



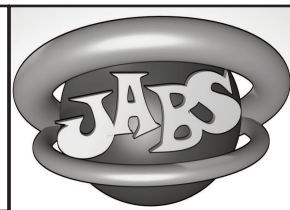
Journal of American and British Studies

Summer
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TU Dresden



Summer Term 2009 CONTENTS



ABROAD

We Rule This Town	by Bettina Adler	page 3
How to Get in Touch with the Other	by Angela Benchea and Leonie Schreiner	page 5
Lovely Weather, Good Food and a Heaped Teaspoon of Irony	by Andreas Lichterfeld and Anastasia Roshchina	page 8
Poundbury - HRH's Private Movie Pastiche	by Robert Wehner	page 10

CULTURE + LITERATURE

Knitting is for Grandmas?!	by Juliane Tenner	page 13
Tips for a Visit to a Modern Art Gallery	by Susann Richter	page 15
Fascination Fantasy Movies	by Franziska Kroh	page 16
A Musical Fairy Tale	by Michal Juran	page 21
Expansion	by Götz Plistermann	page 26
Let's Have Some Fun	by Sandra Theelke	page 28

LIFE + STUDIES

What's the Use of Latin?	by Jenny Hellmich	page 31
The Agony of Choice	by Nadine Horschig	page 32
The Best Job Ever	by Christin Lorenz, Sylvia Neldner and Claudia Rochlitzer	page 34
A Race of Their Own	by Tabea Rother	page 36
With Swords and Spells into Reality	by Michal Juran	page 38
Easy Recipes for Take-Away for University	by Nancy Hälsig	page 43

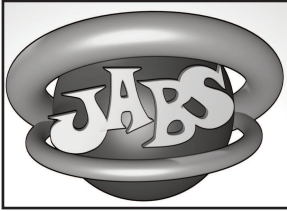
POLITICS

Obama and the Conservatives - an Antagonism	by Johanna Bause and Claudia Heilmann	page 45
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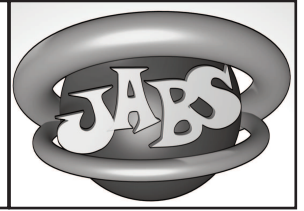
EDITORIAL

JABS course, summer term 2009, TU Dresden, Germany
Layout: Götz Plistermann (web version), Leonie Schreiner (print version)
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Note: Not the editorial board, but all authors are held responsible for the content of their articles.



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



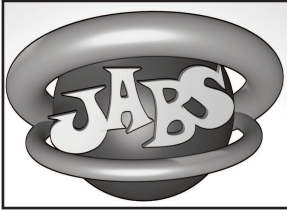
"We Rule This Town..." Romanies in Prague

As a student of Cultural Studies I would consider it rather politically incorrect to use the term "gipsy" when referring to the ethnic group of Sinti and Romanies. To Radoslav Banga however, political correctness is not of such great importance. He calls himself "Gipsy", he is a rapper, he is Czech, he lives in Prague...and he is a Romanian.

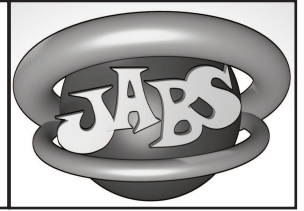
"Romano Hip Hop" was the smash hit in 2006 that made him and his band Gipsy.cz famous throughout the whole republic, and beyond: They played at Glastonbury Festival, toured around South Korea, and in 2009 they represented the Czech Republic at the Eurovision song contest in Moscow, performing their song "Aven Romale". The song title already hints to what is so fascinating and special about the music of Gipsy.cz. Combining saucy raps in Czech, English and Romani language with traditional Romany elements, played on the accordion and the violin, the band created their very own style which attracts both the hip hop scene and the mainstream radio stations.

Radoslav has made it. He is successful in his job and respected by the public. That is however not the case for all Romanies living in Prague. Many of them consider themselves to be Czech - a 2001 survey of the Czech statistical bureau mentions a number of only 650 persons belonging to the Romany minority, but in fact, the number of Romani speakers is three times as high - nevertheless, they are still a target for racism. They have established their own community in Prague, and some are probably not even interested in mingling with the original Czech population. The district of Žižkov, close to the Old Town of Prague, is one of the places where you can meet them. „Horem Pádem“, a Czech movie from 2004 (dir. Jan Hřebejk), spells out the problem squarely: Věra, one of the protagonists in the film, lives in Žižkov. When meeting Hana, a lady who works for an organisation taking care of refugees, she asks her ironically if she could get a little contribution as well. The gypsies ostensibly made it impossible for her to sleep at night.

Prejudices against Romanies are widespread among Czechs of all ages. Martin, 28, is Czech, lives in Prague and is the chairperson of YFU, an organization for international youth exchange. He is confronted with prejudices against gypsies in his hometown on an almost daily basis. "People usually associate negative things with the Romanies: a dirty surrounding, being loud and aggressive, stealing." Cikání, that is gypsies, are dirty, lazy and parasites to the state. Does that sound in any way familiar to us? Right! They are precisely the same prejudices that were used to di-



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



stinguish Sinti and Romanies as a race in the third Reich, and so to justify their genocide. This comparison might seem a little extreme to the reader, but the numbers speak for themselves: according to a survey that has been published in the *Sächsische Zeitung* a few years ago, Romanies are the least popular group of people in the Czech Republic. Even the Germans rank way higher when it comes to determining the Czech's favourite foreign ethnicity. Martin does not want to join the chorus of generalisation. "I appreciate the Romanies' music, their friendliness and their zest for life."

Radoslav Banga has his very own way of dealing with such prejudices. *Gipsy.cz* have often been praised for their coarse humor and the touch of self-irony in their songs. In "Romano Hip Hop" he simply turns the idea of liking and despising around:

"Nám je jedno, jestli si gádža
Však dokonalej vole není nikdo"
We can loosely translate that into:
We don't care, if you're not a Romany,
cause nobody's perfect, dude!

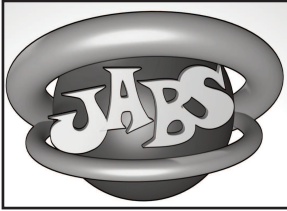
Martin is a huge fan of *Gipsy.cz*. "It is great that somebody spells out the problem in a language that can reach even teenagers." He is convinced that Romanies will find their own values again, values that got lost during the time of communism and are threatened until today by veiled propaganda. "I am a fan of Romanies, because I am a fan of a multicultural society." Let us hope that these words are a premonition for how the relationship of Czechs, Romanies and Czech Romanies might change in the future. If a dialogue between the groups developed, prejudices might be talked about and maybe even erased. Until that happens, you should watch out when entering Prague Žižkov...you may receive a warm welcome from Radoslav or his fellows:

"Welcome to Prague...we rule this town!"

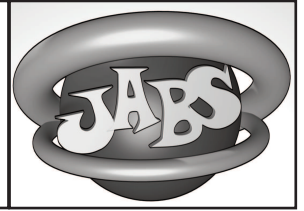
(Check out *Gipsy.cz* on Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/gipsyrepresent>)

Bettina Adler





Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



How to Get in Touch with the Other

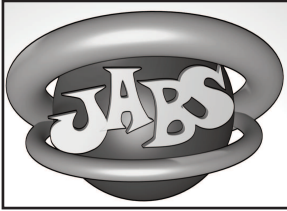
We, as students of a foreign language, are constantly confronted with one or several other cultures. In order to understand the way characters in arts and politics and the way of life of a different culture, one should indeed have a deep insight to this culture. Can we grasp the meaning of "chutnification" in *Midnight's Children* without ever having eaten real Indian chutney? Is there a way to understand the Latino decade in the US if the only connection we have to Latino-American Culture seems to be Jennifer Lopez's imitation of *Flash Dance*? Where do we learn not to expect cigarettes when talking about a pack of wolves? Plus the chance to practice the pronunciation of fundamental vocabulary like "squirrel" is usually not given in classes at university. But who prepares us to report natural incidents in the Canadian wilderness to some Mountie if our tongue is not fit enough to twist around those horrible "rr"s?

Now, it is obvious that flying over to Canada and communicate with natives before we end up in its wilderness is the appropriate solution to this problem. But let's face it: there are two crucial factors missing in that equation for us, poor and busy students: time and money.

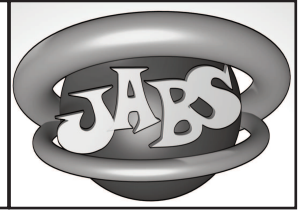
So, no experiencing the "real other" back here in Dresden? Far from it! One doesn't need to go abroad to dip into other cultures (although it has been - I guess for most of us - the best time in our life). Dresden has some intercultural programs to offer for people who are eager to get to know a new culture.

First and foremost there are plenty of occasions where one can meet people from other countries. The Erasmus Initiative, to begin with, offers many ways to meet them - and you can be sure those international students will welcome you. Haven't we all experienced how hard it is to get in touch with "the locals" when we were abroad? Now, take your chance at the Erasmus evenings to make it easier for those who come here! There is the Erasmus *Stammtisch* sometimes refined with presentations or special intercultural shows, on Tuesdays in Club Countdown. More over, the Erasmus Initiative is organising events and field trips you can join. (www.erasmus-dresden.de)

Every Wednesday you can find an intercultural touch at the "International Coffee Hour" in the hall of the student residency above the Gutzkow Club. (<http://www.studentenwerk-dresden.de/internat/international-coffee-hour.html>) The initiative gives you a platform to meet "the other" for a free coffee and a chat. Show those



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



internationals what a real *Kaffeekränzchen* is! Moreover, "International Coffee Hour" organises special events like creating mosaics with an artist from Chile.

If you set your focus on a specific culture, try out one of the many international evenings at one of the many student clubs in Dresden: Almost every Thursday, Gutzkow Club organises a party which is either about Russian, Brazilian, Czech culture etc. (<http://www.gutzkow-club.de/start1.php>) Those parties are usually packed with people from these countries and the clubs try their best to serve authentic food and drinks. You don't have time on Thursday evening? Well, Club New Feeling gives you the chance to experience an international night on Fridays (<http://www.club-new-feeling.de/>) - and don't forget the Erasmus "Stammtisch/Länderabend" at Club Count Down every Tuesday (<http://www.countdown-dresden.de/>).

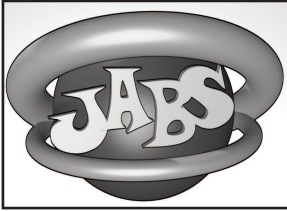
Then, again the Erasmus Initiative invites us to Café Lingua: Meet a group of students on Mondays in front of *Nudelturm* at *Albertplatz* for an evening of English, Portuguese, Japanese conversation - just as you like it! Check out the Café Lingua calendar online, when your choice of language is offered; usually Café Lingua focuses on three different languages which are to be spoken (http://tu-dresden.de/internationales/kultur/cafe_lingua/news/cafe/newsarticle_view).

There is no need for constant international party culture, right... Meet your international buddies individually via Tandem, LinkPartnerProgram or Family and International Friends.

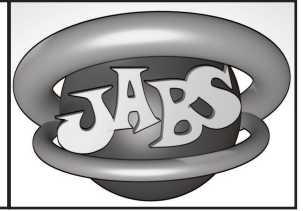
LinkPartnerProgram focuses in particular on the direct exchange of culture. You would sub-scribe to the organisation, naming your hobbies and interests and you will be assigned to an international, who has similar interests. The organisation hopes to match people who find it easy to connect, maybe with the common ground of an interest in movie, cooking or sports. LinkPartnerProgram invites you and your buddy to special events like picnics or sport activities, to give you more opportunities to meet. If you are still not sure whether you want to subscribe right away - at the beginning of the semester there are several parties of the LinkPartnerProgram to get to know the organisation. (www.linkpartnerprogramm.de)

Let's concretise by picking one more of the programs that can and will bring you in contact with people from other cultures: The Family and International Program of the "Studentenwerk" Dresden (FiF)

Every year, hundreds of foreign students come to Dresden and study for one or more semester at one of the faculties of the Technical University. The goal of the FiF Program is to help foreign students get in touch with the people living in this city.



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



In addition to the foreign students, any other foreigners can use this program as a platform that helps them meet other people. The access to the German everyday life and culture can be easily provided to foreigners when they make German friends. The service in return for the Germans is that they can gain a close insight into foreign cultures themselves and, if desired, even improve their foreign language skills. In brief: some can find friends abroad and others can make new interesting friends at home. Having coffee, going hiking, exploring the city, cooking and any other common interests can be shared by the participants. There is no limit to the participants' ideas. Once a month, the FiF-Coffee hour & film takes place in the Max-Kade-Foyer (*Gutzkowstr. 29-33*). Anyone interested is welcome to join. Ms Schieferdecker-Adolph, the person officially assigned to the integration of foreign immigrants in Dresden, also has the patronage over the FiF Program. The program is supported financially by the *Studentenwerk*. Therefore, no fee will be charged from the people who register.

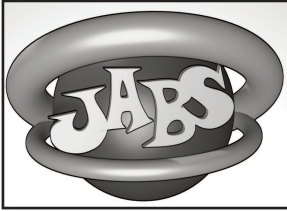
Anyone interested in using this program can register via internet:
<http://fif.studentenwerk-dresden.de/>

Chances of watching a movie not dubbed are very rare in Dresden, but *Kino im Kasten*, located on Campus in the lecture halls of the *August-Bebel-Straße (Hörsaal 3)* often shows movies in the original version (www.kino-im-kasten). Other cinemas for this purpose would be *Kino im Dach* or *Schauburg*. The English "Filmclub" offers English language films to students who want to brush up on their English and enjoy films. Once in a while there are film festivals taking place in Dresden - watch out for posters and announcements.

