

THE MUCKRAKER

THE INDEPENDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Volume X, Issue V

Friday, December 8, 2006

Circulation: 600

PAGE 1



With Halloween behind us and Christmas around the corner, the year 2006 slowly but steadily approaches its final days. Despite the unusual warm weather, November was as November-ish as it could possibly be - in Berlin, as well as at our school. The majority of students at some points during the last few weeks suffered from some kind of cold, flu, or other ailments, and everybody is busy to get as much work done as possible before the new year starts.

Here at our school, looking back at the last weeks also means reminiscing on the wonderful musical and the days of the BERMUN conference. With the Dome concert and other Christmas-related events coming up, students should be able to enjoy the last bits of JFKS life in 2006.

But the world outside didn't stop turning in the meanwhile. Berlin now has a new Schulsenator and the US midterm elections have triggered heated debates on the future of US politics.

We hope that all of you make it safely through December. Don't forget to pick up your copy of the Christmas Muckraker on the last day of school before Christmas!

Index

Feature	1-2
JFKS Life	2-3
Opinion	3-6
Culture	5-8

"The New JFK"

Barack Obama - "A political phenomenon"

New York Magazine writes that attending one of his speeches is "like going to view the Mona Lisa. All you see are the backs of people's heads". In Arabic, his first name means "the blessed", and *blessed* 45-year-old Barack Obama certainly seems to be. In November 2004, he was elected Senator of Illinois with a two-thirds majority, thereby becoming the only African American voice in the US Senate. Since his dazzling keynote address at the Democratic Convention in the same year, the nation has been struck with a serious case of "Obama fever". His youthful

charisma and the almost hysterical reactions he provokes have gained him a political "rock star" status that remarkably resembles John F. Kennedy's fame, providing him the noble name "the black JFK". Now, speculations about a potential presidential candidacy are circulating. Could this "shining star in the Democrats' sky" be the healing, reuniting force that an America divided by ongoing struggles in Iraq and a myriad of congressional scandals so desperately longs for?

His Story

A product of two diverse cultures merged by the love of two college students, Barack Hussein Obama Jr. had to learn early on how to overcome differences and build a bridge to unity. His father, an ambitious man from Kenya, and his white, American mother from Kansas met when the former moved to the United States. However, the family was forever separated when Obama's father decided to return to his home two years later. Barack met him only once and as his bestselling autobiography, "Dreams from My Father", reveals, his father remained an abstract object of admiration throughout his youth. During a trip to Kenya in his later life, when his father had already passed, he would be confronted with the image of his father he had cherished for years and the harsh

reality of the life of his African family near Nairobi.

When he was accepted at Columbia University, it led Barack to the Big Apple, where he studied political sciences, specializing in foreign relations. Throughout his young adult life, confusion about his heritage and his race plagued Barack Obama. In his autobiography, he admits to have taken drugs, but also says that he regained his confidence before severe troubles arose. After his graduation, he dreamed of working as a community organizer and moved

to Chicago to join a church-based group aimed at alleviating the struggles of a local African American housing project. Although it was undoubtedly an invaluable phase for the aspiring politician, he turned to Harvard to acquire the legal know-how that would serve him well once he was ready to return to Chicago and become a community activist and later US Senator.

His Political Principals

Empathy, Obama says, is at the core of his politics. He considers the "basic concept of standing in somebody else's shoes and looking through their eyes" vital to responsible decision making in office and has earned the respect of millions by living the tolerance that he preaches. At the Democratic Convention he said: "There are patriots who opposed the war in Iraq, and there are patriots who supported the war in Iraq." It was his unique ability to connect with Democrats and Republicans alike that scored him his first major success: becoming the first black president of the reputable Harvard Law Review. At the 2004 Democratic Convention, he moved listeners from all corners of America to tears. "We coach Little League in the Blue States, and yes, we've got some gay friends in the Red States." Barack Obama stands for unity and mutual understanding, considering both sides of

JFK... continued to page 2

Feature / JFKS Life

JFK... continued from page 1

a story. His second book, released just months ago, "The Audacity of Hope", which, according to a review in the Washington Post, relies solely "on-the-one-hand-on-the-other-handedness".

The second principle that marks Obama's attitude is his reluctance to be pulled into the luxurious lifestyle typical of Capitol Hill residents. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey he said: "One of the things I'm always worried about is starting to represent Washington to my constituents instead of my

"One of the things I'm always worried about is starting to represent Washington to my constituents instead of my constituents to Washington."

constituents to Washington." When Oprah, an avid supporter of Obama, offered him a seat on her private jet for a more comfortable flight to her studio for an interview, he refused, because of a personal rule to avoid corporate planes.

His Politics

Time Magazine prizes him as one of the twenty "Leaders and Revolutionaries" of today; the British journal "New Statesman" prophesizes him to be one of the "ten people who could change the world". Indeed, his actions indicate that Obama may become truly influential.

This past summer, he took his family along on a trip to Africa, to visit his father's home country. There, he and his wife made a statement by letting themselves be publicly tested for HIV/AIDS. Obama's aim was to weaken the prevalent stigma surrounding the disease and AIDS testing.

