

# AUTOGESTIONE

## WHAT ON EARTH FOR?

“Autogestione” means that the students run the school themselves.

It began years ago because the students wanted to protest against the Ministry of Education.

In Germany, where I came from, the students would never think of anything like that and I was amazed when I heard about “autogestione”, I simply did not understand.

To get to a better understanding I’ve asked a student in my class. Here’s the interview:

**H:** Can you tell me what “autogestione” means to you? A definition!

**M:** I think “autogestione” is a form of protest against the rules of the school.

**H:** Why do you do “autogestione”?

**M:** I want to have a space where I can say my opinion, what I think about the school in general.

**H:** Since when have you done “autogestione”?

**M:** I have done it since I’ve been here, at the high school.

It’s a way of making things in my own way and it’s something I believe in. The students must grow, they must be more open-minded and have their own experiences.

But in my opinion, the students use “autogestione” just to have a sort of holiday, to have fun. The immediate idea of it has been lost. One week passes and they have no tasks to carry on.

On the other hand, however, they can use it to organize some projects and try to better understand the real big problems of the world, like AIDS, like the famine in many poor countries, for example; or else they can organize demonstrations against the war in Palestine and Iraq.

But after the one-week “autogestione” everything will be exactly as it was before!

Now, I wonder if any of the readers can see the real meaning of all that!

Can anybody tell me if there is a sense in this way of “having holidays”?!

*Helen Lamberz, III BL*