

Dear Friend,

I am the father of Allison B. Krause, one of the four children killed at Kent State University by the guns of the National Guard.

I am writing to you not simply on their behalf -- nothing you or I can do can bring these four young people back to life -- but because we, the families of the students, after almost five years of struggles with the help of churchmen, students and many others, finally have been given an opportunity to bring out in the Courts the truth about these killings. Now at last we can focus responsibility where it belongs and make certain that such a tragedy does not occur again in this country.

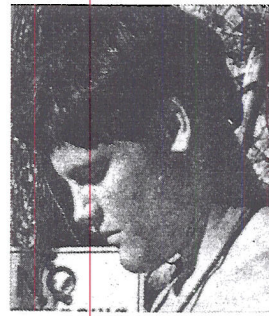
This opportunity for justice has been opened to us by the U.S. Supreme Court which has finally ruled in our favor, reversing two lower courts and permitting us to go ahead with our suits charging that the officials involved -- Governor James Rhodes, the Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard, and individual officers and guardsmen -- acted under color of law to willfully, wantonly and recklessly cause the deaths of the four students, depriving them of the right to life and liberty. Our suit seeks to hold these officials personally responsible for \$11 million in actual and punitive damages.

This lawsuit is the last chance to determine whether those responsible for the tragedy of May 4, 1970 will be held accountable. If we can succeed, it is possible that we may be able to find out the "truth" about Kent State -- to find out why National Guardsmen fired -- why the "unnecessary, unwarranted and inexcusable" shootings occurred, to borrow the words of ex-Attorney General Mitchell who then refused to call a federal grand jury to find out why.

The Washington Post (April 20, 1974) said in an editorial, "In addition to restoring hope that justice may ultimately be done in this particular case, the 8-0 opinion of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger establishes an important principle that should cause state officials and National Guardsmen to think twice before they encroach upon the constitutional rights of citizens in the future."

The trial is only a short time away and our lawyers have started pre-trial discovery procedures, an expensive task which lack of funds has prevented them from carrying out adequately. Previous court costs alone have already added up to tens of thousands of dollars and the expense for this coming trial will be great.

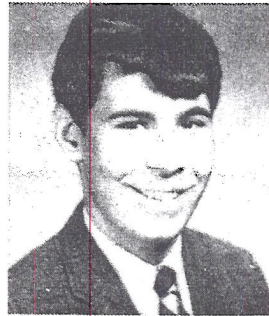
No such problem, however, burdens the Ohio officials and National Guard generals cited in these suits. The state has already appropriated an initial quarter of a million dollars to cover their legal fees and expenses.



William K. Schroeder



Sandra L. Scheuer



Jeffrey G. Miller



Allison B. Krause

(please see over)

Now that this opportunity to seek out the truth has become a reality, we are seriously hampered by lack of funds. Your support of this hard-won right to pursue truth in the courts is crucial -- in fact, indispensable. It would be a terrible tragedy if we were to lose out through lack of funds on this opportunity given to us by the Supreme Court.

I think the basic reason for this trial -- for our appeal to you -- was best expressed by my wife --

"She was only with us for nineteen years. And when we go to her grave tomorrow, what do we say? Do we say that there is no justice, Allison? That no one cares that you are dead, Allison? That you were - executed? Or do we say there is justice, Allison?"

This trial may be our last chance to say to Allison, Sandra, Bill and Jeffrey that justice can be done in this country and in the future the fundamental human right not to be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law will be protected for all of us, young and old.

Please send as much as you can to make this possible. Everything depends on it.

Gratefully,



Arthur S. Krause

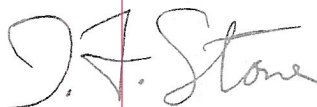
P.S. The trial will also provide two young men with their last chance of receiving compensation for the injuries that shattered their lives. Dean Kahler was shot in the back and paralyzed for life, and Joseph Lewis Jr. was shot twice, the second time as he lay wounded on the ground. Lewis is permanently maimed. Their medical and therapeutic expenses alone have become monumental.

Your contribution is tax deductible, made out to  
KENT STATE DUE PROCESS OF LAW FUND  
sponsored by The Department of Law, Justice and Community Relations  
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A Note from:



We still don't know the full truth about the Kent State killings. The last hope of getting it rests on this civil suit. The Supreme Court cleared the way for it and it's up to all of us to help this extraordinarily persistent and devoted father in pursuing it. He has been carrying the torch of justice for all of us. We should not rest content until this crime is fully exposed -- and I believe the trail leads straight into Nixon's Oval Office. His inflammatory statement about "campus bums" prepared the way for the shootings. But were there more direct communications between him and his Justice Department on the one side and the Governor and the National Guard on the other? Was this the goriest of all the "dirty tricks"?