In the Senate, Barack Obama is active in the Public Works, Environment, Veterans' Affairs, and Foreign Relations Committees. Within these frames, he has drafted innovative legislations. For example, he wrote a legislation that would require the videotaping of all police interrogation and confessions in capital murder cases. He also contributed to the "Honest Leadership and Open Government Act," which opens conference committee meetings to the public and demands the internet posting of all bills for twenty-four hours before the Senate votes. He's been praised "for having the courage to challenge the business-as-usual environment on Capitol Hill".

His Views on America and Its Future

Barack Obama has always opposed the Iraq war. He believes that because the government, with the help of dubious

media "massaged and manipulated" facts in order to make a case for the war, Americans are deeply troubled and filled with cynicism toward their government. In fact, he finds that democracy has gone seriously amiss over the past few years, partly due to the grave partisanship that have characterized politics. Nonetheless, he bears the hope that he says is one of the greatest attributes of his nation, and declares, "I think the country is ready for a constructive, hard-headed debate about how we move the country forward. [...] If we do [have this conversation], I'm very hopeful about the future of America... and I'm so lucky to be a part of that process."

His Presidency?

The "Obama Fever" has swept across the nation. He's won a Grammy for his audio recording of "Dreams from My

"I'm so overexposed, I'm making Paris Hilton look like a recluse!"

Father"; a school, and yes, even a beer has been named after him. "I'm so overexposed, I'm making Paris Hilton look like a recluse!", Obama jokes. In light of the tremendous support he is receiving, he has said that he will consider running for the White House. Critics worry that the Illinois senator is yet too young for the office, and that, although he has made commendable political achievements, he hasn't experienced any colossal conflicts. In any case, Newsweek Magazine was certainly right in saying that Obama is "a political phenomenon unlike any previously seen on the American scene".

Lena Walther

Trash is not our Friend – so why should it be all around us?

Tenth grade geography classes learn about the idea of sustaining the world for future generations by acting in reasonable, constructive ways that are good for our ecosystem. Nonetheless, our school manages to look like a garbage dump every now and then. From Oreo wrappers to half-eaten sandwiches to banana peels, nearly every bit of trash imaginable can be found around our marvelous school.

The cleaning personnel work for hours every afternoon to make our school temporarily trash free and dirtless. Once school starts again the next morning, the dirt cycle begins anew. Banana peels lie next to the trashcan instead of inside it, paper bags are left on the staircases, coffee spills provide an additional covering layer for the floor, etc. By the time the students leave the school, JFKS has resumed its similar look to a dumpster and the cleaning personnel once again proceeds to make our school clean and trash-free.

JFKS is host to many reputable organizations and events, such as BERMUN, College Day or Challenge Day, so our school needs to maintain its good reputation through the outside appearance. What should these visitors think of us when they see a Coke puddle next to a squashed slice of tomato? "Oh! Someone left his or her lunch for me! How nice of them!" or more likely, "Goodness, what a repugnant learning environment!"

Our school is dirty and most of the time, it is our fault. We should be proactive and practice the idea of cleaning up after ourselves. The next time you have a candy wrapper in your hand, and that trash can is ten meters away, don't throw it on the floor. Instead, avoid being lazy. Take one step at a time and throw your trash away in the designated bin. Also, if you happen to see something on the floor that may have been edible once upon a time, pick it up, throw it away, and wash your hands thoroughly. If we all do our part, our school would become clean in no time, and none of us will have to feel disgusted by our learning environment, which is our habitat and thus an "ecosystem" we should feel responsible for.

Farsane Tabataba-Vakil

Comments, Replies?

send your opinions and articles to:

themuckraker@gmail.com

Der Kasten

Man kann ihn hassen, man kann ihn ignorieren, aber eines kann man (noch) nicht: ihn mögen. Die Rede ist von dem weißen, rechteckigen Gebilde, das dem großen, verfaulenden Baumstumpf die Rolle des „Eyecatcher“ vor dem Blue Building abnimmt. Manche haben sich wohl schon damit abgefunden, dass das plötzliche Erscheinen solcher Objekte einer der unbeeinflussbaren Bestandteile unseres Lebens ist. Manchen teilnahmslosen Leuten, die den lieben langen Tag nur ziellos durchs Leben irren, ist das Teil vielleicht auch völlig egal.

Man kann, obwohl man sich wahrscheinlich dem Willen der Schulverwaltung mal wieder beugen muss, das nicht einfach akzeptieren, ohne einige Fragen zu stellen. Wer hat das bitte schön finanziert? Wer hat entschieden, dass der Kasten dort aufgestellt wurde? Was macht er? Und am wichtigsten: Was haben wir davon?

Die erste Frage nach der Finanzierung lässt sich leicht beantworten: die Schule. In dieser Welt bekommt man eben nichts um sonst.

