

THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Volume X, Issue XI

Friday, May 11, 2007

Circulation: 600

PAGE 1

THE MUCKRAKER Speaks!

Last week it was finally it was warm enough to go to Schlachtensee or enjoy an ice cream with friends after school but, as irony has it, due to the many Klausuren, AP's and MSA presentations, not all students had the liberty to enjoy the beautiful weather. And while most of us still have to wait another 2 months for summer vacation to arrive, the upcoming class trips and Kursfahrten will present a relaxing change of scenery for the 11th and 12th graders. Now to a graver subject, we would like to extend our apologies for the „scorpion picture“ published in our last issue (which, in fact, depicted a man). We weren't trying to be rude or offend anyone and honestly did not expect such a reaction. Nevertheless, we realized that since our reader base extends to younger grades, it wasn't a very appropriate sight in the Muckraker. Another issue on our agenda is anonymousness. Of course, we understand that omitting the name of the author weakens the message of the article and we always encourage all anonymous senders to provide us with their names. But we respect every individual's request for anonymousness, since we'd like to enable some of the more timid students to voice their opinion, even if it's under a pseudonym. Lastly, you will find another teacher-written article in this issue – this time written by Mr. Blount - regarding an article in our last issue. Please take the time to read his response because it proves to be very informative for all students concerned with the change in the Diploma grading system. Anyway, enjoy the issue!

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Just Wikipedia It!

“Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia.” Written by thousands, criticized by hundreds of thousands, and used by millions: it is perhaps the most controversial source online. In 2001, Jimmy Wales, a former options trader, created a wiki (collaborate website) that promotes free and up-to-date information available to everyone. The idea is that people from all over the world should be able to share their knowledge. Amazingly, this non-profit organization has only two employed persons – Jimmy Wales himself and a part-time jobber. The rest of the work is done by the world community, and the necessary money is donated, thus there are no advertisements on the sites. This policy naturally threatens the existence of

WIKIPEDIA

Source: www.wikipedia.org



other encyclopaedias such as Encarta or the Brockhaus, not only because they are paid for, but also because Wikipedia articles clearly outnumber those of, for example, the Encyclopaedia Britannica. But does quantity beat quality?

Currently, there are 7.2 million articles in 251 languages available at www.wikipedia.org. The number of English articles increases by an average of 1700 every day; the amount of all articles double every year. With more than 400 million views a day, Wikipedia is already the 7th most visited website on earth. What made this huge success possible is the button “edit”, a common tool in wikis. Voluntary authors around the world can write, re-write, change, and delete articles. The content of the entries is then overseen and corrected by millions of users. Generally, errors are changed within five minutes. However, this button still bothers millions of professors and teachers because naturally, a website that offers free and quick information is most popular

among students and likely to be vandalised. While some teachers love it and use it as a reference book, others despise it and condemn the existence of this cornucopia of false information.

But how true are Wikipedia articles really? There are times when assertions like “the Earth is the largest planet in the universe” or “Hitler's eyes were bluish-grey” appear in an otherwise sophisticated-looking article. There is no doubt that students can be misled easily. And, to be fair, isn't Wikipedia making life too easy for students? But whether you like it or not, chances are you won't be able to change it anyhow. Wikipedia remains the source we always use but can never cite. Here are some tips if you can't live without Wikipedia:

- Always be sceptical. Know that everyone can edit the page you are reading. Pay special attention to the pages that are not up-to-date or controversial. Make sure to read the discussions.

- Wikipedia is not the Bible (I'm sorry I disappointed you there); you don't have to believe everything it says. It is always wiser to check few more resources before you come to a conclusion. Plus, your teachers would be pleased to know that you actually spent some time on your projects.

- If Wikipedia is not only the reason why you are short of sleep but is also the meaning of your life, then at least use the right citation next time you put in under your research paper. It's really not that hard. (However, first make sure your teacher is not a member of the Death-To-Wikipedia Society.) In the MLA style, just write for example: “John F. Kennedy Assassination.” *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 May 2007. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JFK_assassination > Et voila, it is a legitimate (but still not authoritative) source.

