

THE

MUCKRAKER

Last Issue of 97/98
School Year!

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

CONTENTS

Page 1
THE MUCKRAKER Speaks
Diploma Seniors
A Chat With George Pierre

Page 2
The Future of THE MUCKRAKER
Teachers Coming and Going
Lauder Exchange Program

9th and 10th Graders Next Year

Page 3
A Year In Review

Page 4
Abi Seniors
Graduation
Colleges that Accepted Seniors

Herr Schürmann Interview
Kohl and 4th Graders

Page 5
Opinion Articles
Student Council
Rushomon
Beginning Stages

Page 6
11th Grade Trips
MUN
World Cup
Teacher Feature
Library

Page 7
From the Book of Jeremy

Dear Darrell
Horoscopes

Page 8
Hero of the Week
Student Comic
Abis Strike Back
Cabin and Hobbies
Forecasted Futures for Seniors

THE MUCKRAKER

Speaks

For all of THE MUCKRAKER editors, this year was their last in school. When we shared our memories, we discovered definite patterns...

Maybe you can still remember back years and years ago, right before your first day at school, when you actually thought going to school was something to be proud of, something fun, scary, exciting, and new. It didn't take long until you got used to the routine - somewhere around the third grade, going to school early on a Monday morning began to lose its zing. In fact, by about fifth grade, it turned into a real drag. At about that time you and your friends starting getting more and more interested in the other sex, and parties starting popping up at which there were boys and girls and you played truth-dare-double-dare-promise-to-repeat and spin-the-bottle until 4:00 in the morning. Then the days of elementary were slowly over, and the big, looming high school began to actually become a thought that you paid attention to. While the thought of having your own locker and classes in different rooms was definitely "cool," it also brought back that old feeling of excitement, newness and pride back...

Well, until you actually got there, that is, when you realized that being a seventh grader in high school was actually quite at the bottom of the heap. For two years, you either struggled to make yourself known among the "big kids" or kept completely to yourself. Everybody watched the older high-schoolers for the newest trends. Most probably, you tried so hard to mimic that you looked rather silly. Then came ninth grade, which was the next step up because you not only became a "real" high-schooler but even (until the I.E.D. decided to change the rule) got off-campus

continued - see EDITORIAL on page 2

Seniors Break Free of Chains!

BY ADAM NAGORSKI

"I think [graduating is] the best thing that happens to anyone in high school!" says Hauwa Ndagi, one of the twenty-three seniors in the American diploma program who effectively ended school yesterday (grades were due). The diploma class of '98 is preparing to leave JFK and begin the rest of their lives. For most of them, this means going to college. During the past year, they struggled to complete piles of forms and write volumes of essays for college applications, and to keep up their grades in high school while daydreaming about university life. Now, their grand day is almost here: "It's a feeling that cannot be described in words - it's unimaginable," says John Hastings.

The class of '98 has been extremely successful, as evidenced not only by the many colleges and universities that have invited them to join their class of '02, but also by their activities during the year. The government the class elected has sweat and grown calluses to organize everything from t-shirts and a yearbook to graduation and prom for their peers. The resources came primarily from an onslaught of constant fund-raisers, which made the class the richest the school has seen in twenty years. Students slaved over hot grills preparing ever-popular hamburgers (and cheeseburgers), braved the rain at Fun Day, sang carols on the Ku'damm in December, and prepared a flea market on Nollendorplatz, to name but a few money-making mechanisms. Naturally, with school and extra-curricular activities added to this workload, fatigue struck.

Senioritis is a well-

named phenomenon, as any senior can verify: '98ers spend their entire year gearing up to leave, and schoolwork was often low on their agenda. They felt trapped in the concrete maze called JFK, their plight made even more painful when news arrived that their companions in the U.S. graduated over a month ago. For many, it felt like graduation day would never come. As Jeremy Yoder eloquently put it: "You feel that you will forever-ever sit in this place and that you will never-ever get out of here, that the tunnel never-ever ends, until one day you become ready to graduate. Then you have an entire other month, which is worse than the entire friggin' twelve years!" For some, senioritis has made them delirious; all Vanessa von Heydebreck could tell us about her senior year was "Five nines for an apple, ten marks for a pineapple, and thirty marks for a watermelon..." Obviously, her leading role in the yearbook has had an effect on her mental stability.

The stress will finally thin to air on Wednesday next week, at seven-thirty in the Old Aula. How does the victorious bunch feel about leaving? "Sort of ambivalent about it, I guess," admits Amanda Doster, "it's nice to leave but it would also be nice to stay...[staying here would be] my security blanket." Others, like Efe Birgili, are more decided: "I just can't wait anymore, I want to get OUT of here!" And just where will they be going? Most are going to college in the fall, but many have summer plans decided on, too. A few will be going on trips through Europe, some rather unusually. "I will take what I have on me and

continued - see SENIORS pg. 4

A Chat With George Pierre

BY TAYLOR ALDRIDGE

Q: How many keys do you have?

A: I've got keys to all the doors and elevators, but all together eight keys.

Q: How long have you lived in Berlin?

A: I've been in Berlin since 1983. I'm in my sixteenth year here.

Q: Was that with the military?

A: No, I'm here privately. I moved.

Q: How do you think we can stop vandalism in the toilet rooms?

A: Stop glorifying the people! And then TURN THEM IN TO THE PRINCIPAL! You guys accepting it when you see them do it.

Q: So is there any other way to stop it?

A: There is no way to stop it. I've been here long enough and tried it. You guys have been here long enough to see what's going on. I clean the place and you put new stuff on it! So now you know why I can't take it down. It's a game and they are having fun, they are having fun with the wrong thing, cause it costs

continued - see GEORGE on page



Photo: Hauwa Ndagi



The Future Of THE MUCKRAKER

BY ADAM NAGORSKI

When we founded THE MUCKRAKER last September, none of us editors knew the enormous task we sold our soul to. We did not foresee the sleepless nights, the near-death experiences while speeding to copy-shops, the death of our goldfish

(well, ok, maybe that's taking it too far...) All we knew was that we were starting a project we were proud of and were willing to skip that third period class for. Through thick and thin, we managed to keep this newspaper running throughout the year, thanks largely to the grand efforts of our staff: journalists, photographers, artists, and even an "internet coordinator." Over the summer, the three of us will be leaving Germany (in fact, Mikolaj already has) but THE MUCKRAKER is here to stay.

We are proud to announce our successors, the MUCKRAKER editors of 1998-1999: Claudia Guske, Franz Wild, and Corina Gehrmann. The decision we made was not an easy one, as there are so many qualified individuals within and outside of our

staff. But we are confident that the choices we made are good ones. Claudia and Corina often worked together this year and, as journalists, consistently produced top-rate articles and even turned them in by the deadlines. They are both very experienced, talented, and

sometimes rather witty writers, with a devotion to reporting that is essential to the positions they will fill. Franz Wild you probably already



Claudia, Franz and Corina

Photo: Adam Nagorski

know, as he not only had his photo on the cover of THE MUCKRAKER three times but also (and this is a lesser detail) was president of the Student Council this year. His leadership capabilities in Student Council and MUN, combined with his writing skills and friendly disposition will make him a fine editor.

You will have a terrific newspaper to look forward to next year and hopefully for many more years to come!

AAARRKK times two!

BY VERITY OBERG

As of next year the 9th and 10th graders will not be allowed off school campus. So, what will they do? Stay ON campus? Probably not, but, hey, let's just pretend they will. So, if they are going to be on school grounds what will JFKs lunch period look like? Less donor wrappers, more singing, squealing and yelling in the halls, and most likely, depressed 10th graders robbed of the 'freedom' they once knew. There will be tons of pleads to the administration: "PLEASE let us go off! We'll be good! We'll clean the school floors, clean out our lockers, organize teacher bingo evenings, we will stop singing in the halls and stop terrorizing the older grades with our singing." Or they might plead for more activities in lunch. MORE? Yeah, what else is there? What do they want? There is already choir, basketball, and band. Future 9th and 10th graders, what kind of activities do you want? What about some HOW-TO

courses? I'm sure some people would welcome "How to mop the floor in front of the Coke machine" or maybe "How to keep our mouth shut and stop acting like we're all that" or a milder version of that, "How to respect your elders". But do you, the future 9th and 10th graders, want these? NO?! Who would've thought? Well, to be serious...if there were more activities...would you use them? As I see it, you will keep doing what the now 7th and 8th graders have been doing this year: sitting around, singing, messing up our Coke machine (not that others don't do it either) or sneaking off school grounds anyhow.