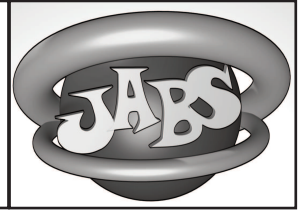
And for rainy days and those of you who are not in the mood to spend time outside: get some peanut butter at any supermarket and real English Tea, famous PG Tip, at the Indian shop on the *Louisenstraße* and make yourself comfortable with some peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fine English tea and a good movie - on DVD, which saves you the trouble with the lack of dubbing.

Angela Benchea and Leonie Schreiner





Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



Lovely Weather, Good Food and a Heaped Tea-spoon Full of Irony

As you have probably guessed, this article will illustrate the real nature of the popular and beloved Great Britain. Indeed, we will take a closer look at culture, and, to be more precise, British Etiquette.

One of the most interesting aspects of studying a foreign language is the fact that this also involves dealing with a different cultural system. Various questions may arise, e.g. "What do you have to be aware of?" or "What is absolutely unacceptable in another country, but indeed acceptable in your own culture?" According to these questions we will try to introduce you to a number of difficulties arising from this issue.

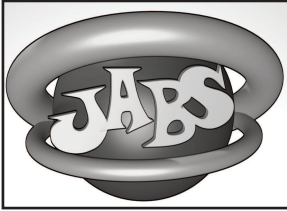
Nowadays, it is scarcely possible to imagine a world without rules. Hence, there are several rules in various cultures, and these rules are called "Etiquette".

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Etiquette is a "system of rules and conventions that regulate social and professional behaviour." Doubtless, they can be tricky even in your home country, not to mention foreign manners you have to think about going abroad.

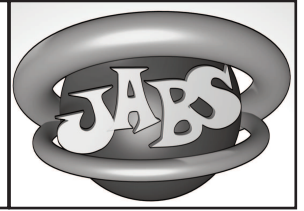
In order to understand the differences, we must point out a number of situations, in which you will find yourself being close to "putting your foot into your mouth". Let us start by thinking of Germany. You will have already noticed that people tend to shake hands whenever they meet. (At work, school, university, on the street and nearly everywhere.) In Great Britain, however, this is not the case because especially England is a non-tactile culture. This means when greeting someone for the first time, a handshake accompanied by "Pleased to meet you" is appropriate, but you should not try to shake hands with every member of staff when you enter the office or staff room of your host company. This would probably cause utter confusion. Moreover, a general group wave is not looked at favourably either.

Being introduced to someone, Britons often exchange the phrase "How do you do?" Note that it is not a question which you have to answer. A similar case is a famous "How are you?" question that does not require a detailed answer. For foreigners, at least for Russians, who are used to giving and receiving a thorough reply, it is quite unusual that the people asking do not really care about you. If you meet someone occasionally, they do not even bother to wait for traditional: "Thanks, I am fine. And you?"

Once you have managed to survive the introductory phase, you will be keen on fin-



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD

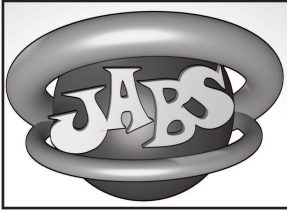


ding a topic to talk about. Take the following tips into consideration when you approach a conversation. As a basic rule you should try to avoid starting a conversation by mentioning that you have had an exhausting night with your partner or that political parties are the reincarnation of all evil and even worse than the church and its members. What can you conclude from this? Yes, try to circumnavigate the topics like politics, sex and religion. This could save you further trouble.

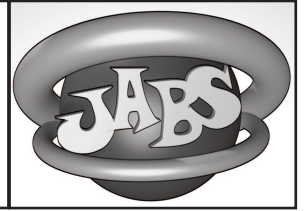
However, a good topic of discussion is talking about your own background or culture because British people are quite curious about it, but do not overdo it - scratch the surface and find out how much interest your counterpart shows. In the unlikely case that no interest is shown, and if all else fails: mention the weather! Most people can spend hours on talking about the weather, which is obviously an important topic in Britain. On any account, if you don't want to make yourself conspicuous as a foreigner, avoid dressing according to the weather. Do not muffle yourself in a warm scarf on a cold rainy November evening: real Britons do not freeze. Thus, do not look stunned at young girls who hurry up to discos or pubs wearing tops, mini skirts with no tights underneath, and flip-flops.

In addition to the field of conversation we might take British food into consideration. Even if you do not consider the "traditional English breakfast" as tasty or delicious, Englishmen are proud of it and describe it as being "the best breakfast in the world" since, concerning food, there is little else in favour of British food apart from the famous potatoes and exquisite fish. But where else can you get a large hearty meal consisting of bacon, sausages, toast, croissants, muffins, scones, fried potatoes, baked beans, eggs, cereals and tea or coffee in the world? At least, not in Germany I suppose. This leads us to the next aspect that tea and the related tea-time is celebrated in an inconceivable dimension. (One should note here that the Germans have a thing for coffee to a certain degree...) In Britain, tea is not just a drink; it is an important ceremony of British national life. A cup of steaming tea is called a "cuppa" and the phrase "tea time" refers to a social gathering. Great Britain has long tea time traditions; however, nobody drinks tea from the saucer anymore. Thus, you have to mind your manners when being invited to tea time. Standard "Tea" is taken between 4 and 5 PM and consists of cakes, sweets, sandwiches, and, of course, tea. The traditional "High Tea" is taken around 5 PM and is often a substitute for Dinner. "High Tea" contains all the elements of a Standard "Tea" but includes a hot dish as well. However, it is always time for a good cup of healthy tea as a sign of friendship or to cheer oneself up.

You may not know all the nuances of British Etiquette but keep in mind that the



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



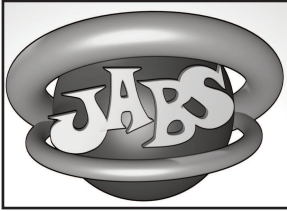
best way out of an embarrassing situation is politeness. To make a good impression on your hosts, learn how to apologise as it excuses mistakes foreigners make being abroad. Most Britons seem to be very tolerant and don't make a fuss when being dissatisfied or angry about poor service, bad food, or untidy hotel rooms conforming, obviously, to the mottoes "Never mind" and "Take it easy." Most of them are real philanthropists. In which country in the world can you hear so many terms of endearment from people you don't know? Dear, love, darling, honey, bunny, sweetheart, angel (the list is rather endless) are familiar forms of address even with strangers. Or how would you like the name "duck" which they use in the West Midlands irrespective of the sex instead of the word "mate"? Another part of British social etiquette which you should not take literally are phrases like "drop in any time" or "come and see me soon." Such phrases just belong to the British understanding of politeness. Not to be compared with casual invitations is their acceptance: do not say that you are going to come if you are not. After the visit it is polite to send a thank-note card or at least call your hosts to express your appreciation of the invitation. The choice of words like "quite", "rather", "indeed," i.e. the understatement of sayings in order not to offend the counterpart, contrasts with a rather great number of swear words. At any rate, it is quite impossible to mention all the dumb (used here instead of another word for the reason of censorship) social rules you have to think about going to Great Britain. You'd better find them out by being there. Just accept that some things are done differently and enjoy yourself in this wonderful country of rainy weather, "Fish and Chips," and lovely people.

Andreas Lichterfeld and Anastasia Roshchina

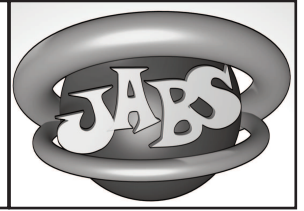


Poundbury - HRH's Private Movie Pastiche

The British Monarchy is not commonly associated with processes of modernisation. Especially Prince Charles' 'original' views on contemporary architecture are, at least in England, widely known. Was not it he who, in an infamous speech, accused the mid 80s expansion of the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square of being a "monstrous carbuncle in the face of a much loved and elegant friend"? But the Prince does not



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD



content himself with only commenting on architecture, as he also did in his book *A vision of Britain*. He is highly motivated to tackle the task by himself. His most ambitious project to date - the development of a completely new village - seems to be the essence of royal conservatism brought to life in stone.

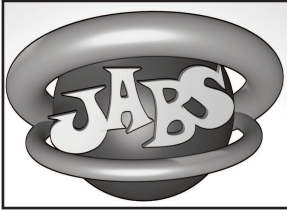
At first glance Poundbury seems to be a traditional Georgian village on the outskirts of Dorchester, the county town of Dorset. Only by having a closer look do some minor details reveal the village's pretended historicity - it was only built from the mid 90s onwards. In short - Poundbury pretends to be old, but is completely new.

The whole process of planning started in the late 1980ies and was supervised, together with Charles, by the infamous anti-modernist Luxembourgian town planner and architect Leon Krier. Krier is one of the forefront exponents of the so-called "New Urbanism" - a so to speak - movement in architecture that originated in mid 80s America. Its devotees questioned the negative aspects of the "suburban sprawl", meaning the ever-ongoing growing suburban settlement on the edge of the cities. Focusing on the sprawl's accompanying problems such as high energy consumption, individual traffic and anonymity, the New Urbanists tried to recreate a working model of the 'traditional' small town for contemporary town planning. Newly built neighbourhoods that are designed according to the principles of New Urbanism should contain a diverse range of housing and jobs, and should be - a major concern - walkable. Poundbury is certainly one of the best known European examples that derives from this broader context.

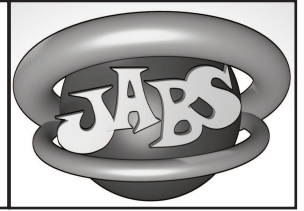
A walk through Poundbury.

Entering Poundbury you immediately notice its cleanliness. A town where neither your house is allowed a satellite dish, nor your car to be parked on the side of the street surely looks tidy. Every little aspect of town planning is fastidiously regulated in the "Poundbury Design Guidance". Bricks, for example, are not allowed to be more than 3 inches high and more than 8,5 inches long. The angle of a roof has to be either 30 or 60 degrees. All buildings are supposed to be designed in a 'traditional' Gregorian Dorset style.

Continuing your walk through the narrow, windy streets, designed to be "deliberately inconvenient", you will not be able to find any rubbish lying on the streets, not even leaves. The village that has the ambition to be designed to a human scale seems to lack something fundamental - humanity. Somehow it seems all these regulations that try to assure that Poundbury remains intact particularly ensure its lack of cha-



Summer Term 2009 ABROAD

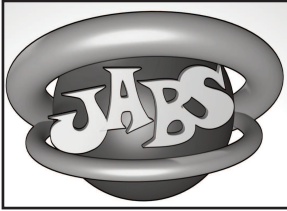


racter. Have you ever walked across the Dresdner Neumarkt wondering whether the lack of patina is the only thing that makes you feel as if you were wandering through a movie set? Well, that's exactly the same thing with HRH's retort village in Dorchester.

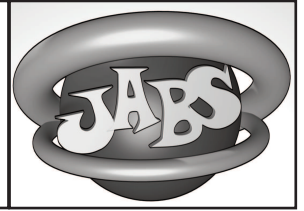
Despite constantly flirting with history, a core convention of Poundbury is sustainable development. In some aspects the village succeeded in meeting its high ambitions. As a basic principle, all the buildings are built only with local materials. And, while sticking to the same architectural style, there is an overall variety throughout the village. However, other points included in Charles' founding principles are still waiting for their fulfilment. Public transport that would reduce the berated individual transport is notable by its absence, the same with local jobs and shops. Beyond all the criticism, however, the most important thing remains - that it's a good place to live. Whether it works out and Poundbury becomes more than just "God's waiting room", a nickname that teases the high percentage of pensioners - only time will tell.

Robert Wehner





Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



Knitting is for Grandmas?!

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word “knitting”? A white-haired granny sitting in her rocking chair by the fire, producing huge amounts of socks?

Sorry if I disappoint you: I don't have any grandchildren - not even children. I am a rather “normal” student, if that exists, and I knit. Compared to the usual cliché, I am certainly not the exact prototype of a knitter. Yet I am not the only knitter without offspring.

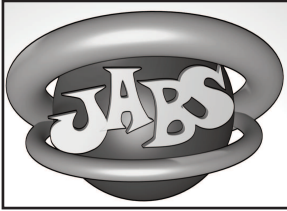
Historically, knitting was not always considered an old woman's occupation. Its actual origins remain obscure, but it is said to have been developed in the Middle East and brought to Europe by Mediterranean trade routes or by the Arabs occupying Spain. We know by the existence of guilds that in the late Middle Ages, the craft as a profession was reserved to men, while it slowly became a domestic occupation for women.

Believe it or not: knitting was once even a highly political activity. During the French Revolution, women who fiercely supported Robespierre knitted in public while watching the National Convention or executions with the guillotine, chatting and giving harsh commentaries. The term “les tricoteuses” (the knitters) became a synonym for political radicalism.

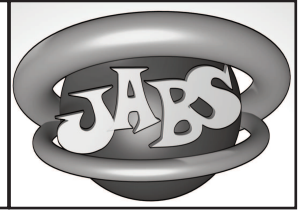
The centuries passed and knitting became more and more associated with women. It was politicised again in World Wars I and II when women at the “home front” were invited to knit for the troops. After the war years, people longed for colours and fashionable items and knitting, as a relatively cheap way of getting them, was very popular.

