THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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THE THE



We, the editors, are appalled at the recent scandal of copyright infringement that took place on last week's episode of Glee. Yes - those singing teenagers had the audacity to steal our infamous student newspaper's name, and pretend that their quality could even come close to ours. But since we love Glee and frequently sing their songs in the privacy of our showers - making them all the more enjoyable - we have decided not to press charges. We also just don't have any money.

Neither does the rest of the world, it seems. The economy still sucks, Aloe Black still "needs a dolla' ", and the Muckraker's collective wallet has gotten awfully light of late. Feel free to donate and give us something heavy to lug around with us, we need the exercise while spending it all on ice cream and beer.

We would also like to take the opportunity to urge you all to seize your last productive efforts in these final 7 weeks of school - study hard! Just kidding. Try with all your might to thwart the teachers' bombardments of homework and spend as much time lying in the sun as you can. Berlin is rarely this beautiful. And so are you.

Cheers, The Editors.

Osama bin Laden is Dead

Osama bin Laden, head of the terrorist organization Al Qaeda for two decades, the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks, and the most hunted man in the world, is dead, President Obama announced on Sunday, May 1st. He was killed by a shot in the head in a firefight with U.S. forces at his residence in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

What Obama called a "targeted operation" was precisely planned out. Two helicopters landed in the large compound, where bin Laden was living. In the following firefight, three men, one of them believed to be bin Laden's son, and bin Laden's wife, who had been used as a human shield by one of the men, in addition to bin Laden himself were killed. Finally, bin Laden's body was taken into a helicopter, brought to an aircraft carrier, and dumped into the ocean, presumably, after a religious ceremony. This was said to have been done to avoid creating a shrine for his followers. However the question whether it was morally acceptable to do this instead of leaving his body with his family remains disputed. The Western reaction to Osama bin Laden's death was one of celebration and relief. Thousands of Americans crowded in front of the White House, on Ground Zero, and at Times Square cheering and chanting at the news. It was astonishing to see how alike the crowds are, east and west. By celebrating in this fashion,

people might have made a martyr of bin

Laden although he was only one single

man in the end. But for America, bin

Laden was the symbol of terrorism and

their greatest enemy. By killing him, the

U.S. went one step further in putting the

trauma of 9/11 behind them. Obama, who had followed the operation which was carried out by the Navy Seals, a group of elite soldiers, live over video, said "The death of Bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat Al Qaeda." However he also pointed out, that this will not be the end of Al Qaeda's attacks, and that the U.S. "will remain vigilant at home and abroad". Bin Laden's death may give Obama an opportunity to withdraw more troops from Afghanistan, because the war there was primarily started to fight Al Qaeda. The death of Osama bin Laden is most likely Obama's greatest success since taking office.

Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel re-

acted by stating, "ich freue mich, dass es gelungen ist, Osama bin Laden zu töten" (I am happy, that it was possible to kill bin Laden). Merkel was criticized even by some members of her own party who questioned whether or not a Christian, or any human being, is morally allowed to rejoice at someone's death.

How much the Pakistani officials knew about bin Laden's whereabouts remains unclear. Al Qaeda's leader lived in a large compound many times the size of the surrounding houses in Abbottabad, a city located only one hour's drive north of the capital, Islamabad. Additionally, the city is home to a Pakistani military base and military academy. It seems near to impossible that bin Laden could have gone unnoticed. Like the Pakistani government, citizens of Abbottabad claimed not to have known or been suspicious about the complex. These events have made Pakistan's relationship with the U.S. extremely tense. President Obama was careful to mention Pakistan's constructive role in the fight against terrorism, but maintained that the United States didn't inform Pakistan, or any other country, about their planned operation beforehand. The American government had previously evacuated the U.S. embassy in Pakistan, leaving only enough staff to keep the place running, but did not notify the diplomats.

