

New York

In the fourth installment of his memoirs, former President Nixon relates his feelings after being told that four students at Kent State were killed in 1970 during an antiwar demonstration after being fired upon by National Guard troops. He says that he could not get the pictures of the four dead youths out of his mind.

"I wrote personal letters to each of the parents, even though I knew that words could not help," he says.

"Those few days after Kent State were among the darkest of my presidency," he says. "I felt utterly dejected when I read that the father of one of the dead girls had told a reporter: 'My child was not a bum.' "Nixon had once stated that many demonstrators were "bums.' New York Times