

# THE MUCKRAKER

the students' voice since 1997

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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## What's on The Muckraker's mind?

The Muckraker is, once again, raking muck on your behalf. Only this time, we chose to delve into a topic that concerns more than 500 million people in the world, and probably more  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our student body: Facebook. Ah, long gone are the days when we had to make the tedious effort of dialling numbers, or even opening our mouths, to communicate. Infinite seems the time since we asked people out, rather than quickly and efficiently updating our "relationship status". Eternity has passed since we last "made" friends, as opposed to "adding" them. Yes, the hard times are over, and we now have the facility of finding "love" just a mouse-click away.

No one seems to care about the decrease in the quality of this love, however, or about the quality of many facets of life. We find ourselves stuck in an age where we no longer savour the richness of a self-cooked meal, when we have the ease of shoving in a pizza (as we, the Editors, just did 34 minutes ago). Or what does it say about our education when it's possible to receive a 1 for an essay that was written in a sedated state of mind? In our love for efficiency, speed, and minimal, mindless effort, we have thwarted the very essence of life.

Even last year's Senior Class demonstrated its unfailing dedication to Facebook with its mural, and so do you with the average of 30 hours you spend on the site each month.

Thus, in honor of the Muckraker Year of Creativity, we would like to dedicate this issue to perhaps the least creative form of communication. While we commend all of you for making such strategic use of your time and for finding such effective means of homework procrastination as tagging your friends and Farmville, we urge you to quit your forbearance of the real world.

**Share**

## Eine Woche ohne Facebook

Wie ist es eigentlich, wenn man nicht ständig alle Neuigkeiten seiner Freunde und alle Fotos der letzten Party mitbekommt, und nicht permanent in Kontakt mit seinen Freunden ist? Ich habe den Versuch gewagt, und für eine Woche mein Facebook-Konto deaktiviert. Die Idee für diesen Versuch kommt mir beim Lernen. Es ist Mittwochabend, und am nächsten Tag soll ich eine Geschichtsklausur schreiben, für die ich mir den ganzen Nachmittag freigegeben habe um zu lernen. Doch leider komme ich fast gar nicht dazu, da ich immer wieder durch Facebook abgelenkt werde. Neue Fotos meiner Freunde ansehen oder einfach zu „chatten“ ist natürlich viel spannender als Solon und Perikles. Als es immer später wird und ich immer noch nicht mehr gemacht habe als mir ein paar Namen und Daten aufzuschreiben, beschließe ich, offline zu gehen. Da ich in der nächsten Woche wieder drei Klausuren vor mir habe, kommt mir die Idee zu der „Facebookfreien Woche“. Natürlich fällt es mir sehr schwer, den Schritt zum Deaktivieren zu gehen, da Facebook schon zu meinem täglichen

Leben gehört und ich auch im täglichen Kontakt mit Freunden stehe, die ich nicht jeden Tag in der Schule sehe, von denen manchen in anderen Ländern wohnen. Irgendwie überwinde ich mich dann aber doch. Keine fünf Minuten später bekomme ich eine SMS von einer Freundin mit dem Inhalt: „Dein Facebook-Profil ist verschwunden, wo bist du hin?“ Daraufhin rufe ich sie an, was ich in der folgenden Woche nicht selten tun werde. Den Rest des Abends verbringe ich dann wirklich mit Geschichte. Am nächsten Tag in der Schule werde ich öfters auf das Verschwinden meines Accounts angesprochen, da ich erst kürzlich Fotos von einer Party hochgeladen habe, die nun von vielen vermisst werden. Am Nachmittag zu Hause gehe ich ohne nachzudenken automatisch auf facebook.de, wundere mich aber total, dass ich mich einloggen soll, denn normalerweise bleibe ich auf meinem Computer immer angemeldet. Erst jetzt fällt mir mein „tolles“ Experiment wieder ein. Also schalte ich den Computer wieder aus und überle-

Facebook, continued on page 8

### Von Morgens bis Mitternacht

As was pointed out to us recently by a concerned teacher, this year's High School Play is the first full-length German language at our school in over a decade. Milena Kula went to see it – read her critique of the play.

on page 2

### Wehrpflicht

Viele der männlichen Leser werden die Wehrpflichtdebatte sicherlich mit Interesse verfolgt haben. Wird sie nun abgeschafft? Oder bleibt sie bestehen? Müssen wir noch unseren Dienst antreten, oder bleibt es uns erspart?

on page 5



Chat (66)

## JFKS Life

# Von Morgens bis Mitternachts: A play by Georg Kaiser

Set in the expressionist 20th century of depression and psychology, "Von Morgens bis Mitternachts" is a rich play that describes the life of a former bank cashier as a robber. The play, which is dark and mysterious, is accompanied by beautifully fitting macabre set art designed by Lana Svirejeva made for the performance. Staged in a simple setting with a white wall as the background, the pictures are beamed onto it and mark the play artistically and meaningfully.

"Von Morgens bis Mitternachts" starts out with a scene in the bank, where an Italian lady wants to take out her money, but the bank manager does not let her do so, as the letter from the Italian bank has not yet arrived. The Italian lady, frustrated, leaves the bank. In the meantime, a fat man puts in 60 000 and leaves. The Italian lady comes back to ask the cashier if her diamonds will do as a deposit, but he says it is not possible. Nevertheless the cashier is so enthralled by her beauty that he steals the 60 000 to run off with her and the money. But upon arrival at her hotel, he realises that she is an honest woman who needs the money to buy a picture for her son. He leaves, disappointed, and scared that the police will find him. He goes to visit his family and decides to use the

money till midnight, as he knows death will find him then. At his wife's house, he is depressed by the homely comfort and leaves, which causes his mother to die of a seizure. He travels to the city where he tries to find something worthwhile to buy with his money. But he is disappointed in the bicycle race and the night club, so he goes to a modern church where people repent their sins. Listening to the repenters' stories, the cashier realises how similar they are to his and decides to repent. He tells them about his robbery and how, upon trying to find something good to buy with the money, found nothing. The money made the things he bought worthless, and so what is the point of having the money in the first place? With this, he throws the money into the Christian crowd, and they scramble and fight for the money. The cashier is destroyed by this act because he believed some good to be left in this world. Only one Christian Girl has not grabbed for the money, and he turns to her just when she calls the police to attain the reward. The cashier has now fully given up on the goodness of humanity and lets the police shoot him. He dies, slumped against the white wall.

