

THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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The Year 2007-2008 in Review

What characterized school year 2007/2008? Sounds like an essay question we do not want to contemplate when enjoying the sun and minimizing brain activity are the orders of the day. That's where this article comes in: perhaps we can help you sort out and recollect!

Way back in September when we were coloring schedules, labelling folders in neat block letters with our new set of fine liners (!) - table of contents (ha!) and all, studying, filling out, admiring our planners ("Boy, am I going to be organized this year!!"), and stocking up on activities like there was no tomorrow, the Student Council presidential elections were the big news. Campaign posters all over school walls - the competition got the school year off to a dynamic start.

In the fall, our busy participation in activities carried fruits for all: The music and drama department staged "Working", which was highly praised by all who saw it. We remember impressive singing - hotel cleaning ladies, housewives, construction workers, firemen, factory laborers, call center employees, teachers belting for recognition and fairer pay. An ambitious project, but a grand success. Other highlights in the drama/musical department are the student-produced play "Shakespeare Abridged" - excellent acting, by the way - and the wonderful union of jazz and barbershop at the "B&J Potpourri".

Less dazzling but as much on people's minds

were the discussions on 11th-grade class trips and the English Zentralabitur. The former battle was quickly resolved. Trips to Barcelona, Greece, Lisbon, Rome, and Prague were planned. The English Zentralabitur was in dispute until recently. Student-led debates took place in W309, articles appeared in the parent newsletter and the Muckraker... A month ago, an 11th grade English Grundkurs actually took this year's Zentralabitur for English in place of their final Klausur to give decision holders a sense of how JFKS students might perform. The end of the story is that this year's 11th grade will be the first class to take the English Zentralabitur. Two further ongoing debacles were resolved this year: We have a student lounge, which is inviting (student art on the walls; plenty of sofa space) and in use, which hopefully eased the library's noise problem. Also, we can expect less fluctuation in our staff: American teachers no longer have to leave after two years due to German tax policy. Teachers and students will get to know each other better - which is generally a positive thing...

JFKS also hosted very successful BERMUN and Bermun2 conference in November and March, and several of our students went to The Hague, New York, and Rostock for further model UN symposiums. A highlight for our MUNers this year was to hear Joschka Fischer give a speech at the BERMUN closing

ceremony and the opportunity to ask him questions, which he answered in the fashion of a true politician.

To interrupt this somewhat chronological list of events: something that recurred this school year were the BVG strikes. For some this meant serious logistical trouble - adventurous biking and hiking through the rain - others profited, an excuse for a tardy always ready. But quite a wave on the political landscape of Germany. Will this cult of going on strike continue?

Back to school: We're better equipped at the end of the school year than 9 months ago. Sleek computers in the library and adjustments in security measures. Though the closing of the ramp doesn't isolate the school from the wildlife that lives close by. Foxes and up to 28 wild boars occasionally had students and teachers with their noses up against class room windows.

At the end of the year, the more varied events and activities occur at JFKS: Spanish Open House Night, Soirée Française, Seminar Day, and all course trips. Unfortunately though, the 10th graders were burdened with an extra MSE math test due to a dreadful mistake at the Senatsverwaltung. Not only all 10th grade students in Berlin, but also all math teachers suffered from this error in the last week of school.

To the Muckraker, 2007/2008 means almost 11 years of raking, writing, raking the

Year in Review, continued on page 3

THE MUCKRAKER



We are sorry to inform you that the Muckraker has lost its voice due to too much singing...

Muckraker Retrospect...



The Founding Fathers Speak

The first issue we read of the Muckraker was... something that we had never thought and we the Muckraker editors, we didn't see it... this, to be honest.



The New SC Presidents

The Student Council is back in session and... new procedures... the new SC presidents... the new SC presidents... the new SC presidents...

