

# FLAG-FLIP FLOPS, FLAP FOLLOWS

## COLLEGE COMMUNITY CONFERS ON CRISIS

An estimated 200 persons, including some 25 faculty members and President Glenn Leggett, attended a free-wheeling meeting in the South Lounge last Thursday (Apr. 24) to discuss the inverted flag incident earlier in the day.

At the meeting's outset at 10 o'clock, Junior Tom Thomas read an explanatory statement, which was printed for the protestors by President Leggett on Friday.

Ted Glick then explained the day's events and threw the meeting open to comments from the crowd. Various

A referendum regarding flying the college flag at half-mast has been scheduled for Monday. (See story on Page 5).

opinions regarding the flag inversion were voiced, many of them in the form of emotional outbursts.

"Flying the flag upside-down is not going to do a damn bit of good to save the 30,000 men who have died in Vietnam," argued senior Pat Kennedy. "I think it was ridiculous!"

Robert D. Grey, instructor in political science, gave an impassioned criticism of "acts that needlessly offend people, just because they can be morally justified."

Swinging his arms in the air as he spoke, Grey told the group, "I'm getting awfully tired of being asked to support any symbolic act — whether it's strippers or inverted flags!"

Sophomore Jim Spell, who introduced himself as a member of "the silent majority," defended the protestors and concluded, "I'm ashamed I haven't done anything against the war."

Senior James W. Wheat, Jr., whose father is an Air Force officer, rose to condemn the protest and say that he had called the police when he saw the inverted flag.

"That damn piece of cloth you're talking about means more to me than any damn one of you!" Wheat shouted. "I called the police and I'll call them again tomorrow if the flag is turned upside-down!"

"I called the police because I know I have a bad temper and other people have a bad temper," Wheat continued. "If I hadn't called them there would have been a damn big fist fight."

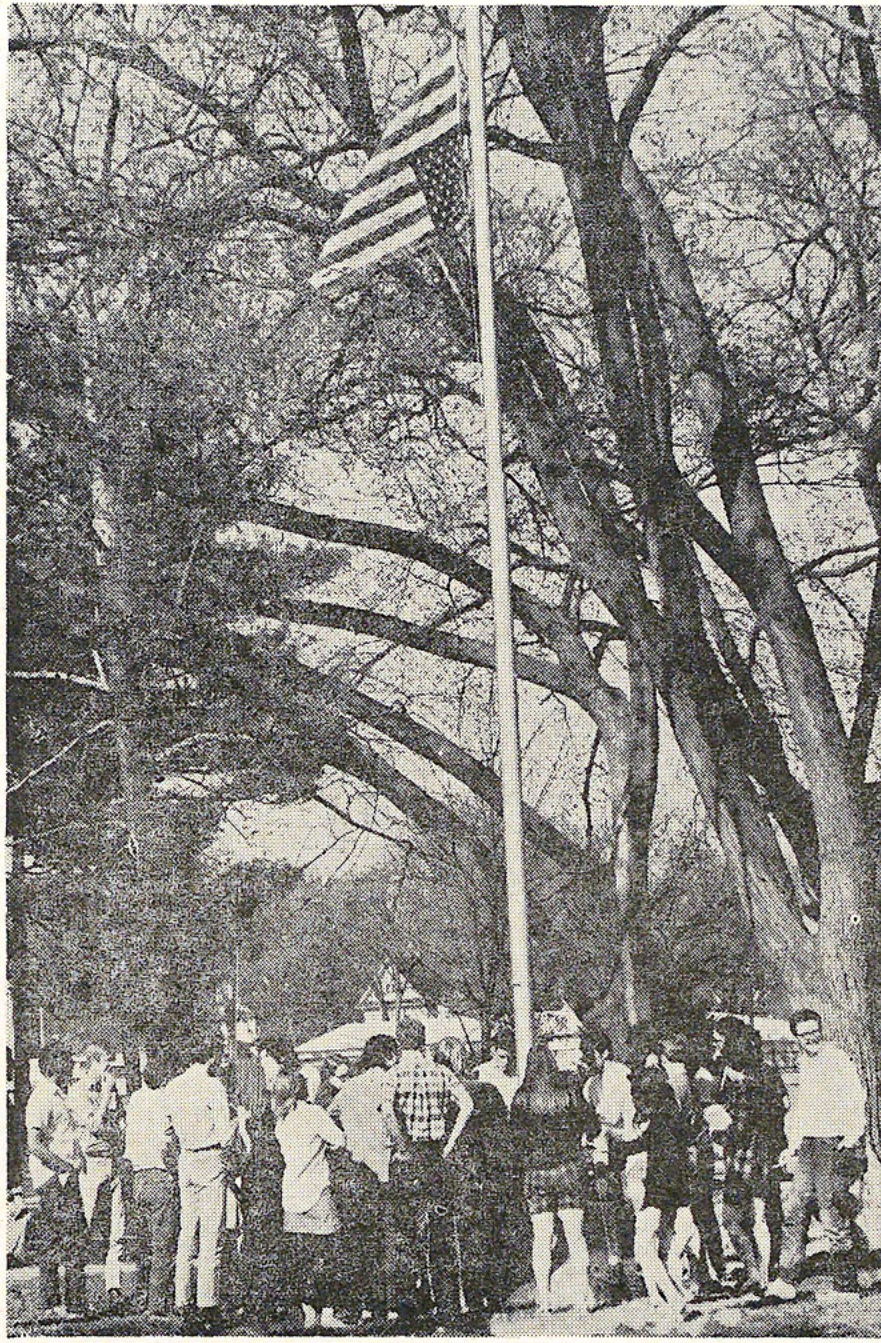
Wheat said that when he first called the police station he was told to call the deans. "When I called Dean (S. Eugene) Thompson, he told me to call the police," Wheat said.

