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Terenton, Pa.
Photo by John Filo

"WHY DON'T YOU SHOOT ME TOO?" a question that pierced above the derailed actions of the national guard, aptly expresses the grimace of the screaming co-ed as a classmate lies face down on the campus of Kent State University on May 4. The traumatic upset that she is experiencing is quite typical of the frustrating sentiments that burned through this nation as a result of national guardsmen firing into a crowd of peaceful demonstrators.

Four students were murdered while showing their dissatisfaction with President Nixon's illegitimate decision to send American combat forces into "neutral" Cambodia and resume the bombing of North Vietnam.

The President has tragically misgaged the mood of this country; and through his unilateral executive move, he placed the country in a state of emergency.

While the need for action has never been so great nor so urgent, the UNCC Student Legislature has decided to secure a back seat to the multitude of universities and colleges in this nation that have already accepted their role as responsible human beings.

If the JOURNAL produces initiative in taking a firm stand on the Kent State and Cambodia issues, it is inconceivable that the newly elected (and enthusiastic?) Student Legislature could remain passive while such atrocities are taking place on a campus that is somewhat similar to OURS.

By Tuesday, May 5, the news of Kent State had spread throughout this country and 141 campuses had already taken definitive action against the national guard murders and Nixon's "Cambodia decision."

On Monday, Rick Norton, SGA vice-president, was approached by several students who asked him to call an emergency meeting of the Student Legislature for Wednesday, May 6. He replied that he already had an informal meeting scheduled for Friday, May 8; and that 48 hours was not enough notice to schedule a call meeting.

Norton could not even call a night meeting, as has been done in the past, because he works at night. Perhaps this is an indication that there aren't enough hours in Mr. Norton's day to accomplish all that is expected of him.

Exactly 48 hours before the scheduled call meeting on Friday, Mr. Norton began contacting legislators to inform them of this meeting. Perhaps this is why Rusty Sitton and Gary Springer didn't show up on Friday (not enough notice.)

By Friday, May 8, over 240 campuses had passed resolutions. Although Mr. Norton presided over the assembly with expertise students here found themselves confronted with empty campaign promises of their elected officials.

Candidates claimed that they were not apathetic and would combat this criminal lack of concern if elected; however, one cannot help but wonder which is more apathetic, the accused students or their elected officials when the "Cambodia resolution" passed by the narrow margin of 7-6.

Contrary to Mr. Norton's belief that one resolution is sufficient, it is the JOURNAL'S opinion that the legislature will fall short of its duty to the students if it closes its door on world affairs.

It would be a grave mistake to allow ourselves to become isolated when an answer is needed to alleviate the despairing mood that has ensnared us all.

If the Student legislators can be so deaf to their constituent's cry for involvement on a campus level, how can they expect Nixon to adhere to their request to save OUR lives.

Will it take four more "Kent State murders" like the one above, to awaken our student leaders.

M. H.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I know you're wondering how things at school are going, well, it's hard to say. The faculty has called for immediate troop withdrawal from Southeast Asia, and the student legislature has followed suit.

Some of the more liberal students have called for a strike, but I really don't know what will happen, and all, or at least most of it is because of those murders at Kent State.

Here at UNCC, a lot of us think that Vietnam is a mistake. We want out. What good can we do there now? The mood in Charlotte is that we should go to school and close our minds to what else is happening in the world, that we have no business out here but just to go to class ... get an education. What do they think we're learning?

Don't worry about me mom, I'm not campus revolutionary, and I'll come home if things get violent, but I hate the unrest and violence, and I want it all ended as soon as possible.

Your loving daughter,

S. S.

You Don't Care, Do You?

By Charles Spriggs

Without a doubt, the FEATURE of this campus which is most frustrating to the concerned students is the LACK of concern by the majority of students. In view of the headline stories of the past two weeks, and our student body's reaction to them, I do not feel it, inappropriate to attack the concern, the knowledge, and even the wisdom of the UNCC student body as a whole.

In last October's Moratorium the attitude of this campus was reflected accurately. You do not care! For some reason you choose not to participate in activities which are normal for other centers of learning (Chapel Hill, Duke, and so forth). Last Wednesday a memorial service was held here for the four students who were murdered at Kent State. At most, there may have been seventy-five students who took part. And the number of participants in the class boycott was probably even less, while at other campus's students voiced their feelings of mass rallies, and by closing their school for the remainder of the year. There is a distinct difference between other campus and ours.

What is the reason for this difference? I assume most of us read the headlines and watch television newscasts a number of times a week. The difference, therefore, should not be the lack of knowledge of the sad affairs of state. So let me presume further. With knowledge there should come perception (to become aware of in one's mind; achieve understanding). Perhaps perception is what we lack here. Has the war not affected a significant number of students on this campus? Are we not bright enough to see the progression of atrocious events the war has brought? The latest of which is the massacre of four of our peers.