By the way, it's not a bad idea to put your projects on Wikipedia. First of all, it makes your work at least not entirely pointless. Secondly, some things can be corrected before you present it to the class. And you'll learn about the workings of a collaborate website! So enjoy, Wikipedians!

Eileen Wagner

JFKS Life

A Response to How to Fail More Easily

The last issue of the Muckraker had an article entitled "How to Fail More Easily," I thought I would try to respond to the items that concerned me as the Director of College Placement. Over the last 12 years I have counselled students and parents in the college admissions process. I am rather proud of John F. Kennedy School and our reputation among the universities. Even more importantly, I am proud of the students who graduate with definite advantages over students from other schools due to their international experience and cultural astuteness.

The quote "A college admissions officer of NYU has revealed the truth. Since the admissions officers don't know every existing high school, each school is treated equally when looking at the GPA," was disturbing to read, especially since it is completely incorrect.

I did not need to call NYU to confirm my belief that the statement is false. However, for the sake of the anonymous writer and the many readers of the Muckraker, I did call NYU and read that quote to an admissions officer. She said that quote is categorically false statement. She stated, "We look at each student in a holistic manner: GPA, which determines class rank, test scores, essays, and recommendations. We study the profile of the school and the school's grading scheme. Then we look at how that student fits into that school system."

Each transcript that leaves the counseling office at the Kennedy School has with it a profile of the John F. Kennedy School, which gives the average GPA and college entrance scores. An accompanying sheet gives the grading scale. Last year an explanation of the grading scale change was also given when the school report was sent with the transcript and also again when the mid-year report was sent. Lastly, a personal comment was made with each student's mid-year report discussing how the student was affected by the new scheme.

We are not and will not destroy the reputation of our school by raising the

bar. We enhanced our standing in the academic world. Every student who was admitted to universities in the United States over the past ten years from JFKS fit into the admission criteria of the university to which they were admitted. The only exceptions to this rule were the few students who actually had a lower class rank than those normally admitted to the particular university. That was because of the fine reputation of our school and/or other factors that made those students otherwise admissible.

Normally, universities give the percentages of students admitted to their institutions based on those who finish in the top 10%, top 25% and top 50% of their class. Even those universities that give an average GPA for entering freshmen normally adjust it to their own system. Since all JFKS students are treated equally with a raise in the new scale, the corresponding results in no way disadvantages our students.

The article also made reference to the fact that students were not informed of the grade scale change. Students were informed when I came in the fall to English classes and when we had the grade conferences for 9th - 13th the first week of school. In fact, I remember one student asking how this affected the honor graduate situation and I told her it did not. Later, I e-mailed the 12th grade students and further discussed the situation. The fact that 2% knew of the change indicates the word was given out. However, in retrospect, this topic deserved more coverage and should have been followed up with other comments and articles. For this I apologize.

Two other statements in the article need to be addressed. First, was the statement (referring to the effects of the change) "...Either their (students) Grade Point Average dropped drastically, or they suddenly failed." This is simply not true. The average drop in the cumulative GPA was 0.05 on a 4.00 scale. I hardly call that drastic and there were very, very few affected by the lowest failing mark being moved

from a passing mark of 5+ (35% on the German scale) to a 4- (45% on the German scale). Second was the reference to the honours diploma. The honours diploma change, which makes the lowest honours grade a 3+ is not effective until next year. All students having a 3 this year are still eligible to receive the honours diploma. This was an administrative decision in the last six weeks and was, therefore, unknown to the writer of the Muckraker article.

One other statement in the Muckraker article deserves comment. The writer's comment saying, "this change has only affected our school," is true. We cannot change the grading scale of everyone else. However, since universities evaluate students as they perform within their school scheme, it makes no difference that the grading scale changed.