There is no question as to whether Al Qaeda will continue their terrorism. They will. There is even a great chance that they will want to revenge their leader's death through further attacks. Obama warned Americans to avoid demonstrations and mass gatherings. Other than this, bin Laden's death will not make a great deal of difference to the terrorist threat. He was more symbolically than strategically important to Al Qaeda, who confirmed his death last Friday, thus silencing those, who questioned the factual base of bin Laden's death. Osama bin Laden is gone, but thousands of other terrorists remain free. The U.S. government now hopes to prevent future attacks and capture other leading figures of Al Qaeda using the information provided by bin Laden's ceased computer. If those hopes were fulfilled, the world would be a safer place.

JFKS Life

RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

End of May, beginning of June

This year, JFKS GOES GREEN started a project to raise awareness on recycling and educate students on how to reduce waste at our school. In March, we asked an expert in the field of recycling from the BSR to come visit our green room and tell us about recycling. During this session, we learned about many new things concerning recycling and now want to spread the word to you! Therefore, we will be decorating the trash cans with stickers that explain what trash goes into which can. If you are still unsure where to throw what, posters explaining recycling will be hung up around the school for you to stop and read. For your own use, BSR Recycling pamphlets are lying in the library to take home and start recycling there as well! Most importantly, remember how important it is where you put what in the trash -it not only saves you money, but helps the environment as well. So join us and recycle!

Milena Kula

U18

Anyone interested in changing something about the world? No? Yes? If yes, then this is your time to organize a project and help politics become important to future adults- us teens. Here's how: Last year, Charlotte von Streit invited politicians of all main 5 parties to come to our school and be questioned on various topics by students. After this huge event, students of the JFKS were able to participate in the Unter 18 Wahlen (U18) the school. This year, the Berlin government is keen to organize the project again. It will take place in Berlin, Brandenburg and Rheinland-Pfalz at any interested schools. Engaged students open polls (Wahllokale) at their school which any student under 18 can attend. The ballots are then counted, and soon afterwards the results are sent out to all schools Germany- wide. Now the question is how do you open a Wahllokal? You simply register your school on the U18 Website and with the help of a few dedicated people print out the ballots, set the date, and organize the event. Interested in helping to organize this event? If so, please email miele.wish@yahoo.com or go on the official U18 Website http://www.u18.org/ for more information.

Milena Kula

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AIDS

Classroom Learning Made Real –
10th grade fund-raising event for AIDS charity

"It all started as a rumour... Then we found we were dealing with a disease. Then we realised that it was an epidemic. And, now we have accepted it as a tragedy."

- Chief epidemiologist in Kampala, Uganda

Fact: Every fourth person in Swaziland is infected with the HIV virus

Fact: Since the start of the epidemic, 14.8 million children in sub-Saharan Africa have lost one or both parents due to AIDS

Fact: The average life expectancy of the people living in sub-Saharan Africa is 51 years

These and other facts mentioned above learned in the course of the project convinced us 10th graders that we couldn't just finish the project and move on without doing something to help those ravaged by the devastating disease. Mr. Robertson's tradition to discuss and present the topic of AIDS in each 10th grade English class was taken to a new level- unlike many classes before, we have decided to take action.

Although many awareness campaigns throughout Western and Eastern cultures have helped to tame the

spread of the disease, HIV is still one of the leading causes of death in Africa. Besides lack of education on disease prevention, the continent suffers from unavailability of affordable medication.

Motivated to do what we can to help, our English classes will be organizing an event to raise funds for a charity in Africa where it is assured that all money will go to medications and prevention measures for AIDS.

The event will be held in conjunction with the Flag Football championship game on Friday, June 17th on the JFKS sports field from 10:30 am – 1 pm. The school administration grants all students 4th, 5th and 6th hour free to attend the game. Food and drink booths for everyone visiting the game as well as an information booth selling red ribbons and other awareness-related items will be available at the event. The profits from the booths and drinks will go to a charity working in Africa in AIDS prevention. We hope to raise at least 300 Euros during the event.

So- come join us to watch the football team and help combat this awful disease!

