

# THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

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## Sunday Edition

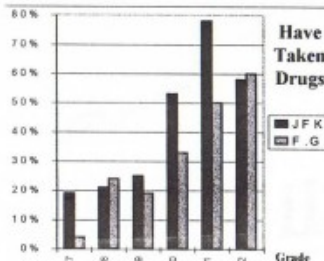
### THE MUCKRAKER

#### Speaks

There are very few people in our school who haven't skipped at least once. In fact, our survey showed that people who don't skip are in a very small minority. I remember when I was in 10th grade at this school, those people were considered mal-adjusted and unhealthy in a masochistic way. Some of my classmates went overboard and skipped every class they didn't like or hadn't done their homework in and, consequently, these classmates haven't had an easy time with the administration. It is an easy trap to fall into - it's a disease - a disease called classis abandonment. Most of the people I know, however, were cured (or were naturally immune to begin with) of this disease, somewhere around 12th grade. Of course, they still skip an occasional hour - I'd think it would be hard to find someone who doesn't - but as long as they don't get carried away, and as long as they don't get caught, everyone is entitled to a break every once in a long while. On those days when the world just isn't going your way - everybody is against you, you forget to do your math assignment, you just botched your French quiz - that's when you are justified in just taking the day off. That is one of the privileges of being young and irresponsible, of being a student. The Dutch government - being as liberal as it always is - has recognized this need that students have - and should indeed enjoy and make the most of before they are forced to grow up and join the working force - and has instituted "skipping cards." These cards are ingenious, they have 10 or 20 boxes per semester, and all you need to do is fill out the date of the hour you missed, and voila! no un-excused absence! This is definitely an advanced society, one that Germany may one day catch up to, at least so we hope. In the mean time, however, the only two options available to us are to move to Holland, or to put up with less liberal policies. It has become especially tough for those of my school-mates with classis abandonment these past two years. The administration has cracked down on exactly those people - not to mention other un-infected students, who were just not fortunate enough to have understanding homeroom teachers - with a new policy of a required doctor's excuse for every missed hour after a certain petty number of un-excused absences. But if you are infected with classis abandonment let me console you - there is hope - I can prescribe the perfect cure, and it won't even cost you a penny. On the contrary, you'll even earn money. You see, all you have to do is get a job. Believe me, after being forced (by yourself) to go to work every day, school suddenly seems so much easier. When you have a job, you are expected to work, regardless of whether or not you "feel like it." At school, when you "don't feel like it," all you have to do is sit and veggie while you stare at the teacher and pretend to care about what he or she is saying. And school does become easier. It becomes so easy, in fact, that skipping is just no longer worth it.

#### DRUGS: How JFK Compares

Following our issue focusing on drugs of October 2, the *Schüler Nachrichten* du Collège Français (the newspaper at the Berlin Französisches Gymnasium) conducted a survey identical to ours. We thought it might be interesting to publish their results and show how drug use there compares to the drug use at JFK. The polls are based on surveys of at least one-third of the students in grades 7-12 at JFK and the F.G. The thirteenth grade is not included because there is no thirteenth grade at the French school.



Benji and Franz: can they live up to "The Ben In Black" and "The Last Wild"?

## Ask Not What Your Student Council Can Do For You...

BY AUBREY CHARETTE

As all of you hopefully know, the Student Council elections this year saw the installation of Ben "Ben in Black" Morris and Franz "The Last Wild" Wild as our Student Council presidents. And, if you were any attention whatsoever, you would also know that certain promises were made on their behalf in the duration of their campaign in order to secure a majority of the student body's votes.

Politicians have a reputation for being swindlers, whether they deserve it or not, and are often accused of saying only what they think the public wants to hear, with no real intention of following up on any promises made on their way to the top. Keeping this in mind, we here at THE MUCKRAKER decided to see if this crude mentality had infiltrated the ranks at JFK and corrupted the minds of all those involved in the campaigns of this year's election, or if a more-or-less "what you see is what you get" attitude is taken by our amateur politicians. To do this, we chose to examine the

actions of our newly-elected presidents in the aftermath of their victory, to see if their promises were honestly made with the intention of fulfillment or were just a ploy to lure us voters into their camp.



The Hot Drinks Machine

It was made clear after a talk with Dr. Hepner that no efforts were made by the candidates to verify the possibility of their ideas before they incorporated them into their campaign speeches.

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## Take a break...

BY SETH HEPNER

It is very common for students to dislike going to school. And "playing hooky" is almost as old as school itself. Not surprisingly, most students at our school are familiar with the feeling of skipping a class. Some of them are so familiar with this feeling, in fact, that they can't even remember what it feels like to go to class. While the amount of students who said they skipped at least one class a week was not out of proportion, they were very few people who said that they didn't skip. Not surprisingly, people would rather do things like "chillin'" (which apparently means to "Smoke weed, beat up little kids, steal from Penny, shoppin'" the Ku'damm, have sex in the lounge") than go to class, and even less surprisingly, the administration finds this unacceptable. Especially when students get away with excuses like: "I have an epileptic dog and I had to stay up with her all night while she had her seizures," or "I went to the bathroom." A lot of the chronic skippers said that the reasons for skipping so frequently were to catch up on undone work, because they hadn't done the assignment for that period, because they didn't

get along with the teacher, or just simply because they were stressed and needed to "chill". The classes most often skipped were choir and band, with French and History as close seconds.

