

How Relevant Is The Kent State Incident ?

The most recent developments in news for the last few weeks has brought back to mind something that was said quite a few years ago. It was once said that situations and conditions mean nothing in America until middle-class white America is affected. This point has proven over and over again on and off college and university campuses throughout America in the time since the Kent State incident.

The entire country has been "up in the air" over the death of the four Kent State students. Yes, it's bad it's true. To suddenly look around and find out that armed guardsmen who are suppose to keep the peace has upset the peace of so many people by their actions against students. As a result, colleges everywhere have been protesting the actions.

Then, people wonder why the Black students aren't all upset and aren't displaying their disgust. Why should we? Just last year, our brother, Willie Grimes, at a neighboring institution (A&T State) was killed during the May 1969 disturbance on that campus. It too involved National Guardsmen and student confrontations. Did anybody get up in the air about that? Only those here close to him.

To speak of something more people are familiar with, what about the Orangeburg, S.C. incident of 1968? Then three brothers were killed in the confrontation between National Guardsmen and students. Who shouted and marched in protest then? Not the middle-class whites-no, they didn't feel it. It was just some more "niggers" dead.

Now students are turning out their schools, marching on their state capitols and the nation's capitol as a result of this offensive action against college students.

Are the earlier offenses to be forgotten or ignored? It seems that authority has a whim of what might come, so, news a few days ago mentioned something of an investigation that was about to take place in the Grimes case. But guess how long it took...a year. How long was it before investigations were on the Kent State case?

A picture appeared a few days after the Kent State incident that showed a guardsmen with a revolver, shooting into the student crowd. That's a big issue. A picture appeared after the Orangeburg incident that could possibly have been used as discriminating evidence has it been followed up. Who's to judge?

Now that students on the campus of Jackson State have been killed by National Guardsmen, it remains to be seen if their incident and death will become a part of the nationwide sympathy protest movement.

Stop and weigh the incidents; does the scale balance? Or is America really only vulnerable to Middle-class white American pain?

What SBS Is All About

Whether the scheduled meeting was poorly publicized or whether students and faculty alike were busy with registration, at any rate, few persons showed up in the coffee house for "National Save the Black Schools Day." The panel presentations were highly informative, and the discussions that followed were quite lively and spirited. It appeared that everyone who had decided to take time out from his busy schedule was interested in the problem. Yet, what about the other 99 44/100% who did not show up. Perhaps the impact of the situation has not yet been fully understood by them. Apparently very few blacks realize that the black school can very easily pass away—that the so-called integration-desegregation gag is really a threat to the existence of black schools. Or perhaps, some don't see a need only to point out a few facts. First, very few of us would be able to meet the entrance requirements of a white school—not because we're dumb" but because we haven't been exposed to what is often referred to as a "liberal education." Moreover, as far as entrance requirements are concerned, only the "cream of the crop" would be allowed to enter, and many of us are simply not the cream of the crop. Secondly, many blacks certainly could not afford to pay to go to a white school since many of us are now on scholarships, work-aid or are receiving some type of financial aid—which in some cases we could not expect from a white school. Thirdly, if whites can discriminate against our going to their schools. Obviously, then, we'd be at the bottom of the totem pole once again.

The necessity of fighting to maintain our black schools should be a 24-hour a day job for all of us blacks. The response that the first annual call to commemorate "Save the Black Schools Day" solicited is not only heartbreaking, but disastrous—disastrous in that within a few years, there may be no more black schools—unless we all act NOW.

