

A Special Note from:

*Arthur Krause*

To You - the last hope for justice at Kent State

Dear Friend,

A little over five years ago my daughter, Allison, and three other students were killed by National Guard rifle fire at Kent State University. In addition, 13 others were shot and injured -- one permanently paralyzed.

In the past five years the families of the dead and injured have untiringly attempted to establish accountability among Governor Rhodes, the Adjutant General, and the guardsmen for the "indiscriminate firing." "Indiscriminate firing" are not my words -- I would choose something stronger -- but they are the words of the Adjutant General, Sylvester Del Corso, who repeated before a grand jury 16 times that the guardsmen were not justified in shooting into the crowd.

After five years the families of the dead and wounded finally won the right to a civil trial -- to seek truth and justice -- but, as you might have heard, despite many new confessions, we lost the trial. Or did we?

Did we lose when day after day the press reported on the previous lies, contradictions, and coverups? It was during the trial that one former national guard officer admitted after all these years that he lied when he swore that he had found a gun on Jeffrey Miller's body . . . that he lied when he had testified under oath to finding brass knuckles on still another shot-down student.

I wish you could have sat with us in that Ohio courtroom and listened as the truth of Kent State began to see the light of day after all these agonizing years. I wish you could have shared with the families of the dead and injured the peace of mind in knowing in our heads what we have always known in our hearts . . . that our children were indeed innocent of any wrongdoing!

And yet, we lost the trial. *Or did we?*

Last winter I realized how important our efforts were when Colonel Simonson of the Wisconsin National Guard forcefully ordered his men not to put bullets into their rifles as they surrounded the monastery occupied by the Menominee Indian Warrior Society. Colonel Simonson told his men, "We don't want another Kent State!"

"We don't want another Kent State!"

This was the goal of our suit -- to reestablish the concept that no government official or officer can deprive any American of his or her rights to assembly, freedom of speech, life, or liberty without due process of law. A victory at our trial would have made this concept loud and clear. Today, however, we are not so sure.

We cannot let this verdict stand. The families of the dead and injured are going

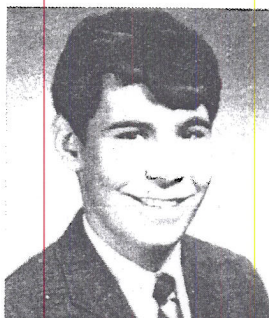
*(please turn to page 4)*



William K. Schroeder



Sandra L. Scheuer



Jeffrey G. Miller



Allison B. Krause



THE PLAIN DEALER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1975

# Guard wrong at Kent: Del Corso

Students no threat to soldiers

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The Cleveland Press, Aug. 28, 1975

## The Kent verdict

Despite the fact that a federal jury has found high state officials and National Guardsmen not accountable in the shootings at Kent State University, this is not likely to be the last word in the long and tragic drama.

Already the attorney for the plaintiffs has served notice he will appeal. Some of the verdict and others who supported the trial verdict and others who surprised and disappointed by the jury's findings.

The question still intrudes itself: What kind of danger did a crowd of students at considerable distance pose to the government that it should respond with a lethal hail of bullets which killed four young people and wounded nine others?

And what sort of leadership did the guardsmen have when they acted that he did not

age trial resulting from the shootings.

They were blocked, however, by Judge Don J. Young who ruled that Del Corso, who was a defendant, could not be forced to testify as an expert.

Judge Young would not allow the victims lawyers to ask Del Corso whether he considered the shootings justified, nor would the

judge allow them to introduce Del Corso's grand jury testimony for the jury to consider.

Exclusion of Del Corso's testimony was considered a major blow to the plaintiffs' case against 30 guardsmen, state and university officials. After 14 weeks of testimony the jury voted 9-10-3, to exonerate Del Corso, Gov. James

A. Rhodes and the others of any blame for the deaths and injuries. Joseph Keiner, chief plaintiffs lawyer, told Judge Young his ruling to restrict Del Corso's testimony "is a devastating blow to us, and I don't know how to come it."

So complex were the issues, in fact, that the judge says he admitted he erred in part in his ruling to restrict Del Corso's conflicting testimony.

Governor Rhodes, who made statements before that awful day at Kent that can only be construed as inflammatory, was contradicted by another witness on some of his testimony.

Sgt. Morton Pryor, shown in a classic photo with his pistol pointed toward the students, testified he never fired his weapon, yet testified he did and one told graphically of seeing shells pop from his gun for the defense.

A surprise witness for the defense, Joy Hubbard Bishop, said she saw a civilian man stand near her said they saw no such person.

More than five years after the shootings on a grassy knoll at Kent State University, the answers have not been given.

