

# THE MUCKRAKER

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## THE MUCKRAKER

### Speaks

The last issue of THE MUCKRAKER generated a huge amount of feedback, and while we are of course extremely happy to receive feedback of any kind – be it constructive criticism (we've had a lot of this), wild enthusiasm (less of this), or just a friendly note (and none of this) – the overwhelming majority of the feedback we received concerned the accuracy of our data concerning the "JFK on Drugs" article. The truth of the matter is that our results were based on a poll, and of course no poll is ever completely accurate. That isn't to say that ours were far-fetched – they weren't. They were rather accurate: we polled over 200 students to derive our results. We cannot guarantee that nobody lied in our polls, even though we tried to weed out obviously false information. The drugs poll was the first large poll we've undertaken and we have learned much about how to better conduct them. From now on, we will precede any article containing a poll with a notice about the poll's source.

Other feedback about the drugs feature included letters that said things like: "How can you call the eleventh grade messed up for taking drugs? If they want to take drugs let them do it, that's their problem!" We apologize if anybody was insulted by this remark in our article. Incidentally, 52 people in the eleventh grade (over half the class) were polled about drugs. Some teachers complained that the article was not harsh enough in the way it treated drugs. For example, the portion on ecstasy was said to be written in a way that made it seem like the drug was OK to try, even though there have recently been reports on types of ecstasy that can kill after only one use. The article was meant only to inform you of the straight facts about the drugs and was not intended to encourage the use of any drug.

We thank everybody for their feedback and even though we may not respond to all of it in print, it is all taken into our consideration. Please continue submitting feedback and ideas for articles in our mailbox by the snack machines! We hope you enjoy this week's MUCKRAKER!

-The Editors

## Let's Make Things Better

BY ANDREA KAPELAK

Many people can't help that smirk spreading on their faces when they hear things like "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals" or, as in our schools' case the "Animal Rights Protection Group." They can't help feeling pity for all those who spend their time out in the rain on the Ku'damm collecting signatures to protest against factory farming methods; and it is a fact that most women don't give a damn whether the mascara they're wearing was once tested on the eyes of a rabbit.

Luckily, there are also people out to change something about these evident social ills; in fact, the "Animal Rights Protection Group" is a bunch of people (actually it's eight at the moment) with exactly this goal in mind. We strive to raise people's awareness on controversial issues, concerning the mistreatment of animals, and we want to get all those smirkers to have to do some serious rethinking. If you want to help us on our mission, come to the next meeting and make things better. But before we can do this, we have to start criticizing ourselves, so we can point our fingers at others.

## A Thought for the Day

I couldn't eat breakfast—I was thinking of you,  
I couldn't eat lunch—I was thinking of you,  
I couldn't eat dinner—I was thinking of you,  
At night I couldn't sleep—I was hungry!



## Un-Fun Day?!!

BY KAREN RADERMÄCHTER

Students, teachers, and friends braved the rain and cold on Saturday to attend Fun Day. It was a festival filled with booths, activities, and lots of water. The scene began early with several booths being set up at 8:00 a.m., housing clubs or organizations. One of many stands, the Student Council had a booth selling raffle tickets, with the main prize being a trip to Paris. It seemed like there were more people answering the winners than there were listening. The Model United Nations (MUN) had an International Food stand and the Physics Booth offered games to play involving the laws of physics. The Senior's had their much-hyped tie dye booth, as well as fortuneteller, and a "Dare A Senior" booth. Naturally, the MUCKRAKER also had a booth, as any good activity, with a ball toss. The Sponge Throw attracted a lot of attention with such attractive targets as Mr. Sterling, Musa Ndagi, and Taylor Aldridge. Numerous bake sales and booths offered everything from waffles, hamburgers, and chili, to Nigerian rice, Quiches, and Scones, most of which were nice and soggy after the downpour. And if the rain outside became too unbearable, the people headed to the Aula to have a snack in the Coffee Shop and see performances by the school's Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, Show Choir, and Barbershops. A Tae Kwon Do and Gymnastics performance also entertained the audience.

The conversation, despite the cold outside, was good. "It was a fun day but a little bit too cold," was an often heard comment. "It was great," was heard at least once. "This sucks," was also heard a few times, though. One visiting teacher admired the performances of the students as well as the integration of the different ages at the festival. A younger admirer "liked the haunted house best because I could sit on the mushrooms." As the rain increased in intensity the crowd slowly grew thinner. By 2:00 p.m. booths were beginning to pack up, but, as one man said, "It was a wet day, but I'm coming back next year." Hopefully, the weather will be better by then...

