

# THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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## THE MUCKRAKER Speaks!

Why is it that everything happens at once? Those rehearsing for the musical, writing college applications, preparing for BERMUN, practicing basketball, doing community service, or keeping up various deadlines, whilst trying to pass those pesky little things known as tests or Klausuren should know what we are trying to say. Walking around the hallways, one gets the feeling that the students are in desperate need of vacation.

In lack for a solution to this extreme overload, this column will be of a rather relaxing nature today. We realize that reading *The Muckraker* during class is one of the only escapes that students enjoy during their otherwise monotonous day. Simultaneously, we also find that a new craze sweeping the school is equally satisfying. More and more students devote their class hours concentrating on filling 81 little boxes with coherent numbers. If you have no idea what this is about, check out the various pages of the *Tagesspiegel*, [www.sudoku.org](http://www.sudoku.org), or even better, page six of this edition of *The Muckraker*. Try solving one of these logical puzzles.

Alone the act of concentrating on a Sudoku seems to relieve many of their stress burdens, as all energy is focused on solving this one problem. The consequences of making a mistake in a puzzle, and realizing that none of the numbers make sense can be very frustrating though, which is why *The Muckraker* highly advises using a pencil to solve Sudokus.

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## First Read, Then Go: JFKS School Musical

Jack Fisher and Camillo de Vivanco

Bertolt Brecht is probably one of the most prominent and influential playwrights of not only German but all modern theatre. The man who developed the theory of the "Epische Theater," a theory that intended to educate the audience, revolutionized theatrical practice in the first half of the last century. His theory of "Verfremdung" insisted on the audience maintaining a certain distance from the piece itself in order to observe and learn.

The "Dreigroschenoper," written in 1928, is one of his earlier, yet probably one of his most famous dramas. Its music was composed by one of Brecht's long-time collaborators, Kurt Weill. The play is based on the "Beggars' Opera", an 18th century satire by John Gay (yes, that's his actual last name). Brecht's adaptation, however, differs fundamentally from its predecessor.

This drama is soon available to all of you. Dr. McDaniel and the drama department are bringing out Brecht's "Dreigroschenoper" for fall performance. You will witness a German-language production, an unique case since a very long time. It's a special one, considering that the musical originates from Berlin.

As preparations are well underway, musical-related tasks occupy the bodies and minds of several dozens of students. Their joint energy and dedication has gone to acting, the playing of an instrument, and working "behind the scenes" (stage crew, we love you). Thanks to the professional guidance of Dr. McDaniel, Dr. Curtis and Mr. Germann, every single effort becomes a valuable part of the whole.

In terms of characters and staging, this show will breach the theatrical conventions most of you are used to. Yes, there will be characters and a stage on which they appear, however: unlike the perfect illusion naturalist

theater tries to establish, the JFKS production focuses on transparency.

Characters will turn into actors and vice versa. Similarly, the audience and the actors will exchange perspectives. You will not only observe, but also learn. The show will seem pretty real, given the character selection – a bunch of crooks and so-called ruffians – and their socio-economic motives. Don't expect too much sentimentality from the individuals on stage. As Brecht defied bourgeois society, rules of civilized decorum – morals, in short – will prove their value to the outrage of the audience. Corruption, crime and sex are the currency in which his people trade.

**WARNING,** the following paragraph is a plot summary. If you do not want us to give away the plot, just skip this paragraph!

Set in Soho, London's infamous district of crime, the play shows Jonathan Jeremiah Peachum – owner of a company of beggars called "Bettler's Freund" – who receives the news that his daughter Polly has married cut-throat Macheath, a.k.a. Mack the Knife. Peachum is enraged by this and works towards having Mack hanged. The latter, however, is an old friend of "Tiger" Brown, the chief of police. Eventually, Peachum is able to imprison Macheath (twice, that is) and prepares for his hanging...

In case you haven't yet looked at the posters, here's what you need to know: the show will take place in the large aula on two consecutive weekends. The curtains will open on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 10th, 11th, and 12th of November, daily at 19:00 h. Ticket prices at the Abendkasse vary from 7 Euro per adult to 5 Euro for a student. Don't worry about the prices so much, as there is a chance of getting up to 3 Euro discount, depending on the number of tickets you buy in advance. Please feel free to share this unique experience!





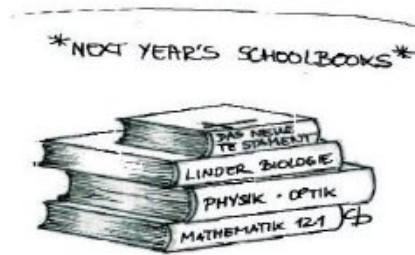
## JFKS Life

# Gott liebt dich

Benjamin Hofmann

Es ist durchaus nichts Ungewöhnliches, dass unsere Schule von Menschen Besuch bekommt, deren Hauptanliegen es ist, Schüler für ihren Zweck zu gewinnen. Meistens sind das Versuche, die Schülerschaft für Senior Ringe oder Universitäten jeglicher Art zu begeistern. Nichts also, was man nicht ignorieren könnte. Anders war es am Donnerstag, dem 22. September, an dem das Erdgeschoss im blauen Gebäude von der Gideon Society besucht wurde. Die Gideons sind Menschen, die es sich zur Aufgabe gemacht haben, die Bibel unter die Leute zu bringen. Früher haben sie sich nur auf amerikanische Hotelzimmer beschränkt, expandierten dann, und auf einmal kamen sie an unserer Schule. In Anbetracht der langen Debatten über kopftuchtragende Lehrerinnen oder Holzkreuze in Klassenzimmern, ist so etwas ein durchaus fragwürdiger Vorgang. Kaum einer hat etwas gegen eine differenzierte Auseinandersetzung mit der Bibel im Unterricht, die Gideons jedoch sind Missionare. Nicht Missionare einer speziellen Kirche, sondern sie verstehen sich als „verlängerter Missionsarm ihrer Ge-

meinden“ (wie das Vorwort des Buches verrät). Wer hier noch nicht ins Stutzen gekommen war, dem bot die letzte Seite des Buches dann noch die Möglichkeit, per Unterschrift sich als Sünder zu bezeichnen und die Anerkennung Jesu Christi als Herrn zu bezeugen. Kritische Schüler wurden jedoch in den wenigsten Fällen zur fairen Auseinanderset-



zung herangezogen. Meist wurde nur auf eine Genehmigung des Schulsensors verwiesen. Diesen Grund gab auch die Schulleitung an, angesichts der Hartnäckigkeit der Organisation. Dass die Entscheidung im Senat keineswegs auf optimalem Wege gefällt worden war, stellte sich am darauffolgenden Freitag heraus. Eine Genehmigung war

zwar erteilt worden, aber dennoch hatte scheinbar nur eine Minderheit der zuständigen Personen wirklich etwas von der Sache mitbekommen. Behagt hat es wohl keinem und innerhalb kürzester Zeit wurde die Genehmigung zurückgezogen, da in der freitäglichen 20-minute break eine weiteres Erscheinen der Gideons herannahte. Nachdem diese Entscheidung die Schulleitung jedoch nicht rechtzeitig erreichte, bot sich am Freitag ein noch extremeres Bild als am Tag zuvor. Laute Wortgefechte waren unüberhörbar und einige Bibeln fanden nicht nur ihren Weg in den Mülleimer, sondern sogar auf das Fußballfeld der unteren Klassenstufen. Dieses Verhalten rief bei den Menschen, die zum Wegwerfen der Bibel aufriefen, sowie bei den Gideons, die dieses Verhalten provozierte, starke Emotionen hervor. In der siebten Stunde verschwanden die Gideons. Sie hinterließen die Diskussion über die Rechtmäßigkeit einer solchen Aktion in einem demokratischen Staat. Die Frage danach, wie es überhaupt zur Genehmigung kam, verschwand allerdings ebenso schnell wie die Gideons.

## Was It Really Suicide?

Vanessa Dietrich and Rosalee Dorfman

How many JFK students have to pass through the Schönow Park every morning to get to school? Probably most of us. On October 18th, we were to become eyewitnesses of a crime scene on a „normal“ Tuesday morning.

