

MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

A FAREWELL TO JFKS SENIORS

The following is a transcription of the speech delivered by senior Daniel Delfs to the Class of 2020 during their graduation on the 25th of June, 2020.

Dear parents, teachers, administration, and of course fellow students,

I wanted to take this time to look towards the future and address the feeling of helplessness I, and I'm sure so many of you have been dealing with, looking at a world that seems to be spiralling out of control just as we're really entering it. These last few months have been heavy ones. Of course, I can't deny I didn't mind actually having the weeks before my AP exams off the way abi kids do for their prüfungen, and beyond that I'm definitely someone who can enjoy days in which I'm never forced to leave the house. But eventually, once exams were done I began to struggle with a feeling of helplessness. Helplessness in many ways, be it simply feeling as if I had nothing more to structure the seemingly endless days, weeks, and months that seemed to both flash by and drag on endlessly around, or a much more frustrating helplessness once the issue of police brutality in the US reached a boiling point with the murder of George Floyd.

I'm sure most, if not all of you saw your various social media flooded with the same outrage and pain, as the world seemed set aflame by one injustice too many. And yes, there is so much we can do in the way of signing petitions, donating and even attending in large numbers the protests here in Berlin and all over the world that have been truly heartening to see. But it all seems for nothing when you go on Instagram again in the evening, and see the results of a flailing, clawing racist system, refusing to fire and charge its own deadly discrimination. When alongside the charging of George Floyd's murderers, the passing of Breonna's Law, and the many millions donated to causes supporting black lives, you see posts on the millions of dollars in funds raised to pay bail for one of George Floyd's murderers, Breonna Taylor's murderers still walking free many months later, more videos of police violence against peaceful protestors, and story after story after story of yet another life lost to a system built against it. And when upon these painful realities of the US we have the ongoing humanitarian crisis of Yemen,

the mass incarceration and re-education camps for Uyghur Muslims in China, modern-day slave trade in Libya, the continued oppression and murder of Palestinians by the Israeli government, a global pandemic, and to top it all off a planet that's dying, where are we even supposed to find the energy to process all these things?

I hope I haven't yet lost any of you, even as you're likely wondering why I'm just spitting back at you all the pain that's been plastered on our screens, why I'm not even answering the question I've posed, and how come I'm making all this the topic of a graduation speech. Well, I'll try and at least provide an approach to these valid questions: I sit here, all of you sit out there somewhere, looking at your screens, with some sort of privilege. Be it simply a skin color that will not make police look twice at you, a financial situation where picking where and what you're going to do with your life never hinged on making sure you could get your next meal, a sex assigned at birth that neither caused you to walk slightly faster as you came home alone from a party, nor caused you to battle with the feeling that this body wasn't your own, being where we are now, graduating from the JFKS in Berlin, Germany, we are privileged. And with that privilege comes a responsibility to take a look at ourselves. The systemic nature of the issues society faces require us to not see these issues as someone else's, on whom we can pile pity and throw donations, but instead take a look at our own complicity in these issues. However, recognizing, as well as actively seeking to dismantle the systems of our own privilege, is likely one of the most uncomfortable things most of us will ever be forced to do. Because of course, why fight something that will never affect you anyways? Why go through the discomfort of confronting your white friend that says the "n word"? Point out to your parents or grandparents that their views are based on stereotypes? Or worst of all, looking at yourself and having to realize that thoughts you have had, things you have said and done have been based off of discrimination and that you have benefited from your privileges? While I don't believe I

am in a place to give you solutions on how to solve any of the crises humanity struggles with, I hope I can provide you with an approach to these issues, and a motivation for doing so. The cry shouted out of hoarse throats at Black Lives Matter protests, No justice, no peace, is one we must take beyond physical acts that disrupt the peace. We have a privilege to feel peace, even as others suffer injustices. It cannot be the responsibility of those who are marginalized by society to both suffer through and solve the issues we have created collectively for them. We need to do the work as individuals with privilege of dismantling the built-in discrimination within ourselves, and that we see around us, because no amount of money donated, no number of petitions signed, no plentitude of laws passed can get rid of hatred, prejudices and divisions within our society. We must feel the turmoil, discomfort and pain within ourselves as we attempt to face the racism, homophobia, transphobia, islamophobia, antisemitism and many other forms of hatred humanity has come to divide itself with, because of the actual, tangible suffering and lives being lost at the hands of our hatred.

