

# College Mourns J. F. Kennedy

## Activity Ceases, People Assemble To Mourn Loss

Paterson State students, faculty and staff paused last Monday from their regular activities to pay tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy...

Governor Richard J. Hughes, of New Jersey, asked that public institutions close so that students could be with the families in this time of national grief.



JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

## Faculty Comments On President's Greatness

"From his first official speech at his inauguration in Washington, to his various addresses in foreign countries, to his last undelivered speech in Dallas, John F. Kennedy produced one memorable and brilliant commentary after the other on the meaning and importance of national and world peace," stated Dr. Donald Duclos, professor of English.

"Invoking the words of Robert Frost, we might say of the late President, 'Such as he was, he gave himself outright.' Let us hope that in this death we may find new fuel for peace, and that in his words, 'The glow of that fire can truly light the world.'"

"The assassination demonstrates how much the destiny of our nation depends upon the act of individuals — even obscure individuals.

"The important thing now that the initial terrible shock has passed is for us to square our shoulders and work even harder for the cause of freedom and democracy. John F. Kennedy would have wanted it this way." Such are the thoughts of Mr. E. Partridge, professor of Education.

"As no other president before him he exhibited a lively interest in, and a keen appreciation of all that is worthwhile in our cultural heritage. He was an exemplar of educated and enlightened intelligence. Although we all feel a deep sense of personal loss at his death, we can try to further the causes in which he believed and which he worked so effectively in his living. I think how well we do this will be the measure of our regard for his example," expressed Dr. James Houston, chairman of the Education Department.

"All of us have felt a tragic loss in the President's death," commented Theodore C. Miller, professor of English. "On a personal level we have come face to face with the frailty of human life. On the national level our country has lost a dedicated leader to whom we had entrusted our fate."

Mr. Albert Resis, assistant professor of Social Science, commented that, "It is ironically tragic that President Kennedy, who expended his best efforts to reduce and eliminate violence at home and abroad, should himself have been struck down by an assassin.

"I fervently hope that President Johnson, like the late President, a child of this century, will possess similar vision and will prevail

over those gripped by murderous bigotry and hatred."

Dr. Istvan Szent-Miklosy, professor of Social Sciences, commented that, he was not only the President of the United States, but presided, in effect, over the whole free world, and symbolized its basic unity.

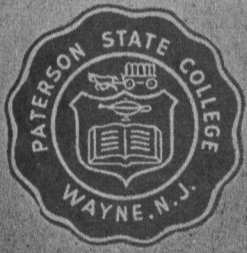
"Not all historical situations have been well understood by the teachers of the times. What well may be the historical significance of Kennedy's leadership is, perhaps, this clearheadedness and initiative. You may therefore understand the degree of emotions that upon me, a teacher of international relations, when I learned of the great tragedy."

"The late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was esteemed by Americans of all religious beliefs, because he was a devoutly religious man, who was devoted to his Church. He drew from his faith the profound belief that every person is created by God, in equality, to the highest dignity. Out of this religious faith, he developed his political philosophy of the dignity of human personality, the equality of man, and the right of the citizens of every nation to determine their forms of government.

"To this religious-political philosophy, he literally gave his life. May his soul, by the mercy of God, rest in peace, and may his idealism live on in the hearts of men everywhere," expressed Dr. J. W. Yoder, professor of Philosophy.

"Unlike Lincoln and unlike Roosevelt, Kennedy was cut down while his work was still incomplete. We do not have the perspective of time and we do not know the record from inside. Yet Kennedy's political career is worth discussing so that we can continue to face up to the challenges of the hour as he would have us do," stated Dr. Albert Young, professor of Social Studies.

SPECIAL BEACON EDITION IN MEMORY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY



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## The Unfinished Work

by James Miller

President Kennedy is dead. By now these dark words have raced through the length and breadth of this great land.

For this writer, the death of Mr. Kennedy means the end of a statesman who was truly in touch with the historical trends of this age. Often hampered by a stubborn and conservative Congress, Mr. Kennedy, nonetheless, realized that the issue of our times, which overshadowed all other matters, was the issue of peace. No more forcefully and articulately did he present the strategy of peace than in an address which he delivered at the American University commencement in Washington, D. C. on June 11, 1963. In the last analysis this speech may prove not only to be one of the great documents in history but, also, it may be the President's own lasting memorial.

Noting that defeatist attitudes concerning the infeasibility of creating a lasting peace in the Nuclear Age could well make war inevitable, the late President implored his fellow citizens to reject any forms of defeatism and to accept instead a view of life which recognized that, since all the problems in the world were manmade; all problems in the world could be solved through the use of man's spirit and reason. More specifically, he called upon Americans to re-examine their attitudes concerning the Soviet Union. He said that many of the present suspicions which the U. S. S. R. holds about the United States should be warnings "to the American people not to fall into the same trap as the Soviets . . ."

The late President was convinced that if indeed peace is ever to come to this troubled world of ours, the United States must take the initiative in winning that peace. Let us all hope and pray that the faith which Mr. Kennedy had in the American nation to meet the rigors and challenges of the Atomic Age will be borne out by time and the American people. Also let us all hope and pray that — in spite of his untimely and tragic death — his words concerning the prospects of peace will still be made true. —

"We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success. Confident and unafraid, we labor on — not towards a strategy of annihilation but towards a strategy of peace."

## "Incalculable Loss"

### Says President Shea

We of Paterson State College pay homage, in this special edition of the BEACON, to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, our courageous president, who was assassinated November 22, 1963.

His loss is incalculable. To us as individuals, as a nation, and to all the world, he was a man who personally lived up to the concepts of liberty and mutual respect for which our country stands before the world. He was a man who cared deeply for all men everywhere, and they felt and responded to this quality of greatness.

Ben Franklin once said, "The most acceptable service we render Him is doing good to His other children." When historians have recorded his story, John Fitzgerald Kennedy will be remembered as an intrepid and courageous leader with sympathy and compassion for all mankind. The good he attempted to effect for "all His children" will be counted among his many virtues.

We mourn his passing, and even as we extend our sympathy to his family, we weep with them. For in a sense, he belonged to us and to all peace-loving people everywhere.

## Shock, Sadness, Silence Characterize Campus

Richard Strassberg: "It took a moment for the words to sink in — President Kennedy had been shot! My first reaction was disbelief. It couldn't really be true — but yet it was.

"Classes were emptying into the halls. Immediately the rumor spread — more looks of horror and disbelief. A girl

was standing near the door with a portable radio in her hand. I moved closer to hear what the announcer was saying. Instantly we were surrounded by a mass of students pushing toward the radio, straining to hear what was happening in Dallas. "Texas authorities say President Kennedy is dead," reported the announcer. The crowd melted away almost as fast as it had gathered, and I was left alone with the realization that our President was dead."

## Country Carries On

As one president dies, another lives on. The incredible tragedy that struck last Friday afternoon has grieved not only our nation but the world. As the news traveled, our rapid paced world paused in grief.

Now after we have mourned the death of the late John Fitzgerald Kennedy, we must move ahead without him. Lyndon Baines Johnson is now entrusted with the task of leading the nation toward peace and progress. We must unite and give our assistance to President Johnson in facing the tasks in months ahead.