Everyone probably knows by now that a man was found dead, possibly a suicide, hanging from one of the autumn colored leafed trees. The police arrived shortly before school started, blocked the path through the park, as well as the sidewalk. A plastic cover hung over the victim's head and upper body, though the feet dangled in the air.

But was it really suicide? By the time of writing this article, no one knew for sure. If it was a suicide, why did he hang himself? Was his life really so horrible that he felt obliged to commit it? Why right next to a school, our school? Didn't he know that students, including young children, would have to pass by his pale lifeless body the next morning? Maybe he knew that. Often suicide committers want to have an audience in hope that they prevent them of wanted death.

A study by the Statistisches Bundesamt in Wiesbaden shows that men are more prone to be suicidal and most use the method of strangling. In the past, people feared to admit their psychological problems. Now many

decide to seek help from a psychiatrist to overcome their disturbing problems, such as deep depression due to unhappiness and family or relationship problems.

By interviewing students from grades 7 through 13, we discovered different information and emotions in reaction to the hanging. A 10th grader responded, „It was kind of shocking to see feet dangling in the air when I was going to school. The guy must have had a very sad life. But I guess it's better for him now.“ An 11th grader, who came to school around 2nd period, only saw the body lying on the ground, but was shaking from her shock. A math teacher says, „It's not the same as in pictures, it's surreal.“ A 13th grader showed interest in the crime by responding, „It aroused my curiosity to find out about what happened.“ This reaction was similar to that of a 9th grader, who said, „I was shocked and felt sorry for the man, it was really hard to believe. I wanted to know more and receive some explanation. Even though I didn't see it, I can picture the scene in my head.“ Another 11th grader stated that he witnessed of a woman crying near the tragic scene.

The rumors going around school try to fulfill peoples' desire to know what happened. One version is

that the park gardener found the 40-year-old man around 7a.m. A 10th grader claims that he saw the man still walking near the fishpond around 6:30 a.m. Most students we interviewed shared the emotions of a 10th grader, who was „paralyzed when [he] heard that something like this happened in the park next to my school. Our school handled the matter poorly by not telling anyone what had happened.“ Since the suicide was not reported in the media, not even on RBB TV station, it is comprehensible that the administration did not know about what happened, either. Yet the anger towards the administration for lack of response and care toward the issue increased among students.

As the above reactions of the students show, this experience clearly affected the majority of us. It might even have provoked a greater awareness of death. This will never be forgotten, but naturally life will go on.

*Editors' Note: The Student Council announced at their most recent meeting that more information could be attained. Now they know that this unfortunate man was between 30 and 40 years of age, and that he was kicked out of his apartment the night before. As he was unable to pay his rents, he felt powerless. His decision to take his life probably resulted from this.*

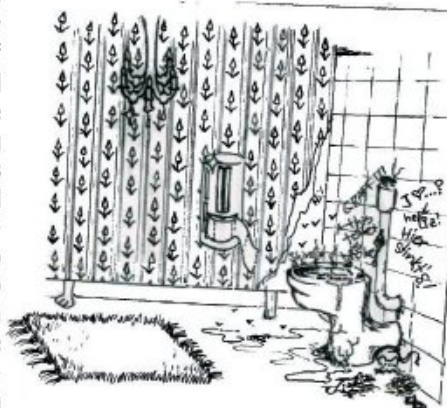


# JFKS Life

## Try a Little Cleanliness

Ana-Constantina Kolb

It's an average day at JFKS. Student Batgirl walks into the bathroom on the first floor of the blue building. Student Superwoman, Invisible Girl, and Catwoman are already standing in line while Student Elektra and Lois Lane are sympathetically trying to console Student April who is crying. Student Batgirl decides to wait because she is too lazy to walk over to the white building or up a flight of stairs. It's Superwoman's turn now. While walking into the second bathroom, you hear Superwoman shriek of disgust and turn around while offering Y to go instead. Superwoman will wait for the next bathroom stall to open, as this one is openly displaying someone else's hygiene articles and – you have to admit – that is simply disgusting. Invisible Girl doesn't want to enter it either, for two reasons: a) it's simply disgusting and b) if Invisible Girl would enter it, she would be considered disgusting too. Another flush is heard in the room and everyone starts jumping from one foot to the other in order to emphasize how much they have to go to the bathroom. Superwoman finally enters a bathroom stall clearly explaining to everyone



our "splendid" toilets

that Superwoman is about to explode and closes the door. One hears a loud "Oh my God!!! This is so gross!" and a timidly added "But I really gotta pee..." from Superwoman's location. Somebody had smeared chocolate, or brownies, or Nutella on the inside of the door, evidently wanting everyone to think of it as remnants of someone's faecal matters. Student P flips out. "Enough! Enough!" is heard from the back of the line. Student Batgirl finally decides to go to another bathroom.

This is not a made up story. Of course superheroes would never be as disgusting as we humans are. However, this scenario is a daily occurrence in the girl's bathroom of the blue building. Apart from the lack of toilet paper that many bathroom visitors have to endure, the hygienic situation is outrageous. And this is not the fault of the cleaning company, as it lies in the hands of us to keep a clean environment. Especially the bathrooms should be respected since we all share them and are dependent on each other's courtesy. The objective is not to blame you who want to make a joke every once in a while, but do you truly think it is appropriate to joke with

hygiene?

Aside from the precarious health issues it reveals (let's not get into too much detail...), it is a breach against the respect we all consciously decide to show the moment we step onto the school grounds. A clean school surrounding is not a given! The fact that the school pays a cleaning company to clean up the mess the students leave behind does not mean that we can take advantage of it so ruthlessly and throw even more (repulsive) obstacles onto their track. It is each person's freedom to do whatever they want out of their own bathroom at home (provided that your parents accord to it), but this is your school.

Now you might think that it is the school's job to inform you on your duties to leave the bathrooms as clean as possible. You are smart enough to have made it to high school, so you are expected to have some signs of manners. It is not the school's job to remind you of your manners, no: duties, concerning a public bathroom. Of course we can be angry about the lack of toilet paper!

But one thing that is not missing is a trash can, so make use of one when you need to. (In addition, it is highly advisable to always check the bathrooms on toilet paper first.) You have quite a range of choices in bathrooms in the high school building. Possibly your Biology teacher will get angry at you for taking so long when going to the bathroom, but it is your right to attend a toilet with toilet paper...

Finally, why the hate towards the first-floor bathroom in the blue building? What has it done to you? This is not at all an appeal to go out and destroy the other bathrooms as well, but to consciously reflect for a moment. What is the point of showing off your hygienic articles, etc? I don't even want to get into the scribbling here...

We can only improve the entire bathroom situation if we all work on it – then we can also all stop complaining about it for once. We all have bad days every once in a while and feel aggressions towards our surroundings and like to get home as soon as possible, so let's try to make it as pleasant as possible for all of us.

## High School Sweethearts

### Double Teacher Feature with Dr. Olderog and Mrs. Olderog

Boin Cheong

For the first Teacher Feature of the new school year, we decided to introduce a new couple to the school. The Muckraker had short interviews with our new American High School Principal, Dr. Olderog, and our new Middle School Counselor, Mrs. Olderog last week. This double teacher feature will present to you the athlete Dr. Olderog, the shopper Mrs. Olderog, and the two very similar high school sweethearts.

*The Muckraker: Could you please introduce yourself to the JFKS students?*

**Dr. Olderog:** I am Alan Mark Olderog, Dr. Olderog. I come from Arizona, where we lived from 1980 to July 2005, so 25 years.

*What were your first impressions of Berlin?*

When we first got here, it was January and it was very dark and grey. We also left when it was very dark. But when I came back in the summer, it was very beautiful and we could see lot of the big city.

*What were your first impressions of JFKS?*

When I came here, I thought it was a big school. And the buildings are made out of concrete, which is pretty unusual for me. Apart from that, I liked the faculty a lot when I first came and met the teachers.

*What's totally new for you here?*

Definitely the language. Learning a new language is quite difficult. I have very little background in a foreign language, which I am not proud of, but I am working on my German.

*What do you like about JFKS?*

The faculty is very nice. Everybody here is so helpful. The other administration members are also very nice. And my secretary, Frau Klemm, she's awesome!

