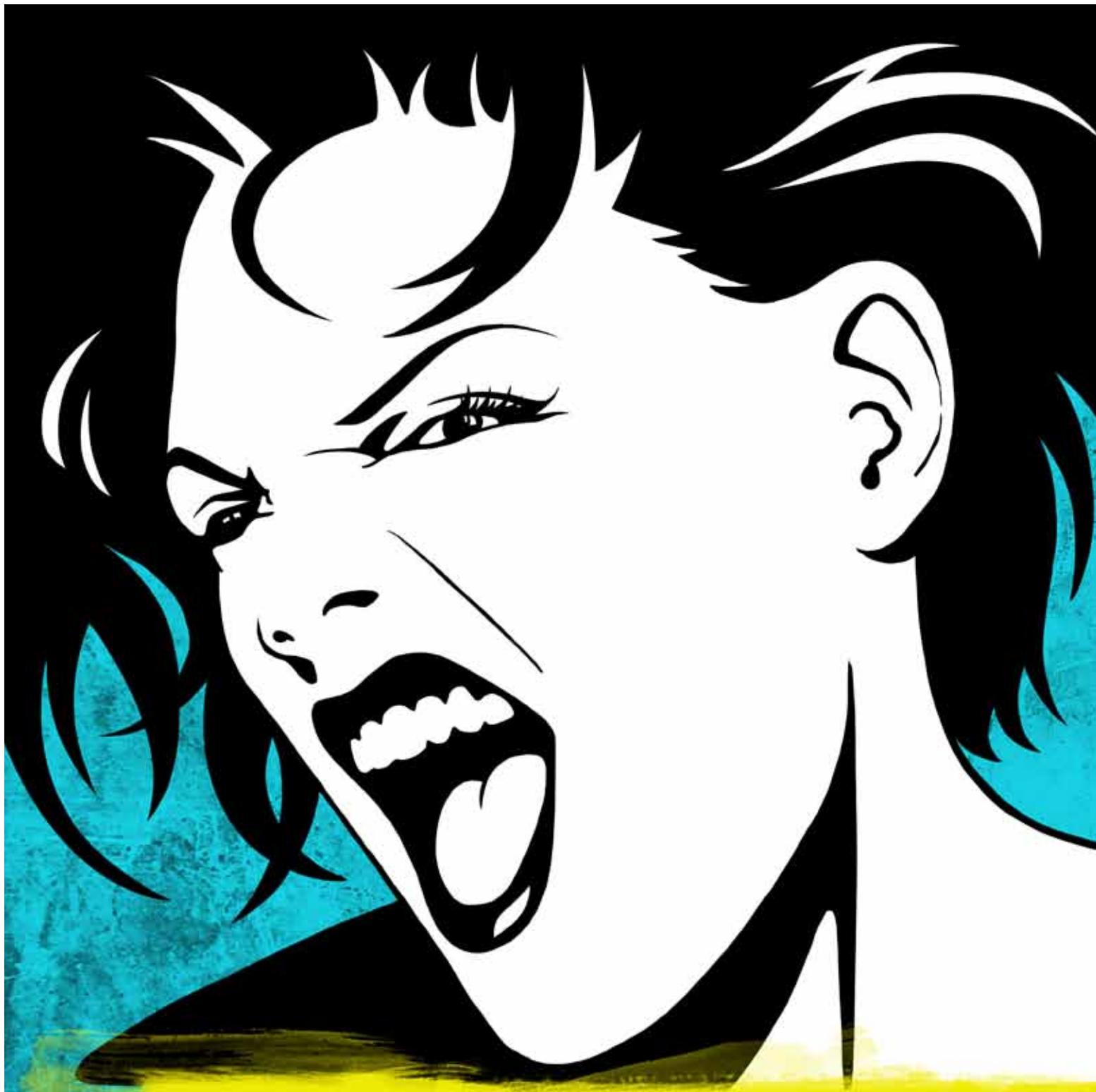


lesezeichen



University elections from 17th to 20th June 2013

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Editorial

Dear Students,
Yeah, it is summer time! And like every year it is also time for university elections at the TU Darmstadt! In this edition of the lesezeichen we would like to inform you about the election so you know who and what you can vote for and why it is important to go voting.

Read in this election edition which university and student committees exist at our university, what is their responsibility and who is sitting there. In this regard you get to know in which committee new students will be elected in the university elections. The question "Why should I vote?!" will be answered on p.3 and we hope we can convince you to go voting.

In addition the different political groups will introduce themselves in this edition from p.6 to p.9. This way you can get to know their programs and goals so you get a comprehensive view on the political landscape at your university. You can make an informed decision which political group you are voting for.

Beyond that this edition includes a diversified political section with an article about the Po-

litical Week of Education and the term „Education“, a column about the housing shortage in Darmstadt and some bad stories about the foreigner-agency (Ausländerbehörde). Also read something about public entanglements concerning the issue NSU, about criticism of religion and the problems in the diploma degree course of architecture.

Like the previous lesezeichen this edition was written by volunteers in their sense of understanding and published by the AStA. This is how this newspaper was created with its diverse content and style.