It only became outdated in the 1980s. Thanks to industrial clothes-making, machine-knitted items were widely available and affordable, and knitting was no longer a necessity. Maybe the huge, bag-like sweaters in fashion at that time were also a reason to give up the craft: they were just too huge to work on. The “modern cliché” of knitting as a grandmother's occupation certainly originates from that decade.

At the beginning of the 21st century, knitting grew popular again. A greater diversity of natural fibres such as different kinds of wool, cotton or even hemp and bamboo were affordable and so-called Novelty yarns helped novice knitters to produce impressive effects with only basic skills. Several celebrities promoted the craft by



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



calling themselves knitters. And last but not least, Internet knitting magazines, blogs and podcasts offered and still do offer new opportunities for knitters to share their love for handmade garments, learn new techniques and fight against their stigma of being "old-fashioned". With the internet, an ancient craft has gathered a modern community.

Still, one question remains: why do they all knit?

The above-mentioned aspects show that knitting in general has become more attractive as a phenomenon, but they do not explain why a person chooses to struggle with two pointed needles and a ball of yarn on a regular basis. Let's recall: knitting is not a necessity anymore. Yarns have become more reasonably priced, but industrially made clothes are so cheap nowadays that the price of the wool needed for a project and the knitting needles might still be higher than a sweater from the rack at H&M - especially if you count the time a knitter puts into a project.

Then what is it that makes people knit?

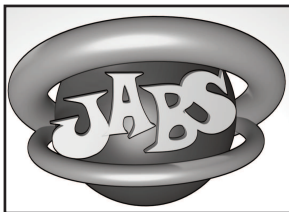
First of all, a hand-knit garment breathes individuality. Sure, there are patterns one can follow describing the steps that lead from a thread of yarn to a finished object such as a pullover. Several persons might choose to work the exact same pattern, but no two finished hats or scarves will look alike. Very often, a knitter substitutes the yarn specified in a pattern and chooses a different colour. The combination of a pattern, the texture and the colour of the fibre used and adaptations to the pattern during the knitting process makes the finished product unique.

Now you might ask: are knitters just fashion victims on a higher level?

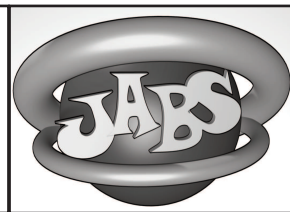
No, they are not - well, some of them may be... But there is certainly more to knitting than just the joy about owning a special piece of cloth. There is, not surprisingly, the satisfaction of having made the thing with your own hands. And finally, the process of "making it with your own hands" is a pleasure, as well.

Knitting is based on very simple, easy-to-learn foundations - knit and purl. They can be combined in many different ways, to form very easy to brain-twisting complicated patterns, yet the basics will still remain the knit and purl stitches. The repetitive movements of your hands producing these stitches can help you to relax or meditate, to the point that knitting has been compared to yoga. And although I haven't achieved that trance-like state yet, I can confirm its stress-reducing qualities that make knitting interesting for students, too:

Students are trained to be overly analytic and often lack opportunities for being



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



creative. Doing crafts like knitting gives you this opportunity without neglecting your brain. And you can admire the beautiful "by-product" for a lot longer than it takes to create it.

So if you are under stress from twisting your brain at university, but don't feel like twisting your extremities for relaxation - twist your yarn!

Juliane Tenner



Tips for a Visit to a Modern Art Gallery

As a student of art one of my favourite activities is going to art exhibitions. As it happens, I am not the only one who thinks like this though I sometimes get the feeling that some people do not appreciate modern art as I do.

The question that is inevitably raised is how to bring contemporary art home to people who refuse to accept, for example, a dead shark put into a box of formaldehyde as a piece of art (by the way, this piece of art was made by the 'Young British Artist' Damien Hirst).

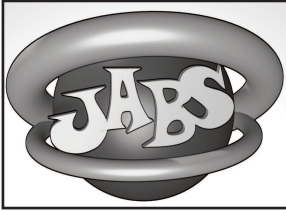
It would, of course, be taking things too far if I began to describe how contemporary art is appreciated

correctly. But for those, who have accidentally, involuntarily or unconsciously been abducted to a modern art exhibition, I advise them just fol-

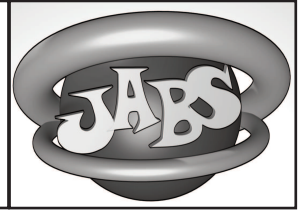
<u>Young British Artists</u>
_ British art movement beginning in 1988
_ mainly students graduating from Goldsmith College London
_ famous Freeze exhibition
_ sponsored and supported by art collector Charles Saatchi
_ artists: Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, Chris Ofili, Jenny Saville, Damien Hirst, Gary Hume,...

low these rules so as to not make themselves look like hopeless fools:

- Avoid direct confrontation with people standing in front of the most weird-looking picture. They might want to know your opinion on the picture's extraordinary composition and its effects on your psyche.
- Don't ask what nursery school in your town made these nice pictures.



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



- Don't ask why the cleaner has forgotten to take the rubbish with her last night. This rubbish could be worth a million euros.
- Don't be afraid that people have escaped from a psychiatric hospital. Performance art is what it is called in the art world. Try to stay calm!
- To avoid embarrassing conversations, try to talk to the gallery attendants. They mostly have the same appreciation of modern art as you do.
- If you nevertheless want to make the impression of being an art expert, exercise your patience and remain in front of one picture for a minimum of 15 minutes. But be warned, there's the danger of conversation with other 'art experts'.

► for 'art experts' in Dresden:

exhibition of art students from the TUD (including myself)

- Vernissage: 26.06.09 19:00 p.m. location: Bienertmühle (Hp.Plauen) (note from the editor: due to the usual delays of the production of a magazine, this announcement comes to late. Sorry!)

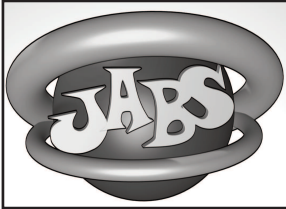
- Ostrale 09: 14.08.09-06.09.09 location: Ostragehege (Messering)
www.ostrale-zentrum.de

Susann Richter

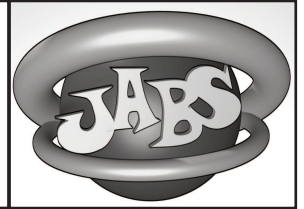


Fascination Fantasy Movies

A US pastor, self-acclaimed former Satanist and wizard, whose name must not be named here, knows the undeniable truth behind the worldwide Harry Potter hype: the seven books and eight movies are not meant for entertainment only - no - they are for training and learning purposes. This is because people all over the world shall be prepared for the day, when J.K.Rowling, being in fact the hidden head and legitimate heir of a huge occultist movement, whose name shall not be named here likewise, takes over the world leadership. She only claimed to be the penniless mo-



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



ther of three hungry children, who therefore started to write the Harry Potter story as a children's good- night-adventure - story, but in truth she wanted to brain-wash her own offspring and heir and with them the generations to come. The inauguration of the Occult is set on the first of January 3000 and Rowling, to many unknown as actually being of elvish descent and therefore immortal for the length of eternity and three days, will be Queen of the World - and if lucky of our solar system, too. But until this very day each and everyone on this planet will be forced to be fascinated to read the Harry Potter - "Bible" and watch the training units on DVD or alternatively on Blue Ray Disk. A first hint that this theory can't just be made up that is shown by the fact that in 2003 the word muggle entered the Oxford English Dictionary with the definition that is to be found in the Harry Potter books (<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA294413.html>).

But there's a last ray of hope: the pope! He, as well as his fellowship, have already begun to destroy single copies of the book series in public, condemn it in articles, seminars and books as what it is - the trivialisation of occultism and a vehicle to gain world power - and are, thank god, working successfully in banning Harry Potter books and the like from several libraries. A letter to one of his dear co- operators named Kuby says the following:

".... It's good that you throw light on the Harry Potter affair, because this is a hidden persuasion, that affects not only the minds imperceptibly and therefore profoundly but corrodes Christendom in its soul before it even gets the chance to grow." (For the whole letter please see: <http://www.gabriele-kuby.de/buecher/harry-potter/>)

Harry Potter is not the only one who is part of a trend that could be seen so obviously in the recent ten years: starting out with the first movie of the trilogy in 1999, "The Lord of the Rings" became one of the three most successful and highly honoured movies in film history (eleven Academy Awards for "The Return of the King"). An equally famous series by its number of visitors, however, not by its awards was "The Pirates of the Caribbean" followed by "The Chronicles of Narnia", "The Golden Compass", "Stardust", "Inkheart" and many more. More than 50% of

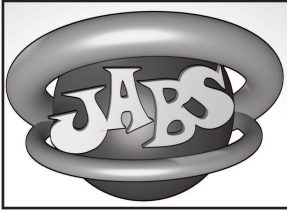
Sehr geehrte, liebe Frau Kuby!

Vielen Dank für Ihren freundlichen Brief vom 20. Februar und für das lehrreiche Buch, das Sie beigelegt haben. Es ist gut, dass Sie in Sachen Harry Potter aufklären, denn dies sind subtile Verführungen, die unmerklich und gerade dadurch tief wirken und das Christentum in der Seele zersetzen, ehe es überhaupt recht wachsen konnte.

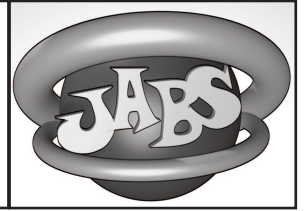
Herzliche Grüße und Segenswünsche
Ihr

- Joseph Kardinal Ratzinger

the movies on the Top Ten List from 1998 to 2008 that scored highly in terms of visitor numbers (before inflation) can be counted among the genre of fantasy mo-



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE

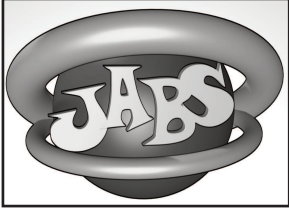


vies, while the movies "The Dark Knight", "Star Wars" and "Jurassic Park" account to the science fiction genre (For further information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_highest-grossing_films. for a more detailed list of how many tickets have been sold per movie please look for further information to: http://www.boxofficemojo.com/alltime/adjusted.htm?adjust_yr=1&p=.htm) - a modern subcategory of the fantastic. From the year 2001 to the year 2007, and with an exception of the year 2004, it turned out that fantasy movies were a reliable box office hit. One could argue that numbers would not tell anything since the very old rule, the market serves what is requested, can be made responsible to the frequent showing of fantasy movies. But culture analysts, psychoanalysts and film as well as literature theorists see something very interesting in this trend...

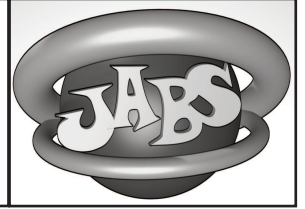
"Today's people fear (death, accidents, ruin, wars, the self-created world they live in) and that's why they love heroes in the area of fiction who share their feelings - although they are caused by different reasons," (Hoffmann-Wahlbeck, Katrin (1984): Alexander M.Frey. (Allegorische) Phantastik und Grotteske als Mittel zur Zeitkritik. Petre Lang, Frankfurt, 27.) says the contemporary French essayist and romancier Georges Jacquemin. Although this quote refers to literature - and fantasy novels in particular - it can easily be transferred to the metier of movies.

Already in the 80ies both fantasy movies and science fiction movies were the dominating movie genre measured by the number of cinema goers. Critics, however saw a decline in the taste of the people. The content of the movies is very simple and easy to follow, no hidden truths, no critique, and no real "food for thought" could be found in them. However, "few things reveal so sharply as science fiction the wishes, hopes, fears, inner stresses and tensions of an era, or define its limitations with such exactness," said the editor of the science fiction magazine *Galaxy Science Fiction*, H.L. Gold, once. If we now turn a blind eye to the ongoing discussion of genre limitations and see science fiction as a part of the fantasy/fantastic genre we take what was said as a next stepping stone to reveal the fascination of these kind of stories.

With a quick look at the decade more than 20 years ago, it becomes clear what this statement can tell us. The 80ies were a decade of constant and enormous changes. In America "Reagonomics" created not only the fear in many people of ending up in total poverty, but gave them a feeling of just existing rather than living. At the same time but on the other side of the world Gorbatschow reformed the former UdSSR and in doing so started to let down the "Iron Curtain". This took away from people the certainty of knowing of and distinguishing between "good" and "evil", bet-



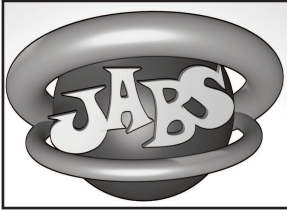
Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



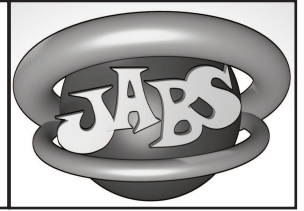
ween "wrong" and "right", "friend" and "enemy". But this not being perplexing and disorientating enough, the EU started to become a new economic power that from then on stood opposed to the US. This, of course created a new imbalance to the former economic global balance. And last but not least - the sudden outbreak of an atomic war, that would leave no winners this time, was constantly hanging gloomily over the whole decade.

Every decade and every century has its very own problems that have to be dealt with, but we may see that we today do have to deal with similar problems, as there were in the 80ies: terrorism, environmental pollution and its effects on the natural global balance, a global economic crises, social and cultural disorientation and a general pessimism for the future. But millennia are in general supposed to be turbulent times of crisis. This is because the transgression into a new age always makes people fear an uncontrollable change of values, which would bring within new concepts of the order of old dichotomies (Good vs Evil). To sum it up so far, for some literature analysts as well as for psychoanalysts the consumption of fantasy - irrespective of literature or moving pictures - is an expression of ontological uncertainty.