*What would you like to see improved?*

The accreditation team suggested some great things. Those need to be done. Also the new curricula are very challenging. There now will be continuity from K through 13 with new key aspects, so that it's not limited. The students' expectations are high and I think their satisfaction will be high. I think these kids like JFKS.

**Dr. Olderog...** continued to page 4



## JFKS Life

**Dr. Olderog...** *continued from page 3*

*Do you also teach?*

Yes, I do. I teach 7th grade biology and I have two classes so it adds up to four hours per week. I haven't taught it for over 20 years, though, but I'm having fun.

*What's your least favorite thing about biology?*

You know, that's a very good question. Hm... Maybe biochemistry because it is very detailed and very difficult.

*What's your favorite thing about biology?*

I like sciences in general. I also like to do things outdoors very much, so things like life science, ecology are good.

*What drew you into teaching?*

You know what? When I was little I never knew I was going to be a teacher. My wife was a teacher and we always had opposite vacations. She worked when I had vacation and I worked when she had vacation because I had to do an internship for park and recreation. I worked with K through high school students in Minnesota. I liked working with children there and somebody said that I have a talent for working with students. So I thought I should be a teacher. So I would say these two factors both made me want to become a teacher. It's not a very good reason to be a teacher but I had also heard that I would have a future as a teacher.

*What is your favorite place in Berlin?*

I think out by the Wannsee is very pretty. The Schlachtensee is also really nice. You know there is a Biergarten there by

*The Muckraker: Could you please introduce yourself to the JFKS students?*

**Mrs. Olderog:** I'm Faye Olderog, the new Middle School counselor for grades 7 through 9.

*Dr. Olderog said that when he arrived in Berlin, everything was very dark. What were your first impressions of Berlin?*

I think my first impressions were that this is a huge city, very beautiful, and the public transit makes it easy to get around. We also have great neighbors who have been here for over 10 years so they take us around. We already went sailing on the Spree together, we've been to several concerts already, and we did the museum night. We've also been outside of Berlin, like Munich and Dresden. That was also very nice.

*What made you want to come to Berlin?*

We've always said that once we retire, we want to do something at an international school. Then Mark had his in-

the water with tables and chairs outside and that's really nice.

*What will you be doing 10 years from now?*

I will be on a boat in Sea of Cortez.

*Why?*

I love the ocean. It's very peaceful and quiet. Mexico is one of my favorite retreats. When we retired in Arizona, we lived close to the Sea of Cortez; it took us five hours to get there. We were then on the boat on the sea. I can also very well imagine us traveling.

*What were you doing 10 years ago?*



Hm.. 10 years ago... (thinks.) Oh I was working on opening a new junior high school. I didn't design the building, obviously, but I saw the constructions, and we built a new school. I was the principal there and had to hire a new teaching staff. We had to set up schedules together and everything. It was the most rewarding experience in my life.

terview and the counselor position was also open so I got to come, too!

*What were your first impressions of JFKS?*

I think the students are fabulous! They speak at least two languages, many speak three or four. I am so impressed by their ability to switch languages. I also think the students are very serious about their studies. It seems like they are very motivated to do something and that they are thinking of things beyond college.

*What do you like about JFKS?*

The students! I love learning a whole different system of education. Trying to combine two cultural philosophies of education is interesting and dynamic to look at. I think there are some great teachers here. I like the openness here. I came from a school where they were locked in and where they needed badges to get on campus. There's a nice feeling when you come on campus here. I also

*Is there a childhood dream that came true?*

I always wanted to live on a boat and fish. I wanted to spend as much time as possible on the water.

*I was informed that you run marathons. Is that true?*

Yeah, I did 36 marathons before we moved here. But I haven't done those in the last five years. I also did four months of Appalachian Trail (3 475km). That was to make up for the lost time. You know, sometimes I was so busy I didn't have time for the outdoors. So I made up for that doing the Appalachian Trail.

*What do you think about JFKS? Is it too American, or too German?*

I think it's living up to its philosophy. I think the students have that German-American thing in them. I mean this school is full of students who are bilinguals, who have both sides of both cultures. The majority speaks great English, and their German is also very good. I see Germans and Americans becoming friends. I think that's a great thing.

*Is there anything else you would like to say?*

I think this is the most unique group of students in my 25, 26 years in education. This is a diverse group of students and they are the brightest, the most powerful, the most intelligent I saw.

*Thank you.*

like how the parents are involved at JFKS. The faculty, the teachers, and the counseling staff are all very nice. I also have much luck to have Mr. Blount who has been here for a long time. He has all the answers to my questions!

*What do you not like about JFKS?*

It's not that I don't like it but I find it often very difficult when there are German conversations going on, because I can't understand it. I'm a talker and I like to talk (laughs). So I got to learn the language. It's a very difficult language but at least I am learning the culture now.

*What would you like to see changed in the school?*

I want to see more flexibility in the school, like in scheduling. I talked to parents who had children who already had two years of French but still had to be placed in French Beginners, and same thing with math. It would be nice to change these things, to see more

**Mrs. Olderog...** *continued to page 5*



## JFKS Life / Opinion

**Mrs. Olderog...** *continued from page 4*  
flexibility.

*Have you ever taught before?*

I taught American History, Geography, Psychology, Anthropology, Social Sciences...

*That's pretty neat. Dr. Olderog said that he taught Biology.*

Yeah, we have it all covered (laughs). He's more the math, sciences person, whereas I enjoy history more. In the US, you have to teach for five years before you become a counselor.

*Why history? Why not biology?*

History is a lot easier for me. My dad was a history teacher. So maybe that had an impact.

*What are your hobbies?*

I like to shop. I LOVE to shop! But I also read a lot, and jog a lot. But I haven't done that since I got here. I still feel a lot healthier here. In the States, you wake up and get in the car to get to school. Here we walk or take the bike to school. I think it's great!

*Dr. Olderog said he did 36 marathons before he got here. Are you also a marathon-runner?*

No, I don't do marathons! The farthest race I ever ran was a half-marathon in Las Vegas. I usually do 5 km, and 10km, but not marathons. He's more the athletic person. He also does triathlons and recently did the Appalachian Trail (3 475km!!).

*What is your favorite place in Berlin?*

I think the Wannsee is very pretty. I don't know why. Maybe it's the water. It's very beautiful. I also like Zehlendorf very much. I like this area where the school is, where we live; I feel very comfortable here.

*What will you be doing 10 years from now?*

## Correction / Apologies

Jakob Thomae

I would like to correct a statement I made in my article "Class Trips" in the last Muckraker dated September 29, 2005. My remark about the 8th grade ski trips was inappropriate. I recognize that the "behavioral issues" do not reflect the ski trips as a whole. I also understand that these incidents were contained by the supervising teachers.

I apologize for any misunderstandings that occurred from my article. Naturally, the 8th grade ski trips are just as much an important part of JFKS tradition as the 11th grade class trips.

Hm... (thinks for a while.) I think I will be enjoying the sun on a beach in Mexico.

*That's pretty similar to what Dr. Olderog said. He also said he'll be in Mexico.*

Really? (laughs.) I think I will be. I really think so. Like I said I like the water. And it's warm. You know, we could fish, we could hike. I also like the Mexican culture.

*Is there a childhood dream that came true?*

I just really like people, you know, like talking to people. I just wanted to help people, make things better, so I feel like I got to do what I wanted to do. I feel extremely fortunate and fulfilled. I am doing what I like to do. I love talking to students, I like counseling.

*Last but not least, here's a more personal question. How did you and Dr.*

*Olderog meet each other?*

We were high school sweethearts! We actually lived two miles away from each other our entire lives. We didn't know each other, though. We went to the same elementary school, the same junior high, and then the same high school. We were in the same home-room in our junior year and we started going out. My dad was the principal at the school (laughs). After that, we went to different universities, and then he went to the marines. We dated off and on for four years. And now we've been married for 32 years!

*Is there anything else you want to say to the students?*

They are great! Work hard, achieve your goals, and come and see me if you have any questions!

Thank you.

## Letter to the Editors

Mrs. Davis

I'm looking daily for the horns that seem to be growing from my head. I have yet to find them, but I am told that there are students and community members that believe that I and others who hold similar opinions are trying to "kill" the Muckraker. Rumor has it that we want to censor its content, destroy its voice or eliminate it all together. This is simply not the case. As long as the Muckraker is within the law as an independent student newspaper, we are quite happy to see it continue as part of the JFKS community.

