

THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

ABI CLASS OF 1998!



THE MUCKRAKER

Speaks

When Berliners of the East and West stormed and tore down the Berlin wall in October of 1989, they made the most symbolic gesture of communism's collapse. Gone were the days when national security could never be assured, when countries engaged in an arms race and aimed missiles armed with nuclear warheads at each other's capitals. In were the days of peace and a better life for the young and old alike. Certainly, the world has been threatened since then, for example by a certain Mr. S.H., but it has remained relatively tranquil this decade.

That quiet was broken by a cacophony of atomic BOOMS from the Asian Subcontinent. India's announcement last month that it had detonated five nuclear devices sent tremors around the globe. Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee stated that India has "the capacity for a big bomb." Despite international pressure, Pakistan, India's arch rival, decided on countering by carrying out its own tests and declaring itself a nuclear weapons state last week. The two countries have already fought three wars since their founding fifty years ago and haven't exactly become bedfellows since they left the battlefield. By showing themselves into the nuclear powers club (Russia, the United States, France, China and Britain) they have ended the peace our generation thought it might enjoy.

Though the new nuclear countries may seem detached from Germany or the United States, they are as capable of setting off a chain reaction as Sarajevo was in 1914. Because China and India have bitter territorial conflicts, India might face a Pakistani-Chinese alliance in a new war. China would inevitably draw the rest of Asia and subsequently the United States and Europe into such a conflict. And the generation of soldiers who would have to fight that battle would be ours.

India gained nothing from its atomic initiative - none of the respect or prestige it yearns for and has only thrown a wrench in the delicate workings of world peace. Although we can't undo the detonations, let's hope they are used only for tests - or it will be us who will pay the price.

- The Editors

Abis Say "Tschüß"

BY MIKOLAJ BEKASIAK AND SETH HEPNER

Take a good look at these students, because you probably won't be seeing them for a looonng time. While everybody else in the school still has 35 more days until the end of school, today these lucky Abi-students are celebrating their last-ever day of class at high school. Although they'll still be back for the Oral Abitur exams, and, of

course for their Abi-Feier, today is the last official day of classes. And how does it feel? Since over one third of the class has spent the last thirteen years of their lives toiling, sweating and living in the buildings of JFK, for them the feeling is especially grand. Abiturient Marc E. expressed his sentiments as, "It's party time."

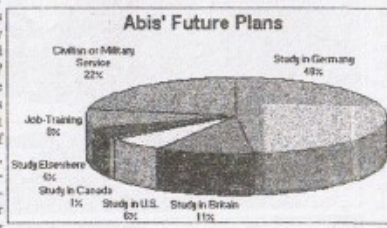
Now that it's over, most of these students express a positive attitude towards school. "I'll remember it as a ... good time in my life," and "I'll miss the place" was often repeated by the Abiturienten asked, but what they really seem to mean can probably be best summed up by the words of Jakob T.: "I'll miss JFKS, but not school." Not only the social scene will be missed however, the feeling of security will also be missed. "It is really only up to you now" says Marc E. "You are forced to go to school and the worst thing that can happen to you there is a six. Now no one really forces you to do anything and you can end up under the bridge." In spite of this danger, the Abiturienten are ready and motivated, most of them champing at the bit waiting for the real world. "[School] was nice, but now I can finally get on with my life" says Saskia B.

Asked if there are any tips they would like to relate to upcoming Abitur classes, the graduates were brimming with hard learned lessons. "Keep

complete hefts", and "don't study for your Abi a week before," and were the most common tips. "Don't mess with your teachers, they'll get you in the end" was another. "Never-ever-ever skip a klausur" related one obviously scarred Abiturient. The one line solution was also present: "Stay relaxed and bleib locker" said one particularly unperturbed student, "it's not that bad."

