

THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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THE MUCKRAKER Speaks!

It's finally time for Scrooge, Frosty, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph to come out again and brighten up our otherwise grey winter. Most of you probably are already done with your quizzes, tests, and Klausuren for 2005; you are possibly already impatiently waiting for Tuesday's last school bell to ring.

In countries where you celebrate Christmas, the month of December is often regarded as *the* month of forgiving, celebrations, and presents. The staff of *The Muckraker* also wishes to give our regular readers some presents, such as a crossword puzzle, a super sudoku, Christmas horoscopes, and a guide through Berlin's most popular Christmas markets.

In addition to Christmas presents and decorations, the month of December also brings us to consider our New Year's resolutions. *The Muckraker* asks you for your help in formulating our New Year's Resolutions. In hope of making our student newspaper more enjoyable than ever, we ask you to tell us what you would like to see more of in the future issues. Please send your suggestions to themuckraker@gmail.com; also comments and feedback are always welcome. With your support, we hope to make *The Muckraker* a better newspaper for the JFKS students.

As you read this issue of *The Muckraker*, this year's last school bell draws nearer and with that the end of a long stressful academic year of 2005. The next time you hear the bell will be in 2006. Until then, we wish you a joyful holiday season! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Weihnachten mit Moral

Dominique Rose

Wie feiert man Weihnachten mit all den typischen Traditionen ohne Verzicht auf Ethik? Mit den typischen Traditionen meine ich Adventskalender, Weihnachtsbaum, Geschenke usw. Mal davon abgesehen, dass, wenn man mal genauer darüber nachdenkt, es eigentlich nicht möglich ist ein Konsumfest mit Moral zu feiern, ist es doch möglich die negativen Auswirkungen unserer Käufe zu verringern.

Jeden Morgen öffne ich nun ein Türchen meines Adventskalenders der Firma 'gepa' und esse ein kleines Stück biologisch angebauter und fair gehandelter Schokolade. Und dieses schmeckt sogar richtig gut nach Schokolade und nicht wie aus dem üblichen Penny-Markt-Kalender nach Schokolade vom vorletzten Ostern. Zu kaufen gibt es diese Adventskalender in den meisten Biosupermärkten.

Bei dem Baum wird es schon schwieriger. Etwa 80% aller Weihnachtsbäume stammen aus Plantagen in denen sie mit Dünger und Pestiziden beinahe ertränkt wurden. Wenn man dies nun nicht unterstützen möchte, muss man nicht verzagen: es gibt genug Umweltsiegel, die belegen, dass auf Pestizide, Dünger, Kahlschlag und Entwässerungsmaßnahmen verzichtet wurde. Diese sind Bioland, Naturland sowie FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). Eine Liste der zertifizierten Forstbetriebe gibt es bei www.robinwood.de. Wem diese zu weit weg sind, der sollte dennoch direkt von einem Forstbetrieb kaufen, da der Baum dann wenigstens keinen hundertkilometerlangen Transportweg hinter sich hat.

Geschmückt werden muss der Baum auch noch. Natürlich muss man auch hier nicht die industriell gefertigten 0-8-15 Kugeln besorgen. Im Dritte-Welt-Laden im Glockenturm der Gedächtniskirche gibt es zum Beispiel

reichlich Baumschmuck aus fairem Handel. Meine Lieblinge sind die Kugeln aus Altglas, in Mexiko mundgeblasen. Fair gehandelten Baumschmuck gibt es auch online zu bestellen bei www.el-puente.de.

Mindestens genauso wichtig bei dem ganzen Kitsch ist das Gebäck. Spekulatius, Lebkuchen und Stollen gibt es auch im Biosupermarkt, aber selbstgebacken aus Biozutaten schmeckt es doch am besten (und macht auch am meisten Spaß). Der Scho-konikolaus ist natürlich auch fair gehandelt im Bioladen erhältlich.

Die Weihnachtsgans (für alle, die nicht auf sie verzichten wollen) gibt es in der Regel nur mit Vorbestellung (meist bis zum 17.12.) beim Biofleischer.

Letztlich gibt es ja noch die Geschenke zu besorgen. Auch hier kann man Freude bereiten mit fair gehandelten Produkten, sei es mit

einem Memory-Spiel vom Greenpeace Magazin, einem Fotokalender vom WWF oder Weingläsern von Amnesty International. Nicht nur wurden Menschenrechte und Umweltschutz bei der Produktion beachtet, sondern Teile des Geldes kommen den jeweiligen Organisationen zugute. Schöne sowie ökologische und menschenrechtsachtende Kleidung gibt es bei American Apparel, der Galleria (in Steglitz) und natürlich in Secondhand-Läden. Das gute alte Buch wird zum umweltfreundlichen Geschenk, wenn es auf recyceltem oder FSC-zertifiziertem Papier gedruckt ist.

Von dem heuchlerischen Aspekt abgesehen, den ein mit moralischen Werten zu feierndes Konsumfest mit sich bringt, kann man also dennoch das Beste daraus machen und ökologisch sowie menschlich kaufen.



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Christmas

Shall I Study for the Abitur or Enjoy the Holidays?

Boin Cheong

Streets of Berlin emit golden lights and Christmas markets deliver scents of Glühwein: Christmas is near. JFKS students count down the days until Christmas vacation and have marked their planners accordingly. "It's only two more weeks until vacation," cries out a student. In a 13th grade class, this joyful comment is dismissed by a more cynical remark. "Argh, don't remind me. I haven't done anything for my ABI yet!" Yes, it's scary but true: the 13th graders will be writing their ABI-exams in about a month! How well are we prepared? When will we study? Will Christmas vacation still be enjoyable? Or, will it be two weeks of endless studying?

"I don't have time at the moment to study for the ABI-exams. I mean, we're still writing Klausuren for this semester, and then there are the essays and homework assignments," says Thilo Richter, who will be tested in Biology, Chemistry, and PW in January. "I will have to study for the exams during the entire vacation," he regrets. What about having fun during the vacation? "Maybe one day, or half a day I will be able to enjoy. Christmas Eve and maybe also New Year's Eve, because I have to do something with my family on those two days." Thilo is by far not the only person who feels this way. "I will be studying every day," agrees Albert von Ketteler. Yet unlike Thilo, Albert is planning on "doing a little bit every

day" for English, History, and Physics. Also Julia Krull believes that she will spend "a few hours everyday studying [for English, French, and Math]." When asked how she will be spending her vacation, Linnea Kreibohm reveals that she "wished for a 'Pocket Teacher ABI' for [PW, English, and Math]" and that she will be busy with these.