What we do want, however, is what the rumors seem to omit: the right for aspects of the American ideal of a student journalism program to be permitted and supported at JFKS. On several occasions in the past five years, members of the JFKS staff and student body have been told that we cannot have a journalism activity at JFKS because we already have the Muckraker. For many people the Muckraker completely fills the need for a student voice. For others, however, the traditionally German structure of the Muckraker as an independent newspaper is not enough.

This is perhaps a junction where the idea of a school / student newspaper is a cultural question, rather than a question of rights. As I understand it, a German student newspaper is a completely free, uncensored voice of the student body. Great.

On the other hand, school newspapers in the United States are a part of a formal journalism program within schools. Even if the newspaper is offered

as an activity, rather than a class, there is always a faculty advisor whose function is to support the journalistic efforts of the students and to teach students various writing styles, layout and design, and journalistic ethics. The bad part is the newspaper is subject to censorship by the school. The highest ideals of journalistic integrity, free speech and impartiality are out of reach for these students.

But as I see it, we should combine the best of both worlds, just as we do in other aspects of our school community. Why not have the journalistic education offered by the American system combined with Germany's stark opposition to censorship?

For example, as a librarian, when I arrived at JFKS, I was thrilled to discover the wealth of books on our shelves. There are an incredible number of books in the JFKS library that would be challenged or banned in American schools. While one would be hard-pressed to find a high school library in the United States with the material we make readily available on our shelves, we have it here because we have been able to blend the American cultural tradition of libraries in schools with Germany's reluctance to ban or censor reading materials. Good for JFKS. Why couldn't this work with regard to the newspaper issue?

The JFKS community is fortunate to have a wealth of professionals in the journalism field who are willing and well-qualified to support a journalism curriculum at JFKS. I can see where there might be trepidation among the

Letter... continued to page 6



## Opinion / Sudokus

Letter... continued from page 5

students to have adults creep into what has heretofore been a strictly student domain. But, I would also ask what are students missing at JFKS in terms of opportunity to learn journalistic style, format and research methods? What are students missing if no one has ever had a discussion with them about journalistic ethics? Are our students not open to learning professional interviewing techniques or getting advice from graphic artists about how to make the student paper more accessible and readable? How much bigger could the student's voice be if the student newspaper was in a more professional format?

As pointed out by a member of the JFKS Student Council, the Muckraker is the only voice for students at JFKS. Any misconception, misinformation, bias or inaccuracy published in the Muckraker, he said, sits in a public domain for a month or more without the affected parties being able to publicly refute the issue. Thus, the Muckraker's burden is high. The Muckraker must strive to be fair, accurate, and balanced in each issue.

Journalism and writing are pursuits not above criticism. The right to criticize lies not only in the pen of the writer, but also in the voice of the reader. I hope we all can realize that putting ourselves in the public eye, whether in the Muckraker or in other pursuits, opens us up to criticism.

As I've experienced first-hand, questioning the Muckraker's student editors based on basic journalistic principles or to criticize the paper for inaccurate, unbalanced or biased reporting results not in careful consideration of the article in question, but even more editorially driven, unbalanced articles. The editors seem to fail to realize the students' right to publish the Muckraker includes a huge responsibility to fulfill that right in a just manner.

The question is how we marry the idea of an American-style school newspaper with the German ideal of a student newspaper? Or, do we? That, in discussion with various members of the JFKS community (on either side of the issue), seems to be the direction this discussion is moving. The idea of having two papers is a possibility, but raises, many think, the idea of the Muckraker, and this 'other' paper as enemies of one another. This again is counter to the philosophy of our school.

We are certainly not at an end of this discussion, and I think for many reasons that is good. My suggestion and the desire of many in the JFKS community, is that we are able to reconcile the German-style student newspaper with the American-style school newspaper. There are students and teachers in America who would salivate over the opportunity we have here—to join the American system of educating its journalists at the high school level with the lack of censorship that German student newspapers enjoy. I hope we can do that, and I hope we can do that as Germans and Americans, together.

## De Ira

Der Grottenolm

Ich bin wütend. Abgrundtief wütend. Aufgebracht, erbost, zornig; furious, enraged, fuming – ich könnte nun meinen gesamten aggressiven Wortschatz herunterbeten. Mein Kopf läuft vor Empörung hochrot an und ich stampfe wie das Rumpelstilzchen mit dem Fuß auf, dass die Wände wackeln und sich die ahnungslosen Umherstehenden schleunigst in Sicherheit begeben.

Mir ist allerdings auch der Schrecken aller strebsamen Schüler widerfahren: ich habe meine Hausaufgaben vergessen. Nicht vergessen, sie zu machen: das kommt selbst bei mir schon mal vor und ist von geringer Bedeutung. Nein – gemacht hatte ich sie. Und in meine den Schulmaterialien zugewiesene Tasche gepackt – da schwöre ich Eide drauf. Das maßlos unverschämte, mich in rasende Rage versetzende, ist das unwiderrufliche Faktum, dass die im Schweiß meines

Angesichts mit aller Sorgfalt angefertigten Hausaufgaben in der dritten Stunde des Dienstagmorgens nirgends aufzufinden sind. Als wären sie von heimtückischer Bosheit erfasst aus meinem Hefter gehopst – ich sehe sie direkt unter dem Bücherregal kauern und voll Tücke schelmisch vor sich hin kichern, während ihr Schöpfer verzweifelt einer höhnenden Lehrkraft die Situation zu schildern sucht.

Dass ich mich in diese eher triviale Tatsache etwas hineinsteigere, mag der verdutzte Leser nun anmerken. Unverständiger! antworte ich darauf. Abgesehen davon, dass die „zuhause-vergessen“- Leier schon lange bei keinem Lehrer mehr zieht, haben wir es hier mit eindeutigem, unmilderbarem Selbsthass zu tun. Nicht, dass ich die besagten Aufgaben tatsächlich daheim verschlampt hätte, erhöht derart meinen Blutdruck (von dieser Bürde hat mich schließlich deren metaphysische

Lebendigkeit befreit), vielmehr, dass ich mich über eine derartige Lappalie dermaßen aufregen kann. Angenommen, einem Menschen steht nur ein gewisses Wutkontingent zur Verfügung: wie kann ich es angesichts der genozidischen Gewaltausschreitungen im nord-östlichen Afrika, der skrupellosen Korruption der Politiker weltweit oder der naturausrötenden Menschheit verantworten, einen derartigen Prozentsatz meines aktiven Wesens an entflohenen Schulaufgaben zu vergeuden? Ich bin eine miserable Kreatur. Schleunigst sollte ich die Schule abbrechen, in pazifistischer Gesinnung den Tropenwald retten und mir die globale Konfliktlösung mit dem Endziel Weltfrieden vornehmen. Doch dann würde ein anderer statt meiner diese Muckraker-Seiten füllen (und wohl noch dazu etwas weitaus gehaltvolleres produzieren): stellt euch nur meine ausartende Wut darüber vor.

## Sudoku

Although it might seem like a math puzzle, Sudoku is nothing more than a riddle involving logical reasoning. There is only one rule to this addictive and fun puzzle. Fill in the boxes so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains all digits from 1 to 9. Have fun!

			5	3		4		
		9	8		7	1		
8					4			2
2			4					5
	3			6				
	8	4				7	9	
6		1						
		7	2				8	
5			1	7			3	

	4	9			5	7		
	8	3	6		9		4	1
						2		
			3	9			7	8
					7		5	
6			4			1		5
	1		8			4		
		4		1	2		3	



## Student Life / Culture

# Berlin Photography Festival 2005

Una Suput

Do pictures tell the truth? Certainly not always. We've all been witnesses to photo-montage and the like. But even when a photograph has not been manipulated after being taken, we can never truly discern its accuracy of the entire situation it stems from; a photographer may play with perspective, color, composition, thus provoking, sometimes perhaps unintended reactions from the viewer. So, could we, with slight hesitation, say that a photograph can never completely be "after the fact?"

