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What young people think

*Only minority backs riots*By NANCY GILBERT
The Youth Service

To riot or not to riot? That is the question that faces most students these days at some point in their high school or college years. And in a recent survey 72.3 per cent answered in the negative when asked if they would participate in a riot.

Surprisingly, more girls than boys said they would be willing to make this form of protest, and more than twice as many high school as college students indicated their readiness to take violent action.

For most of those who were against the idea it is a matter of principle, but some admitted that they were afraid of getting hurt. Many pointed out that this was not the best way to get things accomplished.

"Rioting is not the proper way to get yourself heard," says David Behne, 20, of Hubbard, Ohio. "Through the proper channels is the better way." "I am against any form of violence because I don't think it gets you anywhere," agrees Jean Frost, 19, of State College, Pa.

"I think talking things out with other people is a lot better than throwing things and shouting," declares Gail Hollis, 17, of Miami, Fla. Steven

Caballero, 17, of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., notes that "A riot is disorder and violence, two of the things that hinder unity and peace."

Those who would be willing to participate often explained that they could do so only if the purpose was of great importance to them and if they thought it was right. Donald Cohen, 18, of Pittsburgh, Pa., would use this means if he felt it was the only way in which some problem could be solved.

"There are times when action has to be taken and it is your responsibility to take it, no matter what the consequences, but it has to be something worthwhile," insists Alfred Driscoll, 19, of Boston.

George Cutler, 20, of Louisville, Ky., concurs: "Unfortunately many of the most important issues being dealt with today have been raised because people rioted and made them public; otherwise we still wouldn't have civil rights, etc."

"If I believed in something I would try my hardest to make other people believe in it too, and sometimes to do this you have to riot," says Michele Green, 19, also of Louisville.

Of those polled 28.9 per cent reported that their school had some kind of student uprising last year, with the fewest inst-

ances of this type of activity occurring in the North Central states and the most in the South.

Though only three out of 10 boys and girls believe the government generally is handling student riots in the best way possible, 63.7 per cent do think the FBI and the CIA are justified in keeping files on students participating in them. The South is most in agreement with this policy, as are more collegians than high schoolers.

"The FBI and CIA are there to guard the security of our country and anybody who does something against it should be investigated," maintains Ellen Potters, 17, of East Haven, Conn. "They need to find out why it ever happened," says Nancy Tremont, 19, of Pittsburgh. "This way they can check on the people and find out who is really responsible."

Others are against the practice. "Nobody has the right to check on people and give them a bad name because they stood for something they believe in. It's not democratic," says Claudia Welsh, 18, of Houston, Tex.

Alan Steats, 19, of New Rochelle, N.Y., sees it as a start of something more sinister: "In my eyes both agencies conducting themselves this way is the beginning of an Orwellian society like that described in 1984," he said.