We are open for suggestions and criticism and are happy if YOU want to contribute, too! - Well, now have fun with this edition of the lesezeichen and with voting.

As the lesezeichen is also published in English we hope for your understanding and tolerance of our mistakes. We are happy if native speakers are joining our translation team and helping us to translate upcoming editions!

Yours, AStA of the TU Darmstadt

Take a look at the other side: This edition of the lesezeichen is bilingual! Since there are about 20% of international students at the TU Darmstadt who are in the beginning mostly only capable of communicating in their mother tongue or in english, a responsibility of the university and the student body arises to involve the non-german-speaking students into cultural and political life on campus. Publications that are only published in german ignore non-german-speaking students at TU Darmstadt ruthlessly. We try to assume our responsibility for all the non-german-speakers at this university by publishing a visually equated english translation of our newspaper lesezeichen.

In case you find any mistakes in the english translation of the lesezeichen we hope for your understanding and would be glad, if you'd be up to support our team of translators with the upcoming edition of the lesezeichen! English native speakers and anglicists are most welcome, just like all other volunteers and we will appreciate every helping hand.

Imprint

lesezeichen (eng. marker)
Journal of Allgemeiner
Studierenden Ausschusses (AStA) der
Technischen Universität Darmstadt

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Hochschulstr. 1
64289 Darmstadt

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Ausgabe: 11. Juni 2013

Editorial: Marlene Förster, Philip Krämer,
Alexander Lang, Iris Conrad
Layout: Sebastian Ankenbrand &
Matty Speck
Vi.S.d.P.: Alexander Lang
Frontcover: University elections poster

Circulation: 3000

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www.asta.tu-darmstadt.de

AStA-Meetings

Stadtmitte S1|03/56
Every Tuesday & Thursday 5 pm

Offices

• Stadtmitte
Building S1|03, Raum 56
Hochschulstr. 1, 64289 Darmstadt
Mo-Mi: 9:30-13:00 & 13:30-17:00 Uhr
Do, Fr: 9:30-15:00 Uhr

• Lichtwiese
Mensa Building, Glasbox
Petersenstraße 14
64287 Darmstadt
Mo-Do: 9:30-15:00 Uhr
Fr: 9:00-13:30 Uhr

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Circle for antifashionism:
antifa@asta.tu-darmstadt.de

Circle for queer@asta.tu-darmstadt.de

Dates

10th - 22nd June
Opposite University of the IVI
For more information, check <http://bit.ly/ZsDz9x>

17th - 20th June
University Elections of the TU Darmstadt

12th June
Unison with university and Amazon
Lecture with the title "Universitärer Gleichklang mit Amazon" at 8.00 p.m. / 603qm

13th - 15th June
Antimilitaristic Action Days

15th June
Rock gegen Rechts
Music event to promote tolerance and fight right-wing extremism in the "Schlosskeller", workshops at 5 p.m. / concert at 8 p.m.

24th - 28th June
Alternative Education Week on the campus

11th July
Masculists and Men-Rights Movement
Lecture from Andreas Kemper at 6.30 p.m.
19th June at 6.30 p.m.

The Superstition of Positivism
Lecture and discussion with Jörg Huber in the Café Glaskasten at the Hochschule Darmstadt

3rd July at 6.30 p.m.
today's religiosity - The building of illusions or postsecular reason?
Lecture and discussion with Hans-Joachim Busch in the Café Glaskasten at the Hochschule Darmstadt

17th July at 6.30 p.m.
Is there anybody out there?
Lecture and discussion about "Is there anybody out there? About the ethnical and social function of religion in the post-secular age" (in german) from Geert Hendrich in the Café Glaskasten at the Hochschule Darmstadt.



University elections Summer Semester 2013

In this article you can find a summary of the most important information on the university elections 2013. Which bodies are to be elected? How does the vote work? When does it take place? Where to vote?

Where and when does the vote take place?

This year the university elections will take place from Monday 17th to Thursday 20th of June 2013. Polling station where you can vote if you didn't take the postal vote, are placed at the cafeteria "Mensa Stadtmitte (Otto-Berndt-Halle)" and at the „Hörsaal- und Medienzentrums Lichtwiese“. The polling stations are open from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.. You need to bring your photo identification (passport) and your student ID in any case to make your choice.

What is going to be elected?

University Assembly

You can vote for the 15 seats for the students of the university assembly. The university assembly of the TU Darmstadt takes care of affairs which are of fundamental interest for the university. To this belong statements on ques-

tions of principle regarding the development of the university, for teaching and studying and for scientific qualified trainees.

Department Council

Also the representatives of the department council will be elected. The department council deals with affairs which are of fundamental interest for the department and not under the competence of the deanery. Therefore it is the highest body of the departments and also decides on the study regulations, regulatory statutes of examination regulations, appointment of the board of review for professorship applicants, application of funds for the department including the staff appropriations and the appointment of the board of examiners. For the departments 1, 2, 4, 7, 13 and 16 there will be elected five students each on the department council and for the departments 3, 5, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 20 will be elected 3 students each.

