

# Storm of Student Revolt

Chicago Daily News Service

This was the week that the student revolt came to sleepy Kutztown State College in Kutztown, Pa.

A small former teacher's college of 2700 students, Kutztown State briefly went "on strike" Wednesday. The student government even joined to protest the U. S. invasion of Cambodia and the killing of four students at Kent State University.

Kutztown College is an apt symbol for the unprecedented student strike that has swept across the nation, not because the student demonstrations there were intense or even violent, which they weren't — they hardly got off the ground — but because it was involved at all.

Student revolts are not supposed to happen at places like Kutztown. It's a small public college in a rural setting. Many of its students still live at home.

After a nondisruptive black student sit-in last month, the administration got a court injunction forbidding more than two black students to meet at one time.

It has none of the characteristics of campuses where major protests have occurred.

A recent report by the American Council of Education says that protests most likely occur at large private universities — in urban settings — with highly selective admissions policies and resident student populations or "youth ghettos."

## A Clampdown

But last week it wasn't just Columbia, Harvard, the University of Chicago, Madison and Berkeley — it was Kutztown, Juniata College, Cuyahoga Community College, Juilliard School of Music, Harlem School of Nursing and even the University of Alabama.

Alabama officials were so disturbed by an all-night student vigil for the "Kent State 4" that they ordered state troopers to disperse the demonstrators and forbade all future student gatherings or even peaceful class boycotts.

John Naisbitt, who keeps track of every incident of student protest, is simply overwhelmed.

"I don't think anyone realizes how significant this is," said Naisbitt, president of the Chicago-based Urban Research Corp. "This is a profoundly new phenomenon for America — a truly nationwide student strike. Scores of institutions, large and small, are closed down.

"This has happened in South American countries and the University of Tokyo was closed for a number of months, but this is a national first.

"There have been more campuses hit by student protest in one week than in all of last year," said Naisbitt, who periodically publishes reports chronicling every incident of campus protest.

So far, Naisbitt has counted more than 400 campuses hit by protests and he is still trying to catch up. Last year

a total of 300 campuses were affected by student protests — a one-year record.

Commenting on the "Kutztown syndrome," Naisbitt added:

"This thing is so widespread that the engineering department at the University of California at Berkeley voted to go on strike and that's got to be a first."

But Kutztown and the Berkeley engineering department are not the only apparent incongruities in this strike. There are others.

The strike hit at a time when leftwing organizations, like Students for a Democratic Society, are falling apart and veteran leftists are turning away from the campus, either by choice or because of administrative purges.

The radical "leaders," traditionally blamed for student protest, are either in jail, in court, in factories, in hiding or in disarray.

The strike swept across the nation like a brushfire, with virtually no central planning or direction, at a time when there is no real mass-based national student organization.

The strong war protests occurred at a time when the war was supposed to be dying out as a campus issue and pollution and ecology were supposedly the "in" issues.



# Strikes Even

**ANGER**, violence, hatred on the campus? At Iowa State U, anti-war demonstrators presented a birthday cake to Assistant Police Chief Tom Lyttle—one day after Lyttle and his fellow police arrested 23 of the students! Bearded youth at left was one of those arrested.

—UPI Photo



"It never would have been this big without Kent State," said one veteran leftwing activist. "That was what did it. The kids who were shot were pictured as innocent bystanders who didn't like the war and like, well, it just mobilized all those innocent bystanders out there.

"They said 'Hey, that could have been me.'"

"It's all new people out there. The movement people like me are trying to catch up to it and analyze it," said a full-time radical organizer who is a veteran of the 1968 Columbia University student revolt.

"It's a whole new bunch of kids, young ones, liberals," he added. "It's really confusing. They keep talking about nonviolence but then they chant 'off the pig.'"

One of the reasons black students and seasoned radicals are keeping a skeptical eye on the protests is that they see a streak of racism.

Naisbitt agreed that there is a flavor of racism to the new wave of protest movement, but he noted that for the most part it is an unconscious racism from students who are actively trying to overcome it.

He noted, for instance, that the demands growing out of the strike for the most part do not involve the middle-class "student power" issue but the off-campus issues of the war, political repression and racism.



# Sleepy Kutztown

These "strike" demands, which have been endorsed at small Middle America institutions as well as by big city "strike committees," include withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia, freeing Bobby Seale, the Black Panther leader, and all U.S. political prisoners and ending all political repression against dissidents, ending university involvement with the military and withdrawal of all National Guard troops and police from campuses.

As the student-protest movement spreads to new places and mobilizes new students, it also appears to be creating new perceptions among older Americans.

The theory that there are a handful of nihilistic, mentally disturbed malcontents stirring up all the trouble is fading.

Studies of student activists have always concluded that they are apt to be the brightest, most psychologically stable, leader types on campus.

The January, 1969, issue of Fortune, for instance, reported results of a poll showing that the number of students who were activists or sympathetic to activists numbered 40 percent of the total student population of seven million.

## The Clenched Fist

The most recent study on campus unrest, prepared for the American Council of Education, rejected the once popular theories that student protesters were the result of a generation gap or a "hate your father" syndrome.

The study also observed:

"Student activists tend to come, not from permissive households but from a highly principled family culture that emphasizes reasoning, persuasion as well as independence of thought and action."

This survey, as others before it — notably that of a task force of the President's Violence Commission — concluded that the "student problem" may really be an "American establishment problem" that students are merely reacting to.

"The big question may not be 'why are students demonstrating and tearing up the campus' but 'why aren't older Americans joining them?'" said one of the researchers for the Violence Commission's task force on student protest.

Even at corn-belt Western Illinois University the campus newspaper is filled with front-page defenses of the Black Panthers, anti-imperialist polemics and clenched-fist symbols.

"They thought they wiped out radicalism when they kicked SDS out," said an activist at Kent State University earlier this week. "But kids learned from that purge," she said. "And now everybody is picking up on it. When Cambodia hit, it was as if everything the SDS kids said was right, so we attacked the targets they taught us to hit — ROTC, you name it.