With each of us now leaving this school, a space that I believe is in many ways safe and open, though far from perfect, we must leave with a conviction to reflect, discuss, and question the parts of ourselves and this world that need change. We are not helpless in the face of the world's problems, but it will be uncomfortable to take them on, and we have to be prepared for that. Black Lives Matter. Black Trans Lives Matter. No justice, no peace, within the world, or within ourselves. We cannot accept it anymore.

Daniel Delfs

International Muck Heroes during Corona: Akumal Natura Animal Sanctuary

During the confusing and distressing times of the Coronavirus pandemic, the true value of certain institutions and certain people shine through. Suddenly, those who we have taken for granted for years finally get the recognition they deserve as we all collectively rely on them more and more. The agricultural worker, the truck driver, and the grocery store employee who work tirelessly to make sure that everyone has enough food are just examples essential laborers that need to be recognized for what they are: heroes. Then there are those who work restlessly to take proactive steps to better the world, to ensure that the issues everyone has forgotten are still addressed, even during times of crisis. This leads us to the subject of this article, the Akumal Natura wildlife sanctuary, as well as the man heading the operation, Mr Antonio Alonso.

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THE MUCKRAKER Speaks

Our foray into student journalism was one of countless routines which we found disrupted by the Coronavirus, leaving us unsure of how to be a productive and unique voice amidst the constant bad news. Though we always aim to hold the school accountable for how the it runs, we have tried to be considerate toward school-wide struggles to deal with this crisis—nobody knows exactly how

to adapt to at-home learning, and we don't expect them to. We found our time more effectively spent adjusting to the solitude and online dependency of our at-home lives, releasing the Quaranzine to express both frustration and joy from home. Since partially returning to school, though, we have gotten back to several topics which are important to us. In our final issue of the year, we say look back upon our experiences so far and look forward toward our futures and those who are working toward its betterment.

Album Review: *Notes On A Conditional Form* by The 1975



English pop rock outfit The 1975’s fourth studio album *Notes On A Conditional Form* was released on the 22nd of May 2020. Upon my first listen on the evening of the 22nd, sitting on the edge of my bed I didn’t really know what to expect. My exposure to the band had been minimal up to this point, and I think it’s fair to say that I harbored some unfair prejudice towards the boys based off their immense popularity alone. However, I am happy to say that from the first track on I was proven undoubtedly wrong

in my assumptions. NOACF is a sonic beast at twenty-two songs and a runtime of eighty minutes, yet even when musical themes overlap, there is never a sense of boredom when listening. The album starts off with a speech by climate change activist Greta Thunberg, accompanied by high-pitched bouncy, bell-like synths that give ambience to Greta’s words. As her speech ends with a call to rebel, we are thrown into the grimy, distorted punk-rock hellscape of the second track: *People*. *People* is a complete outlier on the track list, not close in style to anything else on the record yet a beautiful musical translation of the anger and urgency in Thunberg’s words. The next couple of tracks return to the summery atmosphere of the opening yet building on it with orchestral motives and wacky vocal sampling, a reoccurring highlight of the album. Track six, *The Birthday Party*, first introduces us to the other prevalent musical aesthetic on the album: introspective pop rock. Songs like *Birthday Party* provide the record with its lyrical and conceptual themes: substance abuse, adolescence, the beauty and tragedy of romance. A song that perfectly encapsulates this is track Nine: *Jesus Christ 2005 God Bless America*. Combining a simplistic, neofolk soundscape with a duet about struggling with faith and repressed longing in the context of the queer experience, *Jesus Christ* is one of my personal favorites. The full expression of emotional longing, however, is prevalent on the gospel

infused fourteenth track *Tonight (I Wish I Was Your Boy)*.

The diversity of influences is another highlight of the album, as the prevailing aesthetics mesh with different musical ideas. Track eighteen, *Having No Head*, takes the bouncy, summery tones in an industrial direction, with thumping bass and tripped out percussion, then returning to its original softness.

Also worthy of mention are the two last tracks, *Don’t Worry* and *Guys*. The first is an incredibly pretty piano ballad, featuring great use of vocal harmony and light synths for atmospheric effect. The second is a soft rock ode to the band members’ friendship. Sentimental and nostalgic, a thematic departure, *Guys* provides an upbeat end to the album. There is, however one primary criticism to be had with NOACF: there is little conceptual rhyme or reason in its arrangement. Although there is some aesthetic grouping, the lyrical themes of the album are not arranged in a way that they provide a coherent story, when clearly there is one to be found. A lot of meaning and background can be provided through a quick Google search or browsing the Genius lyrics annotations for the record, so it is a pity that this is not fully reflected in the album’s structure itself.

