Stars and Stripes: To Fly or Not to Fly

By Eb Samuel
Contributing Writer

In a sudden flash of brilliance, a not so brilliant man (in a second flash of brilliance, he requested anonymity) was quoted as saying the following: "If people have problems with this country, if people don’t appreciate everything this country stands for, let them move to another country."

Yes, the United States represents free speech and the right to bear arms, stands apart from other nations as the land of the brave and the home of the free. No, America mandates no forms of civil consideration: sports fans are not required to remove their hats during the national anthem; college students hang Russian, Chinese, Confederate flags to block the sunlight in their rooms; the Fourth of July is parades and fireworks and little notice paid to the ancient museum parchment housed in crystalline glass.

Societal obligation, a simple gesture can even hint at a basic argument can even hint at a basic argument can even hint at a basic flaw, it will. Conversely, if EMU sees the flag as a symbol of freedom and honor, as a symbol of bravery and bonding, so it will be. In the final analysis, the flag is thirteen stripes and fifty stars, what the US once stood for, let them move to another country.

EMU stands against flying the flag because the flag contradicts school beliefs, because the flag sways in the near heavens as a sign of allegiance to an earthly government.

If one dislikes the community lifestyle agreement, refuses to sign it, what happens? If one cannot pledge allegiance to this country, if one must be so independent, if one must assert his freedoms to the fullest and ignore the "evil and vicious" system that facilitates such actions…expedia.com is a click away.

And if EMU believes so strongly in God over government, in the flag as a symbol of war and an advocate of violence, should other changes be in order? EMU should no longer play public universities in intercollege athletic matches; public schools fly the flag and, in playing them, EMU advocates the flag. Perhaps EMU should lead the way for a bald eagle hunting season, thereby eliminating another symbol of America.

Who would stand in favor of the bald eagle’s death? The flag is what the flyers make it to be; if EMU wants the flag to represent war and established government flaws, it will. Conversely, if EMU sees the flag as a symbol of freedom and honor, as a symbol of bravery and bonding, so it will be. In the final analysis, the flag is thirteen stripes and fifty stars, what the US once was and what it has become. If neither the thirteen nor the fifty hold respect for this university, then why is EMU in the confines of both?

Let it rest.

The fourth of July is long gone; the one year anniversary of Sept. 11th has come and gone. So too have some of the American flags that have adorned the country side. Pre-Sept. 11th, 2001 I don’t recall there being a big debate as to whether or not an American flag is flown on this campus. The traditional Mennonite viewpoint on flying an American flag on this campus has been that a flag should not be flown. Flying the flag signifies allegiance to whomever or whatever that flag symbolizes. Mennonites do not support the military, many do not pay taxes that support the government, and some do not vote or take part in political issues of this country. Not flying the flag is a way to show that Mennonites do not support the warmongering ways of the United States Government.

Some people say that if Mennonites (or others) have a problem with the government and its actions, they should get out. This country gives us the freedom to choose our religion, say what we want to say, and fly or not fly a flag if we so choose. Perhaps it would show solidarity with the victims of the tragic events of Sept 11th to fly an American flag like a lot of other people and places do, but perhaps it shows conviction that we as a University choose not to jump on the bandwagon and fly a flag.

I believe that not flying a flag symbolizes the freedoms that we enjoy here more than flying a flag just because a lot of other people are doing it. I also believe that no flags should be flown here at EMU for the same reasons, no matter the flag.

We are showing solidarity with the people and allegiance to the government for which that particular flag symbolizes. If we are unwilling to do such things for the land we live in, why should we do it for anyone? I’m not saying that flying a flag is evil, but by not flying a flag we are embracing our freedoms.

The Weather Vane

By Charles Harger
Contributing Writer

Do you like to write?
Are you interested in campus issues?

The Weather Vane, EMU’s weekly student newspaper still has openings for writers and photographers. Our next meeting will be Monday November 11 at 9 p.m. in The Weather Vane office (the basement of the IEP House).

Come see what the EMU student voice is all about.

The Inside Scoop

Thursday, Nov 7
• EMU Community Orchestra Concert. Lehman Aud., 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov 8
• Chapel: “Christianity and Islam,” with David Shenk. 10 a.m.
• Math Presentation, with Dr. Della D. Fenster. SC 104, 4 p.m.
• “Shape of Stillness,” with Trenton Wagler. Studio Theater, 6 and 8 p.m.
• Preparatory Music Recital. Lehman Aud., 7 p.m.
• Movie: “XXX.” SC 106, 10 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 9
• Chapel: “Religion and War,” with Dr. Della D. Fenster. SC 104, 4 p.m.
• Movie: “XXX.” SC 106, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 10
• Senior Preparatory Recital. Lehman Aud., 1, 3 and 5 p.m.
• D. Ralph Hostetter Museum. SC, 2 p.m.
• “Jo Knot or Not to Knot?” seminar. CC 301-2, 2 p.m.
• Celebration 9 p.m. Martin Chapel

Monday, Nov 11
• Chapel: “Weeding” Lehman, 10 a.m.
• Brown Bag 13
• Chapel: “Remembering Dad, Re-Membering Myself,” with Harvey Yoder. Lehman Aud., 10 a.m.
• Student-led Hymn Sing. Martin Chapel, 8 p.m.
• Fill, wrap and send a shoebox. Northlawn Great Lounge, 9 p.m.

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