The Administration's policy concerning skipping has become more rigid in past few years, due increased cooperation between homeroom teachers and the administration. However, the rules are as they have always been: If a student acquires more than 10 days on which one or more periods are un-excused within two months, or 14 days in six months, the administration has the authority to expel the student. Vacations do not clear your record, including the summer vacation. This means that if you skipped most of June, you should go to school in September. An un-excused period can be excused by a written excuse, the validity of which the homeroom teacher is to judge. Contrary to popular opinion, the infamous "Class Conferences" can only be called after five un-excused absences. So what's the solution? Skip wisely, have excuses, and be nice to your homeroom teacher!

## And the Great Prize is...

BY MIKOLAJ BEKASIAK

Halloween day: the corridors are crowded with Grim Reapers, soldiers, a tin man, and people of various stages of deadness, to name a few. They all had their eyes on the prize... which was awarded during the twenty minute break to the best

costume. The finalists were called onto the staircase in the Blue Building where the winners were decided by the applause of the audience. The winner was the youngest finalist, Nick Heuberger (7b). Cross-dressing as a woman, he received the much sought after prize, a pumpkin pre-carved by Taylor Aldridge. (Yay!)

## (on Wednesday)

## Beurteile JFK!

BY ANIA COSTAS

Off beschränkt sich unsere Schülerzeitung auf interne Themen, deshalb ist dieser Artikel ein Versuch, über die Grenzen von JFK hinauszublicken und sich von einer anderen Betrachtungsweise aus ein Bild von unserer Schule zu machen. Zu öffentlichen Anlässen, wie der Vergabe der Abitur- und Diplomazeugnisse, lobt sich die Schulgemeinschaft oft selber. Ob und wie diese Ansichten zu rechtfertigen sind, sollten Schüler beurteilen, die Vergleichsmöglichkeiten haben. Unter dem Motto "Beurteile JFK!" befragte Muckraker Schüler der 11., 12. und 13. Klassen, die, bevor sie zu JFK kamen, auf einer anderen Schule in Berlin gewesen sind. JFK sollte mit anderen Schulen verglichen werden, damit eine Beurteilung möglich wird. Insgesamt haben sich 21 Schüler(innen) von den ca. 45 betroffenen beteiligt. Die Neuzugänger(innen) kamen zum größten Teil aus dem ehemaligen Ostteil Berlins und sind nach einem Aufenthalt in den USA zu JFK gewechselt. Allgemein wurden zwei Kategorien, die soziale und kulturelle Atmosphäre und der akademische Standard, nach schlechter, gleich und besser beurteilt.

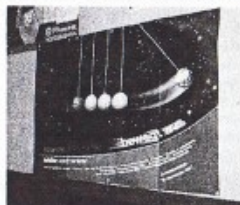
Als erstes sollte der Unterricht in einzelnen Fachbereichen verglichen werden. Insgesamt wurden alle Fächer als gleich oder besser eingestuft. Wie erwartet, konnte Englisch ein großes Plus verzeichnen. Sport sowie Musik/Kunst/Drama wurden im Durchschnitt als besser beurteilt, Deutsch, Mathematik und Französisch/Latein als gleich. Bei den Naturwissenschaften war das Urteil hinsichtlich des akademischen Standards gespalten. Gerüchte, daß ins besondere der Französischunterricht schlechter als auf anderen Schulen sei, wurden zumindest nach dieser Umfrage für die Oberstufe widerlegt.

continued-see BEURTEILE on page 3

## Jugend forscht '98 - Bewegt was...

BY ANDREA KAPELKE

Es soll Leute geben, die noch nie etwas von Jugend forscht gehört haben und wenn doch, sich nur wenig bis gar nicht dafür interessieren. Allzu viele lassen sich wohl von dem Begriff "forschen" abschrecken, denn dieser



hat so einen ersten und vielleicht auch etwas langweiligen Beigeschmack. Außerdem hört sich forschen verdächtig nach Arbeit an. Ersteres läßt bei einem geschickt ausgewählten Thema völlig ausschließen, letzteres trifft allerdings in den meisten Fällen zu. Diese Tatsache sollte potentielle Forscher jedoch keineswegs abschrecken; hier ein kurzer Überblick des Wettbewerbes und der Teilnahmebedingungen. Man sollte sich ein Thema aus den Fachgebieten Biologie, Chemie, Geo- und