<p>HOBY</p> <p>The year's best hobbyist at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best hobbyist at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>Teacher Feature</p> <p>The year's best teacher at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best teacher at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>Student Handbook</p> <p>The year's best student handbook at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best student handbook at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>ZweiBarreiter</p> <p>The year's best two-barreiter at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best two-barreiter at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>
<p>Clothes</p> <p>The year's best clothes at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best clothes at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>Top Ten Myths</p> <p>The year's best top ten myths at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best top ten myths at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>Alumni Feature</p> <p>The year's best alumni feature at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best alumni feature at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>	<p>Visiting Authors</p> <p>The year's best visiting authors at the High School Youth Leadership award... the year's best visiting authors at the High School Youth Leadership award...</p>

JFKS Life

Having a Ball at BALMUN

"Give and thou shall receive". This saying has rung true many a time, and never more than in the case of the JFKS Model United Nations program. You help someone out, and they in turn will repay you—most notably in the case of the new Baltic Model United Nations in Rostock. For a long time, students from the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium in Rostock have attended BERMUN in November, and students from JFKS have helped the students from Rostock develop their MUN skills. As the years have gone by, the students have perfected their MUN abilities and risen to new heights. Now, they have taken the big step. With the help of the JFKS MUN they have held their first MUN conference, which took place from the 29th of May to the 1st of June.

JFK was invited to participate as delegations from the Kingdom of Denmark and the United Kingdom, represented by 11 delegates. As well, four students participated as chairs. The JFKS participants left on Thursday in the afternoon and arrived just in time for the "delegate get-together", where they socialized and met their housing partners. After spending Thursday night getting acquainted with their hosts—and for many watching the semi-final of "Germany's Next Top-Model"—Friday began with opening ceremonies in the General Assembly. Speakers included the "Speaker of the House" of Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania and the mayor of Rostock, as well as ambassadors of the 24 delegations with students from as far way as China. For about an hour



before lunch the delegates held lobbying sessions in their respective committees. Lunch lasted an hour, and once it was finished the delegates listened to a speech by Green Party activist Jan Philip Albrecht, then held more of the lobbying that had been taking place in the morning. After a successful day of exchanging points and finding common ground, the delegates left the school, but the socializing was far from over. Many delegates spent time together after-hours that night, showing that MUN isn't all work and no play.

Saturday began with the debating of resolutions in the committees. By lunch most committees had two clear cut resolutions. After lunch, a real UN youth delegate spoke to everyone in the General Assembly. The delegates then got the second copy of the controversial but loved Baltic Herald, with its much read gossip page. The page told some of the stranger parts of the organizing team on the first day and outdid itself the second day by showing exclusive photos of the Secretary General and

his girlfriend as well as telling about the Belgian delegate's wish for a sex...cessful debate in her much talked-about opening speech. The committees finally finished debating their resolutions, and everyone went home to prepare for the party. And what a party it was. From the very beginning the delegates knew that something was different about their colleagues. Where were the suits? Where were the rules of procedure and conduct? The delegate of Japan even appeared wearing a Kimono. The music played late into the night and everyone had a great time.

With many delegates still tired from the night before, Sunday's festivities began promptly at 8:45 that morning. Speeches were given on every resolution, almost all of which included a JFKS delegate. The chairs of all committees gave reports, the Environmental Committee chair stating that "everyone pretended to like the delegate of Denmark". There also many other colourful remarks about JFKS delegates. The BALMUN photographer took a photo of all delegates in the shape of the letters B-A-L-M-U-N and the formalities concluded.

As goodbyes were said, there was much talk of BALMUN 2009, to which JFK is sure to send delegates. The receiving has only begun.

PS. When you read this on Friday morning I will be on my way back to Canada. Thank you all for an awesome year, I hope you've enjoyed my articles. A.C.

Alexander Cohen

Muckraker Retrospect...

THE MUCKRAKER THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER. Working! A Truly Thought-Provoking Performance. Teacher Feature. The Romp. Burma. Coca-Cola. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

THE MUCKRAKER THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER. The Best BERMUN Ever. English Ahi. Christmas. New Columns. Geibe Spione. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

THE MUCKRAKER THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER. Library-ism. Bobberhop & Jazz. Web Filter. Bhutto Assassination. US Election. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

JFKS Life / Columns

Thoughts Aside: Friendship

Although Facebook redefines the term "friend" to "include chance acquaintances and total strangers", we attribute sincere friendship with high personal value. A friend is someone to confide in, to trust in, to ask for favors, to offer help to, to talk to...