Students' parliament

For the students' parliament 31 new members will be elected. The students' parliament of the TU Darmstadt is the highest body of the

student body and is elected once a year. It is also responsible for the election and voting out of the students' executive committee and the budget of the student body. Student Department Council Last but not least the new representatives of the Student Department Council will be elected. They are elected in this matter: In the departments 1, 2, 3, 16, 18 and 20 there will be elected 9 students each, in the departments 4, 13 and 15 will be elected 7 students each, in the departments 5, 7, 10 and 11 will be elected 5 students each and in the departments CE, "Mechanik", IST and "Mechatronik" will be elected 3 students each. Deanery of the institutes The scientific members and the administrative- technical members of university will be vote for the deanery of the institutes the same time.

The joint commissions of the areas of studies

Also the members of the joint commissions of areas of studies will be elected. For Computational Engineering (CE) and Mechanics 3 students will be elected each and for Informationssystemtechnik (IST) and Mechatronics 2 students each.

Why you should go voting



so far we don't know for sure how the weather is going to be between 17th and 20th of June 2013, but none the less we have a hot tip for you: If you make your way to one canteen at Lichtwiese or Stadtmitte at noon, just cast your vote prompt and stressless in one polling place at a canteen while university elections! So you don't go to canteen at noon? Then we have some good reasons for you to make your way to one polling station between 17th and 20th of June 2013 and to put your ballot paper into the voting box. To make a long story short: In this article we'll try to convince you of the meaning of your voting and the reasons for a walk to a polling station of university elections.

University is a living space

During your studies you spend a lot of time in university. You go to lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical course, or colloquia. You go for lunch in the cafeteria, or participate in university sports, or maybe you participate in a student association of the university. Whatever you do in university: It is a fact that university policies have a big influence on your living and learning conditions at university.

Influence of university policies

If food in the cafeteria is affordable and also healthy and tasty, if there is enough affordable living space for students in Darmstadt, if there are enough seats at lecture rooms and if the examination regulations are fair and suitable - all these are political problems which need to be solved by political bodies of the university. If a problem is regarded as a problem and what proposals are made for solutions is highly dependent on the representatives you vote for.

The first step of participation

To make sure that your ideas of a life at university are represented it is worth to voluntarily participate in a political university body or a political students association. You don't have time for that or are not interested? Then you get the chance at least once a year to vote on the political direction of your university! You just need to go to the cafeteria from Monday 17th June to Thursday 20th June 2013 to get your voting documents and to vote! Your vote counts! You can decide who sits in the important bodies of the TU Darmstadt for one year. Therefore: Do not hesitate - Go to vote!

FACHWERK



Ivan supports the international students and their needs. Susann speaks up for student interests in the academic committees and Melanie is active in the students' parliament.

FACHWERK in a nutshell

FACHWERK, established 1990, is a political group embodied at the TU Darmstadt. It is an amalgamation of students from different departments/faculties and is comprised mostly from members of the active student councils. We participate in the university elections for the "Students' Parliament" (StuPa) and the „University Assembly“ (UV). FACHWERK does not represent any sort of party political interests, but the diverse positions and political mindsets of all its members regarding the betterment of university life. FACHWERK is operated by students for students, and we regularly talk to student councils, university groups and student initiatives to identify the areas which require scaling up. Furthermore we work on bringing the current topics of university politics to the student councils and presenting the issues faced by faculties to the university committee.

Our primary focus is to work on students' well-being along with the improvement of studying and living conditions. The university is our shared living space, shaping it up is of prime importance to us.

Below is the abstract of our principles and current projects. Further information and topics like the lack of affordable residences in Darm-

stadt can be found on our website <http://fachwerkhouse.de> and on social networks.

Taking International Students "Seriously"!

With its self-statement of an excellent global ranking, the TU Darmstadt is trying to recruit more and more international students every year. Undoubtedly, there is a strong demand to address the challenges related to managing the influx of international students and their needs. Issues such as improvement of support and integration of students in the local environment are of prime importance but still widely neglected by the university. FACHWERK is ardently working to bridge that gap with the aim of motivating international students to take part in university activities and making them aware of the different aspects and opportunities. For instance we are trying to make job advertisements published by the university easily accessible in English. For the accomplishment of these tasks we have set up a team at the "General Students Committee" (AStA) who works for international students and we support the program „TUD Tutor International“ to supplement it.

Master's Degrees for Everybody

A few years ago FACHWERK worked for a

guarantee that ensures a place for the master program after the bachelor degree at TU Darmstadt. Most importantly the implementation of the bachelor and master study paths should not lead to a devaluation of university education. FACHWERK continues speaking up for the preservation of this master guarantee and the quality of education. Therefore, we demand that the university claims adequate money from the federal state to cohere to the principle: „Everyone who has a bachelor can do a master!“

We Say „Yes!“ to the Preservation of the Student Body's Businesses

The Businesses owned by the student body are a crucial part of student life, "Schlosskeller", "Schlossgarten", "603qm" and "AStA Stationery Store" are primordial places which regularly host student related activities (and other stuff), helping to enrich the social experience of students. Currently, FACHWERK participates in planning and realising the new building for the café and discotheque „603qm“ along with the movement of the "AStA Stationery Store" to the lecture and media center. The hosting of culturally diverse programs within the different student body's businesses at student friendly prices and their open structure where everybody is able to participate are promoted by FACHWERK now and in the future.

