

THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

THE MUCKRAKER

Speaks

I get it! I've figured it out! The reason the ED has decided to confine all ninth and tenth graders to school grounds next year is to boost the lunch program (see **Lunch to Get Worse?** -- page 3). After all, it is only the lunch program that benefits from this action. Why else would a group of intelligent, mature adults decide to act in a way that is directly contrary to the wishes and suggestions of every other school body, if not to protect so vital a characteristic of our school? The mere fact that for once, teachers, students, the administration and even the parents all agreed on one course of action, suggests - at least - that this course had some merit. But then again, they all forgot about the poor lunch program... I guess there are other advantages to keeping ninth and tenth graders on campus: those students are going to know the school through and through, since there's going to be nowhere else to go, and now that the student lounge is closed I imagine the library will be packed with the extra load of around 200 students, as the area in front of it is already crammed with students every lunch hour now. Other small sacrifices include: sixth hour classes becoming even more trying, as well as teachers becoming prison guards (for the same pay, I might add, since the government is already cutting back on education - unless the generous ED will also donate the increased incomes from the lunch program to the teachers' salaries).

Let's look at the reasons the ED gave for its decision. Even though it was a hasty decision made soon after the infamous "funny money" scandal, they claim their decision had justification: if students stay on campus, they can always be supervised and won't be able to do things that could give parents reason to complain. The students will no longer run the risk of being caught shoplifting, vandalizing, or smoking during school hours, they reason. This justification, though, was not even strong enough to keep the parent who originally suggested the idea from rejecting it later.

The other thing that must be considered is what the pedagogical value of this ruling is? Will the students be encouraged to act in a mature, democratic manner as they have so far, when their numerous suggestions (along with those from the rest of the school's committees) are discarded without even a motion to consideration? No. And that's why the ED's decision is so ridiculous. -The Editors

Amnesty at JFK

BY ANIA COSTAS

Perhaps the world's most renowned humanitarian organization, Amnesty International paid JFK a visit on Wednesday March 4th. The two representatives from AI discussed the issue of the death penalty at the weekly MUN session. After giving a background on AI, they gave a presentation consisting of a video, and which culminated in an open forum discussion with the participation of the audience. Documenting the case of an executed fifteen year old murderer in Indiana, whose upbringing included severe beatings, impoverishment and the absence of human affection, the video exposed the injustices associated with the death penalty. The young girl's appeals for a second chance were met with arrogance on the part of the prosecutor, who insisted that the young commit crimes convinced that they can get away with it. He boasted that in his career he has asked for the death penalty 21 times, out of which 8 have been successful. In the state of Indiana the minimum age for capital punishment is 10 years. In total 126 minors have been executed in the US, the youngest being 14 years old.

With a good mix of logic and statistics, the representatives from AI made an effective argument for their case. They asserted that rather than

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ED Suspends Rights; Students Unhappy With Drug Policies

BY SETH HEFNER AND ADAM NAGORSKI

ED Refuses to Revoke Hasty Decision

On Tuesday, the 10 of March, the Educational Directorate obstinately decided to stand by its previous ruling that ninth and tenth graders will no longer be allowed off campus. This sentence will go into effect starting next August, the beginning of the next school year. That means that this year's ninth graders will no longer be able to leave school grounds when they enter the tenth grade, one year older and more mature. Despite objections and offered compromises from the Student Council, Parent Council, School Conference, the Standing Committee (our teachers), the ninth and tenth graders' committee, and the administration, the ED refused to budge. Under the direction of Herr Schleder (the deputy mayor of Zehlendorf), none of the suggested compromises and acceptable solutions were even seriously considered, because some veto powers threatened to veto. The only motion that was made was to postpone implementation of the decision until next school year. This was done so that the school could be given time to adapt. The school will need to improve the lunch program, expand the activity program, and, of course develop a system of patrolling the campus. The justification given for all this? Franz Wild was there as a guest observer, and said that the general opinion was: "The students at the JFK School had a special privilege. They abused it, and now it's been taken away."