"Von Morgens bis Mitternachts"

tells of the corruption of money and what it does to people. During these expressionist times, many artists and writers believed the human psychology to be evil and greedy, thus reflecting this ideology in their plays and music. Georg Kaiser, the playwright for this piece, had an incredible idea of creating a person with a lot of money, who finds out that it does not bring happiness. It is a masterpiece, as his idea clearly shows that money corrupts everything, because in human psychology this would mean being able to wield power over others. Dr. McDaniel, the actors and the tech crew, not to mention Svirejeva, have done a great job in setting the exact tone to this piece. Both the setting and the actors perfectly portrayed the sinister and macabre feeling of the play. And although some passages of the long speeches were difficult to fathom, the leaflet provided a better understanding of the play. In essence, I thought this one of the better plays performed by the drama department, and it is disappointing that very few people came to see it. It was definitely worth a watch. Praise to everyone involved!

Milena Kula

about an hour ago · Like · Comment

## 2x Gold für JFKS!

Am Freitag, den 5. November, einem verregneten und kalten Tag, fand in Spandau die 17. Grundkurs Ruderregatta statt. Acht Schüler der John F. Kennedy Schule, Moritz Zeidler, Kathinka Schröder, Lily Malich, Max Fenner, Leon von Salisch, Steffen Heth, Jan Bagger und Victoria Christians, nutzen diese Gelegenheit um ihre Ruderkünste unter Beweis zu stellen. Am Ende hieß es dann zwei Mal Gold im gemischten Doppelvierer für JFKS und mehrmals Silber und Bronze. Die Regatta hat allen Teilnehmern so viel Spaß gemacht, dass sie fast alle Rudern als Sportkurs für das zweite Semester wiedergewählt haben!

Victoria Christians



32 minutes ago · Like · Comment

# JFKS Life

## The 2010 BERMUN Conference

In spite of this year's complications, BERMUN was a great success

There were 785 participants involved in BERMUN. That made 1,570 legs unning around the rooms, hallways, Aulas, stairwells, campuses and bathrooms. That means 1,500 small subway sandwiches were passed out by Admins to the delegates, student officers, directors, coordinators and advisors. 52 nationalities were present and consequently a combination of many languages, cultures, and mentalities flowed into the four days of debating and discussions. And 90 kilos of cookies were eaten. As Fiona McGreal pointed out, "cookies are the best part of BERMUN!"

The conference began, as the delegate of Brazil symbolically tore up a sign reading "Black Market", displaying this year's theme against illicit trade in a global community. In spite of infinite regulations, laws, and international conventions battling this global problem, their ineffectiveness was appalling. One keynote speaker declared the cause of this human suffering to be "individual greed and economic interest".

A variety of themes were covered during the conference. The representative of Ivory Coast gave their utmost

attention to human trafficking by aiming to stop "parts of human bodies [becoming] subjects of trade". Heated discussions were held about the legalization of "smaller drugs" such as narcotics. Committees additionally strived to discuss the trade of endangered wildlife species. This year Marcel Starfinger especially made an effort towards making the conference more environment-friendly, as the conference program was printed on recycled paper. Katy Schaper commented: "This is the first conference that we've taken our environmental activism to a new level through our initiatives".

Involved in BERMUN or not, every high school student and teacher at JFKS probably questioned this year's BERMUN conference's efficiency, once they realized the new gym was not usable. This year's BERMUN organizers had to improvise as to where the conference could take place. The opening of the General Assembly was held in both Aulas with alternating screens and entertaining head-pieces. Rehearsing until 23 o'clock the previous day, Katy Schaper, President of the General Assembly, Leah Wiedenmann, Bernhard Reifeld, both Deputy Secretary Generals, and Marcel Starfinger, Secretary General, were worried about the ce-

remony the coming day. Thankfully it all went well, according to Schaper, "I think it was even better than last year". Technical difficulties such as the setup of tables and chairs were not excluded in this year's conference. A few Administrative Staff members unpacked and lugged the 90 chairs and 40 tables to the far end of the Old Gym, before realizing they were supposed to be positioned at the other end of the gymnasium. Due to the limited rooms, committees were creatively distributed throughout the school, including the Elementary school building: the location of Hyerin Park's committee was quite unusual, as she was chair of the only "committee that was, well...in a hallway." In addition to the previous tricky situations, a virus was uploaded to the school network from a resolution.

But in such a great and complex event with so many participants, small complications could not be avoided. Despite them, the conferences' success was even greater. Having been the last conference especially for 13th and some 12th graders, this truly was "the best BERMUN ever"!

*BEARMUN Press Team*

31 minutes ago · Like · Comment

## Darstellendes Spiel meets Comedysportz

Es dauerte erstmal eine Weile, bis ich in die Small Aula herein kam. It was weird, I tell you: me, as a 10th grade journalist, going to a 13th grade Grundkurs to interview and watch.

Darstellendes Spiel.

So heißt er, der Grundkurs, dem ich letzte Woche einen Besuch abstattete. I came in, knowing some of the students there, but pretty much never having interviewed anybody as a "Journalist". It seemed funny, the way they were all just chilling there, standing around, talking. No chairs, no desks, just a large room with a stage and the people. Herr Martens, the teacher of this course, tells me about what they do. Then comes the bad news: as in any Kurs, Klausuren have to be written. These consist of a mixture of acting and drama in theory. Before the lesson begins, I hear a dynamic Herr Martens shouting "Kaugummis raus!" and I go around asking people the "big question". WIESO DS? And this is what they said:

"Ich habe die Vorstellung vom Kurs des letzten Jahres anschauen können, und da ich die unglaublich toll fand, wollte ich diesen Kurs natürlich auch gerne ausprobieren. Ich bin selber sehr an Schauspielerei und an Filmredaktion interessiert, und ich muss sagen, es macht Spaß! Es gibt so viele unterschiedliche Leute in diesem Kurs und wir verstehen uns trotzdem gut. Man lernt so viel über Improvisation und Theater an sich. Der Kurs ist echt

Spannend!"

„Der Kurs ist einfach eine gute Abwechslung zu normalem Unterricht. Man lernt neue Leute kennen, kann was Neues anfangen, und verliert sein Schamgefühl. Einfach Theater.“

„Am Anfang war es ein bisschen ungewohnt, weil es mir schwergefallen ist, ‚aus mir raus zu kommen‘, aber jetzt wo es mir leichter fällt, kann ich richtig kreativ werden, und es macht ungeheuer Spaß. Man ist sehr independent und kann sich für seine eigenen Sachen entscheiden.“

And then the lesson starts. Herr Martens collects the homework they had to do (yes, homework is part of it!) and then Brian and Nicole take over.

Ach, that's why I actually came here. How could I have forgotten! Comedysportz, a group of improvisational actors in Berlin, was invited to teach the DS at our school. So, today for the last time, Nicole and Brian are giving their lesson on improvisation.

The lesson begins. To start off, they play "let's all...", a game which involves a lot of running around. After they are all nicely warmed up, they discuss improv rules in a very easy, chilled way.