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Year in Review, continued from page 1

writing, laying out, running to the "copy-people" before class, folding issues, and watching on complacently as students get their copies. Thanks for picking up the Muckraker a final time this year. We hope our brief run-through awakened memories.

mood that followed you...that comes to mind when you look at the sum total of experiences this school year? We wish all Muckraker readers a relaxing, but eventful, warm, spirited summer break!

Lena Walther
Eileen Wagner
Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

The Seventh of the Nothings

By the time most kids enter high school, they have dealt with the "what do you want to be when you grow up?" question, oh, about a million times. From school nurses to bald uncles, every adult seems to use this subject as a rescue attempt for any dying conversation with a minor.

soon choose, are choosing, or have chosen AP courses or Leistungskurse. College Applications loom in the misty autumnal future and with them comes the question: Do I really want to study international law?

Anna Zychlinsky

Muckraker Retrospect...

Muckraker magazine cover thumbnail: Spanish Open House Night. Includes text about the event and a photo of students.

Muckraker magazine cover thumbnail: Shakespeare Abridged. Includes text about the play and a photo of a student.

Muckraker magazine cover thumbnail: Little Brother Gets to Shine. Includes text about the conference and a photo of a student.

Entertainment

Das Ungeheuer vom Schlachtensee

Wie jeden Sommer in Berlin wird es an manchen Tagen höllisch heiß und Jeder-mann sucht nach einer erfrischenden Abkühlung. Erster Gedanke: Schlach-tensee! Doch wie sich herausgestellt hat, sind wir nicht die einzigen Badegäste...

Schürfwunden anrichten kann. Auch die Form der Wunde spreche eindeutig für einen Welsbiss. Aber warum greift nun der Wels Leute an? Während der Laichzeit hält sich der Wels nicht, wie sonst, im Schlammgrund auf, sondern sucht Wärme (mindestens 20 Grad!) und geht somit logischerweise an die Wasseroberfläche.

Karen Fischer

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Muckraker Retrospect...

THE MUCKRAKER THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER. Viva la Lounge. Election Update. Book Project. Menos. Precorination Chart.

The Muckraker will also be present at this year's FUN DAY. Come to the creative writing competition given by the 10th grade German Wahlpflichtfach and the Muckraker will publish the winning entry!

The Cynic's Dictionary HISTORY "An account mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers mostly knaves, and soldiers mostly fools." Ambrose Bierce. Feeling cynical, too? Then submit your own definitions to themuckraker@gmail.com. Eileen Wagner

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

JFKS Life / Entertainment

Thoughts from a Senior

Another year has come to an end. Many of us take this as yet another year culminating and look forward to a summer of travel and fun. As for this year's senior class, however, this summer brings on a whole new chapter of life. Many of us will be moving out and enrolling in schools across the globe. For a lot of us, this summer means learning to live on our own, finding a job, studying, and exploring a new environment. It also means saying good bye to childhood friends and having to start anew. For others, this summer not only means saying good bye, but also preparing for the Abitur, buckling down and getting ready for a year and an exam that will determine a lot about our future academic carriers. The end of this year brings along a string of parties and events like Prom and the Kursfahrten and will result in a summer we will never forget. It will certainly be a blast, but at the same time, it is the most terrifying moment in our lives. In the course of the next year, we will have to learn to be 100% independent; we will undergo the ultimate transformation from child to adult, either leaving behind our friends and family, moving out of the houses and cities we grew up in, or watching our friends move away and facing a year of non-stop study and chore. As a soon-to-be Abitur graduate, I see myself standing in the intersection of becoming an independent adult and the comfort of childhood life. If all goes as planned, I will be able to realize my goals for the future, study in my aspired universities, and chase down my desired carrier. On one hand, I can't wait to plunge myself into the Abitur year, move out, work, and live on my own, on the other, I want to run away screaming. I don't want this summer to end, I don't want my friends to leave, I don't want to mess up, I don't want to grow up. But it's inevitable, isn't it?