One must consider the reality of the college admissions process. Every high school has its own system. Some high schools have an average Grade Point Average of 3.80 or even more because they attach honour points to many more courses than we do. Universities have even complained about this "grade inflation." The JFKS average GPA is 3.20. Does that mean we are disadvantaging our students because another school has a higher average GPA? No! The reason we are not hurting our students is the fact that universities evaluate the high school first, then the applicant. The success of our college admissions is a testimony to the fact that JFKS has been evaluated very highly by the university admissions officers.

I have been in the college admissions business for 25 plus years and I know what I am talking about. Please, if you have concerns or have heard rumours, see me. Some of you have done just that and I think it was productive. Obviously, Mr. or Ms. Anonymous did not and I would invite that person to see me if this answer to his or her article is offensive or otherwise incorrect. Thank you for taking the time to read this response.

Herb Blount

THE MUCKRAKER is an independent newspaper. The opinions expressed here in no way reflect those of the administration of the John F. Kennedy School.

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Staff

JFKS Life

School – Truly A Haven?

School, by definition, is a place or institution for teaching and learning. Some of us might hate going to school while some of us enjoy it. One way or another, we all come to school to learn and hang out with our friends.

Regardless of how we feel about JFKS, we all expect it to be safe. We all expect schools to be places where no violence is acted out, where no harm can come to us, where there is no hate. Schools are supposed to be safe places where students come to learn and not be witnesses or victims of hate. Students should worry about their grades, not about their survival. The student body should only have to worry about organizing student events, not about having a potential killer among the student body.

Most fortunately, we have not had any extreme acts of hatred acted out at JFKS. But many schools all over the world have not been as lucky. The most horrifying school shootings occurred at Columbine High School in 1999 and recently at Virginia Tech University. The two students at Columbine killed 12

students and one teacher. The Virginia Tech student killed 32 people, making the shooting rampage the most deadly in U.S. history. But even in Germany these horrible acts occur: in 2002, a



Source: www.msnbcmedia3.msn.com

student in Erfurt killed 13 teachers, two students, and one policeman, at Johann Gutenberg secondary school. Nowadays, many schools see heightened security measures as the only way to secure the students' safety. In America, schools now have metal detectors and security guards at their entrances, to ensure that no weapons enter the school building.

On April 25, Dr. Hepner and Dr. Olderog came to every classroom to discuss some security tips with the students. They warned us to keep our eyes open for unknown people in the school and to

be alert to anything out of the ordinary. At this time, we should remind ourselves of some of the basic principles of being part of the school community: We should always be watching out that our school is a safe place and we should always be watching out for our fellow students, which include those who are in trouble or act in "strange" ways. It is not okay to look away when a fellow student is being bullied. It is not okay for people

to treat each other disrespectfully. This is where the violence starts! There are many ways to stop violent behaviour and to help make our school a safe place. Maybe if we all do our part, we'll never have to go through metal detectors in the morning or have security guards at our entrances.

Frida Winkelmann

School Spirit – or the Lack Thereof

Apparently our school has reached a longtime low point in the school spirit department. Teachers yell at students, who respond similarly at student council meetings meant to create dialogue between the two forces. The Muckraker staff gets reprimanded for publishing a provocative picture, which had a far greater effect than we would've ever anticipated. And not to mention the trash and graffiti issues around here that are simply unmanageable, as they seem to be a way for the students to express and perhaps dispose of their aggression. In short, things are going haywire around here. The question is WHY this is happening. What have the students and/or teachers done to create this situation of general unhappiness and discomfort and what can we all do to better it?

"Last year was the peak of school spirit, and it has just drastically declined ever since. Every generation of students

has to have its low", says an eleventh grader. "The fund raisers of this year's senior class brought a lot less money than those of last year's. The students just lack the necessary school spirit", says a senior.

