

Why did you become a teacher? That's a good question. People always thought that I would make a good teacher, even though I didn't actually plan on becoming one. It was a job opportunity, and as my dad said, "You're getting older, you've gotta have a profession." He mentioned one of his mentors, someone that he trusted and believed in, who said, "Oh, your son would make a good teacher." That's when I said, yeah, maybe if other people recommended it, then maybe I should try it as a profession. I wasn't sure whether I'd like it or not, but that's what I ultimately did. I also had teaching experience before I became an official teacher; I volunteered teaching in intercity Boston and taught overseas, but I was not officially a teacher until I was 35.

What's your most memorable teaching experience? I don't think it really qualifies as a teaching experience, but it was after I left NYC, after 10 years. The teachers didn't throw me a party, but my students did. They were my ESL, English as Second Language students, a mix of 9th to 12th graders. It was a huge surprise, something I really wasn't expecting. All my kids gathered together, and they got me presents, made all the food themselves and said lots of kind words. It was a really memorable experience.

What affects your choice where to go next more: the job opportunity or where you want to go? It's a mix of both. I needed a job, and this job simply became available, but I see that it's a good fit, so you can say that it's the job, because I get to teach history, a subject I like. It's a mix of things, but usually in the past, it was because I wanted to go somewhere specific, but now I'm learning that you also have to go to a good school.

Where have you lived before? I am from the United States, New York State, but I taught New York City. I've lived and taught overseas a lot, over 5 years in Ukraine. I've also lived in Lithuania, Peru, Czechia, and also 3 years in China.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT Robert O'Leary "80% OF SUCCESS IS JUST SHOWING UP"



When did you move to Berlin? The 8th of May 2025.

Did you teach at another school in Berlin before coming here? Yes, over last year, I taught at Berlin Metropolitan School, but that was only a one-year contract, so I wasn't able to stay longer, but I believe it was a good move coming here.

Who are your favourite musicians? Hmm, that's a hard one! Well, my uncle was a first-generation Beatles listener, and he got me involved in that music. But I can also give you a pretty unknown name, Peter Knight, a British fiddle player, who plays the violin fiddle.

What are your hobbies? I used to take a lot of photos with my camera, not my phone, but now I run, do bike riding, and travel, as much as I can, around Europe. I like visiting different restaurants and trying various cuisines.

What's your favourite cuisine? I really like Indian food, so spicy foods, and Georgian Khinkali dumplings, which are 2 of my favourite foods.

What kind of student were you? I would say that I was very diligent, and a fairly serious student. I would try to get all my work done on time and would follow the rules. I wasn't a total square, but I probably should have had some more fun in high school. I would work hard and I definitely wasn't one of those kinds who would goof off in class!

Going back 20 years ago, what did you think your job would be? I had no idea then, and I genuinely still don't know what my job should be now. People know what they want to do in life from an early age, but I never really thought, "Yeah, I want to be a teacher!" I'm good at it, and that's why I do it, but you know, I'd rather just travel around, try new foods and go to different places than work! But if I'm going to work then I'm going to be a teacher. So yes, I do like it.

Do you have any pets? A few weeks ago, we got a 2-month-old kitten, **Mei Mei**.

The Cosmopolitan

COMPACT

Tuesday

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Table of Contents

FEATURE Politics

- 1 | **U16 Elections** "How did our school vote?"
- 2 | **Volt** "Berlin could be so much more", Axumawit Berhe on how to Unf*ck Berlin
- 3 | **Berliner Wahlen** "Was bewegt Junge Leute dazu die AfD oder die Linke zu wählen"
- 5 | **Star-Trekking to the Polls** How Hope Can Change Hearts
- 6 | **Who Represents You** Political Parties of the Bundestag
- 7 | **Café Guide** The Honest Guide to the Best Coffee, Treats, and Spaces
- 9 | **Tropical Islands Rant** "The place that tests your piety and patience"
- 10 | **Poem**