This is the focus of the first Berlin Photography Festival that is taking place from the 23rd September to the 14th of November. The exhibition is titled "After the Fact," and is located in the Martin Gropius Bau - a beautiful Renaissance-style building from 1881, situated between Anhalter Bahnhof and Potsdamer Platz. The range of photography is wide, with color, as well as black and white photographs from the 1950s to the present day - works by 30 German and international artists. The main focus of the festival is the documentary picture, which provides us with knowledge and information. The bright square rooms of the building are decorated with diverse shots: those of Berlin, the slums in Bulgaria, still life, Albinos, crying politicians, strange cloth patterns, and much more. There are magazines and internet sites to look at, with truly moving pictures of the present and the past, of war and serenity, of the rich and the dying. All photographs tell something; but it is mostly up to us to decide what.



Source: <http://morgenpost.berlin1.de>

"Smoking Man" (2001) by Toyin Sokefun, member of the West-African artist group DOF. Photo: Promo

# Bits of China -Excerpt of a dairy-

Geraldine Laetitia Ciocci

I left Berlin in an airplane heading towards Shanghai, the largest industrial city in China, in the summer of 2005. Because I hadn't been there before, I didn't know what to expect, although I had already read many articles and books on China. The moment I arrived at Pudong airport, I was confronted with a culture shock unlike any I had experienced before. Everything seemed to be different from what I was used to, including the breezy air. The first thing I got to do in Shanghai, was to ride the Magnetic Levitation Train. At a speed of over 400 kilometers per hour, it took me exactly 7 minutes and 34 seconds to reach downtown Shanghai! After the ride on the MagLevTrain and the first sight of Shanghai's massive skyscrapers, I thought that I was taking a trip into the future. My first impression of the city is hard to describe, but I remember well that I thought I wouldn't be able to survive in this place for 5 weeks due to the daily temperature of 45 C° and the highly polluted air. However, from that moment onward,

I started changing my mind. After I checked into the hotel and survived my first day of Mandarin classes, I couldn't wait to dive into a world that seemed so different, yet interesting to me. Originally, I intended to go to China to study the Mandarin language, a bit of Chinese culture, and then come home. But at that point, I didn't know that after 5 weeks in this truly amazing country, I would be able to adapt to the Chinese way of life so well. I had no idea that after such a short time, I would feel so devoted to the country's people and their mentality, which was probably what took me the longest time to get used to. One has to develop a certain understanding for the peoples' situation in order to understand their behavior. Thus, I am happy I had the chance to spend 5 weeks in China, which enabled me to get to know Chinese people and their culture. In the beginning, I thought of Chinese people as being cold and rude, as opposed to warm and welcoming. This was because, I had made negative experiences with them in the past. As a Westerner in China, even in the big city of Shanghai, you have to get used being stared at and photographed by strangers without permission. Later, I understood that many of the people had never seen a European

girl before. This was true especially for children, because they never had the chance to leave their country and travel the world. One also has to get used to people spitting on the streets all the time, which is a normal habit in China. These are only two of the various alienating experiences, that I experienced. The best experience I made on this trip was when I went on a field study, an element of the "New City" class I took. On this occasion, I had the chance to explore living conditions and talk to different Shanghaiese people. On a superficial level, Chinese people might seem cold and rude, like I have previously mentioned. I learned that as soon as you make a step towards them,



Geraldine on her mission to tighten the relations between China and Europe

they are one of the most friendly and warm-hearted human beings I have met.

During my stay in China, I spent most of the time in Shanghai, a city with a population of nearly 16 million. But I also travelled to some of China's "smaller" cities, like Suzhou (about 3 million inhabitants) and Hangzhou (population of about 1 million), as well as along China's east coast. It is amazing how much difference in scenery and urban housing there can be in only one country. The architecture in most of the Chinese cities varies from town to town. It was in Shanghai however, that I encountered the most abstract and unusual architecture. The contrast between the 20th and the 21st centuries is nowhere more stunningly visible than in Shanghai. In this city, traditional Bund and space-age Pudong, the new bank district of the city, are located on opposite sides of the Huangpu river. In Shanghai, you can walk from the ultra-futuristic new financial district with the third tallest building in the world to the former French Concession, where villas of the colonial era, art galleries, and the founding site of the Chinese Communist Party are located. Shanghai is an international cultural center. Visitors are stunned by Nanjing Road, which looks like a combination of Times Square and Las Vegas. In addition, Shanghai was a focal point for Chinese history. The struggle between the colonial powers and the Chinese, the Communists and the Nationalists, and the conflicts between the people and the communist government of China all took place there. I could go on forever, about Chinese

China... continued to page 8



## Culture

China... continued from page 7

food, Urbanism, Medicine, Theatre, and Mythology. But, I believe that this does not contribute to the point I am trying to make. The Media informs us about the human rights situation in China almost everyday. Also, the one-party system is very controversial in the west. Still, I went to China, trying not to have prejudices against the country and its people. I was eager to learn whether or not my preconceptions would be confirmed. Now, I have the feeling that one cannot judge a country, unless one has been there to see what lies behind the country's political facade. The China I got to know is totally different from what I expected. There are other positive sides of the country, that the media doesn't inform us of. Of course, the human rights situation is far from what we would call "normal", but one should not forget that China is still developing and could make significant progress in a variety of fields soon. Due to China's economy, one of the strongest and most rapidly developing in the world, it's international power is increasing on a daily basis. As opposed to prejudging China, Europeans should realize that the country is globally closer to us, than ever before. I cannot describe the feelings I developed for China, but the memories will always remain in my heart. Difference is not a bad thing. It is a good thing for all human beings, because it helps us learn to become more culturally aware and open-minded. Given the chance, I would return to China immediately, anytime!

## Hurricane Katrina Donations

Francesca Scelsi

As reported in the last edition of The Muckraker, Hurricane Katrina led to the flooding of New Orleans, causing many to become homeless. Since then, many people and organizations aided the helpless victims. Almost every company contributed in large amounts; for instance Coca-Cola donated \$ 1 million to the Salvation Army. In addition, numerous celebrities gave charity concerts and radio stations held fundraisers. Yet it was not only large organizations who donated. There were also many individuals that opened their briefcases and donated up to hundreds of millions of dollars.

These donations from the private contributors cannot be compared to those from the US-government. In fact, many people were doubtful about the government's remedy to the damages in New Orleans. "When it comes down to caring for our fellow country men, we all know that America has never ranked very high," Washington Post columnist Harold Meyerson criticizes. However, this does not stop the good-hearted people to help as much as they can.

As a matter of fact, also our school had many of projects to help raise money. Of course there was the option of submitting donation in the library. Students could feel free to insert as much as they wanted into the donation box. This project went very well

and lots of money could be collected.

Beside the project inside the library, also the Student Council (SC) initiated a project to raise funds. The SC came up with a brilliant plan that would help involve many students, especially the younger classes. The idea was to give an envelope to every class in grades 7 through 10, and to ask them to donate as much as they can. The class with the largest amount of donation would win a pizza party. This conception was genial. One of the 7th grade classes submitted 134 Euros and won the pizza party. Congratulations 7f!!! The SC proudly revealed at their most recent meeting that the total amount of donations reached 659 Euros. Although the original plan was to send the whole amount to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, things have happened in the world that the SC slightly changed this plan. The SC announces on their website ([www.jfksc.com](http://www.jfksc.com)) that "the money will be matched by Daimler Chrysler and also given to victims of the Earthquake in Pakistan."

As apparent in the outcomes of the mentioned projects, our school shows spirit once again for those who need the aid. It surely is a good thing to see there are so many students who are willing to take the time to support the sufferers.

## NVA

Adrian Nothnagle

Ende der 1980er Jahre wird Henrik Heidler in die NVA, die Armee der DDR, eingezogen. In der Kaserne freundet er sich mit dem rebellischen Schürzenjäger Krüger an. Die jungen Männer sind gezwungen an einer sinnlosen Militärübung teilzunehmen, bei der sich Henrik verläuft und die Bekanntschaft eines hübschen jungen Mädchens macht. Er verliebt sich in sie. Was Henrik nicht weiß: Das Mädchen ist die Tochter einer seiner Offiziere...