Is it just that? Do we all simply have enough of school already? Has summer vacation merely come a bit too early this year? Well, there definitely seems to be quite a bit of tension between the student body and the faculty, which does not appear to have a universal reason. The library couch issue, the way the attendance staff is treated by a number of less tolerant students, and the Student Councils ever growing desire to bring a student lounge into existence (especially with the attendance staff already receiving their own lounge) are a few of our school's momentary crises. The teachers seem to be mad at the students for wanting too much and the students are upset at the

teachers for being granted too little. However, standing above all these little problems at our school are the threats posed to the JFKS community on April 25 that marked the beginning of a new era in the question of JFKS security. Need we fear a terrorist attack? Such a situation would necessitate students and teachers to work together and not against each other. When the threat comes from without, the small day-to-day differences should be forgotten. We can only hope that our school does once again and once and for all, unite to form a strong alliance against the unknown, potential threat that any stranger to our school poses. Don't get caught up with trivialities - look for the big things, and keep your eyes open! Never forget: we're all in this together!

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Comments, Replies?

send your opinions and articles to:

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Kennedy Cup 2007

Der Gewinner des Kennedy Cup 2007 ist der „1.FC Zwick mich mal“, bestehend aus Lennart Neumann, Hendrik Herzog, Nicolas Jeczawitz, Torwart Timo von Meyer und Manuel Freistein, der erst in der Finalrunde zur Mannschaft stieß. In einem doch eher einseitigen Finale gewann die 12.Klässler-Mannschaft 2:0 gegen „Matze's Team“ aus der 13.Klasse. In einem makellosen Turnierverlauf war der Titel für den „1.FC Zwick mich mal“ eigentlich nie wirklich in Gefahr, allein die Vorrunde wurde mit einem Torverhältnis von 22:1 abgeschlossen. Nur ein weiteres Gegentor ließ die glänzende Defensivarbeit der Equipe in der Finalrunde zu, beim 3:1 gegen „Brixx“. Hendrik Herzog wurde zudem Torschützenkönig des Turniers, die Finaltore schossen er mit einem tollen Weitschuss und Lennart Neumann nach einer der vielen fehlerlosen Kombinationen des eingespielten Teams. In der Vorrunde trafen sie auf „Deadly Bunnies“ (7.Klasse), „Gummibärchen-Bande“ (7.Klasse) und „Hammers“ (10.Klasse). Der Finalgegner „Matze's Team“ legte einen ähnlich sicheren Turnierverlauf hin, wobei der Top-Torjäger des Teams, Fabian Wöpke, im Finale fehlte. Interessant waren die Gruppen A und B, in denen nur das Torverhältnis über das Weiterkommen entschied. In Gruppe A traf es mit „Shizzawn's Crew“ (12.Klasse) eine Mannschaft, in der zwei von drei teilnehmende Titelverteidiger spielten, die im Eröffnungsspiel ein überzeugendes 3:0 gegen „Fa-Qu Haïttie Jienn (Reud)“ (12.Klasse) schafften und trotz eines weiteren Sieges gegen die einzige Mädchenmannschaft „Grade A Disco Shit“ (4:1) aufgrund einer 0:2-Niederlage im letzten Gruppenspiel gegen „Brixx“ (10.Klasse) gegenüber „Fa-Qu Haïttie Jienn (Reud)“ den Kürzeren zogen, die „Grade A Disco Shit“ mit 9:0 schlugen. „Fa-Qu Haïttie Jienn (Reud)“ avancierte dank guter Leistungen eines Titelverteidigers, Kevin Schaffartzik, zur Über-