*Darstellendes Spiel, continued on page 4*



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# JFKS Life

## Darstellendes Spiel, continued from page 3

However, it still is technical, and there are important rules to remember. For example, the fact that you are NEVER allowed to say never in improv. Go with the flow, and that gets the action rolling. Also, never block any emotion. The ability to make fun of yourself is the key to good improvisation.

Next, Nicole and Brian split up everyone into groups and they practice their improv games. This goes on for quite a while, until they all switch groups and continue with the Übung. Later, two groups perform on stage and everyone has to evaluate how they were. In this way, the students learn how to play the games in such a way that the audience laughs.

I asked Nicole and Brian later what they do at their work. They explained that Comedysportz is an English improv show in Berlin that goes to events such as a birthdays, parties, celebrations, assemblies, etc. They perform their regular show every second and fourth Tuesday (8:30pm) and second and fourth Saturday of the month (11:45pm). A year ago, Comedysportz was invited to perform at the ISTA Festival, and this year again for an evening to themselves. Herr Martens, who was inspired by their improvisation, asked if they could teach improv to his students in the new DS Kurs. With the money gracefully sponsored by the Verein, Comedysportz accepted the request. For 7 school hours, they taught the 13th graders how to develop their improvisation skills.


But what is the motivation behind this? Why even have a show like that? What Brian and Nicole explained to me was quite surprising, and something I had not known before. Coming from America, they told me what a wonderful "sport" improv is in high

schools. Back there, everyone is crazy about this kind of thing. Schools have their own leagues, teams, programs and competitions against other schools. They are the "heroes" of each school and perform at assemblies and other events. With this experience in mind, Brian decided to open Comedysportz in Berlin in 1985. He wanted to bring improv to Germany, and to make people laugh and cry.

Later on, Nicole joined Brian here in Berlin. She, as well, had had countless experiences in the field of improv, as she had been in improv teams throughout her high school and university years. Brian and Nicole are very happy to be able to bring improv to JFKS and might even start teams here. They want to give the 13th graders in the course principles of improv which they can pass on to other students, enhance the community and teamwork of DS, improve English language skills and create a sense of group bonding. In general, they would find it great if the 13th graders took their experience, formed their own teams, and thereby brought improv to JFK. Brian and Nicole are here to support improvisation.

Martens has made such a beautiful thing work. Now it's up to you to spread improv and team work at our school and ask the Verein to keep on sponsoring, because that's at least one good thing the Verein does. Oh, and go to the two DS performances in 2011 to support the cause. Best of course, would be to improvise your way through life. Nicole and Brian will gladly help with that! Ask them to visit your class in school and start comedy at JFK – [info@comedysportz.de](mailto:info@comedysportz.de) or <http://comedysportz.de>.

Milena Kula

 about an hour ago via iPhone · Like · Comment

# Teacher Feature: Herr Slosarek

## Hallo Herr Slosarek! Erzählen Sie kurz etwas über sich.

Mein Name ist Gregor Slosarek, ich unterrichte Biologie und Chemie an der John F. Kennedy Schule und bin 43 Jahre alt. Ich habe zwei Töchter (die eine ist 16, die andere 12), bin verheiratet und spiele gerne Gitarre!

## Was waren Ihre Berufswünsche in der Kindheit?

Ich wollte schon seit der 2. Klasse Lehrer werden

## Hatten Sie auch schon immer eine Leidenschaft für Biologie und Chemie?

Nein, also nicht für Chemie. Bio mochte ich schon immer, ich hatte es auch als Leistungskurs, aber für Chemie hat sich meine Leidenschaft erst in der Zeit als Referendar entwickelt. Ich war dann auch nur wirklich interessiert daran, Chemie zu unterrichten, als echten Chemiker sehe ich mich nicht.

## Hatten Sie in der Schulzeit ein Hobbysfach?

Geschichte hat mich nie wirklich interessiert, bis die Schulzeit vorbei war. Das könnte aber daran liegen, dass ich immer junge Referendare als Lehrer hatte.

## Waren Sie gut in Sport?

Ja, als Kind war ich im Turnverein, habe später viel gerudert, war im Volleyball-



verein, im Basketballverein und so weiter und so fort!

## Wo haben Sie studiert und hatten Sie eine ruhige oder eine wilde Studienzeit?

Ich habe an der Technischen Universität in Berlin studiert und meine Studienzeit war zwischen ruhig und wild. Sie auf jeden Fall die entspannteste Zeit meines Lebens, da man sich die Zeit gut einteilen konnte. Gegen Ende wurde es dann jedoch anders, weil meine Frau,

die ich in einer Ausbildung bei Siemens vor dem Studium kennenlernte, und ich uns dann entschieden, mal mit dem Kinderkriegen anzufangen.

## Erzählen Sie etwas über ihre Kinder.

Meine beiden Töchter gehen beide auf das Shadow Gymnasium, die eine in die 7. Klasse und die andere in die 11. Klasse. Beide spielen Hockey im Verein und meine ältere spielt Bassgitarre. Sie sind ganz wunderbar!

## Wie lange sind Sie schon an der Kennedy Schule und wie kamen Sie darauf, hierher zu kommen?

Das hier ist jetzt mein drittes Jahr an JFKS, wobei ich aber schon 1999–2000 hier mein Referendariat machte. Dazwischen war ich auf der Friedensburg Oberschule in Charlottenburg, wollte dann aber nach Steglitz-Zehlendorf und stellte einen Umsetzungsantrag. Dieser wurde dann bestätigt und jetzt bin ich hier!

## Was ist Ihr Lieblingselement?

Ich finde natürlich alle Elemente ganz toll, aber Sauerstoff ist wahrscheinlich mein Lieblingselement, da wir es alle atmen!

Slosarek, continued on page 5

# JFKS Life/Politics

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

**Slosarek**, continued from page 4

**Haben Sie, oder hatten Sie je ein Vorbild?**  
Brian May von Queen war früher mein Vorbild, aber wegen des Gitarrenspiels, nicht wegen der Frisur.

**Bitte geben Sie noch ein paar letzte Worte**

Ich antworte mit meinen Lieblingsgedicht:

Stetes Ziel sei dir die Freude,  
jedes Leid sollst du verachten.  
Stehen die Lämmer auf der Weide,  
sie sind glücklich vor dem Schlachten.  
Vielen Dank Herr Slosarek!

Mira Leass & Victoria Christians

2 minutes ago · Like · Comment

## Is Merkel about to blow up?

No matter whether explosives, gun powder or pipe bombs – truth is that somebody tried to blow up Angie.

