

THE MUCKRAKER

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THE MUCKRAKER Speaks!

You've almost made it now. Finally it seems the school year is drawing to a conclusion. Yet the best of the school year still lies ahead of you: marvellous holidays which you can spend appreciating nature! Of course, there are also the much-anticipated 11th grade class trips, which will certainly be a lot of fun for the people going on the trips. By the time this issue has been printed, the FIFA World Cup will be only a week away. Berlin will be swarming with soccer enthusiasts, who you may or may not be sceptical or even afraid of. We are sure all of you will appreciate the exciting games, which can be enjoyed on large public squares on warm summer evenings...

On the other hand, a lot of worrisome incidents have occurred recently. Foreigners have been attacked, harrassed, and even killed by Neo-Nazis without being hindered by witnesses of these crimes. Then there was the incident of the young boy who stabbed 28 people who were returning from the opening ceremony of the new Berlin Hauptbahnhof. One of his victims was allegedly HIV- infected, the predator therefore possibly contaminated other victims. Let us hope that incidents like these don't occur during the soccer World Cup; an all too overbearing police presence is not necessary.

Whether you like soccer or not, these next couple of weeks should be very enjoyable. After all, there are so many other things to do in our great city. Nature is usually beautiful this time of year and even if it isn't, there are always the wonderful museums. Whatever you do, make the best of these summer weeks!

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Day Without An Immigrant

Samira Lindner



On May 1st, America witnessed the so-called "Day Without An Immigrant". Hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their supporters skipped work, school, and shopping and marched in dozens of cities from coast to coast. It was originally billed as a nationwide economic boycott intended to influence the debate in Congress over granting legal status to all or most of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country. Because the workers gave notifications to their employers ahead of time that they are planning on taking the day off, the effects of the boycott of the day were diminished. Yet the boycott did demonstrate strikingly that a large number of the 11 million people in the United States without papers - mostly Latinos - could emerge from the shadows to mobilize massively, along with many legal immigrants and sympathizers. The movement was largely spawned in reaction to a House bill that would make illegal workers' presence in the United States a felony.

In order to understand the problem fully, one must see both sides of the coin. On the one hand, these people have entered the United States illegally, therefore violating immigration laws. The current security issues in America make it necessary to refuse unregistered foreigners who are not in possession of valid documents. Furthermore, if these illegal aliens are legalized, it would lead to a massive illegal immigration and the Mexican border would no longer be safe.

On the other hand, cases like

the 9/11 attacks show that terrorist attacks were committed by legally traveling foreigners and not by illegal aliens. And, most importantly, most of these illegal immigrants pay taxes, are well integrated, and have jobs which most white citizens of America are not willing to do.

The reactions of the American public were quite mixed. Some showed enthusiasm and encouragement for granting illegal immigrants equal rights. Many reactions, however, were indifferent, unimpressed, or even derogatory. For instance, Stephen Levy, director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, said in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* that "[he] [doesn't] remember hearing a single major business group complaining about today's actions." Jim Gilchrist, founder of the Minutemen Project, a volunteer group that patrols the United States-Mexico border, said in an interview, "When the rule of law is dictated by a mob of illegal aliens taking to the streets, especially under a foreign flag, then that means the nation is not governed by a rule of law — it is a mobocracy."

Politicians are not directly influenced by illegal immigrants, as these don't have a vote. They are, on the other hand, under the rival pressures of employers, large and small, who need cheap labor; of Americans who resent the associated costs; and of Latinos, the country's current largest minority group.

JFKS Life

Game Day

He-in Cheong

On May 17, students from 7th through 12th grade stormed into the New Gym as the third hour ended. It was the day of the premier of a new Pep Rally, Game Day, introduced by Jackson Adams, this year's SC President.

As you experienced, Game Day is composed of a series of competitions and games where you play against those from other grades. The first contest of the day was the scream contest. Each grade got to its position and the contestants were to scream when they were told to. The 8th graders were screaming their throats out, showing their spirit, while the 12th grade stayed absolutely silent during their turn.

After the scream contest, each student was to go to the game he signed up for or was assigned to. There were various kinds of games, from Moorhuhn, a computer game for individuals, to American Flag Football, a team sport, for both time blocks, so that each person could try two games. Each block was one-and-a-half hours long. It turned out that this was too long for the people at the push-up contest, who were tested on the number of push-ups in a series, but at the same time too short for the people enjoying playing dodge ball.

For many people, it was not about winning or losing, but rather about having fun and getting "the feeling of togetherness," as Jackson puts it. It wasn't "I won" or "I lost", but rather "we won" or "we lost". The point system was rather complicated but smart: The winner received 30 points, the second team received 25, etc. and mere participation was rewarded with 10 points. In the end, 11th graders won by far and received the winning prize of 150 Euros.

Maybe because this was the first time Game Day was carried out at JFKS, it could be clearly observed that not everybody participated with enthusiasm and support for his grade level. Jackson also says, that "the goal of Game Day was to create a tradition so that as every grade gets older, it gets a chance to win." You will win someday when you are in the Oberstufe, but you surely also would have to play for victory.

Many of you might wonder where this idea came from. Jackson says that he had something similar in the school he went to in the States. Yet this is where the problem steps in. In the past, JFKS often proved that it is not always comparable to an American

high school, simply because the mentality and the attitude of students are different. Also Game Day was no exception. Objectively seen, Game Day would have been a much bigger success at a high school in the States than it was at JFKS.