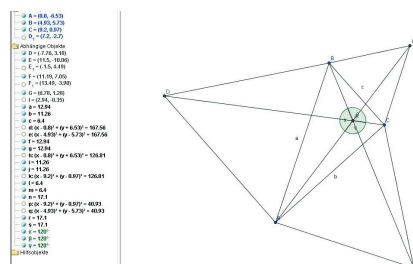
raschungsmannschaft und marschierte sogar bis ins Halbfinale, in dem ihnen jedoch durch „Matze's Team“ mit 7:1 ihre Grenzen aufgezeigt wurden. Trotzdem Hochachtung vor einer kämpferisch starken Leistung im Viertelfinale gegen die „Thekenrunde“ (12.Klasse), welches durch ein Last-Minute-Tor mit 1:0 überraschend gewonnen wurde. Überraschend deshalb, weil die „Thekenrunde“ nach einer ausgezeichneten Vorrunde, in der vor allem Jan Hückmann sehr starke Spiele zeigte, schnell als Favorit gehandelt wurde. Vor allem die Defensivarbeit dieser Mannschaft ist zu würdigen, bei der ihr einziges Gegentor das Aus bedeutete. Bitter auch das Aus vom 10.Klässler-Team „Brixx“, das auf jeden Fall einen schön anzuschauenden Fußball zeigte, sowohl taktisch als auch technisch auf sehr hohem Niveau spielte, jedoch aufgrund ihrer körperlichen Defizite im Halbfinale gegen den späteren Turniersieger „1.FC Zwick mich mal“ 1:3 verloren. Trotzdem war das Team um Torjäger Paul Opitz und Antreiber Erik Wiedenmann wohl das einzige Team, welches der Übermannschaft einigermaßen Paroli bieten konnte. Beim nächsten Kennedy Cup ist auf jeden Fall mit diesem Team zu rechnen! Bitter auch das Aus der beiden 10.Klässler-Teams „Sleurteur“ und „Phil's Erben“ in Gruppe D, die sich im letzten Spiel 3:1 trennten und sich damit paradoxerweise beide disqualifizierten. Herauszuheben als Einzelspieler sind hierbei Tenzin Sekhon und David Hirst. Außerdem haben folgende Einzelspieler beachtliche Leistungen gezeigt: Milan Smith („Die Rischtijien“), Kuno von Gizycki („Diploma Boyz“), Derek Stiver („Diploma Boyz“) und Dustin Williams („Shizzawn's Crew“). Für „Diploma Boyz“ war im Viertelfinale gegen „Brixx“ Schluss (1:4), trotzdem zeigten sie vor allem in der Vorrunde starken Offensivfußball. Auch schlugen sich die „Deadly Bunnies“ als 7.Klässler-Team

ausgezeichnet, die technisches Potential vermuten ließen, körperlich jedoch hoffnungslos unterlegen waren und im Viertelfinale unglücklicherweise auf die 13.Klässler „Matze's Team“ trafen (0:5). Enttäuschend waren wohl „Die Rischtijien“ (11.Klasse), bei denen Milan Smiths Dribblings und Tore alleine nicht zu einem erfolgreichen Turnier reichten. Auch „Shizzawn's Team“ war besser eingeschätzt worden. Publikumsbeliebte waren auf jeden Fall die 12.Klässler-Mädchen von „Grade A Disco Shit“, deren Tor zum 1:4 gegen „Shizzawn's Crew“ frenetisch gefeiert wurde. Eine glänzende Leistung zeigte auch der Schiedsrichter Hard Huang, der die Vorrundenspiele der Gruppen A und C pfiff, und auch alle Spiele der Finalrunde. Er musste keinen Platzverweis erteilen und gab auch keinen Elfmeter. Für die Zuschauer nicht so spannend war wohl die Tatsache, dass es kein Remis im Turnierverlauf gab, welches sofort nach Abpfiff zu Elfmeterschießen geführt hätte, welches beim Kennedy Cup 2005 ein großer Spannungsfaktor war. Die Organisatoren ziehen trotzdem ein positives Fazit unter diesen Event und hoffen auf ein spannenderes Turnier 2006, qualitativ jedoch gleichwertig. Denn obwohl es kaum Teilnehmer gab, die im Fußballverein spielten, war die Qualität des Fußballs ausgezeichnet. Die besten Tricks und Tore werden momentan auf Video zusammengeschnitten und bald auf dem Fernseher beim Student Council Board gezeigt. Noch einmal herzlichen Glückwunsch an den „1.FC Zwick mich mal“ und den besten Torschützen Nicolas Jeczawitz, die es beim Kennedy Cup 2008 zu schlagen gilt! Für alle, die die Spiele verpasst haben, wird bald eine Kennedy Cup-DVD bei Mr. Bakke erhältlich sein.