And it happened not even too long ago! Just a couple Tuesdays ago, on November 2nd, somebody obviously wanted to catch some attention and cleverly camouflaged some kind of explosive as a book and addressed it directly to our chancellor. Had the security in her chancellery not figured out the true content of what seemed like a parcel from Greece's Department of Commerce, there is no telling who would have gotten hurt.

German National Security has clarified that these bombs were not of Islamist background, but actually the hard work of a couple members of the "Conspiracy of Fire", a Greek anarchist groups who seem

to be unable to identify with Germany's approach toward Greece's state deficit and the saving measures it wishes to take resulting in cutting Greek financing.

Apparently we do not seem to be the only country these Greek anarchists cannot reconcile their ideals with. Similar bomb packets were delivered to the embassies of the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Panama, Chile and Mexico in Athens. Fortunately, the only injury was a hand injury taken by an employee in one of Athens' messenger services. To the probable dismay of some people, a bomb addressed to France's Chief of state Sarkozy was identified before getting him too.

Manuela Schwarz

2 hours ago · Like · Comment

## Wehrpflicht

Immer wieder hört und liest man in Deutschland von und über die Wehrpflicht. Nun soll sie nach bald 45 Jahren ausgesetzt werden, aber im Grundgesetz verankert bleiben. Die Bundeswehr müsse einer Strukturreform unterzogen und zu einer attraktiven Berufsarmee umgebaut zu werden. Und immer wieder fällt in dieser Debatte der Name des derzeitigen Verteidigungsministers Karl Theodor zu Guttenberg (CSU). Doch was genau steckt hinter all diesen Schlagzeilen? Um zu verstehen, was momentan mit der Bundeswehr geschehen soll, muss man ca. 50 -60 Jahre in der deutschen Geschichte zurückgehen.

Nach dem Ende des zweiten Weltkrieges war 1946 die Deutsche Wehrmacht von den Alliierten aufgelöst worden. Doch schon bald, vor dem Hintergrund des Ost-West Konfliktes und natürlich mit der jüngsten Vergangenheit der Hitler-Diktatur im Nacken, kam in der Bundesrepublik eine erhitzte Debatte über die Frage der Notwendigkeit einer deutschen Armee in Gang. Vor allem zwischen der SPD und CDU wurde die moralis-

che Verantwortung der Wiederbewaffnung der Bundesrepublik heftig diskutiert, aber schließlich vereinigte die am 5. Mai 1955 gegründete Bundeswehr noch im November des gleichen Jahres die ersten 101 freiwilligen Soldaten. Die Wehrpflicht für Männer ab 18 Jahren wurde dann im Jahr 1956 eingeführt, aber erst 1968 im Grundgesetz verankert.

Bereits seit 1949 ist auch im Grundgesetz verankert, dass niemand "gegen sein Gewissen zum Kriegsdienst mit der Waffe gezwungen werden" darf. Allerdings mussten die Verweigerer einen Ersatzdienst ableisten. Dieser Ersatzdienst muss Aufgaben des Allgemeinwohls wahrnehmen. Dadurch entstanden der Zivildienst und die Idee, dass wer nicht zum Bund gehe, eben alten Menschen den Popo abwischen müsse. Natürlich gibt es aber auch Alternativen zu der Arbeit im Seniorenheim. Bundesweit übernehmen

**Wehrpflicht**, continued on page 6



Chat (65)

## Politics

### Wehrpflicht, continued from page 5

die Zivildienstleistenden viele Aufgaben im sozialen Sektor, wie z.B. auch die Arbeit in Kindergärten oder im Rettungsdienst.

Doch mittlerweile hat sich die Situation wieder geändert. Deutschland ist wiedervereinigt und der Kalte Krieg ist seitdem auch vorbei. Und die Notwendigkeit der Wehrpflicht wird seitdem immer intensiver in Frage gestellt.

Von den 28 NATO Mitgliedsstaaten haben 23 mittlerweile eine reine Berufsarmee. Und das beste Beispiel, dass es auch ohne die Wehrpflicht gehen kann, ist wohl die USA. Und seit Karl Theodor zu Guttenberg im Oktober 2009 Bundesverteidigungsminister unter Merkel wurde, wird das Thema im Ministerium wieder verstärkt diskutiert.

Zu Guttenberg nahm das Problem in Angriff, indem er eine Defizitanalyse "zur Erkennung von Stärken und Schwächen der aktuellen Bundeswehrsituation" beauftragte. Seitdem arbeiten er und seine Mitarbeiter der Strukturkommission an möglichen Reformen. Das Ziel sei die Erhaltung der Bundeswehr "als leistungsfähiges Instrument der Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik".

Außerdem solle die Bundeswehr nicht eine Bundeswehr "nach Kassenlage" sein, sondern eine, die die "sicherheitspolitischen und verteidigungspolitischen Herausforderungen" unserer Zeit bewältigen können müsse.

Und natürlich, wie so ziemlich überall, muss gespart werden. Es ist teuer, die mehr als 5000 Wehrdienstleistenden jährlich einer Grundausbildung zu unterziehen, denn viele leisten ihren Dienst ab und gehen dann in das Berufsleben.

Die Bundeswehr soll also in den nächsten Jahren verkleinert werden, von 252.000 auf 163.500 Soldaten. Denn nach heftigen – vor allem innerparteilichen – Debatten über die

fünf verschiedenen Reformvorschläge, hat zu Guttenberg es geschafft, die "CDU auf Linie" zu bringen, wie der Spiegel titelt. Man einigte sich jetzt darauf, die Wehrpflicht nicht ganz aufzugeben und auch das Grundgesetz nicht zu verändern – es muss schließlich äußerlich die ursprüngliche, traditionelle Linie der konservativen Partei, die eigentlich immer für die Bundeswehr stand, gewahrt werden – sondern die Wehrpflicht "nur" auszusetzen. Doch was genau bedeutet das dann eigentlich?

Die Wehrpflicht auszusetzen und die Bundeswehr in eine Berufsarmee umzustrukturieren, bringt verschiedene Konsequenzen mit sich.

Zum einen werden nun die Universitäten mit noch mehr Studenten überschwemmt – überfüllte Hörsäle sind aber an und für sich noch mal ein anderes Thema. Nichtsdestotrotz werden die Universitäten jetzt also nicht nur mit dem kommenden Doppeljahrgang, sondern auch mit den vielen "Nicht-Zur-Armee-Gehenden" Männern konfrontiert.

Zum anderen fragen viele Menschen nun, wer die Zivildienstleistenden, also die bislang den Kriegsdienst verweigern- den jungen Männer, ersetzen soll. Denn eine freiwillige Bundeswehr ist gleichzusetzen mit freiwilligem Zivildienst, ohne Wehrpflicht kann bzw. muss nämlich auch nicht mehr verweigert werden.

