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*Let it not*  
MAY 1970  
*be said...*



STATE  
**Beacon**

*they died  
in vain*

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PATERSON STATE COLLEGE

May 13, 1970



**In The Memory Of  
The Kent State Four**

# PATERSON STATE

## From the President's Desk

Since this is the last column I will write this academic year, I had planned a general review of the past year to draw some conclusions about the directions in which we are moving and some of the hurdles ahead of us. But like everyone else right now, particularly those closely in touch with the feeling of outrage and despair that permeate so many campuses today, it is hard to concentrate on anything but the numbing events of the past 10 days. As I write this, the faculty is still considering the Student Government Association's recommendations on expressions of protest. Whatever final form the local and nationwide student protest eventually takes, no one can deny the reality of the immense wave of dissent sweeping this country. The actions taken last week in the White House and still the nightmarish events at Kent State have a remarkably unifying effect on American youth everywhere. Differences among members of our own campus community have been put aside as all of us attempt to address ourselves to what is happening.

My hope today is simply that someone will listen to these voices. For a time there appeared to be a casual assumption among national policy-makers that the peace movement had been dissipated. But the decision to invade Cambodia has injected more life in the movement than ever before, and the slayings at Kent State have brought it to an unprecedented emotional peak.

Thus, there is a grim setting to the ending of this 1969-70 academic year. I find it hard to think ahead to plans for the future on our campus while this foreboding cloud hangs over the entire country. I would, at least, like to make some general observations about the year just past. It was a year that saw movement and ferment. We strengthened our curriculum, increased our responsiveness to the community, and improved student services, particularly in academic advisement and in providing greater flexibility in course selection.

It was also a troubled year. We saw racial tension throughout a student strike last Fall. But we came through it. And we're still talking to each other. In fact, we may be talking to each other more than ever. I mean to see that this continues.

We're a better school than we were this time last year. I made a similar statement last year. I intend to make a similar one next year.

JAMES KARGE OLSEN  
President

The nation wide reaction to the ever widening Indo-China War and the tragic consequences at Kent State reached Paterson State College and shook the traditionalist attitudes of this institution.

"Strike" signs clung to every post surrounding the campus, climaxing with a large, paint splattered sheet hanging from the College Center. Paterson State was reacting to not only the war in Asia, but also the war going on here at home.

The strike against the Eastern War was not new to the campus. Monday, May 4, a sparse handful of sympathizers huddled in front of blaring out door speakers at Wayne Hall. The agitators, the organizers implored others to join in the outcry. Few students responded.

Paterson State was business as usual. Classes were held and the weather matched the cold, damp reception that the protestors were given.

Monday night, however, students went home to view a new kind of violence; one that was

occurring in their own little worlds. National Guardsmen fired on and killed four students, injuring eleven others. The reaction was non-violent and peaceful.

The next day a rally was staged beneath the balcony of the College Center. Speakers included President Olsen, who the strikers in abhorring the killings at Kent State. He mentioned that one of the slain coeds, Allison Krause, was a personal friend of the family. He concluded his statement by calling for four minutes of silence to honor each of the four dead.

In the midst of the strike Bruce James, President of the Students Government Association, assumed his office. He took his oath of office at the strike balcony from outgoing President John Alfieri.

He dismissed the traditional acceptance speech and gave his personal endorsement of the student boycott. He added that students should follow the dictates of their own consciences.

The speeches were followed by a march to the Haledon Post

Office to mail two letters. One was a letter to President Nixon expressing student disgust with the war in Asia, the other was a letter of condolence, addressed to the students, faculty and administration of Kent State.

Four hundred students participated in the march, many carrying placards and chanting words of peace.

Attendance in class was designated a matter of personal conscience and non-attendance would bring no further penalty.

Wednesday, the strike

Allison  
Jeffrey  
Sandra  
William

continued. Most students were confused as to what course to take regarding the boycott. There was a fear expressed by most students that they would be penalized for not going to class. This fear was present despite the existence of and reaffirmation of the October statement endorsed by the college council which stated that students could follow their conscience without penalty.

President Olsen cleared the air later that day when, addressing the faculty meeting stated that bo



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The College Community was deeply saddened when heard about the murder of four fellow students at Kent State University. It is surely a sad day in American life when a free University must be invaded by armed American troops, and anyone who expressed his constitutional right of dissent was shot to death.

President Richard M. Nixon has stated that this incident should convince educators and students alike that when "dissent turns to violence, it invites tragedy." Well, Mr. President, when you can convince American troops in Southeast Asia to shoot and kill dinks and slopes; it should not be a surprise to you when these same Americans shoot and kill "bums" on our campuses. Mr. Nixon is as responsible for the killings at Kent State as he and the rest of his administration were for the slaughter of women and children in Viet Nam.

However, the blame does not lie with the President alone. The triggers at Kent State were pulled by all mem

# STATE REACTED

...y and evening classes would be suspended until Monday. He also stated that meetings would take place the following day at 10:30. All departments regarding future actions and that their decisions would be presented at the Faculty Senate Meeting later that day.

The Student Government Association, led by Bruce James as president, then presented a rough draft of a proposal drafted by the Student Government Association Executive Board from a mandate from the General Council.