From masch+ to ing+

ing+

What were our aims so far?

In the last year we candidate first for the Universitätsversammlung (UV) and Studierendenparlament (StuPa) with a list named "masch+". Our aims were a stronger representation of the students interests and the adjustment of the campus Lichtwiese to the raising number of students and the containment of the waste of the student government fund.

What have we achieved?

During the current legislative period we participated in the student parliament setting a vice president and a recorder. Through active work in chairmanship and plenum we mana-

ged to raise the working capability of the parliament. For the upcoming election of the vice president for academic studies and education we worked on profiles of qualification and carried out interviews with the candidates together with other representatives of students of the UV. Afterwards we tried to agree on the qualifications in a meeting with Professor Prömel.

What varies in the upcoming election?

This year we line up again under the name „ing+“. Beside the aspects we successfully tracked last year we will attend to more subject areas in the following legislation. In the last legislations we already criticized the waste of financial resources. Through the alignment of these resources we took a step to this aim. As a next step we would like to discuss the structure of departments in the students' union executive committee and their sense in general. Currently it is hardly obvious what conceals in the single departments, how much work they afford and whether the pay is adequate.

At the beginning of the summer semester the new lecture hall- and media centre (HMZ) at the Lichtwiese started operations. With the

bus route KU, which can be used additionally to the existing bus route K and the tram routes 2 and 9, the situation in public transportations has markedly released. Due to good weather especially in the summer we have to face many students riding by bicycle. For this reason we not only plead for new bicycle racks but also for a restoration of the cycle ways and sidewalks. We positively watch the development of the cafeteria at the Lichtwiese. The student union already agreed to increase capacity through a new cashpoint, tables and chairs. These actions shall be implemented during the summer. A realignment of the food counters in the upper section is planned to give the students a better overview and avoid long waiting lines. In addition to that the cafeteria shall be left open as learning space from lunchtime to evening hour. With this action the student union supports students learning much longer than the regular opening period at the Lichtwiese due to the new lecture hall- and media centre. The hereby increased need of learning space at the Lichtwiese was, for example encountered by establishing new learning rooms in the HMZ. But, in our opinion, this is an inadequate reaction. For this reason we still advocate for new learning centers at the Lichtwiese and in the central city.

Campusgrüne Darmstadt



Your green student group at the TU Darmstadt

Instead of being stressed with finishing studies as fast as possible, we demand self-determination, high quality food, a consequent extension of bicycle paths and additional free space!

Improving the course situation for everyone

More and more students begin studying at the TU Darmstadt. Many faculties try to regulate application procedures by applying harsh criteria for admission, even though that can never compensate for the rush of new students. Campusgrüne tries to ensure a constant dialogue with those responsible in order to improve the situation for all students, for example by expanding individual mentoring, building additional rooms and giving more lectures. We generally oppose admission restrictions as they are means of cultivating societal elites - (Master) university places for all!

Cultural offerings for students

We demand an increased offering of cultural activities for free. Therefore we try to achieve a cooperation with museums, similar to our deal with the theatre. Additionally, the capacity

of available language courses must be increased. All students should have the chance to learn new languages at no charge!

Self-regulated Learning and Teaching

We want every student to be able to organize their studies without being forced to be physically present at lectures and seminars. Therefore we demand E-Learning tools like videos recordings, e-books and online material. We strictly oppose compulsory attendance, the motivation for attendance must be good education itself. Another requirement for self-determined studies is the possibility to study part-time which must be implemented in all study paths. At the level of federal politics, we fight for a regulation for the ability to combine BAföG acquisition and part-time studying. Incorporated in self-determined learning is an individual mentoring, which allows for intensive problem-solving around the university. This also means having more open spaces for studying and more time to deal with different subjects!

Mobility in Darmstadt

Since a very long time we support the demand of connecting the campus Lichtwiese to the public transport system. But in addition there must be a possibility for students not only to get to Lichtwiese by railway, we also demand the extension of the existing bicycle routes. Consequentially, we also want bicycle racks to be built.

Affordable housing in Darmstadt!

Everyone knows the consequences of the tense housing situation in Darmstadt, and it is getting even worse. Altogether around 1000 flats and/or rooms are missing and cannot be provided in near future. At the same time 3000

rooms/flats are available but not actually used in former caserns. As a result of our work of the past we were able to start negotiations with the local government and the owners of the caserns. We will keep hard to gain the most possible amount of affordable rooms for students, in the caserns as well as in the rest of the city!

Organic food instead of mass processing

A canteen has to provide food for a large amount of people, so we demand a diverse menu for diverse people. All ingredients have to be as well as fairtrade, GMO-free, in season and regionally produced. Especially for allergies, there have to be easy accessible lists of ingredients available. In the administrative council and in the workin group on canteen we advocate for at least one vegan dish per day and a fresh and vitaminfriendly preparation of meals.