Unfortunately the freedom is not complete. There are still minor traumatic moments ahead. At the time of the quote, the results the written abis in January were not yet known. These grades are approximately one third of the Abischnitt and

those results are known today, so if you see some traumatized, suicidal, frizzled, and catatonic Abiturienten, give them a hug. They are also oral abiturien ahead on the eleventh and twelfth so feel free to come and support your idols and father (and mother) figures at that time. After that, however, it is smooth sailing. "When I'm out of here, you are not going to see me for a looonng time" said one Abiturient with a smirk. "Except maybe in the papers."



Seniors Beware!

Though many of you will be leaving to college this summer, take care not to pack your bags yet! This is an excerpt from a letter one senior received from his college:

"Every summer we encounter a few cases of 'senioritis' requiring correspondence - and, more rarely, action - with accepted applicants. In recent years we have had a number of situations resulting in the withdrawal of acceptances due to academic problems in the final semester of high school..."

Students Face Racism

BY INGRID SCHÄFER

On May 21st a group of young geography students (twelfth grade Leistungskurs) gathered at Bahnhof Lichtenberg. All excited they arrived at their youth hostel in Warnemünde, a neighboring town of Rostock. Three days of hard tiring work lay ahead of them. Their solemn mission was to get an overall view of the drastic changes Rostock and Warnemünde had undergone the past few years. Quickly the students dropped their luggage and off they went to question tourists about changes that had taken place in Warnemünde since the wall came down.

Divided into little groups they strolled around this pretty little town on the shores of the Baltic Sea. All of a sudden cars passed one of these groups and a bunch of radicals yelled, "Go back to Africa, N****r!" at a colored student. This act of verbal discrimination certainly cast a gloom over the rest of expedition.

Incidents like the one above already occurred previously around Berlin. In fear of their lives two colored students even decided not to participate in the 1994 geography excursion which was also destined for Rostock. This list of enraging events goes on and on... Ninth grade history lectures about national socialism are traditionally linked to a short trip to Sachsenhausen at our school. While small groups of JFK students walked around the site this year they observed radicals who wore shirts stating "Deutschland den Deutschen" and "Heil Hitler." These extremists emphasized their disrespect for the place by playing loud and offensive music. Yet again colored JFK students were insulted. They were told to go to the crematorium as their annihilation was already prepared. Understandably our students were completely upset and disturbed afterwards. Teachers tried to address the problem in later discussions.

It is a shame that we already have to avoid traveling to certain places due to the scary spread of neo-nationalism. After their trip, Herr Hoedt's Geography class (twelfth grade) thought of potential methods with which to bring their concern about neo-nationalism to the public. They plan to send letters, to official institutions which deal with neo-nationalism - and hopefully its decline.

THE MUCKRAKER Guide to the World Cup

BY ADAM NAGORSKI

Grab your chips and drink (Warsteiner or Miller, depending on your nationality) and get ready for the sporting event of the year! Soccer is often considered the most popular sport in the world and its main event, the World Cup, will begin in France in eight days. THE MUCKRAKER presents group, schedule and team information:



Group A: Brazil, Scotland, Morocco, Norway

Group B: Italy, Chile, Cameroon, Austria
 Group C: France, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Denmark
 Group D: Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay, Bulgaria
 Group E: Holland, Belgium, South Korea, Mexico
 Group F: Germany, United States, Yugoslavia, Iran
 Group G: Romania, Colombia, England, Tunisia
 Group H: Argentina, Japan, Jamaica, Croatia

Team Germany

Rank: 2 in world (by FIFA)

Honors: World Cup appearances in 1934, 38, 54, 58, 62, 66, 70, 74, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94 and 98; won World Cup in 1954, 74 and 90 + runner up 3 times; European Champions in 1972, 80 and 96 + runner up 2 times.

Background: Soccer has always been an extremely popular sport in Germany, as reflected by its international performances. Germany also has some of the world's top club teams. It has always had top-class players to carry it through tournaments. Germany was eliminated during the quarter-finals of the last World Cup (USA '94) by Bulgaria (2-1).