Administration beware! There will be a lot of 'compromising' and 'pleads' over to 'demands' to let them go!! 'Don't keep us locked up! We've been waiting two years for this and now another two!!' AAARRKK!! We will take revenge!! We'll be back! Hasta la Vista, babies."

EDITORIAL - continued from front page privileges! In ninth and tenth grade, you experimented to decide what you're good at - be it singing, acting, sports, writing, or debate - and often determined the future focus of your studies. Otherwise, you were tamer than you were in seventh and eighth grade and usually didn't stand out among the other grades. Then came eleventh grade, the year that is somehow the universal rebellious-grade. If you had your bad-girl and bad-boy phase, it probably came then. In twelfth grade, though, most (though not all) sobered up and moved on to more placid behavior. If you were in the diploma program, you had to calm-down so that you could handle the college applications, packed schedule, and AP exams - until finally the great liberation, graduation, came. If in the Abitur program, you most likely cooled-off, anyway, and spent the year working hard for school. Regardless of the program, twelfth grade was a time to really start acting on your own instead of in

cliques. Finally, for those who chose that path, thirteenth grade came. The most terrible thing about it was that thirteenth grade was a virtual continuation of twelfth grade, with the same courses and even the same teachers. After immense stress, you wrote your Abi in January, convinced that you were done. Somehow, though, the teachers kept you working, just like they did to the diploma seniors in the previous year! Eventually, though, you left school (except for a few days to do oral Abis, which, let's face it, nobody really takes seriously) and could commence your adult life.

High school was fun at times, a real pain at others, an experience that taught and shaped us much. Leaving school, we feel (like most) that we're very ready to move on and to go somewhere new. JFK will always remain a part of us, though, and we look forward to the reunions to come. We have yet to see the results of the next "big step."

- The Editors

The Trials and Tribulations of Being an Exchange Student in Berlin

BY ABIR DAAS

During the first week of February, there was a stir in the eleventh grade. Everyone was eager to meet the exchange students from New York, involved in the Ronald S. Lauder Student Exchange Program. The program is funded by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation (duh!). Ronald Lauder is the son of the perfume magnate, Estee Lauder. The exchange program started in 1987, the first exchange was between New York and Vienna, now they take place between New York and six other cities in Central and Eastern Europe: Berlin, Budapest, St. Petersburg, Prague, Vienna, and Warsaw. The original purpose was to break the stereotypes and barriers that existed between the Eastern Bloc and the Western countries. After the wall came down in 1989, this was no longer an issue, and the focus shifted to the exchange of ideas and cultures. Four and a half months of living in another country gives each student an opportunity to experience the life and culture of another continent. You can read about America or Europe but nothing can op actually living there. It also allows participants to compare and contrast their own culture with that of their exchange student.

Living in another country for four and half months with another family is part of this unique experience. You must be patient, responsible and

tactful while adjusting to your host family. The European participants have a huge advantage over the Americans because they are fluent in English. The majority of the Americans have not had more than two weeks of formal education in their exchange student's language, which makes the transition even more difficult - not knowing the language is almost the same as being deaf and dumb! Therefore, in the beginning the Americans are totally dependent on their exchange students. On the whole, however, we became more independent during the stay. The host families on both sides were caring and provide a loving home environment, although the relationship between host parent and student was more friendly than parental. There is an immense amount of freedom, but students must be responsible as well as enjoy themselves during their stay.

As we end our time here in Berlin, we all felt that it was an fascinating experience and will remain a chapter in our lives that we will never forget. Thank you to all those people at JFKs who made us feel comfortable and made this a memorable, unique, and most importantly, educational experience for us. We hope that you were able to learn as much from us as we did from you.

Teachers Coming And Going

BY AUBREY CHARETTE AND FRANZ WILD

We know that reading about teachers is just about the last thing you want to be doing at the end of the year, but we're here to inform you about the ones who are leaving, so we hope you can forgive us.

Four teachers are leaving us for good - but never fear, they are being replaced (yay!) with teachers whom I'm sure will be just as kind and good-hearted. First, but not least, Mr. Fox of the English department is shopping back to the U.S. to set up a program for educational administration at the University of North Texas. His two-year contract at the JFK school has expired, and he's ready to make the jump into a different profession. He thoroughly enjoyed his experience here, and describes JFK as a school with a cutting edge and a genuinely bi-cultural atmosphere. He will be replaced by a Ms. Peggy Elliott.

This January, Mr. Sterling was minding his own business, merely planning on participating in a U.S./Germany exchange program for a year, when a vacancy at the Odenwald Schule near Heidelberg grabbed his attention. He applied for the position of headmaster, was chosen, and was then faced with making the decision between staying at this exquisite school, where he's been for 11 years, or jetting off to Baden-Württemberg. He too decided to move on in his career,

will be spending the first part of the school year in the States in order to study high school administration, and will take his place in the Odenwald school in January of 1999. He is particularly excited by the prospect because of the school's unusual nature. It's a boarding school at which 35% of the students were previously homeless and receive government subsidies to attend the school, where they can obtain any of an array of different diplomas ranging from the Abitur to one in vocational training. He's sad to be leaving, as he's built up such a strong relationship with the students over the years (as Peer Helping

coordinator and Vertrauenslehrer), but he hopes that everyone will continue to put "positive energy" into the JFK school. Mr. David Felt will be taking his place.

After 25 years of being the First Lady of Finance at JFK, Fr. Goedicke is retiring. In order to be eligible for a pension and medical insurance in the U.S., a minimum of 10 years of employment is required within the country. She only worked for eight before she moved abroad, and as she will eventually return permanently, she plans to complete her last two years of work in the States, although she doesn't know where and when exactly, except that it'll be somewhere warm and dry within the next five years. She'll truly miss it here, had a lot of fun, and really enjoyed the students at JFK. Her position will be filled by a Mr. William Thien.

Two other teachers will be gone for next year, but for different reasons. Fr. Stahl will be on a leave of absence due to pregnancy, and Mr. Wierchert is taking a year of Sabbatical leave. Through the Russian language class he's been taking for the last five years, he arranged to spend three months teaching Math and Physics, in English or German, at a school in the former Soviet state of Kazakhstan, to students who will hopefully go on to study Math or Physics in the United States. After that, he's planning a trip around the world - what a lucky guy. He's starting in South Africa, making his way through New Zealand and Australia, two countries he's always dreamed of visiting, and finishing off in the United States. Hopefully he'll still want to return to JFK after his little excursion, because no one is replacing him, and we need him back.

So that's it, we realize that maybe some teachers are leaving whom you'd like to see stay (and vice versa, most certainly).



Mr. Sterling is one of several teachers leaving this year.

Photo: Hanna Ndagi

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

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The School Year in Review

THE MUCKRAKER Reports '97-'98

BY THE EDITORS

Issue 1 (September 18): Our first issue was a special edition covering the SC Presidential election. We covered the candidates' personalities and campaigns. Ben Morris promised quarterly High School assemblies, a Buzz Book that came out on time, a permanent School Store, a yearbook, bigger lockers, and "Verkürzte Stunden". James Grant pointed to the inefficiency of the SC, due to a lack of organization and offered plans to improve it. He promised a seminar day, better fundraising, an early Buzz Book, a coffee machine, a One-World project, and better communication with other German schools. He also criticized the Hollywood-like quality of Franz and Ben's campaigns. In his speech, Franz Wild countered that this school needs spirit and promised the following: a "fun" spirit week, a talent show, a seminar day, an affordable yearbook, donor deliveries to the student store, and bigger lockers for all students. Our first issue also featured coverage of the "unofficial candidates," Sebastian Seale and Bobby Nachama. The first point on their agenda was a new method of fund-raising, which was projected to increase the SC's funds by fifty percent.

They also proposed a complete overhaul of the SC's structure, and promised to resign if their promises hadn't been met by February 1, 1998. In the first issue, we also covered the controversy surrounding the Smoker's Corner, and introduced "Hero of the Week".

Issue 2 (October 1): Issue 2 was our most controversial issue, as it dealt with drugs at JFKS. Based on questionnaires that the students themselves completed, we found marijuana, ecstasy, LSD, and Magic Mushrooms to be the most commonly consumed drugs and gave a short description of each. Also in this issue, the "Teacher Feature" and "Dear Darrell" used their first appearances. By this time our staff had grown from the original four to fifteen journalists, photographers and artists.

Issue 3 (October 29): The MUCKRAKER provided extensive coverage of exactly how the rain spoiled "Fun Day". We also solved the "Diner Dilemma" by testing donors from five local donor shops. The result was that when it came to overall quality, Zehlendorfer Grill was well worth the extra two minute walk from Efe's (The Zehlendorfer donors are also half centimeter thicker than Efe's). As a follow-up, we also provided advice on the best way to cure donor breath. The new Independent Student Actions group (ISA) criticized JFKers for not taking part in demonstrations against budget cuts.

