

KENT STATE HOLDS A 4-DAY MEMORIAL

Remembers Students Killed
in Protest Last Year

MAY 4 1971

By AGIS SALPUTAS

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KENT, Ohio, May 3—"Quiet, not loud, that's the way it should be. People should go to the candlelight vigil and then go back to their own thing."

That's how Kurt Wurz, a sophomore at Kent State University, would prefer to remember the four students shot to death by the Ohio National Guard here last May 4. Silent, private, nonpolitical, and then back to classes.

Instead, the university has again become the center of attention during the four days of memorial events here, ending with a service tomorrow. There are 400 newsmen on the campus, and speakers are urging the students, to help solve the nation's problems.

Bond Urges Involvement

Julian Bond, the young, black state legislator from Georgia, asked 3,500 students in the gymnasium last night to "involve yourself in political activism of the broadest sense" so that they could help the black people.

"It is important because you can offer some light and hope for a people without hope who are close to spiritual and political death," Mr. Bond said. "And it is important because a year ago this month many of you promised you would do something and then did nothing at all."

Dick Gregory, the black comedian and civil rights activist, received a standing ovation from 6,000 students today after telling them that "you young folk have a hell of a mess to clean up left by us old folk." He added: "You must know who you are, know what it is about. Don't rely on us oldees to tell yo."

Campus Workshops

Small groups of students also participated in workshops on such topics as "Non-violent and Creative Conflict Resolution," in which they were asked to write scenarios of what might happen if a group marched on the Pentagon.

A candlelight procession of students was held later on the campus. Craig Morgan, president of the student government, asked that no press coverage be given to the march. "Please, let the peace and sincerity of the individuals involved not be marred by unwanted and inappropriate publicity," he said.

Students said repeatedly in interviews that they resented the long and elaborate memorial events and that they were the center of attention.

William Schaeffer, who went to the antiwar marches on the day before the shooting last year, said that "everybody is disgusted that it had to take physical violence to get attention." He added: "This school has been asked to take the lead and doesn't know what to do with it."

Fear of Violence

Many of the 19,500 Kent State students also fear that there could be another outbreak of violence that would jeopardize the long and difficult process involved in bringing campus life almost back to normal.

Although the leaders of the May Day Coalition, made up mostly of radical groups, have stressed that the acts of civil disobedience they have planned for tomorrow to protest the war in Indochina and the university's handling of the memorial would be nonviolent, many students have not been reassured.

The coalition is protesting the university administration's guidelines allowing only students and faculty members to attend the four-day memorial and to allow radical leaders to speak only in workshops.

Most of the radical students here left last Friday for the demonstrations in Washington, but they planned to be back tomorrow.

Ken Hammond, one of the leaders of the coalition here, said in an interview that it was the Government's policies in Southeast Asia that caused the conditions in which the four Kent State students were killed.

"People would like to forget that," he maintained. "That's why this memorial service is only about a tragedy of the American dream."

Memorial Criticized

But there are many students here who would like to remember it simply as a tragedy. Tony Volpe, a sophomore, went home last Friday and said that he would not come back for the memorial.

"Of course you're going for a career," he said in an interview. "What happened was a tragedy. What are you doing by having a memorial? If someone wants to remember, he doesn't need four days and ceremonies."

The students have had hundreds of talks with faculty members and residents in Kent and have worked hard to relieve the tension last fall, when a grand jury indicted 25 persons, including 22 students.

By last December, things became more normal; students going to "beer bashes" and watching sports events. They fondly remember a day last month when students filled buckets and balloons with water and had a massive water fight. Many would like to have that kind of atmosphere continue after May 4.