

THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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As you probably noticed, the last edition of the Muckraker was rather inventive in the way it was put together. We thought the staples would give it a metallic touch, and, er, tearing 500 copies was an activity that most journalists enjoyed. Okay, it was the copy robot's fault – we weren't misbehaving! Also, we built in some spelling mistakes to see if you were paying attention – like "babershop" on the front page. Still can't see the mistake?

...But cut us some slack: we've got two editors who are new on job, as the staff box may have made you aware of.

Besides, these are busy times. Most of us are trapped in a storm of exams and projects, counting the days to go, longingly scribbling "No School!!!" and little Easter eggs onto the March weeks in our planners.

Only the 8th graders can rejoice in relief that is within reach – another week and they'll be on the slope and making snow angels (and demons) on their ski trip.

Another two people who have left school routine and hit the road are our principals. They're off trying to recruit new teachers for our school.

To the rest of us: let's hang in there! If you need a time out, the Muckraker includes something for everyone! – And this time, we're back to proper format. We want to send many thanks to Mrs. Schulte, Anissa Nehls, Gregory Haus-er, Paula Elle, Matthias Dümmler, Ka-trin Zimmerman, Dominik Harms, Kim Schmeling, Noah Walker-Crawford, and Hannah Mössinger for their kind help with tearing and stapling that unfortunate mishap muckraker edition!

Cheers,
your Editors.

Shakespeare Abridged

On the weekend of February 8th and 9th, four students gathered together and performed for the audience: Shakespeare as never seen before. The student-directed play by Roberta Zuric, Leonie Bell, Eric Wiedermann, and David Heim was a compilation of the complete works of Shakespeare with a refreshing combination of goofy and hilarious gesticulations, outfits, accents, and audience interaction. Between cooking with Titus Andronicus, rapping with Othello, and watching



Roberta chase David in and around the school Aula, it was hard to stop laughing. While Roberta, Leonie, and Eric have been active in the JFK's theatre department for years, newcomer David Heim proved he could keep up with the rest and truly offered a stellar performance in such roles as Juliet and Ophelia. He also proved to be talented in simulating barf scenes and beat-boxing. As for the others, viewers say, "As usual, it was a strong performance." Others found "the contemporary dialogue was witty and

To be or not to be?

entertaining!"

The most notable aspect of the performance, however, was how four very different personalities collaborated and created such an entertaining, witty, and modern portrayal of Shakespeare's work, breaking out of the norms and giving it all a hilarious spin. Though it was hard to follow at times and dragged on here and there, overall, it was a brilliant, refreshing performance. Thumbs up!

Leonie Schulte

Interview with Mr. Becker

If you haven't tried out the computers in the new Mac Lab yet, then you're missing out on something. The purchase of 187 new computers has undeniably improved the study atmosphere in our school. Find out more about the computers, the server and what to do with your accounts in our exclusive interview with Mr. Becker!

on page 5

THIMUN

Every year, a selected group of JFKS students involved in the MUN activity travels to The Hague to participate in the infamous THIMUN conference. With over 3,500 participants from all corners of the world, its always bound to be a legendary week. Turn to page four and find out what Max Jürgens and Ina Fischer have to say about THIMUN XL.

on page 4

Valentine's Day

Some love it, others hate it. The newest chart by Eileen Wagner explores the dimensions of romance by taking a closer look at the variety of activities on Valentine's Day. If you were not as nerdy as you thought, then maybe you're Romeo's reincarnation...? Warning: unfounded conclusions and painful stereotypes ahead!

on page 10

US Election

Who's hands will the fate of the United States fall into? After half the states have voted, the race is between McCain, Clinton, and Obama. But the statistics, speeches, and media storm put aside, what are the candidates' differences really?...What are the contesting democrats' secrets on keeping up their morale? And who's side are the numbers on? Find out on page 8, as we keep you updated!

on page 8

JFKS Life

Alumnus Feature: Whatever Happened to... Jan Williams?

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

I graduated Class of 2000 and did my Abi in 2001.

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

I went to school at Arizona State University in Tempe/Phoenix and started out studying Vocal Performance. Then in my third year I decided to add a major in Political Science and so I graduated in five years with two Bachelor degrees.

What do you do now?

I am currently pursuing a one-year MA in Philosophy and Law at the University of Bristol in western England. The last two years of my undergraduate degree I took several philosophy classes as part of a certificate program. The subject really fascinated me and so I thought it might be fun to explore this a little bit more thoroughly. Next year I am very likely going to be back in the US for law school.

What are your hobbies?

Well, right now I am going through a kind of personal singing revival. I really love barbershop music, but couldn't sing a whole lot it while studying voice. There was just too much opera and oratorio music to focus on. So now I am now catching up and participating in various barbershop groups here in Bristol. I am also hitting the gym 3 to 4 times a week in the hope of packing some meat onto my scrawny frame, but that hasn't really been working out for me.

What activities were you involved in during your school time?

I did a lot of the vocal music stuff, participating in various musicals, the choir, the barbershop choir and a barbershop quartet. Of the later in particular I have fond memories. In retrospect I should probably also done MUN, since I really think I would have enjoyed that, but I guess you can't do everything.

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

I know I keep coming back to the subject of barbershop, but one of the definitive high lights of my time at JFKS was the trip that my quartet took with Dr. Hepner to sing at a competition in Columbus, Ohio. The chance,



as a high school group, to compete against very talented adult quartets on a stage in front of hundreds of people was amazing. And we didn't even come in last!

What was your favorite subject? Favorite teacher?

Hmmm...picking favorites. Well, I guess I will dodge that dicey question and just say that I enjoyed the social sciences and English the most because I received a lot more positive feedback there than in math, chemistry, and physics. That I was bad at math would be an understatement.

Mr. Felt's class was both challenging and yet fun so he would definitely go on my short list of favorite teachers. I also have many good memories of teachers that manage to be encouraging even when you really suck at their area of expertise. Herr Bute-mann and Herr Schaffer in math would fall into that category for me.

What were your Leistungskurse?
Leistungskurs Geschichte und Bio

How has your time at JFKS influenced your life?

Considering I spent my entire formative years at JFKS I would think a whole lot. I definitely would not have done music if I hadn't had the exposure at school, but it might still be too early to say a whole lot about it. Ask me again in 10 years.

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

Advice is hard enough to give to a single person, let alone a group. I guess, take advantage of the activities the school offers and have plenty of fun partying and socializing because that is what you will remember most when you leave.

How soon can we expect to see the headlines: "Jan Williams, Ruler of the Universe"?

I don't know if I want to be ruler of the universe. Sounds like a lot of work and I might not have time to do the things I like doing. But if that can be solved by employing a lot of people to do the dirty work, I guess the 30-year-reunion should give me enough time.

Samira Lindner

MUCK of the Month

SCHOOL NEWS

After years of struggle, it seems the student lounge issue is finally headed for a solution. The SC and the administration worked together to find an alternative area for students to spend free hours. It looks like the mediators' room will become our hang-out.