"Who am I? And if yes, how many?" would be an ironically and exaggerated question of ontology today. The key term in psychology, however would be: the unconscious. For Mr. Freud the unconscious is the hidden, inaccessible, unknown and impenetrable area in us, that is nurtured by desires, wishes, aspirations that could not be acted out. What we are not allowed to do, feel or talk about goes directly into the subconscious. For a long time it is hidden and concealed, but over the years in which we of grow up and old it strives to break free over and over again.. This is the basic model that psychologists or psychoanalysts have of our "soul". Obviously, the model is far more complex, but for now, we will concentrate on the relevant facts only. Fantasy, as something that lives in us from very early childhood, and that is inextricably linked with desire, which according to Lacan is located in the imaginary - or the unconscious. Thus, fantasy is the concrete and conscious articulation of desire through images, symbols and stories. Fantasy movies are, so we can say, the mis-en-scene of desire of whole generations. Their wishes and aspirations and even more the lack of their fulfilment are acted out on cinema and TV screens. But in the moving images that are produced by the film industry, metonymically known as Hollywood or dream factory the audience can act only through the actors, thus do not take part in the stories physically, but psychologically and emotionally only. However, people can re-act to what they have seen. One way to show a reaction is to con-



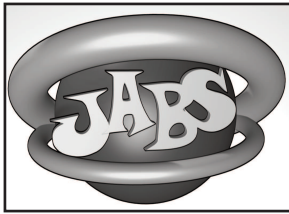
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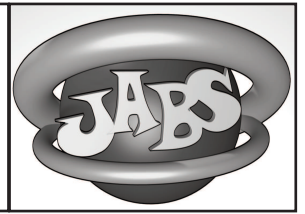
sume more and more fantasy or science fiction stories. Therefore the high number of visitors clearly can be a sign (forming a trend in the end) which indicates people's wants. That unending request could then also explain the desire for decompensation of inner, not acted out tensions, as Freud and Lacan had it. If this trend can be observed worldwide, and if this exaggerates itself to the forming of international fan clubs, fan communities and internet platforms, we can conclude that a certain social concern can be seen. However, this audience-story-relation is not exactly new. Already 300 years before Christ, Aristotle stated in his "Poetics" that plays have the power to show the inner discords of a society and its people; the people, however, can feel these inner discords in their society through the immanent catharsis that is to be found in every play and story. Thus a mutual understanding between the inner structures and powers of society can be better comprehended and in the end communicated. This simple but not exactly world new conclusion can be put in an even greater connection that Lacan formulated already in his "Mirror Stage Theory": people recognize themselves in the adventurous journeys of the portrayed heroes and understand, even share their fears. The fact that the settings are totally different from their familiar world makes it easier for us to decode hidden symbols and actions.

To summarize it all, we have to bear in mind that post 9/11 the world basically lives - or is made to live - in great fear. The incapable insidious fear that terrorism (or the media) spreads every day, allows a comparison to the apprehensively terror caused by Sauron in "The Lord of the Rings", the Nothing in "The Neverending Story" or rather Lord Voldemort in "Harry Potter". This gloomy feeling is basically untouchable, however constantly present. Fantasy stories, seen in this aspect, are a "relaxing" maybe even very comfortable way to share our anxieties with the world that we are living in. The effect of it is probably nothing else but a softening of these inner tensions that we were talking about before. Watching fantasy movies - and this is a very interesting point of view - is also comparable to a being (a) God. Well, we might have no powers and no right to have our say, but we can see and - what the pope is rightfully afraid of - learn from a very far distance. We have the possibility to be the great observer who knows it all and sees it all and therefore is wiser than those marionettes there on screen.

With the metaphors and symbols striking out in the stories we are probably given a vehicle to better comprehend our own situations, ourselves, our world. Through this catharsis, that is - I repeat - to be found in every story and movie, people are able to draw new connections. In using worldwide known symbols (as can be seen in the



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



picture above) a intercultural and global understanding and side-taking can even be the solution that we are striving for. Concluding, the "affair with Harry Potter" thus is not so much one of occult persuasion, but of revelation and comprehension. If that is in fact what frightens our Benedict, then we better keep our eyes on him ...

Franziska Kroh



A Musical Fairy Tale



nce upon a time, a beautiful princess was captured and locked up in a castle guarded by a fearsome dragon. Here are various endings of the tale depending on the musical preferences of the rescuing knight:

POWER METAL

The hero arrives on a white unicorn, evades the dragon, saves the princess and then makes love to her in a magical fairy forest.

HEAVY METAL

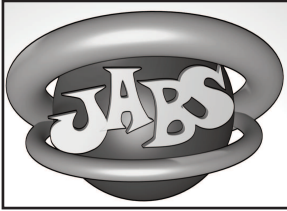
The hero arrives with buddies driving Harley Davidson choppers and wearing studded leather jackets. He kills the dragon while belching and farting while he's at it. He then drinks up a couple of beers and has some fun with the princess.

PUNK

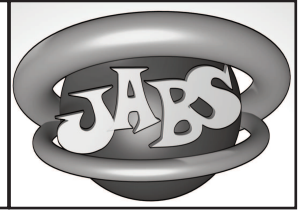
The hero arrives without any helmet, because his hairdo makes it impossible to put one on. He looks disgusted at the castle mumbling something about class injustice, ignores the princess, states that fairy tales have no future, then he walks away towards the sunset and abuses the first frog he meets.

VIKING METAL

The hero arrives on a swift drakkar with a team of bearded Scandinavians, kills the dragon with his mighty axe, skins it and eats it raw. After that he rapes the



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



princess to death, steals all her belongings, plunders the castle and burns it to the ground.

AMBIENT

The hero arrives, dismounts his horse and stands still gazing at the dragon. The intrigued dragon stands still and gazes at the knight as well. The princess, pissed off with lack of the plot development, pummels both with a rolling pin and then sets off in search of a knight that likes Punk.

DEATH METAL

The hero emerges from the woods covered with brushwood and conifer needles. The dragon wants to scare him off so it starts to roar and breathe flames. In response, the hero growls back at the dragon which results in the giant reptile getting a seizure from laughing too hard and it dies in horrible pain. The hero rapes the princess and when he's done he skins her with a vegetable grater.

REGGAE

The hero is so high on pot that he fails to find the right way to the castle and ends up in a brewery, where he battles beer kegs taking them for dragons. After a while DEA arrives and busts his ass in for possession of illegal mind-altering substances.

BLACK METAL

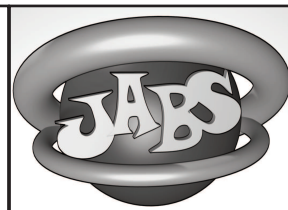
The hero arrives at midnight, and because he has just emerged from a crypt he stinks like hell. He kills the dragon, impales its carcass in front of the castle, debases the princess, straps her to a pagan altar and kills her in a blood ritual. Having gathered dragon bones and virgin blood he is now able to celebrate a Black Mass in honour of Svarozyc and Dadzbog. Dadzbog heeds the call, enters our plane of existence and kills the hero.

GORE METAL

The hero arrives, kills the dragon and scatters its limbs and guts all over the castle yard. He then rapes and kills the princess. Next, he rapes her dead body, cuts her open and eats out her entrails. He then rapes the body yet again, sets it on fire and engages in a sexual intercourse with it for the last time.



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



DOOM METAL

The hero arrives, beholds the dragon's awesome might and comes to the conclusion that he can never win against such powerful creature. He becomes depressed and commits suicide as a result. The dragon devours the princess for dessert, thus bringing this sad story to its end.

PROGRESSIVE ROCK

The hero arrives with a guitar and performs a 26-minute solo which results in the dragon killing itself out of dreadful boredom. The knight reaches the princess' bedroom, plays a yet another solo using all the sound passages and techniques that he had mastered during his years at the academy. The princess flees in panic, hoping to find a knight that likes Heavy Metal.

GLAM ROCK

The hero arrives, the dragon almost dies of laughter at the very sight of him and lets him enter the castle. The knight steals all of the princess' cosmetics and paints the castle plastic-pink on his way out.

ALTERNATIVE

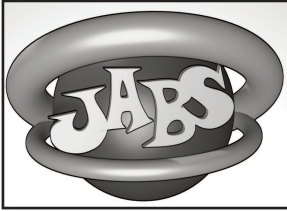
The hero arrives riding a squirrel, dismounts, begins to jump on his left foot while mumbling nonsense and twirling an egg strapped to an orange stick above his head at the same time. The mainstream dragon vomits plastic on him. The hero retaliates and kills the dragon by serving it a recording of a working driller played backwards on a quadraphonic recorder. The princess would like to kiss her savior as thanks but feels repulsed due to him having four pairs of eyes, antlers and green skin color.

NU METAL

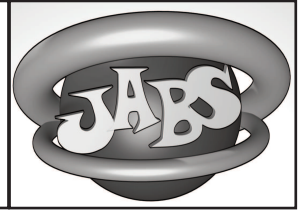
The hero arrives driving a battered Honda Civic, duels the dragon but fails and gets immolated, because the low-crotch of his pants has caught fire after being exposed to the dragon's breath.

INDUSTRIAL

The hero arrives wearing a shiny metallic coat and performs obscene gestures in front of the dragon. This results in the knight being escorted out of the fairy-tale land by a pair of bouncers.



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



GRIND METAL

The hero arrives at the gates, screams out something utterly incomprehensible for about 90 seconds and leaves.

HIP-HOP

The hero arrives driving the most pimped up ride in da hood and floods the dragon with a torrent of verbal abuse and spray paint. The dragon, stupefied with the knights unvarying an monotonous beat, turns into a toaster. The knight then abuses the princess and includes her into his personal ho' harem.

SPEED METAL

The hero rushes into the castle at the speed of light, saves the princess, rapes her in approx. three seconds and then rushes out.

IN ABSENTIA PORCUPINE TREE

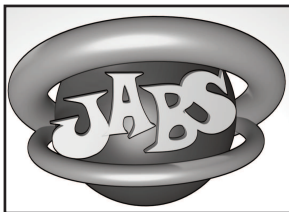
The hero kills the dragon and liberates the princess. However, it turns out that he's an impotent, the princess is a man, and the dragon was just an innocent passer-by on his way to buy beer.

PSYCHODELIC ROCK

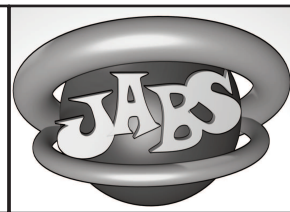
The hero arrives wearing a colorful suit of armor, having a wreath of flowers instead of a helmet on his head and a water bong instead of a sword. He's anything but in the mood to fight the dragon so they both take acid and end up staring motionless at the landscape, while the princess is dancing naked on the meadow.

POP ROCK

The hero is small and skinny and rides on a donkey. His armor is home-made from various scraps of metal and junk so it's in a poor condition and shows signs of rust here and there. The knight pulls out his badly self-forged two-handed sword, but drops it to the ground. He then tries to lift it up with all of his strength two or three times but fails miserably at each attempt. He finally gives up on his weapon, runs to the dragon and kicks it in the ankle. The dragon gives him a pitiful glare in response and bites his leg off. The knight does not give up, though, and jumping on his remaining leg he pounds on the giant reptile's scales with his bare fists. The dragon then bites off the knight's second leg and both arms. The hero bleeds massively on the dragon while trying to at least bite its toe. The princess grows disgu-



Summer Term 2009 CULTURE + LITERATURE



sted with the whole situation so the reptile takes her away and they both live happily ever after.

EMO ROCK

The hero arrives wearing black armor and riding a white horse, and looks pitifully at the dragon with one sad eye (only one because the other is completely covered with his black-dyed fringe). The dragon feels disgust at the mere thought of touching the hero so it leaves. The hero then falls to his knees and starts to whine. Being asked by the princess what's wrong, he replies that she wouldn't understand anyway.

FOLK

The hero arrives driving an old Chevy and organizes at the gates a demo against holding the princess captive, which, of course, brings no effect whatsoever. The knight then engages in a dramatic monologue regarding the amorality of the act of the princess' enslavement, and after a short while he leaves filled with satisfaction from his inner victory.

TECHNO

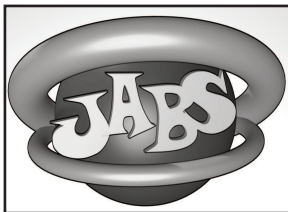
The knight arrives in a space ship and kills the dragon with a joystick. Sadly, he turns out to be a robot so the princess goes out to search for a fan of anything else.

ELECTRONIC MUSIC

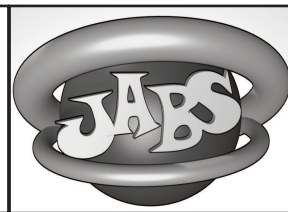
The hero arrives in an exact copy of the "Enterprise" and making a lot of buzzing noises he kills the dragon with a flashy beam of laser. He then flies off with the princess towards the blue sky but is also being tormented by thoughts whether the act of killing the dragon did affect the ecological balance or not.

JAZZ

The hero wearing a black suit, black hat and white shoes arrives in a black limo and kills the dragon with a burst from his Tommy Gun. He then uses an acetylene burner to open the dragon's safe, steals all the money and jewels, buys the princess a white fur coat and takes her out to the most elegant nightclub in the whole of Chicago.