continued-seeSCIENCE on page 2



## A Worst Case Scenario: The Un-read Book

BY MIKOLAJ BEKASIAK

Your teacher is going to kill you. The book was assigned weeks ago yet you, of course, had better things to do. Now however the moment of truth is quickly approaching, but somehow the unread pages of your book are not disappearing anywhere close to the speed that the final minutes of your life are. You've got X amount of time, and Y amount of pages to read, however Y is something like 10000X. You start calculating how many pages you have left by the time you have left, and start coming up with results like that you have to read something like 24 pages in the next minute. I think someone once figured out that it takes about two minutes for the average person to read a A4 page. Looks bad. Your brain scans for other possibilities: for the hundredth time you wonder why someone hasn't invented a better (faster) way to get information into your head. You begin to search for someone to extract the information from, but of course there is no one around. Unless some miracle happens the end looks pretty grim. The problem with miracles is that they are pretty unreliable. This is a new problem though, and this is proven by the fact that there is a solution. An older friend showed it to me in a moment of need, and it has saved my life many times since. The solution (or solutions) are called plot summaries. This is basically a sort of dictionary of books in which you will find whole books simplified down to one or two pages. Of course the whole book isn't in there, but the important parts are there, enough, to write a graded summary of the book in class and come out O.K. These wonder books also offer interpretations and analyses so you even

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## SCIENCE-continued from page 1

Raumwissenschaften, Mathematik/Informatik, Physik, Technik oder Arbeitswelt auswählen und möglichst die Unterstützung eines Fachlehrers haben, der einem zusätzliche Anregungen geben kann. Dann beginnt das Experimentieren, eine recht langwierige Prozedur, die mit viel Arbeit und wenig Freizeit verbunden ist. Etwa im Januar muß die Arbeit fertig getippt auf nicht mehr als 15 Seiten sein. Mehrere Kopien werden dann an die verschiedenen Jurymitglieder des jeweiligen Fachgebietes geschickt. Zwei Monate später beginnen die Regionalwettbewerbe. Diese sind die Vorentscheidung zum Landeswettbewerb und dann geht es für einige Auserwählte zum Bundeswettbewerb, bei dem man bis zu 3.000 DM für seine Arbeit gewinnen kann. Sonst bewegen sich die Preise, etwa bei den Regional- und Landeswettbewerben, irgendwo zwischen Zeitschriften-Abos und 300 DM; Anerkennung bekommt aber man auf jeden Fall. Außerdem lernt man an den zwei Wettbewerbstagen (für die man von der Schule freigestellt wird) viele Gleichgesinnte kennen.

Wer Zeit und Lust hat, bei Jugend forscht mitzumachen, sollte nicht lange zögern: Anmeldeschluß ist am 30. November. Die Altersgrenze ist nach unten hin offen und nach oben auf 22 Jahre festgelegt. Man kann entweder allein, zu zweit oder zu dritt eine Arbeit einreichen. Hat man am Anmeldedatum das sechzehnte Lebensjahr noch nicht vollendet, so nimmt man am Wettbewerb Schüler experimentieren, der Juniorsparte von Jugend forscht, teil.

Um ein geeignetes Thema zu finden, muß man einfach die Augen offen halten und Dinge, die einen interessieren, hinterfragen und eventuell auch erforschen, frei nach dem diesjährigen Motto: Jugend forscht - bewegt was.

Für mehr Information:  
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20144 Hamburg  
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Telefax 040/410 33 98

## SC - continued from page 1

As a result, it has now surfaced that the chances of JFK receiving a hot drinks machine are slim to none, with even the ever-optimistic presidents suggesting that acquiring such a machine would be "difficult." The implications are many, the greatest being the problem of the plumbing of the school. An architect would have to be called in to see if the installation of the machine would be possible, and seeing that it would require an ever-present water supply, which could only be made available through extensive adjustments in the school's plumbing system. If it is then determined that such a maneuver would be possible, an undoubtedly hefty sum of money would fall upon the shoulders of the Bezirksamt, who would have to pay for both the reorganization of the plumbing and the machine itself. This is provided that the School Conference approves of this measure and will permit the Bezirksamt to spend money on such luxury, which is highly unlikely given the fact that there have been major cutbacks in necessities such as teachers' salaries and textbooks, and a hot drinks machine for the John-F.-Kennedy School is not high on their list of priorities.

Another implication is the environmental aspect. AV-Ernährung has issued a statement to our school, strongly recommending the use of recyclable materials in all possible cases, and discouraging the use of disposable plates and cups. While it is not a binding agreement, the administration has a responsibility to stay within environmental standards, and thus we are faced with the dilemma of what to do with the coffee, hot chocolate, and tea once it is running freely from the machine.

The problem of the maintenance of this machine appears to be the only one with a foreseeable solution—Tabea Reinhardt, who currently runs the cokes and snack machines, would be willing to manage the hot drinks machine, insofar that she be correspondingly compensated for her additional workload.

Suffice it to say, a hot drinks machine as a new member in our food and drink community in the near future appears to be an almost unattainable goal. Our presidents have presented a few alternatives, however, to ensure those with a need for caffeine their morning coffee—a student store, at the window at the entrance to the red building, could easily contain a coffee machine, or packets of hot chocolate and instant coffee could be made available in the snack machine and hot water at the student store. A student store has been much-hyped in the past but has indeed existed on several occasions, leading us to believe that such an option is within the realm of possibility.