Nicole Soeller is also planning on studying during the vacation, yet she seems a lot more relaxed. She chose to be tested in French, Art, and PW, where "most of the material is general knowledge." She believes that it is harder to study for the sciences as the students would "need to know everything they did in the past three semesters."

While these people know that they will be busy studying, there are some Abiturienten who have other plans. Janine Schoewe, for instance, will go skiing and therefore believes that she will only be studying "half of the time" for English, Art, and Biology. Max Griese also believes that he "will skim through some things [in History, English, and Biology] but not seriously." He will "hammer old knowledge away and make space in [his] head for the ABI topics, and enjoy as much of the vacation as [he] can." Julian Jeczawitz shares a similar opinion. "I'll study for two hours every other day," he reveals. Then he corrects himself, however. "To be honest, I will hardly be studying anything during the vacation in the

end. I'll probably study about 95% of the things shortly before the actual testing [in Biology, Geography, and English]." Amelie Eichmann also thinks that "Christmas vacation is the worst to spend for studying." After all, you still have to enjoy the holidays.

Freddy Schenk reminds us that although he will "definitely spend a lot of time on studying [for English, Geography, and Biology]" himself, that it is still "important to find a good balance." He recommends that the students "study during the day but don't forget that they also have their lives to enjoy." He believes that the exams are "only stressful for those, who make it stressful." Philippa Winter encourages those who might find studying difficult that "it's not too bad. It's only once in your entire life time. After all, the last semester will be more relaxing."

Over all, the general consensus seems to be that you need to do something during the two weeks of vacation for the ABI. As some people stated, however, vacation isn't all about studying. Dear Abiturienten, preparing for the ABI-exams is extremely important; yet keep in mind what your fellow classmates advised. When you realize that you miss the golden lights of Unter den Linden or that you need a cup of Glühwein from Potsdamer Platz, do get out and be inspired by the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Spoiler

Adrian Nothnagle

Since the end of November, Christmas markets in Berlin have opened, department stores have been decorated, and unemployed underachievers dressed as Santa have lined the boulevards of our city. To those of you who haven't noticed yet, the Christmas season has arrived. Regardless of the positive outlook many people share towards Christmas, the purpose of this article will be to show the opposite.

Shortly before Christmas, impatient customers flock to the shopping plazas, driven by the illusion that "their loved ones will only truly be happy if they receive gifts." In my opinion this is an outright lie that the mass media and the chain stores have indoctrinated us with since childhood in order to squeeze money out of us!

The following questions are directed to those who consider themselves "Christmas-loving." Hasn't it ever happened to you that you didn't receive

the gift you really wanted but the one your parents thought you needed but you didn't want? Haven't you ever been jealous of the gifts your siblings received? Haven't you ever felt guilty because somebody gave you a great present but you forgot to give him one? Haven't you observed your parents competing with one another for the "better" Christmas presents? Haven't you ever felt at Christmas that everybody is happy except for you? Haven't you heard that the suicide rate doubles during the holiday season? Aren't you sick and tired of all the cheesy Christmas hits? Haven't you heard George Michael's "Last Christmas" or Frank Sinatra's "White Christmas" enough times? If you were fortunate enough to celebrate a "Merry Christmas," what about those that didn't? What about those who spend Christmas Eve in a lonely bar getting drunk or the homeless that spend the holiday freezing to death on

a park bench?

Some, especially the Christians, might emphasize the importance of commemorating the birth of the Messiah. To those I say the following: Christmas has almost nothing to do with Christianity. Christmas is essentially a heathen ritual that goes back thousands of years. At Christmas, people celebrated winter solstice, the day that marks the beginning of the gradually increasing amount of sunshine during the day. Santa Clause, too is by no means a Christian figure. He, too, is a remnant of the heathen society that existed in Europe before her population was converted to Christianity.

The solution to the reservations I have towards Christmas would be to celebrate in a non-materialistic and harmless way. We are not perfect and thus there is no reason for Christmas to be. After all, it is only an abstract human invention.

Christmas

Weihnachtsmärkte in Berlin – ein Erlebnis(marathon)

Janna Jaeger

Wie jedes Jahr in der Weihnachtszeit macht sich der tapfere und pflichtbewusste Bürger auf den Weg zum Weihnachtsmarkt um sich in Weihnachtsstimmung zu bringen/ bringen zu lassen. Dieses Vorhaben kann dank der großen Auswahl an Märkten seinen Höhepunkt entweder in einem romantischen Abend oder einem Lachanfall finden. Das Definitionsspektrum des Begriffs „Weihnachten“ scheint in unserem multikulturellen Berlin fleißig um Begriffe wie „Pizza“, „Frühlingsrolle“ oder „Büchsenabschießen“ erweitert worden zu sein – damit wären wir auch schon bei meiner absoluten Nummer 1 der kommerzialisierten Weihnachtsmärkte:

Der **Weihnachtsmarkt rund um die Gedächtniskirche** (täglich 10–21 Uhr, freitags und sonnabends bis 22 Uhr). Wer schon immer mal wissen wollte, was Entenangeln und Erbseneintopf mit Weihnachten zu haben hat – that's the place to go, buddies. Abgesehen von Ballwurfuden und Pizaständen gibt es glücklicherweise auch Kunsthandwerk und gebrannte Mandeln für die Konservativen unter uns. Wer vor lauter Buden dann nicht mehr weiß, wo oben und unten ist, kann sich rettend an dem Iglu-Brunnen orientieren, welcher wie ein halbes Dinosaurier, in der Mulde liegend, das Irre Treiben mit seinem kränklich, blauen Schein

erhellte. Interessanter Weise steht der Markt unter dem Motto „Ort der Stille“ – was für ein nahe liegender Slogan bei knapp 2,2 Millionen Besuchern. Ach ja, fast hätte ich es vergessen: das obligatorische Karussell hat seine Platz dort auch gefunden – ist ja schließlich Weihnachten.