Mr.Robertson's 10th grade English classes

Comments, Replies? send your opinions and articles to:

JFKS Life/International

GREEN DAY

16th of June

No, it's not the rock band (though they're smashin' good, too). But it's a rockin' good event that the SC Environment Committee will be hosting hand in hand with JFKS GOES GREEN and a few dedicated teachers. It's a day for us to encourage the JFKS community to live a little "greener" and inspire students to think globally and act locally. On this great day, two quest speakers will tell us their stories of going green and explain what recycling is about. Furthermore, JFKS GOES GREEN will inform you about all the things we did last past year and show you some great films that will hopefully encourage you to understand the importance of our environment! Last but not least, the aula in which this event will take place will be full of stands on which you can buy our t shirts, learn more about recycling and our school garden, and admire our awesome 100% recycled posters!

Looking forward to seeing you there,

SC Environment Committee & JFKS GOES GREEN

Mit Handys gegen Polio kämpfen!

Neues VEREIN Fundraising Projekt Mit gebrauchten Handys Kinderlähmung bekämpfen helfen und unsere Schule unterstützen

Jeder von uns hat ein gebrauchtes Handy in der Schublade. Der JFKS VEREIN will die Initiative des Rotary Club Berlin International unterstützen und gemeinsam Handys sammeln, um deren Verkaufserlös der Aktion End-PolioNow gegen die Kinderlähmung zu spenden. Die Hälfte des erreichten Betrages kommt zur Verwendung für JFKS Schulprojekte in unsere Schule zurück! Ein wichtiger Partner des Projektes ist die Firma asgoodas.nu in Frankfurt/ Oder, der die Altgeräte abkauft und den Erlös an das Projekt weiterleitet. Zu beachten ist lediglich, dass die Geräte in einem guten Zustand bei asgoodas.nu ankommen und dass Sie nach Möglichkeit sämtliches Zubehör (Ladekabel, Kopfhörer, Installations-CD, Handbuch, Verpackung etc.) mitschicken. Falls jedoch kein Zubehör mehr vorhanden ist, reicht auch das Handygerät.

Ab Mai werden für zunächst einen Monat in den Sekretariaten der Grund- und Oberschule, sowie in den Bibliotheken und im VEREIN SHOP Sammelstellen für die alten Handys eingerichtet. Wir hoffen auf zahlreiche Unterstützung aus unserer Schulgemeinschaft!

Weitere Informationen dazu erhalten Sie unter:

<u>www.handyspenden.de</u> sowie <u>www.po-lioplus.de</u>

Das VEREIN Fundraising Team info@jfk-schule-verein.de

New JFKS VEREIN Fundraising Project Fight Polio and support our school through a used mobile phone donation drive! Most of us have an old and unused mobile phone sitting somewhere in a drawer. The JFKS Verein would like to support the initiative of the Rotary Club Berlin International and collect used mobile phones so that the money made from their sale can be donated to EndPolioNow, an initiative fighting Polio. The collected amount will be split, with 50% going to benefit the Rotary Club program and 50% going to support the John F. Kennedy School. The Company asgoodas.nu in Frankfurt/Oder is an important partner in this project; they buy the used phones, refurbish them, and resell them. The phones should be in a good condition and if possible they should be accompanied by original accessories (cable, ear phones, handbook, packaging, etc.). In case you do not still possess any original accessories, we will be happy to accept the phone itself as a donation.

Starting in May, we will set up collection boxes in the secretaries' offices of both the High and Elementary School, as well as the Elementary and High School libraries and the VEREIN SHOP. The collection drive will be running for an initial period of one month. We hope for the strong support of the John F. Kennedy School community for this worthwhile

Further Information can be found at: www.handyspenden.de and www.po-lioplus.de

The VEREIN Fundraising Team (info@ jfk-schule-verein.de)

The National Honor Society

Founded in 1921, the National Honor Society is an international academic and service organization. NHS members exemplify the characteristics of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Under the advisement of Mr. Lazar and Mr. Reap and with the stellar leadership of Ksenia Weisz and Katarina Windemuth, the 2010-2011 JFKS NHS chapter is soon to bid farewell to 13 tremendous students. We are grateful for their efforts to serve their community, both in and outside of JFKS.

