

# SLAUGHTER IN A SCHOOL



Fear at Gutenberg High School: people gathered in horror in the hall



Erfurt is a town in East Germany, full of culture and traditions, which has been well known so far just for being the place where Martin Luther had studied theology.

26 April 2002: a 19-year-old boy, a pump-gun in his hands, enters Erfurt Gutenberg High School. He knocks on a door, goes into the room and shoots. He knocks on another door, and over and over again. Fourteen of his teachers, two young students and a policeman die. Then the guy commits suicide.



Two students trying to comfort each other after the tragedy

Germany is deeply shocked. So far only America had known these phenomena.

1 Dec. 1997: Kentucky, USA. A 14-year-old student shoots on his school mates who are listening to a religious service in their school. Eight die immediately, followed by three other more.

24 Mar. 1998 Arkansas, USA. Two young boys aged 11 and 13 shout that there is a fire in the school and once some of the students are outside, they shot at the girls leaving out the boys.

Four students and a teacher are killed, eleven people are hurt.

20 Apr. 1999: Colorado. USA. Two students aged 17 and 18 in black raincoats and helmet, holding guns and bombs, kill thirteen students and hurt another thirteen.

*Francesca Caglieri, Elisa Capobianco, Elsa Esposito*

## Video games and the media: a comment

The tragedy of Erfurt cost 17 people their lives. Politicians and psychologists search for the reason of such a horrible happening. Some of them may have found the reason for that: violent films and brutal video games. Many politicians want to forbid these things. But the attempt is maybe in danger, because it is possible, that this is censorship (which is forbidden by the law). Otherwise there is another law, which says, that youth-endangering things are to be prohibited. So, these laws are strongly discussed, while computer-



The computergame „Return to Castle Wolfenstein“

players are trembling. An adult person may watch or play the things he likes.

But still, there is the question: Can these things lead to such a cruel action? It would be better that they should look into the psyche of the young man. He must have felt very depressive and filled with hatred. But who isn't sometimes. Because of that, nobody will kill someone.

Personally I'm also playing these games and watching these movies. But I would never slay somebody because of that. Surely these products can help to foster the violent thinking, i. e. at the first-person-shooter „Return to Castle Wolfenstein“ (which is now on the index-list) you can blow away a Nazissoldier into his components. But when you kill civilians, the game is over.

Another example is GTA 3. In this game you are a small gangster, who works in a huge fictive



The computergame „GTA 3“

metropole for some criminal organisations. In this game you can hurt civilians. Important in this game is that it has such an ironical comical style, that an adult person understands it. But for kids, it is perhaps not understandable. But Germany will get an obligatory age-rating, which would be better for the safety of the young people. Whether that can kids hold away of these things, I don't believe.

Samuel Freund

## *May Music Cause Violence?*

Many people search the reasons for such a cruel massacre also in music. There are a lot of music groups, that sing violent and brutal textes, e.g. Slipknot!

I want to present here one of those violent and brutal texts:

### **People = Shit**

(Lyrics by Slipknot)

Come on!  
Here we go again motherf\*\*\*er!  
Yeah!

Come on down, see the idiot right here!  
Too f\*\*\*ed to beg and not afraid to care  
What's the matter with calamity anyway?  
Right? Get the f\*\*\* outta my face  
Understand that I can feel anything  
It isn't like I wanna sift through the decay  
I feel like a wound like  
I got a f\*\*\*in' gun against my head  
You live when I'm dead!  
One more time motherf\*\*\*er!

Everybody hates me now, so f\*\*\* it!  
Blood's on my face and my hands  
and I don't know why.  
I'm not afraid to cry  
but that's none of your business, whose life is it?  
Get it? See it? Feel it? Eat it?  
Spin it around so I can spit in it's face

I wanna leave without a trace  
Because I don't wanna die in this place!

People = Shit(4x)  
People = Shit (Whatcha gonna do)  
People = Shit( Because I'm not afraid)  
People = Shit( I'm everything you'll never be)  
People = Shit!

It never stops - you can't be everything  
to everyone Contagion - I'm sitting at the side of satan  
what do you want from me  
They never told me that failure  
I was meant to be overdo it - don't tell me you blew it.  
Stop your bitchin' and fight your way through it  
I'M - NOT - LIKE - YOU - I - JUST - F\*\*\* - UP

Come on motherf\*\*\*er - everybody has to die(2x)

People = Shit,  
People = Shit(12x),  
People = Shit(Whatcha gonna do),  
People = Shit( Because I'm not afraid),  
People = Shit( I'm everything you'll never be)  
People = Shit!