Für die abenteuerlustigen unter uns sollte wohl eher der **Weihnachtsmarkt am Potsdamer Platz** (täglich 10-21.30 Uhr) interessant sein. Für 1,50 Euro kann man sich Tubes leihen oder auf selbst mitgebrachten



Utensilien die 70m lange Rodelbahn hinunterjagen. Auch Eislaufen auf der 13x40m großen Eislaufbahn nebenan ebenfalls kostenlos möglich wenn eigene Schlittschuhe mitgebracht werden. Für 2,50 pro 1,5 Stunden kann man diese andernfalls auch ausleihen. Der

Weihnachtsmarkt selbst ist liebevoll mit tausenden Lichtern dekoriert. Das zum Teil eher etwas unweihnachtliche Angebot der Buden vermag dem Gesamteindruck nur geringfügig abträglich zu sein – die Atmosphäre ist beeindruckend.

Wer es trotz aller Möglichkeiten Weihnachten mit angekarrtem Schnee aus dem Salzburger Land zu genießen oder Nemo mit der Soft-Gun abschießen zu dürfen, eher gemütlich und qualitativ hochwertig schätzt, dem sei der **Weihnachtsmarkt am Gendarmenmarkt** (So-Do 11-21 Uhr, Fr-Sa 11-22 Uhr) ans Herz gelegt. In einem eingezäunten Areal und gediegener Atmosphäre kann man sich für 1 Euro pro Person an den Ständen handverlesener Aussteller erfreuen. Von wunderschön bis bizarr ist hier alles an Kunsthandwerk vertreten und man kommt durchaus ins Staunen, was manch einer aus Material zu schaffen vermag. Leider ist dieser Markt längst schon kein Geheimtipp mehr, zur „Rush-hour“ Zeit vermag es auch hier durchaus anstrengend werden. Wem es draußen jedoch zu kalt wird, der findet in einer überdachten Zeltlandschaften Unterschlupf und kann so dem Berliner Schmuddelwetter zum Trotz der Weihnachts-Stimmung frönen – den passenden Glühwein gibt's im selben Zelt...Merry Christmas!

Adeste Fideles

Der Lurch

In den letzten Jahren deutet der allgemeine Trend immer stärker zum „Weihnachtszynismus“. Davon enttäuscht, entschieße ich mich voll idealistischen Enthusiasmus' dazu, einen „Pro-Weihnachtsartikel“ zu verfassen. Mit der Absicht, treffende Eindrücke und pointierte Bemerkungen zu sammeln, mache ich mich auf zum Weihnachtsmarkt am Potsdamer Platz.

Die Voraussetzung für ein gemütliches Vergnügen bei lieblichem Kinderlachen und dampfendem Glühwein scheint aufgrund schlechter Laune und eigenbrötlicher Einsamkeit nicht ideal – widerwillig entstöppse ich meine Ohren; die sanft-melancholischen Töne Simon und Garfunkels werden von einem brummelnden, schnatternden, murrenden Getöse abgelöst. Grimmig dreinschauende Menschen drängen sich verbissener Mienen durch Massen ihresgleichen. Dazu unpassend geschmückt die Schaufenster mit dem ikonenhaften Antlitz des „Jolly Santa“; die mit blitzendem Klunker überladenen

Weihnachtsbäume vervollständigen die Kulisse, vor welcher die Läden einander an Weihnachtsangeboten übertreffen, verwöhnte Bälger Schreikrämpfe zum Besten geben, Weihnachtsmänner in Turnschuhen Werbezettel verteilen und die Leute prompt drauf reinfallen. Ich bin dem Weinen nahe – oh, vanitas! Langsam überkommt mich ein Ekel. Ich drohe wie so viele dem desillusionierten Zynismus zu verfallen.

Stattdessen bestelle ich mir in einem kleinen Café einen beruhigenden Tee und beginne, zu grübeln. Warum machen wir überhaupt dies Getue um Weihnachten? Ja, ja, Gott – vorausgesetzt, dass es diesen gibt – schickt seinen Sohn; das Christkindlein wird geboren, die Hirten kommen, die Englein singen usw., usw. In gewisser Hinsicht ist das aber auch recht interessant, wenn man nämlich Jesus als „Erlöser“ der Menschheit betrachtet und seine Geburt (später auch seinen Tod) als entscheidenden Umbruch in der Mensch-Gott Beziehung.

Zwecks dessen kehre man zu dem biblischen Ursprung der Menschen zurück: Adam und Eva, unschuldig, aber auch unmündig und unwissend im Paradies. Doch dann: Durst nach Wissen, Verführung, Sündenfall und Vertreibung aus dem Garten, Verdammung.

Die Entsendung seines Sohnes auf die Erde markiert nun eine Zäsur in dem Verhältnis – Weihnachten feiert Gottes Akzeptanz des freidenkenden, selbstbestimmenden Menschen. Zwar glaube ich nicht so recht an diesen Mythos, die Vorstellung allerdings ist irgendwie beruhigend. An dieser Stelle bietet sich auch James Joyce an, wenn er „rather a coherent absurdity than an incoherent one“ bevorzugt. Und dem kommerziellen Santa-Getue (für die fundamental-religiösen: „Santa“ ist ein Anagramm von „Satan“) ist diese interessante Absurdität allemal vorzuziehen.

Christmas

Warum Berlin Weihnachten verdient hat

Benjamin Hofmann

Grau. Nur ein Wort kann die miserable seelische Verfassung weiter Teile dieser Stadt beschreiben. Der Himmel ist hierbei nur der Anfang: Frühling, Sommer, Herbst und Winter scheinen sich oftmals nur durch verschiedene Abstufungen der Farbe Grau zu unterscheiden. Das gesamte Konzept von Jahreszeiten kann nach wenigen Jahren in der Hauptstadt ziemlich durcheinander kommen und es wird gemunkelt, dass hier Geborene ein solches gar nicht erst entwickeln. Und vielmehr noch: vor dem Hintergrund des grauen Himmels verschmelzen auch die Häuserkulissen zu einem einfarbigen Brei. Grau. Schon wieder.

Auch von offizieller Seite ist keine Hilfe zu erwarten. Ein Blick in verschiedenste Behörden verrät, dass bestimmte Vorurteile über die Kleidungsweise einheimischer Beamter durchaus ihre Berechtigung haben. Auch hier ist nicht der Individualfall für einen solchen Eindruck verantwortlich (mitunter können sogar neon-grüne Anzüge gesichtet werden!), sondern vielmehr die Einför-

mickeit, die eben jene farbliche Assoziation hervorruft.