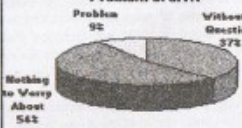
Students Don't Agree With Drug Policies

The ED's decision is just one of the measures taken to combat the drug problem in our school. The ED and administration obviously think our school has a definite drug problem but what do the students think - after all, they're the people who really know how widespread the alleged problem is. To answer this question THE MUCKRAKER distributed a questionnaire which over one hundred 7-13th graders returned. The results showed that over half the school body feels that the drug problem is nothing to worry about. "Stop the panic, stop pretending we are drowning in drugs, and stop harassing

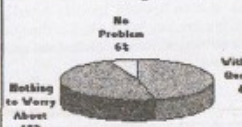
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The following results are derived from questionnaires returned by over one hundred JFK students:

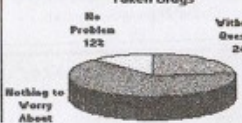
All Students: Is There a Drug Problem at JFK?



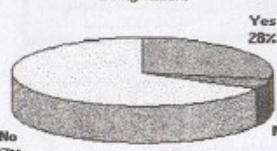
Responses by People Who Don't Take Drugs



Responses by People Who Take/Have Taken Drugs



Is Appropriate Action Against Drug Use Being Taken?



A Stampede of Spectacular Soirees

BY ZEJINA WISMAYER, BENJAMIN MORRIS AND CORINA GEHRMANN

It is rare that a school can ensure you entertainment to such a degree and pace as JFK presented in the past two weeks. Strongly musical, but also theatrical, evenings delighted students, guests, and parents alike.

The first show was on Thursday, the fifth of March. The Senior Talent Show brought more crowds than the new Aula could seat. It was opened by Franz Wild, who did a hilarious interpretation of Roald Dahl's "real" story of Little Red Riding Hood, complete with sex-change and revolver. Next,

moderator Adam Nagorski announced that there had to be a dumb act in every talent show, a pun referring to the *Dum Camou*, sung by Caroline Heuberger, Luisa Hirschfeld, Ruth Grant, and Colina Bostic. In *Plaza Suite*, Melissa McCullung and Jeremy Yoder played a couple whose daughter, Mimsy, locked herself in a bathroom on the day of her wedding. Hysterically, the mother announced she was having a heart attack, the father broke his arm trying to get Mimsy

Alex, Iain and Terah

Photo: Vanessa von Heydebreck

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JFK Has A Drug Problem: an interview with Herr Schürmann

BY MIKOLAJ BEKASIAK

Does our school have a drug problem? Is there action being taken against the problem? Is there a "black list"? Are these facts, rumors, or a mixture of both? THE MUCKRAKER decided to find out in an interview with Herr Schürmann last week. Excerpts:

Q: Is there a drug problem at JFK, and if so is it any worse than in other years?

A: There is no doubt that there is a drug problem at JFK. It is not new however, it has been around for years. Whether it is worse I can't say, but the difference is that some years we are more aware of it, others less. What has changed is who is taking drugs. Once the drug problem was limited to the upper grades, today the seventh and eighth graders are also involved.

Q: How do you think that the drug problem at JFK compares with the drug problem at other schools?

A: I think that all schools have a drug problem, the difference is that at JFK we are open about it and address it while other schools either ignore the problem or are simply not aware of it.

Q: Is there stronger action being taken this year against this problem, and if so why now?

A: Yes there is stronger action being taken this year. Earlier I spoke of awareness, and this year the school is very aware of the problem. This year there have been students coming in crying for help. Parents have dragged students in and accused them of dealing drugs to their children. With the problem this apparent we have to take action.

Q: There have been rumors that this drug action is a cover up for the counterfeit money scandal. Is this true?

A: That is not true. We started to take measures already in November. The counterfeit money scandal was in January. The scandal did have an effect however. As everyone is aware, JFK does get more attention and money than other schools in Berlin. The scandal hurts the school's image and support. In order to prevent another scandal the deputy mayor of the district went to the ED, and initiated the discussion on the idea of a closed campus. The police also got more involved after the scandal.

Q: What do you think of that decision?

A: I must say that I was very proud to teach in a school with such liberal policies as an open campus policy. I think it is a shame for the students to lose this privilege, but they must understand that if a privilege is misused one may lose it.

Q: What measures are actually being taken? There has been talk of police searches in and outside of the school by both plainclothesmen and uniformed police. Are there other measures?

A: It is true that there are searches off campus: they have been going on since November. I know nothing of searches on campus, though if the police have a search warrant they can search you and your locker just as they can search your house. As to undercover police, they were here a few days ago with two youths in the back of their car. As to the other measures, the police came in during teacher workshops to show the teachers what drugs look and smell like, how students look/act when they are under the influence, etc.