The Plain Dealer has been shown a copy of Del Corso's secret testimony to a federal grand jury in Cleveland. In that testimony given last year, Del Corso stated 16 times that the guardsmen were of justified in shooting, or even

## Kent State Guardsman Testifies He Lied

Published in The New York Times  
CLEVELAND, June 30—A former Ohio National Guardsman and police officer testified last week that he lied to fellow guardsmen and police about finding a gun on the body of one of four students killed at Kent State University in 1970, when the shootings occurred.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

## Kent grand jury witness casts doubt

# Rhodes' testimony is contradicted

Exclusive

This story was compiled by Richard G. Zimmerman, Plain Dealer Washington Bureau chief; Robert H. Snyder and George E. Condon Jr. of The Plain Dealer Columbus Bureau, and Christine J. Jindra, Plain Dealer federal beat reporter.

In his first version, given during an interview Friday, Rhodes contradicted his own sworn testimony. In a later interview Friday,

he hedged and said he could not remember details.

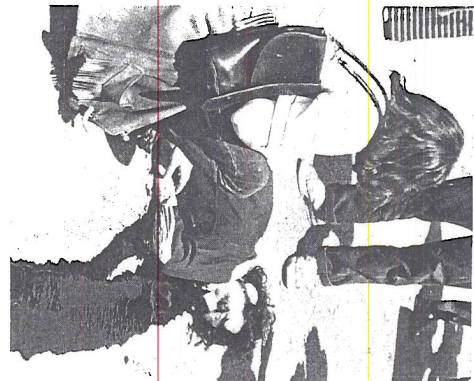
The contradiction centers on reports that Rhodes called then Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, asking for a federal investigation the afternoon four students were shot to death and nine others wounded by national Guardsmen at Kent State.

Rhodes, under oath in a trial, denied calling Agnew for the million damage suit against Rhodes and 29 other defendants in U.S. District Court here. All defendants were cleared of liability in the shootings.

secret testimony given to a federal grand jury here Feb. 26, 1974, provided a much more detailed look at Rhodes' actions on May 4, 1970, the day guardsmen fired on the students.

speaking with the vice president Rhodes completed his conversation with Agnew. Moreover, Del Corso

KENT STATE DUE PROCESS OF LAW FUND  
The Department of Law, Justice and Community Relations of The Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
100 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



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The Guard Claimed They Fired in "Self-Defense":

--Bill Schroeder, age 19, was killed by a bullet while standing 380 feet away!

--Sandy Schreuer, 20, was killed while standing 390 feet away!

--Jeff Miller, 20, was 265 feet away when killed!

--Allison Krause, 19, was 343 feet away when killed!

The guard claims self-defense, yet all the students were unarmed and a football field away when shot and killed!!!

--Doug Wrenthorn was 330 feet away when shot and injured!

--Bobby Stamps was 500 feet away and handing a pretzel to a girl when shot!!!

SELF-DEFENSE???

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Rhodes at the recent Kent State University civil trial is contradictory in secret testimony by the former Ohio National Guardsman to a federal grand jury panel obtained last week by The Plain Dealer.

Confronted with the contradictory, which some legal experts here say could be a violation of federal or state perjury or false statements laws, Rhodes offered the following explanations.



to appeal the decision. It is not easy to ask all those involved to relive those horrible 13 seconds on May 4, 1970, when 68 shots rang out and killed our children. But, we all stand united in pushing for the truth this one last time.

Beyond this appeal there are no more legal recourses. This will be the final word on Kent State!

A civil suit of this type is very expensive. It is we who must pay for this pursuit of truth and justice.

However, no such burden faces the defense. The State of Ohio paid out almost one million dollars to defend the officers and guardsmen who committed the deadly shootings.

And, there is another human responsibility we have besides finding out why these young people were so brutally shot down. Besides seeing that it never happens again, we must see that the injured are not denied expensive medical treatments because the state won't pay for it and the families cannot afford it.

Dean Kahler was 300 feet away from the guard when he heard the first shot and threw himself on the ground. While on the ground he felt the bullet that has left him permanently paralyzed. And Joe Lewis was 60 feet from the guard when he was shot, fell to the ground, and was shot again, leaving him permanently maimed. "Self-defense," the guard claimed!



The Plain Dealer/James A. Holch

Public concern made our first trial possible . . . and only public support can make the appeal happen. In short, it depends on you to help us make this final assault for truth at Kent State. I wanted to tell you our plans and our reasons for appealing, for reliving those anguishing moments. The freedoms involved in this case are essential for every single American citizen.

We are planning our legal strategy now, and need to know that you are concerned . . . that you are with us in this final quest. We, the families of the injured, the parents of the dead, are united . . . but, we need your help to provide us with the wherewithal.

A lawyer for the Ohio National Guard said after the verdict, "Gentlemen, you have just heard the last word on Kent State." Please help us prove it isn't so.

In hope of Justice,

*Arthur J. Krause*

Your contribution is tax deductible, made out to

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