SCHOOL

- 11 | **Teacher Spotlight** Mr. O'Leary



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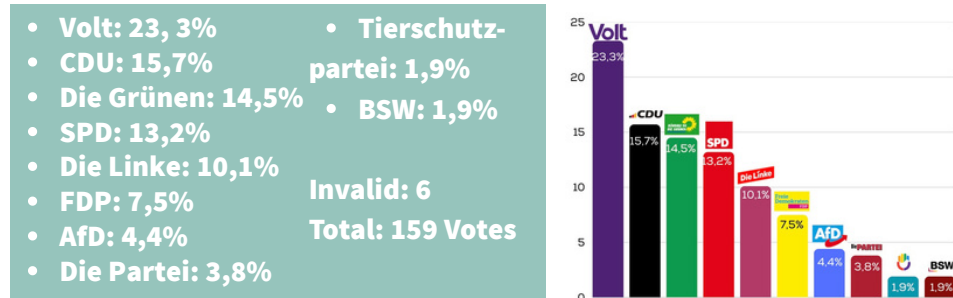
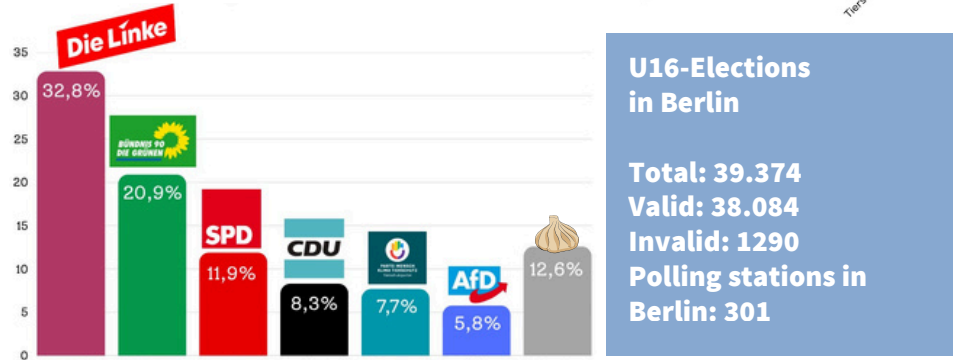
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HOW DID OUR SCHOOL VOTE?



On September 9th, 7th to 10th graders underwent their first ever voting experience right in the school aula. Excitement filled the rooms; there was some of that nervous "Who are you voting for?"-chatter about as well as a pressing lack of pens. After your identity was verified using any form of identification that was mandatory, you received a voting ballot and were permitted to mark your ballot in secrecy behind the basses. One might claim that a realistic voting environment was present. The fact that the vote took place weeks ago doesn't change the reality of most students being oblivious of the end results. They are as follows:



If our school was the whole of Berlin, what would the Abgeordnetenhaus look like?
Total number of seats: 130
(be reminded of the 5% hurdle)

Seat Distribution

- Volt: 41 seats
- CDU: 27 seats
- Die Grünen: 25 seats
- SPD: 23 seats
- Die Linke: 18 seats
- FDP: 13 seats

When comparing our schools' results to the rest of Berlin's under sixteen-year-olds, it is hard to overlook a significant distinction: Volt was remarkably popular at BCS, receiving most votes at 23,3%, while in the entirety of Berlin, Volt received only 2,7%. That is to say, Volt must ascribe 0,94% out of that 2,7% total (more than a third) to BCS. In order to better grasp the motive of these astonishing results, The Cosmopolitan questioned Axumawit Berhe, one of Volt's candidates for the 2026 District Assembly Elections.

Ms. Berhe, why do you think the Volt party was so popular in our school as compared to the rest of Berlin? What do you think might have influenced students at our school?

I think it's pretty simple: Volt fits how many of you already live. A lot of your parents come from other countries, many of them from elsewhere in Europe. Some of you were born abroad, many have lived somewhere else, and plenty of you will go on to study abroad. For you, Europe isn't an abstract idea. It's your everyday life. So a pan-European party just makes sense. On top of that, Volt is new, progressive and stands for social-liberal politics, and I think that combination speaks to a lot of young people.

Do you believe mock elections serve as a reliable predictor of future voting behavior?

Looking at the results, I'd say no. One school, and a private school like BCS at that, isn't representative of Berlin. That said, our strongest results were in constituencies in Mitte, so pretty close to where the school is. I'd read your result less as "Volt will win" and more as "this generation thinks in European terms."

What made you want to join the Volt party?

I've been involved for years in strengthening democracy and social cohesion, because the way our society is changing really worries me. Anna Auerbach, our lead candidate and a good friend of mine, convinced me to stop doing this from the sidelines. If you really want to change things, you have to join a party. So I did. I had the honour of being very close to Anna during her campaign and learned a lot. Now I get to keep going with my seat in the district assembly in Mitte, and I'm very happy about it. Below: Axumawit Berhe (standing) and Anna Auerbach.



What do you think is the biggest advantage Volt has to offer to young students?

The European project, first and foremost. But also: this school thinks and lives digitally, and Volt is the party for digitalisation. Next to our social and sustainability agenda, we're big on the economy, startups and innovation. I've helped organise the BCS Career Day for the past three years, and those were always the topics students were most excited about. That's exactly where Volt is strong.

Which voter segments does your party currently focus on? Do you often think about how you can better appeal to young voters?

As a social-liberal party of the centre, we don't want to do politics for just one group. We want to reach everyone who's tired of the old left-versus-right fights and just wants things to work. That said, our core topics like digitalisation, the economy, and bringing in best practices from across Europe naturally attract a certain crowd: often urban, inter-national, and future-oriented. And yes, I think about young voters a lot, because you'll live with today's decisions the longest.

How do you feel about the election results that Volt achieved city-wide in Berlin?