However, no final words have been spoken.

Another improvement: We have all noticed the sleek new computers in the library front desk area and computer room, totaling 187 throughout the school. Dr. Reale and Mr. Becker worked together to update school technology, as this is something teachers from the States often remark as an area of room for improvement at our school.

Our principals are out of town. They are hoping to recruit new teachers and will be away for a month.

Lena Walther

Comments, Replies?
send your opinions and articles to:

themuckraker@gmail.com

*JFKS Life***Teacher Feature: Mr. Draft**

Please give us a short history of your life.

Well, I guess I'm not exactly sure what you're looking for on this one, but, ah, I was born and I'm still living and (laughs) now I hope I don't die soon. Is that enough?

What do you like the most and the least about Germany?

Well, I like a lot of things about Germany. I just enjoy, for the most part, the fact that it's a new experience for me and making new friends and trying to find my way and actually one thing I really enjoy so far is trying to learn German. So, I enjoy the challenge. It's not going very well at the moment, but (sighs) I will persevere in the face of my continued struggles and eventually learn to dominate the language. Ah, what I like least about Germany? Not too much... Yeah, I guess just in the beginning I just kind of felt cut off to the world a little bit and the things I was used to paying attention to, the sports and news and stuff. It was harder to keep up with that. But now I'm used to it. And I don't mind having not any idea what's going on. And I kind of enjoy, like in meetings at school and also just sitting on the bus, and stuff, and having no idea what people are talking about around me. I really kind of enjoy that. So that's why I'm hesitating about learning German, because I really enjoy not being bothered by privileged conversations people are having on the street. I enjoy my ignorance.

What is your favourite food, drink, city, or colour?

Well, I'd like to restrict it to my favourite type of food, perhaps. I pretty much eat only a limited variety of, eh, things. And before I moved to Germany it was really, really limited. Probably like pizza, hamburgers, and chicken wings, and that was it. Eh, until I moved here, I'd never had Thai food and I'd never had Chinese food and I had never had most vegetables actually. But since I came here, I really kind of expanded what I eat. But I still think that my favourite type of food would be bar food. Anything you could find at a bar I pretty much like to eat. Ah, if it's healthy for you, yeah, I probably don't like to eat it. In terms of drink, I'm strictly water. I haven't had a soda in eight years now. So, I hope that continues. And city? Berlin is probably my favourite city, ah, one of my favourite cities I've ever been to. Which is great to be living in your favourite city. And the colour? I like them all. But probably hot pink is my favourite.



Tell us about one of your most embarrassing moments in high school.

Oh, my god, there's so many. Ah, getting punched in the stomach by my teacher was pretty embarrassing – and it hurt a lot. Emm. (long pause) You're not going to put this pause in there, are you? What? (laughs) Em, what else? Yeah, I don't know. Hold on, I need one moment to help this student. (helps student) Also in ninth grade I had my own English class. Meaning the rest of the students had a teacher and I had one on one with another teacher. Because I think I had "behavioural issues", put that in quotations, will you. Em, (laughs) and it was just me and one teacher. Yeah, it was pretty strange – and embarrassing. The rest of my class would go off with the regular teacher, and I had my own. Em, (pause again) also embarrassing moment was, one time I told a girl I had two free tickets to this upcoming concert. 'Would you want them?' And she was like, 'Oh, my god! Yes. Yes. Me and my friend would be so excited to go!' And I said, 'well, actually, one of them was supposed to be for me!' And she said 'Oh, did you say Thursday? I was busy.' Ah, so, that's a pretty embarrassing moment as well.

How did you get the idea of moving to Germany?

I didn't really have the idea of moving to Germany. I've always just been a person, who wants to do different things, have new experiences and, em. My friend told me he was thinking of going and teaching in a different country and I didn't know if that was possible at that time. But he told me about a job fair, you could go to and there'd be schools all over the world there. So I just showed up and said 'Hey, let's see what happens!' And when I went there, there was a job offers from all over the world and it was just trying to choose between this job and

that job. And I remember being in the book store late at night, just researching all the cities that had offered me positions. My brother had lived in Germany before and had spent some time in Berlin and he just kept telling me 'Oh, you'll love it there. You'll love it there. You should really go to Berlin' and eventually I just broke down and took his advice and went to Berlin. It wasn't a pre-planned idea. It just kind of happened, but I'm happy that it worked the way that it did.

Tell us about your school activities when you were in High School!

I was pretty active when I was in high school. I was on the cross country team, but I quit every single year I was on the cross country team. I never actually finished, but technically I was on the cross country team for years. I only made it in the picture one year, but, ah, yeah. In the eleventh grade I only made it until I got my drivers license. When I got my drivers' license, I was like 'Why am I running? I have a car!' But then in the twelfth grade, it was kind of like 'Ok. I have to prove something to myself'. And I made it two weeks before the end of the season. So I almost proved something to myself. But also basketball. I love basketball. It's my first passion, ah, in life, definitely, for sure. So, I played basketball and I played tennis. Tennis was probably the thing I was best at, but I didn't really care for it too much, so it was fun and enjoyable as well. And otherwise I just had fun. I didn't really take school too seriously unfortunately, which set up many problems for me later in life, but I did enjoy myself.

If you had the chance to invite any female actress, whether dead or alive, to dinner, who would you as? And why?

I don't know how to answer that question. I can't even juggle the females who are actually in my life, (laughs, and turns red) like my mom and my sister and, I mean, its just hard enough to keep up to them, so. Female actress, I'd really, em, I'm not a person who thinks about that sort of thing and don't get caught up in celebrities and stuff like that. So I prefer the females that I know in my real life to any female actress. So if I could invite any female to my house for dinner, it that's what you said, then I'd invite someone that I know.

Thank you for the interview!

Rebecca Jetter

*JFKS Life***THIMUN 2008**

The annual trip to The Hague, Holland, is considered by many as "the best week of my life" or as simply „Beste“. And yes, the trips to The Hague Model United Nations can be very eventful - and entertaining.

Each year in January, 3,500 Students from all over the world attend this unique conference: a five-day UN simulation that seems like BERMUN multiplied by 10. For the past 15 years, JFKS has sent students to this unique event. This year, our delegation had the privilege of representing the veto-nation France at THIMUN's 40th annual session.

The simulation was officially opened by a very special guest: no other than former U.S. President and possible First-Gentleman-to-be, Mr. Bill Clinton. Since he is currently deeply engulfed in campaigning for his wife, Bill Clinton sent a video message to the students, or "delegates", of THIMUN, reiterating the importance of diplomatic communication and cultural understanding.

The conference as such is very difficult to recapture. All JFKS delegates were spread amongst different committees, eagerly fighting for France's interests. The theme "Climate Change" supplied us with a very interesting and at the same time challenging position. A country whose main energy source depends on nuclear power plants is often under attack at MUN conferences. Our veto position in the Security Council was proudly defended by Nick Erb and Randolph Carr, who boldly stood their ground on many controversial issues. Tenzin Sekhon, in the Special Conference, introduced three changes to a resolution, all of which failed. His last amendment then triggered an incredible emotional furiousness in him, which the 200 delegates in the forum will surely

have a hard time forgetting. Marcel Starfinger was known across the board for his smart and sometimes rather inappropriate analogies concerning disarmament, while Ina Fischer proudly passed all of her amendments.