Und natürlich muss die Bundeswehr dahingehend reformiert werden, dass nicht nur gespart wird, sondern dass junge Menschen mit attraktiven Angeboten zu Berufssoldaten gemacht werden können, ansonsten würde die Bundesrepublik Deutschland nämlich bald ohne Arme dastehen.

Vanessa Rock

47 minutes ago · Like · Comment

## What now, President Obama?

The 2010 Midterm Elections have been much anticipated, due to the expected result of a republican majority in congress. Only 43 percent of Americans approved of the way President Obama was leading the country and critics question whether he is trying to do too much under the weight of a global economic crisis and if American society is ready for these kinds of changes. The results of the midterm elections have given an answer.

Before we get to these however, I believe I should explain what the midterm elections are in the first place. In the process of the elections, which take place two years after the presidential elections, the people of the United States

elect members of Congress as well as several state Governors. The congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The composition and powers of the House of Representatives are established in Article One of the Constitution. The major power of the House is to pass federal legislation that affects the entire country, although its bills must also be passed by the Senate and further agreed to by the President before becoming law (unless both the House and Senate re-pass the legislation with a two-thirds majority in each chamber). Each state receives representation in the House in proportion to its population but is entitled to at least one

Representative. The most populous state, California, currently has 53 representatives. The total number of voting representatives is fixed by law at 435.

Each representative serves for a two-year term. The Constitution grants the House several exclusive powers: the power to initiate revenue bills, to impeach officials, and to elect the President in case of an Electoral College deadlock. The composition and powers of the Senate are also established in Article One of the U.S. Constitution. Each U.S. state is represented by two senators, regardless of population. Sena-

Obama, continued on page 7



# Politics

**Obama**, *continued from page 6*

tors serve staggered six-year terms. The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House, including consenting to treaties as a precondition to their ratification and consenting or confirmation of appointments of Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, military officers or ambassadors. The Senate is a more prestigious body than the House of Representatives, due to its longer terms, smaller size, and state-wide constituencies, which historically led to a more collegial and less partisan atmosphere. In this year's midterm elections, held on November 2nd, only 45 percent of the population voted. Apart from all 435 seats of the House of Representatives, 34 out of the hundred seats in the senate, as well as 36 state governors were elected. As a result of the elections, the Democrats lost six seats in the senate, leaving them with only a marginal majority of 53 to 47 seats. In the house, Republicans gained 61 seats, giving them a majority of 239-196 seats. The senate's leaders, Harry Reid from Nevada on the Democratic side and Mitch McConnell from Kentucky on the republican side remained in office. On the other hand the change of the majority in the House of Representatives means that with John Boehner a Republican will take over as the Speaker. The business-friendly Boehner is a pragmatic conservative with a sensitive side, and "will not compromise on [the Republican's] principles" (Boehner). Nancy Pelosi from California has remained the Democratic minority leader of the house.

What were the reasons for the Democrat's defeat? First, there was frustration with the government's inability to turn

around a bad economy, which discredited the whole idea of government. The most interesting exit poll finding from NBC News was that 56 percent of voters now agree with the statement that „the government is doing too much“.

Secondly, the president elected as an eloquent orator never conveyed the idea that jobs were priority #1. It wasn't that he shouldn't have pursued health care; the problem was that he never pivoted to jobs in a convincing way. He never managed to imprint the message that he had cut taxes for the middle class and for small businesses, and that the banks had repaid their bailouts with interest. Obama disdained slogans. They wouldn't have won it for Democrats in a brutal year, but it didn't help that the party never found a coherent message.

But what does this mean for the Obama administration?

The Presentment Clause requires any bill passed by Congress to be presented to the president before it can become law. While the president cannot directly introduce legislation, he can play an important role in shaping it, especially if a president's political party has a majority in one or both houses of the Congress.

Due to a Republican majority in the House of Representatives and only a slight majority of democrats in the Senate, many of the Obama administration's approaches to dealing with major issues, from the budget deficit to waging war, will likely be re-adjusted to meet this new, post-midterm political reality. Obama will have a hard time passing legislation. Experts say that the president must now use his executive authority and the force

of his office to continue his reforms without Republican cooperation. He is likely to prioritize foreign policy issues more in the next two years than he did in the previous two years. Obama faces the prospect of compromising with Republicans in order to get things done on domestic policy or focusing attention on areas where he can do what he wants while ignoring Congress. Many experts predict that he will choose the latter.

"If he spends two years in the scum with the Republicans, that's what they want. He's capable of doing things on his own without them," said John D. Podesta, the president of the Center for American Progress in an interview with the New York Times. All the while, the Tea Party movement (an anti-government movement that arose in 2009) is warning Republicans against compromise with the remaining House Democrats, which are mainly liberal. Because of the lack of moderates, Obama's chances of cooperation with the Republicans are very low. The fact that the Democratic leaders in both the house and the senate have remained the same only increases Obama's hardships with the Republicans. He is said to have "already thrown his lot in" with Reid and Pelosi. This means that he can not easily make it look like he is willing to throw aside party allegiances, which makes it harder for him to bargain with the Republicans. "If Obama is to build support, he must [...] take his case directly to the American people," said Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations. Let's hope that Obama will find a way. Yes he can!

*Ina Schmidt*

# International/Entertainment

## Poverty Right Next Door

Did you know that there are some households that don't even have running water? And that there are some kids that can't even afford a warm meal every-day?

Our class, 7b, was shocked to find out that these are facts about poverty in Germany and not in a developing country. Here in our own country, one of the most developed countries in the world, there are more than 2.5 million children living under the poverty level. To learn more about the topic, class 7b at the John F. Kennedy School is doing a project about poverty. We have talked to experts about this subject, and we went to the Willy Brandt Haus, which is the main seat of the SPD party, to find out more about poverty in Germany. Herr Büscher, a representative from the Arche in Berlin, came to our class to tell us all about poverty, in particular about child poverty here in Berlin and in Germany in general. Herr Büscher explained to us that the Arche is an organization that helps poverty-stricken children and also their

families. It helps to get kids off the streets and gives them warm meals and after-school tutoring. Most of the workers there are teachers or pedagogues, so they can talk to the kids and help them with their problems. The Arche also gives out 1000 free lunches a day. As you can imagine, this is very expensive, and since the Arche doesn't receive any funding from the German government, they rely completely on donations.

At the Willy Brandt Haus we met Frau Martin, who works for the SPD and is also a specialist on poverty in Germany. Here in Berlin is where you can find the most poverty in the country. About 20% of the kids in Germany are poor and live in families that receive Hartz IV. Both Herr Büscher and Frau Martin agreed that the government's latest decision to give 5 Euros more per month to Hartz IV recipients doesn't make a difference and is not a solution. What these kids need is a good education, and a chance for life.