Honestly? Heartbroken 😞 At one point, polls showed that 8% of Berliners would like voting for us. But it was a very polarised election, and many people voted strategically, to prevent things rather than to make things possible. It's painful that Anna Auerbach won't be in the Abgeordnetenhaus. As a lawyer and founder, she brings real experience from the business world, plus an incredible drive to actually get things done. With her expertise, her pragmatic, positive approach and her genuine interest in people, she would have been exactly what this city needs. That's a loss for all of Berlin."

Lastly, what do you mean by "Unf*ck Berlin"?

It was our campaign slogan, and yes, it's a bit provocative. But come on, everyone knows the feeling. Things just don't work here. Schools are falling apart (luckily not so BSC). Construction sites take forever, cause traffic chaos, and nobody seems to be working on them. And that's before we even get to housing. As a mom, I know this too, and your parents probably do as well: the hassle we had of finding a Kita spot, a school place, queuing forever to get you into swimming lessons. Berlin could be so much more. We'd love the chance to take on responsibility and show you what we mean.

"BERLIN COULD BE SO MUCH MORE"
Axumawit Berhe on how to unf*ck Berlin

Berliner Wahlen

Was bewegt Junge Leute dazu die AfD oder die Linke zu wählen?

Von Yva Toschek und Anaïs Schneider Medina

Am 20. September wurde in Berlin ein neues Abgeordnetenhaus (Regierung der Stadt) gewählt. Während in den vergangenen vier Jahren eine Koalition aus CDU und SPD, und damit 2 bürgerliche Parteien, regiert haben, gewann diesmal die Partei „Die Linke“ und auch die AfD wurde mit 16,3 % drittstärkste Kraft. Diese Ergebnisse haben viele Berliner überrascht – wie lassen sie sich erklären? Eine Umfrage auf der Straße von Anaïs Schneider Medina und Yva Toschek.

„Ich denke, es liegt an einer Perspektivlosigkeit, weil sehr wenige Ideen herumschwirren. Kommend aus der Politik, sehr wenige Perspektiven. Ich würde sagen, junge Menschen suchen dann irgendwo Halt oder suchen dann irgendwo eine Richtung. Andererseits werden sie auch sehr gut, zumindest von der AfD, sehr gut gefangen, sehr früh, durch die ganzen Social Media Kanäle. Das wirkt auch mit rein. Also, ich glaub, es gibt so unterschiedliche Perspektiven und unterschiedliche Gründe und die spielen irgendwie miteinander ein.“

„Ich glaube links als auch rechts, gerade für junge Menschen, bietet halt eine Auffangplattform, ne? Also, wenn du noch jung bist, bist du sehr beeinflussbar und so links als auch rechts ist halt für Leute, die sich nirgendwo zugehörig fühlen, ein Becken, wo man sich halt sammeln kann und Gleichgesinnte findet. Alles in der Mitte, das bildet sich halt erst mit dem Alter. Jüngere Menschen sind einfach

beeinflussbarer und halt später ihre Meinung und driften dann in eine Richtung

„Ich hatte gestern sogar das Gespräch. Ich glaube, dass sehr viele Sachen sehr polarisieren und deswegen sie entweder ins eine Extrem oder ins andere Extrem rutschen, weil es eigentlich keine gute Mitte mehr gibt. Entweder halt dann links oder rechts und weil die Mitte ziemlich unfähig ist und die Prognosen ja auch gezeigt haben, dass du eigentlich dann deine Stimme verschwendest, wenn du alles andere als die Linke oder die Rechte wählst. Das ist meine Theorie.“

„Ich ehrlich gesagt verstehe nicht, warum junge Leute die AfD wählen würden. Also, die Verbreitung von Informationen durch soziale Medien führt dazu, dass viele falsche Informationen verbreitet werden. Ich bin nicht Berliner. Ich bin auch nicht Deutscher. Also, ich kenne mich nicht so gut aus mit der Berliner Politik, aber soweit ich weiß, sind sie (Die Linken) nicht so radikal mit ihrer Politik wie die AfD, insofern was sie in ihrem Regierungsplan haben. Vielleicht deswegen... aber jüngere Leute lesen ja diesen Regierungsplan gar nicht. Also, ich würde sagen, das wäre also die schnelle Verbreitung von Informationen. Auch was die AfD vertritt: schnelle Lösungen für die sehr tiefen Probleme in der deutschen Politik.“

„Also, ich glaub, weil momentan die Parteien in der Mitte so an Glaubwürdigkeit verlieren und deshalb die Menschen so das Gefühl haben, extrem wählen zu müssen, weil die halt populistische Lösungen liefern. Also, da gibt es ja dann immer ein Feindbild, die Linken sagen, die Reichen sind die Feinde, die AfD sagt die Ausländer sind die Feinde. Das ist dann halt immer eine einfache Lösung.“

„Ich glaub, bei der AfD, würde ich sagen, ist es eher so Unzufriedenheit. Also, dass Leute eigentlich aus Protest wählen, vielleicht, und bei Linken würde ich schon eher sagen, auch der Wunsch nach was Neuem, Besseren vielleicht.“