In conclusion, *Notes On A Conditional Form* is a collection of vivid, genre-bending soundscapes that are at times sonically repetitive and conceptually disheveled but provide a level of emotional depth and virtuosity scarce in today’s popular music. **8/10**
June Gromis

A Reflection on the Berlin BLM Solidarity Protest

On Saturday, June 6th, several thousand demonstrators gathered in and around Alexanderplatz in solidarity with the current large-scale protesting in America against police brutality. The following is a description and reflection of my experience in the middle of the crowd.

Following the unjust killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, protests spanning the United States erupted with a seldom-experienced momentum toward uprising and change, with some calling it a revolution. Meanwhile, in Berlin, many sat at home and pondered what they could or should do to support the movement and/or express their outrage. For JFKS students specifically, the conflict between our ties to America and our social responsibility in Berlin amidst Coronavirus left many students unsure what to commit themselves to. Unless one has a significant sum of money to donate to the cause, there is no real replacement for protest (though many try their best), as evidenced by the heavily criticized #blackouttuesday campaign and the general push away from internet “slacktivism”. Though I had hesitations, such as the extent to which a protest in Germany could affect America, I attended the protest. Here is what I saw.

To me, the number of attendees was heartening and astonishing. To the Berlin police, however, the opposite may be true. In general, Alexanderplatz crowd control is down to a science for police, and I witnessed no major conflicts. The usual strategy of blocking all entrances to the area once a critical mass was reached became ineffective, however. While a sizable crowd stood inside, groups bigger than that inside the platz stretched in every direction behind guarded fences, barely controlled and difficult to navigate. The stage and speakers were dwarfed by the turnout, and a large majority of attendees could hrdly hear what was said onstage. Despite officially being only one protest, there were really four protests going on behind various fences, some groups chant-

ing while others kneeled. It felt good to know that so many people around the world were acknowledging the urgent need for change in America.

When I got home, however, I started to wonder whether the protest had been very effective at all. The most anyone in America heard about it was as a mere side note in the larger story, and understandably so. I wondered how many of the thousands of people, largely non-black and non-American, knew what it meant to raise their fists in the air, and how many were committed to activism beyond this one time—including myself. I wondered if the people at the protest also acknowledge the effects of racism in Germany, and whether it was that socially responsible to work on improving a state across the world instead of our own. If we are separated from the epicenter of change, is this show of somewhat incomplete understanding all we can give? Should I just be fundraising so people who are more prepared can organize in my absence?

After consideration and conversation with those wiser than myself, however, I see that no protest is inherently effective, which does not necessarily detract from their worth. I am glad to participate in the movement even if I’m not at its core. Whether we will be in a headline, or in the news stories at all does not bring validity or value to activism. A veritable sea of people with unique perspectives all believing in something, all together and all at once, is what change is made of.

Oh, and money. Student groups haywire, IDEAS, and the National Honor Society have taken strides to fundraise at JFKS. See “Now We Rise: Black Lives Matter Art Journal” at haywire.now.sh, where you can take a look at JFKS community art and writing and donate to support Black Lives Matter. I may be biased, but it seems like a fantastic student contribution to the cause.
Liliana Walker

Friendships In Quarantine

Throughout the entirety of the quarantine, one of the important aspects of maintaining sanity has been communication. In the digital age, contacting a friend is as easy as opening your phone. I believe the realization that staying in contact online is valuable has been apparent to many. Social isolation does not bode well with anyone, which is why having stable platonic relationships has been so important during this time. I feel as though our simple contact with friends has had a small impact and made the quarantine a bit more bearable. We are lucky that staying at home does not mean losing connection with all of our friends in the same way it may have a few decades ago. That apps such as Houseparty or Zoom became popularized and allowed for us to easily get in touch when we get bored or just need someone to talk to.

The technology which is so often called socially destructive (see our own school’s concerns from earlier this year) is part of what is holding society together, allowing us into each others’ lives from home, and this should be acknowledged moving forward. Internet skeptics who berate adolescents for staring into a screen can and should take this opportunity to consider what joy and connection can truly be had online. Even as everyone begins to see each other again, we can take with us how heavily our friendships should be valued and how much we all need each other. Quarantine can be a time for reflection, to look back and cherish all of the times spent with friends, with family, and look forward to when the world can do this again.