Jackson also admits that Game Day didn't go as well as he had imagined and the organization wasn't as good as he exactly wished, but now that we have seen what Game Day actually is, we can make it better next time. As Jackson had mentioned it in his speech and his interview with *The Muckraker* last fall, he was planning on making Game Day happen. The first step was done. Now it's up to us to make appropriate improvement and to carry it on. For instance, some 11th and 12th graders stated that they had rather attended their last classes before Klausuren than stuffing 11½ Brötchen into their mouths at the eating contest, which feels "terrible," as Philip Kellermeier, the winner of the contest, says. Maybe it could be arranged in such a way next year that important classes do not get cancelled this way. Nonetheless, it was a beginning worth trying. After all, many of us did enjoy the event.

What Students Think of teachers

The Survey Results

Linnea Kreibohm and Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Survey – a gathering of a sample of data or opinions considered to be representative of a whole.

I want to start this article with the definition of what a survey is to make an emphasis on the fact that it is merely representing the students' opinion, for only about one seventh of the high school students have voted. Further, I hope that the teachers do not feel offended by being, or not being elected, since this survey is meant to enrich our school's wonderful environment, not to destroy it.

Who is the best-dressed male teacher? "What a tough question", or "I never thought about that" were some of the students' first reactions. Tying first place are Mr. Finstad and Mr. Rubloff with 15% of the votes respectively. Tying second place are Mr. Oms and Mr. Whalen with 8.8%. Third are Hr. Martens, Dr. Curtis, and Dr. Davis with 5%.

The best-dressed female teacher is Ms. Zarirow, with 41.33% of the votes. Second is Ms. McCalley with 13.33%. Third is Mrs. Marsh with 10.66%, and fourth is Ms. Karch with 9.33%.

We can consider ourselves lu-

cky, for our school seems to have quite a few very friendly teachers. Mr. Oms, Mr. Whalen, Ms. McCalley, and Mme Detarre each got 8.8% of the votes. It really is too bad that three of these four will leave after this year. Second place with 6.59% of the votes is Mrs. Marsh and third is Mr. Meyers with 4.4%. Tying fourth place are Mrs. Ishibashi, Mrs. Hepner, Mr. Larriuz, Mr. Finstad, and Hr. Martens with 3.33% each.

Funniest teacher is Mr. Whalen with 24.44% of the votes. Next is Ms. McCalley with 15.56%, and third is Mr. Kelleher with 10%. Tying fourth place are Mr. Germann, Mr. Oms, Dr. Davis, and Hr. Tessmer with 4.44%. It seems as though American teachers have a tendency towards being funnier than German teachers.

The most serious teacher is Hr. Witzel with 19.71% of the votes. Second place is Dr. Kuschnerow with 9.86%. Third place are Hr. Slama and Fr. Wilberg with 8.45% each. Being serious is not something negative. One can be serious about ones subject out of utmost respect towards it.

The strictest teacher is Hr. Witzel with 38.57%. Second place is Dr. Sgustav with 14.29%, third Hr. Hintze

with 7.14%, and fourth Fr. Iden with 5.71%. Strict isn't negative, it simply implies following and enforcing rules, which is a necessity.

The most typically German teachers are Fr. Valentin-Herbert and Hr. Witzel with 11.76% of the votes. Second is Fr. Stockmann with 10.29%, and third is Fr. Iden with 8.82%. It need be said, though, that the teachers of JFKS are as a whole definitely not very typical, neither German nor American. Would a typical German teach at a German-American school, or a typical American live in Germany?

The most typically American teacher is Mrs. Marsh with 13.43% of the votes. Tying for second place are Mr. Baildon, Dr. Davis, and Ms. Karch with 8.96%. Third is Mr. Kelleher with 7.46%, and fourth are Mr. Whalen, Ms. McCalley, Mr. Ortmeier, and Mr. Meyers with 5.97% respectively.

In some cases we have clear winners while other outcomes are very close. Many results are ties or vary only in one or two votes. In some cases though one teacher leads with about twenty votes, which then seems like the general opinion of the students.

Teacher Feature: Mr. Whalen

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

The Muckraker: Please introduce yourself to those of us who don't know you.

Mr. Whalen: I am Mr. Whalen. Presently, I am in my second year of teaching in the history / political science department at JFKS.

Could you give us a short overview of your life?

I was one of twelve children in the house. Mom and Dad managed to raise each one of us without favoring one over the other. During my childhood, there was a fair amount of noise, dirty laundry, and broken toys around. Visitors never stayed long. Meals resembled dinnertime at military barracks. I had a great childhood because Mom and Dad seemed to always have just the right words and hugs to heal the daily pains. They are both in their 80's and still active so I am truly blessed.

Where did you live before coming to Germany?

Before Germany, my wife and I taught in Montana where we were both born and raised. We have, as well, lived and worked in Ecuador, Sudan, Philippines, and Niger. We returned to Montana when our daughters were born.

Tell us more about your family.

I have two daughters and a tolerant spouse. Like most families, we try to balance our time between school and each other. On occasion, I retreat to the Botanical Garden in Dahlem.

What languages do you speak?

The ladies at Aldi love my German: it gives them something to laugh at. I was quite good at Cebuano years ago (southern Philippines) and Mrs. Whalen, a language teacher, was impressed with my Arabic.

Where will you live next year? And why are you leaving?

We're moving to Tel Aviv, Israel. Mrs. Whalen and I both received teaching positions at the school. Just as important, the program will be a wonderful opportunity for our daughters, academically and socially.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

At the age of five, I told my mother I wanted to be a garbage man. I distinctly remember thinking how fun it would be to ride on the back of a truck and also see my Mom everyday as I picked up her garbage.

What job would you consider instead of teaching?

I have always enjoyed backpacking in the mountains and planting trees. So working with forest restoration would be a worthy alternative.

So, what made you become a teacher?

By accident and fate. My father finally made me feel guilty enough to do something with my university history degrees. I wasn't interested in teaching at all. However, I loved the study of history. Being uncreative, I decided the only choice was to try teaching. Fortunately it seems to suit me.