„Ich glaub, auch das wahrscheinlich viel auf Social Media einem eingeprägt wird und vielleicht viele auch gar nicht wissen, wofür sie überhaupt wählen.“

„Boah, also, ich glaub viele haben auch links gewählt, weil Hauptsache nicht rechts. Lieber links als rechts. Und ich glaub, die Linken gehen halt auch voll auf die junge Generation. Ich weiß nicht, ob ihr das auch auf TikTok gesehen habt, aber die sammeln da halt schon voll viel Sympathie, find ich. Also das war auch mein Beweggrund, warum ich sie damals gewählt hab. Also schon bei der letzten Wahl. Boah, ich glaub bei der AfD, ich glaub, die verspricht halt voll... also, ich, ich würde nicht sagen, ich checke, warum man die AfD wählt, weil ich checks nicht, wenn ich ehrlich bin, aber viele sind ja schon so ein bisschen gehirngewaschen, gerade was auch diese Thematik angeht, mit, ja, hart auf hart, mit diesen ganzen vielen Ausländern hier bei uns und was weiß ich. Deswegen check ich schon, warum viele das vielleicht so ein bisschen stört, weil viele vielleicht die ganzen Probleme, die wir im Land haben, die befassen sich halt nicht damit, sondern die schieben's halt auf die Ausländer. Wisst ihr, was ich meine? Und ich glaub deswegen wählen halt voll viele die AfD, aber, obviously, sonst hätte ich nicht ihn, wenn ich da auch so denken würde. (sie gestikuliert zu ihrem Freund) Wisst ihr, was ich meine? Aber ich habe selbst Leute in der Familie, die gehirngewaschen sind und die gewählt haben. Ich habe den dann auch ein Paar ansagen verpasst. Und ich glaub halt, weil viele sich gar nicht mit dem Wahlprogramm auch befassen. Und ich glaub halt, dass die AfD das schon so ein bisschen schlau macht, die verkaufen das schon so, dass die Leute das wählen, aber eigentlich steht in dem Wahlprogramm was anderes.“

„Also, ich glaube bei den Linken, vor Allem bei den Jungen, ist es oft so ne, vielleicht so eine Identifikation mit den Linken, dass man sagt, OK man möchte alles billiger haben und vielleicht kann man sich eben auch hier in Berlin zumindest mit der Elif Eralp irgendwie identifizieren so, als junge Frau.“

– „Frustration vor allem bei der AfD. Ich glaube halt, sehr, sagt man, Kapitalisierung drauf, ist, dass man fühlt, fühlte. Vor Allem wahrscheinlich nochmal junge Politik nicht für einen selbst gemacht wird, sondern für Interessen von anderen Leuten und ich glaube, durch dass vor Allem durch Social Media diese vielschichtigeren Themen einseitig dargestellt werden quasi, und wenn man mal ehrlich ist, wir haben da auch drüber redet, man tut ja sehr viel auch einfach seine politische Bildung über Instagram beziehen oder halt, dass man Kurzvideos anschaut. Und in 60 Sekunden kann ein Sachverhalt nicht allumfassend dargestellt werden und ich glaube, dadurch vereinfacht man sich es so selber oder?“

worauf die sich ungehört Leute, dass

„Ungebildet sein, muss man auch dazu sagen. Also, es klingt so immer so gemein, aber es ist so, weil viele Leute schieben halt die, vor allem wirtschaftlichen, Probleme auf Ausländer, und ähm, so einfach ist das nicht.“

„Protest. Protest gegen das, was aktuell da ist und was man die letzten Jahre in der Politik gesehen hat, und sozusagen einen Protest, so das wollen wir nicht mehr, und das geht dann halt in die beiden extremeren Richtungen, sozusagen.“

„Es ist halt immer dieses berühmte Zitat von Gysi, wer halt schaut nicht nach links nach rechts schaut nach oben*. Die suchen die Probleme halt bei der Politik und versuchen diese Probleme zu regeln. Ob das gut oder schlecht ist, sei dahingestellt, aber sie machen halt nicht die Bürger zum Sündenbock, sondern halt Politiker oder die Wirtschaft zum Problem, was uns, glaube ich, uns jüngere Leute, viel mehr anspricht als einfach zu sagen: EY, der da hinten da ist scheiße.“

*KONTEXT: Gregor Gysi, Bundesabgeordneter der Linke, sagte vor circa zwei Monaten „Wenn sich die unten bekämpfen, dann freuen sich die Oben! Aber wir machen dieses Spiel nicht mit. Wir treten nicht nach unten. Wir schauen nach oben – dort wo sich der Reichtum und die Macht konzentriert!“

„Ich glaube, da befasst sich halt auch keiner mit den anderen Parteien. Man hört immer nur links oder rechts, aber mit der CDU hab ich mich jetzt nicht auseinandergesetzt, so gefühlt.“

„Also, ich glaub wirklich bei der AfD ist es wirklich oftmals so Trend, Mitläufer ganz häufig.“