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ORIENTAL MUSIC

The knight assumes the lotos flower position and meditates until he's illuminated, learning that dragons do not really exist. He then engages in tantric sex with the princess.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Serious knight pulls out his serious sword with all seriousness and seriously kills the dragon. Feeling an obvious superiority to the fans of other musical genres, the hero marries the princess to the possibly least known composition of a least known composer.

GRUNGE

The knight wearing a checkered flannel shirt injects the dragon with a lethal dose of heroine and then he slowly plunges with the princess into narcotic addiction.

ROCK-AND-ROLL

The knight, his hair done in the "duck's butt" fashion, runs the dragon over in his pink Cadillac and then he takes the princess out to a drive-thru bar for hot dogs and coke.

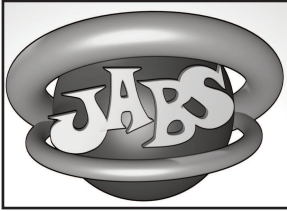
(Based upon: http://www.smog.pl/txt_gfx_audio/1494/rycerz_i_ksiezniczka/)

Michal Juran

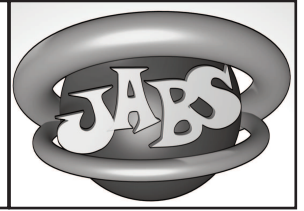


Expansion?

Everything was as it should be, but yet, something was different and this was not just a short tickling sensation like the ones he had experienced several times before. It felt somehow as if the state of his emotions had changed permanently. Not that he ever would have been able to get a hold of the thought or even verbalize it. The only sound that left his mouth was a questioning "Bleep?" The answer followed immediately as all the others squeezed a reassuring "Bleep!" through their lips. This felt good. It took some of the fear away and made him feel secure. But there was



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still...

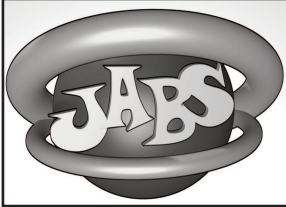
The sun had dawned just a couple of minutes ago and with that, the surrounding sounds had changed dramatically. A hooting of unknown origin, completely different from the screeches during the dark time, filled the air with its vibrations. He could not think of any time when this had been different, as with all the other things around him. Parallel to the rising of the sun rose the temperature, as it always did, and all of them started to huddle in the small water puddle to prevent dehydration. Sooner or later, at least once during the day, it would rain and fill the water depot up again. He could not remember a time when there was not enough water for all of them, even as their living place became cramped more and more with the new generation emerging from below the water surface. But the idea of space becoming less was just vague; the realization of touching limbs, pushing bodies and the sound of breathing nearby.

Most of the time he felt happy about all those relatives and mates around, but sometimes there was the unconscious longing for privacy and exploration, something that made him nervous, even restless.

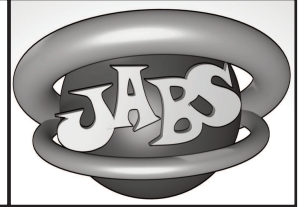
Once in a while he needed to leave the water to supply his digestive system. His favourites were those big, humming things that came by, in a way dropping from above. Well, he had at least to climb a short way and wait a little, something he knew without thinking. The process of catching those things had always been quiet easy. As soon as they appeared, there was a brief moment of frozen tension, the measuring of distances, a short leap to close the gap and finally the catch of the longed-for prey itself. But since seemingly forever, this nagging nervousness has risen every time he climbed up for food and this feeling drew him to the edge of his home.

This time there was nothing he could do against the driving emotion. Step after step, loosening one foot after the other, pushing it forward to gain grip again, he moved his tiny body upwards. Not having any idea what this was all about, he reached the top of his known surroundings and, pulling himself up onto the edge, he could savour the sight, inhale the smell, experience the..... "Bleep?". Brain consuming vastness, dazzling light, rocking air movement. Definitely more than he could stand. Without having any conscious control of his toes the tree frog lost the contact with the edge of the blossom that shared its place with thousands of others on top of the rainforest and fell back into its well known universe.

Götz Plistermann



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Let's Have Some Fun!

Let's face it, English is a stupid language

Let's face it, English is a stupid language.
There is no egg in the eggplant.
No ham in the hamburger.
And neither pine nor apple in the pineapple.
English muffins were not invented in England.
And French fries were not invented in France.

We sometimes take English for granted.
But if we examine its paradoxes we find that
Quicksand takes you down slowly,
Boxing rings are square
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is
it a pig.

If writers write, how come fingers don't fing?
If the plural of tooth is teeth,
Shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone
beeth?
If the teacher taught,
Why didn't the preacher praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables,
What the heck does a humanitarian eat?

Why do people recite at a play,
Yet play at a recital?

Park on driveways and
Drive on parkways?
How can the weather be as hot as hell on one
day
And as cold as hell on another?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy
Of a language where a house can burn up as
It burns down. And in which you fill in a form,
By filling it out.
And a bell is only heard once it goes!

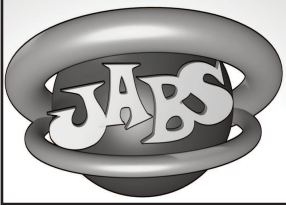
English was invented by people, not computers.
And it reflects the creativity of the human
race.
(Which of course isn't a race at all)

That is why,
When the stars are out, they are visible
But when the lights are out, they are invisible
And it's why when I wind up my watch,
It starts.
But when I wind up this poem,
It ends.

Robbery at a student resi-
dence. The burglar yells:
"Hands up! I'm
searching for money!" "Hold
on! We'll search with you!"

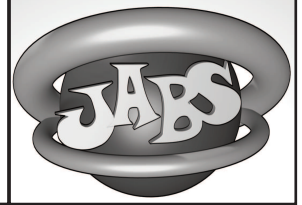
Why do students al-
ready get up at 7
o'clock? Because the
supermarket
closes at 8.

An examinee's just failed and
leaves the building as the ex-
aminer suddenly
yells out of the window: "Well,
you've passed after all. This one
is even worse!"



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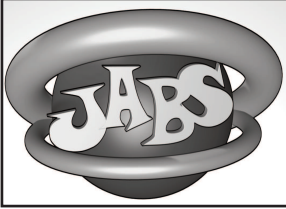
Been to College to long when...

1. You consider McDonald's "real food."
2. You actually like doing laundry at home.
3. 4:00 AM is still early on the weekends.
4. You wear dirty socks three times in a row and think nothing of it.
5. Three kilometers is not too far to walk for a party.
6. You'd rather clean than study.
7. You schedule your classes around sleep habits and soaps.
8. Half the time you don't wake up in your own bed and it seems normal.
9. Computer Solitaire is more than a game it's a way of life.
10. You know the pizza boy by name.
11. You go to sleep when it's light and get up when it's dark.
12. You live for getting E-mails and chat messages.
13. Looking out the window is a form of entertainment.
14. You start thinking and sounding like your roommate.
15. Blacklights and highlighters are the coolest things on earth.
16. Rearranging your room is your favorite pastime.
17. You find out milk crates have so many uses.
18. The weekend lasts from Thursday to Monday.

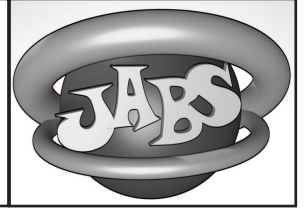
Find the staff of the department!

H O A S K T A B S R K G W M V
 Z T W K Q U L H E W O U K L Y
 E I R R S G E B A T E K E I O
 W F T O E I E H D B H E L J W
 G Q D O W H R Q N E L O L V N
 W R R Z L S M T T X E X O I R
 S G T H Z S G I F H R U H W X
 I M A K U K C N L A A H C S P
 N T C Q M H T H I Z Z R S E P
 S B U E G J L T A L R L R E A
 H O R L A C H E R E L Q A G R
 O Z D R L R I N D M F O M N K
 S K N V L Q V A O F J E H A R
 H I N T Z L B H K K L C R L Y
 J W E X C B R S F Q J W M V A

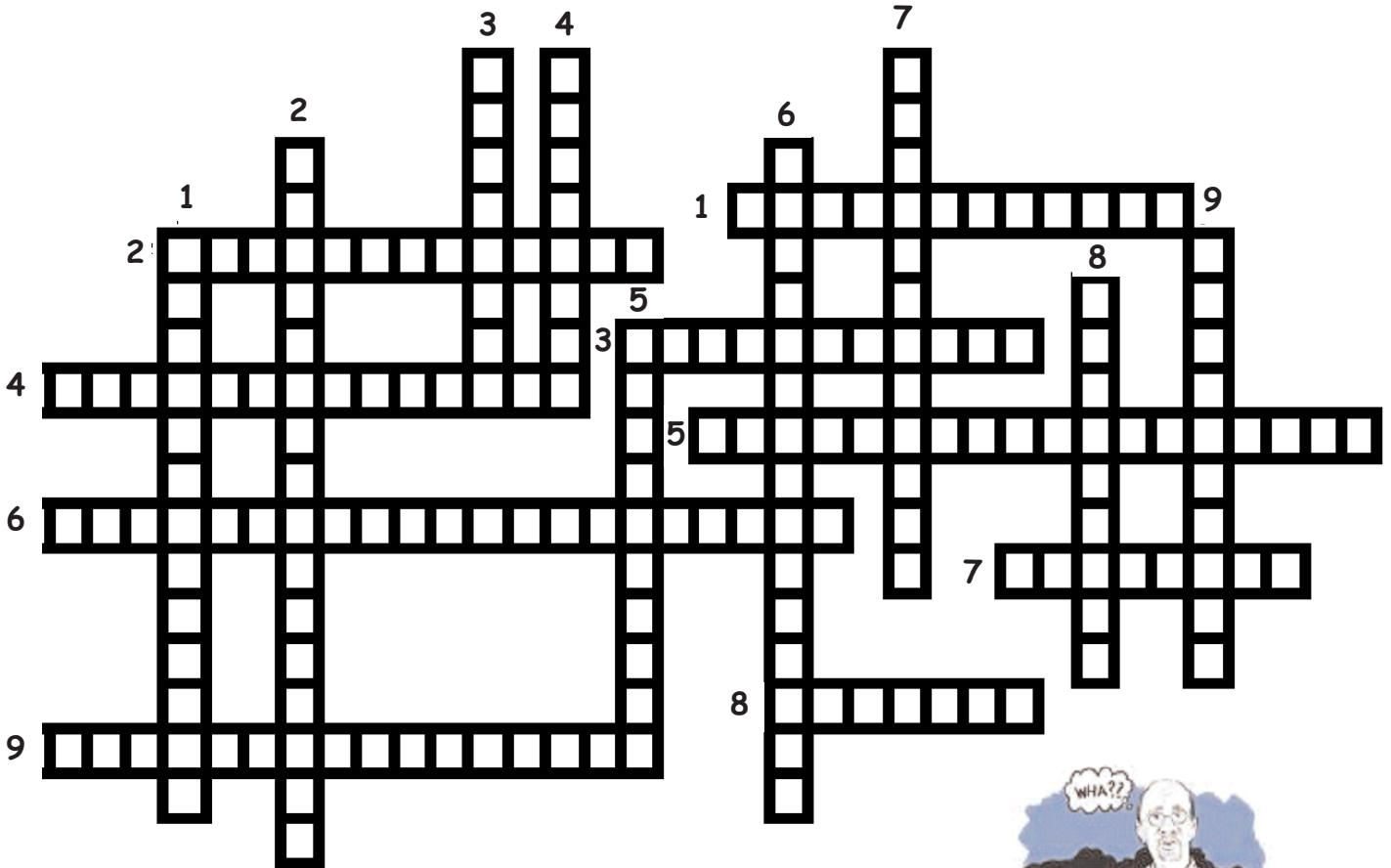
BADER
 GEORGI
 HINTZ
 HOLLINGS-
 WORTH
 HORLACHER
 KOEHLER
 KUEHN
 LANGE
 MARSCHOLLEK
 MOHR
 PARK
 SCHAAL
 SCHAEFER
 STAHLHEBER
 TRISKA



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Crossword Puzzle



HORIZONTAL

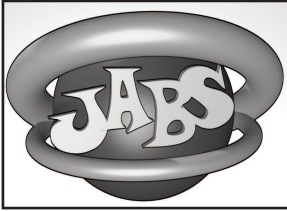
- 1 Unit to reward different performances
- 2 Location of the English Department
- 3 One of the areas English Studies consist of
- 4 Undergraduate advisor
- 5 Class where basic knowledge is taught
- 6 Qualification for the Final Exam
- 7 A language class to be chosen
- 8 Class concentrated on a more limited field
- 9 Foundation year of the English Department

VERTICAL

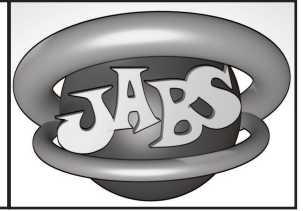
- 1 Location of the faculty library
- 2 One of the areas English Studies consist of
- 3 Class led by students in upper semesters
- 4 Expiring study programme
- 5 One of the areas English Studies consist of
- 6 Task of Prof. Dr. Brigitte Georgi-Findlay
- 7 Semesters 1-4
- 8 Qualification for studying English
- 9 Class preparing for final exams

Sandra Theelke





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What's the Use of Latin?