Though we will miss the current NHS members, we eagerly anticipate working with the new members who will be inducted on the evening of May 18th. The JFKS NHS members for 2011-2012 are:

Chiara Badur
Aletta Bühler
Nicolas Dorrmann
Tamar Forman-Gejrot
Karen Heitz
Sofie Hemprich
Elena Hunger
Rebecca Jetter
Kurt Koehler
Martha Maxwell
Emily Roczek
Timo Roßberg
Isabel Vicaría Barker
Michael Winnick

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International/Politics And what about Japan?

The protests in Libya continue to rage violently against the in Japan- discrimination due to fears of radiation transfer. Alregime of Muammar al-Gaddafi. The people of Egypt are still fervently demonstrating in regards to Hosni Mubarak's persecution. Knut died. Prince William and Kate Middleton (now Duchess Catherine of Cambridge) got married. But Japan was hit with a tsunami and an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 about three months ago. Yeah, remember that? All of these other mind-boggling events occurred after the devastating earthquake/tsunami hit Japan on March 11th, and the reports of Japan's efforts to recover from the disaster were overshadowed by their media coverage. Due to the reduced amount of headlines about Japan's earthquake/tsunami-induced predicaments these past few weeks, numerous people are under the misconception that Japan's condition has stabilized for good and that the country is well on its way to recovery. But this, in fact, is not true. This is not the case at all. The worst may have passed for the most dangerous nuclear accident since Chernobyl, but cleaning up the nuclear power plant in Fukushima once the reactors in the plant have stabilized will most likely take decades and cost Japan more than \$10 billion. The plants in Three Mile Island and Fukushima have been bombarded with millions of gallons of water to cool down the reactors, and the water that was used is now highly radioactive. This water needs to be decontaminated in order to be safely discharged. Also, the 80,000 displaced former residents of the vicinity of the plant in Fukushima have still not been given the green light to return to their homes, and despite the Japanese authorities' promise that they will decontaminate "as much of the area as possible," those displaced do not expect to return to what was once home. As if reconstructing their homes and lives was not an immense, challenging task enough, the displaced are also becoming subject to social obstacles; according to reports, the evacuees of Fukushima are receiving a treatment similar to one that the survivors of the atom bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima experienced by the people of other regions

though Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Yukio Edano, heavily condemned such discrimination by saying, "I would like to ask the public to understand that the radiation would not transfer from person to person by touching the person or his or her clothes," the people of Fukushima continue to receive unfair treatment.

Additionally, the trash problem is not to be forgotten- experts say that the disaster caused about 100 million tons of trash - that's about 16 years' worth- which contain asbestos and radioactive waste, materials that will most likely pose dangers for the Japanese people's health, and therefore, will be more costly to clean up. Industrialized cities have been made into junkyards by the disaster and baseball fields and parks have been transformed into collective dumpsters. The situation has become so unbearable, that the ringleader of a volunteer corps said, "If you really want to help us, take a piece of trash home with you." To relieve areas from mountains of trash, the Japanese Cabinet approved an emergency spending for cleanup, but it did not provide specific plans. Local governments are also making efforts to coordinate cleanups, but their workers are still reeling from the loss of their colleagues and offices. Therefore, many citizens have been forced to take matters into their own hands; volunteers are currently clearing roads in addition to delivering food and other supplies to evacuees. These facts all point to one conclusion- Japan is far from fully recovering from the disaster and its needs must be taken into consideration by the international community. The aftermath of the country's catastrophe must not be forgotten by the public as a consequence of other major occurrences. Sure, we are still marveling at the elegance of Kate Middleton's dress. But let's snap out of it and turn our attention back to what really matters.

Hverin Park

Die deutsche Medienlandschaft im Hochzeitsfieber

Märchenhochzeit im königlichen Hause Englands: Prinz William heiratet die bürgerliche Kate Middleton. Romantisch, riesig und vor allem: wichtig. Kein anderes Thema wurde Ende April in den deutschen Medien so zelebriert wie die royale Hochzeit dieses Traumpaares. Weltweit verfolgten rund zwei Milliarden Menschen vor Fernsehern oder beim Public Viewing das Ereignis des Jah-