## Big Lockers



Mahnkopf, the local locker chief, the three calculated that 300 more lockers would be ideal. The idea is to replace the very ineffective two-long, one-square combination with one that could maybe fit more than one book at a time. An offshoot of this idea, much to the dismay of all the instrumentally gifted of our school, is the suggestion that band and orchestra members not automatically get a large locker due to their status as band and orchestra members. There is enough room in the green building that musical instruments can be left in the music rooms before school, making an accommodating locker

unnecessary.

Ben and Franz are going to deal with this idea by bringing it before the Verein, to try to reach an agreement by which the Verein pays for the purchase and installment of as many new lockers as possible. However, Dr. Heppner has pointed out the difficulty with which the lockers must be ordered—our old ones are products of the times in which we still had access to the U.S. through the Berlin American High School. Unfortunately, that connection is gone, leaving us with no alternatives, in his eyes, for the future. Anyhow, no progress has taken place yet in this area.

## The Ill-Fated Döner Delivery

Ben and Franz approached Dr. Heppner the day after they made their campaign speeches promoting their "Döner delivery" idea, with the request that they be permitted to prove that this idea was indeed possible. They received permission and it turned out that their idea was not just possible, but a big hit. Unfortunately, just after the second Döner delivery was enacted, permission was revoked and frequent deliveries were declared illegal in the future. The reasoning—it is seen by the administration as a fundraising event, along with hamburger sales and the like, which are only permitted once a month, as to not draw substantial numbers of students away from the official lunch program on a regular basis. Too bad that wasn't looked into beforehand, because it would have saved a lot of hype and a lot of trouble had the presidents known that it would not be permitted in the future.

Thus, both Dr. Heppner and Dr. Hersant have seemingly snuffed out the idea of a regular Döner service. However, Franz and Ben have other ideas—in the hope that the student body will show some enthusiasm for this new service, they have begun to circulate petitions, through Student Council class representatives, to protest its cancellation. They hope that a substantial amount of signatures will show the administration that a Döner delivery is what the students want and that it should be reconsidered as a future possibility.

With all said and done, we leave you to draw your own conclusions about Student Council '97-'98. However, a few more aspects need mentioning—a big part of the Student Council are the monthly meetings of the class representatives, and what goes on in those meetings is usually a good indication of how the SC is operating. In comparison with past years, the atmosphere in this year's SC has been described as being more concentrated and focused, and the students to be more attentive. Both presidents find little difficulty in controlling the representatives, and progress usually maintains a consistent pace. A recent success was the SC's offer at Fun Day, in which a trip to Paris was first prize. The buzz book will be out at the end of November '97, which is a good six months earlier than we've seen in former years, if we've seen it at all. The school year is still young, and the presidents are still optimistic, so here's hoping that their ideas will soon become reality!

## Teacher Feature: Herr Witzel

BY CORINA GEHRMANN

Q: Waren Sie ein guter Schüler?  
A: Unterschiedlich. Generell schon, aber manche Fächer wie Französisch gehörten nicht zu meinen ausserordentlichen Leistungen.  
Q: Also sind Sie Lehrer geworden, weil Sie nicht genug von der Schule bekommen haben?  
A: Nee, ich habe mir eigentlich das genommen, was die Schule mir gegeben hat. Es hat an unserer Schule einen Nachhilfekreis gegeben. Also ältere Schüler halfen den jüngeren. Und die anderen meinten, daß ich ganz gut erklären konnte. Außerdem wollte ich nicht hinter einem Büroschreibtisch sitzen.  
Q: Warum haben Sie die gegensätzliche Fächerkombination Ma/PW gewählt? Kommt da eine gesplante Persönlichkeit durch?



A: Das mag sein, daß muß ich beurteilen. Als ich anfang zu studieren, gab's sowas wie Lehrerzeitslosigkeit. Also war der Tip, daß man wenigstens ein Fach hat, was auch in Zukunft gebraucht wird und das war meine Mathematik. Das wichtigste war für mich, Lehrer werden, obwohl meine Lieblingsfächer Deutsch und PW gewesen waren.

Q: Was war ihr peinlichstes oder lustigstes Erlebnis in Zusammenhang mit Schule?  
A: Mir sind Sachen eigentlich nie sonderlich peinlich, wenn ich Fehler mache, kann ich damit leben.

Q: Mit welcher Persönlichkeit würden Sie gern mal ein Bier trinken gehen, also gemütlich reden?

A: Sicher viele, es wäre z.B. interessant, sich mal mit Joscha Fischer, dem Fraktionsvorsitzenden der Grünen auseinanderzusetzen oder mit Greenpeace. Du interessiere ich mich für ihre Ideen.

Q: Warum haben Sie Ihren Schnurrbart, der in alten Yearbooks zu bewundern ist, abrasiert?

A: (lacht) Tja, das war nur zum Ausprobieren, da dann mehrere Leute gesagt hatten, es sieht gut aus und auch meine Tochter keinen Protest eingelegt hatte. Eigentlich war's mehr Faulheit...