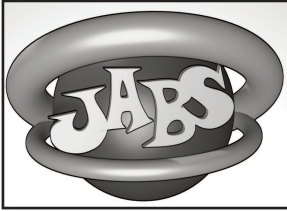
If Latin is a dead language, why study it? This question bothers every student studying the English language, Romance languages or History at German Universities. Three semesters of Latin are at least necessary to be able to pass the Latin exam. The studies of this language can turn out to be a hassle for every student who is forced to learn this language. Doing homework, memorizing vocabulary or learning grammar can distract you from your main subjects. But still there have to be some reasons why this language is still taught and therefore why it is actually not really dead.

First of all, it is true that Latin is not a present communication language but rather a language of reflection. Latin is "talking" about language but not "speaking" it. During Latin courses the students reflect on the grammatical rules and are introduced to the system of a language. They learn how a sentence is formed and which function the single words in a sentence have. Latin supports the learners with elementary skills for learning any language and helps them even to understand their own mother tongue better.

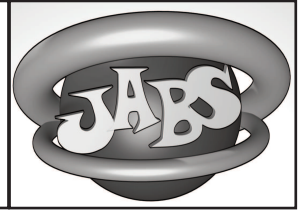
Secondly, Latin is the key to the Roman and Classical world and its culture. Through Latin we learn about the roots of Classical thinking and living, which gives us an insight to our own culture. Many Classical inventions such as scripture, school, legislation, administration and architecture have been adapted in our culture. Latin is very present but we just do not realize it anymore. We are used to signs such as "exit" or "transit", we even drive cars called "audi" and we enjoy eating in a "mensa". So Latin is actually not dead! We do not speak this language but we use it and live in it.

Jenny Hellmich





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The Agony of Choice

3 students from the Technical University of Dresden talking about their studies:



Sindy G.

Master's degree in Romance Studies and German as a Foreign Language, 9th Semester

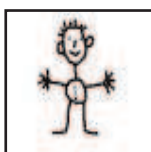
"I started studying German studies before my current studies but I didn't like it and I couldn't imagine working in that field later on. That was why I swapped."

"I have only just restarted studying but the courses are very interesting and I am enjoying it. But I have to admit that the organisation is really bad and I often feel left alone with all my questions concerning exams and papers because no one can help me. They keep changing the conditions of study and I find it difficult to keep up to date. I have started studying Social Care for a Bachelor's degree but I realized that I might be better at teaching than working in the social field."

Mandy B.



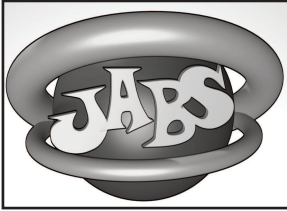
Bachelor's degree in Social Care and Health Care. (Teacher's degree for vocational schools), 1st Semester



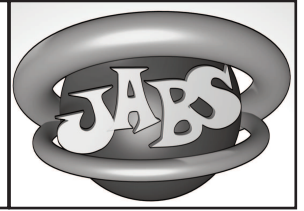
Daniel K.

Diploma degree in Physics, 10th Semester

"Sometimes I find the courses I am doing very boring and irrelevant but I already knew that before I started studying. I know that I will find a well-paid job and that is what keeps me going."



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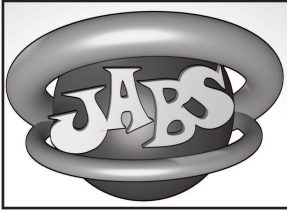
If he is not bunking off -sleeping off the aftermath of the previous night, getting together with fellow students for a coffee (or two), holding down a job in order to finance his studies -the average student, usually, is to be found at university pursuing his studies more or less assiduously. But it is the responsibility of actually being a student which seems to keep some of our fellow students struggling.

According to a survey by the HIS (Hochschul-Informationen-System GmbH, Survey: The development of the rate of study termination at German universities on the basis of the graduate's age group 2006, Hannover), the college drop-out rate averages 25 percent nationwide. Why is this? Do the majority of the students happen to be displeased with their chosen course of studies? JABS has interviewed some students from the Technical University of Dresden asking them about their personal experiences and perceptions, to get to the heart of possible motives for dropping out or changing one's major. After a vast number of interviews at the Technical University of Dresden our survey has shown that the most often mentioned reasons for swapping courses or dropping out are limited prospects outlooks, a lack of occupational aptitude or motivation and interest. A few students, most of them studying liberal arts, also mentioned that they were dissatisfied with the prevailing conditions of studying. Most of the students polled told us that they had not really known in advance what the course they were studying would be about. The students admitting this were rather often the ones who swapped their major after one or two semesters of study.

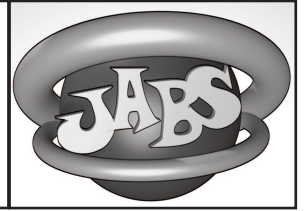
Apart from those causes students in our survey gave us, a more extensive study conducted by the HIS in 2006 revealed some other motives. Some students, for instance, seem to have difficulty in living up to expectations and therefore under-achieve. High costs and having to work part-time while studying can also cause people to drop out. For others, reality just does not seem to coincide with the expectations they have pinned on their course of study in advance. Presumably, a number of TUD students have to face some of the problems mentioned too, but because we interviewed only a small number of them compared to the number of students at large, our survey is not as representative as the HIS one.

However, a more recent study has shown that due to the introduction of the bachelormaster - system the drop-out rates at universities have fallen to an average of 20 percent nationwide. Reasons why the bachelor-degree-programme contributes to and improves academic success could be stronger relations to later professions, the well-structuring of the studies and a shorter study period.

As a matter of fact students are still moaning about their fields of study. It is just



Summer Term 2009 LIFE + STUDIES



the subject that has changed slightly. At the end the question of whether or not the bachelor-master-programme seems to be the better option or solution still remains. However, we are not the ones to decide on this question. A view on that has to be formed by the students themselves. Indeed, regarding the uniform bachelor-mastersystem, they have no other choice. Well, not quite. There is one last option to avoid the university mess: to choose an apprenticeship!

If you are interested in finding out more about this topic check:
<http://www.his.de/abt2/ab21/archiv/stuf010> or
http://www.bmbf.de/pub/studienabbruchstudie_2005.pdf

Nadine Horschig

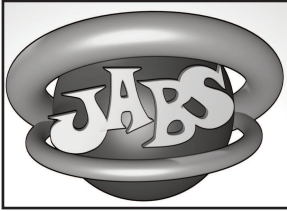


The Best Job Ever

It's 7.30 on a Monday morning. The bell rings in a typical German Primary School. The English teacher enters class 4a and greets the pupils with a sunshiny smile on her face. An aura of happiness surrounds her and is transferred to the pupils immediately. If you watch her closely, she looks pretty relaxed and there is no wonder why; her workday ends at 12 o'clock - every day.

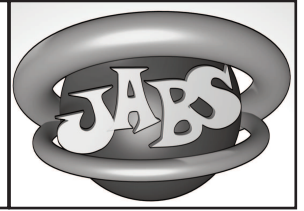
Except for Mondays when she joins her singing club at 11 a.m. to invent new funny English games and songs. Except for Wednesdays when she goes to the gym to keep her body fit. And except for Fridays when she meets her friends at 10 o'clock to talk over a cup of coffee and a nice breakfast about the outstanding progress her sweet little pupils have made during the week by pronouncing their favourite colour correctly for the first time.

Back at school, the pupils answer enthusiastically with a loud and clear "Good morning Mrs. Meyer!" The teacher now explains the lesson plan to the pupils - in German of course. Otherwise the pupils would not understand her and they are naturally not expected to do so. As always, there are three or four songs to be sung, afterwards two games (one of them unknown!) are to be played or the children can even



Summer Term 2009

LIFE + STUDIES



invent their own game. For the last activity the children can choose between colouring a picture according to given directions in their English colouring book or playing a memory game so as not to overburden the children with the new foreign language. All the pupils leave this extraordinary lesson very happy and have gained some strength for the rest of their stressful school day.

Is this the image that first comes into your mind when you think about English in Primary School?

Language chunks to gain and exchange information such as:

Where is ...?	... is in/at/on ...
Where are you from?	I'm from ...
What time is it?	It's twelve o'clock/9.30 ...
What is it?	It's a dog/a pen ...
What's your hobby?	My hobby is...
Have you got ...?	Yes, I have got .../No, I haven't got ...
How much is it?	It's ...
How many ... have you got?	I've got ...
Can I...?	Yes, I can..../No, I can't....

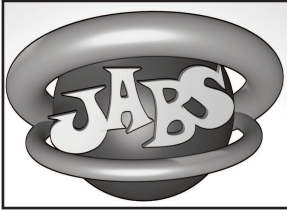
Just an example of what a conversation in English in a Primary School could look like:

A: "Hello!"
B: "Hello!"
A: "Have you got a play station game?"
B: "Yes, I have."
A: "How much is it?"
B: "It's £10.45."
A: "Ok. Here you are!"
B: "Thank you! Here you are!"
A: "Thank you! Goodbye!"
B: "Goodbye!"

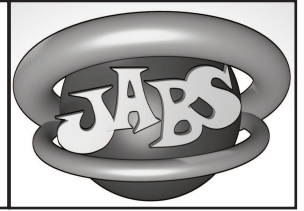
Then please don't be ashamed. You're not alone. This might have been the English lessons you experienced when you were in Primary School but the system has now changed. Nowadays there is a curriculum and what formerly had been weekend training is now an academic education at university lasting four years (five, if you are going for a master's degree, poor you ;-)). "Going shopping", "Me, my body and my clothes" and "Around the year" are amongst the topics of the curriculum a Primary School teacher has to cover.

Obviously songs and games are there for entertaining reasons but they also fulfil a well-thought purpose of language learning as well. They are never used just for fun, but always serve a function.

The aim of English in Primary School is to develop the skills of listening and speaking in the first place and use reading and writing only to support the former. This means that the children should not revise simple vocabulary items but learn them in a context that is part of their world of experience and apply them in complete sentences. In the appendix of the curriculum there is a whole set of language chunks



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the children should know at the end of fourth grade. That is why the teacher uses the target language as much as possible and brings realia to the classroom in order to make the language more understandable. Along with this goes the task of the teacher to create meaningful speaking opportunities and situations that motivate the children to talk.

So all in all the reason why English is taught in Primary School is that children get used to the language and its sound and are able to achieve a level of basic communication. And just a short remark at the end to clear up any misunderstandings: Apart from preparing lessons, planning field trips, supervising after-school clubs, correcting tests and decorating the school building, Primary School teachers always look relaxed and have a sunshiny smile on their face ;-).

Christin Lorenz, Sylvia Neldner and Claudia Rochlitzer

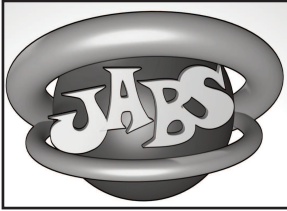


A Race of Their Own

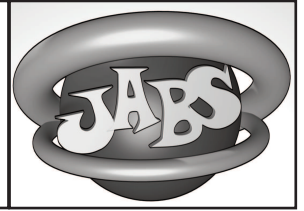
Saxony is a mecca for climbers. Not only in the Elb Sandstone Mountains can you see them, they are everywhere, but they are very accomplished in hiding and you won't find them in 'civilisation'. Only an expert eye can detect them and find out about their community. My eye happens to be such an expert eye since I got to know my boyfriend. From that point on I have been observing him and his friends and I came to the conclusion that these men must be a little race of their own - and now I want to share the results of my observations with you.

All the single girls will be happy that climbers are in general athletic (of course), in their twenties or thirties, unmarried and successful natural scientists. However, brace yourself for the truth, girls, there has to be a catch!

Let's start with the first fact. How do you become a money-making alumnus, or even a doctor? You have to work and ... to work, and, there's one thing missing, work. There won't be much time to accompany the girlfriend on an excessive shopping tour, although the climbers would be perfectly able to carry bags from each shop of the Prager Straße and the Altmarktgalerie. What a waste that they go climbing at every single minute of their leisure time! But, ladies, we can live with that when



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our sweetheart gives us his golden credit card as a compensation for that.

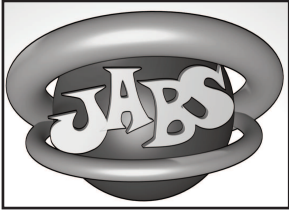
That leads me to my next point: an athletic body doesn't fall out of the blue sky. It is a mystery, but somehow climbers succeed in every sport they try. They are pros in volleyball, hockey and everything in connection with balancing and skill. So if you go to the pool together, you'll have enough time to eat an ice cream, to call your best friend and to wallow in the sun in peace and quiet, because your boyfriend will swim at least 100 lanes (if there is any challenger, I'd upgrade it to no less than 150). Even if you are at a birthday party, their sportsmanship cannot be tamed: You'll see all the smokers leaning out of the window, all the single girls examining the others in order to steal a glance at the girl that weighs less, and you'll be able to lay eyes on all the climbers bouldering around tables without touching the floor. It can be a great spectacle watching drunk men wrapping themselves around the furniture, falling from the table or even breaking grandma's old chair.

Now you have been introduced to the world of the climbers. You definitely have to come to terms with it if you want to be at the side of a rock addict, since you won't be able to hang out with your friends too often. Climbers tend to be rather picky in terms of their girlfriend's acquaintances. They don't work out every day? They study humanities? They sing in a choir? Then you'll have hardly any prospects of a close friendship between your loved ones, and you had better get along with his mates. Mainly because you'll spend all your future holidays with them - and climbers spend all of their free time in the countryside (or in winter: in the climbing gym). You'll perambulate in all countries with an agreeable climate, you'll meet interesting people, you'll see beautiful landscapes, all geological formations, each campsite, and if you are lucky also the beach, but not a single tourist feature. In addition to that, being abroad each bank holiday, you'll hardly meet up with your family, and, take it from me, the term 'meet for coffee with the family' and 'climber' will be the equivalent of 'garlic' and 'vampire'.

