

# German Student Speaks Opinion

This editorial was contributed to the ECHO by Peter Reichelt, of the Hufnagel-Real Schule. After he visited FHS, we asked his opinion of demonstrations in Germany. This is the viewpoint of a German National of high school age.

Translated by: Reinhold Brown

It is the meaning and the purpose of a demonstration to draw some attention of the people and government to all the dissatisfactions of the common man. Demonstrations are by all means justified as long as they do not resort to violence. Every demonstration stands under a slogan. This slogan has a goal that the demonstrator wants to reach. The question is: can this goal be reached by the means of demonstrating?

Lately street battles characterize these in Germany. With this fact in mind, can one still call it demonstrating? Who causes this unrest? Is it caused by students that demonstrate out of convictions or by that type of person who only feels strong in a group to go against something which displeases him? Perhaps it is a third group that only takes part in a demonstration because they like to riot. I personally took part in a demonstration and discovered that two-thirds of the demonstrators demonstrated out of conviction. They were students. The rest were beatniks, bums, and teenagers. But is it really worthwhile to demonstrate?

The student, as a convinced demonstrator, puts up with clubbing, water hoses, and even arrests to reach his goal. The common man is actually

against the Vietnam war, the increasing price of streetcars, and the Emergency Proceeds Act, but he takes no action first, because he is too comfortable and second, because he feels too insignificant to take action against these abuses. This is why he would rather side with the stronger force, the police, and scold the students who really fight for his, the common man's beliefs.

Does the student demonstrate for a thing that affects him directly? Recent examples of demonstrations are at Frankfurt, Bremen, and Bochum. In Frankfurt the Vietnam war was attacked through demonstration. This demonstration ended as a streetfight with the police. The United States won't stop the war in Vietnam just because a few students are risking their necks for something that does not really pertain to them. Streetcar prices do pertain to them. Examples of this are Bremen and Bochum. That is why the demonstrations at these places are justified.

To really judge if these demonstrations have a purpose, one must differentiate if the goals that a student demonstrates for do or do not affect him directly. Furthermore, one has to compare the results the students have attained. Along with this, one can find that demonstrations against rising prices had positive results. In my opinion, demonstrations can reach a goal as long as they do not turn to violence and riots, and every demonstrator knows what he is demonstrating for or against. Demonstrations should represent an attainable goal and should remain a part of our freedom of opinion.

## EAGLES ECHO

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## Senior Writes

### Winning Essay

NOTE: Following is the complete text of the first place essay in the FHS NATO Essay Contest.  
by Dave Caughey

From her conception on April fourth of 1949 NATO has proved successful in keeping peace in the North Atlantic. During the reconstruction years she provided a defensive umbrella under which Europe could build a prosperous community of nations. The militant attitude of the USSR towards Eastern Europe was observed and heeded. Thus, no Western European nation has been suppressed by communism since 1949.

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