Q: There is also talk of a "black list." Does it exist?

A: There is no official black list that I have seen. [However Herr Schürmann referred to a list at other times during the interview]

Q: Many students were however called into conferences. Where did their names come from?

A: Names come from teachers, students and parents. These names are not collected by the administration but by the contact teachers.

Q: So anybody could incriminate anyone else without proof?

A: Naturally not every name gets put down. They first have to be checked among the teachers and drug counselors. Some names are obvious, others less so. For that reason maybe some of the people

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innocent students," said one student. "The problem is that nothing has been done in the past thirty years, and now due to [the counterfeit money scandal] people act like the 'crime scene' is devastating. Bull!" Said another. Another honest individual stated that "I only think there's a problem because everyone says so."

Of the seven teachers who completed questionnaires, none said the problem is nothing to worry about and one said that there is no problem at all.

The most angry reaction, though, was to the way the problem was being dealt with. Most people felt that denying the ninth and tenth graders off-campus privileges was not the solution. There was also strong backlash against pulling students out of class for conferences. Many were asked to leave class, in front of their teachers and peers, by a police officer or teacher. One teacher said that the action was "ludicrous...and NOT APPROPRIATE." Students said the "administration is starting to become a dictatorship" and that it is "missing a lot of people and accusing a lot of innocent people." One said "Before accusing, the 'right' people should be found...and, above all, the concept of JUSTICE must be respected!"

Though many condemned the actions few offered alternatives. One student said "they should warrant locker searches or back-pack searches - basically unannounced searches." Many said the school should not be doing anything at all.

The anti-drug actions taken seemed to be more of a problem than drugs themselves, in most students' eyes. In such an atmosphere, the chances of actions being successful seem very dim.

SOIRES - continued from page 1

out of there. Mr. Eisner, the father of the bride, was phoning to find out what had happened to the bride, while the audience couldn't control their laughter. Following acts were *Greek Mythology in 4.5 Minutes* by Alex McWilliam, *A Scene from Tartuffe* dramatized by Paula Pendleton and Luisa Hirschfeld, *The Sick Note* sang by co-moderator Ruth Grant, and *March and Klackel* drummed by Steffi Neth and Terah Cooper. After an intermission, Sarah Christ and Nikolaus Ressa played two piano pieces for four hands, by Brahms and Dvorak. Their act was followed by Iain McBride, Terah Cooper, and Alex Oettl, who played *Blister in the Sun* and *Bones*. The crowd was going crazy, moving and grooving to a fantastic and lively performance. Then the JFK Jazz Combo (Ben Kraf, Ingmar Kreibohm, Leonard Kreibohm, Jan Tietze, Iain McBride, Terah Cooper, and Stefan Feilhaber) took the stage, prompting an encore at the end of their performances. The evening ended with *Uddhari Nong* 'ack by Chong Dung Sori, four talented Korean drummers, among them Nami Morris, who organized the evening.

The next show was on the following Tuesday: The Potpourri Concert featured the JFK Jazz Ensemble, Combo, and Show Choir, who all gave a stunning performance in the old Aula. The room was only half-full, but the audience enjoyed the music so much that they made it sound like a sold out hall! After the show, the opinions were diverse but all positive. "Man, you were wailing!" Band director, Tim Germann said, in reference to the cheers of "encore" from the audience. All in all, it was great music and a feast of sounds, and hopefully next time it really will be a full house.

Finally, last week's "A Time of Your Life" barbershop show was presented as a live TV recording in the studios of WJFK-TV and was an immense success. Like the Senior Talent Show, it was held in the new Aula and could not seat all of the spectators. The "unsuspecting" studio guest Betty Broadway (Lex Barrie) was asked by host, Adam Madden (Adam Nagorski), about her memories from her life in the theater, all of which were musically relived by the school-wide famous barbershop choir and quartets. Wishes like "I want a girl, just like the girl that married dear old dad" were voiced, and a couple of songs that covered the spiritual factor of the show. The singers even presented professional commercials. At the end of the show the guest quartet, "Latest Edition" that has won national honors, sang. There's a rumor that the quartet's baritone, who also conducted the barbershop choir, has been seen at JFK, teaching music and presenting the announcements, but it has not yet been confirmed by WJFK-TV.