STAR-TREKKING TO THE POLLS

HOW HOPE CAN CHANGE HEARTS

By Robin Aviña Polisen

Star Trek, the phenomenal sci-fi franchise whose enjoyment has been shared across generations, has come to see its 60th anniversary pass this September. That's sixty years of passionate learning, political awareness, and infinite diversity in infinite combinations; sentiments that we as a common society, now more than ever, should be reminded of. Whether a fan's first experience with Star Trek was through The Original Series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, or any of its other more recent iterations (my first full Trek show was Lower Decks—a series which I've come to appreciate much more as I educate myself on the sources of its references, but one which I fervently binged even without having yet become a dedicated Trekkie), they can all firmly pass on the lessons in humanity they've learned from a show about space travel and aliens.

In years much more recent than those during which Trek is set, though, we've seen something of a backwards shift in the popular political mindset. This is a change made evident most recently by Germany's far-right party, the AfD, gaining in the polls. They've already won one of our federal states, Saxony-Anhalt, and with much competition taking place between them and the center-right party CDU, major change tends to feel as though it's slipping out of reach.

The AfD (Alternative für Deutschland), as I'm sure many are already aware, is a highly controversial right-wing party here in Germany. Their policies are heavily anti-immigration and deeply xenophobic; they aim to sever ties with Ukraine in the midst of a war; they even purportedly wish to quit the Euro. All signs point to them withdrawing from the European Union and isolating Germany from the rest of the world in order to rebuild a regime last seen crumbling in the hands of the Nazis.



It may seem out-of-left-field to attempt to connect Star Trek and the current political ecosystem that today's Germans (and people everywhere, as events continue to escalate) are attempting to navigate, but I think now more than ever we need to be able to look around the corner when reality feels all-consuming. We should be able to peer at popular culture and find ourselves outlined in it, all colors and creeds, and see the kind of world we want to shape when we see our own turning into a seemingly inhospitable place.



We should see the kinds of complex thoughts, feelings, and relationships that humans spend their entire life searching for, the greatness that can evolve from our capacity to explore, empathize, and enjoy—and seeing them represented by a wide breadth of species can remind us, once and for all, that we aren't alone. That there is a world where things get better—where groups who only wish to hate and isolate, like the AfD, and like the other extremist conservative parties that appear to crop up with increasing frequency, won't continue to win—and that that world is full of people spanning every spectrum imaginable. No matter their origin or their form, they are surrounded by people who understand them, and people who want to understand them if they don't already. Star Trek shows us a world where everyone is trying their hardest to be their very best selves—but even then, not a perfect world.

More valuable yet than Trek's demonstrations of diversity is the way in which it can simultaneously present a universe where understanding is the strongest policy and how that universe struggles to maintain that policy across millions of lightyears. Star Trek: Deep Space Nine handles the aftermath of a world that has just overcome enslavement and occupation and the complexities of the individuals involved in that occupation. Strange New Worlds tackles the firsthand trauma of one of its main characters after having survived the horrors of war and having to deal with the fact that, even far into the future, medical technology isn't yet advanced enough to save his child from illness. Classic episodes of The Original Series and The Next Generation delve both into the politics of other worlds & societies and the conflicts that occur within the ranks of the United Federation of Planets itself. Star Trek dreams of a better way, not a flawless one—because there is always something to strive for. There is always more to dream of than what we have now.

In our imperfect world, we have to learn to fight the way that Starfleet fights—with open arms and open minds. Let your ideas loose to the people around you so that they might comprehend you better, and open yourself to their thoughts just the same. We all have this life to live, surrounded by the flora and fauna we adore; so live it with one another, battling for a better day where oppression doesn't win and where love can conquer the hateful ways of those in positions of authority. Sometimes, the AfD feels untouchable—all political parties seem to. But all we have to do is reach out to our intangible thoughts, the ideas that seem so far out of our grasp, and put them into words. Speak them aloud and hold a hand, tap someone's shoulder, join up to make yourselves heard in the face of adversity. Because even if there's no sound in space, once you put enough voices together down here, you can hear yourself echoing in the stars.

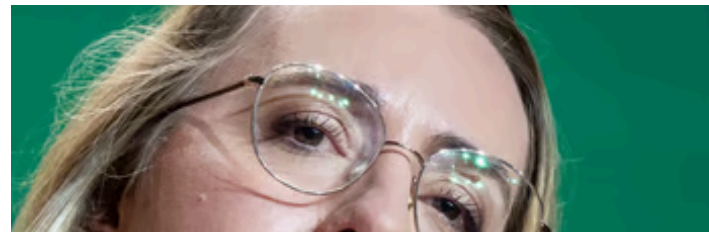
Who Represents You

Political Parties in the Bundestag

By Akkshath Chawla

Christian Democratic Union/ Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU)

To start off, we have CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union). These parties are one of the oldest as they came into existence around 1945. CDU and CSU are sister parties; a team, where CDU is in charge of all of Germany except Bavaria, and CSU is in charge of Bavaria. The Union aims to have a variety in terms of voters. Their values consist of: Catholic, Protestant and traditional values, a free market economy where people have social help from the government and strong rules. They have governed the most.



