



STEVE CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## MIXED EMOTIONS

Students swap flag burning for flag waving to support troops

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Don't bother lecturing Lori Grady of Canton about the unpleasantness of war. Don't tell her about United States casualties or the mounting cost of the endeavor to get Saddam Hussein and Iraq out of Kuwait.

She understands all that. And though Grady was a mere infant, she's well versed in the history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. A lesson was learned from the protests of that war, she said.

"That wasn't a positive thing," said Grady, 21, a 1988 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. "It hindered the troops."

"Here they (U.S. soldiers) were over there and back home here we had riots at Kent State and people burning draft cards. What do the soldiers think? They're wondering 'Why are we here?'"

Wednesday, Jan. 16, Grady saw history repeating itself.

After initial reports of the bombing of Baghdad, Iraq, came on television, Grady and her friends heard an anti-war demonstration out-

side the window of her dorm room at Eastern Michigan University. Then they saw the United States flag being hung upside down.

She became infuriated. It's one thing to be upset. It's quite another to spend time organizing a group of students to have a counter rally. Grady decided to act.

GRADY AND six other students at EMU formed United Students for the United States. The group has organized several rallies at the campus, designed to show U.S. troops that unlike during the Vietnam War, many students support them.

Some of the organizers have family members fighting in Operation Desert Storm. One person, amiably called "G.I. Joe," fought in the Vietnam War.

Then there are others like Grady. She only knows that Americans her age are fighting and dying for a cause they believe in.

"I think a lot of people are confused on this," said Grady, who estimates 75 percent of the students support U.S. efforts in the Persian Gulf. "A lot of people are afraid to support the troops because they believe it's supporting war."

For her efforts, Grady and her fellow students have been called "war mongers" by some.

Their first rally in the center of the EMU campus was marred by a scuffle, which Grady said didn't involve members of her organization. Eastern Michigan University's Department of Public Safety reported a car damaged during the gathering.

A veteran political activist would say it's part of the territory. Not for Grady.

THE WOMAN with red hair standing in Goddard Hall resembles the average college junior dressed in blue jeans and a sweat shirt clutching a Bart Simpson key chain. She describes herself and the other students involved as "conservative."

Radical or malcontent is not the first words that come to mind.

Grady is not involved in student government or any political causes. She majors in special education, not political science or any applicable field of study one would associate for a rally organizer.

She's lived a typical white, middle class "Beaver Cleaver" existence. Her personality is more suited to be a spectator than the leader of the pack.

Yet something happened at the first gathering, attended by 800 students.

*"I think a lot of people are confused on this. A lot of people are afraid to support the troops because they believe it's supporting the war."*

-LORI GRADY

## Anti-war activists state case with words and phrases

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Before going into battle, the anti-war protester first needs to check his uniform.

The olive green Army-issued coat with punk band names such as The Clash, Angry Red Planet and the Blanks scrawled in black marker on the back is put over his frame. He notices the right sleeve is torn.

"I got roughed up at the last demo," said the activist inspecting the shredded material. "I wonder if the police will pay for that."

A couple of buttons are strewn on the table, one a peace sign. He strategically affixes them to his coat and then places a baseball cap atop his disheveled mane of brown hair.

Bill Boyer, 29, is ready to protest.

In his arsenal are a slew of catchy phrases, ones that lend themselves to sound bites on the 11 o'clock news. Every once in awhile, he tries them out.

"Wargasm, how's that for a word?"

"We don't want people to be casual about casualties." How's that for a quote?

Today's demonstration won't call for those, however. Boyer and a group calling itself Broad, Not Bombs will stage a silent protest against United States involvement in the Persian Gulf War at the Patrick A. McNamara Federal Building in Detroit.

TWELVE PROTESTERS will sit silent in the lobby of the government site at 4 p.m.

The idea is for workers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and Government Purchasing Office Book Store to take heed and perhaps re-evaluate U.S. participation in the war against Iraq.

Please turn to Page 6

*"I'd rather show them pictures of casualties than get my picture in the paper. We want to alert people to the realities of the war."*

-BILL BOYER



BILL HANSEN