Now that you know a little more about our project, class 7b would like to ask you for your help. All kinds of donations (financial and material) are needed by the Arche. Look around to see if you have any school supplies or any clothes that you don't need anymore. We would be happy to take them and give them to the Arche to help the kids that are affected by poverty. During Christmas time, the Arche would also be thankful for Christmas cookies, chocolate, nuts or also Christmas decorations. You can bring your donations to room B308 (high school) by December 15, 2010 or you can contact our teacher, Frau Starfinger, at [astarfinger@jfkbsberlin.org](mailto:astarfinger@jfkbsberlin.org). You can help us make a change!

Further information can be found under [www.kinderprojekt-arche.de](http://www.kinderprojekt-arche.de).

*Elisabeth Mörking*

34 minutes ago · Like · Comment

Facebook, continued from page 1

ge, was ich machen kann, da ich natürlich keine Lust auf meine Hausaufgaben habe. Schließlich rufe ich eine Freundin an, doch nach einer Weile beschwert sich meine Familie, da sie weder telefonieren noch ins Internet können wenn ich die Telefonleitung so lange blockiere. Also bleibt mir doch nichts anderes übrig, als meinen Haufen Hausaufgaben zu erledigen. Am Abend gehe ich viel früher ins Bett als gewohnt, da ich nicht noch bis spät in der Nacht mit den Leuten rede, die ich sowieso am nächsten Morgen wieder sehe. Der Freitag ist eindeutig der schlimmste Tag der Facebookfreien Woche. In der Schule planen wir zwar grob, was wir am Abend machen werden, doch es werden noch kein Treffpunkt und keine Zeit festgelegt; stattdessen wird „alles später über Facebook besprochen.“ Da ich nachmittags nicht zu Hause bin und so nicht auf Kosten meiner Eltern telefonieren kann, muss meine Handyrechnung darunter leiden. Bis alles geplant ist, habe ich bestimmt über zehn SMS geschrieben, was natürlich nicht billig ist. Irgendwie schaffe ich es aber trotzdem, mich mit meinen Freunden zu treffen, doch bei Facebook bin ich offiziell nicht dabei, da man mich nicht mehr bei der Anwendung „Orte“ markieren kann.

Das Wochenende ist auch sehr schwer, da ich bei Facebook keine Pause beziehungsweise Ablenkung vom Lernen bekomme. Stattdessen räume ich mein Zimmer so gründlich auf wie wahrscheinlich noch nie, bevor ich mich wieder meinen Schulbüchern widme. In der darauffolgenden Woche fehlt mir Facebook eigentlich gar nicht mehr. Da ich das Vergnügen habe, immer bis vier Uhr in der Schule bleiben zu dür-

fen und auch danach noch Aktivitäten habe, bleibt mir mit Hausaufgaben und Lernen eigentlich gar keine Zeit mehr für Facebook. Am nächsten Mittwoch, an dem ich mich ja eigentlich wieder einloggen darf, vergesse ich das sogar bis mein Bruder etwas von Facebook erwähnt und es mir wieder einfällt. Aber anstatt sofort zum Computer zu stürmen, wie ich es mir eigentlich von mir gedacht habe, mache ich erst einmal meine anderen Aufgaben zu Ende und gehe erst kurz vor dem Schlafengehen auf Facebook. Da ich ja mein Konto deaktiviert hatte, konnte ich natürlich keine neuen Nachrichten oder Pinnwandeinträge bekommen, so dass Facebook für mich erst einmal wieder langweilig ist. Ich bleibe keine zehn Minuten online. Insgesamt war die Woche auf jeden Fall ein Erlebnis, da das Organisieren und „schnell mal was nachfragen“ viel schwieriger war. Doch auch daran kann man sich nach einer Weile gewöhnen. Außerdem habe ich viel mehr für die Schule gemacht in dieser Woche, war immer früher im Bett und habe, sehr zum Erstaunen meiner Eltern, viel mehr im Haushalt geholfen. Nur die Handyrechnung war leider in dieser Woche so hoch wie noch nie, doch das nehme ich für bessere Noten in der Schule gerne in Kauf. Ich würde jedem empfehlen, so eine Woche einmal auszuprobieren, da man dabei merkt, was Facebook eigentlich für eine Zeitverschwendung ist. Doch man kann auch nicht mehr ohne das Soziale Netzwerk leben.

*Victoria Christians*

2 hours ago · 1 · Like · Comment



## Entertainment

# Indian Recipe-Lentils Seasoned with Fried Spices

## From the Indian Complete Recipe Book

Indian Recipe-Lentils Seasoned with Fried Spices(From the Indian Complete Recipe Book.)

India, as a part of Asia, can be an inspiration to many cooks. With its curry and bean based recipes, Indian dishes are often easy to make- providing you don't overdo it with the chilli. This dish is one of my favourites that my mom makes really well. You can experiment with it after you've got the basics right. For example exchange the tomatoes with zucchini, or use different kinds of beans. Important with this dish is the garnishing: Fry the ring onions till they are nice a golden. That gives the dish a nice and delicious touch!

Ingredients:

115g red gram or pigeon peas

50g Bengal gram  
4 fresh chillies  
1tsp ground turmeric  
1 large onion, sliced  
400g canned chopped tomatoes  
4tbsp vegetable oil  
½ tbsp mustard seeds (don't overdo it!)  
½ tbsp cumin seeds (don't overdo it!)  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
6 curry leaves  
2 dried red chillies  
deep fried onions and fresh coriander to garnish  
salt

1. Place the red gram/pigeon peas and bengal gram (chickpeas) in a heavy pan and pour 1 ½ cups of water. Add the chillies(don't overdo, and watch out when you cut. Wash the board and your hands

with soap, and don't rub your eyes while cutting the chilli. Remember to take out the seeds. Those are usually spiciest. You can of course keep them if you like it hot :D), turmeric and sliced onion and bring to the boil. Simmer, covered, until the lentils are soft and the water has evaporated.

2. Mash the lentils with the back of a spoon. When nearly smooth, add the salt and tomatoes and mix well. If necessary, thin with hot water. 3. Heat the oil in a frying pan. Fry the remaining ingredients until the garlic is gold-brown. Pour the oil and spices over the lentils and cover. After 5 min., mix well and garnish with the coriander and onion rings. Serve with Naan bread and rice.

*Milena Kula*



18 minutes ago via iPhone · Like · Comment

## Series Review: Sherlock

In 1887, Arthur Conan Doyle published the first Sherlock Holmes story, and 123 years later, Sherlock Holmes and his steady companion John Watson remain as popular as ever. Throughout all this time, Sherlock Holmes has remained a figure of the past, shrouded in the fog of Victorian London and wearing his everlasting Inverness cape and deerstalker hat.