## Let's Celebrate!

BY PHILIP GROTH

It is November and the musical cast is just about to start a new show - CELEBRATION! "It's a weird one," Jeremy Yoder, one of the cast members said, "but it's fun. You gotta love it!" The story is fairly simple. Boy (Orphan - Jan Williams) meets girl (Angel - Melissa McClung) and falls in love with her. But the girl wants to be rich and famous and turns to a wealthy man (Edgar Allen Rich - Ben Schneider) who has no feelings but for money. "Mr. Rich is not always a crap. Sometimes he's happy, too. Just like me. I'm happy. Sometimes." Mrs. Caster (Director) said about Ben's role. But what role the "revelers" have, who they are or what a Potemkin is and why the play is called "Celebration", you should find out yourself. Before the show starts on Wednesday, there are still many problems to solve. "We're

lucky, if we're out of here by midnight," some of the stage crew members commented. Hauke Dämpfung, Sebastian Schmidt and their crew have worked hard to make sound and light work and still there are more barriers to overcome. The instruments are sometimes louder than the voices and the lights need to be reset. "By the end of the show, improvisation will be our second name", Sebastian Schmidt indicated, "for most of us, this is the first musical and this is a totally new dimension of tech", he added. "We should have had more time and longer rehearsals," Gero Grebe (a "reveler") explains. But that would have been almost impossible. Some rehearsals lasted for more than ten hours. "It is lots of fun, but also lots of work," Ben Schneider commented, "by last

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8. Meile von JFK



## Horoscope

BY MADAM ESTER AND ARTHUR DE "LEARN"

### Virgo (August 23-September 22)



Maybe you've been called a hypochondriac recently. Blame it on the stars! It's just one of Virgo's characteristics. But if you are seriously concerned about your health, it's better to be too careful than careless.

### Libra (September 23-October 22)



On the seesaw between good and bad moments, you're presently at equilibrium. You'll often find yourself in another world during class. Or perhaps your mind will be frolicking upon clouds. Enjoy it while you can!

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)



Something is confusing you. It'll just keep bogging your mind until you figure it out. But as you're on this search for the answer, be careful not to invade and intrude on other people. Take a risk and reorganize. (Your locker maybe?)

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)



A friend is probably in need of optimism and encouragement. Because Sagittarians have the great gift of generosity of good feelings, you may be the one they need to be around. You may find something in it for you, like an unforgettable thank you.

### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)



Even if things aren't "La-di-da" at the moment, try to keep your head above water. Don't act like a 3 year old if things aren't going your way. No one likes a sourpuss. In need of encouragement? Do something creative.

### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)



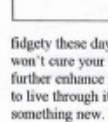
People may have told you that you have a bizarre way of seeing things. So what if your way of seeing things seems to others like you have a kaleidoscope attached to your face. Take it as a compliment!

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)



You'll be gasping for air after the long struggle against the school's predominant current this week. Though worn-out, you'll come out in one piece!

### Aries (March 21-April 19)



You'll find yourself quite

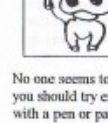
fidgety these days. Sitting in class surely won't cure your rumbunctiousness, only further enhance it. You'll just simply have to live through it, restlessly or try something new. But don't worry. It's only a few weeks 'til Christmas Vacation.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)



You have the capacity to learn from mistakes. You'll learn a lot today.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You've had a hard time communicating vocally these days.

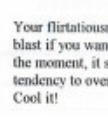
No one seems to understand you. Perhaps you should try expressing yourself on paper, with a pen or paintbrush.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your sensitivity has taken over your life! It seems that every time someone talks to you, you hold up a shield in defense. If possible try to keep it minimal. Your moodiness will probably cause others frustration.

### Leo (July 23-August 22)



Your flirtatiousness should never be on full blast if you want to obtain a social life. At the moment, it seems you have the strong tendency to over-coax the opposite sex. Cool it!

### BEURTEILE-continued from page 1

Einstimmig ist das Angebot an Aktivitäten im Vergleich zu den anderen Schulen als besser und vielfältiger beurteilt worden. Das Lehrer-Schülerverhältnis wurden ebenso als besser eingestuft. Bei der Frage nach dem Klima der Schüler untereinander und der Vermittlung des Unterrichtsstoffes durch die Lehrer verteilen sich die Antworten gleichmäßig auf schlechter, gleich, besser.

Gefragt nach Qualitäten, durch die JFK sich positiv gegenüber anderen Schulen absetzt, wurde am häufigsten die multikulturelle Atmosphäre und die gute Ausstattung betont. Bilingualität, Internationalität, die Bibliothek, die Turnhalle und das einzigartige Angebot an Aktivitäten, besonders MUN, SLA, Muckraker, BarberShop (einmalig in Berlin) und Band, privilegieren die Schüler(innen) von JFK nach deren eigener Ansicht.

Mehreren ist negativ aufgefallen, daß neue Lehrer aus den USA oft keine Ahnung von deutscher Benotung und dem Abiturssystem haben. Neben alltäglichen Nachteilen, wie Toilettenpapiermangel, dem Fehlen einer Kaffeemaschine und einem zu langen Schulweg wurde die fehlende Solidarität gegenüber anderen Berliner Schulen bemängelt und der Kontakt zwischen Abitur- und Diplomasschülern(innen) als zu gering eingeschätzt. Letzteres hängt damit zusammen, daß diejenigen, die erst in der 11. oder 12. auf JFK kommen, keinen Unterricht mit Diplomasschülern haben.