NVA ist nach *Sonnenallee* und *Herr Lehmann* der dritte Teil einer Trilogie von Leander Haussmann, in der sich der Regisseur mit der ehemaligen DDR auseinandersetzt. Je nach Perspektive des Zuschauers können diese drei Filme entweder als Parodie oder als eine Verharmlosung der DDR interpretiert werden. Außerdem passen diese Filme in die sehr aktuelle „Ostalgie-Welle“, die in Form von TV-Sendungen, Dokumentationen und anderen Filmen auf uns niedergeschwappt kommt. Sie ist ein Phänomen, dem man näher auf den Grund gehen muss.

Eins steht nach wie vor fest: In der DDR zu leben war kein Zucker-schlecken. Es bestand keine Meinungs-, Presse-, Reise- oder Versammlungsfreiheit. Man war ständig der Beobachtung von Stasi-Mitarbeitern ausgesetzt, die Buch über das Verhalten der Bürger führten. Wurde man zu aufsässig, wurde man eingesperrt. Außerdem gab es, wie in diesem Film verdeutlicht wird, im Gegensatz zur BRD kein Recht auf Kriegsdienstverweigerung. Würde man den sogenannten „Ostaligern“ diese Unannehmlichkeiten zumuten, wären wohl die allerwenigsten von ihnen bereit, in die DDR zurückzukehren.

Ich bin der Meinung, dass die „Ostaligier“ sich nicht nach der DDR mit all ihren negativen Assoziationen, sondern eher nach ihrer Kindheit und Jugend zurücksehnen. Eine zufriedene Kindheit kann man schließlich in jedem Land erleben, egal ob dieses Land eine Diktatur ist oder nicht. Als Kind bekommt von den zuvor genannten Unannehmlichkeiten sowieso wenig, wenn überhaupt, etwas mit. Andere „Ostalgi-

ker“ trauern ihrer verflissenen Karriere hinterher, für die es im wiedervereinigten Deutschland keinen Platz mehr gibt. Immerhin sind seit der Wende über eine Millionen Ostdeutsche arbeitslos geworden.

Was den Film NVA angeht, bin ich gespaltenen Meinung. Einerseits war der Film wirklich sehr lustig. Am meisten lachen konnte man über die tollpatschigen Offiziere. Auf der anderen Seite gab es ein Aspekt des Films, der mir gänzlich missfiel. Auf Grund seiner permanenten Aufsässigkeit wird Krüger nämlich in eine Strafanstalt nach Schwedt versetzt. Als er zurück kommt, sagt er kein Wort mehr und befolgt bedingungslos jedem Befehl seiner Vorgesetzten. Dies stellt der Regisseur so dar, als solle man darüber lachen. Doch hoffentlich bin ich nicht als einziger der Meinung, dass ein derartiger Verlust von Individualität und der damit verbundenen geistigen und körperlichen Züchtigung kein Grund zum Lachen ist.



## Culture

# Turkey and The EU

Yelden Sarybay

During my fall vacation I visited a place so familiar to me and yet changing so fast that it makes European heads spin. That place is, of course, Turkey.

The turkey talks about Turkey joining the EU go back awhile. There definitely are needs for deliberation between the two involved parties, but as you would imagine, the EU will expect more from Turkey than Turkey from the EU. There are problems to be solved and issues to be discussed, but I'm not going to write about minutiae political details and I won't write with the formalities of a political journalist.

Yes, Turkey has to reform several things in order to join the EU. These include: the recognition (and maybe an apology) of the genocide on the Armenian population carried out by the Jungtürken during WWI; explanation of the "exiling" of the Greek population; solution to the more recent conflict with the Kurds. There are also differences in culture; unlike the current EU member states, Turkey is a Muslim country with traditions aging more than 550 years still alive in big cities like Istanbul. And of course there are also the more political issues: the country's economy hasn't been stable until very recently, and it's been at war against most of the major European countries (Italy, Russia, France, and Britain) less than a hundred years ago in the WWI; quite frankly, it was allied with Germany. "It is estimated that 50% of the population lives under the international standards of poverty, especially in the war torn south-east areas," states the online encyclopedia [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org). When all of these problems and unpleasant facts already existed few decades ago, why did the EU start talks of accession with Turkey? The answer is actually quite simple. Turkey has perspectives, whereas more mature European countries like Germany don't. Now which horse would you bet on?

Turkey is placed right on the Anatolian peninsula surrounded by three bodies of water, the Mediterranean, the Aegean, and the Black Sea. In addition, it controls the European side of the Bosphorus which makes it a natural crossroads between East and West. Turkey's tourism economy is already

quite large and is still growing; its agriculture sector still accounts for 40% of employment (as evident in the Turkish grocery stores of Berlin), yet the country also has a strong and rapidly growing private sector which almost entirely holds the famous and quality textile industry.

You might say, "Who cares? The EU can do everything on their own. They might not need a poor (but becoming richer), uneducated (but learning), and Islamic (but not extremist) country like Turkey destructing the European Union's economy. After all, the member states have worked so hard to stabilize it." Actually, the above descriptions might sound like "ka-ching!" to



the capitalist states of Europe. I mean, just think about it. If Turkey joins the EU, it will be of advantage to many people. It will make no difference if you are a Turk or an Italian when you buy a house with a wonderful view of the Mediterranean or the Aegean. The only difference will be that an average Italian probably has more money to buy this dream house. In addition, it is consequently quite cheap compared to the high costs of summer houses in Italy. When buying stocks in Turkey and expanding your wealth, it won't matter which country you are from as long as you are a citizen of a EU member state. Businessmen from the EU could build, buy, and sell companies in Turkey but none of the profits go to the Turkish government. The native employees could theoretically be paid the same amount as now, which is a lot less than in Germany. It might sound as if Turkey could be basically stripped of its wealth. Yet this is not quite true. Turkish and European businessmen would learn a

thing or two from each other and get the market balanced again.

Well what do people think? During my stay in this magnificent country full of mixtures of the old and the young, the dark and happy, the tradition and the future, I asked store clerics, restaurant cooks, waiters, and my old coach what they thought of the situation. Their answers were usually that "[they] are going to get in" and most of them feel positive about it. Yet people who work in hotels and in touristy places like Antalya are not very impressed by the Europeans, especially Germans, who come and visit during the summer. First of all, young and smart Turks recognize that some rich Germans have the wrong impression of poor citizens of a poor country who will do anything for the euro. They believe that's just ignorant thinking. Also some of them feel offended by the fact that European ladies (and granny's) like to tan topless. It seems like these people forget (or maybe even ignore) that Turkey is a Muslim country and that there are cultural differences on this issue.

On the western side of the Bosphorus, people don't seem to be very fond of the idea of accession, either. Their reaction is mainly because of reasons mentioned above, but this is truly politics. In fact, most of the current member states think they will benefit from it.

It seems to me that no matter what people say on either side, Turkey is almost definitely going to join the EU. Why? Because the EU needs it more than a lot of people realize it. The Head of the National Security Council of Turkey even believes that his country will join the EU by around 2012. He says that the other estimates are too far away. He said that "Turkey will have completed its preparations by the end of the EU's next budget period which covers 2007-2013. Right before end of that ... period, Turkey will be ready." What if Turkey never joins? "It won't be the end of the world," he says.

True, it won't be. Turkey's economy will be on the European standard by then anyway. By then, Turkey will have even more perspectives.

send your opinions and articles to:

**themuckraker@gmail.com**



## Culture

### Avian Influenza Cute Birds Now Can Be Deadly

He-in Cheong

Berlin is getting colder everyday, and wild birds fly away to the south. If they would stay in the city, Berliners might become witnesses of slaughtering of millions of birds. Who knows when the bird flu will first be detected in Berlin? The bird flu is a critical issue nowadays. It first hit the world headlines in 1997, when it was first detected in Hong Kong and 18 people became ill and 6 died from it. Yet it wasn't so much of a direct concern back then due to the distance between Hong Kong and Germany.

There are different kinds of Avian Flu, but the most dangerous strain is Hemagglutinin 5 Neuraminidase 1 (H5N1), the one that worry the scientists the most. This virus is known as one of the "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" (HPAI). This subtype can jump from species—in our case from birds to humans. 63

out of 120 infected people who were in close contact with infected birds have passed away already.

Despite the high quota, there is no need to worry about catching the flu from eating COOKED chicken or standing next to someone who has the virus. There are other problems that are of more concern: this virus could merge with a human flu virus and create a new contagious virus. If this should happen, the result could be a plague of highly contagious flu, in other words, we are

doomed.