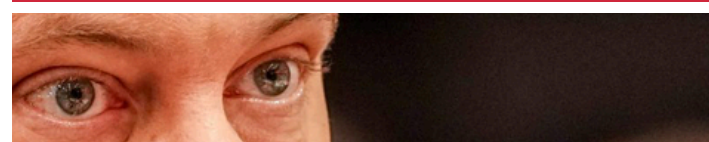
Alternative for Germany (AfD)

Next up, we have AfD— which stands for Alternative for Germany. They were established in 2013. AfD is considered a right wing populist party. They want Germany to get rid of the Euro and tighten immigration policies. They also support a traditional family model.



Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

Moving forward, we have SPD, which stands for Social Democratic Party of Germany. It is the oldest existing party in Germany. It finds its roots from the General German Workers' Association (ADAV); which was founded in 1863, and the Social Democratic Workers' Party (SDAP); found in 1869. These two merged in 1875 to create Socialist Workers' Party of Germany (SAP); later renamed to SPD in 1890.



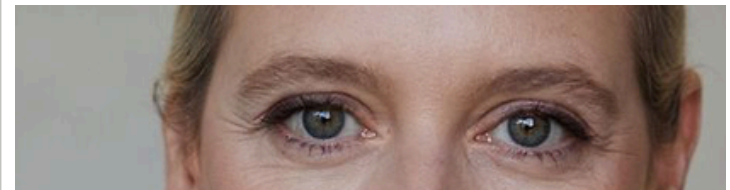
EXTRA: Did you know?

The CDU/CSU are currently in a coalition with SPD, and are discussing labor work laws. The Union wants to have three working days of 12 hours; for later reference, the EU has a limit of 48 working hours. But the SPD argues that the workers are one angry boss away from a massive four days of 12 hour shifts (the employer has the power to make them work one more day as the max limit is 48 hours)! Should we have three long days of school instead of five?

Next on our list, we have the news of two drunk staff members who fought against each other; they work for politicians in the AfD. The staff members were in the Bundestag building in Berlin-Mitte.

Alliance 90/The Greens

Now, we have the Greens/Alliance 90. This party emerged with several different policies but is primarily left wing, peace oriented and supports the anti-nuclear power movement. Like their name suggests, they also give a lot of importance to the environment. The Greens first won seats in the Bundestag in 1983. They merged with the East German Civil Rights Party Alliance 90 and Alternative List for democracy and Environmental Protection (AL). Their long term goal is a more unified Europe.



Die Linke

Die Linke was formed when two parties called PDS (successor to SED); an East German party, and the SPD left wing breakaway group, WASG. Traditionally, it performs well in new federal states. Its goals are to change the EU.

The South-Schleswig Voter's Association (SSW)

SSW is a party heavily influenced by Danish and Scandinavian political culture. They represent Danish and Frisian minorities. They were a part of a coalition with SPD and Greens/Alliance 90 in the state of Schleswig-Holstein from 2012-2017. At this point in time, they were successful in the equality of the Danish minority, and this was made part of the Schleswig-Holstein constitution. It is strong at the municipal level.

This occurred on Wednesday evening, around 11:20 PM. The AfD parliamentary group had no information on the case, and are therefore investigating it. The police also filed criminal charges.

The new Red-Green-Red coalition for the state government of Berlin is about to start. The Reds are SPD and Die Linke in this case and the Greens are Alliance 90/the Greens. They want to prevent the rent in Berlin reach any higher and are therefore going to introduce a new law in mid 2028. It is regarding five specific big private housing companies and that they cannot have more than 10,000 apartments. In preparation for this, they have also planned to buy out all the extra apartments from the housing companies, for which the total consumption is to be 16 billion euros. (Note: the law will be reviewed by the constitutional court and a one year gap between when they pass the law and when it actually is put into practice) The SSW is an exception to the five percent Bundestag rule. But, even though this rule doesn't apply to them, they still need around 20,000 votes to get the last seat in the Bundestag.



THE BEST AND THE REST

The Honest Guide to the Best Coffee, Treats, and Spaces around BCS

By Sophie Kenny Danilaviciute, Ariella Locher, Lilith Schimka, Lola May Kircher, Yva Toschek

From personal experience, we know how hard it is to choose the perfect cafe after a tiring day. And it also must have good food! Whether you're craving a yummy croissant in the morning, or a refreshing ice cream in the afternoon, our guide has everything. Around our school, we have explored both hidden gems and complete flops and we are here to leave nothing out. Not everyone will agree with us, but it is important to understand that this article aims to give you a good café roundup. Before we dive in, please note that we could be biased; we have things we enjoy that others may not. So, below, you will find a list of things we chose to avoid during our café tour.