Doch was ist mit den Menschen? Die sitzen doch mit gebleichten Haaren, grellen Röcken, blauen Uniformen und (allzu) bunten Zeitungen in der U-Bahn. In der Tat: von Grau kann nicht die Rede sein, wenn man denn nur das äußere Erscheinungsbild betrachtet. Die Gemüter allerdings lassen auf ganz andere Verhältnisse schließen. Die Zeitung wird (wir sind schließlich immer noch in der U-Bahn) demonstrativ und laut gefaltet, da andernfalls bei Mitinsassen der falsche Verdacht aufkommen könnte, dass Kommunikation erwünscht ist. Der Nebenplatz wird nur unter Murren von halben Taschen und ganzen Schalzipfeln bereinigt und auch scheinen Zivilkontrolleure kaum für ihre freundliche Wärme oder gar ihr Verständnis berühmt zu sein. Auch wenn die Gemüter sich nicht rot vor Zorn verfärben ist also eine graue Grundhaltung irgendwo zwischen vollkommen gleichgültig und leicht schlechtgelaunt, durchaus vorhanden.

Gerade die Zeit von November bis Februar scheint die Graufärbung sämtlicher Ebenen als oberste Priorität zu betrachten. Weihnachten, in all seiner Farbenpracht, vom gelben Weihnachtsstern bis hin zur (mit dem Abend immer lustiger werdenden) roten Farbe des Glühweins, passt da nicht ins Konzept. Eigentlich. Vielmehr lässt sich das Ganze vielleicht als Wettkampf zweier gigantischen Kontrahenten beschreiben. Die Frage nach dem Sieger kann nur von den Bürgern Berlins beantwortet werden. Diese entscheiden, ob Weihnachten ein weiterer (primär in der U-Bahn ausgelebter) Stressfaktor und somit Grund zur Misstimmung ist, oder aber ein farbenfroher Lichtblick in einer ansonsten eintönigen Stadt. Es bleibt zu hoffen, dass die Stadt in diesem Wettkampf unterliegt und wenigstens für ein paar Tage weihnachtlich-bunte Stimmung einkehrt. Zumindest das haben wir uns verdient, weil 365 Tage Grau hält niemand aus.

Dome Concert

Linnea Kreibohm

I can't remember the first Dome Concert I ever went to. It seems like I've always been going to the "Advent and Christmas Caroling Service" in the Berlin Dome. A quick glance in the program reveals that the first Dome Concert was on December 9, 1993, when I was in first grade.

Over the years many things have changed about the Dome Concert. In the first few years, the Dome wasn't completely renovated yet and there was still some scaffolding under the Dome. Also, when the concert first started, the area around the Dome was still a complete construction site, and there wasn't a big Christmas market yet. I've watched the market next to the Dome grow each year. We've also had to park farther and farther away from the Dome because the old parking spaces have been converted into new buildings or flea markets.



Not just its surrounding, but also the Dome Concert itself changes from year to year. Different pastors from the Ame-

rican church or different ambassadors read from the bible. The orchestra and choirs always perform different pieces, and even the pieces the congregation sing are a little different every year.

And yet, many things stay the same. It is always the British version of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" that is printed in the program and confuses those who want to sing the American version. The choir that sings from the *Kaiserempore* always looks pretty much the same, because all singers are dressed in white. The texts read by the different people also stay the same. The Dome Concert is still a humongous gathering for the German-American community in Berlin, where everybody is welcome.

And I can be sure that my favorite of all Christmas Carols, "Angels We Have Heard on High" will always end on "Glo-oo-ooo-ooria in excelsis Deo."

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

Opinion / JKS Life

Thefts in School

He-in Cheong

You return from your Sports class, all ready to get changed back into your school clothes, only to realize that your most important valuables are gone. This is the most shocking scenario that could happen in the changing rooms. Your friends' phone numbers, favorite music, and favorite pictures disappear forever together with your cell phone.

On Tuesday, November 9, 10th grade girls returned from their third period sports class and realized that their cell phones, MP3 players, and wallets were stolen. According to one of their classmates, "the police tried to solve the issue" but gave up on the case as "the investigation would cost a lot." It is also known from past theft cases that the school does not have any insurance that would recover the costs for the stolen valuables. As it says in the Student Handbook, "the school is not responsible" for anything that gets lost in school.

This incident, however, is

nothing new to JFKS students. In this current school year, thefts have already occurred so often that students are scared to leave their bags in the changing rooms. People taking their backpacks, clothes, and even shoes to the gym is now a common sight. Another option that students seem to have decided for is leaving their things in their lockers. Whatever happened to security in school? Do we, the students, need to feel fear in this unnecessary way? Do these thieves realize that they are not only stealing our valuables but also our feeling of security?

Whoever the thief or the thieves may be: Christmas is approaching. Do you not think that it'd be great to give your "victims" their belongings back? Wouldn't Christmas be exactly the right season to return them their valuables? Here's a list of what needs to be sent back to the students: cell phones; wallets; MP3 players; necklaces; bracelets; digital cameras, etc. Please do bring these to Frau Klemm. By doing so,

you'd also recreate security in school, trust in others and you, and you could look into people's eyes. You would also eradicate all suspicion from your fellow students' minds.

I ask you to replace your eagerness and fearlessness to steal others' belongings with motivation and kindness to return the stolen items. You do not need to reveal your identity. We don't care who you are; nobody knows what Santa looks like, either.

Editors' Note: If you are a victim of theft in school, inform Frau Klemm and the police immediately of the stealing. If you observed any thefts or saw any suspicious people entering changing rooms in the Sport Hall, please at once report to Frau Klemm or Mrs. Krull about what you have seen. There are also "Meins Bleibt Meins" ("What's Mine, Stays Mine") buttons available at Mrs. Krull's office if you wish to wear one.

Die Ausschreitungen in Frankreich

Philipp Hends

Als Frankreich 1998 Fußballweltmeister wurde, feierte die Nation neben dem sportlichen Triumph einen vermeintlichen sozialen Durchbruch. Da die Mannschaft aus Spielern aller Hautfarben bestanden hatte, feierten auf den Straßen Weiße, Schwarze, und Getönte und die Nationalfarben wurden von blau-weiß-rot in „schwarz-weiß-arabisch“ umgetauft. Die Euphorie legte sich aber schnell, denn der Aufruhr in den Immigrantenvororten, den es schon vor der Weltmeisterschaft gegeben hätte, hielt weiter an.