## MUCKRAKER

solves

## The Döner Dilemma

BY MIKOLAJ BEKASIAK, SETH HEPNER, AND ADAM NAGORSKI

There are some of us for whom it is enough to stand in line every day and cut the school lunch. And then there are some of us for whom it isn't. Regardless, it is an undeniable fact that the döner

kebab is part of the JFK experience. There are of course reasons for this: döners are cheap, relatively filling, and pretty easily assessable because of all of the döner "shops" near JFK. Due to all the döner shops in the area, however, a dilemma rears its head—which one is the best? Is there a difference?

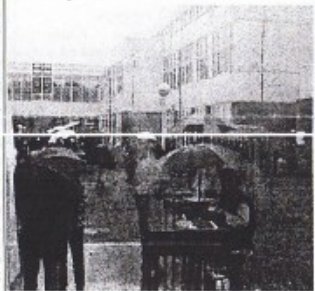
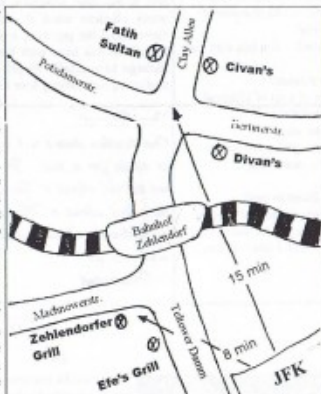
THE MUCKRAKER decided to find out and took the five döner shops in Zehlendorf: Efe's Grill, Zehlendorfer Grill, Fatih Sultan, Divan's restaurant, Civan's Imbiss (see map for more details) and pitted them against each other. The establishments were graded in two categories: the atmosphere (the service, the place itself, the seats, the music, etc.) and their döners (pretty self explanatory). The testing was done by our experienced and professional döner connoisseurs: Dickey, Breath, and Madam.

The first thing judged was the atmosphere of the place. Even the best döners would lose their appeal if they were handed to you by Jabba the Hut at a garbage dump. Of course, none of the shops are that

drastic—the law prevents that—but nevertheless atmosphere is important. Without a doubt, Fatih's provided the most relaxing atmosphere, with its large, round tables, comfy chairs, and nice service. Divan's drew a close second, though it was much louder. Civan's ranked lowest, as there was nowhere to sit or to go inside and heat up. Efe's and Zehlendorfer both turned up middle of the line though there seemed to be a preference towards Zehlendorfer.

The döners. In all the shops the price for a basic döner (without sauce) is 4DM. After that the differences between the shops became apparent. The best deal is at Fatih Sultan where the sauces (in any combination) are free and there are three sauces (pastic, hot, and kräuter) to choose from.

(Continued on page 2) see Döner



## JFK Mourns Deaths

CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA KOENIG

There was a tragedy in the Nestor family last week: Mrs. Nestor and her twelve-year-old daughter, Laura (who was in 5th grade at JFK last year), were killed in a car crash. Many of us were close to the Nestors, especially to Besh (who was in 11th grade last year) and Sarah (who was in 9th grade last year), who attended JFK from 1993 to 1997. The Nestor family was always dedicated to family, to their friends, and to God. Their bright smiles and cheerful personalities brightened many lives during their years in Berlin, and Mrs. Nestor and Laura will be sorely missed.

## FAHRSCHULE AVANTI Zehlendorf



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## What's up in MUN?

BY ANJA COSTAS

This year's MUN group is slightly smaller than last semester's, nonetheless, the debates are enthusiastic as ever. In fact, willing to stay in school until 6 o'clock, delegates even called for an extension of debate time last week! Because of the world community's 'effectiveness' in creating, but not resolving divers problems, there are plenty of demanding issues to debate, for instance overpopulation, mass poverty or civil wars. For a change, this Wednesday the abolition of compulsory school attendance will be discussed from the perspective of various students and teachers. (Sorry, the resolution will not be implemented!) As every year, the highlights of the MUN program are the conferences BERLIMUN and THIMUN. The Berlin Model United Nations is coming up soon (Nov. 20-22), and at this point guests still need to be housed. (See Speedy Petey for details!) With regard to The Hague International Model United Nations, the MUNers are proud to announce that on the basis of JFK's last year's performance they have been chosen to represent Russia, a very desirable position.