Foods we avoided: Raisins, coconut, nuts.

WHAT DO YOU FANCY LOVE?

Location: Linienstr. 41 (250m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Marble Cake
Price: 3.00€
Food Quality: flavourless, tasted like flour
Vibe: artsy, alive
Staff: very kind
Outside: considerable
Ideal for: early study sessions in a calm cafe, hangin out with friends.



what do you fancy love?

SUPERCOFF

Location: Alte Schönhäuser Str. 2 (250m)
Rating: ★
What we bought: Cinnamon roll with glaze
Price: 2.70€
Food Quality: excellent, medium-sized
Vibe: undisturbed, still
Staff: having a bad day
Outside: minimal
Ideal for: last minute morning coffee, studying

Comment: Overall, the vibe was ok. The lady that was serving us was having a not-so-great day and looked like she hated her job. This negatively impacted our experience. There was minimal outdoor space and the indoor area was too empty – though it would be great for working or studying. The food was extraordinarily good, sweet and warm. The prices were high, which may to some be considered as normal, but 3 euros for a cinnamon roll? That's overpriced!

If you don't mind the price and are looking for an isolated spot after school... check out Supercoff!



Best avoided!

SAMMY'S BERLINER DONUTS

Location: Rosenthaler Straße (450m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Vanilla Crumble Donut
Price: 4.10€
Food Quality: Superb
Vibe: Cozy
Staff: Nice
Outside: Decent
Ideal for: snack with friends after school

Comment: In general, the staff was very nice, warm and was patient when I asked questions. The space inside was small and basic, with dim lighting and plants. It had a bigger outside area, and inside, the vibe was simple and minimalist. The food, delicious. There were lots of different doughnut and coffee options. The area was quite busy, yet it is a good place to chill after a long day. So, if you're a doughnut lover, see what awaits you at Sammy's Berliner Donuts!



CANAL

Location: Linienstraße 54 (200m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Maracuja Mascarpone ice cream with white chocolate, white choco- passion eclair
Price: 3.50€ for one scoop of ice cream, 6€ for one eclair
Food Quality: Exceptionally yummy, average sizes
Vibe: Good vibe
Staff: Extremely kind
Outside: Insufficient
Ideal for: grabbing a scoop of ice cream or an éclair on the way home

Comment: The vibe of the place is nice. There isn't much space as it's a small café, so it can feel a bit cramped but it's very comfortable, the space outside is also limited with only one bench. The food we had was extremely tasty, the ice cream tasted fruity and refreshing, and the eclair had a very nice texture, it was soft but still moist on the inside, offering a mix of freshness and cake. The staff were extremely kind and seemed like they are enjoyed working there. I mean what unhappy person gives you a free ice cream? Although the food was phenomenal, the portions were normal sized, and the prices were extremely steep: 3.50€ for one scoop of ice cream and 6€ for an éclair! So obviously, I was happy that I got a free one (because I'm there almost every day). If you don't mind the prices and are looking for some refreshing ice cream, then this is the place to go!



Highest quality!

LAP

Location: Rosenthaler Straße 62 (300m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Strawberry cloud matcha, cappuccino
pistachio croissant
Price: 4.50€ for matcha, 4.30€ for croissant, 2,50€ for cappuccino
Food Quality: good, relatively big portions
Vibe: minimalist, nice
Staff: neutral
Outside: insufficient
Ideal for: grabbing a drink with friends after school.



SANT BUENA

Location: Torstraße 153 (900m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cappuccino, Chocolate Chip Cookie
Price: 13.90€ for sandwich, 3.10€ for cookie, 2.90€ for cappuccino
Food Quality: Delish
Vibe: Alive, cozy, busy, in vogue
Staff: Adequate
Outside space: Abundant, good view of ongoing in the busy street
Ideal for: distraction after a bad day at school



Best café to loose track of time!



Comment: Opened up by the owners of the flower/interior store "Flatmakers" right next to it, this café was consciously designed in such a way as to be identified as trendy, especially by the "30-year-olds" that seem to have an endless source of money for café visits. To me, the quality of a simple grilled cheese sandwich at a café is perfect to predict the quality of the food overall. In this case, the sandwich was absolutely comparable to those served in almost any restaurant in Italy, with a twist of pesto to make it unique. To find that the coffee was excellent wasn't a surprise to me, after my dad had pointed out the top-tier Italian coffee machine earlier. All of this sounds wonderful, but this café comes with no shortage of drawbacks: even though that was the best cookie I had ever eaten, with the perfect amount of sweetness, saltiness, softness and crispiness, its portion was tiny, while the price was not. 3.10 € is simply not acceptable for a cookie that size, no matter how good it tastes. Also, a quick sweep of the floor wouldn't have hurt, but I'll let that pass, since it was a rainy day and I have witnessed the owners cleaning the establishment thoroughly, even hours after it had closed. However, even after just a prompt visit, I felt like I had done enough for the day, absorbed in the lively atmosphere during rush-hour. So, the next time you feel like you've just spent too much time sitting around but still want to make something of your day, you'll know what to do!