The next performances at JFK-HS will be the ISTA evening this Thursday and Friday at 19:30 and the French Drama performance of three plays at 19:30 in the new aula on March 26 and 27.

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called into the conferences are not necessarily involved. Another reason is that one can't call only the guilty in, it would be like pointing a finger. But whoever is being accused of taking drugs will deny that even if the person is using drugs regularly. All drug therapists know that.

Q: How are the police involved in this crackdown? Are they in charge of the whole thing?
A: The school is responsible to combat drug use. The police will step in when there is drug dealing.

OPINION:

Students Don't Participate Enough

"Topics that I thought were of interest to students were discussed and decided upon in the last meeting of the School Conference, on March 5. This is the highest ranking committee within the school (the ED has a last say in some matters), consisting of four parents, four students, and four teacher representatives. Parents and teachers had made up their minds on these topics in specific conferences and represented their decisions in this meeting. One (1) student representative was present."

My impression was that if a decision strongly affects part of the student body, protest arises, responsible students are there to work in an impressing way for a satisfactory solution, and all of a sudden students feel their strength and importance. But their seems to be little feeling of responsibility for the students of JFKS in the elected student body (the Student Council); no culture of continuous work, of prepared discussions to find solutions, make decisions and represent them in committees within the school (nor on district or city level) - beyond a hot drinks machine or spirit week.

One sign to proof to my observation: Nobody seems to need the mediation committee. Our school, like every school, needs a constant process of evaluating, confirming, improving and changing its work in order to fulfill its tasks towards the students in a changing world. Shall be done for the students but without them by teachers and parents? Hopefully not.

-Fro Timmapp

Voice YOUR opinion and respond to other people's views at the Muckraker Online Discussion Forum!



<http://www.ravage.net/muckraker>



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MUCKRAKER

Komedy Korner!

From the Book of Jeremy: LOOK MA! MY VERY OWN "ISM!"

BY JEREMY YODER

A long, long, long time ago, back in the days when "OJ" meant "Orange Juice," there were these long-haired reporters who hardly ever bathed. They believed that the press should change society. They received the collective designation "muckrakers" since they hardly washed and so naturally were covered with "muck." Unfortunately today, their investigative techniques are employed by the press to create "trash." "Trash" press covers all those fascinating scandals and meaningless bombshells like OJ's glove, Brad's divorce, Tom's religion (or ahem, lack thereof), Demi's pregnancy and Bill's adultery-uh, allegedly of course.

Yet there glows a point of light in the abyss of trash journalism-our very own THE MUCKRAKER. The idealistic editors never waver from their mission of murdering innocent forests so that JFK's student body can read a whole bunch of meaningless articles-such as this column. Of course the major moral question arises: does THE MUCKRAKER staff regularly bathe? I won't tell you the secret-you'll just have to sniff for yourself.

But I will state that in the spirit of those muckrakers of old, I approve of revolution - shockingly violent revolution if possible. I believe the John F. Kennedy School desperately needs to riotously secede from the Federal Republic of Germany and turbulently form the Free Independent People's Democratic Socialist Republic of Kennedy.

Let's examine the advantages and justifications for independence. The government structure for running a small (but great) European nation is already in place. Our school has an overwhelming bureaucracy that mercilessly eradicates anything constructive or innovative. We also have an incompetent legislative body which squabbles over everything and we even have politicians who promise pie in the sky lies like a student store, coffee machines, less school hours and hot tubs on every corner.

Of course JFK has all those necessary little "extras." As recent events prove, students are capable of printing our own currency. We also have a national orchestra, newspaper, choir, theatre and government subsidized art programs. Imagine what those MUN devotees could accomplish if they were sent to New York instead of the Hague - when the tons of paper they churn out actually have some effect on the world.

One small point-to the best of my knowledge, nobody actually lives on JFK property. But show me the international law that states that somebody actually has to live in a country. For instance, nobody lives in - say - Canada-but that's still considered a legitimate country. But that's pushing the envelope.

There's just one little concern-the Federal Republic of Germany may not appreciate it if we violently or even peacefully revolt. Governments tend to find insurrections revolting. We might find ourselves

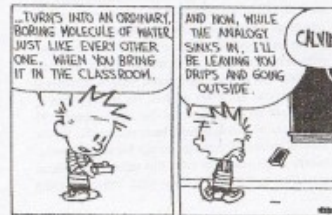


being slaughtered by the Bundeswehr's sophisticated and expensive weaponry. But that's a small matter. Those martyred will be canonized as "Heroes of the Student Revolution" and immortalized through statues and song.