Die Antwort auf die Frage, wer das Ganze geplant hat, hat mich selber überrascht. Die Präsenz des Kastens haben wir tatsächlich niemand geringeres zu verdanken als Fr. Lennert-Fiebig, die sich kürzlich aus dem Schulalltag zurückgezogen hat. Anscheinend hat sie in ihrer letzten Amtshandlung, ohne jemandem davon zu erzählen, den Kasten bestellt. Sie hat uns also einfach

mit ihrem Erbe sitzen gelassen. Da fragt man sich doch, „Was hat sie sich bloß dabei gedacht?“ Anscheinend hat sie sich wirklich etwas dabei gedacht. Denn, wer hätte es geahnt, der Kasten scheint doch einen Zweck zu haben. Das sagt zumindest Herr Schürmann. Es sollen Informationen über große Ereignisse darin aufgehängt werden, über BERMUN zum Beispiel. Genau das ist der Haken: die Informationen sind gar nicht für uns, also für alle Schüler, bestimmt!

Das bringt mich auch zur Antwort auf meine letzte Frage. Was haben wir davon? Nichts. Die Informationen im Kasten sind nämlich in erster Linie für schulfremde Personen. Die Eltern sollen sich beim Elternabend nicht verlaufen und Ähnliches. Für manche von uns wäre das sogar wünschenswert, denn wer will schon, dass sich seine/ihre Eltern eine Viertelstunde mit einem Mathelehrer über seine/ihre mangelnde Begabung für quadratische Funktionen unterhalten? Genau, niemand. Typisch für die heutige Bürokratie, dass bei so einem Unternehmen nicht an die Schüler gedacht wird. Ich will aber nicht vollkommen pessimistisch wirken. Der Kasten ist nicht zu 100% schlecht. Wenigstens ist der Kasten von Innen beleuchtet, damit man im Dunkeln nicht aus Versehen dagegen läuft.

Randolf Carr

A Turnover for the Better?

At the 2006 United States midterm elections on November 7, the majority of the American population decided that it was time to turn both the House of Representatives and the Senate over to the Democrats. As it stands now, the Democrats have 31 more seats than the Republicans in the House of Representatives, and after gaining 11 further seats, are now tied with the Republicans in the Senate. Why did this turnover occur? And, more importantly, what will this mean for the future of the American government?

The instinctive answer to the first question would be President Bush's mismanagement of the war in Iraq. The chaos in this war-torn country seems to be never-ending, especially in regard to the continuous bombings, such as the one of November 16, which caused the deaths of 202 people in the Shi'ite stronghold of Sadr City. Nevertheless, exit polls indicate that, although a majority of Americans who voted in the midterm elections disapprove of the war in Iraq, corruption and ethics in government was their biggest concern. One recent example of corruption was the so-called "Foley Scandal" that dealt with the sexual misconducts of former Republican representative of Florida in the House of Representatives, Mark Foley. The main cause of concern within the voting population was, however, that this scandal was purposely kept secret and that other members of Congress had known about this yet had taken no legal action upon the matter.

After 12 years of being forced to sit and watch the Republicans dominate the Congress, the Democrats now have their chance to change and perhaps improve domestic as well as international affairs. They will not be able to savor their victory for long since Americans are waiting to hear if they have any good ideas how to get out of Iraq without creating even more chaos and terrorism. They will also be under the close scrutiny of the American people in regard to corruption and misconduct, in case they repeat the mischief of certain Republican congressmen. Criticizing President Bush's obvious mismanagement of the war was a winning electoral strategy but criticism will not extricate the United States from the mess in Iraq, nor will it persuade the international community that the Democrats are ready to take back the White House. Voters gave the Democrats the floor and are now waiting to hear what they have to say.

Samira Lindner

Top Ten Reasons To Think You Spend Too Much Time in School

Farsane Tabataba-Vakili

- 10) It's still dark on your way to school, and it's dark again on your way from school.
- 9) You spend more time in school than you do at home.
- 8) You start decorating your locker as though it was your room, and you wonder why your computer doesn't fit in it.
- 7) You sleep in class occasionally because your desk looks like an adequate substitute for the bed whose location you have forgotten.
- 6) Your schedule is the only reason why you know what day of the week it is.
- 5) You accidentally call some of your teachers "Mom" or "Dad" because you see them more often than your parents.
- 4) You wonder why the lunch lady charges you money for food.
- 3) You know your teachers' middle name, favourite flavour ice cream, and where they spend their summer vacation.
- 2) You know the school's address and phone number by heart, but you seem to have forgotten your own.
- 1) You think that your extracurricular activities are a substitute for a healthy diet, thus you choose a well-balanced assortment.

Opinion

Free Trade ? Fair Trade

"Supply + Demand = Price"

The Golden Rule of economy. Adam Smith proposed this free market theory in his book *The Wealth of Nations* in 1776. At that time, the idea was quite enlightening: if there is a demand for a product but little supply, the price goes up; if there is plenty of that product but little need for it, the price goes down. It is all based on "laissez faire", competition, and self interest. Now, 230 years later, this "free market" is not that simple anymore.

American and European governments pay 1 billion dollars every day to support their farmers and keep the price of their products low. Why? Because we, the self-interested consumers, keep demanding lower prices. Thus, our governments pay subsidies with our taxes. The mass-produced and subsidised products are then dumped on the local market in, for example, Ghana. This causes an imbalance on the local market since the Ghanaian farmers cannot sell the same product for the same, low price. The poor get poorer, the rich become richer. Another example of manipulated rules is a lack of market access in developing countries in Africa, East

Asia, South Asia, and Latin America. They cannot sell manufactured goods because of high import tariffs. And raw materials only make little profits. Also, globalisation and trade has drawn many workers into cheap labour. The big companies try to maximize profit, and therefore reduce the cost of production as much as possible, and as a result, many workers receive very low wages. The products made cheaply are sold at high prices, and the workers do not get as much money as they should.

