

# SCATTERGOOD & VIET NAM WAR

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Scattergood Friends School

1969

# MY SCATTERGOOD CLASS



# 18 YEARS OLD

Adlai Stevenson once said that it is easier to fight for principles than to live up to them. My goal is to live up to my principles while I am fighting for them. Therefore, if I am to fight conscription, I myself must not submit to it.

Nov. 6, 1969



# CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION LETTERS

West Branch, Iowa 52358  
December 3, 1969

Chairman, Local Draft Board  
Marshall County, Iowa

Dear Sir:

This statement is to support the application of Jeff Kisling for classification as a conscientious objector.

I have known Jeff for the past four years while he has been a student at Scattergood School. Last summer he was employed in my laboratory to work on some special computer problems for me. He is a mild mannered young man, a person who tackles issues and problems with an open mind, thinking them through carefully and thoroughly. He is gentle and sensitive to the needs of people, not only of individuals close to him, but of people throughout the world who are struggling for the opportunity to live in peace.

Jeff has been active in Friends' peace activities. In the Fall of 1968 he attended a conference on Friends and the Draft, and gave an oral report to his Quarterly Meeting of Iowa Friends. A few weeks ago he was one of the student leaders of a week-end conference of young people discussing the draft and related problems of war and peace.

The atmosphere of Jeff's home and the Quaker school that he is attending have been such as to lead naturally to his desire to find other ways to solve international problems than through war, violence, and death. I believe these methods are completely foreign to his nature, and he would be unable to cooperate with them.

Sincerely yours,

*Donald E. Laughlin*  
Donald E. Laughlin

Scattergood School  
West Branch, Iowa  
November 26, 1969

To the Chairman, Local Draft Board

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am eager to express my certainty that the claims that Jeff Kisling makes are sincere.

Jeff has proven his convictions in many ways, the strongest and most assuring of which are the actions of his daily life. He has remained positive and well-disposed in his manner towards others throughout the time I have known him. It takes humbleness and patience to be like this, and Jeff has these virtues, where many of the rest of us have become bitter and cynical in our outlooks. He has remained aware of the feelings and attitudes of those around him, and this backs up his claim that through looking "for the best in those with whom we disagree...we can surely, eventually, obtain a solution desirable to both of us."

Another way Jeff has proven the sincerity of his claims is the hard road he took in deciding how to meet the Selective Service System. I know that he weighed many alternatives and contacted many sources before reaching his decision, but I can assure you that the decision is his own.

Jeff has been influenced by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which teaches that there is a part of God in every man, and that it is sinful according to Christ's teaching to slay a fellow human under any circumstance. Jeff is conscientious, painfully conscientious, not only as a Quaker, but also as my friend and as a human being.

Your friend,  
*Ron Elllyson*  
Ron Elllyson

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 11, 1969 [Allen Treadway, Chairman; Winifred Standing, Secretary]:

A group of students attended Committee meeting and explained plans for their participation in the October 15 Moratorium. The Committee wholeheartedly endorses the plans.

The following statement will be handed out in answer to any inquiries:

*“These students and faculty of Scattergood School are undertaking the twelve mile walk from campus to Iowa City in observance of the October 15 Moratorium. In order not to detract from the purpose of the walk, we have decided to remain silent. You are welcome to join us in this expression of our sorrow and disapproval of the war and loss of life in Vietnam. Please follow the example of the group and accept any heckling or provocation in silence.”*

MORATORIUM DAY 10.15.1969

October 15, 1969

Moratorium Day.