Ferdinand Maubrey

GeoGebra

Who is sick and tired of the old protractor and compass? It's just way too laborious to do geometry by hand, especially when you're working on a proof involving triangles and have to convince yourself of its validity first. Markus Hohenwarter found the perfect solution: GeoGebra, a free interactive mathematics software that can be used by school classes and math freaks alike. The most interesting thing about it is that it is a dynamic software, meaning that one can change the form of the constructed figures by pulling at their points. This way it is enough to



construct one triangle to demonstrate, for example, the Pythagorean theorem as well as the laws of sine and cosine, as one can alter the 90° angle into any acute or obtuse angle.

Of course, GeoGebra can do a lot more than dynamic geometry, such as finding integrals and derivatives or graphing equations. GeoGebra is a wonderful tool for the classroom to demonstrate to students that math can be fun and that you can use more advanced technology than the standard scientific calculator. Have fun trying out GeoGebra! You can download it for free at www.geogebra.org.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

JFKS Life / Entertainment

A Sight for the Blind to See...

Talent: a special natural ability or aptitude. **Show:** to present or perform as a public entertainment or spectacle. Together, these two words form the grandfather of all school fundraisers: the TALENT SHOW! Not to be outdone, the Senior Class of 2007 too went back to the drawing board and chose a Talent Show as their special early spring fundraiser, to be held in the Small Aula on April 20th. Students, parents, and teachers alike came in flocks and demanded the installment of extra chairs and seating arrangements. Twist and churn at the lacking spirit in this school as you may, at least for one Friday

evening, roughly 200 members of the JFKS community decided that their evening could not be better spent than at the Talent Show.

The crowd, earnestly shamed by the musical prowess of our very own senior – Deborah Schnitzlein – and her partner the violin, proceeded to turn into a madhouse by the end of the first quarter as the slam dunk performance of 2 young Spice Girls rocked the house. What was first put off as a 7th-inning stretch used for the dissemination of prizes for the Senior Raffle turned into the most popular act of the night, demanding encores at every corner and

bringing the raffle queens Vicky and Charlotte on stage at least two dozen times. Again, the cliché was satisfied as students' musical performances outnumbered other artistic endeavors 200-10. Nevertheless, the diamonds in the rough included a stand-up act by Daniel Romeo, a Hamlet recitation by Julian Lasius, and a dance performance by the great Khadija Griffith with Patrick Kränzel, which were met with much success. In the end, the grandfather of all fundraisers pulled off quite a show...with quite some talent.

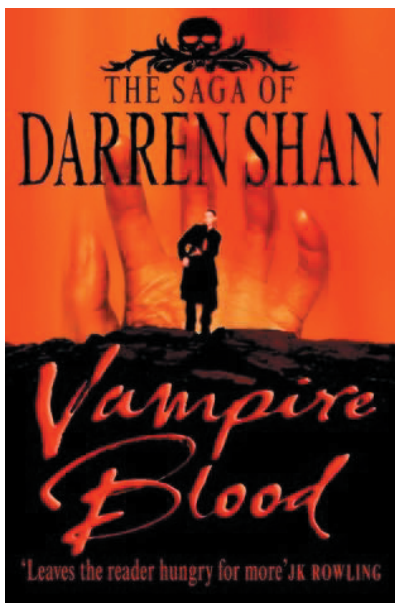
Jakob Thomae

Book Review: The Saga of Darren Shan

I have the privilege to introduce yet another spooky vampire story to the adoring public. This particular book, *Vampire Blood*, actually includes the first three parts to a 10 piece series. According to the author it is a true story – a story about himself and how he became a vampire: "Real life's nasty. It's cruel. It doesn't care about heroes and happy endings and the way things should be. In real life, bad things happen. People die. Fights are lost. Evil often wins. I just wanted to make that clear before I began."

Oh yes, this isn't a happy book, but for some reason people with a warped sense of humor, such as myself, still seem to find it funny: "If this was a made up story, it would begin at night, with a storm blowing and owls hooting and rattling

noises under the bed. But this is a real story, so I have to begin where it really started. It started in a toilet."