The workers contribute to our prosperity but at the same time have very little rights. Is this fair? These are only some aspects of unfair trade, but the question is, how can we hinder the destruction of our global market economy? Fair Trade organizations have been established over the past 20 years. Their goal is to fight this injustice through raising awareness and selling Fair Trade products. So, what exactly is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade means rewarding poor farmers in developing countries for their work. For example, one pound of coffee costs \$ 0,60 – \$0,70 nowadays. If we take a look at the price in our supermarkets (around € 4), we can easily

calculate the approximate profits of the companies and all the middlemen involved. Fair Trade coffee, on the other hand, may cost more, but it makes sure that the coffee planter gets a much higher percentage of the price we pay. This guarantees a healthy economy and a healthy coffee planter who can maintain his living.

Fair Trade organisations support producers by marking their products with a so-called "Transfair" seal. Most of the Transfair products also have a Bio seal. They are available in health food shops or "Weltläden". The ultimate goal of these organisations is to "make poverty history" by changing the rules and practices of conventional international trade.

It is often said that ordinary people don't care about issues in Africa. But that's not true. We are young consumers with great social and environmental awareness and therefore define the future of our economy. Sign the Big Noise petition on maketradefair.com – and make the first step toward change. Remember, free trade is not fair trade.

Eileen Wagner

Negative- Calorie Foods—Foods that make you lose weight!

"Negative calorie foods" is the term given to foods that contain fewer calories than they burn through digestion. Most of them are fibrous fruits or vegetables, which consist of cellulose. Our body doesn't have the enzymes or catalysts to break them down easily and quickly, so it needs to "burn calories".

You may be thinking to yourself, "Amazing! How fast can I lose weight?" But first, you need to understand what a calorie is. Calorie is a unit for energy: 1 calorie is 4.2 Joules, the amount of energy required to change the temperature of water from 14.5 to 15.5 degrees. Generally it takes about 150-250 calories to digest your food, depending on your weight, gender, digestive system, and activity level. But negative calorie foods are harder to digest, so your body will require more than the average amount of calories to digest food. In other words, a theoretical weight loss of up to 1 kilogram daily is achievable.

But realistically, you can expect 0.5 to 0.75 kilograms per week depending on your activity and the amount of negative-calorie foods you eat and what you eat them with.

Here is a list of popular negative calorie foods:

Vegetables: Aborigine, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chicory, cress, cucumber, fennel, gourd, leek, lettuce, marrow, peppers, radish, spinach, tomato, turnip.

Fruits: Apricot, blackberry, blackcurrant, Clementines, damsons, grapefruit, guava, honeydew melon, lemon, mandarin orange, melon cantaloupe, raspberry, rhubarb, peaches, plums, strawberry, tangerine, watermelon.

These negative calorie foods are full of vitamins and minerals, and many even contain antioxidants. Oxidants are "free radicals" that are introduced

through internal and external sources such as stress, alcohol, and cigarette smoke. Antioxidants fight the oxidants and prevent chronic diseases.

Now, there are some unhealthy aspects to only consuming negative-calorie foods. If you only eat negative-calorie foods, there is a chance of dramatic loss of weight, which, of course, is unhealthy. A healthy diet consists of being active, working out, and eating negative calorie foods combined with other kinds of food. If you'd only stick to negative calorie foods, not only would you become psychologically obsessed about the calories of each vegetable you eat, but also your muscles would ache after walking short distances due to shortage of energy. A balanced diet is better than turning to one extreme all of sudden, otherwise your digestive system could collapse from overworking itself.

He-in Cheong

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Founding fathers: Adam Nagorski, Seth Hepner, Mikolaj Bekasiak; **Editors:** Benjamin Hofmann, Samira Lindner; **Layout:** Jonathan Zachhuber; **Journalists:** Lawrence Boadum, Agata Bossy, Randolph Carr, Hein Cheong, Vanessa Dietrich, Moritz Elle, Ina Fischer, Charlotte Foerster-Baldenius, Judith Freiseis, Laura Kampf, Jasmin Herrmann, Eva Hückmann, Ferdinand Maubrey, Joanna O'Neill, Farsane Tabataba-Vakili, Lena Walther; **Guest Journalists:** Viktor Boadum.