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### Dear Darrell

Dear Darrell,  
I think my friend might be gay. He's been coming on to me and he invited me to his 17th birthday party, apparently I am the only one invited. I've never encountered gays and am not sure how to handle this.  
-Confused

Dear Confused,  
Since this guy is your best friend, you can ask him if he invited anyone else to the party. Assuming you actually are the only one, talk to him about his motives. Maybe you are the only good friend he has. Maybe his other friends are busy. Maybe he found a million

dollars in his backyard and wants to split the money with you. My point is, without communication you can come up with bizarre ideas that are nowhere near the truth. Now, what if he turns out to be gay? That doesn't necessarily mean he wants to get romantically involved with you. He probably needs friends just as much as most people do. If you learn that he has different sexual interests than you had thought, that does not mean his ability to be a platonic friend has changed. The last issue to worry about is whether or not he's actually interested in you. If he is (and you discover this while the two of you are discussing your interpretation of his actions in a mature manner), then you simply let him know (tactfully) that you don't feel the same way. Here, the basic rules of dating apply: you are never under any obligation to accept an invitation that you don't want, but you have to be polite when you decline.

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## NEEDS YOU!

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THE VEREIN has been the "Booster Club" of JFKS since 1962. It has purchased new computer and video equipment, microscopes, musical instruments, sports equipment and supplementary learning materials for you. It has supported the Parent Council's *Monthly Events* newsletter, the Berlin Model United Nations Program, your class trips and now it is even supporting YOUR newspaper, THE MUCKRAKER.

We can only do this thanks to the backing of your parents who are members in THE VEREIN. We support you! Please support us. Make sure your parents are or become members of THE VEREIN.

Now sit back and enjoy this, our latest contribution to our school,

-- THE VEREIN  
(The Parents' and Friends' Society of JFKS)



# DRAMA AT JFK

## CELEBRATE-continued from page 2

Saturday, I almost had a nervous breakdown!" He is not the only one. Almost every cast member complains about the pressure that has been put on them, and after the rehearsal, tension is written all over their faces. But on stage, all this is completely blown away. "The roles are played well and convincing, although they differ a lot from the characters of the actual actors," Angie LeClaire (Set, Make-Up, Costumes) explains. Indeed the roles are played well and the choreography is excellent and fully makes up for the sound problem. The set is rather simple - the stage is

completely black, but the costumes are colorful and the revelers wear facial masks all of the time. All in all, it is an event worth seeing, especially considering the time and energy that everybody has invested. And as Ben Schneider put it, speaking for every cast member: "Enjoy. I'll try!"

### Performances:

Wednesday - Saturday 19:30 Old Aula

Tickets are available in the Blue Building during all lunch periods and 20 minute breaks.

## Backstage - Hinter den Kulissen

BY ZESINA WISMAYER

Es gibt sie wieder! Die deutsche Dramagruppe. Sie wird seit fast drei Wochen von Frau Baumgard geleitet, die seit einem Jahr an der Schule als Sportlehrerin tätig ist. Neben Sport studierte sie Deutsch und Theaterpädagogik. Sie wurde durch den anderen Zugang zu Schülern und da durch daß sie selbst kreativ sein konnte inspiriert. Interessierte können noch bis November dazukommen. Das Stück wird dann nächstes Jahr Juli zu sehen sein. Jedoch was ist streifer? Die Proben oder die Aufführungen eines Stückes? Die Dramaschülerin Agnieszka Wiercholska, "Es macht alles sehr viel Spaß, alles ist mit Spaß verbunden, kurz vor der Aufführung gibt es Stress, weil so viele Sachen zu erledigen sind." Frau Baumgard erhofft sich von den Interessenten eine hohe Motivation und einen ehrlichen Umgang miteinander. Den Schülern macht es sehr viel Spaß. Doch wie gehen sie miteinander um?

Agnieszka Wiercholska kommentiert dazu, "Sie kommen sehr gut miteinander aus und sehen sich als ein Teil der Gruppe. Dem entsprechend behandeln sie auch den Anderen." Um in der Gruppe mitzuwirken braucht man keinerlei Schauspielerefahrung und Lampenfieber bekommt jeder, aber wenn man sich in der Rolle verliert ist es nur halb so schlimm. Doch welche Charaktereigenschaften sollten sollte ein guter Schauspieler haben, und was erhoffen sich die Schüler von dem Stück? Michael Schütt und Agnieszka Wiercholska dazu, "Ein guter Schauspieler sollte anpassungsfähig sein, interessant wirken, im allgemeinen so wie ich (ha ha)." Auf die Frage ob er die genannten Eigenschaften hätte antwortete Michael Schütt "Ich probiere sie zu lernen, ich improvisiere täglich." Agnieszka Wiercholska, "Ich hoffe daß das Stück viele Leute zum nachdenken bringt da es ein Stück über Gewalt ist. Da es sich um Theater handelt, hoffe ich daß die Atmosphäre der extremen Musikszene rübergebracht wird."

