

Resentment at Students

The People of Kent

Kent, Ohio

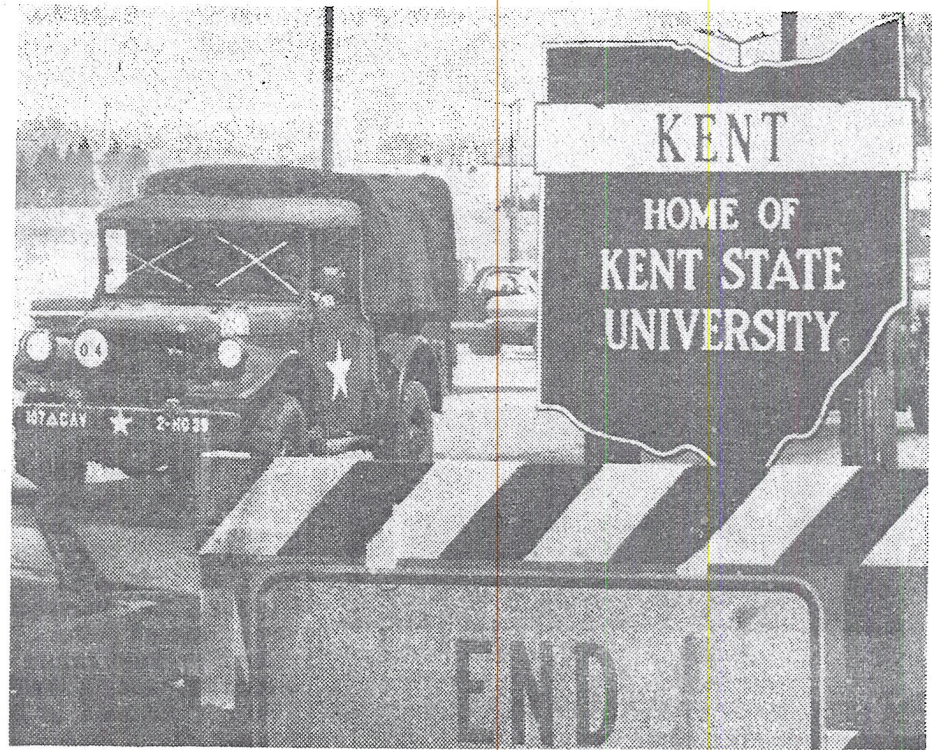
"It's a shame it had to take killing to do it, but all those kids were someplace they shouldn't have been," said Dick Richards, a florist lunching at the weekly meeting of the Lions Club at the Brown Derby just outside town.

The controversy over the killing of four students and the wounding of nine more in Kent still swirls around the country.

But there is little disagreement among the townsfolk of Kent. It's too bad, they say, but the National Guardsmen were right, the students shouldn't have been there. There's a minority hat cause rouble, and outside agitators that shouldn't be let in. And the troublemakers have long hair, use bad language, go barefoot and even destroy property, and they had to be stopped.

IDEAS

"I make my living in Kent," said Don Ruble who



AP Wirephoto

Last of the Guardsmen left Kent campus yesterday

operates laundry machines in the dormitories. "But I wouldn't send another son there." The teachers fill them full of the wrong ideas, he said, and they come home rejecting the adults and their values. His oldest son went to Kent and now teaches retarded children in Cleveland. "I respect him for that," but the two have grown so apart in thinkint that "I don't even want to see him," Ruble said.

Sometimes reaction is one of hate. A sweetfaced-gray-haired old lady, probably more than 70 years old, spat out: "They insult the townspeople. I was just walking down the street, going to the bank and one just come up to me and said 'you olds . t face.'"

"My own gas station man said they should have shot 100 of them," said Tom Bohlander, who sells Fiat cars and Honda bikes near the campus and was graduated from Kent in 1968. He also thinks faculty members share the blame for the trou-

ble for urging stedents to take to the streets.

STUDENTS

There are 20,000 students and 28,000 in the town and the townsfolk complain that when the youngsters, students and nonstudents from surrounding areas pour into downtown Kent o weekends it becomes dangerous.

"They got to keep order some way. One thing they ought to do is they ought to chase them all out if they don't get their hair cut and cleaned up," said Harry Miller a 58-year-old house painter.

At Water and Main streets, the center of Kent, five men talked aboct the shooting.

"If I would have been shooting, I'd be shooting more than they did," said one.

"I can't see how they let those speakers like Rubin in, telling them to kill their fathers and mothers. It gets the students rolling. I don't see how they let those trouble-

makers in," said a second.

"They're undisciplined. Nobody ever said no to them since they were 6 years old. The guard said no. Somebody's got to stop them," said a third.

TROUBLE

"We never had trouble with the more decent element down here," said a fourth.

"I'm in support of the American point of view," said the fifth, agreeing with his friends.

"Those kids were ready to burn everything. If you would have had townspeople with guns out and on their roofs to protect their property, you would have had a lot more than four dead kids," said Richards at the Lions club.

"The people I talk to say it's a terrible, terrible shame they had to be killed, but how long are we going to put up with these punk kids?" said Dale Miller, who works at the bank.

The weekend before the

shooting windows in downtown stores were broken and today the local chamber of commerce said seeing the "total picture" would include considering the feeling in the community. "In the months and even years leading to the incident the people of Kent were subjected to extreme loss of property, business and personal rights; subjected to profane language, both spoken and written; subjected to threats on the street and in the home; subjected to witness abuses of the American flay," the chamber said.

Many students have blamed the presence of the guardsmen for the violence Monday, but letters and telephone calls to the local newspaper show the townsfolk were glad to get the guard, said Loris Troyer, executive editor of the Record-Courier. "I think there's a considerable widening of the chasm between the university and the town now," he said.