Staff

Opinion / Culture

Aufklären über Jugendsubkulturen

Der Fernseher läuft und die Sendung Polylux setzt sich an diesem Abend mit einem äußerst interessanten Thema, nämlich verschiedenen Jugendkulturen, auseinander. Das Projekt „Culture on the Road“ hat plötzlich meine Aufmerksamkeit erweckt. „Culture on the Road“ bieten in Schulen und Jugendzentren bundesweit Workshops, Seminare und sonstige Informationsveranstaltungen an. Im Vordergrund steht die Aufklärung über die heute bestehenden Jugendgruppierungen, deren Lebenseinstellungen und ihre politischen Haltungen. Denn schon seit langem unterwandern Rechtsextreme – leise, aber schnell – diese verschiedenen Szenen. Das Problem Rechtsextremismus wird intensiv in den Informationsseminaren von Szenenangehörigen mit Schülern und Schülerinnen diskutiert und analysiert. Zu dem „Culture on the Road“-Team gehören unter Anderem erwachsene Szenenangehörige aus der Punk-, Gothic/Gruftie-, HipHop-, Technoszene, die das Gespräch mit interessierten Schülern suchen, um sie über die Vorurteile, die eigentliche Entstehungsgeschichte und die Probleme innerhalb dieser Gruppen aufzuklären.

Das äußere Erscheinungsbild der Gruppenmitglieder ist oft für zahlreiche, meist nicht gerechtfertigte Vorurteile, verantwortlich. Punk sein heißt nicht einfach nur einen Nietengürtel oder ein Hundehalsband zu tragen. Die Punk-Subkultur entwickelte sich in den 70er Jahren in Großbritannien. Sie hat viel mit Politik, Engagement und Solidarität zu tun und setzt sich, wie schon in den 70er Jahren, für Jugendzentren und gegen Nazis ein. In den Seminaren klären die Mitglieder des „Culture on the Road“-Teams die Schüler über die Grundeinstellung und die Herkunft der Punks auf, unter anderem wird die frühe Abspaltung von rechtsextremen Skinheads angesprochen (Skinhead bedeutet nicht gleich Nazi).

In der Gothic Szene, deren Mitglieder früher auch als Grufties bezeichnet wurden, ruft das Erscheinungsbild ebenfalls gesellschaftliche Vorurteile hervor. „Grufties“ werden häufig als introvertiert und todessüchtig abgestempelt. Überwiegend schwarze Klamotten zu tragen heißt nicht gleich, dass man dieser Untergrund-Szene angehört. Die Zuwendung zu Sekten hat mit der ursprünglichen unreligiösen Einstellung auch nichts zu tun. Es geht um weit mehr als nur um das durchgehende schwarze Auftreten. Die Vorliebe für Musik spielt eine enorme Rolle und natürlich das Spirituelle. Mittelalter, Batcave (Deathpunk vermischt mit

Glam-Rock), Industrial, EBM (Electronic-Body-Music), Gothic-Rock und Neofolk sind einige der verschiedenen Musikstile. Diese Begriffe sind allerdings im Laufe der Jahre erst entstanden, denn die Musik war in den 80ern einfach nur als „Gothic“ bekannt. Die Szene selber ist ursprünglich unpolitisch und gewaltfrei, doch leider ist sie ein Angriffsziel von Rechtsextremen. Das Wissen über politische und religiöse Einstellung, Musik, Bedeutungen von verschiedenen Accessoires der verschiedenen Szenen wird den Schülern von Szenenvertretern vermittelt. Das Problem des „Hineinrutschens“ von Rechtsextremen und die gesellschaftliche Intoleranz werden hier ebenfalls besprochen. Die weit verbreitete HipHop-Szene findet mit den Workshop- und Seminar-Angeboten viele interessierte Schüler, die sich unter anderem als Graffiti Sprayer und im „Rappen“ versuchen können. Diese Szene stammt aus den amerikanischen Gettos, in denen Gewalt und Kriminalität sehr stark verbreitet ist. Drogen, Waffenhandel und körperliche Gewalt sind auch heute noch Alltag der zahlreichen „Gangs“ der armen Stadtteile. HipHop verwandelt Gewalt und Angst in Selbstbewusstsein, das sich in den Texten wieder findet. Die „Culture on the Road“ HipHop Workshops sind bei Schülern sehr beliebt, da sie körperlichen Einsatz zeigen können und Szenetypische Dinge, wie „Rappen“ und Breakdance erlernen können. Das „Culture on the Road“ Projekt gibt Schülern und Jugendlichen Möglichkeiten, die verschiedensten Jugendkulturen kennen, verstehen und akzeptieren zu lernen. Es hat sich herausgestellt, dass sich viele Jugendliche einer Szene angehörig fühlen, aber kein Hintergrundwissen über die verschiedenen Szenen besitzen. Das Team von „Culture on the Road“ versucht mit Seminaren die Schulen bundesweit über den immer größer werdenden Rechtsextremismus, besonders in kleineren Städten und Dörfern, aufzuklären. Dieses Unterfangen hat bereits Erfolge gezeigt: viele jugendliche Seminarteilnehmer haben sich von ihren faschistischen Freunden distanziert und erachten Rechtsextremismus als unnötig und dumm. Es soll erreicht werden, dass Jugendliche untereinander ihre Meinungen austauschen und so ein Perspektivenwechsel erfolgt. Neugier und Interesse von Jugendlichen sollen geweckt, die Toleranz und der Respekt sollen gefördert werden, und außerdem will „Culture on the Road“ über Rechtsextremismus aufzuklären.

Vanessa Dietrich

„An Inconvenient Truth – A Global Warning“

Global Warming – the ice is melting, the polar bears are dying – so what?