Games:

Germany v. USA Monday, June 15
 Germany v. Yugoslavia Sunday, June 21
 Germany v. Iran Friday, June 26

Team USA

Rank: 11 in world (by FIFA)

Honors: World Cup appearances in 1930, 34, 50, 90, 94, and 98. World Cup semi-finalist once; semi-finalist in 1995 Copa America.

Background: Soccer has never been as prevalent in America as in Europe - basketball, baseball, and football were always the center of attention. In fact, a professional soccer league was only established in 1996 (Major League Soccer). Though it is a new sport in the US, the American coach has faith in his team's potential. In World Cup USA '94 the American team advanced to the second stage of the tournament but was eliminated by a loss to Brazil (1-0).

Games:

USA v. Germany Monday, June 15
 USA v. Iran Sunday, June 21
 USA v. Yugoslavia Thursday, June 25

All games will be shown on EUROSPORT - see EUROSPORT text for times.
 For more scheduling and tournament information, visit <http://www.france98.com>

Teacher Feature:
Ms. Green

BY HAUWA NDIAGI

Ms. Green is a math teacher at JFK

Q: Did you always want to become a Math teacher?
 A: No, I never really wanted to become one. I never knew I'd teach. After college I went to Oregon where I took graduate courses in History and Math. I was inspired by a professor who was the Head of Mathematics Education at the University of Oregon.

A: Tennis, hiking, bike riding, skiing, traveling, music, theater, reading, studying German, animals.
 Q: Are you involved with anyone? Is he a math person too?
 A: Zur Zeit nicht.

Q: Can you elaborate on the feud between mathematicians and physicists?



Ms. Green teaches AP Calculus

Photo: Hauwa Ndiagi

Q: What is your favorite math formula?

A: $e^x + 1 = 0$ The formula for complex numbers. It is cool, because it ties in all the famous numbers such as e , π , i , 0 , and 1 .

Q: Do you really stay up late into the night doing math?

A: Yes. I'm a late night person. I'll get interested in a problem and I'll work at it and I look and the time and...

Q: Pascal and Descartes are some of my personal favorite mathematicians. What are yours?

A: Euler. He did so much and he wanted people to understand what he did. I went to his grave in St. Petersburg and it was a special feeling. I also like Archimedes. He was able to do so much [with math] with algebra basis.

Q: What are some of your pastimes?

one of them a Valentine... I can't remember whom. It was a card with a woman in a bubble bath. She was holding a telephone and saying: "People call me by my first name, but you can call me any time."

Q: If you could teach a subject other than Math, what would it be?

A: Political Science, History or Geography, because I'm interested in what is going on in the world.



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Komey Korner!

From the Book of Jeremy:

Hunting Season Open: Freshmen Beware!

BY JEREMY YODER

As a prime specimen of a senior, I'd like with a heart-wrenching, tearful "auf wiedersehen" to all the departing Abiturientes... (Sniff) Now with that out of the way, I raise my cheer to all Seniors—THE FRESHMAN CLASS IS OURS! With the Abis gone, Seniors are the top dogs and ready to sniff out any little freshmen and make their lives miserable. This time-honored American tradition is not practiced at JFK, due to some divine intervention which created a dominating Thirteenth Grade. But during the upcoming month, Seniors can let their buried aggression take flight and spread a lot of ill-will. Why? Because as Freshmen, those older and wiser Seniors made our lives hell and cultivated a deep desire for revenge within us.

We swore revenge during those dark Freshmen days. Remember hanging upside down from a door hinge by your underwear? Or learning the hard truth that "swirlies" are not ice cream sundae sold in bathroom stalls? I recall being designated "senior pet" and spending lunch locked in a cage eating raw carrots. And of course there was always the dreaded "Freshmen Beat-Up Month." In my high school in the States, we hid in lockers from cow prod wielding seniors. One kid I knew accidentally locked himself into his locker and forgot his combination. He spent fifteen hours in there until Mr. Thinkman, the wrestling coach, ripped the door off with the "Thinkman Death Grip." We called the kid "Block Head" after that. But throughout those humiliating days, we hung onto the knowledge that one day we would get our revenge: we'd get our turn to make the freshman class's life hell on Earth.