How is teaching for you?

Teaching effectively is for me a daily exercise in numerous frustrations. But I do not think that is unusual or bad. It comes with the nature of the job. If both myself and my students can connect to the past story of humans and draw parallels to the present, the lesson had value.

How do you encourage students to learn?

Respect the subject of history and those who study it. Fear, bluff, genuine curiosity, mutual benefit, subtle coaxing, and blatant threat are all valid tools to use in engaging students with a subject. When and how to use these tools is key to helping a student develop skills and appreciate the act of learning.

How were school and college for you?

I always enjoyed the competition of school. My social skills and development were rather dismal and late in coming, however. The Roman Catholic Jesuit University I attended did a wonderful job of instilling curiosity and discipline in my life.

What are your hobbies?

Bicycling, reading, drinking Mountain

Dew, and chasing my daughters around the house in a game where we try to (fictitiously) kill each other with poisonous blow darts.

What music do you listen to?

Gregorian chants to sleep by, classical music during the work week, and AC-DC and The Who to usher in the weekend.

What's in your pocket?

Enough money for a Mountain Dew and hopefully my school keys. My key insurance is due to expire.

What five books would you take with you to a desert island?

Tough question given the amount of great stories out there. Diet books would not make the cut. The Bible, on the other hand, would offer (as it has for centuries) a never ending source of fascinating reflections. If Mr. Oms is on the island, I suppose I'll need a book on understanding the Cuban-American mind.

Who (dead or alive) would you like to meet for a dinner party?

Like books on a desert island how do you choose? Otto von Bismarck of Germany, Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) of India, and a foot soldier in a Roman army would all be delightful company for different reasons.

What would you say is the biggest history related mistake ever made, and who made it?

I would have to say in recent times the circumstances and decisions made from June to August by politicians and military leaders in 1914 leading to the outbreak of WWI. This war will dictate much of what follows up to the present time. The consequences and cost to the world are so profound but nowhere anticipated in the summer of 1914.

Tell us something that nobody in this school knows about you.

During WWII, my father flew 44 daytime missions over Germany in a heavy bomber, including an attack on an airplane engine factory in Kleinmachnow, Berlin. One of his closest friends and fellow crew members on these missions was a man named Kennedy. 60 years later his son finds himself teaching at a Berlin school of that same name. This is a small but personal connection for me as to why I find the human story in history so compelling.

Thank you for the interview.

JFKS Life

Farewell – Auf Wiedersehen – Au Revoir - Adieu – Vale

Boin Cheong

By the time you read this article, we will be long gone. Some of us came new to JFKS in 11th or 12th grade, many sometime before then, and there is a number of people who have been here since Vorschule. This is about the lives of the 99 13th graders who leave JFKS to move on to the next chapter.

"In Vorschule, I actually *liked* coming to school every day. My favorite activity was playing in the „playhouse,“ recalls Dominique Irby with a nostalgic smile. Playhouse? "It was a house in a small room. You could dress up and play family with others."

Yet JFKS isn't only about playing, as you will agree from your own experiences. It's also about being part of the JFKS community, "a unique community in Germany," as Jesse Andersen puts it. "It's a complete melting pot on its own," he describes. Albert von Ketteler says in concurrence that different cultures "mingled here at JFKS." Especially the interplay of the German and American cultures is what made our school unique. "It isn't always easy, but you eventually get something out of it." International understanding and tolerance that derive from this is something we take as granted. Many of us experienced that the biggest benefit of attending JFKS lies exactly in that. "I can simply say that I had an amazing time at JFKS. It's different from all other schools in its diversity, attitude, school system. I will miss it. I will probably study in Germany among "real Germans", to which the Germans at JFKS don't count," says Philippa Winter. After all, as Albert observes, "students at other schools in Germany don't get the opportunity to see the different cultures mingle."

Looking back, many of us agree that you get the most out of school life by partaking in activities. "You can make daily school life a lot more bearable by participating in activities," says Julia Fuchs. "I'm definitely going to miss the music activities," the long-time choir, barbershop and band member continues. Isabel Hager, a newcomer at the beginning of 12th grade, adds that it amazed her to see "so incredibly many activities offered at JFKS." She herself decided to join Best Buddies. Isabel furthermore adds that participating in activities "creates a greater community-feeling and school becomes something greater than a mere compulsory educational institution." Many

other current Abiturienten agree. Charlotte Krahe, for instance, had so much fun in her activities, that she already knows she will "definitely miss choir and barbershop the most." Others like Julian Jeczawitz, who had not been so active in activities, regret their choices: "I missed a lot of the school community life because I wasn't in all these activities." When he realized his mistake, Julian joined Rowing and Basketball.

Speaking of sports, many of us will surely miss playing soccer on the field and basketball in the gym. "I will miss the great sports facilities we have here," says Julian. Thilo Richter, a meanwhile important key player for the basketball team, also refers to sports as the highlight of his JFKS career and asks the students from lower grades to continue supporting the sports activities. "It's too bad that the basketball



team doesn't have many new talents from the lower grades. Coach Hoedt does a very good job at coaching but we're missing enthusiasm from the players." He remembers the good times he had with the basketball team and adds nostalgically: "It was awesome playing for JFKS."

In addition to the numerous activities and amazing sports facilities, also teachers made a difference to many of us Abiturienten. The mix of German and American teachers created a nice atmosphere. Sascha Zertani states that he will especially miss the sports teachers. "They were all so cool and humane. Mr. Baidon, for example. I could talk to him about everything, even about my problems not concerning school," Sascha remembers.

Last few weeks and days of school brought many of us to reminisce and value the help and support we received all along. "I'll miss the lovely and delightful librarians," tells Louisa Markwart. "And Sandra from the snack area. She saved my life more than once," she adds.