Was Frankreich aber jetzt erlebt hat, hat eine neue Größenordnung erreicht. Über eine Woche lang brennen pro Nacht hunderte, wenn nicht tausende von Autos, öffentliche Einrichtungen wie Schulen oder Postämter werden bewusst zerstört, Zivilisten werden verletzt oder gar getötet. Der Staat hat sich komplett aus diesen Vierteln zurückgezogen: Busfahrer weigern sich dorthin zu fahren, Polizisten verbarrikadieren sich, Geschäfte werden geschlossen. Infolgedessen schreitet die Gettoisierung mit Riesenschritten voran.

Frankreich ist sicher kein rassistisches Land. Diese aus 40 Völkern bestehende Nation ist Zuwanderung gewohnt und im Alltag kommen Menschen aller Hautfarben gut miteinander zurecht. Allerdings sind die Beziehungen den Algeriern gegenüber immer noch problematisch, eine Nachwirkung des Algerienkriegs, der von 1956 bis 1962 dauerte. Die Bevölkerung hat Angst, es besteht das Gefühl, dass von

den Vorstädten eine Bedrohung für ihr Land ausgeht. Dies hat zur Folge, dass die Kluft zwischen Einwanderern und den Franzosen immer größer wird.

Eine fragwürdige Rolle in dieser Hinsicht spielt auch der eher konservative Innenminister Frankreichs Nicolas Sarkozy. Er hat die Jugendlichen in den Vororten als „Gesindel“ bezeichnet und so die Stimmung noch weiter aufgeheizt. Solch ein Benehmen ist in dieser Situation alles andere als hilfreich. Sarkozys Verhalten ist wohl vor allem darauf zurückzuführen, dass er 2007 Staatspräsident werden will, und so auch die Stimmen der Rechten im Land braucht. Allerdings benötigt er auch die der Leute in den Vororten und daher ist sein Verhalten unerklärlich.

Ein anderer Faktor, der die Vorstädte immer mehr zu Gettos werden lässt, ist, dass es für sie kein richtiges Hilfsprogramm gibt. Die Vernachlässigung durch den Staat beginnt schon bei den Kindern, die in furchtbaren Betonlöchern aufwachsen. Dadurch wird schon bei der nächsten, heranwachsenden Generation keine der Regierung gegenüber wohlgesinnte Stimmung erzeugt.

Meiner Meinung nach ist die französische Regierung an der immer größer werdenden Kluft zwischen den Vorstädten und dem Rest Frankreichs schuld. Man sollte alles setzen, die Leute in die Gesellschaft einzubinden, denn sonst kann man sich nicht beklagen, wenn sich Geschehnisse wie die vor wenigen Wochen ereignen.

GO! ... Where?

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

Go to the JFKS "GO-CLUB"! What's that? It's a bunch of high school kids and a math teacher who like a game called GO. (Umm...) So what's GO? Good question. It's an approximately 4000-year-old board game from China and Japan in which two players place black and white stones on a board with 361 intersection points. The goal is to get more territory than your opponent, that is, to surround an area with your stones. It's a strategy game with simple rules, but endless possibilities. Although it isn't too well known in Europe, it is internationally as widely known as chess. It is a wonderful, exciting game that is played the world over, even professionally.

Some of you might know the manga (Japanese comic) "Hikaru no Go" in which this board game plays a major role. If you are interested please come and join us, it is an extracurricular activity, so it's also on the report card. This activity exists since the fourth quarter of the last school year, though this is the first advertisement for it. We meet on Thursdays in lunch in B215. Our sensei (Japanese for teacher) is Mr. Oms. He sometimes teaches us Japanese. If that interests you, you have another reason to come. Each GO hour is a wonderful unique experience! The atmosphere is extremely relaxing, and all members always look forward to lunch on Thursdays. I hope to see you there.

Teacher Feature: Mr. Bradley

David Slama and Sebastian Freiseis

Mr. Bradley is a new English teacher to the John F. Kennedy School since this school year. *The Muckraker* interviewed him for this issue's Teacher Feature. Here is an excerpt. Enjoy reading it!

The Muckraker: Please give us a short overview of your life.

Mr. Bradley: I was born in Nebraska, which is a Great Plains farming state. My farther worked for a tire company called *Firestone*. Then he was transferred to Flint, Michigan before I was two years old; I have no memory of Nebraska. I went to Flint public schools as Michael Moore did. Then I went to college in Massachusetts. My first teaching job was in New York. Then I moved to Colorado, where I lived until last year when I moved to Prague and am now in Berlin.

What was your first motivation in coming here?

We were interested in international living. My wife is an architect who is specialized in historic preservation. In the United States they would rather tear a building down than preserve it. The idea of raising children so that they are a little more aware of the world and speak some other languages is also very appealing. We would love to see our two boys graduate from the John F. Kennedy School, being truly bilingual and carrying out cultural perspectives into the world and help us all live in peace. (Laughs.)

So you are planning to pay back the taxes and stay?

We have started an account at the Commerzbank and if the Kennedy School offers me a longer contract I will stay at the Kennedy School.

Your students often think of you as very sarcastic. Why?

Five hundred years from now, the historians will call today the age of irony, because there is always this sense that the traditional values are being somewhat irreverently treated. People who take religion seriously are kind of looked at askance. People that take anything seriously... As soon as you say to your friends I care passionately about *and you fill in the blank*, doesn't one of your friends say you're a fool to care about that? But then there is also the sense of slight ironic digs like Quentin Tarantino. He looks at violence ironically. Violence is so much a part of pop-culture and he depicts it with this hard-to-interpret stance. Though he's

not really glorifying violence he is wallowing in it, and seems to make fun of those who watch violent movies. It's a way to head it both ways.

Do you think this is going to change?

Yes, it always changes. The only permanence is change. There is of course evidence that we are returning to fundamentalism in Islam and in Christianity. And there will be ultimately a time where people will be sincere and passionate and future historians might call that the age of the great reawakening.

What would you say if you were to meet George W. Bush?

When I was your age, the Vietnam-War was going on and it came out that Johnson had lied about North Vietnamese attacking a US ship in the Gulf of Tonkin. It's amazing how history is repeating itself, now that we are enmeshed in Iraq. There is just an increasing amount of evidence that he lied about weapons of mass destruction, Saddam going to Nigeria to get yellowcake nuclear material, the whole Valley Plain outing. It is not very patriotic to reveal the name of a spy in times of war. In World War II you would have been shot for something like that. I would talk to George W. Bush about his lack of ethics, patriotism, and true vision and how to coexist with Islam.