Issue 4 (November 12) was our first two-page edition, hence the name "Sunday Edition". The headline story reminded students of the promises of the SC Presidents - elect, Franz Wild, and Ben Morris. Drama was booming at JFK, and Halloween lifted

urging students to protest, the other blaming the German social system for the crisis, the latter being extremely controversial.

Issue 7 (January 15): A Taste of America appeared on the streets of Zehlendorf, as well as in an article and an advertisement in THE MUCKRAKER. The two discussions at JFKS at the time were the "Homeroom Debate," with the seventh and eighth graders adamantly opposing the homeroom program, and an open debate on the future of the Smokers' Corner, which not one smoker attended.

Issue 8 (February 11): The school halls were buzzing with news of the arrests of three JFK students for circulating counterfeit money, which the entire Berlin Press turned into a scandal. The E.D. turned into the "Evil Dictatorship" in the eyes of the students, as it decided not to allow ninth and tenth graders off campus during free periods. Students organized to counter these drastic measures which they felt were a public relations response to the "Funny Money" incident. MUNers left to the Hague to represent the Russian Federation, and fifty large, new lockers graced the school halls.

Issue 9 (March 18): The Senior Talent Show, Potpourri Concert, and the Barbershop show, "A Time of Your Life" provide constant entertainment for the school throughout March. Despite objections from all student, parent and teacher organizations at our school, the E.D. refused to revoke its decision concerning the ninth and tenth graders, but did agree to postpone it until next year. A MUCKRAKER survey showed that over half the students at JFKS and even some teachers felt that the drug "problem" was nothing to worry about. In an interview Herr Schürmann denied any connection between the negative attention the school had been getting and the drug policies being implemented.

Issue 10 (April 1): To the shock and horror of the entire JFK community, THE MUCKRAKER reported that the E.D. would have barred were installed around the campus during the summer vacation, to facilitate the enforcement of its previous decision and to improve school security. To the relief of many, the article was a hoax, as the newspaper was printed on April Fool's Day. In authentic news, the Boys in Blue won the Berlin Basketball championships and advanced to the German nationals.

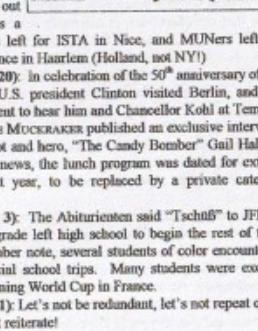
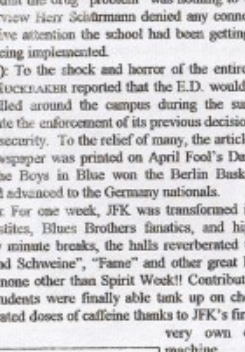
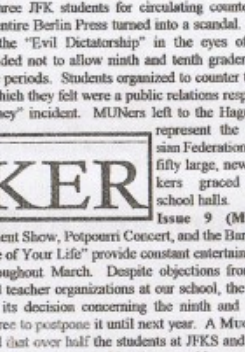
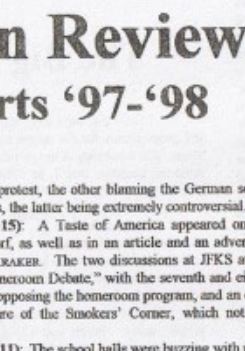
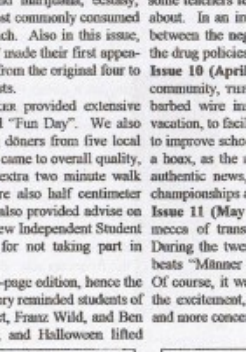
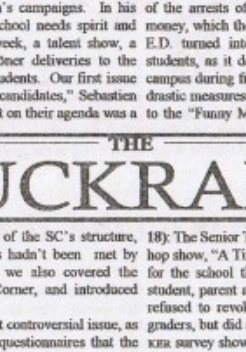
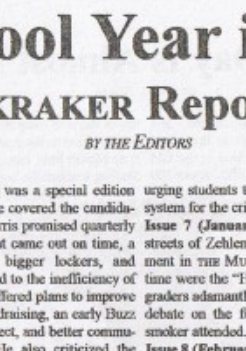
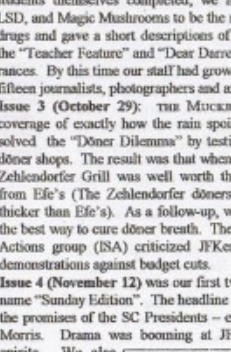
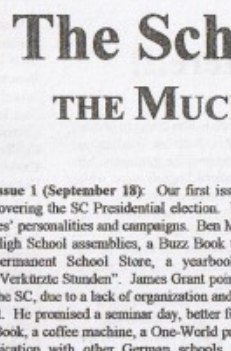
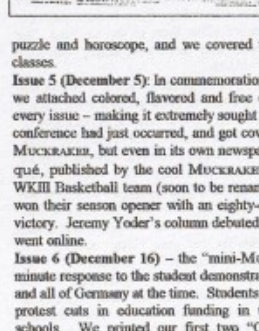
Issue 11 (May 8): For one week, JFK was transformed into a mecca of transvestites, Blues Brothers fanatics, and hippies. During the twenty minute breaks, the halls reverberated to the beats "Männer sind Schweine", "Fame" and other great hits... Of course, it was none other than Spirit Week!! Contributing to the excitement, students were finally able to tank up on cheaper, and more concentrated doses of caffeine thanks to JFK's first and

very own coffee machine. Some students missed out on the fun, as a group of actors left for ISTA in Nice, and MUNers left for another conference in Haarlem (Holland, not NY!)

Issue 12 (May 20): In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, U.S. president Clinton visited Berlin, and the entire school went to hear him and Chancellor Kohl at Tempelhof Airport. THE MUCKRAKER published an exclusive interview with Airlift pilot and hero, "The Candy Bomber" Gail Halvorsen. In school news, the lunch program was dated for extinction as of next year, to be replaced by a private catering company.

Issue 13 (June 3): The Abiturienten said "Tschüss" to JFK as the thirteenth grade left high school to begin the rest of their lives. On a somber note, several students of color encountered racism on official school trips. Many students were excited about the upcoming World Cup in France.

Issue 14 (July 1): Let's not be redundant, let's not repeat ourselves, let's not reiterate!



Abi Seniors: READY, STEADY.....

BY CORINA GEHRMANN

No, not GO - stay in school for another year! An unpleasant and ridiculous thought a couple days before graduation? Not for 1/4 of the graduates who will receive the award for twelve years of studying, their diplomas, on July 7. Their having to stay for an additional year, of course, does not result from an acute lack of intelligence of the Class of '98 or from Senioritis, the terrifying disease that attacks countless 12th graders all over the world. Not instead, it's called being an Abi student at JFKS, where students have the unique opportunity to obtain two degrees in one school. But while American standards only require a dozen years of your life for a diploma, the mean government of Berlin just won't hand out the precious Abitur degree if you didn't sweat in classrooms for at least 4745 (in words: four thousand seven hundred and forty five) seemingly endless days. So, it's no surprise that many Abi seniors sadly sigh when the diploma people talk about the great plans they made for the long-awaited life after high school.

But, as most things in life, this injustice has its positive side as well. If the author of this article was a cheerleader, she'd say "one more year, give a cheer" to make you realize that staying in school an extra year isn't as terrible as it seems at first sight. First of all, our parents' old, chewed-out saying that "school is the best time of your life" might strike some people as being true when some of their friends are gone after the summer. Plus, we'll have another year of partying and without the responsibilities that the real world is preparing for. So hang in there, "give me an A, give me a B, give me an I" and remember Brian's motto to "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life."

SENIORS - continued from page 1
travel around Europe, with no money, no friends, no clothes, just me, myself and I. I'm going out to find myself," says Mette Roll, laughing. Jeremy Yoder knows not only what he'll be doing in two weeks, but also where he'll be in ten years: "I will be some half-starved writer, sitting in some flat in the west-end of New York over a typewriter, living off potatoes." Overall, though, most graduating seniors are optimistic about their futures and all are ready to celebrate their accomplishment. As Paul Gleason exclaimed, "party on, boys and girls!"



