wir, dass unsere Koffer in Singapur gelandet waren. „Come back tomorrow, maybe we can tell you more then.“

Eish. Ok, we'll come back tomorrow.

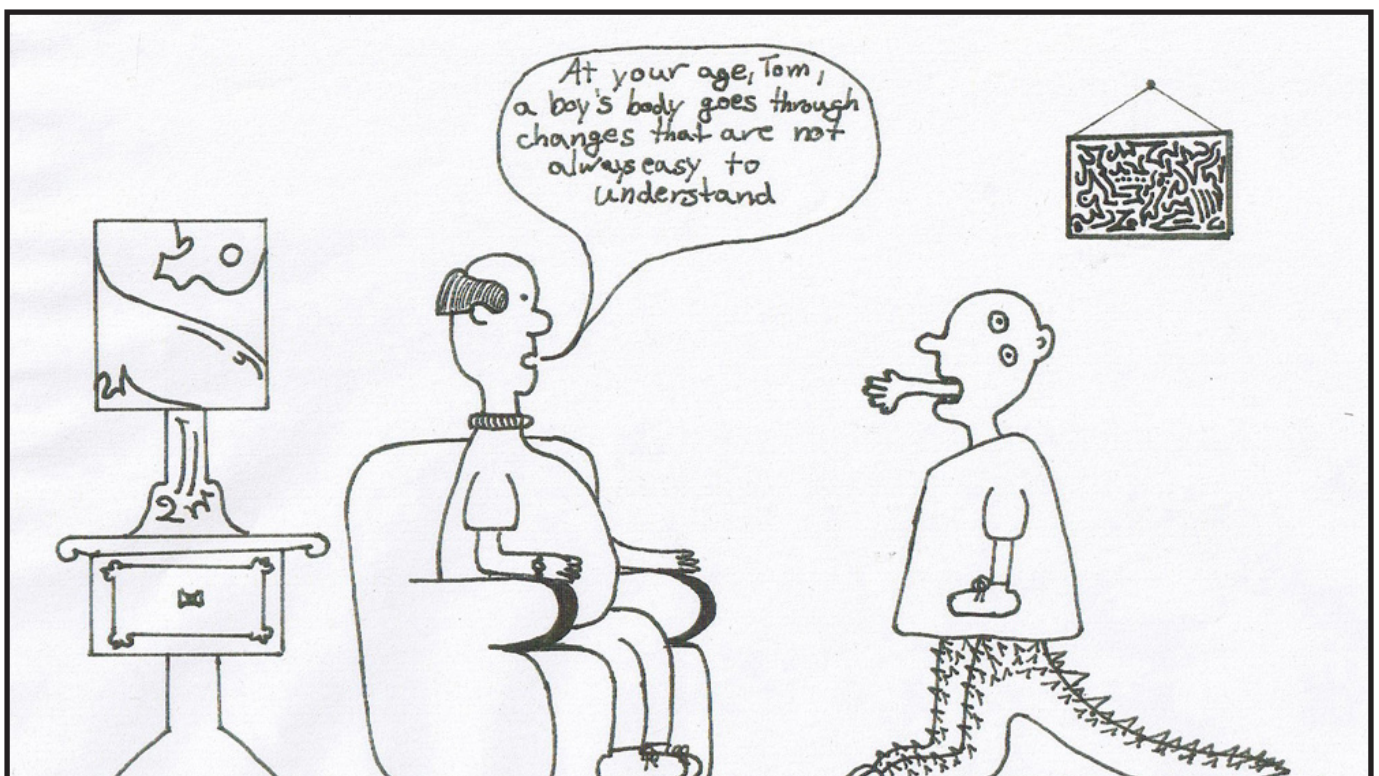
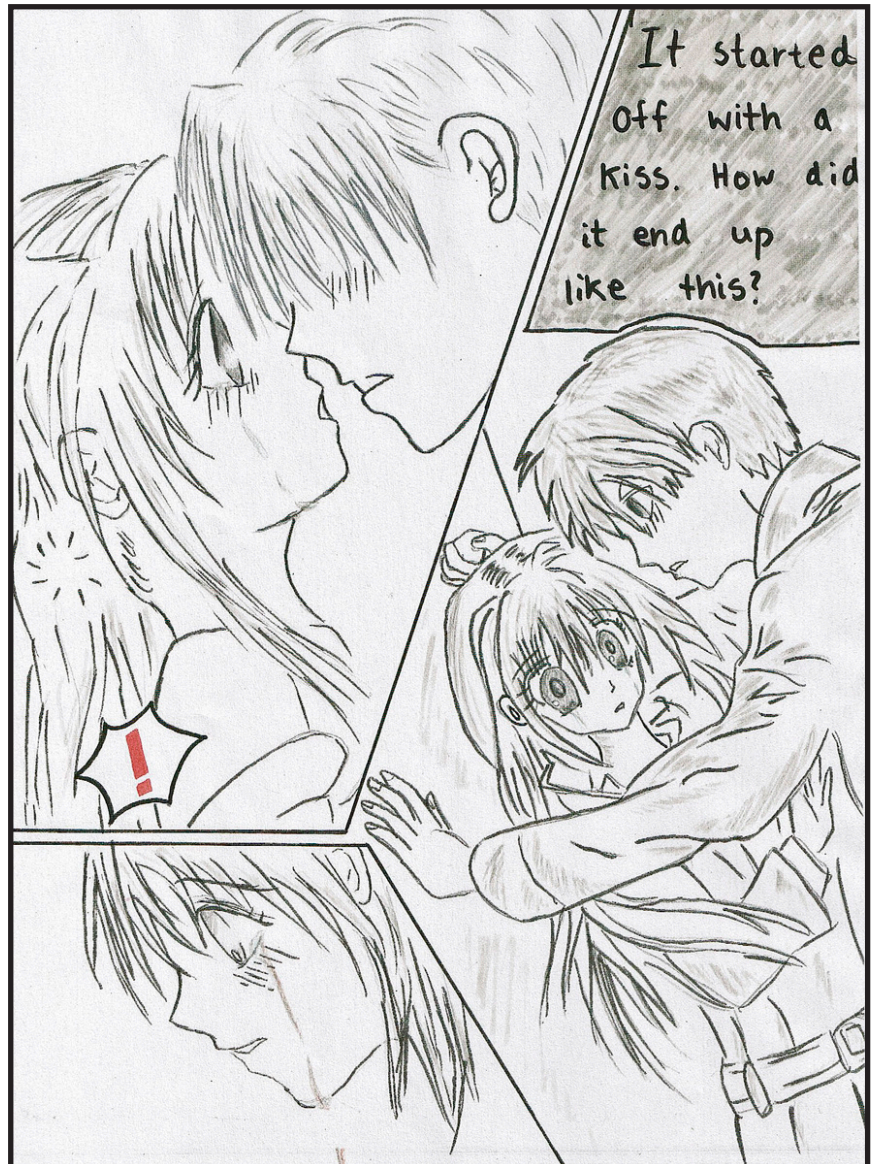
10th Grade Art