Expand student transit pass

We want to expand the student transit pass by the Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar (VRN) e.g. to Heidelberg/Mannheim and the Nordhessischen Verkehrsverbund (NVV) to Kassel. Thereby we improve the lousy situation of commuters for students and conquer the county's frontier to Baden-Württemberg.

Campusgrüne means: sustainability, transparency, more participation, green university, democracy, political education, equal opportunities, freedom, energy efficiency, heat insulation, world peace, sovereignty of food, cultural diversity, more mobility, organic food, self-determination, affordable housing, health, anti-fascism, reconcilability of studies and family, solidarische Landwirtschaft, reconcilability of studies and having a job, solidarity, fairness and joie de vivre.

Jusos und Unabhängige



We are a group of students who engage in university politics and want that all students can make up their own mind about politics. Many of us are also politically active outside of university. We are associated to the young socialists and the social democratic party, yet we are independent and self-financed. We share these three core values: liberty, justice and solidarity.

Yet, what does this mean at university? A few

examples: in our opinion compulsory attendance for lectures are a constriction of students' liberty. Those who cannot chose their working hours are happy to be able to catch up on learning matter at home - instead of failing classes because of lacking attendance. We consider it just if all students are entitled to a master program and not just the best 10%. Solidarity means to fight for increased grants, even though you do not need it yourself.

Mission accomplished: oral complementary exam!

After three failures in one exam it's over - forever. We consider it indefensible that one single test can determine the fate of an entire study program. After long fights we have achieved the introduction of oral complementary exams. It offers the chance to achieve a pass (4,0) after three failed exams.

Affordable housing in Darmstadt!

The housing situation in Darmstadt is a catastrophe! At the same time there are hundreds of vacant flats in the city's south. Our contacts into the city council and the hessian Parliament will help us to enforce students' interests furthermore.

Decent wages for student and research assistants!

A university job seems a lucky chance to many. Such a position promises good contacts to the academical society and flexible working hours. Reality looks a lot different. Student and research assistants are not paid adequately or only receive limited contracts. We demand a universal, social solution for the TU Darmstadt.

These are just our most important demands. If you are eager to know more about us or feel like getting involved, visit us on: www.jusos-tud.de or facebook.com/jusos.tu.darmstadt

Your Young Socialists and Nonpartisans

Vibrant, innovative and creative – Rat der WiMis

Representing the status group "Wissenschaftliche Mitglieder", we participate in this year's elections to determine the next University Assembly. We are setting out together as candidates with experience in University politics, but also as fresh faces with new ideas. It is most important to us to forward a true representation of the diverse interests and causes: those with temporary positions but also permanent workers; women and men, from graduates to post-doctorates and from every faculty. It is our united desire to work towards the improvement of our university!

Among things we aim to achieve are the following themes:

Re-Election of the Executive Committee - We strive to secure a fixed contact within the Executive Committee regarding interests of our status group. Furthermore, we would welcome a strengthening of the responsibilities for teaching within the Committee.

Fixed-term contracts - the University has guidelines for short-term jobs. In light of the „Leitlinien für die Ausgestaltung befristeter Beschäftigungsverhältnisse mit wissenschaftlichem und künstlerischem Personal“ (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, 2012), the university guidelines should be revised where necessary to address better conditions among scientific staff in temporary jobs.

Family friendly university - in addition to the further expansion of provisions for childcare, part-time study should also be made available for students with children seeking to undertake Doctoral studies. Likewise, in the matter of dual career-study models, we wish to see a discussion of new possibilities.

Strengthening post-doc. positions - continuous work at universities requires experienced academic staff. Furthermore, we believe that employees should be more involved in the decision-making process of the University.

Culture of open discussion - is the necessary foundation for success in research and teaching. Many processes and decisions require open discussion and exchange of information: professorial appointments, reorganisation of courses and studies or the implementation of the civil clause. University bodies, institutes, faculties and departments must communicate more clearly and openly.

Subject Diversity - a vibrant culture at the university requires not exist only in major teaching faculties and research institutes, but rather a diverse structure. The university must strengthen its focus on diversity ideas like interdisciplinarity and teacher training.

Teaching load - The division of hours spent between the important tasks of teaching and

the completion of the accompanying research responsibilities must be more clearly defined.

PhD Scholarships - increase partially the autonomy of PhD students. However we highlight the risks that individual scholarships pose, particularly to the social security of research candidates. It should be discussed whether more contractual appointments are possible.

More services for staff - concerning staff life during work hours but also concerning non-academic life. Close cooperation with the city of Darmstadt in matters regarding living conditions and general quality of life should be sought.

Our list of candidates, Tristan Alex (FB 04), Sonja Mars (04), Jens Gallenbacher (20), Olga Zitzelsberger (03), Moritz Kütt (05), Andreas Mars (04), Holger Grothe (04), Nadine Baltzer (03), Harald Bierbaum (03), Pascal Büscher (05), Alf Gerisch (04), Marion Eger (HDA).

Contact: moritz.kuett@physik.tu-darmstadt.de, Tel. 2950

Transport Department of AStA informs



Photo: Susann Weißheit

The semester ticket for public transport is based on a solidarity model, which means that all advantages of the semester ticket are just realizable through the contribution of every student.