Are you unhappy that the American politics reveal such a bad image of Americans when you go to foreign countries? Your earlier question about staying here intersects with this exact question.

So you are a refugee from George W. Bush?

Yes, absolutely. We went to the Vorschule potluck dinner and many of the parents talked about their children having been teased because they are American citizens. A lot of George Bush's policies have made it unpopular to be an American. It wasn't so many years ago when being an American was being seen as helping the world. America was the place everybody wanted to immigrate to; where you could have the opportunity to live free and pursue your happiness. Now it seems like in five short years he has turned it all around. Now even our allies hate us. Our ability to stay here and to raise our children at JFKS is directly related to how many enemies the White House makes in the next 3 years.

Now to a different topic: tell us some-

thing about you that no one knows or that people wouldn't think about you.

My first job after I got my college degree was in a candy factory; it was a wonderful custom hand-dipped chocolate candy factory, Russel Stowers. I had a piece of candy in my mouth every minute I was in that job for four years. They made this wonderful raspberry caramel where they would put in 500 pounds of frozen raspberries. It was so delicious.

How did you get into that job?

I moved from Massachusetts to Colorado and looked in the want-ads, went down to the candy factory, and started working the next day.

Getting back to school, what's your favourite book that you like to teach?

Oh boy, the more years I teach, the more favourites I have. My best experience in teaching was when a group of 10th graders asked me what history would say was the greatest novel ever written. So I thought about it for several days and actually came up with a couple of lists from various editors. They actually said that it was Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, which is about 1500 pages. So I go to this 10th grade class, say *War and Peace*, and they said, "Well, we want to read that. We're dying to read a great book." So we read it. I gave this impossible test; there were thirty compare and contrast short answers and the mean score was 92%. The students loved *War and Peace*. Years later, I was in Boston and I visited a former student of that class, and he said "I was so sad when we finished that book, because every night I would look forward to going into my room and reading about these characters and finding out what happened to them next. And when the book ended, I felt like I had lost a close friend." And he didn't need the grade; it wasn't like he was just buttering me up. He sincerely felt grief when we finished that book.

So, did you ever expect to become a teacher?

Neither of my parents had graduated from high-school, so they stressed to my two sisters: college, college, college. There was one summer when both of them were up for promotions in their jobs and both were passed over by people who had college education. They said college and education is the key to happiness. So it never really was an option for me to be anything else. Both of my sisters are teachers in

Mr. Bradley... *continued to page 7*

JFKS Life

Mr. Bradley... *continued from page 6*

upstate Maryland and I'm a teacher, it was just drilled into us, it was like *Brave New World*, "you will be a teacher and you will get an education".

What do you think about the students here, compared to the American students?

It's amazing how similar they are (laughs). I told my 11th graders after reading their first papers, 'The bad news: you have lots of mistakes; the good news: you have exactly the same mistakes as the American students.' If they apply to American universities, they will be on equal footing with the students who have been going to school in the US. Students here are very serious, very academic, very motivated.

That's not the case in the states?

I was very lucky to teach in a school that was astoundingly populated with high-quality kids, very involved parents, just like here. I used to be the high school newspaper advisor, so the staff still sends me papers. Last year, the two co-editors in chief, one was an American with Jewish heritage, the other a Muslim student of Pakistani heritage. The young Pakistani is still editor in chief, is a bright student, going to be applying to Harvard, Yale, Stanford. He takes about seven AP courses and works diligently - he's a great kid.

Do you miss anything about America?

I miss baseball. I was a fanatic; I played it in high school, college, and in an old men's league for 20 years. I was a huge fan. I was a season ticket holder for 12 years for the Major League in Colorado. Now I just went cold turkey. Now I don't see it ever, I don't hear about it, and every once in a while, like during the World Series, I go "Man, I used to sit up until 2 a.m., watching the World Series games and now I don't even know who won."

And I also miss the good Mexican food - burritos, tacos, enchiladas. Although there are several good Mexican restaurants in Berlin, I haven't found anything that compares with Colorado Mexican food. But other than that, we love exploring the cuisine of Europe, the cultural highlights: the museums, the churches, and the countryside; that's why we're here. But baseball and burritos - it's hard to find them here in Berlin.

Which clichés about Germans have proven wrong to you?

There was one woman, who taught in

Prague, who had taught at the Kennedy School and when she found out that I was going to get a job here, she said the parents are very confrontational. She said, "They will argue with you, and argue with you, and argue with you, and you just have to realize that's the German way." Well, we just had two parent evenings and I met a couple dozen sets of parents, and I have to say that that cliché was totally wrong. The parents were wonderful and friendly and enjoyable to talk to. I asked them questions about their backgrounds and their stories are incredibly interesting. Many people are trying the same things we are trying to do. One family, for instance - I don't know if I should talk about this - actually moved around the globe in order to let the children have various cultural experiences that they felt were necessary to get a head in the world, which is exactly what I believe in.

When you were in college, were you always a good student? What kind of a student were you?

I failed freshman Spanish. It met six days a week, 9am to 10am, and I found it very difficult to go to all those classes. I was experimenting with my own independence, you know living away from home, and I ended up with a flunking grade in Spanish. It's interesting that I am here forcing my children to learn a foreign language, when I was a typical ugly American who felt, "Where am I going to use Spanish? I live in the United States!" Well, I went on and got fairly good at Spanish because I needed it for graduate school.

No alcohol incidents?

No, I was basically a good boy. One time on my old men's baseball team, we were sitting around the parking lot after the game, having a beer, and somebody said, "Alright, who has spent time in jail?" And virtually everyone on that team had spent time in jail except for me; one guy had gotten in a fight when he was in the Navy and he spent 90 days in the brig, another guy had gotten drunk and stood in the middle of an intersection directing the traffic until the police came. He spent a week in jail. Every single one of those twenty guys had spent time in jail! But I had not. I'm really... timid, I guess is the right description. That's why I make a good school teacher.

Thank you for the interview!

An SC Checkup: Three Months In And Where Are We Going?

Three months, four SC meetings, a Cabinet Chill Session, and uncountable hours spent with my co-president-now-friend Jakob have culminated in a surprising lot. We have a new activity, called RAMTV, where since the Kennedy Cup we have been filming events and activities at JFKS, and await the first 'show' with impatience. If you want to join RAMTV, talk to me or Phillip Kellermeier (11th grade). Game Day has been met with approval, so look forward to competing in May!

