

Shared memories of May 4, 1970

Here are a few excerpts from contributions made to the May 4 Collection since 1990. More can be found on the World Wide Web site of the Kent State University Libraries Department of Special Collections and Archives.

"On May 4th, 1970, I . . . had a small son and wife -- pregnant wife at home, when I heard of the killings here at the university. . . . I was totally shocked, as was everybody else, on May 4th. I remember not being able to sleep nights after that, because of the helicopters and their lights. Helicopters went right over our house all the time -- and the lights. It was very -- a very disturbing time."

- A 1970 Kent resident

" . . . I was a student at Bowling Green University. . . . And students at Bowling Green struck their classes for one week. They just -- we kind of -- the students closed all classes down, in protest of what happened on May 4th. . . . And it was a very, very moving experience, to know that we could lend our support for what happened at Kent State. And I, just, I will never ever forget that."

- A 1970 Bowling Green State University student

"I visited your campus this past summer on a rainy Sunday morning in late August . . . The memorial performed its purpose as far as I am concerned. It is inscribed 'inquire, learn, reflect'. I did just that . . . As we left Kent, I was inundated with an immense personal sense of grief and remorse that so many lives were wasted during the time of the war. I felt the same way after visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington."

- A 1998 visitor to the Kent State University campus

May 4, 1970 Oral History Project 2000
Kent State University Libraries
Department of Special Collections and Archives
PO Box 5190 • Kent OH 44242-0001
330-672-2270 <http://www.library.kent.edu/speccoll>

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through the
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