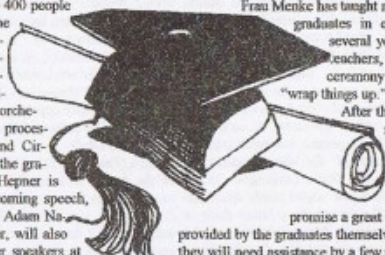
Senioritis steals seniors' souls.

The Big Day Is Almost Here!!!

BY HAUWA NDIAGI

Only six more days until graduation - and the preparations for the ceremony are in their final stage. The ceremony is set to take place in the Old Aula on Tuesday, July 7, at 19:00. With about 100 seniors graduating, up to 400 people are expected to fill up the Aula. The chamber orchestra will open the occasion with some pre-ceremonial music. Following that, the entire orchestra will play the usual processional music: "Pomp and Circumstance No. 1." After the graduates are seated, Dr. Hepper is expected to give a welcoming speech, after which two seniors, Adam Nagorski and Jeremy Yoder, will also give speeches. The other speakers at the ceremony are: Herr Schleder, deputy mayor of Zehlendorf, Mr. Sterling, a high school teacher who will be leaving at the end of the year, and Frau Menke, an elementary teacher who is retiring at the

end of the year. Herr Schleder is also going to present the diplomas to the graduates. Both Mr. Sterling and Frau Menke have taught many of the graduates. Mr. Sterling teaches the high school English class, while Frau Menke has taught many of the Abitur graduates in elementary school several years ago. For both teachers, speaking at the ceremony is a nice way to "wrap things up."



After the ceremony, a reception will take place in the blue building. The organizers of the reception promise a great variety of foods, provided by the graduates themselves! However, they will need assistance by a few non-seniors with arranging the buffet table before the ceremony. The graduates would deeply appreciate your help and any volunteer should see Hauwa Ndiagi, Laura Koenig, or Mrs. Ney in the guidance office.

Herr Schürmann Reflects on the Year

BY CLAUDIA GUSKE AND CORINA GEHRMANN

Q: Are you satisfied with the work you've done during your first year as a principal at our school?
A: It's more a question of whether the people who wanted me to be the principal at this school are satisfied with what I did during the first year, whether I really did have enough time to talk about all the different issues which came up during the school year. I wish I had more time, you know, the days should be longer to cover all and everything. The rest so much going in this school every day and it's sometimes hard just to be informed of what is going on. Overall, yes, I'd say I try to work as hard as I can to achieve as much as possible.

Q: And looking back on the past year, which events appear most significant to you?
A: Well, actually, it's maybe a discussion behind the scenes. As Berlin is more and more turning into Germany's capital, there obviously is a lot of pressure on the city government. Whether the city of Berlin offers a sufficient number of schools for international families, for transit families, also for German diplomats, while they stay in Berlin and then have to leave to some foreign country again. And of course, many look at the Kennedy School and expect the Kennedy School to be more of a help in terms of that future role of Berlin. And I think that this discussion is extremely important because it might change the Kennedy School quite a bit. And to keep the character of the school alive, the biculturalism, the bilingualism, to keep it a German-American School and not just any school for diplomats. That really is a serious issue. And maybe also all of the school will get more of a feeling for this going on during the next school year because the date when the government really will come to Berlin is coming closer and closer and the pressure will be increased.

Q: So, this is one of the things that are changing right now, and which other things do you think have changed positively or negatively at our school?

A: Again, I feel that this is something the students or the colleagues, the staff or the parents will have to answer, whether they feel that there is enough openness and that they really think that they can come in anytime to talk things over with the principal. And they will say, if things have changed, to the better or

worse. I try to keep an open door, I try to explain whatever is necessary to students, to parents. But definitely there are fewer decisions that are that much liked, for example the issue of the closed campus. It has been quite about the issue, but no doubt, when we come back next school year, there is no such privilege for grades 9 and 10 and we will be asked to enforce the closed campus issue.



A contented principal

Photo: Hauwa Ndiagi

Q: With the negative press coverage JFK got a few months ago, do you think the school has lost some of its reputation?

A: No, not at all. I think that the press put so much emphasis on what was going on in January has a lot to do with the fact that, of course, the John-F-Kennedy School is an outstanding institution. And that, of course, attracts the press more than anything else. Again, we tried to talk a lot with the press, also to give positive signals to the press of what was going on at the Kennedy School whenever we had a chance. I don't think that we had as much press coverage during the past years, positive or negative. But in the overall picture I see what has been written about the Kennedy School as positive.

Q: Now a more recent issue is there something special about this year's senior and Abi classes and what do you think it is?

A: No, I really don't think so. Every class is somewhat special. They have achieved certain things for themselves, they will say: "this is what meant a lot to us." But I think they were just as devoted to the school as others were. We had our Abi ceremony on June 23. It was a very harmonious one, so I had the feeling that they were happy with the school and thought: yes, being at the Kennedy School was worthwhile. We had a positive feeling, yet I couldn't say that it differs from last year or the year before. This year's class left the school with pretty much the same feelings. Yeah, there's really nothing special, I care about all students. The only thing that made me sad was that we've never had so many students that didn't make the Abi. There were six out of 69 this year.

Q: Can you tell us about any new teachers coming to JFK next year?

A: We won't have that many new teachers from the American side this year. Last year we really had a large group, elementary and high school together 17 people I think. This year it's a real small group, only three or four for the high school. We expect a few new teachers on the German side as well. Someone in the field of arts will be coming to our school. So far I know of two German teachers in the fields of math and physics. Looking at the teaching hours we need we are still not fully staffed, I hope that additional people will come. We need someone with a few history hours, with a few French hours, German hours. So, altogether we are understaffed according to what we are entitled to have.

Q: To finish it up a question concerning ourselves: what do you think about The Muckraker?

A: After all these years without a student newspaper I think it's a wonderful initiative by the students to publish a newspaper regularly. I was a bit hesitant when I saw the first issues because I felt: "Well, maybe there is an initiative and they will come up with a newspaper once, maybe twice..." I think it's wonderful that you've covered us the whole school year and I hope that the initiative won't die at the end of this school year and that The Muckraker will still be around next year.

A: We'll try our best. Thank you for the interview.

Colleges That Accepted Graduates of '98

Schools that graduates will attend are bolded. All schools are in U.S. unless marked otherwise. Top 25 U.S. colleges or universities are marked with an R and their rank (colleges and universities are ranked separately and some ranks are given to more than one school). Ranks from US News & World Reports.

Alberta College of Art & Design (Canada)
Amherst College⁴²
Biola University
Brown University¹⁹
Brunel University (UK)
Bryn Mawr College²⁸
University of California, Los Angeles
California Polytechnic
Carleton College⁴⁷
University of Central Florida
Claremont McKenna College⁴⁸
Colorado School of Mines
Earlham College
Eastern Mennonite University
Emmanuel University
Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design (Canada)
European University Barcelona (Spain)
University of Florida
Goshen College
Guilford College
Grinnell College
Harvey Mudd College
University of Houston
Howard University
Kenyon College
King's College (UK)
Lyon College
Macalester College⁴²⁵
Minneapolis College of Art & Design
University of Minnesota
Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College
(Denmark)
Northcentral University
Northwestern University (Illinois)⁴⁹
Northwestern University (Minnesota)
Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (Canada)
Oberlin College⁴²²
Oral Roberts University
Parsons School of Design (France)
Pomona College⁴³
University of Pennsylvania⁴⁷
Princeton University⁴⁷
San Diego State University
Queen's University (Canada)
Rhodes College
University of Toronto (Canada)
Tufts University⁴²⁴
Vassar College⁴¹⁷
University of Western Ontario (Canada)

Airplanes and Ice-Cream

CONTRIBUTED BY ALEX NAGORSKI (4TH GRADER)

Once upon a time, the whole JFK School from 4th grade up was invited to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift. Class 4b didn't have so much fun, though. Other students took the seats reserved for 4b, and adults that were standing didn't allow them to see anything. The only things we saw were some adults' and high schoolers' behinds.

So we decided to write a persuasive letter to Helmut Kohl. After about a week a letter from Bonn arrived. It was from the Bundeskanzler. And here is what it said: "Ich werde aber dafür sorgen, daß Ihr zu einer anderen Veranstaltung zur Feier der Lufthilfe eingeladen werdet, damit Euer Lernen und Euer Engagement nicht umsonst waren. Am 27. Juni wird das Alliierte Museum wiedereröffnet. Wenn Ihr daran teilnehmen wollt, werdet Ihr dort gute Plätze erhalten und anschließend zu einem Eis eingeladen." Even though it started to rain half way through, we still knew that we had more fun than anybody at Tempelhof. Not only did we meet Gail Halverson and other American pilots, but also the mayor of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen.