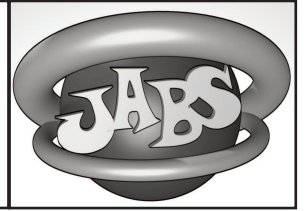
Now, what did I forget...why are most of the climbers still unmarried? Maybe because they don't have time for their girlfriends, because they never step out of the of the climbing gym or untie the knot of their harness?

No, it's simply due to the fact that you have to climb up to the top of the Falkenstein to get a proposal. :)

Tabea Rother



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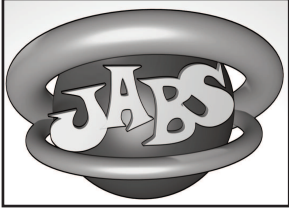
With Swords and Spells into Reality

MMORPGs: Entertainment or Alienation?

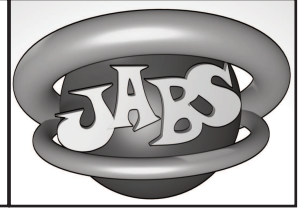
Video games have always been subject to controversy and debate. Since the earliest evolutionary stages of this particular form of entertainment, its quality together with the influence on the players' minds and behavior is questioned and analyzed by various parties and, as reality shows, for various purposes. Many religious activists, politicians, parents, journalists and sociologists accuse video games of causing a neat list of quite disturbing issues, like spreading immorality, propagating violence, the glorification of death and above all, disregard for society and its rules. Moreover, as some of them desperately try to prove, this form of entertainment is undoubtedly responsible for such vile, blasphemous and plainly ridiculous acts such as indoctrinating children with Satanism, Occultism and encouraging them to committing suicide (apparently they believe that game developers are getting richer paradoxically by disposing of their own customers). Since video games have been around for more than two decades now, and such accusations have existed since the very beginning of their existence on the market, one might assume that most people have already developed their outlook on the issue or at least got used to all the fuss. However, there is a specific new sub-genre of that particular form of entertainment, whose recent ascendancy and development fuelled the fires of the crusade once more, and what's noteworthy, it made the protests and accusations fiercer than ever before. This sub-genre is known as the MMORPG.

MMORPG, an acronym for Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games, refers to programs in which the player seizes control over a virtual avatar and interacts with other players in a persistent gaming world via the internet. The recent leap in the development of both the internet as well as computer technology in general, together with the expanding availability of those to the general public, made it possible for MMORPGs to evolve from crude and simple software that was closer in character to net communicators with extra graphical environment rather than to real games, into visually sophisticated, feature-packed and (mostly) well-managed hosts for large virtual communities. As a result, titles such as World of Warcraft, Ultima Online, Guild Wars started attracting more and more people who now spend long hours battling mythical monsters, raiding dungeons, collecting arcane artifacts and developing their avatars to become more and more powerful.

The rise of popularity of this new past-time, combined with the general increase of the numbers of hours that gamers spend in the virtual world, was in fact what made many of the above-mentioned groups revitalize their interest in banning video games.

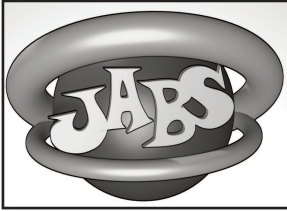


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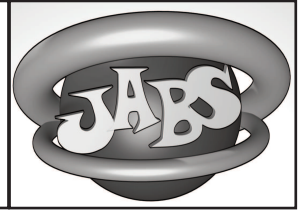


They argue that MMORPGs, besides being obviously satanic, immoral, hate-mongering, blasphemous etc., tear the gamers away from the real world, making them lose interest in their surroundings in favor of the virtual world, thus turning them into slaves to their servers. I, as a video games enthusiast myself, who also happens to play one MMORPG as well, have stopped paying attention to comments like that and believing in their credibility a long time ago, because I grew up with video games and this did not make me a sociopathic lunatic that trains his marksmanship before another session of Counter-Strike by shooting people in real life. Moreover, none of my friends, who also enjoy video games, ever had that kind of problems whatsoever. Of course, I do admit that playing games, MMORPGs in particular, made me sit in front of the screen for long hours at times and even stay up all night if there was an interesting event going on my server, but somehow I fail to find signs of a developing dependency here - other people happen to party and/ or drink all night long at times as well, and are rarely accused of being addicted. Be that as it may, after reading an article about some addicted teenager from the UK, I felt intrigued by the whole commotion and decided to investigate the MMORPG phenomenon and learn the truth on my own. Therefore, in order to gain a broader perspective on the genre, I prepared a specific questionnaire and took it straight to the "devil's den" or normally speaking, to the source for first-hand information - the forums of some known MMORPG servers and player guilds. The questionnaire asked for some general data about the players as well as some specific information regarding their social life and interests. The feedback results did not really surprise me - quite the contrary actually - they confirmed my own outlook to a large extent and verified what I have been thinking about the problem from the very beginning.

Generally, video gaming is seen as a male thing, therefore it is not surprising that the majority of gamers that decided to take part in the questionnaire proved to be male. What is interesting, though, is that the number of female players turned out to be quite big nonetheless; The questionnaire has shown that almost 30% of the gamers are girls. This could mean that MMO Role Playing Games are indeed addictive because they are able to draw players not only from the targeted groups, but also they can attract people that are normally considered most unlikely to become gamers. However, we have to mind the recent process of equalization of the sexes as well; Women have become more independent and self-reliant than ever before, and are granted with same rights and possibilities as men. In fact, these social changes did not affect solely the family model and gender roles in society, but they also influenced other fields of everyday life, past-time activities included. 20-30 years



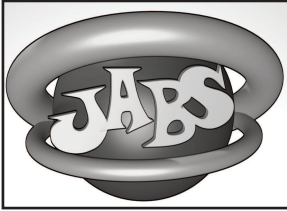
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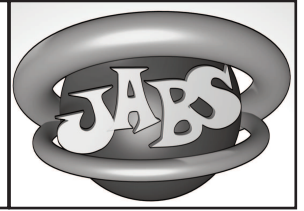
ago, women were mostly housewives or small-time clerks, now they run big companies and shape politics; They used to knit and gossip by the tea in their free time, now they form highly competitive Counter-Strike teams and win top ranks at game cons. Therefore, an increased number of female online gamers can be seen not as proof of an emerging addiction, but merely as a sign of the times.

Another interesting thing I learned from my research and which challenges the negative outlooks on the MMORPG genre are the facts about the players. While the popular belief has it that these games affect children and early teens, the majority of gamers happen to be over 19 years of age: My research has shown that approximately 57% of gamers are people between 19 and 25 years old. Continuing, players older than 26 represent 16% of the overall community which together with the previous group creates a majority of 73%. Teenagers between 13 and 18 years of age create merely 27% and interestingly, there are no players younger than 12 years of age whatsoever. As a result, we can reveal the part of the story about MMOs affecting children as being somewhat inaccurate, because as reality shows, there are no children playing them to begin with. Furthermore, it turns out that a lion's share of those who do play online games are either college students and people who successfully entered the job market, thus stressing young adults, who can actually afford subscription fees, and not children as the targeted group. Quite contrary to the popular belief, isn't it.

Despite these facts, however, the people who are against video games do seem to be right in one point, namely the large amount of time that MMO gamers spend in the virtual world. The majority of players admitted to spending from 20 to 40 hours weekly playing on their respective servers, while dedicating only 20 hours tops to meeting with other people personally. Does this mean then that MMO games truly are addictive and draw people away from their real lives? The numbers seem to be the best proof of it and obviously the best reason for some people wanting to ban the genre. However, having solely the amount of hours spent on playing answers only the "how much" question, which on its own would be suitable only if we wanted a statistic. In order to learn the truth, however, we need to have more dimensions, we need to know "why" as well, and as my research has shown, the reasons why people spend so much time online are multiple and diverse. There is no question about the fact that some people started playing due to problems in establishing social relations -after all, it is always easier to talk to someone that cannot see you. However, the shy ones and loners prove to be rather a minority in the MMO community. In fact, most of its members have chosen this particular genre for quite different

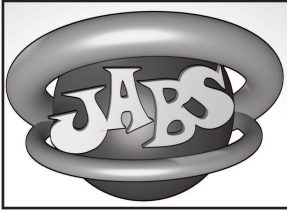


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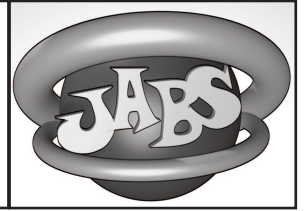


reasons; Some of them revealed that their work and/or studies consume most of their time, therefore they do not have many possibilities to meet friends properly, while others started playing to have a yet another alternative for having fun with friends they already know from the real life and not to make some in the first place. As a matter of fact, the social aspect of the MMORPG genre has been stressed as the least sought for - competition, adventure and relaxing being the ones favored by players. In addition to this, over 70% of gamers confessed to cultivating other hobbies as well, online games being just the preferred past-time. As a result, we can conclude that it is neither addiction nor dependency that keeps gamers for long hours in front of their monitors, but rather an unique opportunity to meet friends in an alternative environment and experience an epic adventure together. Moreover, the decreased numbers of face-to-face encounters are mostly an outcome of the lack of free time - I think it is quite obvious and understandable that a tired person, having just returned home after a hard day's work, would rather choose entertainment that does not involve much effort instead of going through all the trouble of organizing an evening out, getting dressed and going somewhere, being weary as they are - hence the popularity of the MMORPGs.

Last but not least, I will also share some outlooks of those most affected by the stigmatizing of the genre - the MMO players themselves. Interestingly, after being asked about their thoughts on the phenomenon, the 35% majority of gamers state that it's society and its influence on the individual that can make them addicted to playing rather than the game itself. The game, they argue, plays merely as means of escaping problems, just like alcohol, drugs etc. Continuing, 28% agree that MMOs can make someone dependent, but limiting the group of the addiction-potentials to people with emotional problems and/or pathological background. Mentally healthy people, they argue, will always treat these games only as a yet another form of entertainment. Another 28%, on the other hand, plainly disregard the theory, blaming the sensation-hungry media for making all the fuss in order to boost their circulation rates. What is interesting, only 7% agree with the theory, thus blaming games for making people lose interest in everyday life. Compared to the other groups, however, they stand as an incomparable minority, thus stressing the exceptional character of potential addictions and proving that the popular beliefs are mostly exaggerated. As a result, I think it is now quite safe to conclude that the myth about MMORPGs has been now verified and even though there are cases of people developing dependencies on the games, these are marginal cases and the whole commotion is as unnecessary as it is ridiculous and emotionally driven.



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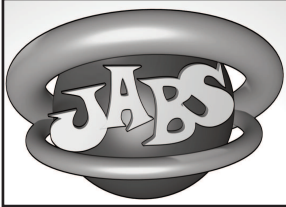
The MMORPG genre, similarly to everything else that's new and unknown, fell victim to prejudice and media-induced hysteria - isolated cases were taken for a rule with a purpose not being protection of the vulnerable, but sensation and sales boost instead. Even taking the rare event of a developed addiction, blaming games seems to be out of line, because what was truly the triggering factor - the software or the circumstances which made the affected individual seek escape in the first place? Human nature is a quite peculiar thing - we like to blame everything but ourselves for our failures and for all the evil in the world. Therefore, it is somewhat normal for parents of an unpopular teenager who doesn't leave his computer desk anymore to blame video games while ignoring the fact that it's mostly their failure as parents and their incapability to listen to their offspring's problems that made the kid seek refuge in the virtual world. Be that as it may, this attitude will not solve the problem, nor will it lead to anything other than some fragile feeling of self-righteousness at the cost of the innocent ones. Therefore, to conclude this little discourse of mine I, as a gamer believing I speak for many others, would like to say this: all you zealots calm down, put out your torches and before you start another of your self-redeeming crusades, ask yourselves a question - What the hell am I doing? Your child needs your love, attention and support - not yet another hypocritical, self-righteous campaign that will most likely broaden the distance between the two of you even more. Seriously, they don't need it, you don't need it and guess what - neither do we.

Michal Juran

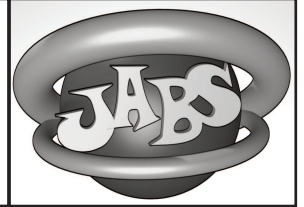


Easy Recipes for Take-Away for University

Are you tired of having a slice of bread, an apple, and hard-boiled eggs for lunch? I must confess: an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Nevertheless, you could do with a little bit more variety inside your lunchbox? In that case I can recommend the following recipes, which are easy to cook, take to university, and will suit different tastes.



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Salmon in cornflakes crust - for health-conscious students and fish gourmets

preparation time: 12 min., cooking time: 10 min.

ingredients: 400 grams of salmon filets without fishbones, sliced into 4 pieces, salt, pepper, 2 tbsp. of lemon juice, 2 eggs, 40 grams of flour, 40 grams of cornflakes, 4 tbsp. of oil for frying, dill

preparation: Spice the salmon with salt, pepper, and the lemon juice. Stir the eggs on a deep plate, using an eggbeater. Take another two plates and put flour on one and cornflakes in crumbs on the other. Turn over every slice of salmon first in flour, then in egg and then in cornflakes. Fry each slice in a pan of moderate heat from each side until their golden brown.

source: Meissner, Frank; Kroack, Günther: AIDA Cruises: Neue Routen and Rezepte. Mayboo: Reutlingen. 2007. p. 104.

