

Memorial Ends

Kent's ROTC Building Closed

Kent, Ohio

Kent State University closed a building housing ROTC offices when several hundred students sat down in front of it yesterday, the final day of a memorial service for four students shot to death by National Guardsmen a year ago.

The 300 May Day Coalition participants blocked entrances to Rockwell Hall while helmeted campus security guards watched from inside the locked building.

Five blocks away, Yale University president Kingman Brewster Jr. told 450 students in Memorial Gym.

"We will best serve the memory of those who died here if we can convince our fellow citizens of two truths about our country: violence is the enemy of constructive change and the only way to prevent violence is to keep the door to change open."

Brewster was concluding speaker in the four-day memorial program.

A block from the gymnasium a small band of students maintained a candlelight vigil on the knoll where the shootings occurred during an anti-war demonstration.

The vigil was to end at midnight.

Coalition speakers, who violated campus rules by their presence, included Mark Lane, an attorney active in the civil rights movement; folk singer Barbara Dane; George Lakey, a member of the Friends Peace Committee, and former Kent State student Tim Butz, a national committeeman for the veterans Against the War.

Kent president Robert I. White opened the earlier memorial program on the memorial program on the commons where the shootings occurred.

"After the crack of guns," he told the assembly of 7000 students, "four of us were gone, and, again, two at

Jackson (Miss.) State, all senselessly early cruel deaths.

"If there is any one thing which unites us, the desire for a memorial does just that. That and a craving for peace."

Four oak trees and a piece of sculpture were dedicated in memory of the slain students.

After he spoke a campus bell formally tolled seven times. Organizers said the seven tolls were for the four slain Kent students, two for the Jackson State students, and one "for the victims everywhere of war, hatred and repression."

Governor John J. Gilligan had ordered state and national flags here — and at all state buildings — flown at half-staff for the day to honor the memory of the students.

"This gesture," said Gilligan, "will serve as a symbol of the necessity for all of us to work toward peace, tranquility and justice and to see that the tragedy of May 4, 1970, is never repeated."

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