Brooke Betton

Goodbye and Thank You to Two JFKS Leaders and Role Models

Two students say a goodbye and a wholehearted thank you to American Principal Mr. Salzer and teacher and Drama Deparment Head Mrs. McDaniel, both of whom are among the faculty leaving JFKS at the end of this school year.

Mr. Salzer

After nearly seven years on the job, managing director and American high school principal Brian Salzer is ending his time at JFKS. The position of principal is immensely challenging -- particularly because it consists of a balancing act between administrative and pedagogical duties. As much as a principal must be able to handle the business side of running a school, they also carry a responsibility to lend a helping hand to parents, students, and teachers in times of trouble. Mr. Salzer has often demonstrated patience and compassion when dealing with the conflicts and problems of the school community, especially the student body.

Mr. Salzer made an earnest effort to maintain an active relationship with students, making it clear that his door was always open to those seeking advice or help. When examining the frequent disciplinary cases brought before him, he chose to put understanding before blind punishment and took all perspectives regarding a situation into account. Because of this approach, many students with academic or behavioral issues were given opportunities to improve and learn from past mistakes. Too often in academic discipline, understanding is abandoned in favor of reprimanding, and Mr. Salzer no doubt worked on changing this.

Furthermore, the transparency with which he attempted to navigate all the different facets of communication within the school community and its various decision-making organs has helped JFKS

tremendously in braving new changes to the school's campus and its academic environment. Although these changes might not always have been popular, Mr. Salzer made sure that the entire community was involved or at least aware of how decisions were being made and what the reasoning behind them was. It is not without sadness that we say goodbye to such an imprtant member of our school community and wish him luck for the next stage of his career as an educator.

June Gromis

Mrs. McDaniel

I vividly remember my first day of High School. Having departed from JFKS elementary school and having said a reluctant goodbye to all my teachers there, I faced the second half of my career at JFKS with anxiety. I did not know what to expect, and none of the faces, apart from those in my own grade, were familiar to me. The first class I had on the first day happened to be English class with Mrs. McDaniel. Even though I did not yet know the extent of the impact she would have on my life, after that bell rang to dismiss me from my first period, I knew I was in good hands.

After a couple of weeks of school, I decided to join the drama program, simply because it was something that I had always been too scared to do yet still fascinated me deeply. This decision was a major positive turning point in my life, and the person I have to thank for all of this is Mrs. McDaniel. From my first meeting at middle school drama I was immediately hooked. Her passion and commitment to

the actors was incredible, and one could feel the energy radiating throughout the room. Despite being a mere seventh grader, I felt like there was a person that was investing 110% of her time and energy into shaping young minds. This is a sentiment shared by almost anyone who has ever had Mrs. McDaniel in any course or extra curricular activity.

The quality of the drama department at JFKS is outstanding and the community is one of the most positive ones I have seen to this day, and much of that can be attributed to the love and dedication put into it by Mrs. McDaniel. As my drama friends and I got older, we stuck to the program and more people kept joining. With every play, every ISTA trip, every meeting and every rehearsal, Mrs. McDaniel displayed an unimaginable commitment to not just the department, but each and every student that inhabited it. Despite us student having little to no experience in the field of acting, much less directing, it the ideas and desires of every student involved in these plays was always taken into consideration and everyone had an important part to play. Last year, I had the privilege to play a part in the spring play "The Servant of Two Masters". To this day I maintain that this was my favorite experience of all time at JFKS, and this opinion seems to be shared with everyone involved in the production. Mrs McDaniel had a colossal impact on so many lives, including mine, and it is a great loss to see her go this year. We thank Mrs McDaniel for her insane devotion and time investment into all of us, and we will all miss her greatly next year. We wish you all the best.

Jakob Reuter

Animal Sanctuary, Continued From First Page

Located in Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula, one of the most environmentally rich and biodiverse areas of the world, Akumal Natura has dedicated itself to saving the lives of animals in need and preserving endangered species since 2005. Now, the sanctuary's "glamping" (luxury camping) project, one of the crucial monetary pillars of the organization, has been indefinitely removed by Coronavirus. The problem is that while the flow of money may stop, the animals continue as normal, still needing care and supplies. At the time of writing this article, two employees of Akumal Natura are unable to work due to the coronavirus, making the already colossal amount of work be dispersed upon even fewer people. Mr. Alonso is spending massive amounts of time at the sanctuary, oftentimes staying for days on end just to ensure the wellbeing of these animals. Even with this level of dedication, however, there are still problems that need to be addressed.