Pech für Nordafrika, Fukushima und sämtliche weitere Krisenherden der Erde. Die ganze Welt glotzt Prinzenhochzeit. Allein in Deutschland übertrugen sechs Fernsehsender das Medienereignis live - darunter auch die Öffentlich-Rechtlichen von ARD und ZDF. Gleichzeitig. So etwas gab es noch nicht einmal bei der ersten Mondlandung. Etliche Stunden Programm mussten gefüllt werden; ganze Heerscharen von "Society-" und "Adels-Experten" wurden nach London verfrachtet. Spekuliert und getratscht wurde über das so wichtige Brautkleid, ja sogar Gesichtsausdrücke analysierten und interpretierten die selbsternannten Experten. Richtig gehört. Natürlich guckt die Braut leicht eingeschüchtert, wenn sie vor zwei Milliarden Menschen ihrem Ehemann einen Kuss gibt. Dazu brauche ich keinen Diplom-Psychologen. Das gesamte Fernsehprogramm am 29.April erschien eher wie eine schlechte Telenovela. Natürlich kann das britische Königshaus selber als eine kleine Telenovela betrachtet werden, wo man fremdgeht, säuft und sich auf viele andere Weisen danebenbenimmt. Nicht zu vergessen, Prinz Harrys kleiner Fauxpas, bei dem er in Nazi-Uniform auf einer Kostümparty erschien.

Dabei konnte der Hochzeitstermin nicht ungünstiger gelegt werden. Großbritannien ist nach wie vor fest im Griff der internationalen Finanzund Wirtschaftskrise. Erst vor einigen Monaten kürzte die britische Regierung Sozialleistungen, strich Jobs und erhöhte die Studiengebühren, um dem Haushaltsdefizit entgegen zu wirken. Da macht es sich nicht besonders gut, ein Ereignis wie die Hochzeit zu inszenieren, die 14 Millionen Euro in Anspruch nimmt, von den Sicherheitsvorkehrungen ganz zu schweigen.

Nicht nur deshalb steht diese prunkvolle Hochzeit letztendlich in der Kritik. Auch die deutschen Fernsehanstalten hätten sich im Voraus über die Einstellungen ihrer Zuschauer zur Trauung von William und Kate informieren sollen. Hierzulande gab nur jeder Fünfte an, die Hochzeit im Fernsehen verfolgen zu wollen. Nehmen wir dieses Ereignis wahr als das, was es ist: schlechte Unterhaltung. Es bedarf keiner Fortsetzung.

Entertainment

Musings from Beyond the Looking-Glass: Transsexuality

mirror and freeze. Staring back at you is someone who is not you - or, to be precise, it is you, but the person in the mirror has the wrong gender!

Well, obviously this is some dream. You pinch yourself and flinch at the sting. You look at the mirror, but for some reason you still haven't woken up and your body still has the wrong gender.

Okay, you think, don't panic. This is kinda weird, but it's also kinda cool. You've always wondered what it's like to be a boy/girl, and surely this will pass, there's no way this is permanent...

So you dress as usual (and damn, but your usual clothes look so funny on you right now) and go downstairs to have breakfast. Your mum eyes your outfit. "Is it gender bender today or something? I didn't know it was spirit week."

... That's not the sort of response you were expecting. "Um, no, I just woke up today and now I'm a guy/girl!" You say.

Your mum looks at you strangely. "Don't be ridiculous. You've always been a boy/girl!"

You gape at her. But no matter what you say, you can't seem to convince her, and when you go to school, no-one is surprised at your gender change. Instead, they tease you about your clothes and roll their eyes at you when you try to convince them you're actually a girl/boy.

The next day, your body still hasn't changed back. You're starting to feel really terrified that this might be permanent, and you have no idea how to get your body to match your inner self.

Thankfully, this scenario is highly unlikely to happen to anyone, ever. But something similar plagues about one in every twenty thousand people. The only difference is that they've never had the body of the gender they identify with - they've been born with the body of the wrong gender. This condition is called transsexuality (or transsexualism if you want to go all medical).