CONTRIBUTED BY ROBIN HERTZ, TINA SCHERER, AND SIMON WEBER

**Döner** (continued from page 1)

In all the other shops there are only two sauces (garlic and hot) and to get one (or both) requires an extra 50 pfennings. The other exception is Civan's where one sauce costs 30 pfennings, both cost 50 pfennings. The thickest döners came from Zehlendorfer then Efe's, Fati's, Civan's, and Divan's with the thickness of 5, 4.5, 3.5, 3.25, and 3cm, respectively. In judging the best döner, the bread, juiciness, strength of sauce, meat and ingredients were considered. In essence, the best döner comes from Zehlendorfer, followed by Divan's, Fati's, Efe's, and finally Civan's. As to the question as to if there is a big difference between the döners, the answer is yes. The first three döners were actually pretty close. The sauces were good, there was enough meat and the ingredients were good as well. In comparison Efe's and Civan's were bland. Civan's was the most different due to it's strange bread, and could be rated differently if you have a special taste.

Now it's up to you what you value more: the atmosphere and price of Fati's, or the exquisite taste and convenience (see map) of Zehlendorfer.

**The Breath Problem**

As I'm sure you are all aware, the greatest drawback of döners is the resulting 'döner-breath.' How do you combat this problem? The most common solution is gum, which works most of the time but not for a very long time. What about other alternatives? THE MUCKRAKER tested the effectiveness of Fisherman's Friends, chocolate, and yogurt. The results are success with flying colors for the Fisherman's Friends and yogurt, yet a worsening (if it is even possible) of breath after chocolate. "Man, that's the stuff they use to knock you out in a hospital!" Remark our official smell-tester after being subjected to the chocolate/döner mix.

**For the Veggies**

To all those feeling discriminated against we also found out a bit about falafels. All the shops offer them for the same price (4.-DM) except for Zehlendorfer where they cost 3.50 DM. All the shops buy their falafels deep frozen and heat them up. The rest of the döner is the same so it stands to reason that the ranking of the döners would be the same for falafels.

**TEACHER FEATURE:**

**Dr. Brown**

BY AUBREY CHARETTE

**Q:** Why do you enjoy biking so much?  
**A:** It's the most fun way to get from point A to point B.  
**Q:** When do you get your first gray hair?  
**A:** About ten years ago; but it wasn't a landmark.

**Q:** I've heard you mention that you have a daughter, where is she?  
**A:** She's in Bloomington, Indiana now, a the University of Indiana. She's an expert in the field of immigration. Last year she was in Korea teaching English.

**Q:** What kind of grades did you get in high school?  
**A:** B's and C's - a memorial A in plane geometry, but no A's in history, because I was too loud in the classes and never did Mickey Mouse stuff.

**Q:** Did you always want to be a history teacher?  
**A:** At first I wanted to be a science teacher, but by grade 10 and 11 I knew. By the time I finished high school I had devoured the history section of the local library and was ready to moon on.

**Q:** Do you have any allergies?  
**A:** Yes. Actually, it's chalk dust. That's why I try not to use the chalkboard and basically use the overhead.

**Q:** Do you sing in the shower?  
**A:** No. The only time I ever sing is at church, or in large groups where my voice will not be discovered.

**Q:** What were you in a former life?  
**A:** A tree. I don't know what kind... I'm just very fond of trees.

**Q:** When and who was your first crush?  
**A:** Seventh grade. She was one of a set of identical twins, so it was a little confusing at times.

**Q:** What is your current romantic status?  
**A:** I have a partner, and we live together but we are NOT married, although maybe... sometime... eventually...

**Q:** What kind of music do you listen to?  
**A:** Jazz, Blues, I go to see operas or classical concerts quite often. I like some folk music; in the States I see bluegrass concerts sometimes, which I can't do here.



On October 1, 2000 people attended a demonstration against budget cuts. Unfortunately, only about 10 students from our school managed to lift their elite rears off their comfortable school chairs to show a bit of solidarity to other less fortunate schools by going to the demonstration. There, a Landesschülervertreter said: "Wir stehen hier gemeinsam mit Eltern und Lehrern..." sounding as if students, teachers, and parents had worked together to create this demonstration. This might have been the case at other schools, but certainly was not so at ours. Certainly one of the school's purposes is to prepare the students for the future and make them competent, democratic citizens who understand how to criticize events, decisions, and our society as well as to act according to their beliefs. The Landesschulrat, however, sent a letter to all schools prohibiting all students from expressing their opinions at this demonstration. The letter allows us students to attend "Großdemonstrationen" for peace and freedom. It forbids us from attending a demonstration for a free and just educational system during school time. What nonsense! But why was the word "Großdemonstration" used in this letter? Are we only allowed to join a