Thank you, Mr. Bundeskanzler Kohl, for listening to us!

OPINIONS

I Don't Want to be Embarrassed About Being German

BY ANONAROUS

Let's imagine what will happen if Germany wins the World Cup. There will be rejoicing, celebrations, perhaps pride, but most of the euphoria will be submerged under an all too familiar black cloud: that of German national shame.

Three German fans put a French police officer in critical condition and in doing so, made Germans feel humiliated. Naturally, the act was tragic and stupid and a lesson that football hooligans should be kept under better control. But this incident was not uniquely German. Why then, is it being treated that way? Why must an entire nation, as well as the German national team, take the responsibility for an act committed by three idiot fans? Why does the German Soccer Association (DFB) feel an obligation to threaten sending the German team home? The occurrence at Lens has escalated out of proportion while others, such as the ticket scandal and the riots between the English and Tunisian fans, seem to have faded into insignificance.

French policemen are stopping, questioning and frisking people wearing German colors, even fans sitting quietly in a café. Similar treatment did not occur after the Tunisian-English riots. But all this is harmless when compared to what is going on in Germany. The whole world watches as Germany propels itself into uncontrollable guilt: People are donating money to the injured policeman's family. The Bild Zeitung has started a fund-raising project for the family, official apologies are being given and, according to an RTL poll, 62.1% of Germans believe the German national team should donate its bonus from the Cup to the policeman's family. Not to be mistaken, it is all very noble behavior, but what are the motivations behind it? In England a few weeks ago, there was no such reaction to their national's brutality.

The answer is really quite simple: fear. Germany is a country afraid to show any sign of patriotism, lest the rest of the world think that it is once again German national-socialism rearing its ugly head. It is a country always ready to apologize and humble itself. It is a country of shame and it takes that very seriously because, as one French citizen put it: "What else can you expect from a country with its history?"

Being German born and bred, I have become aware of what being German entails from an early age. It means not being allowed the patriotism that people in other countries enjoy. It means having to endure the unspeakable rudeness of some people who use my introduction of myself as a German as an opportunity to launch into a tirade of how much they dislike Germans. It means having to put up with the ignorance of some people and having to constantly defend myself for holding my citizenship. It means having to bear a burden of shame and guilt that I don't deserve. My generation and that of my parents are not responsible for the Holocaust. Seeing it in print like this makes it seem obvious, but perhaps it's not apparent enough. Even at JFK I was taught to feel personally responsible for this horrific crime; though we need to be taught about World War II and our country's appalling offenses, we should not be told to feel ashamed of who we are now. I am tired of constant attacks because of my nationality. I am tired of walking through the streets of Paris and having "Heil Hitler!" called after me. I am tired of taking responsibility for the terrible actions my country took half a century ago. I would like to be proud of my country's rich historical and cultural heritage. And if we do win the World Cup, I would like to be proud of that.

Student Council: A Look Back

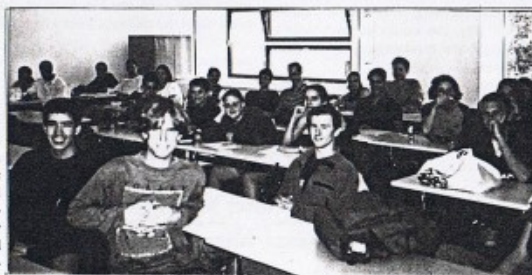
BY SC PRESIDENT FRANZ WILD

This year's presidential candidates presented the usual host of farfetched promises while campaigning for one year in office as the hardest working student at school. When Benjamin Morris and I were elected we had squadrons of tasks facing us, ready to wrestle us to floor. Believe it or not, we did actually try to live up to your expectations.

The discussion within the Council were generally ordered and matters were brought

issued the buzz books in what could well have been record-breaking time, had school t-shirts printed, ruthlessly closed down the Student Lounge, bought a number of ping-pong bats for public use, subsidized the Abi and Senior classes, and probably loads more.

Spirit Week was regarded with mixed feelings among the students. Many were confused about what to wear on what day. Others just didn't like the dress



The Council's last meeting this year

Photo: Haawa Nadi

to conclusion. This made the establishment of a plan of action for the year relatively easy. However, most of this action was ultimately done by Martin Collier, Talba Reinhardt, Samantha Harner during Spirit Week, and the two presidents.

Fund-raising saw a fairly average year, with raffle and gram sales bringing in most of the cash and Spirit Week contributing its bit. Furthermore the Student Council accomplished the following: they organized 50 sizable and matching lockers, had a fantastic hot drinks machine installed,

codes. The airbuds livened the place up and brought a smile to just about everyone's face. The pep rally was quite a grand finale and a fitting climax to a week of thrills.

Overall the Student Council did learn a few things though. We now know that if you want a fair amount of fund-raisers, you need to get your hands on them right at the beginning. Are few procedural matters will also be passed on to the next year's crew. We hope we didn't mess up totally in your eyes and wish you a fantastic summer.

cing, singing, and acting. From fairy tales read by Ruth and Franz to rap songs performed by Berti, from harmonious melodies sung by the barbershop quartets to self-written songs played by Cord, Alex, Iain and Terah - the students from different grades showed it all. The enjoyable evening left everybody satisfied.

"Beginning Stages" was sponsored by the Senior Class to finance upcoming highlights such as prom, graduation, and the Senior yearbook.

Beginning Stages

BY CLAUDIA GUSKE

After the immense success of the Senior Talent Show a couple of months ago, the Senior Class '98 lifted the curtain again on June 12th. This year's "Beginning Stages" performances drew a large crowd to the small Aula. Guided through the program by Steffi Neth and Ruth Grant, the audience enjoyed a night of entertaining and impressive dan-

Colored People of Color

BY ALEX McWILLIAM

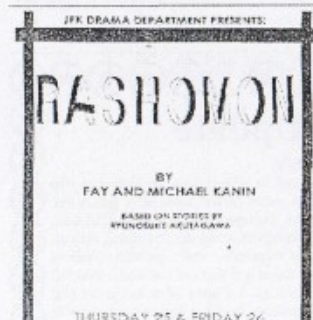
In response to our last issue's article "Students Face Racism", some people expressed their disliking towards the word "colored" in terms of describing the looks of people and their origin. "People of color" is what they desired to be used.

I find the scenario rather ironic and yet to a certain extent, plain sad. Picture the moral spectrum concerning racism: on the one hand we have the extremists, the bad boys, the nazis, call them what you like, on the other hand we have the good, moral, tolerant, citizens who believe we are all the same and should be nice to everyone, especially to those who don't look like us. Between these two extremes lie the people who are the actual subject: the blacks, the African-Americans, the colored, the brown, the negroes, call them what you like, they all mean the same thing.

We find throughout history, that one extreme is followed by the other, and eventually we find a stable center. Faithful one-time monogamous relationships were confronted by the hippie generation, homosexuality - once strictly taboo, is now openly joked about in the public and in the media without offence, the list goes on and on - endless examples of how humanity learns to accept and live with whatever circumstances it is faced with. It comes down to one point: racism is one of the very few topics in our society that remains a taboo and will remain as such as long as little worries like the definition or pronunciation of the term for foreign people exist.

Some say blacks are "less than human", others try to preach we're all the same. Both are wrong. We are all different - in culture, in faith, in character, in skin color. Until we see that, accept it, proudly proclaim it and are thankful for the existing diversity of humans on this planet, racism will remain.

I can not speak for the other races of this planet, I haven't and can not make the experiences they may have made in their life concerning racism, but I want to be able to say to my friends: "Hey, see that black guy over there" just as I would refer to "the blond girl" or the "green-haired punk with blue eyes" without having to check my dictionary for the latest "approved" vocabulary word to define these individuals in correct terms. When I see people (most of "people of pink") utter their distress because someone said "colored" instead of "person of color" I honestly ask myself: "Who cares?"



"RASHOMON:" A NEW WAVE OF SERIOUS DRAMA?

BY JEREMY YODER

Last Thursday and Friday the New Aula's stage was transformed into ancient Japan through the Custer production of "Rashomon." Based on stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa by Fay and Michael Kanin during the 1950s, "Rashomon" portrays an investigation of a rape and murder through the eyes of four different characters. What is truth and what is a lie? "Rashomon" raises questions, but questions left best unanswered by the script. "Rashomon" unfortunately cheats this question by asserting human goodness in the final scene, providing an escape from greater questioning by the audience. These faults lay, however, within the script and not in the cast's performance.

"Rashomon's" cast was in many ways "old

GEORGE - continued from front page

money. And it's no joke when you start looking at how much damage we have around here. Just look at that spot right there [points to a Harney drawn on the Library table].