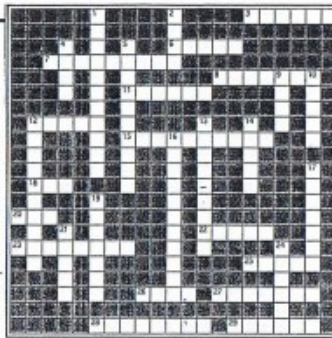
## Die Theater-AG

BY CLAUDIA GUSKE

Theaterinteressiert? Seit Anfang des Schuljahres trifft sich die neugegründete Theater-AG jeden Donnerstag im 20 minute break im Raum B 307. Im Gegensatz zum Drama Club geht es hier nicht darum, selbst Theater zu spielen, sondern mindestens einmal im Monat zusammen ins Theater zu gehen. Die Idee dazu hatte die Zweifklasslerin Conny Rus-Möhl, der die kulturelle Allgemeinbildung in den anderen Clubs der Schule etwas zu kurz kam. "Es gibt zwar Kunst-, Musik- und Theater-Mach-Clubs, aber keine Theater-Geld-Clubs", sagte sie. Sie gründete zusammen mit anderen Schülern und mit der Hilfe von Herrn Wehrle und Frau Ida die Theater-AG. Über das "Theater der Schulen" hat die AG die Möglichkeit, Karten zum Ermäßigungspreis zu bestellen. Die SchülerInnen entscheiden gemeinsam mit den Lehrern, welche Stücke sie sich zusammen anschauen wollen. "Wir versuchen, Stücke zu wählen, die uns später in der Schule auch was bringen", sagte Conny. Herr Wehrle

verstet die AG als eine praxisnahe Ergänzung zum Deutschunterricht. "Wenn Sie z.B. viel vom epischen Theater gehört haben, ist das eine Sache. Einmal gesehen zu haben, wie es Regisseure in der Theaterpraxis umsetzen, ist eine andere", erläuterte er. "Der aufhaltsame Aufstieg des Arturo Ui" von Bertolt Brecht war die erste Aufführung, die sich die Theater-AG zusammen anschaut. "Ich fand das Interesse und die Stimmung, die die alle mitgebracht haben, echt toll", sagte Conny. Neben der kulturellen Bildung geht es in der AG natürlich auch darum, auch außerhalb der Schule mal ein paar Stunden miteinander zu verbringen. "Ich möchte die Atmosphäre. Es war nicht so schulisches - man muss darüber keinen Aufsatz schreiben oder so", sagte Conny. Die SchülerInnen ließen den Abend in einem Café ausklingen. "Das war gemütlich. Nicht so wie in der Schule, wo danach alle ihre eigenen Wege gehen", bemerkte Conny. Der nächste Theaterbesuch ist für den Dezember geplant. Alle interessierten und engagierten Schüler (ab der 11. Klasse) und Lehrer sind willkommen.

## Crossword Puzzle 12:15



To eat (7) \_\_\_\_\_ lunch, you need (1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Going to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ or a (12 across) \_\_\_\_\_ is  
an alternative to eating in the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. And, a  
(12 down) \_\_\_\_\_ tastes better. On the (20)  
\_\_\_\_\_ back you can stop and enjoy (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Unless you're involved in (15)  
\_\_\_\_\_ or (16) \_\_\_\_\_, you've got from 12:15 to  
13:25 to \_\_\_\_\_, and (14) \_\_\_\_\_. In  
(26) \_\_\_\_\_, (17) \_\_\_\_\_'s watchful (24) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ making (23) \_\_\_\_\_ at "Big  
Brother" (the (8) \_\_\_\_\_) will rescind your (19)  
\_\_\_\_\_ privileges. For those of you old enough, the  
(28) \_\_\_\_\_ (29) \_\_\_\_\_ offers a place to  
socialize and (25) \_\_\_\_\_, not to mention, it's near  
the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (17) \_\_\_\_\_ for expensive  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_ on the (18) \_\_\_\_\_. But, whether you  
like to (22) \_\_\_\_\_ in the park or (21) \_\_\_\_\_  
in the (3) \_\_\_\_\_, lunch is a time of relaxation.

## SCENARIO - continued from page 2

come out looking smart. You can find these life savers in the reference section of the library. They are in both English and German. They look like a bunch of encyclopedias, and are called Kindlers Literatur Lexicon (German), and Twentieth Century Literary Criticisms (TCLC), Contemporary Literary Criticisms (CLC), and

Masterplots (all in English), to name just a few. Each anthology uses a different indexing system, you either find your book by author or by title and presto, there you have it. Of course not all of the books in the world are in there, but the important ones are, which are usually the ones you read for class anyway.

## BERTI'S B.S.: THE BLADDER MATTER

BY ALEX (BERTI) MCWILLIAM

It recently occurred to me that all of the school policies, laws and rules there is one topic that has been left untouched since the days of dawn. "When can I go to the bathroom?" Although this is not a question I pose my teachers too often, it did strike me that this may be the source of major distress for a reasonable portion of the student body. Every teacher has his own "policy" towards how, when and under what circumstances a student may leave the classroom and subject itself to his or her most basic of needs.