Currently it costs 110 Euros for one semester, applies throughout the area of the RMV and in some parts of the neighboring transport associations. You can check out an overview of the whole scope at ^[1].

We currently deal with different issues which concern the semester ticket. We examine whether it is worth for the student body to negotiate about certain extensions to neighboring transport providers or not. Such as it was planned with the VAB (Verkehrsgemeinschaft am Bayerischen Untermain / Transport Community at the Bavarian Lower Main) in order to realize an easier connection to Aschaffenburg and the surrounding area. However, we often encounter problems and resistance.

Different transport companies have different interests and some have no interests to offer cheap tickets for a huge amount of students. Another issue in the recent past in connec-

tion with the semester ticket was a discussion about the bike rental service. We as AStA are mainly representing the oscillating students in negotiations. We want to offer these students a cheap possibility to rent bikes in urban areas. This will improve their flexibility and independence over the public transport. The RMV currently evaluates an appropriate offer - We stay tuned!

Semester ticket

If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding the semester ticket, you can contact us by mail. We generally try to answer as soon as possible.

Contact:
verkehr@asta.tu-darmstadt.de

^[1] <http://bit.ly/iYP3c7>

The bad housing situation in Darmstadt

The housing shortage in Darmstadt continues. Several people can't find an accommodation or - even having multiple jobs - are not able to pay theirs due to rent increases.

Today, Darmstadt is despite of its size one of the most expensive cities to live in for students. Rents are on the same level as in big cities like Frankfurt, Cologne or Düsseldorf. Only Hamburg and Munich are slightly more expensive. This leads to fatal social impacts, not only for students, but especially for socially disadvantaged families who are being displaced. Through racist prejudices, people with a migration background are hit by the shortage the most. All too often a name which does not "sound german" can be a reason for not getting an answer by a lessor. There are

more and more investor-programms flooding the student apartment market exploiting the situation in order to gain profit. This will lead to a further aggravation.

This year there will be two big elections in Hesse, which lead the Hessian government to promise to facilitate 2000 new student accommodations. However, this small number will not ease the situation at all, but instead this campaigning trick tries to distract from the insufficient facilitation they did in the past.

Nevertheless, it is quite interesting, that by the campaigning act a temporary use of the former barracks in the south of Darmstadt by students became more likely. Those barracks were left by the american soldiers five years

ago, are mostly in a good condition and could offer a home for about 3000 people on the short or medium term. Negotiations between Studierendenwerk Darmstadt and BimA (who administrates the barracks) have been resumed and students might be moving in by next semester. However, if the number of prospective residents will stay as small as 150, this effort will be all in vain.

More Information can be found on the new blog:
<https://wohnungsnotda.noblogs.org/>

Roundtable in the Hessian Ministry of Social Affairs: „It is normal to be different“

The AStA's queer department was part of the 19th roundtable of the Hessian Ministry of Social Affairs. Its topic was „It is normal to be different.“ For many Hessian groups the date was chosen unlucky: on the International Day against Homo- and Transphobia - 17th May. It was the first roundtable after external ministry advisors for the topic of same-sex living were suspended ^[1].

This meeting's focus was the draft paper „Hessian Policy concerning people of all sexual and gender identities“ by the ministry ^[2]. During the debate about it, the current minister Stefan Grüttner was attending as well for a short time. The expansion of a gay and lesbian centred policy towards a broader queer approach is a positive start and marks a welcome paradigm shift in the former equality policy in Hessen.

The queer department is nevertheless disappointed that the paper is a mere statement of will without financial base and any practical consequences. The lacking coordination with

other ministries and the government already lead to fundamental changes in the draft paper. At first there was the palpable will to join the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency's „Coalition against Discrimination“, but after objections in the cabinet it was rephrased to „consider“ the issue. In the light of the variety of acts to consider we have to await whether they are desirable, yet not politically enforceable. Answering the queer department's question whether this paper is just symbolic politics, the minister said his time would be too valuable for symbolic politics. Still he reacted evasively to repeated questions concerning actual measures to implement the paper and announced no further steps. All in all we can only hope that there will be any political actions following this paper at all and that it will not be put in the bottom of a drawer during the election period's last months.

Since the minister's political future is uncertain (depending on the election results and the new government's composition) the queer department demands that he uses his remain-

ing office time to enhance the equal treatment of LGBTIQ-people and their ways of life, just as he promotes in the paper at hand and to install a permanent agency in his ministry to implement these measures. Equality and social politics may not continue to ignore people's lives and have to become a sincere concern of all political parties.

The AStA's queer department will continue to fight for these interests and demand the political realisation of equal treatment of LGBTIQ-people together with cooperation partners like QueerNet Hessen.

Disambiguation

LGBTIQ: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Intersex, Queer

^[1] <http://bit.ly/LB7mW0>

^[2] <http://bit.ly/13wKQT3>

Left blank intentionally
Unfortunately student scientific associates list „TUD Aktiv“ hasn't contributed.