When asked what they think they will miss the most, many 13th graders named very trivial issues. "I

will miss the long line at the snack area when you want a sandwich but only have seven minutes, or the mammoth crowd of people at the Sub-board every morning," says Kerstin Helmes, drenched in melancholy already. "And the special events we had at JFKS. Like the debates with the politicians, or the Germany vs. USA game during the World Cup four years ago," adds Vivien von Sethe. "I will never forget that." "Whether it is the most objective newspaper, the acoustics in room 207, or the unique and at the same time not endurable climate due to the high ceilings and the long windows, which makes one cold and warm at the same time; one or the other of these memories will make me shed a tear," says Sebastian Freiseis.

In the past years at JFKS, we have been able to meet many people, create meaningful friendships, and have a lot of fun. "I first embarrassed myself horribly in the Informatik 2 class, but I could quickly get into the flow of things here. People were really nice, open and friendly. I was amazed," says Sandy Boy. "I will miss the friends that I am used to seeing everyday. Now we are all going our own ways and for some of us, it's a far way, too," Juliane Doege tells. "When I think about it, the last thirteen years of my life were probably some of the most fun years I will have and I will miss the people I spent that time with," says Ann-Cathrin von Rechenberg.

While beginning to look back at the wonderful times at JFKS, we also start getting prepared for the next chapter in our lives. "I'm looking forward to doing something else," says Kilian Teuwsen. Yet it's not that he didn't enjoy his four years at JFKS. "I liked it a lot here, had lots of fun." It's just that, as the Romans used to say, "Non scholae, sed vitae discimus," (We learn, not for school, but for life) explains Kilian. Moritz Pfeifer also agrees: "Sometimes I felt that the essential lessons of life were getting lost in the spiritless classes. It would be great to motivate the educated students to even become creative human beings."

While planning our futures, some of us noticed that we're "definitely missing college-day like events and/or a guidance counselor type of person for the students wishing to study in Germany," adds a student who wishes to remain anonymous. Also for the future generations of JFKS students, this might be something that could be considered as possible improvements.

JFKS Life

Farewell... continued from page 4

On June 14, 15, and 16, we will once again return to school for our oral Abitur exams. After that, only two more occasions require us to come back, namely for the rehearsal and the final ceremony of our Abiverleihung. After that, JFKS will eternally be marked as history in our lives. However, as Nevin Wolf puts it, if we were "to say that JFKS is not our lives, we would be lying." Some of us have spent "endless weekends and long weekdays at school." We will all miss JFKS. "But in doing so, I will also remember JFKS, and that's good," says Nevin. Of course none of us had only positive experiences here. But it's the whole picture that will get carried on in our memories. "Leaving JFKS is

like leaving my childhood but I must move on. Yet the memories will always be there somewhere," Nevin expresses his feelings. In addition, we know we can always visit JFKS any time we like and see what becomes of it. Nevin observes: "It's been changing a lot, especially in the last year, and I will be interested in seeing what becomes of it."

JFKS was a home away from home for many of us. Some of us like Nevin will surely come back and visit the campus some time, recall the good old days, see how the school is changing. Whenever that day will be, JFKS, farewell and thank you for the wonderful years.

The Human Reality?

Joanna O'Neill

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18, the 12th and 13th grade Grundkurs drama class performed a play that definitely made you stop short – *Homo Homini Lupus*. In the foyer of the New Aula, the play began with a very prominent silence; the only sounds were made by the expectant audience shifting on their feet. Without any prior announcement, the play then started suddenly.

The first scene of this play was set in an airport waiting room, where people were impatiently waiting after a bomb warning. Soon, the audience confronted the question of relevance: Is not everything insignificant in the end? Why do people even bother if they are going to die anyways? "Ihr seid die Terroristen!" was the line that probably stuck with everyone for the rest of the play. Accusing the audience of being terrorists definitely was something new. At the end of the first scene, we were allowed into the small aula, welcomed by the sight of two women lying in a bed, the only light coming from some flickering candles. As it turns out, these two women were having an affair, while one's husband was supposedly already on his plane. As the play progressed,

newspaper articles were read between scenes. In the beginning they did not make sense, but it became clear that they bound the seemingly separate scenes together, explaining their connections.

The play painted a grotesque picture of humanity: two old grandmothers plotted murder; people screamed what they don't like about the others, while their colleague hung dead in the next room. All the wrongs humans inflicted upon one another were thrown at our faces, and paired with black humor, the play got a very ironic tone. Is that what humanity is? Terrorism, murder, hatred, betrayal, lies, racism, ignorance? All these were portrayed in the play, showing the worst aspects of what we call life. The overall message seemed to be that these "evils" are part of human life; they are right under our nose, but we choose to ignore them. The whole demonstration of human despicability packed into a time period of less than two hours was most definitely extreme and forced you to reflect upon not only humanity as a whole, but also yourself. All in all, it was a very interesting play, with great acting and an intense atmosphere that enthralled the audience.

Überflüssig

Der Obermops

Die teils etwas scharf ausfallende Kritik gilt dem Stück und nicht der Aufführung.

Bereits der Titel eines der beiden Theaterstücke der 12. und 13. Klasse dieses Jahres deutet seine Schwächen an. „Camping, Koks und Hollywood“ – eine Anhäufung populistischer Schlagwörter, darauf aus, eine Boulevardjournal-lesende, skandalhungrige Masse anzulocken. Ein Scheitern des Versuchs der „(selbst-)ironischen“ und „spritzig“ nichtverwandten Begriffsanreihung. Ein Beispiel der oberflächlichen Sinnlosigkeit.