The internationalism of THIMUN stands for its uniqueness. All corners of the world are represented, with students coming from countries as far off as New Zealand or Japan. The JFKS participants recall having lunch at tables where the cultural diversity is as broad as in the real United Nations. Yet amongst cultural, religious, and traditional differences, all participants had one thing in common: MUN.

The Hague is not very well known for its nightlife. However, during THIMUN, when 3000 students swarm the city like bees in a hog, the city turns mayhem. Overfilled bars, pubs, and clubs symbolize THIMUN's mentionable other side: social contact. All of the Facebook friend-inventories of THIMUN participants doubled (if not tripled) in the weeks preceding the conference. MUNers had the unique opportunity of establishing networks across the globe and find friends in countries they previously hadn't even known of.

Entertainment was at every point given. Points like "Point of Order. Is it in order for the rapporteur to be so damn sexy?" and referrals such as "Sie (Fr. Hövermann, the director) sehen aus wie'n Diktator" always spiced up the excellent time all of us enjoyed in the Hague. At this point we can only look forward to yet another THIMUN conference with our beloved directors Fr. Höverson and Dr. Peterman!

*Ina Fischer
Max Jürgens*

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2. Send in your articles to themuckraker@gmail.com
3. Join the Muckraker Yahoo! Group
4. Drop a note in our mailbox or approach us randomly in the hallways

Exclusive Interview:

Mr. Becker on the New Computers

You will undoubtedly have noticed the new computers in the library and elsewhere in school. The Muckraker had a chance to interview Mr. Becker, the new technology director at JFKS, so our readers can understand why we have new electronic equipment and how it can be used effectively. We hope that the following interview will enrich your understanding of computers, and when you see Mr. Becker in the hallway, please, thank him and bring him a cup of coffee, because he's been working day and night to ensure that the network works.

Muckraker: Why were new computers bought?

Mr. Becker: We have a different set of cultures in Germany and America. Germany is known for research and development. It's one of the top three in the world and has been for a very long time. In America it's the same thing with technology. The two governments are now on opposite ends. At this school we're trying to create a place where both are important. We have a very strong math and science department, but technology-wise we were not very sharp. So, in essence, we are trying to join two worlds to make this a truly German-American school.

Who made the decision to buy new electronic equipment?

You have got the administrative staff, teachers, and students... I don't know anyone who didn't want us to buy new equipment. When I came here in August and saw the equipment, I figured that we had no choice. Windows 2000 is no longer supported as of November 1, 2007. This means that the latest versions of Medi Player and Yahoo! Mail do not work on Windows 2000. We could have kept what we had and very soon nothing would have worked on it. We had to move forward.

Who paid for it?

That question I can't answer for you. I like the rumors better than the real answer. The real answer is pretty boring. I've been told that we cut everybody's budget by 20% and that it came from the student services fund. Part of it came from the Trust Fund, part came from grants that we wrote, and you would be surprised at how little a lot of these computers cost. We got a grant with Apple, we got a grant with Bolinia, the company that made the monitors. We have been writing grants all fall. In total we submitted eleven grants.

How many computers were bought?

187. We bought a new top of the network server. We have XPs, Mac OS X, and Linux. The new server will support basically any operating system, which is part of the reason why we brought it in. The music and fine arts department works with Macs and will continue to use Macs. We have the one Mac Lab in the high school where we will begin teaching design classes, architecture and structural design, photography, multimedia applications, and web design. To do that you need the kind of equipment pros use, and pros use it on a Mac.

Will students and teachers need some sort of coaching/teaching?

They will! We have a couple of things we're going to do. When I get up from under water, which is where I am now, one of the things I would like to start doing, probably on Mondays and Thursday, depending on how my schedule works out, during the 20 minute break is have short classes on how to use Photoshop, for example. Every training session we do would be put online. If we can work things out we'll do what's called a hybrid course. If you would want to take a multimedia applications course you would meet with me once a week and the rest of the classes would be online. You promise me to give six hours a week and you will have six hours a week of work to do, but you would see me only once a week. It's called project-based learning and it is very much the way it is in the real-world.

What does a server do?

It allows you to go on any computer on campus and see the same thing. A network is kind of like a highway system and a server is like a traffic light. There are some other things it does, a lot of very geeky things that you probably don't want to hear about... It is our proxy services manager, etc... The sort of stuff about which people will say, "gee, that's great." It works our card catalogue in the library, and it makes sure that everybody's name and files are where they belong.

What was the difficulty with installing the new server?

There's always a difficulty with installing a server. To put in a new server you got to take the old one out. When you remove the gateways to an old server it's kind of like an autopsy. You find all the things that were causing problems in the past. Why the server used to crash, why

it was slow at times... Once we tore all that off we had to go back in and fix it the right way. It is very difficult to do. There is no way to know how long that is going to take. Both the new and the old server are currently running.

How do you expect the students to respond to the new computers?

I expect them to hate school and skip class! (laughs) In my experience here is what will happen: the first week or so they will go on all the things they have now access to, such as youtube, and mspace, and facebook... But after a while that will wear off and they will use the computers to do work. As soon as the work you produce in your classes is better than it was before we had the new computers it will have been worth it.

Do you have any concerns about the students trashing the Mac Lab?

No. This is a very elite school. When it becomes unacceptable at the students' level for this to happen then it will stop. If it's only unacceptable at the teachers' level then it won't. I've got to trust you guys. I'm not going to trust you guys enough as not to lock them up, that's why they're in a cage. It's your school. The first time something vanishes in the Mac Lab, I will shut it down. I'm taking a huge risk with that lab; it is a very expensive state of the art lab. You will not find a better lab anywhere in the world. But it's what we felt you guys need to be using. If it is torn up it will take years and years for that to wear off. However, I've never seen students tear up a lab. They are excited about it and will take good care of it.

Anything else you would like to say?

I have one thing that I would like to ask as technology director. I have many students that don't have their own account and they use someone else's. I am going to ask you guys to stop that. Go get your own account. It takes only a couple of minutes. What happens is if you don't I have to go in and stop it. It creates a lot of work for me. If I find someone logged in at two places I lock both of them. Then you got to come to me to unlock the account. It is just a huge pain. Next year we will start from scratch with server policy forms and everyone will get a new account.

Thank you for the interview!

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili
Eileen Wagner

JFKS Life / Opinion

Nelson Mandela Would Be Proud

JFKS Delegates Shine at First Ever NEMASMUN Conference

The students of the John F. Kennedy School have mixed ideas and knowledge about the Model United Nations. Some know that they get a nice two days off school every November when youth from all over the world descend on Berlin, the JFKS in particular for the annual BERMUN conference. Others see the blue signs all over school encouraging them to MUN, and think of aggressive marketing. Still others believe that MUN is an opportunity for a bunch of suit-clad



teenagers, some from JFK, to get together several times a year and simulate those suit-clad adults who control world affairs.