"You can go and demonstrate all you want by carrying placards and marching around, but keep your hands off the flag because that's my symbol!" Wheat exclaimed as he left the room.

"The autonomy, independence and power of such institutions as Grinnell is important in fighting the structure of society," said Professor Alan R. Jones (History). "You have to be very

DISCUSSION—

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Students Meet President

## Leggett: "I Don't Approve"

Twenty students met with College President Glenn Leggett late Thursday afternoon (Apr. 24) to discuss with him an incident earlier in the day during which the American flag was flown upside down by students and then removed by Grinnell Police Chief Bill Peters.

The students who visited Leggett were led by sophomore J. Theodore (Ted) Glick, who, with another student, had inverted the flag earlier as a protest to the Vietnam War. Some of the students sprawled barefoot on the carpeted floor of the president's office as they explained the incident to Leggett and asked for his reaction.

"I guess I don't approve of it," Leggett told the students. "I think there are all sorts of ways to indicate your feelings other than this. That's my moral judgment."

A student then asked Leggett if he felt the Vietnam War is moral.

"I'm tired of the Vietnam War," Leggett replied. "I wish we'd get out of it. If we don't get out of this war soon the whole nation will be in

trouble. It already is in trouble.

"But that flag represents not only the Vietnam War," Leggett continued. "I lost 35 of my classmates because they defended that flag by fighting a country that killed 6 million Jews."

Earlier last week Glick announced that he would turn in his draft card to College Chaplain Dennis W. Haas in Herrick Chapel on May 1, a national draft resistance day. One of the students asked Leggett to attend the rally and speak in support of Glick's actions.

"I can't do that because I'd be speaking for the whole college," Leggett said. "I'm an agent of the trustees, the faculty, the students, the alumni, and the whole college community. I try to represent them all."

Glick asked Leggett if he could take a stand on the war by speaking at the rally after saying he was not representing the college.

"Isn't it possible for me to personally admire your courage without agreeing

LEGGETT—

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## COPS ON CAMPUS COP COLLEGE COLORS

A major controversy erupted on campus last weekend when two students inverted the American flag on central campus to protest the Vietnam War and police came to campus and removed the flag.

The flag was turned upside-down and flown at half-mast at around 2:45 Thursday afternoon (April 24). Sophomore J. Theodore (Ted) Glick said that he inverted the flag with the help of sophomore Jeffrey B. Gordon as a protest to the Vietnam War.

The inverted flag is an international symbol of distress most frequently used by ships in danger. Glick said in a statement released Friday that "the inversion indicates the truly international distress of a nation that blindly continues its course in Vietnam and boasts of an affluent society while millions suffer."

Gordon, in a letter to the S&B, called

## College Goes to Town

An estimated 250 students, resident advisers, and faculty members took their views on the flag incident and the Vietnam War to residents of Grinnell last weekend.

Some of the members of the college community approached Grinnellians on downtown streets, while others went door-to-door to discuss the issues.

The effort to communicate directly with residents of the town was suggested by college Chaplain Dennis Haas during a discussion in South Lounge on Thursday night.

Several students reported incidents of harassment while they canvassed. Sophomore Lynda R. Lamberth said that one man in a business suit spit in her face when she tried to talk with him.

Sophomore Henry C. Scheff said that a pickup truck swerved and nearly hit him, sophomore Mark Kass, and resident advisers Dennis Donham and Tom Merle, as they were crossing a street.

Many students said they had difficulty communicating with town residents who were offended by the flag incident and other recent protests on campus. Others said that some Grinnellians were willing to talk with them.

his action "an impulsive reaction meant with a more antagonistic rather than constructive motive."

Shortly after the flag was inverted, a crowd of about 50 persons gathered around the flag pole. Several students and faculty members argued that Glick should put the flag back the way he found it. Others defended his action.

Junior Roger Roe and sophomore Scott Hanson appeared at the scene and tried to turn the flag right-side up. Senior Albert Cloud prevented them from doing so by grabbing the rope, a witness told the S&B. A heated argument followed. "We almost duked it out," a supporter of Glick said.

After about twenty minutes Grinnell Police Chief Bill Peters appeared at the

COPS—

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