Die Handlung, soweit vorhanden (auch der Mangel dieser zählt zu den Schwächen des Stücks), ist schnell wiedergegeben: Kleine, abgelegene Nordseeinsel ist gerade mit dem Festland verbunden worden. Muffelige, aber dennoch liebenswerte Inselbewohner, Beamte in der Verwaltung, werden von abgefahrenen Typen aufgesucht und der ruhige Alltag auf den Kopf gestellt.

Das Stück lebt einzig von dem Witz der überzogen dargestellten Stereotype. Zu sehen sind der Hosenträger-tragende Dorftrottel, die zickige Ami-Diva („fuck you“), die karrieregeile TV-Tussi, der bier-saufende Ghetto-Pimp und ähnlich überspielte Figuren. Natürlich sollen sie alle durch einen eindeutigen Griff in die Klischeekiste karikiert werden und das gelingt im Prinzip auch. Die einzelnen Darstellungen sind zum Großteil nicht schlecht und regen teilweise zum schmunzeln oder gar zu lautem Gelächter an. Die gelungene Rollenverteilung kann allerdings nicht über die schiere Nichtigkeit hinwegtäuschen: der einzige erkennbare Kritikpunkt gilt (oh wie gewagt!) der Paragraphen-dreschenden Bürokratie.

Das Stück verfehlt somit den eigentlichen Sinn des Theaters. Statt zu bewegen, zum Nachdenken anzuregen oder zu provozieren, entlässt es einen mit einem schalen Geschmack im Mund. Und schon am nächsten Tag hat man alles vergessen.

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

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Staff

Culture

Israel: The Land of Walls

Rosalee Dorfman

Strolling through a market where seven suicide bombings have occurred over the past 20 years could be considered to be scary, especially if a suicide attack occurred a hour away on the same day. But the young soldiers with their finger on the trigger guard the entry to the market protecting predestines. How can one enjoy living in a military state, where you are constantly checked for any suspicious objects, least of all your passport crossing a road, reaching a town or entering a public building? The precious Jewish religion must be guarded by concrete walls, green suited soldiers and American Hummvis.

My Jewish orthodox aunt, her husband and eight children live in the outskirts of Jerusalem, in a settlement built in the West Bank in 1969. The gray wall is visible from almost all corners of the neighborhood. Three meters away from the wall is a sign, in English and Hebrew, which reads "Danger: Anyone travelling beyond this point is endangering his life." An orthodox family can walk down the street and get pelted by rocks thrown by Arabs. Several years ago my Israeli family had ducked for cover when bullets flew over their heads. But they couldn't ever imagine leaving the Holy Land, where God wants them to be. They don't have much money because my uncle studies the Jewish religion and my aunt is a housewife and part time writer. There neighborhood is filled with people just like them: women wearing long skirts, elbow covering shirts and if they are married a head scarf or wig, who are always separated from the men with a white shirt, black pants and a kappa, all there for the community and cheap housing. The orthodox Jews believe that they are living the "true way" and that they have found truth and that all other peoples are inferior to them because they are the closest to god. Therefore, since they are always right, the State of Israel is also rightfully theirs and they hope that the Arabs can come to peace with that.

Soldiers are a normal sight, they are needed, but how much they really make safer is arguable. The construction of the Wall could be seen as another way for the Israeli superpower to gain more land because they can; in addition to making Israelis safer. The building of the wall has already robbed about 15% of land from the Palestinians.

While driving through the West Bank I watched the Bedouins living in their shacks and tending to flocks of sheep and goats as my Bar Mitzvah cousin

and my uncle davened (heavily prayed) in the 16 -seat van. I saw a huge heavily armed army base, proving how unbelievably powerful and strong the state of Israel is. Towers loom over Palestinian areas that monitor an area with radar to see everything, waiting for something suspicious to happen.

Israeli settlements are scattered on pinnacles of high hills surrounded by heavy barbed wire fences, soldiers, and sometimes the steep gray Wall. I saw long electricity wires draping from the posts along side the highway and winding pavement roads with oil and water pipelines underneath them, which led only to the Jewish settlements. The country side appeared a paradox: the Bedouins in the valley living off of close to nothing and on hilltops stand the nice modern settlements with everything that an average Western person is accustomed to. Settlement construction has been encouraged by the Israeli government with incentives like a luxurious home and low rent. Today it is still very cheap to move into the areas because the government subsidizes the costs. It appears to be a very practical living area because most settlements are suburbs of Jerusalem. In some settlements there are more soldiers protecting the area than there are inhabitants.

This great difference between rich and poor so close to one another made it clear to me why the Palestinians would attack however in vain, to gain back what they claim theirs. They see how privileged this class is; they don't understand why their land was pulled out from under their feet. The Bedouins live in shacks made out of miscellaneous sheets of metal and cloth.

The Palestinians believe that their land was stolen from Israelis and they rightfully deserve it back. Outraged Palestinians only have themselves as a weapon. From a distance I could see Jericho, Palestine - one of the oldest cities in the world. But as a Jewish German-American going there would be seriously endangering my life.

Israelis hunt for potential terrorists by checking if the driver is an Arab. If this is the case, their entire car is searched, after having waited for hours. Israelis pass with a hand wave. This is a good country for a Westerner, particularly Jews, as they receive automatic citizenship, whereas Arabs are highly discriminated against in Israel. Living in the West Bank is worse, where over 50% of the inhabitants are unemployed.

Israelis claim that the Holy City

of Jerusalem and the hip Metropolis of Tel Aviv and are like two different worlds. There are 18% religious Jews in Israel, most of them living in or near Jerusalem. But the 82% of non-religious live all over and the beach. They are attracted to the night clubs and street life of Tel Aviv.