German Conditions

The city of Darmstadt likes to promote its cosmopolitan character in public. The label of multi-culturalism shall emphasize that all people are welcome. In the same way, the TU Darmstadt, not least due to the excellence initiative, enforces a strong international focus in its engineering programs. As soon as non-German persons perform very well and efficiently, they are welcomed by Darmstadt and the TU with open arms. But what happens after these people have been declared a figurehead and even more interesting what about those who do not seem fit enough for Germany? The following examples shall illustrate that the state's and the society's racism are not just some left-wings radicals woolgathering:

City Of Darmstadt: Immigration Office, Registration Office/Regulatory Authority, University Department of International Affairs, Student Union Counselling

It happens all the time: there are problems regarding visa or an advice about a room in the dormitory is needed. The offices mentioned above are all open before noon only. This condition is unbearable, since many lectures take place at this time. Longer opening hours until the afternoon would be a necessary move to provide adequate counselling. Moreover, even

though the TU Darmstadt has been offering English programs for a couple of years now, many employees of university, department of international affairs and student union still only speak German (also when calling to make an appointment). If students do not speak German, they are sent away without listening to their problems. It is inevitable for these agencies to facilitate translation for the most common languages. Darmstadt's immigration office has a very strict conduct of its allowance at discretion, especially compared to those in the surrounding municipalities (Dieburg, Bergstraße).

Many international students have to suffer the consequences – visa and residence permits are granted at will or not. The situation for the affected is a psychic burden. To create more transparency and to give the AStA better opportunities for advising students, the conducts of administration which are necessary during the granting of visa or residence permit in a municipality should be public and freely accessible. They have to be translated into all relevant languages! We want the city of Darmstadt, that presents itself cosmopolitan, as well as the university, that presents itself as an international research institute, to live up to this image in their treatment of non-German people!

The National Socialist Underground and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the breakdown and the system

On the 6th of May 2013, began in Munich the trial against Beate Zschäpe and four other Neonazis. They are accused of membership or support of a terrorist organization pursuant to §129a and complicity in racially motivated murders. The essential is already „resolved“ without trial: According to the indictment the National Socialist Underground / NSU consisted of three members, the last living member is said to be Beate Zschäpe. The question of the involvement of public authorities in the NSU murders has also been already answered. „We didn't find viable evidence of criminal involvement of relevant governmental bodies in the crimes of the NSU in our investigations“, confirmed the federal prosecutor general Harald Range in Karlsruhe (Germany today from 12.12.2012).

Similarly, the institution of the federal prosecutor general claims that they found no evidence that there were „interdependences of NSU with other groups“ (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 11.08.2012). Thus, the institution of the federal prosecutor general wants to do something justiciable, which has been hawked for two years: the National Socialist Underground / NSU is „the Zwickau terror trio“, Beate Zschäpe is the last surviving member, the NSU is dead before the trial - everything is good again. So the question is not, who is on trial on the 6th of May 2013 and what will be discussed there. The more interesting question is who is not and what will not be discussed.

The trial is scheduled for two years. Much, much more time to figure out what should be prevented with this process! Thirteen years, no one knew in the numerous law enforcement agencies that there is a neo-Nazi terrorist group called „National Socialist Underground“

(NSU). Once the existence of the NSU was no longer to conceal at the end of 2011, the police, the intelligence agencies, the Ministries of the Interior, the institution of the federal prosecutor general and all the mainstream media knew that the NSU consists of exactly three members. Not five, not twenty, even a previously unknown number. Exactly three! Now, over eighteen months have passed since it became public, that what was deported for thirteen years into criminal, foreign environments, was an unprecedented neo-Nazi murder spree.

A neo-Nazi murder spree, where the most influential supporters of the NSU were not from the ranks of the fellowships or from Blood & Honour, but from the state „Safety“ apparatus itself. While the investigators constantly call „full investigation“ on „one failure“ ranks the other: cover-ups, deception, destruction and concealment of evidence, tampering of records, false statements etc. ...

No question: Many Leftists are not surprised of more, others see themselves confirmed in what they call for ages and say „German police protects the fascists.“ And of course, many Leftists do not need additional evidence that the Office for the protection of the Constitution (VS) should be abolished.

At first glance obvious and on the second quite wrong: Never before got the critical society and the Leftists such a precise glimpse into the law enforcement agencies. Never before state structures have been appeared in a way that helps answering the question: What kind of state is it today? A police state? A deep state in which state terrorism and democratic elections are not excluded? A state which has

The AStA's international work.

Apart from the project „TUtor International“ where students offer international students professional, social and cultural activities and support (Facebook: TUD Tutor International), three international assistants work at the AStA (Ramkumar Sukumar, Ivan Martinez, Mohammad Abazid). They support both Syrian and Indian students, who have recently formed own student groups, and maintain contact to the other international student groups.

Additionally they offer consultation-hours on a regular basis. Furthermore, all students are entitled to legal advice free of charge. There is also a lawyer whose specialisation is immigration law and who you can consult in all legal questions. You can get appointments at the AStA office during its opening hours. Yet we need your support for a strong AStA - go voting!