Realistically, it's a little of all these things. But behind it all lies a dedicated and hard-working group of students who meet every Wednesday in W309, who attend conferences regularly and who are some of the most globally aware teenagers at JFK. At Model United Nations, students get together and simulate the UN. There are many of these events. Other than the well-known BERMUN, there's THIMUN in The Hague and BERMUN2, a BERMUN-like conference for schools in the Berlin region. This year, another conference popped up on the MUN radar. In late December, Nelson Mandela School MUN presidents Eric Christopherson and Patrick Holzhäuser contacted the Kennedy School to ask to participate in the Nelson Mandela School Model United Nations (NEMASMUN). This would be Nelson Mandela's MUN debut, a one-day conference with more than 100 participants from both schools to take place on February 7, with the General Assembly debating the issue of "Combating Illicit Weapons and Narcotics Trafficking" and the Security Council debating "The Situation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and "The Crisis in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan".

A total of 27 JFKS delegates attended the conference, five in the Security Council representing France, Italy, South Africa, United States and Vietnam, and 22 in the General Assembly representing Australia, Dominican Republic, DPR Korea, DR Congo, Guatemala, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Libya, Nigeria, Poland, China, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. This accounted for a good amount of the countries and a huge amount of the talking. At times it was (painfully) obvious how well-prepared and more experienced the

JFKS delegates were, although it was Nelson Mandela's first MUN conference, and many of their delegates do not have access to the training grounds of BERMUN and weekly debates that even new JFKS delegates do. Despite this power imbalance, the 56-nation General Assembly ended up debating three draft resolutions at once and passed two of them, one from Poland and another (with a huge majority) from the United Kingdom, both on combating illicit trafficking. While these resolutions were primarily written and supported by JFKS delegates, they were merged during lobbying with others from Nelson Mandela delegates, making for more diverse and tested resolutions. When the United Kingdom resolution had enough delegates to be debated, for example, its sponsors still insisted on merging it with a similar resolution from Haiti, to gather more support and make it universally understood. As debate drew to a close, the resolutions were voted on an uncontested success. The conference rounded out with a sing- and dance-off challenge between the delegates of Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom and the conference chairs, as well as a game of charades, where the delegate of DPR (North) Korea was seen impersonating a retarded cat, proving that Communists can still have fun.

With the event over and deemed a huge achievement by everyone, the NEMASMUN team looks to the future. With Nelson Mandela School GA and SC chairs Eric Christopherson and Patrick Holzhäuser graduating this summer, the leadership will be taken over by Sebastian Schlueter and Claudia Schulz. And finally, at a school that bears his name, Nelson Mandela's foremost ideal democracy is being expressed by the next generation, which at heart is what MUN is all about. He would be proud.

Alexander Cohen

The Third of the Nothings

It is truly a great thing, to be young. You can embrace Buddhism one month and Pastafarianism the next. You can run and run and run without your body giving out. You can drink too much, you can learn a new language in a couple of months, you can fall in and out of love in the time it takes to prepare your MSA presentation. Your skin is smooth, your memory good, your convictions intense. Best of all, time belongs to you, without student loans to pay or children to send to college, without disease or age or death looming on the horizon. Youth is eternity, youth is immortality. But, as any teenager will tell you, youth is also exceedingly painful, because no one listens to you, or cares very much about what you think. What politician would bother with a part of the population that cannot vote? Parents, teachers, most adults, deep down, feel they know better than we do. They nod sagely as the punk goes by "he'll grow out of his anger", smile as they're handed a leaflet "she'll get over her hope". They shake their heads as they pass a couple making out "they'll learn to tone down their love". It's as if young anger, young convictions, young love, don't count as much because they are transient. But what these kids lack in experience, they make up in passion. And passion counts. For travelling, for reading, for Bart Simpsons or for Brahms, even for Bingo, passion in life matters more than anything else. Some among the older generations do not seem to realize this, perhaps because too many of them allow passion to fade, day by day, year by year, and replace it with "experience", until their lives are a grey line in a grey landscape, and their heart rate is always the same. Yes, youth has passion, and sometimes too much of it. Yes, youth is reckless, and sometimes this costs us profoundly. But these traits deserve to be applauded and encouraged, if only because they are pure, they are true, and untainted by lifelong propaganda or by a simple desire for "peace and quiet". The students of this world have stood for change, for equality and human rights, in countless demonstrations against cruel regimes. Youths are the only ones passionate and reckless and idealistic enough, stupid enough, to say what has to be said. From the White Rose to Tiananmen Square, youth has done what no one else dared. It had to be them, and someday, it might have to be us....

Anna Zychlinsky

JFKS Life / Culture

A Trip to London - Middle School ISTA '08

Four o'clock Thursday morning, on the 24th of January... That was about the time my 11 fellow ISTA members and I had to get up and go to the Schönefeld Airport. We were all to leave with Dr. and Mrs. McDaniel on a plane to London for this year's middle school International Schools Theater Association festival. Bleary-eyed, but excited, we arrived at the Gatwick Airport at around 8:00 Greenwich Time. As we still had seven hours left, we took the tube (the U-Bahn) to different places to go sight-seeing. We managed to visit a few places, like Buckingham Palace, and also Charing Cross Road (HP fans know what that's about).

At 15:00, we arrived at the host school in the north for the opening ceremony. The school, Marymount International School, was a girls' school and many students were boarders. The other schools visiting were not girls' schools, but curiously enough, all participants from the JFKS were girls this year. So after the opening ceremony, full-group work (the total number of students was a bit more than a hundred), and an early dinner, we all left to London city for a spectacular performance of the musical "The Lion King". The Disney movie-based show was a colorful performance with a variety of puppetry and masks. As the theme of this year's festival was masks, this fit perfectly. Finally, we all went home with the bus, passing the Big Ben, London Bridge, and the Parliament. Sadly, our schedule didn't leave time for us to do some real sight-seeing. We returned to our host families and went to bed, exhausted from such a long day (we had been up nearly a whole day).

The next morning, however, we had to get up early again, since we had a full schedule, which started at 9:30 and would end at 21:00. The whole day, we worked and learned in different workshops about drama skills, mainly focusing on masks. There were two types of workshops: specialized

workshops and taster workshops. Everyone was put in one specialized workshop that was to be the student's main focus throughout the weekend. Then we were put in three taster workshops, which we would all get a "taste" of. In the workshops, talented teachers played games and taught skills which we could build our acting on. From puppetry to commedia, full-face masks and Balinese masks, there was a large variety. All of the workshops sounded interesting, and I can tell you that the commedia workshop I was in was fantastic. In the beginning, everyone was a bit shy, but in the end, we became a wonderful group, enjoying every bit of it (from watching our teacher act brilliantly as a puppy dog to pretending to be filled with helium).