In Tel Aviv we met with distant relatives, one who was about 26 and was some sort of intelligence officer for five years in the Israeli Army. He and most other Israelis who I talked to, explained that they weren't affected much by terrorist attacks because if they would allow themselves to truly feel fear, they wouldn't be able to leave their house. In order for them to lead a normal life, they mustn't be afraid. Being fearful has become normality and city is no longer considered dangerous. The truth is that most places around the world are dangerous, especially in the Middle East. Although Israel gets a lot of publicity on their attacks, it is considered a safer country because it is westernized is protected by a highly equipped military.

My mother's friend described to me how she heard a suicide attack happen only a couple hundred meters away from her: First she heard a loud bang and then dozens of ambulances rushed to the area along with press teams.

On the 23 o'clock bus heading from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a young right wing man started a conversation with me. Without even knowing my name he criticized me based on stereotypes of a German/ American; he believed all Americans were stupid, though he supported the Iraq War and saw the large population of Jewish American immigrants was a "big problem" for Israel. Whenever I added my views he interrupted by stating that he didn't care and emotions aren't arguments. He believed the Wall was absolutely necessary and, like most Israelis, saw the Palestinians as inferior and the divide between the two peoples was natural. For him the Israelis won the land just as all countries throughout history had in war. He claimed that if Israel had to give its land up, the US would also have to give California back to Mexico and all the other countries that have conquered land through battle would have to give them back. Furthermore he thought that Palestinians deserved no more land or autonomy because they were already granted with the Gaza Strip. He believed that the Arabs deserved nothing and they should be thankful that they even have something like a country and Israel supplies them with electricity and water. Even if they receive far less than

Israel... continued to page 7

Culture

Israel... *continued from page 6*

Jews, they are lucky to get anything.

In his opinion since the wall is being built by Israelis, they have the right to determine its path, which is right next to the Arab villages, often-times cutting homes from their own farmland.

Finally, he also believed that the only countries that have successfully dealt with terrorism were Israel, China

and India. The European and American governments haven't effectively fought terrorism; instead they have just become afraid, which shows that these superpowers are actually weak since they can't even deal with what Israelis face on a daily basis.

I see this military state of land grabs and terrorist attacks and can only think: Why would anyone to live in such

a place?

Some see it as the Holy Land, the place where Hashem (God) wants us to be. Others are secular Zionists who believe in a Jewish homeland or have no other place to live but Israel. I see it as a land which was born into a conflict worsening with its years of existence.

Nationaler (Marken)wahnsinn

Benjamin Hofmann

Sauberkeit, Zuverlässigkeit und der Stammtisch in einer Reihe mit Oliver Kahn, Sabine Christiansen und Veronica Ferres? Florian Langenscheidts Buch „Das Beste an Deutschland: 250 Gründe, unser Land heute zu lieben“ führt fort was von der „Du bist Deutschland“ Kampagne begonnen wurde, die mir weniger durch inhaltliche Darbietungen, als durch ihre nervtötende Allgegenwärtigkeit in Erinnerung geblieben ist. Aber Moment Mal! Eigentlich macht das doch sogar Sinn: nachdem man mir erzählt hat, wer ich bin (Deutschland nämlich), erklärt man mir jetzt auch noch was das eigentlich heißt Deutschland zu sein. Oder etwa nicht?

Langenscheidts Buch sieht aus und riecht wie ein Hochglanzkatalog, in dem man normalerweise teure Küchen oder gar Präzisionsuhren aus der Schweiz erwarten würde. Es wird etwas verkauft und Verkaufen klappt mit Werbung bekanntlich besser. Wer nun aber durch entsprechende Werbung zum Kauf eines bestimmten Produktes angeregt wurde, stellt mit unter fest, dass Werbung und Realität oftmals nicht viel gemeinsam haben. Das hat einfach damit zu tun, dass sich zu viel Inhalt nicht allzu gut präsentieren lässt und man sich deshalb auf Namen und Labels beschränkt. In „Das Beste an Deutschland“ vermischt sich die ganz reale Werbung verschiedener Konzerne und Individuen (die Überschneidungen zwischen Jury und „Gründen“ verstär-

ken mein Stirnrunzeln über den Inhalt des Buches) mit der Werbung für ein neues Produkt Deutschland.

So kenne ich dich gar nicht, Deutschland! Ich bin hier aufgewachsen mit einem skeptischem Blick (der zeitweise in ernsthaftes Misstrauen, aber auch in ein Gefühl von Enge, umschlug) auf Flagge und Hymne und mit einer Bewunderung für die Selbstverständlichkeit mit der hier Demokratie und Freiheit gelebt werden. Keine Werbung, kein Label, kein „Deutschland“. Gefehlt hat das auch nie; warum hätte ich denn jenen Dingen einen Stempel verpassen sollen? Wer inhaltlich etwas zu bieten hat, muss sich nicht anpreisen, nicht verkaufen. Genau deswegen schaue ich auch halb belächelnd, halb beunruhigt auf den Versuch Franz Beckenbauer, VW, ICE und den gemeinen Dackel als aussagekräftige Definition zu verkaufen.

Pessimismus hat es nicht in die Top 250 geschafft, obwohl die Deutschen doch immer alles so negativ sehen (ich ja auch, sonst würde ich schließlich so etwas nicht schreiben). Das ist das Argument der Deutschland™ Befürworter: man müsse doch mal etwas positive Stimmung verbreiten. Aber macht „Deutschland“ denn wirklich glücklich? Kurzfristig freut man sich in der Tat über Spektakel, Sternchen, bunte Farben, langfristig überdauern aber nur jene Freuden, die auch einer inhaltlichen Auseinander-

setzung Stand halten können. Würde also nicht die positive Stimmung genau dann umschlagen, wenn man erschrocken feststellt, dass Deutschland noch viel mehr bedeutet als Brandt-Zwieback und „Wir Sind Papst!“, durchaus auch seine Schattenseiten hat? Brandenburg und Rütli sind nur Beispiele – soziale Spannungen und ein Schulsystem auf dem Abstellgleis, da fällt es mir schwer „unser Land heute zu lieben“. Das heißt nicht, dass ich nicht stolz sein kann auf all die guten Sachen, aber wenn jemand einen Namen kauft, muss er doch auch dazu bereit sein, das Produkt in seiner Gänze zu akzeptieren.