Transsexual people have a great desire to have their body and other people's perception of them match their own perception of themselves. Luckily, thanks to about a hundred years of efforts on the part of activists and medical professionals, today, at least in the western world, this is more achievable than ever. There are international Standards of Care which tell psychologists how to deal with their clients telling them they're actually a different gender than they seem. There are operations available that can change the body to something at least similar to the person's self-image (Scientists haven't yet managed to imitate the inner reproductive organs, and phalloplasty, i.e. penis reconstruction, is nowhere near perfect.) which, in most cases, will at least partially be financed by the health insurance. Visibility and education amongst the general populace has increased dramatically in the last fifty years or so, and transsexuality is now part of the LGBT movement (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans movement, though occasionally extra letters will be added, such as 'Q' for queer or 'I' for intersex or 'A' for either asexual or ally). Most western nations (and even some other nations, such as Iran) have laws in place that allow transsexuals to change their name and the gender that's written in their passports and similar documents. There are many 'self-help' groups, both online and in real life, where transsexual people can talk to each other and gain support for the often rather difficult process of transitioning (adapting your body and social image and role to your own self-image).

Because yes, despite all these positive developments, being transsexual is still anything but easy.

Imagine you wake up one day for school. Still half Many people don't have a clear idea of what transasleep, you stumble towards the bathroom. As you sexuality means, or think that transsexuals want rub the sleep out of your eyes, you glance at the to change their gender - which is not the case: they don't want to change their gender, they want to change their body to match the gender which they already have. Also, imagine being transsexual in the average American school. Somehow I don't think a male-bodied person who suddenly starts dressing in girl clothes and insisting to everyone that they are, in fact, a girl, will be accepted or even left in peace by his peers. So many gay boys still commit suicide because of constant bullying - transsexual people are no different. The problem is simply that in our society, gender is seen as something that's determined by one's genitals and maybe also by one's upbringing. The idea that this doesn't always have to be the case doesn't even cross most people's minds. A further problem is that in order to have the various sex change operations and get your name and gender changed in your official documents, you have to convince your psychologist that you are, in fact, transsexual, which isn't always easy. Another issue which transsexual people are deeply divided about is the classification of transsexuality as a psychological disorder. Some activists say this is discriminatory and that transsexuality is just another natural variation in the human makeup. They point to studies that show a correlation between testosterone insensitivity and transsexuality in male-bodied persons, or to a study that showed that the brain structure of transsexual people matched that of their selfidentified gender, rather than that of their body (male and female brains look slightly different, as some areas differ in size). Other activists are worried about what will happen if transsexuality is no longer considered a psychological disorder - as it stands right now, most of the time health insurance will pay for some of the operations, but they wouldn't do that if it weren't considered a medical issue. Sex change operations are very expensive, and if this happens, many transsexuals will be unable to pay for these operations that will help them feel more at peace with their bodies.

As you can see, transsexuality is not a walk in the park for most people, so if someone in your circle of friends and acquaintances tells you they're not the gender you thought they were, respect them! And don't forget: use the right name and pronouns! You can be sure that they will appreciate it.

Don't Get Transsexuality Confused With:

- homosexuality: being attracted to your own aender
- bisexuality: being attracted to both men and women
- transvestism: occasionally dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex. It just means you want to wear the clothes occasionally, not that you're gay or transsexual. As might be expected, due to the way our society works, this applies virtually only to men. Women can wear masculine clothes every day and no-one would blink twice.

-intersex: people whose body gender is not definite - for instance, they have XY chromosomes, but because of testosterone insensitivity, they look like girls, or they have both testes and ovaries, or any other combination you can possibly imagine. Considering that body sex can be divided into five separate areas where things can go wrong, there are quite a lot of these combinations.

Further Information:

www.tsroadmap.com/index.html, org/ and www.transsexual.org/

www.susans.

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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
- Drop a note in our mailbox or approach us randomly in the hallways

Entertainment

Looking For: YOU!

Hello dear reader,

We, that is The Muckraker, are constantly looking for young, energetic writers like you. So if you are interested or just want to see what it is like to be a Muckraker, come to our office in Room B215 Tuesdays during the 20 minute break!

Cheers!

Sudokus!!

Easy Sudoku

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

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

Hard Sudoku

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