

### ***Incredible but True***

James Michener, one of the most successful and popular novelists of our times, interviewed a mother who lived near the Kent State campus for his book, "Kent State: What Happened And Why," published this year by Random House.

In it Michener records the following dialogue:

**Mother:** Anyone who appears on the streets of a city like Kent with long hair, dirty clothes or bare feet deserves to be shot . . . it would have been a lot better if the guards had shot the whole lot of them.

**Michener:** But you had three sons there.

**Mother:** If they didn't do what the guards told them they should have been mowed down.

**Professor of psychology:** Is long hair a justification for shooting someone?

**Mother:** Yes. We have got to clean up this nation. And we'll start with the long-hairs.

**Professor:** Would you permit one of your sons to be shot simply because he went barefooted?

**Mother:** Yes.



JAMES A. MICHENER

**Professor:** Where do you get such ideas?

**Mother:** I teach at the local high school.

**Professor:** Do you mean that you are teaching your students such things?

**Mother:** Yes. I teach them the truth. That the lazy, the dirty, the ones you see walking the streets and doing nothing ought all to be shot.