Class 7f won a pizza party by raising over 100 € for victims of hurricane Katrina and the Pakistani quake; more of those pizza parties are around the corner. A park cleanup activity is on the horizon. As far as future excitements, we are working on a dance with cocktails and a soccer World cup game showing in a sportsbar/café. I am ever thankful for your supporting votes, and hope that this year has gotten off to a good start for you.

Your American SC President,
Jackson Adams

A good 3 months into the year and here is our first Muckraker report. I would first like to thank you for supporting me in the election.

And now to less personal and more SC business: we printed the Buzz Books, which you can pick up from either me or the library. Furthermore, Christmas Grams are on their way; you can send that special person or your friends some Christmas spirits. In addition, numerous T-shirt designs were handed in on time. This means that T-shirts will arrive sooner than last year. Naturally, we still have countless plans for the rest of the school year. I am working on organizing a big music event for hopefully next spring, and am meanwhile trying to seep some music into our hallways. Hopefully, you will hear the results soon. Lastly, we are finalizing our plans for the foosball table so that we can bring some of the World Cup flavor to our school.

If you have any wishes, concerns, or ideas, please write to presidents@jfksc.com.

Your German SC president,
Jakob Thomae

send your opinions and articles to:

themuckraker@gmail.com

Das Herzschlagfinale

Linnea Kreibohm und Franziska Zachhuber

Dienstag, 6. Dezember, 14:00, Sporthalle, John-F.-Kennedy-Schule: Ein Basketballspiel der Breitenbach-Wettkampfklasse I findet statt. Die Mannschaften: JFKS und Droste-Hülshoff-Schule – zwei langjährige Konkurrenten treten einander in der Eröffnungsrunde des „Vattenfall Schulcups“ gegenüber. Die Sitzreihen sind erstaunlich voll – nach grober Schätzung haben sich 300 Leute zusammengefunden, um diesem Sportevent zuzuschauen.

Basketballtrainer Herr Hoedt schreitet mit ernster Miene und schwarzem Anzug unruhig auf und ab; seine weißen Sportschuhe quietschen auf dem Kunststoffboden; die Spieler wärmen sich auf. Im Zuschauerbereich brodelte die Stimmung – eine gesamte dritte Klasse sitzt da; bei Spielbeginn wird laut und enthusiastisch applaudiert. Zu Beginn erwecken die „jungen Helden“ einen benahe etwas lethargischen Eindruck; die JFKer versuchen ein „Man-to-man“-Spiel, doch die Droste geht in die Defensive. Aufgrund eines jungen Droste-Spielers, der die Nummer 5 auf dem Trikot trägt, werden die Gegner allerdings zunehmend korbgefährlich und die Chancen sehen nicht rosig aus.

Angesichts des Rückstands während der ersten Hälfte ruft ein aufgeregter Drittklässler den Blauen JFKern verzweifelt zu: „You need to get better!“

Die Wende tritt in der 2. Hälfte ein, denn nun nimmt die Droste auch das „Man-to-man“-Spiel auf. Das Spiel wird einerseits flüssiger, andererseits fallen mehr Körbe. Obwohl das Spiel auch zunehmend aggressiver wird, bleiben beide Teams trotz einiger Verletzungen erstaunlich sportlich fair. Die Nummer 5 der Droste bleibt der JFK allerdings ein Dorn im Auge; seine Freischüsse sind gefürchtet: er wippt leicht in den Knien und setzt, den Oberkörper halb zur Seite gedreht, zum gefährlichen Wurf an. Ein Treffer, wie erwartet.

Noch 7 Sekunden, der Stand 36:37 für die Droste. Herr Hoedt wechselt den 13.-Klässler Thilo ein mit dem Appell, den „Ball zu kriegen und reinzuwerfen.“ Genau das tut er. In wortwörtlich letzter Sekunde drischt Thilo samt Ball auf den Drostekorb zu, stoppt aufgrund der Verteidigung und des Zeitmangels einige Meter vom Korb entfernt und schießt. Alle Augen folgen dem bogenförmigen Verlauf des Balles,

er berührt den Korb, schwankt kurz und ... Applaus, Jubel, alle Spieler springen auf Thilo zu, heben ihn hoch. Endstand: 38:37 für die JFKS.

„Die JFK hechelt bei solchen Spielen immer hinterher, aber das haben wir mit Thilos Superwurf ja doch noch geschafft“ folgert Freddy Schenk im Nachhinein. Noch etwas benommen von dem plötzlichen Sieg erklärt Thilo: „Es war ein unbeschreibliches Gefühl, ich konnte vorher mit Sicherheit sagen, dass [der Ball] mit Sicherheit nicht hätte reingehen sollen. Es war der Hammer.“ Der Trainer Herr Hoedt war „überzeugt, dass wir noch gewinnen, es war nicht unverdient“, glücklich ist er trotzdem. Auch war das Spiel für ihn „tolle Werbung für Schulbasketball“ und er wünscht sich, dass bei jedem Spiel so viele Zuschauer anwesend sein würden, denn „die Jungs trainieren hart“, und das zwei mal die Woche. Für weitere Termine der JFKS Basketballmannschaft einfach in der Sporthalle nachfragen; hat man einmal das Spiel kapiert, so ist es durchaus spannend und lohnenswert.

World Cup Final Draw

Boin Cheong

Three more days until Christmas vacation; seven more days until Christmas Eve; fifteen more days until 2006; 170 more days until the World Cup. When the German national flag rises, followed by the Costa Rican flag, on June 9, 2006, hundreds of millions of people will be watching the opening match. Soccer is said to be the most popular sports in the world, a soccer World Cup finals the most watched sporting event. Most of you, whether female, male, American, or German, probably have a favorite team that you will be supporting during the tournament. So that you know which teams will be playing against your favorite team, here are the results of the final draw for you.

In 170 more days, when the sun is back out, when your sweaters are pushed into the corners of your closets, when millions of soccer fans come to Germany to watch soccer, it will be "time to make friends," as the World Cup motto says. Until then, as residents of the World Cup host country, try to memorize which countries are in which groups. That way, when a foreign soccer fan approaches you in the middle of Ku'Damm and asks you where the Olympic Stadium is, you will be able to start a conversation on soccer.