The protagonist of this story, Darren Shan, has a strange liking for spiders and he's friends with a kid that's just a little obsessed with the supernatural. These two facts cause the drastic change in Darren's life. When the duo finds out that there's a freak show in town they set it upon themselves to go and watch it:

CIRQUE DU FREAK:
SIVE AND SEERSA-THE
TWISTING TWINS!
THE SNAKE BOY! THE
WOLF MAN! GERTHA
TEETH!

LARTEN CREPSLEY AND
HIS PERFORMING SPI-
DER-MADAM OCTA!

ALEXANDER RIBS! THE BEARDED LADY!
HANS HANDS!

RHAMUS TWOBELLIES-WORLD'S FAT-

TEST MAN!

This show is to change Darren's life forever – a very dramatic plot twist, but this author likes foreshadowing and slightly melodramatic scenes, just to add to his charm. So the two boys go to the show and the first thing they see is how the wolf man goes bonkers and chomps off a woman's hand, which is then miraculously sown back on. Apart from the hand incident, all is well until Larten Crepsley and his spider enter the stage. Steve, Darren's friend seems to know the performer, but that doesn't bother Darren at that moment as he's far too entranced by Madam Octa, Crepsley's spider. After the show Darren overhears a conversation between Steve and the mysterious Crepsley, who's name doesn't seem to be Larten after all. That gives him the chance to get his hands on Madam Octa, the murderous spider. She is the last part of his downward spiral to the grave...

Joanna O'Neil

Ten Tips on Understanding Politics

1. The names of politicians and political parties usually don't make any important indications about their policies. Therefore these names are meaningless and are to be ignored.
2. Representatives of political parties are usually not the ones holding the power – their task is to look good, which they usually fail to do, and to distract the masses.
3. The only important factor in which any two parties differ from each other are their goals and how they prioritize them.
4. The one factor, which nearly all par-

ties have in common, is their inability to reach these goals.

5. Politicians, contrary to common belief, are also only humans. And as a well-known saying goes, „errare humanum est“ – to err is human.

6. Politicians, no matter how many lies they have told and how much damage they have caused in their career, always take pride in confessing their mistakes in their memoirs. Sadly, they always wait to publish them until they know that nobody will bother to assassinate them anymore.

7. Remember that politicians really

aren't the intellectual elite of the human race. At least we don't have to waste very much money on paying them.

8. If you're reading this article, you're probably part of the intellectual elite of humanity, which means that you're too intelligent to become a good politician.

9. The only exception from rules 1- 8 is the UN. The UN is nice.

10. A few words on voting: Think of your voting ballot as an SAT exam. If you don't know which box to mark, leave it blank.

Randolf Carr

Culture

Sonnenbank-flavour mal ganz anders

Sommer, Sonne, Strand, Solarium – welches dieser vier Wörter fällt eindeutig aus der Reihe? Strand? Nein, ach Quatsch, Solarium natürlich!

Viele Menschen verbinden Stichwörter wie „Bräune“ und „Erholung“ schon lange nicht mehr nur mit Sommer, Sonne oder Urlaub. Unechte Bräune, auch Solariumbräune genannt, ist für immer mehr Menschen ein natürlicher Bestandteil ihres Alltags geworden. Man könnte den zum Trend gewordenen Solariumbesuch auch in eine Kategorie mit Zähneputzen oder Haarewaschen eingruppieren, schließlich ist er für Viele ein ganz normaler Bestand der regelmäßigen Körperpflege und –verschönerung geworden. Dass künstliches Sonnenbaden im Solarium jedoch extrem Gesundheitsschädlich und Hautkrebs erregend wirkt, darüber machen sich nur die Wenigsten Gedanken.

Das Solarium mache schließlich für nur 5€ möglich, was man sonst oft nur schwer erspart im Urlaub genießen könne: nahtlose Bräune, Sorglosigkeit, erhöhte Produktion von Glückshormonen. Dieser Meinung sind nun auch immer mehr Europäer, die sich dem „Faketan“-Trend aus den USA anschließen. Darunter befinden sich besonders viele Nordeuropäer. Dass viele der re-

gelmäßigen Solariumbesucher jedoch an einer Krankheit bzw. einer Sucht leiden, wusste bis vor kurzem noch niemand. Doch eine von amerikanischen Wissenschaftlern durchgeführte und im Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology veröffentlichte Studie



beweist nun, dass Bräunen im Solarium süchtig macht. Diese Sucht bezeichnet man als „Tanorexie“.