This article serves as a tribute to and a remembrance of the senior

class of 2008. Unfortunately, I failed in collecting enough credits in math in the last 2 years and therefore cannot graduate with the high school Diploma this year. Because I am in the Abitur program, it has little meaning to my academic carrier, however, it is a huge emotional strain. I have been going to this school since Vorschule and have grown up with many of the students in the senior class. On Thursday the 26th of June, all of my friends, with a few exceptions, will be receiving their diplomas; they will throw their hats in the air and celebrate. A lot of my friends will leave the school after this. The graduation ceremony is the last time that the entire senior class will be together and I would love nothing more than to stand on the stage next to them and throw up my hat and wish them well. I would love nothing more than to share this final moment of achievement, celebration, and farewell with the class I have grown and developed with. It took this terrible experience to make me realize how much each and everyone in my class means to me and how much I want to share this with them. We really were a great team! I would love to tell you all this on graduation day but I can't and so I would like to dedicate this article to, not only my senior class of 2008, but to the kids I grew up with and to the new friends I've made. Thank you for sharing your childhood with me, thank you for growing up with me. Thank you for everything- it was a great ride. Congratulations and Good Luck! I look forward to those of you embarking on the Abitur with me next year... and for those of you leaving, you will be missed. Finally, for those students in 12th grade next year, Good Luck and make sure you pass math!

Leonie Schulte

Movie Corner!

Daniel Der Zauberer

Making a movie about Daniel Küblböck, the androgynous runner-up to the German version of Pop Idol, would be bad enough; portraying him as a saint of sorts is just... beyond words. The technical merits are on the level of cheap home videos, and the plot goes as follows: Evil goths want to kill Daniel, but he converts them with "positive energy" and dances with them in the end (which is very disturbing). He does this with the help of his dead grandfather, who is a magician, carries around a French horn (sometimes, but not always), and only has one arm (sometimes, but not always). I was starting to feel very sympathetic towards the villains, but found them to be equally repulsive. It's quite inconceivable to me how a film like this could ever be made, especially by those who call themselves professionals.

Currently on DVD; can be purchased cheaply at Woolworth (really!).

Nikolas Jaeger

Indiana Jones

and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

After 19 years, Indiana Jones returns. Naturally, the adventurer/archaeologist has aged, and the film, rather than shying away from the topic, makes it the subject of quite a few jokes. The setting is now 1957; the Nazi villains of the previous films have been replaced with Soviets, and the plot is rife with references to 1950s culture. Though the film is unabashedly pro-American, it subtly parodies the atomic age and hints at the darker climate of fear during the Cold War. This adds some depth to everything, as does the fact that all the actors play their roles quite well, particularly Cate Blanchett, who does a fine job as Jones's nemesis, the Soviet agent Irina Spalko. Still, it would be a gross overstatement to say that the plot is the film's strong point. The Russians are little more than cardboard villains, and the entire thing is very predictable, from the old legend that's "just a story" (of course it's not) to the test of character at the end where the villain either melts, ages rapidly, or, in this case, burns up. Surprisingly, this campiness actually becomes a part of the film's appeal. It never takes itself quite seriously; there's something knowingly self-indulgent about the physical implausibilities and clichéd moments that causes the viewer to accept them even while chuckling at how exaggerated they are. All in all, the plot carries the well-executed action scenes along quite nicely, resulting in a very enjoyable film.

Currently in theaters.

Nikolas Jaeger

The Proposition

Though it can best be described as a Western, "The Proposition", a 2005 film directed by John Hillcoat, sets itself apart by its setting: the Australian outback of the late 19th century, a world of grimy yellow dust and dead bodies. The film concerns itself with the aftermath of the rape and murder of a family at the hands of the notorious Burns brothers. When Charlie Burns (Guy Pearce) and his younger, dimwitted brother Mike (Richard Wilson) are captured after a shootout, the local police captain (Ray Winstone), knowing the extent to which Charlie cares about Mike, offers the two of them a pardon if Charlie is able to kill his older brother Arthur (Danny Huston), an almost legendary figure feared for his brutality. The consequences of this decision unfold mercilessly and build up to a suspenseful climax. The atmosphere is contributed to in no small measure by the score, composed by Nick Cave (who also wrote the script) and Warren Ellis, incorporating rough violin sounds and whispering voices to complement the film's harsh and meticulously composed cinematography. The film also effectively touches on themes such as colonialism and racism, particularly through one character, a bounty hunter gone half-mad in the wilderness, played memorably by John Hurt.

Currently on DVD. Viewers should be cautioned about the film's strong and frequent violence.

Nikolas Jaeger