The Band „Slipknot“

I don't think, that such kind of music may provoke people to become crazy. Perhaps you get a little bit aggressive, but you don't kill people. That's why I think, that there is already something mad in the head, to do such a cruel deed.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Europe-School in Gladenbach

The beginning of our school as Europe-School was in 1991/92 when the representatives of the local region wanted to set up a school with links to other European countries. Professor Klafki helped to support this development with his ideas. As Europe-School they could finance foreign languages and European exchanges.

The 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Europe-School Gladenbach was the reason for a celebration week from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May till the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2002.

The celebration week was opened by a press conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at the anniversary ceremony the head of the school and various representatives talked to the audience.

The headmaster, Mr. Seyler, in his speech also mentioned the massacre of Erfurt.

After this Professor Doctor Klafki, a famous educationalist and a scientist of education,

talked about the education in Europe.

After the speeches sang the Choir from France, Institution St. Pierre, Courpière, which was accompanied by the orchestra from the Europe-School.

The celebration week went on with a meeting of the former pupils in the town house of Gladenbach on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

The real celebration, where the whole school took part in, was on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. The celebration started at 14.30 with a speech of Mr. Seyler and finished at 18.00.

During this time everybody could participate in games like beer-case climbing. Or they could inform themselves about different countries and their culture like Egypt, Japan and Ireland or they could watch self-made films by some classes. Moreover everybody could taste special food of different countries like German sausages, Spanish Paella, Italian ice-cream, American sandwiches, Russian specialities and refreshing cocktails. In the evening the celebration week was finished with a concert of the three bands of the school.

*By: Anne Killmer & Anne Schäfer*

## Interview with Mr. Fernández

-Hello ,what´s your name?  
-Jóse Fernández  
-And how old are you?  
-I am 30 years old  
-Do you get along well with the other teachers?  
-Normally, we work together in many cases.I don´t have any problems.  
-And what do you like most in our school?  
-I like best to give classes of german to young students.  
-What would you change in our schoolsystem?  
-I´d like to expend the offer of spanish  
-And why?  
-Because the Level of spanish in the existing courses is not sufficient, and we should change this  
-In which school did you study before?  
-Before I came to this school,I worked in the university and I worked in a school in spain. The institue Rosalía de Castro in Santiago de Compostela  
-And what was it like?  
-Well, it´s an interesting city and the spanish students are different from the Germans.They are less self-confident,they aren´t so revolutionary and haven´t got the same responsibilities as here. They have an independent life in Spain,the teachers don´t have functions like here and otherwise, they don´t have to control on everything like here in this school.  
-Are there in Spain many school with German classes?  
-No,there are only some schools,but in the big citiesare more than in the small cities.  
-And where did you learn speak german?  
-Well,I studied at the university in Santiago de Compostela and there I did Germanstudier for about 5 years and of those 5 years I studied one year in a foreign country.After that I started with my doctorial thesis at the university of Gießen.  
-Why did you chose this school?  
-Well, I couldn´t decide where to go, it happened by chance, other people decided for me.  
-What do you think about pupils at our school with so many different Nationalities?  
-Now, I think it´s a very positive thing, because through that you get the possibility to make intercultural exchanges, in which these different cultures meet each other. But it´s bad when it´s always spoken about a problem and not about a possibility of taking advantages of it.  
-Which subject do you teach?  
-German and Spanish

