

Kent's Townspeople Back Guardsmen

By **JERRY M. FLINT**
Special to The New York Times

KENT, Ohio, May 7 — "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 lurching at the weekly meeting of the Lions Club at the Brown Derby just outside town.

The controversy over the killing of four students here still swirls around the country.

Campuses have closed. There are calls for investigations, and today the Ohio National Guard's adjutant general, Sylvester Del Corso, called Senator Stephen M. Young a "senile old liar" after the Ohio Democrat charged that a guardsman's accidental shot triggered the firing on the students Monday.

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 that causes trouble, and outside agitators 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.

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

laundry machines in the dormitories, "but I wouldn't send another son there."

The teachers fill the students full of the wrong ideas, he said, and they come home rejecting the adults and their values.

His oldest son went to Kent State and now teaches retarded children in Cleveland. "I respect him for that," but the two have grown so apart in thinking that "I don't even want to see him," Mr. Ruble said.

Sometimes the reaction is one of hate. A sweet-faced, gray-haired woman, 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 old—you!'"

"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. He was graduated from Kent State in 1968. He also thinks the faculty share the blame for the trouble, for urging students to take to the streets.

Complaints About Youths

"You get someone backed in a corner, someone trying to beat you to death, and if you've got a gun and don't use it, you don't have a brain in your head," said Steve Gulosh, a part-time policeman.

There are 19,000 students and 29,000 townspeople, and the townsfolk complain that when the youngsters — students and nonstudents from surrounding areas — pour into downtown Kent on weekends, it becomes dangerous for women and even men.

"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.

Today the guardsmen were

withdrawing and by tomorrow all are to be gone from the Kent State campus. The broken windows downtown are being replaced. The Lions club today listened to a local golf pro explaining the fine points of putting. But the streets, normally full of students, were still empty and no one knows when Kent State will reopen.

Student Backs Guard

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt., May 7 (AP) — A student who said he had seen four of his classmates killed at Kent State says the guardsmen were not to blame. James Young, 20 years old, of White River Junction, said in an interview Monday with radio station WN... that the guardsmen "had to fire to defend their lives."

Blacks Get Journalism Grant

The American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation announced yesterday the award of grants-in-aid totaling \$21,412 to 45 Negro students enrolled in 28 accredited journalism departments at universities across the country.

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