Bald ist die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden, nur dass die – vor lauter Hysterie um das Produkt Deutschland – kaum in der Lage scheinen, sich realitätsgetreu zu präsentieren. Dazu müsste man sich zum Beispiel eingestehen, dass man sich einige Orte und Dinge vielleicht selber noch ein Mal anschaut, bevor man sie Freunden zeigt. Das dies geschieht wage ich zu bezweifeln, jetzt, wo man die Mehrzahl der Waren nur noch im Deutschland-Doppelpack kauft und die Möglichkeit eines WM-Vorrundenaus ausschließlich unter dem Vorwurf der Ketzerei erwähnt werden kann.

„Das Beste an Deutschland“ ist für 39,80 Euro bei „Deutsche Standards“ erhältlich.

The Pirelli Calendar Exhibition in Berlin

Vivien v. Sethe

Gisele Bündchen, Heidi Klum, Adriana Lima, Kate Moss. The list goes on. They are exclusively shown yearly in the world's most famous calendar, the "Pirelli Calendar", also known as "The Cal". The enormous collection of images created by world known photographers is said to be "a cultural phenomenon and a historical testimony to the evolution of taste, fashion and contemporary society" (Press Pamphlet).

After presenting the exhibition with 120 photos in Tokyo, Moscow, Milan, Monte Carlo, Paris, Buenos Aires, and Sao Paulo, it finally reached Germany's capital, Berlin. This shows that Berlin has a very international sta-

tus in the world and that it is seen as a hot-spot for cultural events such as this.

The official opening of the exhibition was on the April 6. The Italian ambassador was proud to say that through the exhibition, the Italian-German connection will continue to prosper. Since 1964, the Italian tire manufacturer for cars, Pirelli has been sponsoring the publishing of the calendar. All these years, every piece of backstage information had been kept secret. Yet this year, the visitors received a backstage book with background information, anecdotes and such.

One thing that makes the Pirelli

calendar so exclusive is the fact that *The Cal* cannot be bought. You can only receive it as a gift. Pirelli distributes *The Cal* to leading figures in the world of politics, industry, and national and international culture.

Those of you who are interested, should stop by at the Berlinische Galerie and take a look at the images. After all, you most likely will never have the opportunity of seeing the Pirelli pictures again. While you are at the gallery, you can also see other art pieces that are displayed parallel to the Pirelli images. The exhibition is in Berlin until June 18, giving you a little over two weeks time to go and check it out!

Sports

640 Field Players, 96 Goalies, 32 Teams, 12 Stadia, and Millions of Fans

Boin Cheong

On July 6, 2000, 24 members of the FIFA Executive Committee congregated in Zurich to vote on the host country for the 2006 World Cup. In the third and final round, Germany could successfully beat its strongest opponent, South Africa, by a vote of 12 to 11, after one Executive Committee member decided to abstain. Since then, almost every day has been spent in preparation for the world's most popular sports event. Every member nation of the world soccer federation first had to enter the continental qualification rounds. A total of 32 national teams from six continents were then qualified for the final tournament (14 from Europe, 5 from Africa, 5 from South America, 4 from Asia, 3 from Central and North America, and 1 from Oceania).

On May 15, 2006, the 32 coaches then handed in their official squad lists of 23-men, which included a total of 736 soccer players ranging from a 17-year old (England's Theo Walcott) to a 40-year old goalkeeper (Tunisia's Ali Boumnijel). The nomination of the players caused much surprise worldwide. Especially in Germany, the fact

that David Odonkor, a fairly unknown player, was nominated (and the more famous Kevin Kuranyi was not) attracted muck journalistic attention. Similarly, the Dutch coach, Marco van Basten, surprised the world by not nominating FC Bayern's successful forward Roy Makaay. Also the Korean former Gladbach trainer, Dick Advocat, decided against



Du-Ri Cha, a current Frankfurter and son of Cha Bum. In England, Wayne Rooney's nomination also came as a surprise, as Rooney is currently suffering under an injury and it's quite doubtful that he'll regain his former shape before next week.

Starting Friday, the 736 players, about half of which play in the top five European Leagues (Italy, Spain, England, France, and Germany) will first compete against each other in their Group Rounds, then the two best teams of the eight groups will proceed

to the Round of 16. The two last games of each of the groups will take place simultaneously, thereby making it more exciting for all involved. Especially as the players don't know how other members of the group are playing, they will have to play their best. Starting the Round of 16, only the winner of each game will be able to go on to the next round, thereby each time reducing the number of teams left by half. Finally, on Sunday, July 9, the last two teams will play against each other as one of them will leave the Berlin Olympic Stadium as the winner of the tournament.

If you do not have Premiere at home, were not successful in purchasing tickets for this event, or if you are not the kind of person who watches soccer in a crowded sports bar, you can also watch TV at home. 48 of the 64 matches will be available on either ARD, ZDF, or RTL, including all top-matches and 34 of the 48 group matches. A detailed schedule of the live TV-coverage can be found on www.faz.net.

One positive aspect of this year's World Cup is the six newcomers to the world soccer event: Angola, Trinidad and Tobago, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Ghana, and Ukraine. All of these underdogs are, however, not to be underestimated. As the last World Cup showed, in today's soccer, any team can beat a "big" team such as France, England, and Argentina.