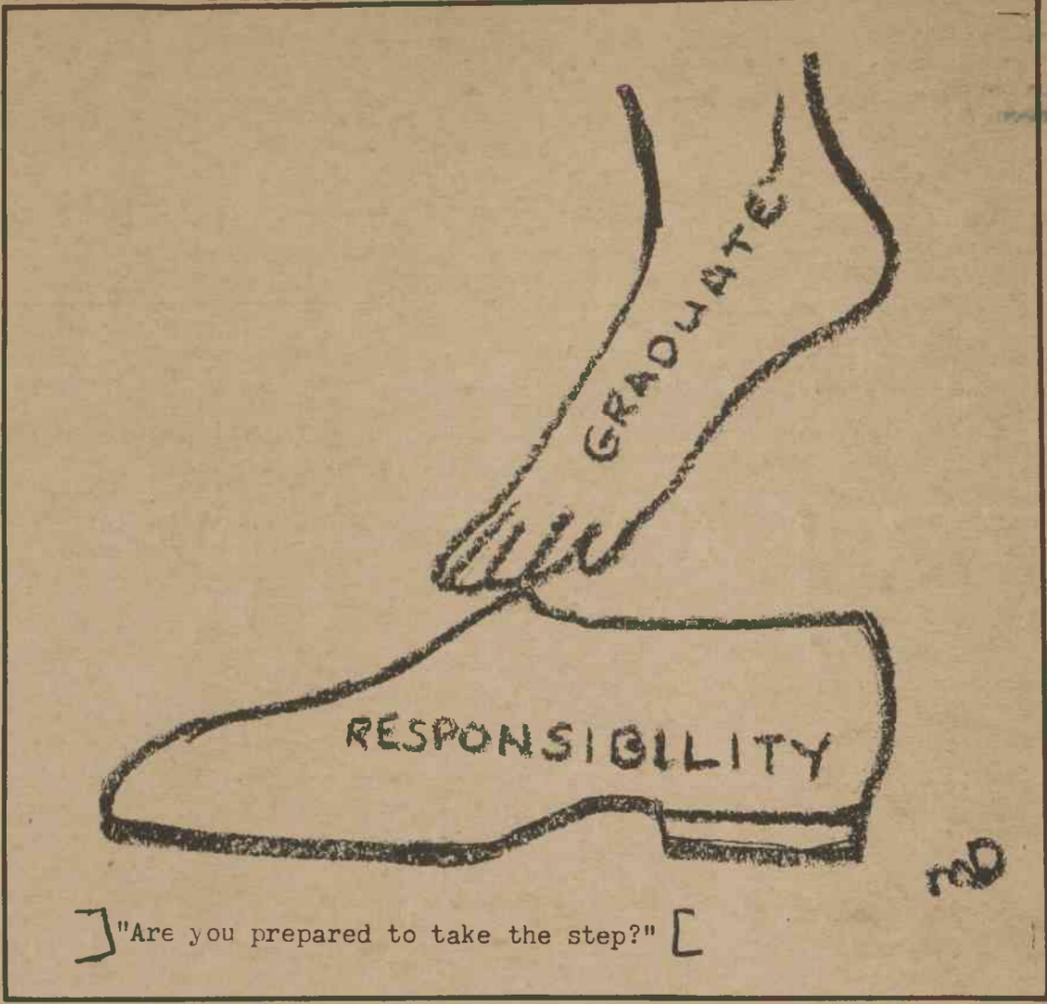
EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Dear Editor,
Recently, the Science Division sponsored a Science Emphasis Week which combined divisional student presentations and visiting guest lecturers. In my opinion all students, not just science majors, could have related to, enjoyed and learned something from these sessions. Frankly, I

am very disappointed with the lack of enthusiasm on the part of both science and non-science majors.

A concerned and wondering student

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Bennett's Academic Atmosphere Is A Major Student Concern

The students meeting with faculty, staff, and administrators seemed at first to be a step in the solution of the problem to get more black

SLC Attempts Have Proven Very Fruitless

This year, perhaps for the first time in many years, there will be no student leadership conference. The reason is that student leaders agree that past conferences have been virtually useless. Each summer the same proposals are made, similar suggestions for campus improvements are made, and very little happens.

The enthusiasm with which one enters the conference is often short-lived for, one soon discovers that during the conference, no final decisions are made (whether or not decisions can be made is unclear), and that each proposal presented must be compiled first and presented to the faculty in the fall. This simply means that though proposals are made in the latter part of May, nothing gets action upon until the following school term, in September or maybe in October. By that time, far-range programs would not go into effect until the following semester or even the following year.

So this year, and rightfully so, student leaders will leave campus with the majority of the student body, certain of perhaps one thing and that is that next year will be another rehashing of the same old gripes, of making the same old suggestions that fall on the same old deaf ears, and spending the same old year in the same old dull way.

instructors on campus and to retain those we already have. However, this feeling was short-lived. In the minds of many students who attended the session, the meeting was of no avail. Administrators, in reality, failed to respond positively to the students' pleas that more blacks be hired and that the few already here be retained.

Moreover, it was apparent from the atmosphere generated that many faculty members and students alike were frustrated in their efforts to get a clear idea of why some black faculty members, after years of dedicated service here, were allowed to leave, and were being replaced by whites, who in some cases were not as qualified as the blacks whose place they had taken. The desire to know the answers as to why so few blacks are hired and why so many, after years of committed service, would leave, was a recurring question throughout the session. The answer most often given was

where the number of white instructors far exceed the number of black instructors. Moreover, the desire for more black instructors as opposed to white instructors, is not a the need for more money. This is questionable. It is agreed that money is a major factor as to why many blacks leave Bennett, but in cases where instructors have worked here for 15 and 20 years, the problem could not possibly be a question of salary. Obviously, there are underlying reasons that have not as yet been brought clearly into the open. Some faculty and staff members, fully aware of those "underlying" reasons, remain closed-mouth, at the risk of our losing more and more qualified blacks.

A striking example of the increasing severity of the situation can best be seen if one takes a good, hard look at the math and physical

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