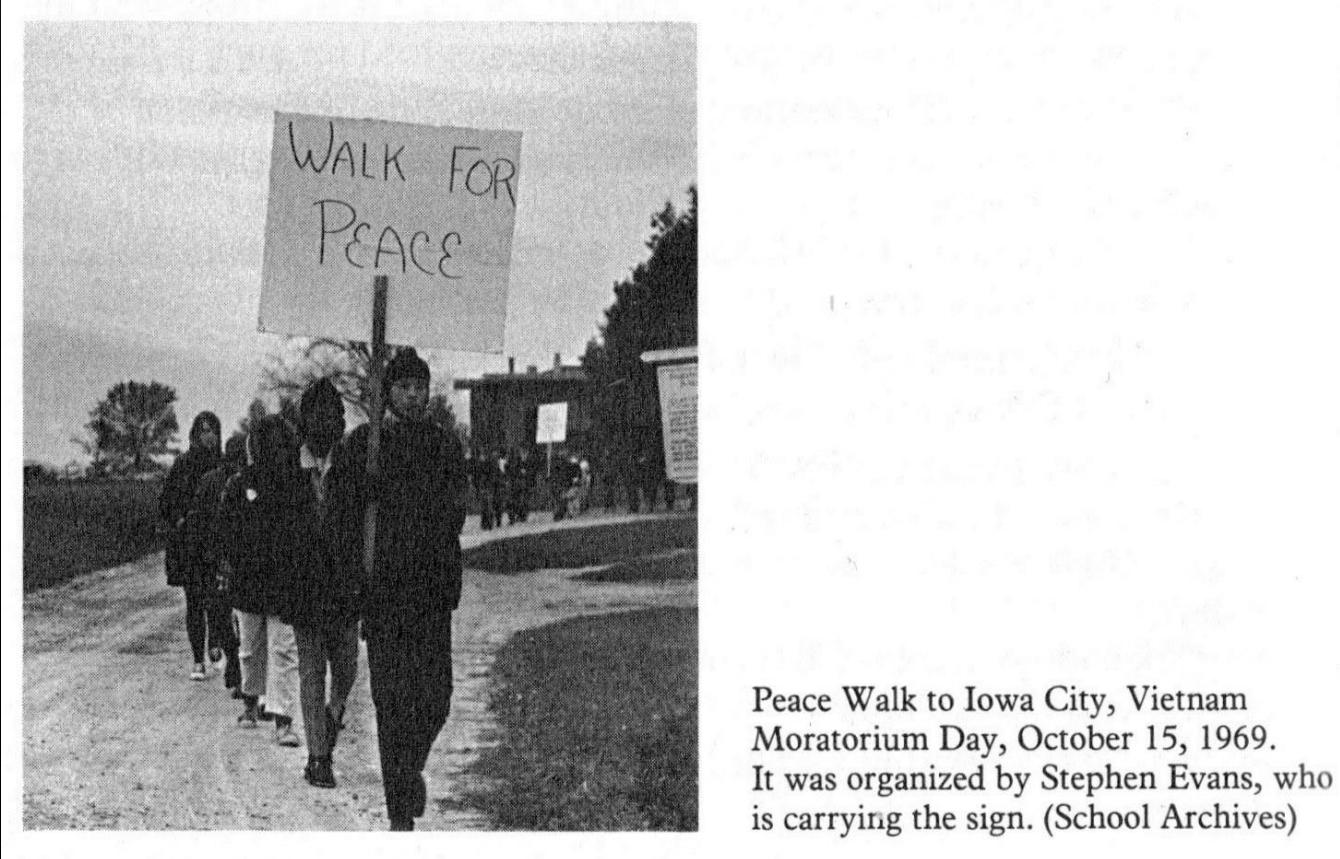
Breakfast at 6:15. Began the  
>12 mile march to Da. City at 7:30  
and got there at about 12:00. It  
was cold ( $\leq 40^{\circ}$ ) and rainy. Stayed  
at Vigil till  $\approx 12:30$ , then had lunch  
at Friends Meeting House. At 1:30 went  
to Law College to discuss patriotism, and  
then heard Bros. Boyd and others talk  
about war.

# SCATTERGOOD PEACE WALK 10.15.1969



Photo taken and developed in the Scattergood darkroom by Jeff Kisling

# SCATTERGOOD PEACE WALK 10.15.1969



Peace Walk to Iowa City, Vietnam  
Moratorium Day, October 15, 1969.  
It was organized by Stephen Evans, who  
is carrying the sign. (School Archives)

Scattergood Friends School 1890-1990  
Robert Berquist, David Rhodes, Carolyn Smith Treadway  
1990, Scattergood Friends School, page 130

# DRAFT CONFERENCE 11.15.1969

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL  
SAT. NOVEMBER 15, 1969

OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO EDUCATE INDIVIDUALS  
ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO COMBATANT SERVICE, WITH  
SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE YOUNG MAN FACING  
REGISTRATION.

## AGENDA

9:30 REGISTRATION--\$1.00 fee for lunch and expenses

9:00 Opening presentation by a veteran of the Armed Forces with experience in Vietnam; followed by a panel which will present, discuss, and answer questions pertaining to the following alternatives to combatant service in the Armed Forces:

1. Conscientious objection (I-O) Todd Eastin, Christian Scientist, now doing alternative service at Goodwill in Iowa City
2. Noncombatant service (I-A-O) Damon Gross, graduate student in Philosophy at the University of Iowa
3. Non co-operation Dan Clark, Hesston College, Kansas, has refused I-O and II-S classifications
4. Emigration John Casey, graduate student in Philosophy at the University of Iowa

10:30 FILM "The Magician"

11:00 DISCUSSION GROUPS--Discussion groups will meet to consider various aspects of alternatives to military service. Some of the topics covered might be noncombatant service, conscientious objection, jobs for alternative service, etc.

12:45 LUNCH

2:00 SPEAKER Cecil Hinshaw, Executive Secretary of the North Central Office of the American Friends Service Committee

3:00 DISCUSSION GROUPS--A chance to consider some other aspect of alternatives to military service

4:30 PLENARY SESSION--FILM "Where the People Are" After the film summaries of the discussion groups will be presented to the assembled conference

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE WRITE:

JEFF KISLING  
SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL  
WEST BRANCH IOWA 52358

# REGISTERED (RELUCTANTLY)

Nov. 26, 1969

registered, but not convinced!

"Depart from evil and do good"  
is the law.