The biggest problem at the moment is finance. There is simply not enough money to feed the animals, and with the outlook on Coronavirus still murky, it seems that this financial struggle will be a long-term problem. While the sanctuary is preparing to reopen to tourist right now, as governmental restrictions are being lifted, this is by no means an end to the financial troubles. Travel is still suspended, and very few people are interested in tourism right now, so the usual monetary income produced by the glamping will still be crippled. Right now, Akumal Natura is very much dependant on gener-

ous donors on Patreon and PayPal, who enable the survival of the residing animals. For anyone interested in looking into the matter, the link to the patreon will be at the end of this article.

Besides funding however, there is still the problem of labor. There are simply too many tasks to do and too few people to do them. The result of this is that animal habitats are not able to be cleaned and maintained as regularly as they used to be. Akumal Natura usually utilizes temporary employees and volunteers to maintain itself, but with the Covid-19 pandemic raging throughout the world, finding these types of employees is close to impossible. Despite all of the work he is doing, Mr Alonso was kind enough to agree to an interview which provided me with the key information I needed to write this article, and for this I am very thankful. We must remember that we cannot be sure about what the future has in store for us, and neither do the people leading Akumal Natura. This makes planning for the future essentially inconceivable. It is very much possible that the glamping program reopens only to be shut down indefinitely weeks later. It seems that the diligent thing to do in this situation is to try to find a sustainable solution that can carry the organization through the crisis, no matter how long it takes. This is why the donations on Patreon are so essential, as they are monthly donations rather than single donations, making it easier to plan finances. We must also remember that Akumal Natura does not receive aid from the government, unlike some

organizations in Germany or Europe in general. As for the issue of labour, the hope right now is that as governmental restrictions are slowly lifted, finding workers will become a more possible task. As mentioned above however, the future is uncertain, and the situation is still subject to change.

It may be distressing to hear about the insecure state of the animals inhabiting Akumal Natura, but it is important to hear the stories about such organizations. Because while others protest and complain about having to stay home, bored, there are people out there working to try to make the world a better place for all members of this earth, and these people are without exaggeration heroes. If you are interested in keeping up to date with Akumal Natura, consider following their youtube channel, "Akumal Natura Rescue" or contact Mr. Lee about joining the Environmental Club discord server, in which updates about the situation are posted regularly.

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/akumalnatura>
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLIdzIW4ctyPQZjSvo1IuaQ>

Jakob Reuter

School in the Corona-Krise: Abitur vs. Diploma

At this point it is more than fair to say that the Corona-crisis has had a long-lasting effect on all our academic lives. Our school has handled the crisis in various different ways depending on grade level, and has achieved fluctuating amounts of success. It must be noted that any criticism of said methods, while valid, may not be the fault of our administration. The Senat and other governmental institutions have and continue to push out new policy and regulations almost weekly, and this is just as confusing for the administration as it is for us. The point of this article, however, is to outline the successes and failures of the management in the grades 11-12, specifically comparing the Abitur program to the HS Diploma program.

If you are a student in these grades, then you are familiar with the confusion regarding grading policy that existed in the past weeks. This conundrum was caused by different students getting different information from teachers and the administration. Only a few weeks ago, the consensus seemed to be that grades that are earned online can only improve the grade you received in the first semester, with no penalty for late or absent work. This notion was disturbed, however, when teachers began to explain to their classes that online grades do in fact count normally into your overall score. The issue was that this was only half true, as this policy was implemented for Abitur students but not for Diploma students.

The problem is that despite being separate programs, Abitur and Diploma are far too linked for such information to be distributed without confusion. Teachers echoed the information they were getting in classes which contained both Abitur and Diploma students, such as AP Literature, which only ex-

acerbated the issue. For a while, no one seemed to understand what the true answer was until an email was sent out to diploma students by the administration clearing up the confusion with a definitive statement. Many students in the Abitur program have levied the criticism that the this divergence in grading policy is unfair. The counter argument to this would be that Abitur classes began meeting regularly long before any of the diploma students. Coincidentally, this organizational cluster occurred right before AP exams, causing many Diploma students to have to largely rely on online forums prior to the tests.

Furthermore, it seems that the attention of both the school administration and the government were largely focused on the Abitur program. While this is understandable to an extent, as the Abitur program is much larger in numbers and we are located in Germany, it still had an undeniably negative impact on Diploma students which seem to justify the grading policy. On the topic of in-person classes, however, the situation complicates itself further. After the intense stress of AP exams, Diploma students were greeted with the news that their AP classes would start meeting in person again. While it was undeniably a nice experience to reunite with the AP classes you had not seen in months, from an academic perspective it makes little sense, as these meeting would have been much more beneficial before AP tests and the threat of spreading the virus would have been essentially the same.