Group A

 Germany
 Costa Rica
 Poland
 Ecuador

Group B

 England
 Paraguay
 Trinidad & Tobago
 Sweden

Group C

 Argentina
 Ivory Coast
 Serbia & Montenegro
 The Netherlands

Group D

 Mexico
 Iran
 Angola
 Portugal

Group E

 Italy
 Ghana
 USA
 Czech Republic

Group F

 Brasil
 Croatia
 Australia
 Japan

Group G

 France
 Switzerland
 Republic of Korea
 Togo

Group H

 Spain
 Ukraine
 Tunisia
 Saudi Arabia

Fun

Super Sudokus For Christmas

Boin Cheong

In the last two issues, we published a total of four sudoku puzzles of different difficulty levels. For this Christmas edition of The Muckraker, I came up with a super sudoku. Fill in the boxes so that every row, every column, and every 4 x 4 box contains all digits from 0 to 9 and the letters A through F.

For the normal 3 x 3 sudoku, the instruction remains the same as always: Fill in the boxes so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains all digits from 1 to 9.

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

F	7	B		E		A		1			6				D
	9	1	A	F		0		8	5	D	7	E	4		C
0	5		6	9	C				B		E	A		3	
	C		E		2		B					7	8	6	0
E	0	5				2	F		7				1	C	
	4		8		D	C			E		5	9	3		
	2	9				1		D			A		0	4	
D	6	7		A		9	8					B		F	
9	B		D		1	3	0	C	8			F	5	A	
8	F	4	5	6	9	E	A	7	D			C	B		
6	A				7	4	5	B	F	E		1	2	D	9
7			1	D	B	F	C		A		0	4			E
5		F	9	C		6	1	2	4	0	D		7	E	
A			7		F		D	E		5	8	0		2	
		0		5	E	7		F	6	3	C			1	4
C	E	6	4	0						7	B	5	D	9	F

Christmas Jokes

Boin Cheong

Why does Scrooge love Rudolph?
Because every buck is dear to him.

What did Santa shout to his toys on
Christmas Eve?
Okay everyone, sack time!!

If athletes get athletes foot, what do
astronauts get?
Missletoe!

An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa
Claus were walking together. All of a sudden,
they all noticed a \$100 note lying on the street.
Which one of them picked it up?
Santa of course; the other two don't exist!

What do you call people who are
afraid of Santa Claus?
Claustrophobic.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snow flakes.

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can ho-ho-ho.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
Because he had low elf esteem.

The 3 stages of man:
*He believes in Santa Claus.
He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.
He is Santa Claus.*

Fun

Arbitrary Combination of Black and White Fields To Be Filled With Letters of the C-J-Latin Alphabet

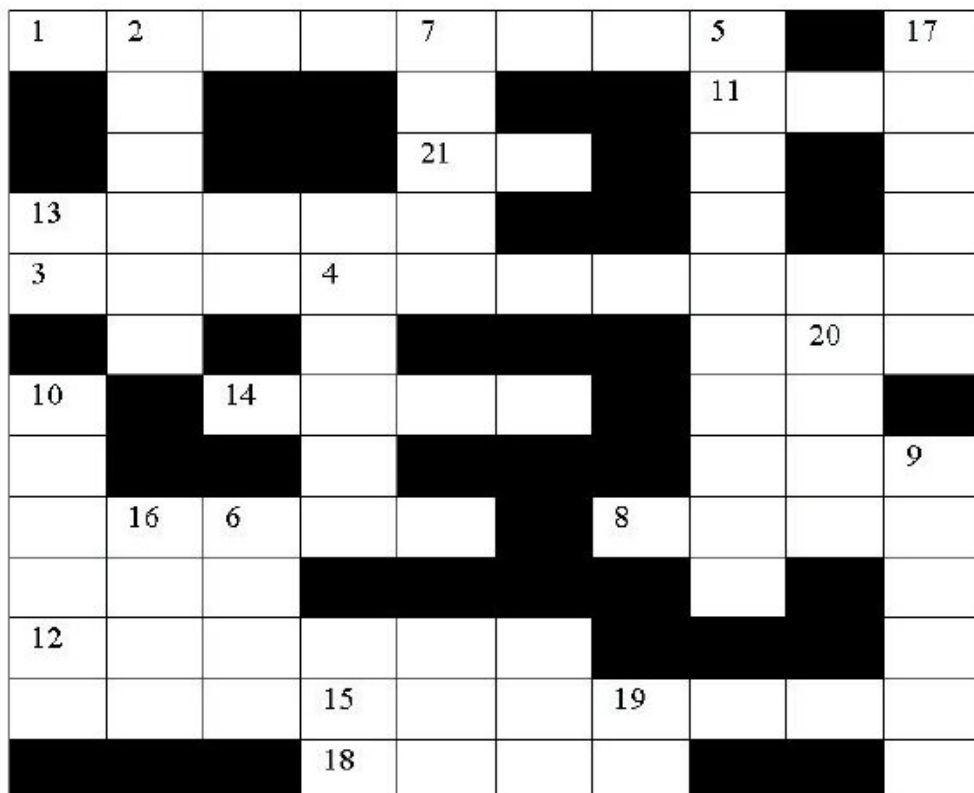
uwaz

Down

- 2 Name of BERMUN keynote speaker
 4 Player who scored the winning basket against Droste on 06/12
 5 Person who will bring you presents on Christmas
 6 Sign of Peace
 7 Muckraker Cartoonist
 9 First Reindeer
 10 Day on which Yearbooks are sold
 16 Ideal store for Christmas shopping?
 17 Sound of bells
 19 Expression uttered when falling on ice
 20 First name of our President

Across

- 1 Holiday at the beginning of December
 3 Company that sponsored recent basketball tournament – just like its predecessor
 6 Location of Christmas concert in Berlin
 8 Catering company
 11 13th graders' worst nightmare
 12 Arrival
 13 Weight units for sale around this time
 14 Red Ribbons for the fight against _____
 15 Name of evil Dickens character
 18 Wintry weather phenomenon
 21 First word of famous Christmas story



Top 10 Reasons to Celebrate Christmas in School

uwaz

1. The buildings have the colors red, green, and white.
2. You feel more at home in school than anywhere else.
3. The Music Department has an enormous collection of Christmas songs.
4. The library provides a wide variety of Christmas Day reading.
5. It would be a silent night (unless you set off the alarm!).
6. You have a variety of comfy wooden chairs to choose from.
7. The park for your Christmas walk is right at your front door.
8. The food in the snack machines is much better than mom's traditional self-made dinner.
9. All your friends live there.
10. You can make yourself the best Christmas present by hacking into the computer system and changing all your grades.


<http://www.cafe-kroppenberg.de>