demonstrating group but not to criticize events, decisions or structures by ourselves? Sadly, we have to see that we actually don't exist as a political group fighting for our rights. Have we entirely lost our will to change something in this world? Apparently, most of us students have integrated ourselves into the current structures, accepting them without question. Furthermore, it looks as if students at our school are absolutely indifferent to everything they can't easily consume. Unfortunately, our BIB and Last Wild encourage JFK students to consume even more goods (Döner sale) but don't devote their attention to more important things. But who is going to change something if we don't do it? We are the new generation who will be responsible for our world in the future. Of course, we can't change everything at once, but it is simply a poor excuse to say that we are powerless to change anything. We have to start by changing the things we are directly confronted with. We have founded the Independent Student Actions group (ISA) to start political student debates as well as to actively support our beliefs. If you are interested in joining, please contact Robin Hertz, Tina Scherer, or Simon Weber (all in 11c).

**Dear Darrell**

Dear Darrell,  
 Say you really like a guy and he has a girlfriend. What do you do?  
 - Hopelessly in love  
 Dear Hopeless,

It's too bad you didn't tell him this before he had a girlfriend, because the issue now becomes a question of ethics, not emotions. You have to choose between breaking up a relationship or respecting two people's decision to be together. Being interested in someone is perfectly normal, but only in certain situations is it right to act upon these feelings. If the guy is unattached, by all means go ahead and develop a friendship and let him know how you feel about him. In this case, it helps to be obvious, guys can be pretty clueless when it comes to girls' feelings. However, if the guy is in a relationship, cherish the friendship you have with him and keep the mushy feelings to yourself. Would you want another girl professing her undying love to your significant other?

**Dear Darrell,**

Our teacher didn't let us do the correct things to study for a test. For example, in class we talked about a 'Sommersemester' and he asked about a 'Monatsemester'. We are a 'schlechte' class and the test's average was a 3.2!  
 - Frustrated

**Dear Frustrated,**

Although some teachers are nice enough to tell their students the test material in advance, there isn't any rule requiring them to do so. The point of tests is to evaluate not only your knowledge but also your ability to think and reason with that knowledge. At least now you know that this teacher likes to throw curve ball questions at you, chalk it up for experience. A 3.2 average isn't terrible and since you're 8th graders, it won't have any negative impact on your future transcripts.

**Got problems? In a dilemma? Write to Darrell!**  
 Drop a message in THE MUCKRAKER mailbox!

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**Hero(es) of the Week**



It was a cold and blustery day. Part of Berlin (a very large part, the smart part) was full of thousands of families huddled indoors, under dry roofs, by warm heaters enjoying the great indoors. In another part of Berlin (the part allotted to the Kennedy school) another group of people was also huddling, however, they weren't getting warmer: their jackets were getting soaked through by the tormenting rain, and their rear ends were becoming blue from the merciless onslaught of cold. Yet, they stood there with smiles on their faces, and curses under their breaths, as they struggled to make money for their activities. Sacrificing their time and comfort (and most probably their health and voices), and working out of the goodness of their hearts (or under the pressure of their teachers), it is to this devoted group of Fun Day workers that THE MUCKRAKER would like to give the title of Heroes of the Week. Their heroism is furthered by the fact that they managed to keep a positive attitude about the whole thing, and made the best of a bad situation. Whether this came from delirium, stupidity, or just good nature, it is undoubtedly a quality that deserves recognition. Hopefully, this quality will not be tested again...  
 - The Editors

I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I LAST LOOKED AT THE CLOCK. MAYBE IT'S BEEN AN HOUR.

WELL, ACTUALLY IT'S PROBABLY BEEN ONLY 40 MINUTES. I'LL GUESS HALF AN HOUR TO BE SAFE.

20 SECONDS??

IT'S GOING TO BE A MERRY BAD DAY.

CALVIN, SET UP.

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**Happy Halloween!**

BY AUBREY CHARETTE  
 Halloween is just around the corner, and this year isn't going to be just like the last, and the one before that, and the one before that... That's because this year the student body is going to demonstrate lots of spirit and all get DRESSED UP for Halloween!! (Yay!) If pure spirit isn't enough motivation, the senior class is sponsoring a costume contest in which everyone will participate and the winner will get a great prize. The winner will be announced in the blue building at the 20 minute break on Halloween. Everyone who comes will get free candy-be there or beware!