**raise**  
**n Miller**  
**Scheuer**  
**chroeder**

executive board, the general council and SGA subsidized organizations who aided us in this effort, established the right of the student to exercise his individual conscience."

The following day the following proposal was presented first in the departments and then in the Faculty Senate for consideration:

"With the approval of the Executive Board of the Student Government Association of Paterson State College, the following resolution is submitted to the college community:

1. The Student Government Association fully endorses the National Boycott of classes to protest the war in Indo-China and the death of our fellow students at Kent State University.
2. The Student Government Association strongly recommends that the faculty and administration join us in condemnation of the actions taken by President Nixon and the National Guard at Kent State.
3. The Student Government Association strongly recommends

that as of May 7, 1970, formal classes of the Spring Semester be suspended for the duration of the semester in support of the National Boycott of classes.

4. The Student Government Association strongly recommend that as of May 7, 1970, a system of Pass/Fail be initiated upon the decision of the student.

Furthermore, if a student wishes to receive a grade or **continue with his studies** on an individual basis in good conscience we recommend that he may do so.

With the suspension of classes, any student should have the option to:

1. take a "p" or "f" in any course that he has for this semester;
2. take a letter grade for any course that he has for this semester on the basis of his present grade status in that course;
3. take a final exam in any course that he has for this semester after arranging a time and place with the professor of  
*(Please turn page)*

## From another President's Desk

The events on this campus this week are unprecedented in the history of Paterson State College and stand as a landmark in the struggle against political insensitivity in our country.

With increasing frequency, federal officials of the present administration have manifested utter contempt for popular opinion, contrary to all of the fundamental tenets of democratic ideology. These "leaders" have involved the United States in a seemingly endless struggle against an undefined Asian enemy. And they have attempted to crush resistance to these policies at home and abroad. President Nixon's recent Cambodian escapade served to demonstrate the actual expansionist nature of American militaristic imperialism in Southeast Asia (contradicting the Vietnamization claims made by all government spokesman). These factors, coupled with the adamant anti-intellectual attitude on the part of Executive officials, have produced a nation in turmoil and have led to the blatant massacre on Kent State campus.

Bureaucratic structuring of government, educational, and economic institutions has left most Americans feeling pitifully helpless having no recourse from the injustices perpetuated upon them. The resultant frustration has led to violence and bloodshed. But there are two alternatives to such inane action. The populace may either submit to the atrocities of authoritarian rule or refuse to cooperate with the system as a whole. At times, the best reply to a system and to men grown evil and irresponsible is simply an emphatic NO. Classes at Paterson State College have been suspended.

In order to protect the rights of those students who may not support the boycott of classes, alternative channels of action (or inaction) remain open to them. The exact nature of official policy in this matter will be explained to the student body by letter from President Olsen's office.

- As for S.G.A. action at this time:
- (a) no appointments to committees will be made until September
  - (b) when such appointments ARE made, no student will be permitted to serve on more than two committees
  - (c) there will be a mass community teach-in beginning Monday, May 11 (sponsored by S.G.A. for the benefit of the college and surrounding urban communities)

Bruce James



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his "silent majority". Every American who can sit back and allow this murder to go unnoticed is indirectly responsible for the killings. Every American who sits idly by while Vice President Agnew continues to polarize this country; helped pull the triggers.

The time has come when the President of the United States must listen to responsible students and future leaders on American campuses. The administration can not continue to shoot down everyone who opposes its policies. We can not continue to allow Americans to shoot and kill fellow Americans.

In the past few years, we have seen Americans gun down women and children in Asia. But, most of us were not concerned with the killings because they occurred thousands of miles away, and the dead were Asians. However, now the dead are Americans. It will surely look like hell in the history books.





that course, and receive a letter grade or "p" or "f" for that course;

4. participate in the pursuit of individual study under the direction of the professor for any course he has for this semester.\*\*

We feel that these points will permit all students to follow their consciences.

Faculty and students should be advised that in accordance with the joint statement concerning freedom of conscience, any faculty member or student violating the college's policy will be subject to grievance procedures.

Be advised that the Student Government Association stands now for the protection of student rights for the entire student body.

The Student Government Association does not now and will never endorse violent protest on this or any other campus.

\*\*5. special arrangements can be made with individual instructors.

Bruce James"

Once again the Student Government Association assumed the responsibility of assigning student representatives to be at the meeting of the departments to explain the Student Government Association proposal. The meetings produced no clearcut result, except that all departments were in sympathy with the "spirit" of the document. Each department however had their own ideas about how to change the student government proposal. These ideas were brought out at the Faculty Senate, meeting at 1:30. The students were again represented by members of the government association. Bruce James, Bob Lannieur, President of the class of 1970; Tom Oram, President Class 1972; Bob Ross, President Class 1971; John Wade, President Class 1973, and presidential (SGA) appointees George Corey (former Vice President of SGA) and Mary Ann Ross (former Editor-In-Chief STATE BEACON) acted as the student negotiators.



One by one the departments reported. Not on academic department went on record as opposing every proposal set forth by the SGA. A few departments endorsed the proposals without question.