-And is for you the existence of being a teacher the most important thing right now?  
-Yes, of course, my most important work of life right now are my German lessons  
-Do you have any children?  
-No  
-If you had one, would you send it to this school?  
-Well, if I had one I wouldn´t mind sending it to this school. Why shouldn´t I ?  
-Is Spanish a civilized language or what is the difference between the old Spanish and the new Spanish?  
-Well, the pronunciation and the vocabulary are very different and tiday the language is changing permanently so that every time I go to Spain I have to learn something new ebcause they always create new words.  
-How long do you want to stay in Germany?  
-I don´t know yet. It depends. When I have finished my thesis I must think about it if I stay here or go away.  
-How long did you live in Germany?  
-Well ,now I´m 30 I´ve lived here since 1995-well , how old was I then?I was 22/23  
-Does your family live here, too?  
-No, they live in Spain  
-Do you visit them?  
-Well, that differs, but once a year  
-Do you like Germany?  
-It´s an interesting country because there are many possibilities which you can´t find inSpain for insense this cultural exchange. There aren´t so many in Spain to go for insense to the theatre especially in the small towns.  
-What is the difference between the Spanish people and the German people?  
-Now, people here very often need more time to get friendly with other people. But when they have contacted someone, and they stick closer together, I think. And for that reason I prefer staying here because of these possibilities. In Spain people are more superficial  
-Would you like to go back to Spain?  
-well, I don´t know. I don´t really care where I live but the important thing is to feel well and have the right people around.  
-Are you homesick?  
-No, I am not homesick, because I feel good here.  
-Thank you very much for taking the time and for that nice interview  
-No problem  
-Have a nice day!!!

By:Zeynep Onur

## Interview with Rich

*Hi Rich...You are an American student and you've been at our school for a while.*

*Are you accepted by the German students?*

Yes, I am. I think even better than in the USA. The Germans take me with them on different events or tours. I feel accepted.

*What do you think about our school?*

The students at the German school have been friendly and nice to me. They helped me with German when I had problems. Teachers are as teachers always are. Some are strict, some are not. Grading is different at the German school. It's much harder. The school-building seems like a factory. I always wonder about the graffiti's. Are they allowed?

*You don't have to be shocked but some of them are (laughing).....*

*Where ,do you think, are the differences between the American school you went to and Europa-Schule Gladenbach?*

In the German school there is much smaller selection in sports like we have in America. But it isn't bad for me. For somebody else it might be...The other big difference is that the Germans are more open than Americans. In the USA we have lots of cliques. If you're not taking part in any sport-activities( Football, cheerleading ) there's a big danger to get an outsider. The German students include you in their activities and that's a great thing at the German school. The really big difference is the grading. Like I've said before, the German grading is harder than American. It's not difficult to get more or less good marks, but it's harder to get an A .

*Which school-system do you prefer?*

I like elements from both. In Germany there are no outsiders. In the USA there are more. Also sport clubs are not that

important. That's the reason there are no outsiders in Germany.

*What are your favourite subjects at this school?*

It's Spanish and social studies. I like the Spanish language. Also I like biology.

Today I've done a project in biology. It has been great.

*How difficult is it for you going to German school?*

The greatest difficulty is the language. I can't use the same terms like Germans use. So sometimes I can't express myself properly. Also I sometimes can't understand German jokes. If somebody makes a joke I didn't understand everybody laughs except of me. At the beginning I had some difficulties with marks. I wasn't used to getting lower marks like I did in Germany. I am always corrected by other students also by the younger ones. At the beginning this was really hard for me.

*Why did you decide to come to Germany?*

As I graduated from my school, I decided to go to Indonesia. I went there but after the 11th September it was too dangerous for me to stay there because of the moslems in Indonesia .

My friend living in Marburg helped me to come to Germany. Actually I wanted to go to Indonesia again but my family had been nervous and so I decided to go to Germany.

*Do you miss your home?*

Not anymore. I'll fly back home soon. But, of course, I missed home. The longest time I've been away from home has been a month. So it has been hard staying for a long time.

*Would you like to stay in Germany forever?*

NO...Not that I don't like Germany. Germany is a wonderful country, But there is no place like home...

By Julia Klein

## George W. Bush in Berlin

After a long waiting period, US President Bush finally arrived at airport Berlin – Tegel on May, 22<sup>nd</sup> at around 8 p.m.



Berlin is the first of totalling 4 stations of his political Europe – journey.

For his visit the German police set up the most extensive precautions ever.

But this is not enough for President Bush, so he brought even his own secret service including, for example, sharpshooters with him.

But his visit wasn't only regarded positively; demonstrations took place all over the country.

Because of this, it was necessary to insert 10,000 of police officers, SEK (Sondereinsatzkommando) etc. to warrant his security.



The demonstrations are part of a long tradition of political struggle in Berlin, the city which the US defended against the threat of communist take-over throughout the years of the Cold War.

Some 300 demonstrators marching behind a banner with 'Bush Go Home' blocked a central Berlin railway station today, as US President George W. Bush prepared to leave the city for Moscow.