The 2010 BBC series Sherlock has done something completely different, and, some would argue, completely blasphemous: Sherlock Holmes has left his pipe and deerstalker hat in the Victorian age and stepped into the 21st century, nicotine patches on his arm and a smartphone in his hand.

And yet, though the trappings are different, the essence remains the same: Sherlock Holmes is still hyper-intelligent and bored to death when there is no interesting case to occupy his mind, and though Holmes and Watson now call each other Sherlock and John, their friendship remains as close as ever.

The first episode, A Study in Pink, follows John Watson (Martin Freeman) as he meets the socially inept but highly charismatic Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) for the first time and immediately gets dragged into solving a mysterious case involving four supposed suicides. And though our heroes have only just met, already there's a whisper of a name, a hint of Sherlock's archenemy. The second episode, the Blind Banker, has the pair running into

an international gang of smugglers while trying to solve a case of vandalism, while in the third episode, The Great Game, Sherlock's arch-nemesis presents him with a few pretty little problems that, if not solved in time, will mean the death of innocents.

Personally, I loved this series. The lead actors are both first-rate on their own and excellently matched on top of it, and their dialogue is quite simply hilarious at times. The personalities of all the main characters are utterly endearing, even the 'high-functioning sociopath' Sherlock. The creators, Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, are both self-confessed fanboys of Sherlock Holmes, and it shows in their attention to

detail and constant referencing of Holmes canon. The cinematography is fantastic, rapid close-up shots showing Sherlock's thought processes and text messages showing up on-screen rather than being cut to and interrupting the flow of the story. True, the plot flags a little during the second episode - the whole idea of the smugglers ring seemed too clichéd historical fantasy for my taste, but it picked up again with the third episode with the gloriously creepy interpretation of Sherlock's archenemy. In summary, this is a smashing good way to avoid doing your homework, and I encourage everyone to give it a try.

*Sophia Kula*



## Entertainment

# "The Social Network" - Facebook Comes To The Cinema

I remember seeing Facebook for the first time. My friend showed it to me, but it seemed nothing special. The reason why I made an account was to keep a real friendship alive - I thought being on a site together would help us through the bad times. How stupid I was! Nothing changed, and our friendship shattered into a million glass pieces.

I have been on Facebook since exactly 3 years now. It was in 8th grade, in November of 2007. Funny, but I can hardly remember. It wasn't very important to me.

But the memories are coming back now that I think about it. I remember feeling cool, because only a few people had it and I was on of the first. Everyone was still in the MySpace hype, so it didn't really matter. But as the years went by and more people started using Facebook, my interest for it increased. Soon, the whole school was on Facebook. And suddenly, the whole world was. It has become so important to us now that even Hollywood has decided to make a film about the "social network".

Interestingly enough, every movie review I've read does not seem to take the real issue into consideration: the negative aspects of Facebook, and what impacts it can have on society. The film director David Fincher specifically chose this topic because it seemed such a controversial one, but critics feel it is just a film about the creation of Facebook. And, although that is what the plot is about, "The Social Network" is about the controversial ethics and dilemmas surrounding Facebook, the privacy zone that is to be newly defined and last, but most important, the term "friend", that has been newly defined. I came into the movie expecting something, but not this.

It's a students world, a rich kid's one, full of beer, parties and drugs. No morals, and nothing and nobody

stopping anyone from anything. A computer-genius-total-asshole Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), ditched by his girlfriend who calls him an asshole for legitimate reasons. So he creates Facebook. A page where people can keep up to date with their friends and the latest gossip. Mark Zuckerberg, with the help of his one best friend (Andrew Garfield) establishes his Facebook till they reach

their 1 million friends mark. Funny enough, even Mark does not know what direction he's headed. He describes Facebook as something cool, something so big and unreal you don't know where it's going to head to. Later, Mark meets Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake) and throws his best friend out of the business. Two brothers from Harvard say that Mark stole their ideas, so in the end they decide to sue him. So does his best friend, for throwing him out.

The movie is told in flashback scenes. The present is the hearing of Mark Zuckerberg, while his best friend and the two brothers narrate their point of the story. This keeps the movie interesting, as little by little the reasons for this court case come to the surface. In the end, one of the judge's assistance tells Mark he's trying to be too much of an asshole, because he treats the whole hearing as totally unimportant. This makes Mark realize that he has committed a grave mistake. He goes on his ex-girlfriend's Facebook page, and adds her to his friends list.

The movie's criticism of Facebook is obvious. Mark is a computer genius, and he knows it. He is portrayed as an asshole in the film. And yet, even assholes have a heart, and Mark Zuckerberg proves to have one as well. His ego is fostered by his immorality, but his heart is fostered by jealousy and sadness. His girlfriend (Rooney Mara) ditches him. His best friend is in a special Harvard student's

elite club, but he isn't. Mark Zuckerberg takes all this anger and sets himself up as an arrogant person, believing he can shield himself with it. He uses his computer skills to make himself feel good about himself, but in the end it doesn't. The thing Mark Zuckerberg would need most is a friend, and that is the one thing he doesn't have.

Facebook is so addicting, because it's for people like Mark Zuckerberg that need a friend. Sadly, it seems like over 4 million people on this planet are lonely, if this statement is true. Or are these members just unhappy? We spend our time in a world that is unreal. We pretend we connect with friends when we are sitting in a room with a computer for company.

Mark Zuckerberg has it, has everything. He is yielding a tool on screen that is as powerful as human life. And why is this so? How can a social network affect people's lives so much? It's because just like Mark Zuckerberg, people have the natural deep desire to be loved, to have friends and people who understand you. It is natural to want to know what others do and brag about your life to your friends. These things are a natural feeling inside all of us, and that is why Facebook works. It lets us connect with friends on a whole new level. And yet- do we really need that? Are there any benefits for anybody in this?

Mark Zuckerberg is the youngest billionaire in the world. He is making millions on "socializing". Something that should be normal, wonderful, and above all, worth more than any money in the world.

In the end, I advise you to go watch this movie. Find out how Facebook was created and see if you really want to be a part of it.

*Milena Kula*

## Entertainment/Opinion

# Wacky Words to Impress Your English Teacher

**prevaricate** – [preh-VA-ri-kayt] to evade the issue or mislead someone. From the Latin word *praevaricari* meaning to walk crookedly. “You’re away often, too,” John prevaricated when Anne confronted him on his frequent absences.

**minutia** – [mi-NYOO-tee-ah or my-NYOOO-shah] a tiny, exact detail. Plural is *minutiae*. From the Latin word *minuere*, meaning lessen. Alex’s eye for *minutiae* allowed him to see the telling scratch marks on the woman’s forearm.

