

JOCHEN MATTERN  
 Righteous Inequality?  
 How Education Tries to Catch  
 Up to Modernization

The society is characterized by rapid changes polarizing its various groups, which creates new problems of integration and provokes social conflicts. The major political parties believe that the school could play a decisive role in solving these problems – but what are their proposals to overcome the evident crisis? The author discusses the ideology of performance, which dominates many of the concepts and culminates with the demand of »life-long learning«, and the system of an early selection in German schools. He arrives at the conclusion that despite the obvious advantages of the integrative educational systems of other European countries, the German »New Center« adheres to antiquated methods, bids farewell to an integrative system of education and divides up educational offers into those destined to be »the elite« and those destined to be »the masses«. Through this development, the author warns, democracy is threatened by an »authoritarian derailment«.

CHRISTOPH SCHERRER  
 Education under Globalization Pressure.  
 Consequences of the GATS-Essentials

Since 1994, the regulations set by the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) are legal tender even for the area of education. Up to now, this has meant for the European Union – and therefore Germany – a regulation referring only to the private sector in education. At present, new negotiations on GATS are taking place, and it is expected that there will be a wider expansion of these regulations. The author warns that this expansion could easily lead to the abolition of State responsibility for higher education, and gives an analysis of the current GATS-essentials as a basis for a thorough discussion of the forthcoming developments.

JOSÉ CLOVIS DE AZEVEDO  
 The Project »Escola Cidadã«  
 Against the Marketing of Life

The author shows the close connection, on the one hand, between the general experience of citizens' participation in municipal planning and decision-making processes growing out of the Porto Alegre conference, and on the other, the school reform project known as »escola cidadã« (citizen's school). »Escola cidadã« is aimed not only at the democratic participation of students and teachers in the planning and organization of the daily affairs of the schools, but also at a new type of education. It primarily focuses on emancipation, collective work, respect of differences, approval of common sense, solidarity, knowledge as historical experience and comprehensive civil rights as a vision for forming all social relations. Thus, it is in stark contrast to the »mercoescola« (market school) which is initiated by various Latin American governments to meet the so-called »demands of globalization«.

ANDREAS TRUNSCHKE

## Participatory Budget in Brandenburg Land. Ideas and Projects

The author discusses how some municipalities in the East German Land of Brandenburg begin to warm to the idea of participatory budget, which has become known around the world since its inception at the Porto Alegre Conference in the early Nineties. Reviewing projects existing in Cottbus, Königs Wusterhausen and in the Oberspreewald-Lausitz District, he draws the conclusion, that there is still a long way to go from these preliminary applications to arrive at a true participation of the population in budget planning and decision making, and that the parties are still far removed from meaningful support of even these municipal incentives. This applies also to the PDS, from within whose membership are to be found the driving forces behind the initiatives in the above mentioned municipalities, has yet to promote a national policy of participatory budget. The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brandenburg – the author says – currently offers educational and network support for interested municipalities.

WOLFGANG WEISS

## Between Marx and Malthus or Why the Left Has a Problem with Demography

As humans tend to strive for longevity, the number of people living on the planet has grown rapidly in a relatively short period of time. This development the graphic expression is often used to characterize this as a ›population explosion‹. Since Marx' fundamental criticism of Malthus' ideas, the left has almost completely avoided this issue. This is why the left, even today, lacks a concept for demographic development. This paper discusses two models: Humans, the bio-psycho-social beings and also the progression of demographic transition. These lead to the most important question of social emancipation: How many children does a meaningful life require from the perspective of the individual and from the perspective of the benefit to society at large? This article draws the conclusion that the answer to this question will not formulate a law of population but, rather, a demographic concept.

JENS LANGER

## A Follower of Klopstock. The Church and the Cultural Identity of a City.

The author lives in the Baltic seaport city Rostock, at the coast of Mecklenburg. He is the pastor of the Gothic St. Marien Church, the only church in Rostock to survive destruction in World War II. A church that today has become very dilapidated. Langer argues in favor of a cautious handling of the urban heritage. He sees it as an important source of identity and culture. In this context, he argues that the church should be preserved because it is a prominent place of identity and culture. He refers to both values as guarantors for the preservation of humane conditions which he sees threatened by the contemporary fast-food culture. Langer considers his article to be an invitation to enjoy slowness and aging.