Q: What is your opinion of the seventh and eighth graders? Do you feel they are responsible for Graffiti?

A: A lot of them are in the seventh and eighth grade. There are some upper classmen, but they are not as bad as seventh and eighth grade.

Q: So the seventh and eighth graders are predominating the bathroom, so where are the upper classmen?

A: They have their games upstairs, they've got their words, but not as much as the little kids.

Q: How many tattoos do you have?

A: Three. One says U.S. NAVY, another is a Spider, and the last is a free bird. The first two came in 1969, and the last, I think, came in 80-81.

Q: How long were you in the military?

A: Seven years, from 1968 to 1975.

Q: Were you in Vietnam?

A: No, but I was on call-by, in case they needed other soldiers to go over.

Q: What was your experience in the military?

A: I'm qualified for three areas in ships, the Boiler room, the Engine room, and Auxiliary machinery on Destroyers.

Q: Looking back, would you recommend enlisting to someone?

A: If they have no other choice for getting trained, yeah, but NOT in the Bundeswehr!

Q: What about the Bundeswehr?

A: You've got to stay there too long. Plus, I don't think the training is as good as it is in America. The training is better in America, and there are better opportunities in America. There are some good kids at the military academy, but there are some good kids here too.

Q: What are some of your best memories here?

A: Watching everybody leave.

Q: And your worst?

A: The damage that goes on in the school.

Q: What do you feel about the school?

A: We got a well accredited school. Everybody's got a chance to learn, and better conditions than you have in other schools, where violence is also another type of vandalism. Here we don't have the violence. Apart from those other special problems: drugs, funny money, and whatever else you read in the newspaper.

Q: Also, I wanted to ask you about the infamous "Jippie Junior" incident?

A: Well, I am an old hippie! If I like long hair, I'm going to have it! I've had it from the 50's to the 90's, and almost to the year 2000!

Q: Could you tell us what exactly happened with that SATI reporter team?

A: The man didn't quite want to listen to me. When I asked him to move off school grounds. And when he challenged me again, I asked him if he had a permission paper to be on school grounds. When he opened his mouth and called me a foreigner, I figured I would just show him how foreign I am! I wasn't very nice with my words, but it was effective.

Q: How long have you worked at JFK?

A: I've worked here for six years. I came originally from the Sozialamt, where I had to work four hours a day. I'm in my last few months of my Vertrag with the Bezirkschulamt, and then, after that, we got to wait. It could be I don't get a new one... nobody knows. It's the same game like last year.

Of Sights, Scandals, And Showers

BY ANDREA KAPELKE

On the morning of May 26, the bus ramp in front of our school once again became the place of departure for the eleventh grade class trips. Four different trips packed with fun and excitement were up ahead, although the anticipation couldn't quite be felt at such an early hour in such dreary weather. Nevertheless, the buses were boarded punctually, and it was by-ye JFKS for ten entire days.

In general, all of the trips were a great success, but when asked for their opinions, the 11th graders gave completely different statements, even if they were on the same trip. For most, it seemed to be difficult to cope with the stress of constantly moving into and out of new youth hostels (i.e. the England trip had a new domicile almost every day.) They would have been more content with staying in the big cities like Paris and London for a longer time to be able to see all there was to see. This is the point at which others say that it was more important to get the overall impression of the country which obviously could only be obtained by driving around a lot. For the most part, the accompanying teachers had a rigorous sightseeing program planned out, although people were mostly able to move around as they liked upon reaching the destinations. Again, some would have preferred the entire group sticking together,

whereas others were quite content with this plan. As on every class trip, the food was quite an adventurous matter, not to mention some of the sanitary conditions in a few of the youth hostels (try taking freezing cold showers for three days in a row.) However, most students took these inconveniences lightly, since the impressive sights observed and new insights gained during those ten days more than made up for this.

Of course, there also had to be a little scandal to make matters more interesting. On the England trip, one student got arrested for smoking pot in front of the youth hostel. He was released shortly afterwards, but the incident, nevertheless, cast a shadow over this year's class trips.

In the end, everyone was happy and relieved to be back in one piece, as some of the bus drivers were not exactly what you'd call great drivers. One of them thought it was funny to let go of the steering wheel on the highway, another one sometimes tended to nod off. Luckily, everyone arrived back at JFKS safe and sound, tired, and for the most part happy. All in all, the class trips were a memorable experience no one would have wanted to miss. The 11th graders would hereby like to thank all of the teachers who made the trips possible.

MUN On Course for the Moon

BY FRANZ WILD

Talking about next year's BERMUN is like talking about the present. The MUN student officer team, led by Secretary-General Sebastian Seele has already started getting its act together. The pressure's on. The MUN office, governed by Dr. Peterson and Frau Hövermann is teeming with activity. Walk in and you'll be summoned to type something out, hunt down a lost file, or brew some strong coffee for the industrious team.

This November's conference comes 50 years after the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was decided to grab this opportunity. The customary special conference will be dealing with Human Rights and will be studying the progress that has been made in the area. The usual First Political Committee, Security Council, and Disarmament Commission will be there, too. The Human Rights Commission has been replaced by the Environmental Commission this year. Another extra will be the newly established Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The guests of honor who speak at the opening ceremony are always a matter of principal prestige. This year, the American ambassador, Mr. Kornblum,

will be giving the key-note speech on human rights. Berlin senator Frau Stahmer will also be addressing the delegates, as will the notorious Herr Schlede. The MUN team is especially proud that the governing Mayor of Berlin Eberhard Diepgen will be the conference's patron. In short, the conference is on course to be steaming success (yes, I am a part of the team and admit that this article is a tad biased).

Next year will also see the usual troop of MUN enthusiasts and world voyagers traveling to The Hague for the 31st THIMUN Conference in January. What also looks like a potentially regular MUN trip is the student-run Haarlem Conference in April. Hopefully a group of JFKers will be able to attend, as we not only thoroughly enjoyed the last one, but also left a lasting impression.

MUN is always on the look-out for new delegates. Anyone in grades nine and up can join. No matter how little you know about it, how shy you are, you're always welcome. If you start in tenth grade without a clue of what's going on, you might just find yourself in a commanding executive position two years later.

World Cup Update

BY TAYLOR ALDRIDGE

The World Cup has been for some a pleasure and for others a pain, depending on who and where you are. So far there have been some great games played, some other games that were quite disappointing. We have been able to see the Paraguayan Beast/Goalie Chilavert, Spain's Armada sinking to the bottom of the table, Norwegian's axing the Brazilians, tremendous Japanese Kamazie players, Germany's success, and America's... well... problems. With of half the teams eliminated, we are now able to see the drama and thrill of our teams (adopted teams for all you, whose country was eliminated @ win it all. For many of us this is our first memorable cup, and of course for others their first nightmare. Brazil or France are favored to win, but my secret sources have informed me that the final will be Argentina versus Deutschland. Here are Taylor's Tips for the next games:

NL:YG 3-0, DMX 3-1, RMC-R 3-2, Quarterfinals AG:EN2-0, IT:FR 1-2, BR:DN 2-1, NL:AG 0-1, D:RM 2-1

Keep in touch with your co-graduates, chat online,
find your friends in the alumni email directory...



JFKS SCHOOL
ALUMNIWEB

<http://members.aol.com/jfkschule/>

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Library

BY AMANDA DOSTER

All those computers...

+ A new CD ROM File Server ensures that News Bank, SIRS and the Card Catalogue are accessible on almost all of the Library's 12 computers.

+ News Bank: Find practically any article written since 1996; three full years of articles are available.

So go in there and see what they had to say about flea circus...

+ Internet: The Library prefers you to use News Bank and SIRS before turning to the Internet. Why? News Bank and SIRS alone cost \$3,000 per year, Internet is much more expensive because the school doesn't have a Standleitung. Therefore, the school pays each time someone logs on.

+ The Embassy has donated money to buy new computers for the Library. The five old computers that don't work with SIRS will be replaced, and we might even get some extra computers to bring the grand total of computers in the Library up to 15!

All those books...

+ There are around 60,000 books in the Library.

+ The Library was recently able to purchase \$8,000 and 3,000 DM worth of books. They also had a Book Sale, which earned 800 DM. They used that money to purchase the books that are displayed on the table when you come in.

+ Okay, so they're not books, but the Library keeps current newspapers (Herald Tribune, Tagespiegel...), roughly 50 periodicals, and tons and tons of microfiche and microfilm.

All those people...

+ Mrs. Stuart is in the Library every day at least from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., but usually longer. One of her main projects right now is cataloguing the books that the military donated.