TIP: if you aren't in the mood for conversation, settle down next to wannabe intellectuals and eavesdrop – more entertaining than you would expect!

WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

MAMECHA

Location: Mulackstraße 33 (70m)
Rating: ★★★★★
What we bought: Matcha latte
Price: 4.50 €
Food Quality: good
Vibe: welcoming, cozy
Staff: sweet, warmhearted
Outside: Insufficient
Ideal for: unwinding after a long day over a cup of warm Japanese tea.

Comment: An authentic Japanese café that is seriously underrated. The vibe is very nice and if you like matcha, this is the place! Although I honestly don't enjoy matcha that much, Mamecha made it a good experience. It has a small outdoor space which makes it feel small in a cozy way. The inside is adorable, with hints of Japanese culture and an extremely nice staff. As for the food, it is very enjoyable with a wide range, from onigiri to crepe cake. Delicious and very filling. Next time you walk past it (probably today), give it another chance!



Personal favorite!

SOI & CO.

PLANT BASED CAFÉ

Location: Linienstraße 205 (450m)
Rating: ★★★★★
Prices: 6.30-6.60€ for cake
Food Quality: Very good quality, the cakes are freshly made and are not sold when older than 2 days. Everything is organic, there are vegan and gluten free options.
Vibe: Calm, clean and modern: a nice atmosphere for drinking or eating something after a long day.
Staff: Kind and very understanding.
Outside space: There are a few sitting places ideal for fotos or eating with a bigger group of people.
Ideal for: its calm atmosphere offers a perfect space for working/studying (in the laptop area).
Comment: The cafe's vibe overall is very clean with a modern atmosphere. The prices, however, are very high for both the food and drinks. A definite drawback is that you can only pay by card and not cash, making it less inviting for kids or teenagers. Through a nice mix of minimalist interior and bamboo furniture, it is very unique and eye catching. From experience, I know that the cakes are delicious and have a nice mixture of sweet and salty, as well as sour and mild flavors.



Top study nook!

Tropical Islands Rant

The place that tests your piety and patience

JOHANNA BOHG

BCS's 8th graders are currently writing essays in class on things, be it apps or places, they find irritating. The following is a rant by Johanna Bohg about her disdain for tropical islands.

Tropical Islands Rant

Don't get me started on Tropical Islands! Picture this: it's Saturday morning—you just drove two hours under the boiling sun, only to arrive at the so-called parking area full of cars piling on top of each other like raging ants. No—I don't enjoy frantically searching for a spot to park a vehicle! Welcome to the world of tropical islands—the place that tests your piety and patience.

The Tropical Islands are seriously overrated! It really grinds my gears, just hearing its name. This so-called tropical paradise isn't exactly cheap! It costs a lot just to get in, and you also end up paying for food, drinks and lockers. It really ticks me off that people visit this place willingly and multiple times! Who would do that to themselves or their wallet? It feels like you are paying a lot for something overcrowded, overrated and exhausting.

Here's a piece of advice for you! Don't go to Tropical Islands unless you are prepared to have massive crowds stomp all over you. After all, this is supposed to be a relaxing and fun experience, but instead, it's challenging to find a comfortable place to sit! The pools are packed with babies, screaming children, and stressed parents. Oh, and did someone say waterslides? Sure, bring them on! Attractions like those have significantly long cues and it really drives me up the wall. Let's face it—Tropical Islands are just a big, public, nasty swimming pool.



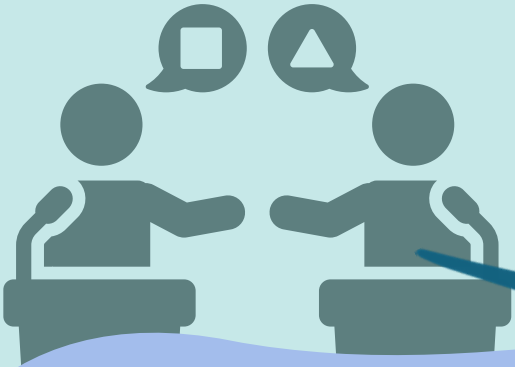
For crying out loud, why are Tropical Islands so packed? I'm hitting the roof! Getting lost in Tropical Islands is something we've all experienced from time to time. Picture this: you're stepping out of a pool, when you look around and discover that you have lost all sense of orientation! You're walking around aimlessly, while water drips off your body. You're shivering and just looking for the exit or your family. This nightmare can continue on for hours, and suddenly, this day turns into a disaster...



Poem

by Lola May Kircher

*In a room full of people
Everyone has only one desire
Some want justice some want fire
Some want that great feeling of power
Meanwhile we watch nervously
who will pick the last flower
Green, red, blue mix into debate
Deciding the last choice of this state*



DUMPLING CHALLENGE:

Can you find all 10 dumplings in this edition (including this one) and why they are here in first place?