I'll take the liberty of type-casting our student body. Some of you are straight out of high school. High school history courses have a habit of making these United States look like the god of all nations which has done no evil, does no evil, and can never do any evil. Well, kids, you are in for a surprise. Try U. S. History 201 and 202 next year. Or better yet, read up on U. S. involvement in Southeast Asia since 1946, when the U. S. first began to supply the French in their fiasco with Vietnam. Or still better, talk to some Vietnam veterans. It is very enlightening to hear of our "liberating" efforts first-hand. To some of you it is still that far-off war, but it will hit you soon (real soon if you are not doing well in school). That is one type of non-perceptive.

Next let us take the student who has personal responsibility, such as working himself through school, or providing for a wife and even children. What keeps him from getting involved? This is an easy one. This student is already eaten up with the system. He must bow to his work in order that the finance company can be paid for the car he drives to school. His time and energy are devoted to getting along in the system, and leaves him little time to think, much less to get involved with campus activities. In fact, he identifies very little with the university and he sure does not have time to take part in such things as anti-war demonstrations—even if he chooses.

Now for the student at large. This is the student who has been in school for a few years, who knows the progression of events in Vietnam, who is tired of hearing of the war, who thinks his activities would do no good if he were to demonstrate against it. He has joined the ranks of the ominous Silent Majority. Just to let things go as they are going, and looking out for old number one--self. Well, good luck to you, Joe College, I hope you like green uniforms and hot and humid weather. Apathy now may get you sympathy when you are shipped back in an aluminum casket. You may very well join the ranks of the more than 41,000, who have died with their death bringing about no change in the war. For you math majors the equation may be put this way: 41,000 dead GI's = 0.

To have identified you, the student body of UNCC, this way is, I believe, correct. There is no reason to view your lack of concern any differently. At other campus's around our self-righteous country students could be type-cast the same way. However, they have risen above these reasons for not being involved. Undoubtedly they must sacrifice something of themselves in order to answer to their conscience. Why do they do this and we do not? It is conceivable they are brighter; they have more wisdom.

I am not proud of UNCC's attitude on Vietnam, on our invasion of Cambodia, and on the National Guard's senseless killing of four students. I now question our student body's

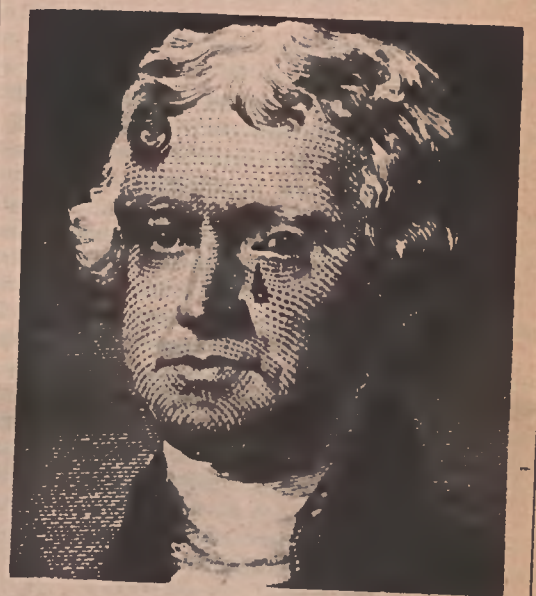
knowledge, perceptive abilities, and wisdom--all of which have produced a lack of concern. No one is going to call the student body of UNCC a group of effete intellectual snobs.

This should be considered a direct attack on the student body's wisdom. You may pass your tests, remember trivial facts, and even graduate with honors, but since you obviously lack the perceptive ability which provides wisdom, your university education has failed you. You have not learned to see through the smoke screen sent out from our government, and to decipher fact from fiction, platitudes from realities, lies from truth. My congratulations, and condolences go out to the student body of UNCC. Educated ignorance must be wonderful!

Food for thought -- if you ever decide to think.

"In a democracy dissent is an act of faith. Like medicine, the test of its value is not its taste but its effects, not how it makes people feel at the moment, but how it inspires them to act thereafter. Criticism is more than a right; it is an act of patriotism, a higher form of patriotism, I believe, than the familiar ritual of national adulation."

Speech - "The Higher Patriotism"
1966, J. Wm Fulbright



The American Scene

"If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments for the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

First Inaugural Address at Wash...
D.C. March 4, 1801

Ya Dun Good, Coach!

In his first year at UNCC, Coach Bill Foster has demonstrated the potential of becoming one of the most aspiring, young basketball coaches in the country today.

Although a Foster-coached team has never taken the floor UNCC, the potential of Foster's recruits for next year is very high.

Foster has signed seven junior college transfers, and four freshman as well as hired three assistance coaches.

The JOURNAL wished much continued success to Coach Foster and the best of luck to next year's 49'er basketball team in their first year of NCAA university division classification.

The JOURNAL would also like to extend special thanks to Coach Floyd Kerr in appreciation of the outstanding job he has done with the intramural program in his first year at UNCC.

From the writer and an avid participant,
"Thanks Coach, it was a lot of fun."