Fellow students - throw down your chains and revolt against the oppressive Educational Directorate and let us raise together a very, very, very, very great nation on a small, small, small, small piece of land! Our manifest destiny - and there's no way getting around destiny, especially if it's manifest - demands that our glory shall ring in the grand halls of history! Let us build the EIPDSR of K into the next great world power...

...sniff...sniff...sniff...Is it just me, or do I smell something rotten?

*The author wishes to apologize to any nationalistic Canadians who were extremely offended by his geographically incorrect slander



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Teacher Feature: Ms. Jurewicz

BY TAYLOR ALDRIDGE

Ms. Jurewicz is a new history teacher at JFK, the first to offer AP European History.

Q: When was your first kiss?

A: Sweet sixteen...

Q: What do you like about JFK?

A: The holidays!

Q: Are you involved with anyone?

A: Maybe...

Q: How do you enjoy living in Kreuzberg?

A: Love the diversity, and you can always get a good Döner.

Q: For all the girls where do you buy your clothes?

A: Paris.

Q: Which did you enjoy more: high school or college?

A: College, because of the freedom.

Q: How old are you?

A: Just turned 32.

Q: How do you like the Berlin night life?

A: Most dynamic and complex.

Q: Your favorite music?

A: Jazz.



Photo: Thil a Tost

The Guys Are On a Roll

BY SARA ENAYSSI

It did not come as a surprise to most of us when the boys' team was made it to the Berlin Final Four Championships. Our guys are known for playing as a strong team and if they keep it up and our team wins the Final Four

Girls take the Bronze at Champs

BY AUBREY CHARETTE

It was an ending fit for a movie. It was the game between JFK's girls' WKII basketball team and the Droste Schule in the Berlin Girl's Basketball Championships this past weekend. With 30 seconds left on the clock, Coach Beus called a time-out. JFK was up by one point and had possession of the ball after an out of bounds. After a brief huddle, the players moved back on the court and point guard Stephanie Canty took the ball. The spectators looked on anxiously as she started dribbling the ball up the court. Then everything happened in a blur. Someone shouted out a command to run the play, a quick pass was made, a shuffle broke out, and suddenly Droste was under the JFK basket completely open. They made an easy

lay-up with 3.7 seconds left in the game. JFK made a desperate attempt to regain the lead with

Championships they will move on to the German Championships. They're chances look good. They have just returned from an International Basketball Tournament that was held in the Hague, the Netherlands during March 12-14. Our team came out fourth out of the eight teams competing, and one of our players David Gow was honoured by being chosen to be on the All-Tournament team made up of the five best players in the tournament. In their final game at home they beat the Amst Schule 78-66. JFK's top scorers were David Gow with 22 points and Simon McRae with 21 points. It was a tense and close game, but with support from the enthusiastic

a hasty shot as the buzzer rang, but it went long and the second place spot went to Droste.

JFK had lost their chance for first place the day before in a loss to the Dreilinden Schule. They did, however, defeat the Schweitzer Schule later that day and still harbored hopes for second place. They ended up taking third place, which wasn't so bad, because, in the words of one team member, "the second place team only got a lousy pin more than we did anyway." The first place team got fully outfitted in shoes, track suits, backpacks, shirts and shorts from Nike to play in German Championships. The apparel was reported at being really ugly though, which consoled the other teams a little.

Regardless of their result, the JFK Girl's WKII team did a good job representing JFK both in the finals and during the normal games, and therefore hearty congratulations to all who participated. Special thanks also goes out to all

those loyal fans who woke up early on Saturday morning to cheer their team on.

Keep cheering for your teams! The WK II and III boys teams will both be participating in the Berlin finals this weekend. The winners of the finals will proceed to the German finals. Our teams game schedules:

WKII: Friday at 14:00 and 16:30, Saturday at 11:00

WKIII: Friday at 14:50, Saturday at 9:20 and 11:50

Location for all games: Carl-von-Ossietzky-Schule, Blücherstr. 46/47 (Kreuzberg), U-Bahn Südström

and cheering fans that packed the bleachers our team won and ended the game

with a spectacular dunk by Simon McRae. The Boy's WKII team has also made it into the finals, and both teams will battle for the Berlin title this weekend. For more exact information look at the schedule.