An Inconvenient Truth is a new documentary film directed by Davis Guggenheim that deals with the dangers of global warming, presented by Al Gore, the former Vice-President of the United States. It is November and the weather is still mild – unusual for Berlin but not a coincidence: a clear evidence of climate change. It is for real, and it is no longer a political issue but rather a moral challenge that all humans are facing. „We are both villain and victim in this issue“, says Gore.

The slide show contains shocking pictures of fatal heat waves, floods, droughts, permafrost, drunken trees, epidemics, refugees, dying species, and



extreme weather. They are presented in pictures, videos and graphs and give you a thorough and comprehensible vision of the dramatic consequences in the future – very disturbing information indeed. That's why Gore claims that this is the most terrifying movie you will ever see – after all, what can be more frightening than the truth?

The movie is also exhibits some aspects of Al Gore's private life - if you don't like him, it is still bearable. But if you do like him, you'll learn some interesting facts about his life and his motives for making this slide show and presenting it all over the world.

This film is not made for ecologists but it is addressed to each of us. It concerns our earth, the place where we live, and, believe it or not, we're all sharing one earth. Gore brilliantly presents scientific facts compressed in a way that is understandable and entertaining (after all, he is a politician and not a scientist). The message is clear: it's time to stop avoiding the facts – we need to act before it is too late. „I need to wake up“ is the title of the soundtrack and the theme of the movie. There is a solution to what Gore calls a „planetary emergency“: we can reduce carbon-dioxide emission on an international basis, but only, if we work together. Do not miss this powerful documentary, and prepare yourself for a truly scary movie.

Eileen Wagner

Opinion / Culture

Im Dienste des Vorsitzenden: Wenn Schule zum politischen Schlachtfeld wird

„Gebt den Schülern Bücher!“ Obwohl Dr. Jürgen Zöllner diesen Satz so wahrscheinlich nie von sich gegeben hat, weist der neue Berliner Senator für Bildung und Wissenschaft einige Parallelen zu der jugendlichen Königin Marie Antoinette auf. Die französische Königin wurde damals von ihrem Vater gedrängt Österreich den Rücken zuzukehren um nach Frankreich zu gehen und dort Ludwig XIV zu heiraten. Damit sollten dieser und sein Königreich als Verbündete für ihren Vater gewonnen werden. Ähnlich ist die plötzliche Berufung von Jürgen Zöllner als Berliner Schul- und Wissenschaftssenator zu deuten. Der Verdacht liegt nahe, dass der SPD Parteivorstand Kurt Beck einen seiner engsten Vertrauten vorschickte um den potenziellen Konkurrenten um die Kanzlerkandidatur zu beobachten und vielleicht sogar als Unterstützer für die eigenen Aspirationen zu gewinnen. Schon deswegen sollte Wowereit auf seinen neugewonnenen Senator Acht geben.

Der 61-Jährige Zöllner studierte 5 Jahre lang Medizin in Freiburg. Nachdem er 1977 Professor für Physiologische Chemie an der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz wurde, nahm er dort 1991 das Amt Präsidenten ein.

Zöllner trat im Jahr 1972 der SPD bei und der ehemalige rheinland-pfälzische Ministerpräsident Rudolph Scharping holte ihn 1991 als Minister für Wissen-

schaft und Weiterbildung in sein Kabinett. Neben diesen den beiden Resorts übernahm er nach drei Jahren auch den Bereich Bildung. 2001 wurde Dr. Zöllner endgültig zum „Supersenator“, als er Minister für Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung, Forschung und Kultur wurde. Sein politischer Aufstieg setzte sich fort, als er im Mai dieses Jahres auch noch stellvertretender Ministerpräsident von Rheinland-Pfalz wurde.

Wieso Jürgen Zöllner all diese Ämter niederlegte um in die Berliner Politik zu wechseln ist vielen ein Rätsel. Sicher ist jedoch, dass die Berliner Schulen sein Fachwissen und seine Hilfe bitter nötig haben. Im Kampf gegen Lehrermangel, ausfallende Schulstunden und das schlechte Abschneiden der Berliner Unis ist uns Berliner wahrscheinlich jedes Mittel Recht und jede Hilfe willkommen. Dass es sich bei Zöllner um einen „schlaueren Fuchs“ handelt, bewies er aber schon bevor er sein Amt als Senator annahm, als er beiläufig erklärte, dass seine Frau und seine zwei Kinder weiterhin in Rheinland-Pfalz leben werden. Das war ein schlauer Schachzug, wenn man bedenkt wie schnelllebig die Berliner Politik doch ist. Wenn er an seinen Aufgaben scheitern sollte könnte auch ihm ein ähnliches Schicksal wie der Französischen Königin widerfahren.

Victor Boadum

Movie Review: Marie Antoinette

The movie “Marie Antoinette” is a girly version of the life of the last queen of France. It covers her life from the time she leaves Austria as a teenager to marry the alleged heir to the French throne, Guy VIII, to the time she flees Versailles as Queen of France.

Rather than dealing with the historical events leading up to the French Revolution, the film focuses on the extravagant lifestyle of Marie Antoinette: her love for clothes, jewellery, eccentric wedding-cake-like hairdos, and luxurious banquets. In addition, a large part of the movie deals with some questionable historical trifles, such as Marie Antoinette's affair with a young count and her very intimate difficulties in producing an heir for the French throne.