For two and a half days, we were mainly in these workshops, with breaks -thankfully- in between. In the evenings, we also enjoyed ourselves. On Friday, the teacher Vincenzo presented a hilarious performance of Commedia, which involved us, the audience. And on Saturday, we had a great student social disco to finish our weekend off nicely.

All too soon, Sunday arrived, but all specialized workshops got to present the work they had been doing, which turned out to be really interesting. After last-minute email exchanges with new friends, the visiting schools finally made their way home. Our people went back to Gatwick airport and bought our last souvenirs from England. We didn't arrive at Schönefeld until 23:30. All of us were very glad to get to bed, but unfortunately we didn't get many hours of sleep...thanks to school the next day. But on the bright side, we had all experienced a great weekend, learned quite a lot and had a great deal of fun.

Hanna Sundahl

Musicstrip or Clip

Es gibt heutzutage Millionen von Musikclips der verschiedensten Musikrichtungen. Es ist jedoch enttäuschend zu sehen, welche Rolle Frauen in vielen dieser Musikclips übernehmen. Mit oft nichts weiter als einem Bikini bekleidet, tanzen mehrere Frauen um einen Mann, während dieser sich ganz toll fühlt; aber nicht einmal daran denkt, wie erniedrigend dies für das weibliche Geschlecht ist. Auch wenn Frauen in Musikvideos vollständig bekleidet sind, passiert es viel zu oft, dass sie bewusst als Sexobjekte eingesetzt werden. Um ihre Aufgabe gut zu erfüllen, tanzen die Frauen neben (oder auf) einem teuren Auto, am besten in einem knappen Outfit, und scheinen dabei viel Spaß zu haben. Umso mehr Frauen um einen einzigen Mann tanzen, desto mehr sinkt

das Niveau, auf welches sie sich hinunterlassen.

Sollen uns diese Videoclips also zeigen was cool und sexy ist? Die Art, in der sich Frauen in diesen Clips präsentieren ist peinlich. Ich denke, sie können mehr als das und sind nicht auf der Welt um als Lustobjekte um die Männer herumzutanzten. Es ist schade zu sehen, dass es heutzutage Clips dieses Ausmaßes gibt. Was für ein Beispiel liefern wir somit den jüngeren Generationen, besonders jungen Mädchen?

Im Endeffekt entscheidet jeder selbst, wie er solche Musikvideos findet oder wie oft er sie guckt, aber ich hoffe, dass solche Musikclips kein Standard werden, falls es hierfür noch nicht zu spät ist.

Karen Fischer

The Cynic's Dictionary

BEAUTY

- "Beauty is in the eye of the BEERholder" - anonymous

Feeling cynical, too?

Then submit YOUR definition of the word VACATION. The Muckraker will publish the most cynical definition.

Send it to themuckraker@gmail.com by Mar. 2nd.

Eileen Wagner

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Politics

Election Update:

McCain secures nomination, prepares for presidential campaign while Hillary and Barack fight on: Hot peppers and Basketball!

Super Tuesday and the Potomac primaries established John McCain as the Republican Party's presidential candidate. A good 600 delegates ahead of Mike Huckabee, the Arizona senator can start plotting his race against the Democrats -whether it will be former first lady Hillary Clinton, or civil rights attorney Barack Obama, is still not for sure. For them, the longest presidential primary campaign in US history ravages on. To keep sturdy and healthy, Clinton munches hot peppers, her personal secret since 1992...while Obama sweats off the stress shooting hoops. Throughout the campaign, the 46-year-old presidential hopeful says, basketball has become more than exercise and recuperation, it has become his good-luck charm. He played before his first victory in Iowa and didn't on the day of his New Hampshire defeat. Now the motto goes: to the basketball court on election days... And it appears that since Super Tuesday, Barack has been dribbling like nobody's business.

That Tuesday, the 5th of February, was not all too super for Obama. Although he won more states (13 vs. Clinton's 8), the juicy wins went to Hillary: she got California and New York, each granting her a proud number of delegates for the Democratic Convention. However, the tables turned the following week, when Obama took off with a momentum that the media worldwide are attributing to his charisma. Barack Obama is an icon, his rhetoric electrifying. After years of dead-lock in Iraq, an economy fearing the "R-word"- recession, the health care and education system crumbling, and hair-splitting partisanship, his slogan, "Change we can believe in", is music to Americans' ears. Even though at first people were skeptical whether they could trust this visionary when the stakes are as high as now, after 8 years in the tender, caring hands of Dubbja, Obama is now ahead financially, by around 55 delegates, and in making headlines. Even women, workers, and increasing numbers of Latinos, groups that typically supported Hillary, are rallying behind Obama, chanting with him,



Hillary and Barack

"Yes, we can!" ...But what, precisely, can they?

Political Standpoints

Where are the differences between Obama and Clinton - and the Democrats and McCain?

The two Democrats have few differences in political standpoints. Both have a plan to gradually withdraw combat troops from Iraq, so that within a year, that dark chapter is more or less closed. Nevertheless, both consider a war on Iran an option, the only difference being that Obama wants to negotiate with Iran's president without preconditions. Both plan to strengthen the military, in weapons and size. Both want to relocate the American crusade against terrorism to Afghanistan.

On a more positive note, the Democrats both pledge to ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the aim of limiting the spread of and even reducing nuclear weapons internationally. Another treaty they say they intend to ratify is the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, a cap-and-trade approach to reducing green house gas emissions is to be introduced.

Now a domestic issue: Both want to fund their health care plans mainly by reversing Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy. However, Clinton wants to make insurance mandatory, while Obama argues that the problem isn't that Americans don't want health care, but that they can't afford it, and only intends to make it mandatory for children. Where Obama seems more liberal is the criminal justice system. Running for the senate of Illinois, he voiced opposition to capital punishment. On his way into the national senate, his view was more moderate: he was for halting all executions and reforming the justice system. Now he simply pushes for reforms - and has already crafted bills in the Senate that require taping of police interrogations to enhance transparency. Hillary Clinton supports such reforms but has always been a death-penalty proponent.

Rock Star vs. Bell-Bottoms

The differences that move voters, however, are probably less of a political nature than a question

of personality. Obama is the man who "made the unlikely journey", a dynamic speaker with a resonant voice, who draws huge crowds on the campaign trail and moves them to tears with his glorious vision and belief in the "audacity of hope". He is a rock star, a John F. Kennedy. Hillary Clinton is from an affluent home; an Ivey-League college type, an elitist. "After the cameras are gone and the lights are out, I'm going to do the same work as I did in my bell-bottoms..." she told a crowd of university students. She is the problem-solver at the desk - on the road, she attends relatively small, quiet gatherings. It seems she has had to push herself to add emotion and passion to speeches and debates. These are the differences that are pivotal.