Revision of right of residence for Syrian students

According to an order by the Federal Ministry of the Interior that is based on §23 Residence Act, Syrian students are from now on entitled to apply for Bafög (government grants). Due to the highly tensed situation in Syria all Syrian people are given residence permits as well as the right to work. If you have more questions concerning these issues please contact our assistant for international students Mohammad Abazid (abazid@asta.tu-darmstadt).



Alternative Education Week

What does education mean to me? This question should not only be asked by every single person, it would also be appropriate and very interesting to discuss this question in the university, in seminars, tutorials and lectures. But in today's university life, there is no room for such questions - with one exception: a lecture in pedagogy [1]. It is certain that the definition of education is already determined by the university. From the first moment, confronted with attendance records, exam dates and a fixed tough-structured schedule - it's obvious, that there is no time to discuss basic and alternative topics. University does not teach in order to educate, it does not discuss contents regardless of their benefits in the professional world. Even a simple "interest without professional thoughts" is not an acceptable reason to study. Today's universities teach in order to skill people for work, in order to consume, to follow orders and to execute instructions. This should be made clear by the increased presence of companies in the university and its influence on education, research and teaching. Education is hardly independent of performance and planning for the future.

We want to counteract this procedure!

Of course, free, critical and self-determined education in a system of competition and oppression is neither imaginable nor approximately realizable. To accept the existing conditions as fixed and unchangeable and to stop questioning these should not and cannot be the conclusion. Much more we should create open spaces, discussion groups and think about an alternative society. What will this society look like? Who knows?

Alternative Education Camp

The alternative education camp is scheduled from the 24th to the 28th of June, from Monday till Friday. Here we will offer workshops and open spaces to discuss about society, education, science and people. Various political topics will be presented and discussed in terms of education, economy, social issues, ecology and utopia. Workshops on „critical sciences“, „critical theory“, „economization of education“ and „militarization of society“ will be held on the first two days. Queer issues and

the topic „life in illegality“ will be primarily discussed on Wednesday. Alternative cultivation options and eating habits will be discussed and practically tested on Thursday. And on Friday there will be enough time for ourselves to imagine a „wonderful world“ and to make plans how we may realize it. This week should be colorful, noisy and different. So besides the workshops and lectures, we will have movie nights, discussion groups, creative activities, live music and vegan dinner together.

In short: We want to criticize and discuss together with you. We want to think about an alternative society, about another everyday life and about another education. Being creative and sharing ideas are essential to break out of the grey everyday life. We will be happy about many new and old faces, exciting discussions and suggestions. So come over and participate as much as you want.

[1] seminar „Politische Dimensionen pädagogischer Theoriebildung“ by Peter Euler, TUCaN: <http://bit.ly/11294Bz>

Closing of the intermediate examination of the Architecture program in the summer semester 2013

In the winter semester 2012/13 the intermediate diploma of the Architecture program was closed. Looking at the above timeline, this process is legally correct. About 50 students are affected. The closing neatly fits into a university that is focussed on efficiency and that does not care about the individual fates of students.

The first shortcoming is the faculty's way of communication, its study course coordinator Dr. Meinrad von Engelberg and its dean of studies, Prof. Auslender. Again and again they emphasize that the closing was announced du-

ring the plenary meetings in April and October 2012. This is true, but the question remains why the affected received a letter on 2nd May 2013 only and not already in April 2012. Additionally, a slide during one of the plenary meetings was titled „Bye bye intermediate diploma!“. This fully ignores the situations severance. In October 2012 some students were informed by letters. A meeting with Prof. Auslender was recommended to determine the further fate of their studies. At this time the faculty was only one semester away from the closing, yet this did not stop the study administration from waiting up to two months („with a bad conscience“) to make appointments with students. If it was finally possible to have a meeting, the dean recommended to switch into the Bachelor program. This advice was at this time the most sensible, since lectures from the summer semester could not be heard anymore and a completion of the intermediate diploma was impossible by then.

This fact is more than sad and shows again that the students were informed way too late. After the plenary meeting in the current semester, everybody knew about the closing and panic was spreading. The first contact person now was of course study course coordinator Dr. Meinrad von Engelberg. He, however showed a very arrogant behaviour towards the diploma students during the information

meeting on 15th May. When the faculty was criticized in individual talks he recited the bible. It fits the general scheme that was used in the entire process: „The students who have not yet passed their intermediate diploma are just too lazy, and it does not affect many anyways.“ This argument was also used for the closing by the faculty in the faculty council. To talk about an unanimous decision afterwards when it was taken under false preconditions does not prove great strength. In this context it has to be questioned why there are no efforts for a reopening or at least a fair solution for the affected students. The situation grows even more drastic when we take a look at the process of pretaken exams from the main diploma. The faculty has always forbidden this. Still, it is very usual for architecture students to already have loads of CP from the main diploma. Since there is a university rule that the transfer of diploma achievements into Bachelor or Master is not possible anymore after 5 years. One of the demands has to be to find a solution to transfer passed certificates as soon as possible.

This example from the architecture faculty has to admonish that before a course is closed all affected people have to be heard and that in case of doubt we must abstain from closing for the sake of social justice. Everyone should be able to study as long as they want!