Take Mr. George K. (full name withheld), no longer a member of the JFK community but a legend when it comes to N.T.G.P.G.s (need-to-go-piss-grants). He didn't even notice it, when certain pupils suddenly were no longer available for comments on the history of the United States of America. On the other hand I can list enough teachers, who would loose a limb for a supervision

camera in every bathroom in order to guarantee a high count of present pupils in their classes.

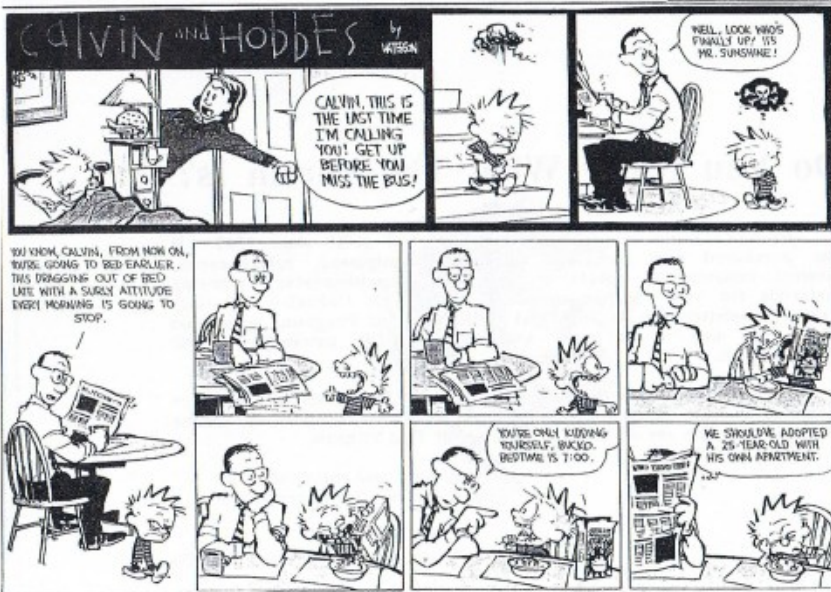
To find the right balance, I have derived the following genuine and unquestionably brilliant plan: Each student receives three T.C.s (toilet credits) i.e. he or she may go to the bathroom three times without further complaint of the teacher for exactly 5 minutes. Each month the credits get refreshed. Should the student run out of credits he or she must apply for a "Sondergenehmigung" from the currently teaching teacher and Frau Mahkopf, who will take down your locker number and verify, that you are not just stacking up on toilet paper to take home to your loved ones. Should the "Sondergenehmigung" be withheld, the student must resort to a newly installed public toilet without doors in the old / new school water room. Additionally, the student receives one bonus-piss with every Essenmarkte he or she exchanges.

## BEURTEILE-continued from page 3

Mit überwältigender Mehrheit wurde JFK allgemein mit besser als die 'alten Schulen' beurteilt. Deshalb ist es auch nicht verwunderlich, daß die meisten angaben, sich schon nach drei Monaten mit JFK identifiziert zu haben. "I love JFK!" fällt wohl die Gefühle vieler zusammen. Standpunkte wie "Der gute Ruf der JFK besteht zu Unrecht!" sind Ausnahmen.

Offiziell gibt es kein ranking der Berliner

Schulen, auf der Basis des Abiturdurchschnittes lassen sich jedoch einige Schlüsse ziehen. Aus einer im Jahre 1993 erstellten Statistik ergibt sich, daß die Durchschnittsnote im Abitur 1993 auf JFK ebenso wie der Zehntelerdurchschnitt, bei 2,6 lag und damit 0,1 Punkte über dem Berliner Durchschnitt. Das Gymnasium Steglitz erreichte mit 2,1 den besten Abiturdurchschnitt in Berlin, das niedrigste Ergebnis war 3,1.



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## Heroines of the Week

Student X was nailed. Or rather cornered. With the wall behind him, and the teacher he had been avoiding all day in front, there was no escape. His face looked like that of a bug

that is about to be crushed, and knows it. He was about to say his final prayers when he saw the raptor. In his delirious mind he suddenly urged the beast to devour his tormentor. Anti-climatically the raptor engaged the teacher in conversation, however it was enough for our Student to escape. It's about now that you expect to hear that the hero is the raptor. However it is not the raptor (even though his deed was pretty heroic) but rather

his creators that deserve the credit. By creators I don't mean Michael Crichton, or the inventor of cray paper (the stuff the costume was made of). And even though the day of the incident was Halloween, the developers of the dress up custom don't get all the praise either. Of course all these people deserve part of the credit, as do all the other people responsible for the backgrounds of all the costumes that people wore, and while there is talk of credit, the people that dressed up definitely deserve some. However the people that are this weeks Heroes (or rather the Heroines of the week are the people who made it possible for all this to happen. And because our heroines organised this, not to make money, not because they promised to, but because they wanted to boost school spirit and make school life more bearable (and because they saved a certain Student X), the Muckraker proudly announces the Heroines of the Week to be Steffi Neth and Mette Röll, this years Senior Class Presidents.

-The Editors