The WKII boys are:

Oytun Askan, Alex Crolow, David Gow, Robin Greenwood, Marlon Hasters, Anthony Manibusan, Marcel McRae, Simon McRae, Ben Schneider, Ian Shevak, Amir Younis

Lunch to Get Worse?

BY ANDREA KAPELKE

"Mentrols or vegetable sausage, rice, cole slaw" don't exactly sound like gourmet menus. Nevertheless, these mouth-watering specialties are wolfed down by hungry JFKers every lunch period. However, the JFKS lunch program is now in serious plight due to money shortages.

A symptom of this was the cancellation a few weeks ago when part of the staff became afflicted with a virus, and there were no replacements. The problem can still get worse because of the lunch ladies retirement: due to an employment stop in public services there is no possibility to recruit new staff. It is therefore clear that a major change must be made. The school administration, however, has no control over what happens with the program, since everything is directed by the Bezirksamt. It is responsible for either contracting a new staff, or finding a new lease-holder.

There are, however, no plans to completely abolish the lunch program, since our school is required to serve some sort of meal. Yet with the looming current problems it is not certain what the food quality or price will be.

Skat: The Club

BY CORINA GEHIRMANN

If you've ever walked around the second floor of the white building at lunch time and wondered where the card flipping noise and the "18, 20, 22, passe"-cries came from, you've already met Ben and Fabian playing Skat. They decided to make their pastime an official activity and recently founded the JFK-Skat Club to unite all students who are interested in challenging their brain cells and luck. The club has already over 20 members and they plan to organize monthly tournaments and name the best player at JFK. Since the teacher they asked to be their club advisor has won several Skat trophies himself, this activity promises to be a challenging experience even for those who know all the tricks. So, if you've decided there's player deep inside of you, talk to Benjamin Stephan or Fabian Koberling (both are in 12th grade) or go to room B 105 Mondays and Thursdays 6th period.



Photo: Mette Roll

The American, Berlin, German, and EU flags which sometimes fly on the campus truly embellish the school. Unfortunately, they only fly on a few days a year, on holidays designated by the government. Recently the flags were raised for Europatag.

English Creative Writing Group

Hey all you 8th and 9th grade future millionaire #1 bestseller winners! Have you ever wanted to have a real live audience to gape, awestruck, at your masterpieces? Have you ever stared, unbelievably, at the activity sheet, searching for the creative writing group that, incredibly, wasn't there?

Harken, for now thy long sleepless nights of tossing and turning are come to an end! Come 9th hour on Thursdays and fulfil thy dreams of fortune and fame!

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th during 9th hour in GR117.

AMNESTY - continued from page 1

deter crime, the death penalty serves to brutalize society and foster a psychology of violence and hate. Further, the fact that most murders are not premeditated undermines the logic of the capital punishment as a deterrent. The speakers also pointed out that those societies which had abolished the death penalty actually saw a slight decline in their murder rates as a result. In the US, issues such as racism and social class weigh heavily in determining

which convicts are selected for execution; blacks are more likely than whites to be executed for the same crime, and the poor cannot afford qualified lawyers for defense. Mistakes made by the justice system cannot be reversed after a convict has been killed. The death penalty, with all its legal processes, make it terribly expensive for the state, and it can be easily abused by populists as a means of gaining public sport. The speakers ended their presentation with the shocking example of China, where there is a direct

relationship between criminal executions and the need for organ donors.

In the active discussion which followed, issues such as revenge, the protection of society and the necessity of life-imprisonment laws were heavily debated. Reaction from the majority of students was decidedly in favor of Amnesty's argument and would agree with the citation that "an eye for an eye would make the whole world blind."

THE
MUCKRAKER PRESENTS
THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Beginning Stages

June 12, 1998

Beginning Stages is a student-run, student-directed show open to any JFK student. You may perform any kind of drama, music, stand-up comedy, or anything else you can think of! Students are responsible for organizing and rehearsing their own acts. The show is a tradition at JFK. If you are interested in being part of the event contact your friendly, local MUCKRAKER editor or drop a note in the MUCKRAKER box as soon as possible - latest by May 15th. THE MUCKRAKER office is room B219. We encourage everybody to come out and have a good time!