

Kent State Figure Is Linked to Death Probe Reopening

by William Claiborne and E.J. Bachinski

Three years and three months after a 13-second fusillade of Ohio National Guard rifle fire erupted at Kent State University and left four students dead, Terrence B. Norman has surfaced as suddenly as he appeared on the troubled campus quadrangle that spring day.

A 24-year-old self-described "gun nut" who now works for Washington's police department, Norman is being linked to the surprise announcement on Friday that the Justice Department has reopened its investigation into the May 4, 1970 tragedy.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) said in a letter to Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson that "it is quite possible" that Norman, who worked as an undercover informer for the FBI, fired the first shot during the campus antiwar protest of the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

Moreover, Bayh said, the FBI appears to have shown little interest in Norman, and a state grand jury in Ohio did not interview him in the aftermath of the shooting.

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