Republican Odd Ball

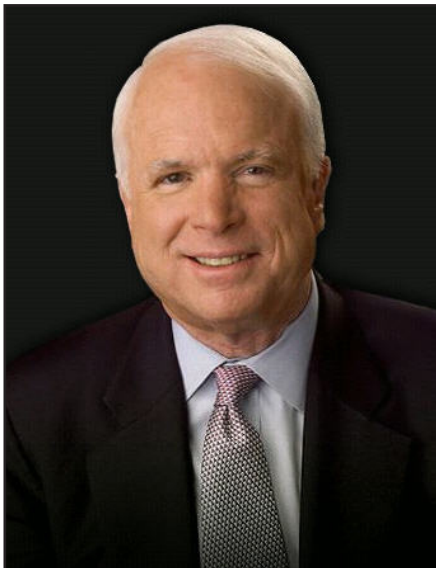
As for McCain, he is viewed very critically by his own party. He owes his success to moderate Republicans and Independents, not the GOP's core. The difficulty with the Republican Party is its variety of orientations: Some Republicans are conservative for religious reasons, some for economic reasons, others are value conservatives, and yet others are weapon or industry lobbyists. Bush pleased a large range of these groups, while McCain has made himself unpopular with many for cooperating with the Democrats on climate change and immigration policies and for having been pro abortion rights (for the presidential campaign, his position has changed). The one thing he can count on Republican support for: his foreign policy. As an honored veteran, McCain is known to be tough when it comes to national security. He says that if it were necessary, he would keep troops in Iraq for another 100 years.

What's next in the primary race?

...Immense efforts by Hillary Clinton to win Ohio and Texas on March 4th, certainly. The two debates scheduled before those primaries are said to be her big hope, and the Latino population of Texas.

One thing is for sure: Neither Barack Obama, nor Hillary will make the 2025 delegates required to become presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. This means that the decision will rest on the shoulders of the so-called "Super-delegates", important party members and leaders whose vote counts for one delegate. Hillary has the better relations as a long-time member of the party, but if Obama's winning streak continues, the super-delegates will feel obligated to heed the message people are sending and vote Obama. Polls suggest that he might be in the lead with the VIP's already.

One wonders: 2 years of primaries, followed by half a year of the actual candidacy...In what state of mind and health will the elected arrive in the Oval Office? Obama said it: It takes "quite a bit" (!) of megalomania to run for President of the United States of America.



John McCain

Entertainment

Movie Reviews:

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford

Written and directed by the Australian Andrew Dominik, this film follows historical events of 1880s America as it examines the relationship between the sycophantic young Robert "Bob" Ford (Casey Affleck), and his idol, the outlaw Jesse James (Brad Pitt), who, at 34, has already become a legendary figure. Ford has grown up hearing stories and reading dime-store novels about the exploits of the James gang, and is eager to join in and prove his worth. Casey Affleck delivers a fantastic performance; with a faltering, wheezy voice, he conveys Ford's gradual disillusionment as he is being pulled into Jesse's inner circle while simultaneously being manipulated by other members of the gang and the police. Supporting cast members are strong as well, and Brad Pitt perfectly slips into the role of the impulsive, yet world-weary outlaw.

Lastly, the film's stunning cinematography and folk-inspired score create an atmosphere of epic melancholy that sets the perfect stage for the dark story.

The Assassination of Jesse James is a haunting, poetic film; I highly recommend it.

Coming out on DVD on February 29th.

Nikolas Jaeger

I'm Not There

Here's an idea: make a biopic about an icon of 20th-century music without ever mentioning the person's name, and go even further by splitting that one person into six different people. Todd Haynes has done just that with *I'm Not There*, a movie "inspired by the music and many lives of Bob Dylan".

The incarnations of the famous musician are as follows: Woody Guthrie (Marcus Carl Franklin), a boy who wanders the country with his guitar and sings songs of a bygone era, Jack Rollins (Christian Bale), a folk singer who later becomes a pastor at a small evangelical church, Robbie Clark (Heath Ledger), an actor who played Jack Rollins and is now struggling with the demands of his wife and children (Ledger's untimely death sadly gives this new meaning), Arthur Rimbaud (Ben Whishaw), a rebellious poet, Jude Quinn (Cate Blanchett in a fantastic performance), a representation of Dylan in the 1960s, when his music took on a new direction, angering his fans, and Billy the Kid (Richard Gere), an aged denizen of the surreal (and aptly named) Wild West town of Riddle.

The final result is a highly original film that offers a multifaceted look at the life of one man. It's a little too long (don't look for any narrative structure here, folks), but still succeeds very well in capturing the feel of Bob Dylan's work.

Released on February 14th, currently playing in theaters.

Nikolas Jaeger

You Will Believe

Going to the movies and watching a blockbuster hasn't revealed anything new in several years. Ever since *Independence Day* in '96, we've been witnessing our mainstream heroes fighting aliens, mutants and *Godzilla* in an increasingly realistic yet artificial manner, most recently with the cliché-satisfying *Transformers*. Is there nothing new out there?

Yes, there is. And that "SOME THING HAS FOUND US"...

Nothing that you've ever seen before will prepare you for the intensity of *Cloverfield*, J.J. Abram's most recent creation (after the TV hits "Lost" and "Alias"). This film will initially divide the audience. From beginning on the viewer has to deal with things he'll be struggling to get comfortable with. There is no music, no character development, no famous actors, no linear storytelling, no score, no camerawork, no scene switching, seemingly no cuts, no plot resolution, and above all no answers. What is left?

The entire movie revolves around one video camera that is passed around young party-people in NYC, while the city is being attacked - by some "thing". And when the tape reaches its end, so does the film. Though it takes a while for things to start, once things get rolling, the action just explodes off the screen (skyscrapers tumbling, the statue of liberty losing its head, and Manhattan in flames). Gripping the audience primarily is the hand held camera. It seems like the tape is really running the entire 86 minutes, without a pause, and thus nearly perfects the in-the-moment feeling we all seek when going to the cinema (the only place this should be seen). Stuck behind the constantly shaking, unsettling camera will nauseate most at first, but one gets used to it quickly and feels almost entrenched in Manhattan, along



photo courtesy of <http://www.imdb.com/media/>

with thousand others, trying to escape "it". Sooner or later, the initial frustration of not seeing everything in the safety of beautiful pan-scan, panoramic view will side. The up-close and in-your-face, dirty and uncompromising perspective you experience in this film does nothing less than exhilarate. This intensity enables a rush seldom experienced at a Tuesday night at the movies. The tension and immediate feel of danger never really lets go until the tape goes blank.

Two comparisons automatically come to mind in experiencing this film (and yes, this is a film you take part in, no longer sitting uninvolved in

your cushioned chair). The basic style can be argued as an easy clone of the *Blair Witch Project*, the 1999 low budget horror flick that showed the "real" footage of the disappearance of three documentary-makers in the woods of Maryland. Meanwhile the explosions, terror and panic in downtown Manhattan involuntarily warp you back to 9/11. While the *Blair Witch Project* let us all undergo the "What-was-that?-I-heard-something-outside-the-tent!" experience, *Cloverfield* essentially revives this proximity to the danger, only with a multimillion dollar budget, believable effects, and the authenticity the actors perform on screen. Some might claim *Cloverfield* feeds off of 9/11 and the real discomfort that is invoked in us when we see buildings collapse in the heart of New York City with paper sheets floating through the dust-clouded air. But honestly, if you are going to have a catastrophe film, it HAS to play in NYC. Who REALLY cares about a monster attacking Austin, Miami or Los Angeles? And when you see Central Park in ruins, you will understand.