Most of the scenes take place in the Palace of Versailles. The chambers of the palace and the furniture are presented in exaggerated splendour. Pastel tones dominate the colour spectrum of the film and luxurious accessories, cakes and clothes in girly hues are om-

nipresent.

Sofia Coppola, who has also directed movies such as “Lost in Translation” and “The Virgin Suicides”, takes the audience on a journey through time and decorates its knowledge of history with feminine tones. Kirsten Dunst's portrayal of Marie Antoinette as a teenager as well as a grown woman, mother, and queen, is superb.

The soundtrack of the movie consists partly of punk and rock music performed by bands such as The Cure and The Strokes, and shows a unique, unconventional depiction of the life of Marie Antoinette.

“Marie Antoinette” is a fun movie for people who want to see an unprecedented interpretation of the life of such a controversial historical figure. However, guys who aren't into fashion and feminine excesses may want to see another movie.

Laura Kampf

Movie Review: Children of Men

Imagine a world in which no human child has been born for 18 years and science has failed to explain why. Imagine a world in which global pollution levels have soared and have caused irreparable damage to the global environment. Imagine a world in which lengthy wars and terrorist attacks with nuclear arms have decimated much of the planet and major cities such as New York, Moscow, and Tokyo are uninhabitable. Lastly, imagine a world in which Great Britain is the only nation still in existence and uses the faculties of a brutal police state such as internment camps and deportation to keep its territory free of refugees. That world is our near future.

Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men* is based on P.D. James' novel *The Children of Men* and deals with a dystopian world set in 2027. He fixes the camera exclusively on the protagonist Theo Faron (Clive Owen) and the occurrences he gets involved in. His ex-wife Julian Taylor (Julianne Moore) persuades him into helping an immigrant named Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey) leave the country. During the course of this endeavor, Theo finds out that Kee is pregnant - the first fertile woman in 18 years. Suddenly the story moves up gear with terrorists pursuing Kee to further their own aims, which turns into a desperate cat-and-mouse chase with surprising twists and turns at every corner.

No explanation is offered for the scourge of infertility that is leading humankind into oblivion. It will frustrate some viewers, but the sense of disorientation enhances the chaos, which Cuarón presents in stark and powerful images of people in cages and rubble-filled streets. Like the film as a whole, the surrounding noise can be distracting, but there are deeper truths that strike a chord. A scene where guns are silenced by the sound of a crying baby cuts straight to the heart of the matter and lingers afterwards. As Cuarón himself says, this curse of infertility is brought upon by humankind's growing disrespect towards human life and the future of our children. The harm we cause to the world, be it through pollution, nuclear armament, or deforestation, is the harm we cause our future children. And a world without children is a world without hope.

Samira Lindner

Culture

Book review: New Moon

The second part of Stephenie Meyer's vampire series starts half a year after the ending of the first book. It's Bella's 18th birthday, making her 'older' than her vampire boyfriend, which once again enflames her wish of becoming a vampire herself. But before she can voice this wish once again, everything falls apart when she cuts her finger and is attacked by Edward's brother Jasper, because of the smell of her blood. Edward, not wanting to harm her any further, leaves Bella and takes his family with him. Bella falls into a deep depression, unable to even hear her beloved's name without the hole in her heart threatening to rip her apart. But Edward's goal of keeping her 'safe' does not last long: Jakob Black, who becomes Bella's best friend in the months after Edward's disappearance, unwillingly pulls her into his own conflicts with the supernatural. In a desperate attempt to hear Edward's voice again, a race against time begins. She



decides to jump off a cliff, as Edward's voice always appears when she is being reckless and Edward, believing her to be dead, proceeds to kill himself. Bella must now choose between her new friendship with Jakob or trying to save Edward. Either way, someone will get hurt. This time it is not Bella who needs rescuing.

It does not often happen that the sequel is as good as the first book, but this time it most definitely is. Even though The "New Moon" lacks my personal favorite character, Edward, in the middle 200-300 pages, it is still a gripping story. When I heard that he does not play a large role in the book I was unsure whether I wanted to read it or not, but when I did, I was amazed at how enthralling the story is. Those 300 pages were gone in the blink of an eye and it turns out, Edward does not completely disappear...

Joanna O'Neill

6 Tips on Fashion

Charlotte Foerster-Baldenius

1. Always, always wear a feather boa with your outfit to add that perfect finishing touch.
2. The shorter the skirt, the better. Everyone loves a good view.
3. Avoid happy colors, you might stand out of the crowd
4. There is no such thing as too much. Remember, quantity over quality.
5. Always wear the oldest and least attractive thing in your closet, you never know, it might be "in" next season.
6. Anything with fur or leopard skin prints is a must have!

„Bring `Em In!“

Ohrenbetäubender Lärm, heiße, verschwitzte Körper, die sich aneinander reiben und wild umher springen, hysterisch aufschreien und – wie in Ekstase – mit geschlossenen Augen tanzen.