The symptoms of bird flu are like the human flu (fever, coughing, sore throat, muscle aches, and eye infection), plus breathing problems and pneumonia that can be fatal. There currently isn't a vaccine strong enough to protect us from bird flu, but scientists are working on it. While they are researching, we have to depend on the antiviral drug called Oseltamivir (Tamiflu from Roche). It may work and provide at least partial resistance to the virus.

Until now the H5N1 subtype has been found in the following countries: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. In Sweden, Great Britain, and Croatia birds that are infected with bird flu have been detected, but scientist are currently working on identifying the flu type.

Just to be on the safe side, it is highly recommended that you don't eat any bird-kind food (not only chicken, but also ducks), stay away from birds, don't pick up any feathers from the ground, and wear a protective mask. News reports say that the disease could easily reach Germany. Once the disease is detected, it might lead to us not being able to enjoy the nature as much. So take advantage of the nice weather until that happens.



Source: <http://www.singapore.com>

### Die Wahlen

Francesca Scelsi

Bei den Dresdner Neuwahlen am Sonntag, dem 3. Oktober 2005, gewann die CDU einen zusätzlichen Sitz im deutschen Bundestag. Somit verfügt die CDU nun über 226 Sitze im Bundestag während die SPD hingegen mit dem „mickrigen“ Ergebnis von 222 Sitze Stärke zeigen muss.

Bevor die Verhandlungen beginnen konnten, musste jedoch, wie von der Union verlangt, die Kanzlerfrage geklärt werden. Vor der SPD-Vorstandssitzung gab Gerhard Schröder zu Protokoll, „Es geht nicht um meine Person, es geht um die Führungsrolle der SPD. Ich werde jede Entscheidung akzeptieren und keiner Entscheidung im Wege stehen, die zu einer stabilen Regierung führt.“ Ein voreiliges Zurückziehen von Gerhard Schröder lag gar nicht im Interesse des Verhandlungsführers Franz Müntefering. Verwirrung nicht nur bei der Union, aber auch im ganzem Land. Was soll denn jetzt aus den Sozialdemokraten werden?

Die große Koalition mit Angela Merkel ist die Zukunft Deutschlands. Es gibt trotz allem großen Zweifel, ob diese Koalition lange anhalten wird. Guido Westerwelle (FDP) ist der Meinung, dass diese Konstellation zwischen der Union und der SPD keine zwei Jahre halten werde. Deshalb wolle die FDP der CDU-Vorsitzenden Merkel die Stimme bei der Kanzlerwahl im Bundestag verweigern.

Von jetzt an kann man nur abwarten und sehen zu welchen programmatischen Konklusionen es bei den Koalitionsverhandlungen kommen wird. Eines ist klar, Deutschland hat seine erste Kanzlerin und Deutschland wird beobachten, wie sie ihre Arbeit meistert.

### Movies For Free English Language Festival 2005

Boin Cheong

Paying 5,50 Euros for a movie at CineStar at Potsdamer Platz is nothing extraordinary. Yet on Friday, 18 November and Saturday, 19 November, you will not be required to pay for the movie tickets if you decide to participate in the first English Language Festival. This English Language Festival (ELF) is organized by Mr. Bakke, who found numerous sponsors to cover the costs.

The purpose of the festival is "to bring English-speaking students together for a fun educational experience and a chance to learn about English-speaking organizations in Berlin," reveals the invitation letter. Mr. Bakke sent this letter to various schools and organizations in Berlin, inviting them to two days of free movies, informati-

on fairs, live entertainment, and guest speakers. He thought of organizing this event solely for "the students." In order to make the best out of this fun event, Mr. Bakke reserved all eight movie theatres; these theatres will be showing various movies from 10:00 to 15:00. Mr. Bakke reveals to *The Muckraker* that a possible list of movies could include movies for the younger children, like *Finding Nemo*, and *The Lion King*, as well as young adult movies such as *Super Size Me*, and *Hotel Rwanda*.

Mr. Bakke also states that there will be more to the festival than simply going to the theater for free. Various information booths that could be reserved for 10 Euros for both days will hand out information on English-speaking

schools, organizations, and groups. Among others, our school's *Odyssey of the Mind* will also be present at the event. Besides these, theater 3 will also have educational / organizational programs available for those who are interested.

If this sounds like a fun event, please check your calendar if you have time on these two days. Although we do not have school on these days, people participating in BERMUN (Berlin Model United Nations) will not be able to come as the times unfortunately overlap. Yet if you have nothing planned on one of the days, feel free to come by the movie theater!



## Culture

# Schindler: Zwielfichte Schizophrenie einer Symbolfigur?

Ferdinand Maubrey

Letzten Juni absolvierte ich ein Praktikum im ZDF-Hauptstadtstudio in der Redaktion des Kulturmagazins „aspekte“. Eine meiner Aufgaben war das Abtippen und Übersetzen eines Interviews mit dem amerikanischen Autor und Historiker David M. Crowe. Aufgrund seines Südstaaten-Akzents und der häufiger Tendenz in seinen Bart hinein zu nuscheln wurde dies zu einer Marathonarbeit. Doch aufgrund des Inhalts dieses Interviews entwickelte sich die Sache zu einer interessanten Angelegenheit.

Und zwar hat Crowe ein seit kurzem auch auf deutsch erhältliches Buch mit dem Titel „Oskar Schindler: The untold account of his life, wartime activities and the true story behind the list“ herausgegeben. Das Interessante an dieser Biographie ist der Gegensatz, in dem sie zu Steven Spielbergs weltbekanntem Blockbuster „Schindler's List“ mit Liam Neeson in der Hauptrolle steht. Crowe enthüllt in seinem Buch nämlich ein anderes Bild als das des Judenfreundes, Nächstenliebenden und Anti-Nazis, den Liam Neeson im Film mimt.

In diesem von „aspekte“-Redakteur Frank Vorpahl geführten Interview bestätigt Crowe unter anderem Schindlers Gewaltpotenzial gegenüber Juden. „So he ... had to come across as a 'Supernazi', as very loyal to the state, the system and so on. Particularly because of ... (this) schizophrenia there is no doubt in my mind that he was quite capable of abusing (his) Jews“. Crowes wahres Problem mit Spielbergs Streifen ist aber, dass der jüdische Starregisseur behauptet, der Film sei „komplett auf einer realen Basis aufgebaut“ (Spielberg, New York Times, 9.6.2004). Denn Crowe hält das Drama höchstens für „semi-fictional“.

Während seinen vielen Besuchen in Krakau besichtigte er Drehorte und traf sich mit wahren „Schindlerju-

den“. Nur aufgrund dieser Beobachtungen schrieb er sein Buch, um keinesfalls den Film oder die prägnanten Bilder des „zweifelloso brillanten“, aber eben „nicht ganz authentischen“ Filmstückes als Grundlage zu nehmen. „The first time I was in Krakow I remember having these images from the film in my head and I said to myself: I've got to get these images out of my head and show myself and the reader of my book the real Krakow, the real things that happened and the real people“. Zudem beleuchtet Crowe durchaus bizarre, dunkle und



unbekannte Details aus Schindlers Leben. Zum Beispiel homosexuelle Eskapaden, die er mit seinem engen Freund und SS-Kommandeur Amon Göth einging. Daraus rührt wohl auch der schlechte Einfluss, den „dieses niederträchtige, heuchlerische Monster Göth“ (Crowe) auf die Persönlichkeit des Oscar Schindler gehabt hat. Interessant auch die zwielfichtigen Gründe für seine Gefangennahme 1938 durch die Tschechoslowaken, die ihn schrecklich gefoltert haben sollen. Nichts neues ist die Kritik an Schindler die Rettung „seiner“ Juden hätte er nur aus Geldgier und finanziellen Beweggründen durchgeführt.