But when I came to JFK, I discovered that my revenge against the innocent freshman class was foiled. There exists a higher caste—the thirteenth grade. We'd never get the ego-boost as oldest class in the school. I'd never strut through the hallways in my school jacket covered with varsity patches, inflicting pain and misery. I'd never hear the satisfying ring of

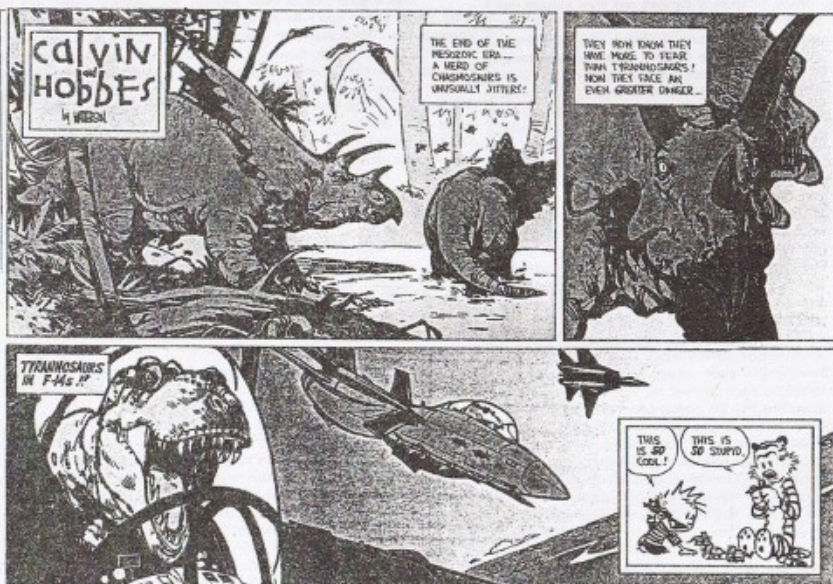
freshmen yawning for mercy. Some busy-body divine being's glowing hand struck down the chance to live out my base animal instincts. Drats.

This divine-being, however, made a little mistake. He/She/It inspired the German educational administration-type people thousands of years ago to create the oral Abis and give them a number of weeks off to study for it. He/She/It in His/Her/Its infinite wisdom forgot that sometime during the future a whole slew of American Seniors blinded with vengeance would lash out during the last number of weeks without the Abiturientes. Despite all their meddling, the divine being failed to prevent us from spewing our animosity against the young, the weak and the meek.

We unfortunately can only spew our animosity for a number of weeks, instead of a whole year so we have pack it all into one wave. And so we'll turn against our young friends, stringing them by their hair from the sport hall rafters. There's also an arsenal hidden within the school of iron maidens, thumb screws and other torture instruments that would've made Prince Vlad Tepes the Impaler green with envy. There's a plan to capture Freshmen with butterfly nets and drive them through the Aral car wash in the back of a pick-up. Ah yes, revenge is best served meek.

Revenge for our miserable 9th Grade existence is finally ours—for the time being. But I'm thankful for small mercies to be merciless. I'm thankful for the chance to rid myself from all those demons through violent and meaningless violence. I've even practiced strutting through the hallways and the "Thinkman Death Grip." Now, where are those little buggers....?

THE MUCKRAKER EDITORS WISH TO STATE THAT NO FRESHMEN WERE HURT IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM DURING THE PRODUCTION OF THIS COLUMN... THANK YOU.