This is not to undermine the struggles of Abitur students however, as many of them had only recently found out that their grades count into their average, which is compiled from only 2 years of academics as

opposed to the Diploma program's 4. This confusion combined with the otherwise confusing, contradicting, and frightening nature of the Corona-crisis has resulted in a lot of stress for these students. At the end of the day, there were some severe issues in the way the crisis was handled in both programs which may have a lasting impact on our lives in the form of grade-point averages. Numerous students panicked when told by teachers that assignments they had missed would end up dropping their grades, often threatening failure of the class, though it was generally false. Students worry that teachers would drop their grades, unaware of the new rules, and nobody would be checking for such mistakes. This concern still has not been necessarily quelled, since the grading system at JFKS notoriously lacks transparency. This struggle in management and organization needs to be addressed moving forward, especially if we are to continue online work next semester. Students should not have to haggle with their teachers to secure the grades which they have earned, and teachers should not have to guess at the school's official policies.

It is important to remember that even though all of this holds true, there is no one institution we can blame. Our teachers were getting their information from the administration who was getting their information from the government who was getting their information from the doctors, and so on. We can't blame any specific part of the chain, rather understand that the virus is disruptive in nature and these issues were bound to come up. It is merely important to outline them so that these mistakes can be addressed in case of a hybrid or online school system in the coming school year.
Jakob Reuter

Reflections on Quaranzine

Sitting at home after school was cancelled, we were confronted with an insatiable hunger to do something awesome, but we were a newspaper without any news. Coronavirus was the only news story the world seemed able to handle, and our amateur perspective need not be added to the mountain of stories worldwide. We saw it fit to turn to creativity—structure and organization had been left in the past, so free artistic expression had never seemed more promising. What better way was there to break through disconnect and self-isolation than creating an outlet for anyone wanting to share how they were feeling with their peers? During the seven weeks that we produced the Quaranzine, it was sometimes a constant in an inconsistent world, and sometimes a source of variety in a monotonous environment. In a sense it was even therapeutic, as every contribution was a way of communicating with one another and sharing our struggles so we weren't so alone. Its grander image aside, it was the people behind it who really gave the zine its spunk. Our Muckraker team members' regular contributions fit together with one-off submissions from the student body to tell several stories: of solitude, imagination, family, boredom, confession, loveliness, and endurance. Looking back, the Quarantine is a snapshot of how we all were feeling, helping to form a diverse portrait of the human condition in this pandemic.

“think happy thoughts; easier said than done” Johanna Tigges wrote in week one,

“What to do, when all the boxes have been checked; every surface has been wiped down twice; the screen in your hand will no longer suffice” in week three,

“these are some trying times;...but maybe i'll come out of this with better endurance” in week seven.

As we all independently came to grips with our dramatically changed world — which is not to say we're done processing, even now — the Muckraker is proud to have created a space for the JFKS community to come together and create, despite the overwhelming destruction all around us. Without art, we can only live one life, see the world through one pair of eyes. We sincerely hope the Quaranzine brought our readers out of isolation, for a moment, even as they sat at home, and let us all be alone together. In this spirit of reflection and celebration, below is one of our team's favorite Quaranzine submissions for your enjoyment—all seven weeks can be found on our website, muckraker.now.sh, if you'd like to see more.

June Gromis & Liliana Walker

Watch everything pass you by
What to do, when all the boxes have been checked
every surface has been wiped down twice
the screen in your hand will no longer suffice
to distract you from the dawning sky
mist rolling over fields, blessed by sun's early kiss
the handle on grandfather's clock
has done its journey twice
a.m. to p.m.
candle flames grow weaker
flicker closer to the ground
wax spreading on cedar wood
a robin's call
rings in a brand new day

Johanna Tigges



Lena Walker

Staff

Editors: Jakob Reuter, Liliana Walker

Reporters: Brooke Betten, Daniel Delfs, June Gromis, Jakob Reuter, Liliana Walker

Layout: Liliana Walker

Contributors: Malka Beere, Noah Beere, Jonas Dills, Nico Hammer, Johanna Tigges, Hannah Walker, Lena Walker, Lauri Eckle

Contact Us: themuckraker@gmail.com, muckraker.now.sh

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