As the first whistle of the tournament will soon be heard, it will be every individual's job to help Germany fulfill its duties as the host of such a popular event. The motto of this event is "Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden - A Time to Make Friends." When you see a foreign soccer fan looking lost with a map of Berlin in his hands, don't recoil but offer assistance, instead. You'll experience that not all soccer fans are hooligans. After all, soccer is a very peaceful sport. As they often say, soccer is merely about 22 men running after a ball.



Horoscopes

Horoscope

*Francesca Scelsi***Capricorn**

You seem to find stress upon anything you do? Well, how about getting a little more organized and trying having an overview on your work? You tend to be grouchy and hard to be around with; your friends can't even stand your negativity anymore. So do us and yourself a favor and clean up a bit.

Aquarius

You've always been more of the independent-type than the rest of your crowd, however momentarily you seek your friends' help. It might be hard for you to find the courage to ask them. Big risks will pay off in the long run and you'll be able to share your successes as well.

Pisces

Obstacles are headed your way and you need to gather all of your energy to overcome them. You mastered all the hard work in the past and if you master the upcoming ones you will have all the time you need to relax afterwards. You will be patted on the shoulder and be rather popular after you've jumped over your hurdles.

Aries

Pressure makes you thrive, so although June will be stressful, it also gives you the perfect opportunity to outdo yourself. You usually use your charm to talk yourself out of messes, however now the time has come to clean up your own mess all by yourself. See how you can deal with such problems in an honest way.

Taurus

The season has come to devote some quality time to yourself. Spoil yourself with goodies and things that make YOU happy. You deserve a time of selfishness and you shall also do so. Become more involved with your hobbies and you will view life from a different perspective!

Gemini

You are very energetic and hyperactive; use this strength outside of school, since you may be off on a wrong track in school by being loud. You will only injure your school career by your actions and not help it. After all, we only have a few more weeks of school until break and then you can party and fool around as much as you like! ;)

Cancer

Keep your stubbornness under control! You will not reach any goals with your hard-headedness. You should learn to listen to others and consider what they tell you could actually help. You love showing off your ideas and you do have brilliant ones; however don't become cocky!

Leo

You strive for success and you have your life completely under control. You know what you want and usually get it. Your appeal is irresistible and you are aware of this. You tend to envy people that have what you want; Stop! You need to start appreciating what you have! Once you do, you will be overall happy.

Virgo

Finally you are getting what you deserve. Your motto: "Work pays off!" You are on a roll and tend to complete all of your unfinished business as soon as you can. Since you stopped procrastinating you find time to relax and you don't have to be bothered with any extra work. Keep up the good work!

Libra

You like to be in control of others and the things they do. You seem to pressure friends into doing things they don't want to and always seem to achieve this. Stop bullying others and learn to be less clingy. No wonder everyone keeps distancing themselves from you. You're viewed as creepy by others. Change your attitude!

Scorpio

You're always fun to be around with and you brighten up the day with your smile. You're comfortable with who you are and don't have a problem with being yourself. You are a goofball and a joker. Be cautious; some of your jokes can be quite offending. You have to think before you speak or you'll unintentionally hurt someone.

Sagittarius

You're laid back and usually let things come to you instead of confronting what troubles you. You should stick up for what you want and what you believe and sure enough you will achieve what you have been striving for. How will you ever know if things can go your way if you've never tried to make them go the way you want them to?

Comments, Replies?

send your opinions and articles to:

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Sudoku / Poetry

Myth Of Sudoku

Boin Cheong

Since October 2005, *The Muckraker* is one of the numerous publications in the world that print Sudoku-puzzles. When a new issue comes out, students and teachers alike struggle to solve the puzzles before, during, and after classes. Yet how many people really know the myth of Sudoku roots?

Sudoku is a recent invention. Wrong! In fact, Sudoku supposedly has its roots in the 18th century. Leonhard Euler, a Swiss mathematician, examined the Latin square, which can be seen as one of the nine boxes of an ordinary Sudoku puzzle. The Latin square in turn stems from an ancient Chinese puzzle, Lo Shu.

Sudoku is a Japanese puzzle. Wrong again! This guess is probably based on the Japanese name. Surprisingly enough, the first published Sudoku puzzles appeared in 1979 in New York in the *Dell Pencil Puzzles and Word Games* magazine. The puzzle was known as *Number Place*.

Sudoku doesn't mean anything in particular. True, looking up the title of the number puzzle in a Japanese dictionary, you won't find a definition for the word. This is because it's an abbreviation. A few years after the New York magazine published the puzzle, the puzzle was introduced to the Japanese public in the *Monthly Nikolist* (1984). Here, today's name of the puzzle first enters. Known as „Suji wa dokushin ni kagiru“ (‘the numbers must be single’), the puzzle instantly became famous. The name of the puzzle then was abbreviated to Sudoku.

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

Although the puzzle had existed for a few years, it only became popular in the Western World when the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* first published it on its front page in 2005. Since then, various other international papers publish the puzzle, sometimes even under different titles.

The first World Championship in Italy two months ago reflects the high international recognition of the puzzle. 85 candidates from 22 nations entered the contest. A female Czech economist became the world's first Sudoku champion. The German participants couldn't achieve satisfying results. Fortunately you have sufficient time to practice for the next Championship. Here are two new Sudoku for you and your teachers to get ready.

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

Midnight Snack

Emmanuel Clery

It's over.

My hand on the fridge door.

[cold, humming]

My feet, lost in the dark, on cold tiles.

PBnJ on my PJs,

crsbamedl gegs in my brain.

You know what they say about Spilk Milt.

Next slide, please—next slide, bacon,

And peas.