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Yet again saved from certain annihilation by popular demand:

THE MUCKRAKER's super-duper Horoscope

BY MADAM ESTEL AND ASTRID DE "LUMER"



Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Happy Birthday, Gemini! I sense a tremendously super-duper trip coming up in your near future—whether it be to your trellis-loving friend's host family's house or some other place not quite so cool, be sure to make the most of it and buy yourself a new wardrobe—just because you deserve it.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): This is your month, Cancer! Sirius I, your star, has entered a new orbit, doubling its speed. Consequently, you'll be feeling really energetic for the next two weeks. Now's the time to go skydiving, bungee jumping, and hang-gliding with that long lost uncle thrice removed who should be pitching up at your place pretty soon. But remember, the more energy you use, the deader the consequences will be, so beware...

Leo (July 23 - July 22): Calm down, Leo—I realize the stress of Klausuren and research papers is really beginning to get to you, but that's no reason to take out your teachers with an uzi. After all, then who would be around to torment your younger siblings, or all those pesky seventh graders that so desperately need to be calmed down? Keep that in mind....

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Last month saw the contempt of four-legged animals starting with the letter 'A,' but Mother Nature has reconsidered her position and has decided to allow you to live in peace with armadillos, antelopes, and aardvarks everywhere. So go and chat up an alligator, give him a friendship bracelet and a warm embrace, making him your child's godfather will ensure your acceptance into his family for all eternity.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): People are about to discover your balanced character. Now is the prime time to make friends and make up for all those years of going without a partner in Sport class. All your personality defects have been magically whisked away by the magnanimous Athena (it was a rather heavy load—she needed two trips), so be the king or queen (whatever your preference) of the social scene this month. Make Cinderella your patron saint, however, because the whole midnight-of-the-31st deal wasn't a one-time thing—make sure your shoes fit!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Celery is the enemy. It is a bad, bad vegetable. The fundamental ideology of your being should be based upon this fact. Just in case you've been laughing lately, just let this be a reminder to you—celery is nothing but trouble. Your planet alignment this month dictates that it's even worse this month, so stay on your toes—chances are they'll be springing up everywhere...

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Relationship troubles? A candlelit dinner for two and a night of cozziness on the couch will cure just about anything. However, if your mom isn't up for preparing the main course and your culinary skills are less than, well, decent, seek out *The Anarchist's Cookbook* and you're all set! One more tip—cold liver in spinach sauce will extinguish the sparks of desire quicker than your pesky kid sister, so avoid it like the plague.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Chances are, you're feeling a little, shall we say, *different* this month, that is if you acted on your impulses from last month. Don't worry, you don't look any different (you always did make a good member of the opposite sex), and the voice change is a pleasant improvement. The Gods are commending you on your courage, and a free pencil sharpener is floating around on your horizon—and, if you're lucky, it may even be steel-coated!

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19): You can stop hiding out at Taurus' now, you wimp—the stars are thoroughly disgusted with you and are looking elsewhere for target practice. So crack out your matador garb, finally treat yourself to that exquisite red cape, and head for Sevilla—nothing can hurt you this month (we hope...)

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20): The planet Ceconi has drifted into your domain and kindly informed us of your fate—injury at the hands of a Physics teacher is imminent. We therefore suggest beating them to the punch—literally. A baseball is the recommended weapons of choice, and a swift kerblunk to the temple should do the trick.

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Pluto's third moon's tallest peak's cave was emitting a strange yellowish-gray light. This means you'll be a winner today—assuming you pick a fight with a four-year-old.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): This is the time when you can live out your bullish character. Quezom X9 indicates that you'll be running into things all the time. When that thing is a person, don't bother apologizing (it's fun having people think that you're off your trolley). Avoid other Tauruses as you might end up head-butting each other till the bitter end.