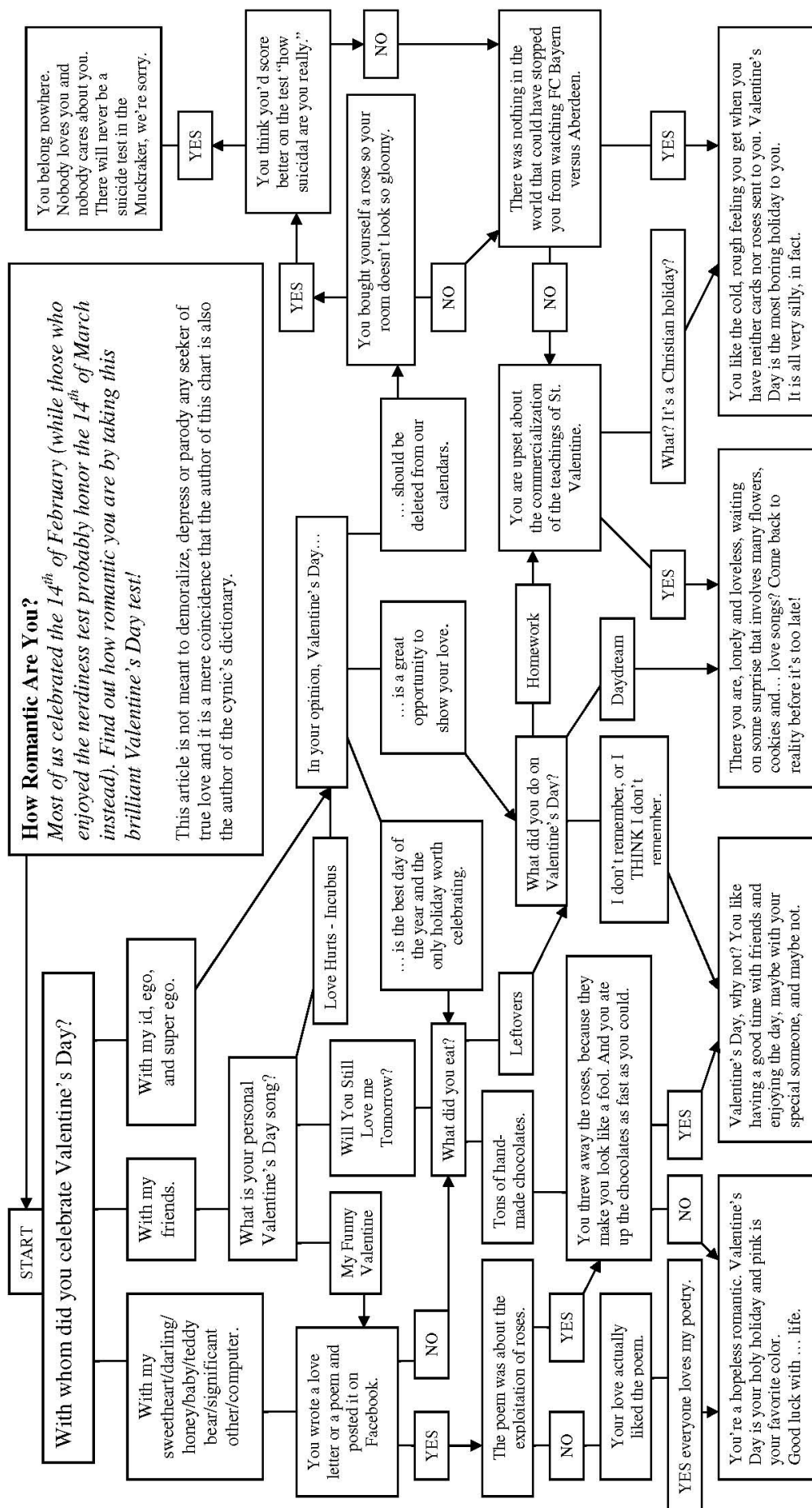
In the end, you can expect a mixture of *Godzilla* and *Blair Witch Project* set in a post-9/11 environment, but the performance of the actors and the superbly fooling camera will make you feel like you are actually standing on the Brooklyn bridge, when things start going VERY wrong. While you were still asking yourself whether there really is a witch outside the tent in '99, you won't have the time to be asking yourself these questions in *Cloverfield*. Once the camera is switched on, you will believe. Some thing has found us and now it's time to get out. For those 85 minutes it's just you and the cameraman. And something very big....