Towards the end of the department reports, a move was made by Dr. Balassi to reestablish the proposal of October. Adoption of this proposal would have meant that the students proposal for suspension of formal classes be automatically defeated by reason of the fact that the October proposal calls for classes as usual but respects the right of the student to boycott these classes without penalty. There was vigorous opposition to the adoption of the October statement by the students represented. The resulting vote on the resolution was defeated by three votes.

Following the defeat of the Balassi motion, Dr. Levine of the Science department moved that the college suspend formal classes leaving the option for informal classes if the student wished to attend it. This motion was unanimously passed. Dr. Duclos then presented the list of options that a student might avail himself of. After some discussion the following proposal was adopted.

The following recommendations were approved at the Faculty Senate meeting on May 7, 1970:

"Formal classes for all divisions of the College to be suspended for the remainder of the semester, with informal classes to be available to students who wish to attend. Each student may exercise the dictates of his conscience without penalty regarding class attendance.

**Establishment of Semester Grades For the Spring Semester 1970**

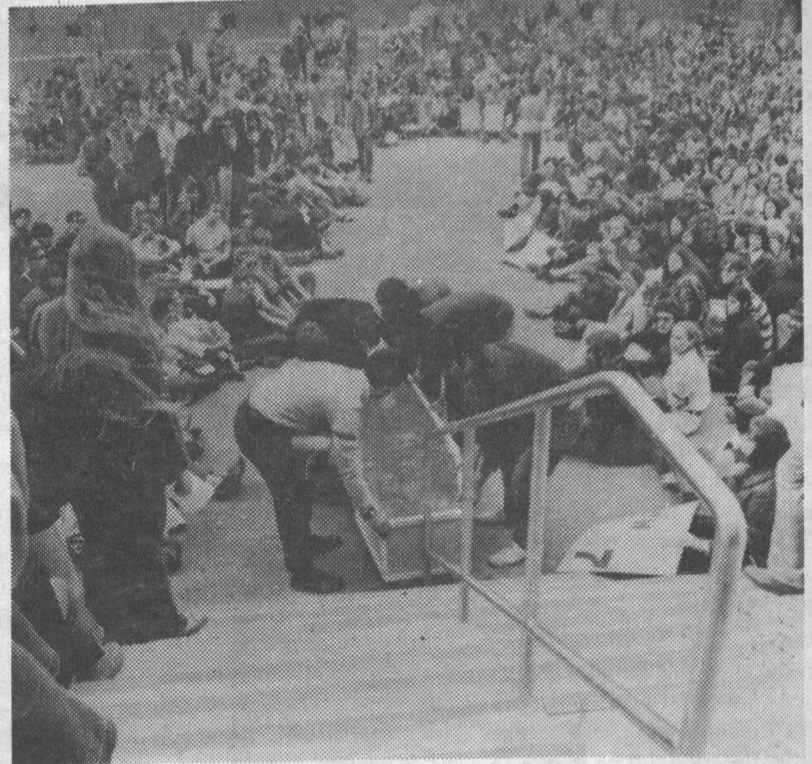
Any one of the following options may be selected in writing (see attached form) by the student and communicated to the professor.

1. To receive a Pass or Fail mark for the course.
2. To receive a mark of **no credit** (to be treated in the same manner as a WD
3. To choose a letter grade in the course based on performance up to and including May 6
4. To take an examination, if a final was intended for the course, during the regularly-scheduled examination period and to receive a letter grade which includes the final examination performance. Special arrangements shall be made for seniors.

5. To complete previously-scheduled assignments or projects which might tend to enhance his grade for the course. Such assignments are to be completed by the end of the semester.

Arrangements concerning the above options are to be made between the student and his instructor by May 15, 1970.

A joint committee of the Student Government Association and the Faculty Senate will be formed to handle student grievances concerning course grades. Before the grievance procedure is instituted it is understood that the student should attempt to resolve the matter with the professor concerned.



The Faculty Senate of Paterson State College, in concert with the Student Government Association, protests the actions of President Nixon in broadening the Indo-China War into Cambodia and resuming the bombing of North Vietnam.

The Faculty Senate of Paterson State College, in concert with the Student Government Association, deplors the deaths of students at Kent State University, and demands an immediate and impartial investigation of this tragedy to fix just blame under due constitutional process.

The Faculty Senate endorses the last statement of the Student Government Association resolution which reads as follows:

The Student Government Association does not now and will never endorse violent protest on this or any other campus."

The Student Mobilization Committee organized a march into the City of Paterson, for Friday, May 8. Many hundreds of students and faculty participated in the peaceful, yet most effective demonstration of their beliefs. The route, which passed through both Haledon and Paterson, was several miles long. The participants, though tired, chanted anti war slogans and songs constantly. After the destination was attained, several speakers from the college community and the city voiced their pleasure with the success of the march and their disgust with the American situation. One police authority congratulated the marshals of the march for what he termed, "fantastic behavior."

A week long teachin has been scheduled for this week and SMC-PSC is working towards the institution of a free University.

All strike photos courtesy of Louis Garcia.  
Cover photo by Dan Lehmann.