Earlier, the demonstrators, part of a series of pacifist and anti - globalization protests that began Tuesday on the eve of Bush's visit, sat on a main road near the Alexanderplatz station blocking traffic.

Other small groups armed with whistles, pots and drums, wandered around the city centre today as Bush flew out.

The demonstrators also burned American flags and tried to rush police lines.

The main thrust of the protests – by the so-called Axis of Peace organisation- is against America's use of massive military power to achieve its goals in Afghanistan and its potential use in the future against Saddam Hussein's leadership in Iraq.



But opinion polls show that half the German population is openly critical of US leadership for a number of reasons. Several demonstrators and 44 police officers were injured while shop windows on the Alexanderplatz were also smashed. 'Forsa', a German institute for television found out that 71 % of people questioned believed anti – Bush demonstrations were hurting Germany's image abroad. The consequences of these riots were that 44 police officers were injured and 58 persons were arrested. But at last the president's safety had never been at risk. The climax of Bush's visit was his historical speech in the 'Bundestag', the German's house of parliament.



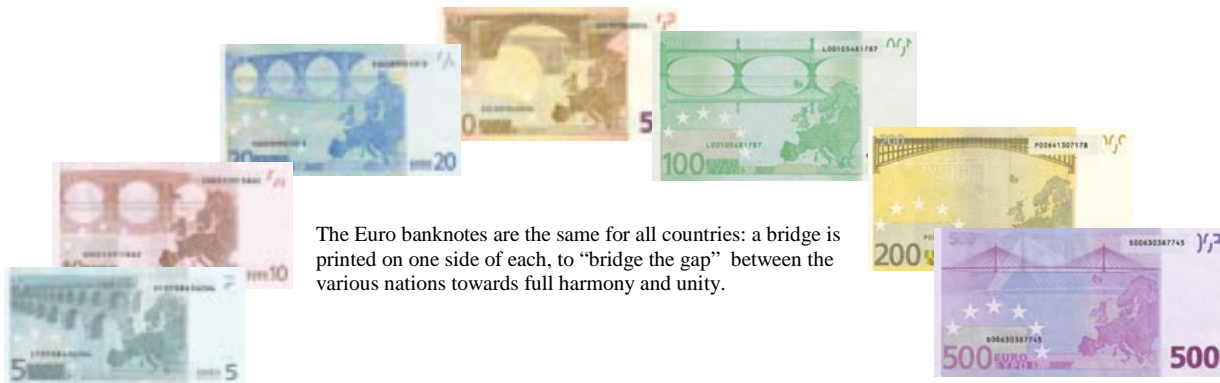
The most important topics were the relationships between Europe and America. Bush spoke also about the situation of Russia. He wants the incorporation of Russia into European Community. The main topic about Russia and America was the 'Nuclear Arms Reduction'. Bush wants to create freedom between Russia and the West. Because of the consequences after the September 11<sup>th</sup> Europe and America work forceful against global terror together. For this support he is very grateful. During Bush's speech 3 lawmakers from the ex-communist Party of Democratic Socialism, seated about 20 feet away from Bush, stood and held up a sign that said: 'Bush, Schroeder, Stop Your Wars!' But Bush didn't react, he continued immediately with his speech. In fact, it was a very important and positive meeting which is really important for the common future of America and Germany

**By: Adrianna Michel, Christian Huber und Nurullah Altay**

# EURO CITIZENS & THE •URO

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the Euro has finally arrived! Not a surprise, since we had had plenty of time to get ready for this change. Curiosity? Yes! And enthusiasm, even if most of us have now the feeling that prices have gone up.

The new currency can be used in the EU countries except for the UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.



The Euro banknotes are the same for all countries: a bridge is printed on one side of each, to “bridge the gap” between the various nations towards full harmony and unity.

As for the coins, one of the two sides is the same all over Europe while the other one varies from country to country, with the symbol of the most peculiar and precious features of each nation on it, to keep national identities



Of course the different coins can be used by all the members which have adopted the Euro.

Consumers are having some difficulties in deciding if a product is cheap or expensive because they are still comparing prices in Euro with their old coins, and they are not able to think in Euro yet! They also don't like the 1 and 2 cent coins, maybe because these are far too small to be handled.

Euro is then still giving us some problems, but we're sure we will soon get used to it.

And what's more, how relaxing not to bother about having to change the money when you're abroad!

*Elisa Lupi & Sara Della Vista*