Colin Roberts

Entertainment

Valentine's Day Chart

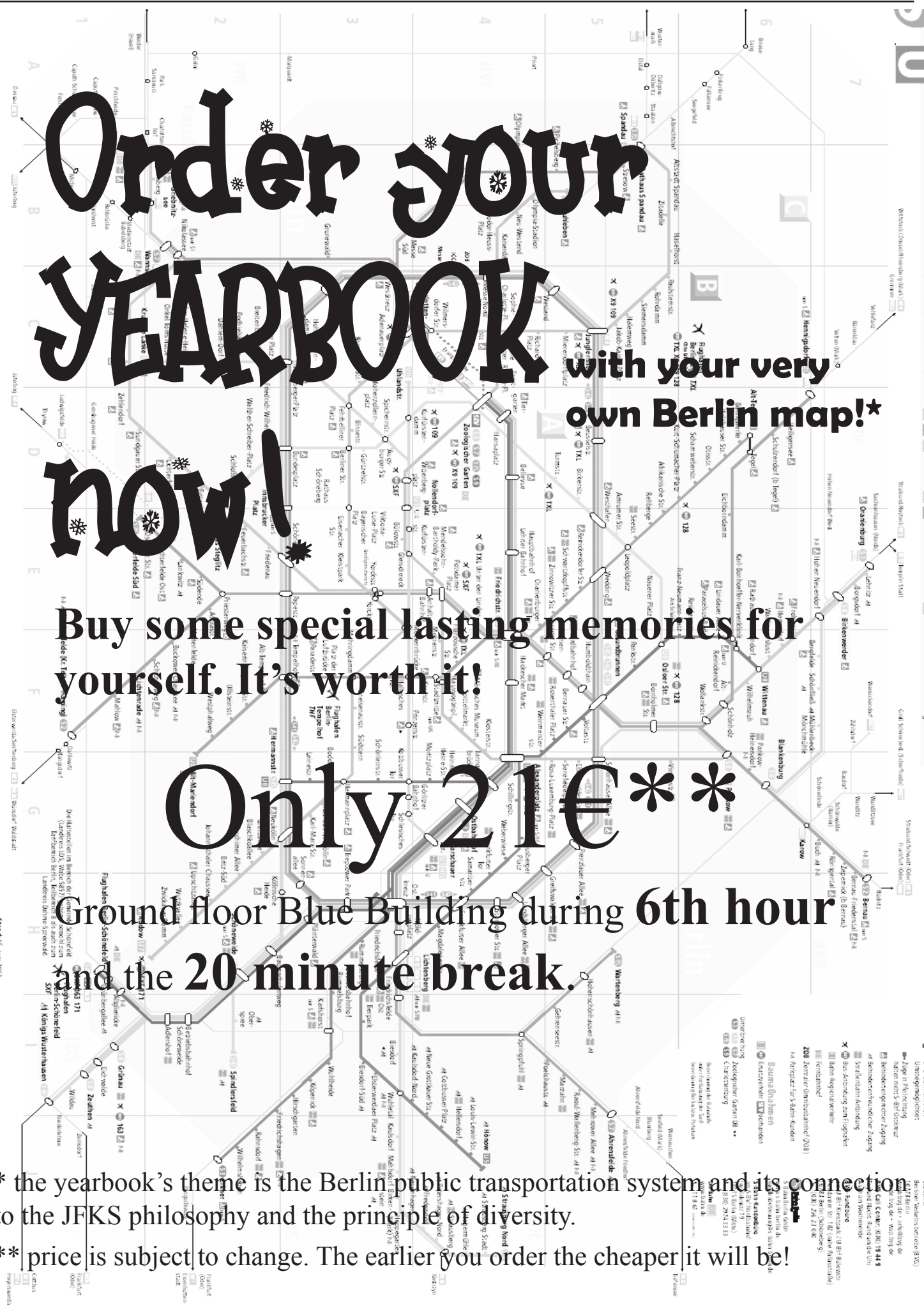
Eileen Wagner



Upcomming Concerts

- 16.2.08- The Cure (Velodrom)
- 19.2.08- Polysics (White Trash)
- 20.2.08- British Sea Power (Lido)
- 21.2.08- Myriad Creatures (White Trash)
- 21.2.08- Justice (Huxley's)
- 21.2.08- Nightwish (Arena Treptow)
- 22.2.08 - The Fashion (Magnet Club)
- 22.2.08- Datarock (Lido)
- 23.2.08- Stereophonics (Fritzclub)
- 23.2.08- Smashing Pumpkins (Arena Berlin)
- 24.2.08- The Mars Volta (Huxley's)
- 27.2.08- Experimental Total (Zur Möbelfabrik)
- 28.2.08- Lenny Kravitz- (Columbia-halle)
- 28.2.08- Panic! At the Disco (Huxley's)
- 13.08- Frtiz15-MIA, Fettes Brot, the Subways... (Fritzclub)
- 2.3.08- Azad (Columbia Club)
- 14.3.08- SebastiAn (Magnet Club)
- 14.3.08- Culcha Candela (Columbia-halle)
- 17.3.08- Tegan and Sara (Fritzclub)
- 20.3.08- James Blunt (Max Schmeling Halle)
- 22.3.08- K.I.Z. (Wachshaus Arena)
- 22.3.08- Zoot Woman(Fritzclub)
- 26.3.08- Yelle (Magnet Club)
- 30.8.08- The Wombats (Lido)

Leonie Schulte



Culture / Entertainment

Zeidler Zappt

Deutsch-SADSPD für Fortgeschrittene

Die aufmerksamen Muckraker-Leser unter euch werden sicherlich meinen Artikel „Zeidler Zappt: Mein kleines Wörterbuch: Deutsch-SADSPD“ in der zweiten Ausgabe des Muckakers dieses Jahres (Seite 10) gelesen haben. Für die, die ihn nicht gelesen haben: SADSPD (Aussprache nicht „Ess Aa Dee Ess Pee DEE“ sondern wie ein normales Wort, halt „Sadspd“) ist eine Unterform des Namibiadeutschen (welches wiederum auch als Südwestdeutsch bekannt ist), welches an der Deutschen Schule Pretoria gesprochen wird. Daher auch der Name, den SADSPD steht für Südafrika Deutsche Schule Pretoria Deutsch.

Ich begründete meinen Artikel damals damit, dass ich mir Sorgen um die Verständlichkeit meiner Artikel bei denjenigen, die SADSPD nicht fließend beherrschen, zu machen begann.

Doch inzwischen ist mein Wortschatz um die Anfängerkenntnisse hinaus gewachsen, so dass nicht mehr nur Worte wie „Bakkie“, „Yebo“, „n’bitjie“, „lekker“ und „Eish“ meine Artikel zu durchkreuzen drohen, sondern auch noch weitere SADSPD’sche Wendungen. Deshalb

hier die Fortsetzung Meines kleinen Wörterbuches Deutsch-SADSP, nämlich Deutsch-SADSPD für Fortgeschrittene.

Babalas – Hangover. Wurde mir durch die Eröffnungsszene des Films „Naminator“ bekannt, der damit beginnt, dass einer in einem Wagen liegt, aufwacht, sich an die Stirn fasst und sagt „Man hab ich ,nen Babalas“.

Flipp’n – Wird verwendet wie „voll“, „extrem“, etc. Zum Beispiel: „Ich hab gestern flipp’n viel gegessen!“

Ich lach... – Wenn man sagen möchte, dass man lachen würde, wenn jetzt etwas passieren würde, dann wird diese Redewendung verwendet. Lacht sich beispielsweise jemand über das Versagen anderer beim Hochsprung krank, so ist es gut möglich, dass andere, sobald dieser an der Reihe ist, sagen „Ich lach, er schafft’s nicht!“

Jerrne! – Wird als Ausdruck des Erstaunens, der Überraschung verwendet. Langes „e“, gerolltes „r“. „Jeeeeeerrrne hatten wir gestern viel auf!“

Net so – Kann für den Anfänger sehr verwirrend sein, denn es hat nichts mit dem Wort „net“ im Sinne von „Nöt“, „Nöd“, „Nö“ oder „Nein“ zu tun, sondern bedeutet übersetzt „Nur so“, im Sinne von „Einfach so“. Daher: „Und dann hat er mir net so eine Ohrfeige gegeben.“

N’ Boer maak n’Plan – Eines meiner Lieblingsausdrücke: Übersetzt heißt es „Eine Bure (ein Nachfahre der Holländer, die ab dem 17. Jahrhundert das Kap besiedelten, auch als Afrikaaner bekannt) macht einen Plan“, es heißt jedoch das genaue Gegenteil. Das sagt man, wenn man nicht mehr weiter weiß. Wenn zum Beispiel die Hausaufgaben unlösbar sind, sagt man „n’Boer maak n’Plan“, und das heißt ist dann, das die Hausaufgaben erst später, bzw. nie gemacht werden.

Oukie – Aus dem Afrikaans. Heißt so viel wie „Typ“, wird in der Regel unfreundlich verwendet, wie in „Der Oukie dort hat die Radkappen von meinem Bakkie geklaut!“

Moritz Zeidler

Sudokus!!

He-in Cheong

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Hard Sudoku

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