Doch der für mich persönlich wohl interessanteste Aspekt des Interviews ist die Entkräftung des ei-

gentlichen Mythos, der Liste. Denn es sei laut Crowe sowohl falsch, dass es nur diese eine Liste gab, als auch, dass Schindler die Idee zu dieser Liste hatte, geschweige denn sie aufgestellt hat. Es habe wohl vier Listen gegeben, je nach Wichtigkeit der Arbeiter. Dies heißt, dass die bevorzugten Arbeiter, gelehrte Angehörige von ehemals einflussreichen jüdischen Familien oder einfach diejenigen, die Schindlers korrupten Gehilfen wie z.B. Goldberg und Stern die höchsten Bestechungsgelder zahlen konnten, auf eine andere Liste gekommen sind als Andere. Hinzu kommt, dass sich Schindler, obwohl er sich viele wertvolle Handelsgüter unter den Nagel riss, nach Kriegsende als „Judenheld“ hinstellen ließ, um so Unmengen von Entschädigungsgeldern für seine Aktion sowohl von jüdischen Räten, Gemeinden und Organisationen als auch von sudeten-deutschen Vereinigungen zukommen ließ. Aus Crowes Perspektive hat sich Schindler also in vielen Belangen heuchlerisch aus der Affäre gezogen. Trotzdem stelle er auf keinen Fall die zweifelloso mutige Aktion Schindlers, die Rettung von etwa 1200 Juden vor dem KZ, in Frage, sondern habe sie nur hinterfragt. Und dabei stieß er eben auf viele Nebengeschichten, die dem Heldenmythos von Schindlers Liste einen bitteren Beigeschmack hinzufügen dürften.

Mehr zum Thema: Buch: „Oscar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities and the True Story Behind the List“, David M. Crowe, Boulder Colorado: Westview Press 2004, 760 Seiten, erschienen bei Eichborn; Film: „Schindler's List“, Regie: Steven Spielberg, Darsteller: Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, USA 1993, Universal

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**Founding fathers:** Adam Nagorski, Seth Hepner, Mikolaj Bekasiak; **Editors:** Boin Cheong, Linnea Kreibohm, Adrian Nothnagle; **Layout:** Jonathan Zachhuber; **Journalists:** He-In Cheong, Camillo de Vivanco, Jakob Fischer, Phillip Hoffmann, Ferdinand Maubrey, Dominique Rose, Yelden Sarybay, Francesca Scelsi, Vivien von Sethe, Christina Wunderlich, Franziska Zachhuber; **Guest Journalists:** Geraldine Laetitia Cioffi, Mrs. Davis, Vanessa Dietrich, Rosalee Dorfmann, Benjamin Hofmann, Ana-Constantina Kolb, Una Suput, Jakob Thomae; **Cartoonist:** Luise Schenker.

Staff



## Fiction

## II. Dubiety

Franziska Zachhuber

*This is a work of fiction and is the product of the author's imagination. Any relationship with real events, places, or people is entirely coincidental and unintentional.*

Montgomery P. Cliff finally managed to flee back to the confines of his office. After hours of tedious questioning by police-officers of various ranks, all with varying grasps of the English language, he felt exhausted. He had assisted the "Herren Kommissaren" in their investigations as much as his present state would allow, he had recounted the events of the night meticulously, and had provided everyone with coffee and refreshments. Finally, he had been allowed to withdraw himself from the bustle outside. He glanced at his wristwatch – it was drawing near midnight. Cliff leant back in his comfortable armchair and tried to relax. His eyelids fell down. Immediately, a picture of the body rose in his mind. The extensive form of Ms. Priscilla Dibbern lay face down on the dirty carpet by the library entrance. Her throat seemed to have been cut – the amount of blood was considerable. Macbeth flashed into his mind: "Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?" A nauseating feeling crept over him and he quickly returned to the conscious state. He took up a partially completed protocol and tried to drive the image from his mind.

There was a brisk knock at the door, and it opened before Cliff had time respond. He was slightly startled by someone seeking an interview at such a time. The man who entered was wearing a chequered shirt and mustard coloured trousers. Cliff recognised him as Konrad Wicksen and involuntarily recalled Ms. Dibbern's allegations only hours before her brutal death. Quickly, he shook such thoughts from him: "How can I be of service to you, Sir?"

"I came to talk about the frightful thing that has happened at our school." How this man could be so well informed already, Cliff wondered. News certainly did travel fast around this school. "I... only dropped in by chance, you know", he continued defensively, "I suppose the police must now be given all access... not that I would have anything to hide", he finished, as if Cliff had accused him of anything else.

At that moment, the telephone rang. "Hello. This is David Andersen of the Parent Council. I hear the police have already begun their investigations. Though regrettable, this cannot be changed. But you *should* have contac-

ted us first, really. A high-strung police investigation is definitely not in our present interest. We must handle this... unfortunate matter rather *delicately* – it would give the public a rather unfavourable impression. That is to say: no media under any circumstances. Especially in consideration of the new US ambassador's arrival. And as head of affairs, it is your responsibility to assure that the police stop *sniffing* around the school." Mr. Andersen was a man of immaculate pronunciation – some words hit Cliff as even sounding italicised.

"I am certain the officers are doing only what is necessary to solve this terrible crime. I believe *that* is the main interest of the school." Cliff was not a little put off. He dislikes the glib, reassured air of the man.

"Perhaps we should discuss this in person. I shall call on you some time tomorrow morning. Goodbye." With that, he hung up. Cliff turned back to his visitor: "I am sorry. Please continue."

"Of course – the quicker the culprit is found, the sooner we will be rid of those people. I only hope they will not ... inconvenience anybody."

Mr. Wicksen seemed to feel enough had been said, as he rose, stiffly shook Cliff's hand and crept out of the office.

Cliff sat back down. A woman had died at his school. Not died – been murdered, he thought. Ms. Dibbern, he knew, had been far from popular; but would anybody's hatred be enough to kill her? The obvious answer was yes. He tried to recall their last conversation. She had said a lot. And had probably known a lot more. Suddenly, Cliff felt lethargic. This had been a lot. And he would have to explain it all to the staff tomorrow. A dead body... the only direct form of death he had ever encountered had been his father... he had touched the cold, waxy hand of the body... the scent of his father's tobacco enveloped him... back in sunny Arizona....

He awoke with a start. It took only seconds for all the memories of the past hours to come flooding back. He noticed a stale taste in his mouth and realised he must have dropped off. He stood up slowly, pulled out a mirror and began arranging his slightly tousled hair. Outside his window, he heard a car-doors slamming and decided that the arrival of the police van must have roused him from his slumber. Seconds later, the door to his office swung open to reveal two police officers bearing smug expressions. The older one, whom Cliff recognised from the night

before, began speaking in broken English: "It vill make you happy sat ve haf found se criminal. He vas easy to place. Former confict vis a police file. Ve took him by surprise sis morning."

Cliff was astonished: "Who is it?" he inquired.

"Herr Wildenhain, se, wie sagt man, se kär-täker of se park. Ve now only need his confession."

"How..." Cliff could not express the thoughts that swirled through his mind. How did they know? What had been the motif? Was it normal procedure to make these things public? He admitted to himself that he was relieved. It seemed a convenient situation: the culprit caught immediately and with no connection to the school. If only now he could hush up...

The two intruders had meanwhile been conversing quietly in German. The younger looked at Cliff and said: "You will need to sign these papers. For the official records. Here – it states that the death of ..." he paused to glance at the paper, "Frau Priscilla Dibbern was a result of external causes. The forensic medical team say that the throat was cut with a sharp object. Maybe a knife. The Halsschlagader... the artery in the neck..."

"Carotid vein", Cliff suggested,

"Ah yes, the carotid vein was sliced. Death must have resulted instantly and almost silently."

A while later, there was another knock at the door. The two constables had departed in good humour after reassuring Cliff that they would keep him updated. The man who strode in now was in his late forties, and had a self-assured air about him. Taking a seat opposite the principal, he put down the black briefcase he had been carrying, brought together his fingertips and looked seriously at his vis-à-vis. "We have talked on the phone. David Andersen. Pleased to meet you. I assume you have heard about the arrest? Rather *efficient* work, wouldn't you agree? Made a pretty thorough job out of it. I suppose the police investigations will cease now?"

Cliff assured him in polite terms that this would indeed be the case and reported all he knew about the arrest. As he got up to escort his visitor to the door, he heard a noise outside. He ventured forth to investigate but as he peered out into the corridor, the last thing he saw was a man quickly slipping around the corner. He had unmistakably been wearing a chequered shirt.