Mrs. Fayram's 10th Grade Art Elective

Feel free to submit YOUR art, too. Teachers are welcome to send or hand in any student art they are especially fond of. We appreciate all student cartoons sent to us.

credits in order of appearance:

1. Erika Schrickel
2. Aaron Rotholz
3. Ben Rosin
4. Ceri Rogers



10th Grade Art



Entertainment

Physik für Anfänger

Eine Vorlesung über Experimentalphysik an der TU

Am Anfang stand die Frage: „Moritz, hast du was zu tun am Dienstag?“. Da sei eine echt witzige Vorlesung, zu der ich mitkommen könnte. Na gut, was soll's, wenn sie auch für Nicht-Physiker unterhaltsam ist, geh ich da halt hin.

Schon nach wenigen Minuten verstand ich, Professor Schweizer (Name geändert) erklärt, wie die Welt funktioniert, nur ganz kompliziert. Er begann die Vorlesung mit einigen Experimenten zu Flüssen und Strömungen. Sehr hübsch anzusehen, die an die Wand projizierten Bilder aus dem Apparat zur Sichtbarmachung von Strömungen. Stellt es euch in Rot und Grün vor.

Während er die Tafel mit dem für Physiker üblichen, unleserlichen Durcheinander bemalte, fing er an zu erzählen. Vom Vieh im Fluss, dem Flussvieh also, und den Auswirkungen der Flussdichte auf dasselbe. Je dichter der Fluss, sagte er, desto langsamer wird das Vieh, und malte Bilder in Grün, Blau und Gelb an die Tafel. Das glaub' ich auch ohne Formeln; wenn der Fluss voller wird, wird das vorwärts kommen

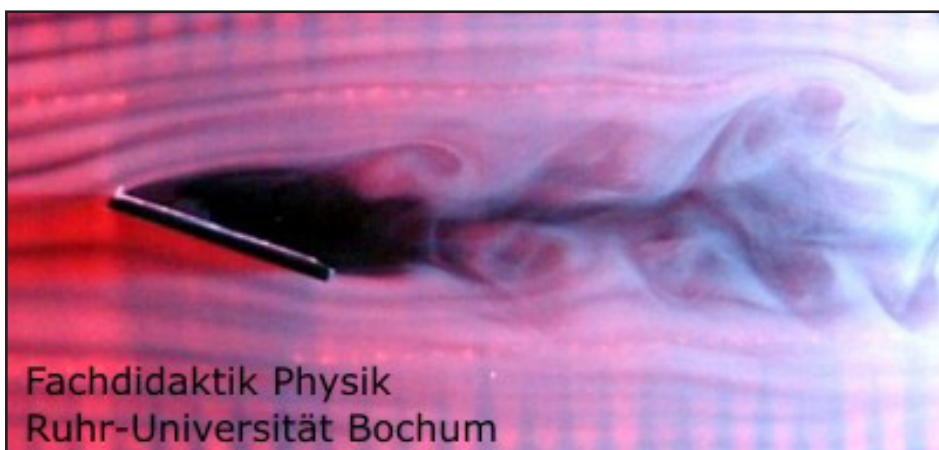


photo courtesy of www.physik.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/

erschwert, ihr kennt alle das Prinzip eines Staus.

Nachdem viel Wasser den Fluss durchflossen hatte, kam der Professor zu der Erkenntnis, dass es ohne Quelle keinen Fluss geben kann und erklärte außerdem, dass die Masse gleich bleibt, wenn der Fluss = 0 ist.

Inzwischen glaube ich, dass man Pro-

fessor wird, wenn man hübsche bunte Bilder an die Tafel malt, dazu mit den Studenten Griechisch spricht, ein bisschen rechnet und die Welt erklärt. Denn das ein Fluss eine Quelle hat, weiß fast jedes Kind, aber kann es dazu auch Griechisch? Das ist der Unterschied! Zum Abschied prophezeite uns der sympathische Professor noch, dass wir „an der Wand (...) eine Geschwindigkeit 0 haben“ werden. Das möchte ich lieber nicht ausprobieren, das glaub ich ihm auch so.

Auf sein „das war's“, wachten alle Schläfer auf und verschwanden im Schutze der Masse in Berlin, so wie ich.

Moritz Elle

Sudokus!!

He-in Cheong

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

Hard Sudoku

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

Challenging Sudoku

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