B.B. tritt auf

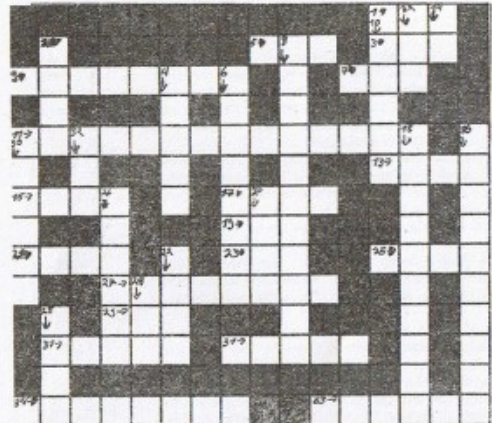
VON ZEJINA WISMAYER

Die deutsche Dramagruppe tritt auf. Das Stück "Stinknormal und einfach anders - zwischen Mensch und ...", eine Szenenfolge von B.B. handelt von Jugendlichen und den Situationen in denen sie sich finden. Aufgetreten wird vom 3.6 - 3.7 jeweils um 19:30 Uhr in der kleinen Aula. Um herauszufinden wer B.B. ist und zwischen wem die Konflikte sind, kommt zur Aufführung.



MUCK'T WORD PUZZLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHORLY EDITORS



23. An alternative to coffee
 25. An extinct bird
 27. This grade is not here right now
 29. Alternate spelling of first person singular
 31. They make more money than the cafeteria
 33. It comes out with the kid
 34. Mein kleiner grüner

Down

2. No parking there between 1 and 2 o'clock
 4. Teachers are supposed to do this
 6. To extend and stretch
 8. People are often in this state during parties
 10. This classes last day

Across

1. Our common predecessor
 3. Michael Jackson is ____
 5. There are seven of these deadly suckers
 7. Amount of staircases in the White and Blue Buildings
 9. Today's lunch
 11. One of the undifferentiated germ cells giving rise to spermatozoa
 13. Grows in China
 15. Everybody's got the ____ for the Muckraker staff
 17. This newspaper is so ____
 19. Michael Jackson also sang ____ 123
 21. Clinton doesn't believe this kind of sex is adulterous

12. Peace in Julius - Caesar - speak
 14. The talking horse
 16. The terrible disease afflicting upper grade students
 18. The ultimate "pädagogische Maßnahme"
 20. Flach, glatt
 22. Gives you a belly of the same name
 24. KOH, NaOH
 26. Little organ next to the liver
 28. Billy ____ was our ____
 30. The place where time slows down: and the bells rule
 32. Elephant - leph + armadillo - arm - ant + testosterone - one - dillo - test - er - os.

Seniors Fill the Calendar

SUBMITTED BY THE SENIOR AUTHORITIES

The Senior Class has been very active this year, and more is still to come. Here are a few events we have planned to make your life more exciting.

Prom

There is only ONE month left till Prom!!! Tickets are being sold on the ground floor of the Blue Building. The deposit is 40 DM, plus 10/20 DM at the end of June. The longer you wait the more expensive the tickets. There is a limited amount of tickets left so get your ticket now and you can enjoy a memorable evening at Berlin's most exclusive hotel, the Intercontinental, on July fourth.

Beginning Stages

The Senior Class gave you the Talent Show and now they present the Beginning Stages performance. The show will be on June 12 at 19:30 in the new Aula. Tickets cost 3 DM for students and 5 DM for adults. The performance will include singing, acting, dancing, reading, and various bands will be playing. So can and enjoy a night full of talent

excitement and laughter! If you are interested in participating talk to Ruth Grant or Steffi Neth in the twelfth grade this week. This is your last chance.

Flea Market

Seniors or anyone else who is interested in donating old clothes, toys, or books for the Senior Class flea market this weekend and next please see Frau Klemm who will open the door to the student lounge where the things can be stored. Thank you.

Pool Party

The Senior Class is organizing a pool party and barbecue for Saturday June 13 from 12:30 to 14:30 at the Cole pool near Oscar Helene Heim. Tickets will be sold this week and next on the ground floor of the Blue Building. Tickets are 3 DM for entrance, 6 DM for entrance and hamburger, 8 DM for entrance, hamburger, and a side order of noodle or potato salad, and 10 DM for all of the above and a drink. Only 100 tickets will be sold so buy your ticket now.



The pond is looking a lot more attractive these days, ever since the fences around it were taken down.

Photo: Adam Nagorski