+ The Sozialamt sends workers to the Library for four hours every day. Various unemployed people have been working in the Library for the past year. They put books back on shelves, and recently moved

all the old card catalogues into the basement (with help from students!). Everyone should go take a walk through the new, spacious Library!

+ JFK students and teachers aren't the only ones you'll run into in the Library. Parents of JFK students, as well as students from the Marie Curie school, the Arndt Gymnasium and the Droste Schule have been spotted reading 'our' books.

What the future holds...

+ The Library is actively searching for a way to let students bring in their own disks and print stuff out on the computers. This doesn't work right now because one itty-bitty little virus could wreck the whole computer network. However, with the new computers com-

ing in from the Embassy, this problem should be ironed out next year.

+ The Library really, really, really wants a Standleitung installed, to provide students with unlimited Internet access at a reasonable cost.

+ The Library isn't using the security cameras that were installed last year. If the powers that be approve, Mrs. Stuart is willing to let them go to a worthy cause. How about reopening the Student Lounge, this time with Big Brother watching us? Or putting them in the bathrooms to catch the wall scribbles? Two hitches: finding someone to install them in another place, and then finding someone willing to sit around and watch the monitors all day!

+ Mrs. Stuart vaguely hinted that her retirement could be approaching. What does it take to fill her shoes? Official requirements are teaching experience and a Masters Degree in Library Science. But there's no reason to start filling out applications; Mrs. Stuart won't retire until she has finished cataloguing the books from the military. Rumor has it that there are still 20,000 books to go, so the Library will be in good lands, at least for the next few years.

What to do with all this information...

+ The Library is a phenomenal resource... Go take advantage of it!
+ Summer checkouts have begun...

Teacher Feature: Mrs. Davis

BY ZEJINA WISMAYER

Mrs. Davis is a music and choir teacher at our school.

Q: How long have you been teaching at our school?
A: Two years.

Q: What did you do before that?

A: I taught music for nine years in the States. Then when my children were young, I worked as a freelance writer and reporter for various magazines and newspapers.

Q: Who were your parents?

A: When I was growing up, my father was Director of Radio Free Europe in Munich (where I went to high school), and later vice-president of Westinghouse Broadcasting in the States. Recently, he retired (at 83) from acting and producing his own plays.

Q: Did this profession influence your career choice?

A: Both my parents encouraged me in this profession. I used my mother's old piano books sometimes. My father was not an accomplished musician, but was (and is) a great lover of arts. In broadcasting he worked with performers all the time, and so it was a natural part of my upbringing.

Q: You teach music and, if I'm not mistaken, stage musicals. Which do you prefer and why?

A: I prefer any setting where I can really get to know the students. This happens in a musical, a voice

class, and a small choir. It doesn't happen in large general music classes that meet once a week, which really frustrates me.

Q: As your stepmother is a Hollywood actress and your father a play-wright, did you act in one of his plays, maybe as a child?

A: Yes, my stepmother has been working in Hollywood and on Broadway since she was four years old. But I didn't grow up with her. My father married her later. Still, my children and I have seen her perform many times in my father's plays. He only started writing those 15 years ago, so I was never in them.

Q: Are you going to stage any musicals in the near future. If yes, which ones?

A: Yes! Next year's musical will be "Fiddler On The Roof", that has the German title "Anatevka". We'll be working with a German script, but the songs will be in English. And, different from the previous years, all cast members will be chosen from choir, band and orchestra members. If you're not in one of those activities, you may not try out.



Photo: H. Ndagi

THE MUCKRAKER

Komey Korner!

From the Book of Jeremy:
From the Book of William Jennings Bryan

BY JEREMY YODER

In a few days, JFK seniors participate in that final ritual—Graduation, when graduates parade in funky acetate robes and wear a piece of cardboard with a toilet flush cord attached to it. But there's something a lot worse than badly dressed teenagers. Graduation isn't really about graduating, but giving speeches. During every ceremony, twisted prophets with enormous lungs bulging out of their neck seek to inspire. Who are these evil and vile people so horrendous that graduates look like little fluffy bunnies frolicking in the forest? They are Graduation Speech Speakers.

Under normal conditions, one might invite a Graduation Speech Speaker to tea. They are usually fairly quiet, uncomplainingly shuffling through their life's station. They are nice and wear unraveling brown sweaters. Nobody complains about them, since they sink into corners like hollow shadows. Their voices drawl like the responding half of an echo. These people are as comfortable and ordinary as curling iron. They don't bother anyone, but they're just there like a potted cactus or a wastebasket in "just there." Nobody minds Graduation Speech Speakers in everyday life.

But when the Graduation ritual rolls around, Graduation Speech Speakers transform into spewing, frothing monsters. They live for giving speeches, desiring all year from their recessed doorways the opportunity to mount the stage. And so these nice people suddenly transform themselves into a Jeremiah or a William Jennings Bryan. Their foreheads glisten with sweat, faces flush with self-righteousness, voice booms against walls, lungs wig-

gle their necks, thoughts and desires locked away the entire year erupt into inspiration. And they seek to inspire this audience weaving poetic language around wise quotations. It is an awesome, blood churning, but somehow pathetic sight.

"Parents! Teachers! Graduates!" Sweat breaks across his forehead as he stares directly into an overhead spotlight, drawing power from its blinding beam. "TONIGHT we stand here on THIS stage as we HONOR the graduates who DEPART from us TONIGHT!" He cocks his head slightly and faces the graduates. "TONIGHT you SAIL into the horizon and SPREAD your lacy WINGS and FLY into the ENDLESS sky!" He clears his throat and approaches a whisper. "O. M. Wiener once wrote that the only life worth living is the life that achieves greatness in its time. But with—his voice slams against the podium—"EDUCATION and aggressive AMBITION—we can ALL grasp the STARS in our sweaty HANDS....."

Next Tuesday when the Class of '98 crosses the threshold into the "real world," be sure that Graduation Speech Speakers will have their day. These speeches probably won't tell anybody anything new or profound, but show that mass vertical sleep is possible. But I beg everyone to please show consideration to those pitiful souls. They mean well and this is the only time they poke their heads out of their burrows and squint in the limelight. Applaud nicely and act grateful and maybe they'll retreat back to their dark corners during reception. Now that that's all settled, should I start my speech with a quotation or metaphor?

Forever here by popular demand:

THE MUCKRAKER'S OWN

Horoscope

BY MADAM ESTEL AND ASTRID DE "LUMER"



Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Happy Birthday Cancer! Our gift to you...the power to foretell the future. Zephron, the god of gambling, is dominating your stars this month, so go start placing your bets and remember, timidity will not be rewarded, so set your stature high! Our recommendation for where to start: Brazil's gonna win, Brazil's gonna win...



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): Your pitella tendon will be bothering your leg at random times during the day. In order to combat this affliction, you must show your tendon who's the boss - that's you, by the way. Wear a particularly constrictive pair of pants - tight leather, for example - or don a cast; speak sharply to it when it misbehaves, or even threaten it with a rolled up newspaper if it won't listen.



Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): The stars don't seem to be willing to tell us what's going on. After intense negotiations however, they did reveal that you won't be meeting Winnie-the-Pooh this month.

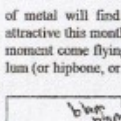


Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): We have received word that strict observation of the World Cup is essential, to your survival this month - the disobedience of this piece of advice will result in your favorite team's loss to the United

States (even though they're already out). Stay tuned!



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Because of planet Metallurgia's entrance into your orbital space, you'll be developing a variation of corporal magnetism. Stay clear



of metal will find you exceedingly attractive this month. Any may at any moment come flying at your cerebellum (or hipbone, or toenail...).



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): The Derna galaxy has begun to expand and is rapidly infringing on your orbital space, which may result in some skin phenomena this month. Expect our skin to tighten in weird places and perhaps occasionally rip arbitrarily, especially in places like that bump on your nose and/or your pectorals.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your designated comet will be meandering past our solar system next week (it's estimated to be visible for approximately five seconds, somewhere between midnight and 5 a.m. on either Tues-



Dear Darrell,

Dear Darrell,
I have a problem that I am too embarrassed to talk about. I love going to school. It's my life. The sound of the bells signaling the begin of classes fills my heart with joy. However, summer vacation is drawing near and I feel my heart filling with dread. I don't know how I will survive without being in school. It is my identity, my reason for being. I don't want vacation! What should I do? -Addicted to school..

Dear Addicted,

Get over it. Get a life. Or go to summer school.