Der Begriff „Tanorexie“ setzt sich aus dem englischen to tan (sich bräunen) und dem medizinischen Begriff für Magersucht, Anorexie zusammen. Bei der Namensgebung wurde die krankhafte Sucht nach unnatürlich dunkler Bräune mit dem für Magersüchtige typischen zerstörten oder verzerrten Selbstbild kombiniert. Tanorexiker haben das Au-

genmaß für eine gesunde Bräune längst verloren und streben eine für ihren Hauttyp extrem untypische und fast unerreichbare Bräune an

Der Trend heißt Bräune, und zwar möglichst schnell und möglichst viel davon. So kann man mittlerweile für einen Grundpreis von nur 5€ so lange wie man möchte unter die Neon-Röhren. Und wenn sich dabei auch noch Stress, Probleme und Sorgen einstellen und die Vitamin-D-Produktion angekurbelt wird, warum nicht? Doch dabei liegen viele Tanorexiker falsch. Die durch Sonne verursachte Ausschüttung von Glückshormonen und andere Effekte realer Sonneneinstrahlung sind bei Solariumsonne nicht nachweisbar und somit nicht vorhanden. Ob das künstliche Bräunen also doch mehr Nach- als Vorteile besitzt? Mit Sicherheit! Denn außer der übertriebenen Bräune bleibt einem nicht viel. Gerade jetzt zu Zeiten in denen sich für ein paar Euro jeder künstlich bräunen kann, wandert die allgemeine Vorliebe zu einer leichteren, natürlicheren Bräune über. Und die kann man sich ja schließlich auch im Sommer oder im Urlaub holen.

Ina Fischer

Berlin's New Star

Berlin is developing into one of the biggest tourist attractions of all cities in Germany. Quite understandable – the Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz, Reichstag and the Siegessäule are all really great to look at and worth coming to Berlin for. But this year there's a new hit-attraction in the capital: He was born on the 5th of December 2006, together with his twin brother. His mother abandoned them so he had to lie in an incubator for 44 days. His brother remained nameless and died after 4 days, but he survived. His name is Knut and he is the first polar bear born in the Berlin Zoo in 30 years. His father is from the Munich "Tierpark Hellabrunn" while his mother was born in Canada and was kept in the "Staatsszirkus der DDR".

Knut's first public appearance was on March 23, at the age of 15 weeks. He instantly became Berlin's new star: reporters flew in from all over the world to write articles about or to make documentaries about him. Currently, the ARD is showing a documentary series

about Knut every Saturday morning. The Tagesspiegel, BZ, Bild, Die Welt, and Berliner Kurier write about him regularly. The Tagesspiegel even has an online-fan page for Knut called "Knudel Knut" where readers can get the lat-



Source: www.meinberlin.de

est updates about and photos of their favorite polar bear. The demand of new video clips and photos of Knut is huge. More and more artists and songwriters are writing about Knut or dedicating their songs to him. He even made it onto the front page of the German Cosmopolitan as the first animal to ever appear on the cover.

During Easter vacation the amount of visitors in the Berlin Zoo who wanted to catch a glimpse of the little white furball increased drastically to 40.000 per day! The huge masses of people storming the zoo caused restricted Knut

visits: Knut can now only be seen twice a day for an hour and only for 7 minutes per person. But the drama and attention surrounding Knut is growing each day: policemen have been ordered to protect and watch his cage since there's been a warning that someone might try to kill the polar bear. Of course, this attracted even more tourists to the zoo. So what will happen to Knut when he gets older, and slowly starts to lose his cuteness? Another important question right now is whether Knut will stay in Berlin or move someplace else. But for the time being, Berliners and visitors to Berlin can see him every day in the Berlin Zoo.

Theresa Volkmer