

0. SCHOOLS IN TURMOIL - Story Preface

1. POLITICAL UNREST

2. WHY ARE WE IN VIETNAM?

3. STUDENT PROTESTS

4. THE WAR ESCALATES

5. LBJ LEAVES THE WHITE HOUSE

6. SCHOOLS IN TURMOIL

7. T. C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

8. HERMAN BOONE GETS THE JOB

9. GERRY BERTIER

10. SCHOOL BUSING AN ISSUE AGAIN

A change in presidential leadership did not end the war. "Peace with honor" seemed like an elusive concept. As Richard Nixon conducted a press conference on April 30, 1970 (to explain why he had sent B-52s into Cambodia to bomb "Viet Cong" strongholds), a protest at Kent State University was brewing. It began the next day (May 1, 1970). Among other reasons, students were upset that innocent Cambodians were being killed.

By May 4th members of the Ohio National Guard, sent to the Kent State campus, were ready for battle. Armed with tear gas, rifles and fixed bayonets, they looked as though they were about to end an armed insurrection. Examining the police photographs today, one can only wonder what both sides must have been thinking when the National Guard fired into the crowd of people milling about on campus.

Four unarmed students were killed at Kent State. Not all the dead students were part of the protest movement. After the shootings, an injunction temporarily closed the University. Students and their professors had to find other means to finish the term.

Meanwhile, African-American students were still trying to find other means to begin equal educational opportunities. The case filed by Dr. Swann was making its way to the United States Supreme Court.

By April of 1971 (eleven months after the Kent State shootings), the high court delivered its judgment to the country. In *Swann v Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, the now famous case that permitted busing of students to achieve racial integration, the high court sent a message to the country.

Public schools could no longer ignore the mandates of *Brown v Board of Education*, the case that was *supposed* to have ended America's policy of "separate but equal." All schools had to become integrated immediately.

That included schools in Alexandria, Virginia - a place where football was king.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SCHOOLS-IN-TURMOIL-Remember-The-Titans>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SCHOOLS-IN-TURMOIL-Remember-The-Titans>

Media Stream



Richard Nixon Press Conference

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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B-52 Bomber

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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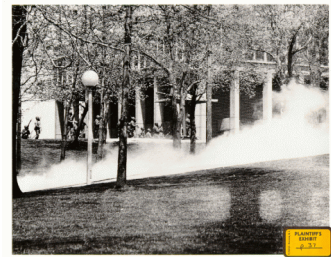
Ohio National Guard at the Kent State Campus

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Tear Gas at Kent State

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Ohio National Guard Using Fixed Bayonets at Kent State

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Ohio National Guard Moving on the Kent State Campus

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Ohio National Guard Fired on the Students

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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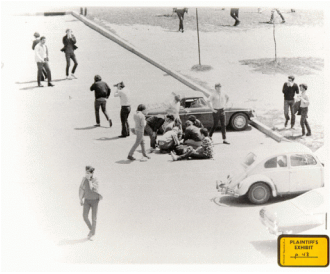
Students Watching the Event on Campus - Kent State

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Student Killed on Campus - Kent State

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

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Ohio National Guard Confronting the Students

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