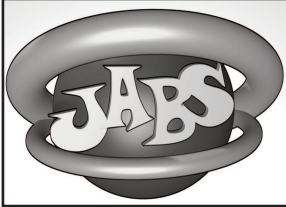
Blueberry Muffins - for sweet-tooth students and vegetarians

preparation time: 25 min., cooking time: 20 min. (enough for 24 muffins)

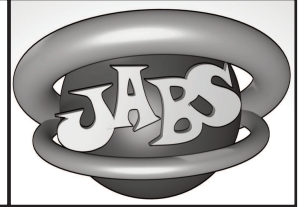
ingredients: 750 grams of fresh blueberries, 3 1/2 cups of flour, 3/4 cup of sugar, 4 tsp. of baking powder, salt, 1 1/2 cups of milk, 2/3 cup of vegetable oil, 2 beaten eggs, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of chopped pecans

preparation: Have 24 muffin papers ready. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Celsius. Put the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl and stir to mix. Combine milk, oil and eggs in a medium bowl and beat with a wire whisk until blended. Now combine the liquid and the dry ingredients and stir until just moistened. In a medium bowl, combine 4 tbsp. sugar, blueberries, and pecans and toss to coat with sugar and stir gently. Distribute into muffin papers, filling 3/4 full. Bake at 400 degrees Celsius for 20-25 minutes, until muffins are light golden brown and firm to the touch. Let them cool down for 3-4 minutes, then remove muffins from pan and cool completely. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

source: <http://busycooks.about.com/od/quickbreads/r/blueberrymuffin.html>



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Californian Caesar Salad - for vegetarians and salad fans

preparation time: 20 min.

ingredients: half a lettuce, 2 slices of toast, 50 grams of butter, for the dressing: 1 garlic clove, 1 hard-boiled, peeled egg, 1 tsp. of mustard, 1 tsp. of Worcester sauce, 3 tbsp. of lemon juice, 50 ml of olive oil, salt, pepper, 100 grams of cheese (Parmesan)

preparation: Dice the toast and fry it in a pan. Purée the garlic, the mustard, the Worcester sauce, and the lemon juice with salt and pepper in a mixer; then add the oil. Wash and chop the lettuce, put it in a bowl and add the sliced egg. Pour the dressing over the salad, then grate the Parmesan cheese onto your salad.

source: Meissner, Frank; Kroack, Günther: AIDA Cruises: Neue Routen and Rezepte. Mayboo: Reutlingen. 2007. p. 69.

Blackberry Protein Smoothie - for fitness fans and vegetarians

preparation time: 10 min.

ingredients: 75 grams of frozen blackberries, 1 orange, 1 tsp of maple syrup, 1 baby banana, 2 tbsp. of protein powder, 1 pinch of powdered cloves

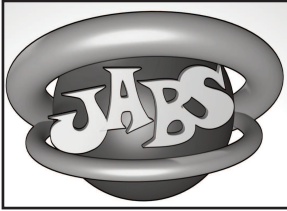
preparation: Put the frozen blackberries in a mixer and stir well. Cut the orange into halves, press out the juice and add half of the juice together with the maple syrup; purée for 15 seconds. Peel the banana and slice it, then add it with the rest of the orange juice and the protein powder into the mixer. Spice up with the powdered cloves and have your smoothie quite soon.

source: Strunz, Dr. med. Ulrich: Die Diät. Heyne: Munich. 2002. p. 318.

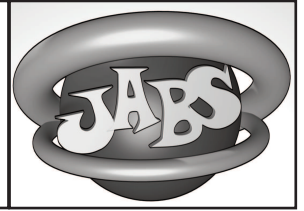
Enjoy your meal!

Nancy Hälsig





Summer Term 2009 POLITICS



Obama and the Conservatives - an Antagonism

"With his coolness he tries to convince the people of his extremely liberal ideas" (Peter, 26)

When the American people elected Barack Obama as the new President of the United States, the majority of Germany was celebrating his victory as well as welcoming him with open arms and flying American flags. With his superstar image, his nonchalance and his enormous speaking talents, he combines, especially in the eyes of the younger generations, everything that most German politicians lack. His initiated attempts to disarm, shut down Guantanamo, protect the environment or negotiate with political opponents like the Iranian President Ahmadinedschad are just some aspects that make Obama and his policy extremely popular on German territory. Opponents are rather hard to find. Even though there is still some skepticism left, whether Obama will be able to change things, most Germans are rather glad the era Bush is finally over.

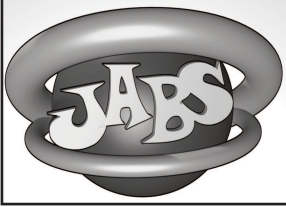
This does not apply to a great number of people in the United States, a country in which Christian traditions and Conservatism have a high standing in large sections of the population. To them Obama's policy is a threat to their morals as well as to the political position of "God's own country" in the world. However, conservatism is no homogeneous system of thought or world view. On the contrary, there seems to be a great range of different conservative views in existence.

We asked a few Americans with different conservative views about their position on some aspects of Obama's policy like spending, defense, health care, negotiations with dictators and terrorist groups, global warming, homosexuality and abortion. In the following we will introduce to you the most interesting extracts of their answers. Changing your perspective will give you a better understanding of the world, and hopefully these extracts will help you doing so!

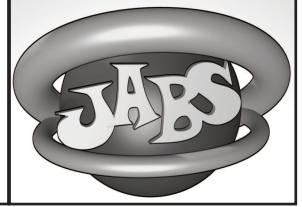
On Abortion

"Abortion is murder. Flat out. It is not within the rights that God has given us as human beings to determine life and death issues. It's a grievous betrayal of our humanity in several directions at once."

Sara, 33



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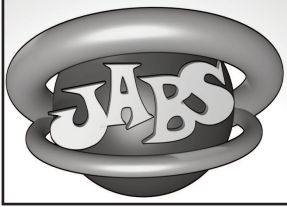
On Defense

"The national attitude on defense spending is one of the on-going issues in American politics. Generally speaking, Republicans and Democrats have different ideals of what the size, mission and readiness of our military ought to be. When there's a Republican in office, they try to increase military spending to get military up to the state that it needs to be in. And the Democrats who think that the military is over-large and over-extending itself then tend to take the money away from the military when they get in office. Personally, I think that Obama's more worried about making it look like the U.S. isn't "getting ahead of itself" than keeping the country actually, you know, safe. This strikes me as the wrong set of priorities for a president."

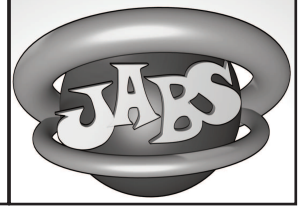
Sara, 33

"I think Barack Obama is an idiot for going around the world and apologizing for the U.S. making mistakes. Enemies will interpret this as a sign of weakness. Releasing photos of „prisoner abuse" just inflames the terrorists throughout the world, endangering our citizenry. Cuts in our national defense spending, especially in our missile defense program, while countries throughout the world are increasing their spending on missile technology and nuclear capabilities, is reckless, dangerous, treasonous, and plain stupid."

Sarita, 19

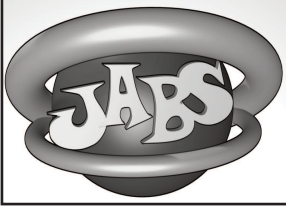


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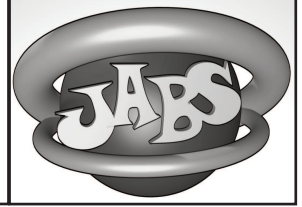


Regarding our defense, I recently read that in 2004 US defense spending was three times that of the next highest nation's spending, China. This, on the front end, seems absurd, but I don't believe it is. America is a cultural powerhouse in the world, producing more movies, music and television costing far more than any other place in the world, and it is all exported. I don't know that you can go anywhere in the world where the general population hasn't at least heard of Hollywood. That may be a strange thing to bring up when talking about the defense of our nation, unless you consider that Hollywood typically sends a political and/or cultural message that is often condescending to the rest of the world (the lone American cowboy taking on terrorists or criminals from any nation and always winning, for example) as well as offensive (while we may still be somewhat prude in many European eyes, to a lot of the world we're the most decadent nation out there.) This means that America has a lot of enemies. A lot of people throughout the world don't realize that Hollywood is a private enterprise that does not need government permission to make those movies. So many think that when Jack Bauer stops the Arab terrorists before they blow up the country on 24 our government is sending that message. Hence the reason we need such a high defense fund. Right now I believe there's a lot of hatred but little action because, even if we lost a war and the country toppled, the US would do some serious and severe damage, even if it were the rest of the world fighting us. If that starts to slip and people start to see that the US could be attacked without reciprocation or with light reciprocation, we very well may find ourselves in the midst of a horrific world war.

Jake, 30



Summer Term 2009 POLITICS



On Spending

"I don't think we should be bailing out anybody! Anyone that was irresponsible should be allowed to fail, including banks and businesses. More government control = less liberty and freedom. Europe can be seen as a good example of what happens when there is too much government control (e.g. socialist and communist regimes)."

Larry, 49

On Homosexuality and Marriage

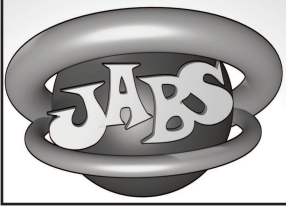
"I will grant that, given that the hetero-sexual community has already effectively redefined marriage, what with the prevalence of sexual promiscuity, divorce, etc., that the homosexual community's arguments for "marriage" are actually a logical extension. That said, the church needs to work on re-establishing what marriage is and is supposed to be within the heterosexual context, which will make obvious why homosexual marriage is as much an absurdity as a square circle. The legal subsidies which are encoded into law are for the support of raising children. As a society, the law recognizes the need to produce and raise the next generation. Which still happens, at its root, only between a man and a woman."

Sara, 33

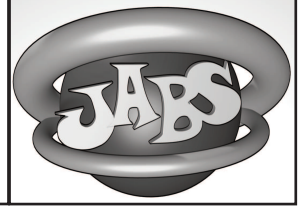
On Global Warming

"Global warming is a hoax, an absolute fraud. It is being perpetuated by the U.N. to distribute wealth from the rich, west, and industrialized nations to the undeveloped third world nations. The world is not warming. It is completely illogical to classify Carbon Dioxide as a dangerous gas. Proof that it is nothing more than a tax and wealth distribution can be shown through man's inability to affect any change at all in Carbon Dioxide levels."

Larry, 49



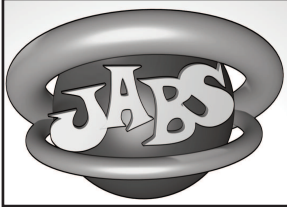
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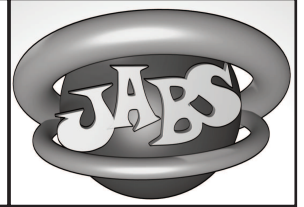
On Health Care

"Obama's platform consistently has dealt with government intervention to provide the best outcomes in reform. Whether this solution is the most practical is an open question. Consider health care as a heuristic example. Obama argues that the appropriate way to procure and distribute health care resources is by a single-tier, all-encompassing, and state-run health care, because it is this type of system that will maximize the social good and fulfill justice. Obama is concerned with making sure no one is without a basic amount of health care. Obama argues that health care reform ought to include the best of care, patient-physician choice, cost containment, and should all be done without rationing. This dream of a healthcare system is ideal, but is not practical. My argument is twofold. First, Obama's healthcare system will violate the liberty of the individuals who do not agree with some of its aspects e.g. abortion, euthanasia, oral contraceptives. He would like a healthcare system that is more similar to socialized medicine like Canada, Germany, or the UK. Whether this is a good move is dependent on the healthcare outcomes we seek. Take the healthcare systems of Canada and Hong Kong. Canada has a single tier all encompassing health care system and receives outcomes that some Americans would not find permissible, others may. For example, waiting times for a general practitioner for 2007 was 2 weeks, specialist 4-6 weeks, and to receive testing e.g. MRI, 3-6 months. Canada spends about 40 percent of its gross domestic product on healthcare and has a life expectancy of 70 years, and an infant death mortality rate of 1 in 1000. Hong spends 4.6 percent of their GDP on health care (1.5 being from the public sector), has zero waiting time for any of the services previously mentioned, a life expectancy of 80 years. Hong Kong receives its more efficient outcomes by utilizing the open market for the majority of its healthcare system. As I reflect on Obama's presidency urge that he looks toward Hong Kong in terms of health care reform"

Zachary, 21



Summer Term 2009 POLITICS



On Negotiations

"Regarding talks with nations whose loathing of America is not hidden at all (Venezuela and Iran are the big ones), I think he's bending over backwards too much. It reminds me of the kid that was so desperate for friendship he'd do anything for the people that he wanted to be friends with. Those folks would torment the lonely kid, but never have the intention of ever doing anything nice for him. Opening negotiations with Cuba, though, I think is a great idea and was long overdue. Especially with Castro out of the picture, there's really no reason not to. If communism was the real motivator for us having the embargo, then why trade so much with China? So kudos to Obama on that one!"

Jake, 30

Johanna Bause and Claudia Heilmann