Dear Darrell,

My family is going on a "family bonding trip" this summer. They're going to Italy, which would be nice, except that I'm 12 and feel that I'm a little bit too old for these things. As a 7th grader, I should be allowed to stay at home by myself. Friends of mine (they're all 18 and really responsible) are going backpacking across Russia. I want to go with them. How can I convince my parents that I should be allowed to do what I want? I'm really mature enough to handle it! -An Adult Caught in a Kid's Body

Dear Adult,

Maturity comes with time, when you're older you will appreciate your parents' concern and agree that it is best that you go with them. Your friends sound much too old for you, and you have no business traveling with them. Under no circumstances should you be allowed to "do what you want". Find some friends your own age, and invite one of them to come to Italy with you. Your parents will admire your sensibility and maybe be more lenient in a few years. In the meantime, deal with it-things could be worse.

Dear Darrell,

My best friend stole my favorite hats. He slept over at my house and the next day they were gone. Then another friend of mine called me and said my best friend offered to sell him one of my hats. I'm really mad. Now, my best friend let me borrow his bat. I don't want to give it back because he has my hats. What should I do? -Hatless

Dear Hatless,

I'm assuming your friend has also admitted he has the hats. So, no hats, no bat. Tell your so-called best friend that you want your hats back, and if you don't get them then you're keeping his bat. It's a fair trade. If he doesn't go for it, keep the bat and make it a point to call him a thief every time you see him. Tell everyone you know what happened. It probably won't do any good, but it will make you feel better.

THE REVELATION!!!

Editor's Note: The person who has helped you through all your troubles this year was Amanda "Darrell" Doster.

day, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, if you want to stay up and see it). Be warned, however - it's not the Hula Bopp and there's no way its letting you aboard, so keeping your life on earth is highly advisable.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):

Who would've guessed that football would find so much popularity among alien life forms? The Drodions, currently the most powerful species in your Zodiac, are the most recent football aficionados to jump on the World Cup bandwagon. This may spell bad news however, as the Drodions are known to be a little emotionally imbalanced, and a non-English victory could well provoke them to attack any one of their Italian-supporting neighbors. An intergalactic war within your Zodiac would wreak havoc on your nails this month, so keep your fingers crossed for those Brits...



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20): The rising tide in Jupiter's fourth moon's eighth sea indicates that you will show an incredible natural talent for basket-weaving this

month. You'd better take advantage of this immaculate skill while you can, lest the gods be angry - and you know what a great future basket-weaving can offer...

Aries (March 21 - April 19):

With all this rainy weather, clopping with that forbidden lover could lead to a disastrous trip to the hospital. Some helpful hints: use the front floor while sneaking out, drive carefully, and bring an umbrella.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20): In a week, stress will be a thing of the past, and your positive karma will return for the summer vacation. All the hard work you've been putting into that non-profit organization will result in supreme self-satisfaction and the happiness of others...don't forget that Taurus is the most loved star sign in the Zodiac!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20):

Wow! Something really stupendous is happening in the galaxy of Obnoxtron - the star Francilia is falling into Calomine's orbit, and the moons of Dryzvid are elastically colliding in resistance to the black hole that used to be Pradison... This has no effect on you however, so you'll just have to wait until something exciting does come your way.



THE MUCKRAKER

Komey Korner!

Heroine of the Week

Don't you just envy the senior class? Just six days 'till graduation and the year's definitely been a job well done for one individual: Vanessa von Heydebreck. Listen to her story, it's quite a feat. For the entire year, she's been

heading the Senior yearbook committee, developing concepts for its layout, encouraging everyone to put some effort into their own page, and taking pictures of just about everything. You're bound to have seen her at some time or another, cradling a massive binder labeled "Senior Yearbook." This week, she reached a climax. She told off all those who couldn't get their act together, and made sure that they did their bit. And finally, she compiled it all together.

Though the yearbook will have a soft cover, it will feature twenty color pages, a string of group photos, everyone's personal page, and probably a few more crispy surprises. If that takes your breath away, then prepare to be knocked out: it costs no more than TWELVE Marks! Very few know how she and the committee achieved this remarkable deed.

Today is the last day the yearbooks are on sale, so if you're a senior be sure to order one!



Abiturienten struck back against JFK on Tuesday! At 12:07pm, they began solemn marches into classrooms, chanting "Abi...abi..." to the rhythms being played over the sabotaged P.A. system. Incense-wielding, costumed freak students led the masses outside. Once everybody had assembled in front of the Blue Building, the sweet melodies suddenly switched to the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage." To everybody's shock and horror, the cult members exposed enormous water pistols and a full arsenal of water bombs. Soon, all those below 13th grade were soaked, but all agreed it was a very original and lively idea.

Forecasted Futures For the Leaving Seniors

by METTE ROLL, VANESSA VON HEYDEBRECK, ADAM NAGORSKI, and FRANZ WILD

Melissa will become a soap opera star.

Hinawa will live in solitude in a chemistry lab.

Paul will still be in debt to Parson's in 30 years.

Vanessa will become a belly-dancer at the Bahamas Four Seasons Hotel.

Mette will become the next leader of the Hell's Angels.

Paula will still be a fat ass.

Laura will be a door-to-door tupperware and carpet cleaner saleswoman.

John will still think he's cool.

Jeremy will become Newsweek's star correspondent in Russia.

Adam will become a phone-sex operator.

Amanda will own a store of exotic incenses and candles.

Musa will lead Janet Jackson's dancing group.

Aubrey will be going to weekly facial massages to ease the craps from smiling so much.

Lukas will be unemployed due to his constant lateness.

Efe will be a go-go dancer at Big Eden.

Ben still won't get the hint that Tommy Hilfinger doesn't want him as a model.

Danielle will own the world's largest collection of lipsticks.

Jason will become the next Slim Fast spokesperson.

Alex will become the next Conan O'Brien.

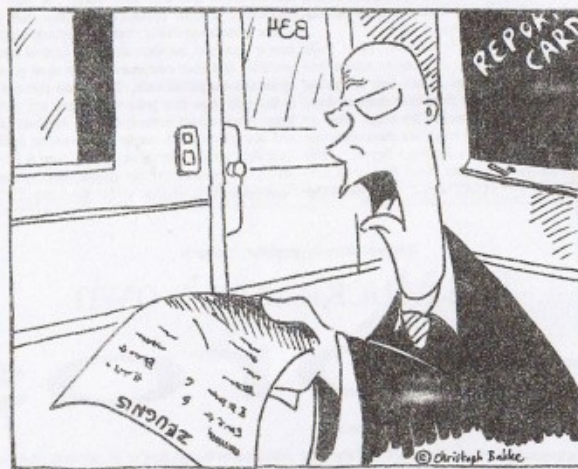
Iain will be the employee of the month at Burger King.

Ua will become so jaded with the "system" that she will choose to become a hustler.

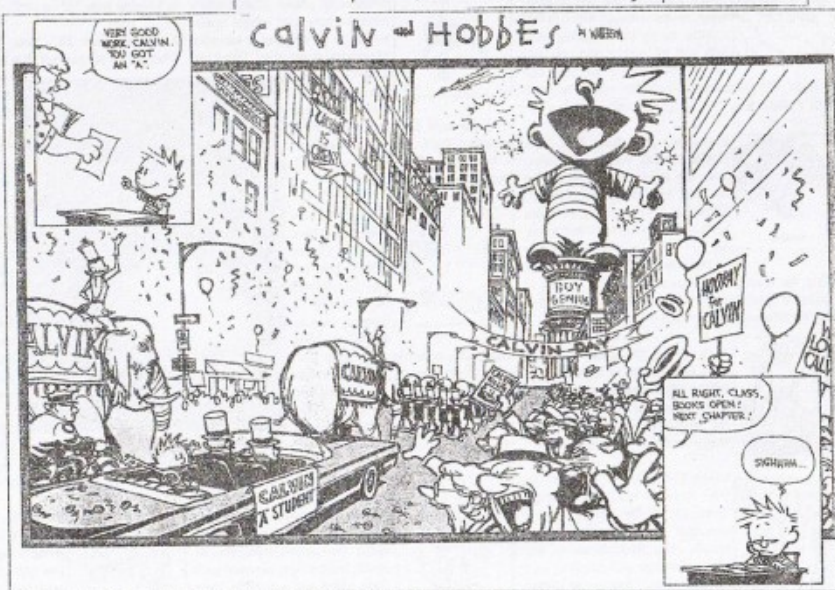
Taylor will sell wieners at American soccer games.

Carmen will be head chef at the Ritz Hotel in Paris.

Mohammed will be the next Mr. Wetzel.



"Should any of you think of making minor alterations on the way home, photo-copies have been sent to all your parents!"



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