**galvanise, galvanize** – [GAL-vuh-nyze] Rouse into action by shocking or exciting. From *Galvani*, an Italian physicist in the 18th century who experimented with electricity. The shock of seeing his girlfriend carried away by the black-clad men galvanised John into breaking free of his captors and running after her.

**lunate** – [LOO-nayt] Crescent-shaped. From the Latin word for moon, *luna*. The lunate earrings John had given Anne for their anniversary glistened in the moonlight.

**tenacious** – [te-NAY-shus] Holding fast, persistent, determined. From the Latin word *tenere* meaning to hold. John’s sheer tenacity and hard work were all that kept him from failing History.

**hierophant** – [HEER-o-fant] An initiating priest or interpreter of sacred mysteries. From the Greek words *hieros* meaning sacred and *phaino* meaning show. In Ancient Greece, a hierophant had to initiate you before you were

allowed to participate in the sacred rites of Persephone.

**troglydite** – [TRO-glo-dyte] Cave-dweller. After the Greek word *troglo* for hole. “You utter troglydite!” Sarah shouted at her boyfriend when she caught him beating up another boy.

**phatic** – [FA-tik] An adjective describing the kind of small talk that doesn’t actually mean anything and is just said to be friendly, for instance “Nice weather, isn’t it?”. From the Greek word *phatos*, meaning spoken. Anne spent the time waiting for the bus exchanging phatic pleasantries with her colleague.

**hoary** – [HOH-ree] White or gray with age. Also, figuratively, venerable due to hoary hair. This one has a long history, running over Old English and Germanic all the way back to the Indo-European root *koi-*, meaning shine. The young men respected their hoary grandpa for still being quick and strong despite his age.

**Halitosis** – [ha-lee-TO-sis] Bad breath. From the Latin word for breath, *halitus*. Sarah’s friends never had the heart to say anything about her halitosis.

**plebeian** – [pleh-BAY-ahn] As a noun: commoner; as an adjective: of low birth. Can be fairly insulting. “Don’t let that plebeian touch me,” the Mafioso told his bodyguards, ignoring John’s enraged growl.

Sophia Kula

13 minutes ago · Like · Comment

## Half-A\*\* Security

... can’t counter half-a\*\* terrorism. Or perhaps it can. Up until now these two have complimented each other fairly well. With the fortunate failing of car bombings in New York City by Faisal Shahzad, stopped only because a pedestrian noticed smoke emerging out of a car, a failed plane bombing by Abdul Mudallah, prevented only by incorrect attachment of explosives to his leg, and at last the failed train bombing in Germany due to a misconstruction.

This isn’t different today. With the US Troops officially pulling out of Iraq and mass media leaving us with nothing else to ponder about but global warming and the midterm elections, it almost seems as though terrorism has taken a back seat. At least until recently. The new travel alert concerning Americans traveling to Europe has bumped it back to first row. Now ask yourself: are we really scared? Of course we are, or else this alert wouldn’t have kept a few BERMUN Delegates from visiting Berlin. However,

we don’t remain as scared as we used to be.

A few years ago this was different. A few years ago terrorism was lingering in every backpack, duffel bag or suitcase. A terrorist was practically every male between the ages of 21 and 35 with dark skin and a Middle-Eastern accent, at least according to TV. Vague descriptions and unspecific threats were an everyday menace that created the fear of terror, similar to the movie “Paranormal Activity”. A friend of mine once said, “What makes this movie scary is the lack of visuals and the lack of substantial clues that guide you. Your imagination is capable of imagining way more messed up stuff than any director can ever put on the screen.” It’s the creaking floor, the blurry shadows and the sudden thump against the wall, indicating that something is there that make us terrified. Something we can’t name, identify or point at. The same concept applies to

terrorism. Our imagination can take us to places that no CNN report ever can. Your imagination does the same thing when seeing an abandoned suitcase at a subway station as it does when seeing a dark closet whilewatching “Paranormal Activity”.

With the recent release of “Paranormal Activity 2” and it’s disappointing box office sales, many may recognize that effect of suspense does not last forever. Being scared of everything for too long without having to scream at least once in a while frustrates us. The United States informing their citizens to be “extra cautious” when traveling to Europe frustrates us. Being told to “beware of surroundings and tourist infrastructure [everything!]” frustrates us. As the New York Times puts it, “The Vagueness of the Alert Leaves (Us) Frustrated”. Citizens are tired of hearing suspicious footsteps in the hallway without seeing a demon and tired of gradually in-

**Security**, continued on page 12





# Opinion

**Security**, continued from page 11

creasing, tense music without any pop-ups. Perhaps a pop-up is necessary to wake us up from this illusion of security which seems to only be half-hearted and is saving us from half-hearted terrorism. Nonetheless, Al Qaida might not be as half-hearted as we wish to believe. At this point I am not trying to advocate a terrorist attack. Please don't get me wrong. What I am trying to advocate however is seriousness, rather than confusion, because confusion breeds fear. If seriousness is applied correctly we wouldn't be as confused as we are and ultimately we wouldn't be as scared as we are.

It is only the false feeling of security that keeps us uncertain about our current situation, because ultimately we know that vague security alerts will not prevent a well strategically planned attack.

To me it is also quite naïve to believe that a single overweight police officer is going to prevent another "Beslan" any more than the barriers at the ramp or telling a frightened 7th grader to report any "suspicious people" he sees in the hall. Concerning the latest "security measures" – closed gates and video surveillance – we have doubtfully found a solution to any of the above. So even if we are not in 2001 anymore and we might not need the thought of 9/11 to reinforce our fears, uncertainty and frustration are still only one step away from fear.

If there is a credible reason to be concerned, please inform us and allow us to protect ourselves accordingly and make the people feel safe, rather than confused, by engaging in relevant and effective security. If there is hot air, then

please relieve us from the unnecessarily alarming alerts and make people feel safe rather than confused. It can only be either or. As long as the choice is not clear, terrorism has achieved its ultimate goal. Every attack which was prevented "last minute" keeps us on edge and discontent about our situation. But perhaps we must not be so afraid of imprecise bomb constructions and illegitimate threats, just how in "Paranormal Activity" we must not jump at every creak in the floor. It might just be our dog and not the demon. But who are we to decide, right?

Jeffrey Harris

[about an hour ago](#) · [Like](#) · [Comment](#)

## Editor's Note:

In his article „An Open Letter to the Student Council Presidents“ Moritz Zeidler incorrectly stated that, according to his knowledge, the average number of students per class is never calculated at the beginning of each school year, as is called for in Article II of the SC by-laws. As Dr. Hepner kindly pointed out to the editorial staff, he does so each year.

# Sudokus!!

## Easy Sudoku

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

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

## Hard Sudoku

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