Nein - hier passiert keineswegs, was ihr denkt. Beschrieben ist lediglich das, was sich am 20.11.2006 ab 21 Uhr in der Columbiashalle ereignete: Hauptattraktion des Abends waren die aus Schweden stammende Band „Mando Diao“, doch auch ihre Begleitbands „Razorlight“ und „Johnossi“ überzeugten das Publikum mit energiegeladenen und überraschend professionellen Auftritten.

Das eher unbekannte, schwedische Rock-Duo „Johnossi“ hatte die herausfordernde Aufgabe, dass Publikum in Stimmung zu bringen, welche es jedoch bravourös meisterte.

Auch die etablierten Razorlight waren alles andere als einschläfernd. So eröffneten sie ihre Performance mit der bekannten Single-Auskopplung „In the

Morning“. Darauf folgten ein paar weniger bekannte, auf dem ersten Album zu findende Songs. Abschließend heizten sie der Menge mit geläufigen Ohrwurm-



Baldur Bragason for Musik Express

Liedern, wie zum Beispiel „America“ noch mal gründlich ein. Und als Frontman Johnny Borrell sich seines T-Shirts

entledigte, flippten seltsamerweise nicht nur die weiblichen Fans aus.

Doch dann wurde es Zeit für den Höhepunkt des Abends. Jetzt kamen endlich auch die 14-jährigen, überenthusiastischen Mando Diao-Groupies auf ihre Kosten, sofern sie sich nicht hyperventilierend oder ohnmächtig beim Sanitärer wieder fanden. Das erste Lied, „Welcome Home, Luc Robitaille“, spielten „Mando Diao“ noch dramatisch hinter einem transparenten Vorhang, welcher jedoch beim Refrain zu Boden fiel. Obwohl das Publikum schon bei den vorherigen Bands energisch mitsang, verdoppelte sich die im Saal vorhandene Energie, sobald Gustaf, Björn, CJ, Mats und Samuel die Bühne betraten und die ersten Töne anstimmten.

Es wurden alte und neue Lieder gespielt, wobei gerade die auf den ersten beiden Alben „Bring `Em In“ und „Hurricane Bar“ vorhandenen Songs zum größten Teil variiert und neu interpretiert wurden. Gustaf Norén (rhythm

Concert... continued to page 7

Culture

Concert... continued from page 7

guitar) und Björn Dixgård (lead guitar) wechselten sich beim Singen bzw. Schreien ab, während Bassist CJ selbst beim Herumrennen und -springen sein Bestes gab. Drummer Samuel und Keyboarder Mats wurden zwischendurch von Trompete und Saxophon unterstützt.

Dieser Auftritt war um einiges souveräner und „erwachsener“ als Mando

Diao's letzte Berlin-Konzerte, sie wirkten professioneller, ohne ihre naive Arroganz zu verlieren. Die fünf Schweden zeigten sich auch ungewohnt großzügig mit ihren Zugaben, so kamen sie drei Mal zurück auf die Bühne um jedes Mal gleich mehrere Songs anzustimmen.

Der Kartenpreis von 32€ war keinesfalls zu hoch, wenn man bedenkt, dass gleich 3 gute Bands auftraten. Und als schließ-

lich gegen 12 Uhr die Saallichter wieder angingen, gab es keinen Konzerbesucher mit Grund zur Unzufriedenheit. Alles in allem war es ein Konzertbesuch, der sich mehr als gelohnt hat.

Judith Freiseis
Ina Fischer

Literarische Franzosen



Das ist Michel Houellebecq, ein inzwischen international bekannter, natürlich französischer Autor. Geboren wurde er 1958 als Michel Thomas, und seine Eltern, eine Ärztin und ein Bergführer, gaben ihn im Alter von sechs Jahren zu seiner Großmutter, nachdem sie schon lange zuvor das Interesse an ihm verloren hatten. 1980 erhielt er sein Diplom als Agraringenieur, fand jedoch keine Arbeit. Aufgrund von Depressionen musste er mehrmals in die Psychiatrie. Mittlerweile hat Michel Houellebecq vier autobiographisch anmutende Romane veröffentlicht. Von den einen als unlesbar abgetan, von den anderen zum Kult

erhoben, stolpern seine Helden durch ihr Leben und versuchen diesem einen Sinn zu geben. Sie alle scheitern, wie auch Houellebecq selbst, an der modernen Gesellschaft, in welcher, wie der namenlose Held seines Erstlingswerks es formuliert, einige ein abwechslungsreiches und erregendes Sexualleben haben, andere jedoch auf Masturbation und Einsamkeit beschränkt sind. Die Letzteren verbittern deswegen und werden in der Folge noch einsamer – ein Teufelskreis aus welchem weder Houellebecq noch eine seiner Romanfiguren einen anderen Ausweg als den Selbstmord gefunden haben. Denn

auch ein Ausflug in die Zukunft der Menschheit, unternommen in seinem vierten Roman, zeigt, dass die mittlerweile genetisch gefühlsreduzierte Klongesellschaft dem gleichen Problem der Vereinsamung gegenübersteht. Houellebecq selbst lebt verheiratet in Irland, in einem Zustand den er „Sterben“ nennt und der nun schon mehrere Jahre andauert.

Dies Irae